

**Scheduled Ancient Monument Management Plan  
August 2015**

**DAREN LEAD MINE WORKINGS & ADIT (CDI44)**



Figure 1. General view from W (©RCAHMMW 2012)

**Customer Reference Number (CRN): A0027900**

**Farm name: Rhosgoch**



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This management advice has been produced within the Historic Environment Branch of Cadw to inform management of the Scheduled Ancient Monument included in the Advanced Element of the Glastir land management scheme.

Only part of the scheduled area lies within the applicant's holding; for details please see the map at Section 5.2 below.

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<b>SAM name and reference number</b>	Daren Lead Mine Workings & Adit, CD144
<b>Grid reference</b>	SN 67494 82781
<b>Current Cadw funded schemes (MA /AM Grant)</b>	None
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## **I. Site Description**

The following provides a general description of the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

- The prominent linear workings of Darren Mine cover an area some 1km in length and exploited the Darren Lode, a rich silver-lead vein which also produced copper. They constitute some of the best examples of open-cut excavations in Wales. A line of pits along the south-western portion of the scheduled area marks the position of Bushel's Adit, dug for drainage in the 17th century; further underground workings, mainly beneath the north-eastern arm of the area, followed in the 18th and 19th centuries. It has long been suggested that the first exploitation of the Darren Lode dates back to the prehistoric period, with historic references noting this as a 'Roman' or 'Ancient British' work. Survey and excavation in 2005 of the mine adjacent to the hillfort of Daren Camp (SAM CD028) strongly supports a later prehistoric phase, and this is further enhanced by the findings of galena (lead ore) in the hillfort rampart, and of stone hammers at other points along the mine workings.
- The first recorded lessee of the mine is Sir Hugh Myddleton in c.1618, followed by Thomas Bushel in 1659, although evidence was noted at this time for the 'old works' at the site. After Bushel it lay neglected until 1731 when it was re-opened by George Jones under Edmund Moore. A survey of Darren Mine was carried out by Lewis Morris in 1742 as part of his survey of the Cardiganshire Mines. After another spell of closure in the later half of the 18th century the mine was revived under a number of different owners with differing levels of success until its final closure in 1890. The problem of draining the 'west end' (the southern part of the north-eastern arm) was finally solved in the 1870s by the provision of an impressive set of pumping flat-rods running for more than 1km over the hill from the north-west. Little now remains of these, but further unscheduled surface remains related to the site include remnants of a tramway and ore hoppers on the northern side of the hill.

- The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of mining practices. It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of associated archaeological features and deposits.
- The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.

### **Additional information**

The scheduled area on this holding partially adjoins that of the hillfort Daren Camp, CD028.

## **2. Current Condition**

- The site is overall in a generally good condition. Much of it is turfed, although some of the slopes, particularly at the northern and southern ends of the stretch, are either too steep or too polluted to allow the development of a firm sward.

## **Management Issues**

- There are a few areas of stock erosion, but these are mainly on steep slopes which would be awkward to repair, and on which repairs are unlikely to be successful.
- The ground cover should therefore be maintained as far as possible by controlling the grazing on site.
- A certain amount of scrap remains within the southern end of the scheduled area. This has greatly reduced in recent years but efforts should be made to ensure that it is removed entirely.



### 3. Photographs



Figure 2. NE end of scheduled area, from SW (Cadw 2015)



Figure 3. Scrap in NE end of SW portion of scheduled area, from SE (Cadw 2015)



#### **4. Management Advice**

The following works are recommended to improve the condition of the scheduled ancient monument. Cadw Field Monument Wardens are available to provide help and advice, and can be contacted via details shown on page 4.

##### **Prioritised list of management works:**

- Remove the remaining scrap and other rubbish from within the scheduled area.
- Adjust the grazing regime to minimise the risk of stock erosion; limit grazing in both very wet and very dry conditions.

Specific method statements are provided in the following pages.

#### **4.1. Category I works**

**These works can be undertaken without scheduled monument consent provided that they are carried out according to the guidance specified below:**

##### **Scrap removal**

- ***Remove the remaining scrap and other rubbish from within the scheduled area.***
- There is ready vehicular access to this part of the site, so that this should not be too difficult.
- If any of the scrap is very deeply lodged in the ground surface, such that its removal would produce a substantial hole, it should be allowed to remain.

##### **Grazing regime**

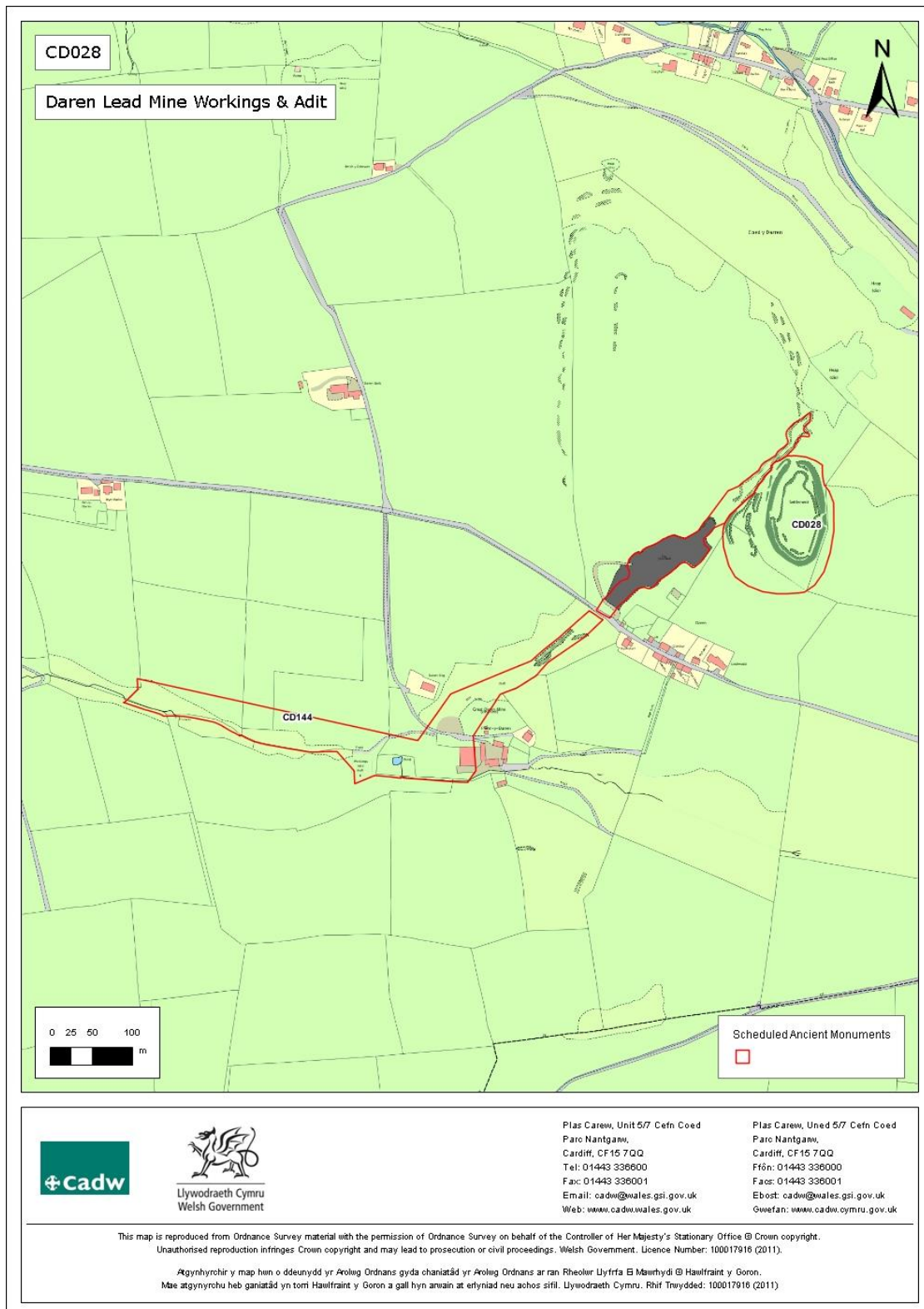
- ***Adjust the grazing regime to minimise the risk of stock erosion; limit grazing in both very wet and very dry conditions.***

#### **4.2. Long-term management recommendations / best practice**

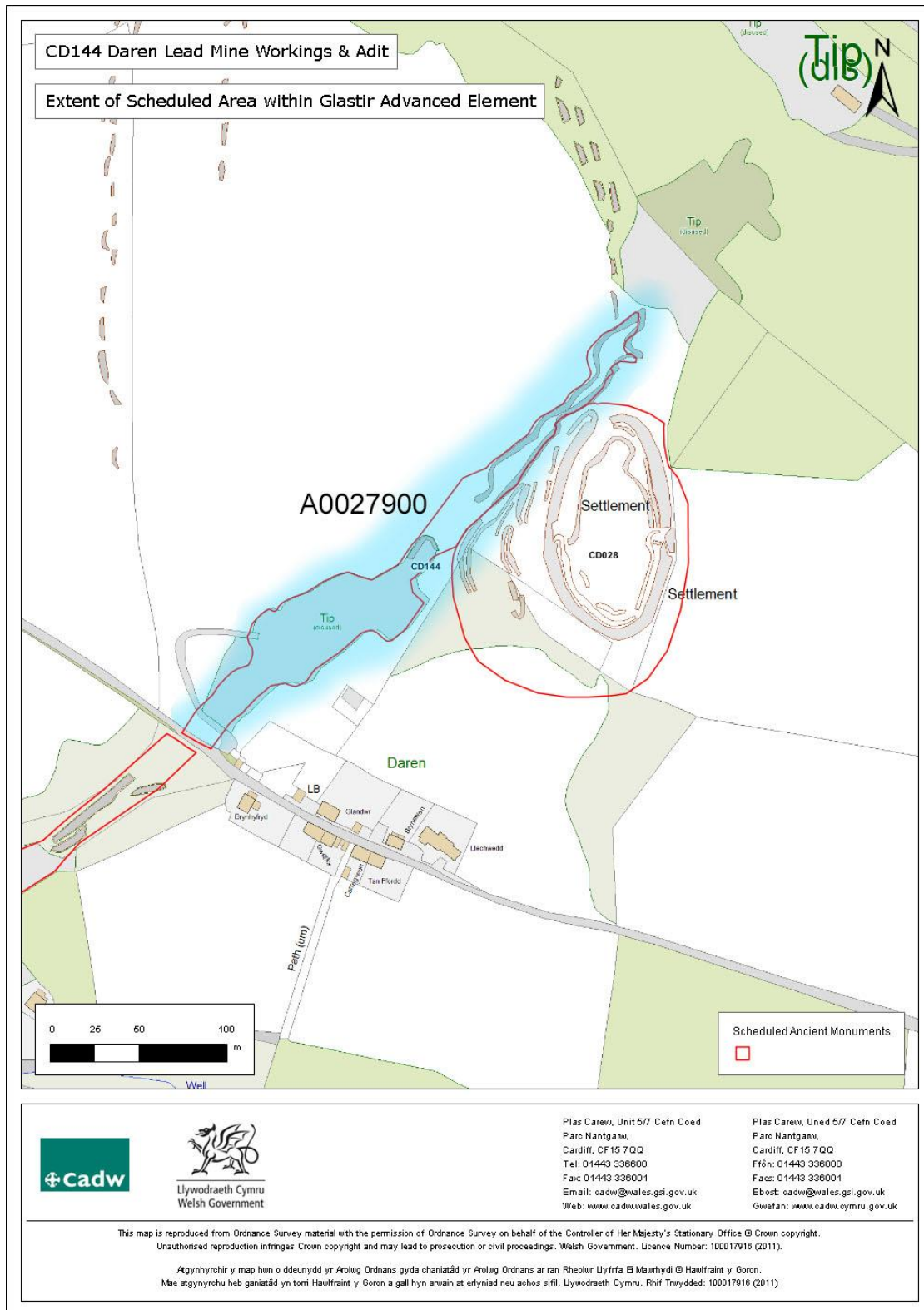
- Continue to adjust the grazing regime as required so as to minimise the risk of stock erosion.
- Note should also be taken of the general requirements given in Section 6 below.

## 5. Maps

### 5.1. Indicative Map of the Scheduled Area



## 5.2. Map showing Extent of Scheduled Area within Glastir Advanced Element



## **6. Requirements**

### **6.1. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979**

Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) are monuments deemed to be of national importance and as such are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979. It is an offence under the legislation to cause damage or disturbance to a SAM.

Damage or disturbance would include – any unauthorised works that involve ground disturbance (including fencing), but also importing material into the scheduled area, metal detecting, rewetting, burning etc.

Any operations involving ground disturbance, the importation of material or rewetting require Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) to have been approved by Cadw prior to the works being undertaken

### **6.2. Cross Compliance**

Scheduled Ancient Monuments are afforded further protection under Cross - Compliance GAEC 7 Landscape Features.

GAEC 7 States:

- No work to a Scheduled Ancient Monument may be carried out without formal consent from Cadw e.g. ploughing, fencing, drainage, track upgrades etc
- Comply with all consent requirements in full
- Do not destroy or damage a Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Do not damage scheduled historic features through activities which cause or encourage soil erosion or ground disturbance on ancient monuments, e.g.:
  - overgrazing
  - growth of invasive scrub or vegetation

- trampling and poaching
- vehicle tracking, particularly on steep slopes or when ground conditions are wet
- supplementary feeding
- cultivation encroachment
- storage of equipment, materials and rubbish

### **6.3. Glastir - Whole Farm Code**

The Glastir Whole Farm Code states:

You must not damage any historic feature identified on your agreement map

Definitions of damage to a historic feature include ANY of the following:

- Ground disturbance or excavation especially extending beneath topsoil
- Dumping or storage of material, including temporary storage
- Removal of any material, including stones, soil or subsoil
- Visible signs of active erosion (loss and disturbance of topsoil) caused by livestock and vehicles or other agricultural practice
- Planting trees
- Allowing scrub to develop
- Ploughing or reseeding
- Displacing individual stone features