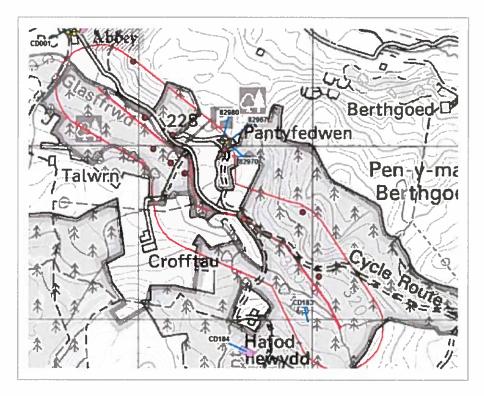
# Archaeology Wales

# Glasfrwyd, Strata Florida Ceredigion

Desk Based Assessment & Site Walkover



By Chris E Smith BA (Hons) MA MIfA Report No. 1159

Archaeology Wales Limited, Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan, Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6QF Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371 Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

# Archaeology Wales

# Glasfrwyd, Strata Florida Ceredigion

Desk Based Assessment & Site Walkover

Prepared For: Mr Kevin Jones

Edited by:
Signed:
Position:
Date:

Authorised by: Signed: Position:

Date:

By Chris E Smith BA (Hons) MA MIfA

Report No: 1159

Date: October 2013

Archaeology Wales Limited, Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan, Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6QF Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371 Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

#### **List of Figures**

Figure 1	Map showing location of assessment area
Figure 2	Detailed location plan of proposed pipeline route
Figure 3	Plan showing proposed route in relation to all HER data points within 250m
Figure 4	Plan showing proposed route in relation to all SAM sites within 250m
Figure 5	Plan showing proposed route in relation to all LB sites within 250m
Figure 6	Plan showing location of all known heritage assets within 250m of route
Figure 7	1840s Caron Parish (Section D) Tithe map with route overlaid
Figure 8	1840s Caron Parish (Section E) Tithe map with route overlaid
Figure 9	1891 1st Edition OS map sheet with route overlaid
Figure 10	1906 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition OS map sheet with route overlaid

#### List of Plates

Plate 1	May 1946 RAF aerial photograph with route overlaid
Plate 2	December 1946 RAF aerial photograph with route overlaid
Plates 3	May 1948 RAF aerial photograph with route overlaid
Plate 4	1973 OS aerial photograph with route overlaid
Plates 5-17	Photographs from site walkover

## List of Appendices

Appendix I	Figures
Appendix II	Plates
Appendix III	Specification
Appendix IV	HER Gazetteer
Appendix V	Archive Cover Sheet

#### Copyright Notice:

Archaeology Wales Ltd. retain copyright of this report under the Copyright,
Designs and Patents Act, 1988, and have granted a licence to Kevin Jones, Hydro Schemes UK
Ltd, to use and reproduce the material contained within.

The Ordnance Survey has granted Archaeology Wales Ltd a Copyright Licence (No. AL 52163A0001) to reproduce map information; Copyright remains otherwise with the Ordnance Survey.

Llandovery rocks comprising mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. The southern half of the proposed route is composed of undifferentiated Llandovery rocks comprising interbedded sandstone and conglomerate (Geological Survey Map, 2001).

#### 1.3 Site Location and Topography

- 1.3.1 The proposed route is located to the south east of Strata Florida Abbey, Ceredigion, in the bottom of a reasonably thickly wooded, shallow sided, valley running north west to south east. The eastern end of the proposed route lies at 311m above Ordnance Datum whilst the western end, approximately 2km to the north east, is located at 204m above Ordnance Datum.
- 1.3.2 The surrounding area is one of very sparse population, made up predominantly by woodland managed by the Forestry Commission.

### 2 Aims and Objectives

#### 2.1 Desk Based Assessment

- 2.1.1 The supporting desk based research was undertaken to:
  - Gain an understanding of the archaeological features and their distribution within the assessment area.
  - To place the results of the work in their historic context.
  - To aid and inform any potential future archaeological work undertaken on the site.

# 3 Methodology

#### 3.1 Desk Based Assessment

- 3.1.1 As part of the desk based assessment, the following repositories were consulted for readily available information:
  - The regional HER database for the locations of all known archaeology (Monuments, Events) within a 500m radius of the proposed routes centreline
  - The National Library in Aberystwyth, Promap, online mapping and the OS Mastermap for readily available historic maps
  - Cadw's listed building and scheduled ancient monument database for the locations of protected sites
- 3.1.2 The site visit was undertaken by Jerry Bond. The overall management of the project was undertaken by Chris E Smith (MIfA). All areas were photographed using high resolution digital photography.

**PRN** 8608

NAME PENMAEN-GWYN

TYPE Standing stone, PERIOD Bronze Age; post-medieval

NGR SN75216506

**CONDITION** Damaged

Of the ten identified HER sites, the proposed route passes within 50m of a total of seven of them (PRNs 37605, 36723, 36720, 26622, 36722, 41058 and 8608). The closest to which the pipeline passes is PRN36723 - identified by the HER as being a stone walled enclosure of uncertain date.

#### 4.2 Scheduled Ancient Monument data

- Only a single SAM site (Fig 4) exists within 250m of the proposed pipeline route. This 4.2.1 is CD183, a medieval/post-medieval holy well site in the form of an irregular trench or cut, lined with slate slabs, with a rectangular cistern at the southern end accessed by three steps on the eastern side. The water has a tradition for medicinal qualities
- 4.2.2 The 250m search area falls just short of the scheduled area of CD001 Strata Florida Abbey and CD184, a medieval house platform.
- 4.2.3 No SAM sites will be impacted upon by the development proposals

#### 4.3 Listed Building data

- 4.3.1 A total of three listed buildings exist within 250m of the proposed route, though they all form part of the same complex at Pantyfedwen (Fig 5). They include 3 grade II postmedieval buildings (Farm, Coach House & Barn) and are listed by number below:
  - 82980 Pantyfedwen Farm GII
  - 82970 Pantyfedwen Coach House GII
  - 82967 Pantyfedwen Barn GII
- No LB sites will be impacted upon by the development proposals.

#### 4.4 HER, LB and SAM Data Summary

- 4.4.1 Plotting the locations of known heritage assets in relation to the proposed route has shown that, whilst the route comes within 50m of seven of the 10 HER sites, only one is likely to suffer any impact.
- 4.4.2 PRN36723, Bwlch y Graig enclosure, is very close to the proposed route of the pipe though is unlikely to receive any significant physical impact given the relatively shallow depth and small scale of the proposed groundworks.
- 4.4.3 No other known and recorded heritage assets will receive any impact based on their geographical distances from the proposed route.

#### 4.5 **Historic Landscape Characterisation**

this area of Mid-Wales in the 18th and 19th centuries. The vegetational and land use changes of the 20th century, intended to compensate for the decline in hill farming and collapse of rural extractive industries, are particularly marked in this area not just by afforestation. The fortunes of the leading Ceredigion gentry families were enhanced by appropriation of the estates of former monastic houses, most notably of the Cistercian House of Strata Florida. Re-established at its present site in 1184, the Abbey came under the patronage of the Lord Rhys, prince of Deheubarth, and his descendants, many of whom were buried there. The area encloses the Abbey site and the whole of the large upland grange of Cwmystwyth. Lead smelting at Cwmystwyth reduced the areas of woodland, but the mainstay of the grange's economy was its upland sheep walks. The medieval livestock régime of both cattle and sheep was undoubtedly organised through seasonal grazing of the uplands or transhumance. Settlement studies of hafod and Iluest named settlements have demonstrated how seasonally occupied holdings could evolve into permanent small holdings from the later Middle Ages onwards. There are many well-documented examples within this landscape area. Bronze Age monuments are known from the high uplands as well as the plateaux west of the Cambrian Mountains. In addition to antiquarian explorations and finds of pottery and metalwork, groups of cairns have been excavated at Nant-y-moch and a barrow at Troed Rhiw Seiri. There are large areas of wild, remote, almost untouched moorland, for example, south and east of Cwmystwyth, which have not been systematically surveyed and have great archaeological potential. Changing use of the uplands during the first half of the first millennium BC, mainly brought about by climatic deterioration, led to changes in settlement patterns. A proliferation of different kinds of Iron Age defended sites occurs west and south of the area, but Iron Age settlement is attested by such sites as Castell Rhyfel hillfort, Caron-Is-Clawdd, and the strongly defended Castell Bwa-Drain high above Cwm Rheidiol. The western limits of the area partly enclose the Roman route corridor of Sarn Helen, the principal northsouth route through Wales, with an auxiliary fort at Trawscoed, strategically sited to safeguard the route across the deep valleys of the Rheidol and the Ystwyth. Also included within the western limits are medieval Welsh settlements, commotal centres like Ystrad Meurig or Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn, which were seized by the Normans in the 11th and 12th centuries and made the centres of their new lordships"

## 5 Map Regression

#### 5.1 1840s Caron Parish Tithe Map

5.1.1 Two extracts from the parish tithe map Sections D & E (Figs 7&8) drawn up in the 1840s show the proposed pipeline route in clear detail. No specific features of

6.1.5 A 1973 Ordnance Survey aerial photograph (Plate 4) shows the route in clear detail. Whilst areas of managed woodland to the south of the pipeline route have evidently been recently cleared of trees, tree cover has increased masking the previously identifiable field boundaries.

#### 6.2 Aerial Photograph Summary

6.2.1 The aerial photograph analysis has identified no previously unknown archaeological sites and highlighted the increase in woodland in the area post-1945.

#### 7 Site Visit

- 7.1.1 A walkover of the proposed route was carried out in dry and bright conditions on the 23rd September 2013 (Plates 5-17).
- 7.1.2 The site walkover emphasised the overgrown conditions along the route suggested by the increased tree growth seen on the post war aerial photographs.
- 7.1.3 The density of woodland in places made identification of any subtle archaeological features impossible.
- 7.1.4 Several dry stone walls were encountered which represent the field boundaries first seen on the historic maps.

#### 7.2 Site Visit Summary

7.2.1 No previously unknown sites were located during the site visit though the existence in certain areas of extant drystone field boundaries across the route of the pipe was confirmed.

#### 8 Discussion

#### 8.1 HER, Scheduled Ancient Monument and Listed Building data

- 8.1.1 The Scheduled Ancient Monument and Listed Building data has shown that, whilst Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings do exist within 250m of the route, none will receive any physical impact as a result of the proposed works.
- 8.1.2 The HER data has shown that 10 recorded sites of archaeological or historic interest are located within 250m of the assessment area but that of these ten, only two (PRN36723 &PRN41058) is located close enough to the pipes proposed route to feasibly receive any impact as a result of the proposed works.

#### 8.2 Map Regression

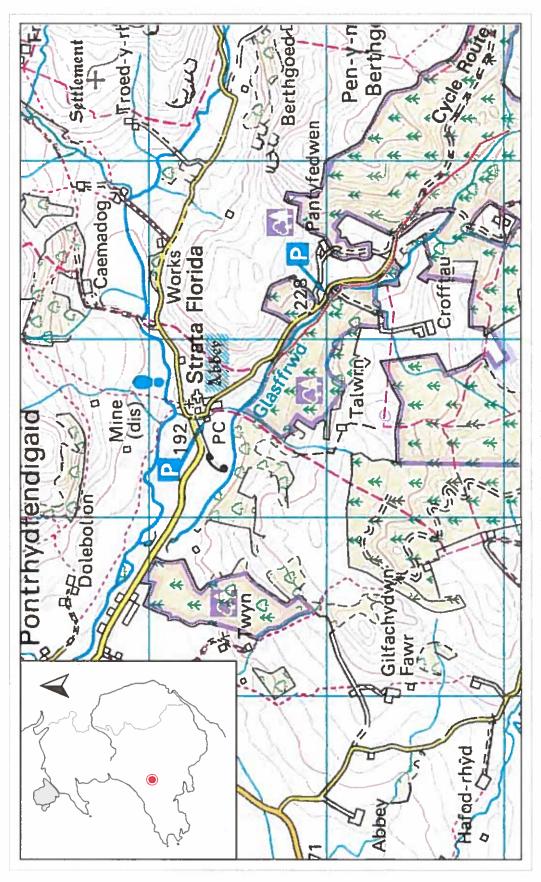
8.2.1 The map regression analysis has shown that little change in the landscape surrounding the assessment area has occurred since 1840 with the exception of a growth in woodland.

- CPE/UK1873 4/12/46 (RCAHMW)
- 541/34 19/5/48 (RCAHMW)
- OS 73/299 590 (RCAHMW)

British Geological Survey. 2001, 4th Edition. Solid Geology Map, UK South Sheet.

Institute for Archaeologists, 2011. Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

http://www.ccgc.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/historic-landscapes/upland-ceredigion.aspx – accessed 23rd September 2013



Rg 1: Map showing location of assessment area

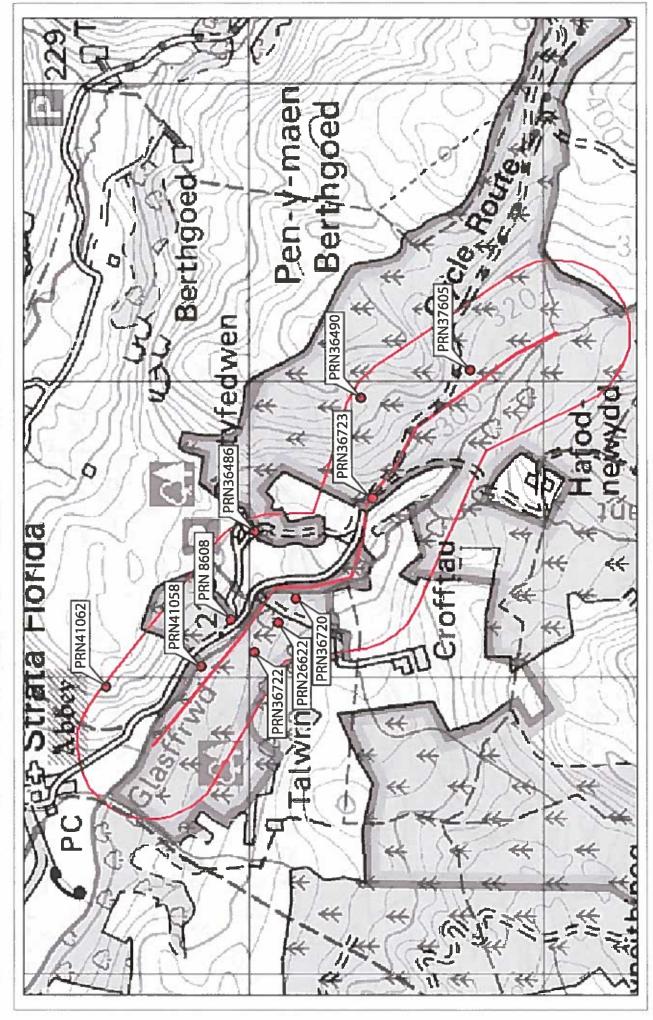


Fig 3: GIS map showing distribution of HER sites within 250m of the proposed pipeline route

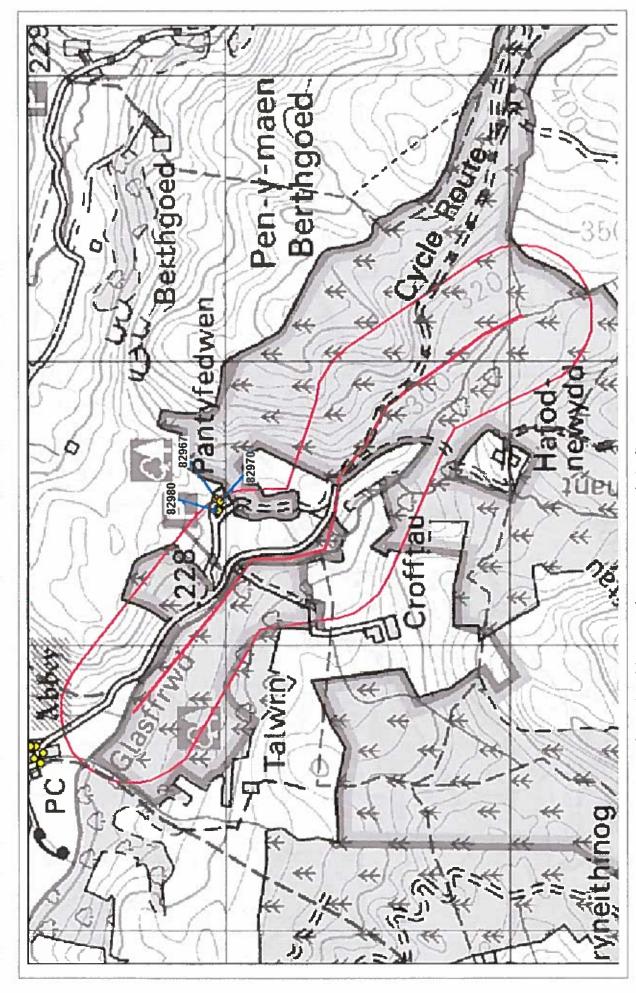


Fig 5: GIS map showing distribution of Listed Buildings in relation to proposed pipeline route

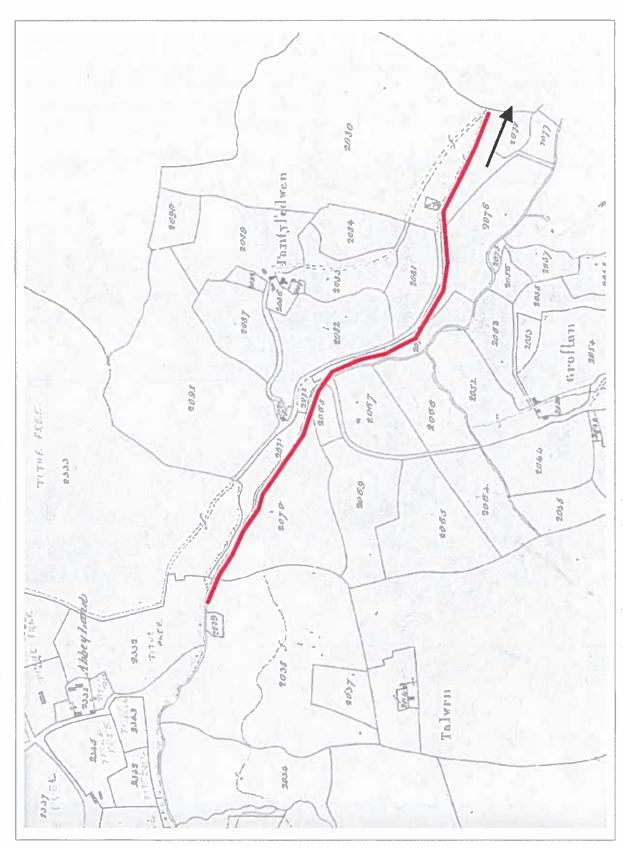


Fig 7: Proposed route of pipe through Caron parish tithe map section D

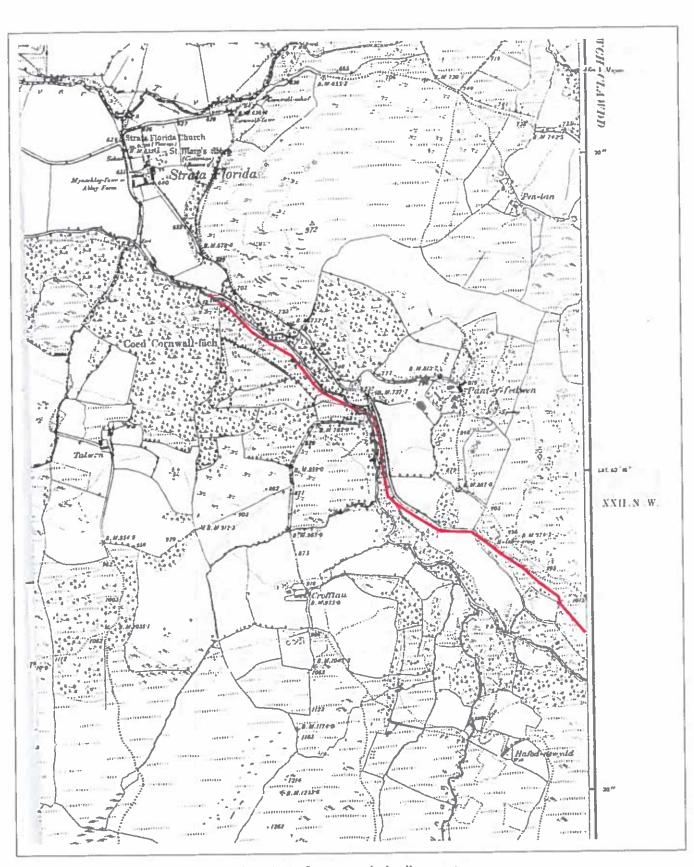


Fig 9: 1891 1st Ed OS map showing location of proposed pipeline route

# Archaeology Wales APPENDIX II:

Plates



Plate 2: December 1946 RAF aerial photograph showing assessment area



Plate 4: 1973 OS aerial photograph showing assessment area



Plate 7: Looking west along the proposed route near the intake area Scale 1x2m



Plate 8: Overgrown dry stone walling to the west of the proposed intake location Scales 2x1m

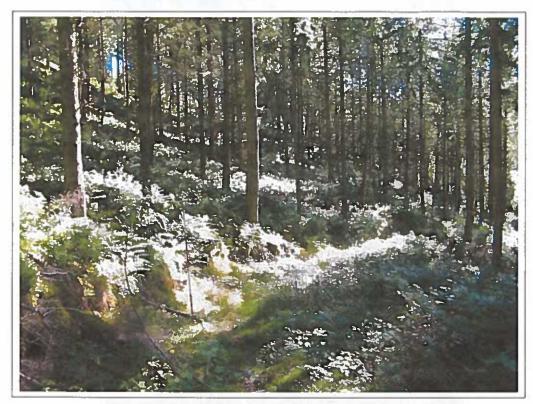


Plate 11: Looking east along proposed route through woodland



Plate 12: Looking west in area where proposed pipe will be buried



Plate 15: Access bridge to Crofftau next to the ford. Looking east Scale 1x2m



Plate 16: Looking west towards the ford from the Crofftau bridge

# Archaeology Wales

APPENDIX III: Specification

#### NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This specification details the proposal for an archaeological Desk Based Assessment and field walkover on land between Blaen-Glasffrwd and Pantyfedwen, Strata Florida, Ceredigion, prior to the proposed construction of an above ground hydro scheme. It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd for their client, Mr Kevin Jones.

#### 1. Introduction

This specification has been prepared by Chris E Smith (MIfA), Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (Henceforth - AW) at the request of Mr Kevin Jones. A proposal has been put forward to install an above ground hydro scheme, measuring approximately 1.5km in length, between Blaen Glasffrwd and Pantyfedwen to the south of Strata Florida in Ceredigion. This specification details methodologies which will be employed in preparing an archaeological desk based assessment of the proposed route which will be submitted as part of the planning application.

This specification provides information on the methodology that will be employed by AW during phases 1 and 2 of the proposed archaeological work resulting from the scheme, a Desk Based Assessment & detailed field walkover survey.

All work will conform to Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (IfA 2008) and be undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.

#### 2 Development Proposals

The proposal is to construct an above ground energy generating hydro scheme to the south of Strata Florida parallel with thecourse of the Glasffrwd Brook. A weir intake to the west of Blaen Glasffrwd will divert water from the brook into a 400mm diameter pipe. The pipe will run for approximately 1.5km to the north west where it will enter a proposed powerhouse structure before being discharged back into the brook.

The pipe will be surface mounted (sat within a 0.3m deep trench) along the majority of its length though one section south of Pantyfedwen adjacent to the road will be located within a narrow trench approximately 1m deep.

#### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

The area surrounding the proposed route has a rich archaeological background. Bronze Age cairns are present at Blaen Glasffrwd towards the eastern end of the route and the medieval monastic settlement of Strata Florida is located at the eastern end of the route. The surrounding landscape is dotted with archaeological features of various dates, the majority of which are associated with medieval landscape management from Strata Florida abbey and post-medieval settlements.

#### 4 Site specific objectives

The primary objective will be to assess the impact of the development proposals on the historic environment by means of a detailed desk top study followed by a detailed field walkover survey. This will help inform future decision making, design solutions and

- 1. A review of the published resources (in particular the documents outlined in Section 2 above).
- An analysis of relevant maps and plans. Cartographic evidence is held at the County Record Offices and the National Library, Aberystwyth, including tithe maps, enclosure act plans, estate maps and all editions of the Ordnance Survey. Place and fieldname evidence from these sources must be considered.
- An analysis of the historical documents (e.g. county histories, local and national
  journals and antiquarian sources) held in museums, libraries or other archives,
  in particular local history and archives library.
- 4. A review of the aerial photographic evidence.

#### 7 Method statement for field walkover survey (Stage 2)

The field walkover survey will be a visual walked search of the working corridor. The ground surface will be rapidly visually scanned within appropriate transect widths for all earthworks, structures and finds. The location of any environmental archaeological deposits, or areas which may have a potential for such deposits, will also be taken into account along with the more traditional 'visible' archaeology.

Located sites or finds will be accurately fixed by means of GPS. An accuracy of within 2 metres is expected. Each individual find or site location will have an accurate NGR reference attached. Where a close cluster of related features is identified a single NGR for the centre of the cluster will be used, and each constituent feature separately described in the text. All sites or finds located will be given a unique sequential primary record number obtained from the HER in advance.

The character, function, condition, vulnerability, potential dating and relationship to other features of each identified site or find will be described fully. The importance of the site or find will be assessed in terms of local, regional or national significance.

A sketch survey of each identified site layout will be made with accompanying metric measurements

Written, drawn and photographic records of an appropriate level of detail will be maintained throughout the course of the project. Digital photographs, including metric scales, will be taken using cameras with resolutions of 14 mega pixels or above.

Illustrations will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required, and these will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

#### 8 Method statement for the production of an illustrated report

A report will be produced which synthesises the results of stages 1 and 2 and thereby assesses the total archaeological resource within the development area.

The results will be presented in such a way that data and supporting text are readily cross-referenced. The HER Officer will be contacted to ensure that any sites or monuments not previously recorded in the HER are given a Primary Record Number (PRN) and that data structure is compatible with the HER. The historical development of the site will be presented in phased maps and plans comprising clearly, the outline of

the project will be undertaken by Chris Smith (a CV is available upon request).

#### Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

#### Timetable of archaeological works

The work will be undertaken at the convenience of the client. No start date has yet been agreed.

#### <u>Insurance</u>

AW is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

#### Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act*, 1974, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.

If AW has sole possession of the site, then AW will produce a detailed Risk Assessment for approval by the client before any work is undertaken. If another organisation has responsibility for site safety, then AW employees with be briefed on the contents of all existing Risk Assessments, and all other health and safety requirements that may be in place.



#### HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD INFORMATION

Prepared by Felicity Sage, Dyfed Archaeological Trust

Produced for Chris Smith- Nr. Strata Florida from the Regional Historic Environment Record:

Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, 8 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF Tel (01558) 823131, Fax (01558) 823133 Email info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

Use of this information is subject to the terms and conditions of access to Welsh HER data published on DAT's website

www.dyfedarchaeology.orq.uk

#### **HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES**

#### Search criteria:

Hi. I am looking for all HER entries within a 500m of a hydro pipeline scheme. The search area will need to be 250m either side of the proposed route, thus giving the 500m corridor. I will email a map seperately showing the route. The start of the pipe is at SN 76176 63958, the mid point is SN 75357 64653 and the end is SN 74787 65333. Would it be possible to get the data as a mapinfo table compatible with the earliest version of mapinfo. Also with a gazetteer.

A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust has identified the following historic environment features. These are listed and described below. Each feature is allocated a Primary Record Number (PRN) that should be quoted in any

**SOURCES** Pm Mention Clouston,B & partners 1988 Cambrian Mountains Metal Mines Project No.F16

Mm Desc Text Hall, J & Sambrook, P 2003 Ystrad Fflur Community Audit SMR Library

OTHER SOURCES

PRN 36486 NAME PANT Y FEDWEN

TYPE Outbuilding PERIOD Post-medieval

NGR SN7551064980 COMMUNITY Ystrad Fflur

CONDITION Near Destroyed STATUS None recorded FORM

#### **SUMMARY**

An outbuilding of Pant y Fedwen measuring 8m by 4m with dovecote. JH 2000 based on CAP 1998

#### **DESCRIPTION**

FE owns 1 of the outbuildings, original Manor house and 1 other building are privately owned. The building owned by FE, borders the access of the FE land is 8m x 4m with dovecote. Two walls survive intact. Partially destroyed. CAP 19/11/98^This is probably the barn described by the RCAHM in 1987, see DRF for PRN 9904. JH 2000.02.08

**SOURCES** Mm Desc Text CAP 1998 FE WHA Survey - North Tywi SMR Library

Mm Database CAP 1998 FE WHA Survey - North Tywi MapInfo 5.0 tables Mm Desc Text Hall, J & Sambrook, P 2003 Ystrad Fflur Community Audit SMR Library

Pm Map OS 1906

**OTHER SOURCES** 

PRN 36490 NAME PANT Y MAEN

TYPE Shelter PERIOD Unknown

NGR SN7596064620 COMMUNITY Ystrad Fflur

CONDITION Not Known STATUS None recorded FORM

#### SUMMARY

A small structure described as a shelter in 192 but not located since

wooden pipe from an unknown source and excess water is drained by a narrow drainage channel to the Afon Glasffrwd. J Jones stated that the owner of Blaenglasffrwd remembered his grandmother as a small girl saw people visiting the well. (JH 09.02.2000 based on Cadw 1999, Jones, 1982) Spring water brought to well via wooden v shaped pipe entering through a carved u-shaped slate cistern. Square slate box shaped chamber 0.5m wide, long & deep. 3 steps down to 3 slate slabs 1.5m wide tappering to 1m, 2m long. Carved initials on slab. Near intact. Overgrown with moss. Tree roots have begun to move the edging stones and some stones have begun to decay. CAP 19/11/98

**SOURCES** Mm Desc Text CADW 1999 Notification of scheduling SAM file, CD 183(CER)

Mm Desc Text CADW 1999 AM107 SAM file, CD 183(CER)

Mm Database CAP 1998 FE WHA Survey - North Tywi MapInfo 5.0 tables

Mm Desc Text CAP 1998 FE WHA Survey - NorthTywi SMR Library

Mm Desc Text Cadw 2000 AM107 SAM file,CD183(CER)

Mm Desc Text Hall, J & Sambrook, P 2003 Ystrad Fflur Community Audit SMR Library

Mm List Jones,J 1982 Tywi Forest area - Historical and Antiquarian survey sites by number and compartment number

#### **OTHER SOURCES**

CADW 2007 AM107

Report Ings, M 2012 Medieval and early post-medieval holy wells: A threat-related assessment 2011-12

Article Cambrian News History trail created

PRN 36705 NAME TY'N Y GARREG

TYPE Farmstead PERIOD Medieval

NGR SN7605464248 COMMUNITY Ystrad Fflur

CONDITION Various STATUS None recorded FORM

#### SUMMARY

A farmhouse, 12m x 5m, with a barn, 11m x 5m, and field enclosures. J Jones in 1982 stated that his grandfather knew the Roberts who used to live there and that the building had a rush thatch roof. The barn is in better condition than the house. The water supply for the dwelling is recorded as being a spring, PRN 36493, by J Jones. JH 16.02.2000 based on CAP 1998

PRN 36722 NAME CROFFTAU

TYPE Trackway PERIOD Post-medieval

NGR SN7510064980 COMMUNITY Ystrad Fflur

CONDITION Near Intact STATUS None recorded FORM

#### **SUMMARY**

A trackway, defined by two parallel banks, that meets trackway PRN 36771 at SN7511064950. The trackway is nearly intact. JH 16.02.2000 based on CAP 1998

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Double banked trackway meeting Crofftau trackway at SN7511064950 running to SN7513065030. 1. 2m wide & 1.5m high. Near intact, some trees growing on the banks and on the trackway. CAP 19/11/98

**SOURCES** Mm Desc Text CAP 1998 FE WHA Survey - North Tywi SMR Library

Mm Database CAP 1998 FE WHA Survey - North Tywi MapInfo 5.0 tables Mm Desc Text Hall, J & Sambrook, P 2003 Ystrad Fflur Community Audit SMR Library

Pm Map OS 1905

**OTHER SOURCES** 

PRN 36723 NAME BWLCH Y GRAIG

TYPE Enclosure PERIOD Unknown

NGR SN7562064580 COMMUNITY Ystrad Fflur

CONDITION Not Known STATUS None recorded FORM

#### SUMMARY

EF

An enclosure shown on the Pathfinder map. JH 16.02.2000 based on CAP 1998; Marked on Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1897 map. Rear wall up to bank 2m high, side walls reduce in height to ground toward front of structure. Approx. 3m square (internally) walls 1m wide. Associated enclosure within spruce behind the building approx. 40m square. FE 2001

#### DESCRIPTION

## ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

## Glasfrwyd Hydro Scheme

Site Name:	Strata Florida
Site Code:	SFH/13/DBA
PRN:	•
NPRN:	•
SAM:	•
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR SN7617663958 to SN7478765333
Site Type:	Rural
Project Type:	DBA
Project Manager:	Chris E Smith
Project Dates:	Sept-Oct 2013
Categories Present:	-
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	-
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	~
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None