



James Milwyn Tinney  
Rheolwr Gwarchogaeth  
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru

28<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear James,

Following your request to provide advice on the removal of the larch plantation from Allt Cwmhenog wood, our subsequent field visit on the 26<sup>th</sup> July, and my site visit with Helen and Barry Burnham on the 8<sup>th</sup> August, I would make the following recommendations in regard of the unscheduled archaeological remains;

Whilst Cadw are providing advice on those areas which benefit from statutory protection, there are two significant areas of unscheduled archaeological remains which could suffer damage from the felling and extraction of the larch plantation. One of these is known, identified and visible on the ground; that is the continued course of the Cothi leat (CM200; PRN 1947) which extends from the scheduled area along the north-western boundary of the plantation between the 210 – 220m contours.

The other is the remains of the Nant Dâr leat. Its course is known and is partially scheduled further up the valley above Llwyn-y-ceiliog Farm (CM213; PRN 8884) and it could be assumed to run a course towards the mine area around the 240 – 250 m contours, although it may have run a steeper course to join with the Cothi leat (Burnham, H & B 2004 p223).

The 1955 Meridian Airmap aerial photograph appears to show the course of the leat prior to the planting up of the hillside in 1956, however it has not been possible on two site visits to identify the course of the leat on the ground due to thick moss and ground cover and the disturbance to the ground surface through planting.

Of course there is also potential for other as yet unknown archaeological remains to be damaged or destroyed by the proposed felling and extraction.

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## Recommendations:

The site is clearly archaeologically sensitive and ideally no ground intrusive activities should take place, however the notification of Phytophthora has necessitated the removal of the larch trees with some urgency.

We would therefore recommend that any ground disturbing activities should be kept to an absolute minimum and where ground needs to be levelled and disturbed that an archaeological watching brief should be carried out.

The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014) is:

- *to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works;*
- *to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.*

Therefore an archaeologist should monitor **any ground works** and in particular those associated with the provision of access tracks and terracing for timber collecting and stacking areas, in order to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits. Any machine excavators should ideally use a flat bladed bucket rather than a toothed bucket to give optimum conditions for identifying archaeological deposits.

There should be sufficient flexibility in the programme of work to allow for any archaeological discoveries to be investigated to establish the character, extent and date of the deposits. The results of the work should also be reported on.

It is essential for good communication between the site contractor, NRW and DAT to ensure that an archaeologist is present when works are being carried out and that sufficient advance notice is given.

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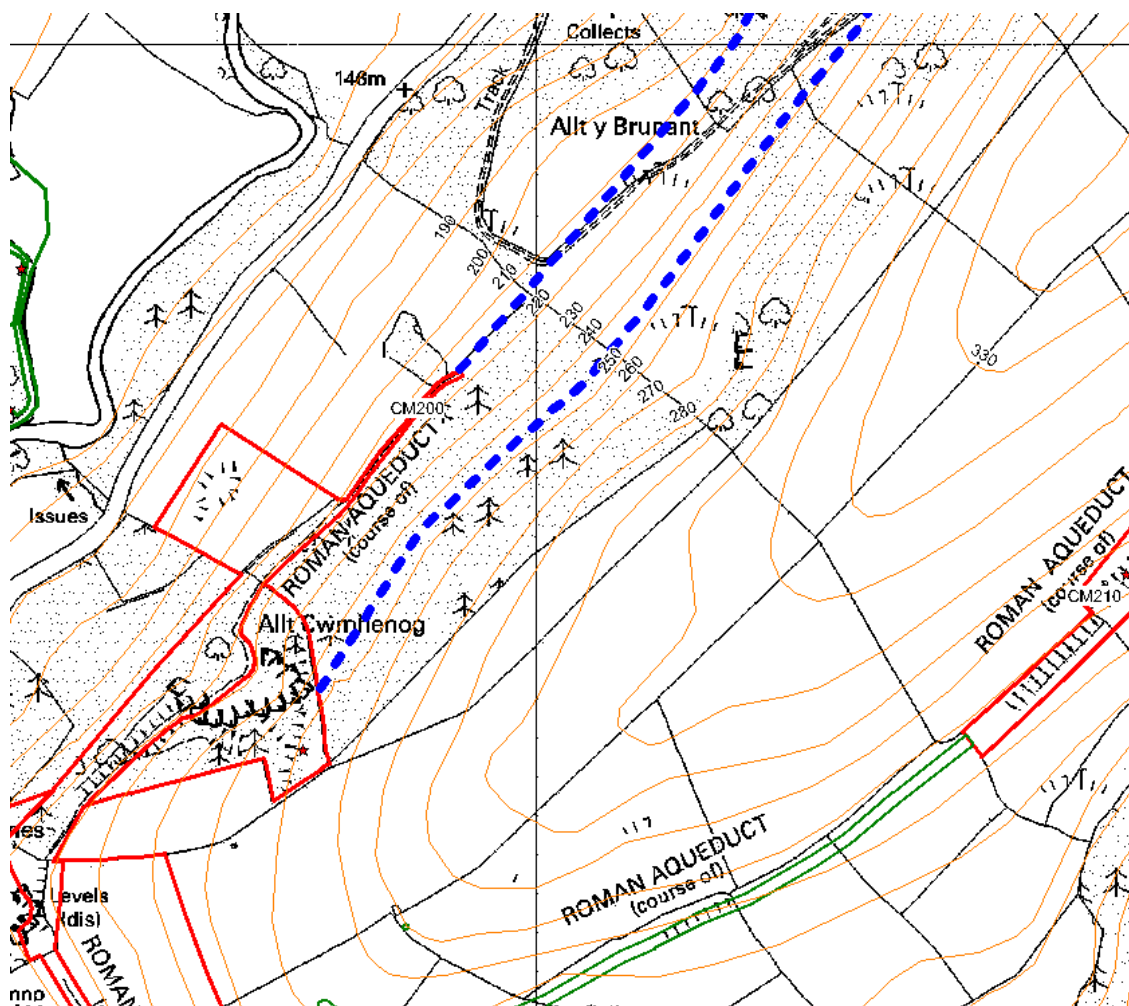
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Whilst this work on the site may result in the removal of archaeological deposits, it should give the opportunity to confirm the location and position of the Nant Dâr leat.

It is understood that whilst the trees will be felled, their roots will be left to rot *in situ*. Clearly the long term management of the site needs to be further discussed to find a suitable regime which will ensure that in the future any archaeological deposits are protected.



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Map extract showing scheduled areas in red and projected courses of leats in blue.

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Meridian Airmap 1955 with arrow to show the possible earthwork of the Nant Dâr leat.

Let me know if there are any issues or clarification needed,

Best wishes

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