

Alice Pyper

From: Marie Evans <Marie.Evans@tilhill.com>
Sent: 25 April 2024 08:19
To: Laura.Cooper@gov.wales
Cc: Alice Pyper
Subject: RE: Cadw - 2022-12-05 - Creation of a new woodland, Tan y Lan Farm, Bethlehem, Llangadog, SA19 9DR - Response (A43178170)
Attachments: Tan y Lan map.pdf

Hi Laura

Thanks for your prompt response on this plan. I am glad you have no objections on the proposal and have copied Alice in to see the revised plan.

Alice as you can see we have further reduced the planting area at Tanylan farm following consultation with Natural Resources Wales (this includes the fields around the farm itself and the isolated smaller fields closest to the SAM. If you have any further comments if you could forward on that would be great

Kind regards



Marie Evans
Forest manager

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Tilhill, Church Bank, Llandovery, SA20 0BA



From: Laura.Cooper@gov.wales <Laura.Cooper@gov.wales>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 3:29 PM
To: Marie Evans <Marie.Evans@tilhill.com>
Subject: FW: Cadw - 2022-12-05 - Creation of a new woodland, Tan y Lan Farm, Bethlehem, Llangadog, SA19 9DR - Response (A43178170)

Dear Marie

Thank you for your email below.

Advice

CM037 Garn Goch Camps

CM327 Trichrug round cairns

This application is for the creation of a new woodland at Tan y Lan Farm, Bethlehem, Carmarthenshire, located 125m to the east of Garn Goch Camps, CM037, and c. 370m to the north of Trichrug Round Cairns, CM327, on land rising from c. 200m OD to 350m OD. The documents submitted do not include details of forestry tracks required for future harvesting works.

Garn Goch Camps cover an extensive area of landscape encompassing the remains of two hillforts probably dating to the Iron Age period (c. 800 BC - AD 74, the Roman conquest of Wales). Of these the larger known as Y Gaer Fawr occupies the summit of a foothill ridge south east of Mynydd Du and commands extensive views north, east and south west. The smaller fort known as Y Gaer Fach is situated on a subsidiary summit a short distance to the east. Y Gaer Fawr is a very large stone-walled later prehistoric type hillfort and is the largest in south-west Wales. The walls enclose an area of about 11ha, roughly 680m north-east to south-west by 130-190m, the main entrances facing north-east and south-west towards the gentler slopes along the ridge are now partly concealed by collapse within the stony ramparts. A striking feature of Y Gaer Fawr are the remains of at least eight additional narrow 'postern' gates, constructed of upright stone slabs probably all originally roofed with stone lintels. A large annex branches out on the north side of the hillfort which once continued eastward to connect with the north-east corner of the fort. Within the interior is at least one hut circle located centrally behind the south east rampart represented by a level platform about 14m in diameter. About 25m to the north of this are two roughly rectangular stone structures, these are thought to represent a medieval house and fold, the larger measures 25m x 9m and the other 14m x 8m. Also within the fort on the natural crag of the summit is a large stone cairn which probably dates to the Bronze Age (c. 2300 - 800 BC) and which measures c 55m long, 20m wide and 3m high. Ascending c 60m from the hollow to the north west of Y Gaer Fawr is a walled trackway which forms an outward extension of the entrance to the second fort Y Gaer Fach, an oval enclosure of about 1.5ha, roughly 168m east-west by 115m defended by a single stone wall, except on the west side where a second rampart overlaps and runs parallel to produce a narrow corridor. South east of the hillforts on the ridge slope there are a series of enclosures and roundhouses which may be farmsteads of prehistoric date and Bronze Age cairn reported to have held a cist with traces of a cremation.

Trichrug Round Cairns comprises the remains of three burial cairns, probably dating to the Bronze Age (c.2300 BC - 800 BC) and situated within rough grazing on the summit of Trichrug hill. The cairns are circular on plan. The north easternmost cairn (Item A: SN 6997 2299), which is the largest and best preserved, measures about 18m in diameter and up to 2m in height. The central cairn (Item B: SN 6994 2295) measures about 12m in diameter and up to 0.3m in height. The south westernmost cairn (Item C: SN 6990 2292) measures about 12m in diameter and up to 1m in height. Stone has been robbed from the cairns and used to construct the overlying drystone wall.

Both CM037 and CM327 are of national importance for their potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric defensive organisation and settlement, burial, and ritual. They are important relics within a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape.

The proposed new woodland will not have a direct impact on physical remains within the scheduled areas. However, the creation of new woodland has potential to impact the settings of the monuments, including views between them, from them, and of them.

When constructed, prehistoric burial and defended sites were located to command extensive views and to be intervisible with contemporary monuments. Clear views below forts and along main access ways to them enhanced their defensibility and their visual impact within the landscape. Key access ways used in the prehistoric period would have favoured the river Towy and upland routes.

Today, Garn Goch Camps and Trichrug Round Cairns lie within a matrix of enclosed fields, woodland, and upland grazing. There will be a cumulative negative impact of proposed planting on the setting of the monuments when considered in addition to existing compartments of softwoods.

Tan Y Lan Farm lies mostly to the east of views between Garn Goch Camps, including the Bronze Age Cairn within it, and Trichrug Round Cairns. Therefore, new woodland planted on the holding will have minimal impact on views between these monuments.

We agree with the conclusion reached in the DBA that the impact on the setting of Trichrug Round Cairns will be Negligible.

The DBA concludes that the impact of the proposed planting on Garn Goch Camps will be Minor. This negative impact can be reduced further:

The highest parts of Garn Goch Camps, at c. 230m, currently command long views beyond the monument, including those looking east and southeast towards open hill at higher elevations. These views, and views from lower elevations, are currently partially interrupted by trees. Views of and from Garn Goch Camps, including those from publicly accessible areas will be further interrupted by new tree planting on Tan Y Lan Farm.

The Tan y Lan Species Map submitted to Cadw shows unplanted fields below the publicly accessible PROW running SSW to ENE near the southern end of the project (which is the highest elevation of the project area). The negative impact of the new planting at lower elevations on the setting of Garn Goch Camps will be reduced if these fields are maintained as permanent pasture.

Views from the eastern PROW running from ESE to WNE are interrupted by planting of mixed broadleaves and Sitka Spruce at the northern end of the route. Negative impacts of the proposed woodland on the setting of Garn Goch Camps would be reduced by avoiding tree planting and maintaining an area of open ground as permanent pasture immediately at the northern end of this route to retain views looking NW across Tan y Lan towards the monument.

To conclude, the mosaic of mixed broadleaf trees, Sitka Spruce, Douglas Fir, pasture, and open ground (if the latter two can be maintained as permanent pasture) will reduce negative impacts of the proposed planting scheme on the setting of Garn Goch Camps. Negative impacts will be further reduced if planting is excluded from the northern end of the PROW to retain views across Tan y Lan towards Garn Goch Camps.

The timber produced at Tan y Lan will be harvested requiring installation of tracks within the woodland. The location of tracks and engineering works have potential to harm undesignated historic features and will require future consultation with Heneb Dyfed Archaeology (formerly DAT).

Towy Valley Historic Landscape HLW (D) 5

The principal significance of the valley is as setting for a unique group of planned parks and gardens, and its historic, artistic associations with the Picturesque.

The area was also the heartland of Ystrad Tywi. Much of this territorial unit remained in Welsh control under Lord Rhys and his descendants until late in the 13th century. The legacy of stone castles as well as earth and timber mottes and planted medieval boroughs still dominate the landscape.

The prehistoric environment and settlement patterns of the Tywi valley are the least known. It is however apparent from small-scale, ad hoc, archaeological work that there are glacially deposited raised areas of ground on the valley floors, with potential prehistoric settlement and land use

information. Evidence for Iron Age occupation on the lower valley sides and valley floors is at present lacking to complement the pattern of large, infrequently sited hillforts such as Carn Goch and Merlin's Hill overlooking the valley.

The proposed woodland lies beyond the HLA and Garn Goch Camp within the HLA and will not have a direct impact on the area. The proposed woodland has potential to affect the setting of the HLA.

In 2023 Tillhill consulted Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) on the impact of the proposed development on undesignated historic assets and historic landscape areas. Following this consultation the draft planting plans were revised in response to DAT's suggestions, including the mix of species and introduction of broadleaf buffers. On 10 March 2023 DAT confirmed to Tillhill that the proposed planting scheme shown on Map v 4 were acceptable.

Since that consultation the scheme has been revised again to exclude planting from the fields around Tan y Lan farm (which have been sold and are no longer included in the development) and removing planting of broadleaves in the fields closest to the scheduled monument. We recommend that Tillhill reconsults Heneb (formerly DAT) on the latest version of the scheme.

We agree with DAT's approval of Map v 4, and the subsequent changes are improvements to that scheme. The proposed planting covers most of the fields of the holding though excludes fields immediately around Tan y Lan farm, and fields in the southern part of the project area at a higher elevation overlooking the HLA and Garn Goch Camp. Negative impacts to the pastoral landscape will be reduced if those fields excluded from planting are maintained as permanent pasture. Similarly, negative impacts to the pastoral landscape will be reduced if proposed areas of open ground are maintained as permanent pasture. The proposed planting of softwoods and hardwoods will partially obscure historic field patterns from 18th century enclosure and of potentially earlier systems. This negative impact will be reduced by broadleaf buffers, the mosaic of deciduous and different species of softwoods, interspersed with permanent pasture if the latter is maintained as such.

Therefore, we have no objections to the proposed planting in regard to the Historic Landscape.

Kind Regards

Laura Cooper



Laura Cooper

Swyddog Gwaith Achos/ Casework Officer
Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government
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From: Marie Evans <Marie.Evans@tilhill.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 11:32 AM

To: Cooper, Laura (ETC - CST - Cadw - Casework Teams) <Laura.Cooper@gov.wales>

Subject: RE: Cadw - 2022-12-05 - Creation of a new woodland, Tan y Lan Farm, Bethlehem, Llangadog, SA19 9DR - Response (A43178170)

Hi Laura

Hope you are well. I know I consulted with Cadw back in 2022 about a woodland creation site we were working on email trail below & response. Over the last year we have worked closely with Alice (DAT) on the plan as suggested. And taken into consideration the comments on your last response. If you could pass this new plan onto the relevant person and let us know if you are happy with the proposed plan?

Many thanks



Marie Evans
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Tilhill, Church Bank, Llandovery, SA20 0BA



From: Laura.Cooper@gov.wales <Laura.Cooper@gov.wales>

Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 12:50 PM

To: Marie Evans <marie.evans@tilhill.com>

Subject: Cadw - 2022-12-05 - Creation of a new woodland, Tan y Lan Farm, Bethlehem, Llangadog, SA19 9DR - Response (A43178170)

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Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your consultation.

Please see attached response letter.

Kind Regards

Laura Cooper



Laura Cooper

Swyddog Gwaith Achos/ Casework Officer

Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government

Ffôn / Tel: 02922 784981

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