



Andrew Hood
Senior Officer Forest Planning
Natural Resources Wales
Maes Newydd
Llandarcy

6th April 2023

DAT file number 15565

Dear Andrew,

Llandovery and Caio Forest Resource Plan

Thank you for consulting us on the Llandovery and Caio Forest Resource Plan and I'm very sorry it has taken so long to respond to this consultation. As regional archaeological curators the Heritage Management team at Dyfed (DAT-HM) provide information, advice and assistance in understanding, appreciating and managing the historic environment and we welcome the opportunity to provide information to include in your plans.

The Welsh archaeological trusts hold the regional Historic Environment Records (HER) which contain information on known sites and artefacts of archaeological and/or historical interest ranging in date from the earliest known human habitation up to the end of the Cold War. It also contains information on archaeological work carried out. The HER is a dynamic record and is updated constantly when new information becomes available.

The four Welsh archaeological trusts, Cadw and NRW are currently reviewing the FRP consultation process which is carried out under the Memorandum of Understanding between the organisations. My understanding is that this is a high-level screening to identify significant issues or opportunities for heritage within the woodland estate. Therefore, a detailed desk-based assessment of maps, LiDAR, aerial photographs and other sources which may reveal unrecorded features, has not been carried out at this stage.

My initial screening has noted that there are features on historic Ordnance Survey maps (OS) which are not recorded on the HER. It is therefore recommended that those areas which are subject to forest operations are subject to a desk-based assessment using all the sources listed above. This can be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeological contractor and DAT-HM can provide advice to NRW to ensure that an appropriate level of assessment is carried out.

In reviewing the HER data I have noted that currently there are 93 individual site records in the Caio and Llandovery forests (33 in Llandovery, 60 in Caio). We understand that you hold current point data for the HER and polygons for Scheduled Monuments on your GIS system. Therefore, I am supplying polygons for Historic Environment Features (derived from our HEF / previously Glastir data), these are management areas and do not always represent individual features but may represent clusters of archaeological features. Each polygon has a unique ID, which is 6 figure and begins with 3, I have also added in the main PRN for the management areas into the associated table. I am also supplying MapInfo MIF files of areas which are deemed to be of high archaeological potential, these are in the form of 'ellipses' and have been created to highlight a 'hotspot' of archaeological sensitivity.

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There are three Scheduled Monuments within the FRP (Caio) which relate to the Roman Gold Mines at Dolaucothi, these must be managed in consultation with Cadw (Louise Mees is the current inspector for this region). The scheduled areas represent the best-preserved sections of Roman aqueducts, however the rest of these linear features remain undesignated and therefore highly vulnerable to damage from forest operations. The course of these features is still not defined; therefore hotspots have been drawn to highlight the sensitive nature of these areas and that further archaeological advice should be sought if any active intervention or management is proposed in these areas.

CM200	Dolaucothi Roman Aqueduct	Roman	Aqueduct	http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/sam/FullReport?lang=en&id=2158
CM208	Dolaucothi Gold Mines	Roman	Gold mine	http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/sam/FullReport?lang=en&id=3107
CM210	Annell Aqueduct (lower section)	Roman	Aqueduct	http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/sam/FullReport?lang=en&id=659

The FRPs for Caio and Llandovery intersect with the following Registered Historic Landscapes;

- Dolaucothi Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest HLW(D) 8
- Tywi Valley Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest HLW (D) 5

Many of the consultation areas have been further characterised as Historic Landscapes:

<https://dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/HLC/HistoricLandscapeCharacterisation.htm>

Most of the Caio and Llandovery forests are predominantly conifer plantations which have been planted on land which was previously in agrarian in nature interspersed with mainly broadleaved woodland - very few conifer plantations are recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps of the late 19th century. It is recommended that the management of these forests should reintroduce a higher proportion of native broadleaf species which would be more sympathetic with the Historic Landscape character.

In addition, the following Registered Park and Garden is affected:
 Llwynywormwood PGW (Dy) 71 (CAM) Grade II - please ensure that Liddes Fiddes Inspector for Parks and Gardens at Cadw has an opportunity to comment on the management of the forests lying within the Registered Parkland.

Another two parklands have been identified which are undesignated; that is the former parkland of Cilgwyn Mansion (PRN99502) which prior to afforestation is shown as scattered broadleaved trees arranged as specimen trees, in groups or loose clusters on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, and Abermarlais (PRN 106683) a former Deer Park, also recorded as scattered broadleaf trees, deciduous woodland and some conifer plantation. The FRP review would allow a welcome opportunity to restore the parkland character associated with these significant historic houses.

The Cennen Tower (PRN 19987) is the remains of a Post Medieval Tower House and was once a prominent feature in the landscape. It would benefit from improved access and further interpretation would be welcomed.

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The range of archaeology represented in the records for Llandovery and Caio is broad; with Bronze Age Round Barrows representing the earliest recorded features (PRNs 4109 and 4110). It is important to recognise that these features, which appear isolated now, would have been focal points over many centuries, and may have associated remains which are now invisible. Intervisibility between these landscape features was also an important aspect of their use.

Other recorded archaeology largely represents post medieval agrarian land use, with many farmsteads, cottages and dwellings, though some isolated mining remains are also recorded. It is important to recognise that some historic landscape features are not individually identified on the HER, such as historic field boundaries and trackways still survive as earthworks within the forests and should be protected from damage.

We welcome opportunities to improve or enhance the condition and visibility of historic environment features through appropriate woodland management and to promote accessibility and interpretation to the public.

I hope this information is useful, I would emphasise that further consultation should be carried out at the operational planning stages when more specific and targeted advice can be provided.

Please feel free to contact me for any clarification of the issues above or the data provided.

With best wishes

Alice Pyper

Project Manager – Heritage Management

Email: a.pyper@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

Attached MIF files:

- FRP2023_ Llandovery_and_Caio_Hotspots_ellipses
- Caio HEF polygons
- Llandovery HEF polygons

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