



22nd November 2023

Dear Bev,

**NRW Screening Request
FLA223 23-24 Ucheldir.**

Thank you for your felling licence consultation. I have reviewed the map boundaries against the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) and other sources and note the application area is situated close to the Seduled monument Crug Perfa Round Barrow (CM104), therefore Cadw should be consulted. I am coping this response to Louise Mees, Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Archaeology (South West Wales).

I have also noted the following features:

PRN2305 CARN WERN BRONZE AGE ROUND BARROW SN35883424

This Bronze Age Round Barrow has been obscured within a coniferous plantation since the early 1970s. The barrow is visible on pre-1970s aerial photographs as a circular feature. It appears to have been disturbed in the past. An aerial photograph dating to 1974 seems to show a trench or a gully has been cut across the mound, creating a bank like feature on its southeastern sided. This bank was described by DAT when the monument was visited in 2000, when it was recorded as being c. 15m in diameter and up to 1m high. JS based on Trysor 2021.

Deep within a conifer plantation in a small clearing lies the SE section of a round barrow, which may equally although less likely to be a ring barrow, encroached on all sides by forestry. There is a clearly defined circular bank standing to a height of c.1m with a diameter of approx. 15m. Forest cover makes it difficult to assess the condition of the rest of the monument, but it seems badly eroded in its northern sector by forestry activity. Within the middle of the barrow there has been some disturbance and digging, including animal activity (possibly badgers?), which gives the barrow is current ring like profile. The 'bank' is clearly defined and surrounds a flattened internal and shallower area with loose stones visible on the surface and lying underneath the moss side the bank has been built up in height by the substantial moss and fern cover which also goes some way towards protecting the site. The width of the bank is some 3m at its maximum. N Bestley PFRS 2001.

PRN33901 MODERN STOPLINE SN3598534497

A stop line between two river valleys made of anti tank cubes. JH Feb 1997.

A stop line comprising a line of reinforced concrete cubes, extending from the Felindre-Tycoch road, for a distance of approximately 400m to the head of a steep sided river valley. The 1.5m square concrete cubes are built edge on and set about a metre apart. A pillbox (PRN 49211) is set into the line approximately 250m to the north of the road.

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This stop line forms part of the larger Western Command: Carmarthen Stop Line (PRN 31416). This line comprises a continuous geographical anti-tank obstacle, running from the mouth of the Afon Tywi to Carmarthen, thence to Llangeler via Cynwyl Elfed. From this point, it continues north to Llangranog. A date between 1940 and the end of the summer of 1941 has been suggested for its construction (Glover 1990, 88).

Such stop lines are part of a range of obstacles of various shapes and sizes, which were designed to slow down the enemy advance and allow local forces to mount an aggressive defence (Glover 1990, 81). Pill boxes, or strong posts were typically added at strategic locations for added support. One such pill box (PRN 49211) is set into the stop line at Blaenmaenog Farm. Another example, known from documentary evidence to have been located near to the road, and just outside of the boundary of the holding, has since been lost.

A rectangular mine field (PRN 49212) to the east of the stop line provided an additional deterrent. Records relating to the stop line at Llangeler are scarce, although a compliment of soldiers can be inferred from contemporary war diaries.

The section of the Rhos Llangeler stop line at Blaenmaenog Farm remains largely intact today. Anti-tank cubes have been displaced in two locations to permit machinery access to farmland to the west. W Steele 2003.

PRN125786 MODERN PILLBOX SN3597034110
 A Type 24 "shell-proof" pill box is located in the World War II defensive stop line (PRN33901) at Rhos Llangeler.

PRN130044 MODERN ROAD BLOCK SN35983420
 Evidence of a roadblock situated between two rows of anti-tank cubes obscured by road re-surfacing. Plotted off aerial photographs. Record derived from Defence of Britain Project (Record Number 11504). A. Powell based on RCAHMMW.

PRN130045 MODERN CUBE SN35973412
 Reinforced concrete cube. One of forty-six extending from the northern end of the Afon Bele anti-tank ditch, and pillbox at SN 35963411, to the minor road which links the B4299 and the A484 roads. Record derived from Defence of Britain Project (Record Number 3265). A. Powell based on RCAHMMW.

PRN130046 MODERN CUBE SN35973428
 Line of reinforced concrete cubes extending from the minor road which links the B4299 and the A484 roads to the head of the valley to the west of Ffrydiau-gwynion. Record derived from Defence of Britain Project (Record Number 11502). A. Powell based on RCAHMMW.

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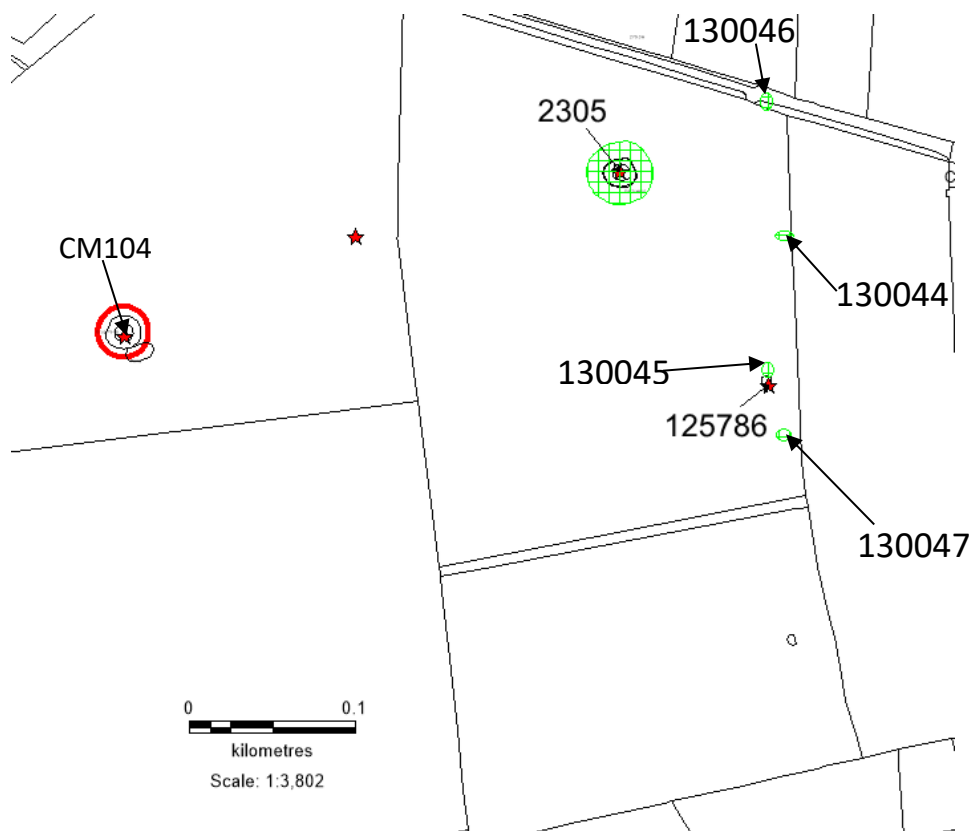


PRN130047

MODERN ANTI TANK DITCH

SN35983408

Anti-tank ditch rising from the valley of Afon Bele up to the high ground near Carn-wern.
Plotted off aerial photographs. Record derived from Defence of Britain Project (Record
Number 11505). A. Powell based on RCAHMW.



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The application also lies within the Historic Landscape Character Area Rhos Penboyr which features a range of archaeology including Bronze Age barrows, scheduled monuments and WWII defensive remains. The anti-tank blocks are a rare surviving remnant of the Wester Command: Carmarthen World War II stop line, which extended from the mouth of the Tywi to the south, to Llangeler to the north. To preserve the stop line, the anti tanks blocks should be retained in their current position. The route of the stop line should be maintained as an open space.

<https://dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/HLC/drefachfelindre/rhospenboyr.htm#:~:text=Description%20and%20essential%20historic%20landscape,places%20by%20coniferous%20forestry%20plantation>

Due to the presence of vulnerable, significant historical features and the potential for more archaeology within the application area, there should minimal disturbance within all green polygons. We also advise that the areas marked with green polygons not be subject to restocking and be maintained as open space. Dyfed Archaeological Trust would like to be updated on work and happy to be consulted regarding future plans.

The current condition of these features is unknown; however, they may survive as ruins, earthworks or below ground archaeology. We advise that these historic environment features (labelled on the map above and marked with green polygons or red stars) are

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protected from damage during forest operations, to comply with UKFS Forests and the historic environment guidance.

There is always the possibility for previously unknown remains to survive within this area of which we have no knowledge. Should further archaeological features or finds be identified it is important that Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management is informed and further advice can then be provided.

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