



Alan Wilson
Senior Officer, Forest Resource Planning
People and Places Team, Mid Wales
Natural Resources Wales

DAT file number 15149

30th April 2021

Dear Alan,

Ystwyth Valley Forest Resource Plan

Thank you for consulting us on the Forest Resource Plan for the Ystwyth Valley. 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 at the earliest opportunity 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.

We understand that you hold current point data for the HER and also polygons for Scheduled Monuments on your GIS system and therefore have the location of individual features. Therefore our aim with this response is to identify areas of sensitivity where further consultation is required at the planning stages. We are therefore supplying Esri Shapefiles 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.

We have reviewed the HER data, along with the scheduled monument data, Coflein (held by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments) and historic Ordnance Survey mapping (1st and 2nd edition) and also assessed other data held in the HER.

Results

We have identified 75 recorded sites on the Dyfed Archaeological Trust HER, ten of these are new sites which have been identified from sources during this screening process.

There are three scheduled monuments, about which I understand you are consulting Cadw already;

Coed Allt Fedw Camp, Iron Age Defended Enclosure, CD025

Nant Byr Isaf, Bronze Age Round Barrow, CD187

Cefn Blewog, Iron Age Hillfort, CD011

Our assessment has highlighted that the suggested course of the Roman road PRN 5222 travels northeast to southwest through the consultation areas from Cae Gaer and Trawsgoed fort, although its exact course is, as yet, undetermined. Ellipses of archaeological sensitivity have been drawn around those areas, to trigger further consultation during the forestry planning stages.

The forest parcels which lie east of Abermagwr lie within the Upland Ceredigion Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest ((HLW (D) 2), which encompasses wooded valley sides and areas which, historically, were open

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unenclosed agricultural landscapes (Mynydd Bach) where prehistoric standing stones and barrows have been recorded. The remains of metal mining are also to be found in these hillsides.

The forest areas lower down the Ystwyth valley have largely been historic woodland, very often shown as plantation or conifer woods shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping.

There are also two registered parks and gardens which lie adjacent to the forest parcels, Nanteos Grade II* Parkland (PGW (Dy) 52 (CER)), and Trawscoed Grade II Parkland (PGW (Dy) 53 (CER)). It is important to consider sensitive design of the forests which, both now and in the past form part of the wider setting to these significant designed landscapes.

The areas identified as hotspots require further consultation at forest planning stages. However, it is important to recognise that other landscape features are not individually identified, such as historic field boundaries and trackways but nevertheless they contribute to the overall historic landscape 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 gives you enough information to incorporate into the Forest Resource Plan at this stage and gives a broad indication of the archaeological issues. I would emphasise the need for further consultation with us at the operational planning stages when we can review the information available on the HER and provide more specific and targeted advice.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss any of the issues above or if you require further information.

Alice Pyper

Project Manager – Heritage Management

Email: a.pyper@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

Attached:

- FRP2021_DAT_15149_Hotspots_ellipses

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