



Andrew Hood
Forest Resource Planner
Evidence, Policy and Permitting Directorate
Natural Resources Wales

DAT file number 14687

3rd August 2020

Dear Andrew,

Crychan Forest Resource Plan

Thank you for consulting us on the Forest Resource Plan for Crychan. This consultation area lies across the boundary of Powys and Carmarthenshire and so Abi McCullough of the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust has provided the information for the area which lies in Powys. As regional archaeological curators the Heritage Management teams at Dyfed (DAT-HM) and Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) 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 all 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 polygonal data held in the HER.

Results

We have identified 88 recorded sites; 37 recorded sites held by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust HER and 51 on the Dyfed Archaeological Trust HER. There are no scheduled monuments, however a Roman fortlet (PRN DAT 273) lies half within the consultation area, and the half which lies outside the forest has been scheduled (CM373), indicating the significance of the archaeological remains which have been affected by forest planting.

Our assessment has also identified the course of the Roman road which travels northeast to southwest through the consultation area, although its exact course is as yet undetermined. The fortlet mentioned above lies c250m to the southeast of

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the road and the area between the two should be considered archaeologically sensitive.

The available historic mapping (1st and 2nd edition OS mapping 1891 & 1905/6) records the medieval/post-medieval agricultural landscape prior to afforestation. Prior to tree planting the area was principally an agricultural landscape comprising small irregular fields with small blocks of broadleaf woodland on the lower steeper slopes with scattered farmsteads and large blocks of upland rough grazing.

In addition to the Roman remains mentioned above the archaeological interest is predominantly the remnants of this agricultural landscape, principally the sites of deserted settlements comprising ruined farmsteads and cottages. The level of survival of the associated features, e.g. trackways, small fields, paddocks and the enclosures around them is not known. A number of enclosures, mostly undated but presumed to include prehistoric enclosures, have also been identified, mainly from aerial photographs. The current condition of a number of these sites is also not known.

The areas identified as hotspots require further consultation at forest planning stages. However it is important to recognise that other historic landscape features are not individually identified, such as old boundary banks but nevertheless they contribute to the overall historic landscape and should be protected from damage. We also highlight these hotspots as they represent opportunities to improve or enhance the condition and visibility of historic environment features through appropriate woodland management.

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:

- FRP2020_DAT_14687_Hotspots_region
- Crychan FRP hotspots CPAT_region

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