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Dear Joshua,

National Peatlands Action Programme

Thank you for consulting us on the National Peatlands Action Programme. As regional archaeological curators the Heritage Management team at Dyfed Archaeological Trust (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 Record (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.

I apologise for the delay with this response. Due to the extensive nature of this consultation which covers a number of regions, and the recognition that the impact of peat restoration schemes upon the palaeoenvironment is poorly understood, I have been consulting with my colleagues in the other Welsh Archaeological Trusts and Cadw, to put together this response.

The restoration of peatland has the potential to be beneficial for the historic environment by rewetting sites and preventing the degradation of organic archaeological remains which are preserved in the peat deposits. In addition there is the potential for palaeoenvironmental sequences to be preserved within the peat which document the climatic and vegetational history from the last ice age.

However the long term impacts of peat restoration could include the direct disturbance and damage of the palaeoenvironmental remains and associated archaeological features, plus the longer term impacts of changing hydrology, changing heavy metal mobilisation, salinity, pH etc., effects which are currently poorly understood. In addition there is the potential for sites to be engulfed by peat resulting in loss of visibility, which is not necessarily damaging in itself but represents loss of access to sites and loss of understanding.

Draft guidance recently received from Cadw recommends that for all peat restoration projects the following best-practice steps should be taken;

- *A palaeoenvironmental specialist should be consulted at the earliest planning stage of a restoration project in order to inform the methodology.*
- *A desk-based assessment of any previous palaeoenvironmental analyses within the area of peatland should be included within the mitigation.*
- *Areas of undisturbed deep peat (<2m) should be retained with a buffer zone of at least 30m from any intrusive works (bundling trenches, borrow pits and*

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so on) in order to avoid damage to any associated deposits. The location of proposed works may need to be amended to allow a suitable buffer of undisturbed material.

- Tracking should not take place across these undisturbed areas.
- Where a buffer is not possible, or within small localised accumulations of peat, and/or where no previous palaeoenvironmental work has taken place, it may be appropriate for a core(s) or profile(s) to be extracted in order to obtain a palaeoenvironmental record. Minimum analyses should include a spot radiocarbon date for the initiation of peat, visual profile characterisation, and broad spectrum assessment of the number, nature and condition of microfossils (pollen, charcoal, and non-pollen palynomorphs).
- All interventions must be plotted precisely with full National Grid references accurate to $\pm 1\text{m}$, and the information lodged within a suitable archive.
- Monitoring - Extraction and appropriate analysis of a core or profile has the benefit of providing a record of the vegetation, climate and landscape change over time. This core will provide baseline data to inform the longer-term monitoring of the effects of rewetting upon the palaeoenvironment and will also help to inform the effectiveness of the peat restoration project.

In terms of the known archaeological resource I have reviewed the consultation areas which lie within Ceredigion against the HER, scheduled monument data, Coflein (Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales), historic mapping data and aerial photographs. I am attaching the results below which represent an initial screening of the data readily available within the HER.

A range of different sites have been identified from the HER and Coflein, which indicate a landscape which has been settled by people over a long time period including; Bronze Age Round Barrows, evidence of Medieval huts and post Medieval farmsteads, sheep folds and peat cutting. In addition there are significant archaeological features which lie in close proximity to the consultation areas, including a scheduled cairn cemetery, CD 138 Blaen Glasffrwd, which lies within 50 metres of an area identified for peat restoration.

A large proportion of the areas to be restored lie within conifer plantations, and our records note that some of these sites have not been verified on the ground – their condition is unknown, and they may have been badly damaged or destroyed during preparation for planting and harvesting of trees. However, whilst the survival of archaeological sites may be poor within the conifer plantations, there may still be potential for good survival of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains within areas of deep peat.

In addition to the steps outlined above, where ground intrusive activities are proposed, such as 'the manipulation of peat substrate up to a metre depth to create water retaining features such as peat dams using excavatorsinstalling non-peat dams...etc.' there is the potential for the damage or destruction of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains. Where ground intrusive works such as this are proposed, a programme of archaeological mitigation may be required.

In order to inform the extent and nature of this programme of archaeological mitigation, we recommend that a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) is carried out, this

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will provide information on the recorded and potential archaeology in advance to ensure that any subsequent mitigation is sufficient and effective.

We would expect the chosen archaeological contractor(s) to provide an appropriate specification of work produced in accordance with the CIfA standards and guidance which should be approved by the archaeological curator (DAT-HM) prior to the work taking place.

As set out in the NRW WAT MoU, the provision of briefs for undertaking further historic environment work, the review of written scheme of investigations (WSI) produced by an archaeological contractor and the monitoring of works, including final reporting, would be funded by NRW.

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

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PRN	Period & Site Type	NGR	Summary	Description
121931	Post Medieval Peat Cutting	SN7185 054340	An area of peat cutting about 100 metres east-west and 50 metres north south. A Pyper based on Coflein. 2020	
29802	Medieval ;Post Medieval ; Bronze Age Long Hut;Cairn	SN7485 5872	A roughly rectangular scatter of stones covering an area 12.5m by 11m. It may be the remains of a ruined cairn or could be associated with PRN 29801 to the south-west. Unable to gain access to visit this site during the PFRS project in 2004. NC 2005.	Nant-y-Maen Farm. GPS SN74851 58722 (fair). Area of scattered stones, roughly rectangular NE-SW 12.5m X NW-SE 11m. Could be destroyed cairn. With probing does appear to be more rectangular than round. Could be associated with PRN 29801. Site value E/1995. P.C. 1995.
36515	Unknown Spring	SN7377 057320	A spring shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map but not located during fieldwork by CAP in 1998. JH 09.02.2000 based on CAP 1998	Marked on OS 6 inch 1st edition 1902 map. Not located as a result of current FE activity. CAP 19/11/98
36513	Post Medieval Sheep Wash	SN7415 457027	A sheepwash shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map of 1906, now completely derelict and partly submerged on the shore of Llyn Berwyn. JH 09.02.2000 based on CAP 1998	Remains of a few stones visible from the shore edge. Badly damaged and difficult to detect as a result of the high water in the lake and reeds growing along the lakeshore. CAP 19/11/98
36514	Post Medieval Sheep Wash	SN7430 057123	A sheepwash shown on the Ordnance Survey second edition map of 1906, now ruinous and partly submerged on the shore of Llyn Berwyn. JH 09.02.2000 based on CAP 1998	Remains of 3 large stones just on the shore edge near to the Tregaron Angling Club boat yard. Badly damaged and difficult to detect as a result of the high water in the lake and reeds growing along the lake shore. CAP 19/11/98
36701	Bronze Age? Boundary Stone	SN7594 061270	A stone noted by J Jones in 1982 but not visited as part of the Forest Enterprise Welsh Heritage Assets survey. JH 16.02.2000 based on CAP 1998	Standing stone as noted by Jones (1982). Unknown. CAP 19/11/98
36684	Bronze Age Round Barrow	SN7685 861315	No sign of barrow when visited as part of the Camddwr wind farm assessment. Site has probably been destroyed by the construction of the modern forest track which runs down to the Llyn Du lake. NC 2001.	A possible round barrow noted from an RAF aerial photograph from 1947 but not located by CAP in 1998 during fieldwork. JH 14.02.2000 based on CAP 1998. Possible cairn visible on AP-541/34 3068 (1947). Not located. CAP 19/11/98

36707	Bronze Age Round Barrow	SN7870 862843	A possible round barrow identified from a 1948 RAF aerial photograph, but not located on the ground during fieldwork in 1998. Nothing resembling a round barrow was observed at the given grid reference during the PFRS Project in 2004, and it is likely that the site has been destroyed by forestry operations. This site is one of five potential barrows running in a linear fashion over a distance of c. 280m in a NE/ENE-SW/WSW alignment, with PRN 36707 the most south-westerly and PRN 36711 the most north-easterly of the group. The site lies just below a local summit at 460 degrees on a gently undulating high plateau, with Nant Gorast flowing c. 150m away to the E/SE. All located within dense forest. N Cook PFRS 2006	A possible round barrow identified from a 1948 RAF aerial photograph but not located on the ground during fieldwork by CAP in 1998. JH 16.02.2000 based on CAP 1998 Possible cairn visible on AP-541/34 4065. Not located. CAP 19/11/98
36708	Bronze Age Round Barrow	SN7876 262863	A possible round barrow identified from a 1948 RAF AP , but not located on the ground during fieldwork in 1998. Nothing resembling a round barrow was observed at the given grid reference during the PFRS Project in 2004, and it is likely that the site has been destroyed by forestry operations. This site is one of five potential barrows running in a linear fashion over a distance of c.280m in a NE/ENE-SW/WSW alignment, with PRN 36707 the most south-westerly and PRN 36711 the most north-easterly of the group. The sites all lie just below a local summit at 460 degrees on a gently undulating high plateau, with Nant Gorast flowing c.150m away to the E/SE. All located within dense forest. N Cook PFRS 2006	A possible round barrow identified from a 1948 RAF aerial photograph but not located on the ground during fieldwork by CAP in 1998. JH 16.02.2000 based on CAP 1998 Possible cairn visible on AP-541/34 4065. Not located. CAP 19/11/98
36709	Bronze Age Round Barrow	SN7882 662883	A possible round barrow identified from a 1948 RAF aerial photograph, but not located on the ground during fieldwork in 1998. Nothing resembling a round barrow was observed at the given grid reference during the PFRS Project in 2004, and it is likely that the site has been destroyed by forestry operations. This site is one of five potential barrows running in a linear fashion over a distance of c.280m in a NE/ENE-SW/WSW alignment, with PRN 36707 the most south-westerly and PRN 36711 the most north-easterly of the group. The sites all lie just below a local summit at 460 degrees on a gently undulating high plateau, with Nant Gorast flowing c.150m away to the E/SE. All located within dense forest. N Cook PFRS 2006	A possible round barrow identified from a 1948 RAF aerial photograph but not located on the ground during fieldwork by CAP in 1998. JH 16.02.2000 based on CAP 1998 Possible cairn visible on AP-541/34 4065. Not located. CAP 19/11/98

36711	Bronze Age Round Barrow	SN7897 462958	A possible round barrow identified from a 1948 RAF aerial photograph, but not located on the ground during fieldwork in 1998. Nothing resembling a round barrow was observed at the given grid reference during the PFRS Project in 2004, and it is likely that the site has been destroyed by forestry operations. However, there was evidence for a slight mound at SN7896562946, although it cannot be said with any certainty to be the remains of a round barrow. This site is one of five potential barrows running in a linear fashion over a distance of c.280m in a NE/ENE-SW/WSW alignment, with PRN 36707 the most south-westerly and PRN 36711 the most north-easterly of the group. The sites all lie just below a local summit at 460 degrees on a gently undulating high plateau, with Nant Gorast flowing c.150m away to the E/SE. All located within dense forest, although the site lies closer to the edge of the plantation. N Cook PFRS 2006	A possible round barrow identified from a 1948 RAF aerial photograph but not located on the ground during fieldwork by CAP in 1998. JH 16.02.2000 based on CAP 1998 Possible round barrow visible on AP-541/34 4065. Possibly destroyed due to FE operations. CAP 19/11/98
35700	Medieval ; POST MEDIEVAL Unknown	SN7399 5936	Unusual rectangular structure on valley floor, close to stream edge. Two parallel lines of stones forming a structure 7 x 2m, divided into two by a cross-wall in centre. Probably ancillary to one of the nearby settlements. RPS 1998.	
29801	Medieval ; POST MEDIEVAL Long Hut	SN7480 5867	Nant-y-Maen Farm. Long Hut aligned approx NW-SE, 5.4m long, 1.7m wide, max height of walls 0.65-1.0m. Poor condition. Possible entrances in both long walls opposite each other. Hollow interior with some rubble. Dry stone walls. Constructed in base of slope and out towards possible former stream. Could be associated with PRN29802. Site value C/1995. P.C. 1995.	
36496	Post Medieval Farmstead	SN7718 663882	Pantycarnau farmstead which later became a drovers pub according to J Jones, 1982. The site is now ruined with the walls standing up to 0.6m high. JH 09.02.2000 based CAP 1998	Site of Pantycarnau house and stable later became a drovers pub. Currently visible from FE road. Beside Drovers road. 6m x 4m & 0.6m high. Near destroyed. Mainly foundations present and covered in vegetation. CAP 19/11/98
36705	Medieval Farmstead	SN7605 464248	A farmhouse, 12m x 5m, with a barn, 11m x 5m, and field enclosures. J Jones in 1982 stated that his grandfather knew the Roberts who used to live there and that the building had a rush thatch roof. The barn is in better condition than the house. The water supply for the dwelling is recorded as being a spring, PRN 36493, by J Jones. JH 16.02.2000 based on CAP 1998	Farmhouse 12m x 5m with barn 11m x 5m and surrounding field enclosures. The roof of the house was once thatched with reeds, unusual for this region. Partially intact. Barn in better state of preservation than the house. CAP 19/11/98
36694	Bronze Age Round Barrow	SN7890 560377	A possible round barrow marked on the tithe map of 1836 but not located by CAP during fieldwork in 1998 and thought to have possibly been destroyed by forestry operations. Not located March 2001 FE	Possible cairn marked on tithe map 1836. Possibly destroyed as a result of forest operations. CAP 19/11/98

36511	Unknown Sheep Fold	SN7387 054730	The sheepfold at Waun Ochr-Fach is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1897. JH 09.02.2000 based on CAP 1998 Marked on OS 6 inch 1st edition 1902 map. Almost square remains of stone sheepfold measuring 4m x 3.5m approximately 1m high and 1m wide. No obvious entry point but wall is lower on one side	Marked on OS 6 inch 1st edition 1902 map. Unknown. CAP 19/11/98
42701	Medieval ;POST MEDIEVAL Long Hut	SN7384 954726	Possible long hut associated with PRN 36511. Measures c. 7m by 3.5m internal. Walls to 1m high and 1m thick. There is an obvious entry point as it lies close to the riverside at right angles with the sheepfold. Possible additional long hut near by? CAP 2001; Thick forest and a swollen stream made it impossible to get to the site. It was viewed therefore from the opposite bank only. Do not know what the reference to an additional long hut is - but there are hints of a possible ancillary structure on the streamside to the east of the hut. RPS December 2002.	