

Glastir Woodland Creation: Consent Advice Form

CRN	A0065850
Glastir Farm Name and Scheme Ref.	Clarkes Farm 7618223
Parcel No.	
NGR	SN357345
Option No.	803
Option Name	Enhanced Mixed Woodland
Date last cultivated	
Additional information	
Service Provider	Dyfed Archaeological Trust
Officer	Alice Pyper
HEF UID	308290
Decision (If the proposal is considered to be inappropriate at this location please provide an explanation)	<p>Thank you for forwarding this Glastir Woodland Creation proposal to us.</p> <p>Dyfed Archaeological Trust have reviewed the new woodland planting for Clarkes Farm against the Historic Environment Records database and other readily available record sources and have assessed that the application, may have a detrimental impact on the following historic environment features;</p> <p><i>PRN 33901 Modern Stop Line SN36043469; SN35993453</i> <i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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).</i></p> <p><i>Such stop lines are part of a range of obstacles of various shapes</i></p>

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.

PRN 49211 Modern Pillbox SN35993452

This Type 24 "shell-proof" pill box is located in the World War II defensive stop line at Rhos Llangeler. It is of hexagonal design, and measures approximately six metres along its long axis. It is constructed of reinforced concrete with external clay brick shuttering on the walls, and a turf covered reinforced concrete roof. Narrow splayed loop holes are situated in the centre of each wall. The hexagonal design enabled the pill box to be positioned in such a way to give a good field of fire for rifle and machine gun fire. It provided cover over the stop line (PRN 33901) to its north and south. Some of the clay brick shuttering is coming away from the outside of the pill box. This is superficial rather than structural however and the pill box remains in a stable condition. Some scrubby vegetation is becoming established in the turf cover on the roof of the pill box. WS Oct 2003.

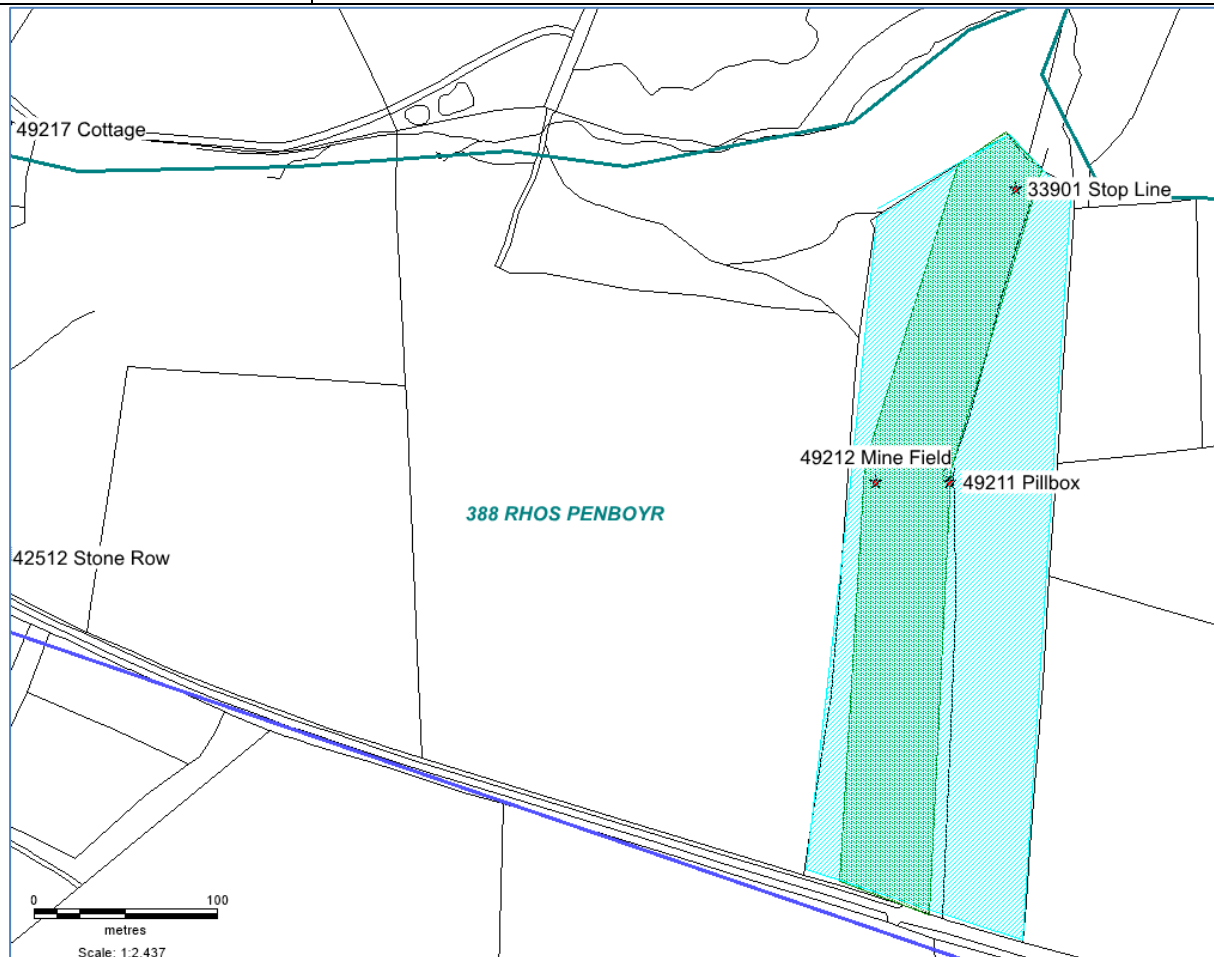
PRN 49212 Modern Minefield SN35953452

Mine field to the west of the World War II Rhos Llangeler stop line identified during the Defence of Britain Project from contemporary records (Council for British Archaeology 2002). It is described as a sub-rectangular plan minefield within a barbed wire enclosure, and is reported to have been removed in the period between 1942 and 1950. We hold no further information on the nature or extent of this mine field. No visible evidence to suggest the former presence of a mine field was seen during the archaeological farm visit. WS Oct 2003.

This complex of features which form the stop-line are of high archaeological significance, therefore planting proposals must not impinge on the archaeological integrity of these features. The stop-line of anti-tank cubes is also a highly visible landscape

feature and we would anticipate that the planting design should take this into account and endeavour maintain this as far as possible maintaining as much space around the feature as possible.

We recommend that the area shown in the light blue polygon is left unplanted.



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Further Assessment
Required?

No

Date received

27/11/2020

Date replied

06/01/2020