Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol
Dyfed
Neuadd y Sir
Stryd Caerfyrddin
Llandeilo
Sir Gaerfyrddin
SA19 6AF

Dyfed Archaeological Trust
The Shire Hall
Carmarthen Street
Llandeilo
Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AF

Ffon 01558 823131
Ffacs 01558 823133
Ebost: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

Telephone 01558 823131
Fax 01558 823133
Email:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

Prepared for:
Bwlchyrhiw

Tir Gofal Reference No
W/12/6255

DAT Report No. 2009/88
Project Record No. 65012

Prepared by
Mike Ings

Other documents enclosed:
Historic Landscape Character Area descriptions: nos 218 Nant-y-ffin, 219 Craig Ddu, 247 Mynydd Mallaen, 250 Allt y Berth and 251 Cefn Branddu.

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Bwlchyrrhiw Farm comprises three holdings of land, labelled A-C for the purposes of this report, in Carmarthenshire.

Holding A is centred on NGR SN72404588 in the community of Cilycwm. The western half of the holding lies within the Dolaucothi Registered Landscape included within the Cadw/ICOMOS register of landscapes of 'Outstanding' historic interest in Wales. The majority of the holding is also within Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA) 247: Mynydd Mallaen . These areas are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left paricularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape (Murphy & Ludlow, 2000).

HLCA 247 is an area of high, unenclosed moorland plateau that is depicted on the earliest historic maps as open pasture. The northern area of the holding lies within HLCA 218: Nant-y-ffin, characterised by small, irregular fields predominantly under improved pasture, and HLCA 251: Cefn Branddu, which consists of high moorland pasture that was probably open, common grazing during most of the historic period. The northwestern fringe of the farm holding also crosses over into HLCA 250: Allt y Berth, which consists of deciduous woodland and a little moorland on the steep, craggy slopes of the Upper Cothi Valley.

The southern half of holding B, centred on NGR SN74084667 and again in Cilycwm community, is also on the border between the improved pastoral fields of HLCA 218: Nant-y-ffin and the high moorland of HLCA 247: Mynydd Mallean. To the north, the holding lies under the steep, wooded valley sides and unenclosed moorland of HLCA 219: Craig ddu.

A full description of the relevant HLCAs is provided at the end of this report and their distribution is illustrated on Fig.6 below.

Holding C is centred on NGR SN61383627 within the community of Llansawel, on the northern bank of the Afon Melinddwr. It lies within a landscape of generally small-medium, fairly irregular fields that have changed little since the end of the 19th century. The area appears to now be predominantly under improved pasture.

Archaeological and Historic Content

The moorland plateau that characterises much of farm holding A is rich in evidence for Bronze Age (c2000 - 500BC) activity. A pair of large burial cairns (PRNs 4096 and 4097), the Crugiau Merched, on the farm have been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM CM302) and there are possible further round barrow sites

(PRNs 4102 and 30369), four 'scoop graves' (PRNs 30372, 30373, 30376 and 30377) and a clearance cairn (PRN 30353) within the farm boundary.

A scheduled segment of the Roman aqueduct (PRN 1947, SAM 200A) that fed the gold mine at Dolaucothi also runs within the northwest boundary of holding A, where it is cut into the rock on the side of a gorge.

Melin y coed woollen mill is depicted on the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, within farm holding B, but it had fallen out of use by the time of the 1905 2nd edition OS map and is shown as a ruin on modern mapping.

The only recorded archaeology within holding C is a stone marked on the late 19th century OS map, the nature of which is uncertain and has now, presumably, been removed as it is no longer on modern mapping.

Key Objective

The key objective for this farm is the preservation and maintenance of several prehistoric archaeological sites located within its boundaries.

B2) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

All known historic environment features are marked on Map 1 of this agreement

These are divided into three types:
i) Archaeological and Historic Features: Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.
ii) Traditional Buildings: Structures built before 1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction.
iii) Historic Parks and Gardens: Discrete areas of land laid out in an ornamental way for the pleasure of the owner.

All historic environment features have been allocated categories of importance:
Site Status A: Sites and Monuments of National Importance.
Site Status B: Sites/Features of Regional Importance.
Site Status C: Sites/Features of Local Importance.
Site Status D: Minor and damaged sites.
Site Status U: Sites requiring further investigation.

General requirements

Historic earthworks, stone structures, archaeological sites, traditional buildings, parks and gardens must all be retained and protected against damage. The management of these features must comply with the following general requirements.

- Do not remove any material from archaeological sites or historic features, or deposit spoil, farm waste or rubbish.

- Ensure contractors and all other workers on the farm are aware of the historic environment features and comply with the requirements of this agreement. They should take appropriate measures to avoid accidental damage.
- Do not carry out any excavation, erect any new structure or plant any trees without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks on archaeological or historic sites without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Ensure that the use of metal detectors and the reporting of discoveries complies with the Treasure Act 1996 and associated codes of practice. The Portable Antiquities Scheme website (http://www.finds.org.uk) provides valuable guidance and information.
- Please report all discoveries of archaeological interest to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (01558 823131). This enables them to maintain an up-to-date record of archaeological discoveries.

"Scheduled" Ancient Monuments (SAMs) have statutory protection and consent from Cadw may be required for works to these monuments. Consult the Project Officer for advice.

"Listed Buildings" also have statutory protection and permission from the Local Planning Authority may be required for some works. This also applies to buildings within the curtilage of a listed building. Consult the Project Officer for Advice

In addition to these general requirements you must comply with the specific sets of prescriptions set out below:

i) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC FEATURES:

Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.

Location and description:

A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust has identified the following sites and monuments which are indicated on Map 1.

Other sites may be known to the landowner and these should be identified to the Project Officer who will pass the information to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status	SAM/listing	Management required
1	**CRUGIAU MERCHED;CRUGIAU LADIES;CRUGIAU GWLADYS** (4096)	**Bronze Age round barrow**	**SN72224552**	**A**	**SAM CM302**	**Specific**

The two large stone-constructed cairns, set about 100 metres apart, known as the Crugiau Merched are the most prominent structures at the northern end of the Mynydd Mallaen upland common. Standing at the highest point of the Mynydd Mallaen at 459 metres OD, they dominate the skyline when viewed from the south or east but are not particularly visible from the north since they are set away from a steep slope, which obscures them from view. The western cairn PRN 4096 is substantially intact apart from a channel cut through it (apparently by Ordnance Surveyors for trigonometrical observations).

Looking east, Cairn PRN 4096 in foreground (with channel cut through it) and second cairn PRN 4097 beyond.

Fortunately it only affects the upper levels of the cairn. The cairn measures over 25 metres in diameter and is approximately 3 metres high (although a later walker's cairn on top increases this to 3.5 metres or more). The main body of the cairn is comprised of medium to large sized stones which have been heaped on top of a natural hillock on the ridge top. A walkers' cairn of stones stands on the southern side of this trench, about 1 metre in height. On the southern side there is a 'hole' measuring 2 metres square and extending to a depth of 0.7 metres. Again, there are no indications that this has continued any deeper into the fabric of the cairn. This has probably been created to act as a shelter. There are no signs of a kerb around the outside of the cairn

however, it would appear that there has been some degree of tumble from the main body of the cairn which obscures the original base of the structure. The cairn is most prominent when viewed from the north where the natural ground surface falls away from the cairn. Here the cairn stands some 3.5 metres high.

Looking south, showing shelter built to the north of cairn PRN 4096

It is on this side that a small shelter has been built in the lee protection of the cairn and probably using stones removed from the cairn. This takes the form of a semi-circular rubble stone wall about 1.5 metres long which serves to protect a small area of ground beside the cairn (CADW, 1999). The site was visited during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit. It is located within upland moorland and marsh which is under low-intensity grazing. The cairn remains the same as described by CADW in 1999, with a channel cleared through the east-west axis, a later cairn formed in the centre and a length of wall to the north. No subsequent damage appears to have occurred and there were no apparent immediate threats to the monument.

2 **CRUGIAU MERCHED;CRUGIAU LADIES; CRUGIAU GWLADYS** (4097) **Bronze Age round barrow** **SN72334556** **A** **SAM CM302** **Specific**

One of two cairns, the other being PRN 4096, known as the Crugiau Merched. Located on the Mynydd Mallaen upland common, about 100 metres apart on a ridge. This easterly cairn measures approximately 25 metres in diameter and stands up to 4-4.5 metres high. The interior of the cairn has been hollowed out, with an entrance on the eastern side, to form a shelter or a pen with an entrance on the eastern side. The cairn was excavated in the 1930s by J.F.Jones, the curator of Carmarthen Museum, but no burial remains were apparently recovered, suggesting that one could still remain undiscovered and undisturbed. The excavation opened the centre of the cairn which has been subsequently used as a shelter. However, this leaves quite large areas of cairn material and ground still undisturbed around the periphery.

Looking east across the hollowed-out interior of cairn PRN 4097

A circular shelter some 2 metres x 1.5 metres in size has been built within the cairn on the southern side, probably a shepherd's shelter. This will have used stones taken from the fabric of the cairn. The cairn still has much of archaeological interest. No burial was reported to have been discovered during the excavations suggesting that one could still remain undiscovered and undisturbed. There is also a strong likelihood that a buried Bronze Age land surface may have been preserved beneath the remaining areas of the cairn (CADW, 1999)

Looking west across cairn PRN 4097 towards cairn PRN 4096. Shelter built within the monument is visible on left of picture.

The site was visited during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 2009. It is located within upland moorland and marsh which is under low-intensity grazing. The cairn remains the same as described by CADW in 1999, hollowed out after excavation and a shelter built against the south side of the interior. No subsequent damage appears to have occurred and there were no apparent immediate threats to the monument.

3 **MAEN BACH** (4102) **Bronze Age standing stone;round barrow?** **SN73084507** **A** **SAM CM300** **Specific**

Maen Bach standing stone is set on the crest of a north-south ridge on Mynydd Mallaen, placed in a

particularly prominent position visible from long distances in several directions. In particular, it forms part of a sight-line extending from the Crugiau Merched to a second standing stone further to the southeast. The triangular stone measures 1metre x 0.3 metre x 1.3 metre high and stands on top of a grass covered stone cairn, 6 metres in diameter and some 0.3 metres high.

Looking northeast, standing stone Maen Bach (PRN 4102)

The stone is held upright by packing stones, including one particularly large one packed flat against the base of the stone on its southern side (CADW, 1999) The site was seen during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit. A possible waymarker, it stands on a upland moorland plateau in an area of low intensity grazing. The stone remains the same as when recorded by CADW in 1999. The only apparent potential threat to the monument was what appeared to be the well-worn track of a quad-bike running within two metres of, the west of the stone, which had caused poaching in places.

4 MELIN Y COED (21849) **Post-Medieval mill SN73494654 B Specific**

Ruins of Melin y Coed (PRN 21849), looking west

Mill complex recorded on the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, named 'Melin y coed Woollen Factory'. Marked as disused on the 1905 2nd edition OS map. The site was seen during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 2009. It is located on the edge of broadleaf woodland by the side of the Nant Melyn. The rectangular building is now roofless and ruinous, measuring approximately 11 metres north-

south by 6 metres east-west. The layout of the structure was difficult to determine, with no internal features discernable, but there were possibly two doorways and a central window in the east facing wall - presumably the facade - and one doorway in the northwest corner of the west- facing wall. The north-facing wall is the best preserved, standing to possible full height in part, but the other walls vary from partial survival to rubble spreads.

Looking south, north-facing wall of Melin y Coed (PRN 21849)

5	**DOLAU COTHI AQUEDUCT;COTHI LEAT** (1947)	**Roman leat**	**SN68904330**	**A**	**SAM200 (A)**	**Specific**

A section (A) of the Dolaucothii Roman Aqueduct. The point where the Cothi was tapped (NGR SN719466) lies in the gorge to the west of Bwlch-y-rhiw, where the stream drops over a 12 foot waterfall and 15 feet further downstream begins the first of many sections of an overgrown rock-cut ledge which carried the water-course, roughly following the line of the 700ft contour (CADW, 1983). This upper section of the aqueduct lies in a very precipitous gorge, in which walking is difficult and rather dangerous. Sporadic traces of rock-cut work can be traced within the ravine, some of them very short. Either there has been a lot of erosion since it was built, or parts of the structure must have been built of timber (CADW, 1987).

The site was not visited during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit.

MYNYDD MALLAEN (13545)	**Post-Medieval? field system**	**SN73004500**	**B**		**Generic**

A series of regular banks and ditches extends over much of the mountain. This PRN allocated to parts difficult to locate precisely from oblique Aerial Photographs. Main concentration believed to be SN7345. Cf 13539-40. TAJ 29-5-89. Evidence of this field system was not seen during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 2009. The terrain was covered by thick, long grasses at the time of the visit and it is possible that the features identified from the air were obscured.

BWLCH-Y-RHIW MINE;CREIGIAU LADIES (19656)	**Post-Medieval lead mine**	**SN72794625**	**C**		**Generic**

19th century metal mining site. RPS Dec.2002 Recorded on the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. The site was not seen during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit.

(30353)	**Bronze Age? clearance cairn**	**SN71624496**	**B**		**Generic**

On ground sloping to south-east. Area grassy. Oval mound, 4.0m x 2.0m x 0.2m high. No trace of ditch. More doubtful than neighbouring mounds 30351 & 30352. GW. 1995. Nothing was found at the recorded grid reference during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit but a cairn was located nearby at NGR

SN7167644944 and is presumed to be the same feature although it differs from the original description.

Looking east, possible clearance cairn PRN 30353

This cairn - a probable clearance cairn - is of exposed loose stones and measures approximately 5 metres in diameter with a hollowed centre. It lies in rough, tussock grass and marsh upland, in an area of low intensity grazing and there were no immediate threats apparent.

(30369) **Bronze Age round barrow** **SN71684496** **B** **Generic**

On ground falling to the south-west. Grassed and rushes. 30369 is a cairn. It is a low oval platform, measuring 8.0m x 7.0m and now some 0.4m high. It is almost totally overgrown. In its north-west quadrant it is overlain by what appears to be the remains of a sheep shelter 30370, presumably built by cannibalizing the cairns. The shelter is now largely collapsed, but preserves the remains of a wall face on the east and a possible entrance on the south. It measures 2.5 m x 1.75m internally and survives to 0.7m high maximum. GW. 1995. This feature was not found at the recorded grid reference or vicinity during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit.

(30370) **Post-Medieval sheep shelter** **SN71684496** **C** **Generic**

Sheep shelter recorded during 1995 field visit, located by Bronze Age barrow (PRN 30369) and constructed from the barrow stones. The shelter is now largely collapsed but preserves the remains of a wallface on the east and a possible entrance on the south. It measures 2.5 metres x 1.75 metres internally and survives to 0.7 metres high maximum. No features were found at the recorded grid reference or its vicinity during the 2009 Tir gofal archaeological farm visit.

(30372) **Bronze Age? scoop grave** **SN72704518** **B** **Generic**

On ground falling to the east. Area grassy. Well defined. Oval mound, measuring 4.0 metres x 2.5 metres across, with a well defined ditch 2.5 metres wide x 0.5 metres deep. There is a similar feature 30373,3.0 metres to the north (GW. 1995). This feature was not found during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit.

(30373) **Bronze Age? scoop grave?** **SN72684514** **B** **Generic**

On ground falling to the east. Area grassy. Apparent oval mound, measuring 3.5 metres x 2.0 metres x 3.0 metres high, aligned along slope, with a ditch 1.2 metres wide upslope. Not so well defined as its neighbour PRN 30372 ,which lies 3.0 metres to the south. Can be considered a probable feature. There is a further doubtful feature of the same type to the south of PRN 30372, not recorded separately (GW. 1995). This feature was not found during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit.

(30376) **Bronze Age? scoop grave** **SN72604502** **B** **Generic**

On relatively level ground. Area supports grass and heather. The feature consists of a well defined mound 5.5 x 3.0 metres with a very well defined ditch on the south-east measuring 2.5 metres across. The mound supports heather, the ditch grass which is bright green and helps define the ditch. A similar feature 30377 lies 10 metres to the north-west (GW. 1995). This feature was not found during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit.

(30377)	**Bronze Age? scoop grave**	**SN72594503**	**B**	**Generic**

On relatively level ground. Area supports grass and heather. The mound is very poorly defined, but apparently oval measuring 5.5 metres x 2.5 metres. The ditch is better defined, 1.5 metres across x 0.2 metres deep, lying to the north-west of the mound. The mound supports heather, the ditch grass. A similar but much better defined feature, 30376, lies 10 metres to the south-east (GW. 1995). This feature was not found during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit.

~~(94355)~~ 121923	**Unknown stone**	**SN61323627**	**C**	**Generic**

Stone recorded on the 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Period and function unknown, possibly a cattle-rubbing post. Not shown on modern mapping. This feature was not seen during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit.

~~(94356)~~ 116475	**Post-Medieval building**	**SN73904654**	**B**	**Generic**

Building recorded on the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Possible farmbuilding. Not marked on the modern map. This feature was not seen during the 2009 Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

- Ensure the survival of visible features.
- Ensure archaeological deposits beneath the ground surface are not disturbed.
- Prevent progressive degradation by adopting sustainable farming practices.

In order to achieve this you will need to observe the following:

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements - Section B2

1. Maintain the agreed stocking level to encourage a sound grass sward or low growing vegetation, without poaching or causing erosion.
2. Do not install new drains or underground services.
3. Locate feeding and watering stations away from archaeological and historic features.
4. Avoid using heavy machinery on sites or close to archaeological and historic features, especially in wet weather.
5. Do not plough archaeological or historic features, or cultivate so close as to cut into the remains. A minimum buffer zone of 2m is advised. In the case of monuments already under cultivation and where the agreement does not exclude the monument from cultivation, ensure that the depth of cultivation is not increased.
6. Remove any dead and unstable trees from the vicinity of archaeological and historic features with care, leaving roots to rot in situ. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance. Agree with the Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused, for example, by wind-throw.
7. Control scrub on archaeological and historic features by cutting. Roots

must be left in the ground and must not be pulled or dug out. Treatment with an approved herbicide may, exceptionally, be permitted in agreement with the Project Officer. (Capital Works Option).
8. Do not burn materials on site.
9. Ensure that rabbits are kept under control, but not by excavating within an archaeological or historic feature.
10. Consult your Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by burrowing animals. (Capital Works Option)

Specific Management Requirements for individual archaeological and historic features.

The following individual sites and monuments are subject to specific management prescriptions which are in addition to and (in the case of conflict) take precedence over the generic requirements:

Site 1 on MAP 1 **CRUGIAU MERCHED;CRUGIAU LADIES;CRUGIAU GWLADYS (4096)** **SN72224552**

In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following management is recommended.

PRN 4096 is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM CM302) and is monitored by the Cadw Field Monument Warden. On the last visit to the site (2003) it was found to be in a stable condition with no specific management issues.

It is recommended that there is sufficient grazing on the mountain to prevent the tussock grass from getting too thick and long.

Site 2 on MAP 1 **CRUGIAU MERCHED;CRUGIAU LADIES;CRUGIAU GWLADYS (4097)** **SN72334556**

In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following management is recommended.

PRN 4097 is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM CM302) and is monitored by the Cadw Field Monument Warden. On the last visit to the site (2003) it was found to be in a stable condition with no specific management issues.

It is recommended that there is sufficient grazing on the mountain to prevent the tussock grass from getting too thick and long.

Site 3 on MAP 1 **MAEN BACH (4102)** **SN73084507**

In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following management is recommended.

PRN 4102 is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM CM302) and is monitored by the Cadw Field Monument Warden. On the last visit to the site (2003) it was found to be in a stable condition with no specific management issues. No poaching or tyre marks along the nearby track were noted, possibly as it had been a dry year.

The trackway appears to be well-established but it is recommended that motorised vehicles take a wider course past the monument, at least five metres away, to help prevent further erosion.

It is recommended that there is sufficient grazing on the mountain to prevent the tussock grass from getting too thick and long.

Site 4 on MAP 1 **MELIN Y COED (21849)** **SN73494654**

In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following management is recommended.

The building has lost its roof and some stretches of the walling have collapsed. The ruins are now under threat from encroaching vegetation and some control would be advised. The remaining wall tops might also benefit from consolidation.

Preventative maintenance

Monitor trees close to the building and consider felling mature trees that are at risk of windthrow and remove branches that pose a threat from falling.

Consider cutting back vegetation on the walls, leaving the roots in situ. Spot treat to prevent re-growth.

Consider consolidating areas of loose masonry using a traditional lime mortar mix, trying to follow the original mix and appearance as far as possible.

Consider capping the wall tops of derelict and ruinous structures in order to prevent water from washing out lime mortar bonds and accelerating collapse.

Site 5 on MAP 1 **DOLAU COTHI AQUEDUCT;COTHI LEAT (1947)** **SN68904330**

In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following management is recommended.

PRN 1947 is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM CM200A) and is monitored by the Cadw Field Monument Warden. Due to the difficulty of accessing the site, in a steep-sided valley, it has only been visited once.

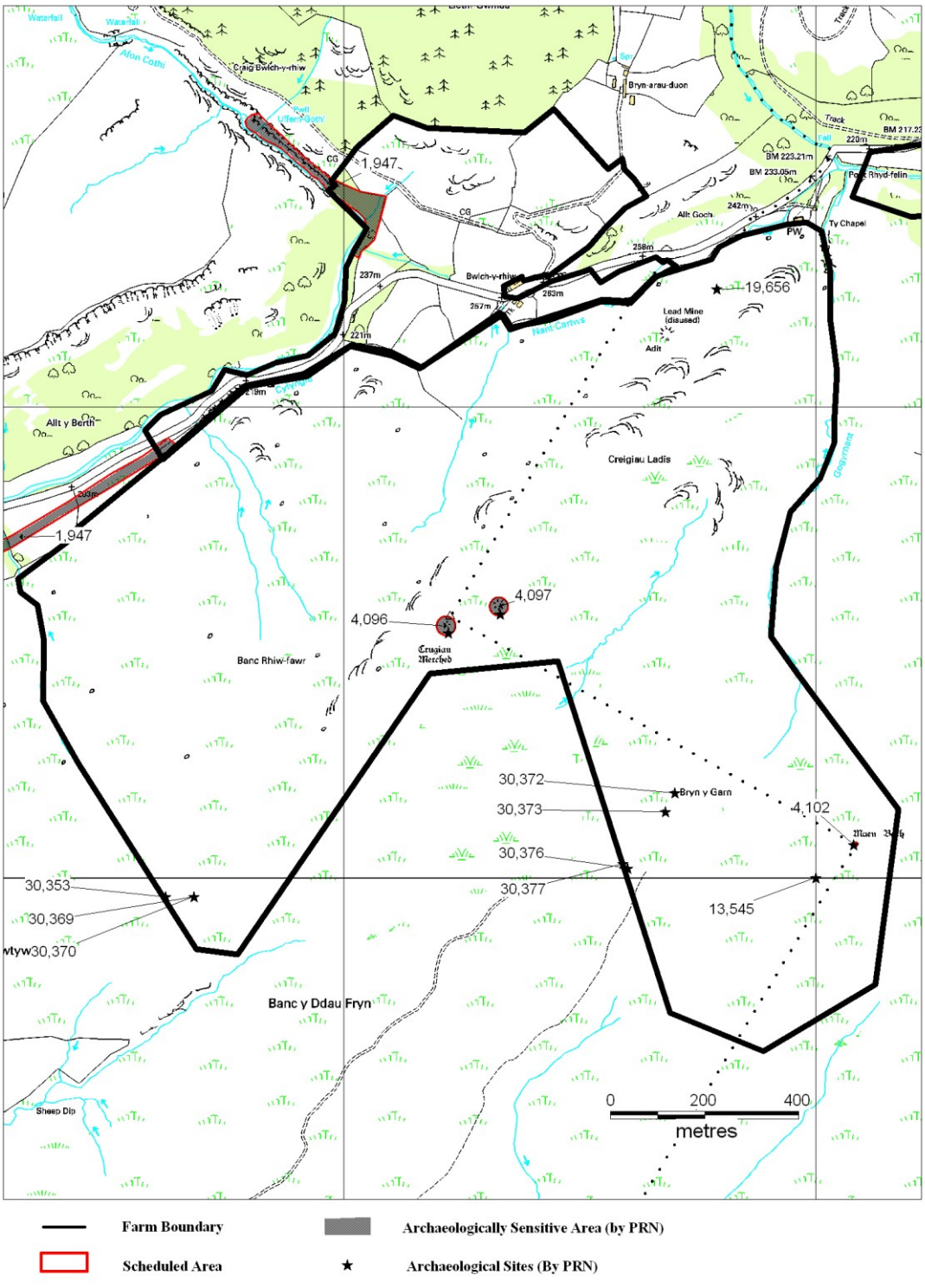
Ideally the trees close to the site would be monitored and removed if in danger of falling but it is recognised that this would have health and safety issues.

ii) TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS:

There are no Traditional Buildings in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record for the application area

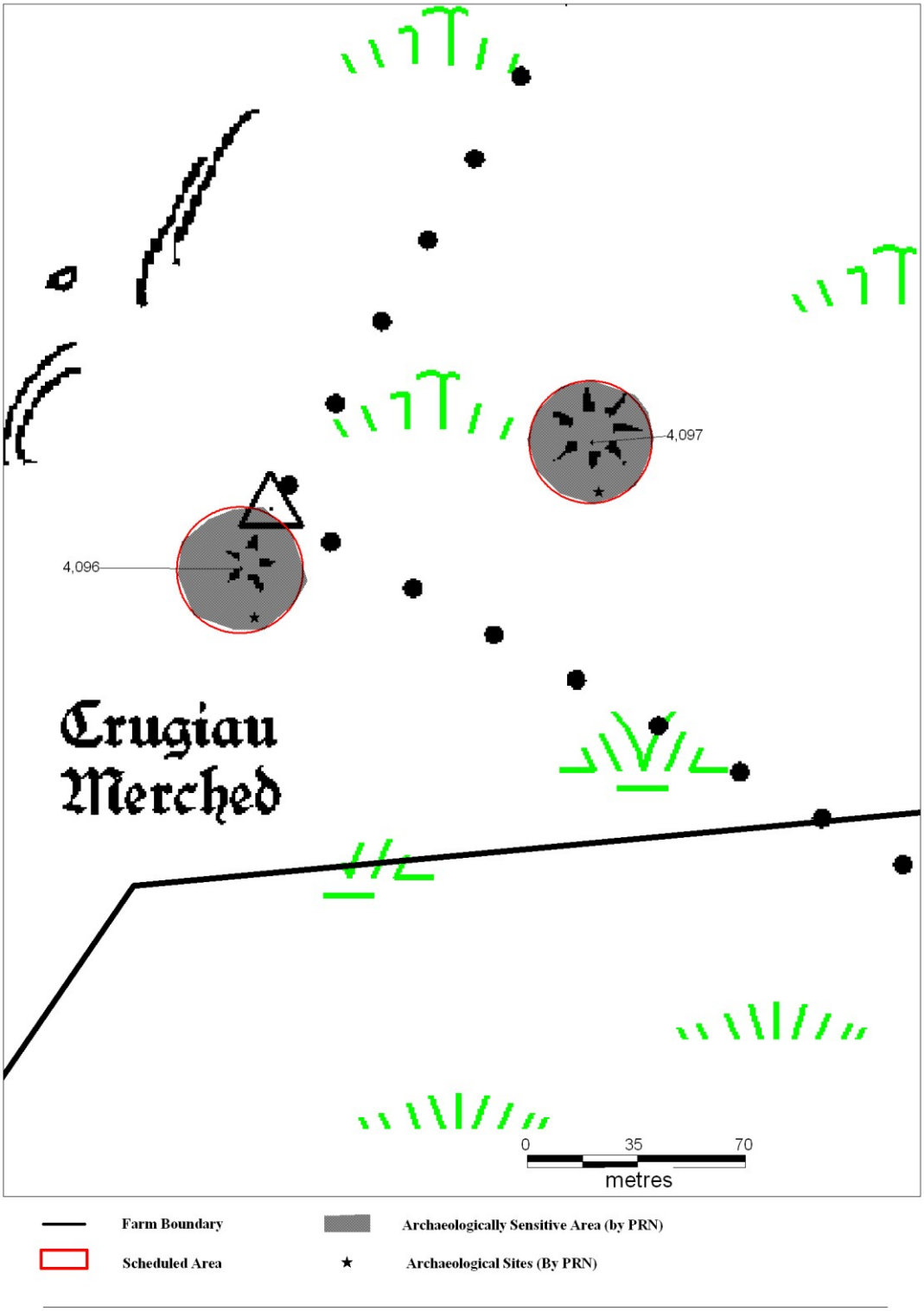
iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

There are no Historic Parks and Gardens in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record for the application area



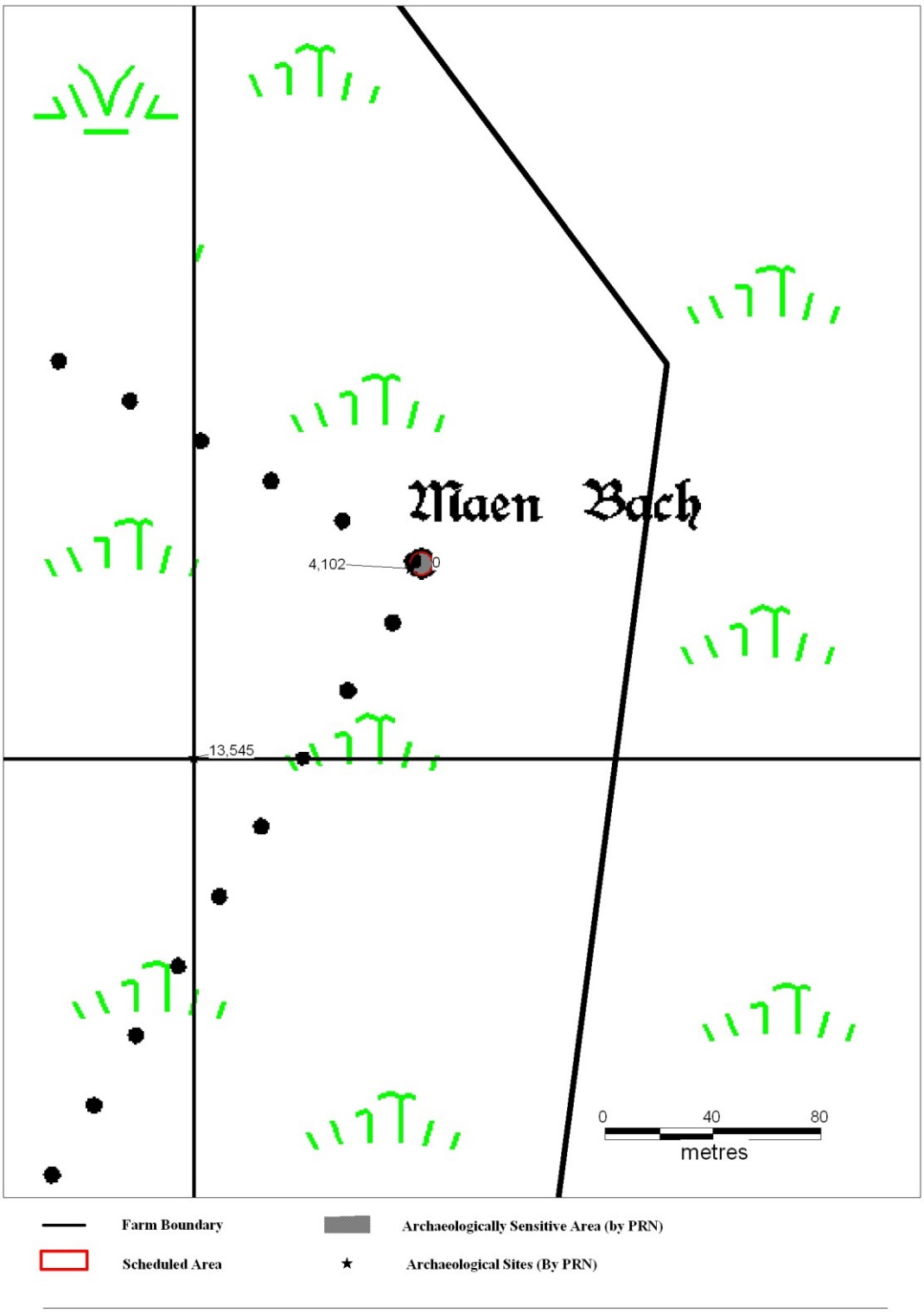
Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right [2009]. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916

Fig 1: Map showing the sites of archaeological interest within holding A.



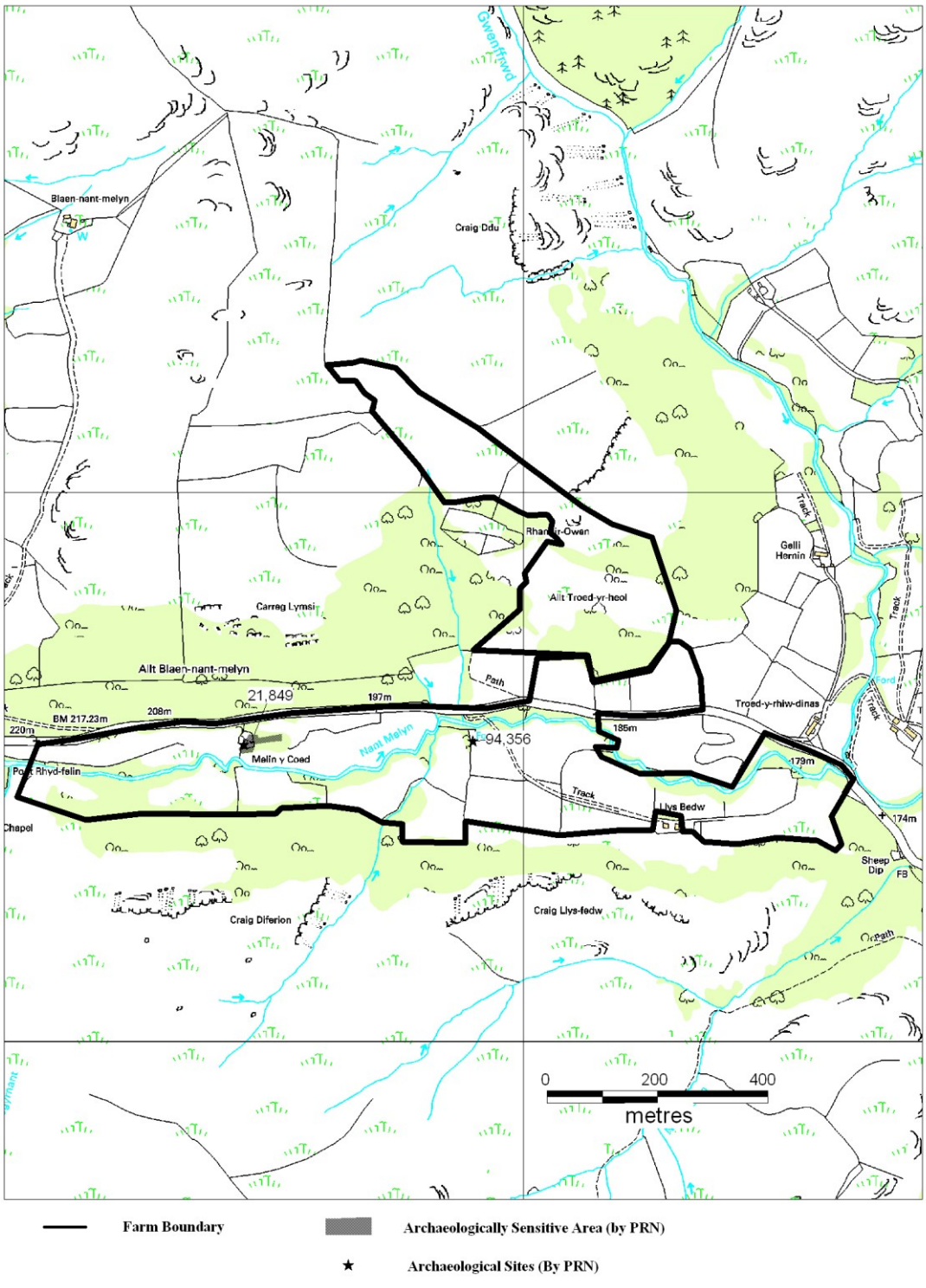
Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right [2009]. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number

Fig 2: Map showing scheduled area (SAM CM302) around the Crugiau Merched.



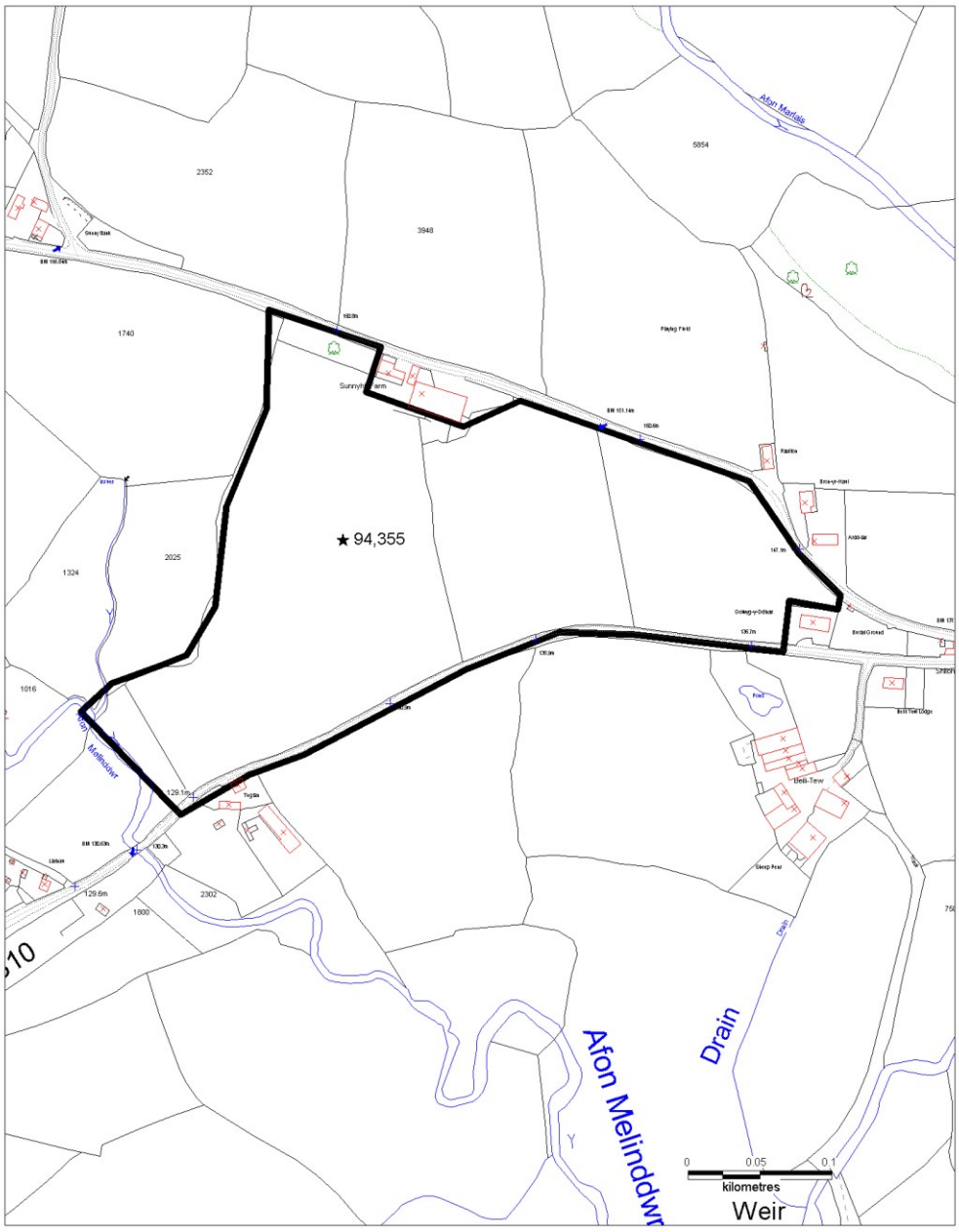
Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right [2009]. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916

Fig 3: Map showing scheduled area (SAM CM300) around Maen Bach



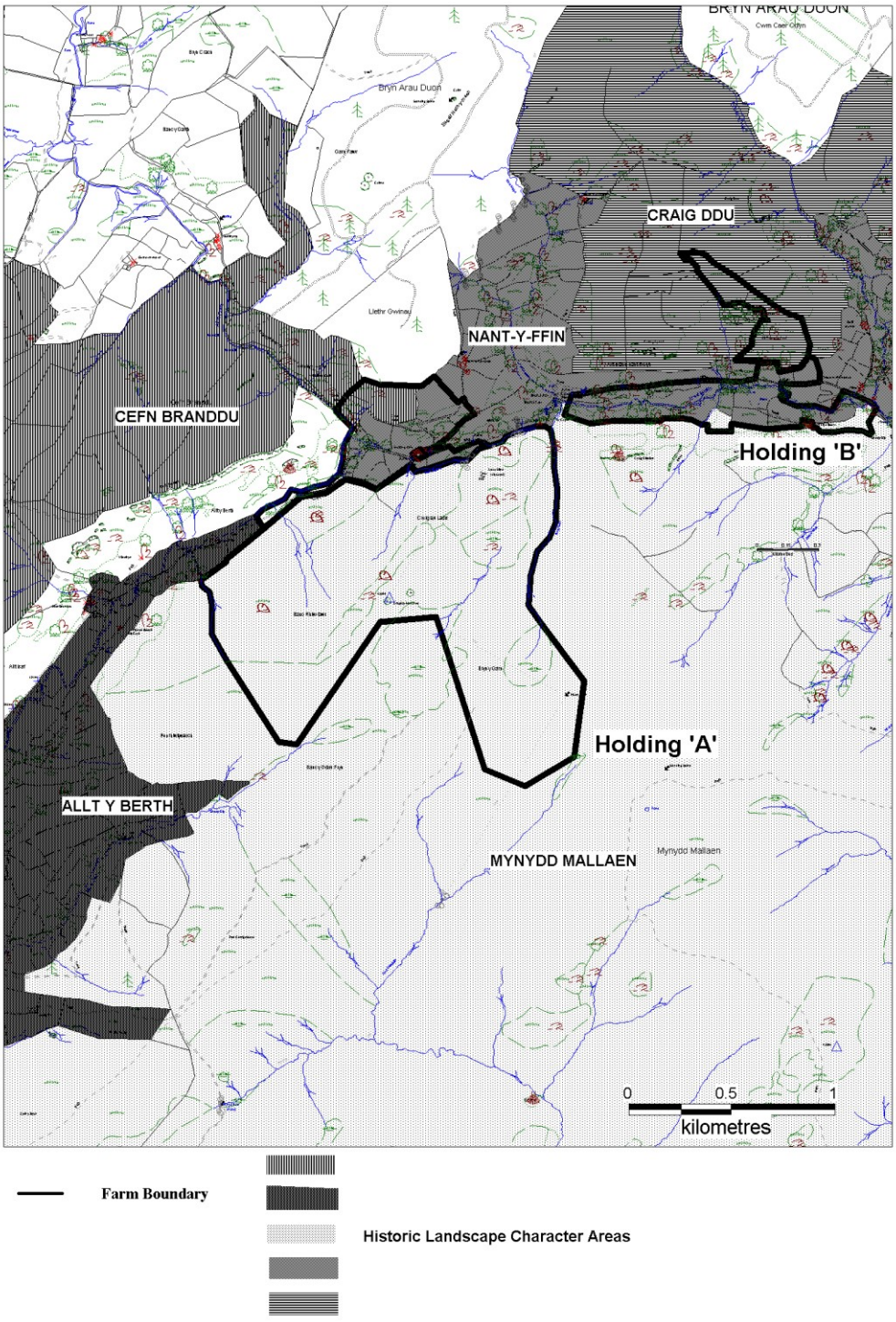
Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right [2009]. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916

Fig 4: Map showing sites of archaeological interest within holding B



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right [2009]. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916

Fig 5: Map showing sites of archaeological interest within holding C.



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right [2009]. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916

Fig 6: Map showing the distribution of the Historic Landscape Character Areas.

MI - 25/11/2009 (15:03:08) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE2 report, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Project record number 65012.
Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF.
tel (01558) 823131, fax (01558) 823133, email info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk, website www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

This HE2 report supercedes the information given in the HE1 report for this farm.

Sources consulted:

Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and ICOMOS. 1998. ***Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest In Wales***
Murphy,K & Ludlow,N 2000 Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation - Volume 1
Historic Environment Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.
Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1887 Carmarthenshire Sheet 16.11, 25"
Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1888 Carmarthenshire Sheet 09.03, 25"
Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1888 Carmarthenshire Sheet 09.04, 25"
Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1905 Carmarthenshire Sheet 09.04, 25"

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA:
218 NANT-Y-FFIN

GRID REFERENCE: SN 728468
AREA IN HECTARES: 482.60

Historic Background
A small area that unites three narrow, linear belts of land that follow the valley floors of the Upper Tywi, Doethie and Gwenffrwd, in the foothills of Mynydd Malláen and the Cambrian Mountains. The '*ffin*' element is derived from the ancient boundary which, historically, divided this area between Cantref Bychan to the east and Cantref Mawr to the west. Cantref Bychan was invaded by the Anglo-Normans under Richard Fitz Pons who established a *caput* at Llandovery in 1110-16 (Rees n.d.) and was acquired soon after by the Clifford lords of Brecon as the Lordship of Llandovery. Cantref Mawr remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284. Both retained native tenurial customs until the end of the Medieval period when they were united within modern Carmarthenshire. Evidence for human activity within the area has considerable time depth - a Neolithic chambered tomb lies at Gelli. The chapel of Ystrad-ffin is dedicated to Paulinus, the reputed teacher of St David (Jones 1994, 88) whose biographer described his community as comprising, by the 9th century, 'numerous buildings' (Sambrook and Page 1995, 4). This may not refer to the present chapel site, however, which was first mentioned in 1339 when it was confirmed upon the Cistercians of Strata Florida (Ludlow 1998). There is a *llys* place-name in the western part of the area, while much of the area east of the Tywi lay within the Manor of Nant-y-bai, which was granted, as a grange, to Strata Florida Abbey, probably by Gruffydd ap Rhys, in c.1200. The grange nucleus may have lain at Bron-y-cwrt (Area 216), or within this area where there is a substantial *bloc* of tithe-free land (Williams 1990, 58); the present farmstead of Ystrad-ffin may, moreover, have early origins. As an upland grange Nant-y-bai was probably operated by tenant farmers primarily concerned with the mountain pasturing of animals, although there are indications that arable was undertaken in pockets of good soil (Sambrook and Page 1995, 18), while it is likely that the pattern of enclosures on the fertile valley floor was in place by the late Medieval - early Post-Medieval period. The Manor of Nant-y-bai remained together after the Dissolution, as the Ystrad-ffin estate, which was centred on the farmstead of the same name (Carmarthenshire Record Office, Lort Muniments 17/678). The farm has associations with *Twm Sion Catti*, a picturesque and nomadic character of the 17th century who is said to have married a widow residing here; he later became Mayor of Brecon and Sheriff of the county. A manorial fish trap lies near the chapel. Lead mining was once undertaken in the area and may have begun under the Cistercians (Williams 1990, 58), or even the Romans (James 1982, 34). It was already being undertaken by the late 13th-century, the crown taking the 'eleventh foot' of the ore in taxation (Rees 1968), but had largely ceased by the late 19th-century. There has been little subsequent development

Description and essential historic landscape components
This area consists of the narrow deeply incised valleys of the Tywi, Doethie and Gwenffrwd, and their tributaries. Only the valley floors and lower slopes are included - higher valley sides have been allocated to neighbouring areas. Valley floors lie between 120 m at the lowest point to over 200 m towards the sources of the rivers. Within this area valley sides rise to over 260 m, and continue to rise to over 450 m outside. Steep slopes are cloaked with dense deciduous woodland. The main historic components consist of dispersed farms and small irregular fields. Improved pasture dominates, though there are pockets of rougher ground. Boundaries are mainly of earth banks topped with hedges; some stony banks and collapsed dry-stone walls have also been noted. Hedges are generally not in good condition and many are overgrown or derelict. Apart from the large Ystrad-ffin farm which lies on the edge of the wide flood plain of Nant-y-Ffin, farms are relatively small and located on valley sides. Most farmhouses are of 19th century date, stone-built with slate roofs and of two storeys. Most are of three bays. There is a roughly equal proportion of those in the vernacular tradition and those in the polite Georgian style. Outbuildings are stone-built, and generally quite small and of a limited range. Some are compacted into a single range. Many farms have modern agricultural buildings. There is little modern housing development in the area.

Recorded archaeology in the area is rich and diverse. A Neolithic chambered tomb is associated with finds and an enclosure. There is a Bronze Age standing stone and a possible clearance cairn or round

barrow and a possible Iron Age hillfort. Medieval sites comprise the chapel, a possible cross and a possible *llys* site. Further possible sites are represented by landforms.

There are some distinctive buildings. St Paulinus, Ystrad-ffin, was rebuilt in 1821 (Ludlow 1998) and is not listed. Ystrad-ffin Farmhouse is Grade II listed and said to be of 17th century or earlier origin, although externally the present structure is a plain building of 18th- or 19th-century appearance. Other buildings include two nonconformist chapels, mills, and 18th- and 19th-century dwellings and farms.

Characteristically, this is a very distinct area with clearly defined boundaries - this area is bounded by open moorland or forestry (Areas 217, 219, 220, 221, 247). Only to the south is there some difficulty of definition where this area merges with Area 216.

Conservation priorities
The decay evident in many of the hedgerows and other boundary types is seriously eroding the historic character of parts of this area; this problem needs to be addressed. Consideration should be also be given to the management of the ancient broadleaf woodland. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations. Otherwise maintain as existing.

Ground photograph: 84
Aerial photographs: 5

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA:
219 CRAIG DDU

GRID REFERENCE: SN 752471
AREA IN HECTARES: 695.70

Historic Background
A small area in the foothills of the Cambrian Mountains, lying within the former Cwmwd Malláen of Cantref Mawr which remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284 and largely retained native systems of tenure throughout the medieval period; it also lies within the ecclesiastical parish of Cilycwm. It may have formed part of Nant-y-bai grange/Ystrad-ffin Manor, an ownership from which the name *Allt Maesymeddygon* on the eastern flanks of the area may be derived. As an upland grange, Nant-y-bai was probably operated by tenant farmers primarily concerned with the mountain pasturing of animals, and appears to have been largely unenclosed during the historic period, as it is today, and is depicted as open pasture on the earliest historic maps. Physical evidence for former enclosure exists, however, and there are relict field systems from both the Bronze Age and the earlier Post-Medieval period, the latter in association with the longhut/longhouse characteristic of upland settlement in southwest Wales during this transitional period (Sambrook and Ramsey, 1999). The area has no recent settlement, but the dam for Llyn Brianne reservoir, constructed at the northern edge of the area during the 1960s, has had a profound effect on the landscape.

Description and essential historic landscape components
Craig Ddu character area consists of open moorland. It lies between the upper Tywi and upper Gwenffrwd valleys. Steep, craggy valley sides of these two rivers form the eastern and southern boundaries of this area. The valley sides rise from approximately 130 m to over 350 m. The remainder the area comprises an undulating plateau between 350 m and 420 m. Apart from ancient deciduous woodland on some of the valley sides, and occasional wire fences, this area is entirely rough, open moorland with peat deposits in high hollows.

Recorded archaeology represents considerable time-depth, comprising a Bronze Age standing stone, a possible prehistoric field system, and a longhut/longhouse and field system from the earlier Post-Medieval period

There are virtually no standing buildings and none are distinctive; however, the late 20th-century Llyn Brianne dam deserves note

This area is well defined by farmland in the valley bottoms (Area 218) and by a conifer plantation to the north (yet to be assigned a number).

Conservation priorities
There are no historic landscape conservation priorities in this area.

Ground photograph: 85
Aerial photographs: 5

CARMARTHENSHIRE: DOLAUCOTHI

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA:
247 MYNYDD MALLÁEN

GRID REFERENCE: SN 726433
AREA IN HECTARES: 2424.00

Historic Background
An area representing the unenclosed moorland of the Mynydd Malláen plateau, lying above 300 m. It was formerly divided between the Caeo and Malláen commotes of Cantref Mawr, which remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284 and largely retained native systems of tenure throughout the Medieval period. As an upland area, land-use was primarily concerned with the mountain pasturing of animals, and it appears to have been largely unenclosed during the historic period, as it still is today. It is depicted as open pasture on the earliest historic maps and is recorded as being partly common land during the Medieval period. Physical evidence for prehistoric use of the landscape exists in the form of landmark ritual sites, represented by Bronze Age round barrows and a possible standing stone, which were intended to be prominent visual features within the landscape.. A late Medieval - early Post-Medieval rabbit warren occupied the southern flank of the plateau, and evidence for limited Post-Medieval enclosure exists in association with the longhuts characteristic of informal upland settlement in southwest Wales during this period (Sambrook and Ramsey, 1999). There are several small former lead and copper mines on the edges of the area, which may have early origins. Mining was already being undertaken in this area by the late 13th-century, the crown taking the ‘eleventh foot’ of the ore in taxation (Rees 1968), but had largely ceased by the mid 19th-century. The area has no recent settlement.

Description and essential historic landscape components
Mynydd Malláen is a high, undulating and isolated plateau which achieves heights of over 450 m. To the west and north, its very steep and often craggy sides fall away into the valleys of the Tywi and Cothi. To the south the edge of the plateau is more broken, but the slopes here are still steep. Essentially Mynydd Malláen is open moorland - rough grazing, bracken and blanket peats - with a little improved pasture on the southern edge. On some steep slopes fringing the plateau there is a little scrubby woodland, and a small conifer plantation is included in the area. There are some old earth boundaries on the fringes of the plateau, but occasional wire fences provide stock-proof boundaries.

Recorded archaeology is relatively rich and comprises Bronze Age round barrows and a possible standing stone, Medieval - Post-Medieval rabbit warrens, longhuts and field system, trackways, lead and copper mines, and unknown earthworks.

There are no standing buildings.

This is a very well-defined area. It is either bordered by farms and fields in valley bottoms (Areas 242 and 218), high, semi-enclosed valley sides (Areas 246 and 250), or forestry (Areas 217 and 245).

Conservation priorities
There are no historic landscape conservation priorities in this area.

Ground photographs: 114
Aerial photographs: 4, 6

CARMARTHENSHIRE: DOLAUCOTHI

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA:
250 ALLT Y BERTH

GRID REFERENCE: SN 706454
AREA IN HECTARES: 125.4

Historic Background
A narrow area covering the northern side of the Cothi valley. It once lay within Cwmwd Caeo of Cantref Mawr which remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284 (Rees n.d.) and largely retained native systems of tenure throughout the Medieval period. The steep slopes lie beneath deciduous woodland which has probably existed throughout the historic period. Such enclosures that exist are continuations of boundaries from Area 251, which are all late, being 19th century in origin (Cynwyl Gaeo tithe map, 1840). There is now no settlement, and none is recorded in the past.

Description and essential historic landscape components
This small but nevertheless distinct character area lies on very steep and craggy southeast-facing slopes in the upper Cothi valley. Apart from a few small pockets of open moorland, the whole area is wooded. Nearly all of this woodland is semi-natural deciduous, with a few small conifer plantations.

There is no recorded archaeology in this area, and no buildings.

This is a very distinct character area. It is bounded either by semi-open high land (Area 251) or farms and fields of the valley bottom (Area 242).

Conservation priorities
There are few historic landscape conservation priorities in this character area. However, some consideration should be given to the management of the ancient broadleafed woodland.

Ground photographs: 117
Aerial photographs:

CARMARTHENSHIRE: DOLAUCOTHI

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA:
251 CEFN BRANDDU

GRID REFERENCE: SN 706463
AREA IN HECTARES: 315.10

Historic Background
A narrow area covering the northern side of the Cothi valley. It once lay within Cwmwd Caeo of Cantref Mawr which remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284 (Rees n.d.) and largely retained native systems of tenure throughout the Medieval period. It is an area of high moorland pasture. The western section was enclosed at a late date, during the 19th century (Cynwyl Gaeo tithe map, 1840) when it was divided into large fields with straight boundaries. The eastern third is still unenclosed and the entire area was probably open, common grazing during most of the historic period. A Post-Medieval cottage site represents the only recorded evidence of human occupation, and may be a product of squatting. There is now no settlement.

Description and essential historic landscape components
Cefn Branddu is a high rounded ridge which peaks at over 400 m. It has been enclosed into large fields by earth banks, but these are now redundant and wire fences provide stock-proof boundaries. Land-use is mixed, but mostly comprises improved pasture, with rougher grazing and bracken on steep slopes and on the highest points. There are individual trees and small stands of semi-natural deciduous woodland on the steep, northwest-facing slopes. There are no settlements, and the only transport links are rough tracks and paths.

The only archaeological site recorded in this area is the one cottage site.

There are no buildings.

This is a well-defined area. It is bounded by woodland on steep slopes to the east and south (Area 250), and by farms and fields to the west (Area 248). On other sides landscape character areas have yet to be defined.

Conservation priorities
There are few historic landscape conservation priorities in this character area. It is probably desirable to allow the degraded old boundaries to remain in their current state, so allowing the area to return to open moorland/pasture. Consideration should be given to the management of the ancient broadleafed woodland.

Ground photographs: 118
Aerial photographs: