

Historic Environment Feature Management Report:

Gold Mine, Carn Dochan - Updated Report

Customer Reference Number: A0015191

UID: 401,105



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Gwynedd Archaeological Trust



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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The purpose of this management plan is to inform the positive management of the identified Priority Historic Environment Feature. The identified management outcome will meet the objective for the Historic Environment Feature Targeted Layer as part of the Glastir Land Management Scheme.

A site visit was carried out on PRN 21085 on 05/07/2013 in order to identify specific management requirements and to confirm the location of mining features. This report therefore updates the report completed on 01/07/2013.

PRN 21085 Name Gold Mine, Carn Dochan
Period Post-Medieval **Site Type** GOLD MINE
NGR SH84903070C

Site Description

General: the most easterly of the Meirionnydd gold-mines, situated near to Llanuwchllyn at the south-western extremity of Bala Lake.

Geology: worked a gold vein.

History: on crown land; also known as Castell Carndochan; worked intermittently from 1863 to 1905.

Workings: a substantial adit is open immediately upslope of the mill; the timber and iron supports are visible underground. An adit is evident on the upper level, and there is a long open trench going up the slope at SH84873075.

Processing: a mill was erected at SH85033058 in 1864 containing eight head of stamps, later twelve, followed by cradles, Hungarian pans, Britten pans and Mosheimer pans. A Clarkson-Stanfield Dry Concentrator was erected c. 1894. The mill site is now only evident as low stone walls, possibly part of a cellar, and is situated next to a farm road. The mill tip extends to the north.

Power: the mill is constructed on the Nant Ty Coch, which passes through the mill-tip in a stone-lined channel, but there is also a very prominent contour leat from an abstraction point to the west of the site, leading to a concrete penstock above the mill, and an overflow leat. A stone machine base containing four holding-down bolts is evident at the mill site, and may have been for a pelton.

Transport: there is a possible stone ore slide to the west of the mill, now very dilapidated.

Ancillary: no evidence. Domestic: no evidence. <7>

Site description extracted from the Historic Environment Record, G1468 Project Archive; bracketed numbers refer to bibliographic references. For further details please see www.archwilio.org.uk/

Site visit data (05/07/2013):

1. Buildings at SH8494030780: One long ruinous drystone rectangular building (9m x 6m, height 0.7m) with small ruinous drystone structure (7m x 4.5m, height 0.8m) to S. Both rough boulder construction. Stone cut and stone faced leat (running E-W) runs to S of buildings.
2. Leat: Very well made stone faced and stone cut leat 1m wide running from SH8490030791 to SH8496830726. At SH8496230632 the leat widens into a large square shape with what appears to be a square lined sump in its base. This has an outer brick surround with a narrow flagstone shelf at its edge.
3. Adit at SH8501730644: Large horizontal shaft into hillside. Drystone revetted access.
4. Building at SH85033057 (mill building): Sections of possibly mortared stone walling but mostly obscured by dumped materials to the NE and SW. Where visible, walls stand to shoulder height. Engine mount (iron bolts on masonry pedestal), located just to the N.
5. Building at SH8503130567: Fragmentary bits of walling. Mostly disturbed and covered by dumping of materials for access track ramp to spoil heap(?).

Management Issues

Vegetation: Some areas of the HEF are obscured by encroaching vegetation. Vegetation can cause disturbance to remains by dislodging features through natural growth or through wind-throws and by providing shelter for livestock, leading to trampling and erosion or colonization by burrowing animals. Root penetration can damage buried deposits. Reduced visibility also makes the site more vulnerable to inadvertent damage during farm works.

- Two ruinous buildings at SH8494030780 **(1.)** are obscured by bracken. A tree is also growing within the features but it appears that the tree is preventing the growth of dense vegetation in its shadow and therefore providing some overall benefit to the features.
- The square feature associated with the leat (SH8496230632) **(2.)** has two mature trees on one edge. These trees are leaning slightly into the feature and are entangled in the stonework so are likely to cause major damage if they fall.
- Parts of the leat (SH8490030791 to SH8496830726) **(2.)** are obscured by bracken.
- The adit at SH8501730644 **(3.)** is becoming overgrown with light vegetation and obscured by dead branches.

Dumping of materials:

- Dumped materials cover part of the mill building at SH85033057 **(4.)**.
- Dumped materials cover parts of the features at 8503130567 **(5.)**.

Trackway maintenance:

A number of trackways run through the HEF. Areas of the trackways can become eroded through regular use by vehicles, pedestrians, horses or bicycles, damaging the HEF. Areas of bare earth that have resulted from erosion can also be prone to colonisation by weeds, burrowing animals and further erosion by livestock.

Desired Management Outcome

- To remove encroaching vegetation.
- To retain the visibility of the features.
- To prevent erosion.

Management Actions

Vegetation clearance:

- Clear the bracken from the two buildings at SH8494030780 **(1.)**. Retain the tree but monitor the site for potential disturbance from tree roots.
- Remove the two trees on the edge of the square feature at SH8496230632 **(2.)**.
- Clear the bracken from the leat (which runs from SH8490030791 to SH8496830726) **(2.)**.
- Clear the light vegetation and dead branches from the adit at SH8501730644 **(3.)**.

Control vegetation by hand cutting and removal of the cut material. Do not pull out with machines or other means as this may damage the HEF or buried remains. Stumps should be treated with herbicide (where this is allowed) to prevent re-growth. Advice may be required where upstanding masonry is affected. This vegetation clearance should

not be a one off exercise; several episodes of clearance may be necessary. Increase grazing where practical to help control colonization, development and expansion of vegetation. The HEF should be grazed at a level sufficient to maintain a stable grass sward without poaching the surface or enabling scrub to develop.

Dumping of materials:

Materials should not be dumped or stored on any features within the HEF.

Trackway maintenance:

Maintain trackways in good order. No scraping or excavation of any part of the HEF should take place. Monitor the trackways regularly for signs of erosion and contact Gwynedd Archaeological Trust for advice if areas of erosion occur within the HEF.

Health and safety note for planning works or risk assessments: the HEF contains mining shafts. Care should therefore be taken when planning or carrying out work in the vicinity of these features.

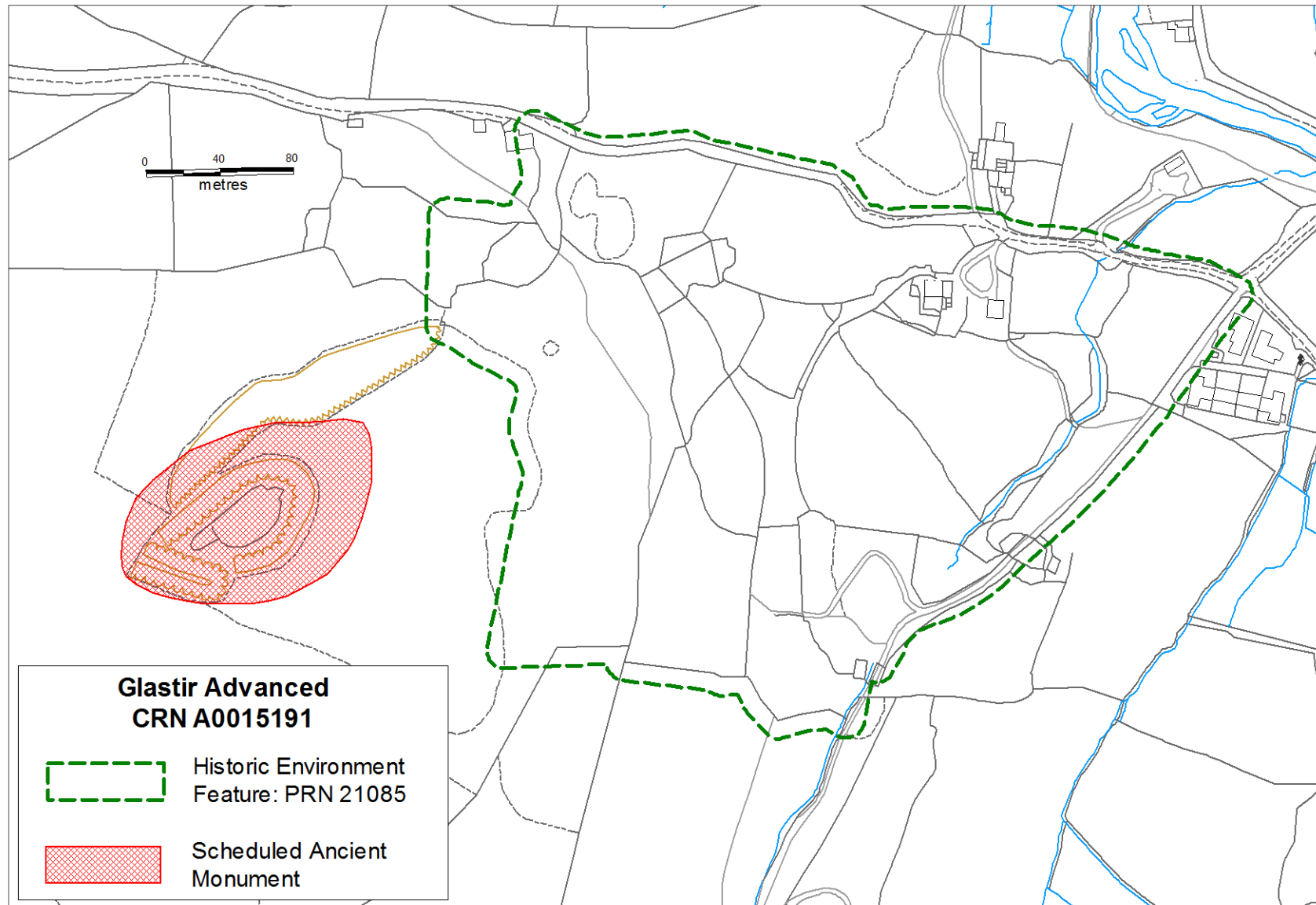
Glastir Whole Farm Code

Please also remember that, unless we have indicated otherwise, the Glastir Whole Farm Code should be observed for all historic features on your farm. The Whole Farm Code states that you must not damage any historic feature identified on your agreement map.

Definitions of damage to a historic feature include ANY of the following:

- Ground disturbance or excavation especially extending beneath topsoil.
- Dumping or storage of material, including temporary storage.
- Removal of any material, including stones, soil or subsoil.
- Visible signs of active erosion (loss and disturbance of topsoil) caused by livestock and vehicles or other agricultural practice.
- Planting trees.
- Allowing scrub to develop.
- Ploughing or reseeded.
- Displacing individual stone features.

Location Maps



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