

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Crychan Forestry, Carmarthenshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY



CPAT Report No 873

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Report for Forestry Commission Wales

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2006 the Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by Mr D Rees, Forestry Commission Wales (FCW), to prepare a specification and quotation for undertaking an archaeological survey within several compartments of the Crychan Forest near Llandovery, Carmarthenshire.
- 1.2 The areas to be examined were defined on a map of the Archaeological Survey Area provided by FCW and dated 5 May 2006, which identified an area of approximately 13km² lying largely to the south of the road from Cynghordy to Tirabad (Fig. 1).
- 1.3 An initial survey of the areas had been undertaken during the 1990s as part of the Welsh Heritage Assets project. That was essentially a rapid survey comprising a desk-based study which was largely restricted to examining the Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd edition 6" mapping, followed by field visits to those sites which had been identified. The present study has extended the desk-based research coupled with further field survey, again targeted at known sites.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The first stage of the survey comprised a desk-based study which involved the examination of readily available primary and secondary cartographic sources held by the following repositories: the county Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Cambria Archaeology at Llandeilo; the National Library of Wales, in Aberystwyth; and the National Monuments Record (NMR), in Aberystwyth.
- 2.2 Records were created for all newly identified sites using the Mapinfo 7.8 Geographical Information System (GIS) software, the format for which was based on digital data provided by FCW for archaeological sites recorded during the Welsh Heritage Assets survey. The enhanced data have been converted into a format compatible with that currently used by FCW, and a copy of this was provided to the client. The Primary Record Number (PRN) assigned to each site is that recorded in the regional HER, with new numbers being allocated where appropriate through consultation with the HER Officer.
- 2.3 The second stage involved a programme of field survey to assess and record all known archaeological sites. A small number of newly identified sites were recorded during the field visits to known sites, although no systematic prospecting survey was conducted as experience indicates that such an approach is not possible or productive in many coniferous woodlands.
- 2.4 All visits were undertaken by a two-man field team and sites were located as accurately as possible on base maps provided by FCW, although it must be recognised that Global Positioning Systems (GPS) are unlikely to be fully effective within forestry and the accuracy of locations cannot therefore be guaranteed.
- 2.5 Each site was recorded by written description and digital photography where possible. Owing to the nature of some of the sites and the density of planting and other vegetation it was not possible to photograph every site. The position from where the photographs were taken, and the direction of view were also recorded and entered into a separate GIS database. The written record included an assessment of type, function, form, significance, condition and management recommendations. In general, it was decided that it was not feasible to record specific details of relict field systems and tracks.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS

- 3.1 The results from the desk-based study and field survey are presented below. Most of the area contains elements of former field systems and trackways which have become fossilised within the forestry. During field visits to known archaeological sites it was apparent that many of these boundary banks and tracks still survive, although often they have been damaged by forestry operations. Field visits were made to check on the condition of fords and footbridges recorded on early editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping, although no physical remains were identified at any of the locations. In general, the boundaries and tracks appear to correspond to those depicted by the Ordnance Survey in the late 19th century which have already been mapped as part of the Welsh Heritage Assets programme and form part of FCW's GIS data.
- 3.2 The present forest covers an upland area cut by the valleys of a number of small rivers and streams. By the 19th century these valleys and the lower slopes had attracted small-scale farming, and were occupied by a number of small farmsteads with their accompanying small, irregular fields (eg. Esgair-berfedd in the valley of Afon Tridwr, Glanllyn, Cwm-Crychan and Troed y Rhiw in the valley of Afon Crychan and Glyn-môch in the valley of Afon Dulais). The 1st edition Ordnance Survey 25" maps of 1888 and the 6" maps of 1891 indicate that although the majority of the area had been enclosed as small fields, there were still some large areas of unimproved rough pasture or moorland on the higher ground, such as Banc Cefn-garreg (recorded as an area of common land during the medieval period), and Noethgrug,, whilst deciduous and mixed woodlands occupied some of the steepest valley sides, such as Allt Craig-y-derwyddon (now Allt Craigrwyddon), Allt Llanerch-goch, Allt y Garth and Allt Glyn-môch, as well as the bottoms of some very narrow valleys.
- 3.3 In the following section each site has been classified according to its perceived significance. The categories are those given in the Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments draft *Archaeology and the Trunk Road Programme in Wales: a Manual of Best Practice*.

Category A sites of national importance. It is presumed that sites in this category will be preserved and protected *in situ*.

Category B sites which are of particular importance within the region. Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for these sites, but if loss or damage is unavoidable, appropriate detailed recording should be undertaken.

Category C sites of district or local importance which are not of sufficient importance to justify preservation if threatened, but which merit adequate recording in advance of loss or damage.

Category D minor and damaged sites which do not merit inclusion in a higher category, and for which rapid recording should be sufficient.

Category E sites whose importance cannot be fully determined as a result of the assessment and may warrant further evaluation.

PRN 273**Crychan Forest Fortlet**

SN 8494041520

Type: Fortlet

Period: Roman

Category: A

The earthwork remains of a presumed Roman fortlet are sited in a good defensive position on the crest of a hill and take the form of an almost square, banked enclosure, aligned north-east to south-west, each side measuring *c.* 85m in length. The spread low banks stand *c.* 0.4m high, enclosing an area about 73m across internally. The earthworks are bisected by the forest boundary, with its north-western half lying within an area of mature conifers, and the south-eastern half in a pasture field. Although the earthworks are more clearly seen in the field, the portions of bank which lie within the forest are actually the better preserved. Within the field the south-west bank is perhaps better defined than the north-east bank, and there are traces here of an outer ditch, with upcast to the south-west of it, though this is not really visible continuing within the forestry. Within the forest, the north-west bank is fairly well preserved at its north-east end, built along a natural break of slope (with land falling away to the north-west), and its apparent height externally is *c.* 1m. The north-east bank is quite apparent in the vicinity of the forest boundary fence, but becomes increasingly faint and difficult to trace northwards. The area of the enclosure has been heavily used for army training activities and the enclosure banks, together with much of the interior, are riddled with the large pits of army dug-outs, measuring up to 2m by 1.5m and 0.5m deep. The enclosure earthworks have also attracted trail bikes, resulting in the formation narrow tracks being worn through the banks.

Management condition

The forested half of the enclosure is covered with mature conifers. In places there is serious damage to the banks and internal ground surface resulting from military activity. Motorbikes have formed eroded tracks across the area and cutting through the banks.

Management recommendations

Carefully remove conifers. Monitor and preserve in-situ. Exclude the site and wider area from replanting. Ensure that army activities as well as motor bikes and bike events are excluded from the area. Reinstate the damage caused by military activities.



PRN 273 Crychan Forest Fortlet – damage resulting from military dugout. Photo CPAT
2354.004

PRN 5450**Castell Craig-y-derwyddon**

SN8442036590

Type: Placename

Period: Unknown

Category: E

A rocky outcrop with a name which might indicate the position of a castle, but no evidence of a castle is to be seen at this siting.

Management condition

None

Management recommendations

None.

PRN 7908**Coed-y-Castell**

SN8380040700

Type: Placename

Period: Unknown

Category: E

An area of woodland is named Coed y Castell on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition mapping. The area was not visited during the present survey, but previous visits failed to identify any archaeological features. It is possible that the name relates to 18th-century encroachment.

Management condition

None.

Management recommendations

None.

PRN 13742**Banc Cefn Garreg**

SN8330039300

Type: Common

Period: Medieval

Category: E

Area of common land during the medieval period. Not visited during the present survey.

Management condition

None

Management recommendations

None.

PRN 22503**Cefn-gareg Farmstead**

SN8212337973

Type: Farmstead

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

A farmstead is depicted on the Tithe survey and early Ordnance Survey mapping, comprising two buildings and associated enclosures, located at the junction of two tracks, the main track passing east to west between the buildings. The farmhouse (PRN 62776) lies on the north side of the main track, with a barn (PRN 62777) on the south side. To the north-west of the track are the remains of a small structure divided into two compartments, aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and measuring 4m long by 1.5m wide with walls up to 1m high.

Management condition

The area has been left as a riparian zone between conifers and there has been a natural seeding of broadleaves. The buildings are in reasonably good condition.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.

PRN 22516**Cwrte-bach Farmstead**

SN 8525438456

Type: Farmstead

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

A farmstead comprising two buildings, a farmhouse (PRN 62778) and a barn (PRN 62779) to its north-west, and a possible enclosure, only partially surviving.

Management condition

Both buildings are in poor condition, and the mortar in the walls is now loose. There are small trees and saplings within and around the buildings.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.

PRN 30211**Scrâch Farmstead**

SN 8471039331

Type: Farmstead

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

A farmstead comprising three buildings: a farmhouse (PRN 44668) with adjacent pigsty (PRN 44670) and a probable barn (PRN 44669) lying a short distance to the north, linked by a now disused and grassed-over road which is terraced into the slope below the modern forest road. The Tithe survey shows one building at the site of the house, and another at the site of the barn. The Ordnance Surveyors' drawing gives the name Crûch.

Management condition

See under individual PRNs.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.

PRN 30212**Tre-fawr Farmstead**

SN 8396439431

Type: Farmstead

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

A farmstead is depicted on the Tithe survey, comprising two buildings, a house (PRN 62780) and a barn (PRN 62781) to the south. Coppiced hazel trees survive in the area nearby.

Management condition

Conifers have been planted close to the house and within the barn.

Management recommendations

Clear conifers from barn. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.

PRN 30213**Bronydd Farmstead**

SN 8431338568

Type: Farmstead

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

A farmstead named 'Bronnudd' is recorded on an estate map of 1777, which depicts four buildings. The field survey identified four stone-built structures (PRNs 62782-62785), together with numerous terraces, substantial field banks and several tracks.

Management condition

The area has not been planted, but is covered with broadleaf saplings and some mature trees.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings and undergrowth. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting. Undertake a measured survey of all the buildings and other features relating to the farmstead.

PRN 30214**Noethgrug building**

SN 8419538164

Type: Farmstead

Period: Post-medieval

Category: C

The basal remains of a stone building, aligned east to west, is terraced into the slope at its west end and measures 8m by 5.5m, with walls up to 0.3m thick. Early Ordnance Survey mapping shows a structure here, and Tithe survey fieldnames (Caedanty and Caebank ty hwnt i'r ty) suggest this was a house.

Management condition

The area is planted with larch. Hazel and hawthorn trees also present.

Management recommendations

Clear trees and saplings. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 30214 Noethgrug building from E. Photo CPAT 2354.035

PRN 30215**Cefn-blewog Farmstead**

SN84883781

Type: Farmstead

Period: 19th Century

Category: B

The farmstead comprises the farmhouse (PRN 44671) and a range of barns (PRN 44672), all of likely 19th-century date. The main approach was via a track from the west and where this enters the farmstead there is a possible earthwork platform which may have been for a building. A second track rises to the south-east behind the farmstead.

Management condition

See individual PRNs.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings and undergrowth. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.

PRN 30221**Glyn-môch Farmstead**

SN 8142337623

Type: Farmstead

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

A ruinous farmstead recorded on the Tithe survey comprising two substantial structures: a farmhouse (PRN 44673) and long barn range (PRN 44674).

Management condition

See under individual PRNs.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings and undergrowth. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.

PRN 30222**Troed y Rhiw Farmstead**

SN 8140438010

Type: Farmstead

Period: Post-medieval

Category: C

An estate map of 1777 records the farmstead as 'Troedrhiwwrâch', while the Tithe survey shows two buildings collectively named Troed y Rhiw. The field survey found no structural traces, although the lack of any stonework or rubble may suggest that the buildings were of timber, and it is possible that sub-surface remains may still survive. The area is level and clear of the mature conifers which surround it. There is some coppiced hazel in the vicinity which is suggestive of former occupation.

Management condition

Area not currently planted.

Management recommendations

Monitor and avoid this area during felling and planting operations.

PRN 30223**Pen-lan Farmstead**

SN 8115538211

Type: Farmstead

Period: Post-medieval

Category: C

The Tithe survey shows a farmstead comprising two buildings. Of the farmhouse (PRN 62786), there is now no obvious surviving walling, although there is a large platform terraced into the slope on the eastern edge of the forest road. To the west of the road is a block of animal pens possibly a pigsty (PRN 62787).

Management condition

See individual PRNs.

Management recommendations

See individual PRNs.

PRN 36088**Castell Craigyryddon West Enclosure**

SN 8417436848

Type: Enclosure ?

Period: Unknown

Category: D

This site was identified by RCAHMW from aerial photographs and was considered to be a possible prehistoric complex of enclosures, including a possible hut circle (measuring 12.5m by 9.5m) with a paddock to the south (measuring 46m by 27m). The current field survey found no visible trace of any earthworks here. The area has been deep-ploughed, planted, felled and recently re-planted.

Management condition

The site is presumably destroyed and the area is now planted with conifers.

Management recommendations

None.

PRN 36091**Cwm Llyn Wennol South West Enclosure**

SN 8582538105

Type: Enclosure

Period: Unknown

Category: E

The site was identified by RCAHMW from aerial photographs that suggested these were quarries on a steep west-facing slope, and two rectilinear enclosures 17.5m by 10.9m and 13.6m by 16.4m. The field survey found no trace of quarries or enclosures and the grid reference lies close to a forestry track turning circle. The slope here faces south-east, not west, contra to the original description.

Management condition

None.

Management recommendations

None.

PRN 36095**Crychan Forest Platform**

SN 8437038823

Type: Platform

Period: Unknown

Category: C

The site was identified by RCAHMW from aerial photographs as a square enclosure measuring 10.6m by 9.3m. Field survey located an earthwork platform, aligned north-west to south-east, measuring 10m by 9.5m. All but the south-west side are cut into the slope by up to 0.7m and the south-west side has a fan 0.4m high. The platform may have been for a timber building, although there is now no evidence of any structure.

Management condition

Area is planted with conifers.

Management recommendations

Remove conifers. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 36095 Crychan Forest Platform from E. Photo CPAT 2354-027

PRN 36096**Crychan Forest Enclosure II**

SN 8434538539

Type: Enclosure

Period: Unknown

Category: E

This site was identified by RCAHMW from aerial photographs as a polygonal enclosure measuring 14.2m by 13.8m, which the field survey determined forms part of Bronydd Farmstead (PRN 30213), although it is unclear which of the earthworks the original description relates to.

Management condition

Unknown.

Management recommendations

None.

PRN 36097**Noethgrug North East Enclosure**

SN 8412237782

Type: Enclosure

Period: Unknown

Category: E

The site was identified by RCAHMW from aerial photographs as an enclosure measuring 14.1m by 20.2m on a south-west-facing ridge. This seems to be corroborated by the field name Cae'r hen Fald recorded in the Tithe survey for an adjacent field (no. 2366) - a name suggestive of a fold. No structural remains were located during the current field survey in a recently re-planted area.

Management condition

Unknown.

Management recommendations

Monitor when felling/re-planting.

PRN 36098**Noethgrug Enclosure**

SN 8367137469

Type: Enclosure

Period: Unknown

Category: D

The site was identified by RCAHMW from aerial photographs as a pair of enclosures, one circular measuring 18m in diameter and the other sub-square, 17.3m across.

Management condition

The site is assumed to have been destroyed during forestry operations

Management recommendations

None.

PRN 36099**Noethgrug South Enclosure**

SN 8388436776

Type: Enclosure

Period: Unknown

Category: D

The site was identified by RCAHMW from aerial photographs as an oval enclosure measuring 11.7m by 7.7m, situated on a south-facing slope. No trace of the feature was found during the field survey and the recorded location coincides approximately with the line of a forestry road. The areas to the sides of this have been ploughed and planted with conifers.

Management condition

The site is assumed to have been destroyed.

Management recommendations

None.

PRN 36101**Cefn Coch South Settlement**

SN 8568339537

Type: Settlement

Period: Unknown

Category: E

The site was identified by RCAHMW from aerial photographs as a possible prehistoric settlement comprising a semi-circular enclosure, c. 38m in diameter, adjoining a boundary aligned north-west to south-east. The field survey failed to locate any remains in an area of dense young forestry.

Management condition

Unknown.

Management recommendations

Monitor during thinning operations.

PRN 44668**Scrâch Farmhouse**

SN 84683929

Type: Farmhouse

Period: 19th Century

Category: B

A ruinous stone-built house of two storeys located on a level terrace immediately below the modern forest road. The house is aligned north-east to south-west, and measures *c.* 9m by 7.6m. The south-west gable wall still stands to the full height (*c.* 6m) and contains chimney flues from two ground-floor fireplaces. The upper part of this wall is in a very unstable condition. The entrance is in the centre of the south-east wall, with a window on either side. The house was well-built from random stone rubble, with dressed stone quoins at the corners. Traces of render still adhere to the exterior walls. Internally, there is now no trace of room divisions, but the presence of two fireplaces in the south-west wall implies that the space was divided. In front of the house is a level terraced area 5m wide, possibly a garden. A pigsty (PRN 44670) is located to the south-west, only 2m from the south-west gable of the house. A former road is still evident which links the house with the barn (PRN 44669) to the north.

Management condition

The whole structure appears fragile, and the gable end walls in particular are in a very unstable and perilous condition. The house is surrounded by the saplings of broadleaf trees, some of which are growing within the structure.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings. Monitor and preserve in situ. Avoid during forestry operations and exclude site and wider area from future planting.



PRN 44668 Scrâch Farmhouse from N. Photo CPAT 2354.022

PRN 44669**Scrâch Barn**

SN 8472539375

Type: Barn

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

The low walls of a long, rectangular stone building aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, measure 13.3m long by 6.7m wide, and lie adjacent to the west-north-west side of a forestry road. The walls are 0.5m thick and are constructed of random stone rubble, mostly surviving only up to a height of 0.5m, although the west-north-west gable wall survives up to 2m high. There is no obvious entrance to the building, and no evidence of a chimney, perhaps suggesting that the building served as a barn rather than a house (Tithe survey names the field to the west 'Cae Scybor' = barn field). The building is divided into two equal-sized rooms, that at the west-north-west end being stepped-up c. 0.5m above the lower end. A small stone-built, square lean-to has been built onto the north-north-east wall.

Management condition

Although this area has not been forested, the whole site is covered in small birch and hawthorn trees, saplings, and brambles

Management recommendations

Clear trees and saplings. Monitor and preserve in situ. Avoid during forestry operations and exclude site and wider area from future planting.



PRN 44669 Scrâch Barn from NNW. Photo CPAT 2354.021

PRN 44670**Scrâch Pigsty**

SN 8468039280

Type: Pigsty

Period: 19th Century

Category: C

A pigsty building, standing only 2m to the south-west of Scrâch house, is in generally good condition, but has lost its roof. The building is constructed of a mixture of stone and brick portions, and has concrete capping on the top of its unroofed walls. The building measures 7m by 4.6m and c. 1.3m high, and is divided into three compartments with entrances on the south-west side. The

central compartment is divided into covered and open areas and is obviously a pigsty, but the compartments on either side have no obvious function.

Management condition

The building is in a good, stable condition. The area has not been forested, but young saplings currant bushes and scrubby vegetation have taken a hold in this area.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings. Monitor and preserve in situ. Avoid during forestry operations and exclude site and wider area from future planting.

PRN 44671

Cefn-blewog Farmhouse

SN 8488037810

Type: House

Period: 19th Century

Category: B

Part of Cefn-blewog Farmstead (PRN 30215). The farmhouse is now ruinous but was well-built in stone with cement render, measuring 8.7m north to south by 7.3m east to west. The gable walls stand to their full height. Although no internal partitions survive the ground floor may have had a timber-frame partition with the kitchen on the south side, including a large fireplace, and a room with a smaller fireplace to the north. The main entrance is in the centre of the west wall, with windows to either side, and a further pair of windows in the east wall, a small window at the east end of the north wall, and a door into the kitchen on the south-east corner. Both first-floor rooms had fireplaces. Outside there is a level yard on the west side with a garden area beyond.

Management condition

The house is ruinous, but currently stable and the area has not been planted.

Management recommendations

Monitor and preserve in situ. Avoid during forestry operations and exclude site and wider area from new planting.



PRN 44671 Cefn-blewog Farmhouse from ESE. Photo CPAT 2354.016

PRN 44672**Cefn-blewog Barn**

SN 8487037780

Type: Barn

Period: 19th Century**Category: B**

Part of Cefn-blewog Farmstead (PRN 30215). There is a range of barns to the south of the farmhouse, now ruinous but originally well-built in stone. The earlier structure is a large barn measuring 12.35m east to west by 7.55m north to south, internally divided into two unequal rooms by a stone partition which does not appear to be joined to the side walls and may be a later insertion. The larger room to the west is 7.5m long and has opposing central doorways about 2.5m wide. The smaller eastern room has a door and window in the north wall. A second barn has been added at the north-west corner, partly overlapping the west end of the original barn. This structure measures 11.9m north to south and 6.3m east to west, with two doors in the east wall.

Management condition

The barns are ruinous, but currently stable and the area has not been planted, although there is dense undergrowth.

Management recommendations

Clear undergrowth. Monitor and preserve in situ. Avoid during forestry operations and exclude site and wider area from new planting.



PRN 44671 Cefn-blewog Barn from NE. Photo CPAT 2354.017

PRN 44673**Glyn-môch Farmhouse**

SN 8145837650

Type: Farmhouse

Period: 19th Century

Category: B

A ruined, two-storeyed, stone-built 19th-century farmhouse, with brick lintels and chimney. The house is aligned north-west to south-east. The house has a central doorway on its south-west side, with a window to either side of it. The windows are slightly splayed, and inside of the building they have timber lintels over them but brick lintels on the exterior. There is a large collapsed fireplace in the north-west gable wall, and a smaller one in the south-east wall. The more collapsed, north-east wall appears to show the remains of two windows. Although the masonry is loose and unstable, most of the gable ends still survive up to their full height, although the north-east wall has largely collapsed. Its dimensions were previously recorded as 12m long and 6.25m wide, with walls 0.75m thick.

Management condition

Broadleaf saplings within and around the building. The masonry is loose and unstable.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings. Monitor and preserve in situ. Avoid during forestry operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 44673 Glyn-môch Farmhouse from E. Photo CPAT 2354.039

PRN 44674**Glyn-môch Barn**

SN 8142537620

Type: Barn

Period: 19th Century

Category: B

A large, ruined, stone-built barn range lying to the west of Glyn-môch farmhouse, and situated on the north side of the track. The entrance is in the centre of the south wall. The building is aligned north-east/south-west and measures *c.* 22m by 7m, with walls 0.5m thick and with fragments of masonry walls surviving up to a height of 2.5m near the south-west corner. A single ventilation slit is visible here. On the eastern end is a later lean-to pigsty of two cells, measuring 5.1m north-east to south-west by 3.5m overall, and a stone-walled enclosure on the north-east end.

Management condition

Broadleaf saplings and brambles within and surrounding the building.

Management recommendations

Clear trees and saplings. Monitor and preserve in situ. Avoid during forestry operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 44674 Glyn-môch Barn from S. Photo CPAT 2354.41

PRN 62776**Cefn-gareg Farmhouse**

SN 8212737971

Type: House

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

Part of Cefn-gareg Farmstead (PRN 22503). On the north of the main track is the stone-built farm house, aligned north to south, with a probable cart shed attached to its north end, which is open to the west. The building measures 11.4m long and 6.1m wide, with walls 0.5m thick, surviving up to 2.5m high. The entrance was at the south-west corner and there was a single window in the west wall. Internally, the house comprised a single large room with the remains of a fireplace at its north end.

Management condition

The area has been left as a riparian zone between conifers and there has been a natural seeding of broadleaves. The building is in reasonably good condition.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62776 Cefn-gareg Farmhouse from NW. Photo CPAT 2354.009

PRN 62777**Cefn-gareg Barn**

SN 8211037960

Type: Barn

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

Part of Cefn-gareg Farmstead (PRN 22503). On the south side of the main track is a stone-built barn aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, measuring c. 11.5m long and 6m wide, with walls 0.7m thick and the north-west wall standing to 2.2m high. There are opposing wide gaps in the two side walls, perhaps indicative of threshing barn doorways, and another smaller gap towards the south end of the long east-north-east wall. At the north-north-west end of the building is a small lean-to addition, cut into the slope.

Management condition

The area has been left as a riparian zone between conifers and there has been a natural seeding of broadleaves. The building is in reasonably good condition.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62777 Cefn-gareg Barn from N. Photo CPAT 2354.009

PRN 62778**Cwrte-bach Farmhouse**

SN 8526538445

Type: House

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

Part of Cwrte-bach Farmstead (PRN 22516). The ruined house is of two storeys, aligned north to south, measuring 8.4m by 5.5m, with the southern gable wall surviving to 4m high, but the remainder of the walls standing only up to 2m high. There is a central doorway on the west side and a large fireplace within the southern gable which presumably would have had stairs to one side. The house may have been divided into two rooms by an internal partition wall of timber. Along its east side is a narrow lean-to.

Management condition

The building is in poor condition, and the mortar is now loose. There are small trees and saplings within and around the buildings.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62778 Cwrte-bach Farmhouse from NW. Photo CPAT 2354.014

PRN 62779**Cwrte-bach Barn**

SN 8524538460

Type: Barn

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

Part of Cwrte-bach Farmstead (PRN 22516). The stone-built barn, aligned north to south, measures 12.3m by 5.6m, with the south gable wall surviving to 3.2m high, but other walls only up to a maximum of 2m high. The interior is divided into three bays with stone partition walls, and the northernmost bay appears to be open on its east side, perhaps suggesting use as a cart shed. On the west side of the barn is a walled enclosure measuring 8.3m by 6m.

Management condition

The building is in poor condition, and the mortar is now loose. There are small trees and saplings within and around the buildings.

Management recommendations

Clear trees and saplings. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62779 Cwrte-bach Barn from ESE. Photo CPAT 2354.013

PRN 62780**Tre-fawr Farmhouse**

SN 8397539445

Type: House

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

Part of Tre-fawr Farmstead (PRN 30212). A ruined two-storeyed house of two cells, built of random lime-mortared stone, originally with a slate roof with ceramic ridge tiles. The house is aligned east to west, measuring 8m by 6.2m externally, with the east gable wall surviving to 3m high. The doorway is in the centre of the south wall, with a window on either side of it. There is a further small window at the east end of the north wall.

Management condition

Conifers have been planted close to the house.

Management recommendations

Clear conifers from around the house. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62780 Tre-fawr Farmhouse from SSE. Photo CPAT 2354.025

PRN 62781**Tre-fawr Barn**

SN 8396539430

Type: Barn

Period: Post-medieval

Category B

Part of Tre-fawr Farmstead (PRN 30212). A ruined barn, aligned east to west, lies to the south-west of the farmhouse. It is of dry-stone or earth-bonded rubble, measuring 16.2m by 7m, with walls standing to a maximum height of 1.5m, originally with a slate roof with ceramic ridge tiles. Although the walls are now ruinous, the remains suggest two opposing central doorways in the long sides. In the east gable wall, two ventilation slits are still evident. There is a small lean-to on the west gable wall, measuring 4.3m east to west by 5m north to south, open on its north side.

Management condition

Conifers have been planted close to the house and within the barn.

Management recommendations

Clear conifers from within and around the barn. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62781 Tre-fawr Barn from NNW. Photo CPAT 2354.026

PRN 62782**Bronydd Farmhouse**

SN 8430538570

Type: House

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

Part of Bronydd Farmstead (PRN 30213). The remains of a large stone-built building, possibly the farmhouse, now consist of a single upstanding wall around 8m in length and 1m high which would have formed the east wall of the building, terraced into the slope. Although there are no obvious structural remains for the rest of the building it is likely that sub-surface features survive. To the south-west (SN 8429538570) an area of what appears to be stone flagged flooring is visible, possibly part of a yard.

Management condition

The area has not been planted, but is covered with broadleaf saplings and some mature trees.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings and undergrowth. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62782 Bronydd Farmhouse from NNW. Photo CPAT 2354.032

PRN 62783

SN 8430538535

Bronydd Building I

Type: Building

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

Part of Bronydd Farmstead (PRN 30213). The remains of a small stone-built building lie on the south-east side of the complex, alongside and to the east of a former trackway. The building has surviving walling up to 1.4m high, measures 4.6m north-east to south-west by 4.2m north-west to south-east and appears to have been open on the north-east side.

Management condition

The area has not been planted, but is covered with broadleaf saplings and some mature trees.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings and undergrowth. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62783 Bronydd Building I from N. Photo CPAT 2354.030

PRN 62784**Bronydd Building II**

SN 8434338570

Type: Building

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

Part of Bronydd Farmstead (PRN 30213). The remains of a large stone-built building now consist of low banks with some facing stone visible, defining a structure around 7m wide and at least 10m long, aligned north-west to south-east. To the north-west there are more obvious remains of a square stone-built structure measuring around 6m across, with evidence for a slate roof. It is possible that the two were originally part of one long range of buildings, sited on an area levelled into the slope to the north.

Management condition

The area has not been planted, but is covered with broadleaf saplings and some mature trees.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings and undergrowth. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62784 Bronydd Building II from N. Photo CPAT 2354.033

PRN 62785**Bronydd Structure**

SN 8428538555

Type: Structure

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

Part of Bronydd Farmstead (PRN 30213). A substantial stone revetment wall lies about 25m south-west of the Bronydd Farmhouse (PRN 62782). The wall is up to 1.5m high and at least 6.5m long north-west to south-east, with a shorter section at right-angles, forming a level platform on the north-east side.

Management condition

The area has not been planted, but has with broadleaf saplings and some mature trees nearby.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings and undergrowth. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62785 Bronydd Structure from W. Photo CPAT 2354.028

PRN 62786**Pen-lan Farmhouse**

SN 8116038210

Type: House

Period: Post-medieval

Category: C

Part of Pen-lan Farmstead (PRN 30223). There is now no obvious surviving walling of the farmhouse, although there is a large platform terraced into the slope on the eastern edge of the forest road which has a considerable quantity of rubble and possible walling. It is likely that the foundations and floors survive beneath the rubble.

Management condition

An area of broadleaf trees and saplings along side a forestry road.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings and undergrowth. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62786 Pen-lan Farmhouse from WSW. Photo CPAT 2354.037

PRN 62787**Pen-lan Pigsty**

SN 8113238216

Type: Pigsty

Period: 19th century

Category: C

Part of Pen-lan Farmstead (PRN 30223). To the west of the forestry road is a block of animal pens, probably a pigsty. The building is constructed of lime-mortared random stone, aligned east to west, and measuring 17.8m by 5m, with walls surviving up to 1.4m high. It is divided into three cells; the two at the south-west end are sub-divided, and were possibly open on the south-east side but covered on the north-west side. The cell at the north-east end of the building is a single small unit, entered by a door at the north-east end.

Management condition

The structure is ruinous and in an area of broadleaf trees and saplings.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings and undergrowth. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62787 Pen-lan Pigsty from WSW. Photo CPAT 2354.036

PRN 62788**Castell Craig-y-derwyddon cairn**

SN 8442036628

Type: Cairn?

Period: Bronze Age

Category: A

Possibly the remains of a rubble cairn, 9.3m in diameter and up to 0.5m high, composed of local sandstone/grit boulders up to 0.3m in size. It would appear that some of the north side of the cairn has been lost due to disturbance by forestry activities. The west, south and south-east sides are readily visible, appearing as a stony platform. The feature occupies a level area at the south-west end of a ridge, where there are good views over the lower ground.

Management condition

The immediate area has been cleared of its conifer crop and left unplanted, though there is some regeneration of deciduous trees. The edge of the nearest planted conifer compartment lies c. 10m to the north. Some previous damage to the site has occurred during planting or clearance operations. An access route along the crest of the ridge crosses the site.

Management recommendations

Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting. Exclude the passage of vehicles across the site and divert track



PRN 62788 Castell Craig-y-derwyddon cairn from SW. Photo CPAT 2354.057

PRN 62789**Ty Coch house**

SN 8042537049

Type: House

Period: Post-medieval

Category: E

The house is named on the Ordnance Survey Surveyors' drawing of 1809-36, but the position is not marked clearly. The Tithe map also names the house and depicts two buildings within a small enclosure (field no. 224). The field survey failed to locate any remains of the site.

Management condition

Unknown.

Management recommendations

Monitor during thinning or felling operations.

PRN 62790**Tan y Garth Farmstead**

SN 8081037345

Type: House

Period: Post-medieval

Category: E

An estate map of 1777 records two small buildings named 'Dan y garth cottage and field', and 'Tan y Garth' is named on the Ordnance Survey Surveyors' drawing of 1809-36. At the approximate position of the house a hollow way with banks on either side c. 1.2m high leads upwards, south-south-east off a forest track for a distance of approximately 30m, ending in a large irregular hollow at the foot of a steepening slope. This may perhaps be the site of the house, though there are no visible remains of a building. An old glass bottle was found adjacent to the hollow way, and small pieces of glass, brick and 19th-century pottery were found on the forest track, which may corroborate the location of the house here.

Management condition

Unknown. Siting is within a conifer plantation.

Management recommendations

Monitor during thinning operations.

PRN 62791**Glanllyn house**

SN 8370939987

Type: House

Period: Post-medieval

Category: E

Glanllyn is named on the Ordnance Survey surveyors' drawing of 1809-36, but its position is not clearly marked. The field survey found no structural remains of a building, apart from one stray brick, probably of 18th-century date, on the edge of the stream. Topographically, the most likely site for the house is at SN 83734000, close to a stream, where there is a flatter terrace, but this area is currently obscured by a covering of dumped material, thinnings and brash.

Management condition

Unknown.

Management recommendations

Monitor during thinning operations.

PRN 62792**Pant draenen-fach House**

SN 8320738614

Type: House

Period: Medieval?

Category: B

A house is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map. The field survey located the remains of a rectangular house, 10m by 5.5m and 0.8m high, of dry-stone construction, aligned west-north-west/east-south-east and lying at 90 degrees to the run of the contours. The east-south-east end is cut into the slope, with revetment wall facing. There are ruinous walls on the remaining three sides. No internal detail is visible, as the site is very overgrown and covered in tree stumps. A field bank runs parallel to the building on its south-south-west side, and beyond it there is a holloway, 4m wide, on the same alignment.

Management condition

One crop of conifers has already been taken from this area and it has been replanted with immature trees currently standing 3m high.

Management recommendations

Clear trees. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62792 Pant draenen-fach House from NW. Photo CPAT 2354.011

PRN 62793**Ty'n Wern Holloway**

SN 8161537410

Type: Holloway

Period: Post medieval

Category: C

A footbridge and ford are depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map. The field survey found no structural remains of the ford and footbridge, although on the south side of the stream there is a deeply cut holloway ascending the slope.

Management condition

Within an area of broadleaf trees.

Management recommendations

Monitor and avoid when felling/replanting.



PRN 62793 Ty'n Wern holloway from NW. Photo CPAT 2354.044

PRN 62794**Pen-lan Well**

SN 8115938339

Type: Well

Period: Post-medieval

Category: E

A well is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map. The field survey failed to locate a well.

Management condition

Unknown. Dense bramble undergrowth.

Management recommendations

Monitor during forestry operations.

PRN 62795 **Creigiau House**
SN 8450139761 Type: House Period: Post-medieval
Category: D

Creigiau house is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map. The site of the house has been levelled, and is now occupied by the broad junction of forest roads. Only the garden enclosure on the south-east, downslope, side of the house survives. This appears as a level terrace, c.50m long by 6m wide, with an intact boundary bank at its east end.

Management condition
House site has been destroyed.

Management recommendations
None.

PRN 62796 **Cwm Crychan Sheepfold**
SN 8380840142 Type: Sheepfold Period: Post-medieval
Category: D

A sheepfold is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map. There is little trace now to be found of the sheepfold. On the east bank of the stream one old wooden, partially buried fence post was noted with wire attached to it, which may have been associated with the fold. The construction of a forest road through this valley has buried the original ground surface and probably removed any other traces of the fold.

Management condition
Destroyed.

Management recommendations
None

PRN 62797 **Cefn Llwydlo milestone**
SN 8461441682 Type: Milestone Period: Post-medieval
Category: D

A milestone is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map, recording 'Llandovery 7 miles'. The field survey found no trace of the milestone.

Management condition
Destroyed.

Management recommendations
None

PRN 62798 **Nant Tridwr Sheepfold**
SN 8448938230 Type: Sheepfold Period: Post-medieval
Category: D

A sheepfold is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map. The field survey failed to identify any trace of the sheepfold at this site alongside a stream.

Management condition
Destroyed.

Management recommendations
None

PRN 62799**Cwm-Wyddau House**

SN 8444036255

Type: House

Period: Post-medieval

Category: D

A house is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map. All that now remains is a stone revetment wall on the upper (north-west) side of a tarmac road. This is of dry-stone construction, surviving to a height of c. 1m high, and may perhaps have formed part of an enclosure associated with the dwelling.

Management condition

The site has been almost completely destroyed. It lies in open woodland.

Management recommendations

Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.

PRN 62800**Yr Ardd fieldname**

SN 8372640022

Type: Garden

Period: Post-medieval

Category: E

The Tithe survey shows a small squarish shaped field named 'Yr Ardd' (field no. 1038), belonging with Cwmerychan farm, but this may, rather, have belonged with, and hint at the siting, of the lost 'Glanllyn' (PRN 62791) which is not shown on the Tithe survey). The square plot is not now apparent although the field survey noted the survival of one old field bank with small deciduous trees growing on it, which runs downslope from the north-west.

Management condition

Unknown. Lies within a recently thinned conifer plantation.

Management recommendations

Monitor during forestry operations.

PRN 62801**Cae Scybor fieldname**

SN 8122638259

Type: Barn

Period: Post-medieval

Category: E

The Tithe survey records the name 'Cae Scybor' for field no. 1201, immediately north of Pen-lan farmstead (PRN 30223). The name is suggestive of a barn in this fairly large field. The field survey found no obvious trace of a building within the forestry plantation, although it is possible that a platform or structural remains could yet survive.

Management condition

Unknown.

Management recommendations

Monitor area during forestry operations.

PRN 62802**Tyn y wern Cottage**

SN 8160537311

Type: House

Period: Post medieval

Category: E

The Tithe survey records field no. 1976 as 'Tyn y wern cottage, yard and Cae bach', and a building, probably the house itself, is shown to the east of it. No surface traces of buildings or former field boundaries were located during the field survey. The area had been recently clear-felled and replanted. A mound of stone lies alongside the nearby forestry road.

Management condition

Unknown.

Management recommendations

None.

PRN 62803**Glan Rhyd y moch Farmstead**

SN 8243537575

Type: House

Period: Post-medieval

Category: C

The Tithe survey shows a building within a small enclosure, field no 2033, described as 'cot, garden and field'. The field survey located the remains of a rectangular building, 9m east to west by 4.5m and 0.5m high, aligned east to west, lying parallel to the contours. There are mounds of stone at the east and west ends, probably representing collapsed gable ends. There is a low, moss-covered wall along part of the north side, but the south side is only visible where the edge of the level interior of the building meets the natural ground slope.

Management condition

Hazel and conifers grow on the east and west ends of the building.

Management recommendations

Clear trees from immediate area. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62803 Glan Rhyd y moch Farmstead from ENE. Photo CPAT 2354.010

PRN 62804**Cwm Clwydfach Building**

SN 8276037523

Type: Building

Period: Post-medieval

Category: C

The Tithe map shows a building in a small enclosure, but the field name is illegible (perhaps 2019). Field survey located what appear to be the remains of a stone structure, measuring 5m north-east to south-west by 2m, lying east of and below the forestry track. The eastern wall stands to a height of 1m. There is evidence of field boundaries running north-west to south-east lying to the north-east of the site, and a small stream runs adjacent to these. Many large boulders have been used to underpin the forestry track, and it is possible that these were derived from the building.

Management condition

The site has been heavily damaged by construction of the adjacent forest road. The site lies on the edge of the forest and is not actually forested, although there are saplings.

Management recommendations

Clear saplings and undergrowth. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62804 Cwm Clwydfach Building from NNW. Photo CPAT 2354.012

PRN 62805**Cae'r Dwr Cottage**

SN 81273770

Type: house

Period: Post-medieval

Category: E

A cottage and garden are recorded on an estate map dated 1777. The field survey found no obvious structural remains in an area of mature conifer plantation. The approximate location is now occupied by a bodger/wood turner's shelter and campsite. To the north-west of this, a scatter of stone is visible on the ground surface and it is possible that buried features may yet survive.

Management condition

Unknown.

Management recommendations

Monitor during forestry operations.

PRN 62806**Afon Crychan Building**

SN 80723758

Type: Building

Period: Post medieval

Category: E

A building is recorded on an estate map dated 1777. The field survey found no trace of a building, although it is possible that buried features may yet survive.

Management condition

Unknown.

Management recommendations

Monitor during forestry operations.

PRN 62807**Crychan Stone Bridge**

SN 8479037150

Type: Bridge

Period: Post-medieval

Category: B

A single arched stone bridge is sited in a steep-sided valley, crossing a small stream. The bridge measures 6.2m in length and 4.1m wide, and is constructed of random lime-mortared stone and has no coping on the parapets. The bridge is generally in good condition although stones are missing from the underside (at the north-east end) and from the north-west face.

Management condition

Near intact, although with some missing stones. Saplings and undergrowth are intruding and there are large blocks of stone which have fallen onto the bridge.

Management recommendations

Undertake structural survey. Clear saplings, undergrowth and loose stone. Repoint with lime mortar. Monitor and preserve in situ. Fence during felling operations and exclude site and wider area from replanting.



PRN 62807 Crychan stone bridge from ESE. Photo CPAT 2354.046

Repaired March 2008.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The archaeological survey has both enhanced the existing record and revealed a number of significant, newly recorded sites. In general, the areas occupy valley-side and hilltop locations, some of which remained either unenclosed or unimproved up to the end of the 19th century. At this time there were a number of small farmsteads, each with associated fields, tracks and enclosures, most of which later became abandoned and were incorporated into the plantations. In most areas the archaeological remains relate to the former agricultural landscape with the ruined farmsteads, tracks and boundary banks often preserved within the forestry.
- 4.2 Perhaps the most significant site within this area of forestry is the putative Roman fortlet (PRN 273), sited in a good defensive position on the crest of a hill. The earthworks are bisected by the forest boundary, with the better preserved north-western half lying within an area of mature conifers, and the south-eastern half in a pasture field. Unfortunately, the earthwork banks within the forestry have been heavily used for military training activities and these, together with much of the interior, are riddled with the large pits of army dug-outs, as well as damage from trail bikes. As such, this site has significant management issues which require urgent attention to prevent further damage and initiate a programme of reconsolidation and repair.
- 4.3 One significant new discovery was a probable Bronze Age burial cairn on the ridge of Castell Craig Wyddon (PRN 62788), measuring 9.3m in diameter and up to 0.5m high. Unfortunately, the cairn has been damaged by a forestry access track.
- 4.4 The results from the archaeological survey provide useful baseline data and summary management recommendations which will be incorporated into FCW's GIS data to assist in the future management of the archaeology within those compartments which formed part of the survey.

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