



Galileo 03 Ltd.

Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park - Environmental Statement Volume III

Appendix 7.2: Heritage Desk Based Assessment

Project Reference: 663870

NOVEMBER 2025

RSK

Heritage Desk-Based Assessment

Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park

Galileo O3 Ltd

Date: 19/11/2025 | Pegasus Ref: P23-0389

Author: Dr Elizabeth Pratt, Associate Heritage Consultant

GGAT Enquiry Number: 7034



Document Management.

Version	Date	Author	Checked / Approved by:	Reason for revision
1	March 2025	Elizabeth Pratt Associate Heritage Consultant	Laura Garcia Senior Director (Heritage)	–
2	April 2025	Elizabeth Pratt Associate Heritage Consultant	Laura Garcia Senior Director (Heritage)	Client and legal review comments
3	November 2025	Elizabeth Pratt Associate Heritage Consultant	Laura Garcia Senior Director (Heritage)	Availability of archaeological trial trench evaluation results and revised development layout and SZTVs / wirelines / photomontages

Contents.

1. Introduction.....	14
2. Site Description, Planning History, and Consultation.....	17
3. Legislation and Policy Framework.....	20
4. Methodology.....	29
5. Historic Environment Baseline.....	34
6. Statement of Archaeological Potential and Significance.....	111
7. Setting Assessments.....	115
8. Registered Historic Landscape of Margam Mountain.....	237
9. Summary and Conclusions	248

Annex contents.

References.....	250
Annex 1: Consultation with Cadw	253
Annex 2: Consultation with GGAT	254
Annex 3: Gazetteer of Cadw data for 3km Study Area.....	255
Annex 4: Gazetteer of HER data for the Site, with notes from walkover survey and consideration of susceptibility to physical development effects.....	263
Annex 5: Figures.....	268
Annex 6: Selected Designation Descriptions for Scheduled Monuments.....	269
Annex 7: Selected Designation Descriptions for Listed Buildings	270
Annex 8: Character Statements for Conservation Areas (Ogwr Borough Council, 1991).....	271
Annex 9: Full Report of Registered Historic Landscape	274
Annex 10: Zone of Theoretical Visibility Models.....	275
Annex 11: Wirelines for Wind Turbines.....	276

Plates:

Plate 1: Site location plan – please also refer to Figure 13 for solar parcel and turbine numbers	16
Plate 2: Looking east-south-east towards the possible Bronze Age round barrow 04586m (and the former site of Capel Baiden, 00138m) in a field neighbouring the Site – low earthworks could be discerned	39
Plate 3: Looking south-east across the field containing alleged Bronze Age round barrows at Cefn-y-gelli within the Site – no earthworks could be discerned.....	40
Plate 4: Looking south-west across the field containing alleged Bronze Age round barrows at Cefn-y-gelli within the Site – no earthworks could be discerned.....	40
Plate 5: Extract from 1900 Ordnance Survey map, showing linear earthworks labelled ‘intrenchments’ between Caer Blaen-y-cwm Enclosure and Caer Cwmphilip (or Moel Ton-mawr) Earthwork.....	44
Plate 6: 1884 OS map showing the Mynydd Baeden ‘intrenchments’ – note the depiction of this area as marshland, and the tracks (dashed lines) and the field boundaries crossing the earthworks.....	52
Plate 7: 1921 OS map showing the Mynydd Baeden ‘intrenchments’ – note the depiction of this area as marshland, and the old coal levels to the east and north-east, which were not recorded on the 1884 edition	53
Plate 8: October 2024 Google Earth satellite imagery, with photo locations marked.....	54
Plate 9: Looking north (downslope) from the southernmost end of the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden.....	55
Plate 10: Looking south-east (upslope) from where the track crosses the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden	55
Plate 11: Looking north (downslope) from the track across the remainder of the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden	56
Plate 12: Looking south-east from the west side of the area of earthworks lying north of the track at Mynydd Baeden.....	56
Plate 13: Looking south (upslope) from the north end of the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden.....	57
Plate 14: Looking north (downslope) from the other side of the field boundary at Mynydd Baeden	58
Plate 15: Looking south at the easternmost ditch in the main field (black arrow), and perpendicular earthworks at the top end of the field to its north (white arrow) at Mynydd Baeden	59
Plate 16: Further ditch in scrubby strip between the main field and the stone track at Mynydd Baeden.....	59
Plate 17: Stone outcropping at the surface of the track to the east of the field(s) containing the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden	60
Plate 18: 1884 OS map showing the Mynydd Ty-talwyn ‘intrenchments’ – note the depiction of this area as marshland; the blue dashed line is our overlay to show how the Ffordd-y-Gyfraith road ‘connects’ the two groups.....	63

Plate 19: 1921 OS map showing the Mynydd Ty-talwyn 'intrenchments' – depiction of this area as marshland; additional earthworks are now shown to suggest connection between the two groups	64
Plate 20: Four images – looking west through north to south at the broadly west/east earthworks at SS 863 860	66
Plate 21: Two images – looking north from the east end of the north-west/south-east banks towards the broadly north/south earthworks in scrub at SS 864 860.....	67
Plate 22: Looking west from the field gate off Ffordd-y-Gyfraith along the grassed earthworks at SS 863 860 (February 2025).....	68
Plate 23: Looking north-west from the same location as Plate 22 towards the scrubby earthworks at SS 864 860 (February 2025).....	68
Plate 24: Two images – looking north-west up the scrubby earthworks at SS 864 860, from their rounded south-easterly termini (February 2025).....	69
Plate 25: Looking downslope in a south-easterly direction along the scrubby earthworks at SS 864 860, from SS 863 861 (February 2025)	70
Plate 26: Looking upslope in a northerly direction along the scrubby earthworks at SS 864 860, from SS 863 861 (February 2025).....	70
Plate 27: Looking downslope in a south-easterly direction along the scrubby earthworks at SS 864 860, from a little further north than Plate 25 (February 2025).....	71
Plate 28: Looking upslope in a northerly direction along the scrubby earthworks at SS 864 860, from a little further north than Plate 25 (February 2025)	71
Plate 29: Looking east from the at SS 864 860 towards the earthworks at SS 866 859 (arrow) (February 2025).....	72
Plate 30: 5x zoom version of Plate 29	72
Plate 31: Looking north-west across the earthworks at SS 866 859 from the Ogwr Ridgway Walk through the neighbouring field (February 2025).....	73
Plate 32: Looking north-west across the alleged house platform HER ref. 01712m at SS 866 859, with the group of linear earthworks at SS 863 860 and SS 864 860 co-visible at long range (arrows).....	73
Plate 33: Looking north-west along a ditch between two banks at SS 866 859	74
Plate 34: Looking north across the low banks at SS 866 859 – note rounded end of bank (arrow).....	74
Plate 35: Looking east across the low banks at SS 866 859.....	75
Plate 36: Looking west-north-west across the low banks at SS 866 859 (towards the road).....	75
Plate 37: Looking west across the low banks at SS 866 859 (towards the road).....	76
Plate 38: Looking south towards mapped earthworks at SS 867 858 – no trace (February 2025)	76
Plate 39: 2008 Google Earth imagery showing earthworks at SS 866 856	77
Plate 40: 2015 Google Earth imagery showing earthworks at SS 866 856	77

Plate 41: 1884 OS map showing the Gilfach Uchaf 'intrenchments' – note the adjacent trackway and marshy ground.....	79
Plate 42: 1921 OS map showing the Gilfach Uchaf 'intrenchments' – note the depiction of this area as marshland.....	79
Plate 43: Looking west towards the Gilfach Uchaf earthworks from the lane (not discernible).....	80
Plate 44: Looking south-west towards the former Gilfach Uchaf quarry from the lane.....	80
Plate 45: Low mounds in the field on the opposite (east) side of the lane to the Gilfach Uchaf 'intrenchments'/hollow-ways/quarry.....	81
Plate 46: Former spoil tips at Clwyd y Fagwyr, Merthyr Tydfil (photograph taken by Jon Pountney and published by BBC News).....	84
Plate 47: Mining earthworks to the north-east of Leek in Staffordshire (SK0358) – image courtesy of Historic England.....	84
Plate 48: Looking south-east towards the British Fortified Residence (February 2025).....	88
Plate 49: Looking upslope (north) towards trackway O8075m on the west side of Mynydd Ty-talwyn.....	88
Plate 50: Looking downslope (south) towards trackway O8075m on the west side of Mynydd Ty-talwyn.....	89
Plate 51: Looking west at house platforms O6013m and O6320m on Mynydd Ty-talwyn (February 2025).....	89
Plate 52: Looking south-east across the very low earthwork of house platform O6129m on Mynydd Ty-talwyn (February 2025).....	90
Plate 53: Looking north-west at house platform O4228m to the south of Cwm Nant-gwyn (February 2025).....	90
Plate 54: Looking south-east at house platform O1713m to the south of Cwm Nant-gwyn (February 2025).....	91
Plate 55: Looking east at house platform O4225m at Mynydd Baeden (February 2025).....	91
Plate 56: Looking north at deserted rural settlement O1731m at Craig Fadog (February 2025).....	92
Plate 57: December 2010 Google Earth satellite imagery showing earthworks of a possible former branch of Ffordd-y-Gyfraith and the British Fortified Residence.....	95
Plate 58: July 2023 Google Earth satellite imagery showing earthworks of a possible former branch of Ffordd-y-Gyfraith and the British Fortified Residence.....	96
Plate 59: Looking north along the public right of way tracing an alleged former branch of Ffordd-y-Gyfraith to Maescadlawr (SS 861 865).....	97
Plate 60: Looking south from the same location as Plate 59 (SS 861 865), where slight hollow-ways can be seen on the ground and on satellite imagery.....	97
Plate 61: Looking north across the low earthworks from the southerly apex of the field.....	98
Plate 62: Looking north-east at the continuation of the low earthworks in the neighbouring field to the east.....	98
Plate 63: Looking north-east from the south end of the farm track running from Ffordd-y-Gyfraith to Mynydd Baeden.....	99

Plate 64: Looking north-east along the mid-section of the same farm track	99
Plate 65: Looking north-west from the field on the north side of the track to Maescadlawr towards Clawdd type field boundary 04743m (February 2025)	102
Plate 66: Looking north-west from the field on the north side of the track to Maescadlawr towards hollows believed to derive from historic quarrying (04744m).....	103
Plate 67: Looking south across 04744m towards the track to Maescadlawr	103
Plate 68: Looking north towards hedgebank boundary 08790m at Mynydd Ty-talwyn (February 2025).....	104
Plate 69: Looking south-east towards old droveway 06128m at Mynydd Ty-talwyn (February 2025).....	104
Plate 70: Hedgebank boundary 08791m along the northern boundary of the field between Cefn-y-gelli and Ffordd-y-Gyfraith (viewed from its south side)	105
Plate 71: Hedgebank boundary 08791m along the northern boundary of the field between Cefn-y-gelli and Ffordd-y-Gyfraith (viewed from its north side)	105
Plate 72: Quarry earthworks 08072m at Cefn-y-gelli (February 2025)	106
Plate 73: Extract of digital terrain model (see Figure 1) showing position of the British Fortified Residence GM086 and the other Scheduled medieval house platforms on Mynydd Ty-talwyn. NB the stream at Maescadlawr is not recorded in the OS Rivers dataset.....	132
Plate 74: Looking south-west towards the earthworks of the British Fortified Residence (April 2024).....	133
Plate 75: Looking north-west towards the earthworks of the British Fortified Residence (April 2024)	133
Plate 76: Looking east towards the earthworks of the British Fortified Residence (February 2025)	134
Plate 77: Looking north towards the earthworks of the British Fortified Residence from the public footpath – no visibility (February 2025)	134
Plate 78: Panorama looking north-west through to north from the south-east corner of the main earthworks of the British Fortified Residence; existing wind turbines on the horizon are outlined in yellow (April 2024).....	135
Plate 79: Panorama looking north through to north-east from a short distance to the south-west of the main earthworks (circled) of the British Fortified Residence (April 2024).....	135
Plate 80: Looking south-east from the British Fortified Residence (April 2024).....	136
Plate 81: Looking south-west from the British Fortified Residence towards Mynydd Ty-talwyn – no visibility of other Scheduled Monuments (April 2024)	136
Plate 82: Close-up extract from the Wind ZTV, which predicts visibility of all six turbines (signified by green shading) from the British Fortified Residence (blue outline), with the closest turbines shown and labelled for reference	137

Plate 83: Wireline to show visibility of Turbines 4 and 5 (and blade tips of Turbine 6) in views looking west from the British Fortified Residence at approx. SS 86083 86837	138
Plate 84: Wireline to show visibility of Turbines 1, 2 and 3 in views looking south from the British Fortified Residence at approx. SS 86083 86837	139
Plate 85: Extract from bespoke SZTV to illustrate theoretical visibility of the proposed solar parcels from the British Fortified Residence. Orange shading shows areas where development 3m tall would be visible to a viewer 1.7m tall standing in the centre of the monument. Most of Solar Parcel E to the east would be visible. None of Solar Parcel D to the west would be visible.....	140
Plate 86: Extract of digital terrain model (see Figure 1) showing the topographical position of GM092, GM093 and GM340 at Mynydd Ty-talwyn.....	143
Plate 87: Scheduled Monuments (hatched) and non-designated monuments (pink dots, with labels) at Mynydd Ty-talwyn.....	144
Plate 88: Looking west towards GM092 from the eastern boundary of the field it lies within – no discernible earthworks (April 2024).....	150
Plate 89: Looking north from the eastern boundary of the field containing GM092, towards the Ffordd-y-Gyfraith road on the ridge; Solar Parcel E inclusive of the Substation and Turbine 4 is outlined in red (April 2024).....	151
Plate 90: Looking north-north-east towards GM092 from the western boundary of the field it lies within – no discernible earthworks (April 2024).....	152
Plate 91: Looking north towards GM093 – no discernible earthworks (February 2025).....	153
Plate 92: Looking south-east from the approximate location of GM093, towards the high ground of Mynydd Baeden (April 2024).....	154
Plate 93: Looking north-east towards the pair of GM340 platforms on the upper southern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn – no visibility (April 2024).....	155
Plate 94: Looking north-east towards the pair of GM340 platforms on the upper southern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn – no visibility (April 2024).....	156
Plate 95: Looking east towards the western pair of GM340 platforms on the lower southern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn – no visibility (April 2024)	157
Plate 96: Looking west at the western of the central pair of GM340 platforms on the lower southern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn (April 2024).....	158
Plate 97: Looking south at the eastern of the central pair of GM340 platforms on the lower southern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn (April 2024).....	159
Plate 98: Looking north-east at the eastern of the central pair of GM340 platforms on the lower southern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn (April 2024)	160
Plate 99: Looking south at the eastern pair of GM340 platforms on the lower southern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn (April 2024)	161
Plate 100: Looking south-east at the eastern pair of GM340 platforms on the lower southern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn (April 2024).....	162
Plate 101: Looking south towards the southernmost of the trio of GM340 platforms on the eastern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn – no visibility (April 2024)	163
Plate 102: Looking east towards the central of the trio of GM340 platforms on the eastern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn – no visibility (April 2024).....	164

Plate 103: Looking north-east towards the northern of the trio of GM340 platforms on the eastern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn – faint depression? (April 2024)	165
Plate 104: View looking north towards the Mynydd Ty-talwyn plateau from the west end of the summit of Cefn-y-gelli at approx. SS 862 851 (photo courtesy of Headland Archaeology, August 2024)	166
Plate 105: Zoomed version of Plate 104, with approximate locations of GM340 marked (photo courtesy of Headland Archaeology, August 2024).....	167
Plate 106: View looking north towards the Mynydd Ty-talwyn plateau from the centre of the summit of Cefn-y-gelli at approx. SS 865 852 (photo courtesy of Headland Archaeology, August 2024)	168
Plate 107: Extract from the Wind ZTV, which predicts visibility of all six turbines from GM092, GM093, and Cefn-y-gelli (signified by green shading), and either three to four (signified by pink/purple shading) or all six turbines (signified by green shading) from discrete parts of GM340.....	169
Plate 108: Wireline demonstrating visibility of all six turbines in cross-valley views towards the Mynydd Ty-talwyn plateau from Cefn-y-gelli at approx. SS 86368 85236	170
Plate 109: Looking south-east towards Cefn-y-gelli from the upper southern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn at approx. SS 859 857; Solar Parcels F, G, J and K are outlined in red (April 2024).....	171
Plate 110: Looking south from near the northernmost of the trio of platforms on the eastern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn; Solar Parcels F, G, J and K are outlined in red (April 2024).....	172
Plate 111: Looking south-west from near the southernmost of the trio of platforms on the eastern slopes (April 2024).....	173
Plate 112: Extract from bespoke SZTV prepared to illustrate theoretical visibility of the proposed solar parcels from the upper south-facing slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn. Orange shading shows areas where development 3m tall would be visible to a viewer 1.7m tall standing on the upper slopes. The northern part of Solar Parcel J, the north-western corner of Solar Parcel K, and the western halves of Solar Parcels F and G would be visible.....	174
Plate 113: 1884 OS Map showing Llangynwyd Castle.....	178
Plate 114: 1900 OS Map showing Llangynwyd Castle.....	178
Plate 115: Looking east from the Llangynwyd Mountain Road towards the field identified by the 1900 OS map as containing “Entrenchments” (SS 8501 8876) (June 2023).....	179
Plate 116: Looking south-east from the Llangynwyd Mountain Road towards the field identified by the 1900 OS map as containing “Entrenchments” (SS 8501 8876) (June 2023).....	179
Plate 117: Looking north-east towards Y Bwlwarcau from the PRow through the neighbouring field to the south-west (SS 837 883) – no visibility of earthworks (June 2023)	184
Plate 118: Looking south-east towards the Site from the same location as Plate 117 (June 2023).....	184
Plate 119: Looking north-west towards Roman Camp from the same location as Plate 117 – no visibility (June 2023)	185

Plate 120: Looking north towards Roman Camp from the PRoW to its south (SS 833 879) – no visibility of earthworks (June 2023).....	189
Plate 121: Looking north-west across the outer ditch from the southern entrance (June 2023)	189
Plate 122: Looking north-east across the outer ditch from the southern entrance (June 2023)	190
Plate 123: Looking west along the northern ditch of the enclosure (June 2023).....	190
Plate 124: Looking south-west from the approximate centre of the enclosure (June 2023).....	191
Plate 125: Looking south-east from the approximate centre of the enclosure (June 2023).....	191
Plate 126: Looking north from the approximate centre of the enclosure (June 2023).....	192
Plate 127: Looking north-west from the approximate centre of the enclosure (June 2023)	192
Plate 128: Looking north-east from the approximate centre of the enclosure – no visibility of Y Bwlwarcau (June 2023).....	193
Plate 129: Looking east from the approximate centre of the enclosure (June 2023)	193
Plate 130: 5x zoomed version of Plate 129 (June 2023)	194
Plate 131: Panorama looking west through south to east, from the cross-ridge dyke that extends north from the northern side of the enclosure (June 2023)	195
Plate 132: View of the Church of St Cynwyd from the churchyard path to the west (June 2023).....	200
Plate 133: View of the Church of St Cynwyd from the cemetery path to the east (June 2023).....	200
Plate 134: Looking south-west to the Church of St Cynwyd from the junction of Llan Road outside the north-eastern corner of its churchyard (February 2025).....	201
Plate 135: Looking north-east to the Church of St Cynwyd from the junction of Llan Road outside the south-western corner of its churchyard (February 2025).....	201
Plate 136: Looking south to the Church of St Cynwyd from Llan Road outside the northern boundary of the churchyard; the high ground of Ffordd-y-Gyfraith is indicated by an arrow (February 2025).....	202
Plate 137: Glimpse of the Church of St Cynwyd from just before the bend on the approach to Llangynwyd via Llan Road from the north (February 2025)	202
Plate 138: Glimpse of the Church of St Cynwyd from Nos. 1 and 2 Maesllan, on the approach to Llangynwyd via Llan Road from the east (February 2025)	203
Plate 139: Glimpse of the Church of St Cynwyd from the bend in the lane on the approach to Llangynwyd from the south (February 2025)	203
Plate 140: No visibility of the Church of St Cynwyd from the lane entering the village from the west (February 2025).....	204

Plate 141: View of the Church of St Cynwyd from the final c.50m of the lane entering the village from the west (February 2025)	204
Plate 142: Long-ranging view of the Church of St Cynwyd (arrow) from the layby on the section of the Llangynwyd Mountain Road just north of the turning for Ffordd-y-Gyfraith (SS 847 874) (April 2024)	205
Plate 143: 5x zoomed version of Plate 142	205
Plate 144: Long-ranging view of the Church of St Cynwyd (arrow) from the western section of Ffordd-y-Gyfraith, c.500m north-west of the proposed substation (SS 851 870) (April 2024)	206
Plate 145: Long-ranging view of the Church of St Cynwyd (arrow), from the west end of the track to Maescadlawr (SS 856 868) (April 2024)	206
Plate 146: 5x zoomed version of Plate 145	207
Plate 147: View from the south side of the Church of St Cynwyd (within its churchyard) towards Old House Inn (Grade II Listed) (June 2023)	207
Plate 148: Panorama, looking east through south to west, from the far east end of the cemetery of the Church of St Cynwyd towards the high ground of Mynydd Ty-talwyn and Mynydd Baeden (June 2023)	208
Plate 149: Wireline to show visibility of all six proposed turbines in the view from the far east end of the cemetery of the Church of St Cynwyd	209
Plate 150: Photomontage to show visibility of all six proposed turbines in the view from the far east end of the cemetery of the Church of St Cynwyd at Year 0 – please refer to the ES Volume III, Appendix 8.2: Visualisations Information for further information regarding methodology and technical specifications of modelling	210
Plate 151: Photomontage to show visibility of all six proposed turbines in the view from the far east end of the cemetery of the Church of St Cynwyd at Year 15 – please refer to the ES Volume III, Appendix 8.2: Visualisations Information for further information regarding methodology and technical specifications of modelling	211
Plate 152: View of Gilfach-ganol Farmhouse from the Llangynwyd Mountain Road (SS 847 875) (April 2024)	215
Plate 153: Looking south-east down the private track to Gilfach-ganol – no visibility of asset and no sign of public footpath (April 2024)	215
Plate 154: Overgrown lower footpath to Gilfach-ganol from Llangynwyd Mountain Road (April 2024)	216
Plate 155: Looking west along Llan Road between the Church of St Cynwyd and The Old House, towards the memorial cross and Corner House Inn (February 2025)	222
Plate 156: Looking north to the Church of St Cynwyd and The Old House from the car park of The Old House (February 2025)	222
Plate 157: View of Llangynwyd (arrow) within the panorama, looking west through north to east, from part-way along the track to Maescadlawr, just west of the British Fortified Residence (SS 858 869) (April 2024)	223
Plate 158: Long-ranging view of Llangynwyd (arrow), from the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk through the Site (SS 869 858) (February 2025)	224

Plate 159: Outward southerly view from the car park of The Old House, with the ridgeline being Ffordd-y-Gyfraith and the plantation being Craig yr Aber Woodland (February 2025)	224
Plate 160: Outward southerly view from the staggered crossroads by the memorial cross and Corner House Inn (February 2025)	225
Plate 161: Outward westerly view from by Corner House Inn (February 2025)	225
Plate 162: Outward south-westerly view from the section of lane running south from the village, at/near the southern boundary of the Conservation Area (February 2025)	226
Plate 163: Outward southerly view from the section of lane running south from the village, at/near the southern boundary of the Conservation Area (February 2025)	226
Plate 164: Glimpse of outlying high ground to the west, from the T-junction of Llan Road at the north-western corner of the churchyard (February 2025)	227
Plate 165: Glimpse of outlying high ground to the south-west, from Llan Road in the north-eastern part of the Conservation Area (February 2025)	227
Plate 166: Looking west from the east end of Park Terrace (April 2024)	232
Plate 167: Looking east from the west end of Park Terrace (April 2024)	232
Plate 168: View looking east along New Road, from outside the western boundary of the Conservation Area (February 2025)	233
Plate 169: First glimpse of Park Terrace through a field gate, from slightly further east than the location shown in Plate 168 (February 2025)	233
Plate 170: View of the west end of Park Terrace, from the entrance to the public footpath by the bus stop on New Road (February 2025)	234
Plate 171: Tiny glimpse of Park Terrace from the public footpath outside the northern boundary of the easternmost part of the Site at New Road (February 2025)	234
Plate 172: View looking west towards the field of the Site from the western boundary of Tondu Conservation Area at New Road (February 2025)	235
Plate 173: Looking west from the west end of Park Terrace; the south-easternmost field of the Site lies behind the hedge (arrow) (April 2024)	235
Plate 174: View looking west through north to east from where the public footpath from Park Terrace joins New Road; the south-easternmost field of the Site lies behind the hedge (April 2024)	236
Plate 175: Looking north-west from Ffordd-y-Gyfraith through the Site towards Mynydd Margam (SS 861 863) – no visibility (April 2024)	240
Plate 176: Panorama looking north-west through to north-east from the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk on Mynydd Baeden (SS 869 858) (February 2025)	241
Plate 177: Looking north-west towards Mynydd Margam from the section of the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk c.200m south-east of the RHL boundary (SS 841 874) (June 2023)	242
Plate 178: Looking north-west from the same location as Plate 179, towards an area of cleared commercial plantation on Mynydd Margam (June 2023)	242

Plate 179: Looking south towards the Bristol Channel from where the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk crosses the boundary of the RHL (SS 838 876) – electricity pylons and wind turbines are visible (June 2023).....	243
Plate 180: Panorama looking north-west through east to south-east from the section of the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk in the south-eastern part of the RHL, directly south-east of Roman Camp (SS 836 877) (June 2023).....	244
Plate 181: Looking north-west towards the Scheduled Monument of Roman Camp from the section of the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk to its south-east (SS 834 878) (June 2023)	245
Plate 182: Looking north along the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk between Mynydd Margam and Moel Mon-tawr (SS 830 876) (June 2023).....	245
Plate 183: Looking north along the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk between Mynydd Margam and Moel Mon-tawr (SS 829 874) (June 2023).....	246
Plate 184: Looking south-west towards the Bristol Channel from the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk running south of Moel Mon-tawr (SS 827 870) (June 2023)	246
Plate 185: Looking south towards the Bristol Channel from the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk running south of Moel Mon-tawr (SS 826 868) (June 2023)	247

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Heritage Desk-Based Assessment Report has been prepared by Pegasus Group Ltd on behalf of Galileo O3 Ltd (part of Galileo Empower UK Ltd), hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant'. This Report supports a Cultural Heritage Chapter within Volume III of the Environmental Statement (ES) for a Development of National Significance (DNS) application for a new Energy Park at Mynydd Ty-talwyn near Maesteg in South Wales, hereafter 'the Site' (**Plate 1**).
- 1.2. The Energy Park, hereafter 'the Proposed Development', would comprise the installation of an Energy Park comprising: up to 6 wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure including turbine foundations, crane hardstandings and erection areas; Solar PV Panels and ancillary infrastructure including invertors and transformers; one project substation compound and ancillary infrastructure including control building; fencing and CCTV; upgraded and new access tracks, watercourse and pipeline crossings, highway junctions and highway remedial works; underground cabling; associated construction enabling earthworks; landscaping, ecological mitigation / enhancement and temporary construction compounds.
- 1.3. The Proposed Development is classed as a DNS as the combined installed capacity of the power

generating elements will be greater than 10MW and less than 350MW.

- 1.4. The aims of this Report with the ES Chapter are:
 - To assess the significance of recorded historic assets within the Site and to assess the potential for and the likely significance of previously-unrecorded archaeological remains within the Site;
 - To assess any contribution that the Site makes to the heritage significance of designated historic assets; and
 - To ascertain whether the Proposed Development will protect, conserve, promote or enhance historic assets (and their setting where relevant).
- 1.5. These objectives are in line with Sections 6.1.9 and 6.1.26 of the Welsh Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, Chapter 6 (February 2024; PPW12), which provide that:

"Any decisions made through the planning system must fully consider the impact on the historic environment and on the significance and heritage values of individual historic assets and their contribution to the character of place."

“Where archaeological remains are known to exist or there is a potential for them to survive, an application should be accompanied by sufficient information, through desk-based assessment and/or field evaluation, to allow a full understanding of the impact of the proposal on the significance of the remains...”

- 1.6. This Report has been informed by the *Standard and Guidance* published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), and accords with the scope and methodology set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust prior to commencement (**Annex 2**).
- 1.7. This Report was updated in November 2025 following Statutory Pre-Application Consultation (PAC), the undertaking of archaeological trial trench evaluation of the Site, and revisions to the Proposed Development layout – which saw a renaming of some of the solar parcels as detailed in Table 1 below. The revised parcel names are referenced in this Report.

Table 1: Renaming of solar parcels following PAC

Original name	Revised name
D	Removed
E	D
F	E
G	F & G
H	J
I	K & L
J	H
K	I
L	M
M	N
N	O
O	Removed

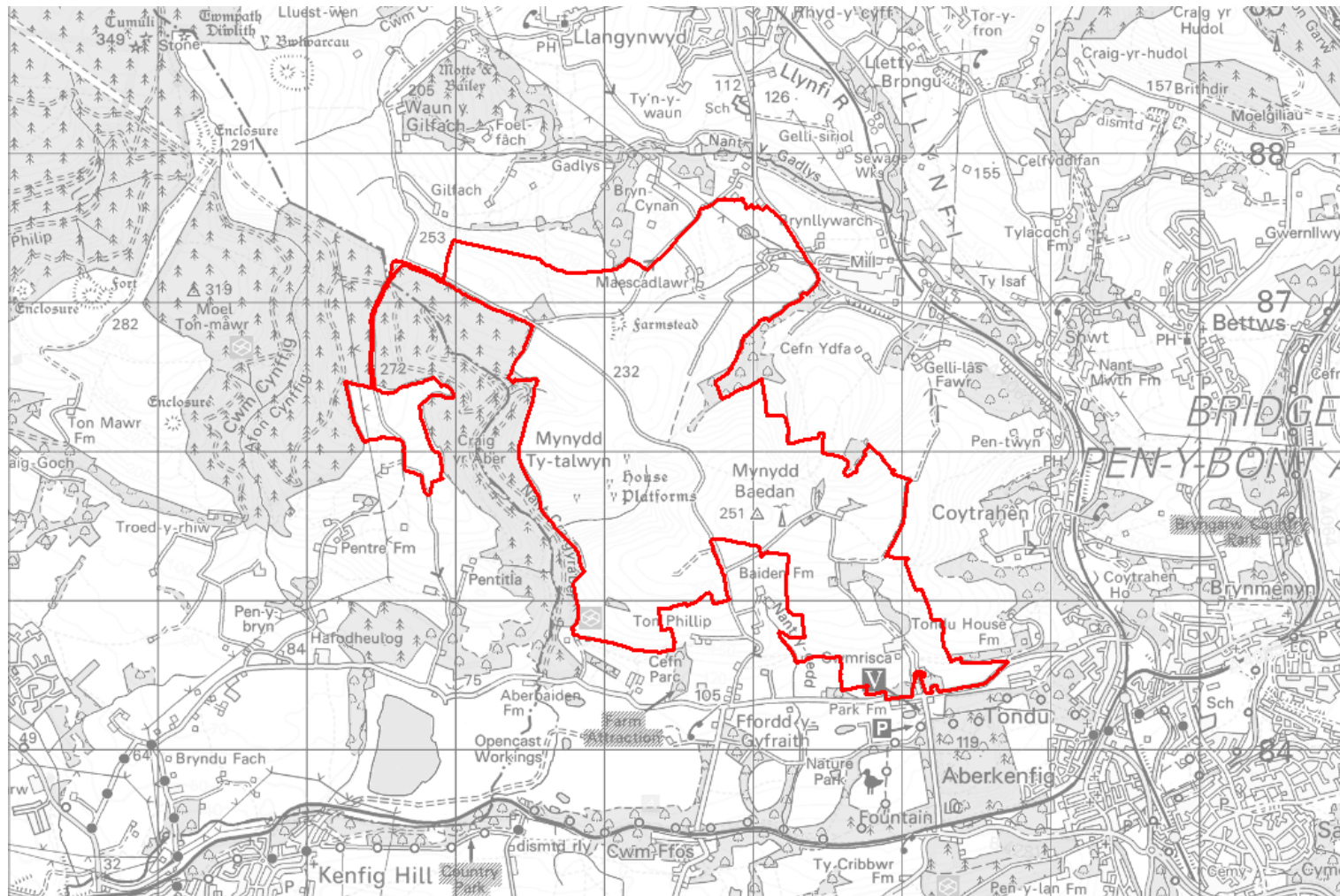


Plate 1: Site location plan – please also refer to Figure 13 for solar parcel and turbine numbers

2. Site Description, Planning History, and Consultation

Site Description

- 2.1. The Site comprises approximately 578 ha of land located to the north of Kenfig Hill, to the south of Llangynwyd, to the east of Coytrahen, and to the west of Afon Cynffig. The majority of the Site is currently rough pasture. A single track road known as Ffordd-y-Gyfraith crosses through the approximate centre of the Site on a north-west/south-east alignment.

Planning History

- 2.2. A search of Bridgend County Borough Council and Neath Port Talbot Council online planning portals returned no previous planning history for the Site.

Consultation

2023

- 2.3. Pegasus Group initiated contact via email with both Cadw and the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust on 20th July 2023. The email outlined, and sought agreement of, the intended scope and methodology of this heritage desk-based assessment.
- 2.4. The response from Cadw identified the need to consult the National Monuments Record database and to carry out a walkover survey; and invited the

submission of the draft report to agree viewpoints for photomontages to support the heritage setting assessments. This email chain is enclosed as **Annex 1**.

- 2.5. The response from the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (hereafter GGAT) approved the proposed 5km study area for procuring Historic Environment Record data and the proposed 10km study area for setting assessment scoping. Like Cadw, GGAT also requested the National Monuments Record as an additional source of information; and for the purposes of clarity, asked for the (West) Glamorgan Archives and the Central Register of Aerial Photographs for Wales to be named as the county archive and national aerial photographic collection respectively. This email chain is enclosed as **Annex 2**.

- 2.6. Pegasus Group also initiated contact via email with the Conservation and Design Team at Bridgend County Borough Council on 4th August 2023 and received a holding response on 9th August and no subsequent response. No contact details could be found for the Conservation Officer at Neath Port Talbot Council, and GGAT advised on 8th August 2023 that no Officer was in post at that time.

2024

- 2.7. In February 2024, a Scoping Direction was received from Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW). This included formal consultation comments from both Cadw and GGAT. The comments accorded with what had been agreed in July 2023, but added, in light of concerns having been lodged with both organisations by the interest group “Britain’s Hidden History” in December 2023, that the heritage desk-based assessment should also consider the evidence for the Battle of Badon having been fought within the Site.
- 2.8. On 30th July 2024, a Teams meeting was held with Neil Maylan of Cadw to discuss the latest proposed wind turbine layout with reference to the setting of Scheduled Monuments located within the Site.
- 2.9. On 25th November 2024, a Teams meeting was held with Moira Lucas from the Conservation and Design Team at Bridgend County Borough Council to discuss the latest Proposed Development layout with reference to the setting of Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings located within the wider study area.

2025

- 2.10. On 13th January 2025, a further Teams meeting was held with Neil Maylan of Cadw to discuss the preliminary heritage setting assessments prepared by Pegasus Group for the Scheduled Monuments

located within the Site. Mr Maylan confirmed that he concurred with the findings of the assessments, and that the Proposed Development was unlikely to have significant adverse effects on these assets through change to setting.

- 2.11. On 15th January 2025, a Site meeting was held with Officers from Bridgend County Borough Council, including Moira Lucas from the Conservation and Design Team.
- 2.12. On 20th January 2025, a Teams meeting was held with Rob Dunning of GGAT to discuss the current status of archaeological baseline work (comprising this desk-based assessment and Headland Archaeology’s report of a geophysical survey of the proposed solar parcels). Mr Dunning requested that archaeological trial trench evaluation be undertaken for the solar parcels prior to submission, so that the results could be incorporated into the Environmental Statement.
- 2.13. On 26th June 2025, 2nd July 2025, and 5th August 2025 respectively, separate Teams meetings were held with Neil Maylan of Cadw, Rob Dunning of GGAT, and Moira Lucas and other representatives from Bridgend County Borough Council, to discuss the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) comments received from these consultees – specifically, the requirement for archaeological trial trench evaluation and the proposed amendments to the previously-submitted development layout.

- 2.14. Throughout September into October 2025, further engagement was undertaken with Rob Dunning of GGAT, to agree a Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological trial trench evaluation and to monitor the subsequent fieldwork.

3. Legislation and Policy Framework

Legislation

3.1. Planning legislation currently in force in Wales, which references the historic environment, comprises:

- Historic Environment Wales Act 2023; and
- Town and County Planning Act 1990.

Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023

3.2. The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 (hereafter 'HEWA') was enacted on 4th November 2024. It is a Consolidation Act that ***"brings together the main pieces of legislation relating to Wales' historic environment, modernising and organising the law and ensuring it is written in simple, everyday language"***.

3.3. It replaces The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (which formerly applied to both England and Wales) and The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

3.4. The most important change is that Section 66 (1) of The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 has become Section 314A of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (see below).

3.5. Part 2 of HEWA relates to Scheduled Monuments. Works affecting Scheduled Monuments must be authorised by way of Scheduled Monument Consent, and Chapter 3 provides full details of this. There is no duty, however, to have regard to the setting of a Scheduled Monument.

3.6. Part 3 of HEWA relates to Listed Buildings. Works affecting Listed Buildings must be authorised by way of Listed Building Consent, and decision-making requires consideration not only of the physical asset itself but of its setting. Section 96(2) states:

"In considering whether to grant listed building consent, a planning authority or the Welsh Ministers must have special regard to the desirability of preserving—

(a) the listed building to which the application relates,

(b) the setting of the building, and

(c) any features of special architectural or historic interest the building possesses."

3.7. Part 4 of HEWA relates to Conservation Areas. Decision-making requires consideration only of the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and not its setting. Section 160(1) states:

“In exercising a planning function in relation to a building or other land in a conservation area, a person must have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.”

- 3.8. Schedule 13 of HEWA records additions and amendments made to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, and Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (see below) to reflect the fact the latter two Acts no longer apply in Wales.

Town and County Planning Act 1990

- 3.9. In November 2024 the following amendment to Section 314(a) of *The Town and County Planning Act 1990* came into force. It specifies for Wales the duties relating to Listed Buildings, as set out in Section 66 in the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*, which no longer applies in Wales.

“Wales: duties relating to listed buildings and features of architectural or historic interest

(1) In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the Welsh Ministers or a local planning authority in Wales must have special regard to the desirability of preserving—

(a) the listed building,

(b) the setting of the building, or

(c) any features of special architectural or historic interest the building possesses.

(2) In exercising the powers conferred by sections 232, 233 and 235(1) (appropriation, disposal and development of land held for planning purposes), a relevant local authority must have regard to the desirability of preserving features of special architectural or historic interest, and in particular listed buildings.”

Planning (Wales) Act 2015

- 3.10. Section 39(3) of Part 6 of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 formerly referenced the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990* as applicable to Wales. This Section was removed in 2024, as noted in Schedule 13 paragraph 190 of the *Historic Environment Wales Act 2023*.

National Planning Policy Guidance

Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12

- 3.11. National planning policy for Wales is set out within the Welsh Government’s *Future Wales 2040* and *Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12* (PPW 12).
- 3.12. PPW 12 Chapter 6 deals with the historic environment and its contribution to the Welsh Government’s seven well-being goals for a sustainable Wales. It emphasises that the positive

management of change in the historic environment is based on a full understanding of the nature and significance of historic assets and the recognition of the benefits that they can deliver in a vibrant culture and economy.

3.13. Paragraph 6.1.5 of *PPW 12* provides that:

“The planning system must take into account the Welsh Government’s objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being... Conservation Principles highlights the need to base decisions on an understanding of the impact a proposal may have on the significance of an historic asset.”

3.14. Paragraph 6.1.6 sets out the Welsh Government’s specific objectives for the historic environment as follows:

- *Protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Sites;*
- *Conserve archaeological remains, both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and the economy;*
- *Safeguard the character of historic buildings and manage change so that their special architectural and historic interest is preserved;*
- *Preserve or enhance the character or appearance of Conservation Areas, while at the same time helping them remain vibrant and prosperous;*

- *Preserve the special interest of sites on the register of historic parks and gardens; and*
- *Protect areas on the register of historic landscapes in Wales.*

3.15. In relation to the setting of Listed Buildings, paragraph 6.1.10 provides that:

“There should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of a listed building and its setting, which might extend beyond its curtilage. For any development proposal affecting a listed building or its setting, the primary material consideration is the statutory requirement to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.”

3.16. In relation to Conservation Areas, paragraph 6.1.14 provides that:

“There should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of conservation areas or their settings. Positive management of conservation areas is necessary if their character or appearance are to be preserved or enhanced and their heritage value is to be fully realised.”

3.17. In relation to Historic Parks & Gardens, Paragraphs 6.1.18 and 6.1.19 provide that:

“Planning authorities should value, protect, conserve and enhance the special interest of parks and gardens

and their settings included on the register of historic parks and gardens in Wales. The register should be taken into account in planning authority decision making.

"The effect of a proposed development on a registered park or garden, or its setting, is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications."

- 3.18. In relation to archaeological remains, paragraphs 6.1.23–6.1.25 provide as follows:

"The conservation of archaeological remains and their settings is a material consideration in determining planning applications, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not.

Where nationally important archaeological remains are likely to be affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical protection in situ. It will only be in exceptional circumstances that planning permission will be granted if development would result in direct adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance) or has a demonstrably and unacceptably damaging effect upon its setting.

In cases involving less significant archaeological remains, planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of the archaeological remains and their settings against other factors, including the need for the proposed development."

Technical Advice Note 24

- 3.19. Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (TAN24) provides a detailed supplement to PPW 12, and as such is consistent with those national policies. It contains detailed guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making on planning and listed building consent applications. It replaces Welsh Office Circulars 60/96, 61/96, and 1/98.

Future Wales – The National Plan 2040 (2021)

- 3.20. Future Wales 2040 is Wales' national development framework, setting out the direction of travel for development in Wales to 2040. Of particular relevance are Policies 17 and 18, as set out below with our emphases:

"POLICY 17 – RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON ENERGY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE

The Welsh Government strongly supports the principle of developing renewable and low carbon energy from all technologies and at all scales to meet our future energy needs.

In determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon energy development, decision-makers must give significant weight to the need to meet Wales' international commitments and our target to generate 70% of consumed electricity by renewable

means by 2030 in order to combat the climate emergency.

In Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy the Welsh Government has already modelled the likely impact on the landscape and has found them to be capable of accommodating development in an acceptable way. There is a presumption in favour of large-scale wind energy development (including repowering) in these areas, subject to the criteria in policy 18.

Applications for large-scale wind and solar will not be permitted in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and all proposals should demonstrate that they will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the environment.

Proposals should describe the net benefits the scheme will bring in terms of social, economic, environmental and cultural improvements to local communities.

New strategic grid infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of energy should be designed to minimise visual impact on nearby communities. The Welsh Government will work with stakeholders, including National Grid and Distribution Network Operators, to transition to a multi-vector grid network and reduce the barriers to the implementation of new grid infrastructure.

POLICY 18 – RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy projects (including repowering) qualifying as Developments of National Significance will be permitted subject to policy 17 and the following criteria:

- 1. outside of the Pre-Assessed Areas for wind developments and everywhere for all other technologies, the proposal does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the surrounding landscape (particularly on the setting of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty);*
- 2. there are no unacceptable adverse visual impacts on nearby communities and individual dwellings;*
- 3. there are no adverse effects on the integrity of Internationally designated sites (including National Site Network sites and Ramsar sites) and the features for which they have been designated (unless there are no alternative solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and appropriate compensatory measures have been secured);*
- 4. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on national statutory designated sites for nature conservation (and the features for which they have been designated), protected habitats and species;*
- 5. the proposal includes biodiversity enhancement measures to provide a net benefit for biodiversity;*
- 6. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on statutorily protected built heritage assets;*

7. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts by way of shadow flicker, noise, reflected light, air quality or electromagnetic disturbance;

8. there are no unacceptable impacts on the operations of defence facilities and operations (including aviation and radar) or the Mid Wales Low Flying Tactical Training Area (TTA-7T);

9. there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on the transport network through the transportation of components or source fuels during its construction and/or ongoing operation;

10. the proposal includes consideration of the materials needed or generated by the development to ensure the sustainable use and management of resources;

11. there are acceptable provisions relating to the decommissioning of the development at the end of its lifetime, including the removal of infrastructure and effective restoration.

The cumulative impacts of existing and consented renewable energy schemes should also be considered."

Local Planning Policy

- 3.21. The majority of the Site lies within Bridgend. A strip of land in the western part of the Site, west of Nant Craig yr Aber, lies within Neath Port Talbot.

Bridgend

- 3.22. Planning applications in Bridgend are currently assessed against policies contained in the *Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033* (adopted 13th March 2024).

- 3.23. Strategic Policy SP8, Conservation of the Built and Historic Environment, states:

"The County Borough has a rich and diverse built heritage and historic environment. Development proposals must protect, conserve, and, where appropriate, preserve and enhance the significance of historic assets, including their settings. In particular, there is a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of the significance of historic assets and their settings including:

1) World Heritage Sites

2) Scheduled Monuments

3) Archaeologically Sensitive Areas and Archaeological Remains

4) Listed Buildings

5) Conservation Areas

6) Historic Parks and Gardens

7) Historic Landscapes

Any application for listed building or conservation area consent will need to be accompanied by a Heritage

Impact Statement in accordance with the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016."

3.24. Policy SP13, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development, states:

"1) Renewable and low carbon development proposals which contribute to meeting national and local renewable and low carbon energy and energy efficiency targets will be permitted where:

a) It can be demonstrated that there will be no unacceptable impacts on the natural and historic environment or local communities (such as noise and air pollution) and that no other unacceptable cumulative impacts will arise;

b) The proposal (inclusive of its associated infrastructure) has sought to minimise the landscape and visual impact through its design and micro-siting, particularly where in close proximity to homes and tourism receptors;

c) Proposals make provision for the appropriate restoration and after-care of the land for its beneficial future re-use;

d) The proposal can facilitate a connection to the grid network;

e) There would not be an unacceptable impact on access and highway safety; and

f) There would not be unacceptable impact on the amenity of residential properties or tourist accommodation.

2) The following Local Search Areas (LSAs) are identified as areas considered suitable for wind and solar energy development:

a) LCA1: Llangynwyd Rolling Uplands & Forestry (Suitable for Wind Energy);

b) LCA8: Ogmore Forest and Surrounding Uplands (Suitable for Wind Energy); and

c) LCA 12: Newton Down Limestone Plateau (Suitable for Solar Energy).

Within the Local Search Areas (LSA), proposals for wind and solar energy generation will be permitted subject to criteria 1a), 1b), 1c), 1d), 1e) and f) and other relevant policies in this plan. Proposals for other development within these areas will only be permitted where they can demonstrate that they would not unacceptably prejudice the renewable energy generation potential of the LSA and the Future Wales' Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy.

LSA 8 is partly located within Pre-Assessed Area 9 for Wind Energy. In accordance with the hierarchical approach of national planning policy, any proposal within this area should not prejudice the ability for large scale wind developments (>10MW) to come forward. Landscape considerations have already been taken into account in Future Wales and Criteria 1(b) should not apply to those parts of LSA 8 within Pre-Assessed Area 9."

Neath Port Talbot

- 3.25. Planning applications in Neath Port Talbot are assessed against policies contained in the *Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan 2011-2026* (adopted 2016).
- 3.26. Policy BE2, Buildings of Local Importance, states:
- “Development proposals that would affect buildings that are of local historic, architectural or cultural importance will only be permitted where:***
- 1. They conserve and where appropriate enhance the building and its setting; or***
 - 2. It is demonstrated that the development could not reasonably be accommodated without affecting or replacing the building and the reasons for the development outweigh the heritage importance of the site.”***
- 3.27. Policy SP18, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy, states:
- “A proportionate contribution to meeting national renewable energy targets and energy efficiency targets will be made while balancing the impact of development on the environment and communities. This will be achieved by:***
- 1. Encouraging where appropriate, all forms of renewable energy and low carbon technology development;***

2. Encouraging energy conservation and efficiency measures in all new major development proposals;

3. Ensuring that development will not have an unacceptable impact on the environment and amenity of local residents.”

- 3.28. Policy RE1, Criteria for the Assessment of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development, states:
- “Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development will only be permitted subject to the following criteria:***
- 1. Large scale wind farm developments (>25MW) will be expected to be located within the boundaries of the refined Strategic Search Areas.***
 - 2. Proposals for wind farms of any size outside the SSAs will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that there will be no unacceptable impact on visual amenity or landscape character through the number, scale, size, design and siting of turbines and associated infrastructure.***
 - 3. Small scale wind farm developments (<5MW) will be required to demonstrate that impacts are confined to the local scale.***
 - 4. All renewable energy or low carbon energy development proposals will be required to demonstrate that:***
 - (a) Measures have been taken to minimise impacts on visual amenity and the natural environment;***

(b) There will be no unacceptable impacts on residential amenity;

(c) The development will not compromise highway safety;

(d) The development would not interfere with radar, air traffic control systems, telecommunications links, television reception, radio communication and emergency services communications; and

(e) There are satisfactory proposals in place for site restoration as appropriate."

4. Methodology

- 4.1. The aims of this Report are to assess the significance of the heritage resource within the Site and study area, to assess any contribution that the site makes to the significance of the identified historic assets. In doing this, the assessment of the scheme against the identified significance can be carried out within this Report where necessary, with the resultant effects recorded within the **ES Volume II: Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage**.

Sources

- 4.2. The following key sources have been consulted as part of this assessment:

- Cadw data regarding designated historic assets;
- Heneb Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust's Historic Environment Record (hereafter 'HER') data regarding non-designated historic assets;
- The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales's National Monuments Record (hereafter 'NMR') for further information on non-designated historic assets;
- Historic maps and other relevant documentary material held by West

Glamorgan Archives (visited in person) and the National Library of Wales (remote search only);

- Historic aerial photographs within the collections of the Welsh Government Aerial Photography Unit (available online);
- 2003 and 2007 2m resolution digital terrain model LiDAR imagery (incomplete coverage of the Site), downloaded from Data Map Wales;
- Google Earth satellite imagery;
- The reports of geophysical surveys (Headland Archaeology 2025a and 2025b) and a trial trench evaluation (Archaeology Wales 2025) for the Site;
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility Models for the proposed wind turbines, solar parcels, and substation; and
- Wirelines and photomontages.

- 4.3. A HER search was commissioned for a 5km-radius area measured from the boundaries of the Site (hereafter 'the wider study area'), but analysis focussed on the results within a 3km radius (hereafter 'the study area'). The dataset was

originally procured in July 2023; a refresh was sourced in November 2024.

- 4.4. Historic mapping and historic aerial photographs were reviewed for the Site, and beyond this where professional judgement deemed necessary.
- 4.5. Information gathered is discussed within the text where it is of relevance to the potential heritage resource of the Site. Gazetteers of recorded sites and findspots are included as **Annex 3** and **Annex 4** and maps illustrating the resource are included as **Annex 5**.

Site Visit

- 4.6. Site visits were undertaken by the author of this Report on 28th–29th June 2023, 18th–19th April 2024, and 6th February 2025. The Site was subject to a walkover survey and selected designated historic assets were inspected from the Site and public rights of way.

Photographs

- 4.7. Photographs included in the body text of this Report are for illustrative purposes only to assist in the discussions of historic assets, their settings, and views, where relevant. Unless explicitly stated, they are not accurate visual representations of the Site or development proposals, nor do they conform to any standard or guidance i.e., the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19. However,

the photographs included are intended to be an honest representation and are taken without the use of a zoom lens or edited, unless stated in the description or caption.

Guidance

- 4.8. This Report has been produced in accordance with the following guidance:
- Guide To Good Practice On Using The Register Of Landscapes Of Historic Interest In Wales In The Planning And Development Process Revised (2nd) Edition Including Revisions To The Assessment Process (ASIDOHL 2) (Cadw 2007);
 - Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales (Cadw 2011);
 - Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (Cadw 2017);
 - Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales (Cadw 2017);
 - The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017);

- Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (Welsh Archaeological Trusts 2018); and
- Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 (updated 2020)).

Assessment of Significance

- 4.9. The Welsh Government's *Technical Advice Note 24* (see **Section 3** above) defines an 'historic asset' as:

"An identifiable component of the historic environment. It may consist of or be a combination of an archaeological site, a historic building or area, historic park and garden or a parcel of historic landscape. Nationally important historic assets will normally be designated."

- 4.10. TAN24 defines heritage significance as:

"the sum of the cultural and natural heritage values of a place, often set out in a statement of significance."

- 4.11. Cadw's *Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales* defines significance as deriving from a combination

of any, some or all of the following four component values:

- ***Evidential value: deriving from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity;***
- ***Historic value: deriving from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present;***
- ***Aesthetic value: deriving from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place; and***
- ***Communal value: deriving from the meaning of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.***

- 4.12. This approach allows for a detailed and justifiable determination of significance and the values from which that significance derives.

- 4.13. Designated historic assets include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites and Conservation Areas¹. Registered historic assets include Registered Historic Parks and Gardens and Registered Historic Landscapes. Listed Buildings are designated in three grades as follows:

¹ TAN 24: Appendix

- **Grade I – buildings of exceptional, usually national interest.**
- **Grade II* – particularly important buildings of more than special interest.**
- **Grade II – buildings of special interest which warrant every effort being made to preserve them.**

- 4.14. Registered Parks and Gardens are also registered Grade I, II* or II, depending on their comparative significance. In a similar way, Historic Landscapes are registered as either 'outstanding' or 'special'.
- 4.15. Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas are designated for their special architectural and historic interest, while Scheduled Monuments are primarily (but not exclusively) designated for their archaeological interest, i.e. their evidential value.
- 4.16. Archaeological remains that are not designated may still be nationally important, i.e. of a significance demonstrably equivalent to a Scheduled Monument, these are referred to as non-scheduled nationally important archaeological remains.
- 4.17. Other historic assets include those of special local interest and non-designated historic assets of less than national importance.

Setting

- 4.18. Setting is defined in TAN24 as:

"the surroundings in which [an historic asset] is understood, experienced, and appreciated embracing past and present relationships to the surrounding landscape. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surrounding evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect [the] ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral."

- 4.19. Setting can thus contribute to, detract from or have a neutral effect upon significance. In addition, whilst a physical or visual connection between a historic asset and its setting will often exist, it is not essential or determinative.
- 4.20. Of particular relevance, TAN24 further provides that:
- "setting is not a historic asset in its own right but has value derived from how different elements may contribute to the significance of a historic asset."***
- 4.21. As such, any impacts have been described in terms of how they affect the significance of a historic asset, and any heritage values that contribute to that significance, through changes to setting.

Setting Assessment

- 4.22. Settings assessments have been undertaken in accordance with industry-standard methodology provided by Cadw's *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (2017). This guidance promotes a 'staged' (iterative) approach, as follows:

- ***Stage 1: Assess which assets would be affected and identify their setting;***
- ***Stage 2: Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the significance of the historic assets and, in particular, the ways in which the assets are understood, appreciated and experienced²;***
- ***Stage 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it;***
- ***Stage 4: Consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.***

protect, conserve, promote or enhance the historic asset (and its setting where relevant).

4.25. Impacts on Scheduled Monuments via changes to their setting are considered in terms of whether they will be demonstrably and unacceptably damaging, in line with paragraph 6.1.24 of *PPW 12*.

4.26.

Assessment of Impacts

4.23. In this Heritage Desk-Based Assessment, potential development effects (impacts) upon the significance of known and potential historic assets have been determined with reference to Section 6.1 of *PPW 12* (see 3.11–3.18 above).

4.24. Impacts are approached and articulated in terms of whether or not the Proposed Development will

² The guidance includes a (non-exhaustive) check-list of elements that may contribute to a historic asset through setting including: functional and physical relationships, topographic features, physical surroundings, original layout, buried or archaeological elements, views to/from/across, formal or planned vistas, prominence,

views associated with aesthetic / functional / ceremonial purposes, historical / artistic / literary / place name / cultural / scenic associations, noise, smell, tranquillity / remoteness / wildness.

5. Historic Environment Baseline

- 5.1. This section provides a review of the recorded heritage resource within the Site and its vicinity in order to identify any extant historic assets within the Site and to assess the potential for below-ground archaeological remains within the Site.
- 5.2. Designated historic assets are referenced using their Cadw reference number. GGAT HER records are referenced using their alphanumeric EPRN or PRN, which have the suffix 'm' or 'w'. NMRW records are referenced using their five-digit NPRN number. Gazetteers of relevant heritage data is included as **Annex 3** and **Annex 4** and illustrated on figures in **Annex 5**.
- 5.3. All photographs in this section were captured in April 2024 unless otherwise stated in the captions.

Topography and Geology

- 5.4. A digital terrain model is provided as **Figure 1**.
- 5.5. The highest points within the Site are the cleared parcel outwith Craig yr Aber Woodland in the far west, which lies at c.260m aOD, and Mynydd Baeden in the east, lying at c.250m aOD. The land of the Site is otherwise undulating except where it

slopes to the south, reaching 100m aOD at New Road.

- 5.6. The geological composition of the Site according to the British Geological Survey and the Coal Authority is mapped on **Figures 2 and 3**.
- 5.7. The recorded bedrock geology of the majority of the Site comprises sandstone of the Brithdir Member; although bands of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Llynfi Member, Upper Coal Measures Formation and South Wales Middle Coal Measures Formation are found in the far south, and mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Llynfi Member and sandstone of the Hughes Member is found in the far north-eastern corner³. Multiple coal seams are also plotted across the central and southern parts of the Site).
- 5.8. No superficial deposits are recorded within the Site except for diamicton of Devensian Till in the far north-eastern corner⁴. The majority of the Site is characterised by freely draining acid soils over rock, but in the far south and far north-eastern corner are

³ British Geological Survey, *Geology of Britain Viewer*, <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/>

⁴ British Geological Survey, *Geology of Britain Viewer*, <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/>

slowly permeable, wet, very acid upland soils with a peaty surface⁵.

Previous Archaeological Works

5.9. Previous archaeological works recorded by the HER are illustrated on **Figure 4**.

5.10. Excepting this heritage desk-based assessment and the geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation that were subsequently undertaken for the Proposed Development, eight 'events' are recorded within the Site:

- A desk-based assessment or survey for a large swathe of land around Margam in 2013 (E006900);
- A geophysical survey of the Scheduled 'British Fortified Residence Site' near Maescadlawr in 2008 (E003208);
- A field visit to Bryncynan Farm in Craig yr Aber Woodland in 2000 (E005978);
- A field visit to a (non-Scheduled) house platform at Mynydd Baedan in 2000 (E001726);

- A field visit to Pennard to the south of Maescadlawr in 2004 (E001450); and
- Desk-based assessments for the Nantgarw-Margam Pipeline (crossing the eastern and southern parts of the Site) in 1992 and 1994 (E003776, E003777, E003784).

5.11. Other 'events' within the wider study area include:

- A desk-based assessment and geophysical survey for a proposed wind farm located between Margam Mountain and Moel Ton-mawr, in 2001 and 2002 (E002643, E004910);
- A survey of Moel Ton-mawr in 1977 (E000461) and, in its vicinity, excavations of various prehistoric sites in 1921 and archaeological appraisals of former gravel quarries in 2010;
- Archaeological appraisals of former gravel pits in Craig yr Aber Woodland, immediately outside the western boundary of the Site, in 2010 (O6691w, O6695w);
- Desk-based assessments for Gilfach Uchaf Farm, c.200m north of the Site, in 1994

⁵ Cranfield University, *Soilscapes*, <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>

(E003865) and Gelli Las Farm, c.260m east of the Site, in 2012 (E004049);

- Other field visits, for example to Capel Trisant, c.530m south-west of the Site, in 2011 (E002104) and Capel Baiden, outside the southern boundary of the Site, in 2004 (E002105); and
- Two desk-based assessments for open-cast coal mining at Park Slip West/Margam Mine, c.400m south-west of the Site at its closest point, in 1989 and 2000 (E001562, E002971).

Archaeological Baseline

Prehistoric (pre-43 AD) and Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 5.12. Prehistoric and Roman monuments recorded by the HER are illustrated on **Figures 5a–5c**.

Mesolithic and Neolithic

- 5.13. Prehistoric lithics ranging in date from the Mesolithic to the Early Bronze Age have been found at the south-eastern edge of the woodland covering the slopes of Mynydd Margam, c.1.9km north-west of the Site (O2102w, O5028w, O5029w).
- 5.14. There is also record of a Neolithic axe having been found at Gelli Lenor in Maesteg (O1277m). However, because only a four-figure grid reference is

available, the HER converts this to a single point at the south-west corner of the 1km grid square – thereby placing the findspot near Llangynwyd, c.1.5km north of the Site, which could be c.1km south-west of its actual location.

Bronze Age

- 5.15. In the northern part of the Site, the HER records one possible prehistoric standing stone to the north of the track to Maescadlawr (O0165m; **Figure 5a**) and one to the south (O0990m; **Figure 7b**). Record O0165m is described as a roughly-trapezoidal block of sandstone that “***Stands at the N edge of what is now a marsh below the summit of Cefn Cribwr***”; this locational description is not consistent with the mapped location – the latter is considered misplaced. Record O0990m is described as a standing stone marked on the 1918 OS Map at Maescadlawr (**Figure 12**). No stone was observed at Maescadlawr during the Site walkover surveys.
- 5.16. On the west side of Ffordd-y-Gyfraith at Cefn-y-gelli (within the Site, specifically, Solar Parcel K) and on the east side of Ffordd-y-Gyfraith to the north of Baiden Farm (outside the Site), are recorded nine cropmark ring ditches and two earthwork mounds believed to indicate Bronze Age funerary monuments referred to as round barrows and/or ring cairns (O4586m, O4587m; O2617m, O4578m–O4585m; **Figure 5b**). The findspot of an Early Bronze Age knife fragment is also recorded in their vicinity (O6127m).

- 5.17. These locations were visited during the Site walkover surveys. A small area of low and uneven earthworks was observed at O4586m (**Plate 2**), but no earthworks were observed within Solar Parcel K at Cefn-y-gelli (**Plate 3, Plate 4**). The geophysical survey of Solar Parcel K also identified no suggestive anomalies; and no archaeological features were exposed within Trenches 58–61 during the later trial trench evaluation.
- 5.18. However, the geophysical survey of Solar Parcel H identified a series of partial ring ditch anomalies, many of which with a single internal feature. These were ascribed an interpretation of ‘uncertain’ but their morphology was not inconsistent with that of ploughed-out round barrows. A selection of these anomalies were targeted during the trial trench evaluation by Trenches 33, 34, 35 and 36.
- 5.19. None of these trenches identified any ring ditches. However Trench 36 identified a central feature: a circular pit measuring c.0.4m in diameter and containing a probable Bronze Age cremation urn. The urn was left in situ, although a total of 15 disturbed sherds from the neck of the vessel were recovered for dating purposes.
- 5.20. Bronze Age activity within the Site is also indicated by pottery sherds recovered from the upper fill of a ditch in Trench 28 in Solar Parcel E (see 5.32).
- 5.21. Beyond the Site, known and possible Bronze Age ring cairns are also recorded at Moel Ton-mawr and

on the south-east facing slopes of Mynydd Margam in the north-western part of the 3km study area (O0755w, O0117m, O0115m, O0753w, O0754w, O0752w, O0751w, O0750w; **Figure 5c**). An Early Bronze Age flint scatter is also recorded to the west of Ton-mawr Farm, c.2.5km west of the Site (O2209w).

- 5.22. Beyond the 3km study area (not illustrated), there are other Bronze Age standing stones, ring cairns, and findspots:
- Flint tools and ring cairns are recorded in the woodland to the west of Pontycymer, c.3.7–4.8km north of the Site (O1646m, O2032m, O0097m, O0110m, O0111m);
 - Two ring cairns and a round barrow are recorded on Mynydd Margam, c.4.3km and c.4.6km north-west of the Site (O0748w, O0749w; GM160);
 - A standing stone and findspots of worked flints and pottery sherds are recorded near Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir, c.3.6km and c.4.5km west-south-west of the Site (O0789w, O4782w, O1561w);
 - The former locations of two round barrows and the findspot of a socketed axe are recorded at Stormy Down, c.4.2km south of the Site (O0154m, O0155m, O0156m);

- An extant round barrow is located c.4.6km south of the Site (00228m); and
- An extant round barrow is located at Bryn-y-Wrach, c.4.2km east of the Site (00344m).



Plate 2: Looking east-south-east towards the possible Bronze Age round barrow 04586m (and the former site of Capel Baiden, 00138m) in a field neighbouring the Site – low earthworks could be discerned



Plate 3: Looking south-east across the field containing alleged Bronze Age round barrows at Cefn-y-gelli within the Site – no earthworks could be discerned



Plate 4: Looking south-west across the field containing alleged Bronze Age round barrows at Cefn-y-gelli within the Site – no earthworks could be discerned

Iron Age

- 5.23. Between Mynydd Margam and Moel Ton-mawr in the north-western part of the 3km study area (**Figure 5c**) are recorded five fortified/defended enclosures (hillforts) of probable Iron Age date:
- Y Bwlwarcau Hillfort, c.1.3km north-west of the Site (00116m, 01155m);
 - Caer Blaen-y-cwm Enclosure, c.1.5km west of the Site (00759w);
 - Caer Cwmphilip (or Moel Ton-mawr) Earthwork and Cwm Philip West (or Danish Camp), c.1.8km and c.2.3km west of the Site respectively (00774w, 00758w); and
 - Ton-mawr Enclosure, c.1.1km west of the Site (00776w).
- 5.24. Linear earthworks between Caer Blaen-y-cwm Enclosure and Caer Cwmphilip (or Moel Ton-mawr) Earthwork, which are labelled 'intrenchments' on first edition Ordnance Survey mapping (**Plate 5**), may be associated with these monuments – either serving as additional defensive installations, strategic hollow-ways controlling the approach to

these monuments (like at Pen-y-Crug Hillfort near Brecon⁶), or territorial boundary markers.

- 5.25. Iron Age defended enclosures just beyond the western edge of the 3km study area (not illustrated) include Geulan Las Enclosure on Mynydd Margam, c.3.5km north-west of the Site (00757w); and Mynydd y Castell Hillfort and Half Moon Camp to the south of Mynydd Margam, c.3.6km and c.4.3km west of the Site respectively (00756w; 00756w, 01996w).
- 5.26. Iron Age defended enclosures within and beyond the southern edge of the 3km study area include Pen Y Castell Enclosure, c.2.5km south-west of the Site (00161m), Horgrove Enclosure, c.2.8km south of the Site (01362m), and Mynydd Twmpathyddaer Hillfort, c.4.5km south-west of the Site (00153m).

Roman

- 5.27. The Roman road between Cardiff and Neath ran south-east/north-west, beyond the edges of the 3km study area (**Figure 9**: RR60, RR60c-05a, RR60c-05b). The HER states that it is expressed as a cropmark c.3.8km south-west of the Site (01016.8w, 01016.10w). Roman milestones were formerly located in that location (01016.11w), and further north near Margam (00790W, 01016.15w).

⁶ Driver, T., 2023. *The Hillforts of Iron Age Wales*. Logaston Press.

- 5.28. Another Roman road is thought to be traced by the modern road from Laleston to Cefn Cross, and then by Ffordd-y-Gyfraith, the single track lane that extends through the Site (**Figure 9:** RR GGAT 004-01). An embanked Iron Age to Romano-British settlement and findspots of Roman coins are recorded on the west side of the road at Laleston, c.3.7km south of the Site (00188m, 00179m).
- 5.29. Another possible Roman road is recorded at Bryncethin at the eastern edge of the 3km study area (05019m); and other Roman coins have been found at Aberkenfig and Pen-y-Fai, c.1.1km, c.1.5km and c.2.6km from the Site (00180m, 00181m, 01404m).
- 5.30. The geophysical survey of the solar parcels of the Proposed Development detected possibly prehistoric to Romano-British enclosures and associated linear and discrete features in the following locations:
- In the west of Solar Parcel E, south of Maescadlawr (anomaly E1);
 - In the north of Solar Parcel J, at Cefn-y-gelli (anomalies E2 and E3);
 - In the south-east of Solar Parcel J and in the south-west of Parcel K, at Cefn-y-gelli (anomalies E?4 and E?5); and
- In the east of Solar Parcel G, at Baiden Farm (anomaly E6).
- 5.31. These geophysical survey anomalies (and others) were tested by the trial trench evaluation.
- 5.32. Anomaly E1, resembling a ring ditch measuring c.45m in diameter with possible internal features, was targeted by Trenches 27, 28, 29 and 30. Trenches 27, 28 and 30 each contained a section of the linear ditch of the enclosure. Three sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered from the ditch fill in Trench 28 and three sherds of Roman pottery and frequent charcoal inclusions were recovered from the ditch fill in Trench 30. Trench 29 testing the interior of the ring ditch, and Trench 31 lying a short distance to the south of the ring ditch, revealed no archaeological features.
- 5.33. Anomaly E2, resembling a rectangular enclosure measuring c.80m x c.60m with possible internal features in the north-east, was targeted by Trenches 68 and 69. Each trench revealed only a section of linear ditch, which contained no finds. As the ditches cut through the subsoil, they were considered to be post-medieval in date.
- 5.34. Anomaly E3, resembling a partial ring ditch measuring c.8m in diameter with a possible internal feature, was targeted by Trench 76. Only a linear ditch to the east of the ring ditch (also predicted by the geophysics), and not the ring ditch or any

internal feature, were identified. No finds were recovered from the linear ditch fill.

- 5.35. The linear ditch is part of a network of rectilinear ditches in the vicinity of anomaly E3 that were predicted by the geophysical survey. Trenches 74, 78 and 79 targeted and confirmed the presence of the other linear ditches; however the only find from the ditch fills was a 20th-century bottle from Trench 74, suggesting a recent origin.
- 5.36. Anomaly E?4, representing a sub-square enclosure with attached extended linears, was targeted by Trench 65. This trench was blank – i.e. the anomaly did not resolve into an archaeological feature. Nearby Trench 64 contained an oval pit, though this was undated.
- 5.37. Anomaly E?5, representing two possible partial rectangular enclosures, was targeted by Trench 63. This trench was blank – i.e. the anomaly did not resolve into any archaeological features.
- 5.38. Approximately 150m north of anomalies E?4 and E?5, Trench 70 revealed a shallow, circular pit that had not been predicted by the geophysical survey. The pit contained a single fill from which two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered.
- 5.39. Anomaly E6, representing a partial oval enclosure measuring c.70m x c.40m with possible internal features and an outlying smaller ring ditch feature to the south, was targeted by Trenches 37, 38, 44 and

45. Trenches 37, 38 and 45 each revealed a section of the oval enclosure ditch, which contained no finds. As the ditches cut through the subsoil, they were considered to be post-medieval in date. Trench 44 was blank.

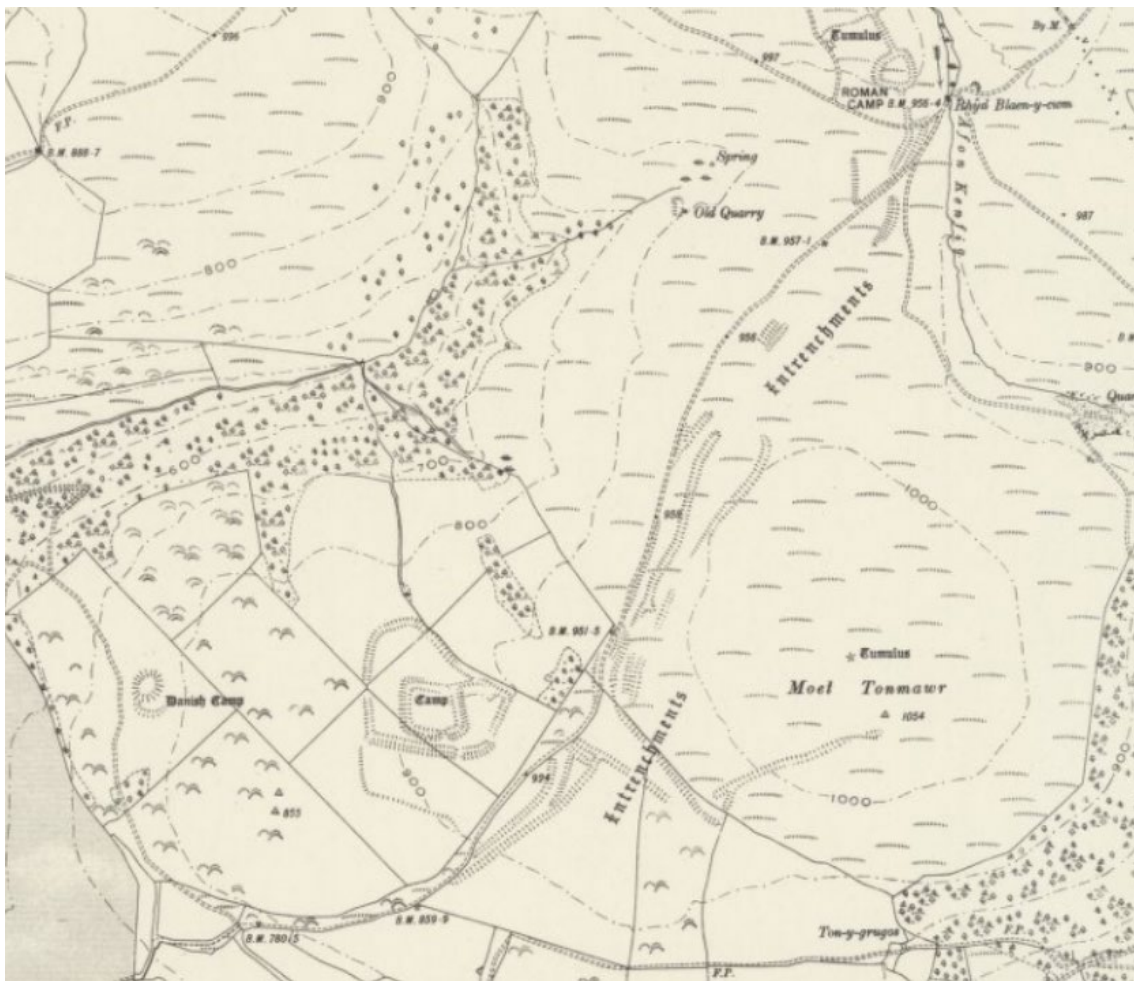


Plate 5: Extract from 1900 Ordnance Survey map, showing linear earthworks labelled 'intrenchments' between Caer Blaen-y-cwm Enclosure and Caer Cwmphilip (or Moel Ton-mawr) Earthwork

Early medieval (410 AD – 1066)

- 5.40. Early medieval monuments recorded by the HER are illustrated on **Figures 6a–6b**.

Carved Stones

- 5.41. Carved stones believed to be of early medieval date have been discovered at Bettws (Carreg Fedyddiol Sculptured Stone), c.2.2km east of the Site (O0368m); Sychbant Farm, c.2.7km north-west of the Site (O1616m); and a short distance upslope from Y Bwlwarcau hillfort, c.2.3km north-west of the Site (O0809w).

Battle of Badon (Baeden)

- 5.42. The landscape around Mynydd Baeden, in the eastern part of the Site, has been suggested as the location for the Battle of Mons Badonicus, or Battle of Mount Badon, which, despite the limited documentary evidence and lack of archaeological evidence, scholars generally agree was fought between the native Britons (perhaps led by Ambrosius Aurelianus) and the invading Anglo-

Saxons sometime in the late-5th or early-6th century AD.

- 5.43. The earliest documentary reference to the Battle of Badon is the early-6th century work *De Excidio et Conquestu Britanniae* (Gildas), which indicates that it took place in the year of Gildas's birth⁷. The battle is later referenced in the 8th-century *Ecclesiastical History of the British People* (Bede), the 9th-century *Historia Brittonum* (Nennius), the early 10th-century *Annales Cambriae* (unknown authors), and the 12th-century *Historia Renum Britanniae* (Geoffrey of Monmouth). The *Annales Cambriae* describe a three-day siege rather than a battle⁸. Geoffrey of Monmouth places the battle at Bath and introduces the legendary King Arthur as a key player⁹.
- 5.44. The sources are light on geographical information. Gildas makes reference to the Saxon invasion having touched "**the Western Ocean**", but not in the context of the Battle of Badon¹⁰. As well as Mynydd Baeden, the Iron Age hillfort of Badbury Rings in Dorset, Badbury in Wiltshire (near another Iron Age hillfort, Liddington Castle), Braydon in Wiltshire (specifically, the Iron Age hillfort of Ringsbury Camp), and Caer Baddan near Bath have been proposed as possible

⁷ There have been different interpretations and translation of the original Latin, however; see <http://www.vortigernstudies.org.uk/artsou/gildwhen.htm>

⁸ *Annales Cambriae*, entry for c.510AD: "Bellum badonis, in quo arthur portauit crucem Domini nostri ihu xp'i tribus diebus & tribus noctibus in humeros suos & brittones victores fuerunt."

⁹ Breeze, A., 2015. *The Arthurian Battle of Badon and Braydon Forest, Wiltshire*.

¹⁰ Breeze suggests that, contra to 19th-century suggestions (e.g. Letter from Owen Morgan ('Morien') to the *Western Mail*, Thursday 5th July 1883), it is a 13th-century gloss of Gildas's work that references "the mouth of the River Severn".

locations for the battle – based on their ‘Bad’ place-name and relative proximity to the west coast.

- 5.45. Current proponents of Mynydd Baeden consider South Wales a more likely location for the Saxons to have attempted an invasion via “the Western Ocean”. They identify the Iron Age hillfort of Y Bwlwarcau (see 5.23) as the site of the native British encampment, believe that local (Welsh) place names support an association with a battle and King Arthur, and interpret linear earthworks at Mynydd Baeden as entrenchments and burial mounds associated with a battle. Each of these aspects is explored in further detail below.

Local Place Names

- 5.46. It has been claimed that the following place names near Mynydd Baeden reference a battle and/or individuals named in Arthurian legend:
- **Maescadlawr.** Maes translates as field, cad (gad) as battle, and lawr as down. In other words, “lower battlefield”. Cadlawr is also similar to cadair meaning stronghold, fortress or fort.
 - Caes Cadlawr Mynydd. See above.

- **Bryncynan.** Translates as “old hill”.
- **Gadlys.** C(g)adlys is mentioned in the account of the Battle of Badon in *Annales Cambriae*, to mean a king’s temporary camp, palace, or court¹¹.
- **Llwyn Gwladus.** Translates as “the grove of Gwladus”, who was the daughter of the 5th-century King Brychan in Arthurian legend.
- **Brynllwarch.** Translates as “hill of Llywarch”, who is named as one of Arthur’s knights in the *Welsh Triads* (the oldest surviving copy dates to the 13th century).

- 5.47. Some of these place names are not confined to the area around Mynydd Baeden but can be found further afield. For example, there is a Craig Gadlys c.15km north-west of the Site and a Sgwd Gwladus at Pontneddfechan c.20km north of the Site.

- 5.48. There is also said to be a local oral tradition of Mynydd Baeden having been the site of a battle (although not necessarily the Battle of Badon). The antiquity of this tradition is not known. The earliest written suggestions of an historic battle having been fought at/near Mynydd Baeden appear to date to the late 19th century. These are based on the presumption of a defensive function for a series of

¹¹ Morris, L., 1887. *Celtic Remains*. Cambrian Archaeological Association.

linear earthworks found in the locality (see 'Intrenchments' below for an archaeological discussion of these).

Written References

- 5.49. A link between Mynydd Baeden and the Battle of Badon is made in *The Topographical History of Llangynwyd Parish* by Thomas Morgan (publication date unknown) and *The History of Glamorgan* by Dafydd Morganwg (1874). In a newspaper column of 1883, Owen Morgan claims that Thomas Morgan and in turn Dafydd Morganwg had taken a suggestion/comparative reference made by the vicar of Llangynwyd, Richard Pendrill Llewelyn as fact (our emphases underlined):

"On the mountain just above that house [Cefn-Udva], called Mynydd Baidan – and, indeed, on part of the farm – are remains of large entrenchments. A fierce battle some day was fought there, and, no doubt, great was the wailing of the wounded and dying. No little fight was waged on that field; it was as great a struggle as that which Arthur fought on Mons Badonicus..."¹²

- 5.50. Morganwg responded to defend Thomas Morgan thus:

"...[Thomas Morgan] says that there are to be seen on Mount Baedan the vestiges of scores of trenches and earthworks, showing that a very extensive military

camp had been there at some remote time. But in what age, or by whom they were made, it is not known, as far as I am aware. [Morgan] knew at the time he wrote that Mont Badon, where King Arthur fought his twelfth battle against the Saxons, is near Bath, but he doubts the truth of it..."¹³

- 5.51. A little later, in 1887, Thomas Evans writes in his *History of Llangynwyd Parish* (which, it should be noted, includes the vicar in its acknowledgements):

"To those who are acquainted with the neighbourhood, especially Baiden Mountain, it will be seen that the locality has not always been blessed with the serenity it now enjoys, and it must have appeared to them that the huge entrenchments which are there seen, were at one time, the scene of desperate military adventures, and hard fought battles. There is in the vicinity a ford, once known as Rhyd-y-cyrn "The ford of the bugle horns"; and about half a mile further north is Tre'r Gadlef, "The place of the war cry," and Gadlys "The camp, or entrenchment." A little further on, in a recess, hidden among the hills, are the remains of an old castle, which, at one time, must have had important connection with the turbulent periods experienced by the inhabitants of ancient days. In the light of the above facts, the real name of this place suggest itself to us as Cefn-Udfa, "The ridge of wailing", a most expressive name, could events of bygone days be now made known."

¹² Letter from Owen Morgan ('Morien') to the *Western Mail*, Thursday 5th July 1883.

¹³ Letter from Dafydd Morganwg to the *Western Mail*, Thursday 5th July 1883.

- 5.52. Evans is convinced that a battle was fought here but makes no reference to the Battle of Badon. Nor does William Riley in his imaginative description of the 'intrenchments' in a journal article from 1895 (our emphases underlined):

"What can this mountain unfold or teach us of the history of the past? – for here, living hands in prehistoric times have scooped out vast series of ramparts, rising on the mountain slopes tier upon tier, eleven deep. They skirted the steep slope of the hill, east, south and west and were originally some 2,560 yards in extent, which means a continuity of fosse and vallum, from front to rear, of about 28,000 lineal yards. In parts, however, but faint traces exist where the soil has been under cultivation, but on the sterile land there is still bank over bank of earth of vast thickness, with ditches which, even after the climatic wear of twenty centuries or more of time, are five to seven feet in depth, and of a lineal measurement of nine thousand eight hundred yards of trenching. These intrenchments follow the sinuosities of the mountain, leaving the northern plain unprotected.

To what race of mankind must we ascribe these immense and rudely-constructed earthen breast works? To what age do they belong? Evidently they were constructed for defensive purposes on a site judiciously chosen and by a people who had scant knowledge of strengthening defensive positions, for they are simply artificial lines of intrenchments without any traverses inside guarding against flank attack. No relic has been found—nothing that has lived or been touched by the hands of man,—nothing but earthen mounds and trenches remain, and it requires a

trained intelligence to piece together the puzzle of these gigantic works of a wild and barbarous people who possessed this land before Caesar came.

These [Roman] invaders were confronted on their right flank by the heavily intrenched positions on Mynydd Baidan and Mynydd Margam, the protecting bulwarks of a royal clan of the Silurian people [the name historically given to the tribe occupying South Wales in the Iron Age]. ... The legion... pushed up the valley of Ty Talwyn, along the brook Nant Craig-yr-aber to Nant Fadog, but at the top of the ravine they were headed by strong earthworks on the height of the eastern side of Mynydd Baidan. A frontal attack being impossible, the advance was checked, and on the sloping side of Mynydd Ty-Talwyn a halting intrenched camp was constructed with single vallum and fosse...

Over the intervening plain to the Gilfach intrenchments the defeated army retired...they are forced to earthworks lining Mynydd Margam, near by Rhyd Blaenycwm. ...the Romans delved their camp on the site of the erstwhile British stronghold, thus affording a probability that these rude trenches were pre-Roman; for here we actually have a British trench cut through and surmounted by a Roman camp, constructed with the exactitude habitually observed

by these people; the same in size and plan as their camp on Ty-Talwyn.”¹⁴

- 5.53. Tir Iarll by F Evans (1912) follows Riley in writing of **“entrenchments of the Silures...counter earthworks to the Roman advance”**.¹⁵

- 5.54. Meanwhile *The Story of Glamorgan* by C J Evans (1908) covers all bases:

“The district must have been the scene of many fierce battles, as numerous camps of British, Danish, and Roman origin are to be found on the surrounding hills. A large number of mounds show where the dead were buried. ...On the hills are numerous camps and earthworks of British and Danish construction.”¹⁶

“Near Cefn Ydfa, on Mynydd Baidan, are a number of entrenchments of considerable depth. Some men think that here was fought, in 522, the famous battle between King Arthur and the Saxons, known as the battle of Mount Badon.”¹⁷

- 5.55. In the 19th century (and earlier), Iron Age hillforts in Wales and England were often assumed to be of Roman or Viking origin, and given such names as ‘Caesar’s Camp’ and ‘Danish Camp’. In the later 19th and early 20th century, there was a shift to thinking of these monuments as a native British (and specifically, prehistoric and Celtic) defensive response to invasions. The assumption that hillforts were associated solely with warfare persisted into the mid-20th century.

- 5.56. The fact that there are some late 19th–/early 20th–century sources associating Mynydd Baeden with the Battle of Badon does not mean that those sources are credible. The same goes for the various other books, articles, and newspaper columns from the 1840s onwards which advocate Caer Baddan(Bath)¹⁸, Badbury Rings¹⁹, and Badbury²⁰ as the location of the battle.

- 5.57. Later books advocating Mynydd Baeden as the site of the Battle of Badon include *The Holy Kingdom*:

¹⁴ Riley, W., 1895. ‘Intrenchments and Camps on Mynydd Baidan and Mynydd Margam’, in *Cardiff Naturalists’ Society Reports and Transactions* Vol. XXVII, Part II, pp 71–89.

¹⁵ Evans, F., 1912. *Tir Iarll (The Earl’s Land): comprising the ancient parishes of Llangynwyd, Bettws, Margam, and Kenfig*.

¹⁶ Evans, C. J., 1908. *The Story of Glamorgan*. pp.84, 146.

¹⁷ Evans, C. J., 1908. *The Story of Glamorgan*. p.86.

¹⁸ Giles, J. A. and Habington, T., 1842. *Gildas’ ‘On the Ruin of Britain’*;

Wilkins, C., 1885. ‘A Forgotten Welsh Worthy’. *Red Dragon*, Vol. III, No. 6., pp.505;

Butterworth, H. G., 1885. Notes. Glamorgan: King Arthur. *Cardiff Times*, Saturday 10th October 1885.;

Church, A. J., 1889. *The Story of the Nations Library: Early Britain*. Thomas Fisher Unwin. (Referenced in *The Morning Post*, Tuesday 24th December 1889.

¹⁹ Guest, E., 1883. *Origines Celticae (A Fragment) And Other Contributions To The History Of Britain*;

Williams, H., 1899–1901. *Gildae de Excidio Britanniae*. Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion;

‘Breconshire Notes and Queries: An address to the Brecon Field Club on June 25th, by Dr K. D. Pringle. *Brecon County Times*, Thursday 3rd July 1924.

²⁰ Reed, T. D., 1944. *The Battle for Britain in the Fifth Century: An Essay in Dark Age History*. Methuen.

Burne, A. H., 1950. *The Battlefields of England*. Methuen.

Quest for the Real King Arthur (Gilbert, Wilson and Blackett, 1998) and *Lost Battlefields of Wales* (Hackett, 2016). These works are not discussed further here, as they do not present any unequivocal credible archaeological evidence in support of the Mynydd Baeden theory.

'Intrenchments'

- 5.58. The alleged 'intrenchments' are located within the Site on the east side of Mynydd Baeden, to the north and south of Ffordd-y-Gyfraith on the north and east sides of Mynydd Ty-talwyn, and near Gilfach Uchaf. The earliest known plans and drawings of them date to the late-19th century. The 1877, 1884 and 1889 Ordnance Survey maps identify all three groups as 'Intrenchments'. Detailed plans and section drawings were also included in the aforementioned journal article by William Riley, of 1895.

1. Mynydd Baeden

- 5.59. At Mynydd Baeden, the 1884 OS map (**Plate 6**) shows more than 10 broadly-parallel, sinuous, looping and branching banks. There are also some smaller, discrete, oblong mounds to the south. In places they are crossed by tracks and field boundaries, which might suggest that the earthwork pre-date those features. The 1921 OS map (**Plate 7**) identifies old coal levels to the east and north-east of the earthworks.
- 5.60. Both editions also show a track extending north from Ffordd-y-Gyfraith past Capel Baiden, across the earthworks, and then through other fields before crossing a tramway and joining the Coytrahen road. The earthworks lie mostly to the west of the track but also to the east, south-east, and north-west.

- 5.61. A smaller area of earthworks than recorded in 1884/1921 is shown on modern OS mapping, satellite imagery, and 2m resolution digital terrain model LiDAR imagery (**Plate 8**). During the Site walkover surveys, earthworks were seen in the main field and the field to its north; but not to the east or south-east due to the presence of modern plantations.
- 5.62. It is not clear whether the south-western end of the earthworks was their original terminus or whether the field boundary has caused levelling/truncation (**Plate 9**). It is also not clear whether the track crossing the lower third of the earthworks has levelled/truncated the banks or used an existing break (**Plate 10, Plate 11**). There is another separation in the upper third, which could be a sheep walk or could be a pre-existing break between discrete mounds (**Plate 12**).
- 5.63. The far northern end of the earthworks appears to be rounded, with a level area between them and the field boundary to the north (**Plate 13**). On the north side of the field boundary are two very broad banks separated by a deep hollow, on the same alignment as the main banks and ditches but with a bank on a perpendicular alignment immediately north of the field boundary itself (**Plate 14, Plate 15**). The extant track on the east side is much lower than the field containing the earthworks; it has a deep ditch on its east side (**Plate 16**) and natural stone outcropping at its surface (**Plate 17**).
- 5.64. The HER record (04450m; **Figures 7b, 8b, and 9**) for the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden offers various possible origins, as follows:
- "A series of parallel trenches, or banks and ditches. They may be the remains of quarrying or other industrial endeavours or part of a Medieval road or trail."***
- 5.65. The NMR record (424515) describes the extant sunken stone-outcropped track, and assumes that the earthworks in the adjacent field(s) represent former trackways:
- "Trackway measuring approximately 160 metres north east to south west. It is situated in a remote field at Mynydd Baedan, approximately a mile and a half north west of Tondy, Bridgend. The trackway is clearly well established, as it is marked on both historic and modern OS maps. The 2017 edition of the OS maps only marks the existence of the trackway using small grey triangles to show its outline. The first and second editions of the 25inch OS maps, however, illustrate trackways that look more extensive than those that appear today, and have labelled them 'intrenchments.' These maps were published in 1877 and 1899 respectively."***



Plate 6: 1884 OS map showing the Mynydd Baeden 'intrenchments' – note the depiction of this area as marshland, and the tracks (dashed lines) and the field boundaries crossing the earthworks

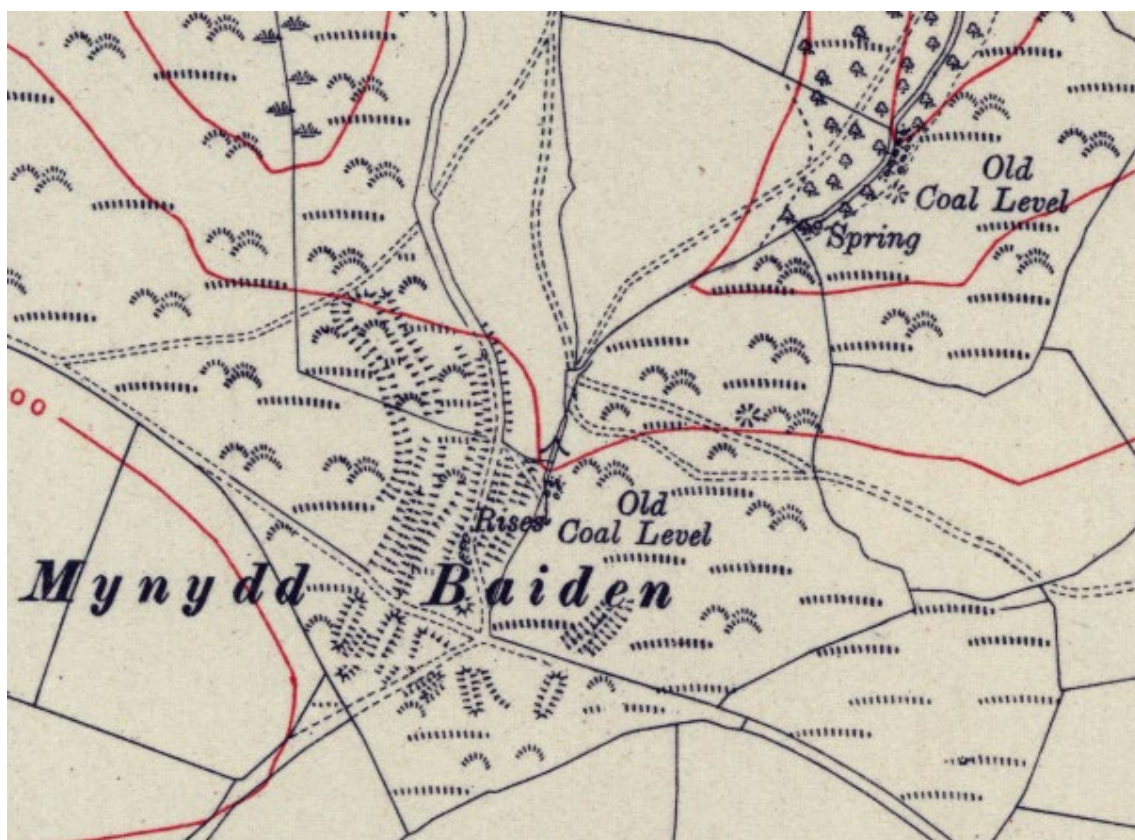


Plate 7: 1921 OS map showing the Mynydd Baeden 'intrenchments' – note the depiction of this area as marshland, and the old coal levels to the east and north-east, which were not recorded on the 1884 edition

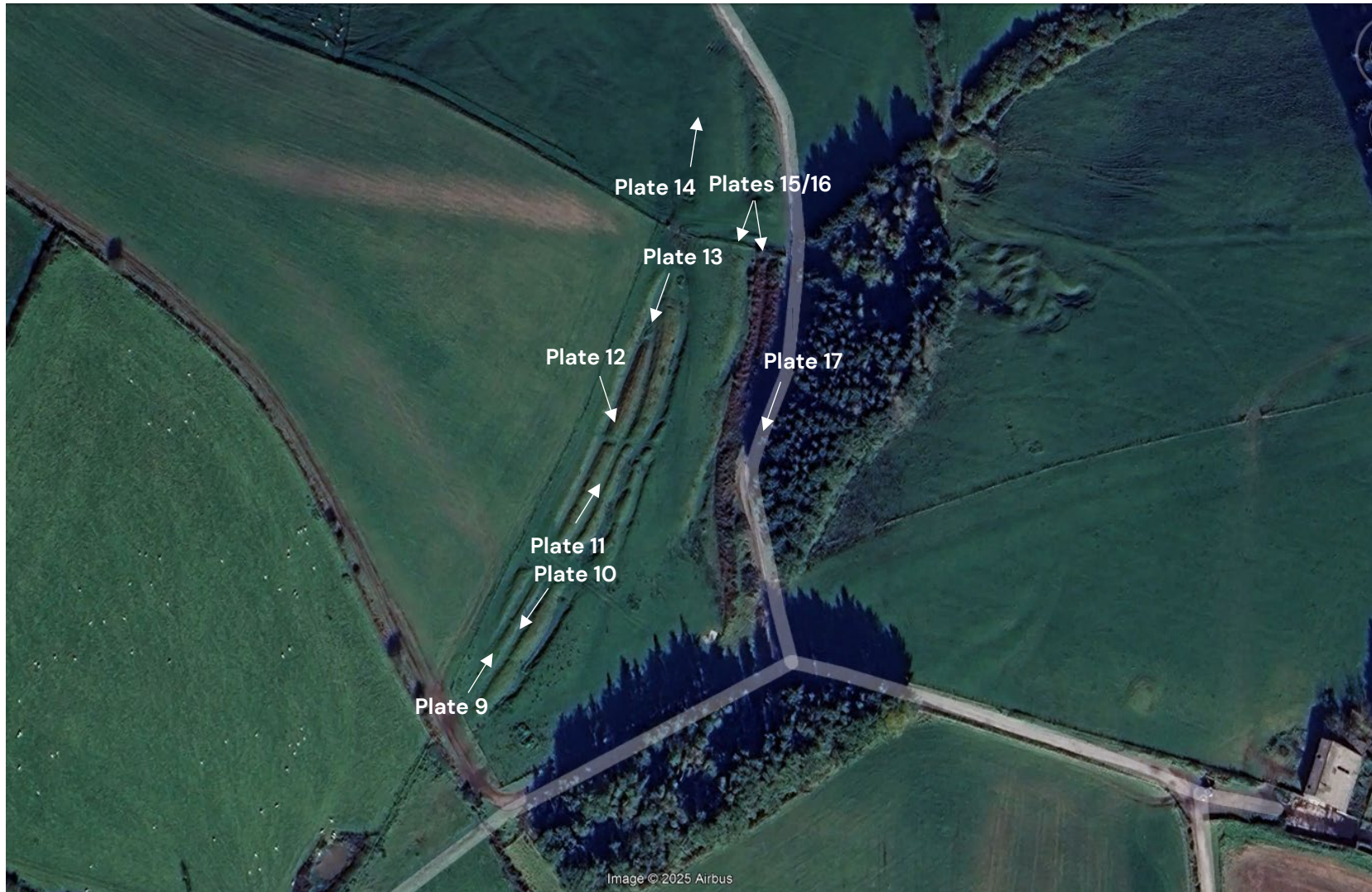


Plate 8: October 2024 Google Earth satellite imagery, with photo locations marked



Plate 9: Looking north (downslope) from the southernmost end of the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden



Plate 10: Looking south-east (upslope) from where the track crosses the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden



Plate 11: Looking north (downslope) from the track across the remainder of the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden



Plate 12: Looking south-east from the west side of the area of earthworks lying north of the track at Mynydd Baeden



Plate 13: Looking south (upslope) from the north end of the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden



Plate 14: Looking north (downslope) from the other side of the field boundary at Mynydd Baeden



Plate 15: Looking south at the easternmost ditch in the main field (black arrow), and perpendicular earthworks at the top end of the field to its north (white arrow) at Mynydd Baeden



Plate 16: Further ditch in scrubby strip between the main field and the stone track at Mynydd Baeden



Plate 17: Stone outcropping at the surface of the track to the east of the field(s) containing the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden

2. Mynydd T-talwyn

- 5.66. At Mynydd Ty-talwyn, there are two groups of linear earthworks: one entirely on the north side of the Ffordd-y-Gyfraith road (SS 863 860 and SS 864 860); and one mostly on the south side (SS 867 858 and SS 866 856) albeit with a small area on the north side (SS 866 859).
- 5.67. At SS 863 860, the 1884 OS map (**Plate 18**) shows between 4 and 5 broadly-parallel curvilinear banks on a north-west/south-east alignment. A field boundary 'encloses' the banks on their west side; on the west side of the boundary is a track on the same alignment. The road to the south seems to respect or be respected by the earthworks. There are smaller mounds on a north/south alignment to the east of the main banks.
- 5.68. At SS 866 859, approximately 165m to the east of SS 863 860, the 1884 OS map (**Plate 18**) shows three short banks on the north side of the road; and around four long curvilinear banks on a north/south alignment at SS 867 858 on the south side of the road. The latter extend over a greater distance than those to the north. They are 'enclosed' by field boundaries to the west and to the east; the boundary to the west is recorded on the 1839 tithe map but the boundary to the east is not. A track runs along the inside of the western boundary.
- 5.69. The curvature of the Ffordd-y-Gyfraith road is such that it could be seen to 'connect' the earthworks at

SS 863 860 with those at SS 867 858. The 1921 OS map (**Plate 19**) shows additional earthworks on the south side of the road, between the two groups, again on a 'connecting' alignment.

- 5.70. Google Earth satellite imagery from various years shows earthworks at all of the aforementioned grid coordinates. It also shows linear ditches and circular hollows in the fields lying between SS 863 860 and SS 866 859, which was recorded as a plantation on the 1884 OS map. The banks at SS 863 860 and SS 866 859 were observed during the Site walkover (**Plate 20–Plate 28** and **Plate 29–Plate 37**).
- 5.71. The HER does not record the earthworks at SS 863 860 in their own right, but does make reference to them in the record for Ffordd-y-Gyfraith (O3111.0m; see 5.100):
- "Medieval trackway known as the Ffordd-y-Gyfraith ('Road of the Law') crosses Mynydd Baiden from N-S. probably originated at Llangynwyd, but hollow trails ('Intrenchments' on O.S. maps) marking its course only becomes visible further S."*
- 5.72. The HER identifies the earthworks at SS 866 859 as a house platform (O1712m; **Figure 6b**):
- "Large platform in saddle between Mynydd Baiden and Mynydd Ty-talwyn with well-marked hood bank, 1m wide, with incised braided trackways to E and W. RCAHMW [NMR] records as double platform; upper (S) platform 17.4m long, lower 12.8m. Some damage from cattle."*

- 5.73. The corresponding NMR record for SS 866 859 (15368) reads:

“A hooded and terraced house platform, 20m NW–SE by 7.0–12m, set into a N-facing slope. Originally recorded as a double, or stepped site”.

- 5.74. The HER does not ascribe a function or date for the earthworks at SS 867 858 and SS 866 856 (06122m; **Figure 7b**):

“A series of slight earthworks, comprised of a number of banks and ditches, running parallel to the Ffordd-y-Gyfraith road (PRN 03112m) downslope for roughly 470m. These features are visible as a marked change in vegetational colour”.

- 5.75. No trace of these earthworks was seen during the walkover surveys (**Plate 38**), but they can be discerned as grass marks on Google Earth satellite imagery from 2008 and 2015 (**Plate 39, Plate 40**).

- 5.76. The geophysical survey of the Site included the earthworks at SS 866 856 within its scope, as this area formerly comprised part of one of the solar parcels (since removed). The survey detected a large Y-shaped anomaly that was then targeted by Trenches 54, 55 and 56 during the trial trench evaluation.

- 5.77. These trenches identified an original ditch corresponding to the north-west/south-east arm of the anomaly, and three recut ditches cutting through the subsoil. Plastic and 20th-century bricks

were recovered from the fill of one of the recut ditches.

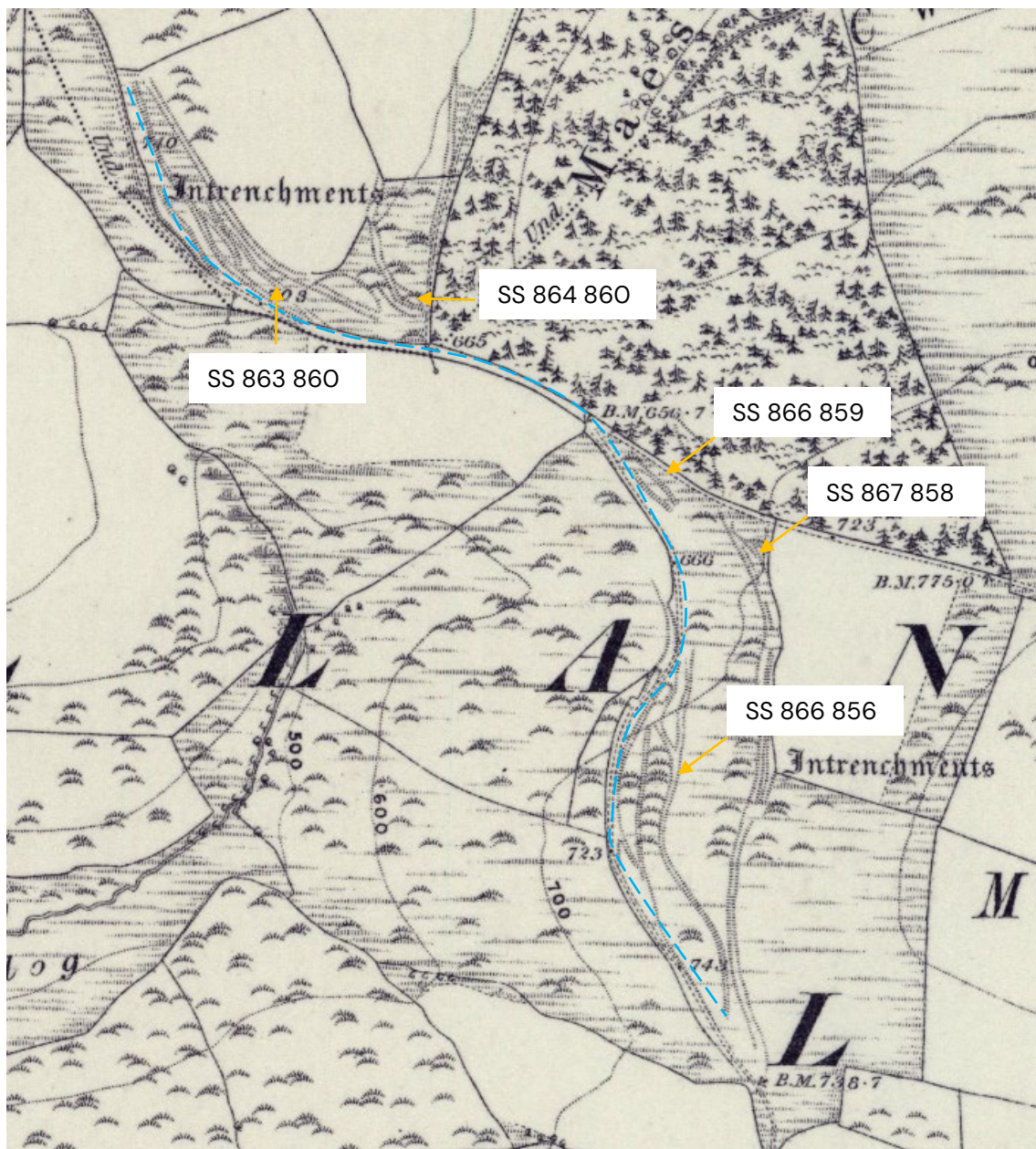


Plate 18: 1884 OS map showing the Mynydd Ty-talwyn 'intrenchments' – note the depiction of this area as marshland; the blue dashed line is our overlay to show how the Ffordd-y-Gyfraith road 'connects' the two groups

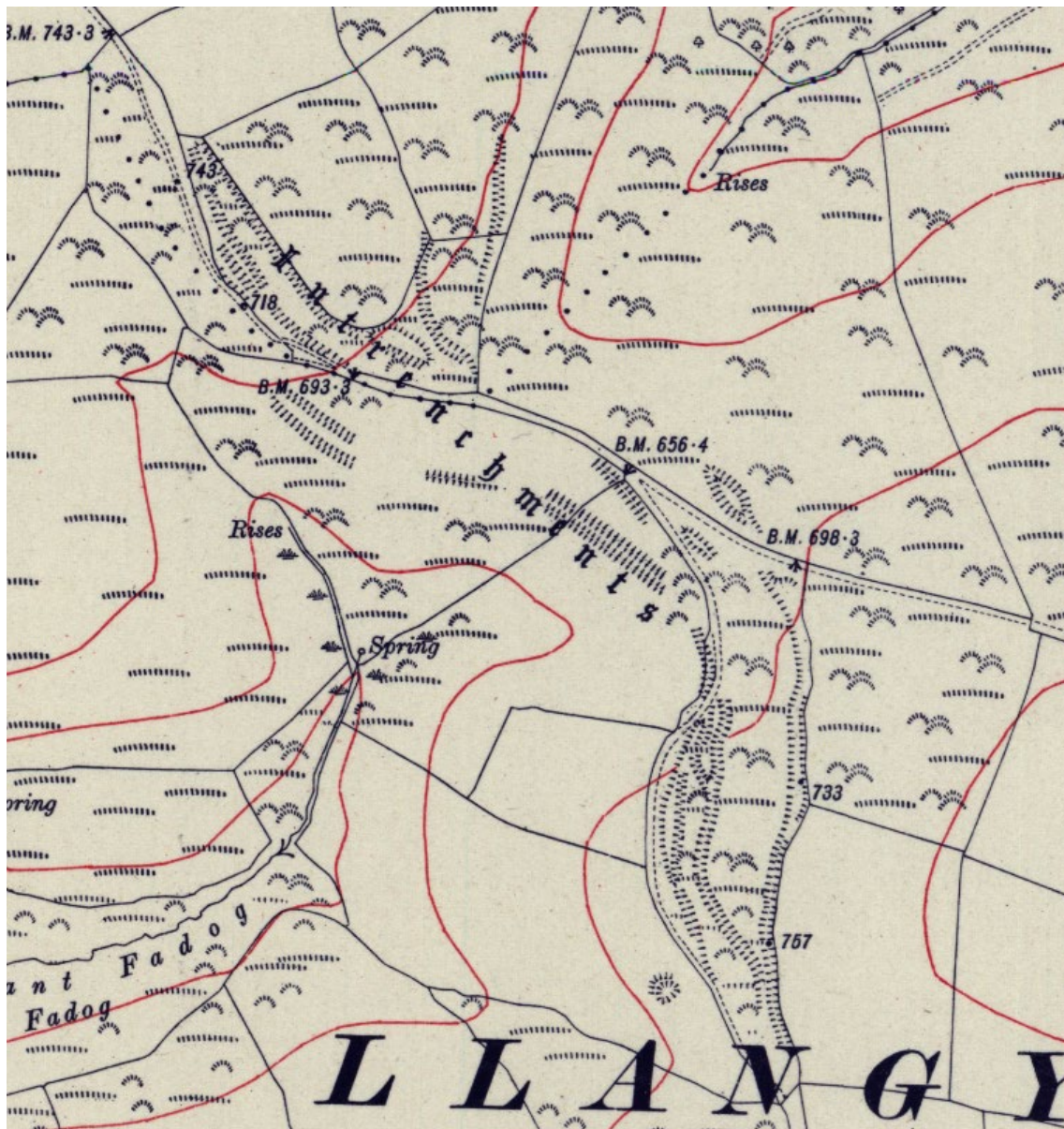


Plate 19: 1921 OS map showing the Mynydd Ty-talwyn 'intrenchments' – depiction of this area as marshland; additional earthworks are now shown to suggest connection between the two groups





Plate 20: Four images – looking west through north to south at the broadly west/east earthworks at SS 863 860



Plate 21: Two images – looking north from the east end of the north-west/south-east banks towards the broadly north/south earthworks in scrub at SS 864 860



Plate 22: Looking west from the field gate off Ffordd-y-Gyfraith along the grassed earthworks at SS 863 860 (February 2025)



Plate 23: Looking north-west from the same location as Plate 22 towards the scrubby earthworks at SS 864 860 (February 2025)



Plate 24: Two images – looking north-west up the scrubby earthworks at SS 864 860, from their rounded south-easterly termini (February 2025)



Plate 25: Looking downslope in a south-easterly direction along the scrubby earthworks at SS 864 860, from SS 863 861 (February 2025)



Plate 26: Looking upslope in a northerly direction along the scrubby earthworks at SS 864 860, from SS 863 861 (February 2025)



Plate 27: Looking downslope in a south-easterly direction along the scrubby earthworks at SS 864 860, from a little further north than Plate 25 (February 2025)



Plate 28: Looking upslope in a northerly direction along the scrubby earthworks at SS 864 860, from a little further north than Plate 25 (February 2025)



Plate 29: Looking east from the at SS 864 860 towards the earthworks at SS 866 859 (arrow) (February 2025)



Plate 30: 5x zoom version of Plate 29



Plate 31: Looking north-west across the earthworks at SS 866 859 from the Ogwr Ridgway Walk through the neighbouring field (February 2025)



Plate 32: Looking north-west across the alleged house platform HER ref. 01712m at SS 866 859, with the group of linear earthworks at SS 863 860 and SS 864 860 co-visible at long range (arrows)



Plate 33: Looking north-west along a ditch between two banks at SS 866 859



Plate 34: Looking north across the low banks at SS 866 859 – note rounded end of bank (arrow)



Plate 35: Looking east across the low banks at SS 866 859



Plate 36: Looking west-north-west across the low banks at SS 866 859 (towards the road)



Plate 37: Looking west across the low banks at SS 866 859 (towards the road)



Plate 38: Looking south towards mapped earthworks at SS 867 858 – no trace (February 2025)



Plate 39: 2008 Google Earth imagery showing earthworks at SS 866 856

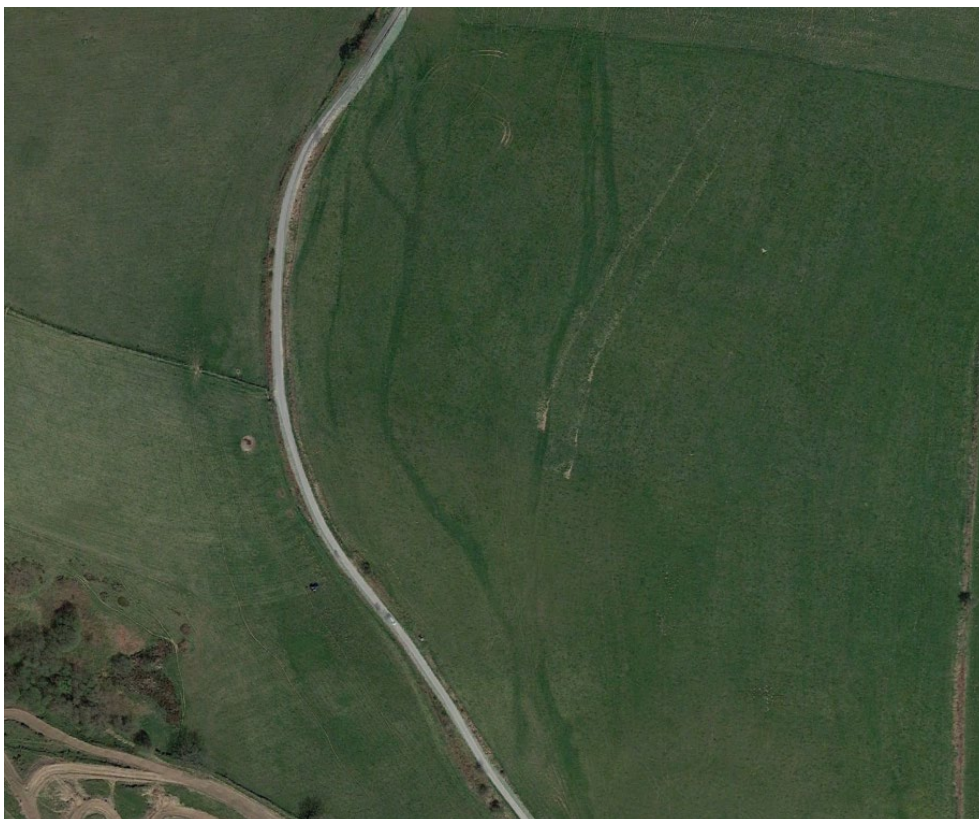


Plate 40: 2015 Google Earth imagery showing earthworks at SS 866 856

3. Gilfach Uchaf

- 5.78. At Gilfach Uchaf the 1884 OS map (**Plate 41**) shows five distinct banks that appear to radiate southwards from a more incoherent area of earthworks on the south side of the Nant Bryn Cynan watercourse. A track running north from the Ffordd-y-Gyfraith road seems to have cut across the easternmost bank, suggesting the track post-dates the bank. Small and short mounds are also shown in the field on the opposite (east) side of the road.
- 5.79. The 1921 OS map (**Plate 42**) records no changes to the configurations of the linear earthworks, track, or field boundaries; but does not show the other mounds.
- 5.80. The five linear earthworks are visible on modern Google Earth satellite imagery, but during the Site walkover surveys could not be discerned from the lane to the east on account of looking upslope (**Plate 43, Plate 44**). In the field on the east side of the lane, however, low mounds were discerned (**Plate 45**).
- 5.81. The HER records the banks on the west side of the lane as hollow-ways leading to a quarry at their head (00274.0m, 02794m; **Figures 7b, 8b** and **9**):

“A series of hollow ways leading to an old quarry – mentioned in Unicorn Assessment of Gilfach Uchaf

Farm 1994 although the author is clearly confused as to their identity! Sunken trackway.”



Plate 41: 1884 OS map showing the Gilfach Uchaf 'intrenchments' – note the adjacent trackway and marshy ground

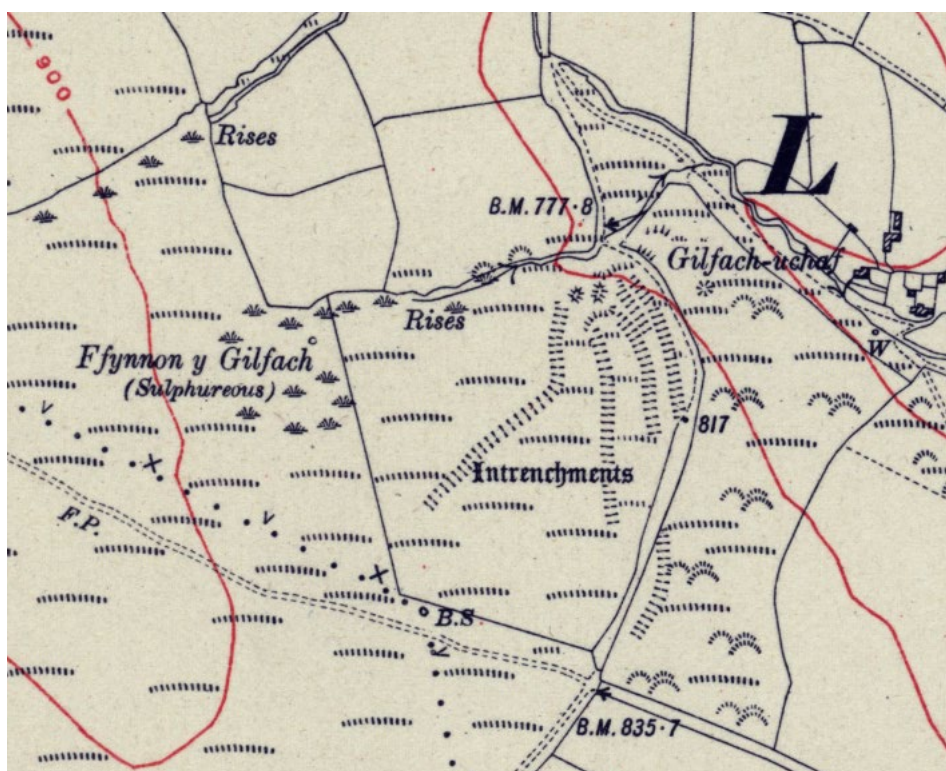


Plate 42: 1921 OS map showing the Gilfach Uchaf 'intrenchments' – note the depiction of this area as marshland



Plate 43: Looking west towards the Gilfach Uchaf earthworks from the lane (not discernible)



Plate 44: Looking south-west towards the former Gilfach Uchaf quarry from the lane



Plate 45: Low mounds in the field on the opposite (east) side of the lane to the Gilfach Uchaf 'intrenchments'/hollow-ways/quarry

- 5.82. The idea of these earthworks being defensive features of the Battle of Badon is not convincing. Early medieval warfare included individual combats, small skirmishes, sieges, and full battles²¹. In battle, each side would amass into a 'shield-wall' or 'wedge' formation, and steadily advance; fighting was on foot using spears, swords and arrows. One side might retreat to a fortress or a naturally-defended position, to which the other side may lay siege.
- 5.83. A case could be made that the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden and to the east of Mynydd Ty-talwyn 'protect' the east and west sides of a defended position on Mynydd Baeden, as they trace the base of these slopes. Likewise, the examples at Gilfach Uchaf trace the contours of the mid-slope of the south-east side of Mynydd Margam. However, the earthworks to the north of Mynydd Ty-talwyn cut downslope.
- 5.84. The multiplicity of the earthworks could have been intended to confuse and stall an attacker, but the defence already had the advantage of the elevated position. Running with the Battle of Badon theory, the labour and time needed to create the earthworks on this scale and extent would suggest construction by the defence under some

prescience of attack, and a longer-lasting siege than the three days indicated by the *Annales Cambriae*.

- 5.85. A possible prehistoric origin for the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden was mooted in the late-19th and early-20th century, and has been echoed in more recent literature²². As noted in 5.24, 'intrenchments' are also mapped between the Iron Age hillforts of Caer Cwmphilip (Moel Ton Mawr) Earthwork and the Tonmawr Enclosure on Margam Mountain. However there is no evidence that those earthworks are contemporary with the hillforts. The examples within the Site do not appear substantial enough to comprise linear boundary earthworks²³.
- 5.86. The historic OS maps depict all three groups of earthworks as lying within a large area of marshy ground, and in close association with 'active' tracks. This could support the idea of them being hollow-ways: braided trackways can be the product of people repeatedly re-routing across challenging ground in response to wet and boggy conditions. Other possible hollow-ways were seen to the south of Maescadlawr during the Site walkover survey (see 5.100).
- 5.87. As noted above, historic OS maps identify a coal outcrop and rises to the west of Gilfach Uchaf, and rises, springs, and old coal levels on the east side of

²¹ Underwood, R., 1999. *Anglo-Saxon Weapons and Warfare*. Tempus.

²² Howells, B., 2009. *Antiquities of Margam Mountain*. pp.31-40.

²³ Historic England, 2018. *Introductions to Heritage Assets: Prehistoric Linear Boundary Earthworks*.

the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden. It is therefore also possible that some of the earthworks could be associated with post-medieval coal working and/or quarrying. This activity would have to have taken place beyond living memory of the first written accounts of the mid-19th century. Parallel linear earthworks are known in mining landscapes elsewhere in South Wales and in Staffordshire, although admittedly on a larger scale than those within the Site (**Plate 46, Plate 47**).

- 5.88. Recent literature has suggested that some of the earthworks at Mynydd Baeden might derive from recent farming or forestry work²⁴, but this chronology does not fit with the historic mapping and documentary evidence.

²⁴ Howells, B., 2009. *Antiquities of Margam Mountain*. pp.31-40.



*Plate 46: Former spoil tips at Clwyd y Fagwyr, Merthyr Tydfil
(photograph taken by Jon Pountney and published by BBC News²⁵)*



*Plate 47: Mining earthworks to the north-east of Leek in Staffordshire
(SKO358) – image courtesy of Historic England²⁶*

²⁵ [Wales: Photographer capturing a disappearing industrial landscape – BBC News](#)

²⁶ <https://images.historicenglandservices.org.uk/industry/extraction/mining-staffordshire-28661-035-23706489.html>

Medieval (1066 – 1539)

- 5.89. Medieval monuments recorded by the HER are illustrated on **Figures 6a–6b**.

Settlement

- 5.90. Near Maescadlawr in the northern part of the Site is a complex of earthworks believed to represent the remains of a medieval settlement (00126m / 15245). It is designated as a Scheduled Monument under the name 'British Fortified Residence' (GMO86; **Figure 15**). It was excavated in the 1930s by Cyril and Aileen Fox, and again in 2011 by volunteers from the Llynfi Valley Historical Society²⁷. Fox and Fox originally considered the monument, and other nearby house platforms (see below), to be early medieval but later revised their dating to medieval²⁸. The recent excavations recovered 14th-century pottery. Three medieval wells are recorded c.110m to its north (01142m, 01143m, 01144m). The 'British Fortified Residence' is discussed further in Section 6, below.
- 5.91. Across the central swathe of the Site, either side of Ffordd-y-Gyfraith (see 5.99) are numerous earthworks recorded by Cadw, the HER, and the

NMR as medieval house platforms and associated features. On the west side of Ffordd-y-Gyfraith, on Mynydd Ty-talwyn, are numerous house platforms²⁹; as well as enclosures³⁰, trackways or droveways³¹, and a well³². At Cwm Nant Gwyn and Mynydd Baeden are four more (non-designated) house platforms³³.

- 5.92. Only two of the alleged house platforms are recorded on the first, second and third edition Ordnance Survey maps. At Mynydd Ty-talwyn, 00135m is illustrated as one square and one rectangular earthwork labelled 'Camp'. To the south of Mynydd Ty-talwyn, enclosure 00134m is illustrated as a three-sided earthwork labelled 'Roman Camp' (not visible on the extent of mapping reproduced for this report). As explained in 5.55, this may reflect the 19th-century academic interest bias towards defensive rather than domestic sites.
- 5.93. Some, but not all, of the recorded house platforms on Mynydd Ty-talwyn are designated as Scheduled Monuments. No explanation as to why only certain examples have been Scheduled could be found in the sources consulted for this assessment. None of the features on Mynydd Ty-talwyn appear to have undergone archaeological survey or excavation. Two

²⁷ Davies, S. J., 2017. *The British 'Fortified' Residence Theory*.

²⁸ Fox, C. and Fox, A., 1934. 'Forts and Farms on Margam Mountain, Glamorgan', *Antiquity* Vol. 8, Issue 32, pp.395–413.

²⁹ HER reference numbers: 00127m–00133m, 06013m, 06129m 06320m. NMRW reference numbers: 15279, 15393–15403, 15410–15416, 15471, 15472, 424718.

³⁰ HER reference numbers: 00134m, 01731m / 24328.

³¹ HER reference numbers: 08074m, 08075m, 06128m.

³² HER reference number: 01145m.

³³ HER reference numbers: 01712m, 01713m, 01714m, 04228m, 04225m, 00135m. NMRW reference numbers: 15367–15370, 309424.

examples with prominent earthworks (006013m, 06320m) are not Scheduled; while of the Scheduled Monuments, GM092 and GM093, and many of the components of GM340, have no above-expression (see below).

5.94. The only recorded medieval settlement remains that were seen as extant earthworks during the Site walkover surveys were:

- 00126m – British Fortified Residence at Maescadlawr (**Plate 48**);
- Trackway 08074m and 08075m on the west side of Mynydd Ty-talwyn (Plate 49, Plate 50);
- 006013m and 06320m – house platforms on the north side of Mynydd Ty-talwyn (
- **Plate 51**);
- 06129m – house platform on the east side of Mynydd Ty-talwyn (**Plate 52**);
- 00134m (part of Scheduled Monument GM340) – house platform/pastoral enclosure on the southern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn (**Plate 96**);
- 00131m (part of Scheduled Monument GM340) – house platform on the southern

slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn (**Plate 97, Plate 98**);

- 00132m (part of Scheduled Monument GM340) – house platform on the southern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn (**Plate 99, Plate 100**);
- 042228m and 01713m – house platforms to the south of Cwm Nant-gwyn (Plate 53, Plate 54);
- 04225m – house platform on the north-west side of Mynydd Baeden (**Plate 55**);
- 01731m – deserted rural settlement at Craig Fadog (**Plate 56**).

5.95. There were no discernible above-ground remains of the following monuments:

- 06320 – house platform on the north side of Mynydd Ty-talwyn;
- 00127m – house platform on the west side of Mynydd Ty-talwyn;
- 00133m (part of Scheduled Monument GM340) – none of the four house platforms recorded on the east side of Mynydd Ty-talwyn;

- 00130m (part of Scheduled Monument GM340) – pair of house platforms on the southern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn;
- 00129m (part of Scheduled Monument GM340) – pair of house platforms on the southern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn;
- 01729m – long hut on the southern slopes of Mynydd Ty-talwyn (referred to as Craig Fadog by the HER);
- 01714m – house platform at Cwm Nant-gwyn; and
- 00135m – long hut on the north side of Mynydd Baeden.

5.96. The geophysical survey of the Site provided coverage of part of the Mynydd Ty-talwyn plateau, for Solar Parcel D and the substation, and Turbines 3 and 4. No anomalies suggestive of house platforms were detected, only responses consistent with historic plough trends and former field boundaries.

5.97. The subsequent trial trench evaluation tested these same areas, by way of Trenches 6–18. All of these trenches were blank – i.e. devoid of archaeological features – except for Trench 15. This trench revealed a steep-sided and flat-bottomed pit, its fill containing frequent charcoal and occasional charred grain. As the pit cut through the subsoil, it was assumed to be post-medieval in date.

5.98. In the wider study area, the HER and the NMR identify other medieval house platforms within and around the Y Bwlwarcau Hillfort, c.1.2–1.9km north-west of the Site (01323m, 00118m, 00112m, 00113m, 00114m); between the Caer Blaen-y-cwm Enclosure and Caer Cwmphilip (or Moel Ton Mawr) Earthwork, c.1.8km north-west of the Site (00775w); and near Tondy House Farm, c.300m east of the Site (00169m / 15460–15462).



*Plate 48: Looking south-east towards the British Fortified Residence
(February 2025)*



*Plate 49: Looking upslope (north) towards trackway 08075m on the west
side of Mynydd Ty-talwyn*



Plate 50: Looking downslope (south) towards trackway 08075m on the west side of Mynydd Ty-talwyn



Plate 51: Looking west at house platforms 06013m and 06320m on Mynydd Ty-talwyn (February 2025)



Plate 52: Looking south-east across the very low earthwork of house platform O6129m on Mynydd Ty-talwyn (February 2025)



Plate 53: Looking north-west at house platform O4228m to the south of Cwm Nant-gwyn (February 2025)



Plate 54: Looking south-east at house platform O1713m to the south of Cwm Nant-gwyn (February 2025)



Plate 55: Looking east at house platform O4225m at Mynydd Baeden (February 2025)



Plate 56: Looking north at deserted rural settlement 01731m at Craig Fadog (February 2025)

Historic routeways

- 5.99. The route of a medieval trackway Ffordd-y-Gyfraith ('Road of the Law'), allegedly used by officials travelling from the lowlands into the wild hill country, traces the modern road through the Site and branches off to the 'British Fortified Residence' at Maescadlawr and Mynydd Baeden (O3111.0m; **Figure 9**).
- 5.100. The south end of the branch running north-west to Maescadlawr (and another branch running due north from the same start point) broadly corresponds with the linear earthworks at SS 863 860 (see 5.71). Part of the midsection to Maescadlawr is traced by a public right of way, with shallow banks and ditches discernible on satellite imagery (**Plate 57, Plate 58**) and was observed during the Site walkover survey (**Plate 59, Plate 60**). These earthworks are comparable to those seen elsewhere within the Site (see 5.58) but are not recorded on historic OS mapping.
- 5.101. The branch to Mynydd Baeden is traced by a rough farm track to the summit of the hill (**Plate 63, Plate 64**). It then takes a north-westerly turn across the linear earthworks previously discussed (see 5.59); the HER's line follows one of the earthworks and not the extant sunken track to the east.

Wider study area

- 5.102. Some of the other medieval remains recorded within the 3km study area include:
- The route of a medieval road from Margam to Llangynwyd, traced by the forestry road between Mynydd Margam and Moel Tonmawr, c.1.5km north-west of the Site (O1076.0w).
 - The (Scheduled) earthwork remains of the 13th-century or earlier Llangynwyd Castle, c.1.3km north-west of the Site (O0124m).
 - Various ecclesiastical sites:
 - The 12th-century St Cynwyd's Church at Llangynwyd, which preserves a 9th to 12th century socketed stone in its porch, c.1km north of the Site (O0910m, O4629m, O0120m).
 - The former location of the Chapel of St Thomas of Creitic, c.295m north-west of Baiden Farm (O0138m);
 - The former location of St Ylltit's Chapel at Gadlys, c.260m west of the northern tip of the Site (O1394m).
 - The reputed location of a monastic grange and its chapel near Pentre

Farm, c.375m and c.540m south-west of the Site (O5204w, O0792w, O9946w, O0784w, O6823w).

- The location of the monastic grange and chapel of Glyn Garw to the north of Bettws, c.2.2km and 2.9km north-east of the Site (O4671m, O4672m).
- The location of the monastic grange and chapel of Llangewydd at Laleston, c.2.9km south of the Site (O1149m, O0172m, O4670m).
- The site of a corn mill at Melin Dai Guto, c.1.2km south of the Site (O2690m).
- The site of a fulling mill near Tondy, c.860–1.6km east of the Site (the location plotted by the HER is the south-western corner of a 1km grid square) (O1688m).
- One holy well at the northern boundary of the Site near Gilfach Uchaf (O1146m), and two holy wells at and near Llangynwyd (O0121m, O0122m).
- The former location of a wayside cross, near Gilfach Uchaf (O0781w).



Plate 57: December 2010 Google Earth satellite imagery showing earthworks of a possible former branch of Ffordd-y-Gyfraith and the British Fortified Residence



Plate 58: July 2023 Google Earth satellite imagery showing earthworks of a possible former branch of Ffordd-y-Gyfraith and the British Fortified Residence



Plate 59: Looking north along the public right of way tracing an alleged former branch of Ffordd-y-Gyfraith to Maescadlawr (SS 861 865)



Plate 60: Looking south from the same location as Plate 59 (SS 861 865), where slight hollow-ways can be seen on the ground and on satellite imagery



Plate 61: Looking north across the low earthworks from the southerly apex of the field



Plate 62: Looking north-east at the continuation of the low earthworks in the neighbouring field to the east



Plate 63: Looking north-east from the south end of the farm track running from Ffordd-y-Gyfraith to Mynydd Baeden



Plate 64: Looking north-east along the mid-section of the same farm track

Post-medieval (1540 – 1750), Early Modern (1750 – 1901) and Modern (1901 – present)

5.103. The vast majority of HER ‘monuments’ recorded within the study area (totalling 602, including duplicates) are post-medieval, modern or uncertain in date and relate to agricultural and industrial activity (**Figures 7a and 7b**).

5.104. There are 23 such records within the Site:

- In the far north of the Site are the buildings of Bryncynan Farm (O9117m, O4747m, O4741m), and a little further to the south, to the west of Maescadlawr, are the remains of a Clawdd type field boundary (O4743m) and hollows and mounds associated with sandstone quarrying and/or stone clearance cairns (O4682m, O4744m, O4742m);
- In the centre of the Site are surviving historic field bank boundaries at Mynydd Ty-talwyn and Cefn Parc Farm (Cefn-y-gelli) (O8790m, O8791m);
- In the south of centre of the Site are a barn, stone wall boundary, quarry and bell pit/prospection hollow at Cefn Parc Farm (O6126m, O8794m, O8072m, O8073m);
- In the east of the Site is recorded a defunct trig pillar on Mynydd Baeden (O8539m) and a pond (O4867m);

- In the south-east of the Site is the historic farmstead of Cwmrisca (O1408m / 18488) and another coal level depicted on early 20th-century OS maps (O7070m); and
- In the far south of the Site is the historic farmstead of Cefn Parc (O8966m) and terraced platforms that may be associated with former structures depicted on the 1876 OS Map (O6123m / 418632).

5.105. The recorded locations of these features were visited as far as possible during the Site walkover surveys. Aside from the extant farm buildings of Bryncynan, Maescadlawr and Cefn Parc, and Cwmrisca, the only features that were seen were:

- O4743m – Clawdd type field boundary at Bryncynan Farm (west of Maescadlawr) (**Plate 65**);
- O4744m – quarry earthworks near Maescadlawr (Plate 66, Plate 67);
- O8790m – historic field bank boundary at Mynydd Ty-talwyn (**Plate 68**);
- O6128m – old droveway at Mynydd Ty-talwyn (Plate 69);
- O8791m – historic field bank boundary at Cefn-y-gelli (Plate 70, Plate 71);

- 08072m – former quarry at Cefn-y-gelli (Plate 72); and
- 06126m – modern barn possibly incorporating earlier fabric at Cefn-y-gelli.

5.106. Data from the Coal Authority, available through the British Geological Survey's Interactive Map Viewer³⁴, indicates that 19th–/20th–century coal mining activity within the Site may have been more widespread than recorded by the HER (**Figure 3**). Adits are identified within Craig yr Aber to the south-west; at Cefn Parc/Ton Philip in the south; at Cwmrisca to the south-east; to the south-east and east of Mynydd Baeden (including immediately east of the linear earthworks); and at Maescadlawr to the north.

³⁴ <https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/coalauthority/home.html>



Plate 65: Looking north-west from the field on the north side of the track to Maescadlawr towards Clawdd type field boundary O4743m (February 2025)



Plate 66: Looking north-west from the field on the north side of the track to Maescadlawr towards hollows believed to derive from historic quarrying (O4744m)



Plate 67: Looking south across O4744m towards the track to Maescadlawr



Plate 68: Looking north towards hedgebank boundary 08790m at Mynydd Ty-talwyn (February 2025)



Plate 69: Looking south-east towards old droveway 06128m at Mynydd Ty-talwyn (February 2025)



Plate 70: Hedgebank boundary O8791m along the northern boundary of the field between Cefn-y-gelli and Ffordd-y-Gyfraith (viewed from its south side)



Plate 71: Hedgebank boundary O8791m along the northern boundary of the field between Cefn-y-gelli and Ffordd-y-Gyfraith (viewed from its north side)



Plate 72: Quarry earthworks 08072m at Cefn-y-gelli (February 2025)

5.107. The HER's post-medieval and modern records in the wider study area largely fall into the following broad categories: agricultural and subsistence (i.e. farmsteads, barns, field boundaries, quarries and gravel pits), defence (former Second World War structures), domestic (cottages and houses), industrial (collieries, tramways, levels, mine shafts, spoil heaps, ironworks and quarries), transport (roads, railways, tramways), and water supply and drainage (ponds, wells and leats).

5.108. The following post-medieval and modern records are recorded within 250m of the Site Boundary:

- To the west of the Site in Craig Aber Woods:
 - The ruins of Llwyn Gwladys farmstead, its well, and two enclosures (O3873w, O3872w, O3874w, O3875w);
 - The ruins of Hafod-Decca farmstead and its well (O3876w, O3877w / 416416);
 - The former site of Cwntir Barn (O9201m);
 - An historic boundary stone (O3878w);
 - The former sites of Pen-Tyle house and associated enclosure and sheepfold (O3871w, O3870w, O3869w); and

- A structure identified as Craig Fadog (O3868w).

- To the south of the Site: the site of the former Ton Phillip Colliery buildings and tramway (O8789m, O5257m, O5264m, O5276m / 418631).
- To the south of Cefn Ydfa to the east of the Site: an old coal level, a hedgebank boundary, and an alleged deserted rural settlement (O7075m, O4753m, O2616m).
- To the north-east of the Site in woodland to the north of Cefn Ydfa: an air shaft and two unspecified structures (O6525m, O6526m, O6526m).
- At Gilfach to the north of the Site: the historic farmsteads of Gilfach-uchaf and Gilfach-ganol and an historic boundary stone (O8889m, O2341m, O2334m, T03879w).

5.109. In the 19th century and earlier, the parish of Llangynwyd comprised Llangynwyd Upper, Middle, and Lower. A history of the parish, published in 1877, states :***"Baiden is the old name for the Hamlet which is now styled Llangynwyd Lower. The change in the name was made at the time of the introduction of the new Poor Law Act, about 1836. The old name (Baiden) is still retained in County Lists of Voters, Land Tax papers, &c. "***

Historic map regression

5.110. The earliest available historic mapping of the Site is the 1839 tithe map for the parish of Llangynwyd (**Figure 10**). This shows unenclosed land at Mynydd Ty-talwyn and at the centre of the Site, and a patchwork of small rectilinear fields in the remainder of the Site. The linear earthworks at Mynydd Baeden, Mynydd Ty-talwyn and Gilfach Uchaf are not mapped; only trackways in their vicinity, which are also shown on the later OS maps.

5.111. The first edition Ordnance Survey of 1884 (**Figure 11**) shows the same basic field layout as the tithe, but with greater coverage and detail. Craig yr Aber Wood is mapped in the west, though it is not as extensive as it is today. Other woods, which are no longer extant, include Maescadlawr in the centre of the Site and Cefn-udfa in the north-east of the Site. Marshy ground is shown for the Mynydd Ty-talwyn plateau, land to the south-east of Cefn-udfa in the north-east, and land to the south of Nant Bryn Cynan in the north-west. A complex of unidentified earthworks suggestive of quarrying is mapped to the south of Nant Bryn Cynan. Coal drift and/or trial pits/levels are marked at Ty-newydd in the south-west, Cwmrisca in the south-east, and Maescadlawr in the north.

5.112. The 1921 edition of the Ordnance Survey (**Figure 12**) documents an easterly encroachment of Craig yr Aber Woodland towards the Mynydd Ty-talwyn plateau, the loss/reduction of Maescadlawr and

Cefn-udfa woods – and marshland in their place, and the expansion of marshland to cover much of the north-western part of the Site south of Nant Bryn Cynan. Old quarries are marked to the south of Nant Bryn Cynan (see above), to the north and east of Maescadlawr, and to the west of Caig yr Aber Woods. Old coal levels not previously identified in 1884 are shown at Mynydd Baeden. The abandoned infrastructure of Ton Philip Collieries and Ty-talwyn Colliery are illustrated in the south-west of the Site, including at the south-western boundary. A reservoir is shown within Craig yr Aber Wood.

5.113. The 1949 edition of the Ordnance Survey (not illustrated) is very similar, potentially identical, to 1921. Changes since 1949 include the expansion of Craig yr Aber Woodland up to the crossroads outside the north-western corner of the Site, the planting of copses at the junction of Ffordd-y-Gyfraith and the track to Maescadlawr and at Mynydd Baeden, the reconfiguration of field boundaries (NB the field systems shown on modern OS mapping for the Mynydd Ty-talwyn plateau are not accurate), restoration of the former colliery land at Ton Phillip/Ty-Newydd, the erection of two small wind turbines and two radio or telecommunication masts at Mynydd Baeden, and the construction of a motocross track at Cefn-y-gelli.

5.114. The geophysical survey detected ditches on the same alignment as field boundaries recorded on the 19th-century maps. These ditches were targeted in

the subsequent trial trench evaluation by Trenches 28 (Solar Parcel E), 36 (Solar Parcel H), and 66, 70, 74, 77 and 79 (Solar Parcel J). No dating was recovered from the ditch fills.

Uncertain

- 5.115. The geophysical surveys of the solar parcels and substation detected anomalies of uncertain origin as follows:
- Linear anomalies L1–L11 inclusive, representing possible evidence of human activity, period unknown;
 - Smaller discrete anomalies U1–U6 inclusive, representing possible evidence of human activity, period unknown; and
 - Magnetic enhancement anomalies ME1–ME9 inclusive, representing possible evidence of human activity, period unknown.
- 5.116. The geophysical surveys of the wind turbines and the original location of the substation (now no longer proposed for development – the substation has been relocated to the area formerly earmarked for the BESS) detected anomalies of uncertain origin as follows:
- Linear anomalies L12–18 inclusive, representing possible evidence of human activity, period unknown;

- Smaller discrete anomaly U7, representing possible evidence of human activity, period unknown; and
- Magnetic enhancement anomalies ME10–ME11 inclusive, representing possible evidence of human activity, period unknown.

- 5.117. The trial trench evaluation recorded ditches corresponding to linear anomalies in Trenches 3 (Solar Parcel A), 32 and 33 (Solar Parcel H), and 71, 73, 75, and 76 (Solar Parcel J). No dating was recovered from any of the ditch fills. Several of the ditches cut through the subsoil and were presumed to relate to post-medieval agricultural activity, some perhaps representing former field boundaries pre-dating 1839 (see above).
- 5.118. The trial trench evaluation identified four large, sub-oval pits corresponding to magnetic enhancement anomalies ME6 in Trenches 46 and 49 in Solar Parcel G. None of the pits relate to features shown on available historic maps, and none contained any dating evidence. They may be former quarry pits.
- 5.119. The trial trench evaluation also identified three small, sub-oval pits in Trenches 15 (Turbine 3), 64 (since removed from Solar Parcel J), and 75 (Solar Parcel J). The pits in Trenches 64 and 75 were not predicted by the geophysical survey. The pit in Trench 15 was predicted by the geophysical survey; it cuts through the subsoil and so is likely post-medieval in date (also see 5.97). None of the pits



contained any dating evidence, although the two fills of the pit in Trench 75 contained abundant charcoal.