

PONT NEWYDD, HAFOD, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF 2017



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**PONT NEWYDD, HAFOD,
CEREDIGION:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AND WATCHING BRIEF 2017**

Gan / By

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**PONT NEWYDD, HAFOD, CEREDIGION:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF 2017**

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief were undertaken at Pont Newydd, within the Hafod Estate, Ceredigion (SN 77046 73623). DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake this work by Natural Resources Wales in advance of clearance of a former leat adjacent to the bridge. The aim of the work was to establish the original proportions of the leat and to discover whether or not the later bridge abutment had blocked the leat or whether a culvert ran beneath it. The site lies within the area of the Scheduled Monument of the Hafod: Peiran Cascade (SM CD174) and Scheduled Monument Consent had been granted by Cadw for the work.

An initial evaluation was undertaken involving the hand excavation of trenches either side of the bridge abutment to determine evidence or otherwise of a culvert and determine the width of the former leat. The watching brief was carried out during the later clearance work, which involved the removal of vegetation and alluvial deposits that had built up in the leat since it had ceased to function. The work was mainly carried out by machine.

During the evaluation, alluvial deposits were removed for a width of around 1m on either side of the abutment. The profile of the leat was mostly established on the southeast side of the abutment, but only the upper edges of the leat channel were identified to the northeast due to pooling water. Tree roots also hindered the work on both sides. No evidence for a culvert was discovered.

During the watching brief the leat was excavated successfully by machine northeast of the abutment, except where a modern path crossed the leat and where trees and their roots made excavation impossible. The only finds were two pieces of ironwork, parts of the former bridge, found just northeast of the abutment. Southwest of the abutment the base of the leat was found to be deeper than was thought during the evaluation, and the rest of the muddy deposit was excavated by hand. The base of the bridge was observed to sit on the base of the leat.

It would appear that when Pont Newydd was constructed it dammed the leat preventing it from entering the Nant Peiran Cascade (except as a trickle that still flows through the gaps in the dry-stonework). This is supported by evidence at the other end of the leat, where a bank appears to have been constructed across its north end preventing the intake of water. Just north of this bank, a channel has been dug diverting water from north of the leat into the Nant Peiran Stream.

National Resources Wales and the Hafod Trust had hoped to restore the leat and hence the waterfall it fed. As no culvert is present under the bridge abutment to enable this, it has been proposed that an underground pipe be inserted from the pool of water just north of the abutment, running southeast alongside the abutment to outflow into the stream. This would produce a waterfall as of old, but north of the bridge instead of south of it. To produce a large enough flow of water to the leat, the removal of the bank and channel at the north end of the leat might also be required.

National Resources Wales hopes to remove the modern path and the trees from the leat and then complete its excavation, for which another watching brief would be required.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Nick Young of Natural Resources Wales to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of clearance work at a former leat, and to carry out a watching brief during the clearance work. The leat was situated next to Pont Newydd over the Nant Peiran within the Hafod Estate, Ceredigion (NGR SN 77046 73623; Figures 1 and 2) and led to a former cascade, which added to the grandeur of the Nant Peiran Falls.
- 1.1.2 Pont Newydd and the leat are part of the Hafod: Peiran Cascade Scheduled Ancient Monument (CD174) and lie within the Grade I Registered Historic Park and Garden of Hafod (PGW(Dy)50(CER)). Relevant permissions were obtained before commencement of the works.
- 1.1.3 The intention of the project was to make the leat more visible as a former water management/garden feature within the Hafod landscape.
- 1.1.4 The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the shape of the original leat which ran to the Nant Peiran Cascade and investigate whether or not a culvert or channel was incorporated into or below the later northern bridge abutment for Pont Newydd, which was built across the channel.

1.2 Scope of Project

- 1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) document for an evaluation and watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of the works (Appendix I). The WSI outlined methodologies for:
 - Establishing the state of preservation, character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits identified;
 - Confirmation of the presence or absence of a culvert beneath the northern bridge abutment of Pont Newydd associated with an earlier water-carrying leat leading to the Nant Peiran Cascade;
 - Identification, where possible, of the original edges of the leat;
 - Use of the information to assist with future clearance works of the leat and determine whether it is possible to reopen any culvert beneath the abutment, if present;
 - Production of a report and an archive of the results.
- 1.2.2 The overall work was summarised as:

The implementation of a scheme of archaeological evaluation through the hand excavation of a trial trench on the eastern side of the Pont Newydd northern bridge abutment at Hafod registered Historic Park and Garden, Ceredigion. A second trench may be excavated on the western side of the abutment if a culvert is found. A report shall be prepared on the results of the evaluation, and an archive created of all finds, records, photographs and plans created.

1.3 Report Outline

1.3.1 This report provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological evaluation and watching brief and their results, and puts those results within their regional and national context.

1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 Sites recorded in the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN). Sites recorded on the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), Listed Building (LB). Sites are located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD).

1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily produced to their original scale.

1.6 Timeline

1.6.1 The following timeline (Table 1) is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period ¹ –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20 th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

¹ The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust



Figure 1: Map showing location of Hafod, Ceredigion (red circle)

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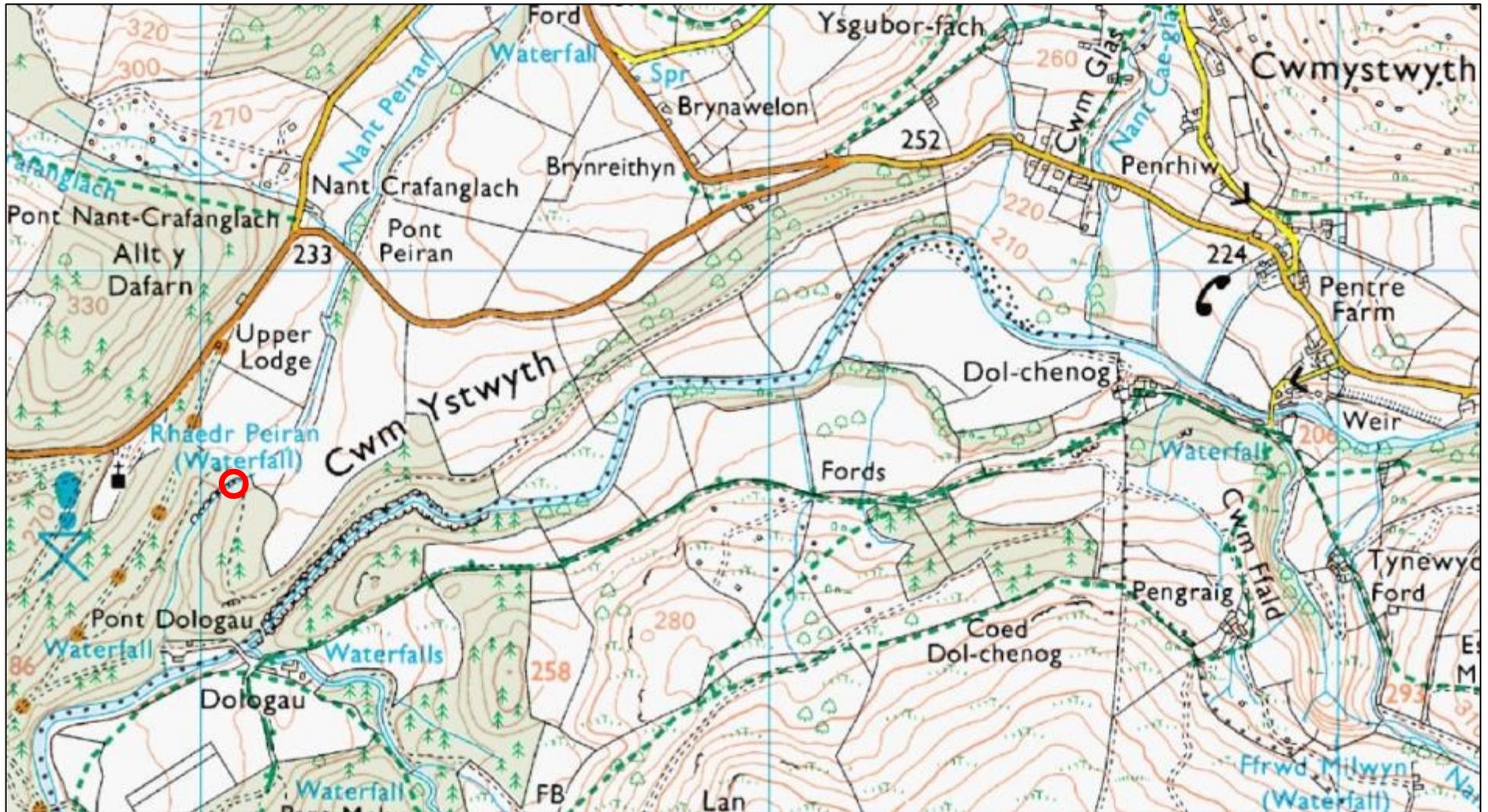


Figure 2: Map showing the location of Pont Newydd at Hafod, Ceredigion (red circle on left of image).

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2 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 Pont Newydd ('New Bridge') is located within the Hafod Estate, Ceredigion (NGR SN 77046 73623; Figures 1 and 2; Photo 1). Only the stone bridge abutments remain of this bridge that crossed the Nant Peiran ('Peiran stream'), 0.4km northeast of its confluence with the River Ystwyth. In the region of Pont Newydd, Nant Peiran runs through a gorge, and south of the bridge it runs over the spectacular Nant Peiran Falls (Photo 2). The bridge was part of a carriage-ride looping through the designed picturesque landscape of the Hafod Estate. Hafod Mansion stood about 1.2km to the south west.
- 2.1.2 Pont Newydd is situated at a height of 200m above OD. The surrounding terrain is mainly steep-sided valleys covered with conifer plantations with some remains of the previous deciduous tree-cover of the picturesque landscape. Some nearby, flatter areas, both above and below the gorge, are under pasture.
- 2.1.3 The leat under investigation runs parallel to Nant Peiran to its northwest for about 80m, and is cut through by the northwest bridge abutment (Figure 3; Photos 3-5). At the north end of the leat a bank appears to have been built to stop it in-taking water from further upstream (Photo 6). At its southern end it still opens into Nant Peiran at the top of a steep rock face above the main natural waterfalls, although little water now empties from it (Photo 7). At the start of the project the leat was overgrown with trees and scrub and had a modern gravel pathway inserted across its width, supported on stone walls (Photo 5).



Photo 1: The northeast side of the remaining bridge abutments of Pont Newydd, facing south

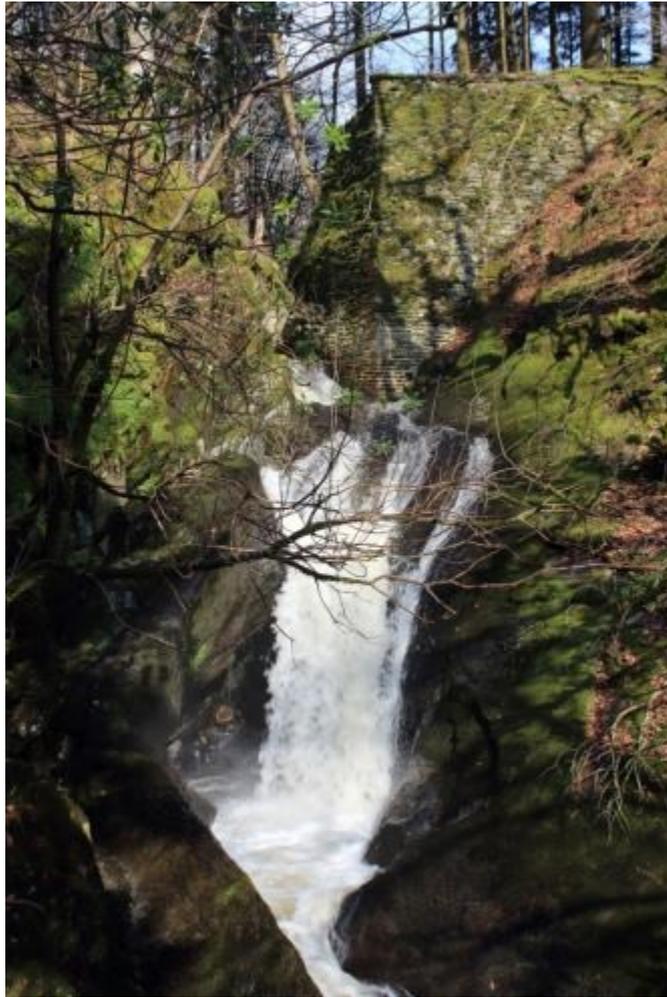


Photo 2: Nant Peiran falls, with the southwest side of the bridge abutments of Pont Newydd in the background, facing northeast



Photo 3: Looking northeast along the northern section of the leat



Photo 4: Looking southeast along the northern section of the leat



Photo 5: Looking northeast along the northern section of the leat from the bridge, with modern gravel pathway across the leat in the distance



Photo 6: Facing north. At the north end of the leat a bank appears to have been built to stop it in-taking water from further upstream.

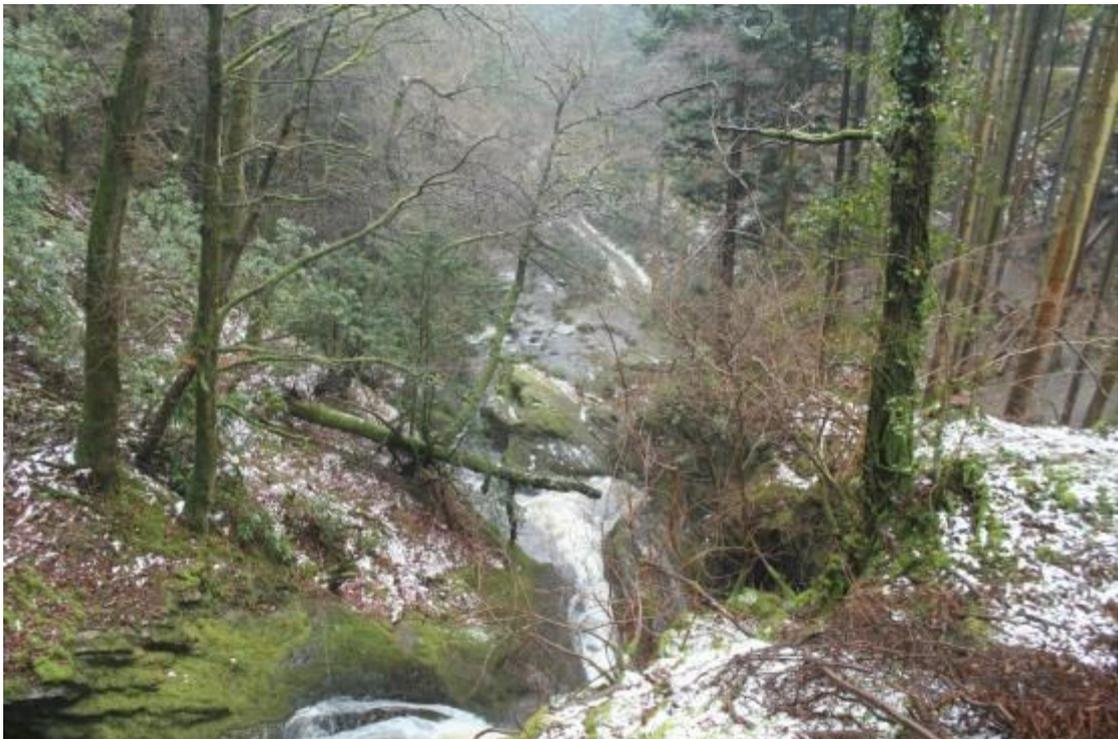


Photo 7: Facing south-southwest. The Peiran Falls, and at the bottom right of the image, the southern end of the leat.

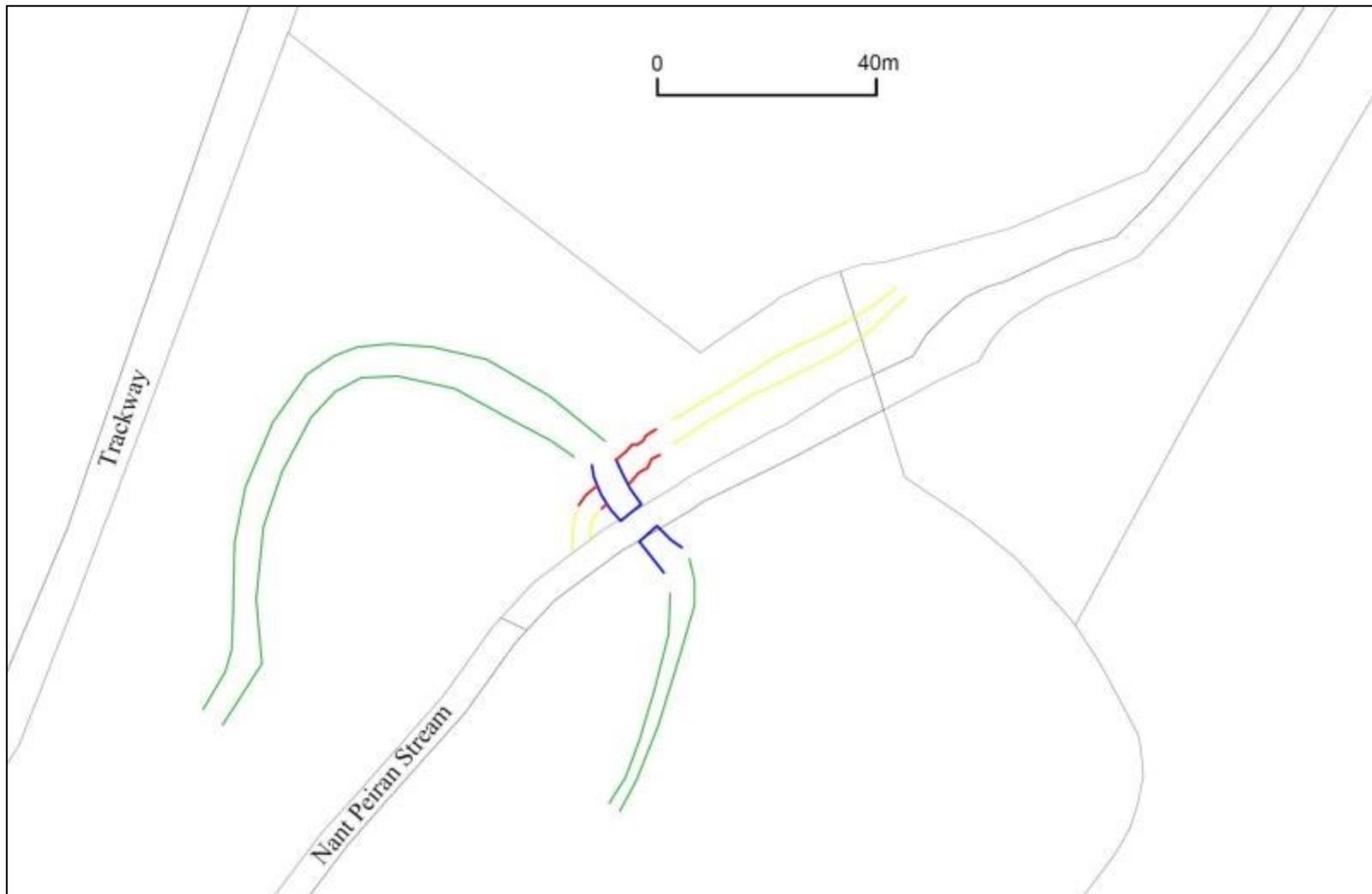


Figure 3: Map showing the location of the leat (surveyed part in red; approximate position of the rest in yellow), the surveyed bridge abutments (blue) and the pathway (green)

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 Human presence is attested to by the archaeological evidence for this area from the Mesolithic Period onwards (Sambrook and Hall 2003). The earliest known evidence of Hafod itself is from the Medieval Period when it was known as Hafod Uchtryd ('Uchtryd's summer pastures and dwelling') and was held by the monks farming at the Cwmystwyth Grange, which belonged in turn to Strata Florida Abbey.

2.2.2 The Hafod estate is a Historic Landscape Characterisation Area (No. 120). Its description gives a summary of the history of the site:

By 1513 Hafod Uchdryd was leased as a farm, and a rent roll of 1545-50 indicates that all farms of the former grange were leased out and farmed as individual units. This suggests that by the later Middle Ages the land was not farmed by monks, but was perhaps run along similar lines to later secular estates..... The Herbert family acquired.....Hafod Uchdryd - later just Hafod - in the mid-16th century. A nucleus of a small estate was thus formed. It was not until 1783 when Thomas Johnes took up residence that the name Hafod became synonymous with the naturalistic picturesque movement. Johnes set about transforming the estate. More land was purchased or exchanged, a mansion constructed, gardens laid out and walks linking natural and built attractions constructed, which became the main reason for Hafod's fame. Vast tracts of upland were planted with trees and experimental farms established. No tourist journey to Wales in the late 18th or early 19th century was complete without a visit to the wonders of Hafod. Artists and writers were also attracted by Hafod's fame..... The Duke of Newcastle purchased the estate in 1835. Later in the 19th century it was acquired by the Waddinghams. These later owners ran the estate on more conventional lines, and many of the gardens, walks and summerhouses.....fell into disuse. In the 1950s the Forestry Commission bought the estate and embarked upon a programme of afforestation..... Hafod mansion was demolished in 1957, but its site (now rubble), outbuildings and terraces marking former gardens, are prominent features of the landscape.

2.2.3 Hafod is registered as Grade I on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. It is the most important picturesque landscape in Wales and ranks with Downton, Hawkestone and Hackfall in England and the Hermitage and Falls of Bruar in Scotland.

2.2.4 Data from known archaeological sites near to Pont Newydd and the leat has been examined to give a flavour of the heritage of the area around the site. This information is presented in Table 2 and Figures 4 – 6 and is derived from the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (PRNs) and the National Monuments Record held by Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (NPRNs). The data includes Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings within 400m and other recorded monuments within 250m.

PRN/ NPRN	Name	Summary	Period	Status	NGR
14802/ 24757	Rhaeadr Peiran - Peiran Mill	Site of medieval corn mill belonging to the Strata Florida Grange of Cwmystwyth, located by the side of Nant Peiran. Thought to have closed down by the 18th century. No structural remains but earthworks of associated mill-pond (PRN 105375) and Mill-race (PRN 105376) are preserved.	Medieval		SN77107363
105375	Rhaeadr Peiran - Peiran Mill	Mill-pond associated with the site of medieval Peiran Mill (PRN 14802)	Medieval		SN77127364
105376	Rhaeadr Peiran - Peiran Mill	Mill-race associated with medieval corn mill (PRN 14802) and surviving as an earthwork	Medieval		SN77197373
19759; 58288/ 11646	The Church Hall	On the NW side of the B4574 just N of Upper Lodge and some 400m NE of Eglwys Newydd church.	Post-Medieval	Grade II listed: No. 84266	SN 277077 273953
19761	Pont Newydd	Bridge built by Thomas Jones on his Hafod Estate. Originally constructed in 1814, Pont Newydd was the point where the New Drive crossed Nant Peiran.	Post-Medieval	SAM No. CD174	SN77057362
26540/ 23900	Nant Peiran Bridge	This bridge with the adjacent Rustic Alcove formed a picturesque element of Thomas Johnes late 18th century Hafod landscape. It comprises a well-preserved bridge abutment on the same side as the Rustic Alcove and a collapsed abutment on the opposite bank.	Post-Medieval		SN76947352
26541/ 23027	Rustic Alcove; Mossey Seat	Built by Thomas Johnes by 1795 as part of his picturesque landscape at Hafod. This was a favourite location on the Ladys Walk for visitors to rest and admire the Peiran Falls some 50m upstream. Located at a narrow point in a steep-sided and narrow valley, the Rustic Alcove was carefully located to ensure that the walker approaching from the south would not obtain a full view of the falls until this feature had been reached.	Post-Medieval	SAM No. CD174	SN76967353
33025; 33026/ 305653	Hafod: Chain Bridge and Gothick Arcade	Two cast iron posts for a suspension or chain bridge with smaller posts for restraining cables survive on either bank of the Ystwyth where the river flows through a gorge. In existence by 1813. There is no record of the date at which the Gothick Arcade was built, nor of its intended purpose. It is likely to have been an 'eye catcher' on the New Walk. It has been restored in the modern era.	Post-Medieval	SAM No. CD172	SN774735
33032	Bridge over the Nant Peiran	Constructed by 1795, this single arch, stone-built bridge with dressed-stone voussoirs is now in a poor condition. Its stone parapets were removed to facilitate access for wide forestry vehicles; this allowed water penetration.	Post-Medieval	Grade II listed: No. 84248	SN7693673345

33038	New Walk - North Side of Ystwyth	For much of its course this path runs on a rock cut ledge or terrace revetted by drystone walling. A short flight of rock-cut steps are also present.	Post-Medieval		SN77117339
33039	Dologau	Path on a 1m wide earthwork terrace running diagonally up a steep valley side.	Post-Medieval		SN77117343
33040	Dologau	Path on 1m wide earthwork terrace. Now in poor condition and difficult to trace at its ends.	Post-Medieval		SN77017339
33042	Dologau	A track some 3m wide running diagonally up a steep valley side. It meets a carriage drive at its north end, and fades out at its south end. This track is shown on the 1796 Blake map.	Post-Medieval		SN77017344
33043	Nant Peiran	A path on a rock cut and earthwork terrace, in parts revetted with drystone walling. It runs alongside the Nant Peiran at the same height as the restored line of the Ladies Walk on the opposite bank.	Post-Medieval		SN76967346
33045	Peiran Leat	A late 18th century leat, defined and separated from the stream by a 2m wide, 1m high stone-built bank. The N abutment of Pont Newydd has been built across this leat. Its purpose seems to have been to divert the course of the stream so that it entered the top of the Peiran Falls in a different fashion.	Post-Medieval	SAM No. CD174	SN77117367
33046	Pont Newydd	There is no clear surface evidence for this track. Its course is marked on the 1796 Blake map and the OS 1:2500 1st Ed.	Post-Medieval		SN77147363
33048	Hafod	Late 18th century carriage drive. The line of this carriage drive is now used by a 6m wide forestry track.	Post-Medieval		SN77037386
33052	Ladies' Walk	The recently restored line of the Ladies' Walk.	Post-Medieval		SN76917352
33080	Hafod Wood	There is now no trace of this path that was marked on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st edition maps.	Post-Medieval		SN76827358
33533	Upper Lodge	Small stone built shed, probably associated with the Upper Lodge.	Post-Medieval		SN77007384
33606	Cae'r Wain	Boundary bank constructed from earth and stone, 0.5m high. Now topped with a wire fence.	Post-Medieval		SN76987370
33607	Upper Ystwyth Wood	Boundary bank of stone and earth, 0.5m high. Now topped with a wire fence.	Post-Medieval		SN77127361
33618	Hafod Wood	Low earth-built bank, 0.5m high. Not traceable at its east, downslope end.	Post-Medieval		SN76897367
33625	Allt Dafarn	Boundary wall alongside public road. Now collapsed or repaired by the highways authority.	Post-Medieval		SN76877371
36904	Cae'r Wain	Low stony bank, 0.3m high with a shallow ditch on west side.	Post-Medieval		SN7707573665
36909	Cae'r Wain	Mound of boulders, 10m by 5m and 1.5m high. Probably the result of field clearance and the removal of boundary PRN 36912.	Post-Medieval		SN7713973838
36911	Cae'r Wain	Area of boulders and stones 10m by 4m and 0.4m high. The result of field clearance and demolition of boundary PRN 36912.	Post-Medieval		SN7718873790

36912	Cae'r Wain	A boundary recorded on the tithe and 1834 estate map, but not on a 1781 estate map. It has now been removed. Clearance cairns PRN 36909, PRN 36911 are probably the remains of this boundary.	Post-Medieval		SN7711673835
36913	Pwll Pyran	A building was shown approximately in this position on a 1781 estate map. There is no trace of it now.	Post-Medieval		SN7707373626
36914	Peiran Mill Footbridge	A footbridge was recorded by a written description and a painting in this location in the early 19th century. There is no trace of it now.	Post-Medieval		SN7708273643
58253; 58286/ 23912	Pont Dologau (partly in the Pontarfynach community)	Situated on Hafod estate bridging the Ystwyth by the Nant Gau confluence, carrying track to Dologau and Nantycæ. Dated late 18th century, it was built for Thomas Johnes of Hafod as part of his estate improvements in the early 1790s.	Post-Medieval	Grade II listed: Nos. 83419 and 84264	SN 277073 273342
58275	Enclosing rails and walls to Thomas Johnes grave in Eglwys Newydd churchyard	In the churchyard some 25m SW of the church.	Post-Medieval	Grade II listed: No. 84252	SN 276826 273606
58276	Entrance gates and piers to Eglwys Newydd church	On the S side of the B4574 and just N of the church.	Post-Medieval	Grade II listed: No. 84253	SN 276874 273705
5491/ 743	Hafod Church; Eglwys Newydd; St Michael's	Replaced the medieval chapel of Llantrisant. Church of 1620 was replaced in 1803. This burnt down and was rebuilt in 1932.	Post-Medieval	Grade II listed: No. 9867	SN7685573639
275661	Hafod: Peiran Cascade, Pontrhydygroes	A Garden Building. This is an almost entirely natural feature, though enhanced by a man-made waterway feeding it from above.	Post-Medieval		SN770736

Table 2: Known Heritage Assets near to Pont Newydd, Hafod: Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings within 400m and other recorded sites within 250m

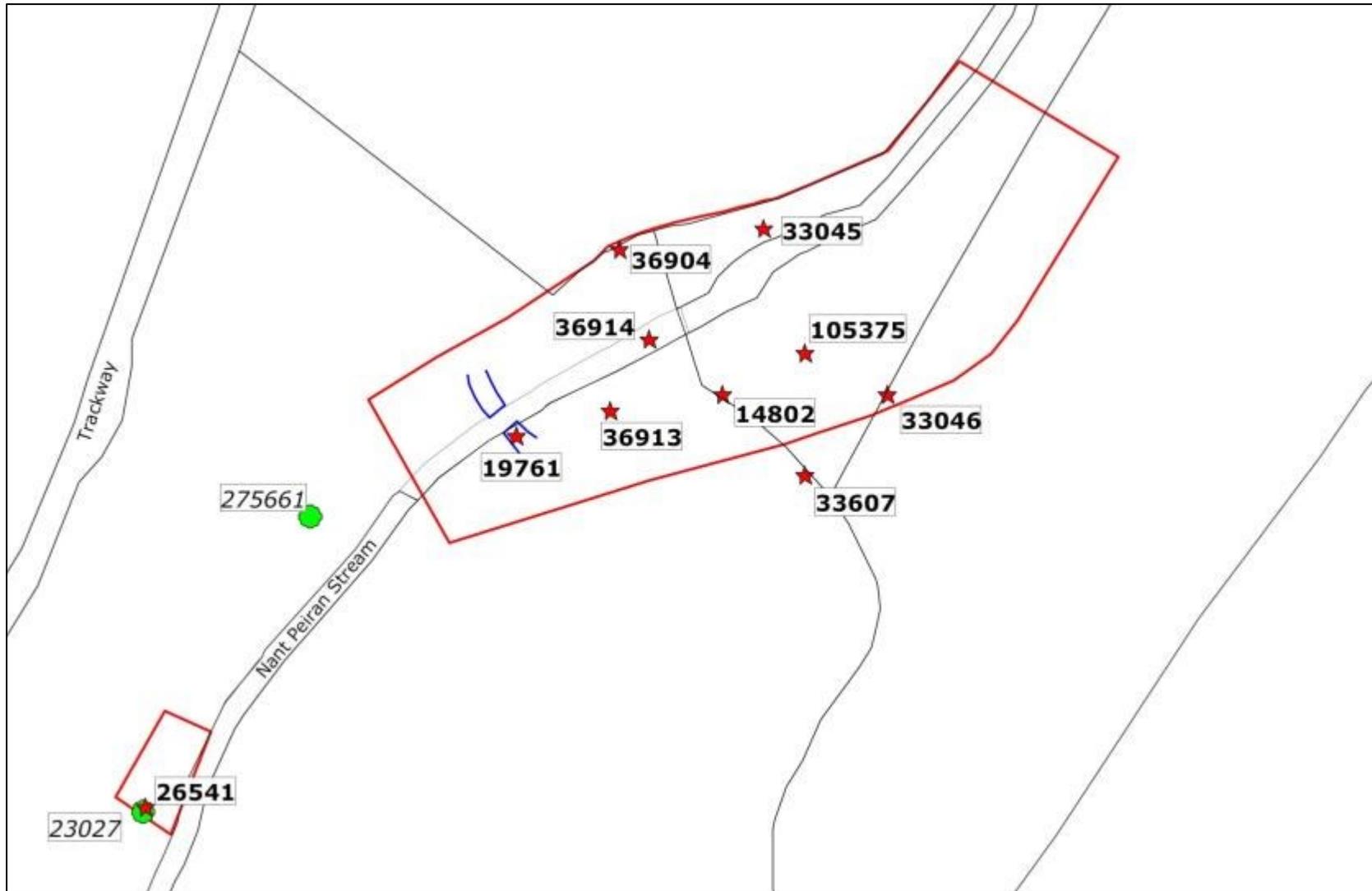


Figure 4: Known archaeological sites within and immediately adjacent to the scheduled area CD174 (red boundaries). The southern part of the scheduled area surrounds the rustic alcove. Red stars show records from the HER and green dots show records from the NMR. NMR numbers are in *Italics*. The Pont Newydd bridge abutments are outlined in blue.

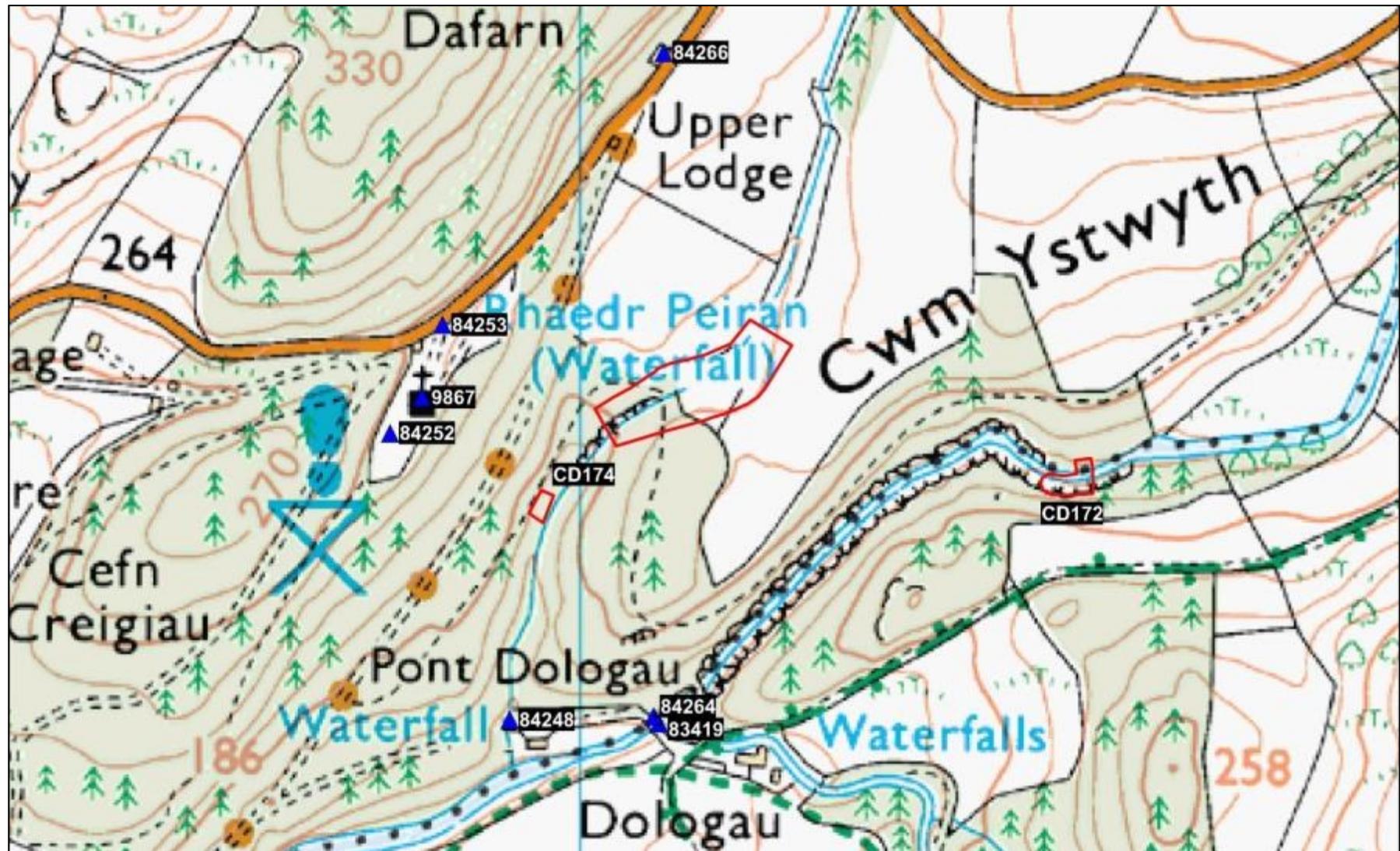


Figure 5: Scheduled Ancient Monuments (red boundary) and Listed Buildings (blue triangles) within 400m of Pont Newydd

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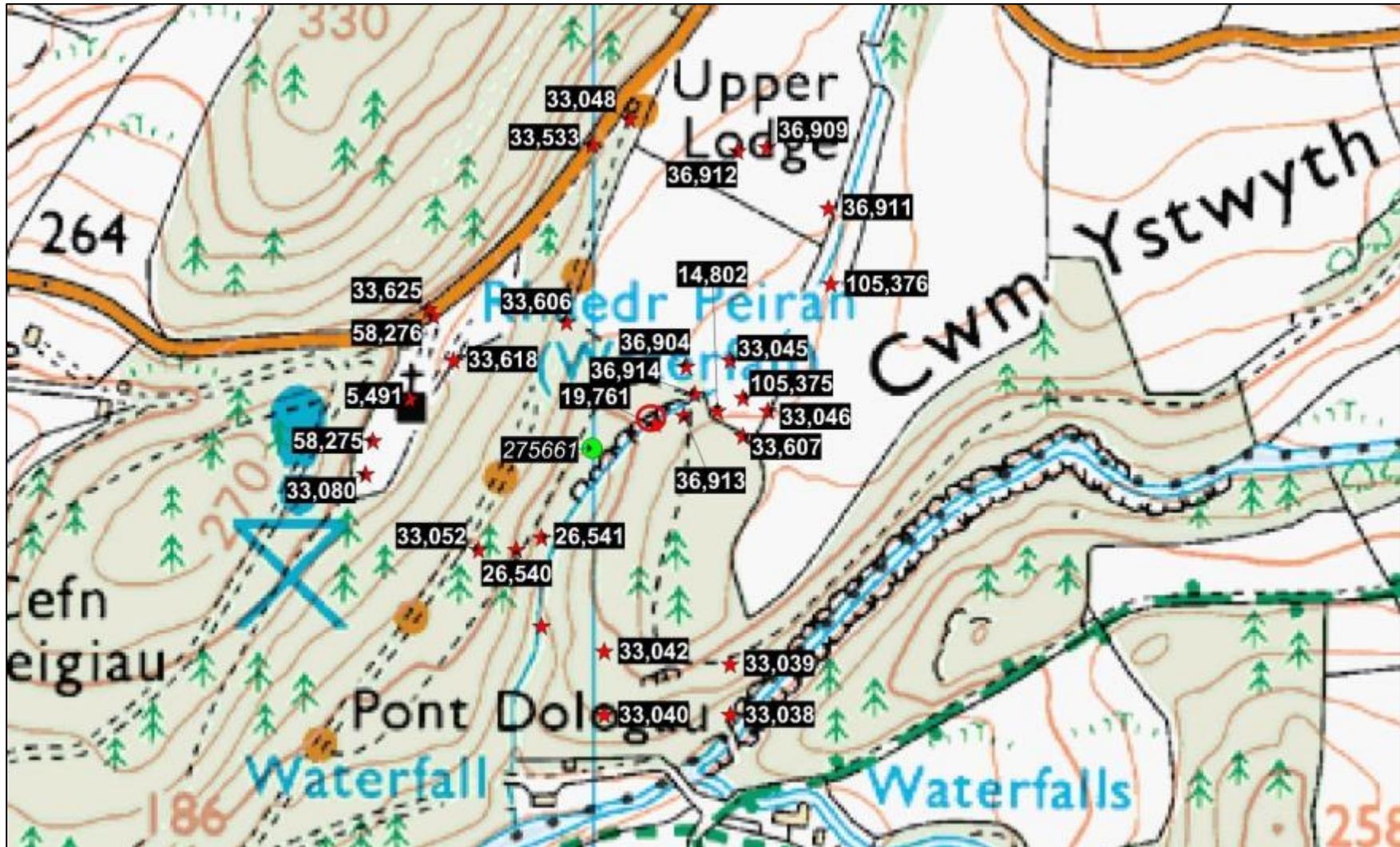


Figure 6: Known archaeological sites within 250m of Pont Newydd (red circle) recorded in the HER (red stars) and the NMR (green dots; writing in italics). Where the site exists in both the HER and NMR databases, only the HER record is shown.

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2.2.5 The recorded archaeology consists almost entirely of elements of the eighteenth and nineteenth century picturesque and agricultural landscape. The exceptions are the earthwork remains of a mill-pond (PRN 105375) and mill-race (PRN 105376) associated with a medieval corn mill (PRN 14802; NPRN 24757) just north of the Nant Peiran falls. The exact site of the mill itself is unknown, although it is still recorded as a site.

2.2.6 Pont Newydd (PRN 19761) and the leat (PRN 33045) are part of Scheduled Ancient Monument CD174. The monument also includes the ruins of a garden building (PRN 26541; NPRN 23027), known as the Rustic Alcove, a viewing point just south of the falls and the destination of the 'Ladies Walk' laid out by Thomas Johnes in c.1790. Cadw describe Pont Newydd and the leat thus:

Astride the top of the cascade are the massive rubble stone abutments of Pont Newydd built in 1813-14 on the line of the new carriage drive. The northern abutment straddles the end of a leat running down the Peiran Valley from a mill pond c.1.2km higher up. The leat turns below the bridge to empty into the cascade. Water could presumably be released from the pond and run down the leat to 'improve' the cascade..... The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.

2.2.7 The HER database records more detailed information about the bridge and its history:

Henry Thomas Payne on his tour in 1815 provides a description: A two-arched Bridge over the stream, the water has been diverted to a higher Level, so that it may tumble over a higher Rock. This description conforms with a c. 1831 watercolour sketch by J Parker which shows two stone arches, one above the other, perhaps built in imitation of the well-known Devils Bridge a few kilometres to the north. The surviving remains consist of two massive dry-stone abutments on either side of the river both approached by the carriage drive built on a substantial causeway. A timber superstructure recorded in poor condition in 1991 (Kerkham and Briggs 1991, 170) has now gone. The date when this bridge replaced the two-arched structure is not known, but it is likely to be the work of John Waddingham who owned the Hafod estate in the later nineteenth century.

2.2.8 The earliest known map of Hafod was produced for a description of the estate by George Cumberland 1796, and was probably drawn by William Blake (not reproduced here). The site of the Nant Peiran Falls is marked on the west side of the stream with only with 'Mill Fall,' and further north on the east side of the stream 'Old Mill' is labelled.

2.2.9 The Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn Parish Tithe Map of 1842 (not reproduced here) shows only the field boundaries and the route of the carriageway crossing Pont Newydd Bridge. The 1844 apportionment to the tithe map lists the area as 'Upper Ystwyth Wood.'

2.2.10 Figure 7 shows the 1888 first edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map of the area. Pont Newydd is marked, along with the carriage drive approaching and leaving it. Subsequent OS maps all show the same as this one.

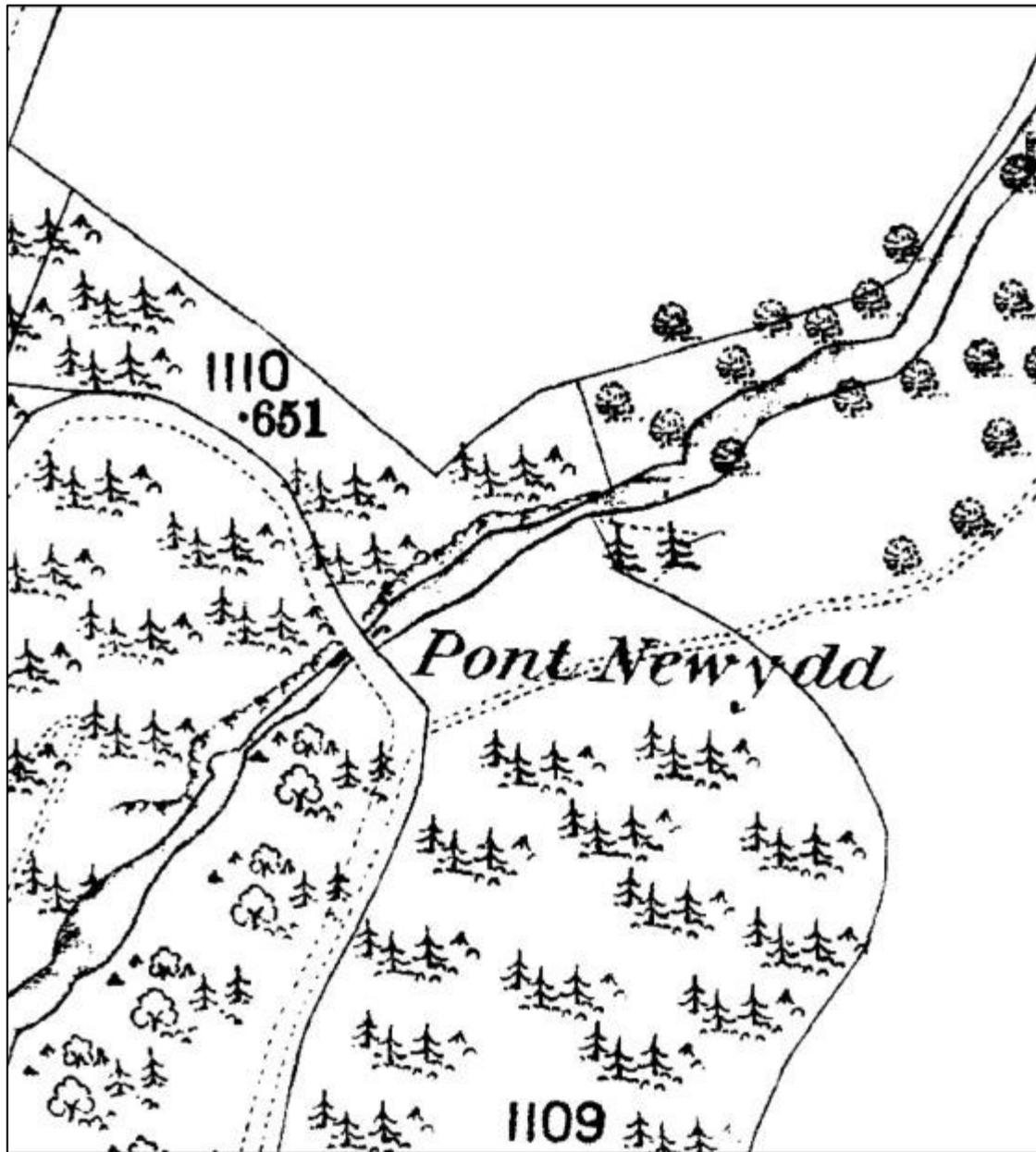


Figure 7: Pont Newydd depicted in the 1888 first edition
1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The Evaluation was carried out in accordance with *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (CifA 2014). Trenches were excavated on the northeastern and southwestern sides of the northern bridge abutment at Pont Newydd. The aim of the trenches was to determine the width and depth of the original leat leading to the Nant Peiran Cascade and also to establish whether a culvert was built to continue to carry water to the cascade through/under the new bridge after it was built.
- 3.1.2 The leat was excavated using hand tools to remove all loose vegetation and silts within the channel. The material was stored adjacent to the trench. The leat was not backfilled at the end of the works. Excavation continued only to the top of the level of surviving archaeological deposits and then trowels were used to clean and to characterise the underlying layers and ascertain their date, significance and state of preservation.
- 3.1.3 The bridge abutment was cleaned to determine the presence of any culvert, and an elevation drawing of the abutment was hand drawn to show any significant architectural features.
- 3.1.4 All deposits have been recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, digital photography and site notebooks, using the DAT Archaeological Services' Recording Manual. All deposits were individually recorded and given context numbers. Significant deposits were recorded by scale drawing (no less than 1:20); drawn plans were related to Ordnance Datum and known boundaries. The trench was located in relation to surrounding features and buildings using a Trimble TST.
- 3.1.5 A watching brief was maintained during clearance work within the channel carried out by National Resources Wales. The scope of this clearance work was determined by the results of the evaluation. This watching brief was undertaken in accordance with *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CifA 2014). The Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix I), detailing the archaeological works proposed, was approved by Cadw prior to the site works commencing.

3.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 27th and 28th of February 2017. The watching brief took place on the 23rd and 24th of March 2017.

3.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 3.3.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork has been be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the Welsh Museums Federation.
- 3.3.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.
- 3.3.3 A report fully representative of the results of the fieldwork has been prepared.

4 RESULTS OF EVALUATION

Northeast of the Northern Bridge Abutment

- 4.1 The leat could not be fully excavated here due to water pooling: the bottom and edges of the channel could not be seen under the muddy water. Above the water level, vegetation was cleared from the banks and alluvial deposits removed to reveal the original side of the leat. This was easily achieved on the west side of the leat (Photo 8), but tree roots made it difficult on the east bank. The original bank consisted of sandy clay which was light brown in colour.
- 4.2 As the alluvial deposits were removed it became possible to visualise the original profile of the channel, although the maximum depth was difficult to determine because of the pooling water (Photo 9). No signs of a culvert were observed in the exposed face of the bridge abutment, and removal of mud did not appear to unblock any hidden channel to drain the pool.
- 4.3 Moss was removed from the face of the bridge abutment (Photo 9). The excavated areas were surveyed (Figure 8), and a profile of the northern bridge abutment made (Figures 8 and 10). The elevation of the northeast face of the bridge abutment was recorded (Figure 9).

Southwest of the Northern Bridge Abutment

- 4.4 Because of the water accumulating on the northeast side of the bridge abutment further excavation was carried out in the leat on the southwest side, in which only a tiny amount of water was flowing. Water was percolating through the drystone construction of the bridge abutment.
- 4.5 As on the northeast side the wall was mossy and this and other vegetation needed clearing (Photo 10).
- 4.6 As alluvium deposits were removed a gravelly layer was encountered and presumed the base of the original channel. There was no sign of a culvert through the abutment. Photo 11 shows the area after excavation.
- 4.7 The elevation of the southwestern façade of the bridge abutment was recorded (Figure 9).
- 4.8 On the northwestern side of the bridge abutment elevation, three stones were noted which did not fit with the horizontal laying of its rubble stone construction (Figure 9; Photo 11). The stones had the appearance of what could be interpreted as the start of a springing arch laid directly on the western bank of the leat. No further evidence for a former arch could be seen on either side of the abutment and so it is considered unlikely to be the remains of a former arch over the leat. It is considered more likely to be the remains of a patched repair to the bridge abutment.

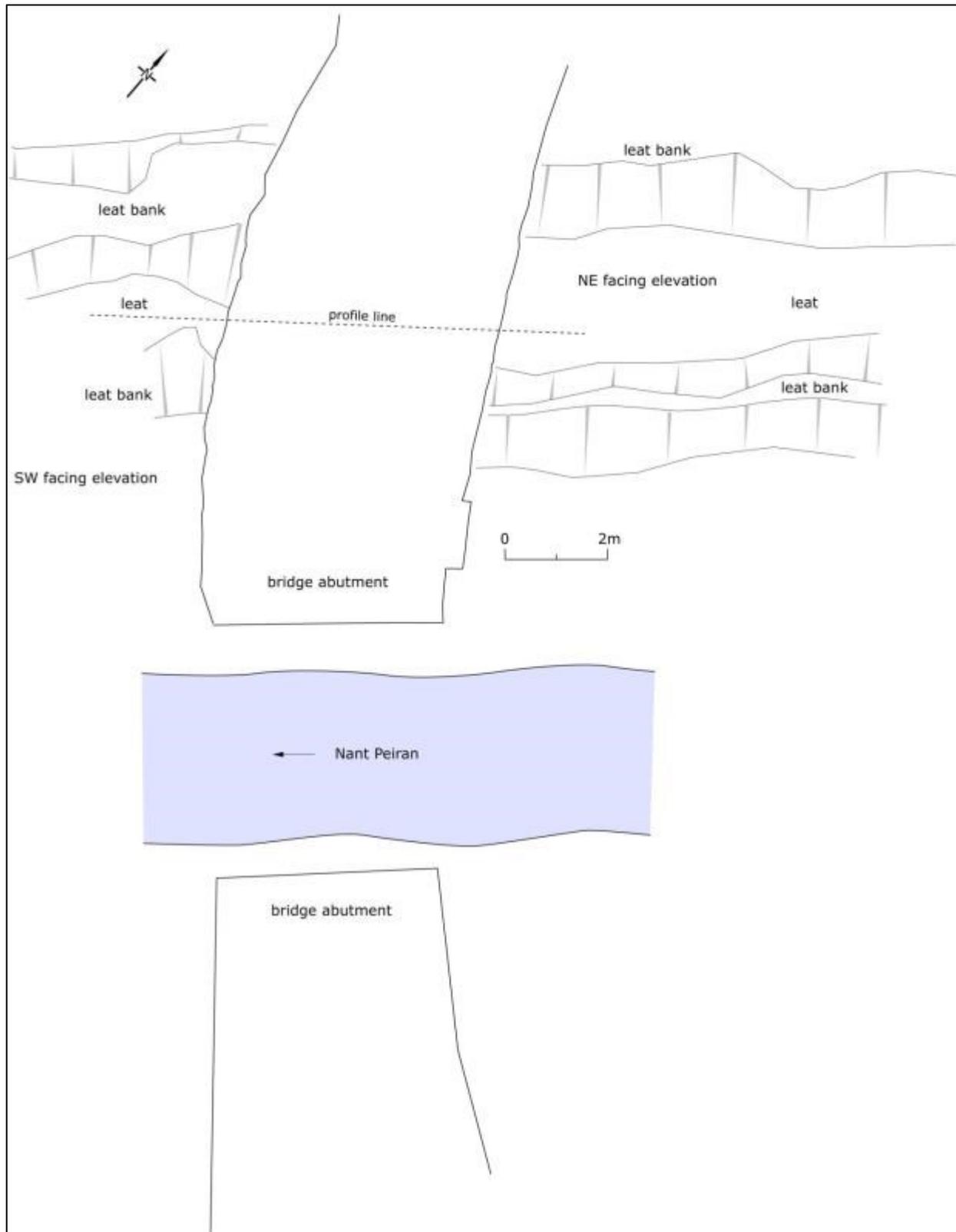


Figure 8: Plan drawing of the bridge abutments, and the leat in the vicinity of the northern bridge abutment where excavations were carried out. The profile is shown in Figure 9.

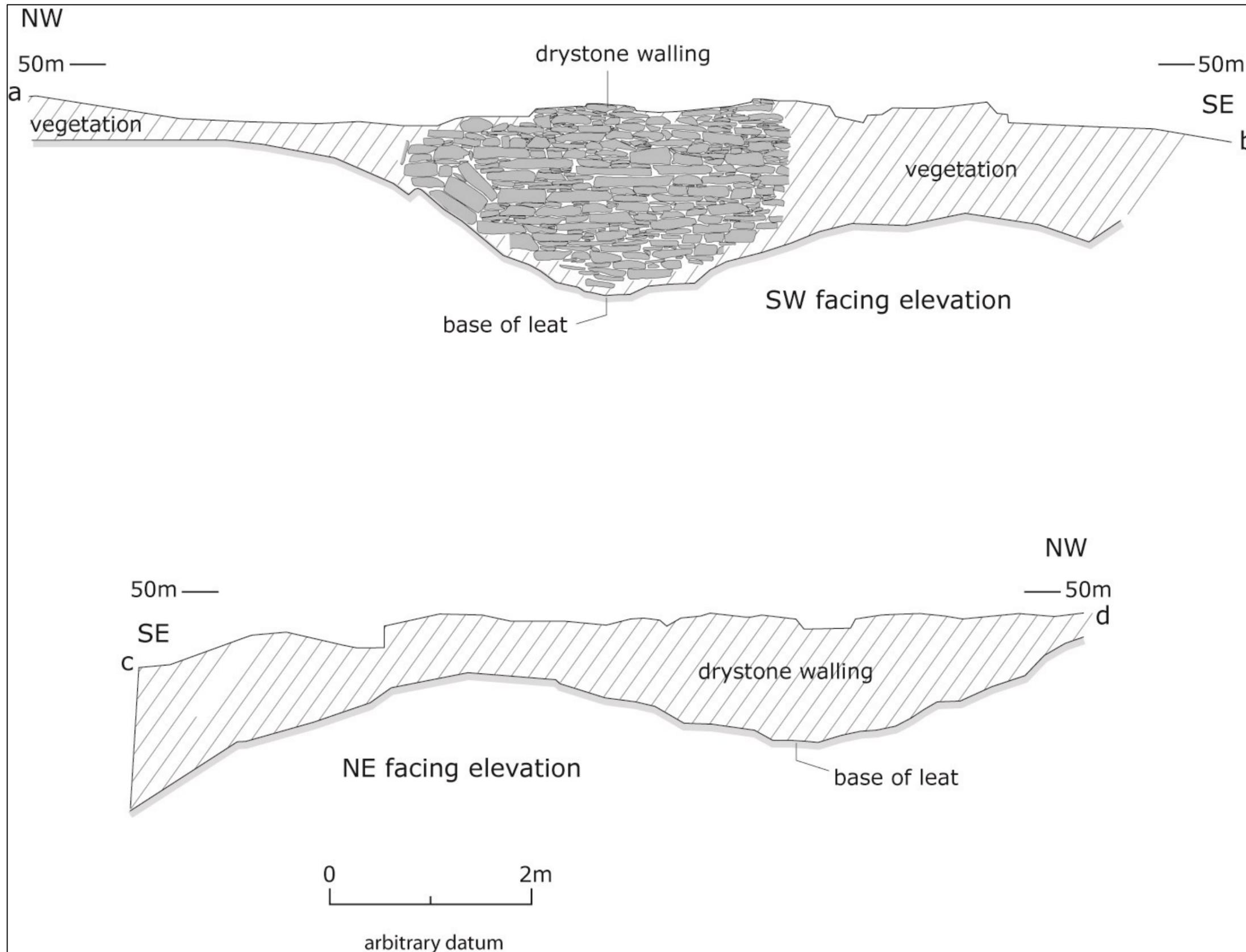


Figure 9: The southwest- and northeast-facing elevations of the northern bridge abutment

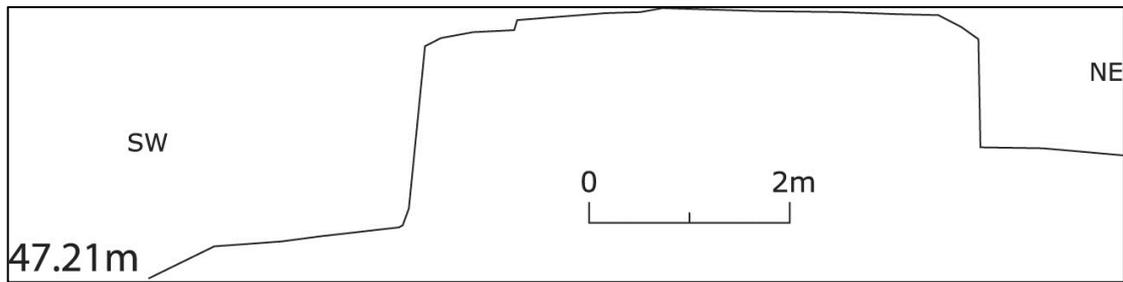


Figure 10: Profile of the northern bridge abutment (see Figure 8 for location)



Photo 8: Facing west. Post-excavation shot of the west bank of the leat on the northeastern side of the bridge abutment, with a 1m scale.



Photo 9: The northeast face of the northern bridge abutment after moss removal and after excavation of the leat, with a 1m scale



Photo 10: The leat and the southwest side of the northern bridge abutment before cleaning and excavation, with a 1m scale



Photo 11: The east and the southwest side of the northern bridge abutment after cleaning and excavation, with 1m scale

5 RESULTS OF WATCHING BRIEF

Northeast of the Northern Bridge Abutment

- 5.1 Further clearing of vegetation was required before machine excavation of the leat could take place. This was carried out by volunteers of the Hafod Trust. Photo 12 shows excavation getting underway just north of the bridge abutment. A large amount of mud was excavated and the spoil deposited temporarily just west of the leat. The machine operator found it easy to tell when he had reached the base of the leat, even though he could not see through the muddy water, because it was hard rock. The leat proved to be approximately 1.2m deep (Photo 13). The profile of its base could not be seen but it was determined to be U-shaped beneath the water. Two similar pieces of ironwork (Photo 14) were found during excavation adjacent to the bridge abutment, identified as parts of the bridge before its collapse/removal. They were similar to links observed to be part of the chain bridge at Hafod (Garfi 1997).
- 5.2 Excavation continued along the leat northeast of the bridge abutment (Photo 15) until the modern wall built for a pathway to cross the leat was encountered (Photo 16). Pending further plans for the leat, it was decided to leave the wall and pathway intact for the time being. A tree also hampered complete excavation of the leat in this area.
- 5.3 Northeast of the path, excavation continued along the rest of the leat (Photos 17 – 19). The leat became gradually shallower towards its northern end, where it was 0.9m deep. Excavation stopped before the very northern end was reached in order to preserve the deposits relating to the leat and the possible building of a bank there to end its use. Trees again prevented full excavation of the leat along this section. It was suggested that the trees would be removed in the future and that the excavation of the leat might then be completed.

Southwest of the Northern Bridge Abutment

- 5.4 Southwest of the bridge abutment excavation was carried out by hand by the Hafod Trust volunteers under supervision (Photo 20), as the machine could not gain access there. After removal of many tree roots it was seen that what was previously thought to be the base of the leat was actually still very silty and loose as well as containing a lot of gravel, so this deposit was removed until bedrock was encountered. The west bank of the leat was also established, but the further tree roots prevented complete excavation of the east bank.
- 5.5 The rate of flow of water through the wall did not increase from a trickle during the excavation or a day after it. The base of the wall was observed to sit on the base of the leat and there was no sign of a culvert. The water coming through the wall was percolating through the gaps in the drystone wall of the bridge abutment. Photo 21 shows the area after excavation.



Photo 12: Excavation of the alluvial deposits in the leat by machine, facing west-southwest



Photo 13: After excavation of the leat just northeast of the bridge abutment



Photo 14: Ironwork found during excavation adjacent to the bridge abutment, previously part of the bridge, with a 0.5m scale



Photo 15: Looking northeast along the section of the leat just north of the northern bridge abutment after partial excavation by machine



Photo 16: The leat and the modern-built pathway over it, with a 1m scale, after excavation



Photo 17: Looking north-northeast across the northern part of the leat during excavation



Photo 18: Looking northeast along the northern part of the leat after excavation



Photo 19: Looking southwest along the northern part of the leat after excavation



Photo 20: Excavating the leat southwest of the bridge abutment by hand



Photo 21: Southwest side of the bridge abutment and leat after excavation, with a 1m scale

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This archaeological evaluation has addressed the aims of the investigation by establishing the archaeological remains on site and determined the preservation, character and extent of archaeological remains encountered. Specifically, the evaluation has determined that there is no culvert present beneath the north bridge abutment of Pont Newydd. Furthermore the evaluation was able to identify the original edges of the leat where possible.
- 6.2 The watching brief was carried out satisfactorily and the leat was excavated successfully by machine northeast of the abutment, except where a modern path crosses the leat and where trees and their roots made excavation impossible. It is planned that the path and the trees will be removed at a later date in order to facilitate complete excavation. The only finds were two pieces of ironwork, parts of the former bridge, found just northeast of the abutment.
- 6.3 The machine could not gain access to the southwest of the abutment so the area was excavated by hand and the base of the leat was found to be deeper than was thought during the evaluation. The base of the bridge abutment was observed to sit on the base of the leat. A large tree prevented complete excavation of the leat on its east side near to the bridge.
- 6.4 It would appear that when Pont Newydd was constructed it dammed the leat preventing it from entering the Nant Peiran Cascade (except as a trickle that still flows through the gaps in the dry-stonework). This supports evidence at the other end of the leat, where a bank appears to have been constructed across its north end preventing the intake of water. Just north of this bank a channel has been dug diverting water from north of the leat (from a former section of the leat itself?) into the Nant Peiran Stream.
- 6.5 The Hafod Trust and NRW had hoped to restore the leat and hence the waterfall it fed. As no culvert is present under the bridge abutment to enable this, it is proposed that an underground pipe be inserted from the pool of water just north of the abutment, running southeast alongside the abutment to outflow into the stream. This would produce a slight waterfall as of old, but north of the bridge instead of south of it. To produce a large enough flow of water to the leat, the removal of the bank and channel at the north end of the leat might also be required. The channeling away of water from the pool adjacent to the bridge abutment may also serve to protect the dry stone construction from water erosion.

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Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust at Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE

Cartographic

Blake, W.	1796	Hafod Estate Map
Parish Tithe Map	1842	Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn
Parish tithe apportionment	1844	
Ordnance Survey	1888	1:2500 1 st edition Pembrokeshire

APPENDIX I:

BONT NEWYDD, HAFOD, CEREDIGION – ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF FORMER CULVERT FOR NANT PEIRAN CASCADE WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This written scheme of investigation (WSI) or specification, has been prepared to detail the proposed archaeological evaluation to be undertaken adjacent to the northern bridge abutment of Bont Newydd at Hafod, Ceredigion (SN 7704 7361; Photos 1 and 2).
- 1.2 This WSI outlines the method by which DAT Archaeological Services (on behalf of National Resources Wales) will investigate the area to determine the shape of the original leat which ran to the Nant Peiran Cascade and determine if a culvert or channel is present below the bridge abutment of Bont Newydd, which was inserted later and seems to block the former channel.
- 1.3 Bont Newydd and the Nant Peiran Cascade are designated as a scheduled ancient monument (reference CD174). The features lie within the Registered Historic Park and Garden of Hafod (Reference PGW (Dy) 50(CER), Grade I).
- 1.4 Natural Resources Wales are intending to undertake some clearance work in the area of the former leat to the Nant Peiran Cascade with the intention of it being more visible as a former water management/garden feature within the Hafod landscape. The channel is presently quite overgrown and has a modern gravel pathway inserted across its width. The aim of the archaeological evaluation work is to determine whether this former leat was blocked when Bont Newydd was constructed or whether a culvert was present beneath the northern abutment.
- 1.5 A trench on the northeastern side of the bridge abutment will be hand excavated to remove silts and vegetation matter which has accumulated in the former leat. The edges of the channel will be identified to get an indication of the original width of the channel. The exposed face of the bridge abutment will be cleaned to determine if a culvert passes through it.
- 1.6 This WSI details the methodology of the evaluation which will be undertaken and has been prepared in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA² 2014)*.
- 1.7 The evaluation will be undertaken by a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

² Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.



Figure 1: Hafod Gardens showing the location of SAM CD174 Nant Peiran Cascade (red boundary) with investigation area bounded in blue

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Photo 1: View east along former leat running to the Nant Peiran Cascade, with the bridge abutment visible at the far end

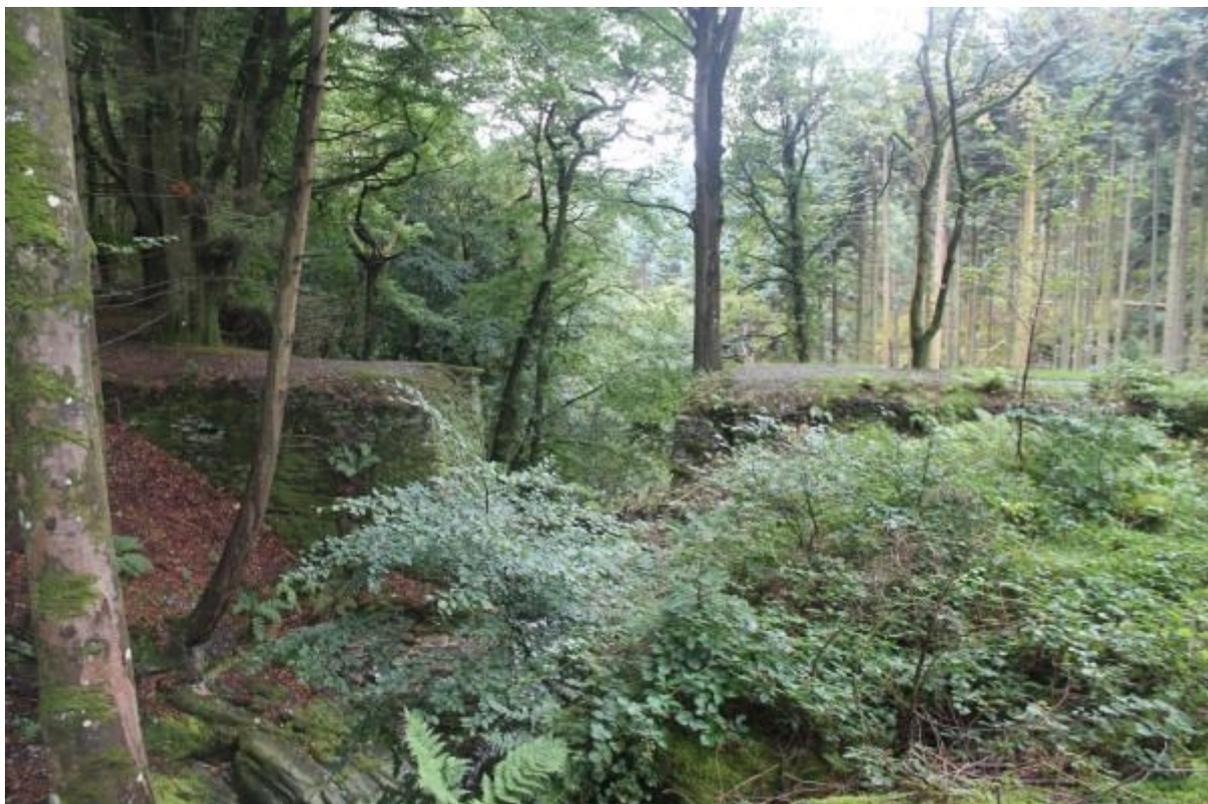


Photo 2: View east showing both bridge abutments of Bont Newydd

2 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

2.1 This document provides a scheme of works for:

The implementation of a scheme of archaeological evaluation through the hand excavation of a trial trench on the eastern side of the Bont Newydd northern bridge abutment at Hafod registered Historic Park and Garden, Ceredigion. A second trench may be excavated on the western side of the abutment if a culvert is found. A report shall be prepared on the results of the evaluation, and an archive created of all finds, records, photographs and plans created.

2.2 The following tasks will be completed:

- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology for the intrusive trial trench evaluation which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake (this document);
- To establish the state of preservation, character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits identified;
- To confirm the presence or absence of a culvert beneath the northern bridge abutment of Bont Newydd associated with an earlier water carrying leat leading to the Nant Peiran Cascade;
- Identify, where possible, the original edges of the leat;
- To use the information to assist with future clearance works of the leat and determine whether it is possible to reopen any culvert beneath the abutment, if present;
- Production of a report and an archive of the results.

3 PROPOSED TRIAL TRENCH SCHEME

3.1 It is proposed to excavate a single trench on the eastern side of the northern bridge abutment of Bont Neydd to determine the width and depth of the original channel leading to the Nant Peiran Cascade (Photo 1 and 2). The trench will also determine whether a culvert was built to continue to carry water to the cascade after the new bridge was built. The trench will measure approximately 10m x 1.5m. If a culvert is identified beneath the bridge abutment, a second trench will be opened on the western side of the abutment to expose the culvert on that side.

3.2 The trench will be excavated using hand tools (shovels, mattocks, trowels, spades) to remove all loose vegetation and silts within the channel. The material will be stored adjacent to the trench. The trench will not be backfilled at the end of the works.

3.3 The trench will be taken down to the top of the level of surviving archaeological deposits and then hand cleaned using trowels to

characterise the underlying layers and ascertain their date, significance and state of preservation.

- 3.4 The bridge abutment will be cleaned to determine the presence of any culvert, and an elevation drawing of the abutment will be hand drawn to show any significant architectural features. A stone by stone drawing of the abutment will not be drawn, excluding where significant features are present.
- 3.5 All deposits will be recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, photography and site notebooks, using the DAT Archaeological Services' Recording Manual³. All deposits will be individually recorded and given context numbers. Significant deposits will be recorded by scale drawing (no less than 1:20); drawn plans will be related to Ordnance Datum and known boundaries.
- 3.6 A digital photographic record will be maintained, using a high resolution camera, with photographic information recorded for all photographs taken.
- 3.7 All archaeologically significant artefacts, ecofacts and samples will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Sensitive materials will be stored in appropriately stable conditions. Finds will be temporarily stored by DAT Archaeological Services in stable conditions. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure⁴, will remain the property of the landowner, but it is assumed that permission has been given for these to be stored as part of the archive in a suitable repository (ownership will still be with the landowner).
- 3.8 Under the 1996 Treasure Act, "treasure" can be summarised as:
- Any object other than a coin containing at least 10% gold or silver and at least 300 years old;
 - Any prehistoric assemblage of base metal;
 - Coins found together which contain 10% gold or silver (but no single coins) and groups of at least 10 coins of other metals, provided they are at least 300 years old;
 - Any object found associated with treasure except unworked natural objects; and
 - Any object which would have been Treasure Trove before the 1996 Act but not covered above.
- 3.11 In the very unlikely event of the discovery of human remains they will, at this evaluation stage, be left *in situ*. If removal is necessary it will only take place following the granting of all permissions in writing by the relevant authorities and at a later stage of any necessary archaeological

³ DAT Archaeological Services use the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available for inspection if required.

⁴ If any material deemed to be Treasure is found, the Coroner must be informed

works (a burial licence granted from the Ministry of Justice and the Coroner informed).

- 3.12 A watching brief will be maintained during later clearance work within the channel to be done by NRW. The scope of this clearance work will be determined following the results of the evaluation.

4 POST-FIELDWORK REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 4.1 All data recovered during the evaluation will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with the specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. The *National Standards for Wales for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives* produced by the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales will also be adhered to. Digital archives will be collated using the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales systems (2015) and deposited with the RCAHMW.
- 4.2 An interim report will be prepared on the results of the evaluation, but a full report will not be undertaken until the completion of further mitigation (watching brief) during clearance work.
- 4.3 A full report will be completed within three months of the completion of all stages of the fieldwork. The results of the fieldwork will be assessed in local, regional and wider contexts.
- 4.4 The report will include a short desk-based element to place the site into its wider context within the area and also more detail on and interpretation of the geophysical survey results. Much of this may be taken from the Cadw brief.
- 4.5 The project archive, including all significant artefacts and ecofacts (excepting those which may be deemed to be Treasure) will be deposited with an appropriate body following agreement with the landowner.
- 4.6 DAT Archaeological Services will arrange for the deposition of finds, and ascertain the costs of storage and deposition, with an approved body before the project commences and inform the curator of the arrangement which has been made (Ceredigion Museum and RCAHMW).
- 4.7 A summary of the project results, excluding any confidential information, may be prepared for wider dissemination (e.g. Archaeology in Wales and special interest and period-specific journals).
- 4.8 The report will be prepared to follow the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (CIfA 2014).
- 4.9 A digital copy and bound copies of the reports (if needed) will be produced for Cadw. Digital copies of the report will be supplied to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record.

5 STAFF

- 5.1 The project will be managed by James Meek (MCIfA).
- 5.2 The on-site works will be undertaken by Fran Murphy and Charlie Enright, experienced archaeologists at DAT Archaeological Services. Fran Murphy has undertaken previous work at Hafod and knows the site well.
- 5.3 If required environmental remains will be looked at by Catherine Griffiths (University of Wales Trinity St David).
- 5.4 Medieval and later ceramics will be identified and analysed by Dee Williams.
- 5.5 Identification and conservation of metal / bone / leather objects will be undertaken by the National Museum of Wales.
- 5.6 Animal bone will be identified by Alice Day of DAT Archaeological Services.

6 MONITORING

- 6.1 It is possible that the Cadw Inspector will wish to visit the trench when it is open. The Head of DAT Archaeological Services will also monitor the works.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 7.1 Service information should be obtained prior to the start of the works.
- 7.2 A health and safety risk assessment must be prepared prior to the works commencing to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.
- 7.3 All relevant health and safety regulations must be followed.
- 7.4 All site inductions, H&S procedures, H&S constraints and site rules of the client or any on-site contractor will be made known to the archaeological contractor at the start of the works.
- 7.5 Safety helmets, high visibility vests and boots are to be used by all site personnel as necessary. The developer will make all site staff aware of any other PPE⁵ that may be required.

⁵ Personal Protection Equipment

PONT NEWYDD, HAFOD, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF 2017

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2017/21
RHIF Y DIGWYLLIAD / EVENT RECORD NO. 110436

Mai 2017
May 2017

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by

Alice Day

Swydd / Position: **Archaeologist**

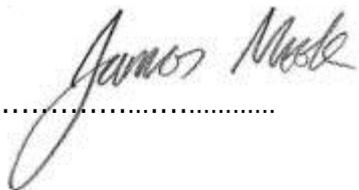
Llofnod / Signature  Date: 16/May/2017

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

James Meek

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: **Head of DAT Archaeological Services**

Llofnod / Signature  Date: 16/May/2017

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report

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archaeological trust