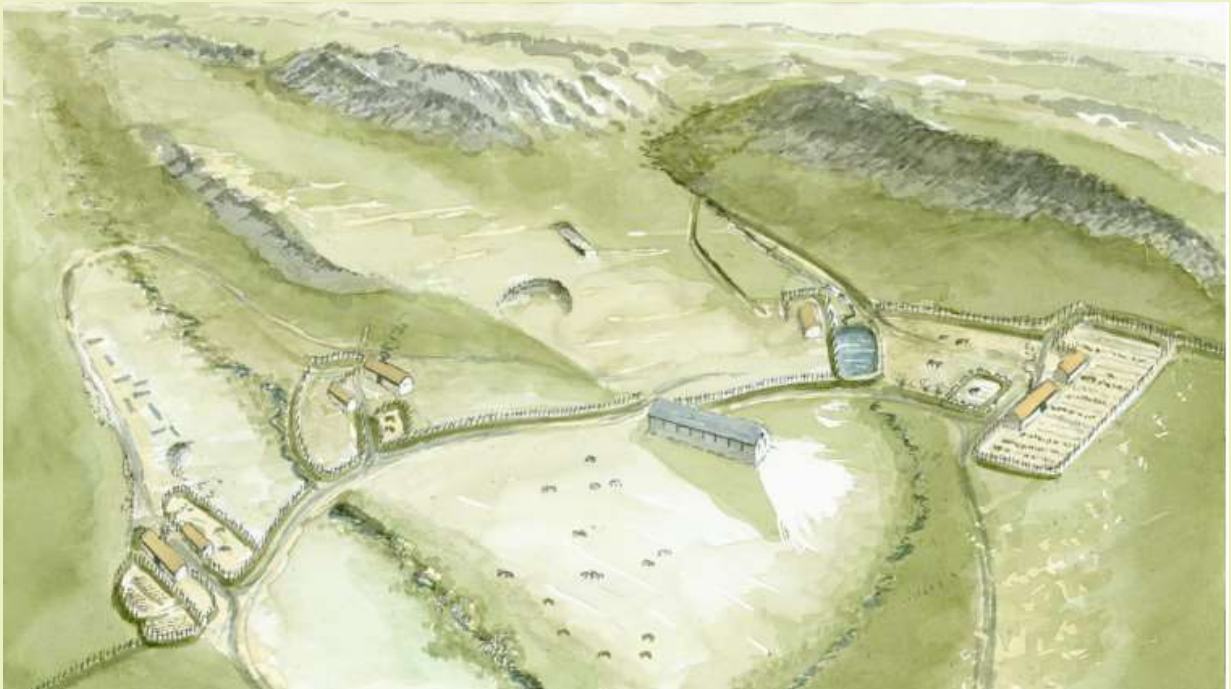


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TROED-Y -RHIW

Heritage Management Report – Troed-Y-Rhiw



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ABSTRACT

This report will discuss the Heritage Management of the site Troed-Y-Rhiw, how it might be further developed and safeguarded using Heritage guidelines set out by governing bodies.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Troed-Y-Rhiw is located in the Strata Florida landscape, within the Ystrad Fflur Community approximately 2km from the Abbey of Strata Florida/Stratfleur (Coflein 2019, Randolph 1905), nearby Troed-Y-Rhiw Farm. It sits on a westerly facing upland slope overlooking the Teifi Valley approximately 300m (see map 5) above sea level and has had several successive phases of inhabitation. Surrounding this area, are heavily managed farming lowlands and forestry uplands managed by the Natural Resources Wales (National Resources Wales 2019, Coflein 2019).

The goal of this report is to assess the history of this site and its needs for its subsequent management.

2 STUDY AREA

2.1 LOCATION/STUDY AREA

The core study area in question is outlined in map 1 and spans approximately 650 metres x 450 metres laterally along the slope of the hill. The entire landscape is approximately 2 sq. miles of upland habitat located at SN764662 (Fleming & Austin 2007).

2.2 LAND OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The land is currently owned by Dai and Eleri Arch, private landowners (Bezant 2007). Although the woodland surrounding Troed-Y-Rhiw is managed by the Natural Resources Wales, there is no evidence found in the research of this report that here has ever been any serious attempt at managing the sites, beyond any measures the landowners have taken in the use of the land over the years.

2.3 GOVERNANCE

The upland habitats of Britain fall under the guidance from several different general bodies. Natural Resources Wales and the Woodland Trust follow these guidance's to manage wooded uplands not being

managed by the private landowners. Many of these sites include those with historic significance as they cannot always be used for agricultural purposes. Much of this guidance comes in the form of booklets and online pdf documents that advise on the best management of woodland and uplands in the UK and Wales. However, there is no evidence the current landscape is under any protective measures by Cadw or any historically significant body. It is named as a listed monument with the National Monuments Registry/Coflein (Coflein 2019, Great Britain 1994, Woodland Trust 2019, Ministry of Agriculture, 1992).

3 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

As previously mentioned, there are several clear successive phases of habitation at this site as it has been in historical use over a very long period of time, meaning extensive research must be used to assess the potential and evidential history of the area relating to future development or management here (Coflein 2019, Cadw 2019, Williams 1889).

3.1 *PREHISTORY*

Although most academics writing about the historical merit of this landscape mention it is likely to have been used prehistorically, there is no immediate evidence of this in the core study area. Three funerary monuments thought to be from the Bronze Age lie within the wider 2km study area. One sits on the peak of Troed-Y-Rhiw Mountain, just above the core study area, the other sit on Brith-Weunydd or Berth-Weunydd, to the south and east of Troed-Y-Rhiw Landscape. The successive occupation of the land seems predominantly for farm use. This also means that any evidence of prehistoric field systems are compromised by more recent activity, and it is unclear what kind of presence there was during the periods when the cairns were created.

3.2 *ROMAN – MEDIEVAL*

There is no historical evidence for any Roman occupation of the site. There is clear evidence that there was Roman activity in the area, due to the

roads system, and forts being found in areas further south west and nearer the English border. Between the Romans retreat out of Britain, and the early middle ages, this area of was wild and unmanageable by any system of law (O'Dwyer 1936, Watkin & Cotton 1884, Wales Online 2003, Williams 1889). Due to its remoteness and poor road systems, it was largely a self-regulated area until the Norman's supported the placements of religious houses and managed to gain control of the Welsh rebellions. There is little to no evidence that there was ever an Anglo-Saxon presence in this area. The existence of Offas Dyke shows us that the struggle with the Welsh natives was ongoing, and the country was not truly defeated until the Norman presence was established.

The early and main medieval periods see this site used continually. The Abbey with which the site is associated, is thought to have been founded around the 1080's, financed by Rhys ap Tewdwr, who died in 1089. The original abbey was named "Yr Hen Fynachlog" The Old Monastery, and was thought to sit on the banks of the river two miles south-west of what ended up being Strata Florida, which was created around 100 years later by Rhys' grandson, Rhys ap Griffith. It is worth mentioning that the walls of Strata Florida were noted to contain materials from some previous building (Williams 1889, Williams 1989, Randolph 1905, Barker & Fleming 2008, Bezant & Austin 2007). During the later medieval period the power and land bellowing to the monasteries were stripped by Henry VIII and much of the land fell into ownership of local gentrified estates and continued to be managed for agriculture. There is clear evidence that Troed-Y- Rhiw was heavily farmed up until the early at least the late 18th century, with the farm buildings appearing in surveys and tythes during 1766 and 1843. (Williams 1889, Williams 1989, Randolph 1995, Wales Online 2009, Fleming & Barker 2008)

3.3 *POST MEDIEVAL – EARLY MODERN*

As discussed in the '*Roman – Medieval*' section, the land was used up until the late 18th century for conventional upland farming. After this period at least part of it falls into the private ownership of the Vaughn family estate of Trawscoed (Coflein 2007) and is mostly used as grazing pasture. There is heavy mining for metals and minerals in the area up until the 19th century but this does not seem to have affected the farms on Troed-Y-Rhiw. For a small period during WWII it is believed to have been used as part of the dig for Britain campaign (Coard, 2019).

4 SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 EVIDENTIAL

The evidential evidence is present on the surface of the site. A fieldwalk gives you a clear idea of the size and use of some of the larger structures. As its industrial farming use didn't end until at least the 18th century, the buildings are clearly outlined on aerial photography, although topographical analysis gives no indication of the buildings at all (see map 1 – 4). The earliest map of the region available was made in the 1890's (see map 4). The forestry in the area is managed by the Woodland Trust/National Resources Wales. It has always been associated with the farmland of Troed-Y-Rhiw Farm. The last known private owners of the site are Dai and Eleri Arch (Bezant 2007). The land is not currently managed for any other purpose than grazing upland sheep.

4.2 HISTORICAL

Its main historical value lie in the remains in this landscape. Several phases of buildings and inhabitation over hundreds of years gives us a snapshot of how farming has developed in this region. The most evidential collection of buildings are known collectively as, '*Penlandpopa Farmstead*' (see appendix 1 + 2), and are thought to date to the 1500's. This is predated by a less obvious collection of buildings known as '*Troed Y-Rhiw Ucha*' (Troed-Y-Rhiw upper), known to be in use early in the Abbeys history. These farms are associated with a second farmstead '*Penlanscubor*' (see appendix 5), which was still in use by 1766, and associated with '*Troed-Y-Rhiw Issa*' (Troed-Y-Rhiw Lower, see appendix 4) and the farmstead supposed to be associated with the Vaughn family of Trawsgoed. The main farmstead of Troed-Y-Rhiw which is part of the farm by the same name today, first appeared on OS maps in 1891 (See map 5 and appendix 6). As part of the Strata Florida Abbey landholding, it holds historic value in its affiliation with a very famous and powerful Cistercian Brotherhood. In particular the large barn or sheepcote (see appendix 3), provides evidence that the monks had power and money to invest in the farms on their land. There was much mining in the area for minerals up to the 19th century however there is no definitive evidence that this effected the landscape or activity at Troed-Y-Rhiw (Coflein 2019).

4.3 *AESTHETIC AND COMMUNAL*

Beyond the occasional use of the nearby burial mounds, for phenomenological interaction with members of the local community who enjoy walking or more pagan religious rituals, the Troed-Y-Rhiw landscape is not used in an aesthetical or communal way (Bender 1993). The area has long since fallen into farming practices that relate more to international funding than the type of farming that would have been done here traditionally (Coard 2019). Its nearby woodlands are managed, but the site itself is managed only by the farmer who uses it for sheep grazing. Some effort has been made to collect rogue building materials and place them back in the boundary of the building structures, but these are normal techniques used by farmers to collect debris found in fields during ploughing (Gage & Gage 2014).

5 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

The above sections, that both describe the site and its current significance, will be used in this chapter, to outline any further issues there may be in its Conservation and Management. These issues will be then be used to inform and develop the heritage management and development of Troed-Y-Rhiw (Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic England 2019).

5.1 *CONDITION OF SITE*

The site is currently well managed for upland farming. Two of the farmstead building collections are in overgrown slightly boggy areas, however the collection of buildings in the *Penlandoppa* (see appendix 3) and cow shed (see appendix 3) are in open land, and easy to access. The buildings are all destroyed, and most are simply the remains of foundations, and low walls. There is a preserved medieval upland boundary and sheep enclosure that are in good repair.

5.2 *RECCOMENDATIONS*

Most of the current significant historical remains are open to the elements and as such do not necessarily need a building or structure to house any significant remains that may have needed conservation. The land is privately owned but is also open to public access footpaths. It has a narrow lane leading to it, with a small cleared area bellow the hill by a small cottage for parking. The site is currently in use as upland grazing for sheep.

Heritage Management recommendations for this site are in line with the given guidance (see section 2.3), and the goal to manage the site as economically and with as little disturbance around the landscape ecology and archaeology as possible (Fielding & Haworth 1999).

This report recommends the site be managed in the following methods:

- To implement a 'Heritage Walk' for the Troed-Y-Rhiw Landscape – applying, developing with community groups and then sustaining the site as required.
 - Creating a free app to use alongside the walk

- Using augmented reality to see use of the sites at different periods of time (rather than deciding which finite information to leave on the signage at the site)
- Creating a Heritage Walk handout (see appendix 8)
- Economical and recyclable materials used for signage
- Making sure the walk goes by as many of the sites as possible without 'walking over' them to minimise interaction and damage
- To implement warning signs to ask the public to kindly refrain from interacting with the sites outside of the use of the application and map.
- To facilitate above, improvements or adjustment to the access of the site must be made, from private road management to public access way/create walk over the hill, if current road system bellow hill to the west unsuitable for development (see appendix 7 & 8 for examples of how this might be managed)
- To facilitate a 'parking point' (please see Appendix 8 for suggested location)
- To establish a community group to be trained by Cadw at managing the site (mostly litter duty and app maintenance).

5.2.1 MONITORING

Troed-Y-Rhiw is currently monitored by the historic monuments record but is otherwise unmonitored. The idea of creating a community group in affiliation with this site is threefold.

- One – the site sits in the community of Ystrad Fflur, an existing strong community of people living in a more remote part of Wales.
- Two – the site is designed to make a minimal impact on the landscape and to essentially guide tourists around the landscape to cause as little damage as possible, and so a minimal presence is required.
- Three – bar occasional maintenance to the signage, most of the site management will come from the hosting of the app and online map, allowing a far wider community of enthusiasts to take part in the project no matter where they are. Given advances in technology the app can begin as a simple information device and develop further as time and technology continue to move forward and provide cheaper systems to access information.

5.2.2 RECORDING

In line with guidance from bodies such as National Monuments Registration and Cadw, the volunteers will undertake annual surveys of the site, its growth and relative state and facilitate any mandatory supervision required by the Welsh Government.

5.3 *SECURITY/DAMAGE LIMITATION*

Prior to any site development, a Landscape Characterisation Report, Desk Based Assessment and Conservation Management Report must be commissioned to assess the full nature of the site in more detail, in particular the area's that are to be developed for more human traffic (see appendix 8). It is important that if there are any vulnerable points in the landscape, full health and safety protocol is addressed, and public safety along site historic conservation is maintained:

- The route will look to guide visitors through the landscape causing as little damage to the ecology and archaeology as possible.
- Signage will be introduced to ask the public not to interact with anything if possible and drawing their attention to the virtual interaction available on the app and using the map.
- All this information will be readily available on signage at the sites and at the carpark.
- Possibly during busier months of the year and depending on the success of the site, there may be a more frequent community presence, for safeguarding reasons (similarly to Cadw's management of Carreg Cennen Castle).

5.4 *ACCESS/LOCAL BUSINESS MITIGATION*

Access to the site, as discussed in section 5.2, could be problematic. There are no large businesses (other than farming) in the locality, however the road that leads to the site is a single lane and finishes as a dead end at the farmhouse (see appendix 6). Due to this, two walking routes have been suggested, both starting further down the lane at a junction point that would make a good access point for a car park, if the land could be bought and developed. This would give the project more flexibility when planning the walking routes. The two routes provided in appendix 8, are merely

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suggestion, as a full survey of both suggested routes would have to take place before either could be confirmed as feasible.

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6.2 MAPS

Map 1: Digimap outlining Troed Y Rhiw Area Contemporary

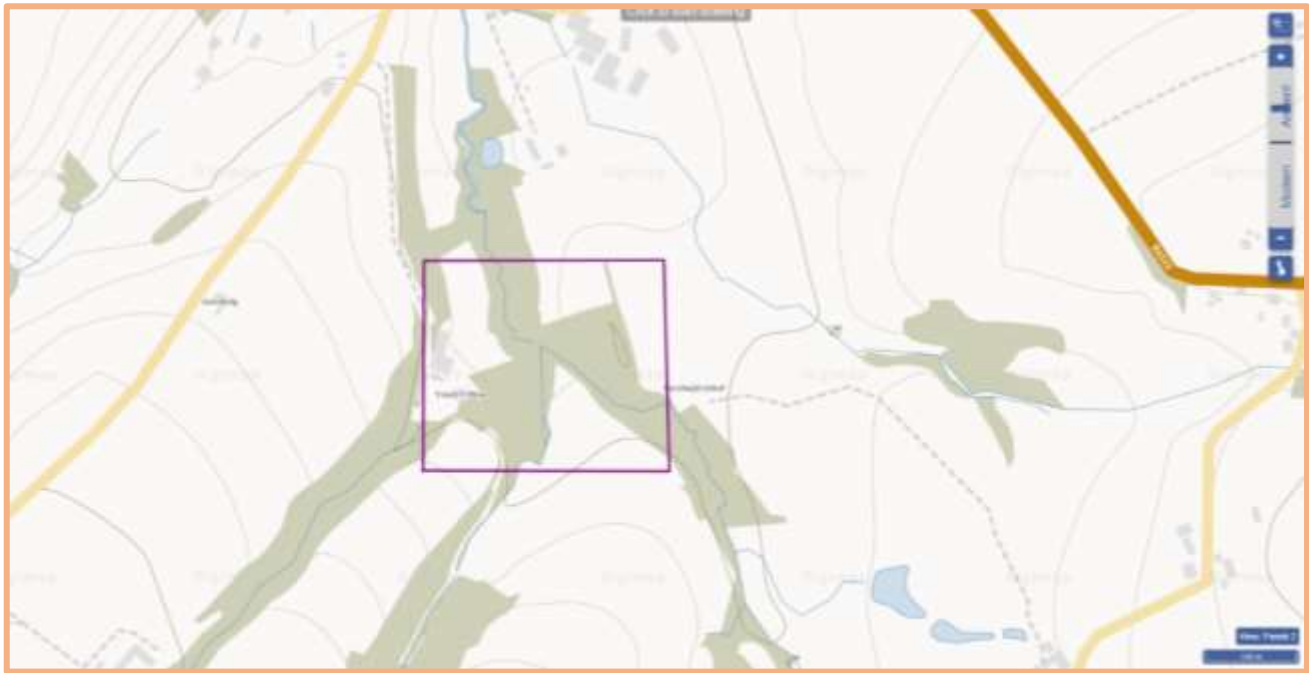
Map 2: Digimap outlining Troed Y Rhiw Landscape in 1970's

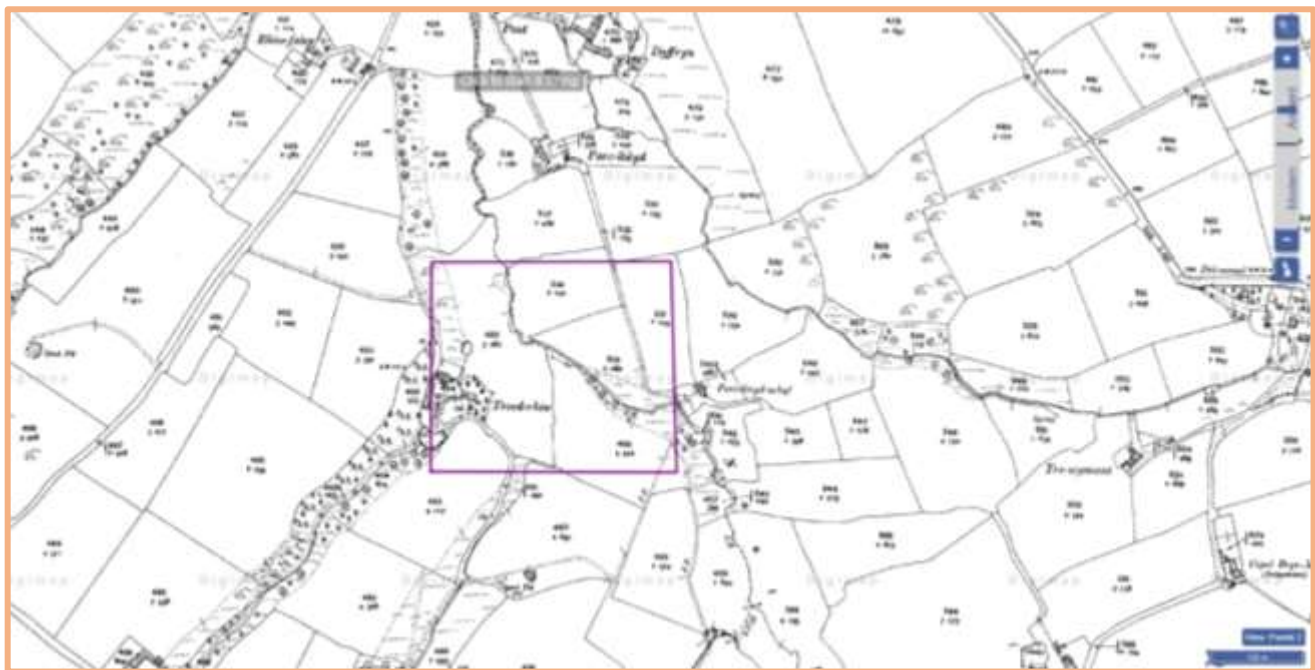
Map 3: Digimap outlining Troed Y Rhiw Landscape in 1900's

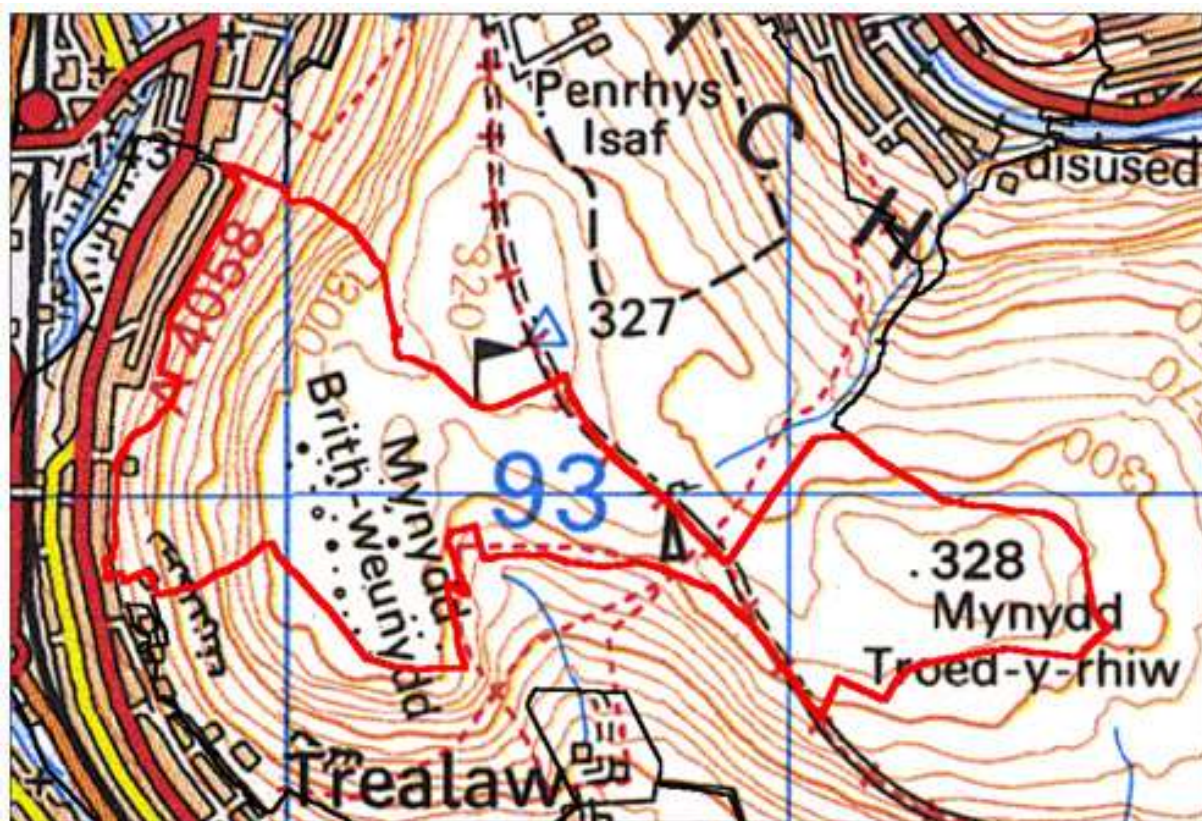
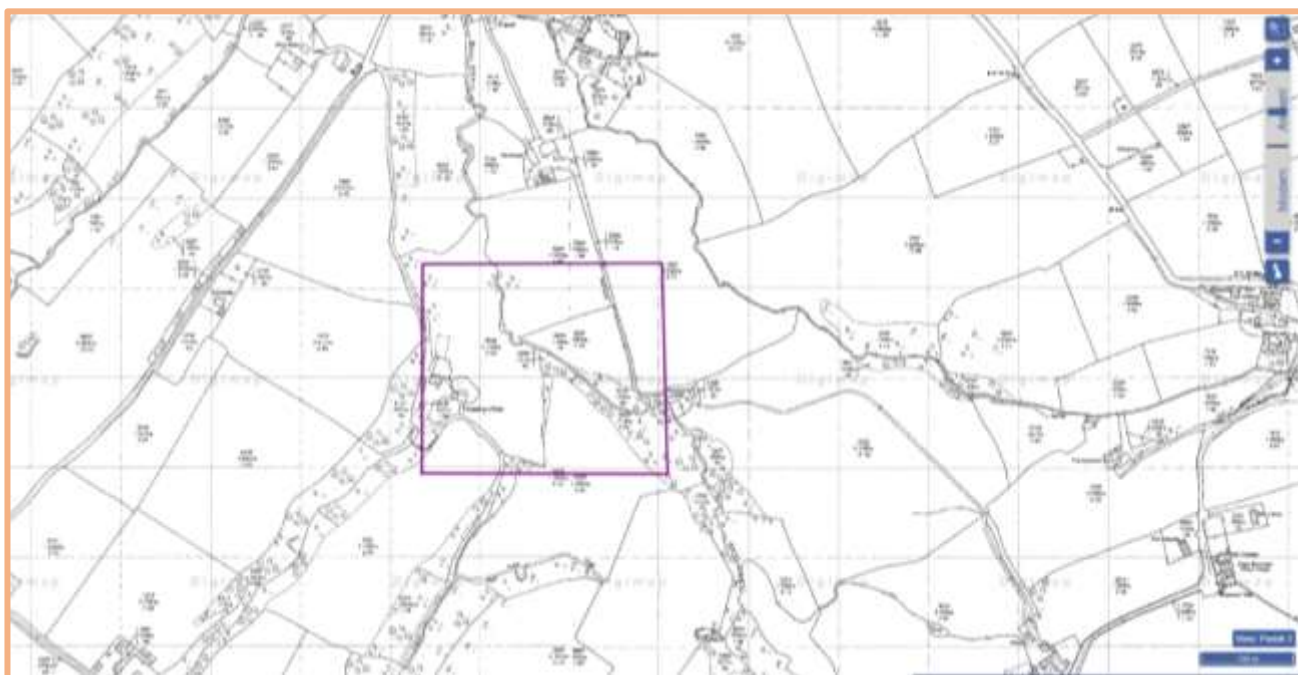
Map 4: Digimap outline Troed Y Rhiw Landscape in 1890's

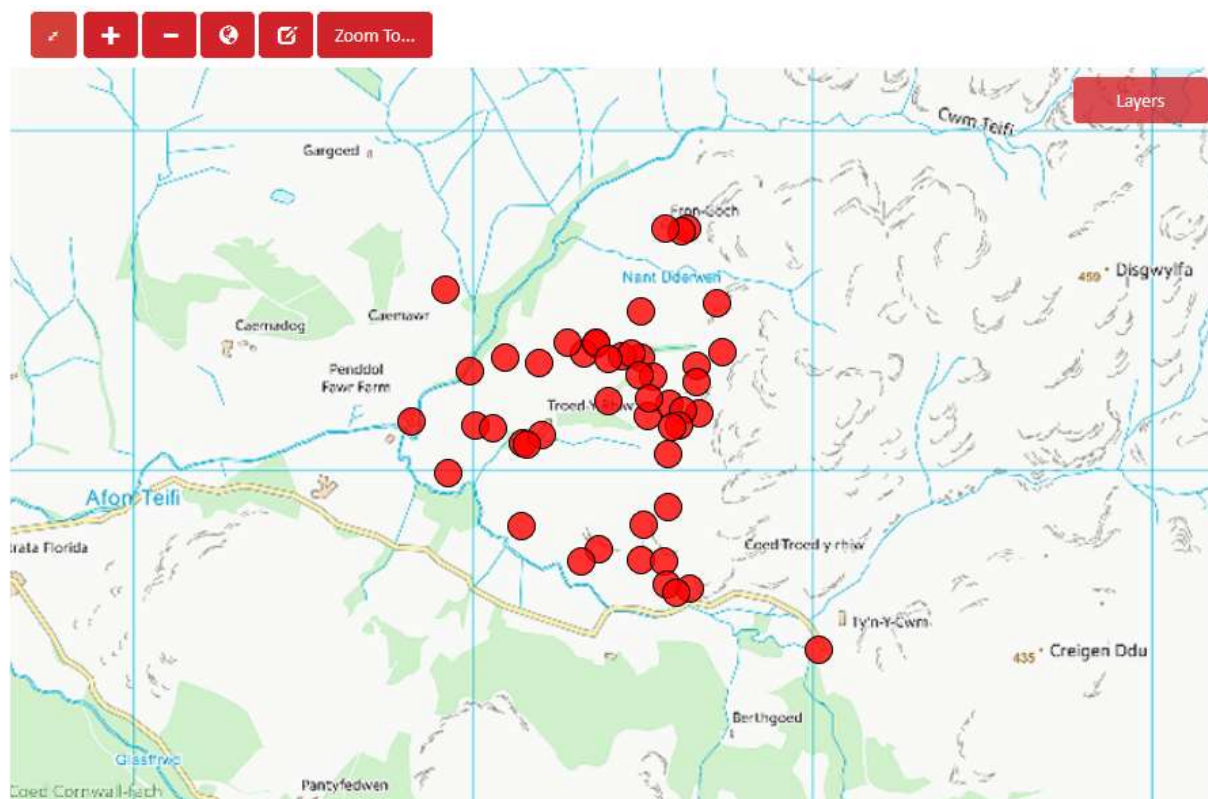
Map 5: OS Landscape Characterisation Map 2005

Map 6: Coflein map of all historical sites and features in 2km Troed-Y-Rhiw Landscape









7 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Penlandoppa Farmstead on upper boundary, view from ground level.

Appendix 2: Troed-Y-Rhiw Landscape, Penlandoppa Arial photography.

Appendix 3: Medieval Barn/Sheepcote

Appendix 4: Troed Y Rhiw Issa

Appendix 5: Penlanscubor

Appendix 6: Troed-Y-Rhiw Farmstead (current building of that name)

Appendix 7: Google map Troed-Y-Rhiw Landscape

Appendix 8: Heritage Walk plan

Appendix 9: Example of style of map to be used for a 'Heritage Walk'

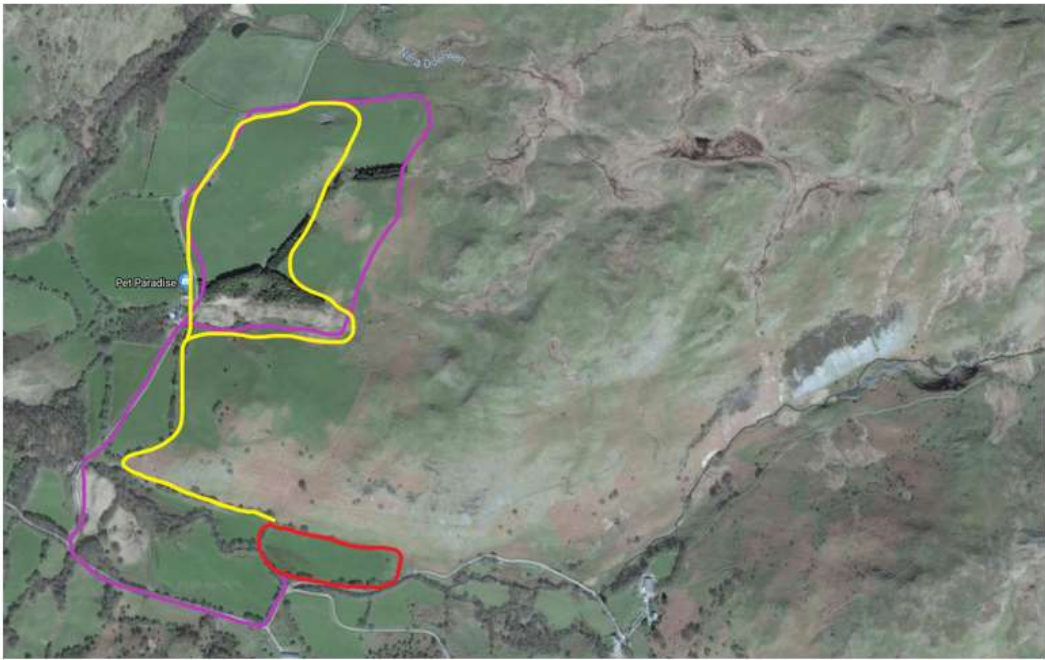
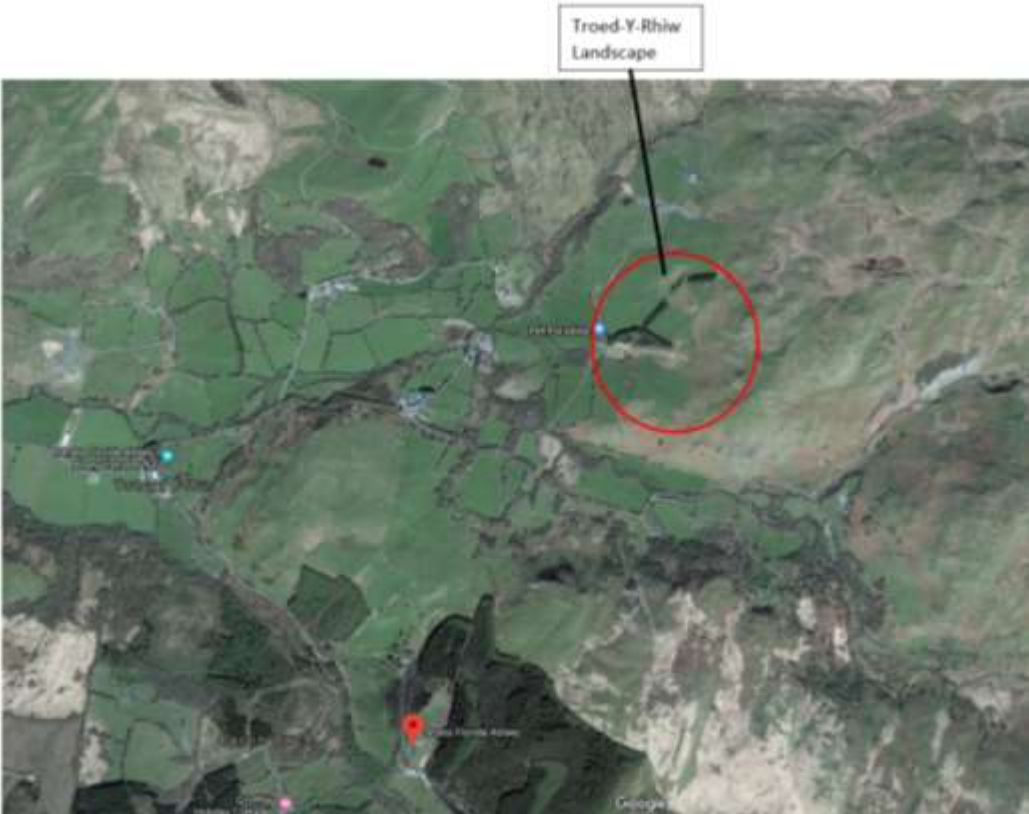
Appendix 10: Type of long-lasting simple signage to be used on site

Appendix 11: Example of augmented reality history photographic application – allows you to see historic sites during different periods of time and potentially interact with characters.









Parking Area	
Suggested Walk Route 1	
Suggested Walk Route 2	

