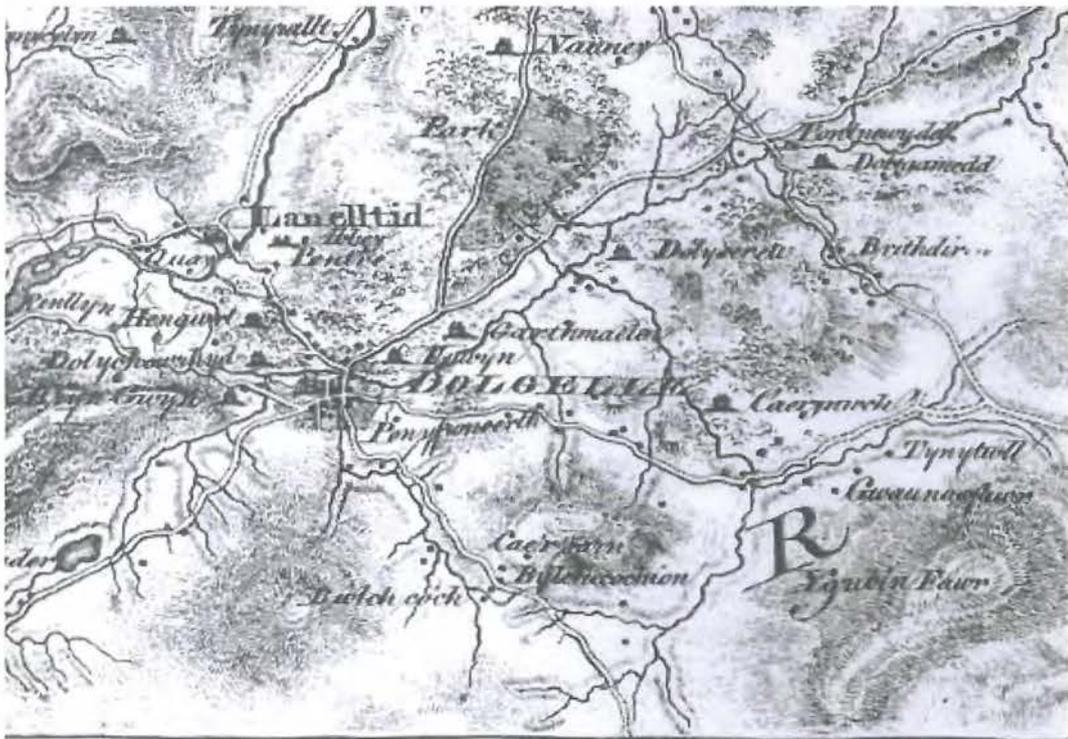

Maes yr Helmau to Cross Foxes, Dolgellau Improvement

Archaeological assessment



Gwyn, D. &
Omidson, A.

GAT Project No. G1727

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Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Craig Beuno Ffordd y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2RT

A470 MAES YR HELMAU TO CROSS FOXES IMPROVEMENT

(G1727)

ABBREVIATIONS

Arch. Camb.: Archaeologia Cambrensis

ASIDOHL: Assessment of the Significance of the Impact of Development on Historic Landscapes).

CCW: Countryside Council for Wales

DRO: Dolgellau Record Office, Gwynedd Archives Service

IFA: Institute of Field Archaeologists

JMHRS: Journal of the Merionethshire Historical and Record Society

RCAHMW: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales

SUMMARY

An initial assessment of the route of the proposed A470(T) road improvement between Maes yr Helmau and Cross Foxes has identified sixteen sites of national, regional and local interest, and three sites that require further assessment.

Initial recommendations are also proposed for mitigatory measures for known sites, ranging from preservation in situ where possible to the provision of a watching brief during road construction.

Sites identified within the route corridor range from the Roman period to the twentieth century, but are predominantly of post Medieval date. Significant sites include the listed Pont Gwanas (15) which should be preserved in situ, the replacement bridge of 1930 (18) as should the farmhouse of Dol Yspytty (14), and the Cross Foxes Inn (13). It is recommended that the remains of the building near the Cross Foxes (12) be examined by excavation and a full measured survey.

Other sites of interest are the Methodist chapel at Rhiwspardyn (11), the pre 1817 trackway to Beudy Cefn Coch (8), and the improved turnpike roads (17) which may throw light on the development of lines of communication within the region. It is recommended that site 11 be fully recorded by a measured survey and description, while the trackway (8) and the roads (16) & (17) be examined archaeologically to enable a study of their construction. This should be accompanied by full descriptive and photographic recording. The trackways (1), (6), (7), and (8) all require surveying as well as recording by photograph and description.

Recommendations are proposed for further assessment to clarify the extent and nature of potential sites. Further assessment by trial trenching is required to establish the exact nature of a series of scoops (9) and the low rectangular platform (10).

A number of agricultural, domestic and other features were identified. Among these were a number of old tracks, field boundaries, and gravel pits and scoops which can be adequately recorded by photograph and description in advance of destruction.

It is recommended that an archaeological and ecological survey be undertaken of the field boundaries within the corridor of interest, and expand this where necessary to allow the boundaries to be put into context. Trial trenches are recommended, the area of which should approximate to some 2% of the ground area to be developed. It is recommended that a watching brief be maintained during the ground disturbance and that provision be made for the adequate recording of any sites which are identified at this stage of the development.

The present document also considers the impact of the proposed development on the identified Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest within which it falls. It concludes that the development will make a significant visual impact on the landscape, and will seriously affect a character area associated with the Quaker movement from the seventeenth century.s

A470 MAES YR HELMAU TO CROSS FOXES IMPROVEMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

As part of its improvements to the A470 Glan Conwy to Cardiff trunk road, the Welsh Assembly is proposing improvements between Maes yr Helmau and Cross Foxes, Dolgellau. The proposed improvement starts on the present A470 just to the east of Maes yr Helmau at approximately SH 7545 1843, and runs north for about 2.3km to link up with the present road again beyond Cross Foxes at SH 7695 1680.

The route crosses mainly agricultural land, currently laid down to permanent pasture, some of it recently improved, some semi-parkland, and also some areas of mature beech, birch, and oak woodland. This woodland includes a Site of Special Scientific Interest centered at SH 7585 1812.

The extent of the area of interest is a strip 400m wide centred on the proposed route, but expanding to include slip roads, roundabouts and alterations to existing roads.

This work forms part of a wider Environmental Assessment, being undertaken by Hyder Consulting for Gwynedd County Council. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was contracted to undertake the archaeological assessment of the route, to be presented as part of the Environmental Statement.

This report updates and replaces an earlier assessment report, completed in 1994 (GAT report 87).

2 SPECIFICATION AND PROJECT DESIGN

An initial report was requested from Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, assessing the likely archaeological impact of the plans and suggesting mitigatory measures. A suggested project design for the work completed in 1994 was produced by the Trust, and agreed with Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. This has been updated to take into account recent developments, particularly the in the light of the identification of the study area as part of a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.

The basic requirement was for a desk-top survey and field search of the corridor of interest in order to assess the impact of the proposals on the archaeological and heritage features within the road corridor and close enough to it to be affected. The importance and condition of known archaeological remains were to be assessed and areas of archaeological potential and new sites to be identified. Measures to mitigate the effects of the road scheme on the archaeological resource were to be suggested.

The present assessment is based upon the guidelines set out in *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2 and also as set out in *Standards and Guidance: Desk-based Assessments* (IFA, 1994, revised 1999), and *Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Processes* (version: 1 September 2001 – henceforth *Good Practice*).

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust's proposals for fulfilling these requirements were as follows:

- a) *to identify and record the cultural heritage of the area to be affected*
- b) *to evaluate the importance of what was identified (both as a cultural landscape and as the individual items which make up that landscape)*
- c) *to recommend ways in which damage to the cultural heritage can be avoided or minimised*

A full archaeological assessment usually comprises six phases:

- 1) *Desk-top study*
- 2) *Field Search*
- 3) *Interim Draft Report*
- 4) *Detailed Field Evaluation*
- 5) *Final Draft Report*
- 6) *Final Report*

This assessment has covered the work required under 1, 2 and 3. It is sometimes necessary to undertake a programme of field evaluation following the desktop assessment. This is because some sites cannot be assessed by desktop or field visit alone, and additional fieldwork is required. This typically takes the form of geophysical survey and trial excavation, although a measured survey is also an option. The present report makes recommendations for any field evaluation required.

It should be noted that full details of ancillary areas likely to be affected by the road works, such as vehicle parking and turning areas, materials storage areas *etc.*, have not yet been supplied. Experience shows that these areas are as likely to suffer damage as the actual land-take for the road. If all such areas fall within the corridor of interest, they will have been covered, but in order that all areas affected may be subjected to the same level of survey, any information relating to areas affected outside the 400m corridor should be notified to the Trust as soon as possible.

Since the preparation of GAT Report 87 increased emphasis has been placed on assessment of proposed developments on the archaeological landscape. For areas identified as Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales by Cadw, ICOMOS and the Countryside Council for Wales, it is recommended that archaeological assessments answer the requirements of an **ASIDOHL** (Assessment of the Significance of the Impact of Development on Historic Landscapes). The constituents of such an instrument are identified in 3.3 below.

3 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

3.1 Desk-top Study

Consultation of maps, computer records, written records and reference works, which make up the Sites and Monuments Record, was undertaken at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. Records (including early Ordnance Survey maps, tithe maps and schedules, estate maps and papers and reference works - see bibliography) were also consulted in the library and the archives of the University of Wales, Bangor, and the county archives at Dolgellau. Aerial photographs were inspected at the offices of the Countryside Council for Wales.

3.2 Field Search

For the first assessment, a field search was undertaken on 17 February 1994 by two members of Trust staff. The whole length of the preferred route was walked where possible; inaccessible areas included some areas of forest notably Coed Maes yr Helmau and Coed Tir Stent Fach, some small areas overgrown with scrub, and some extremely boggy enclosures). The rest of the corridor was either walked or observed from neighbouring fields, paths *etc.* Conditions were generally fine for fieldwork, though a significant proportion of the land was extremely boggy with thick growth of *juncus*, or thickly covered with scrub and ground cover. The light condition was fair for the time of year. Contact was made with landowners along the route; all were helpful but none was able to contribute information of material value.

Sites identified were marked on copies of 1:2,500 OS maps supplied by Gwynedd County Council, as accurately as possible without surveying. Forms were filled in assessing each site, and detailed notes made of the more important. Photographs were taken of all potential sites identified.

The study area was examined again by two members of Trust staff on 18 January 2002.

3.3 Landscape assessment

The proposed road improvement falls within an identified Landscape of Outstanding Historic Significance, as set out in the ICOMOS/Cadw/Countryside Council for Wales *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales*. This document identifies thirty-six such landscapes, of which **31. Bro Dolgellau/Vale of Dolgellau** is one.¹ These are not 'designations' and the document is non-statutory.

The latest guidance on the use of the Register is set out in Welsh Office *Planning Guidance (Wales): First Revision (April 1999)*, para. 5.6.10 and in National Assembly for Wales *Public Consultation, Draft Planning Policy Wales, February 2001*, para. 8.4, both of which state:

¹ ICOMOS/Cadw/Countryside Council for Wales *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales* (Cardiff, 1998), pp. 117-9.

Information on the landscapes on the second part of the Register should also be taken into account by local planning authorities in preparing development plans, and in considering the implications of developments which are of such a scale that they would have more than a local impact on an area on the Register.

Such developments include major communications schemes, which may therefore require the application of part or all of the ASIDOHL process. As set out in the Technical Annex to *Good Practice*, this might be divided into five main stages:

Stage 1 Compilation of an introduction of essential, contextual information

Stage 2 Description and quantification of the direct, physical impacts of development on the historic character area(s) affected

Stage 3 Description and quantification of the direct impacts of development on the historic character area(s) affected

Stage 4 Evaluation of the relative importance of the historic character area(s) (or part[s] thereof) directly affected by development in relation to:

- (a) the whole of the historic character area(s) concerned
- (b) the whole of the historic landscape area on the Register

followed by:

- (c) an evaluation of the relative importance of the historic character area(s) concerned in the national context

Stage 5 Assessment of the overall significance of impact of development, and the effects that altering the historic character area(s) concerned has on the whole of the historic landscape area on the Register.

For the purposes of the present document, the requirements of Stage 1 are fulfilled by sections 1 and 2 of the present document, Stages 2 to 4 by section 5, and Stage 5 by section 6.

3.4 Report

All available information was collated, and transferred onto a single set of maps at a scale of 1:2,500 for convenience. The sites were then assessed and allocated to the categories listed below. These are intended to give an idea of the importance of the site and the level of response likely to be required; descriptions of the sites and specific recommendations for further evaluation or mitigatory measures, as appropriate, are given in the relevant sections of this report. In some cases, further investigation may result in sites being moved into different categories.

3.4.1 Categories

The categories listed below follow the guidelines given in the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2, Paragraph 3.4 and *Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology* (Welsh Office circular 60/96). The allocation of a site to a category defines the importance of the archaeological resource of that site.

The following categories were used to define the importance of the archaeological resource.

Category A - Sites of National Importance.

This category includes Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings (grades I and II*) as well as those sites that would meet the requirements for scheduling (ancient monuments) or listing (buildings) or both.

Sites that are scheduled or listed have legal protection, and it is recommended that all Category A sites remain preserved and protected *in situ*.

Category B - Sites of Regional Importance

These sites are those which would not fulfil the criteria for scheduling or listing (grades I or II*), but which are nevertheless of particular importance within the region. Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, appropriate detailed recording might be an acceptable alternative.

Category C - Sites of District or Local Importance

These sites are not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened, but nevertheless merit adequate recording in advance of damage or destruction.

Category D - Minor and Damaged Sites

These are sites, which are of minor importance, or are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category. For these sites, rapid recording either in advance or during destruction, should be sufficient.

Category E - Sites needing further investigation

Sites, the importance of which is as yet undetermined and which will require further work before they can be allocated to categories A-D, are temporarily placed in this category, with specific recommendations for further evaluation. By the end of the assessment there should be no sites remaining in this category.

3.4.2 Definition of Impact

Direct impact

The direct impact of the proposed development on each site was estimated. The impact is defined as *none, slight, unlikely, likely, significant, considerable or unknown* as follows:

None:

There is no construction impact on this particular site.

Slight:

This has generally been used where the impact is marginal and would not by the nature of the site cause irreversible damage to the remainder of the feature, e.g. part of a trackway or field bank.

Unlikely:

This category indicates sites that fall on the margins of the study area, but are unlikely to be directly affected.

Likely:

Sites towards the edges of the study area, which may not be directly build on, but which are likely to be damaged in some way by the construction activity.

Significant:

The partial removal of a site affecting its overall integrity. Sites falling into this category may be linear features such as roads or field boundaries where the removal of part of the feature could make overall interpretation problematic.

Considerable:

The total removal of a feature or its partial removal which would effectively destroy the remainder of the site.

Unknown:

This is used when the location of the site is unknown, but thought to be in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Indirect impact

The indirect impact, in this case, is related mainly to the setting of historic buildings around the development area. The affect of the development on the setting of each relevant site has been defined as follows:

Minimal:

Development cannot be seen from the historic building, nor does it impact on views to the historic building.

Moderate:

Development can be seen from the historic building or impacts on views to the historic building, but either the setting has already been comprised by earlier development, or the impact of the present development can be easily mitigated.

Severe:

Development can be seen from the historic building or impacts on views to the historic building. There are no simple solutions that will reduce this impact.

Landscape impact

The landscape impact of any development is categorised as:

Severe (see below)

Low – in which the historic character is not directly affected by land loss or fragmentation, but the development will have a visual impact and would be likely to encourage encroachment towards it, subsequently resulting in the value of the whole area being diminished.

None – no effects

Within an identified Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (and as such, necessarily of national importance), the impact of any development must be considered **severe**. This category is further subdivided thus:

Very severe – an historic character area that is of very special significance owing to its inherent importance (*e.g.* rarity, group value, condition, *etc.*)

– the development will lead to a critical reduction of value in terms of land loss, fragmentation and/or visual intrusion

– the effect of the development will be significantly to reduce the value of the historic character area as a whole, thereby appreciably diminishing the overall value of the historic landscape area on the Register

Moderately severe – an historic character area with good preservation

– the development will lead to a significant reduction in value in terms of land loss, fragmentation and/or visual intrusion

– the effect of the development will be to damage key elements of the historic character area, with appreciable lowering of the value of the area as a whole, and thereby diminishing the overall value of the historic landscape area on the Register

Fairly severe – an historic character area for which there are other examples, and there has already been loss of some elements due to modern development

– the developments will cause a loss in value, though this is not necessarily critical in terms of land loss, fragmentation and/or visual intrusion

– the development may lead to the further encroachment of development into the historic landscape area on the Register

3.4.3 Definition of field evaluation techniques

Field evaluation is necessary to allow the reclassification of the category E sites, and to allow the evaluation are areas of land where there are no visible features, but for which there is potential for sites to exist. Two principal techniques can be used for carrying out the evaluation: geophysical survey and trial trenching.

Geophysical survey

This technique involves the use of a magnetometer, which detects variation in the earth's magnetic field caused by the presence of iron in the soil. This is usually in the form of weakly magnetised iron oxides, which tend to be concentrated in the topsoil. Features cut into the subsoil and back-filled or silted with topsoil contain greater amounts of iron and can therefore be detected with the gradiometer. Strong readings can be produced by the presence of iron objects, and also hearths or kilns.

Other forms of geophysical survey are available, of which resistivity survey is the other most commonly used. However, for rapid coverage of large areas, the magnetometer is usually considered the most cost-effective method. It is also possible to scan a large area very rapidly by walking with the magnetometer, and marking the location of any high or low readings, but not actually logging the readings for processing.

Trial trenching

Buried archaeological deposits cannot always be detected from the surface, even with geophysics, and trial trenching allows a representative sample of the development area to be investigated. Trenches of an appropriate size can also be excavated to evaluate category E sites. These trenches typically measure between 20m and 30m long by 2m wide. The turf and topsoil is removed by mechanical excavator, and the resulting surface cleaned by hand and examined for features. Anything noted is further examined, so that the nature of any remains can be understood, and mitigation measures can be recommended.

3.4.4 Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations

Below are the measures that may be recommended to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeology.

None:

No impact so no requirement for mitigatory measures.

Detailed recording:

Requiring a photographic record, surveying and the production of a measure drawing prior to commencement of works.

Archaeological excavation may also be required depending on the particular feature and the extent and effect of the impact.

Basic recording:

Requiring a photographic record and full description prior to commencement of works.

Watching brief:

Requiring observation of particular identified features or areas during works in their vicinity. This may be supplemented by detailed or basic recording of exposed layers or structures.

Avoidance:

Features, which may be affected directly by the scheme, or during the construction, should be avoided. Occasionally a minor change to the proposed plan is recommended, but more usually it refers to the need for care to be taken during construction to avoid accidental damage to a feature. This is often best achieved by clearly marking features prior to the start of work.

Reinstatement:

The feature should be re-instated with archaeological advice and supervision.

4 BASELINE SURVEY

4.1 Topographic description

The area of the proposed route lies mainly on the south-west side of a side valley formed by the Afon Clywedog, a tributary of the Afon Wnion, which flows from south-east to north-west to join the Wnion on the meadows at Dolserau. To the south the area is closed by the mountain range of which Cadair Idris is the highest peak, but which is pierced at Bwlch Llyn bach, a mountain pass which leads to the Dysinni valley, and Bwlch Oerddrws, which leads to the Mawddwy valley.

4.2 Archaeological and historical background

4.2.1 Prehistoric

There are no known settlement or burial sites of the prehistoric period within and near the corridor of interest. However within a 5km radius of the corridor, there a number of cairns and standing stones belonging to the Bronze Age.

4.2.2 Roman

The focus of the Roman presence within the area was the fortlet at Brithdir, outside the study area to the north, believed initially to have been established during the governorship of Julius Frontinus (AD 74-78). This lay at the intersection of a number of Roman roads, including those to Pennal and Caersws. It is possible that these routes followed the same topography as the present roads, and in particular that the Roman routes may underlie existing tarmacadamized roads, particularly to the south and east of Cross Foxes. It has variously been suggested that an east-west Roman road crosses over the present A470 near the site of Cross Foxes,² and at approximately SH 761- 178-. The latter authority also suggests a Roman camp at Henblas, at SH 7750 1894.³ However, it must be emphasised that the Pennal route route may have lay to the west of Cadair Idris and the Caersws route may have passed over Rhos Gwanas.⁴

Sarn Helen, according to Edward Lhuyd, the 17th century antiquarian, enters the area just to the south of the Cross Foxes Hotel, after crossing the Afon Clywedog at Pont Bylan, presumably on the alignment of the present A487(T). It is then thought to turn to the west at the Cross Foxes, probably following the line of the present country lane to Tabor, on its way to Dolgellau.

Outside the area of interest immediately to the south east of the southern end of the corridor is the possible route of another Roman Road which would have linked the Brithdir fortlet with a postulated larger fort at Dolgellau, 1.5km to the east

4.2.3 Medieval and later

Settlement of the area during the Medieval period is well documented but not well represented on the ground. The area lies within the commote of Tal y bont in the Cantref of Arudwy. In the Medieval period these lands formed part of the townships of Gwanas and Garthgynfor and the parish of Dolgellau, but since 1894 they have come within the then newly-created civil parish (now community) of Brithdir ac Islaw'r Dref.

While there are no known sites actually located within the corridor, place-name evidence from both within and just on the edge of the area suggests use in the period. Hendre Gyfeilliad, a farmstead in the north of the area, may derive its name from the word *gafael*, a term applied during the Medieval period to land on which a cash rent was owed in tribute, though it is at least equally probable that its apparent meaning is the correct interpretation, 'the twins' homestead'.⁵ The Merioneth Extent drawn up in the early fifteenth century mentions the landholding *gwely Einion Du* in the township of Garthgynfawr, which cannot now be identified.⁶

The same document also identifies within the study area a tract of 'extent land', a phrase which survives in the name Tir Stent. 'Stent' derives from the English word 'extent', indicating land in crown's holding, whether

² ID Margary, *Roman Roads in Britain* (London, 1955-7), p. 347.

³ Waddelove E: *The Roman Roads of North Wales: Recent Discoveries* (Denbigh, 1999), pp. 173-88.

⁴ D Hopewell, 'Archaeological Surveys and Excavations at Brithdir', *JMHR* XII IV (1997), pp. 310-333.

⁵ One source attests Hendre Gefeilliad as in existence as a separate holding in 1592, but adds that it may be much older (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Report G1176, *A470 Maes yr Helmau to Cross Foxes, Dolgellau Improvement* [1994], p. 3). It is possible that this is true, but it is not attested in the *Extent of Merioneth* of that year – see PRO: LR2/236.

⁶ *Registrum Vulgariter Nuncupatum "The Record of Caernarvon"* (London, 1838), p. 271 (from British Library Harleian ms 4776, Extenta Com' Meryoneth).

because it had previously been escheat through intestate death or through felony, or for other reasons. The early fifteenth century Extent records of Garthgynfawr 'that there is in this township one parcel of extent land called Brythir and Ednowayn (*sic*) who gives to the lord prince annually xvij shillings in equal payments at Easter and at the feast of St Michael the Archangel.'⁷ Whether this was the area still known as Tir Stent is unclear. 'Brythir' is presumably to be distinguished from the township of Brithdir, which is noted separately.

However, by the mid seventeenth century, part at least of Tir Stent had become the property of Richard Lloyd of Dylasau, near Penmachno, and Robert Price of Giler, near Cerrig y Drudion, by whom it was leased to Theodore Vaughan of Caerynwch.⁸ However, the neighbouring farms also had the right to graze cattle on Tir Stent, and part appears to have remained common land, or to have been regarded as such, for much later.⁹

Also of interest is Dol Ysptyty, a name associated with Hospice and Grange of Gwanas, which before 1338, was part of the land belonging to Halston, a Preceptory of the Order of St. John. The Order of St John of Jerusalem or the Knights Hospitallers was established during the first half of the eleventh Century to provide hospitality for pilgrims making the journey way to the Middle East. The grange complex of Gwanas is thought to have stood at or near the farmsteads of either Gwanas Fawr (SH 771 166), or Plas Gwanas (SH 770 169), or both. The chapel, grange and hospital are mentioned in a survey of about 1284 as *Hospitalis de Villa de Wona* and also as *Hospitalis de Wannas*.¹⁰ The buildings standing at Plas Gwanas and Gwanas Fawr today probably post-date the dissolution of the monasteries from 1536. However, a short length of probable 16th century walling with a lancet window is to be found at Plas Gwanas. Medieval fabric structures survive in more complete form in two houses within the study area. Both are believed to date from the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century. Plas Hen was the focus of the Caerynwch estate, and Dolgun is a three-bay hall house believed to have been built by either by Ednyfed ap Hywel, or by his father, Hywel ap Maredudd.¹¹

The evolution of Medieval land-tenure in this area into the estates of the sixteenth and seventeenth century is imperfectly understood, in part because the *Extent of Merioneth* of 1592, though it lists tenements in the township of Brithdir, does not list those in Gwanas or Garthgynfawr, which may have been crown lands.¹² However, it is clear that the landscape of the Dolgellau area came to be dominated in the period before the Civil War by the Nannau estate, to the north of the town, and by a series of smaller estates and freeholds to the south, including the area along the proposed improvement corridor. Amongst these were Caerynwch, based on the east side of the Clywedog, around the house now known as Plas Hen.¹³ The house and the estate were owned in 1588 by Tudor Fychan, whose grandson and successor in title, the tenant of Tir Stent, preserved the family name but further anglicised it to Theodore Vaughan. Caerynwch's fortunes improved when Sir Richard Roberts (1752-1823), later a judge and a baron of the exchequer, married into the family; his elder son became Member of Parliament for Merioneth.¹⁴

Nannau itself, whose owners' sympathies lay with the Royalists, was burnt down by the Parliamentary army in 1645, forcing the family to decamp to their estates elsewhere in the county. This effectively created a situation whereby the other land-owners could flourish.

This in part contributed to the tradition of religious radicalism for which the area became noted. Dolgellau and its surrounding area became in the seventeenth century a stronghold of the Society of Friends (Quakers), whose number included the owners of most of the lands through which the present road runs. Dolgun Uchaf was the home of the first effective yearly Meeting of the Welsh Quakers, when Ellis Morris 'gent' was living there, a sympathiser with, if not necessarily a member of, the Society of Friends. They 'were faign to meett out of doors under the shadie trees'¹⁵ in what is now Torrent Walk when the house could not hold them. Robert Owen of Dolserau had been Oliver Cromwell's militia commissioner for Merionethshire, and may have been attracted by the teachings of the millennial sect, the Fifth Monarchists. His family had been famous for their religious

⁷ *Registrum Vulgariter Nuncupatum "The Record of Caernarvon"* (London, 1838), p. 271 (from British Library Harleian ms 4776, Extenta Com' Meryoneth.

⁸ DRO: ZDA/15.

⁹ G.J. Williams, 'The Quakers of Merioneth During the Seventeenth Century' *JMHS* VIII 2-3 (1978-9), p. 319, DRO: ZDA/248.

¹⁰ RCAHMW, *Inventory of the County of Merioneth*, p. 9, A.D. Carr, 'The First Extent of Merioneth', appendix 1 of *History of Merioneth 2* (Cardiff, 2001), p.706.

¹¹ P. Smith and R. Suggett, 'Dolgun Uchaf: A Late-Medieval Hall-House' *JMHS* XCII 2 1995 pp. 95-10.

¹² PRO LR2/236 (photcopy on DRO).

¹³ Owen, p. 37n.

¹⁴ *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*, entry for Richards family of Coed and Humphreys family of Caerynwch.

¹⁵ J. Gwynn Williams, JG: 'The Quakers of Merioneth During the Seventeenth Century' *JMHS* VIII 2-3 (1978-9).

radicalism ever since one of them, Lewis Owen, had joined the Jesuits, only to become their most ferocious critic. Lewis Owen of Tyddyn y Garreg sat on the Merioneth County Committee established by the Parliament of Saints; his son Owen Lewis provided the Quakers with a burial ground. Rowland Ellis of Gwanas was among the many from the immediate area who emigrated to Pennsylvania. He gave the name of his birthplace, south of Dolgellau, Bryn Mawr to his new farm in America, on the lands of which the women's university was eventually to be established. Neither Maes yr Helmau nor Hendre Gefeilliad is recorded as a Quaker household, though it is possible that Maes yr Helmau was not yet a separate holding.¹⁶ Nor was Caerynwch, whose centre lay on the east bank of the Clywedog.

Houses and farms along the route date from at least the late 17th century onwards, some of them being buildings of intrinsic merit and some having group value with their associated outbuildings and walls. Others are now reduced to earthworks or ruins. Although no Listed buildings are situated within the corridor of interest, several lie immediately outside. Maes yr Helmau farmhouse and its contiguous farm building are listed Grade II. So are Gwanas Fawr and its outbuildings. The house at Gwanas, which in its present form dates from the 16th century, is 'L' shaped, built of stone under a slate roof with casements and the remains of stone mullioned windows. The date-stone of 1722 probably commemorates alterations. The outbuildings date from the 17th century.

An example of Quaker enterprise is the blast-furnace established on Dolgun by Abraham Darby I, a Quaker ironfounder from Bristol, had already succeeded in using coke instead of charcoal to smelt iron in a blast furnace at Coalbrookdale. Bedded oolitic iron ore from an open-cast on Bryn Castell, west of Cross Foxes, provided the main source of iron ore. The furnace was only in blast from 1719 to 1733, and the last known reference comes in 1802, when mention was made of a forge powered by water, and a charcoal fuelled furnace. The remains survive, together with the pit for the wheel which operated the bellows.¹⁷

4.2.4 Modern

The Quaker cause declined in and around Dolgellau as a consequence of emigration to Pennsylvania in the late seventeenth century, until in 1845 only three elderly ladies were left to attend the meeting house at Tir Stent, built in 1796. With the death of the last of these, Lowri Lewis of Gwanas in 1847, the Independents were purchased the meeting house and established Capel Tabor.¹⁸ The Methodists were established within the study area by 1812, when they established a school, formerly based at Hafod Oer, in a 'poor cottage' on the site of the present Capel Rhiwspardyn. A chapel was built in 1828, and a lease confirmed in 1832.¹⁹

By the nineteenth century, Caerynwch was established as the leading house of the area. Baron Richards constructed the present mansion 150 yards to the south-west of Plas Hen in the early years of the century, and improvements to the grounds went on into the twentieth century.²⁰ By 1817 Dolgun, Maes yr Helmau, Hendre Gefeilliad, Tyddyn y Garreg, Tyddyn Mawr, Ty'n y Clawdd and Cross Foxes were still independent holdings, but by 1862 a Caerynwch rental shows that these had all become part of the estate.²¹

The Merioneth Turnpike Trust was formed in 1777 and was responsible for maintaining the road from Dolgellau to Dinas Mawddwy, among others by the end of the eighteenth century. John Evans's map of North Wales (Appendix 1, map 1) published in 1797 shows the road between from Dinas Mawddwy making its way through Bwlch Oerddrws, over Pont Gwanas and past the Cross Foxes before dropping down precipitately to Dolgellau, a route known as the 'ffordd dryll drybedd' or 'ffordd y fron serth'.²² The section from Pont Gwanas to the Cross Foxes lies within the corridor. Pont Gwanas is itself listed, grade II. At some stage after the Evans map was surveyed, the Turnpike Trust undertook the construction of a road along the present course of the A470(T) from Dolgellau through Maes yr Helmau to Cross Foxes. The engineer is unknown. It was described as 'New Turnpike' on a map of 1817 (Appendix 1, map 2).²³ This same map also shows the Cross Foxes Inn, though situated in the fork between the Tabor road and the Machynlleth road rather than, as today, the fork between the Machynlleth road and the Dinas Mawddwy road. A building is situated on the site of the present inn, but it is

¹⁶ The name Maes yr Helmau, 'field of the barns', suggests that it formed part of a larger holding until the post-medieval period. The element *helm*, 'barn', is more common in Montgomeryshire Welsh than in Merionethshire, and its use in the watershed of the Afon Wnion is testament to the importance of the area as a transport corridor.

¹⁷ P. Riden, *A Gazetteer of Charcoal-fired Blast Furnaces in Great Britain in use since 1660* (Cardiff, 1993).

¹⁸ Idris Fychan, *Hanes Dolgellau* (Treffynnon, 1872), pp. 45-6.

¹⁹ Rev. Robert Owen, *Hanes Methodistiaeth Gorllewin Meirionydd* 1 (Dolgellau, 1889), pp. 456-7.

²⁰ H.J. Owen, p. 37n, DRO: ZDA/239.

²¹ DRO: ZDA/234 and 104.

²² Idris Fychan, *Hanes Dolgellau* (Treffynnon, 1872), p. 83.

²³ DRO: ZDA/234.

- Feature 9** **Series of scoops** SH 7642 1735 C
Category E
Direct impact: Unlikely
Indirect impact: Severe
A series of substantial sub-circular and sub-rectangular scoops situated near the present road. The scoops are grassed over and their exact nature is unknown, although they may be gravel diggings.
Recommendation for further assessment: *Trial trenching to establish exact nature of feature.*
Recommendation for mitigatory measures: *To be established following further assessment.*
- Feature 10** **Terraced area** SH 7643 1723
Category E
Direct impact: Considerable
Indirect impact: Severe
A low sub-rectangular grass covered terraced area lying alongside the existing A470(T) near field entrance, possibly representing turnpike construction.
Recommendation for further assessment: *To be investigated by trial trenching.*
Recommendation for mitigatory measures: *To be established following further assessment.*
- Feature 11** **Capel Rhiwspardyn** SH 7631 1674
Category C
Direct impact: None
Indirect impact: Severe
A partially rendered rectangular two story dwelling of coursed rubble construction under a slate roof, formerly a Methodist Chapel. The 'poor cottage' which preceded the chapel is marked on the John Evans map of 1795, and the present structure probably represents the chapel of 1828.
Recommendation for further assessment: *None.*
Recommendation for mitigatory measures: *Basic recording*
- Feature 12** **Structural remains near the Cross Foxes Inn** SH 7631 1670
Category E
Direct impact: Likely
Indirect impact: Severe
A substantial rectangular structure. The Cross Foxes Inn (see feature 13) is indicated here on a map of 1817. All that now remains is a slightly raised level, rectangular, grassed-over platform with a length of truncated walling of coursed rubble on its western side.
Recommendation for further assessment: *None.*
Recommendation for mitigatory measures: *Trial excavation*
- Feature 13** **The Cross Foxes Inn** SH 7636 1669
Category B
Direct impact: None
Indirect impact: Severe
A large two storeyed stone built building under a slate roof. A date plaque on the porch carries the date 1859, but the building itself is likely to be earlier. An estate map of 1817 shows a smaller building on the site, possibly a toll-house. The building was formerly Listed as Grade III.
Recommendation for further assessment: *None*
Recommendation for mitigatory measures: *Preservation in situ*
- Feature 14** **Dol Ysptyty farm** SH 7675 1684
Category B
Direct impact: None
Indirect impact: Severe
This site comprises an 18th century, possibly earlier, farmhouse and associated field system. The name of the site, Dol Ysptyty indicates some antiquity, referring to the Medieval Hospice of Gwanas, which belonged to the Order of the Knights of St John. This was thought to be located somewhere in the region, probably at the nearby farms of Gwanas fawr and Plas Gwanas. The place-name indicates that this was a meadow belonging to the Order.
Recommendation for further assessment: *None*
Recommendation for mitigatory measures: *Preservation in situ*

Feature 15 Pont Gwanas

SH 7682 1679

Category A (listed grade II)

*Direct impact: None**Indirect impact: Severe*

An early double span bridge with segmental arches, cut-water and pilaster. This bridge carried the turnpike and its precursor from Dolgellau to Dinas Mawddwy across the Afon Clywedog. The bridge appears on a map of 1787 and on Ogilby's map of 1675, it is also mentioned in documents dating to 1679 and 1688 (the Helygog Collection, National Library). It is known that the bridge was repaired in 1764 and has clearly been widened but it is likely that the basic fabric of the bridge dates from the mid-seventeenth century. There is no sign of a ford in the immediate vicinity.

It was noticed during field walking in 1994 that the bridge was being used as an alternative temporary river crossing while work is being carried out on the bypass bridge on the A470(T). The bridge was damaged as a result, with the partial removal of one parapet and the insertion of metal strengthening plates above the northernmost arch. Heavy traffic had caused large fissures to appear in the metal surface of the bridge and elsewhere in the structure. However repairs have since been undertaken to the parapet walls.

Recommendation for further assessment: *None***Recommendation for mitigatory measures:** *Preservation in situ***Feature 16 Roman roads**

Category E

*Direct impact: Unknown**Indirect impact: Unknown*

There are several possible sections of Roman road in the corridor: Sarn Helen, running between Dolgellau and the Roman fort of Cefn Caer, Pennal; a postulated Roman route running east from Dolgellau over Bwlch Oer Ddrws to Welshpool and beyond; and a possible east-west route from Brithdir to Dolgellau.

These may lie on the same alignment as the existing tarmacadamised routes. Sarn Helen enters the area from the south at SH76621653 and follows the A487(T) as far as the Cross Foxes then turns west to follow the minor road to Tabor. The other route, which is less certain, is thought to follow the line of the A470(T) west as far as the Cross Foxes where it is thought to join with Sarn Helen.

Recommendation for further assessment: *None***Recommendation for mitigatory measures:** *A watching brief should be undertaken during any disturbance of the existing road and immediate environs***Feature 17 Improved turnpike road**

SH 7545 1843 to SH 7695 1680.

Category C

*Direct impact: Slight**Indirect impact: Severe*

The present A470(T) follows the alignment of the late 18th - early 19th century turnpike road from Dolgellau to Dinas Mawddwy. This road appears named on an estate map of 1817 as the 'New Turnpike Road from Dolgelley'. The present road scheme would affect it along its length from near Maes yr Helmau (SH 7545 1843) to beyond Pont Gwanas at SH 7695 1680.

Recommendation for further assessment: *None***Recommendation for mitigatory measures:** *A controlled watching brief should be maintained during disturbance to the road, so that information concerning the development and construction method is recorded.***Feature 18 Gwanas bridge (modern)**

SH 7679 1675

Category B

*Direct impact: Significant**Indirect impact: Severe*

A double span bridge with segmental arches and cut-water, opened by Herbert Morrison in 1930 on behalf of Merionethshire County Council. It is believed to be among the last traditional stone-built bridges in Wales, though there is possibly some use of pre-stressed concrete in the structure. The stone is not local, though a Merionethshire source is likely.

Recommendation for further assessment: *None***Recommendation for mitigatory measures:** *Preservation in situ*

of the integrity, historic coherence and associations of the three areas, as well as of the features identified in 5.1, they are of comparable importance as part of a cultural and associative landscape associated with the development of land-holding and land-use within the area, and above all for their association with the Quaker movement and the emigration to America. Effectively, the area between Gwanas and Dolserau is one of the cradles of the state of Pennsylvania.

The same comment therefore applies to the relationship between the four identified character areas and the whole of the identified Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. Whilst the four character areas only form a small component of the whole, their significance reflects the significance of the whole of Bro Dolgellau.

The present and proposed routes of the A470(T) between Maes yr Helmau and Cross Foxes therefore pass through a landscape of national importance, deriving in particular from its association with the Quaker movement and emigration. It provides archaeological and architectural evidence to complement and expand on documentary records for this period, and for the association of this particular landscape. It enables a comprehension of historical perspectives through the experience of the physical landscape.

Evaluation results for Stage 4 may be summarised thus:

EVALUATION OF THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE PART OF THE HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT						
CRITERION VALUE	High/good	Moderate/average	Low/fair	High/good	Moderate/average	Low/fair
In relation to:	Historic character areas			Landscape of Historic Interest		
Rarity		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	
Representativeness	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		
Documentation		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Group value		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Survival	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		
Condition	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		
Coherence		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Integrity		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Potential		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Amenity		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Associations	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		

6 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATORY MEASURES

6.1 Summary of impacts

6.1.1 Individual sites

The following table summarises the archaeological features in the survey area, the impact of the development on these, and recommended mitigatory measures.

Feature	Category of importance	Direct impact
1	D	Low
2	C	Low
3	C	Low
4	D	Low
5	D	Very severe
6	D	Fairly severe
7	D	Fairly severe
8	C	Fairly severe
9	E	Low
10	E	Very severe
11	C	Low
12	B	Low
13	B	Low
14	B	Low
15	A	Low
16	E	Unknown
17	C	Moderately severe
18	B	Very severe
19	C	Low

6.1.2 Impact on the landscape

The direct impact of the proposed road on the immediate area should be considered as **Moderately severe**, as defined in 3.4.2 above.

6.2 Further assessment by field evaluation

This section summarises the work which is recommended to evaluate those archaeological remains whose status and extent are not yet established, i.e. sites in Category E. They will be reclassified and suitable mitigatory measures suggested following evaluation.

9. Series of scoops

Geophysical survey and Trial trenching

10. Rectangular platform

Geophysical survey and Trial trenching

Areas of unknown potential archaeological potential

Geophysical survey and Trial trenching

6.3 Recommendations for mitigatory measures

This section lists the remaining sites according to category. The categorisation attempts to quantify the importance of the archaeological resource, as suggested in the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2.

Category	No.	Feature	Recommendation
A	15	Pont Gwanas	Preservation <i>in situ</i>
B	14	Dol Ysptyty farm	Preservation <i>in situ</i>
B	13	Cross Foxes Inn	Preservation <i>in situ</i>
B	18	Gwanas bridge (modern)	Preservation <i>in situ</i>
C	2	Nineteenth century lodge	Basic recording
C	3	Lane to Tabor	Basic recording
C	8	Trackway	Basic recording; Archaeological examination
C	11	Capel Rhiwspardyn	Basic recording
C	18	Improved turnpike road	Watching brief
C	19	Farm gateway	Basic recording
D	1	Trackway	Basic recording
D	4	Gravel pit	Basic recording
D	5	Series of scoops	Basic recording; watching brief
D	6	Trackway	Survey; basic recording
D	7	Trackway	Basic recording
E	9	Series of scoops	Further assessment
E	10	Terraced area	Further assessment
E	12	Structural remains near the Cross Foxes Inn	Trail excavation
E	16	Roman roads	Watching brief
		Field boundaries	Descriptive survey

7 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LANDSCAPE

The area between Maes yr Helmau and Cross Foxes forms part of an identified Landscape of Outstanding Historic Importance. It preserves features from the late Medieval and more recent periods; the possibility also exists of buried features from earlier periods. Surviving surface features relate mainly to land-use and to regional transport from the seventeenth century onwards to the early twentieth.

The particular areas within which the proposed development falls are, within the context of a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest and in its own right, of great importance as associative cultural landscapes. Their associations of the area with the growth of the Quaker movement in and around Dolgellau and elsewhere in Merioneth confirm the national significance of the identified Vale of Dolgellau Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest; their associations with the emigration to Pennsylvania confirm their international significance.

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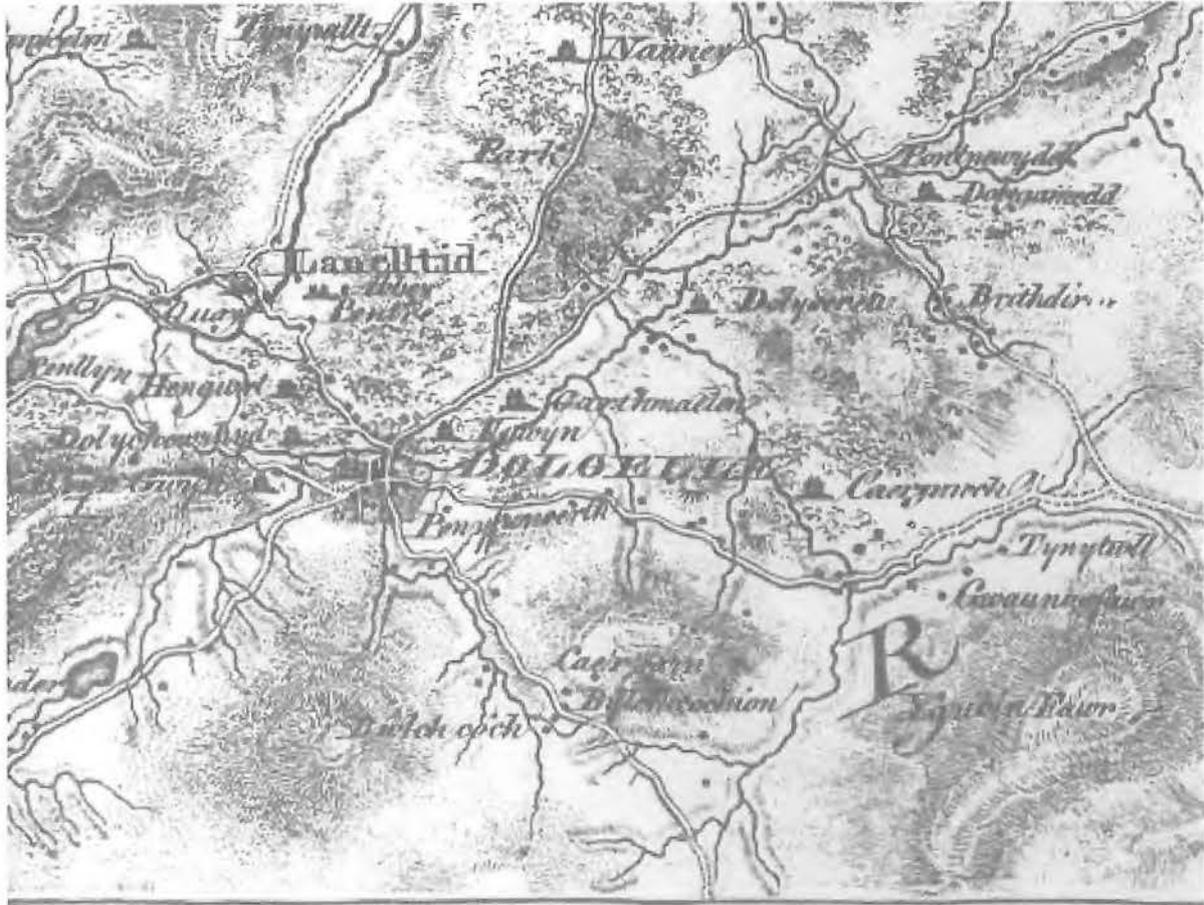
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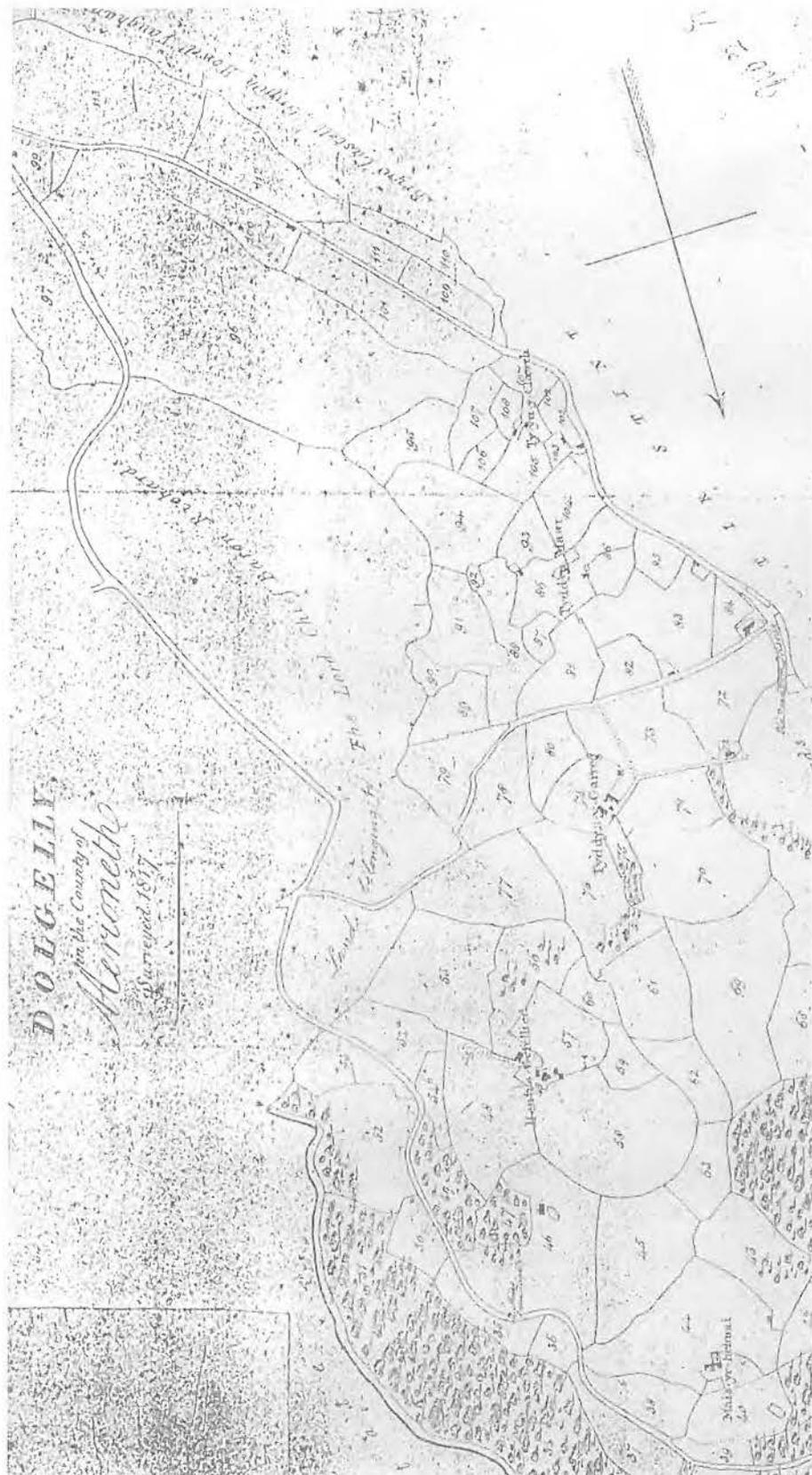
APPENDIX 1

Maps used in assessment (note: not all archive maps used are suitable for reproduction)

Map 1 (John Evans map, 1796 - detail)



Map 2 (survey of 1817 - detail)



Map 3 (6" ordnance survey, 1901-1902 – 33SE and 37NE – detail)



APPENDIX 2
CADW: WELSH HISTORIC MONUMENTS
CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU - COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES
YMDDIRIEDOLAETHAU ARCHAEOLEGOL CYMRU - WELSH ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUSTS

CANLLAW AT ARFER DA AR DDEFNYDDIO'R
GOFRESTR O DIRWEDDAU O DDIDDORDEB HANESYDDOL YNG NGHYMRU
YN Y PROSESAU CYNLLUNIO A DATBLYGU
GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE ON USING THE
REGISTER OF LANDSCAPES OF HISTORIC INTEREST IN WALES
IN THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

FERSIWN 1 HYDREF 2001
VERSION 1 OCTOBER 2001

This Guide to Good Practice relates to the non-statutory *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*. The Register's principal sponsors, Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and the Countryside Council for Wales, have prepared it with the assistance of the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts. The Guide is non-statutory and advisory only. It is intended to assist local planning authorities to decide how much weight to give to information in the Register when determining planning applications. It is also intended to assist others involved in the planning and development process in Wales, particularly developers preparing Environmental Impact Assessment statements, to bring forward plans and proposals that are likely to have the least possible adverse impact on historic landscape areas on the Register.

The Guide describes the background to the Register, the follow-up programme of historic landscape characterisation in the areas identified on it, the general principles underpinning the identification and conservation of historic landscapes, and the suggested use of the Register within the planning process and other assessment decision procedures not promoted through the Town and Country Planning Acts. The Guide includes a Technical Annex that sets out a staged process for assessing the significance of the impact of development on historic landscape areas on the Register. It is recommended that assessments are routinely undertaken in the circumstances described above and in accordance with the suggested use of the Register described in the Guide.

1.0 Background to the *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*

1.1 The whole of the Welsh landscape can be said to be historic, with human activity often having been at the heart of its creation. The nature of its terrain, the stewardship exercised over the centuries by generations of landowners and farmers, along with only limited intensive cultivation and urbanisation, have produced ideal conditions that have favoured the survival of much of the historic character of the Welsh landscape. However, since the beginning of the 20th century, the scale and pace of change has intensified, and as we enter the 21st century, the historic character of the landscape is increasingly under pressure from a variety of new changes as older features are renewed or replaced, or when new features, often with very different characteristics, have to be introduced to meet modern needs.

1.2 Against this background and to be better informed about how to accommodate necessary change in a way that is sensitive to the historic character of landscape, Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS UK) decided to collaborate to produce the *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales* as a means of identifying, and to provide information on, the most important and best-surviving historic landscapes in Wales. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts and the Welsh local authorities also collaborated in the project.

1.3 This Register has been issued in two parts, covering thirty-six "outstanding" and twenty-two "special" historic landscape areas, and forms Part 2 of the wider exercise to compile an overall *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales*. For the purpose of this Guide,

therefore, the term “historic landscape” refers to an area identified on the *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales* (published as Part 2.1, by Cadw, in 1998, ISBN 1 85760 007 X), or on the *Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales* (published as Part 2.2, by Cadw, in 2001, ISBN 1 85760 187 4). The Guide does not deal with Part 1 of the Register that is concerned with historic parks and gardens.

1.4 By identifying a selection of areas considered to be of national importance in Wales on the Register, it is hoped that greater account will be taken of historic landscapes generally, in landscape planning, management, conservation, enhancement and interpretation, and in providing opportunities for access and recreation. In raising awareness of the historic significance and importance of the Welsh environment generally, the Register should also encourage everyone concerned to give historic landscape issues greater weight alongside the more traditional and long-established conservation issues.

1.5 At the same time, the Register recognises that landscapes are dynamic, living systems fashioned to meet current, mainly economic, needs and that what exists today is largely a created landscape, produced through human endeavour since the beginning of farming in this country. Landscapes, therefore, will continue to change, and need to change, so the intention is not to fossilise them, or to prevent them from being altered, but rather to manage them in ways that will allow the best characteristics from the past to be retained as they evolve to meet modern needs.

1.6 All landscape areas identified on the Register are of national importance. The difference between the landscapes of outstanding historic interest featured in Part 2.1, and the landscapes of special historic interest featured in Part 2.2, therefore, is one of degree, and not quality of historic interest. The distinction was established by expert consensus following the scoring thresholds set for the selection of areas to be included on the Register. The scoring thresholds were verified by field assessments and are described in detail in the introduction to the Register. In summary, the distinction is intended to reflect the fact that the landscapes of special historic interest are generally smaller in size and have fewer selection criteria against which they could be justified, compared to the landscapes of outstanding historic interest. The distinction, however, should not cause the former to be considered of less value than the latter, and so far as the advice on the use of the Register is concerned, both categories should be treated in the same way.

1.7 Further information on the background to the creation of the Register, its methodology and its role, can be found in the introduction to Part 2.1, with a supplement of additional, updated information included in the introduction to Part 2.2.

2.0 The Historic Landscape Characterisation programme

2.1 In parallel with the creation of the Register, Cadw and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts are undertaking a follow-up programme of ‘historic landscape characterisation’ in Wales. The programme gathers together more detailed information about each area on the Register, and it is designed to cater for a variety of needs, but primarily to provide information for landscape conservation and management as, for example, may be required in the Tir Gofal agri environment scheme. Information is gathered in such a way as to be compatible and interchangeable with the ‘history and archaeology’ aspect in CCW’s *LANDMAP* programme, so that the results of a characterisation study can be directly fed into a *LANDMAP* exercise and *vice versa*. In so far as this Guide is concerned, information from characterisation should always be used for an Assessment of the Significance of the Impact of Development on Historic Landscape areas on the Register (*ASIDOHL*), as set out in the Technical Annex to this Guide.

3.0 Historic Character Areas

3.1 The characterisation process divides each landscape area on the Register into a number of smaller, more discreet, geographical areas of broadly consistent historic character called ‘historic character areas’. These areas are defined according to their key historic characteristics or elements, for example, an area might be physically characterised by a particular form of historic settlement or land use pattern, or it might have distinctive historic buildings, archaeological sites or traditional field boundaries, or it might contain important ancient habitats, and so on. Alternatively, an area might not have any strongly

definitive physical characteristics, but instead it might have significant historic documentary evidence relating to it, or have important historic associations, and so on.

3.2 All of these characteristics or elements can occur either singly or in combination. In some cases, an area might be characterised by a range of elements that are not necessarily similar, but together demonstrate a particular land use theme or process having been at work, for example; defence, industry, communications, land enclosure, landscape planning or ornamentation, and so on. One theme may be dominant or several might have been at work at the same, or at different times. Grouping characteristics and elements together under land use themes improves our ability to understand the historical development of the landscape. The understanding we gain is a key characteristic in its own right and one of the principles that underpins the identification of historic landscapes (section 5.2).

4.0 Information on Historic Landscape Characterisation

4.1 The results of the characterisation programme are being compiled into paper volumes covering single, or a number of adjoining historic landscape areas on the Register. The volumes are available for inspection at the offices of the Welsh Archaeological Trusts where advice may be sought on the availability of the latest volumes which are being produced as the characterisation programme progresses, initially with coverage of 'outstanding', followed by 'special' historic landscape areas. Over the next few years this information will also be placed on the Welsh Archaeological Trusts' www sites (The Trusts' addresses are given in the Appendix).

4.2 In the historic landscape areas on the Register where characterisation reports are not yet available, and where an ASIDOHL is required, it is recommended that an ASIDOHL should be undertaken in relation to 'provisional historic character areas'. Provisional historic character areas are identified during the preparation of characterisation reports and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts can supply details of these. In cases where characterisation reports are not yet available, but a *LANDMAP* exercise has been undertaken, the 'history and archaeology aspect areas' identified in *LANDMAP* may qualify as provisional historic character areas, subject to the endorsement of the Trust concerned. In cases where provisional historic character areas have not yet been identified, the Trusts can advise on a suitable methodology, or can be commissioned to identify provisional historic character areas as a prerequisite for an ASIDOHL.

5.0 General principles underpinning the identification of historic landscapes

5.1 This Guide and the advice in it have to be considered in the context of the three key principles underpinning the identification of historic landscape areas on the Register, namely:

5.2 The Register promotes the conservation of the key characteristics of historic landscapes as those landscapes evolve.

While the Register recognises that historic landscapes must inevitably evolve to meet the needs of the people who sustain and live in them, it is hoped that this can be achieved with the fullest possible regard for the conservation of their key historic characteristics. Here, the term 'characteristics' is taken in the broadest sense. It not only includes the physical elements of the past that survive, like individual sites, monuments or other features noted in section 3.1, but also the spaces in between and the resulting patterns formed in the landscape. The survival of these spatial characteristics is crucial because, like the land use themes identified during characterisation, they improve our ability to understand how individual sites or monuments functioned and how they were related physically, visually and through time. How much and how well we are able to understand and appreciate the historical meaning, amenity and value of the landscape is a key characteristic in its own right. This ties in with the second principle.

5.3 The conservation of historic landscapes is about ensuring the transfer of maximum historic meaning and value when contemplating landscape change.

Our ability to understand and appreciate the historical development of the landscape should not be thwarted by inappropriate or insensitive change. This carries with it the need to assess the potential effects of a development, in terms of any lasting alteration it will cause, in relation to the whole of the

historic landscape on the Register, not just the characteristics or elements directly affected in the 'foot print' area. This ties in with the third principle.

5.4 Key historic characteristics within historic landscapes, like historic buildings or archaeological sites, are irreplaceable.

The removal, loss, degradation, fragmentation, or dislocation of key characteristics or elements in historic landscapes, cannot be mitigated in the same way as a habitat or a natural feature might be restored or recreated. The effects of direct, physical impacts are irreversible, but equally damaging, indirect impacts can occur through the severance or disruption of the functional or visual connections between elements, or through the consequential degradation of the visual or other amenity of elements, or through a combination of these factors. This relates back to the second principle because, through indirect impacts, developments can have an adverse effect on the amenity and value of the landscape well beyond the site of the development itself.

6.0 Suggested use of the Register within the planning and development processes

6.1 Advice on listed buildings and conservation areas in the planning process is given in Welsh Office Circulars 61/96 and 1/98, *Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas* and *Planning and The Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales* respectively; in Welsh Office *Planning Guidance (Wales): First Revision (April 1999)*, Para. 5.5 and 5.6 respectively, and in the National Assembly for Wales *Public Consultation, Draft Planning Policy Wales, February 2001*, Para. 8.2 and 8.3 respectively. Listed buildings and conservation areas often form integral elements, or sometimes, key characteristics, in historic landscapes. However, the advice in this Guide does not affect or alter the provisions of these documents that should continue to be applied to listed buildings and conservation areas within historic landscape areas on the Register.

6.2 Advice on the role of World Heritage Sites in the planning process is given in Welsh Office Circular 61/96 *Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas*, Para. 13, 14 and 15; in Welsh Office *Planning Guidance (Wales): First Revision (April 1999)*, Para. 5.6.11, and in the National Assembly for Wales *Public Consultation, Draft Planning Policy Wales, February 2001*, Para. 8.5. Some World Heritage Sites in Wales are within historic landscapes, however, the advice in this Guide does not affect or alter the provision of these documents that should continue to be applied to the World Heritage Sites within historic landscape areas on the Register.

6.3 Advice on the role of archaeology in the planning process is given in Welsh Office Circular 60/96, *Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*, in *Planning Guidance (Wales): First Revision (April 1999)*, Para. 5.7, and in the National Assembly for Wales *Public Consultation, Draft Planning Policy Wales, February 2001*, Para. 8.6. Archaeological sites often form integral elements, or sometimes, key characteristics, in historic landscapes. However, the advice in this Guide does not affect or alter the provisions of these documents that should continue to be applied to archaeological sites within historic landscape areas on the Register.

6.4 Information on how the Register may be used is set out, in detail, in its introduction, with a supplement of additional, updated information included in the introduction to Part 2.2. It is important, however, to emphasise that the Register does not impose statutory controls and areas on it are not 'designated'. The latest guidance given to planning authorities on the use of the Register is set out in Welsh Office *Planning Guidance (Wales): First Revision (April 1999)*, Para 5.6.10, and in National Assembly for Wales *Public Consultation, Draft Planning Policy Wales, February 2001*, Para. 8.4, both of which state:

"Information on the landscapes on the second part of the Register should also be taken into account by local planning authorities in preparing development plans, and in considering the implications of developments which are of such a scale that they would have more than local impact on an area on the Register."

6.5 Such developments should be considered on a case by case basis, but generally may be defined as, but are not confined to:

major communications schemes (road, rail, sea, air, or inland waterway);
quarrying and open cast mining;
major settlement;
major leisure developments;
large-scale industrial, manufacturing or commercial expansion;
large-scale landfill and reclamation;
major coastal defence and flood prevention works;
power generation and distribution projects;
major water supply schemes;
other similar large-scale infrastructure projects;
afforestation or other extensive agricultural land use changes.

6.6 Information on the Register should also be taken into account when considering the cumulative effects of secondary or piecemeal changes over time, or changes that are not in themselves large-scale or extensive, but are of a radical nature and sufficient to have more than local impact on an area on the Register.

6.7 Certain types of developments require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be undertaken in accordance with the *Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999-SI 1999 No 293* (EIA Regulations). Guidance on the application of the EIA Regulations in Wales is given in *Welsh Office Circular 11/99 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)* (Circular 11/99).

6.8 Although each development must be considered for EIA on its own merits, the more environmentally sensitive the location, the more likely it is that the effects will be significant and will require EIA. The fact that a location occurs within a historic landscape area on the Register should be considered as increasing its overall environmental sensitivity and, consequently, the necessity for EIA as required in EIA Regulations Schedule 3 in respect of 'landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance' (Circular 11/99, p. 46, Criterion 2 (c) (viii)).

6.9 When EIA is necessary, the staged process for an ASIDOHL outlined in the Technical Annex may, therefore, be used in part fulfillment of the requirements of EIA Regulations Schedule 4 in respect of assessing impact on 'the architectural and archaeological heritage, and landscape' (Circular 11/46, p. 47, section 3). However, it must be emphasised that an ASIDOHL is quite separate from any assessment required under the EIA Regulations, although the latter may well cover many of the elements included by the former and *vice versa*. An ASIDOHL may be a free-standing process, or undertaken as part of EIA. Under these circumstances, care should be taken by all the parties concerned to avoid duplication and repetition.

6.10 Whether EIA is necessary or not, it is a matter for the discretion of the planning authority to determine the level of an ASIDOHL it considers desirable when considering a development proposal which is of such a scale, or of a radical nature, that it is likely to have more than local impact on an area on the Register. A particular development may be considered to require the full ASIDOHL process outlined in the Technical Annex or, alternatively, the nature of the development may require the application of only part of the ASIDOHL process. Detailed advice can be obtained from the Welsh Archaeological Trusts.

6.11 Whilst it is acknowledged that mitigation, enhancement or restoration of historic elements can be offered by developers as part of their proposals, this advice in this Guide and the following Technical Annex do not deal with these options which should be separately assessed, preferably using the results of an ASIDOHL.

6.12 This Guide and the following Technical Annex are primarily aimed at the assessment of individual projects and the development control process. They do not specifically apply to the assessment of development plans and the strategic environmental assessment of plans and programmes, for example, Unitary Development Plans, Transport plans, Trunk Road programme, and so on, nevertheless, such plans and programmes should acknowledge and make reference to the principles involved and the need to consider historic landscape issues.

CADW: WELSH HISTORIC MONUMENTS
CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU - COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES
YMDDIRIEDOLAETHAU ARCHAEOLEGOL CYMRU - WELSH ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUSTS

CANLLAW AT ARFER DA AR DDEFNYDDIO'R
GOFRESTR O DIRWEDDAU O DDIDDORDEB HANESYDDOL YNG NGHYMRU YN Y
PROSES AU CYNLLUNIO A DATBLYGU

GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE ON USING THE
REGISTER OF LANDSCAPES OF HISTORIC INTEREST IN WALES
IN THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

**ATODIAD TECHNEGOL
TECHNICAL ANNEX**

PROSES RADDFOL AR GYFER ASESU ARWYDDOCÂD EFFEITHIAU DATBLYGIAD AR
ARDALOEDD O DIREWEDD HANESYDDOL AR Y *GOFRESTR O DIRWEDDAU O
DDIDDORDEB HANESYDDOL YNG NGHYMRU (ASIDOHL)*

A STAGED PROCESS FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT OF
DEVELOPMENT ON HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AREAS ON THE *REGISTER OF LANDSCAPES
OF HISTORIC INTEREST IN WALES*
(ASIDOHL)

The staged process suggested in this Technical Annex for the assessment of the significance of impact of development on historic landscape areas on the Register (ASIDOHL) is intended for use by archaeologists with historic landscape expertise or for landscape practitioners familiar with landscape approaches to the historic environment. Guidance on the application of the process and on the technical steps involved should be sought in the first instance from the Welsh Archaeological Trusts who will also be able to advise on the latest revisions. It is intended that the process will be regularly updated to reflect practical experience gained. To this end the sponsoring bodies would welcome any comments or suggestions on its operation.

In most cases, an assessment can be primarily based on a desk-top study and analysis of all the relevant information, supported by site visit(s) (including, where necessary, fieldwork to establish the 'provisional historic character areas' noted in section 4.2) and the production of a written report. These guidelines apply to these cases only.

Taking the historic character areas derived from the characterisation programme as the 'building blocks' of the historic landscape areas on the Register, it is suggested that the ASIDOHL process and report should be structured into five main stages:

STAGE 1 Compilation of an introduction of essential, contextual information.

STAGE 2 Description and quantification of the direct, physical impacts of development on the historic character area(s) affected.

STAGE 3 Description and quantification of the indirect impacts of development on the historic character area(s) affected.

STAGE 4 Evaluation of the relative importance of the historic character area(s) (or part(s) thereof) directly and / or indirectly affected by development in relation to:

- (a) the whole of the historic character area(s) concerned;
- (b) the whole of the historic landscape area on the Register;

followed by:

- (c) an evaluation of the relative importance of the historic character area(s) concerned in the national context.

STAGE 5 Assessment of the overall significance of impact of development, and the effects that altering the historic character area(s) concerned has on the whole of the historic landscape area on the Register.

STAGE 1 Contextual information

The first stage of the ASIDOHL process is to gather essential contextual information that should provide an introduction to the report. This should include:

- (a) A brief summary description of the development, with a map at the appropriate scale showing its location in relation to the historic landscape area on the Register.
- (b) A statement about the context in which the ASIDOHL is being done, for example, as part of EIA, a feasibility study for development, as part of evidence to be presented at Public Inquiry etc.
- (c) If relevant, a brief summary of the planning history of the site (details of any previous permissions, appeals etc.).
- (d) References to any related assessments, for example, a *LANDMAP* study, an archaeological assessment under the provisions of Welsh Office Circular 60/96, EIA, or a previous assessment etc.
- (e) A summary of the national, regional and local planning policies in relation to historic landscapes in the development area (National Assembly for Wales planning guidance, unitary development plans, etc.)
- (f) In the relevant cases, an indication of the provisional status of any historic character areas (see section 4.2).
- (g) An indication of the limits of the data upon which the ASIDOHL is based and any resulting contingent, or other, liabilities, issues of confidentiality, copyright etc.
- (h) A statement on the qualifications and experience of the person(s) undertaking the ASIDOHL and a full declaration of the nature of any contractor-client relationships.
- (i) A description of the process used, indicating the stages undertaken.

Copies of the historic landscape citation in the Register, the descriptions of the historic character area(s) affected and any other relevant supporting information, maps, photographs etc. should normally be included as Appendices to the ASIDOHL report.

STAGE 2 Assessment of direct, physical impacts of development

The second stage of the ASIDOHL process and report should describe and, as far as possible, quantify the direct, physical impacts of the development on the historic character area(s) affected using the following framework.

A map should be provided at the appropriate scale showing the precise location and extent of the development, including any preliminary site works or supporting infrastructure necessary, in relation to the historic character area(s) directly affected.

Where there are large amounts of information or clarity is an issue, supplementary map(s) can be provided to show the location of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, and any other coincident statutory, nature conservation or landscape designations; the location of any known, non-scheduled archaeological sites and monuments, non-listed historic buildings or structures; traditional boundaries, or any other key historic characteristics or elements identified in the characterisation report. (The distinction between characteristics and elements is not critical. In the context of an ASIDOHL, they are not mutually exclusive and reference is drawn to the definitions set out in sections 3.1, 3.2 and 5.2.)

Direct, physical impacts should be described and quantified in two ways, namely:

- (a) In absolute terms with a statement indicating the actual percentage or proportion of the historic character area that is directly affected, for example, "Fifty five percent (or just over half) of the area of historic character area X will be permanently lost or removed by development." (In some cases, the

proportion affected could be greater than the physical extent of the development if, for example, extensive preliminary site works, ancillary developments or supporting infrastructures are required.)

(b) In relative terms with statements indicating the percentages or proportions of the known resource (i.e. the key characteristics or elements identified by characterisation) that will be permanently lost or removed by development, for example, "In historic character area X, 25% (or a quarter) of, for example, ...the number of known archaeological sites; ...the extent of historic land use or pattern in area A; ...the length of linear feature B, ...and so on, will be permanently lost or removed by development.

Each characteristic or element affected would be briefly described, together with a statement of intrinsic importance or status using the Welsh Archaeological Trusts' categories, namely:

Category A Sites and Monuments of National Importance

This includes SAMs, Grade I and II* (and some Grade II) Listed Buildings and sites of similar quality, i.e. those which would meet the requirements for scheduling or listing at the top two grades. There is a presumption in favour of preservation of all such sites and their settings should they come under threat. Such sites might include those that survive principally as buried remains.

Category B Sites and Monuments of Regional Importance

This includes sites that would fulfill the criteria for listing at Grade II (if a building), but not for scheduling (if a relict archaeological site). Nevertheless, such sites are of particular importance within a regional context and, if threatened, should ideally be preserved *in situ*, although complete excavation and/or recording may be an acceptable alternative. Most sites of archaeological and/or historical interest will fall within this category.

Category C Sites / Features of Local Importance

This category includes components of the historic environment (such as walls, gateposts, tracks etc.) that help define local distinctiveness and character. They may not be of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened, but they nevertheless have an interest and importance in their local context.

Category D Minor and Damaged Sites / Features

This category includes sites / features which are of minor importance or so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category. Rapid recording, either in advance of, or during destruction is usually sufficient for this category of site.

Category E Sites / Features Needing Further Investigation

Sites / features whose character, importance or location is undetermined are placed in this category. They include buried sites and known underground features identified from archival evidence and retrospective map analysis, sites with no defined physical presence such as find spots, sites noted but not accurately located in antiquarian references, sites known only from place-name evidence and other sites reported at the specified location, but cannot be verified by archaeological fieldwork. They will require further work before they can be allocated to Categories A-C.

The magnitude of direct, physical impacts should be expressed as:

- 50% + / more than a half permanently lost or removed - Very Severe;
- 25-49% / quarter to half permanently lost or removed - Moderately Severe;
- 10-24% / tenth to a quarter permanently lost or removed - Fairly Severe;
- Less than 10% / less than a tenth permanently lost or removed - Low Impact.

The results for each historic character area affected could be summarized in a table, for example:

ASSESSMENT OF DIRECT, PHYSICAL IMPACTS ON HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA X		
ABSOLUTE IMPACT (LOSS OF AREA)		MAGNITUDE
48 ha, 55% area		Moderately severe
RELATIVE IMPACT (LOSS OF KNOWN CHARACTERISTICS OR ELEMENTS)	STATUS	
Tramway R - 0.3km length, 15% loss	B	Fairly severe
Field System Y - 2.3 ha, 70% loss	C	Very severe
Hut Platforms A - 4 sites, 30% loss	A	Moderately severe
Crop-mark complex B - 1.0 ha, 65% loss	A (SAM)	Very severe
Ancient Woodland C - 0.3 ha, 5% loss	B	Slight impact

STAGE 3 Assessment of indirect impacts of development

Clearly, a finite area of land will be directly and physically affected by a development, but a much greater area will be indirectly affected through the fragmentation of historic character areas, visual intrusion and encroachment which could devalue the historic landscape area on the Register as a whole. The importance of 'setting' is a well-established criterion in the assessment of the significance of impact of development on Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings, and the same criterion should be applied to historic character areas and to historic landscapes.

There is no statutory definition of setting, but it could be considered as having two principal dimensions. Firstly, there are the immediate settings which, in the case of a building, would be the ancillary land used with it or the curtilage. Secondly, there are the wider settings that, in the case of a building, may or may not be legally attached to it, may or may not be used with it, and is often part of the built environment or part of the countryside. Settings may not be as easily defined for field monuments, but it may be possible to make reasonable assumptions on the basis of what is known archaeologically, or historically, about how certain types of monuments originally functioned or were regarded. Setting should not be interpreted too narrowly, and for the purposes of this process, impacts on settings will be categorised as 'indirect' impacts.

The third part of the ASIDOHL report should, therefore, describe and quantify as objectively as possible the indirect impacts of the development on all historic character areas affected.

Indirect impacts can be categorised as being mainly physical or visual in nature.

Indirect, physical impacts can occur to elements in a historic character area as a result of one, or a combination, of the following factors:

- (a) An increased risk of exposure, erosion, disturbance, decay, dereliction or any other detrimental physical change to elements, consequent to development.
- (b) Related to (a), the likelihood of increased management needs to maintain elements as, for example, through altered habitats, water levels, increased erosion, new access provision etc., consequent to development.
- (c) The severance, fragmentation, dislocation or alteration of the functional connections between related elements, for example, a field system becomes 'severed' from its parent farmstead by an intervening development.
- (d) The frustration or cessation of historic land use practices, for example, it becomes more difficult or impossible to manage an area in a traditional manner as a result of development.

(e) The frustration of access leading to decreased opportunities for education, understanding or enjoying the amenity of elements, consequent to development.

Each category of indirect, physical impact identified should be described and an assessment made of its severity based on professional judgement, with its magnitude expressed as 'High' / 'Severe'; 'Moderate'; or 'Low'.

The results for each historic character area affected could be summarized in a table, for example:

ASSESSMENT OF INDIRECT, PHYSICAL IMPACTS ON HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA 'Y'		
IMPACTS	STATUS	MAGNITUDE
Increased risk of erosion to element J	B	Moderate
Increased management needs for element K	C	Low
Functional connection between elements J & K disrupted	A (SAM)	Severe
Traditional land use of area L ceased	A	Severe
Amenity value of element M reduced	C	Moderate

Indirect (non-physical) visual impacts can occur to elements as, a result of one, or a combination of the following factors:

(a) Visual impact on elements from which a development can be seen (considered up to its maximum height). Impacts can be on 'views to' or 'views from' elements, and should be assessed with particular reference to key historic viewpoints and essential settings. In some cases, key historic viewpoints may no longer be identifiable, but it may be possible to make reasonable assumptions on the basis of archaeological or historical information. Key viewpoints should also include those that have subsequently become acknowledged as such, for example, as depicted in artists' drawings and paintings, or as features on popular routes or trails.

(b) Impact on the visual connections between related elements, by occlusion, obstruction, etc., for example, what might have been an essential line of sight between historically linked defensive sites becomes blocked or impaired by an intervening development.

(c) Conversely, the creation of inappropriate visual connections between elements not intended to be inter-visible originally, by the removal of intervening structures, barriers, shelters, screening or ground.

(d) Visual impact of the development itself considering:

(i) its form - the scale, number, density, massing, distribution etc. of its constituent features;

(ii) its appearance - the size, shape, colour, fabric etc. of its constituent features, in relation to the existing historic character of the area.

This section is aimed at assessing to what extent the development constitutes a visual intrusion or encroachment, and to what extent that affects the area's historic character.

NOTE: The Institute of Environmental Assessment and The Landscape Institute have jointly published *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impacts Assessment* (E & F N Spon, London: 1995 - new edition pending). This may be usefully consulted, however, there are software packages now available that can make use of OS digital data to produce 360 degree view-shed analysis, 3-D virtual representations and so on (e.g. Vertical Mapper for Map Info; Erdas Imagine etc.). In complicated cases, or where the development is on a very large scale, it may be necessary to use the services of a professional landscape architect to undertake a full visual impacts assessment.

Each type of indirect, visual impact identified should be described using maps, figures, diagrams, elevations and photographs (photo montages may be particularly useful) as necessary. Assessment should be generally confined to the key elements within the affected area(s), i.e. Category A and B sites (as defined in STAGE 2 above), with an assessment of the severity of impact based on professional judgement, and its magnitude expressed as 'High' / 'Severe'; 'Moderate'; or 'Low'.

The results for each historic character area affected could be summarized in a table, for example:

ASSESSMENT OF INDIRECT, VISUAL IMPACTS ON HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA 'Y'	
IMPACT	SEVERITY
Views to element N partially blocked	Moderate
Views from element N disrupted	Severe
Change to essential settings of element N	Moderate
Visual connection between elements N and P occluded	Moderate
Development form	Severe
Development appearance	Moderate

The types of indirect impacts described above are by no means exhaustive, and there may be others specific to particular kinds of development that should also be taken into account and assessed. Each impact identified should be described and quantified as objectively as possible, with written descriptions supported by diagrams or photographs, particularly for visual impacts. Where accurate quantification is impossible, a professional judgement should be given.

STAGE 4 Evaluation of relative importance

The fourth stage of the ASIDOHL process and report should evaluate the relative importance of the historic character area(s) (or part(s) thereof) directly and/or indirectly affected by development in relation to:

- (a) the whole of the historic character area(s);
- (b) the whole of the historic landscape area on the Register;

followed by,

- (c) an evaluation of the relative importance of the historic character area(s) concerned in the national context.

Which evaluation steps have to be done and how much input will be required will depend on the scale of the development in relation to the nature and extent of the affected historic character area(s) and historic landscape area on the Register. For example, if a development directly affects an entire historic character area, then only evaluation steps (b) and (c) need to be done. The complexity of the historic landscape character area(s) in terms of the variety of characteristics and numbers of elements affected will also influence the amount of input required.

In cases where both steps (a) and (b) have to be done, it may well be that the relative importance of an element within the historic character area differs to its relative importance within the overall historic landscape area on the Register. For example, a particular element could be abundant and fairly representative of the historic character area as a whole, but might be quite rare in relation to the whole of the historic landscape area on the Register.

It is likely that evaluation scores (see Guidance on Evaluation below) could be influenced by a number of factors. The relative size and number of historic character areas within the historic landscape area on the Register, and the number of historic character areas affected in relation to the total number of historic character areas within the historic landscape area on the Register could all have some bearing on the values determined.

Where the historic landscape area on the Register is very large and diverse, it may be difficult to reach an accurate assessment of value without undertaking extra work that may be well beyond the scope of an ASIDOHL. Under these circumstances, evaluation might be made simpler and easier by 'breaking up' particularly large historic landscape areas on the Register into a number of smaller areas comprising groups of historic character areas. These smaller areas could be identified on the basis of the Register's selection criteria, topographical units or particular land use themes etc. Whatever means is chosen, this should be clearly explained and justified in the ASIDOHL.

With regard to evaluation step (c), 'national context' should be taken to refer to the historic landscape areas on the Register, not the whole of Wales. Although all historic landscapes on the Register are of national importance, being either of outstanding or of special historic interest, some component historic character areas may be of even greater significance, because of the range or the quality of the elements they contain, the presence of designated elements within them, their relationship with other historic character areas, their status as a key component in the historic landscape area on the Register, or because of a combination of these factors. Generally these historic character areas will be pre-eminent and easily recognized, for example, they may contain a well-known Guardianship Site and its settings, or a particularly significant cluster of Scheduled Ancient Monuments etc.

Evaluation step (c) should not be regarded as downgrading of certain areas: it is simply acknowledging that within a landscape that is all of national importance, some areas, characteristics or elements may well be of greater value than others. It should therefore be possible to determine historic character area value as being somewhere in the range of between what might be considered to be the 'baseline' value of the whole historic landscape area on the Register (i.e. a value on a par with their nationally important status) and the even higher value of the most significant or pre-eminent historic character area(s) within the same historic landscape area.

Guidance on Evaluation

With some modification and additions, the criteria for the selection of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) can be used for evaluation steps (a) – (c) (Welsh Office Circular 60/96, *Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*, p. 15, Annex 3, 'Secretary of State's Criteria for Scheduling Ancient Monuments'). However, because some SAM criteria are more relevant to sites than to landscapes, not all SAM criteria will be applicable to all the evaluation steps. For the same reason, not all SAM criteria will be applicable to all historic characteristics, or historic character areas affected. As there are no hard and fast rules, it will be a matter of professional judgement as to which criteria to select and apply. Further advice may be sought from the Welsh Archaeological Trusts.

With respect to the evaluation of individual criteria, in most cases, the different grades of values will have to be qualitative as few, if any, national data sets exist to enable quantitative grades of values to be determined. This will be particularly true for evaluation step (c). There may also be cases where the range or grades of values suggested below will require adjustment to reflect local conditions of historic element numbers present etc. Although numerical measures could be used to a certain extent, in most cases, the range or grade of values selected will have to be based on professional judgement.

More work will be required to refine this stage of the ASIDOHL process by developing the evaluation criteria and by enhancing the ways in which they are applied. In the interim, the SAM-based evaluation criteria set out below are derived from criteria applied in a recent historic landscape assessment of part of the Gwent Levels landscape of outstanding historic interest (Welsh Office, *M4 Relief Road Magor to Castleton – Stage 2 Assessment, Draft Report for Consultation by Ove Arup and Partners, April 1998 / Amended October 1998*, Appendix 2 - The Historic Landscape by S. Rippon), and work by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

N.B. Depending on which evaluation step is being undertaken, 'elements' include 'characteristics', and 'landscape' includes 'historic character area' in the following list.

Criteria for determining relative importance or value in STAGE 4, steps (a), (b) and (c)

Rarity in terms of period or date, and as a component of the landscape. This should be assessed in relation to what survives today, since elements of a once common type of landscape may now be rare.

- High - no broadly similar historic elements in the landscape;
- Moderate - fewer than 5 broadly similar elements in the landscape;
- Low - more than 5 broadly similar elements in the landscape.

Representativeness should also be considered, in that an example of a landscape that is common can still be of national importance if, in the light of other criteria, it contains a particularly representative range of elements.

- High - contains most of the elements that characterise the landscape;
- Moderate - contains about half of the elements that characterise the landscape;
- Low - contains some of the elements that characterise the landscape.

Documentation The survival of documentation that increases our understanding of a landscape will raise its importance, though this is difficult to quantify owing to the extremely varied nature of documentary material. Therefore, a professional judgment is given based on the actual amount or importance of material and its academic value.

- High - a considerable quantity of relevant material, or highly important sources are available;
- Moderate - some relevant material, or moderately important sources are available;
- Low - little relevant material, or only modestly important sources are available.

Group Value relates to the diversity (or similarity) of elements including their structural and functional coherence. The value of the individual elements can be enhanced by their association with other contemporary and linked elements, for example a group of contemporary settlements, fields and trackways. Clearly, there will be instances within historic character areas in which elements are linked to others not directly affected by development.

- High - contains four or more elements;
- Moderate - contains three elements;
- Low - contains one or two elements.

Survival relates to the degree of survival of elements in the landscape. In instances where the original extent or numbers are known (for example, traditional field boundaries for which there may be detailed mapped, evidence), it may be possible to measure this quantitatively.

- Good - more than 75% of elements surviving;
- Moderate - Between 50 and 74% of elements surviving;
- Fair - Fewer than 50% of elements surviving.

Condition relates to the condition of elements in the landscape.

- Good - elements surviving in good or better than average condition for their class;
- Moderate - elements surviving in moderate condition for their class;
- Fair - elements surviving in fair or poor condition for their class.

Coherence relates to how well the historic meaning and significance of the landscape is articulated by its the historic themes, that is the historical processes and patterns that have created the individual elements within it. It may well that historical processes and patterns have been maintained, or continue, so that the landscape retains much of its original function, thus enhancing its coherence. Clearly discernible or dominant themes can increase the coherence and importance of a landscape.

- High – dominant historic theme(s) present - landscape of high articulation;
- Moderate – historic theme(s) present, - landscape of moderate articulation;
- Low – historic theme(s) present, but weak or suppressed – landscape of low articulation.

Potential relates to the potential within the landscape for future landscape study and analysis.

- High - considerable scope for future historic landscape study and analysis;
- Moderate - some scope for future historic landscape study and analysis;

Low - little scope for future historic landscape study and analysis.

Integrity The importance of a landscape may be enhanced by its integrity that relates to the survival of its original character or form. The resulting visibility and legibility of the landscape's component elements will enhance its amenity value. Greater visibility and legibility generally increase the potential for the historic landscape to be easily understood by the non-specialist.

High integrity - elements highly visible and easily understood;

Moderate integrity - elements visible but not easily understood;

Low integrity - elements not readily visible and difficult to understand.

Associations A landscape or an area or element within it might have important historic associations with, for example, particular institutions, cultural figures, movements or events etc. Often, however, there are no physical remains, or it may be difficult to tie an association to a particular place, feature or element, with only documentary or oral material surviving. Owing to the complex nature of associations, therefore, they are impossible to quantify, so an assessment is made based upon professional judgement.

High - a significant, authentic and nationally well-known association (s);

Moderate - an authentic, but less significant, perhaps regionally well-known association(s);

Low - unauthenticated or a little or locally known association (s).

The evaluation of steps (a) and (b) should comprise written statements and justifications for the values ascribed to each criterion, followed by a concluding statement for either step (a) or (b). The statement should reflect the general level of values across all criteria, and note any particularly significant 'Highs' or 'Lows'.

Evaluation results for steps (a) and (b) could be summarized in a table, for example:

EVALUATION OF THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE PART OF HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA Z DIRECTLY AND /OR INDIRECTLY AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENT						
CRITERION VALUE	HIGH / GOOD	MODERATE / AVERAGE	LOW / FAIR	HIGH / GOOD	MODERATE / AVERAGE	LOW / FAIR
in relation to:	(a) WHOLE OF HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA			(b) WHOLE OF HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AREA ON THE REGISTER		
RARITY		<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
REPRESENTATIVE-NESS	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	
DOCUMENTATION	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	
GROUP VALUE		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	
SURVIVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		
CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	
COHERENCE			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
POTENTIAL		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	
AMENITY	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	
ASSOCIATIONS		<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>

The evaluation of step (c) should comprise written statements and justifications for the values ascribed to each criterion, followed by a concluding statement. The statement should reflect the general level of values across all criteria, and note any particularly significant 'Highs' or 'Lows'.

Evaluation results for step (c) could be summarized in a table, for example:

EVALUATION OF THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE HISTORIC CHARACTER AREAS DIRECTLY AND / OR INDIRECTLY AFFECTED IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT						
CRITERION VALUE	HIGH / GOOD	MODERATE	LOW / FAIR	HIGH / GOOD	MODERATE	LOW / FAIR
In relation to:	HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA 'X'			HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA 'Y'		
RARITY	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	
REPRESENTATIVENESS		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	
DOCUMENTATION	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>
GROUP VALUE			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
SURVIVAL		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	
CONDITION		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
COHERENCE	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	
INTEGRITY		<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
POTENTIAL		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
AMENITY	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		
ASSOCIATIONS		<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>

STAGE 5 Assessment of overall significance of impact

Once the direct and indirect impacts of development have been described and, as far as possible, quantified, in STAGES 2 and 3, and the relative values of the area(s) affected established in STAGE 4, the fifth and final stage of the ASIDOHL process can be undertaken. This stage assesses the overall significance of impact of development and the effects that altering the historic character area(s) concerned has on the whole of the historic landscape area on the Register.

Assessing the overall significance of impact of development can be accomplished by combining the results of Stages 2 to 4 so that the level of damage or loss to the landscape by development is balanced with the relative values of the area(s) affected. Professional judgement is then used to produce a description that qualifies and quantifies the overall significance of impact of development as accurately and as objectively as possible. Where quantification is possible and, then a statement should be included to express the percentage surface area (or other relevant measure) of the historic landscape area on the Register that is directly affected, lost or altered by development.

The effects that altering the historic character area(s) concerned has on the whole of the historic landscape area on the Register should be categorised according to the degrees of severity set out in the following section.

Section 1.6 states that all historic landscape areas on the Register are of national importance, therefore, development within the scale and parameters in sections 6.5 and 6.6 will *de facto* have a severe impact. However, within each landscape that is all of national importance and consistent with the determination of relative values in STAGE 4, certain areas are of particular significance. Therefore, within the 'severe' category of impact, three grades may be distinguished, namely:

Very severe

- a historic character area that is of very special significance owing to its inherent importance (e.g. rarity, group value, condition etc.)
 - the development will lead to a critical reduction of value in terms of land loss, fragmentation and /or visual intrusion.
- the effect of the development will be to significantly reduce the value of the historic character area as a whole, thereby appreciably diminishing the overall value of the historic landscape area on the Register.

Moderately severe

- a historic character area with good preservation.
- the development will lead to a significant reduction in value in terms of land loss, fragmentation and / or visual intrusion.
- the effect of the development will be to damage key elements of the historic character area, with appreciable lowering of the value of the area as a whole, and thereby diminishing the overall value of the historic landscape area on the Register.

Fairly severe

- a historic character area for which there are other examples, and there has already been loss of some elements due to modern development.
- the development will cause a loss in value, though this is not necessarily critical in terms of land loss, fragmentation and / or visual intrusion. The development may lead to the further encroachment of development into the historic landscape area on the Register.

Below these levels of impact, two further levels may be distinguished, namely:

Low impact

- the historic character area is not directly affected by land loss or fragmentation, but the development will have a visual impact and would be likely to encourage encroachment towards it, subsequently resulting in the value of the whole area being diminished.

None

- no effects.

The ASIDOHL report should be completed with a concluding statement drawing all the salient points together. This is likely to be a key part of the ASIDOHL process, to which most reference will be made, particularly in a Public Inquiry, when it may be part of a Proof of Evidence submitted to the Inquiry. It is essential, therefore, to write the concluding statement in a clear and concise style that can be easily understood by the non-specialist and the Public Inquiry Inspector alike. In complicated cases, or when it aids clarity, a glossary should be compiled to explain in simple language the meaning of the terms and words used in the ASIDOHL report to describe historic landscapes. Historic landscape terminology can be academically obscure to the non-specialist, or have an entirely different meaning in a planning context, which can cause unnecessary confusion.

Brevity will also be the essence with, succinct statements summarizing the overall results of the assessment, for example:

“Given the 55% loss of surface area of key historic character area A and removal of the exceptionally well-preserved, early industrial remains, of which seven elements are category A sites (3 = SAMs) and for which there are no parallels elsewhere in Wales, the impact of development is severe.”

“The 12% loss of surface area of historic character area B, with the consequent severance of its northern from its southern half, and the 30% loss of a distinctive but fairly common type of medieval field system in Wales, the impact of development is low.”

“Although development X causes a loss of only 3% surface area of historic character area W and only three category C historic elements are removed, nevertheless, the development is of such a form and appearance as to have a significant adverse visual impact on the surviving, and in Wales, rare, medieval settlement and land use pattern to the south of the development site, therefore, the impact of development is moderate.” etc.

The concluding statement(s) can be supported with relevant diagrams and photographs.

