

Scheduled Ancient Monument Management Plan
December 2013

Melin Mynach, Gorseinon (GM501)



Cadw - GM501 - Melin Mynach, Gorseinon - 2013-11-07 - LM - 002 - General view



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Welsh Government

This management plan has been produced within the Historic Environment Branch of Cadw to inform management of the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

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SAM name and reference number	Melin Mynach, Gorseinon, GM501
Grid reference	SS592990
Previous scheduled monument consent given (including those within MA / AM Grant)	07/07/2006 Improvement Works and Interpretation Board
Cadw funded schemes (MA /AM Grant)	Cadw / MA / AM Grant: none current

Non-Historic Environment Designations	None
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Cadw FMW and contact details	<div></div>
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I. Statement of Significance

- The monument consists of a watermill. Water power has been used at this location for a number of industrial purposes for a long period. The earliest mill is thought to be of monastic origin, possibly built after Neath Abbey took over the estate of Cwrt-y-carnau in 1150, and was probably a corn mill. The first documentary reference to a mill was in 1578. In 1772 it was converted for paper making, and was one of the first of its kind in Wales, in use for over a century. It was returned to use as a corn mill in the 1830's, but in 1866 William Lewis converted the mill to woollen manufacture, enlarging it substantially in 1874. From 1888 the site was turned to chemical and tinsplate manufacturing, and the mill itself became disused. The main surviving features are the leat, pond, paper mill, woollen mill, two wheel pits, dye-houses and the mill owner's house.
- The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of water management systems and industrial practices. It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of associated archaeological features and deposits. The structure itself may be expected to contain archaeological information concerning chronology and building techniques.
- The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.

2. Current Condition

Background:

Prior to scheduling in 1995 the site had been subject to a programme of archaeological excavation and consolidation over several years.

The site condition of the monument was subsequently monitored by Cadw and reported as:

17/07/1996, H.B. Burnham, Routine Site Visit. Condition: Stable.

11/03/2004. J.C. Cliff. Routine Site Visit. Condition worsened.

17/11/2011. L. Mees, Routine Site Visit. Condition Worsened, defined as -

Condition trend: Worsened - Moderate:

- A degree of damage is occurring, which requires more concerted management to facilitate recovery.
- Some damage to the archaeology is active.
- These problems are going to take more effort (sometimes specialist) to fix.
- Failure to act may result in further worsening in the condition of the site.

Condition current: Unfavourable: the current condition and management are inappropriate for the preservation of the site.

Vulnerability: High – The monument is exposed to immediate threat or threats which are not being managed.

Overall Monument at Risk level: **high**.

- The condition of the scheduled area had deteriorated due to an increase in the extent of trees and scrub.
- The density of trees and scrub were inhibiting access and obscuring the features of the site.
- Vegetation on the walls and wall tops was destabilising the masonry due to vigorous root growth and additional weight.

- NB: Dilapidated trees, should they fall, can cause considerable damage to the monument by removing material within root plates.
- NB: Dilapidated trees can shed limbs in the direction of the masonry / earthwork remains where they might cause damage.

Site visit 11/07/2013:

Gorseinon Town Council is keen to improve the condition of the monument and requested a site meeting, held on 11/07/2013 and attended by [REDACTED] (Town Clerk, Gorseinon Town Council), [REDACTED] (Mayor and Chair of Gorseinon Town Council), [REDACTED] (Councillor, City and County of Swansea), [REDACTED] (Councillor, City and County of Swansea) and [REDACTED] (Cadw).

The condition of the monument recorded during the site meeting (Louise Mees, 07/11/2013):

Condition trend: Worsened - Moderate:

- A degree of damage is occurring, which requires more concerted management to facilitate recovery.
- Some damage to the archaeology is active.
- These problems are going to take more effort (sometimes specialist) to fix.
- Failure to act may result in further worsening in the condition of the site.

Condition current: Unfavourable: the current condition and management are inappropriate for the preservation of the site.

Vulnerability: Medium – The monument is likely to be exposed to threat in the near future, or is already exposed to encroaching threat and minimal management of this is being undertaken.

Overall risk level: Medium: The monument is suffering from a threat or threats,

- Vegetation was cut and cleared from the monument in May / June 2013.
- A litter pick was subsequently undertaken by local students and volunteers.
- The work has improved the condition of the monument.
- The 'Friends of Parc Melin Mynach' group is to be re-established.

Issues (see photographs)

- See section 3, map of scheduled area highlighting management issues.
- The recent vegetation clearance has revealed damaged masonry.
- The interpretation panels on site have been damaged.
- The wheel and some sections of masonry have been vandalised: graffiti.
- Japanese Knotweed is growing on the eastern side of the scheduled area.



Cadw - GM501 - Melin Mynach, Gorseinon - 2013-11-07 - LM - 001 - Japanese Knotweed growing on east side of masonry remains



Cadw - GM501 - Melin Mynach, Gorseinon - 2013-11-07 - LM - 003 - Masonry remains, recently cleared of vegetation



Cadw - GM501 - Melin Mynach, Gorseinon - 2013-11-07 - LM - 004 - Tree growing in area of mill pond



Cadw - GM501 - Melin Mynach, Gorseinon - 2013-11-07 - LM - 005 - Tree growing in area of mill pond

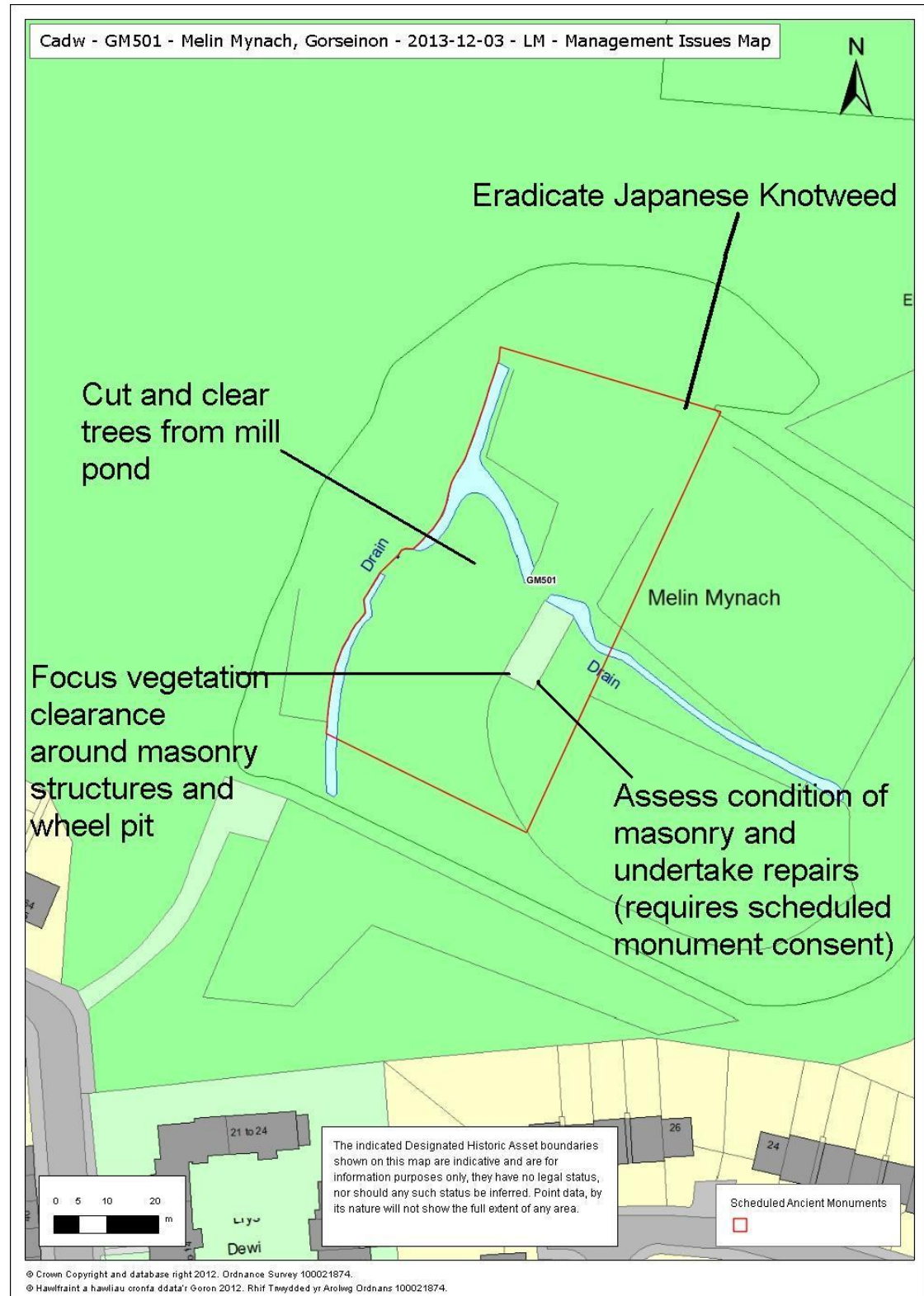


Cadw - GM501 - Melin Mynach, Gorseinon - 2013-11-07 - LM - 006 - Vegetation on masonry remains



Cadw - GM501 - Melin Mynach, Gorseinon - 2013-11-07 - LM - 007 - NB graffiti on mill wheel

3. Map of the Scheduled Area highlighting management issues



4. Management Advice

The following works are recommended to improve the condition of the scheduled ancient monument by addressing the issues identified on page 6. Cadw staff are available to provide help and advice, and can be contacted via details shown on page 4.

Prioritised list of management works:

- Vegetation cutting & clearance, pay particular attention to Japanese Knotweed
- Undertake regular litter picking
- Assess condition of masonry
- Remove graffiti
- Undertake masonry repairs
- Install interpretation panels

The table below summarises the works and necessary consent procedures. Specific method statements are provided in following pages.

Summary Table

<p>4.1 Category 1 Works</p> <p>These works can be undertaken without scheduled monument consent and without an archaeologist present if they are carried out according to the guidance specified.</p>	<p>4.2 Category 2 Works</p> <p>These works require full application for Scheduled Monument Consent under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</p> <p>Full application required. Contact Cadw Field Monument Warden.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation cutting & clearance • Undertake regular litter picking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masonry repairs • Remove graffiti • Install Interpretation

4.1 Category I works

The works included within section 4.1 can be undertaken without scheduled monument consent and without an archaeologist present if they are carried out according to the guidance specified:

Specific works required – Vegetation cutting and clearance

- Control trees, scrub and vegetation, including, gorse, brambles, bracken, and Japanese Knotweed, within the scheduled area. Focus vegetation clearance on the mill pond and the standing remains of the mill building and wheel pit

Guidance on vegetation cutting and clearance

- Control scrub and vegetation - by cutting all scrub, gorse, brambles, bracken, Japanese Knotweed and broadleaf regeneration within the scheduled area.
- Cut and remove trees from the mill pond.
- Treat stumps with herbicide to help prevent re-growth.
- Cut and clear saplings within the scheduled area.
- Cut and remove scrub encroachment in the scheduled area.
- Cut and remove brambles.
- Re-generating bramble, scrub and blackthorn require cutting twice annually or annual treatment with herbicide.
- Reduce rushes and bracken within the scheduled area by cutting to ground level. No burning is to be undertaken within the scheduled area.
- Do not allow scrub, gorse, brambles, bracken, Japanese Knotweed, broadleaf regeneration or other vegetation to exceed a maximum height of 50cm. Control such vegetation by routinely cutting to ground level.

Guidance on cutting and clearing of vegetation:

- Cut scrub, woody vegetation and weed growth by hand (using strimmer with string attachment head, not brush-cutter).
- Stones within the scheduled area should not be disturbed.
- Care should be taken to avoid damaging masonry with machinery.
- Stems to be cut at ground level, leaving the roots to decay in-situ. Roots on masonry shall be left to rot in-situ: they should not be pulled out of the walls. Woody vegetation on masonry can be treated with herbicide to prevent re-growth – consult ecologist for advice.
- Brash should be removed from scheduled area: burning is not permitted within the scheduled area.
- Ensure that all woodland management work at the site is undertaken outside the bird breeding season of 1 March to 31 August.
- Cutting in June and then again in August would allow the grass to grow and encourage wildflowers – consult ecologist for wildflower advice.
- A locally-sourced, native seed mix, shall be used for any re-seeding work on the monument.

4.2 Category 2 works

Significant or Intrusive Works such as this require Scheduled Monument Consent using the form available at:

<http://cadw.wales.gov.uk/historicenvironment/help-advice-and-grants/makingchanges/schedmonconsent/?lang=en>

Specific works required

– *Masonry repairs, remove graffiti and installation of interpretation panels*

Contact Cadw for further advice. Contact details shown above on page 4.

4.3 Long-term management recommendations / best practice

- Monitor the condition of the woodland: and undertake tree/vegetation management work as specified in section 4.1 above.
- Monitor the condition of the walls and wall tops: undertake cutting and clearance of vegetation growing on masonry as specified in section 4.1 above.
- Undertake routine litter picking.

5. Opportunities

Improve interpretation at the site by the provision of interpretation panels (requires scheduled monument consent, see section 4.2).

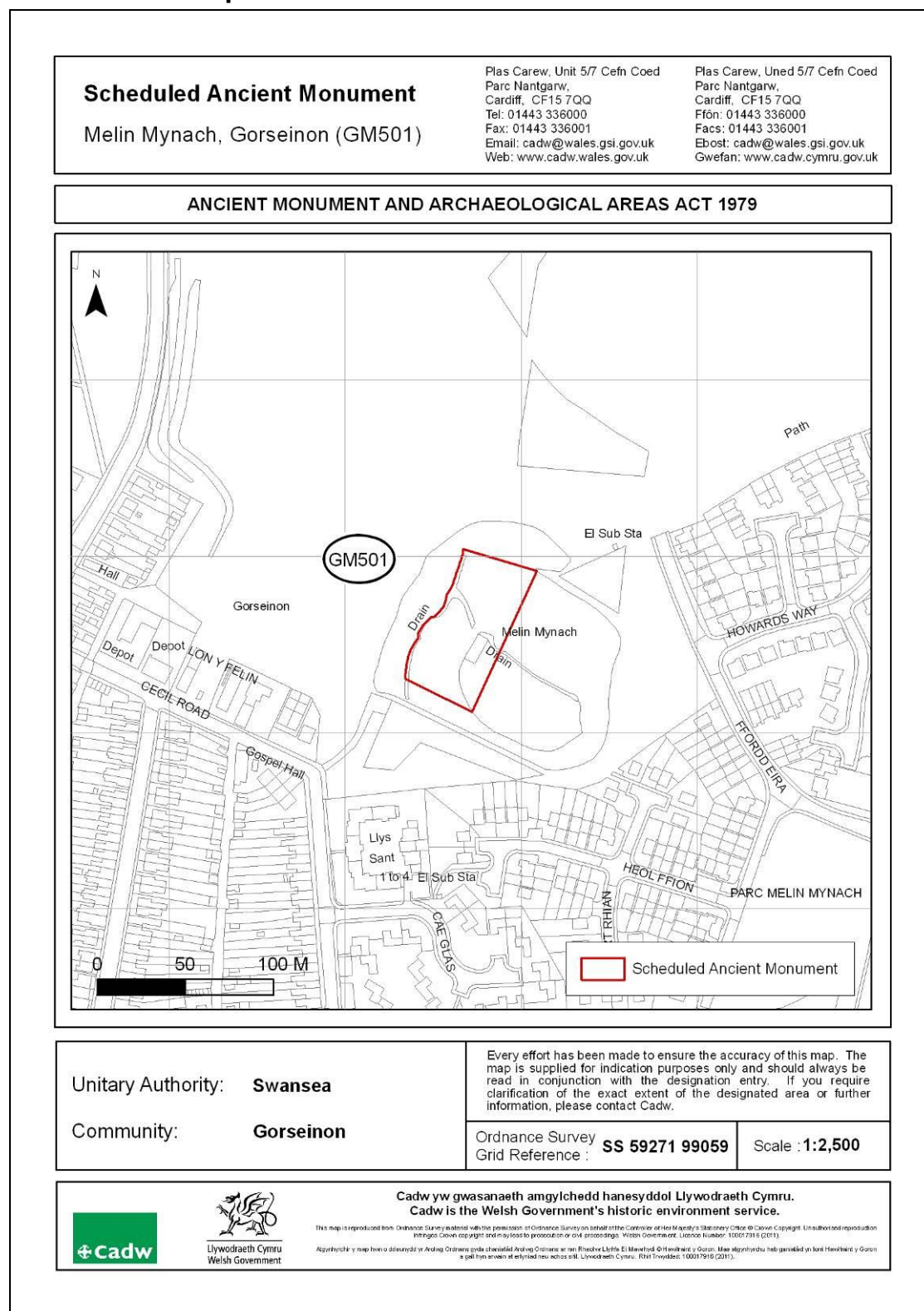
References to be sourced for future interpretation include:

Lawler M, 1990, Melin Mynach, Gorseinon: archaeology, history and future prospects.

Cardy B, 1995, The Lewis Family of Gorseinon: A Victorian Industrial Success Story.

6. Appendix

6.1 Definitive Map of the Scheduled Area



7. Requirements

7.1 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979

Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) are monuments deemed to be of national importance and as such are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979. It is an offence under the legislation to cause damage or disturbance to a SAM.

Damage or disturbance would include – any unauthorised works that involve ground disturbance (including fencing), but also importing material into the scheduled area, metal detecting, rewetting, burning etc.

Any operations involving ground disturbance, the importation of material or rewetting require Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) to have been approved by Cadw prior to the works being undertaken