

Sycharth Castle DE020: Impact on Setting from Proposed Poultry Unit at Tynewydd Farm Llansilin, Powys, P/2017/0722



Report by: Trysor

For: Roger Parry and Partners

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For: Roger Parry and Partners

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Cover photograph: Looking northeast from the bailey towards the mound at Sycharth.

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Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan bartneriad Trysor. Mae wedi ei gael yn gywir ac yn derbyn ein sêl bendith.

This report was prepared by the Trysor partners. It has been checked and received our approval.

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Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.

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Contents

Summary	1
Introduction	2
Desk-based Assessment	2
Methodology	3
Stage 1: Identify the historic assets.	5
Stage 2: Define and analyse the settings of the historic assets.	6
Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change	14
Stage 4: Consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact	20
Bibliography	21

Summary

This report examines possible impacts on the setting of Sycharth Motte and Bailey castle from a proposed poultry unit at Tynewydd Farm, Llansilin. The castle is a scheduled monument and celebrated as the probable site of the court of Owain Glyndwr in the late 14th century.

The assessment of impact on the setting of the scheduled monument has found that the development would take place approximately 1km to the north of the castle site. The topography of the Cynllaith valley and intervening woodlands mean that it would be largely screened from view from the scheduled area, causing only a Low, indirect visual impact, with no impact on the setting of the monument and therefore no impact on the significance of the monument.

1. Introduction

1.1 This document has been prepared as an addendum to an earlier Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (Trysor, 2017) prepared by Trysor for Tynewydd Farm, Llansilin in relation to an application for a poultry unit at the farm. The Desk-based Assessment was prepared in April 2017 before the planning application P/2017/0722 was submitted.

1.2 In response to the submission of the planning application, Cadw state they have responded by letter on two occasions. Trysor have not had sight of the first document which was written after the desk-based assessment was produced by Trysor, and not included in the pre-application response report.

1.3 This document addresses issues raised in the second of these communications, from Nichola Davies, dated 19th July 2017, supplied by our client, and available on the online planning portal.

1.4 This letter states that issues surrounding impacts from the proposed development on the setting of the Scheduled Monument of Sycharth Motte & Bailey Castle, DE020, had not been addressed in the Desk-based Assessment undertaken by Cadw.

1.5 It draws attention to the guidelines published by Cadw at the end of May 2017 in "Managing Setting of Historic Assets in Wales" (Cadw, 2017). The letter incorrectly refers to them as "Setting of Heritage Assets". "Heritage Assets" is the term used by Historic England, "Historic Assets" is the term to describe elements that make up the historic environment as defined by Cadw in *Conservation Principles* (Cadw, 2011).

2. Desk-based Assessment

2.1 Cadw consulted the Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment prepared by Trysor between January and March 2017 and finalised in April 2017.

2.2 Cadw concluded that the Trysor desk-based assessment did not address the issues of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of Sycharth Motte & Bailey.

2.3 This conclusion is challenged by Trysor as the impact on Sycharth Motte and Bailey was included in the April 2017 assessment as a matter of standard practice.

2.4 Only part of the scheduled area of the historic asset, the bailey, falls within the 1km radius assessment area but the whole historic asset, including the motte was considered as it had already been identified as of national importance through scheduling, see Figure 1.

2.5 The desk-based assessment dealt with the impacts on Sycharth including impact on setting in several sections of the report. The relevant sections have been taken from the desk-based assessment and are attached to the end of this document as Appendix 1.

2.6 The guidelines referred to by Cadw in their letter had not been published at the time the Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment was produced for Tynewydd, therefore the current guidelines were not available for use at that time. In order that there is clarity in the matter additional work in line with the new guidelines has been done to ensure that it is clear that the impact has been considered appropriately.

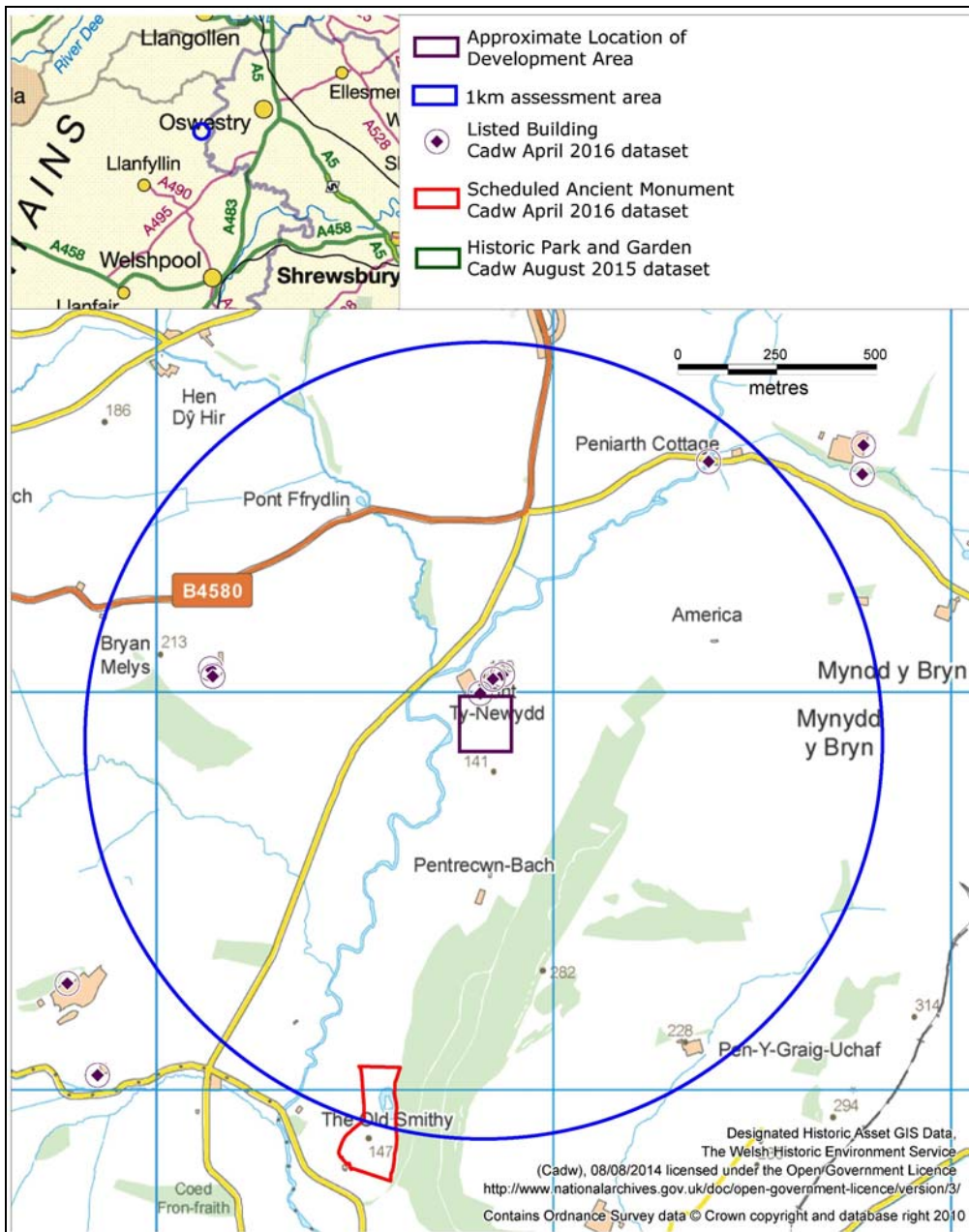


Figure 1: Location of the development and Sycharth mound and Bailey to the south

3. Methodology

3.1 In response to Cadw's request for a full assessment of impact on the setting of Sycharth, the process outlined in "Setting of Historic Assets" in order to assess impacts on the setting of the historic asset, and therefore impacts on its significance, has been followed. This process has four stages;

Stage 1: Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development.

Stage 2: Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the significance of the historic assets and, in particular, the ways in which the assets are understood, appreciated and experienced.

Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

Stage 4: If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

3.2 Stage 1: Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development.

3.2.1 The proposed development would take place at Tynewydd Farm, Llansilin. The proposed poultry unit would cover an area greater than 0.2ha in extent, but would include low buildings, less than 8 metres in height.

3.2.2 The scheduled motte and bailey castle at Sycharth (DE020) is located in the lower Cynllaith valley, 1km south of Tynewydd and the proposed development site. Only the northern half of the scheduled area falls within the 1km radius assessment area required by Cadw Setting guidelines (Cadw, 2017, 11) for the Desk-based Assessment.

3.2.3 The motte and the bailey both lay outside the 1km boundary of the assessment area, but an area to the north of the motte has also been scheduled and falls within the 1km boundary. For this reason the entire scheduled monument is included in this assessment on the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the monument.



Plate 1: A view of Sycharth castle motte looking northwards from within the bailey. The monument is best appreciated from its southern side and the natural knoll and the earthworks of the castle itself would block views northwards towards the proposed development. The wooded escarpment of Parc Sycharth, in the background to the left in this image, would also block views of the development from most of the scheduled area.

3.3 Stage 2: Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the significance of the historic assets and, in particular, the ways in which the assets are understood, appreciated and experienced.

3.3.1 Modern Setting

Sycharth Castle is situated at just over 140 metres above sea level, just to the east of the Afon Cynllaith, on a natural hillock which slopes away towards the river. The steep, wooded slopes of Parc Sycharth rise by over 100 metres to the east and northeast of the motte site. The wood is now of coniferous forest, the original deciduous woodland of Parc Sycharth having been felled by the mid-20th century (Roberts, 1948, 184).

3.3.2 The motte sits within a working agricultural landscape, characterised by a post-medieval field system. A number of farmsteads and dwellings are scattered along the valley and along the valley slopes, some of which are large, modern farm complexes, such as Hendy farm, 800 metres upslope to the west of Sycharth.

3.3.3 A post-medieval dwelling, Brynderw, and its outbuildings, stand immediately to the south-southwest of the bailey enclosure attached to the motte. Brynderw is not clearly shown on the 1830 Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings, nor on the 1838 Ordnance Survey First Series map. However, it is clearly shown on the Llansilin parish tithe map of 1840. The property has expanded since the 19th century and this expansion had caused some damage to the southern boundary of the bailey enclosure by the early 20th century.

3.3.4 The historic asset is now protected as a Scheduled Monument. Since 1999, there has been permissive access to the site for the general public, whereas previously it was only visible from adjacent footpaths and roads.

3.3.5 The site is now served by a small car park, where interpretation is provided, 100 metres to the south of the monument. The present interpretation (2017) presents Sycharth Castle only as the former home of Owain Glyndwr and does not explore any aspect of its likely origin as a 11th or 12th century motte and bailey castle.

3.3.6 Historic Setting

There is a lack of archaeological and historical evidence to allow a full understanding of the original setting of this monument. The castle has all the characteristics of a motte and bailey castle, a defensive arrangement which was common between the late 11th and early 13th centuries.

3.3.7 The available archaeological evidence suggests that the site was chosen, to some degree, for topographical reasons. The motte sits on a glacial mound which was in a convenient location and made the construction of a motte and bailey castle relatively straightforward (Hague & Warhurst, 1964, 114-118).

3.3.8 The castle is situated in a valley floor setting, overlooked from higher ground from the east, south and west. It is situated at a point where the Cynllaith valley narrows somewhat, and that may be significant in terms of controlling movement along the valley.

3.3.9 It is notable that the best views in the modern setting are to the north, where the village of Llansilin is just visible. The topography shortens the views to the south considerably. However, pollen evidence from the 1962-1963 excavations that the castle was founded in an environment quite different from that which is seen today (Hague & Warhurst, 1964, 126). The pollen was obtained from a buried soil, sealed in when the top of the mound was raised by the addition of stone and clay. This demonstrates that during the period of mound construction, which remains undated but must predate the late 13th century, the local environment was dominated by heather and open woodland, where oak, birch and hazel were present. It is not possible to know which views were of significance at the time of the construction of castle, as the density of tree-cover during that period is not known.

3.3.10 In the absence of further archaeological excavation or palaeoenvironmental sampling, it is not possible to comment on local environmental conditions during later medieval and early post-medieval times.

3.3.11 It is likely that the original purpose of the castle was to act both as a manorial centre and to control movement along the Cynllaith valley towards, or from, the Tanat.

3.3.12 Whether the castle was established by Norman invaders seeking to establish control over Cynllaith in the late 11th century, or Welsh Princes seeking to defend the commote from attack from the south in the 12th century is not currently known. It is highly likely that Sycharth was the location of the castle within the commote of Cynllaith at which a charter was written between 1200 and 1207 (Wiles, 2017,

27), probably the only identified reference pointing to the castle's existence before the 14th century.

3.3.13 *Subsequent use*

There is no further documented history relating to the use of Sycharth Castle until the late 14th century, when it appears that it was a fully developed manorial centre, held by Owain Glyndwr as the Lord of Cynllaith. The famous poem composed by Iolo Goch c.1390 describes the court of Owain Glyndwr, which we can envisage as being set within a well-organised estate context, as this modern translation of his poem demonstrates;

A full oven serves the llys,
An orchard, a vineyard near the white court;
A fair mill on a constant stream
And his shining dove-cot, a stone tower;
A fish-pond, well sheltered,
On which to throw the nets;
Well stocked, with no doubt,
With herrings and whiteheads as is seemly,
His bord-land and his living birds,
Peacocks, cranes of the best breed;
Fair green hay-meadows,
Corn in orderly fields,
The rabbit-warren of the lord of our nation,
Tackle and horses of renown
By the llys, complementing each other,
The deer-pasture in another enclosure;
His servants carry out every fit task,
Ploughing together,
Quaffing the best Shrewsbury ale,
The best drink and braggets,
Every drink, white bread and wine,
And his meat, and his fire for the kitchen.
Shelter for the bards, withersoever they come,
Every day, all may have there;
Fairest timber llys, blameless lord,
Of the kingdom, God's blessing on it;

3.3.14 The bard undoubtedly used some poetic licence whilst describing the home of his generous patron, but the importance of Sycharth was not overblown. The picture painted by Iolo Goch is so grandiose that it remains possible that Glyndwr's extensive court at Sycharth was not located within the rather restrictive bounds of this modest motte and bailey castle. Undoubtedly further archaeological work is required at Sycharth to securely date and identify the buildings and structures of the complex.

3.3.15 That Sycharth was indeed a fine homestead was confirmed by English sources. As a response to Glyndwr's war of independence against Henry IV, Sycharth was destroyed by fire in 1403 by Prince Henry, the future Henry V (Richards, 1948, 183). Prince Henry himself described the occasion in a letter written shortly afterwards;

"...we took our forces and marched to a place of the said Oweyn, well-built, which was his principal mansion, called Saghern, where we thought we should have found him, if he had an inclination to fight in the manner he had said; but on our arrival there, we found nobody; and therefore caused the whole place to be burnt, and several other houses near it belonging to his tenants."

(Ellis, 1827, 11).

3.3.16 Sycharth was never rebuilt and the site faded into obscurity. Clearly, a tradition linking the site to Owain Glyndwr persisted in the land. It is striking that the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings of 1830 annotate the castle as "Castell Owain Glyndwr". Despite this tradition, the motte and bailey were incorporated into the post-medieval field system

3.3.17 *Relationship to the surrounding landscape*

As a manorial centre, be it during the 12th or 14th centuries, the motte and bailey castle would have had a dominant administrative role and it is possible to assert that it would have been a focal point for life within the commote or lordship.

3.3.18 Iolo Goch's poem is of high value in identifying elements in the late 14th century manorial estate landscape which the modern researcher might wish to identify. The locations of the estate features described in the poem have never been confirmed, however.

3.3.19 In view of the traditional connection with Owain Glyndwr, several historians have attempted to fit some elements into the local landscape on the basis of existing placenames, but this approach is not satisfactory unless supported by archaeological evidence or more compelling documentary evidence.

3.3.20 The work of Richard Roberts (Roberts, 1948, 188), provides an excellent example of this. His attempt to fit the evidence of the poem into the mid-20th century landscape would have the vineyard of the medieval estate somewhere to the south of the Tanat and many of his claims are unsubstantiated;

"...Iolo's castle also included a little white-washed church – built in the shape of a cross, and boasting of its tiny chapels with their coloured glass. The little church, which has completely disappeared by this time – the stones so I was informed broken up into road macadam – stood to the east of the 'castle' just within the bed formed by the tiny stream which supplied the moat with water. There is a slight depression where it stood on the edge of the present wood, which can still be traced. There was also a mill standing on a leat which was fed from the Cynllaith, and which never failed to turn the water wheel- 'ar ddifreg ddwr.' The dovecote must have been a considerable structure – although we are not told where it stood – and was built of stone. There were also considerable areas of meadow and arable within the demesne. The two fish ponds whose outline may be clearly traced and the deer park and the rabbit warren were all part of the castellany, as was the vineyard on the other side of the Tanat. This name, "Y Winllan," has survived to the present time."

3.3.21 An earlier attempt at making sense of the poem was undertaken in the Cambro-Briton of 1820. The author of this account is known only by the pen name of "Idris", makes some interesting observations on the significance of local placenames;

"...the next house to Sycharth, on the south-east, is a place called Parc Sycharth, with a farm attached to it. This is at the southern end of an extensive wood, which occupies the escarpment of a rocky hill, also called Parc Sycharth, and may have been the Parc Cwning (the rabbit warren) of the bard. At the northern end of the same wood are a few houses called Pentre y Cwn, where the master of the buck hounds to his barony and his assistants resided... At Sycharth there is, on the perennial rivulet Cynllaith, close at the foot of the hillock, whereon the palace stood, a mill, formerly called Melin Sycharth; but owing to a grist-mill being lately converted into a fulling mill, it is now called Pandy Sycharth..."

3.3.22 The reference to a grist-mill close to the motte and bailey castle is perhaps the most credible piece of evidence contained in this passage. Iolo's poem does make reference to a mill, and any manorial centre would be expected to include a corn mill close to its focal point.

3.3.23 The reference to the holding known as Parc Sycharth is also of interest. This former farmstead is shown on the parish tithe map but had disappeared by the time of the 1875 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey map and no trace of it is now visible in the landscape. It stood some 600 metres to the south-southeast of the motte and bailey. This holding and its lands may be a credible contender for the location of the manorial

deer park, especially as it lies at the southern end of the wooded escarpment still known as Parc Sycharth, which rose onto the high, marginal land of Mynydd y Bryn, itself a possible candidate for the location of the deer park or, as the author in the Cambro-Briton suggests, the rabbit warren mentioned in Iolo's poem. However, no field evidence for either a deer park or rabbit warren has been recorded in the area to date.

3.3.24 The account of "Pentre y Cwn" being the site at which Glyndwr's "buck-hounds" were kept is fanciful. The houses at this location are usually named as "Pentre y Cwm" or "Pentrecwm" on Ordnance Survey maps and the parish tithe map, with the inexplicable exception of the 1875 edition of the Ordnance Survey's 1:2500 map and some modern Ordnance Survey maps. On the basis of this evidence, it is not safe to associate Pentre y Cwm with the manorial estate of Owain Glyndwr.

3.3.25 In more recent times, landscape archaeologists and historians have also attempted to reconstruct the 14th century estate as described by Iolo Goch, with the aid of modern techniques. Geophysical surveys, small scale-excavations and field observation have resulted in tentative steps towards identifying some features.

3.3.26 The most extensive archaeological excavations to have taken place at Sycharth were carried out in 1962-1963 by Hague and Warhurst. They excavated one quarter of the area of the top of the motte, opened trenches down the side of the motte and also opened small trial trenches within the area of the bailey. This demonstrated the presence of two 14th century buildings on the motte itself, although they were only partially excavated. An abundance of oak charcoal associated with these buildings showed that they were likely to have been destroyed by fire, which would appear to correspond to the events of 1403, when Prince Henry put Sycharth to the torch.

3.3.27 In 1997, geophysical and geochemical surveys were undertaken by Spencer Smith across two areas to the west and south of the castle (CPAT PRN 115458). The geophysical survey identified what was interpreted to be an old boundary line, a possible collapsed building and a line of pits. No intrusive excavation was undertaken to further examine these features.

3.3.28 Spencer Smith undertook further work at Sycharth in 2003, including limited excavations to the south of the scheduled area. The intention was to further explore a buried roadway leading into the bailey as well as a possible garden area. The full results of this work remain unpublished but will be included in a forthcoming paper (Spencer Smith, pers.comm.).

3.3.29 In 2009, further non-intrusive surveys (CPAT PRN 113525) were carried out as part of Cadw's Welsh Cultural Heritage Initiative Project. The results of the geophysical surveys are said to show the position of the original keep on the motte as well as the presence of a number of buildings and structures within the bailey area, including a circular building which has been suggested to be the site of the dovecote mentioned in Iolo Goch's poem. An outer enclosure (CPAT PRN 113526), to the northern side of the motte, was also identified by this survey.

3.3.30 John Wiles (Wiles, 2016) has examined the areas around Glyndwr's residences at Sycharth and Glyndyfrdwy and claims to have identified elements of a designed medieval landscape at both locations. At Sycharth he identifies the possible areas of an orchard and a vineyard. Wiles also claims to have found the earthwork remains of a section of the boundary bank which defined Glyndwr's deer park. This bank crosses a field known as Cae'r Park, to the southeast of the castle site. Wiles suggests it is either a boundary bank or a leat. The latter suggestion appears to be more likely, as the linear earthwork appears to originate in the upper reaches of a small stream known as Nant Goch, drop downhill to the northwest and run directly towards the southernmost of two damp hollows to the east of the castle, which are likely candidates for the fishponds associated with Glyndwr's Sycharth. LiDAR evidence suggests that a curved earthwork bank to the northwestern side of the larger, northern pond (which currently holds water), is in fact a denuded dam. This may indeed be an important element in the 14th century landscape associated with the castle.

3.3.31 It is clear that Sycharth during the 14th century was very much a focus of domestic and manorial life, not a military base. Indeed, after Glyndwr's revolt, he abandoned Sycharth and Prince Henry found the complex to be empty when he reached it in 1403. Glyndwr presumably understood that it could not withstand a military assault and had left for a more secure place. This marked a significant change in use when compared with the original motte and bailey complex, built during an earlier period of conflict.

3.3.32 Important views

Iolo Goch's poem paints a vivid picture of the castle during the time of Owain Glyndwr, but there are no known significant artistic representations of Sycharth Castle from more recent times.

3.3.33 The castle can be viewed from good vantage points in the modern landscape. These are best gained from the higher ground to the west and southwest, particularly from the road which runs southwards from Llansilin towards the Tanat valley, climbing the eastern side of

Coed y Golfa Hill. Views along the valley floor are more difficult as hedgerows and mature trees break up most sight lines. The castle itself is not highly visible even from close distance from the roads to the west and south.

3.3.34 Not enough is known about tree cover during medieval times to understand what the best viewpoints of the castle would have been, either in the 11th and 12th centuries, or during the time of Owain Glyndwr. John Wiles (2016, 26, Figure 2) suggests that the land to the northwest of the castle site, which implies that views in that direction were not considered important. It is also likely that the steep slope of Parc Sycharth, to the east and northeast of the castle has been wooded throughout historical times and has always restricted views in those directions.



Plate 2: Tynewydd house is just visible from the centre of the motte in the view, looking northwards. The trees to the right grow on the lower slopes of Parc Sycharth escarpment and would block all views of the proposed poultry shed.

3.4 Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

3.4.1 A ZTV created by Trysor, based on the assumption that the poultry unit would stand up to 8 metres in height (in reality it would not exceed 7 metres in height), shows that the zone of theoretical visibility would not include most of the scheduled area at Sycharth. No view of the development would be possible from the portion of the scheduled area which falls within the 1km assessment area. The poultry unit would only be visible from the western edge of the bailey. This was borne out during the field visit, however, it is important to note that because of the elevation of the motte, a view of the proposed development site is also possible from the northwestern edge of the motte itself, albeit through the branches of a mature tree.



Plate 3: A Google Earth view of the scheduled area, with the zones of theoretical visibility of the proposed development shaded in red.

3.4.2 As the motte and bailey are 1km away from the poultry unit, and in view of the intention to plant a belt of trees to screen views of the new building from the direction of the castle, there would only be a Low, indirect, visual impact on the scheduled monument, which will reduce once the new tree-planting is completed. This will not affect the setting of the scheduled monument however.



Plate 4a (Top) & 4b (Bottom): A view looking north to Tynewydd, seen at the centre of the top photograph, Plate 4a. The view is from the western side of Sycharth castle motte. The trees to the right of Tynewydd would screen the new building almost entirely from view from the castle. Only its western end would be in view, although tree planting proposed in mitigation would soon screen that view. The zoomed in view in Plate 4b shows Tynewydd more clearly.

3.4.3 In terms of impact on setting, none of the manorial estate features described in Stage 2 as possibly existing in the landscape around Sycharth Castle are found in the vicinity of the proposed development at Tynewydd farm. Indeed, the focus of archaeological and historical attention, including modern geophysical surveys and excavations, has been at the motte and bailey castle or in the immediately adjacent fields, especially to the south and east.

3.4.4 The best long views of the scheduled monument are from the high ground to the south, around Coed y Golfa, from where the setting of the castle within the Cynllaith valley can be best appreciated. The proposed development would be visible in these long views, but not in close proximity to the monument and not directly in the line of sight when viewing the castle. This is assessed as creating a Low, indirect, visual impact, although would not impact on the setting of the monument with regard to its historic or modern setting; the view is not thought to have been significant in historical terms, the modern setting is of a working agricultural landscape. Proposed deciduous tree planting to the south of the poultry units would gradually soften any visual impact from this direction and would reduce the visual impact to a Very Low level.

3.4.5 The development would not have an impact on the setting of these key areas or the scheduled monument itself. The development would not, therefore, affect the significance of the scheduled monument.



Plate 5: Tynewydd is visible left of centre in this view looking north-northeast along the Cynllaith valley. The scheduled earthwork castle of Sycharth is centre right. The post-medieval dwelling of Brynderw stands in front of the monument, which is also partially screened by mature trees.

This photograph is taken from the eastern side of Coed y Golfa, on the road leading south from Llansilin towards the Tanat valley. It provides one of the best viewpoints to appreciate the castle and the natural knoll on which it stands. It is possible to see how the Cynllaith valley narrows at this point, which may make the castle's location significant, as it would make it difficult from anyone to move along the valley floor here without being seen.

The proposed development would be located in the green field further up the valley, marked with an arrow. The visual impact of the development on Sycharth would be Low, but the addition of new tree-planting on the southern side of the proposed building would screen the development and reduce the impact to Very Low.

Table 1: Potential Impacts on the Setting and Significance of the Scheduled Monument.

Cadw list of things to consider	Comment in relation to Sycharth motte and bailey	Level of Impact on Setting	Level of Impact on Significance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the visual impact of the proposed change or development relative to the scale of the historic asset and its setting 	The historic asset and development are of similar size and height, the historic asset being higher. There is approximately 1 kilometre between them.	None	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the visual impact of the proposed change or development relative to the location of the historic asset 	The site is partially intervisible but at distance of approximately 1 kilometre. Topography and vegetation including mature tree cover largely intervene	None	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> whether the proposed change or development would dominate the historic asset or detract from our ability to understand and appreciate it — for example, its functional or physical relationship with the surrounding landscape and associated structures and/ or buried remains 	The development will not dominate the historic asset. There is approximately 1 kilometre between them and the development is at a low level not reaching 8 metres in height. The development is only partially intervisible with trees and topography blocking most views	None	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the presence, extent, character and scale of the existing built environment within the surroundings of the historic asset and how the proposed change or development compares with this 	The new development is in keeping with the agricultural setting of the modern landscape	None	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the lifespan of the proposed change or development and whether or not the impact might be reversible 	The lifespan of the development is not known, but the proposed structures could be completely removed once finished with	None	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the extent of tree cover, whether it is deciduous or evergreen, and its likely longevity 	Tree cover includes both conifers and deciduous trees. The tree covered slopes of Parc Sycharth, as well as hedgerow trees on field boundaries and scattered individual trees block or screen many views to and from the scheduled monument. It is likely to remain as it is or increase in density in the short to medium term	None	None

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Cadw list of things to consider	Comment in relation to Sycharth motte and bailey	Level of Impact on Setting	Level of Impact on Significance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the impact of artificial lighting — for example, on night-time views 	There will be no round the clock lighting, and external lighting will have cowls to direct the light downwards (Roger Parry and Partners, 2017)	None	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the capability of a landscape setting to absorb change or new development without the erosion of its key characteristics 	The landscape is a working farmed landscape and the development is part of an existing farmstead. It is a landscape which experiences change as farming responds to external pressures	None	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the impact of the proposed change or development on non-visual elements of the setting and character of the historic asset, such as sense of remoteness, evocation of the historical past, sense of place, cultural identity or spiritual responses 	The historic asset now lies in a modern, farmed landscape, and the low level development set approximately a kilometre away	None	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the impact of non-visual elements of the proposed change or development, such as the removal or addition of noises and smell 9 	There will be no addition of noise or smells at a distance of approximately 1 kilometre which don't already exist in the farmed landscape	None	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the cumulative effect of the proposed change or development — sometimes relatively small changes, or a series of small changes, can have a major impact on our ability to understand, appreciate and experience a historic asset. 	There are no other poultry units of this type within the assessment area or in the visible landscape surrounding Sycharth.	None	None

3.5 Stage 4: If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

3.5.1 It has been assessed that there would be no impact of the development on the setting of the scheduled monument, in view of the distance between the two locations, the modest height of the building and its associated feed hoppers, and the fact that the development would only be visible from limited parts of the scheduled area.

3.5.2 Mitigation has been proposed which would reduce the level of visual impact on the surrounding area, including the scheduled monument to Very Low. The plan copied below shows that a belt of new tree planting to the western side of the proposed poultry unit will accompany the development, as well as the gapping up of the existing hedgerow to the western side of the field. These steps will certainly reduced even the low degree of visibility of the development within the period of several years, as the new trees grow and obscure the building.

3.5.3 Ideally the poultry unit should be painted an appropriate shade of green to further reduce the visibility, especially during the initial phase as the new trees begin to grow.



Figure 2: A plan of the proposed development, illustrating the position of new tree planting which will screen views of the building from the south and southwest.

4. Bibliography

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