

**Tyfos, Llandrillo,
Corwen, LL21 0TA
Impact on Setting of
Tyfos Stone Circle, ME024, from a Proposed
Solar Panel Development (Revised)**



Report by: Trysor

For: Roger Parry and Partners

May 2023



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By

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Trysor Project No. 2022/858
CPAT HER Event record - 167127

For: Roger Parry and Partners

December 2022
Revised May 2023

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Cover photograph: The proposed location of the solar panels, looking west-northwest.

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DYDDIAD Rhagfyr 2022
Diwygiedig 9^{fed} o Fai 2023

DATE December 2022
Revised 9th May 2023

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.

We welcome any comments on the content or structure of this report.

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Date of Revision	Revision	Requested by
09/05/2023	Changes to relevant sections throughout the document	Client due to a change in layout and scale of the development

Event Record PRN – CPAT HER

PRN	CPAT 167127
Name	Tyfos, Llandrillo, Corwen, LL21 0TA, Impact on Setting of Tyfos Stone Circle, ME024, from a Proposed Solar Panel Development
Type	VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
NGR	SJ0292038928
Easting	302920
Northing	338928
Summary (English)	In autumn 2022, Trysor carried out an assessment of impact on the setting of Tyfos Stone Circle (scheduled monument ME024), near Llandrillo, Denbighshire, from of a solar panel development proposed at SJ0269138778. The report was revised due to a change to the layout of the solar development in May 2023. © Trysor 2023
Summary (Cymraeg)	Yn hydref 2022, cynhaliodd Trysor asesiad o effaith datblygiad paneli solar arfaethedig yn SJ0269138778 ar leoliad Cylch Cerrig Tyfos (heneb gofrestredig ME024), ger Llandrillo, Sir Ddinbych. Fe ddiwygiwyd yr adroddiad ym Mai 2023 oherwydd newidiadau i'r cynllun gwreiddiol gan y cleient. © Trysor 2022
Description	In autumn 2022, Trysor carried out an assessment of impact on the setting of Tyfos Stone Circle (scheduled monument ME024), near Llandrillo, Denbighshire, from of a solar panel development proposed at SJ0269138778. The report was revised due to a change to the layout of the solar development in May 2023. © Trysor 2023
Sources	Trysor, 2022, Tyfos, Llandrillo, Corwen, LL21 0TA, Impact on Setting of Tyfos Stone Circle, ME024, from a Proposed Solar Panel Development; Trysor, 2023, Tyfos, Llandrillo, Corwen, LL21 0TA, Impact on Setting of Tyfos Stone Circle, ME024, from a Proposed Solar Panel Development (Revised)
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Summary

This report examines possible impacts on the setting of the statutorily protected historic asset, Tyfos Stone Circle, scheduled monument ME024, from a proposed solar panel development some 140 metres to the northeast of the Tyfos Stone Circle at SJ0292038928.

A site visit by Trysor in 2020, relating to a separate planning application, had demonstrated that the Tyfos Stone Circle belongs to a large group of Bronze Age funerary and ritual monuments in the wider district. These include the Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle, 3.5km to the southeast. However, it was found in 2020 that the Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle is not visible to the naked eye from the Tyfos Stone Circle and there is no evidence to demonstrate that there should be any particular importance attached to their relationship.

Trysor revisited Tyfos in early October 2022 to carry out a setting impact assessment in relation to the proposed solar panel development. Mitigations were also proposed in the form of planting screening trees to the southwest of the solar panels to reduce any potential impacts. The recommendations of that impact assessment report were accepted by Cadw and the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

In April 2023, Trysor were asked to revise the 2022 report to factor in a change of extent and position for the proposed solar farm.

It has been found that there is currently a partial intervisibility between the Tyfos Stone Circle and the southwestern edge of the proposed solar development, but that this is not part of a key view from the monument and would not cause a significant impact on its setting. The proposed tree planting would screen this view and reduce the level of impact on the setting to a negligible level.

There would therefore not be an impact on the significance of the Tyfos Stone Circle.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by Trysor at the request of Roger Parry & Partners, 1 Berriew Street, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7SQ on the impact of the proposed solar panel development at Tyfos, Llandrillo, Corwen, Denbighshire, LL21 0TA on the nearby Scheduled Monument, Tyfos Stone Circle, ME 024, see Figure 1.
- 1.2 The proposed development would include the installation of solar panels and associated infrastructure (centred on SJ0292038928) on land to the east of Tyfos. The solar panels would cover a site area measuring approximately 6077m² (0.61 hectares), see Figure 2.
- 1.3 This Impact on Setting Assessment has been prepared to consider potential impacts on the Tyfos Stone Circle, ME024, at Tyfos Farm, Llandrillo.
 - 1.3.1 The original proposal for the location of the solar panels has been altered after the original setting assessment had been undertaken and the development moved to slightly different location within the same field and would cover a larger area (circa 0.61 hectares instead of 0.37 hectares). This setting assessment is based on that revised location and includes the proposal to undertake some tree planting to screen a partial view from the Tyfos Stone Circle.

*Tyfos, Llandrillo, Corwen, LL21 0TA
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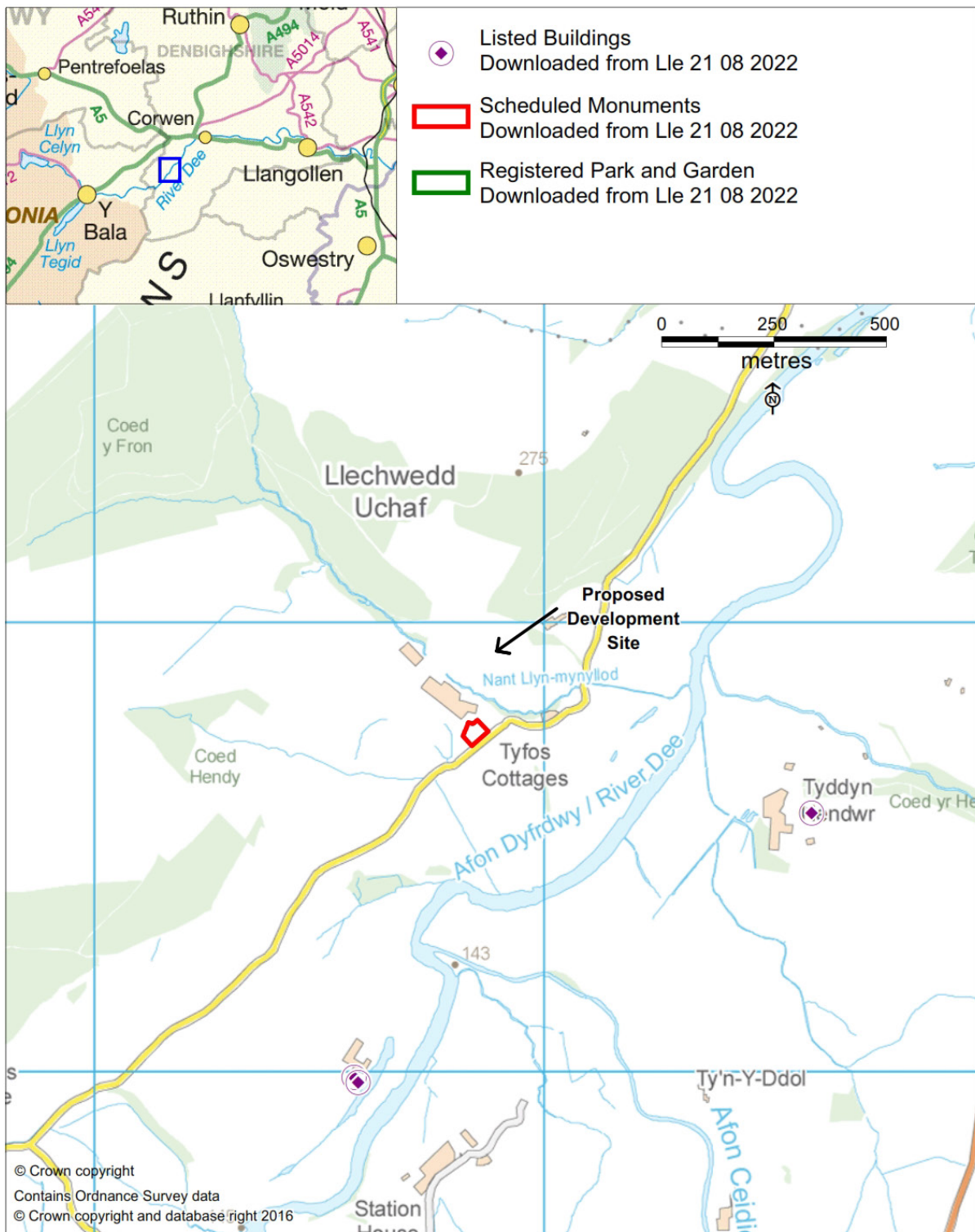


Figure 1: Location of the development.

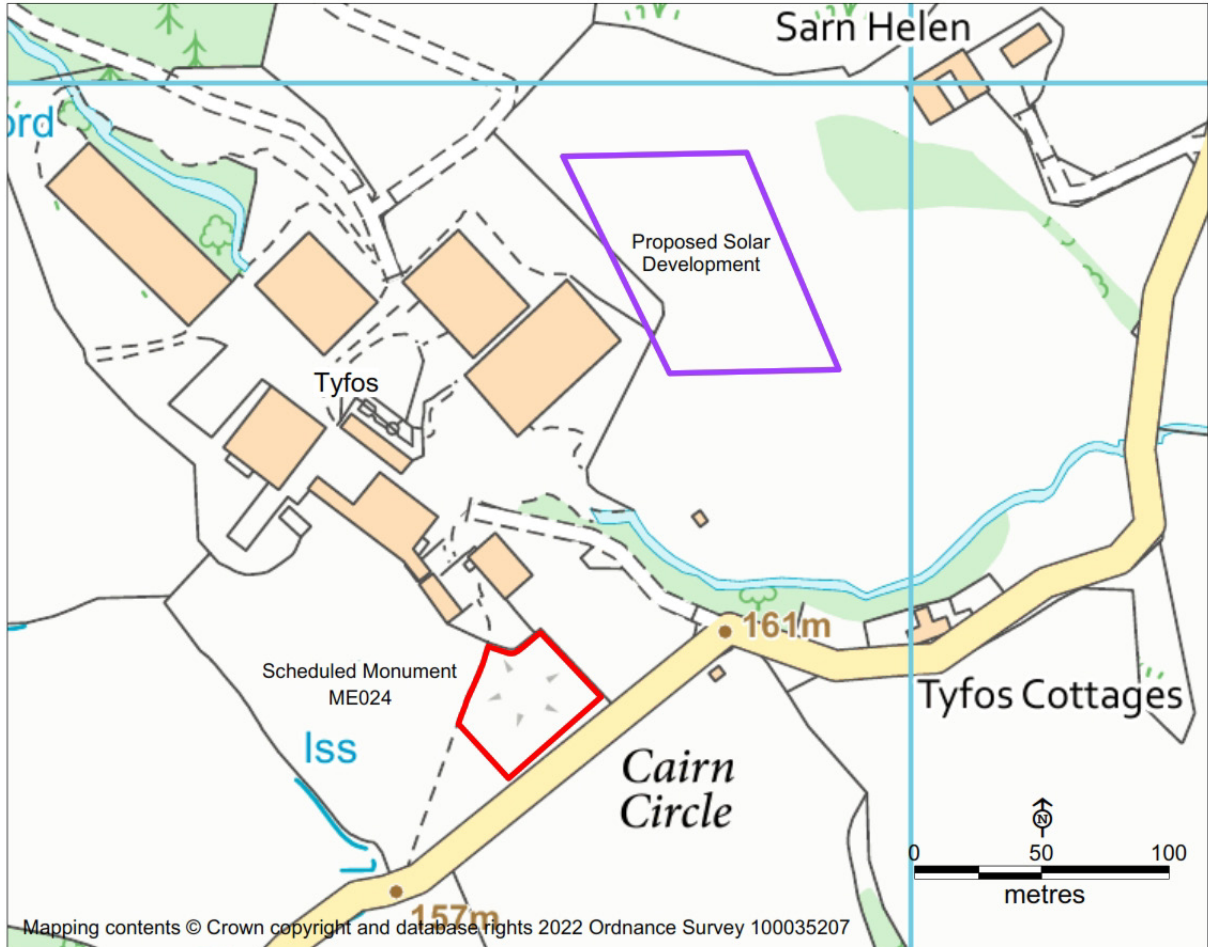


Figure 2: More detailed view of the location of the development at SJ0292038928.

2. The Proposed Development Site

- 2.1 The proposed development site is underlain by sedimentary bedrock of the Dolhir Formation, which includes interbedded mudstone and limestone laid down in deep seas at the edge of a continental shelf some 444 to 449 million years ago during the Ordovician period. The superficial deposits along the valley here are sediments of glacial origin, deposited at the end of the last Ice Age. The soils here are classed as free draining, slightly acid loamy soils of low fertility, dominated by grassland, by the Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute (<http://landis.org/soilscapes>).

- 2.2 The proposed development site is situated at the northern side of a section of the relatively broad Dee valley, which flows south-southwest to north-northeast between Llandrillo and Cynwyd, in southwest Denbighshire. A number of small tributary streams flow down from the uplands which rise to either side of the valley and feed into the Dee. One of these, the Nant Llyn Mynyllod, flows through Tyfos Farm, less than 100 metres to the west of the development site.
 - 2.2.1 This section of the Dee valley is characterised by a gently undulating landscape with enclosed farmland across the valley floor and lower valley slopes. Hedges and hedgerow trees define the field parcels. The valley itself is an important communications route in modern times, with the B4401 running from Bala to Corwen along the southeastern side of the valley. A minor rural road also runs along the northwestern side of the valley, passing close to Tyfos Farm. By the late 19th century the Corwen & Bala Railway also ran through the centre of the valley.

- 2.3 The proposed development site is situated within a pasture field, on the valley slope to the east of the farm buildings at Tyfos Farm. The field is southeast-facing, overlooking the Dee valley. The ground falls away to the southeast, down to the lower part of the field which borders the minor road running along the northwest side of the valley.

- 2.4 The Tyfos Stone Circle, ME024, is situated at the southern edge of a large pasture field approximately 140 metres to the southwest of the proposed development site and approximately 30 metres to the south-southeast of the farmhouse and farm buildings of Tyfos Farm. Mature trees alongside the Nant Llyn Mynyllod stream largely screen views between the proposed development site and the Tyfos Stone Circle.

3. Tyfos Stone Circle: Historical & Archaeological overview

3.1 The proposed development site lies within a field at Tyfos Farm, less than 20 metres east of the farm's range of modern agricultural sheds and 140 metres to the northeast of the scheduled Tyfos Stone Circle, ME024.

3.1.1 The Tyfos Stone Circle was first described by the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments when they visited in 1913 (RCAHM, 1921, 84). They recorded 14 stones in the ring, with a possible 15th stone on the periphery. The monument was measured at 62 feet to 66 feet in diameter (c.19 metres to 20 metres).

3.1.2 The monument was again described by Bowen and Gresham in 1967 as the *"remains of denuded round cairn or barrow, most of material of which has been removed exposing a ring of large, recumbent stones that were originally hidden within. 13 stones remain and perhaps an equal number have been removed"* (Bowen and Gresham 1967, 78-9)

3.1.3 The monument is recorded in the National Monuments Record, held by the Royal Commission on the Historic and Ancient Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) under NPRN 93720. This record echoes the description made by Bowen and Gresham and describes the monument as a Cairn Circle, composed of 13 surviving, recumbent stones, measuring up to 26 metres in diameter, though the stone ring itself is recorded as being no more than 16 metres in diameter.

3.1.4 The monument is also described in the regional Historic Environment Record, held by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) (PRN 100834). This record emphasises the fact that the stones of the circle are set on a raised platform, less than 1 metre high but very obvious in the field. CPAT describe the circle as being composed of 16 stones.

3.1.5 The Tyfos Stone Circle has been scheduled as a Bronze Age Stone Circle ME024. Cadw describe it as having 14 visible stones defining a circle measuring "19 yards" in diameter (17.37 metres). It is said to date to the period 2300BC to 800BC.

3.2 The lack of certainty about its true character arises due to the lack of excavated archaeological evidence and the disturbance of the monument in the past, including the probable removal of stone from the site.

- 3.2.1 As it survives today, the monument consists of an incomplete circle of 14 recumbent stones or boulders, set around the edge of a circular platform raised slightly above the field surface.
- 3.2.2 The field evidence is suggestive of the monument being more likely to be a robbed out and denuded Bronze Age cairn or round barrow than a Stone Circle. The stones which form the partial circle should be seen as the exposed remains of the kerb of the cairn mound. CPAT's HER record quotes an earlier and undated Cadw description which noted that there are "some smaller stones visible in interior of the circle". The presence of smaller stones was noted also by Trysor in 2020, as were hollows and undulations in the ground surface inside the circle. This suggests that the monument is a robbed-out cairn or barrow. The landowner believes that the stones of the cairn were removed when the present farmhouse was built during the second half of the 19th century. He also stated to Trysor that the small linear mound in the corner of the field to the northern side of the mound when landscaping the garden.
- 3.3 Early Ordnance Survey maps, including the Bala Sheet of the Original Surveyors Drawings of 1818 and the 1:63360 scale First Series map of 1838 (Sheet 74), do not show field boundaries, therefore the proposed development site is not identifiable. The Tyfos Stone Circle is also absent from these maps, see figure 3.



Figure 3; The 1818 Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings shows Tyfos but not the Tyfos Stone Circle. This map labels Tyfos Isaf as Tyfos but does not name Tyfos Uchaf (the present Tyfos Farm), which is shown to the left of Tyfos on the map.

- 3.4 The Llandrillo parish tithe map of 1841 is the earliest available map which shows the field system of the whole parish in detail, see figure 4. This map also shows Tyfos Farm before the construction of the present farmhouse. It shows that the proposed development site was located within a field associated with Tyfos Issa farm, the buildings of which still stand 150 metres to the northeast of the modern farm sheds of the present Tyfos Farm.
- 3.4.1 The fields where the proposed development would take place are numbered as parcels 1066 and 1067 by the tithe map. The accompanying tithe apportionment, which dates to 1840, names the fields as *Cae Garreg Issa* and *Cae Garreg Ucha* and records that both were arable fields. Despite the “garreg” placename (Lower & Upper Stone Field), there is no known archaeological significance relating to the field names, which appear to be derived from naturally occurring outcropping rocks.
- 3.4.2 The nearby Tyfos Stone Circle is absent from the parish tithe map. It would have been found in field parcel number 1038, to the south-southwest, but it is not marked. This field is named as *Cae Pen Grych* on the tithe apportionment, an arable field of just over 2 acres in area. There is no known archaeological significance to the name and it does not reference the Tyfos Stone Circle.
- 3.4.3 The accompanying tithe apportionment lists the names of the property owners, tenants and field names, as well as the field acreage and land use. In 1840 the fields were part of a 242-acre holding known as Tyfos Isaf, part of the estate of the Passingham family. The house and outbuildings associated with the holding lay to the east of the field, not to the west at the site of the present Tyfos Isaf. The owner is listed as the Reverend Robert Townsend Passingham (1796-1847).



Figure 4; The Llandrillo tithe map of 1841 shows Tyfos Uchaf clearly but there is no sign of the Tyfos Stone Circle in field parcel 1038. The development site is on land forming part of the Tyfos Isaf farm holding, the buildings of which are seen in parcel 1065. The buildings of the present Tyfos Farm are in parcel 1037. The present farmhouse there had not been built at this time.

3.5 The Tyfos Stone Circle first appeared on mapping when the Ordnance Survey published its First Edition 1:10560 series map of the area in 1887, see figure 5. The monument is shown as a raised circle with a symbol for a small tree marked upon it and annotated as "Druidical Remains." It should be noted that there is no identifiable reference to the monument in 19th century antiquarian or archaeological sources and it is not known at what point it was recognised as an archaeological feature which led to its inclusion on the Ordnance Survey map.

3.6 By the time of the 1901 Second Edition of the 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map, the monument at Tyfos was described as the remains of a "Stone Circle", see figure 6. The subsequent 1953 edition of the map describes it as a "Cairn Circle" however, which is likely to be a more satisfactory description of the monument based on the physical evidence.

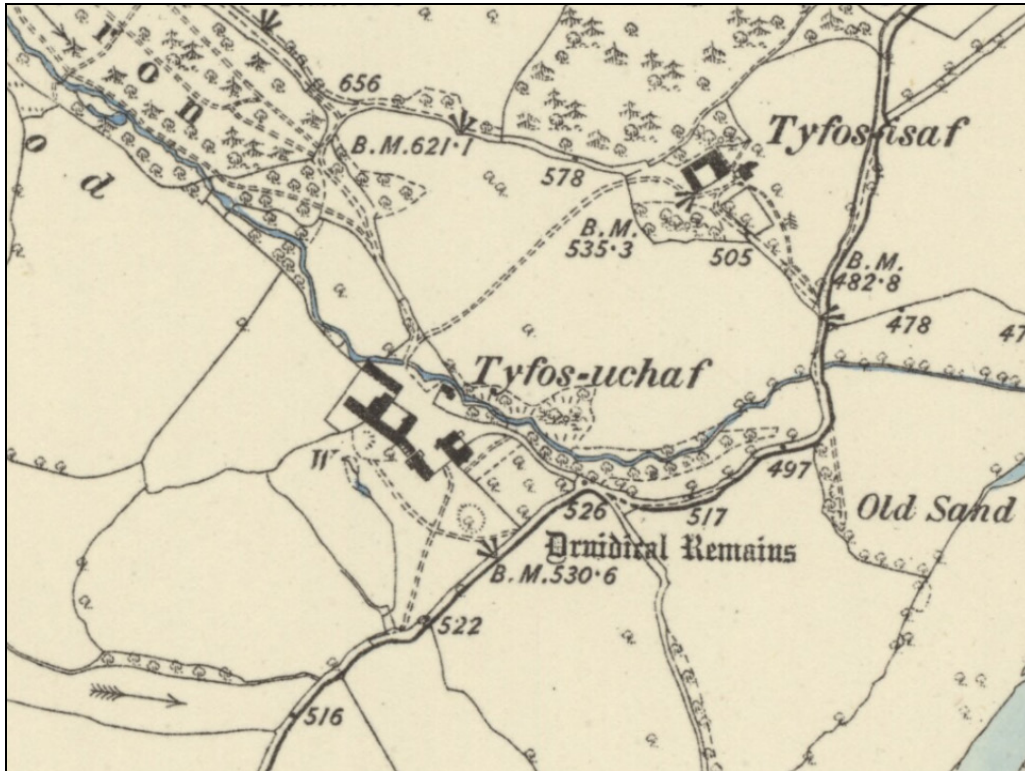


Figure 5: The First Edition of the 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map dates to 1887 and is the first map to show the Tyfos Stone Circle, which is labelled as "Druidical Remains". The proposed development would be located between the buildings of Tyfos Isaf to the northeast and Tyfos Uchaf to the southwest.



Figure 6; The 1901 edition of the 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map.

4. Methodology

4.1 This document has been prepared by Trysor at the request of Roger Parry & Partners, 1 Berriew Street, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7SQ on the impact of the proposed solar panel development at Tyfos, Llandrillo, Corwen, Denbighshire, LL21 0TA on the setting of the nearby Scheduled Monument, Tyfos Stone Circle (ME024).

4.1.1 The process outlined in "Setting of Historic Assets in Wales" (Cadw, 2017) has been followed in order to assess impacts on the setting of the historic asset and any impacts on its significance.

4.1.2 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.

4.2 Trysor visited Tyfos Farm to examine and photograph the proposed development site and the Tyfos Stone Circle on October 5th, 2022. The monument had also been previously visited and photographed by Trysor on August 6th, 2020 for a separate planning application (Trysor, 2020).

4.2.1 The Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle, ME013, was also visited on August 6th, 2020 to explore the relationship between it and the Tyfos Stone Circle, (Trysor, 2020).

5. Impacts on Setting Stage 1: *Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development.*

5.1 The assessment considers the impact on setting relating to the Tyfos Stone Circle (Scheduled Monument number ME024).

5.2 Detailed notes on impacts on the historic asset are found in appendices A & B of this report.

5.3 Tyfos Stone Circle (ME024) (see Appendix A & Appendix B)

5.3.1 The Tyfos Stone Circle is believed to be the remains of a cairn or round barrow which dates to the Bronze Age (2300BC to 800BC). It is therefore a ritual, funerary monument typical of the period.

5.3.2 It can be presumed that at least one burial was placed within it, probably a cremation burial, and the cairn mound then constructed over it. There is no evidence that any such burial has been disturbed and the archaeological potential of the historic asset remains high, despite the fact that most of the cairn material appears to have been robbed in the past.

5.3.3 The historic asset lies in a pasture field immediately to the south of the farmhouse and farmstead building complex of Tyfos Farm, which is a working farm. It is located some 150 metres to the southwest of the proposed solar panel development site.

5.3.4 The historic asset is not well represented in historical literature and did not appear on Ordnance Survey mapping until the late 19th century. The first description of it was made by the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in 1913.

5.3.5 No archaeological excavation or evaluation has been undertaken on the historic asset, which means that it is not well understood.

5.3.6 The lack of detailed information regarding the date and function of the historic asset makes it difficult to understand its relationship with the surrounding landscape and other historic assets of presumed contemporary date within that landscape.

6. Impacts on Setting 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.*

6.1 The significance of an historic asset is derived from the sum of four heritage values according to *Conservation Principles (Cadw, 2011, p.10)*. These four values are:

- Evidential value
- Historical value
- Aesthetic value
- Communal value

6.1.1 Conservation principles outlines that setting is part of the Aesthetic Value (Cadw, 2011, p.10, section 2.3 and p.17 *Aesthetic Value*)

6.1.2 Guidance on assessing the setting of historic assets was introduced in 2017 (Cadw, 2017). Cadw states that: *Setting is not itself a historic asset, though land within a setting may contain other historic assets. The importance of setting lies in what it contributes to the significance of a historic asset.* (Cadw, 2017, p.2, Section 1, second para).

6.2 Tyfos Stone Circle (ME024) (see Appendix A & Appendix B)

6.2.1 The Tyfos Stone Circle has been scheduled for its archaeological potential. Cadw's scheduling description considers the historic asset to be a stone circle, although other sources and the field evidence pointing to it being a denuded or robbed out cairn or round barrow. The scheduling description states that;

"The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual practices. The features are an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape and retain significant archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of both intact ritual and burial deposits, together with environmental and structural evidence. Stone circles are often part of a larger cluster of monuments and their importance can be further enhanced by their group value. (Cadw, undated).

6.2.2 In terms of its historic setting, there is no information available which can satisfactorily describe the relationship between the Tyfos cairn circle and any contemporary structure or historic asset. Nothing is known of the settlement patterns or landscape character of the surrounding area when the historic asset was first built.

- 6.2.3 The Tyfos monument is described it as a "stone circle" (Cadw scheduling description), whilst the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales describe it as a "round cairn" or "barrow". The function of a stone circle and that of a round cairn would differ, although both are classed as funerary and ritual monuments.
- 6.2.4 There is a probable significance in the position of the Tyfos Stone Circle low down on the slopes on the northwestern side of the Dee valley, which may well have been an important communication route during prehistoric times. The monument is thought to be Bronze Age in date and there are other funerary monuments of probable Bronze Age date in relatively low-lying situations along the same section of the valley, including the Branas Uchaf barrow (ME070) and the Gwerclas Mound (ME069). The surrounding uplands also have evidence of Bronze Age funerary activity, with the Moel Ty Uchaf Circles (ME013) situated on and around a hilltop some 3km to the southeast of Tyfos. Moel Ty Uchaf includes a stone circle on the hilltop and two barrows or cairns on the slopes below the southeastern side of the summit.
- 6.2.5 Any postulated relationship between these historic assets is speculative. There is no physical link and it is not known if there was a functional link. A visual relationship between Tyfos and the Moel Ty Uchaf stone circle, 3.2km to the south, has been mooted, but the field visit undertaken by Trysor in August 2020 found that the stones of Moel Ty Uchaf were not visible from the Tyfos Stone Circle with the naked eye. At most the tops of the northern stones in the Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle may be visible from the Tyfos Stone Circle, but at a distance of over 3km this view is not meaningful and Moel Ty Uchaf cannot be said to form part of an important view from the Tyfos Stone Circle.
- 6.2.6 Trysor visited the Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle in August 2020 and found that the monument is situated on the flat top of a local summit. Views of the Tyfos Stone Circle can be gained from the monument, but at a distance of 3.2km, it is not clearly visible with the naked eye and is certainly not a prominent landscape feature.
- 6.2.7 It is also evident that the cairn group which is associated with Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle lies mostly to its southeastern side, out of sight of Tyfos. This seems to suggest that activity at Moel Ty Uchaf was focused on the slope immediately below and southeast of the hilltop stone circle, not on monuments several kilometres away on the opposite side of the Dee valley.

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

7.1 Tyfos Stone Circle (ME024) (see Appendix A & Appendix B)

The significance of the Tyfos Stone Circle is derived from the four values outlined by Cadw in Conservation Principles (Cadw, 2011, pp.16-18).

- 7.1.1 The **evidential value** is dominant with respect to this monument. It appears as a substantial monument constructed in earth and stone, measuring c.20 metres in diameter and set on a raised platform over 0.5 metres in height. It has evidently been robbed of its cairn material, but the underlying structure of the cairn remains relatively intact and there is no evidence to suggest that there has been any disturbance of the burial or burials presumed to lie beneath the monument. This suggests that the monument retains considerable archaeological potential.
- 7.1.2 The **historical value** of the Tyfos Stone Circle is low. It does not appear in any known antiquarian sources and was not included on maps until the later 19th century. It was first described by the RCAM as late as 1913. There are no known historical representations or paintings of the monument, though it has been photographed and sketch plans have been produced in modern times.
- 7.1.3 In terms of the **aesthetic value** of the historic asset, it is easily identified as an antiquity, although its form has misled many to interpret it as a stone circle, rather than a robbed-out cairn. It is notable that viewers of the historic asset tend to photograph it with the adjacent farmhouse and farm buildings of Tyfos Farm in the background, which forms a striking image. It sits at the northern edge of the Dee valley floor, which is a highly attractive rural landscape to the south and east.
- 7.1.4 The **communal value** of the historic asset is relatively low as it lies on private land and is not easily appreciated from the public road to the south. The landowner has opened up the hedgerow to the southeast to improve views of the historic asset from the road, but this is not the best position from which it can be appreciate. Visitors occasionally call at the farmhouse asking for permission to visit the site and the landowner has been happy to accommodate such requests.
- 7.2 The proposed development will be located 140 metres to the northeast of the Tyfos Stone Circle in an adjacent field parcel (see figures 1 & 2).

- 7.3 The historic asset is not situated in an undeveloped, remote or unspoilt landscape. The surrounding land is working farmland, with some tree plantations on the slopes to the west. At present the Tyfos Stone Circle is situated within 30 metres of the farmhouse and farm building complex of Tyfos Farm, which are dominant in the local landscape and of a mass which is considerably larger than the historic asset. These buildings form the backdrop to the historic asset when viewed from the public road.
- 7.4 The proposed development would be of moderate size in terms of its footprint (some 0.61 hectares) but with a low-profile. It would be larger than the area occupied by the Tyfos Stone Circle (0.062 hectares) but would be located in a separate field parcel and some 150 metres from the historic asset. It would also be much smaller than the area covered by the much larger farm buildings (1.6 hectares) and would have a much lower profile in the landscape than the farm buildings, which stand closer to the historic asset.
- 7.5 The addition of solar panels at the proposed location would introduce a new feature into the modern setting of the Tyfos Stone Circle. There would, however, be no physical impact on the monument and no interference with its historic relationship with the valley to the east and southeast.
- 7.6 The development would not interrupt key views of the historic asset, which tend to be enjoyed facing southeast or east towards the Dee valley or looking north with Tyfos Farmhouse in the background. Photographs of the historic asset which appear online tend to favour the latter view. The view northeast of the monument, or from the monument towards the proposed development, would be largely blocked by mature trees along the course of the Nant Llyn Mynyllod stream. Most of the development would be hidden by the slope in the proposed development field. There may be a view of the western edge of the development which can be screened by the addition of more trees as proposed.
- 7.7 The development would not interrupt views from the monument to possible contemporary monuments along the valley or on the uplands to the east, including in the direction of the Moel Ty Uchaf stone circle. When viewed from Moel Ty Uchaf the Tyfos Stone Circle, 3.2 kilometres away, is barely discernible alongside the farmhouse and farm buildings of Tyfos Farm.
- 7.8 The addition of a solar panel development in the field to the northeast of the Tyfos Stone Circle would not represent a significant landscape change as they would merge with the existing farm buildings in general views.

- 7.9 The Tyfos Stone Circle stands in a relatively open landscape, characterised by irregular pasture fields, although the existing buildings of Tyfos Farm are close by and dominant in many views of the historic asset. Tree cover includes coniferous plantations on steeper valley slopes, some hedgerow trees and some planted shelter belts around farmhouses and cottages.
- 7.10 The proposed development would be theoretically intervisible with the Tyfos Stone Circle, but a rise in ground height towards the development and the presence of intervening modern agricultural sheds and mature deciduous trees would help screen views between the two locations, with only partial views of the western side of the solar panel development. These would be screened by the proposed tree planting.
- 7.11 Overall it is considered that there would be a Low Negative impact on the setting of the Tyfos Stone Circle caused by the proposed solar panel development, but with the proposed tree planting this would be reduced to a negligible level.
- 7.12 The significance of the Tyfos Stone Circle is derived to a substantial extent from its evidential value. The development would not physically impact on the historic asset and therefore its evidential value would not change. Likewise, there would be no impact on the historic value or community value attributed to the Tyfos Stone Circle.
- 7.13 The aesthetic value of the Tyfos Stone Circle would be largely unaffected by the change to the view to the northeast. The development would not significantly affect the more popular views of, or from, the monument, which are towards the Dee valley to the east and south or towards the farmhouse and farm buildings of Tyfos Farm to the north. This includes views from the roadside to the south, all of which include views of the present farmhouse and farm buildings. Mitigation in the form of the proposed tree planting reduce the impact on setting to a negligible level.
- 7.14 There would be no impact on the significance of the Tyfos Stone Circle.

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

8.1 Tyfos Stone Circle (ME024) (see Appendix A & Appendix B)

The proposed development would not change the significance of the Tyfos Stone Circle.

8.2 There would be a negligible impact on the setting of the monument.

8.2.1 Mitigations have been implemented within the proposed development which would reduce a potential Low Negative impact on setting to a negligible level. The mitigation includes:

- Retaining the screening belt of mature deciduous trees to the northeast of the farm access lane, at the western edge of the field in which the development would take place. These trees will help screen views of the development from the Tyfos Stone Circle.
- Retain the modern shed which stand to the west of the solar panels. Should that shed be removed within the lifetime of the solar installation, mitigations would be required to extend the screening effect of the trees to the south of the building, either by erecting a new shed or extending the screening tree belt.
- A partial view of the solar panels would be possible from the monument. The planting of new deciduous shrubs/trees to strengthen the screening tree belt, including extending the tree belt northwestwards towards the modern agricultural sheds, would close this view and ensure that screening is maintained during the working life of the solar panels.

8.3 The use of such tree-planting as a screen to improve and maintain a shelter belt to reduce visual impact would be in keeping with the character of the local landscape. The LANDMAP Visual & Sensory aspect area (DNBGHVS096), known as "Slopes below Mynydd Mynllod" (*sic*) describes the area thus;

"An area of undulating and small scale field pattern enclosed with overgrown hedges and strong incidence of scattered and mature tree cover over the lower valley slopes of Mynydd Mynllod (sic) ... Topography is undulating - further emphasised by the field pattern and vegetation cover, settlements are limited to scattered farmsteads and residential dwellings on the lower slopes and valley sides."

8.4 This mitigation would ensure that the level of impact on the setting of the Scheduled Monument would be negligible.

9. Conclusion

- 9.1 The proposed solar panel development would take place on land to the west of Tyfos Farm, some 140 metres to the northeast of the scheduled cairn circle known as the Tyfos Stone Circle (ME024).
- 9.2. This report has considered the potential impact on the setting of the scheduled monument, including a possible relationship with the Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle, which lies on higher ground 3.2 kilometres to the southeast.
- 9.3 This report has established that:
 - 9.3.1 The Tyfos Stone Circle is one of many Bronze Age funerary and ritual monuments in the district, found in lowland and upland situations. There is no evidence to demonstrate that there was any particular importance attached to the relationship between the Tyfos Stone Circle and the Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle.
 - 9.3.2 The Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle is not visible to the naked eye from the Tyfos Stone Circle and may not be visible at all, due to the location of the Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle on a flat-topped local summit, which puts it just beyond the skyline.
 - 9.3.3 The Tyfos Stone Circle is visible from Moel Ty Uchaf, but at a distance of 3.2 kilometres, which means that it is not prominent in those views and is difficult to locate with the naked eye.
 - 9.3.4 The views of the Tyfos Stone Circle from the road to the southeast are gained through a 15-metre-wide break in the hedgerow which appears to have been created to open the site up to passers-by. All views through this gap would include views of the existing farmhouse and farm buildings at Tyfos Farm.
 - 9.3.5 The addition of the solar panel development in a separate field to the northeast would not change views of the historic asset. The view from the roadside is a modern view, not an historic view and is not a key view of the historic asset, which is best seen from within the field, particularly on the rising ground looking east to south with the Dee valley in the background.
- 9.4 The significance of the Tyfos Stone Circle is drawn mainly from its evidential value.
- 9.5 Two mitigation steps are included in the proposed development:

- Retaining the existing screening belt of mature trees along the Nant Llyn Mynyllod stream to the northeast of the Tyfos Stone Circle.
- Strengthening this belt of trees, and extending it to the northwest towards the modern farm buildings with some new deciduous planting, which would ensure the screening effect continues well into the future.

9.6 With the proposed mitigation included as part of the development there would be a negligible impact on the setting of the Tyfos Stone Circle. Its significance would remain unaltered.

10. Bibliography

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10.1 Cartographic Sources

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Llandrillo Parish Tithe Apportionment, 1840

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10.2 Online Sources

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British Geological Survey - <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?> (accessed 9/11/2022)

Cof Cymru - <https://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/recordsv1/cof-cymru/?lang=en> accessed throughout the project

Cadw, undated, Tyfos Stone Circle (scheduling description for ME024) <http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/sam/FullReport?lang=cy&id=2459>

APPENDIX A

SETTING ASSESSMENT NOTES STAGE 2

TYFOS STONE CIRCLE SCHEDULED MONUMENT

(Scheduled Monument Number ME024)

Tyfos Stone Circle	
Stage 2: How do the present surroundings contribute to our understanding and appreciation of the historic asset today?	
• Thinking about when the historic asset was first built and developed:	
What were its physical, functional and visual relationships with other structures/ historic assets and natural features?	<p>There is no information available which can satisfactorily describe the relationship between the Tyfos cairn circle and any contemporary structure or historic asset. Nothing is known of the settlement patterns or landscape character of the surrounding area when the monument was first built.</p> <p>The Tyfos monument is described variously as a "stone circle" (Cadw scheduling description), whilst the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales describe it as a round cairn or barrow. The function of a stone circle and that of a round cairn would differ, although both are classed as funerary and ritual monuments.</p> <p>There is a probable significance in the position of the Tyfos Stone Circle low down on the slopes at the northern side of the Dee valley, which may well have been an important communication route during prehistoric times. The monument is thought to be Bronze Age in date and there are several other funerary monuments of probable prehistoric date in relatively low-lying situations along the same section of the valley, including the earlier Neolithic Tan y Coed Burial Chamber (ME048) and two Bronze Age monuments, namely the Branas Uchaf barrow (ME070) and the Gwerclas Mound (ME069). The surrounding uplands also have evidence of Bronze Age funerary activity, with the Moel Ty Uchaf Circles (ME013) situated on and around a hilltop some 3km to the southeast of Tyfos. Moel Ty Uchaf includes a stone circle on the hilltop and two cairns/barrows on the slopes below</p>

	<p>the southeastern side of the summit.</p> <p>Any postulated relationship between these monuments is speculative. There is no physical link and it is not known if there was a functional link. A visual relationship between Tyfos and the Moel Ty Uchaf stone circle, 3.2km to the south, has been mooted, but a field visit undertaken by Trysor in August 2020 found that the stones of Moel Ty Uchaf were not visible from the Tyfos Stone Circle with the naked eye. At best the tops of the northern stones in the Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle may be visible from Tyfos, but at a distance of over 3km this view is not meaningful and Moel Ty Uchaf cannot be said to form part of an important view from Tyfos.</p>
What topographic or earlier features influenced its location?	It seems likely that the position of the monument on the lower valley slope, from where there is a good view across the Dee valley and to the uplands on either side of the valley, suggests the location was carefully selected to enable views from and to the site.
What was its relationship to the surrounding landscape/streetscape?	As above. The situation of the Tyfos cairn on the slopes to the north side of the valley allows for good views across and along the valley, presuming that tree cover was no more than at present.
Was it constructed to take advantage of significant views or to be a part of a significant view? Although there may be a 360 degree view, some areas of the view may be more significant than others.	As above. The Tyfos cairn appears to have been positioned to allow views across and along the adjacent section of the Dee valley.
Has its function or use changed?	The cairn fell out of use during prehistory. The landowner related a tradition that the stones of the cairn were robbed and used when the buildings of the nearby Tyfos Farm were constructed.
What changes have happened to the	The original landscape setting is not understood. Since medieval times the area

surrounding landscape/ streetscape?	has been remodelled to include a rural landscape setting, characterised by dispersed settlement, an extensive post-medieval field system and communication routes which include the Llandrillo to Cynwyd section of the B4401 road.
Have changes happened because of changes to the historic asset or to its historical setting?	It is said that the stones of the cairn were robbed for use when the buildings of Tyfos farm were erected. The monument has also become enclosed within large post-medieval field, which is under grass pasture. The B4401 road passes close by to the southeast, separated from the field and monument by a low bank and hedge.
Has the presence of the historic asset influenced changes to the landscape, for example, where a monument has been used as a marker in the layout of a field enclosure?	The monument does not appear to have influenced changes to the landscape. No boundaries have incorporated the monument.
Has the presence of the historic asset influenced the character of the surrounding landscape /streetscape?	No. The monument has had no impact on the field parcel and its boundaries or the B4401.
Have historic and designed views to and from the historic asset changed?	This is unknown as there is no information relating to the original setting of the monument or views from it or towards it. There is also no information relating to vegetation or tree cover at the time the monument was built or throughout subsequent periods until post-medieval times.

<p>● Thinking about the original layout of the historic asset and its relationship to its associated landscape:</p>	
<p>Were these relationships designed or accidental?</p> <p>How did these relationships change over time?</p>	<p>Although there is no hard evidence of the original setting of the monument, it seems probable that it was positioned deliberately to allow views from the site across and along the adjacent section of the Dee valley.</p> <p>The character of the valley at the time the monument was constructed is not known, but since medieval times the landscape as we see it now has developed, including the communications routes, field systems and settlement pattern. The monument has not completely lost its view of the valley, but hedgerows and trees within the post-medieval fieldscape have screened views, particularly along the valley to the northeast. The monument is now within an enclosed pasture field with a modern farmstead complex close by to the northwest, isolating it from the wider landscape to some extent.</p>
<p>How do these relationships appear in the current landscape; are they visual or buried features?</p>	<p>These relationships survive as visual features, with the general views from the east around to the south-southwest still relatively open. Screening trees block views along the valley to the northeast. High ground blocks views from the southwest to the north.</p>
<p>● Are there other significant factors, such as historical, artistic, literary, place name or scenic associations, intellectual relationships (e.g. a theory, plan or design), or other non-visual factors such as sounds or smells that can be vital to understand the historic asset and its setting?</p>	<p>No. None known.</p>

Stage 2 should also identify the viewpoints from which the impact of the proposed change or development should be assessed, taking into account, for example:	
● views to, from and across the historic asset that were designed and developed when the historic asset was first created – for example, in the case of a defensive or ritual structure	<p>There is insufficient information relating to key views to or from the monument. In terms of views from the monument, it is felt likely that the view across the Dee valley was significant as it may well have been an important communication route in prehistory and the landscape may have been settled and farmed to some degree.</p> <p>The views across the valley include views of the upland bloc to the east. The stone circle on Moel Ty Uchaf lies on a local summit in that direction, although it is located over 3km from the Tyfos Stone Circle and not visible from the latter monument itself. Whether the two monuments were contemporary is not known. Any relationship between the two sites cannot therefore be defined, especially in view of the absence of firm dating evidence as neither site has been subject to archaeological excavation.</p> <p>It is thought that the Tyfos cairn has been robbed of a stone cairn, and would originally had a mound over the presently exposed stones. The hilltop monument at Moel Ty Uchaf is thought to be a stone circle and there no suggestion that it originally had a cairn or barrow over the stone circle.</p>
● views to, from and across the historic asset which are linked with a time in its history – for example, a historic artistic depiction	<p>There are no known depictions from historical sources. In more recent times the site has become relatively popular and is occasionally visited and photographed by members of the public and professionals, with some examples being available online.</p> <p>Alexander Thom produced a modern, annotated plan of the monument (date not known). The modern interest focuses very much on the monument itself and not its setting or its relationship with the surrounding landscape.</p>
● important modern views to, from and	<p>Visitors occasionally call at the farm asking permission to visit the Tyfos cairn and often photograph it in its modern setting within the</p>

across the historic asset – for example, popular visitor viewing points.	<p>pasture field. Views across and along the Dee valley are enjoyed from the site.</p> <p>The farmer pointed out the position of Moel Ty Uchaf to Trysor during the site visit in 2020 but the monument itself was not visible, it could only be identified as a person appeared to be standing on the hilltop alongside it.</p>
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APPENDIX B
Notes on Impacts on Setting

TYFOS STONE CIRCLE
SCHEDULED MONUMENT

(Scheduled Monument Number ME024)

Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of change or development.			
POSSIBLE IMPACT	COMMENT	IMPACT ON SETTING	IMPACT ON SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HISTORIC ASSET
The visual impact of the proposed change or development relative to the scale of the historic asset and its setting	<p>At present the Tyfos cairn circle is situated within 30 metres of the farmhouse and farm building complex of the farm, which is dominant in the local landscape and of a mass which is considerably larger than the monument.</p> <p>The proposed development would be located 150 metres to the northeast, in an adjacent field parcel and would be far smaller in terms of mass and area compared to the farm buildings and would not compete with key views of the monument, which tend to be enjoyed facing southeast or east.</p>	Negligible	There would be no impact on the significance of the monument.
The visual impact of the proposed change or development relative to the location of the historic asset	The development would take place c.140 metres to the northeast of the monument, in a separate field, with intervening mature trees on rising ground and a	Negligible	There would be no impact on the significance of the monument.

	<p>modern farm building screening much of the view towards the development site. A partial view of the development would be gained from the monument itself however.</p> <p>The monument is viewed within the context of a post-medieval field system, with some coniferous woodland plantations on the higher, steeper slopes to the northern side of the Dee valley. The landscape in that direction is managed and enclosed, but currently has no buildings within it. The buildings of Tyfos farm are however close to the monument to the north.</p>		
<p>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</p>	<p>The proposed development would not dominate the historic asset. It would stand in an adjacent field, 140 metres to the northeast, and be of much smaller mass and area than the present farmhouse and farm buildings which lie close to the monument to the north.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>	<p>There would be no impact on the significance of the monument.</p>

<p>associated structures and/or buried remains</p>	<p>There would be no physical impact on the monument or its historic relationship with the valley to the east and southeast. It would also not interrupt any views from the monument to possible contemporary monuments along the valley or on the uplands to the east, such as the Moel Ty Uchaf stone circle.</p> <p>There is no evidence of buried archaeology or features associated with the monument at the development site.</p>		
<p>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</p>	<p>There is a large farmhouse and a group of 19th century and modern farm buildings between 30 metres and 270 metres to the north of the monument, which are dominant in the modern backdrop of the cairn when viewed looking north from close range or at a distance.</p>	<p>These buildings are part of the historical and modern setting of the monument.</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>The lifespan of the proposed change or development and whether or not the impact might be reversible</p>	<p>The development would be in use for a generation.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>There would be no impact on the significance of the monument.</p>
<p>The extent of tree cover, whether it is deciduous or evergreen, and its likely longevity</p>	<p>The monument stands in a relatively open landscape, characterised by irregular pasture fields. Tree cover includes coniferous plantations on steeper valley slopes, some hedgerow trees and some planted shelter belts around farmhouses and cottages.</p> <p>The development and parkland lie within the LANDMAP Visual & Sensory aspect area (DNBGHVS096), known as "Slopes below Mynydd Mynllod". LANDMAP describes the area thus;</p> <p><i>"An area of undulating and small scale field pattern enclosed with overgrown hedges and strong incidence of scattered and mature tree cover over the lower</i></p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>There would be no impact on the significance of the monument.</p>

	<p><i>valley slopes of Mynydd Mynllod. The area provides fine views over the adjacent valley and a good strong prominent landform and focus from the valley below. Topography is undulating - further emphasised by the field pattern and vegetation cover, settlements are limited to scattered farmsteads and residential dwellings on the lower slopes and valley sides."</i></p> <p>Trees screen or block some short and long views from or to the monument, such as the shelter belt of conifers immediately to the northeast.</p>		
<p>The impact of artificial lighting – for example, on night-time views</p>	<p>The development site would not be accompanied by external lighting.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>There would be no impact on the significance of the monument.</p>
<p>The capability of a landscape setting to absorb change or new development without the erosion of its key characteristics</p>	<p>The wider landscape is characterised by scattered development, including farmsteads and dwellings. The proposed solar panel development would be modest in size and not result in the removal of any</p>	<p>Negligible</p>	<p>There would be no impact on the significance of the monument.</p>

	existing feature characteristic of the landscape. The proposed development would occupy an area and be lower in profile than the existing farmstead building range already at Tyfos Farm.		
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	<p>The development would not impact on non-visual elements of the setting as it stands on a working farmstead which is not remote.</p> <p>The area is not tranquil as it is a working agricultural environment with a relatively busy minor road passing the farm, on which commercial vehicles, agricultural vehicles and commuters drive regularly.</p>	None	There would be no impact on the significance of the monument.
The impact of non-visual elements of the proposed change or development, such as the removal or addition of noises and smell	The development would not add any new noises or smells to the local environment.	None	There would be no impact on the significance of the monument.
The cumulative effect of the proposed change or development – sometimes relatively small changes, or a series of small	This is a single development and sufficiently detached from the site of the monument so that the level of impact will be negligible. It will not interfere with	Negligible	There would be no impact on the significance of the monument.

changes, can have a major impact on our ability to understand, appreciate and experience a historic asset.	the understanding or appreciation of the monument, interfere with key views or any association with the Dee valley to the southeast or other prehistoric monuments along the valley.		
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APPENDIX C Photographs

Tyfos, Llandrillo, Corwen, LL21 0TA
Impact on Setting of Tyfos Stone Circle, ME024,
from a Proposed Solar Panel Development

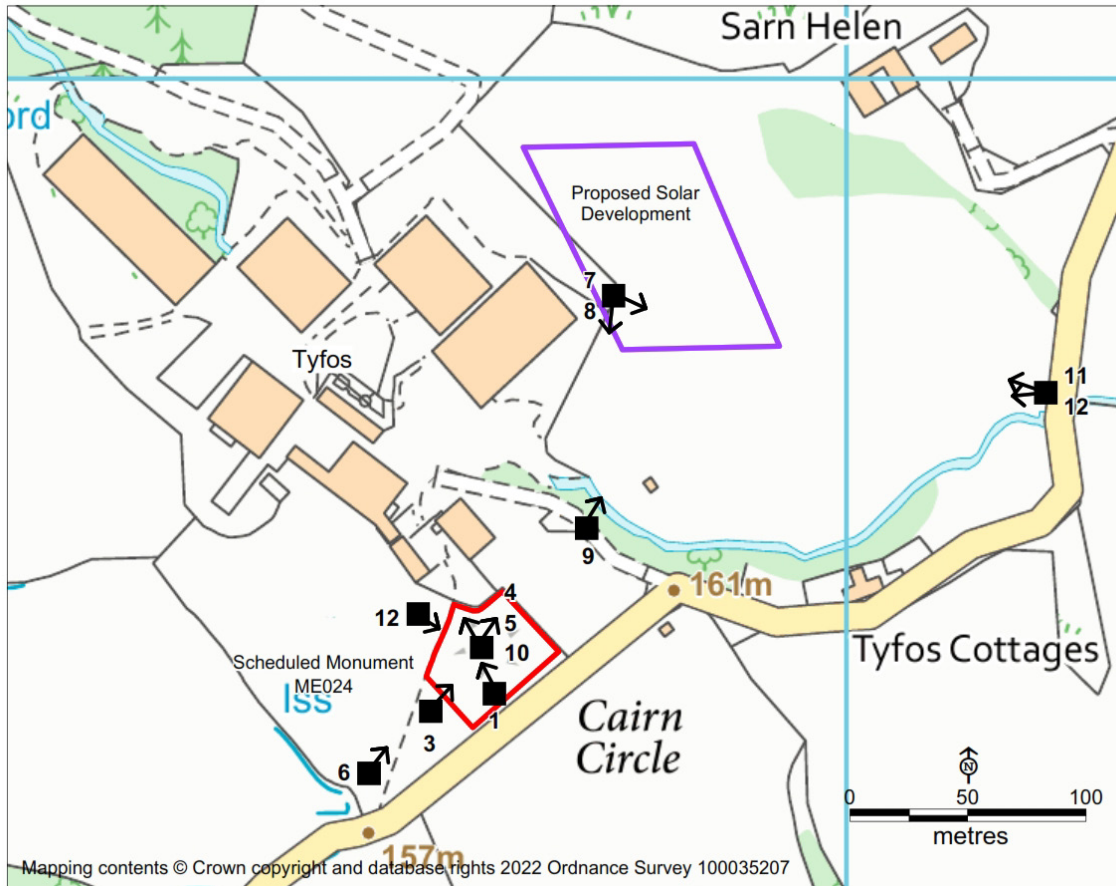


Figure 6: Location of photographs taken by Trysor, labelled with Plate number, some photos were taken in 2020 and some in 2022. Location of plate 13 is not shown but was taken over 3 kilometres away St SJ0556637186



Plate 1: TYF2020_001. Looking north-northwest across the Tyfos stone circle towards the farmhouse and farm complex at Tyfos. The mound or ring on which the stones of Tyfos Stone Circle lie is clearly visible. The existing farm buildings form the backdrop.



Plate 2: TYF2020_009. Looking southeast across the Tyfos Stone Circle and across the Dee Valley towards Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle which lies where the arrow indicates. Moel Ty Uchaf is not visible with the naked eye from this position as it lies on a flat area just beyond the skyline. It is not situated in a false-crest position which would make it visible from the valley below.



Plate 3: TYF2020_011. Looking northeast across Tyfos stone circle towards the garden in front of the farmhouse at Tyfos. The mound or ring on which the stones of Tyfos Stone Circle lie is clearly visible. The proposed solar panel development would be located in the next field beyond the trees to the left of the photograph.



Plate 4: TYF2020_012. From the centre of the Tyfos Stone Circle, looking north-northwest, showing how dominant Tyfos farmhouse and the farmstead buildings are in views of the monument.



Plate 5: TYF2020_020. A view from the centre of Tyfos Stone Circle in 2020, looking north-northeast towards the proposed solar panel development. Subsequent management has removed some of the trees at the centre of the image, creating a gap in the screening belt. The planting of more trees to close the gap would mitigate against any visual impacts. Compare with Plate 10.



Plate 6: TYF2020_021. A second view towards Tyfos Stone Circle and farmhouse and farmyard buildings in 2020, looking north-northeast from a position closer to the road to the southwest of the monument. This shows how effective trees are in screening views to the northeast where the proposed development would be situated.



Plate 7: TYF2022_001. A view of the area of the southern end of the proposed development site, looking east-southeast.



Plate 8: TYF2022_002. A view towards the Tyfos Stone Circle (shown by red arrow) from the southwestern corner of the area of the proposed solar development. The development would largely be located further to the right, uphill and the deciduous trees to the left side of the image and a large shed to the right would largely block views towards it from the monument. Looking south-southwest.



Plate 9: TYF2022_003. A view from the farm access lane towards the proposed development site, which would be between the large tree to the right of centre and the shed to the left. This shows that the land rises up to the tree, but it then falls away, which would mean that only the leading edge of the solar panel installation would be visible looking from the direction of the Tyfos Stone Circle. Looking north-northeast.



Plate 10: TYF2022_004. A view from the centre of the Tyfos Stone Circle in October 2022, looking northeast. When compared with Plate 5 it can be seen that tree removal since 2020 has opened a gap in the screening trees, which would mean that the leading edge of the solar panels would just be visible at the centre of the view. The planting of additional deciduous trees will close this view and reduce any impact on the setting of the monument.



Plate 11: TYF2022_005. Looking towards the proposed development site, which would occupy the upper part of this sloping field, to the right of the farm shed. The panels would face south, which means they would appear side on in this view, which looks west-northwest. The trees to the left would screen most of the view from the Tyfos Stone Circle.



Plate 12: TYF2022_006. A view of the trees along the northern side of the Nant Llyn Mynyllod stream, at the southern edge of the development site. These will screen views of the proposed development from the southwest. Looking west.



Plate 13: TYF2020_037. Looking northwest towards Tyfos, over 3 kilometres away at SJ0556637186, from the northwest side of Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle, taken in 2020. The Tyfos Stone Circle is indicated by the pink arrow. The red arrow shows the proposed development site.

APPENDIX D

Client Plan

THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL RELATED DRAWINGS. ALL DIMENSIONS MUST BE CHECKED AND VERIFIED ON SITE BEFORE COMMENCING ANY WORK OR PRODUCING SHOP DRAWINGS. THE ORIGINATOR SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY OF ANY DISCREPANCY. THIS DRAWING IS COPYRIGHT AND REMAINS THE PROPERTY ROGER PARRY & PARTNERS.

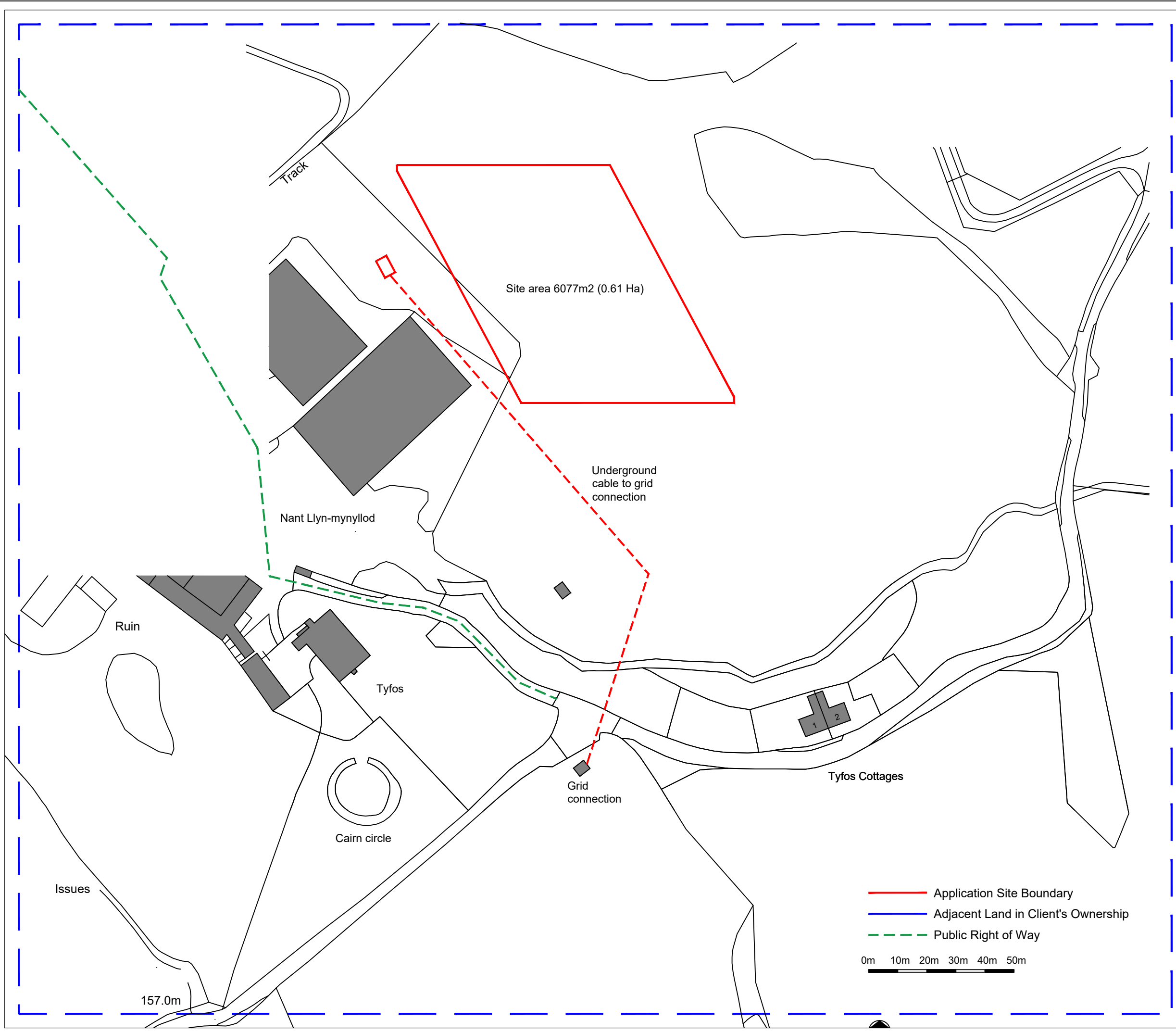
Rev	Description	Date	By
A	Switch gear room & grid connection indicated	31/03/2023	NB



Residential - Agricultural - Commercial

Project	Proposed Ground Mounted Solar PV Panels		
Drawing Title	Location Plan		
Location	Tyfos, Llandrillo, Corwen, LL21 0TA		
Client	Richard Williams		
Scale	1:1250 @ A3		
Drawing No	76741 / RJC / 001	Rev	A
Drawn By	NB	Date	2023/03/31

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— Application Site Boundary
- - - Adjacent Land in Client's Ownership
- - - Public Right of Way
 0m 10m 20m 30m 40m 50m