

EROSION CONTROL WORKS AT WAUN MAUN STANDING STONES SAM Pe124



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Erosion Control Works at Waun Maun Standing Stones

Gan / By

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CONTENTS

Summary	4
Introduction	4
Methodology	5
Future Management	5
Photographic Record	6
Quality Assurance Report	13

SUMMARY

The standing stones at Waun Maun, Tafarn y Bwlch, stand overlooking Brynberian common at SN 08382 34046. The site consists of one standing stone and three recumbent stones, all of which have been suffering erosion around their bases. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority have carried out simple erosion control measures at this site, lining the hollows with geo-textile and infilling the holes with locally sourced stone and earth. The infilled areas were then re-turfed.

INTRODUCTION

Overlooking Brynberian common to the east, and looking up to Foel Eryr to the southwest, Waun Maun standing stones occupy an impressive landscape position and are a part of the important prehistoric landscape of the Preselis. There are a number of standing stones in the immediate area, and, with the exception of Gors Fawr stone circle, they occur mostly as single stones or stone pairs. Waun Maun is unusual in form, consisting of four stones (one standing, three recumbent) which are roughly aligned, perhaps in a semi-circle. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (pub. 1889) appears to show only three stones in the group.

The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Pe124). However, over the last few years erosion hollows have developed at the base of three of the stones. These hollows have been exacerbated by sheep sheltering in them. Eventually, the hollows would become large enough to a; destroy any surviving buried archaeology in the immediate vicinity of the stones, and b; de-stabilise the stone which remains standing.

In consultation with Cadw, it was decided that small-scale erosion control works would be appropriate at this site, in order to prevent the erosion becoming a significant problem.

It is a requirement of the Scheduled Monument Consent that the work was recorded, and this report has been produced for Cadw to fulfil that requirement, and for the site owners to confirm that the proposed works have been carried out.

METHODOLOGY

Constraints

Scheduled Monument Consent was required, and this was granted from Cadw. The site is also within the Preseli SSSI, and the method of the works was agreed with CCW prior to work beginning in order to ensure that the work would not be detrimental to the SSSI condition.

On-Site Works

The work was carried out at the end of February 2006, on a dry day. The bases of the erosion hollows were clear of standing water, and were reasonably firm to the touch helping to avoid damage to surviving archaeology.

The hollows were lined with Terram, a porous geo-textile. The textile is designed to allow water to penetrate, in order to promote healthy vegetation growth, but to separate archaeological layers from infill. It will also act as a depth marker, against which to monitor any future erosion. There was no ground disturbance – the sides of the erosion hollows were not cut back, nor were the bases scraped or levelled.

Once lined, the hollows were infilled with a mixture of soil and stone. This was sourced from an open drainage ditch further down the slope, well outside the Scheduled area. The in-fill was packed down, and then the area re-turfed with turf taken from the area of the same drainage ditch.

Carrying out the work in February should mean that the turf has a full spring growing season in which to consolidate itself. There are also no livestock on this land at present, and stock will not be put on until later in the spring. This will help to avoid the problem of livestock 're-opening' the erosion scars. In general, this land is only lightly grazed, and stocking levels are not generally a problem.

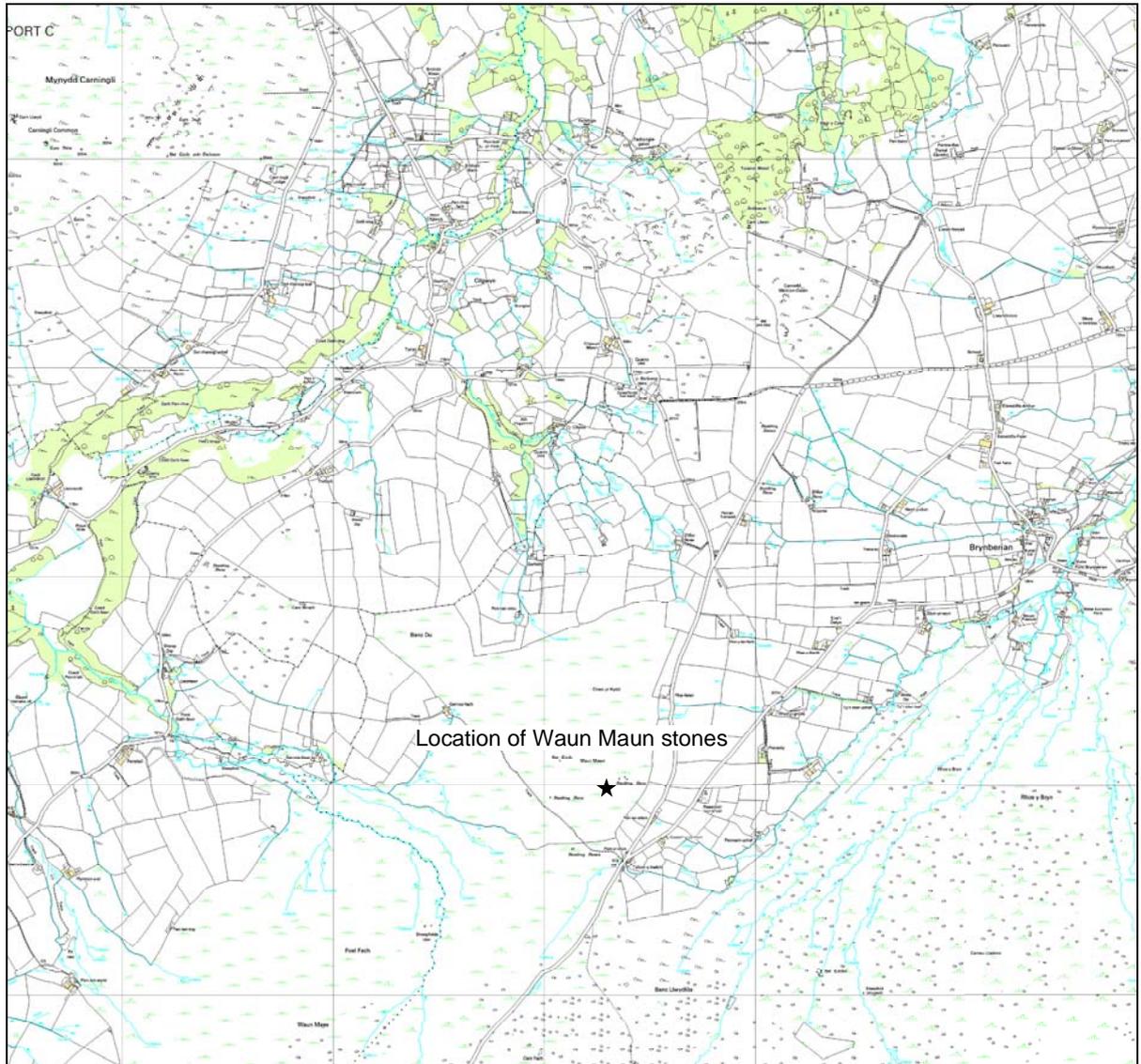
All works were carried out under archaeological supervision.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT

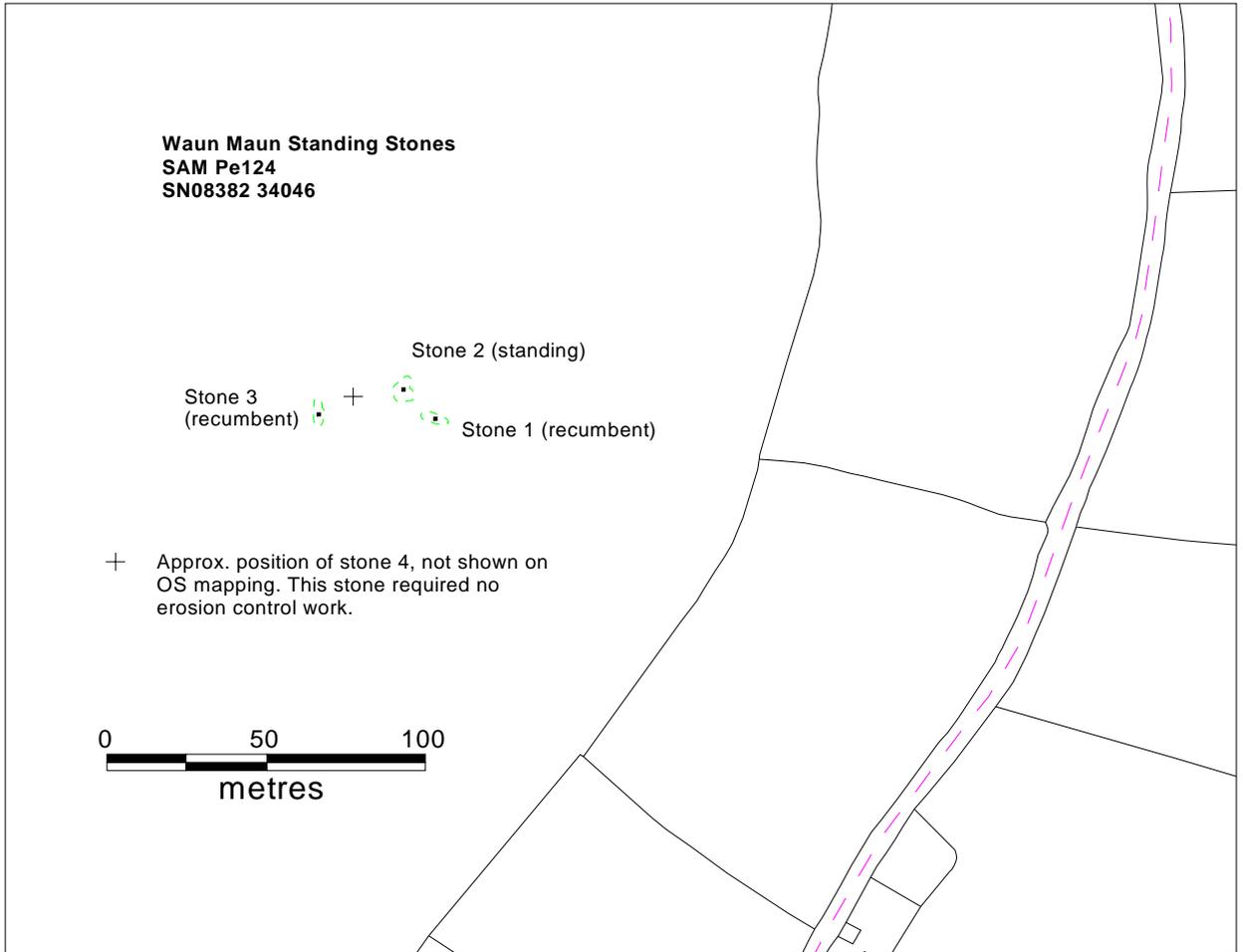
The site will be monitored throughout the spring and summer until it is clear whether the turf has established itself. If necessary, temporary fencing will be placed around the site to exclude livestock later in the spring.

Stocking levels will continue to be low on this land, and it is hoped that there will be no further need for intervention at this site.

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD



Map showing the location of Waun Maun stones, SN03SE.



Map showing the positions of the affected stones.

Stone 1



Above: The erosion hollow at the base of the stone.
Below: Work in progress – the terram being laid into the hollow before being trimmed to size.





Above: finishing turf laying.
Below: the erosion hollow infilled. A light covering of soil will encourage good growth of the newly laid turf.



Stone 2



Above: the erosion hollow at the base of the standing stone.

Below left: A terram lining in place, and beginning to infill the hollow with soil and stone.

Below right: the infilling completed. The turf is lightly covered with soil to encourage healthy growth.



Stone 3



Above: This was the only stone where smaller stones were encountered in the base of the erosion hollow. These stones were firmly bedded into the underlying soil and were left in place when the hollow was infilled.
Below: Terram lining in place.





Above: In-filled erosion hollow. This was the only stone which was set in a slight mound of earth and care was taken to follow the profile of the mound.

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Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
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Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

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