

CPAT Report No 980

Caves

The Scheduling Enhancement Programme



THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Report for Cadw

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Cover photo: An aerial view of the cairn and cave at Gop near Prestatyn (Photo CPAT 08-c-0218)

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Caves**1 The Scheduling Enhancement Programme: Introduction**

This brief report covers one element of a scheduling enhancement programme extending to all four Welsh Archaeological Trusts which was initiated by Cadw in 2008. It was needed to inform their thinking on priorities for scheduling enhancement in the two years up to April 2010 when the provisions of the Heritage Reform White Paper, it was hoped, were due to be implemented.

A scoping study was conducted at Cadw's request in the second quarter of the financial year 2007/8, to identify in very general terms the number of sites and features recorded in the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) that still needed to be assessed in order to complete the scheduling programme for prehistoric and Roman sites in the region, taking the study from the earliest times through to 400 AD.

The scoping report was submitted to Cadw in September 2007 and was discussed at a meeting of the trusts' directors and Cadw on 3 October. This was followed by a further meeting between the trusts and Dr Mike Yates on 7 November, as a result of which some preliminary work on a general scheduling enhancement programme across the whole of Wales was conducted by some but not all trusts during the remainder of 2007/8. All four trusts are currently involved, at the time of writing, in this programme, with a view to completing it by the end of the financial year 2009/10.

A series of enhancement programmes had already taken place during previous years across Powys and the former county of Clwyd, in some cases going back into the early 1990s, to study thematically a range of monument types including: unenclosed prehistoric settlements identified through their lithic concentrations (2001-2), prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments (from 1997 until 2005/6 with follow-up programmes in two subsequent years), hut circles/round huts (from 1998 to 2008), defended enclosures of Iron Age and Roman date (in 1993, 1995, 1998 & 2006-7), Roman military establishments (2004 to 2008), and Roman roads (2002 to 2004), together with post-Roman-era studies of early medieval ecclesiastical and burial sites (2001 to 2003), churches and churchyards (1995 to 1998), and historic settlements (1992 to 1994). Such enhancement programmes were designed not only to identify sites which held sufficient potential to qualify them for scheduling as sites of national importance, but also to undertake a rationalisation of the HER, through the validation of authentic sites and rejection of spurious examples, the amplification of existing records as necessary, and the removal of duplicate records.

The scoping study in 2007 utilised a recent extract from the HER to identify: a) all sites and features of prehistoric and Roman date and b) all recorded examples of specific site types such as 'enclosure', 'pound', field system' and the like where the period had been defined as 'unknown'. Sites already assessed during the enhancement programmes of previous years were then removed from this database. Similarly, sites which had nothing better than a four-figure grid reference were removed in the belief that there was no realistic prospect of identifying any such site on the ground, an approach paralleling that followed by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

The study identified over 1600 sites (or cultural heritage assets to use the current phraseology) where assessment might be useful. Some site types such as burnt mounds, field systems including pit alignments, and caves appeared to provide in themselves typologically discrete studies, but it was equally clear that there were some areas of east and north-east Wales where concentrations of various types of site suggested that a more geographically defined approach might be a more efficient mechanism for assessment. Where a field element might be involved in the assessment, it was felt that it would be a more economical use of resources to look at the sites of varying types as a group rather than to examine them individually over different years.

The subject of this report are the cave sites found primarily in the north-east and extreme south of the region. Some fall in areas such as the Brecon Beacons that are or will be considered as geographical search zones in the current programme of scheduling enhancement, but for the purposes of coherency all caves are treated in this report.

Table 1: Occurrence of specific sites types against geographical areas

Area	Black Mountains	Brecon Beacons	Clwydians	Elan Valley	Epynt	Mynydd Hiraethog	Severn Valley	Tanat Valley	Clwyd Vale	West Monts
Site type										
Burnt mounds		■			■					■
Caves		■	■						■	
Mines and quarries										
Cairnfields	■	■		■						
Enclosures	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■
Field systems	■	■		■		■	■	■		
Roman settlement							■			
Roman Religious sites									■	

Five research objectives, common to all the scheduling enhancement projects, were identified in the proposals for grant aid submitted to Cadw in their final version in March 2008. These were, in order:

- an assessment of the archaeological significance of the various site-types and the sites that comprise them, within both the regional and particularly the national framework.
- the identification of those sites that might merit further examination through ground survey, geophysical survey and evaluation.
- the recommendation of future management strategies, specifically including scheduling.
- the enhancement of the regional HER and through it the Extended National Database (END), maintained by the Royal Commission.
- the dissemination of information through publication if appropriate.

Particular emphasis in this study was placed on objectives b), c) and d).

2 Caves: Definitions and Processes

Although the meaning of the term ‘cave’ seems self evident, some simplified definitions and a brief discussion of the processes involved in *speleogenesis* (cave formation) are perhaps needed to provide a better understanding of the subject and the context in which human beings have utilised these natural features.

The term ‘cave’ or ‘cave system’ refers to an underground network of passages, chambers, shafts and other cavities which in this country are generally, but not exclusively, initiated by the action of slightly acidic groundwater on limestone and allied rocks containing calcium carbonate. Once a cave passage has formed other factors also become significant contributors to its enlargement, notably the erosive potential of stones and material carried by flowing water. Cave passages can also be ‘active’ or ‘fossil’, the terms respectively meaning that a passage is still being formed by the passage of water

through it, or that the watercourse which formed it has now found a different path through the limestone strata leaving the passage in a dry state.

Even in heavily erosive environments, caves take a great deal of time to form, but there are dating methods available that utilise the mineral properties of *speleothems* (stalactites, stalagmites and calcite flowstone) to provide reasonably accurate dates for cave passages. *Speleothems* are created by the deposition of calcite from solutions running over surfaces and falling into existing passages, and their growth over time can be dated by taking core samples, which may also provide an idea of the time at which deposition commenced. There are relatively few *speleothem* dates for Welsh caves, more work having been carried out in the Mendips and Yorkshire Dales, but a date of 107,000 to 127,000 years BP from a cave on the Gower Peninsula (Crowther 1989, 30) gives an idea of the timescales involved, bearing in mind that this relates to the formation of the *speleothem* and not the cave passage, which must have already been in existence at the time deposition commenced. Indeed, Crowther (1989, 26-7) makes it clear that *speleogenesis* was occurring in at least the Mesozoic period of geological time, primarily in relation to a series of stratified cave and fissure deposits in South Wales which contain the remains of Triassic fauna (248-213 million years old).

Other types of cave which do not depend on limestone or allied rocks for their formation include those which are formed by the action of faults that have left open spaces between opposing rock surfaces, and sea caves where the erosive action of water and suspended material has created blind tunnels in weaker shoreline strata. No caves of these other types are included in the sites examined during this study, primarily due to the lack of suitable areas for their formation.

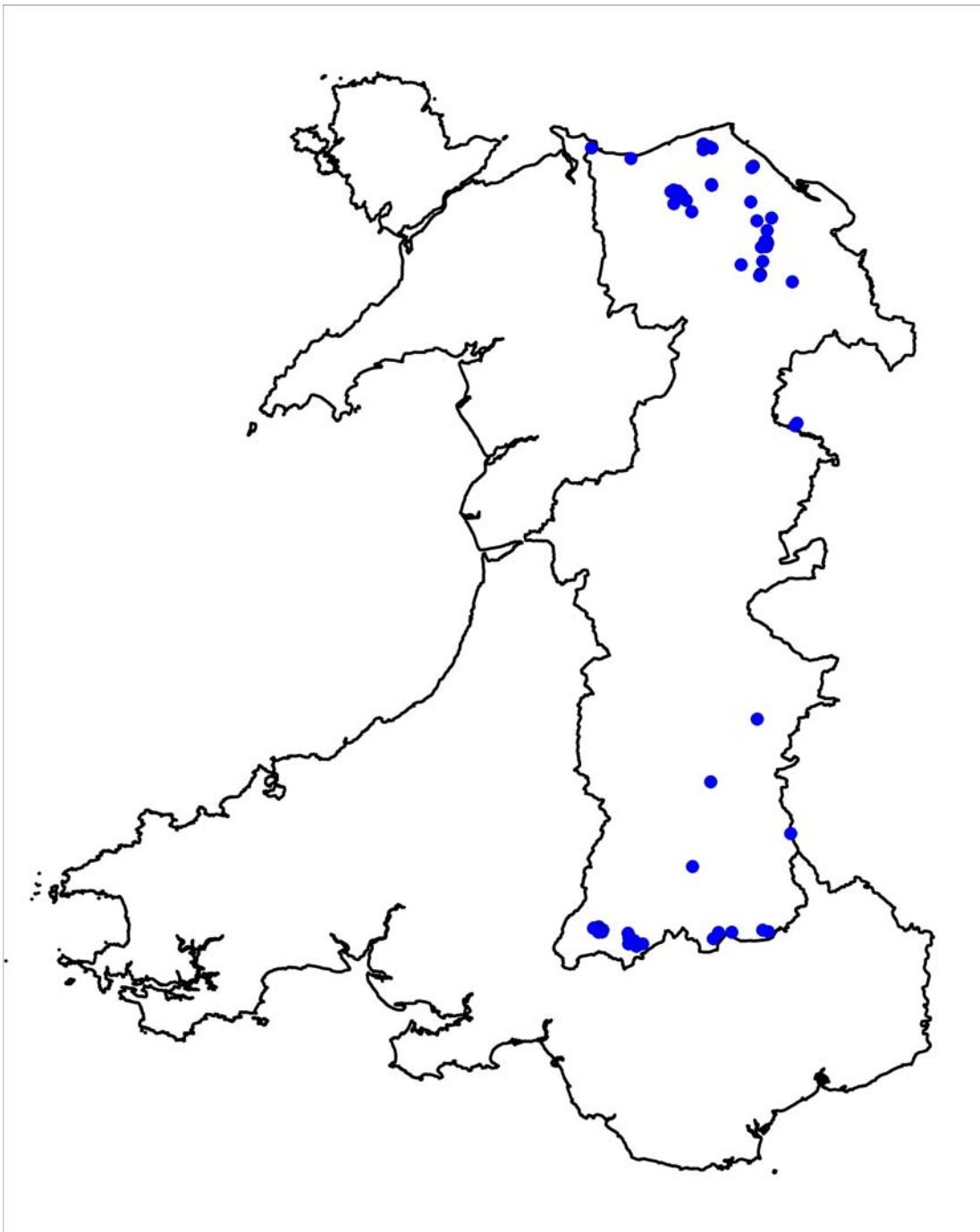
In the context of this report, the other main type of natural feature in which human settlement is found is the 'rock shelter', a term that refers to a landscape feature which is effectively open to daylight but that nevertheless provides protection from the weather to a greater or lesser extent. These shelters are not exclusively found in limestone districts as they are formed more by forces of physical erosion than the partly chemical processes which are inherent in *speleogenesis*. It is however true that in the case of this study, those rock shelters which have been found to have witnessed human occupation have all been in limestone districts, the few sites in the database outwith these districts being small shelters with exclusively historic associations.

Evidence of human settlement and past fauna can be found at any point within a cave system, from the immediate area of the entrance and its surroundings to deep within a system, where material may have been washed into a cave by the action of past and present watercourses. In this respect it has to be recognised that the local topography could have been markedly different at the time the archaeologically significant deposits were being laid down. The subsequent deposition of material by glaciation or flowing water could have hidden much of this topography, masking evidence of other entrances which are unrecognised at present and by infilling cave passage with deposits. Given the timescale of cave occupation, it is also necessary to consider the changes in sea level which may have occurred, and it is certainly the case along the South Wales littoral that caves which had been occupied when they lay well inland now look out over a seascape of markedly different character.

The possibility for the preservation of direct evidence of past human activity in caves is readily understood, and in this it should be noted that the lime-rich environment is particularly good for the survival of bone, whether human or animal. Less well understood is the nature of some of the *clastic* cave deposits, derived from fragments or eroded waste of various rocks, which, to quote from the National Caving Association's Cave Conservation Handbook, 'often represent material eroded from caves or material moved into them from the surface by palaeoenvironmental processes (e.g. erosion and transport by ice, water or air). Caves thus act as museums, preserving evidence of landscapes and past human activity, long removed from the surface' (NCA 1997, 4-1) The implications of this statement for the palaeoenvironmental potential inherent in cave deposits is obvious.

3 Caves: Methodology

The first stage of the study was desk-based and involved an assessment of the HER records to determine which could be considered to relate to caves and rock shelters. An up-to-date copy of the HER was provided by the curatorial section of the Trust, and from this a total of 83 relevant records were identified which were then abstracted to form a new database used solely for this project. Of these, 18 records related to cave sites which had already been statutorily designated under seven different schedulings, but these records were not isolated at this stage of the assessment as it was considered useful to examine the nature of the cave stock as a whole; some of these sites were subsequently examined in the field when work was being carried out nearby. In passing it should be noted that the very small number of caves with records relating to medieval or even later activity were also left in the database.



The distribution of potential cave sites in the study area

The fact that no project of any form that referenced caves had been undertaken by the Trust in the past suggests that cave information had been entered into the SMR/HER in a sporadic and probably random fashion, and one corollary of this was that there was probably information on other caves, already in the public domain, which had not made it on to the record. In examining published records, a look out was maintained for new sites. This inevitably means that absolute numbers were liable to variation as the project progressed.

Another factor which needs to be mentioned here is that, although not all caves will contain preserved archaeological material, the potential resource is extremely large. When the number of identified caves (of natural origin) in the study area is assessed from the two main caving guidebooks (Oldham 1991 and Stratford 1995), a total of over 170 caves in the relevant part of North Wales and approximately 140 caves in the relevant part of South Wales can be identified. Even these figures are nowhere near complete as new caves are found on a regular basis; entrances containing significant material can easily be hidden by soil and debris accumulations which have been deposited by natural causes subsequent to their formation and potential use.

Some of the sites recorded in the HER have no known archaeological component, and it has not been considered worthwhile to examine these in the field as it is extremely unlikely that evidence of occupation or use could be revealed by a site visit. Only those sites where there is significant circumstantial evidence relating to the cave archaeology of their area and where the position and nature of their entrances makes occupation likely were considered for further investigation. In the study area, evidence of human activity in caves has almost always been revealed only by excavation, whether archaeological or by cavers attempting to find or extend cave systems.

Of the 83 site records, three mines – at Llanymynech and Craig Rhiwarth were immediately discounted because they had been wrongly entered as caves. A small number of caves were recorded several times because they had been occupied in more than one period, always with one PRN record existing for the cave as a whole, but some of these have been updated where new information has been revealed.

At an early stage it was noted that there were 16 records of individual cave sites in the HER where there was no recorded archaeological or faunal remains. These included caves recognised during fieldwork and also a significant number of sites that had been identified from Ordnance Survey mapping. Additionally, there were two sites which appeared to be in the HER because of supposed historical associations: the Water-break-its-neck cave (PRN 43102) because it was reputedly the hiding place of Llewellyn ap Gruffydd, and Llewelyn's Cave at Aberedw (PRN 1596) for the same reason.

A total of five cave sites were added to the project database during the course of the desk-top element of the assessment, giving a combined total in the database of 88 individual records. In all but one case these were cave sites from which the presence of either faunal remains or human occupation had been recorded by at least one authority, but which remained to be added to the HER. The other sites added are the large caves known to exist in the area called Cefn yr Ogof (PRN 54884), between Abergele and Llanddulas on the North Wales coast; the prominent position of these means that they have been known since at least the 18th century and it seems inconceivable that they would not have been utilised given the amount of prehistoric activity, both above and below ground, at the Great Orme, only about 15km away. Mesolithic evidence from a cave site has also been identified in the immediate area.

4 Site visits

Once the desk-top assessment of the individual sites had been completed, it was possible to identify those caves which seemed to merit a site visit to assess their nature. The reasons for visits were various, including uncertainty regarding the nature of the cave or its deposits and the quite common problem of confusion between a number of sources over the precise location of the cave in question.

The visits were carried out on an area-by-area basis as this fits well with the restricted distribution pattern due to the restricted areas of any limestone deposits, and this sometimes meant that a site already scheduled could be visited in passing. In addition to providing a basis for the assessment of unscheduled sites, this also led to the discovery of valuable information regarding some of the scheduled sites and this has led to specific recommendations which are considered later in this report.

The primary object of a site visit was to determine the potential and current status of a cave with regard to the main objectives of the project. Information which was recorded included the nature and exact location (using GPS) of the entrance(s) and the degree of any disturbance, both recent and historic; likewise for any accessible passages, when these could be easily and safely accessed; also the nature and significance of any perceived threats to the cave or its deposits. The potential importance of the site was also assessed, with regard to the above factors, and those which were considered to merit further consideration for scheduling were identified.

In some instances though potential for deposits which have survived previous excavations has been identified, the nature of these deposits is difficult to determine. Further work to assess the deposits may therefore be considered necessary in small number of cases, specifically where these may merit statutory protection.

5 Amended Records

Of the 88 sites mentioned previously, the records of 62 have been amended to include new information gathered from either the desk-top sources or a field visit, 23 of these being relatively minor changes. Of the remaining 26 sites, five had not previously been recorded, leaving 21 records which are effectively unchanged. This gives a slightly false picture, however, as many of these are records where a single cave has been given a number of different PRNs relating to a single period in a site with multi-period occupation. In these cases the synthetic text relating to the cave site as a whole may have been changed but nothing will have been added to the description of evidence relating to a particular period unless the desk-top study revealed further detail.

6 Discussion

It is perhaps worth discussing the nature of the archaeological resource in caves and rock shelters in the study area to provide a background overview against which the potential importance of individual sites can be readily assessed for scheduling purposes and for more general study. A brief consideration is also given of the potential methods by which cave deposits can be preserved.

In Bontnewydd Cave (PRN 102132) we are fortunate in having a cave which has been subject to detailed archaeological examination in the recent past and which contains the remains of one of the earliest inhabitants of Wales yet recorded. It has to be said that, in the context of the local area, never mind the wider district, the site does not have any attributes which mark it out as being more suitable for human occupation than any one of about five different caves, and it is therefore difficult to escape the feeling that the significant finds which have come from the cave were more a function of the detailed nature of its excavation than its uniqueness as a site. The truth or otherwise of this suggestion will inevitably have to await the results of any excavations that may take place in the future, but many of the other caves which have been excavated were originally examined in the later part of the 19th century when techniques were rather less rigorous than is now the case, and when the lack of reliable methods of dating often meant that only recognisable artefacts were retained for study. Even in the 20th century the potential for dating bone was not always recognised, such as the case of the skeletal remains recovered from Ogof Ffynnon Ddu (see PRN 786) which have proved impossible to date subsequent to their discovery in 1946 due to the presence of a preservative or varnish (Davies 1995, 4-6).



The entrance to Bontnewydd Cave (PRN 102132) showing the walling created when the site was used as an ammunition store in WW2 (Photo CPAT 2784-007)

Although the Neanderthal remains from Bontnewydd are the most notable finds from the North Wales study area, they were effectively found out of their original context of deposition, the cave having been affected by glacial meltwaters at the end of the last ice age. The significant fact here is that this type of post-glacial deposit is also present in most of the caves of this part of North Wales; locally it appears to have been noted in the excavations in the caves at Cefn Rocks (see PRNs 102135-102138), and is probably also present in one or more of the Nant-y-graig/Brysgill caves (PRN 19309).

Twelve caves have been attributed Palaeolithic dates in the HER, mostly from North Wales. These caves have mostly been given this dating owing to the presence of the remains of long extinct, mammalian fauna, rather than the presence of human remains or artefacts. Nevertheless, the potential for associated human activity remains a possibility, although at present it is not really possible to determine the form this may have taken, specifically whether the caves were places of burial or sites of occupation. It is, however, worth mentioning that evidence of occupation has been found at the Creswell Caves in Derbyshire; this site is at present the only one in Britain where Palaeolithic cave art (engravings in this case) has been recognised, the period being confirmed by the dating of flowstone, a type of *speleothem*, which covered some of the engravings. The engravings are thought to have been created in the period between about 13,000 to 15,000 years BP (Pike et al, 2005).

Mesolithic activity has been suggested in only two sites, the Lynx (see PRN 100949) and Plas Heaton (see PRN 100570) caves, owing to the discovery in each case of a single flint, although this dating remains to be corroborated.

In the Neolithic and later periods the deliberate use of caves as places of burial seems to have become more prevalent and many collections of skeletal remains have been revealed by past cave excavations, although their attribution to the Neolithic has normally been the opinion of the excavator, rather than a result of scientific dating. The most significant of these seems to be that at Gop Cave, near Prestatyn, where the bones of more than fourteen individuals believed to belong to the Neolithic period were found within a walled structure just inside the entrance in the 1880s. The structure was apparently closely associated with a fireplace where deposits included pottery and further animal and human bones. Four other definite inhumations were found during later excavations. Unfortunately many of the finds from Gop Cave were lost in 1913, when they were thrown down a mine shaft nearby, having been previously stored at the columbarium at Gop Farm. Ironically, it is possible that these finds were then rediscovered later in the 20th century in excavations in either the Gop Farm or Gwaenysgor caves, both of which lie on land belonging to Gop Farm; it is not known whether the excavators were aware of this possibility at the time of discovery. Some of the finds appear to have been deposited in Manchester Museum, others are now apparently in the National Museum Wales, Cardiff.



Gop Cave, near Prestatyn, first excavated by Boyd Dawkins in the 1880s (Photo CPAT 2784-031)

A total of five apparently Neolithic inhumations were found at a rock shelter at Nant-y-Fuach, near Gop, and there seems to have been a cluster of activity in the Llanarmon-yn-Iâl district where evidence of Neolithic burials and artefacts has been revealed in caves at the edge of the village (Llanarmon Cave – PRN 100895), at Perthi-Chwarae (PRN 100930) and at Rhos-isaf (PRN 100940, 101774-6).

Bronze Age activity in the recorded caves seems to have been less widespread than appears to have been the case in the Neolithic. Finds of the period are known from Big Covert cave, near Maeshafn (PRN 102318) and also from Llanarmon cave, but the only significant occupation evidence comes

from South Wales, where Ogof yr Esgym (PRN 784) in the upper Swansea Valley revealed the remains of about 40 individuals during excavations, initially in the early 1920s and then more extensively between 1938 and 1950 and up to the 1970s. Finds included an Early-Middle Bronze Age bronze rapier, a bronze razor, a bronze awl, a gold bead, a bone awl and a weaving comb together with Bronze Age pottery sherds possibly representing as many as six vessels (Mason, 1968).



The entrance to Big Covert Cave, Maeshafn (Photo CPAT 2784-040)

Two caves, Nant-y-Graig/Brysgill cave A (PRN 102147) and Orchid Cave II (PRN 103035), have been suggested as having an Iron Age origin, although the evidence could equally well point to Romano-British activity. Six sites are considered likely to be related to the latter period, including some of those with earlier occupation, mentioned above. Ogof yr Esgym revealed a significant amount of Roman material, but the most useful evidence seems to have come from Big Covert cave, where two of the burials were apparently found in close association with Roman brooches. The recorded caves seem to have been used more as places of burial in the period, and this is perhaps highlighted by the mine at Llanymynech (PRN 15864), which lies within the hillfort of the same name. Part of the hillfort lies in England, but it is nevertheless the largest in area in Wales, and the mine seems to have been reused as a place of burial and for the concealment of valuables in the Roman period.

Later activity seems to have been generally limited to the use of caves to provide short-term shelter. The only exception to this is in the case of Eglwys Caradog (PRN 1534), which is traditionally alleged to have been the place of residence of a saint local to the Upper Swansea Valley in the early medieval period. The authenticity of the record is uncertain, but it is known that a small cave nearby (PRN 80328) contains an area below ground which seems to have been used for habitation.

The caving community has gone some way towards effecting the preservation of cave deposits, and good examples of this can be described where access is controlled by a management committee of

responsible persons. Specifically, in relation to this report, the caves for which access is controlled include Darren Cilau, Dan-yr-Ogof and Ogof Ffynnon Ddu. These are locked and access is only possible with a permit from the relevant body and is dependant on the applicants being members of a recognised caving club. It would be relatively simple to request that those controlling access to these sites would make cave users aware of any areas which were archaeologically sensitive – such as the place in which the skeleton was found when Ogof Ffynnon Ddu was first explored in 1946. Although the very act of discovering a cave will inevitably impact on its deposits, attempts are normally made by the discoverers to minimise any disturbance by the taping of narrow routes through areas which are considered sensitive. This occurs though generally in relation to areas of clastic deposits and *speleothems*.

In addition to the potential threats to caves mentioned above, there is another major threat which has the potential to impact on caves and their sediments, namely the quarrying of limestone. The rock has a number of uses including road aggregate and for the making of cement. In recent years there has been something of a push to expand quarrying activity to cope with the increased demand from road and house building and although this has obviously slowed at the moment, the potential still exists for it to make an impact in the future unless sites are accorded some form of statutory protection. The potential is highlighted by the fact that at least four of the caves recorded in the database (4.5%) have been wholly or partially removed by quarrying in the past; it is not known how much material of archaeological interest may have been lost.

7 Scheduling Enhancement

One of the cave sites that had originally been scheduled, Lynx Cave, had its protection removed in the 1980s. The exact grounds for this removal are not known, but this seems to have been a rather unfortunate occurrence, given that the site has subsequently been heavily affected by excavation, albeit that this appears to have been done in an archaeological manner, with a depth of at least one metre of deposits having been removed from the entrance. The identity of those carrying out the excavations is at present unknown, but it is to be hoped that they will produce a full report on the work at some point, as the cave is known to have contained burials and material believed to date to the Palaeolithic and Roman periods.

Some of the caves which are not scheduled per se are already protected by different legislation, particular examples being Eglwys Faen and Ogof Ffynnon Ddu in South Wales, both of which lie within National Nature Reserves. The larger caves on Mynydd Llangattwg (including Ogof Darren Cilau) were incorporated into a larger Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1986 (Smart and Gardener, 1985, 124). Ogof Ffynnon Ddu contains over 40km of passages and the cave and enclosing area have been designated as a National Nature Reserve, due to their significance and because of threats from quarrying.

In addition to the sites recommended for statutory protection in Appendix 3, one anomaly was noted when comparing the polygons of scheduled sites with their physical extent. This was at Gop Cave (PRN 102264), where the scheduled area only covers the above ground deposits at the entrance. Perhaps this is due to the implication in some sources that the sub-surface deposits have been removed by previous excavations, but some were evident in-situ when the site was visited in March 2009 and it is evident from the sources that further deposits are likely to have been left undisturbed in the deeper reaches of the cave, although these were not examined.

Table 2 Current state of research on the Scheduling Enhancement Programme 2008/09

		HER record numbers	Records assessed	Finds	Records enhanced	Records: minor changes	Site visits	SAM recs.
Vale of Clwyd	CPAT Report 948	726	168	99	25	6	8	0
Roman Settlement	CPAT Report 963	51	41	313	13	12	1	1
Roman Religious Sites	CPAT Report 964	25	21		12	7	2	0
Brecon Beacons	CPAT Report	1317	485	71	51	37	108	8
Caves	CPAT Report 980	88	83	N/a	39	23	38	7

8 Recommendations for further work

The archaeology of cave sites is often only highlighted by random finds which then suggest that sites were occupied or used in a particular period or periods, but it is quite rare for stratified deposits to be investigated, as at Bontnewydd. There is a small number of sites which were examined during this project where a small amount of excavation might be useful to provide a background for proposed scheduling. In North Wales, these include the Nant-y-graig/Brysgill group, near Bontnewydd where significant deposits appear to have been left in-situ by the late 19th-century excavations and also the two caves in Big Covert, Maeshafn (Big Covert cave and Orchid cave II), both of which appear to have been used as places of burial in prehistoric or Roman times. In South Wales, it may be possible to arrange to carry out work in the chamber in Ogor Ffynnon Ddu from which skeletal remains were recovered. Any bone which was recovered would be potentially of significant importance in attempting to date the individual and perhaps determine whether they had been deliberately interred (see Davies 1995, 4-6). Assessment of these sites could be carried out on a small-scale basis, hopefully with the co-operation of local caving club members and other interested parties for logistical purposes. This would have the added benefit of highlighting the importance of the caves and providing the caving community with contacts should archaeological material be discovered during cave digging.

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APPENDIX 1

SITE LIST ORDERED BY NAME

<i>Name</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Period</i>
Afon Nedd Cave I	20981	SN9115	Cave	Unknown
Afon Nedd Cave II	20984	SN9115	Cave	Unknown
Big Covert Badger cave	24388	SJ20206050	Cave	Unknown
Big Covert Cave	102318	SJ19796055	Cave	Roman
Big Covert Cave, Bronze	102319	SJ19796055	Cave occupation	Bronze Age
Big Covert Cave, Roman	102320	SJ19796055	Cave occupation	Roman
Bontnewydd Cave	102132	SJ01527102	Cave	Palaeolithic
Brecon, Groves Cave	70870	SO04522903	Cave	Unknown
Bryn Euryn Quarry Cave	54852	SH83308015	Cave occupation	Prehistoric
Burley quarry caves	24398	SJ20105940	Cave	Unknown
Cae Gronw Cave	19412	SJ015711	Cave	Palaeolithic
Cae-Gwynn cave	102159	SJ08527244	Cave	Palaeolithic
Carn y Felin cave	12660	SO0893913870	Cave	Unknown
Carnau Gwynion cave	33537	SN92241345	Cave	Unknown
Cathedral Cave	23717	SN8385816122	Cave	Unknown
Cefn cave I	102137	SJ02057052	Cave	Unknown
Cefn cave II	102138	SJ02077052	Cave	Unknown
Cefn cave III (New Cave)	102135	SJ02027053	Cave	Prehistoric
Cefn caves (multiple)	19306	SJ02057052	Cave	Multiperiod
Cefn Old Cave	102136	SJ02037049	Cave	Palaeolithic
Cefn yr Ogof caves	54884	SH91587793	Cave	Unknown
Craig y Rhiwarth cave I	80327	SN84691584	Mine	Unknown
Craig y Rhiwarth, cave	72711	SN8456215774	Mine	Unknown
Cwm, cave	79476	SN9110412783	Cave	Unknown
Denbigh cave	13089	SJ044667	Cave	Unknown
Eglwys Caradog Cave	1534	SN84491580	Cave	Early Medieval
Eglwys Faen cave	12332	SO19261566	Cave	Palaeolithic
Eisteddfa Farm cave	24310	SJ14755560	Cave	Unknown
Ffynnon Beuno Cave	102158	SJ08537242	Cave	Palaeolithic
Galltfaenan Cave	54853	SJ0230570259	Cave	Unknown
Gop Cave	102261	SJ08648008	Cave	Multiperiod
Gop Cave, neolithic	102263	SJ08648008	Cave occupation	Neolithic
Gop Cave, palaeolithic	102262	SJ08648008	Cave occupation	Palaeolithic
Gop Cave, prehistoric	102264	SJ08648008	Cave occupation	Prehistoric
Gop Farm Cave	102239	SJ0802880417	Cave	Palaeolithic
Grange Farm Cave	19106	SJ173763	Cave	Prehistoric
Grithig (Powell's) Cave	1519	SN84981533	Cave	Palaeolithic
Gwaenysgor Cave	19107	SJ0802580391	Cave	Prehistoric
Gwaun Cefnygarreg Cave	23754	SN9406712787	Cave	Unknown
Llanarmon Cave	100895	SJ19315628	Cave	Neolithic
Llanymynech Ogof Mine, Roman activity	15864	SJ26562221	Mine	Roman
Llanymynech Quarry, cave	80138	SJ2607021750	Cave	Prehistoric
Llech y Lladron Rock Shelter	3383	SO25163596	Cave	Unknown
Llechryd, cave	79456	SJ00646843	Cave	Unknown
Llewelyn's Cave	1596	SO08384683	Cave	Medieval
Lynx Cave	100947	SJ1976359309	Cave	Multiperiod
Lynx Cave, mesolithic	100949	SJ1976359309	Cave occupation	Mesolithic
Lynx Cave, palaeolithic	100948	SJ1976359309	Cave occupation	Palaeolithic
Lynx Cave, roman	100950	SJ1976359309	Cave occupation	Roman
Minera Cave	102953	SJ255520	Cave	Prehistoric
Nant-y-fuach rock shelter	102106	SJ0677579798	Cave	Neolithic
Nant-y-Graig Cave B	101424	SJ0058371318	Cave	Neolithic
Nant-y-Graig/Brysgill cave A	102147	SJ0056171303	Cave	Iron Age
Nant-y-Graig/Brysgill caves	19309	SJ005713	Cave	Neolithic

Ogof Colomendy	102804	SJ20226275	Cave	Neolithic
Ogof Darren Cilau cave	5660	SO20511530	Cave	Palaeolithic
Ogof Fawr cave	12333	SO1277615229	Cave	19th century
Ogof Ffynnon Ddu cave	786	SN84791520	Cave	Prehistoric
Ogof Pen Crownon	54883	SO0999915184	Cave	Unknown
Ogof Yr Esgyrn cave	784	SN8376016010	Cave	Roman
Ogof Yr Esgryn cave, bronze age activity	49064	SN8376016010	Cave occupation	Bronze Age
Ogof Yr Esgryn cave, undated activity	58445	SN8376016010	Cave occupation	Prehistoric
Ogof yr Iwrch	54854	SJ19005930	Cave	Unknown
Orchid Cave I	34750	SJ198605	Cave	Neolithic
Orchid Cave II	103035	SJ1999060497	Cave	Roman
Pant-y-ffynnon cave	80326	SN85031577	Cave	Unknown
Penbedw Park Cave	98835	SJ1678068782	Cave	Unknown
Penwyllt Cave I	23733	SN85571525	Cave	Unknown
Penwyllt Cave II	23734	SN8572815701	Cave	Unknown
Perthi Chwarae Farm Cave	100930	SJ18795363	Cave	Neolithic
Perthi Chwarae Farm Cave	19109	SJ18805360	Cave	Neolithic
Plas Heaton Cave	100568	SJ03216911	Cave	Multiperiod
Plas Heaton Cave, mesolithic	100570	SJ03216911	Cave occupation	Mesolithic
Plas Heaton Cave, neolithic	100569	SJ03216911	Cave occupation	Neolithic
Pont Cwm Pwll-y-rhyd Cave	23757	SN9116113989	Cave	Unknown
Porth yr Ogof Cave	23753	SN9272912267	Cave	Unknown
Pot Hole Valley cave	24204	SJ20306010	Cave	Unknown
Pwllcoediog Cave	23715	SN8482216342	Cave	Unknown
Rhos Isaf Cave A	100940	SJ18865357	Cave	Neolithic
Rhos Isaf Cave B	101774	SJ18775343	Cave	Neolithic
Rhos Isaf Cave C	101775	SJ18695331	Cave	Neolithic
Rhos Isaf Cave D	101776	SJ18655327	Cave	Neolithic
Rhyd-y-Feni Cave	99270	SJ1809964800	Cave	Unknown
Tan-y-Ffordd Cave	98634	SJ2116665425	Cave	Unknown
Ty 'n-y-caeau, hole in rock	97857	SJ0677480987	Cave	Unknown
Tynewydd Cave	102174	SJ08567226	Cave	Palaeolithic
Water-break-its-neck cave	43102	SO18166002	Cave	Unknown
White Quarry caves; Barnewell cave	19108	SJ1776	Cave	Prehistoric

- (1) (1971), pp. 57-62; S.Wales Caving Club Newsl. 89 (June 1978), pp. 3-7.
4. Brecks Inv., (I, ii), p.182.
5. D'Elboux, loc.cit. n. 1, Fig.4; this interpretation is followed by K.Brannigan and M.J.Dearne in Romano-British Cavemen: Cave use in Roman Britain, Oxbow Monograph, no.19, (Oxford:1992), pp.35, 65.
6. Mason in Arch. Camb., loc.cit. note 3, p. 22; cf.Brecks Inv. (I, ii) p. 182.
7. C.B.Burgess and S. Gerloff, The Dirks and Rapiers of Great Britain and Ireland, Praehistorische Bronzefunde, Abt. IV, Bd 7, (Munche: C.Beck's Verl., 1981); p. 98, no. 876, p. 105; p. 115, no. 29, metal analysis, p. 120.
8. In 1992 the cave proprietors commissioned the imaginative reconstruction of an 'Iron Age Farm' on the site (Anon.,The Great Dan-yr-Ogof Day Out: Souvenir Brochure,(1992), pp.22-3. Whilst this fulfils a basic educational purpose, its cultural context appears to be unrelated to finds made locally (which are admittedly few), and the style of structure it portrays is more reminiscent of lowland, rather than of upland settlement building traditions.

Taken from RCAHMW, 1995 - Draft Inventory description.

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 786 Ogof Ffynnon Ddu cave

SN84791520

Type Cave

Period Prehistoric

The HER records this as a cave yielding a human skeleton about 100m from the mouth on opening in 1946 (PRN 12301), and subsequent finds (PRNs 5306 and 12300).

The site is recorded in the RCAHMW Inventory under PCS 2 as OGOF FFYNNON DDU,¹ one of the most complex caves in Britain and the first cave to merit recognition as a National Nature Reserve in 1976,² is entered through at least a dozen entrances lying between about 340m and 520m above O.D.³ It was opened by members of the South Wales Caving Club in 1946.⁴ Entering from a dry side-passage, they discovered a small chamber containing a skeleton, a photograph of which was sent to the National Museum of Wales. The skeleton was in a recumbent position on its right side on a small rock platform at the foot of a rock fall. Both legs were bent at the hip joint, the right being much bent at the knee and the left slightly extended. At the time of discovery opinion inclined to the view that the bones (which are now lost), belonged to an accidental death of recent, historic origin. However, a re-appraisal of their depositional circumstances suggests the skeleton might better fit a deliberate burial, probably within a prehistoric context.⁵ Later excavation through an ancient collapse within the cave brought to light a horse skeleton, for which a Mesolithic date has been advanced, largely because it is presumed that the animal was undomesticated.⁶

Uncertainty surrounds the context of a Mesolithic flint core (RMS 1)⁷ allegedly found in this cave close to a 'fine large flint flake knife, with secondary working at each end and all along one long side and probably of 'Beaker' date.⁸ Neither find was either stratified or in any way connected to the skeleton. Indeed, it has been suggested that the flints fell through a crevice from the groundsoil above.⁹

1. R.J.Haycock, Nature in Wales, N.S.2 (1983), pp.34-39.

2. P. Chapman, loc. cit. p. 92.

3. 'Ogof Ffynnon Ddu - A Topographical Survey', unpubl.typescript, 23rd August 1980.

4. E.J.Mason,'Report on Human Skeleton discovered on 4th August 1946 in Ogof Fynnon Ddu at Rhongyr Uchaf, Swansea Valley', Trans Cardiff Nat. Soc. 79 (1945-8) [1950], pp.60-61; Caves and Caving in Britain, (London: R.Hale, 1977).

5. M. Davies, S.Wales Cave Club Newsl. 92 (1980), pp. 19-20.

6. M.Davies, idem.

7. Savory, 'Prehistoric Brecknocks', (II) pp. 6,16; This find is now in the National Museum of Wales (Acc. No. 70.36H/1); O.S. Card SN 81 NE 12.

8. Savory, loc. cit., p. 6.

9. *ibid.* p.16.

Taken from the RCAHMW, 1995 - Draft Inventory description

The skeleton was apparently found in a chamber accessed by a hole in the floor about 150m in from the entrance (Cullingford 1951,75-6) and a plan of its location is provided in Harvey & Nixon (1996, 5-7). A detailed appraisal of the bones is provided by Davies (1995, 4-6), who reports that they are in the collections of the National Museum in Cardiff. He considered that the condition of the bones suggested a Bronze Age to Neolithic date but that an attempt to gain a radiocarbon date was unsuccessful owing to the presence of a preservative or varnish. The remains are apparently incomplete, so Davies discussed the possibility that further bones might survive in the chamber in which the skeleton was found.

The grid reference originally ascribed to this record (SN86351589) is for the 'Top' entrance to the Ogof Ffynnon Ddu system, which was only opened by cavers digging in 1967. The 1946 entrance, in whose proximity the skeleton was found, is known as OFD 1 and its grid reference has been appended to this record. See also PRN 12301. The only other access into the Ogof Ffynnon Ddu system is from Cwm Dwr Quarry. (CPAT 2009)

There is an extensive literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 1519 **Grithig (Powell's) Cave**

SN84981533

Type Cave

Period Palaeolithic

HER record:

Cave some 30.48m long. Discovered in 1927. Excavation in 1950s revealed animal bone deposits of bear, deer and others.

The RCAHMW Inventory describes Powell's or Penwyllt Cave, as a long tunnel alongside the A4067 from Abercrave to Penwyllt village. An excavation undertaken here in 1926¹ produced evidence of brown bear, horse and red deer.²

1. M. Davies, 'Powell's Cave, Penwyllt: identification of bones from the excavations of 1926', S.Wales Caving Club (forthcoming).

2. cf. G.T.Jefferson, 'Cave Biology in South Wales', pp. 56-69 in Limestones and Caves, who records this as an invertebrate site (p. 64), where it is suggested cave bear was discovered.

Photographs from the Barrows Collection of Powell's Cave and some of the animal bone recovered in 1926 are present in SWCC Newsletter No 118, 1996, p166.

The name has been altered to reflect caving usage by this project, it should also be noted that the cave is next to the minor road leading to Penwyllt, not the A4067. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 1534 **Eglwys Caradog Cave**

SN84491580

Type Cave

Period Early Medieval

The HER records a habitable cave known as Eglwys Caradog in cliffs forming the N side of Crag y Rhiwarth (Davies, R L, 1881). Said to be the hermitage of Caradog (see Jones, T, 1809) or St Gunleus (see Davies, R L, 1881), but mis-sited in Jones, T, 1809 (cancelled record 1498). Not an antiquity.

The Brecknock Inventory record, under site OCS 1, describes the cave known as Eglwys Caradog overlooking Craig-y-nos on Craig-y Rhiwarth, 320 m above O.D. This is a subterranean chamber 12 ft [c. 4 m] by 6 ft by 6 ft [2 m] first mentioned early in the nineteenth century as the place where 'Gunless', Prince of Glewissig was believed to have died in the arms of his son Cathwg or Cadeucus. (Nicholson, Cambrian Traveller's Guide (1815, 965). T. Jones History of Brecknock.(1809, II,ii, 653), erroneously places the site in Glyntawe and called it 'Eglwys Cradoc'.

Jones described it as the saint's summer residence only. Changing traditions related it to the dwelling place of St. Gunleus. (R.L.Davies, 1881, Essay on the History of the Swansea Valley)

The site attributed to Eglwys Caradoc consists of a rock arch which formed the opening of an old cave passage, 5m wide by 4m high. The rock behind the entrance has collapsed leaving a natural free-standing arch. The original description does not seem to fit with this cave, even though it is also the site ascribed to the name locally. Perhaps another cave (PRN 80328) on Craig Rhiwarth, which is sited 200m to the SE at SN 84611565, is a more likely candidate. This second cave consists of a passage, c.30m long, passing E/W through a spur. Approximately 5m inside the W entrance, at a widening of the passage, is a sub-rectangular enclosed area defined by deliberately placed rocks. Some animal bone is evident and it appears to have been used as a temporary habitation. (CPAT site visit 2003)

PRN 1596 **Llewelyn's Cave** SO08384683

Type Cave

Period Medieval

The HER states:

Rectangular cave some 3m by 2.2m and about 1.5m high and entered by a passage 0.6m wide. There is a traditional association with Prince Llewelyn but the cave is not apparently an antiquity.

The site does not lie in an area of limestone. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 3383 **Llech y Lladron Rock Shelter** SO25163596

Type Cave

Period Unknown

The HER states:

Name meaning the robbers stone applied to a projecting outcrop of sandstone forming a natural rock shelter. Not an antiquity. Possibly used as a boundary marker for Herefordshire - Brecknockshire and thus the national border.

PRN 5660 **Ogof Darren Cilau cave** SO20511530

Type Cave

Period Palaeolithic

The HER states:

Eight bone tools apparently associated with 2 large fragments of antler excavated from cave by J Ellwood in 1818. All Upper Palaeolithic types. Poss attests an occupation site. damaged by cavers. (OS record card, 1980).

It is not clear if this find is from the Eglwys Faen cave system, or indeed if it is in any way authentically Palaeolithic. All the finds are now lost.

The cave was explored in the 1950s. The cave entrance lies at the base of a quarry face where cavers have dug down about 1m to reach a small passage, maximum 0.5m high and 0.8m wide. The cave takes the flow of a small stream and is known to continue with similar dimensions for about 600m (Stratford 1995, 50) before beginning to open out. The only way this could have been an occupation site is if the cave previously extended to the north-east, where a larger entrance was removed by quarry working and the suggestion of damage by cavers is therefore not correct. On balance, this is unlikely to be the cave investigated by Ellwood in 1818, unless the above holds true and he was responsible for what amounts to an early rescue excavation in advance of quarrying. (CPAT site visit 10/3/2009)

PRN 12332 **Eglwys Faen cave**

SO19261566

Type Cave

Period Palaeolithic

The HER information is taken from the Brecknock Inventory and reads:

(OCS 3) The cave entrance to EGLWYS FAEN is situated about 460 m above O.D. It is but one of several caves believed to form part of a much larger underground system, (among the most extensive in Britain).¹ This cave lies beneath the CRAIG Y CILIAU nature reserve and was first noted by Theophilus Jones.²

It is unclear whether or not the cave planned by John Ellwood in 1818 at DARREN CILIAU,³ also belonged to this cave formation, though it lay in the same general area. There seems to exist no evidence that Upper Palaeolithic bone tools were found in it associated with antler, as was at one time suggested.⁴

An excavation at EGLWYS FAEN in 1971 conducted under the direction of M. Davies for the Nature Conservancy Council was undertaken with the object of investigating its potential for preserved cave stratigraphy and because of a local tradition that the site was known to the Chartists. No finds were made.⁵

1. O.S.Card SO 21 NW 37; P.L.Smart and C.G.Gardener, 'The Mynydd Llangattwg Cave Systems', pp.124-151 in Limestones and Caves;cf. Chapman, loc.cit., p.89.

2. T.Jones, Hist.Brecks, II, ii (1809), p.493.

3. Plan of a Cave at Darren-y-kille, Pitt-Rivers Museum, Oxford.

4. J.B.Campbell, Upper Palaeolithic Sites in Britain, vol. 2, (Oxford,1977), p.122.

5. Information from M. Davies, Swansea.

The cave comprises at least four entrances which interconnect and others in close proximity which may not now be, but were probably once part of, the same system. Some of the entrances appear to have been revealed by quarrying activity and the old tramroad which promoted this passes close by, having been built in 1816. It may be the construction of the tramroad which promoted the investigations by Ellwood in 1818, which have been associated, probably incorrectly, with the Darren Cilau cave (PRN 5660). (CPAT site visit 10/3/2009)

PRN 12333 **Ogof Fawr cave**

SO1277615229

Type Cave

Period 19th century

The HER states:

Chartist's Cave or Ogof Fawr lies 540 m above O.D. At the turn of the nineteenth century it was known as Stabl Fawr, because at that time horses and other animals sought shelter in it.¹ During an excavation there in 1970 by members of the Severn Valley Caving Club under the direction of R.G. Lewis, human and animal bones, a clay pipe, coal, and a flat perforated stone were recovered. It is possible the last was of considerable antiquity. Information on the human bones presented at an inquest (by Dr Bernard Knight), suggested them to be relatively recent (50-100 years old). They were

thought to have belonged to at least three individuals.² One thigh bone had been mutilated, leaving open the possibility that the victims in the burial group may have been secreted in this place after one or more local disturbance.³ The animal bones are lost and it is not known where the human ones were deposited.⁴

1. T. Jones, *Hist.Brecks II*, ii (1809), p.517.

2. R.G.Jones, 'Chartist Cave, Brecon', *The Red Dragon [Jnl Cambr. Cav. Counc.]* 7(1976), pp.1-4.

3. Typescript letter from Dr H.N.Savory (N.M.W.) to P.M.Jones of Tredegar, 10th September 1974.

4. Further unpublished information was provided by M. Davies, Swansea.

Taken from the RCAHMW, 1995 - Draft Inventory description

The cave comprises an arched entrance with rubble in front, which leads into a round chamber about 10m in diameter and up to 3.5m high. Two passages lead off, one to the N continues for about 30m and the other heads W, descending and continuing for at least 15m, beyond which it enters a complex of sandy passages (Stratford 1995, 60). The cave has formed at the interface between the top of the limestone and the overlying millstone grit.

Although there is no definite evidence of prehistoric occupation as yet, the site is suitable and it may be significant that there are two large Bronze Age cairns within about 500m, respectively to the SSW and WSW, both of which are visible from just above the entrance even though this faces to the SE. Given the good preservation of bone normally found within caves, perhaps that found (see above reference) was of greater age than originally thought.

The relation between this site and the Chartist movement does not seem to have been mentioned, but it is widely known. A plaque at the entrance records that 'Pikes and other weapons were secretly made and stockpiled in these caves during the summer of 1839. They were subsequently carried by Tredegar Chartists on the Great March to seize Newport 3rd-5th November 1839....'. The plaque was placed by Tredegar Town Council in 1989 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the event. (CPAT site visit 20/2/2009)

PRN 12660 Carn y Felin cave

SO0893913870

Type Cave

Period Unknown

A cave entrance, from which bovid remains (now in NMW) were recovered is noted in passing in the Brecknock Inventory under site US 100i.

The cave is also called Ogof Garn-y-Bica. It consists of a narrow entrance in the base of a rocky depression, and was apparently found during the clearance of stone by cavers in 1968 (Davies 1994, 34). Various mammal bones were recovered from here and nearby, but no human bone or artefacts were found. The narrowness of the entrance suggests that the bone accumulated in the bottom of the hollow, perhaps then migrating inside the cave over a long period of time. The site was never habitable to judge from its present appearance. (CPAT site visit 20/2/2009)

PRN 13089 Denbigh cave

SJ044667

Type Cave

Period Unknown

The HER record describes a large pre-glacial cave, plugged with debris-flow material and stalagmite and stalactite formations, with an entrance 7m wide by >3m high. A small trench was excavated in 1976 outside the entrance but no conclusions were reached.

May be the only unexcavated cave in north Wales of considerable size. (Ebbs, C, 1996, 63)

The cave is also described by Oldham (1991, 17) under the name 'Coppo Cave', which refers to the nearby farm. However, the description suggests that the cave is no more than 0.6m high, and extends for about 8m in length. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 15864 Llanymynech Ogof Mine, Roman activity SJ26562221

Type Mine

Period Roman

HER: A selection of Roman artefacts were recovered from excavations of Ogof entrance in 1969, together with a number of others previously, attesting Roman activity in the cave. Perhaps occupation but more likely associated with occasional visits for sepulchral rituals.

Cave with possible Roman associations. A trumpet brooch was found here. (Branigan, K & Dearne, M J, 1992, 110).

Despite its name, the site is effectively artificial, and was probably first mined for copper in prehistory, rather than the Roman period. Implements made from copper with a chemical signature confirming that it originated in this immediate locality have been found from Iron Age contexts in the past. Hammer marks on the walls of the mine have been observed by the writer, but these remain undated. The writer is also aware that at least one burial has been found within the cave in the past, as well as a hoard of Roman coins that were allegedly hidden behind an area of calcified waste. It seems improbable that the mine would have been in operation in the Roman period if it was being used as a place of burial and for the deliberate concealment of valuables. (CPAT/RH 2009)

PRN 19106 Grange Farm Cave SJ173763

Type Cave

Period Prehistoric

The HER record states: Situated behind The Grange near Holywell. Used as storage dumps during war. One of three caves in this area. Remains from caves at Stoneyhurst College, Lancashire. (Valdemar, A E & Jones, R D 1970, 100).

Rhinoceros and hyaena bones found (Cullingford 1962, 291).

A reproduction of an advert for the Grange Cavern military museum is included in Oldham (1991, 28), mentioning that the caverns were excavated in the 19th century to provide stone for the construction of the South Docks in Liverpool and that they were reused as a bomb store in WW2. The museum has since closed and the present use of the caverns is unknown.

PRN 19107 Gwaenysgor Cave SJ0802580391

Type Cave

Period Prehistoric

The HER record describes a cave adjoining the Gwaenysgor-Newmarket road in a limestone outcrop. Entrances are due to mining activity. It was excavated by the Dyserth and District Field Club during 1950s/60s: animal bones of Pleistocene and post-Pleistocene found (NMW 45.179/34-47). Possible Neolithic finds are now in NMW (acc.15/64/5-8).

First discovered in 1885, excavated in 1911 and 1930. Finds from the later excavation included human remains and flints. Most of the finds are said to be in the J W Jackson Collection, Manchester

Museum. Apparently contaminated by untreated sewage (Valdemar and Jones 1970, 101). (CPAT 2009)

A shaft entrance mostly concealed by gorse with traces of a dilapidated chestnut fence was noted. This is quite close to the Gop Farm cave (PRN 102239) and it is possible that they may once have been interconnected. An iron grid immediately to the SW is no doubt related to the sewage outfall mentioned above. Location altered from SJ 08158030, where there is a spring but no recognisable cave entrance. Perhaps there was a further entrance nearby where there is a large amount of badger activity. (CPAT site visit 6/3/2009)

The human remains from this cave might have originated from Gop Cave. The finds from Gop had been stored in the columbarium at Gop Farm but were disposed of 'down an open mine shaft nearby' (Davies, 1949, 280) in about 1913. The description fits well as this site is also on the land belonging to Gop Farm. It is possible that this record and that of Gop Farm Cave may have been conflated by previous sources.

PRN 19108 White Quarry caves; Barnewell cave SJ1776

Type Cave

Period Prehistoric

The HER states that six caves are recorded in the limestone quarry at Pantasaph. All except one are waterworn passages and one has deposits. It is not known if there are archaeological deposits although one cave may be Barnewell cave referred to by Cullingford, C H D in "British Caving". (Valdemar, A E & Jones, R D 1970).

In the case of Barnewell Cave, mammal remains were apparently collected by Rev G. Pollen in about 1897. The finds are said to be in the Museum of Stonyhurst College, Lancashire. (Oldham 1991, 1)

The grid reference given by Oldham for the White Quarry caves is SJ 16607590, but none of the descriptions suggest a cave suitable for an excavation. The Cullingford (1962, 291) reference to Barnewell Cave only notes that it contained mammal bones and was near Holywell.

PRN 19109 Perthi Chwarae Farm Cave II SJ18805360

Type Cave

Period Neolithic

HER: Three caves are known in the vicinity of Perthi Chwarae Farm. See PRN 100930. Two are mentioned by Valdemar and Jones as having been emptied, the other as damaged by quarrying.

Five caves are described in this locality by Oldham (1991, 56-7).

Five individuals from cave no 1, sixteen from cave no 2. The finds are in the Manchester Museum. (Oldham 1991, 56-7)

One of the caves appeared to have been deliberately blocked. There was also an adjacent rubbish heap containing mammal bones, those of golden eagle, and mussel and cockle shells (Cullingford 1962, 291). The finds are in Cardiff and Manchester museums. (Cullingford 1962, 338)

PRN 19306 **Cefn caves (multiple)** SJ02057052

Type Cave*Period* Multiperiod

This record is an overall reference to the upper three cave entrances recorded in the Cefn Rocks, all of which (PRNs 102135, 102137 and 102138) interconnect to form a single system (see detailed survey in Oldham 1991, 13).

Exploration and excavation commenced in the 1830s and is first described by the Rev E Stanley in 1833. Early finds included four flint flakes and pottery, together with human and apparently Pleistocene mammal bone. The presence of boulder clay pebbles and waterworn bone suggested that the deposits had been brought into the cave by the action of water (Dawkins 1874, 286). The human bone and flint flakes are described as originating from the 'lower' entrance by Dawkins (1874, 159 and 286), probably referring to PRN 102135, although the possibility that some material originated from cave PRN 102136, nearby, cannot be dismissed.

A late Upper Palaeolithic Creswellian point is recorded from an excavation, and noted by Campbell (1977). (Davies 1989, 100)

The finds from the 1830s excavations are now apparently in both the Grosvenor Museum, Chester and the National Museum Wales, Cardiff. (Oldham, 1991, 12). Other finds in Chester and Liverpool museums, and also in private hands (Cullingford 1962, 337).

There is an extensive literature on this group of caves for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 19309 **Nant-y-Graig/Brysgill caves** SJ005713

Type Cave*Period* Neolithic

A series of nine caves of various sizes on both sides of a small stream valley called the Nant-y-Graig. They are variously known as Brysgill Caves, Graig Caves or Nant-y-Graig caves. It seems reasonable to assume that other caves, in addition to those mentioned below, have the potential to reveal material of archaeological interest. The known finds are in NMW.

Davies (1949, 445-8) gives a detailed description of the work carried out by Hywel Owen in 1946 and it seems evident that it was Cave A that was excavated (PRN 102147: SJ0056171303). The existing HER record incorrectly states that 14th-century pottery was found, but this is due to a mis-interpretation of the original reference by Oldham (1991, 6) which should relate to a Romano-British cooking pot of early 4th-century date (apparently similar to Black burnished ware). See Davies (1949) or Cullingford (1962, 290) for the correct description of the finds.

Nant-y-Graig Cave B (PRN 101424) is that excavated by Mrs Williams-Wynn and Mr Mainwaring in 1871. Finds included flint arrowheads, core and flakes, charcoal, bones of horse, ox, goat and dog.

PRN 19412 **Cae Gronw Cave** SJ015711

Type Cave*Period* Palaeolithic

Pleistocene and recent fauna was revealed from Cae Gronw cave by the excavations of H S Green in 1985. (NMW 86.32H).

No definite surface evidence was found of this cave when visited and it is presumed that it was backfilled after the excavation was completed. This was intimated by the owner when permission to visit was sought. (CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 20981 Afon Nedd Cave I SN9115

Type Cave

Period Unknown

The HER information reads as follows:

Two pairs of caves and a single one. They are all identical in size and shape and situated part way up a cliff. Each cave of the two pairs is separated by a wall of uncut rock. (NMR 1965)

No known archaeological component to either cave. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 20984 Afon Nedd Cave II SN9115

Type Cave

Period Unknown

HER states:

Full description not yet entered. See NMR, 1965 pro tem (CHRM 25-8-88).

This may perhaps refer to the description under PRN 20981 which reads: Two pairs of caves and a single one. They are all identical in size and shape and situated part way up a cliff. Each cave of the two pairs is separated by a wall of uncut rock. (NMR 1965)

No known archaeological component to either cave. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 23715 Pwllcoediog Cave SN8482216342

Type Cave

Period Unknown

Cave depicted on the 1988 OS 1:25,000 map.

Recorded as Pwll Coediog sink by Stratford 1995, so this is an active stream cave and unlikely to retain significant deposits. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 23717 Cathedral Cave SN8385816122

Type Cave

Period Unknown

Cave site depicted on the 1988 OS 1:25,000 map. Its name has been changed during this project from Dan yr Ogof Cave II to Cathedral Cave to reflect current caving and owner usage. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 23733 **Penwyllt Cave I** SN85571525

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

Cave depicted on the OS 1:25,000 map of 1988.

A cave in this area, now quarried away, yielded red deer antlers and bones of brown bear. (Cullingford 1962, 295)

The original grid reference (SN8549815287) in the HER for this site was positioned on one of the brick kilns at Penwyllt and has been revised to its correct location in the quarry to the ESE where some short caves are known to exist. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 23734 **Penwyllt Cave II** SN8572815701

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

Cave depicted on the OS 1:25,000 map of 1988.

A cave in this area, now quarried away, yielded red deer antlers and bones of brown bear. (Cullingford 1962, 295)

The cave lies in the disused Cwm Dwr Quarry. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 23753 **Porth yr Ogof Cave** SN9272912267

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

Cave noted on the 1988 OS 1:25,000 map.

This cave was previously recorded as Cwmporth Caves in the HER and has been renamed to reflect current usage. It is an active stream cave and there is no real likelihood of significant archaeological deposits, although it might have been used as a temporary shelter given the large size of the opening (over 4m high and 15m wide). There are many interconnecting entrances. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 23754 **Gwaun Cefnygarreg Cave** SN9406712787

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

HER: Cave site marked on 1964 OS map close to limestone outcrop.

This cave is also known as Pulpit Hole. (Stratford 1995, 91)

The cave entrance is 10m wide and up to 2.5m high, with the interior extending back over 20m. On first appearance this would be suitable for settlement owing to its size and the fact that the entrance is hidden by a raised rock band on its W side. However, on entering down the rubble slope, the interior is found to comprise a number of interlinked shafts caused by long-term drip erosion from the base of the millstone grit cap rock. There is no real space for settlement and the interior is also quite wet. Smaller passages apparently lead off the main area according to Stratford (1995, 91), but these are extremely muddy and unpleasant and unlikely to have been used. At best it might have been used as a

temporary shelter from time to time, but any deposits will have been eroded and taken out of context by the action of water. (CPAT site visit 10/3/2009)

PRN 23757 Pont Cwm Pwll-y-rhyd Cave SN9116113989

Type Cave

Period Unknown

Cave noted on the 1988 OS 1:25,000map.

The cave has a large entrance which narrows rapidly giving access to the interior. The site is popular with cavers and has a small parking area immediately outside. (CPAT Tir Gofal assessment, 2000)

Also known as Bridge Cave or Ogof Nedd Fechan. (Stratford 1995, 77)

Large cave entrance 7m wide and 3m high, extending back for 5m. The cave lies on the E side of a 15m-20m diameter natural hollow close to the river. At the back of the entrance there are a number of low passages (0.5m to 0.8m high) which lead off to a complex underground system that has been proven to link with the larger active stream cave known as the Little Neath River Cave, although the link is apparently submerged (Stratford 1995, 77). The entrance area is quite dry and could have been utilised but no evidence of occupation has been found. (CPAT site visit 10/3/2009)

PRN 24204 Pot Hole Valley cave SJ20306010

Type Cave

Period Unknown

HER: Cave site recorded during Clwydian Range Upland Survey in 1996/7.

No known archaeological component. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 24310 Eisteddfa Farm cave SJ14755560

Type Cave

Period Unknown

HER: Cave site recorded during Clwydian Range Upland Survey in 1996/7.

No known archaeological component. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 24388 Big Covert Badger cave SJ20206050

Type Cave

Period Unknown

A cave in Big Covert recorded during the Clwydian Range Upland Survey in 1996/7.

No known archaeological component. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 24398 **Burley quarry caves** SJ20105940

Type Cave *Period* Unknown

Recorded during Clwydian Range Upland Survey in 1996/7. Four caves described as Bryn Alyn caves 7-10 are noted in this area by Oldham (1991, 9), although the only information of any archaeological interest is that cave No 8 has been modified by mining. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 33537 **Carnau Gwynion cave** SN92241345

Type Cave *Period* Unknown

The HER record repeats information gained from a visit to the site by RCAHMW in 1985, as follows: In a W facing outcrop is a cave with attached enclosure. Formed in the limestone, it has probably been artificially enlarged. The roof is formed by the overlying gritstone. The cave measures about 7m wide, 2.5m deep and 1.5m high, the entrance being 3m across and 1.5m high. A further entrance at the N end has been blocked by a boulder. To the W is a rectangular enclosure measuring 19.5m (N-S) by 13m internally. The rock face forms the E side of the enclosure, the cave being in the SE corner. The remaining three sides are bounded by boulder walls 1m wide and up to 0.5m high. There is an entrance about 2m wide in the middle of the S side, which is partly blocked by a broken millstone 1.2m in diameter and 0.2m thick, with a hole in the centre 0.2m in diameter and 0.1m deep. It would appear to be made of the local grit.

PRN 34750 **Orchid Cave I** SJ198605

Type Cave *Period* Neolithic

This reference relates to PRN 103035 to judge from Chamberlan & Williams 2000. No evidence of a cave was found in the vicinity of the given NGR.

PRN 43102 **Water-break-its-neck cave** SO18166002

Type Cave *Period* Unknown

HER: Position of small cave shown on a copy of the OS 1905 6" annotated by OS Archaeology Branch. Reputed to be hiding place of Llewellyn ap Gruffydd. Cave not located by site visit (Jones, N W & Owen, W J, 2000).

Unlikely to be authentic as no limestone known in this area. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 49064 **Ogof Yr Esgryn cave, Bronze Age activity** SN8376016010

Type Cave occupation *Period* Bronze Age

See PRN 784 for cave description.

PRN 54852 **Bryn Euryn Quarry Cave** SH83308015

Type Cave occupation*Period* Prehistoric

A reference in Oldham (1991, 10) notes that some flints were found in a cave at Bryn Euryn which has now been quarried away. The locational information in the reference is confused, but most probably relates to the area of the Llys Euryn quarry. The British Geological Survey map of Wales (1994) shows that this area has Carboniferous Limestone geology. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 54853 **Galltfaenan Cave** SJ0230570259

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

Cave in the slope above the Elwy near its junction with the Afon Meirchion. The site is significant in that it was apparently excavated in 1871 by Prof McKenny Hughes and Mr Mainwaring, who found bones belonging hyaena, cave bear and reindeer. (Oldham 1991, 24)

The site is on a wooded W-facing slope overlooking the River Elwy and consists of a low overhang, c.7m long, created by the loss from erosion of one side of a fossil cave passage. There is a slight platform at the entrance, but the soils appear shallow and there doesn't seem to be much prospect for in-situ deposits there. The nature of the interior is not known, but the cave allegedly extends to the SE for about 85m from the end of the overhang, on two levels. Although mammal bones are noted, there is no known evidence of human settlement and there seems little room, at most it might have functioned as a temporary shelter. (RH 11/2/2009)

PRN 54854 **Ogof yr Iwrch** SJ19005930

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

A cave to the west of Bryn yr Orsedd farm, described as an archaeological cave dug by Mr J D Blore in 1984. (Oldham 1991, 54)

No details are available of the material that was discovered, although the name given refers to a roebuck suggesting bones of this animal were recovered. The cave site was not identified, the only possible evidence revealed was along a W-facing limestone escarpment, where a badger sett in a natural hole was found at SJ 1902659274 and what appeared to be an old mine shaft at SJ 1897559221. (CPAT site visit 11/3/2009)

PRN 54883 **Ogof Pen Crawnnon** SO0999915184

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

Small cave entrance, maximum 1m high and 0.5m wide, situated at the base of a rock face with a steep grassy slope below. Apparently a fragment of reindeer antler was found here beneath a stalagmite floor in 1992 during digging to extend the cave. (Davies 1994, 34)

The entrance faces NW and soon lowers to crawling height, so it is not likely to have been used for settlement/occupation. Evidence of recent disturbance around and within the entrance suggests it is now used as a badger sett. (CPAT site visit 20/2/2009)

PRN 54884 **Cefn yr Ogof caves** **SH91587793**

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

A group of about seven caves in the hillside overlooking the North Wales coast between Abergele and Llanddulas. The largest entrance is visible from below and measures about 6m in width and height, extending to a length of about 45m (Oldham 1991, 66). The cave was described by Pennant (1991, 348-9) near the end of the 18th century as having 'the most magnificent entrance into a cave which Britain can boast'. No archaeological material has been reported from any of these caves at present, but this seems rather to reflect the lack of any systematic investigation and it is reasonable to expect that they would have been utilised in prehistory, given their large size and prominent position. A distribution map in Green (1989, 75) has a Mesolithic cave settlement site marked in this approximate position, but the exact location of the site and the basis of the attribution are unknown. (CPAT 2009)

It was not possible to gain access to the area at the time of the visit, but the location and size of the caves suggests strongly that they could have been utilised in the prehistoric period, as mentioned above. There are excellent views over what is now the sea to the N and the Great Orme is visible off to the WNW. (CPAT site visit 6/3/2009)

PRN 58445 **Ogof Yr Esgryn cave, undated activity** **SN8376016010**

Type Cave occupation*Period* Prehistoric

See PRN 784 for cave description.

PRN 70870 **Brecon, Groves Cave** **SO04522903**

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

The HER record describes a cave in the wooded area beyond Brecon Priory, known as The Grove. It is believed to have had some association with Charles I (Parry, E, 1997, 42).

There is no limestone in this locality, so the site is either a rock shelter or, more probably, an artificial construction. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 72711 **Craig y Rhiwarth, cave** **SN8456215774**

Type Mine*Period* Unknown

A cave site noted on the OS digital mapping in 2000.

No known archaeological component. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 79456 **Llechryd, cave** SJ00646843

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

A Tir Gofal visit undertaken by CPAT in 2000 mentions a cave site observed from a distance. The cave appeared to be on the S side of the river, which is formed by a steep gorge, and the possibility that the cave may contain important archaeological, and/or environmental deposits was noted.

PRN 79476 **Cwm, cave** SN9110412783

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

The HER, quoting a Tir Gofal assessment of 2000, describes a possible cave entrance approximately 1.5m across in the wooded hillside above Cwm farmstead site. A near vertical hole approximately 7m deep extends into the ground. Other caves are apparently known in the area. The potential for buried archaeological remains associated with this cave was noted.

PRN 80138 **Llanymynech Quarry, cave** SJ2607021750

Type Cave*Period* Prehistoric

Phreatic tube running NE beneath Asterley Rocks. It extends for 15m before blocked with clay and is the only known natural cave entrance at Llanymynech of any size. It could contain prehistoric remains and the clay may have palaeoenvironmental/geological potential. (CPAT 2001)

PRN 80326 **Pant-y-ffynnon cave** SN85031577

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

A Tir Gofal visit by CPAT in 1999 revealed a small cave entrance in a rocky outcrop. Some stone appeared to have been quarried from the entrance for nearby walling. Former length probably c.5m. May have been used as a shelter and could be the site of environmental deposits.

PRN 80327 **Craig y Rhiwarth cave I** SN84691584

Type Mine*Period* Unknown

The HER record, from a Tir Gofal visit of September 1999, describes a cave c.3m long near the crest of a ridge. Some recent excavation was observed, presumably carried out in the hope of extending the cave, although its location makes this an unlikely prospect. Some, probably recent, animal bone was seen in the spoil.

PRN 97857 **Ty 'n-y-caeau, hole in rock** SJ0677480987

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

'Hole in rock' depicted on the 1871 and 1912 OS maps. Not visited. (Clwyd County Council 1979 - Flintshire SMR)

This lies in the area of the 'Fish mine' above Prestatyn so perhaps of artificial origin. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 98634 **Tan-y-Ffordd Cave** SJ2116665425

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

Natural cave. (Clwyd County Council 1979 - Flintshire SMR)

No known archaeological component. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 98835 **Penbedw Park Cave** SJ1678068782

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

Cave depicted on 1914 and 1964 OS 1:10,560 maps. Not visited. (Clwyd County Council 1979 - Flintshire SMR)

No known archaeological component. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 99270 **Rhyd-y-Feni Cave** SJ1809964800

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

Cave entrance at the base of a long limestone outcrop located on the N bank of the stream, NNW of Rhyd y Feni farmhouse. Cave entrance measures 1.5m high by 1m wide. Appears to be natural. (Clwyd County Council 1979 - Flintshire SMR)

No known archaeological component. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 100568 **Plas Heaton Cave** SJ03216911

Type Cave*Period* Multiperiod

HER: Cave excavated in 1860s (Heaton, W) to some 18m from entrance. Evidence of Neolithic and Mesolithic occupation was found. Some finds in NMW (92.234H).

Finds in Chester Museum. Cave in dangerous condition. (Valdemar, A E & Jones, R D 1970, 102). Finds in Chester and Manchester museums. (Cullingford 1962, 337)

Boyd-Dawkins and Prof McKenny Hughes co-operated with Heaton in the original excavation. Material found included a Neolithic bone awl and flints (Oldham 1991, 58). However, the presence of

human bone and artefacts is not mentioned by Boyd Dawkins in his statements on the excavations at this cave (Dawkins 1874, 160 and 287).

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 100569 Plas Heaton Cave, Neolithic finds SJ03216911

Type Cave occupation

Period Neolithic

HER: This cave was excavated for some 18m in the 1860s at 7.6 to 9m below the surface. Fragments of human skull, worked flints and bone implements were found. The entrance is 3.5m wide, 8m high. Finds in Chester Museum.

Material from Plas Heaton on loan to NMW from Grosvenor Museum (Figgis 1999, 100). The amount of material is not stated. (CPAT Lithics project 2001)

Main record under PRN 100568.

PRN 100570 Plas Heaton Cave, Mesolithic finds SJ03216911

Type Cave occupation

Period Mesolithic

HER: One unworked blade or flake thought to be of Mesolithic period.

See PRN 100568.

PRN 100895 Llanarmon Cave SJ19315628

Type Cave

Period Neolithic

The HER record notes that a finely worked flint arrowhead broken in two was found here in 1905 during partial exploration of the cave which is wide at the mouth and extends 25m in a NW direction.

A Clwyd County Council visit in 1988 described it as an imposing natural limestone cave, with a S-facing entrance. A chimney or natural shaft, through which daylight can be seen, is situated just inside the entrance.

Excavations have been carried out in recent years at this site, revealing further evidence of prehistoric occupation and activity, including flint artefacts. Unfortunately, no report is yet available and the location of the finds is uncertain. (Information from F Gale of Denbighshire Countryside Service, March 2009)

Large cave entrance situated at the base of a rock scarp, with a grassy slope descending from it to the valley floor. Perhaps 5m high, although only seen from the road. The occupation evidence, its large size and apparently fairly dry interior suggest that this would have been very suitable for settlement. The extent of any previous work is unknown, but it seems to have a high potential for preserved archaeological material, confirmed by excavations in the relatively recent past. (CPAT site visit 11/3/2009)

PRN 100930 Perthi Chwarae Farm Cave I SJ18795363*Type* Cave*Period* Neolithic

HER: A cave excavated by Boyd Dawkins 1868-72 with human skeletons some charcoal and a flint flake. The cave is now almost filled in. Its entrance is 1.8m wide and 2m high.

Five caves are described in this locality by Oldham (1991, 56-7).

Five individuals from cave no 1, sixteen from cave no 2. The finds are in the Manchester Museum. (Oldham 1991, 56-7)

One of the caves appeared to have been deliberately blocked. There was also an adjacent rubbish heap containing mammal bones, those of golden eagle, and mussel and cockle shells (Cullingford 1962, 291). The finds are in Cardiff and Manchester museums. (Cullingford 1962, 338)

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 100940 Rhos Isaf Cave A SJ18865357*Type* Cave*Period* Neolithic

HER: One of four caves excavated 1869-72 by Boyd Dawkins with various finds of Neolithic date. They occur in the west face of a limestone outcrop which runs NE to SW.

The finds are now in NMGW and include a polished axe, pottery, human and animal remains. (Oldham 1991, 35)

There is a limited literature on the Rhos Isaf group of caves for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 100947 Lynx Cave SJ1976359309*Type* Cave*Period* Multi-period

HER: A small tunnel cave c14m long. Excavations by J Blore from 1962-4 revealed evidence of upper Palaeolithic, possibly Mesolithic and Romano-British activity.

A trumpet brooch, with silver inlay, was discovered by Mr Blore in 1962, and also a plain disc headed bronze pin, and a half shale bracelet. Site is still under excavation. (Clwyd County Council, 1981)

Oldham (1991, 8 & 39) gives two conflicting NGRs of SJ 19745936 and SJ 19305960, while Davies (1989, 94-5) gives another conflicting NGR of SJ 194593. The situation has been resolved by the use of GPS during the visit described below. (CPAT 2009)

The cave entrance measures 1.5m high and 0.8m wide and is situated at the base of a rock spur, with the passage extending S into the hillside for at least 15m. The site is being actively (and archaeologically) excavated, to the effect that there are tools stored in the interior and notices next to them stating 'This is a protected archaeological site - please do not disturb the layers'. Some excavation has taken place in the interior, but the most obvious evidence is the level platform at the entrance, where an area of about 4m by 3m has been taken down by more than 1m, to the level of the interior. (CPAT site visit 11/3/2009)

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 100948 **Lynx Cave, Palaeolithic** SJ1976359309

Type Cave occupation *Period* Palaeolithic

HER: Small tunnel cave excavated by Blore. Flintwork probably dateable to the Creswellian or Cheddarian period of the upper Palaeolithic. No Pleistocene faunal evidence so far recovered.

Refer to PRN 100947 for cave description.

PRN 100949 **Lynx Cave, Mesolithic** SJ1976359309

Type Cave occupation *Period* Mesolithic

HER: Small tunnel cave excavated by Blore. One possible microlith tentatively suggested as Mesolithic. Also lots of animals bones suggested as dating from 5000 to 8000 years BP. Some human bone may be Mesolithic.

In NMW (CPAT Lithics, 2001)

Refer to PRN 100947 for cave description.

PRN 100950 **Lynx Cave, Roman** SJ1976359309

Type Cave occupation *Period* Roman

HER: Small tunnel cave excavated by Blore. During the clearance of the entrance and front part of the cave a Roman bracelet, fibula and pin were found. Also human and animal bones found, not necessarily related.

Refer to PRN 100947 for cave description.

PRN 101424 **Nant y Graig Cave B** SJ0058371318

Type Cave *Period* Neolithic

Cave excavated in 1871 by Mrs Williams-Wynn and Mr Mainwaring, which revealed human and mammal bones, flint objects and charcoal. The cave has previously been mis-sited at SJ 00557128, which refers to a site known as Cathedral Cave. It is evident from reading Davies (1929) that the revised location is correct. Finds apparently in National Museum Wales.

The cave faces west, and has an external platform a few metres above the river, which it overlooks. A talus slope leads up towards the interior, which lies in a vertical cliff face, but the rock above has evidently collapsed at some point and it is now about 5m shorter, with an entrance about 3m square. A few marks of some excavation are evident in the interior, but most of the deposits seem to be intact. It seems reasonable to assume that significant archaeological material survives in-situ. (CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 101774 Rhos Isaf Cave B

SJ18775343

Type Cave*Period* Neolithic

HER: One of four caves excavated 1869-72 by Boyd Dawkins. Contained crouched inhumations assumed to be of Neolithic date.

The finds are now in NMGW and include a polished axe, pottery, human and animal remains. (Oldham 1991, 35)

There is a limited literature on the Rhos Isaf group of caves for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 101775 Rhos Isaf Cave C

SJ18695331

Type Cave*Period* Neolithic

HER: One of four caves excavated 1869-72 by Boyd Dawkins. Contained crouched inhumations assumed to be of Neolithic date.

The finds are now in NMGW and include a polished axe, pottery, human and animal remains. (Oldham 1991, 35)

There is a limited literature on the Rhos Isaf group of caves for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 101776 Rhos Isaf Cave D

SJ18655327

Type Cave*Period* Neolithic

HER: One of four caves excavated 1869-72 by Boyd Dawkins. Contained crouched inhumations assumed to be of Neolithic date.

The finds are now in NMGW and include a polished axe, pottery, human and animal remains. (Oldham 1991, 35)

There is a limited literature on the Rhos Isaf group of caves for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 102106 Nant-y-fuach rock shelter

SJ0677579798

Type Cave*Period* Neolithic

HER: A rock shelter excavated by W Stead of Dyserth from 1950 to 1957. He found five crouched inhumations near the entrance with animal bones. Later a barbed and tanged arrowhead and Neolithic pottery were found in the vicinity.

The burials were apparently found outside the shelter, in a contracted position. (Cullingford 1962, 325)

A visit by the OS in 1959 observe that the cave had been filled in and was only visible as a slight overhang in the rock face, and an area of exposed earth. A subsequent visit by Clwyd County Council in 1982 noted that this was an area of mounds, banks, quarried rock faces, old shafts and caves. The caves were thought to be associated with mining and quarrying activity. No trace of the rock shelter was visible.

The finds are apparently in the Chester Museum. (Oldham 1991, 42)

The site consists of a 5m length of overhang with a small cave passage at its S end. Little visible trace remains of the excavations but the location was confirmed by the owner, who was present at the time the excavation took place. The cave is at least 5m long and there are good views from the site to the W down the lower part of the gorge. Note that the suggestion that this area had been quarried is refuted by the presence of the burials and the nature of the valley confirms that this is a natural formation originally caused by a watercourse, although there is now little evidence of surface water. (CPAT site visit 6/3/2009)

There is a limited literature on this rock shelter for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 102132 Bontnewydd Cave

SJ01527102

Type Cave

Period Palaeolithic

Initially excavated by Boyd Dawkins, Mrs Williams-Wynn and the Rev D R Thomas, who recovered various mammal bones, subsequently by the Rev Thomas and Prof. Hughes who recovered stone implements and a human tooth (Dawkins 1874, 287). The finds described by Prof. McKenny Hughes (Hughes, 1887) are apparently in the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge. (Oldham, 1991, 3)

Modern excavations commenced with the examination of artefact-rich debris flows by S Green of NMW in 1984. A new and undisturbed entrance was also located. Artefacts included hand axes, discoidal cores, Levallois flakes, scrapers and struck flakes. The 1985 season produced the first hominid find of an unworn molar from an immature individual, perhaps from 8 to 12 years old, found in previous seasons (Green, S 1985, 25-6).

In 1987, the excavations focussed on new entrance and deposits in the cave. The entrance deposits were 6m deep, with Palaeolithic artefact-bearing levels at base (Green, S 1987, 39).

Cave occupied 250,000 years ago by populations of Neanderthal lineage. Stone implements, animal and human bones found. Fauna include deer, bison, rhinoceros, horse, wolf, fox, hare and bird bones. Bones from adult and three children also found (Green, S 1988, 51-2).

Brick structures at the entrance were apparently created to act as an ammunition store in WW2. The cave is as described by previous sources. Apparently some in-situ deposits survive below ground but this was not checked, although the access doors to the interior were open. The degree of past excavation at the entrance to the site is not now readily apparent, but can be readily seen on old site photographs. (CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)

There is an extensive literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 102135 Cefn cave III (New Cave)

SJ02027053

Type Cave*Period* Prehistoric

The existing HER description under this record refers to the 'Old' Cefn Cave (actually PRN 102136), near the foot of the rock outcrop, and this information has been appended to PRN 102136.

The entrance is one of three whose passages interconnect underground, this being the first to be discovered and facing W towards Dolben outdoor activity centre on the opposite side of the valley. This entrance is situated on the back of a ledge with near vertical rock faces above and below, its present appearance suggesting that it would have provided good shelter. It is unknown whether any deposits survive on the shelf outside the entrance, but it seems likely that this area is the 'lower entrance' mentioned by Dawkins (1874, 286), from which the flints and human bone were recovered. The other two entrances (PRNs 102137 and 102138) both appear to have been partially dug out, and this is confirmed by Dawkins (1874, 286) who describes them as having been 'completely blocked up with red silt, containing a vast quantity of bones in very bad preservation'. These other entrances face SSW and S. (CPAT 2009)

In the interior, there are places where steps have been created to aid access, and it seems evident that the passages were used by visitors, probably in the 19th century, whose access was facilitated by a number of contouring tracks that can still be identified on the hillside. The site is used occasionally by the outdoor centre, but there seems to be no real impact as the floor is hard and quite stable. Its passages were formed during an early phase of the downcutting of the Elwy gorge and probably reflect fossil remnants of the old underground flow of the river. (CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)

PRN 102136 Cefn Old Cave

SJ02037049

Type Cave*Period* Palaeolithic

The existing HER reference to the Old Cave suggests that it was explored by Stanley in 1830 and was located one third of the way down the cliff (at SJ 02027053), with an entrance 5m wide 2.5m high. However, reading Davies (1929, 62-4) it becomes plain that the 'Old Cave' is in fact the short cave, almost more of an extended natural arch, nearer the base of the Cefn Rocks outcrop (at SJ 02037049), through which the route from Denbigh to Kinnel once passed. This was apparently first described by Leland in the 16th century, the distinction between 'Old' and 'New' being made by Stanley when he visited both in 1830. Stanley reported human and animal bones and stags horns together with 'the remains of ancient weapons' from the lower cave, but whether this refers to PRN 102135 or PRN 102136 is uncertain. The presence of the site is also alluded to by Pennant in the 18th century (Pennant 1991, 22).

The original HER record for PRN 102135 has an appropriate description, as follows: 'Cave at foot of cliff. A natural tunnel 3m wide, 3.5m high at south end. The tunnel expands to form a chamber with two blocked off caves in the east and north faces. Human and animal bone and flint flakes found by Stanley 1873 (Prn 39956).'

Despite some excavation, probably in the 19th century, the precise amount of which is unclear, there appear to be plenty of undisturbed deposits which may be of archaeological interest, including the talus slopes leading down from the entrances. The passage is a fossil remnant of a former underground course of the River Elwy, left behind by the continued downcutting of the gorge. The complex is used by the nearby outdoor centre, but this may be a benefit as it deters any random digging activity. (CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)

PRN 102137 **Cefn cave I** **SJ02057052**

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

This is a secondary entrance to the passages associated to PRN 102135, and has been described under that record. This entrance faces SSW and was described by Dawkins (1874, 286) as having been completely blocked up with red silt, containing a vast quantity of bones in very bad preservation'. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 102138 **Cefn cave II** **SJ02077052**

Type Cave*Period* Unknown

This is a secondary entrance to the passages associated to PRN 102135, and has been described under that record. This entrance faces S and was described by Dawkins (1874, 286) as having been 'completely blocked up with red silt, containing a vast quantity of bones in very bad preservation'. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 102147 **Nant-y-Graig/Brysgill cave A** **SJ0056171303**

Type Cave*Period* Iron Age

Davies (1949, 445-8) gives a detailed description of the work carried out by Owen in 1946 and it seems evident that both the excavation took place in the rock shelter at SJ 0058371318, and the short passages which lead off it. The previous grid reference given for the site was SJ 00557130. The finds noted by Davies include human and animal bone, fragments of a Romano-British cooking pot (Black burnished ware) and a metal implement, perhaps a mason's point. Further excavations were carried out by Owen later in 1946 (Davies 1949, 448) in the area of the rock shelter, revealed further human bone, two flints and two iron objects. Finds in NMW.

The HER record for PRN 19309 (a general reference to caves in the valley) incorrectly states that 14th-century pottery was found, but this was probably due to a mis-interpretation of the original reference by Oldham (1991, 6).

The site consists of a rock shelter, about 10m long, 2m-3m high and facing E, with an overhang above and two short passages running from it to the N and S. The interior has obviously been dug out, although there may well be some surviving deposits on the floor, especially to the N where the floor level is higher. The passage to the north appears to have been the place from which the pottery was recovered. The excavated spoil forms a bank, 1-2m high, on the E side of the shelter, which is likely to have sealed some significant deposits. (CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)

PRN 102158 **Ffynnon Beuno Cave** **SJ08537242**

Type Cave*Period* Palaeolithic

The first discoveries were made in 1883 by Hicks and Luxmoore. Excavations in 1885 examined a number of chambers and tunnels. Occupational evidence included Aurignacian and proto-Solutrean flintwork plus Pleistocene fauna.

Located high on N side of the ravine. (Clwyd County Council, 1982)

NMW collection holds: replicas of 6 tools and two original flakes, all Upper Palaeolithic. Originals in Natural History Museum, London (Figgis 1999, 110).

A detailed description of the work and finds is given by Davies (1949, 333-8).

PRN 102159 Cae-Gwynn cave

SJ08527244

Type Cave

Period Palaeolithic

The HER record notes that the cave was extensively investigated from 1883-87. Artefacts were found mostly just outside the entrance and dated to the middle Aurignacian period. A radiocarbon date of 16050BC was obtained from mammoth bone.

When visited by Clwyd County Council in 1982 and 1988 the cave entrance was blocked up with planks and chicken wire.

Twelve flints from the cave belonging to the Pennant Collection are stored in Denbighshire Record Office in advance of museum facilities. (Figgis 1999, 21). Another scraper is apparently in the Natural History Museum (Figgis 1999, 110).

A detailed description of the work carried out and the finds recovered is given by Davies (1949, 338-43).

PRN 102174 Tynewydd Cave

SJ08567226

Type Cave

Period Palaeolithic

HER: Cave explored and excavated in 1897. No evidence for human occupation was found and the only find was a worn rhinoceros molar tooth.

A visit by Clwyd County Council in 1982 noted that the site was located at bottom of the rock face to rear of Ty-newydd house. The garden was very overgrown at the time of the visit so close examination was not possible. It was much more accessible when revisited by them in 1988, but the depth of cave could still not be determined.

The description in Oldham (1991, 68) suggests that there are three caves here, at least two of which retain evidence of mining.

Davies (1949, 343-4) gives a detailed account of work on the caves. Apparently a committee was formed to excavate them in 1896, but to gain access a cutting and tunnel had to be excavated through solid rock. Two caves were investigated in 1897, the eastern cave was unproductive, with the western being that from which the rhinoceros tooth was recovered.

PRN 102239 Gop Farm Cave

SJ0802880417

Type Cave

Period Palaeolithic

The HER record for this cave refers to a cave with upper and lower chambers. Quantities of bone, some human and Pleistocene, have been found along with worked and unworked flint from both chambers.

When visited by Clwyd County Council in 1979, the opening of cave could be seen down an earth clearance resembling a shaft. The cave entrance was still open and in reasonable condition. The owners said that sewage overflow from the nearby treatment works passed into the cave. A further visit in 1988 noted that rubbish had been dumped near the entrance, but there was otherwise little change since 1979.

Previous descriptions point to this cave being located at the bottom of a steeply sloping hollow, where the upper part of what seems to be a near horizontal passage leads off to the N. Rock is visible in the sides of the hollow to the N, E and S, but there is modern fill on the W. The interior might be accessible but was not examined owing to the alleged presence of sewage. (CPAT site visit 6/3/2009)

The human remains from this cave might have originated from Gop Cave. The finds from Gop had been stored in the columbarium at Gop Farm but were disposed of 'down an open mine shaft nearby' (Davies, 1949, 280) in about 1913. The description fits well as this site is also on the grounds belonging to Gop Farm. It is possible that this record and that of Gwaenysgor Cave may have been conflated by previous sources.

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 102261 Gop Cave

SJ08648008

Type Cave

Period Multiperiod

The HER record states:

Interconnected rock shelter and cave. The rock shelter was first excavated in 1886 (by Boyd Dawkins) and the cave in 1908. Finds show use from Palaeolithic to Neolithic. Some of the finds are in the NMW.

The cave was excavated from 1908-14 and details are provided by Davies (1949) who also notes the results of further excavations in the area in front of the rock shelter by Glenn in 1921-2. (Davies 1949, 280-4). Further excavations were carried out between 1953 and 1962 by Stead and Bridgwood, and discovered a new chamber containing a Neolithic charnel deposit, apparently without grave goods. (Cullingford 1962, 325)

The cave entrance lies at the base of a linear rock outcrop below Gop Cairn on its S side. There are two entrances which interconnect, the passages extending into the hillside for about 10m-15m. The cave was revealed by excavation and two trenches are evident in the spoil which extends in an E/W direction to the S of the mouth of the cave. Although extensively investigated over the years, it seems likely that some deposits may survive in front of the cave entrances and traces of a clastic deposit were seen within the E part of the cave suggesting that this was also not completely excavated. The scheduled area only covers the deposits in front of the cave mouth and not the cave passages which extend into the hillside. (CPAT site visit 6/3/2009)

There is an extensive literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000. See also PRNs 102262-4.

PRN 102262 Gop Cave, Palaeolithic

SJ08648008

Type Cave occupation

Period Palaeolithic

Faunal remains from lower layers in shelter and cave dated to Pleistocene by the excavator.

See PRN 102261 for general cave description.

PRN 102263 Gop Cave, Neolithic

SJ08648008

Type Cave occupation

Period Neolithic

Human skeletons were recovered from a deliberately constructed stone chamber in the rock shelter. Sherds of decorated pottery possibly Peterborough type were found with the skeletons and a Graig Llwyd axe was found near the cave entrance.

The NMW also record the following finds: Mesolithic -- flint microlith, 3 chert microliths, 1 chert blade; Neolithic - flint leaf shaped arrowhead (1); Prehistoric - flint scrapers (2); flint flake (4), chert flake (1), flint and chert debitage (1?) (CPAT Lithics, 2001)

Fourteen skeletons were found according to Oldham (1991, 24), with Pleistocene faunal remains in the lower deposits. Some of the human remains and implements are in NMW, human remains and pottery also in the Manchester University Museum (M13), and other human remains are in the private collection of J H Morris, West Bromwich. (Oldham, 1991, 26)

Cullingford (1962, 290) notes that that the skeletons were found in a 'rudely constructed stone chamber against the cave entrance' and mentions further finds in addition to those described above, including two links or studs of shale, a polished flint knife and white quartz pebbles.

All of these features are described in more detail by Davies (1949), who provides a plan of the entrance showing the position of the chamber. See also PRN 102261. (CPAT 2009)

PRN 102264 Gop Cave, prehistoric

SJ08648008

Type Cave occupation

Period Prehistoric

HER: Human remains from inner cave excavated 1908. All in disturbed layers associated with finds of scattered flint flakes, faunal remains and shells. No pottery.

See PRN 102261 for general cave description.

PRN 102318 Big Covert Cave

SJ19796055

Type Cave

Period Roman

The first excavations here were by Hesketh and Wyke in 1948-9. Finds up to 1954 included a bronze penannular brooch, possibly of 1st-century date, a zoomorphic plate brooch in the shape of a fish, possibly of the 2nd century, and a bronze ring. A Roman bronze fibula was recovered from work in the entrance chamber in 1950, at the same time as a barbed and tanged arrowhead. (Hesketh 1955)

Natural cave, much modified by mining, allegedly excavated by Pritchard in 1950 who uncovered six skeletons (Oldham 1991, 40), although this is contrary to the report produced by Hesketh, above, and suggests that Pritchard, perhaps along with others, made casual finds from the cave while the work was in progress.

Stalagmitic deposits noted on some of the bones from the cave, which is also known as Maeshafn Cave (Davies 1989, 94).

The cave entrance is 1.3m wide and 1.0m high, with a passage leading N to a chamber, from which a passage heads E, but this was not examined further. There are some deposits which appear to be in-situ on the W side of the entrance passage and there may be others forming the floor as this does not appear to consist of bedrock. The ground at the mouth of the cave is about 2m below the adjoining land and there is a sloping terrace about 5m across which is partially formed from a spoil tip created by past excavations and overlooks a moderate W-facing slope. (CPAT site visit 11/3/2009)

There is an extensive literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 102319 Big Covert Cave, Bronze Age SJ19796055

Type Cave occupation *Period* Bronze Age

See PRN 102318 for cave description.

The HER states that the only prehistoric find reported was a barbed and tanged arrowhead. (NMW accession no. 55,.22.2-4), but the 2001 CPAT Lithics project notes that the finds in NMGW are two flint flakes and one spall. Undiagnostic (NMGW record).

PRN 102320 Big Covert Cave, Roman SJ19796055

Type Cave occupation *Period* Roman

See PRN 102318 for cave description.

The HER notes that of the six individuals buried in the cave, two were associated with Roman brooches. Other finds included a pennanular brooch, a Roman coin and a bronze ring.

The datable Roman finds have apparently been attributed to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. (Davies 1989, 94)

PRN 102804 Ogof Colomendy SJ20226275

Type Cave *Period* Neolithic

The HER records that potholers digging to extend a cave in 1975 found animal and human bones. The site was subsequently excavated in 1975 and 1976 but nothing dateable found. A broken leaf-shaped arrowhead and waste flake were found in 1977. The excavations were apparently limited to work necessary to open a route into the inner cave and the entrance platform has apparently been left untouched. The human remains represented a minimum of three individuals. (Davies 1989, 99)

A visit by Clwyd County Council in 1988 records the site as a natural limestone cave, with a roughly triangular entrance, facing south, and about 1.4m high and 1m wide. From cave entrance to rear wall is 2.2m.

The Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead is in NMW. (CPAT Lithics, 2001)

The site of the cave was not convincingly found. It seems to be located in a low rock band which has been quarried at the location given by Oldham (1991, 45) and is used here in preference to that originally recorded in the HER (SJ 202628). The location of the HER reference does not tally with the site description. Perhaps the cave/shelter has become infilled since it was dug, or it may be mis-located. (CPAT site visit 11/3/2009)

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 102953 Minera Cave SJ255520

Type Cave

Period Prehistoric

HER: In 1904 during blasting operations at Minera Lime Works a human skeleton was discovered in a cave close to the River Clywedog. The cave was previously unknown and has been destroyed.

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

PRN 103035 Orchid Cave II SJ1999060497

Type Cave

Period Roman

HER: Cave at base of limestone cliff found during digging by cavers in 1981. The remains of at least three human skeletons were found, two bone objects, a flint scraper and various animal bones. Probably of Iron Age or Roman date (Guilbert, G 1982d, 15).

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000. Finds of human bones dated to Neolithic: 4170bp (OxA-3817). (Chamberlain, A 1996)

Two human bones were recovered from this cave by a member of the public in 2003-4, having been put to one side by cavers during cave excavation. It is believed that these will be transferred to Denbighshire Countryside Service in the near future. (CPAT 2009)

Cave entrance 1.3m wide and 1.1m high situated in a WNW-facing rock scarp which is 2.5m high. A spoil tip from cave digging extends to the NNW for about 7m and is up to 1.0m high. Digging seems to have extended over a considerable period of time as the part of the tip nearest the entrance is vegetated, whereas the opposite end seems quite fresh. A wire is attached to the rock on one side of the entrance and leads into the passage which descends at about 30 degrees from the horizontal. A bucket can be seen attached to one end of the wire. No archaeological material was visible at the time of the visit. (CPAT site visit 11/3/2009)

APPENDIX 3

SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS

Site Name: Ogot Fawr/Chartists Cave **PRN:** 12333
NGR: SO1277615229 **Map:** SO11NW **Altitude:** 550m
Type: Cave **Form:** Landform

Scheduling criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Y</i>

Description

The HER states:

Chartist's Cave or Ogot Fawr lies 540 m above O.D. At the turn of the nineteenth century it was known as Stabl Fawr, because at that time horses and other animals sought shelter in it.¹ During an excavation there in 1970 by members of the Severn Valley Caving Club under the direction of R.G. Lewis, human and animal bones, a clay pipe, coal, and a flat perforated stone were recovered. It is possible the last was of considerable antiquity. Information on the human bones presented at an inquest (by Dr Bernard Knight), suggested them to be relatively recent (50-100 years old). They were thought to have belonged to at least three individuals.² One thigh bone had been mutilated, leaving open the possibility that the victims in the burial group may have been secreted in this place after one or more local disturbance.³ The animal bones are lost and it is not known where the human ones were deposited.⁴

1. T. Jones, Hist.Brecks II, ii (1809), p.517.

2. R.G.Jones, 'Chartist Cave, Brecon', The Red Dragon [Jnl Cambr. Cav. Counc.] 7(1976), pp.1-4.

3. Typescript letter from Dr H.N.Savory (N.M.W.) to P.M.Jones of Tredegar, 10th September 1974.

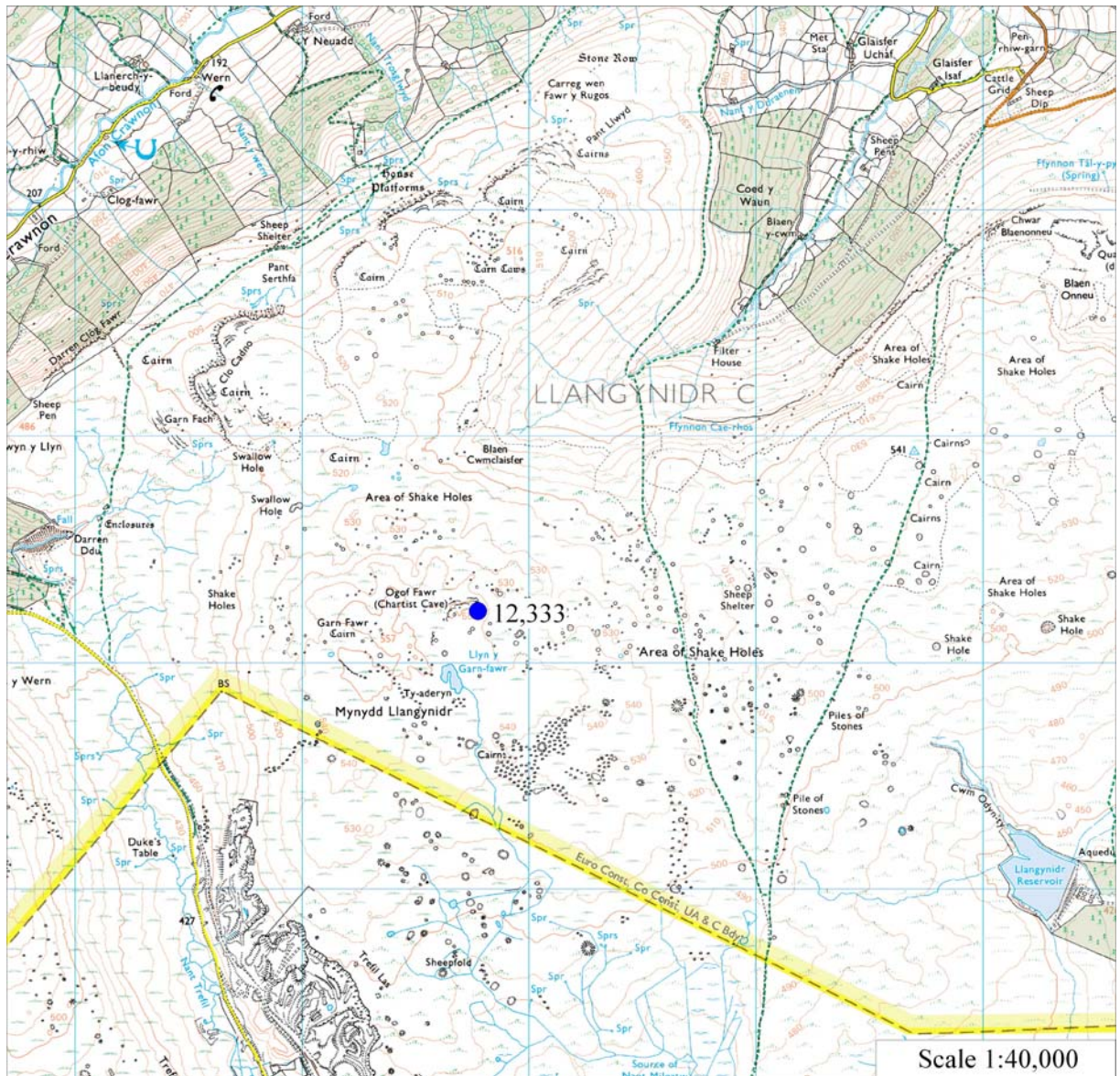
4. Further unpublished information was provided by M. Davies, Swansea.

Taken from the RCAHMW, 1995 - Draft Inventory description

The cave comprises an arched entrance with rubble in front, which leads into a round chamber about 10m in diameter and up to 3.5m high. Two passages lead off, one to the N continues for about 30m and the other heads W, descending and continuing for at least 15m, beyond which it enters a complex of sandy passages (Stratford 1995, 60). The cave has formed at the interface between the top of the limestone and the overlying millstone grit.

Although there is no definite evidence of prehistoric occupation as yet, the site is suitable and it may be significant that there are two large Bronze Age cairns within about 500m, respectively to the SSW and WSW, both of which are visible from just above the entrance even though this faces to the SE. Given the good preservation of bone normally found within caves, perhaps that found (see above reference) was of greater age than originally thought.

The relation between this site and the Chartist movement does not seem to have been mentioned, but it is widely known. A plaque at the entrance records that 'Pikes and other weapons were secretly made and stockpiled in these caves during the summer of 1839. They were subsequently carried by Tredegar Chartists on the Great March to seize Newport 3rd-5th November 1839....'. The plaque was placed by Tredegar Town Council in 1989 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the event. (CPAT site visit 20/2/2009)



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Site Name:	Cefn yr Ogof caves	PRN:	54884
NGR:	SH91587793	Map:	SH97NW
Type:	Cave	Form:	Landform

Scheduling criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Y</i>

Description

A group of about seven caves in the hillside overlooking the North Wales coast between Abergele and Llanddulas. The largest entrance is visible from below and measures about 6m in width and height, extending to a length of about 45m (Oldham 1991, 66). The cave was described by Pennant (1991, 348-9) near the end of the 18th century as having 'the most magnificent entrance into a cave which Britain can boast'. No archaeological material has been reported from any of these caves at present, but this seems rather to reflect the lack of any systematic investigation and it is reasonable to expect that they would have been utilised in prehistory, given their large size and prominent position. A distribution map in Green (1989, 75) has a Mesolithic cave settlement site marked in this approximate position, but the exact location of the site and the basis of the attribution are unknown. (CPAT 2009)

It was not possible to gain access to the area at the time of the visit, but the location and size of the caves suggests strongly that they could have been utilised in the prehistoric period, as mentioned above. There are excellent views over what is now the sea to the N and the Great Orme is visible off to the WNW. (CPAT site visit 6/3/2009)



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Site Name: Llanarmon Cave **PRN:** 100895
NGR: SJ19315628 **Map:** SJ15NE **Altitude:** 230m
Type: Cave **Form:** Landform

Scheduling criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Y</i>

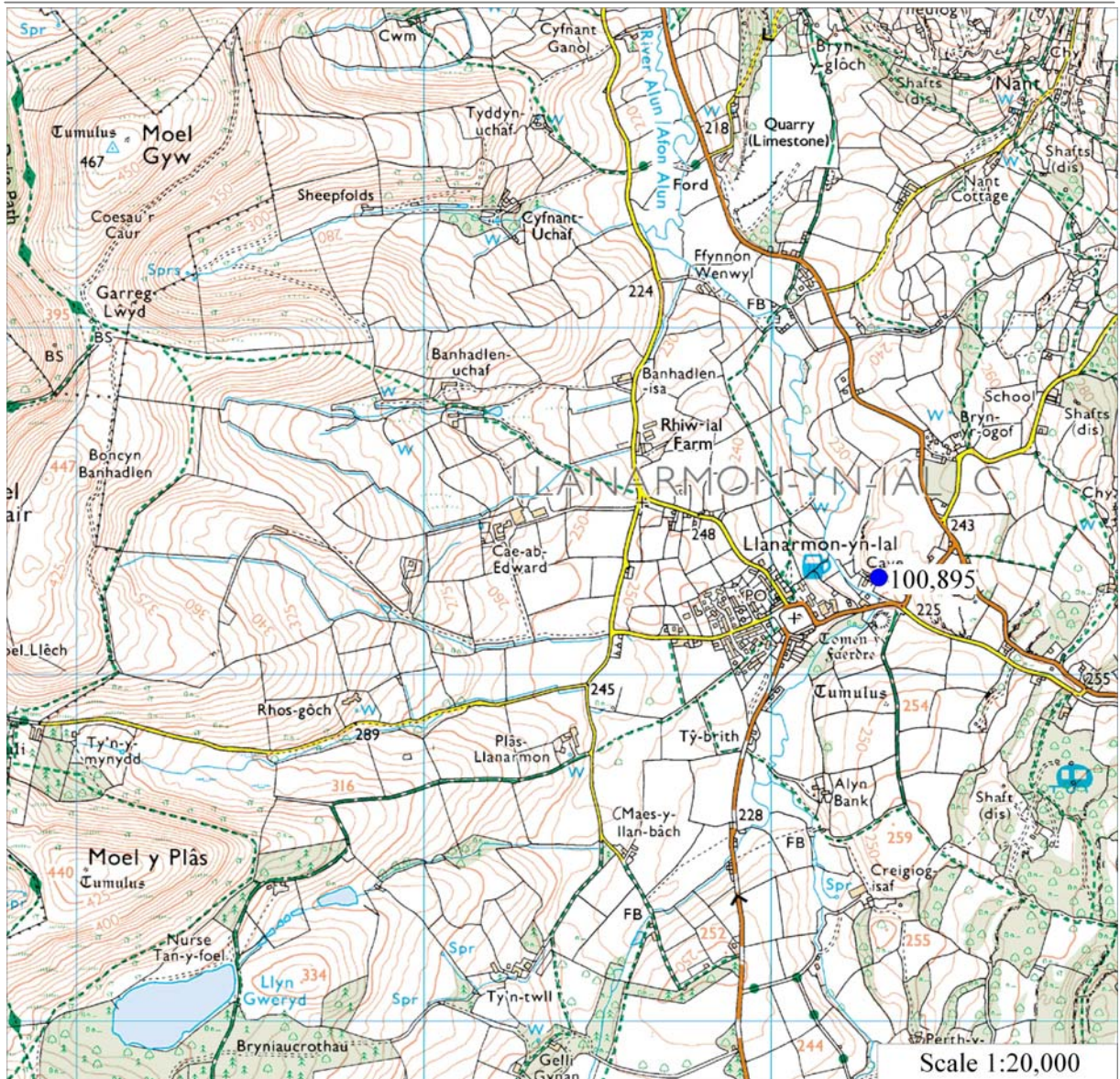
Description

The HER record notes that a finely worked flint arrowhead broken in two was found here in 1905 during partial exploration of the cave which is wide at the mouth and extends 25m in a NW direction.

A Clwyd County Council visit in 1988 described it as an imposing natural limestone cave, with a S-facing entrance. A chimney or natural shaft, through which daylight can be seen, is situated just inside the entrance.

Excavations have been carried out in recent years at this site, revealing further evidence of prehistoric occupation and activity, including flint atreifacts. Unfortunately, no report is yet available and the location of the finds is uncertain. (Information from F Gale of Denbighshire Countryside Service, March 2009)

Large cave entrance situated at the base of a rock scarp, with a grassy slope descending from it to the valley floor. Perhaps 5m high, although only seen from the road. The occupation evidence, its large size and apparently fairly dry interior suggest that this would have been very suitable for settlement. The extent of any previous work is unknown, but it seems to have a high potential for preserved archaeological material, confirmed by excavations in the relatively recent past. (CPAT site visit 11/3/2009)



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Site Name: Nant-y-Graig Cave B **PRN:** 101424
NGR: SJ0058371318 **Map:** SJ07SW **Altitude:** 90m
Type: Cave **Form:** Landform

Scheduling criteria

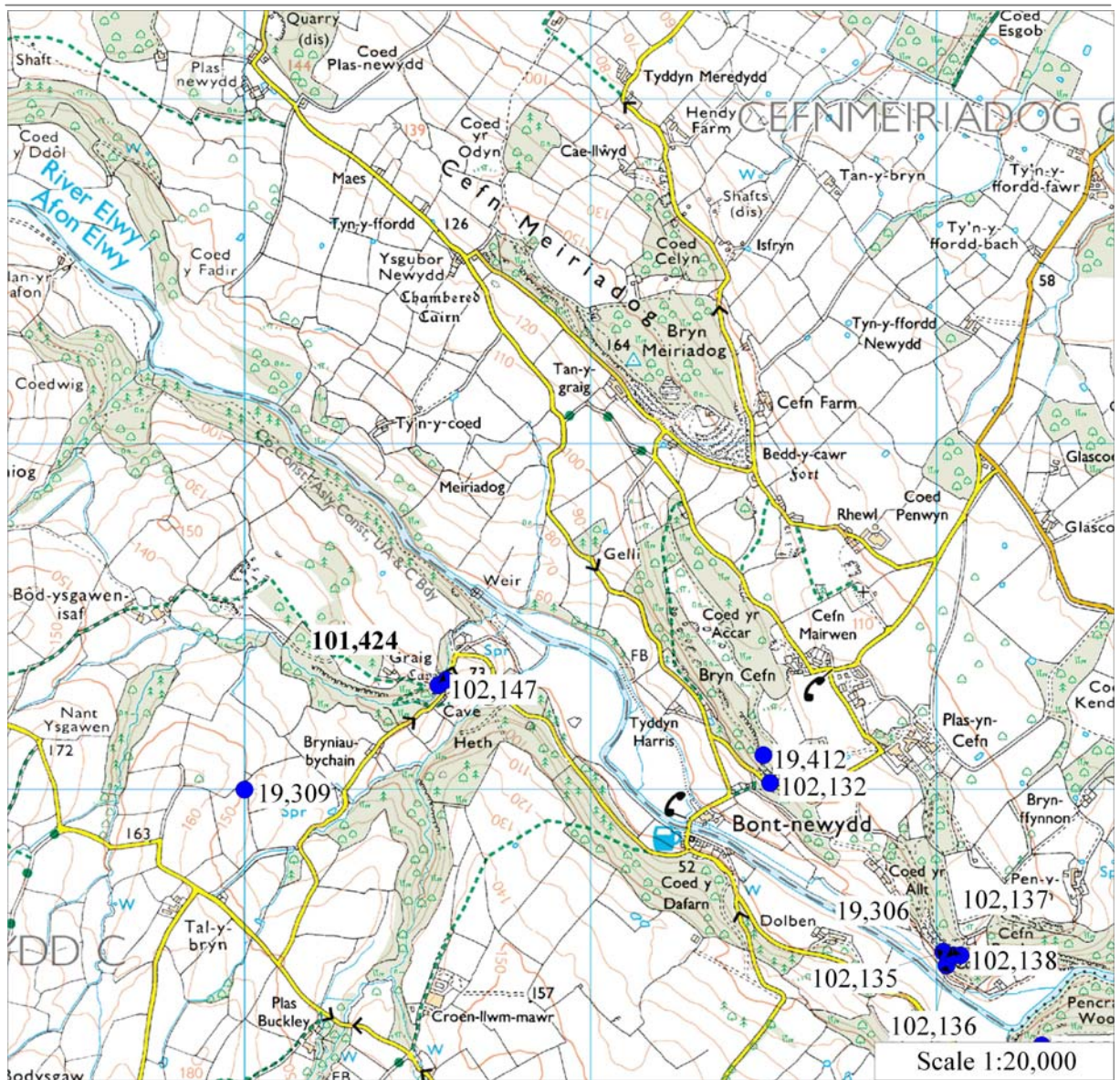
<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Description

Cave excavated in 1871 by Mrs Williams-Wynn and Mr Mainwaring, which revealed human and mammal bones, flint objects and charcoal. The cave has previously been mis-sited at SJ 00557128, which refers to a site known as Cathedral Cave. It is evident from reading Davies (1929) that the revised location is correct. Finds apparently in National Museum Wales.

The cave faces west, and has an external platform a few metres above the river, which it overlooks. A talus slope leads up towards the interior, which lies in a vertical cliff face, but the rock above has evidently collapsed at some point and it is now about 5m shorter, with an entrance about 3m square. A few marks of some excavation are evident in the interior, but most of the deposits seem to be intact. It seems reasonable to assume that significant archaeological material survives in-situ. (CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.



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Site Name: Nant-y-fuach rock shelter **PRN:** 102106
NGR: SJ0677579798 **Map:** SJ07NE **Altitude:** 115m
Type: Cave **Form:** Buried feature

Scheduling criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Y</i>

Description

HER: A rock shelter excavated by W Stead of Dyserth from 1950 to 1957. He found five crouched inhumations near the entrance with animal bones. Later a barbed and tanged arrowhead and Neolithic pottery were found in the vicinity.

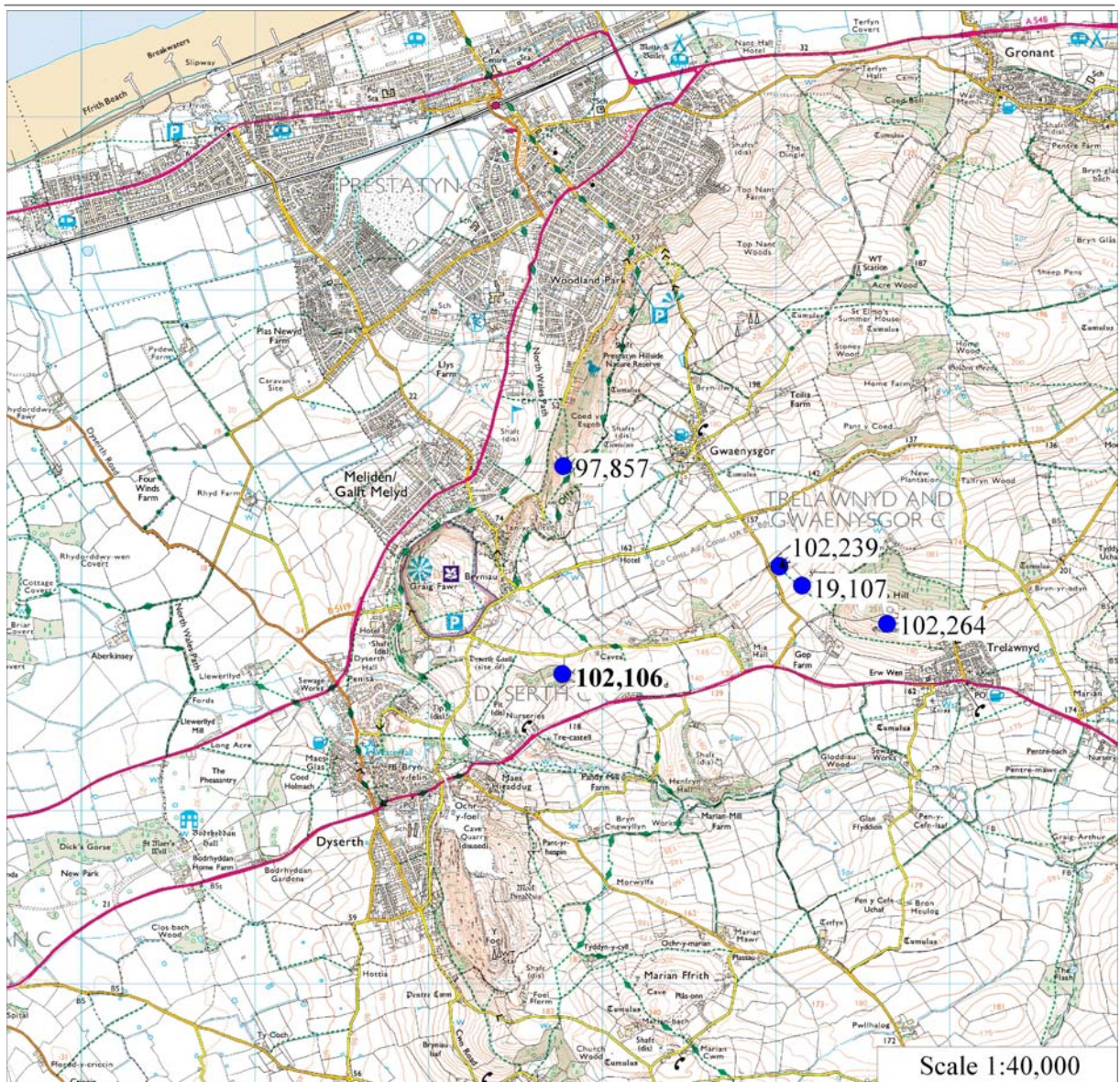
The burials were apparently found outside the shelter, in a contracted position. (Cullingford 1962, 325)

A visit by the OS in 1959 observe that the cave had been filled in and was only visible as a slight overhang in the rock face, and an area of exposed earth. A subsequent visit by Clwyd County Council in 1982 noted that this was an area of mounds, banks, quarried rock faces, old shafts and caves. The caves were thought to be associated with mining and quarrying activity. No trace of the rock shelter was visible.

The finds are apparently in the Chester Museum. (Oldham 1991, 42)

The site consists of a 5m length of overhang with a small cave passage at its S end. Little visible trace remains of the excavations but the location was confirmed by the owner, who was present at the time the excavation took place. The cave is at least 5m long and there are good views from the site to the W down the lower part of the gorge. Note that the suggestion that this area had been quarried is refuted by the presence of the burials and the nature of the valley confirms that this is a natural formation originally caused by a watercourse, although there is now little evidence of surface water. (CPAT site visit 6/3/2009)

There is a limited literature on this rock shelter for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.



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Site Name: Nant-y-Graig/Brysgill Cave A **PRN:** 102147
NGR: SJ0056171303 **Map:** SJ07SW **Altitude:** 90m
Type: Cave **Form:** Landform

Scheduling criteria

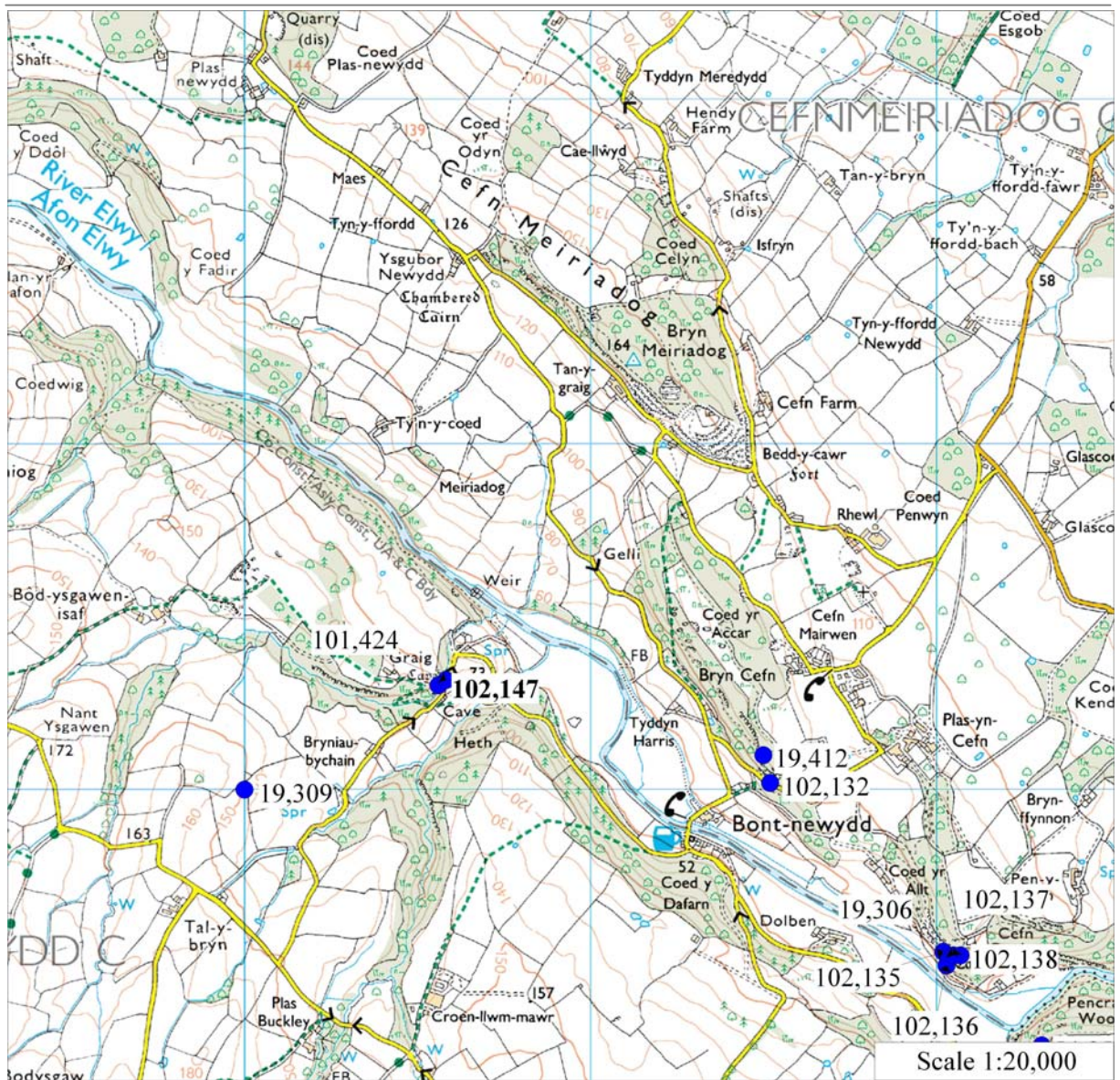
<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Y</i>

Description

Davies (1949, 445-8) gives a detailed description of the work carried out by Owen in 1946 and it seems evident that both the excavation took place in the rock shelter at SJ 0058371318, and the short passages which lead off it. The previous grid reference given for the site was SJ 00557130. The finds noted by Davies include human and animal bone, fragments of a Romano-British cooking pot (Black burnished ware) and a metal implement, perhaps a mason's point. Further excavations were carried out by Owen later in 1946 (Davies 1949, 448) in the area of the rock shelter, revealed further human bone, two flints and two iron objects. Finds in NMW.

The HER record for PRN 19309 (a general reference to caves in the valley) incorrectly states that 14th-century pottery was found, but this was probably due to a mis-interpretation of the original reference by Oldham (1991, 6).

The site consists of a rock shelter, about 10m long, 2m-3m high and facing E, with an overhang above and two short passages running from it to the N and S. The interior has obviously been dug out, although there may well be some surviving deposits on the floor, especially to the N where the floor level is higher. The passage to the north appears to have been the place from which the pottery was recovered. The excavated spoil forms a bank, 1-2m high, on the E side of the shelter, which is likely to have sealed some significant deposits. (CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)



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Site Name:	Big Covert Cave	PRN:	102318
NGR:	SJ19796055	Map:	SJ06SE
Altitude:			290m
Type:	Cave	Form:	Landform

Scheduling criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Y</i>

Description

The first excavations here were by Hesketh and Wyke in 1948-9. Finds up to 1954 included a bronze penannular brooch, possibly of 1st-century date, a zoomorphic plate brooch in the shape of a fish, possibly of the 2nd century, and a bronze ring. A Roman bronze fibula was recovered from work in the entrance chamber in 1950, at the same time as a barbed and tanged arrowhead. (Hesketh 1955)

Natural cave, much modified by mining, allegedly excavated by Pritchard in 1950 who uncovered six skeletons (Oldham 1991, 40), although this is contrary to the report produced by Hesketh, above, and suggests that Pritchard, perhaps along with others, made casual finds from the cave while the work was in progress.

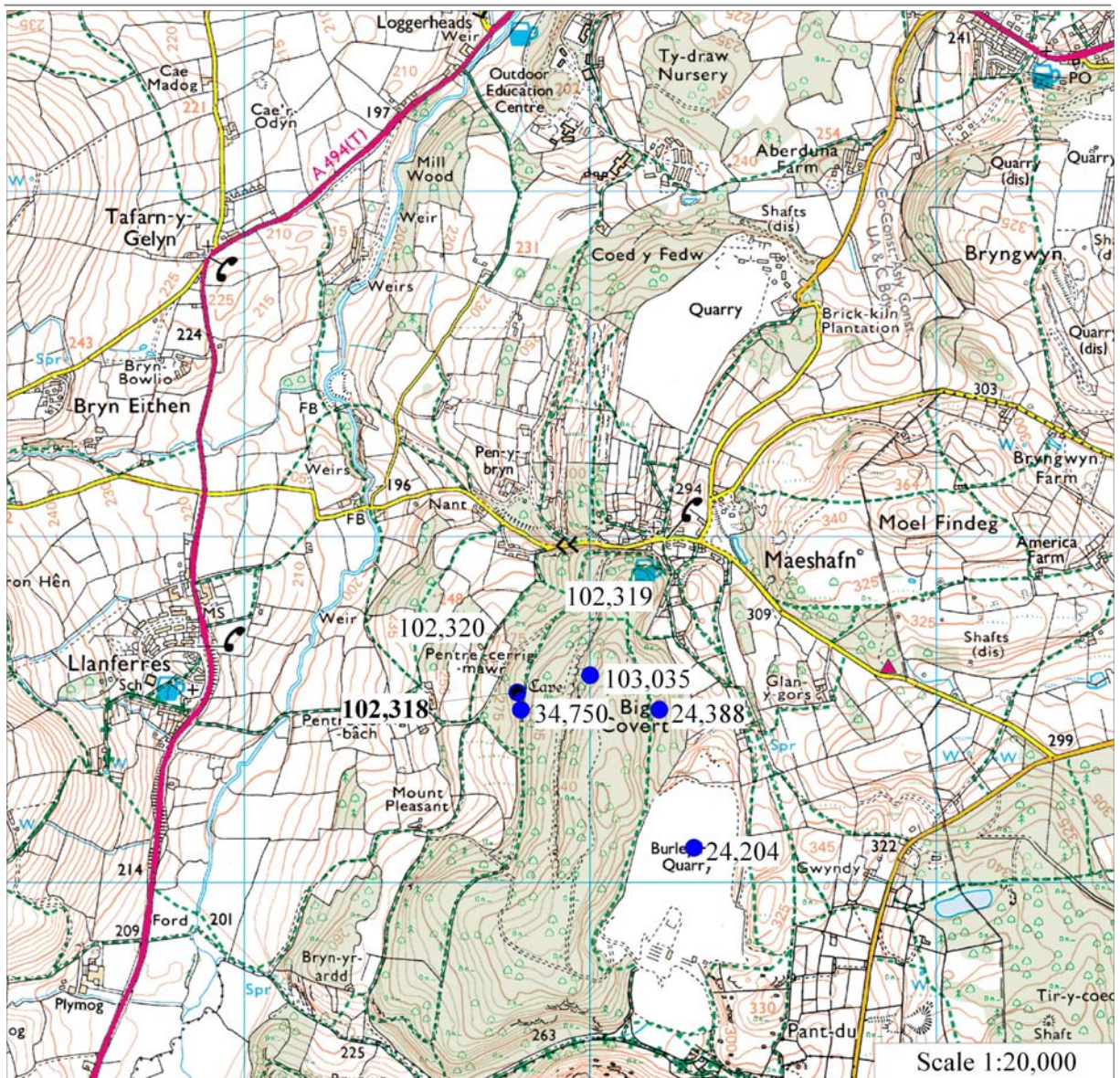
Stalagmitic deposits noted on some of the bones from the cave, which is also known as Maeshafn Cave (Davies 1989, 94).

The cave entrance is 1.3m wide and 1.0m high, with a passage leading N to a chamber, from which a passage heads E, but this was not examined further. There are some deposits which appear to be in-situ on the W side of the entrance passage and there may be others forming the floor as this does not appear to consist of bedrock. The ground at the mouth of the cave is about 2m below the adjoining land and there is a sloping terrace about 5m across which is partially formed from a spoil tip created by past excavations and overlooks a moderate W-facing slope. (CPAT site visit 11/3/2009)

There is an extensive literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain & Williams 2000.

The Bronze Age finds are recorded under PRN 102319, for which the HER states that the only prehistoric find reported was a barbed and tanged arrowhead. (NMW accession no. 55.,.22.2-4), but the 2001 CPAT Lithics project notes that the finds in NMGW are two flint flakes and one spall. Undiagnostic (NMGW record).

The Roman finds are recorded under PRN 102320, for which the HER notes that of the six individuals buried in the cave, two were associated with Roman brooches. Other finds included a penannular brooch, a Roman coin and a bronze ring. The datable Roman finds have apparently been attributed to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. (Davies 1989, 94)



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