

Conservation work at Bryn Gop Cairn

One of Wales's most spectacular prehistoric monuments has been restored to its former prominence thanks to grant aid from Cadw. The funding has allowed Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding



An aerial view of Bryn Gop Cairn. © Mark Walters

Natural Beauty to clear scrub from the enormous stone cairn of Bryn Gop above Trelawnyd in Flintshire.

Rising between 10–15m from the summit of its limestone ridge, the cairn — known locally as ‘The Gop’ — is the largest prehistoric cairn in Wales and is second only in size on mainland Britain to Silbury Hill near Avebury.

Excavations in the nineteenth century suggest that the cairn is Neolithic and built of massive limestone block but, in recent years, the lower slopes had become overgrown.

As a scheduled monument and a Site of Special Scientific Interest, Cadw and Natural Resources Wales agreed on a programme to return the cairn to its earlier grassed state, both to improve the cairn's condition and appearance and to provide a specialised habitat for wildlife.