

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

# Prehistoric Funerary & Ritual Sites: Dyfi Catchment PROJECT REPORT



**CPAT Report No 460.1**

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# **Prehistoric Funerary & Ritual Sites: Dyfi Catchment**

**PROJECT REPORT**

**N W Jones and W J Owen**  
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Report for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

**The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust**

7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL

tel (01938) 553670, fax (01938) 552179

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**CONTENTS**

	page
1 INTRODUCTION	2
2 METHODOLOGY	2
3 SURVEY	4
4 CISTS	9
5 PREHISTORIC MONUMENT COMPLEX	11
6 ROUND BARROWS	13
7 ROUND BARROW CEMETERIES	16
8 STANDING STONES	18
9 STONE CIRCLES	20
10 STONE ROWS	22
11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	24
12 BIBLIOGRAPHY	24
APPENDIX 1 SITE TYPES EXTRACTED FOR INITIAL SMR INTERROGATION	27
APPENDIX 2 CONSOLIDATED MONUMENT TYPE DEFINITIONS	28
APPENDIX 3 SCHEDULING DISCRIMINATION CRITERIA	41
APPENDIX 4 PREHISTORIC FUNERARY AND RITUAL SITES BY TYPE	44
APPENDIX 5 PREHISTORIC FUNERARY AND RITUAL SITES BY PRN	46

**Illustrations**

Fig. 1 Distribution of Prehistoric Funerary & Ritual sites in Dyfi catchment	5
Fig. 2 Distribution of Cists	10
Fig. 3 Distribution of Prehistoric monument complex	12
Fig. 4 Distribution of Round barrows	15
Fig. 5 Distribution of Round barrow cemeteries	17
Fig. 6 Distribution of Standing stones	19
Fig. 7 Distribution of Stone circles	21
Fig. 8 Distribution of Stone rows	23



## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The survey of Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites in the Dyfi catchment of western Montgomeryshire followed the format adopted for similar surveys in the Upper Severn Valley (Gibson 1998 and forthcoming), Denbighshire and East Conwy (Jones 1999) and Flintshire and Wrexham (Jones 2000) and North Radnorshire (Jones 2001). It was designed as a comprehensive study of Neolithic and Bronze Age sepulchro-ritual monuments in the region and was based on the existing records contained in the regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) maintained by CPAT.
- 1.2 The survey of these important monuments was undertaken with the following objectives: to undertake an audit of the surviving state of monuments; to assess the present form and condition; to redefine and standardise the site types and site type definitions in the SMR; to assist users and researchers of the SMR; to recommend sites for scheduling.
- 1.3 The only previous study undertaken for the area as a whole was the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Montgomeryshire (RCAHM 1911).
- 1.4 Although the desk-based study was completed during 2001/02, restrictions imposed as a result of Foot and Mouth during 2001 delayed the fieldwork programme, which was subsequently undertaken during 2002/03. The project was funded by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments (Project No. 715).

## 2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The SMR was interrogated to produce a project database of all sites which potentially fell into the category of Neolithic or Bronze Age funerary and ritual sites. This was based on an extract of site types (Types 1-3) which matched any of those given in Appendix 1. It included sites where the most likely interpretation (ie Type 1) was not necessarily either prehistoric or belonging to funerary or ritual monuments, but where other, less likely interpretations (Types 2 to 3) fell within the scope of the study. For example, the SMR includes a number of cairns which are likely to be clearance cairns, but which may alternatively be burial cairns. Also, there were a number of sites which were included as possible round barrows, but which are now thought to be land-form sites such as glacial moraines.
- 2.2 The initial extract produced 189 sites, which were reassessed, taking into account the SMR description and any readily available published or other written sources such as CPAT site visit forms or Cadw Field Monument Wardens' reports. This reassessment led to 113 sites being excluded from the study on the grounds that they were not considered to be prehistoric in date, or belonged to a category of monument other than funerary or ritual, or because they were duplicate records. This included 14 records for placenames or fieldnames where site visits over the years had failed to produce any evidence of an archaeological site. Placenames have generally been included in the SMR as a result of Welsh names such as *maen*, *carreg*, *carnedd*, *domen*, *gorsedd* etc., being assumed to denote the site of a burial mound, standing stone, or stone circle. Welsh names such as these may more often refer simply to a stony field or a field containing a large boulder, rather than to an archaeological feature. The entries for all sites within the initial database were thoroughly examined with the intention of enhancing the SMR by improving the detail and accuracy of records, regardless of their inclusion or exclusion from the final project database.
- 2.3 The site type for each individual database entry was edited to correspond with the revised list of monument types (see Appendix 2). Further revisions will be necessary following fieldwork.
- 2.4 As many sites as possible were visited, with the exception of those which were recorded as having been destroyed. In all, a total of 83 sites were visited during the project. In the course of visiting known sites, five previously unknown prehistoric funerary sites were recorded, together with five sites belonging to other periods. Following field visits a further 41 sites were excluded from the project database, leaving a final total of 43 sites included within the study.
- 2.5 New site details and details of current land-use and the condition of the monument were recorded on site



visit forms in the field, the information subsequently being added to the project database. Photographs were taken of all visible monuments. Details from the site visit forms were subsequently entered into the SMR to update the existing record and provide a basis for the present report.

- 2.6 During the course of the fieldwork and subsequently a judgement was made whether to recommend individual sites for scheduling, on the basis of the National Assembly's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments (*Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*, Welsh Office Circular 60/96, 5 December 1996, Annex C). For the purpose of the project, the scheduling criteria have been summarised (see Appendix 3) and assessed for each site visited on a separate form.
- 2.7 In the following report, sites are discussed by site type.

### 3 THE SURVEY

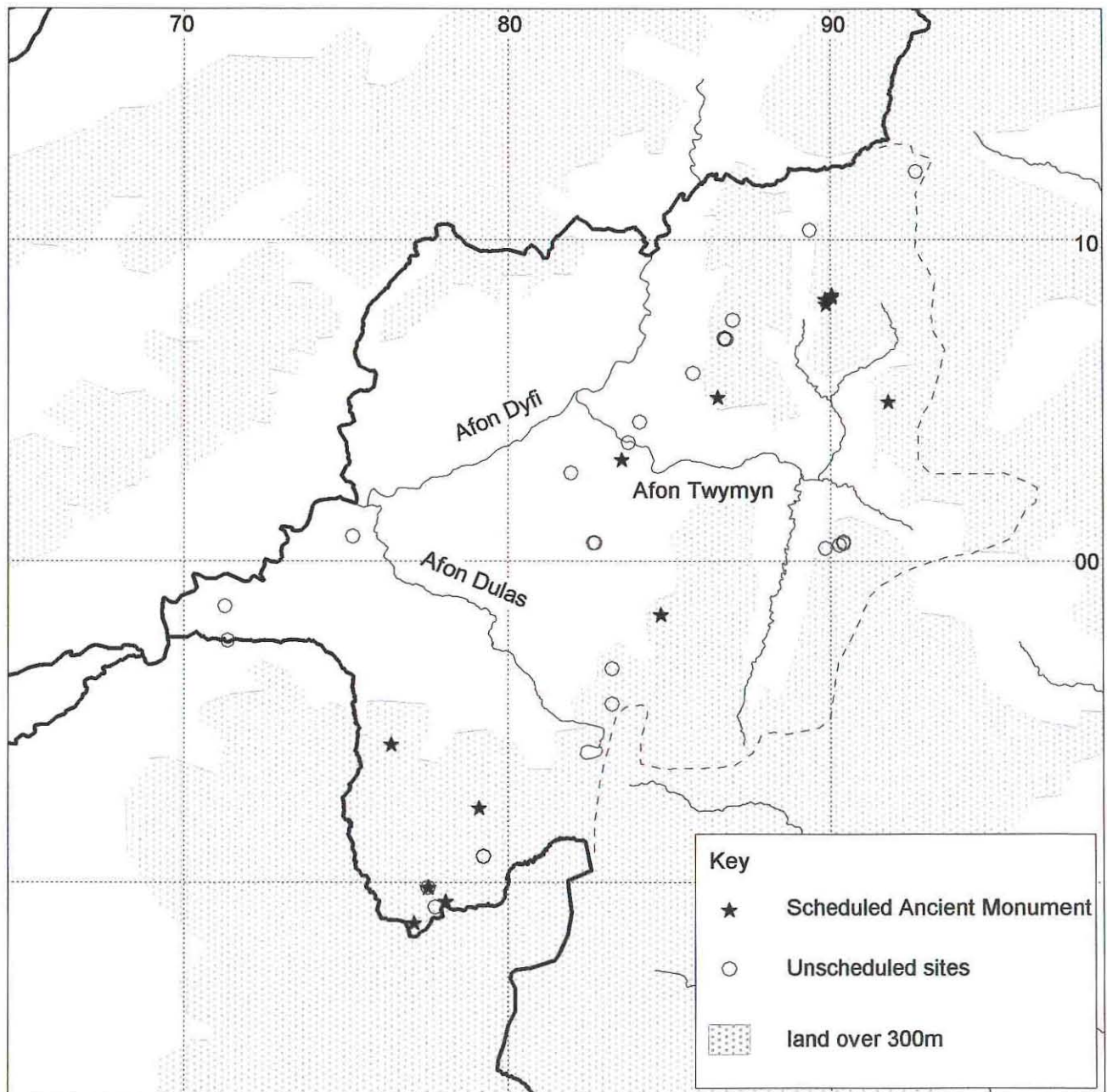
- 3.1 The reassessment of monuments during the desk-top stage of the project has led to revisions of the existing records, recategorising and redescribing sites according to revised monument type definitions (see below). The results have been used to produce a summary of the relative numbers of sites and possible sites in each of the prehistoric funerary and ritual monument types currently listed in the regional SMR, together with the current number of scheduled sites (Table 1).

Table 1: Summary of Monument Types

Monument type	Unscheduled sites	Scheduled sites	Totals
Carved stone	-	-	-
Chambered tomb	-	-	-
Cist	1	-	1
Cremation burial	-	-	-
Cremation cemetery	-	-	-
Cursus	-	-	-
Henge	-	-	-
Inhumation	-	-	-
Long barrow	-	-	-
Mortuary enclosure	-	-	-
Palisaded enclosure	-	-	-
Pit	-	-	-
Pit circle	-	-	-
Prehistoric monument complex	1	-	1
Ring ditch	-	-	-
Round barrow	25	4	29
Round barrow cem.	1	1	2
Standing stone	6	1	7
Stone circle	-	2	2
Stone row	1	-	1
Stone setting	-	-	-
Timber circle	-	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>43</b>

- 3.2 As might have been expected, round barrows comprise by far the largest number of sites (29 sites), accounting for 69% of all sites. All other monument types represented within the study area are present in comparatively small numbers.
- 3.3 It will be noted that not all of the relevant monument types in the regional SMR are represented within the study area. At present it is not possible to say whether this is the result of regional variations in funerary and ritual monuments, or perhaps more likely, whether this reflects the limited number of excavations and lack of good cropmark evidence.
- 3.4 To avoid any duplication of figures in the following tables and associated illustrations, monument groupings, comprising two round barrow cemeteries and a prehistoric monument complex, have been excluded since the individual monuments are counted in their own right. The total number of sites is therefore 40 instead of 43.

Fig.1 Distribution of Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual sites in the Dyfi catchment, Powys



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**Distribution of Sites**

- 3.5 The general distribution of sites (fig. 1) shows the majority of sites to be located in the upland areas, a significant number of which are situated near the edge of the upland plateau with commanding views to the west and north-west.
- 3.6 An examination of the relative altitudes of sites (Table 2) shows that the 33 sites are located above the 200m contour, with 20 sites lying above 400m. This is largely a reflection of the regional topography which is dominated by significant blocks of upland to the south and east of the area, in the upper reaches of the Dyfi catchment.

Table 2: Distribution of sites by altitude

Altitude	no. sites
<100m	5
100-199m	5
200-299m	5
300-399m	8
400-499	12
> 500m	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>

**Monument siting**

- 3.7 It was not possible to assess all sites within the study and those which have been excluded from the figures for monument siting (Table 3), as well as from Tables 5-7, include those which have been destroyed and those which were either not visited or not definitely located during the field visits, leaving 31 sites for which an assessment was possible.

Table 3: Monument siting

Siting	no. sites
col	-
hill slope	-
plateau	11
ridge	3
river terrace	-
shoulder edge	3
summit	10
valley bottom	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>

- 3.8 There is a trend for prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments to be situated in prominent locations, either on summits or ridges, or in locations such as the shoulder edge (or false crest), which give the appearance of being on the skyline when viewed from the valley below, accounting for 52% of sites. As noted above, a significant number are located on the upland plateau, with only four in valley bottom locations.

### Monument Survival

- 3.9 The present state of preservation for all monuments in the study is summarised in Table 4.

Table 4: Monument survival

state of preservation	no. sites	%
Intact	2	5
Near intact	8	20
Damaged	21	54
Near destroyed	1	3
Destroyed	2	5
Moved	1	3
Unknown	4	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100</b>

- 3.10 Although the majority of sites have suffered at least some damage, generally as a result of ploughing, robbing for stone, or antiquarian investigation, it is interesting to note that 25% of sites survive intact or nearly so, and only 8% are recorded as destroyed or presumed destroyed. One site, a standing stone, has been moved. Those sites where the condition remains unknown are either those known from antiquarian references which have not been located, or are sites which were not located during recent field visits. The latter category may therefore represent a number of sites where no visible trace survives.

### Monument Condition and Threats

- 3.11 In terms of the physical condition of those monuments for which an assessment was possible, 80 sites (56%) are in good condition with little or no obvious erosion, 39 sites (25%) are in moderate condition with some active erosion and 30 sites (19%) are in poor condition with serious erosion problems.
- 3.12 Each site has been assessed with regard to active and potential threats (Table 5), which have been graded according to their likely impact on the site as well as the potential timescale involved.

Table 5: Active and potential threats

Threat	Impact			
	High	Medium	Low	Total
agriculture (general)	-	2	3	5
burrowing	-	-	-	-
development	-	4	-	4
extraction	-	-	-	-
forestry	1	-	-	1
natural erosion	-	-	7	7
ploughing	-	-	-	-
robbing	-	2	-	2
stock erosion	-	10	1	11
vehicle	-	1	-	1
visitor erosion	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>31</b>

- 3.13 As one might expect, agricultural related threats are by far the most numerous, accounting for 52% of cases. This includes stock erosion and general agricultural improvement, land management and stock feeding, although not ploughing.

### Fragility and vulnerability

- 3.14 The fragility of a monument is largely determined by its type and composition. Those constructed of stone, or with a high percentage of stone in their composition are likely to be less fragile than those composed entirely of earth. The surviving height of the monument is also significant since lower

earthwork sites are not only more likely to be ploughed, but are also more likely to have preserved features and deposits disturbed by any ploughing. In general, the assessment of vulnerability is largely based on present land-use and management, together with any likely changes in the near future.

Table 6: Monument fragility and vulnerability

Vulnerability	Fragility			
	High	Medium	Low	Total
High	-	-	-	-
Medium	-	2	1	3
Low	-	1	27	28
<b>Total</b>	-	3	28	31

- 3.16 Of the 31 sites for which an assessment was possible, none were considered to be highly fragile or highly vulnerable, and indeed the majority (90%) are of low fragility and vulnerability.

#### Palaeoenvironmental potential

- 3.17 During the course of field visits the palaeoenvironmental potential has been assessed for the area immediately surrounding each monument. This has been achieved by identifying areas of potential, such as blanket peats, valley or basin peats, raised bogs, wet flushes, or pools, and recording their proximity to the site, so that a 'high' rating is within 50m, 'medium' within 100m, and 'low' over 100m, or not present. The approximate depth of deposits has also been recorded, as well as their distance and direction from the site.

Table 7: Palaeoenvironmental potential

Potential	no. sites	%
High	4	13
Medium	4	13
Low	23	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>

- 3.18 Although the majority of those monuments for which an assessment was possible (74%) were not considered to have a significant palaeoenvironmental potential within the immediate area, there are 8 sites where the potential was thought to be high or medium.



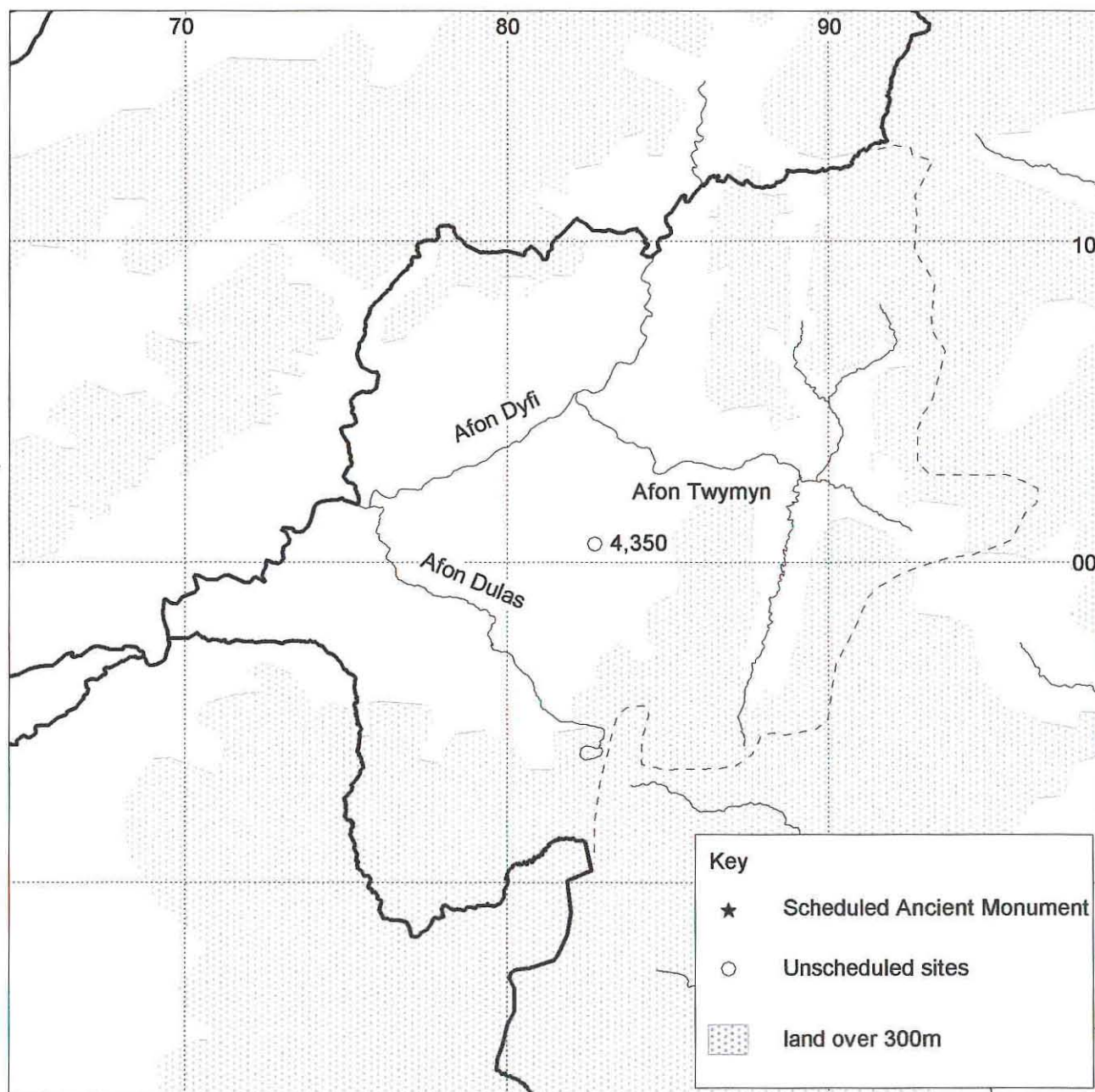
#### 4 CISTS

- 4.1 There is only one record for a possible cist within the study area (fig. 4; PRN 4350).

**PRN 4350      Cae yr Hen Eglwys Cist**

During ploughing around 1900 the plough struck a rounded boulder, beneath which was an empty cavity c. 0.6m across and 0.9m deep. All the stones were removed and there is no record of any artefacts (RCAHM 1911). There is, however, no real indication that this was a prehistoric burial feature.

Fig. 2 Distribution of Cists in the Dyfi catchment, Powys



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## **5 PREHISTORIC MONUMENT COMPLEX**

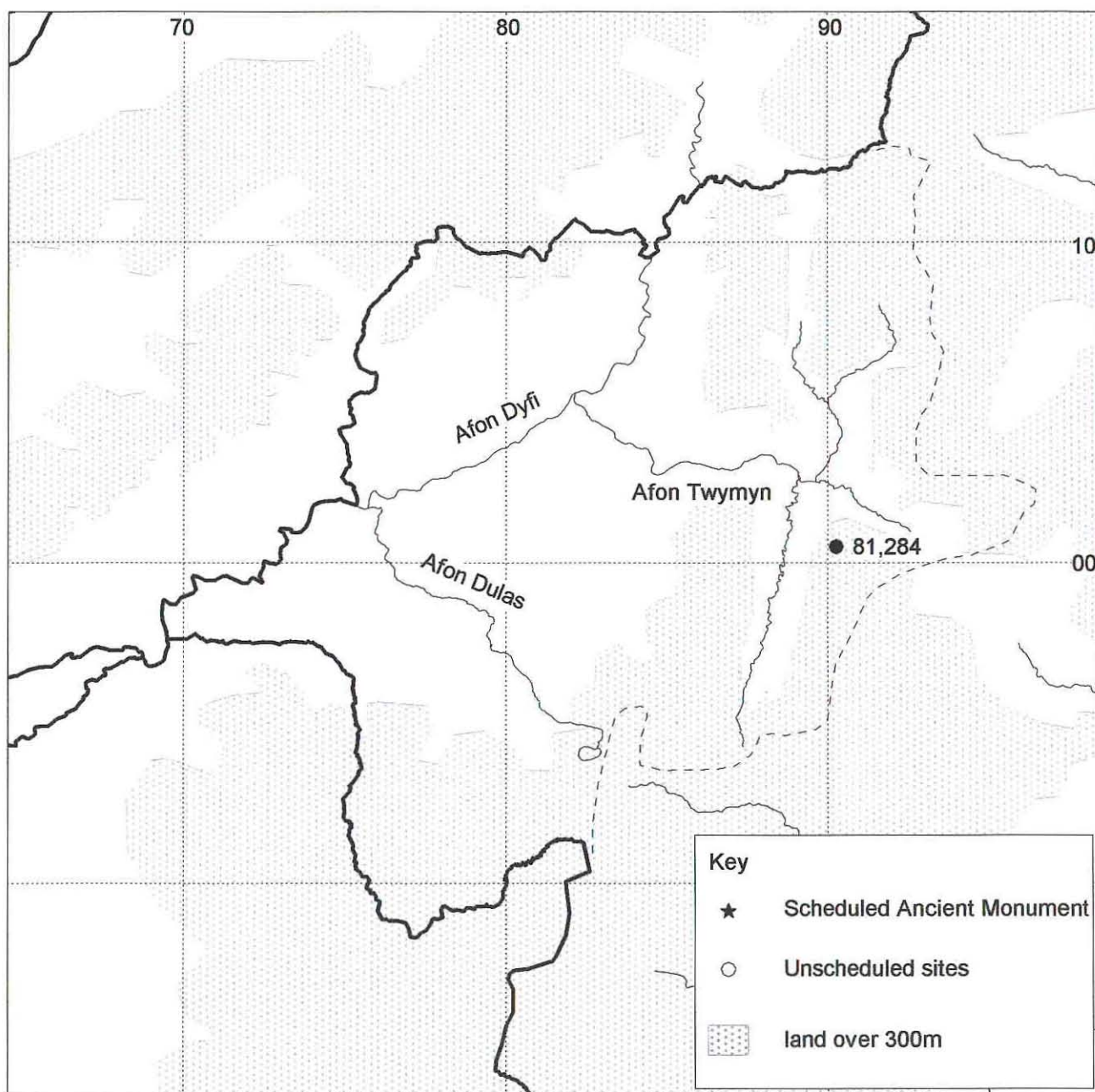
- 5.1 There is only one significant grouping of monuments within the study area, comprising two stone circles (PRNs 721-2), described fully in section 9 as individual stone circles, and a structured cairn (PRN 1311), sited on W side of an upland plateau with views over to Cader Idris.

### **PRN 81284 Cerrig Caerau prehistoric monument complex**

The Cerrig Caerau stone circle (PRN 721) is 22.2m in diameter consisting of eight recumbent stones, with hollows suggesting that there may have been around 20 stones originally. Lled Croen yr Ych Circle (PRN 722) is approximately 26m in diameter, with five stones surviving, although the present appearance bears little resemblance to plan published by Grimes (1963, fig. 24) from a survey in 1960s. The cairn is 13m in diameter and has a kerb of large boulders, with smaller boulders in between, although the cairn material extends beyond the kerb.



Fig. 3 Distribution of Prehistoric Monument Complexes in the Dyfi catchment, Powys



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## 6 ROUND BARROWS

- 6.1 Round barrows take a variety of forms which are often difficult to distinguish in the field: earthen mounds (barrows), stone mounds (cairns), some defined by ring banks (ring cairns), small circular cairns (c. 5m diam.) with an outer kerb of disproportionately large stones (kerb cairns), some defined by kerbs or with other structural features (structured cairns) and some defined by low platforms (platform cairns). A further sub-type, Round barrow (large), includes sites which either due to size (over 30m diameter) or height (over 3m) would appear to be set apart from smaller monuments. Earthen barrows and stone cairns can sometimes be distinguished, their construction materials generally reflecting local geology and soils. As these various monuments tend to be broadly contemporary and to have much the same function, allowing, perhaps, for regional/typological idiosyncrasies, they have been treated here under the broad title of round barrow as they tend to share a common sepulchro-ritual role.
- 6.2 There are 29 round barrows or possible round barrows of various forms recorded in the SMR (fig. 4; Tables 8 and 9), only four of which are scheduled. The majority of sites are recorded as known or possible earthen barrows (3 sites) or stone-built cairns and structured cairns (22 sites), although there are also 4 ring cairns. The figures are not definitive but are subject to the vagaries of field observation, monument preservation and fieldworkers' interpretation.
- 6.3 It has been argued that a wealth of archaeological information may be preserved within the fragile contexts which are receiving protection from the covering mounds of round barrows, either in the form of satellite burials and/or protected land surfaces (Gibson 1998a). Round barrows should not, therefore, simply be viewed in terms of the survival of the upstanding monument, but also in relation to an important archaeological resource sealed beneath it.

Table 8: Round barrows within the study area.

PRN	Site name	NGR	Type 1
89	Foel Fadian Barrow I	SN83289556	Round barrow
708	Carn Gwilym cairn I	SN79249084	Round barrow (cairn)
709	Carn Gwilym cairn II	SN79239082	Round barrow (cairn)
719	Ffridd Cwm y Ffynnon Barrow	SH91830498	Round barrow
1293	Carneddgerig Barrow	SH86540512	Round barrow (cairn)
1311	Allor Cairn I	SH89840040	Round barrow (structured cairn)
1354	Carneddau Hafod Wnnog Cairn I	SN76439431	Round barrow (cairn)
1674	Glan yr Afon Cairn Site	SH89341031	Round barrow ?
1718	Cefn Coch Barrow	SH81990275	Round barrow (structured cairn)
1832	Craig y Dullfan Cairn	SN77128876	Round barrow (cairn)
1833	Banc Llechwedd Mawr Cairn I	SN77558985	Round barrow (cairn)
4047	Nant y Bwlch Cairn	SH92711213	Round barrow (cairn) ?
4069	Lluest Ty'n yr Wtra Cairn	SH85780585	Round barrow (ring cairn)
4292	Esgair y Ffordd Cairn	SN79109233	Round barrow (cairn)
4299	Esgair Graflwyn	SN83289665	Round barrow (ring cairn) ?
4360	Banc Llechwedd Mawr Cairn II	SN77568988	Round barrow (cairn)
4980	Ty Coch Cairn	SN71279859	Round barrow (cairn)
4981	Twmpath y Crynwyr Cairn	SN71359753	Round barrow (cairn)
5080	Moelfre Barrow	SN84809835	Round barrow
6164	Lled Croen yr Ych Cairn	SH904006	Round barrow (cairn) ?
16604	Mynydd Lluest Fach ring cairn	SH89860802	Round barrow (ring cairn)
16605	Mynydd Lluest Fach cairn	SH90040833	Round barrow (cairn)
34009	Mynydd y Cemmes cairn III	SH87010751	Round barrow (cairn) ?
34997	Mynydd y Cemmes cairn I	SH86790691	Round barrow (cairn) ?
34998	Mynydd y Cemmes cist	SH86730693	Round barrow (cairn) ?
34999	Mynydd y Cemmes cairn II	SH86740688	Round barrow (cairn) ?



81264	Banc Llechwedd Mawr Cairn	SN77778924	Round barrow (cairn) ?
81287	Mynydd Lluest Fach cairn II	SH89840816	Round barrow (cairn)
81288	Mynydd Lluest Fach cairn III	SH90040823	Round barrow (cairn)

- 11.4 Round barrows normally show a considerable variation in size, although within the study area this is not particularly apparent (Table 9). Indeed, it is notable that in general the sites are rather small, with 12 sites less than 10m in diameter. There are 4 sites for which diameters are not recorded due to the sites having been lost or destroyed.

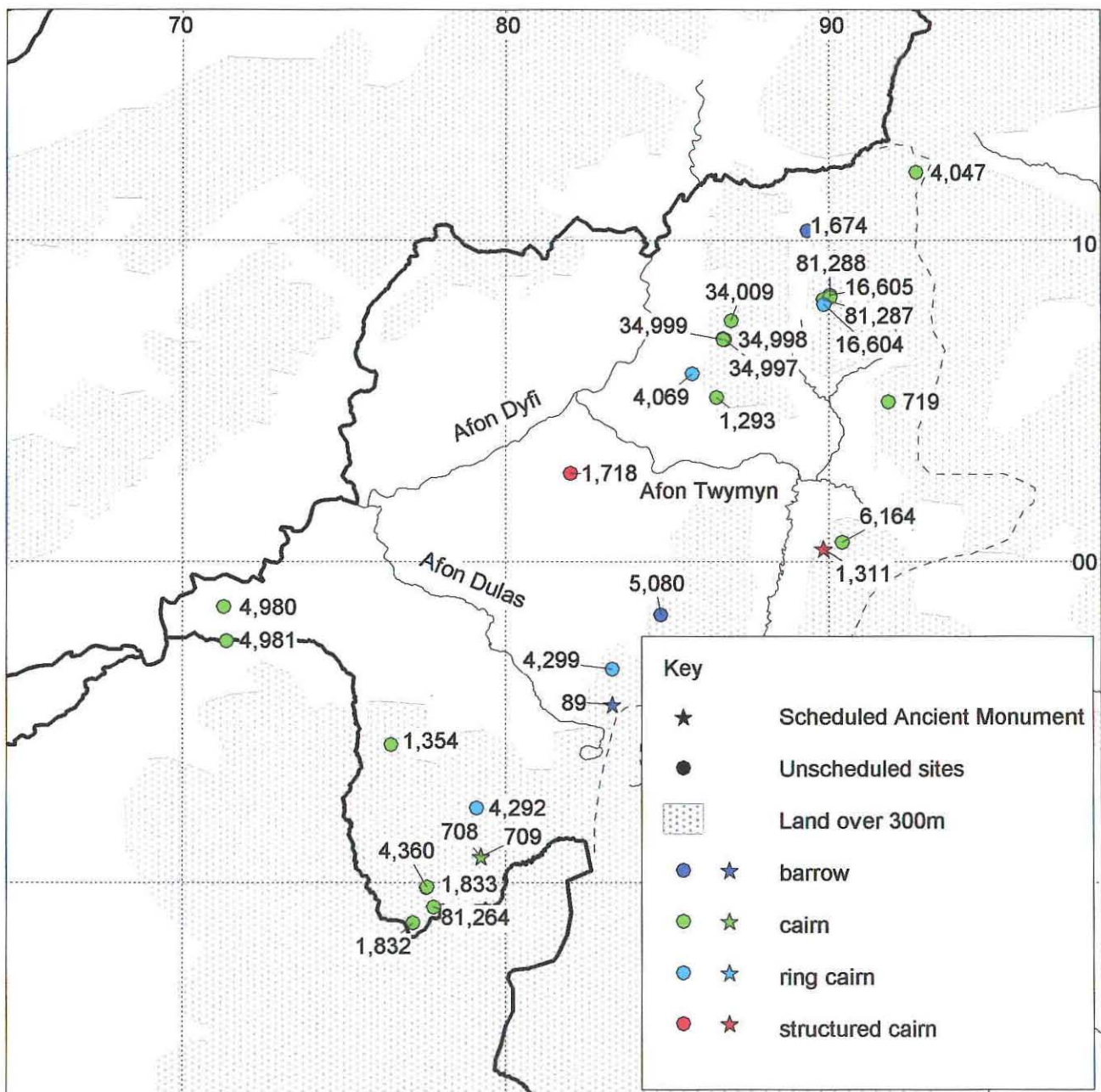
Table 9: Round barrow sizes

Size range	No. of sites
<10m	12
10-20m	12
20-30m	1
not recorded	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>

- 11.5 There is a clear trend for round barrows to be situated in prominent locations, either on summits or ridges, or in locations such as the shoulder edge (or false crest) or a col, which give the appearance of being on the skyline when viewed from the valley below. Such sitings account for 48% (14 sites) of round barrow locations, with a further 8 sites on upland plateaux and only 2 sites in valley bottom locations.



Fig.4 Distribution of Round barrows in the Dyfi catchment, Powys



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## **7 ROUND BARROW CEMETERIES**

- 7.1 There are two pairs of cairns which are assumed to be associated and have been grouped together (fig. 5).

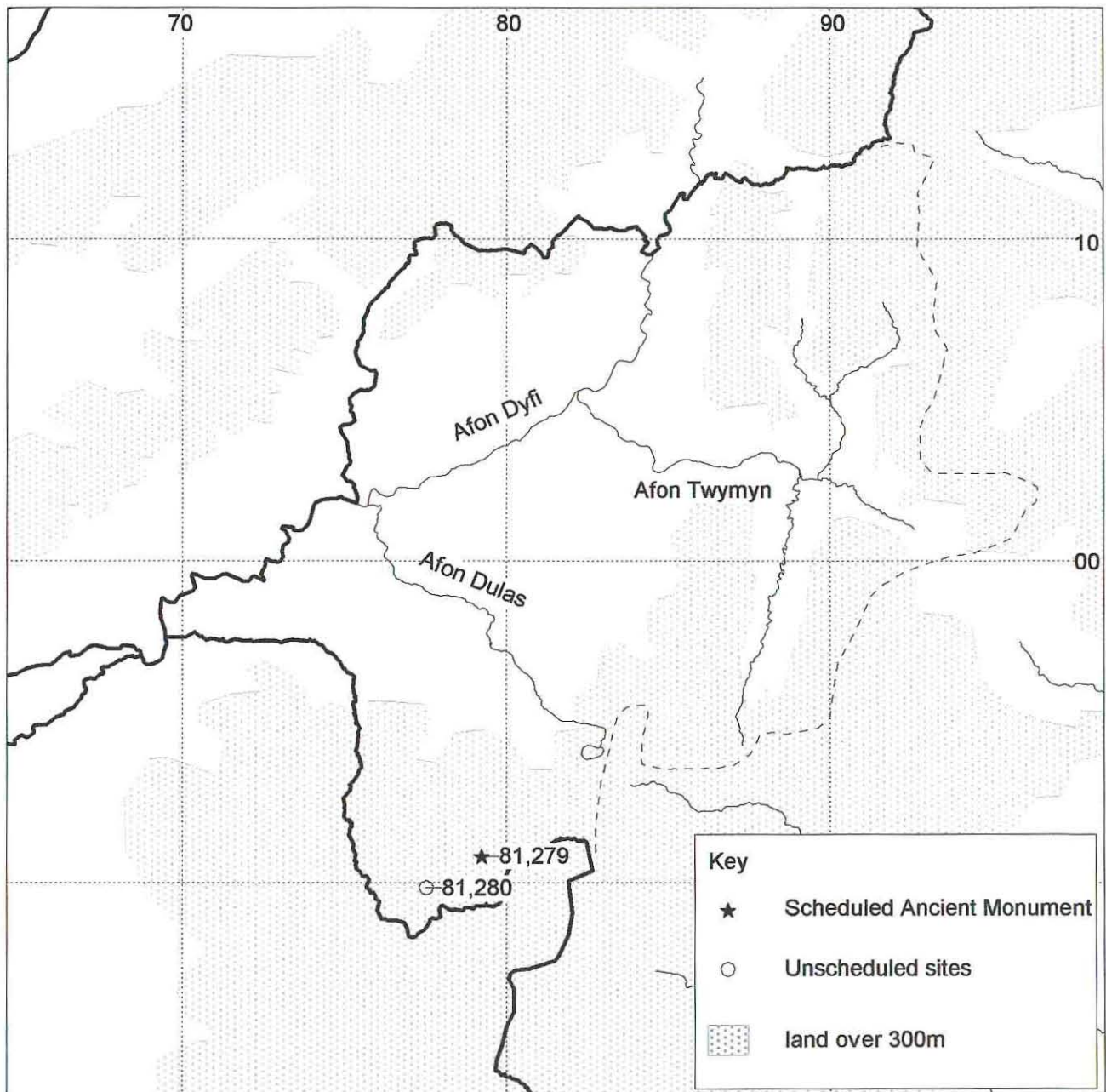
### **PRN 81279 Carn Gwilym round barrow cemetery**

Two substantial cairns on the summit of Mynydd Hyddgen. The northern cairn (PRN 708) is c. 13m in diameter, the top of which has been levelled as a base for a large modern cairn. The southern cairn (PRN 709) appears to comprise a turf covered ring bank c. 13m in diameter, the interior of which is filled with loose rubble forming a cairn up to 0.75m high. The top has been levelled and disturbed by the construction of a modern cairn set off-centre to west. A small satellite cairn adjoins the east side.

### **PRN 81280 Banc Llechwedd Mawr Round barrow cemetery**

Two cairns situated on the south-west end of the summit with excellent panoramic views. One cairn (PRN 1833) is well-preserved and apparently undisturbed, c. 11.5m in diameter with a slight projection on the east side. The other cairn (PRN 4360) is c. 9m in diameter, with a projection on the south side. This cairn has been damaged by the construction of a shelter in the centre and possibly use as a sheep fold.

Fig.5 Distribution of Round barrow cemeteries in the Dyfi catchment, Powys



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## 8 STANDING STONES

8.1 There are 7 standing stones or possible standing stones within the study area (fig. 6; Table 10).

Table 10: Standing stones within study area

PRN	Name	NGR
715	Maen Llwyd Stone Site	SH75260078
1297	Meini Llwydion standing stone I	SH82750057
1299	Maen Llwyd stone	SH83590317
1717	Carreg Noddfa stone	SH852025
1727	Cae Cerrig Gwynion Stone	SH838037
70250	Coed Glyntwymyn Stone	SH84150434
81283	Meini Llwydion standing stone II	SH82690058

### PRN 715 Maen Llwyd Stone Site

A standing stone moved in 1970 from a field known as Cae Maen Llwyd (SH 7526 0078) in advance of a new housing development. The stone, which measures 2.1m high and 1 to 1.2m wide, now lies on traffic island on a housing estate.

### PRN 1297 Meini Llwydion standing stone I

A large upright stone which may have been roughly faced but is irregular, with six main faces. Part of the east face has broken and is missing. The stone is sited on an E-W ridge with good views to south and north. The Ordnance Survey first edition 1" map shows two standing stones, the second (PRN 81283) lying some 100m to the west. Tradition records that the stone marks the boundary of the medieval township of Noddfa, the name of which implies a place of refuge or sanctuary, its limits being probably marked by three stones, the others being PRNs 1299 and 1717.

### PRN 1299 Maen Llwyd Stone

A semi-recumbent stone, 1.1m high and 0.7m wide and aligned roughly east-west. Tradition records that the stone marks the boundary of the medieval township of Noddfa, the name of which implies a place of refuge or sanctuary, its limits being probably described by three stones (Lewis 1833), the others being PRN 1297 and 1717.

### PRN 1717 Carreg Noddfa Stone

Tradition records that the stone marks the boundary of the medieval township of Noddfa, the name of which implies a place of refuge or sanctuary, its limits being probably described by three stones (Lewis 1833), the others being PRN 1297 and 1299. The stone was broken up around 1905 and fragments built into a garden wall at SH 85460187. The original siting at is recorded as SH852025. Possibly a re-used Bronze Age standing stone.

### PRN 1727 Cae Cerrig Gwynion Stone

A small white stone since destroyed by the railway (RCAHM 1911).

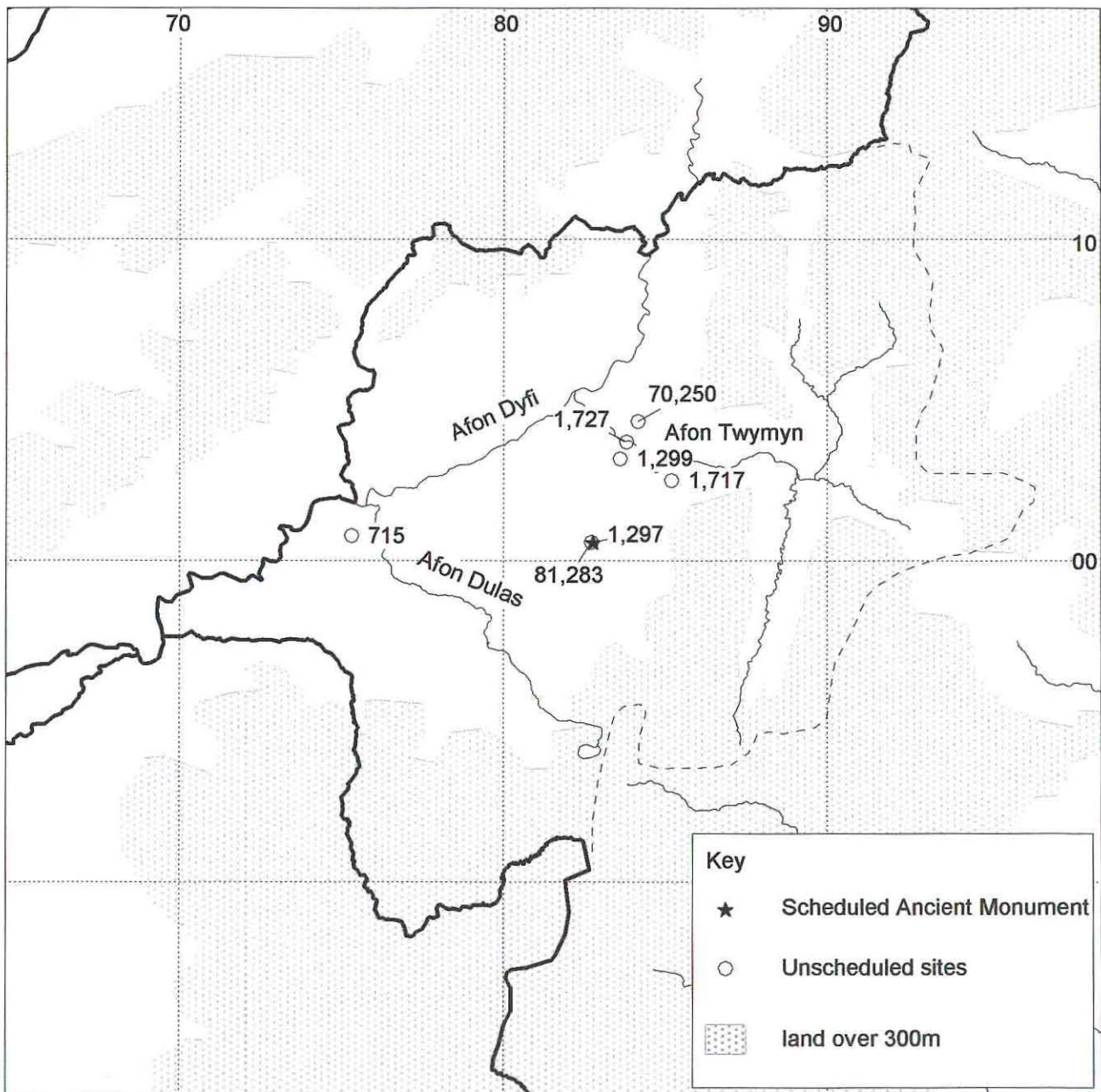
### PRN 70250 Coed Glyntwymyn Stone

A small, well-set upright stone measuring 0.55m high, 0.55m wide and 0.4m thick, sited on the south side of the summit between two small oak trees. Possibly a standing stone although the association with the trees is curious as they appear to have been deliberately planted here and there are no others in the pasture field.

### PRN 81283 Meini Llwydion standing stone II

The Ordnance Survey first edition 1" map shows two standing stones, the second (PRN 1297) lying some 100m to the east. Tradition records that the stone marked the medieval township of Noddfa, and was one of three sanctuary stones along with PRNs 1299 and 1717. No trace of the stone survives.

Fig. 6 Distribution of Standing stones in the Dyfi catchment, Powys



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## **9 STONE CIRCLES**

- 9.1 There are two recorded stone circles within the study area (fig. 7), both of which are scheduled.

### **PRN 721 Cerrig Caerau stone circle**

A stone circle 22.2m in diameter consisting of eight recumbent stones lying in animal worn hollows on unimproved moorland (Hoyle 1984, 53; fig 4). The surviving stones are all substantial boulders between 1.25 and 1.9m across, seven of which lie within the south-eastern half of the circle, with the largest on north-west side in the direction of Cader Idris on skyline. The spacing of the surviving stones and the position of hollows around the circumference suggests that there may have been around 20 stones originally. The site is situated in close proximity to Yr Allor cairn (PRN 1311) and Lled-Croen-yr-Ych stone circle (PRN 722), which have been grouped together as a Prehistoric Monument Complex (PRN 81284).

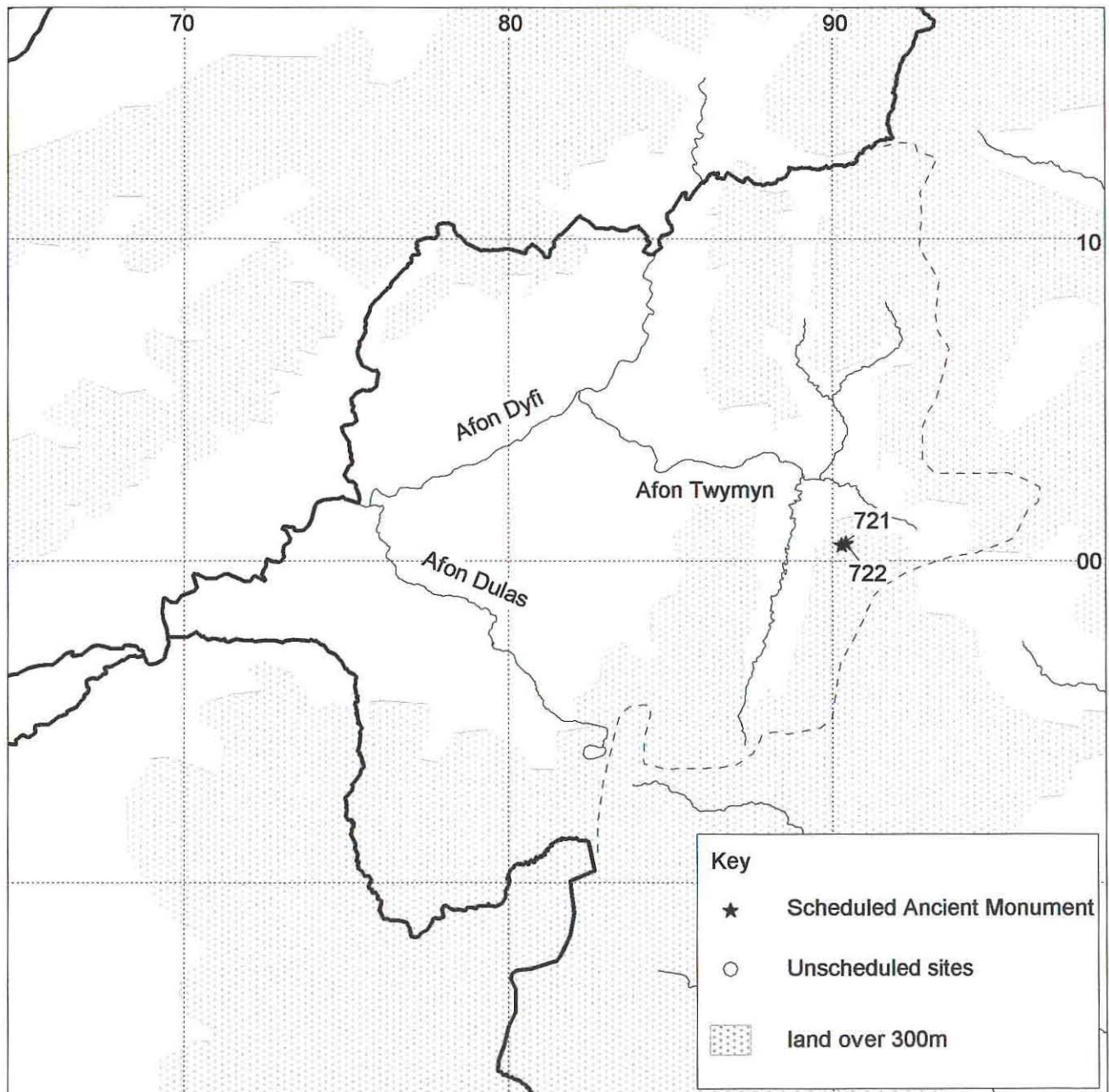
### **PRN 722 Lled Croen yr Ych Circle**

One of two stone circles (with PRN 721) said to be nearly perfect c. 1866. The circle is approximately 26m in diameter with four stones definitely surviving, three being in situ. A fifth apparently lies beside its original depression and fragments of a sixth beside another depression. There were formerly 11 recognisable depressions which may have held stones. Re-survey with astro-compass and tape suggests two possible arcs which may fit the stones/depressions, with an outlier corresponding to one of Thom's calendar dates. Two smaller outliers were visible immediately to the north-west of the circle, although these have now gone.

The present appearance bears little resemblance to plan published by Grimes (1963, fig. 24) from a survey in 1960s before the heather moor was improved. Outlying stones have now disappeared and the circle has probably been added to by stones which have been recently moved. The site is situated in close proximity to Yr Allor cairn (PRN 1311) and Cerrig Caerau stone circle (PRN 721), which have been grouped together as a Prehistoric Monument Complex (PRN 81284).



Fig. 7 Distribution of Stone circles in the Dyfi catchment, Powys



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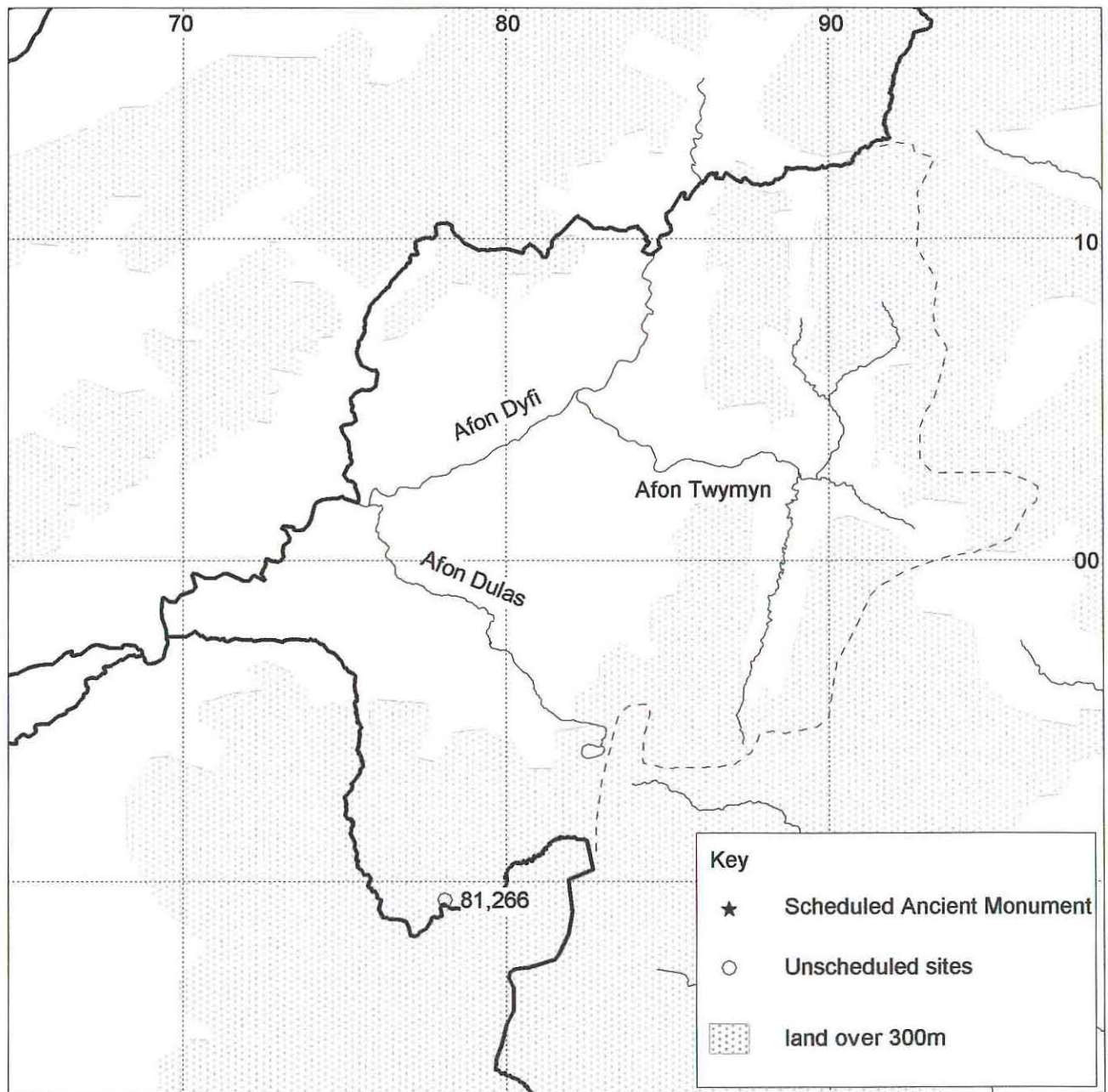
## **10 STONE ROWS**

- 10.1 There is only one stone row currently recorded within the study area (fig. 8), which was newly discovered during recent fieldwork as part of this project.

### **PRN 81266 Banc Llechwedd Mawr Stone Row**

A stone row 4.7m long, comprising three stones, aligned north-east to south-west. The south-west stone measures 0.75m high, 0.5m wide and 0.45m thick, the middle stone (recumbent) measures c. 0.5m long and 0.55m wide, and the north-east stone measures 0.45m high, 0.45m long and 0.35m wide. The stones are set on a level terrace on the north-west side of the Hyddgen valley, with good views of Pumlumon to the south-east. Surrounded by peat deposits c. 0.75m deep.

Fig. 8 Distribution of Stone rows in the Dyfi catchment, Powys



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**APPENDIX 1****INITIAL SMR EXTRACT OF TYPE 1 FOR THE FOLLOWING SITE TYPES:**

Barrow  
Barrow cemetery  
Burial  
Cairn  
Cairnfield  
Carved stone  
Chambered tomb  
Cist  
Cist burial  
Clearance Cairn  
Cremation  
Cursus  
Cup marked stone  
Henge  
Incised stone  
Inhumation  
Long barrow  
Megalithic tomb  
Mortuary enclosure  
Palisaded enclosure  
Pillow mound  
Pit  
Pit alignment  
Pit avenue  
Pit circle  
Prehistoric monument complex  
Ring cairn  
Ring ditch  
Rock carving  
Round barrow  
Round cairn  
Square barrow  
Standing stone  
Stone circle  
Stone row  
Stone setting  
Timber circle  
Timber setting

## APPENDIX 2 CONSOLIDATED MONUMENT TYPE DEFINITIONS

The following represents a consolidated list of monument type definitions covering the prehistoric funerary and ritual monument surveys undertaken by CPAT to date. The aim is to produce a comprehensive list of monument type definitions as additional areas of Wales are covered in due course, adding new types and sub-types and amending definitions as appropriate, as work proceeds. It is self-evident that the definitions do not as yet adequately cover all known monument types in Wales. The purpose of the following list of monument type definitions is firstly to ensure greater consistency in the SMR, secondly to provide a simpler means of grouping apparently similar types of which might be known in detail from excavation or only superficially as field monuments, and thirdly in order to simplify future SMR inquiries.

The general approach has been where possible to use simple and widely accepted terms, to group a range of monuments within a single type, with the use of sub-types where necessary, and to avoid unnecessary proliferation of monument types which might complicate the processes of data input and output. All monument types may be applied with or without a following question mark - eg 'Round barrow?', and in some instances sub-types are given in brackets - eg 'Round barrow (cairn)'.

The following categories of information are given for each of the prehistoric funerary and ritual monument types.

### *Definition*

A short summary of the form, function and dating of the monument types as they appear in the current dataset. A fuller discussion of the form, function, dating and associations of each monument type is given in the project report (Gibson 1998).

### *Sub-types*

A list of sub-types currently used, together with additional definition if necessary, eg Round barrow (kerb cairn). Sub-types are defined in the 'Definition' text above.

### *Dimensions*

A summary of the dimensions of the monument type as it appears within the current dataset.

### *To be distinguished from*

A summary list of some of the types of monument which the particular monument type might be confused with and which should be avoided if possible.

### *Same as*

Reference is given to the same or similar monument types as given in English Heritage's Monument Class Descriptions (available on <http://www.eng-h.gov.uk/mpp/mcd>) and RCHME's *Thesaurus of Monument Types: A Standard for Use in Archaeological and Architectural Records* (1995).

### *References*

References are given to a number of basic reference works, but the emphasis is upon local works.

## **Carved stone**

### *Definition*

An imprecise term referring to any natural rock outcrop or stone not readily portable which displays markings or decoration considered to be of prehistoric ritual significance. Known examples occur on isolated stones, which may not be in their original locations.

### *Sub-types*

Carved stone (cup-marked): a rock or worked stone slab bearing one or more circular depressions/cups chipped out of rock with a hard stone or metal tool. The cups vary in size between c. 2 and 6cm in diameter. Generally thought to be religious or territorial symbols probably dating from the Late Neolithic to the end of the Bronze Age.

*Dimensions*

-

*To be distinguished from*

boundary stones, early Christian monuments, inscribed stones, crosses, milestones, gravestones, ogham stones, architectural carvings, mortar stone.

*Same as*

English Heritage's 'Cup marked stone', 'Cup and ring marked stone'

RCHME Thesaurus terms 'Carved stone', 'Rock carving', 'Cup marked stone', 'Cup and ring marked stone'.

*References*

Baildon 1909

Barnatt & Reeder 1982

Beckensall 1983

Beckensall 1986

Marshall 1986

**CHAMBERED TOMB***Definition*

Monument with evidence of a burial chamber composed of upright stones and considered to be a funerary monument of generally Neolithic date. The burial chamber may be covered by a capstone and may be enclosed within a round or long mound or cairn. The burial chamber will generally be significantly larger than a cist.

*Sub-types*

No sub-types have yet been defined

*Dimensions*

-

*To be distinguished from*

Cists, round barrows, long barrows, pillow mounds, standing stones, stone settings

*Same as*

No close parallel in English Heritage's Monument Class Descriptions, but as sub-types distinguished in brackets it would include 'Entrance Graves' and 'Simple Passage Grave'.

RCHME Thesaurus terms 'Chambered Tomb', as well as 'Chambered Cairn', 'Chambered Long Barrow', 'Chambered Long Cairn', 'Chambered Round Barrow', 'Chambered Round Cairn', 'Passage Grave'.

*References*

Lynch *et al.* 2000, 63-77

**Cist***Definition*

Isolated stone-lined pit assumed to have held a human burial of prehistoric or later date. It is generally assumed that the shorter cists are more likely to be Bronze Age in date, while the longer cists may be Iron Age or later.

*Sub-types*

No sub-types have yet been defined



*Dimensions*

Examples currently identified as falling within the monument type definition locally are between 0.5 and 2.1m long and 0.3 to 0.5m across.

*To be distinguished from*

Cist found in association with a round barrow, cist graves.

*Same as*

No close parallel in English Heritage's Monument Class Descriptions.  
RCHME Thesaurus term 'Cist'.

*References*

Gibson 1998a, 44

**Cremation burial***Definition*

Single cremation burial possibly accompanied by grave goods and/or contained within a pit and/or a ceramic vessel but not associated with surface features, of later Neolithic to middle Bronze Age or Romano-British date. The cremation may have been inserted into a natural mound which could therefore have assumed the significance of a round barrow - Cremation (natural mound).

*Sub-types*

Cremation burial (natural mound): cremation inserted into a natural mound which has the appearance of a round barrow.

*Dimensions*

-

*To be distinguished from*

Cremation burials associated with round barrows, henges.

*Same as*

Single example within English Heritage's 'Cremation Cemetery' Monument Class Descriptions.  
RCHME Thesaurus terms 'Cremation', and 'Cremation Pit'.

*References*

Britnell 1994  
Gibson 1998a, 46

**Cremation cemetery***Definition*

More than one cremation burial, possibly accompanied by grave goods and/or contained within a pit and/or a ceramic vessel but not associated with surface features, of later Neolithic to middle Bronze Age or Romano-British date.

*Sub-types*

No sub-types have yet been defined locally.

*Dimensions*

-

*To be distinguished from*

Cremation burial, cremation burials associated with round barrows, henges.

*Same as*

English Heritage's 'Cremation Cemetery' Monument Class Description.  
RCHME Thesaurus terms 'Cremation Cemetery'.

*References*

Britnell 1994  
Gibson 1998a, 46

**Cursus***Definition*

Markedly long and narrow ditched enclosure with parallel sides and closed ends associated with ritual activity of Neolithic date and often spatially associated with other funerary or ritual monuments of Neolithic or early Bronze Age date. The only examples currently falling within the monument type definition are cropmarks, but earthworks normally defined by a bank and external ditch are known elsewhere in the British Isles.

*Sub-types*

No sub-types have yet been defined locally.

*Dimensions*

Examples currently identified as falling within the monument type definition locally are between a minimum of 80 metres and a maximum of 380 metres long and between 8-20 wide.

*To be distinguished from*

Mortuary enclosures, Roman roads, ditched trackways, remnant field boundaries.

*Same as*

English Heritage's 'Cursus' Monument Class Descriptions.  
RCHME Thesaurus term 'Cursus'.

*References*

Barrett *et al.* 1991  
Gibson 1994  
Gibson 1999b  
Gibson 1998a, 14  
Houlder 1968  
Loveday 1985  
Musson 1994

**Henge***Definition*

Circular earthwork or cropmark monument normally comprising a ditch with an internal or external bank and one or more entrances, associated with ritual of funerary activity of later Neolithic date and normally spatially associated with other funerary or ritual monuments of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. The ditch is normally proportionally much wider than that of a Ring ditch. Because of the relatively low numbers the monument type definition covers both henges and hengiform monument types. Internal settings may include timber circles, pit circles, stone circles, stone settings, central mounds, cremation pits, etc.

*Sub-types*

Henge (hengiform monument): a variety of sites which do not readily fall into the category of henge, but are thought to be related monuments. Types of hengiform monument currently identified include smaller sites possibly with segmented ditches, and a large circular ring bank (25m diameter or more), without an entrance.

*Dimensions*

Examples currently identified as falling within the monument type definition locally are for henges, between

about 8-60 metres in overall diameter and with ditches between 1-5 metres across, and for embanked circles, between 30-110 metres in overall diameter.

*To be distinguished from*

Ring ditches, round barrows, roundhouse drainage gullies, ring cairns, windmill mounds, and timber circles, pit circles or stone circles appearing singly.

*Same as*

English Heritage's 'Henge' and 'Hengi-form Monument' Monument Class Descriptions.  
RCHME Thesaurus terms 'Henge' and 'Hengiform Monument'.

*References*

Gibson 1994  
Gibson 1995a  
Gibson 1998a, 17  
Harding & Lee 1987

## **Inhumation**

*Definition*

A single inhumation of prehistoric or later date which does not appear to be associated with any burial structure such as a cist or round barrow.

*Sub-types*

Inhumation burial (natural mound): inhumation burial inserted into a natural mound which has the appearance of a round barrow.

Inhumation (cave burial): inhumation within a cave. Cave sites may also contain evidence of multi-period occupation.

*Dimensions*

-

*To be distinguished from*

cist, cremation, round barrow, grave

*Same as*

*References*

Brassil and Gibson 1999

## **Long barrow**

*Definition*

Earthwork or cropmark indications of long, roughly rectangular or trapezoidal mound of earth and/or stone or markedly oval mound presumed to have been used for sepulchro-ritual activity of early to middle Neolithic date. In the case of cropmark sites the original mound may be indicated by lateral ditches or trenches for timber revetments.

*Sub-types*

No sub-types have yet been defined locally.

*Dimensions*

Examples currently identified as falling within the monument type definition locally are between about 20-60 metres in length, 8-18 metres in width and 0.3-3.0 metres in height, being possibly higher or wider at one end.



*To be distinguished from*

Bank barrow, pillow mounds or waste heaps connected with quarrying and mining, natural moraines.

*Same as*

English Heritage's 'Long Barrow' Monument Class Descriptions.  
RCHME Thesaurus term 'Long Barrow'.

*References*

Ashbee 1966  
Gibson 1998a, 9  
Gibson 2000  
Masters 1973  
Phillips 1936  
Piggott 1972  
Whittle 1991a  
Vatcher 1965  
Vyner 1984

**Mortuary enclosure***Definition*

Sub-rectangular cropmark enclosure of varying length and of presumed funerary or ritual activity of early to middle Neolithic date. The only example falling within this monument type definition is spatially associated with a further funerary monument of Neolithic date. The monument type is to be used sparingly and with due consideration.

*Sub-types*

No sub-types have yet been defined locally.

*Dimensions*

The only example currently identified as falling within the monument type definition locally is about 30 wide and 40 metres across.

*To be distinguished from*

Cropmark cursus monuments and long barrows.

*Same as*

English Heritage's 'Long Mortuary Enclosure' Monument Class Descriptions.  
RCHME Thesaurus term 'Mortuary Enclosure'.

*References*

Barclay & Russell-White 1993  
Gibson 1995a  
Gibson 1998a, 13  
Loveday 1985

**Palisaded Enclosure***Definition*

One or more rows of pits identified from cropmarks or excavation, forming the perimeter of an enclosure which may be associated with Neolithic funerary or ritual activity. In Wales there are currently only two examples known, both of which are within the Walton Basin in Radnorshire, although there are a number of examples from the rest of Britain and Europe. In Britain, three main types have been identified, depending on the nature of construction. The first type has a perimeter of individual postholes, as at Walton (Dempsey 1998) and also at Meldon Bridge, Peeblesshire (Burgess 1976), Forteviot, Perthshire (Harding and Lee 1987, 409-11), Dunragit, Dumfries (Mercer 1993), Newgrange, Co Meath (Sweetman 1985) and Ballynahatty, Co Down (Hartwell 1991;

1994). The second type has a perimeter composed of closely-spaced postpits, as at Hindwell in the Walton Basin (Gibson 1999a) and also at Greyhound Yard, Dorchester (Woodward *et al* 1993). The third type has a perimeter with uprights set in bedding trenches, as at West Kennet I and II (Whittle 1991b; 1992), Mount Pleasant, Dorset (Wainwright 1979), and Knowth, Co Meath (Eogan 1984, 219).

#### *Sub-types*

No sub-types have yet been defined locally.

#### *Dimensions*

Palisaded enclosures show considerable variation in size, although the full circumference is only known in three examples: Mount Pleasant, Ballynahatty and Forteviot. The enclosed area varies from 0.64ha at Newgrange to 35ha at Hindwell, although the latter is by far the largest in Britain.

#### *To be distinguished from*

Segmented ditches associated with hengiform monuments (see henges), pit circles, timber circles, stone circles represented by stone holes.

#### *Same as*

RCHME Thesaurus term Stockaded enclosure.

#### *References*

Burgess 1976  
Dempsey 1998  
Eogan 1984, 219  
Gibson 1998c  
Gibson 1999a, 14-19 and 155-158  
Gibson 1999c  
Harding and Lee 1987, 409-11  
Hartwell 1991; 1994  
Mercer 1993  
Sweetman 1985  
Wainwright 1979  
Whittle 1991b  
Whittle 1992  
Woodward et al. 1993

## **Pit**

#### *Definition*

Cropmark apparently of large pits of unknown function found in association with funerary and ritual monuments of Neolithic and early Bronze Age date in upper Severn Valley area. The monument type is to be used sparingly and with due consideration.

#### *Sub-types*

No sub-types have yet been defined locally.

#### *Dimensions*

Examples currently identified as falling within the monument type definition locally are between 8-10 metres in diameter.

#### *To be distinguished from*

Similar cropmarks not associated with known funerary and ritual monuments of Neolithic and early Bronze Age date.

#### *Same as*

No close parallel in English Heritage's Monument Class Descriptions.

No close parallel RCHME Thesaurus terms.

*References*

Gibson 1998a, 27

**Pit avenue**

*Definition*

Two parallel rows of pits, possibly originally for upright timbers, forming an avenue. Only known example in Wales is in the Walton Basin, in association with a palisaded enclosure, as at Meldon Bridge, Peeblesshire (Burgess 1976).

*Sub-types*

No sub-types have yet been defined locally.

*Dimensions*

The only recorded example is 75m long, with at least 10 pits in each row, the rows being 12m apart.

*To be distinguished from*

Pit alignment

*Same as*

*References*

Burgess 1976

Gibson 1999a

**Pit circle**

*Definition*

One or more concentric circular setting of pits identified from cropmarks or excavation, and considered to be associated with funerary or ritual activity of later Neolithic or early Bronze Age date. Excavation may show that a site should be reclassified as a timber circle or stone circle, but might otherwise represent a circle of cremation pits or votive pits.

*Sub-types*

No sub-types have yet been defined locally.

*Dimensions*

The more certain examples currently identified as falling within the monument type definition locally are between about 6-10 metres in diameter and composed of between 6-11 pits.

*To be distinguished from*

Segmented ditches associated with hengiform monuments (see henges), excavated pit circles shown to have been timber circles, stone circles represented by stone holes, palisaded enclosures.

*Same as*

English Heritage's 'Pit Circle' Monument Class Descriptions.  
RCHME Thesaurus term 'Pit Circle '.

*References*

Barclay 1993

Cleal *et al.* 1995

Gibson 1992

Gibson 1994

Gibson 1998a



Harding 1981

### **Prehistoric Monument Complex**

#### *Definition*

A grouping of two or more prehistoric funerary and/or ritual monuments which is perceived as having some association. An example might be a round barrow and standing stone in close proximity, or a group including a wider range of monuments.

#### *Sub-types*

No sub-types have yet been defined locally.

#### *Dimensions*

No definition of extent although monuments would normally be within reasonably close proximity, rather than part of a wider landscape.

#### *To be distinguished from*

Round barrow cemetery

#### *Same as*

#### *References*

### **Ring ditch**

#### *Definition*

One or more concentric ditches with no visibly surviving internal mound identified by excavation or by cropmarks and assumed to be associated with funerary and/or ritual monuments of later Neolithic to middle Bronze Age date. More frequent smaller examples (<30 metres in diameter) are assumed to be the ploughed out remains of a round barrow or internal ring-bank.

#### *Sub-types*

Ring ditch (Large): rarer larger examples (30-60 metres in diameter) have relatively narrow ditches, they appear too large to have enclosed a barrow and may have enclosed an internal ring bank and/or be related to henge monuments.

#### *Dimensions*

Examples currently identified as falling within the monument type definition locally are between about 5-30 metres.

#### *To be distinguished from*

round barrows with associated cropmark ring ditches, roundhouse drainage ditches, henges, Roman gyruses, ringworks.

#### *Same as*

No close parallel in English Heritage's Monument Class Descriptions.  
RCHME Thesaurus term 'Ring Ditch'.

#### *References*

Britnell 1982  
Gibson 1994  
Gibson 1995a  
Gibson 1998a, 47  
Warrilow *et al.* 1986

## Round barrow

### *Definition*

Round mound of earth and/or stone with a flattened or rounded top presumed to be for burial and/or other ritual activity of Neolithic, Bronze Age date or early medieval date. The mound may be enclosed by a circular or intermittent outer ditch and may have a complex structure including stone kerbs, stone settings or burial cists. Two or more associated Round Barrows are also classed as a Barrow Cemetery. Ring ditches are a related type with no visibly surviving internal mound, the smaller examples of which are generally considered to be ploughed-out round barrows. Included in the definition are sites first identified as ring ditches subsequently found to have an internal mound. Due to difficulties in distinguishing the internal structure of unexcavated and damaged sites and for ease of information retrieval subdivisions of the type are included in brackets. Where no sub-type is indicated, the mound is either assumed to be predominantly composed of earth, or the site has been lost or destroyed and surviving records may be insufficient to determine the exact nature of the monument. The definition includes round barrows which may form part of a henge.

### *Sub-types*

Round barrow (cairn): a circular cairn assumed to be predominantly composed of stone.

Round barrow (kerb cairn): a small circular cairn (c. 5m diam) with an outer kerb of disproportionately large stones (interior normally has low infill).

Round barrow (platform cairn): a circular cairn with a levelled flat top.

Round barrow (ring cairn): a circular bank of stone surrounding a hollow central area, the inner and/or outer edges of which may be retained by stone kerbs or spaced stones.

Round barrow (structured cairn): a circular cairn assumed to be predominantly composed of stone and with evidence of deliberate construction such as a kerb or inner stone setting.

Round barrow (large): rarer, larger examples the size of which would appear to set them apart from smaller monuments. Sites may be large in diameter (over 30m in diameter), or in height (over 3m), the latter possibly being of late Neolithic date.

Round barrow (very large): Exceptionally large examples, over 60m in diameter, the size of which sets them apart from all other monuments of this type. Presently only one monument, Gop Cairn, Flintshire, recorded within this sub-type, measuring c. 100 x 68m and 12m high.

### *Dimensions*

Example currently identified as falling within the monument type definition locally are between about 3-30 metres in diameter and between about 0.3-3.0 metres in height.

### *To be distinguished from*

Clearance cairn, cairnfield, walkers' cairn, spoilheap, hut circles, embanked stone circles, natural mounds, ring ditches, isolated cists, chambered tombs, marker cairns, square barrows, mottes, garden viewing platforms.

### *Same as*

Includes English Heritage's 'Ring Cairn', 'D-shaped Cairn', 'Oval Barrow' Monument Class Descriptions.

RCHME Thesaurus terms 'Round Barrow', 'Bell Barrow', 'Bell Disk Barrow', 'Bowl Barrow', 'Fancy Barrow', 'Monumental Mound', 'Oval Barrow', 'Pond Barrow', 'Round Cairn'.

### *References*

Britnell 1982

Gibson 1993

Gibson 1994

Gibson 1998a, 57

Lynch 1993

Warrilow *et al.* 1986

## Round barrow cemetery

### *Definition*

A group of two or more round barrows or ring-ditches within reasonably close proximity to each other, possibly



associated with other monument types.

#### *Sub-types*

##### *Round barrow cemetery (pair)*

Two round barrows in close proximity and assumed to be associated. For the purpose of data management it may be considered appropriate to record other groupings by reference to the number of barrows in brackets eg Round barrow cemetery (5).

##### *Round barrow cemetery (cairnfield)*

A group of small cairns within close proximity, assumed to be associated with funerary and/or other ritual activity of Neolithic, Bronze Age. To be distinguished from clearance cairns.

#### *Dimensions*

Currently, the largest barrow cemetery locally comprises about 8 monuments.

#### *To be distinguished from*

Clearance cairns and the kind of dispersed complex or barrow area represented at eg - Four Crosses, Dyffryn Lane and Sam-y-bryn-caled, to which no particular site type is currently applied.

#### *Same as*

English Heritage's 'Round Barrow Cemetery' Monument Class Descriptions except that two rather than five is considered as the minimum number.

RCHME Thesaurus term 'Barrow Cemetery'.

#### *References*

Gibson 1998a, 47

## **Standing stone**

#### *Definition*

One or less frequently two adjacent upright or originally upright stones of unknown function and set in stonehole, of which those found in association with funerary and ritual monuments of Neolithic to middle Bronze Age date may be more readily assumed to have had a ritual function.

#### *Sub-types*

Standing stone (pair): Two adjacent upright, or originally upright stones. Sometimes consist of a 'male' and 'female' stone. Assumed to have has a ritual function.

#### *Dimensions*

Examples currently identified as falling within the monument type definition locally are between about 0.3 metres and 3.6 metres in height.

#### *To be distinguished from*

Stone rows, stone settings, cattle rubbing stones, boundary stones, early Christian monuments, inscribed stones, crosses, milestones, mere stones, stone gate posts, pillar stones.

#### *Same as*

English Heritage's 'Standing Stone' Monument Class Descriptions.

RCHME Thesaurus term 'Standing Stone'.

#### *References*

Burl 1976

Gibson 1998a, 30

Morgan 1992



## Stone circle

### *Definition*

Circular setting of free-standing and normally spaced stones assumed to represent a ritual monument of later Neolithic to middle Bronze Age date. The definition also covers square settings of four stones which are likewise stones assumed to represent a ritual monument of later Neolithic to middle Bronze Age date. The definition also includes settings of pits shown by excavation to have once held standing stones and also covers stone circles which may form part of a henge.

### *Sub-types*

Stone circle (kerb circle): a circle of edge-set stones which are abutting to form a more or less continuous kerb.

### *Dimensions*

Examples currently identified as falling within the monument type definition locally are between about 5-22 metres in diameter and comprise between 4-54 stones generally between 0.2-0.6 metres high.

### *To be distinguished from*

Round barrow (ring cairns), round barrow (kerb cairns), modern gorseddau, stone setting.

### *Same as*

English Heritage's 'Small Stone Circle' and 'Large Regular Stone Circle' Monument Class Descriptions. RCHME Thesaurus terms 'Stone Circle'.

### *References*

Burl 1976

Burl 2000

Gibson 1998a, 40

Grimes 1963

## Stone row

### *Definition*

One or more roughly parallel rows of three or more upright stones set at intervals presumed to have been used for ritual activity of Bronze Age date.

### *Sub-types*

Stone row (avenue) a double row of upright stones forming an avenue, normally in association with other monuments such as stone circles.

### *Dimensions*

Example currently identified as falling within the monument type definition locally have individual rows up to about 60 metres long, with individual stones between about 0.3-2.0 metres high and spaced at intervals of about 1.0-2.5 metres, with parallel rows set between about 2.0-4.0 metres apart.

### *To be distinguished from*

Field boundaries or other features formed of upright slabs.

### *Same as*

English Heritage's 'Stone Alignment' Monument Class Descriptions, except that no distinction is made with 'Avenues'.

RCHME Thesaurus term 'Stone Alignment'.

### *References*

Burl 1993

Grimes 1963

Gibson 1998a, 34

### **Stone setting**

#### *Definition*

An imprecise term referring to an arrangement of upright stones that is not readily identifiable as either a stone row or stone circle or any other well-defined type of megalithic monument.

#### *Sub-types*

No sub-types have yet been defined locally.

#### *Dimensions*

-

#### *To be distinguished from*

Stone rows, stone circles.

#### *Same as*

No close parallel in English Heritage's Monument Class Descriptions.  
RCHME Thesaurus terms 'Stone Setting'.

#### *References*

Gibson 1998a, 31

### **Timber circle**

#### *Definition*

Sites which have been shown by excavation to have consisted of one or more concentric settings of upright posts set in individual postholes associated with funerary or ritual activity of later Neolithic or early Bronze Age date. The definition also covers timber circles which may form part of a henge.

#### *Sub-types*

No sub-types have yet been defined locally.

#### *Dimensions*

Examples currently identified as falling within the monument type definition locally are between about 3-18 metres in diameter and composed of between 6-36 posts.

#### *To be distinguished from*

Pit circles, segmented ditches, posthole settings of roundhouses, stake circles or settings below which are a component of round barrows, tree-planting circles.

#### *Same as*

English Heritage's 'Timber Circle' Monument Class Descriptions.  
RCHME Thesaurus terms 'Timber Circle'.

#### *References*

Gibson 1994  
Gibson 1998a, 23  
Gibson 1998b



### APPENDIX 3

#### PREHISTORIC FUNERARY AND RITUAL MONUMENTS: SCHEDULING ASSESSMENT

##### **Discrimination criteria**

The following 6 criteria apply to prehistoric funerary and ritual sites. The allocation of low, medium and high score to individual monuments based on an interpretation of existing evidence and a field visit is suggested below.

##### *Survival*

This is one of the major scheduling criteria. The survival of a monument's archaeological potential above, but principally below ground, is particularly important, and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features. Survival relies on knowing the original extent and height of the monument, which in many cases can only be guessed at. Comparison with previous visit descriptions, particularly those from pre-1940, may indicate changes in the monument's survival which would also have implications for vulnerability.

High - over two thirds of the perceived original extents of the site left intact

Medium - one third to two thirds left intact

Low - less than one third left intact

##### *Potential*

This is intended to cover sites whose possible importance is not immediately obvious. The main criteria to consider might be: whether the monument has any unusual features, further study of which could reveal new evidence about that type of monument; what is the potential for a surviving buried landsurface beneath the monument which might provide stratigraphic or dating evidence; associated palaeoenvironmental potential. Sites which no longer have a visible upstanding component and only survive as cropmarks may nevertheless retain significant structural, artefactual, ecofactual and environmental evidence.

For most sites the main groups of context for the preservation of structural, artefactual, ecofactual and environmental evidence are:

- 1 Visible structure of the monument
- 2 Buried structure of the monument
- 3 Buried landsurface
- 4 Associated finds
- 5 Palaeoenvironmental potential

High - three or more of these factors are wholly or largely intact

Medium - one or two of these factors are wholly or largely intact

Low - none of the factors are wholly or largely intact

##### *Group value*

Defined simply in terms of the existence of other types of monument within 1km of the site, although this distance is not an absolutely fixed. This is particularly relevant when defining possible barrow cemeteries or clusters of funerary and ritual monuments.

High - more than 5 associated sites within 1km

Medium - 2 to 5 associated sites within 1km

Low - less than 2 associated sites within 1km

##### *Archaeological Documentation*

A very small percentage of sites have been excavated, and even fewer fully reported. Of those which have been excavated, many were investigated at a time when recording and excavation techniques were not necessarily to a modern standard. Many sites may, however, have been described in some detail, as for example, by Ellis Davies in Flintshire and Denbighshire. Information from documentary sources is therefore a supporting criterion, rather than a main criterion for selection.

The main types of record will be: detailed description; measured survey; published excavation

High - two or more categories



Medium - one category

Low - brief or no description and/or only sketch survey

#### *Historical Documentation and Associations*

The existence of good historical documentation and/or associations may raise the value of the monument. This may take the form of place-names, literary sources, pictorial sources, association with historical events or legends/folk lore.

High - two or more relevant sources

Medium - a single relevant source

Low - no such sources

#### *Amenity and cultural value*

The following is suggested on the basis of the present state of the monument and should also take into account the landscape value of a particular monument as well as its possible value as a cultural icon.

High - remains easily visible and understood by layperson

Medium - remains extant but not easily understood

Low - remains not visible, disturbed or destroyed

#### *Palaeoenvironmental potential*

The location of potentially significant palaeoenvironmental deposits such as blanket peats, valley or basin peats, raised bogs, or wet flushes within close proximity to a monument. In lowlands in particular, palaeochannels or kettle-holes may be a potential source of evidence. Also, although sites may be in enclosed and improved land, there may be unimproved land nearby where deposits have formed as a result of poor drainage. In coastal areas there may be landsurfaces buried beneath dune systems.

The approximate distance of the deposits, together with their extent should be recorded on the general site visit form. Where possible, the depth of deposits should be estimated (eg using a ranging rod).

High - within 50m

Medium - within 100m

Low - over 100m or none visible

### **Management criteria**

#### *Condition*

The surviving condition will depend on the nature and structure of the site, subsequent land-use and development, and erosion. Sites which are predominantly of stone construction eg round barrow (cairn), will be more likely to survive substantially intact than purely earthwork eg round barrow sites. Erosion may be due to natural forces, animals, or man eg visitor. Although there is obviously some overlap with survival, this is intended to be qualitative rather than quantitative assessment.

Good - site is in good condition with no signs of erosion

Medium - moderate condition, some signs of erosion

Poor - poor condition with serious erosion

#### *Fragility*

This relates to the structural nature of the site, rather than the level of any threat, which is vulnerability. Most sites are likely to have reached a fairly stable state in terms of natural weathering and low intensity interference. However, some sites may have reached a state where particular components may now be deemed fragile eg exposure of buried landsurface, cairn internal structure or burial cist.

High - low earthwork sites and cropmarks, exposed and unstable internal features

Medium - more robust earthwork sites, predominantly stone structures partially turf covered

Low - predominantly stone structures mostly turf covered

*Vulnerability*

The level of vulnerability of a site is related to the nature of the immediate environment and current/proposed landuse. Sites in areas of predominantly arable farming will be more vulnerable than those in pastoral locations. Stone structures may be subject to robbing. Sites adjacent to developed or industrial areas may be at risk from development. The attitude of the owner/tenant may also be relevant.

High - unsympathetic land-use (eg ploughing), high immediate threat

Medium - stable land-use, possible longer term threat

Low - stable land-use, sympathetic owner, no longer term threat

# **APPENDIX 4** **PREHISTORIC FUNERARY AND RITUAL SITES BY TYPE**

**Cist ?**

4350	Cae yr Hen Eglwys Cist	SH825005
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**Prehistoric monument complex**

81284	Cerrig Caerau prehistoric monument complex	SH90280050
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**Round barrow**

89	Foel Fadian Barrow I	SN83289556
5080	Moelfre Barrow	SN84809835

**Round barrow (cairn)**

708	Carn Gwilym cairn I	SN79249084
709	Carn Gwilym cairn II	SN79239082
719	Ffridd Cwm y Ffynnon Barrow	SH91830498
1293	Carneddgerig Barrow	SH86540512
1832	Craig y Dullfan Cairn	SN77128876
1833	Banc Llechwedd Mawr Cairn I	SN77558985
4360	Banc Llechwedd Mawr Cairn II	SN77568988
4980	Ty Coch Cairn	SN71279859
4981	Twmpath y Crynwyr Cairn	SN71359753
16605	Mynydd Lluet Fach cairn I	SH90030831
81287	Mynydd Lluet Fach cairn II	SH89840816
81288	Mynydd Lluet Fach cairn III	SH90040823

**Round barrow (cairn) ?**

1354	Carneddau Hafod Wnnog Cairn I	SN76439431
4047	Nant y Bwlch Cairn	SH92711213
6164	Lled Croen yr Ych Cairn	SH904006
34009	Mynydd y Cemmaes cairn III	SH87000751
34997	Mynydd y Cemmaes cairn I	SH86770692
34998	Mynydd y Cemmaes cist	SH86750696
34999	Mynydd y Cemmaes cairn II	SH86750692
81264	Banc Llechwedd Mawr Cairn	SN77778924

**Round barrow (ring cairn)**

4292	Esgair y Ffordd Cairn	SN79109233
16604	Mynydd Lluet Fach ring cairn	SH89850801

**Round barrow (ring cairn) ?**

4069	Lluet Ty'n yr Wtra Cairn	SH85780585
4299	Esgair Graflwyn	SN83289665

**Round barrow (structured cairn)**

1311	Allor Cairn I	SH89840040
1718	Cefn Coch Barrow	SH81990275

**Round barrow ?**

1674	Glan yr Afon Cairn Site	SH89341031
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**Round barrow cemetery (pair)**

81279	Carn Gwilym round barrow cemetery	SN79249084
81280	Banc Llechwedd Mawr Round barrow cemetery	SN77558985



**Standing stone**

715	Maen Llwyd Stone Site	SH75260078
1297	Meini Llwydion standing stone I	SH82750057
1299	Maen Llwyd Stone	SH83590317
1727	Cae Cerrig Gwynion Stone	SH838037
70250	Coed Glyntwymyn Stone	SH84150434
81283	Meini Llwydion standing stone II	SH82690058

**Stone circle**

721	Cerrig Caerau stone circle	SH90280050
722	Lled Croen yr Ych Circle	SH90400055

**Stone row**

81266	Banc Llechwedd Mawr Stone Row	SN78088944
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**APPENDIX 4**  
**PREHISTORIC FUNERARY AND RITUAL SITES BY PRN**

PRN	Site type	Site name	NGR
89	Round barrow	Foel Fadian Barrow I	SN83289556
708	Round barrow (cairn)	Carn Gwilym cairn I	SN79249084
709	Round barrow (cairn)	Carn Gwilym cairn II	SN79239082
715	Standing stone	Maen Llwyd Stone Site	SH75260078
719	Round barrow (cairn)	Ffridd Cwm y Ffynnon Barrow	SH91830498
721	Stone circle	Cerrig Caerau stone circle	SH90280050
722	Stone circle ?	Lled Croen yr Ych Circle	SH90400055
1293	Round barrow (cairn)	Carneddgerrig Barrow	SH86540512
1297	Standing stone	Meini Llwydion standing stone I	SH82750057
1299	Standing stone	Maen Llwyd Stone	SH83590317
1311	Round barrow (structured cairn)	Allor Cairn I	SH89840040
1354	Round barrow (cairn) ?	Carneddau Hafod Wnnog Cairn I	SN76439431
1674	Round barrow ?	Glan yr Afon Cairn Site	SH89341031
1718	Round barrow (structured cairn)	Cefn Coch Barrow	SH81990275
1727	Standing stone	Cae Cerrig Gwynion Stone	SH838037
1832	Round barrow (cairn)	Craig y Dullfan Cairn	SN77128876
1833	Round barrow (cairn)	Banc Llechwedd Mawr Cairn I	SN77558985
4047	Round barrow (cairn) ?	Nant y Bwlch Cairn	SH92711213
4069	Round barrow (ring cairn) ?	Llest Ty'n yr Wtra Cairn	SH85780585
4292	Round barrow (ring cairn)	Esgair y Ffordd Cairn	SN79109233
4299	Round barrow (ring cairn) ?	Esgair Graflwyn	SN83289665
4350	Cist ?	Cae yr Hen Eglwys Cist	SH825005
4360	Round barrow (cairn)	Banc Llechwedd Mawr Cairn II	SN77568988
4980	Round barrow (cairn)	Ty Coch Cairn	SN71279859
4981	Round barrow (cairn)	Twmpath y Crynwyr Cairn	SN71359753
5080	Round barrow	Moelfre Barrow	SN84809835
6164	Round barrow (cairn) ?	Lled Croen yr Ych Cairn	SH904006
16604	Round barrow (ring cairn)	Mynydd Llest Fach ring cairn	SH89850801
16605	Round barrow (cairn)	Mynydd Llest Fach cairn I	SH90030831
34009	Round barrow (cairn) ?	Mynydd y Cemmes cairn III	SH87000751
34997	Round barrow (cairn) ?	Mynydd y Cemmes cairn I	SH86770692
34998	Round barrow (cairn) ?	Mynydd y Cemmes cist	SH86750696
34999	Round barrow (cairn) ?	Mynydd y Cemmes cairn II	SH86750692
70250	Standing stone	Coed Glyntwymyn Stone	SH84150434
81264	Round barrow (cairn) ?	Banc Llechwedd Mawr Cairn	SN77778924
81266	Stone row	Banc Llechwedd Mawr Stone Row	SN78088944
81279	Round barrow cemetery (pair)	Carn Gwilym round barrow cemetery	SN79249084
81280	Round barrow cemetery (pair)	Banc Llechwedd Mawr Round barrow cemetery	SN77558985
81283	Standing stone	Meini Llwydion standing stone II	SH82690058
81284	Prehistoric monument complex	Cerrig Caerau prehistoric monument complex	SH90280050
81287	Round barrow (cairn)	Mynydd Llest Fach cairn II	SH89840816
81288	Round barrow (cairn)	Mynydd Llest Fach cairn III	SH90040823