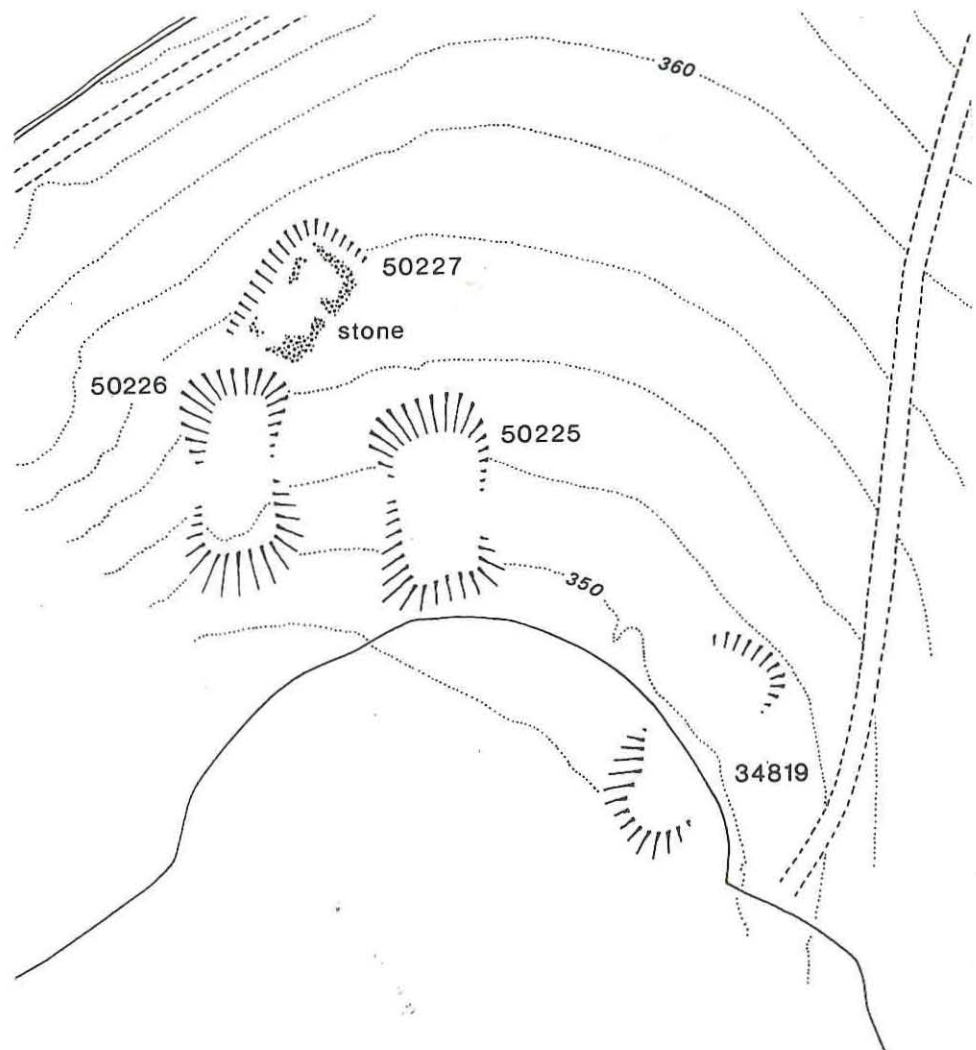


*Deserted Medieval and Later Rural
Settlements in Radnorshire*



CPAT Report No 227

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FIELD ASSESSMENT

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May 1997

Report for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

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MEDIEVAL AND LATER DESERTED RURAL SETTLEMENT IN RADNORSHIRE

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Some classes of monument in the archaeological record have generated considerable investigation and discussion over the last few decades, others have been largely ignored. In the first category we can put hillforts, and barrows and cairns, for both of which there is an extensive literature embracing almost all regions of Wales. In contrast sites and features that represent former rural dwellings of the medieval and earlier post-medieval periods, though potentially amongst the most numerous of archaeological remains, have received comparatively little attention. A combination of factors is likely to account for this lack of interest: prehistoric sites have, until recent years, always been more attractive as foci of research and excavation; there is a considerably longer tradition of curiosity about hillforts, cairns and the like stretching back beyond the 19th century, while medieval house sites have never flexed the antiquarian imagination; and hillforts and cairns are more readily distinguishable in the landscape and ostensibly more intelligible than their domestic medieval counterparts.
- 1.2 Nevertheless, over the last thirty years the basic identification and recording of medieval rural sites has maintained some momentum, often through the medium of fieldwork projects, with the result that the regional and national archaeological Records in Wales have built up an extensive yet heterogeneous collection of data relevant to their study. With a few obvious exceptions, assessment and analysis of this data have, however, been noticeably sparse.
- 1.3 In 1995-96, the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) was grant-aided by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments to conduct a pilot study of around one hundred sites across their region 'to review the current state of knowledge of the resource, establish a methodology for recording, examining and evaluating such sites, and examine ways in which certain sites might be selected for enhanced protection and management including scheduling as monuments of national importance' (GAT 1996, 2). Modifications to the initial methodology occurred during the pilot study as the practical elements were tested, and these together with a summary of the results were considered in a substantial report in March 1996 (GAT 1996).
- 1.4 The results of the Gwynedd pilot study were sufficiently encouraging for Cadw to offer GAT further funding in 1996-97 for a full assessment of Anglesey and western Caernarvonshire, and to fund comparable rural settlement surveys in Powys and Ceredigion, by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and Dyfed Archaeological Trust respectively. A reasonable degree of compatibility between the three surveys was envisaged, and during the course of the year the officers supervising the individual Trust projects met on several occasions to consider progress and discuss problems and initiatives. The Project Design as submitted in revised form to Cadw in March 1996 is included in this report as Appendix 1.
- 1.5 The present report offers an analysis of CPAT's 1996-97 survey in central Powys. It is complemented by a substantive database of which only an abstract is provided here as Appendix 3.

2 Background History to the Study in Central Wales

- 2.1 The earliest 1:2500-scale Ordnance Survey map of the Wye Valley above Rhaeadr in western Radnorshire, published in 1889, depicts a rectangular terrace on Dyrysgol (PRN 4457) together with the legend *Chapel (site of)*. With the similarly depicted *Hospitium* above the upper Vyrnwy valley in Montgomeryshire (1887) it reveals that 19th-century Government surveyors occasionally mapped abandoned medieval rural sites. But these two sites were wholly exceptional, the products of local and probably long-lived traditions attached to specific earthworks, which the surveyors mapped relatively accurately though perhaps without much comprehension. While the *Hospitium* later made an appearance in the Royal Commission's volume on Montgomeryshire (RCAHMW 1911, 134), the companion volume for Radnorshire had no reference to Dyrysgol but did record the classic platform-house settlement at Beili Bedw (PRN 1666) as 'a confused mass of earthworks - mounds, banks and enclosures -... which from superficial observation only, it is difficult to arrive at any conclusion concerning their origin. It seems evident that they were not thrown up for military purposes, and they may possibly be due to agricultural operations' (RCAHMW 1913, 143).

Such a statement reflects more on the then current state of knowledge than it does on the earthworks of Beili Bedw.

- 2.2 It was not until Cyril and Aileen Fox's pioneering work on sites in Glamorganshire (Fox and Fox 1934; Fox 1937) that platform sites began to emerge as a specific monument type. Cyril Fox followed these south Wales studies with an assessment of the Dyrsgol site (Fox 1939), and later of a series of platforms near Castell-y-Blaidd (PRN 2066 etc) in northern Radnorshire (Fox and Fox 1949).
- 2.3 In 1961 and 1962 Leslie Alcock excavated three platforms at Beili Bedw (Courtney 1991), each revealing a rectangular stone building, and two yielding pottery of the 15th-16th centuries. Since that time work in Powys has focused almost entirely on recognition and recording, initially by the Ordnance Survey and more recently by the Radnorshire Society, CPAT and others (see below, para 4.3.1). A general survey in 1968 encompassing deserted settlements throughout Wales revealed the limitations of research up to that date (Butler 1971), and the situation has not altered markedly since that time.
- 2.4 Research on seasonally occupied sites has also been limited. R.U.Sayce's early papers (1956 & 1957) were concerned with the concepts of transhumance and *hafotai* rather than the physical remains and their distribution. More recently Elwyn Davies (1980, 1984-5) has examined distribution patterns and function in a more topographically oriented set of analyses. Again no excavation and relatively little focused fieldwork has occurred in central Wales, though Ward's work in the Black Mountain region of eastern Carmarthenshire will be of considerable value when finally published.

3 Scope of the Study

- 3.1 *The Geographical Area* The central region of Powys conforming to the old county of Radnorshire was selected for this preliminary study (Fig 1). It forms an appropriately sized land block with the Wye valley establishing a natural boundary on the south and all but a little of the west, and the English border utilising the Teme valley on the east. One of the smallest of the historic counties of Wales, it extends across an area of some 474 square miles and is essentially a rural region with even the largest town, Llandrindod Wells, having a population of no more than 5000 (RDC 1993, 3). Two-thirds of the area can be broadly classed as upland with more than half the land over 1000 ft (305m) OD. A distinctive feature is the large number of individual tracts of upland common, frequently separated by deep valleys that shelter the small settlements whose names have frequently been adopted by the commons, implying association and use in the medieval era. These commons play a particularly significant role in the identification and survival of deserted settlement sites.
- 3.2 *Site Types* CPAT has followed GAT's approach in defining the monument types to be included in the survey. Their scoping definition stated: '*any site which represents the remains of a deserted rural settlement, post-Roman and pre-nineteenth century in date, which is characterised by the ruined remains of a stone-built structure (or structures) which is rectangular in plan and/or the presence of a rectangular, levelled platform which probably formerly held a building, and which does not appear to belong more properly to another monument class (e.g. barn, cottage, farm)..*' GAT Interim Statement of Background and Methodology: December 1995).
- 3.3 There is, however, one departure from this definition. Excluded from the study are the very large number of new farmsteads and cottages which were or appear to have been established on the commons and waste in the 17th and 18th centuries. Some of these were already on the SMR but many more - almost certainly extending to hundreds - that could be distinguished on early Ordnance Survey, tithe and estate maps. It was considered impracticable to incorporate these in the present study.

4 Methodology and Aims of the Study

- 4.1 The approach adopted for the study of deserted rural settlement sites in Radnorshire follows that used by GAT in their pilot study in Gwynedd, and this in turn was based on the logical and fairly standard system used generally for monument assessments throughout the Principality, namely:

- i) desk-top analysis of the resource
- ii) assessment in the field
- iii) evaluation of data from i) and ii)
- iv) report preparation and input into SMR

- 4.2 *Desk-top analysis* This encompassed as wide a variety of data sources as seemed appropriate at the commencement of the project (for which see below, Section 6). These sources, however, were utilised in different ways, some searched as thoroughly as possible (e.g. the SMR and NMR), others only sampled (e.g. vertical aerial photography). A free-standing database was established to hold all information from both the desk-top analysis and the fieldwork; it covered those sites which were deemed to be invalid for this particular study as a result of further work as well as those relevant to the survey. This was maintained through the duration of the survey and provides the data for the gazetteer in this report as well as the analyses that follow. It was designed to facilitate feedback to the regional SMR.
- 4.3.1 *Fieldwork* A sample of the sites identified in the desk-top study were visited in the field. The sample was not statistically random but was affected by a number of constraints including accessibility, land ownership determination, geographical spread and the need to optimise returns during fieldwork. Field visits were planned on the requirement of four sites per day when averaged out, and for this reason a group of sites one mile from the nearest road was more likely to receive a visit than a single site at the same distance. Individual sites whether earthwork platforms or stone-built structures were treated individually, so a single settlement site might yield several records. However, initially small platforms subsidiary to larger platforms lying adjacent were grouped and not treated individually, though during the course of the survey this was altered.
- 4.3.2 A set of *pro forma* sheets for site recording were prepared in advance of fieldwork, and were based with minor modifications on those prepared by GAT (a specimen set are included as Appendix 2, but for a detailed analysis see GAT 1996, 12-21). These forms were used for all authentic sites, and were supplemented by sketches and, where appropriate, colour and/or monochrome photography.
- 4.3.3 The programme also allowed for a small number of measured surveys of specific sites. These were made at the end of the project and the results are integrated in this report.
- 4.4 *Evaluation* The Radnorshire monuments were evaluated for the purposes of archaeological analysis, record enhancement and future management. This involved the interrogation of the database and the manipulation of the data within it. The fourth of the *pro forma* sheets covering scheduling assessments, was considered, though it should be noted here that the CPAT fieldworkers retain some reservations about its application.
- 4.5 *Report preparation and SMR input* The report was prepared at the end of the survey and is best regarded as a summary. Where considered appropriate or necessary (e.g. with reference to details on scheduling criteria), it refers to the detailed Gwynedd report (1996). Data from the Radnorshire study were passed to the regional SMR at the end of the project.

5 Aims of the Study

- 5.1 Four basic aims were envisaged at the initiation of the project.
- 5.2 GAT noted in their pilot study report that: “the nature of the resource in this instance, the monument type, was so varied and so little-understood, that some sort of basic classification [was] required. Sites have been inconsistently described and listed on the SMR and in evaluation reports, as ‘hut’, ‘long hut’, ‘platform’, ‘platform hut’, ‘platform house’, ‘house platform’, ‘house platform’, ‘hut platform’, ‘farmstead’, ‘homestead’ etc” (GAT 1996, section 2.1.2). What holds true for Gwynedd is equally pertinent to Radnorshire, and two of the fundamental aims of this study were to move towards a more systematic and useful classification of site types, and to standardise the terminology.
- 5.3 Quantification of the resource was another broad objective. Though it would be naive to assume that a realistic impression could be achieved for Radnorshire as a whole, some recent fieldwork programmes at least provide a working guide to the scale of the situation. Extrapolation from these specific surveys to Radnorshire as a whole might be possible, but has not been attempted in this report.

- 5.4 A further aim was to examine the current condition and test the reliability of the records that exist for a proportion of the extant sites. These have been compiled over several decades by a number of archaeologists, both professional and local, and the survey offered the opportunity to access the standard of individual records, both the descriptions and, in upland areas where control points are few, the precision with which they have been located. The enhancement of the regional SMR fell under the same generalised heading.
- 5.5 Finally focusing on the vulnerability of these sites and the threats to their continuing existence, the last objective centred on the future conservation and management of the more significant sites, primarily those visited during the field survey. Very few sites are currently scheduled and the survey offered an opportunity for scheduling enhancement of a monument class which is rarely examined as a entity.

6 Sources

- 6.1 *Regional SMR* This record housed in Welshpool underpins the whole survey. Using a number of potentially significant keywords for site type - barn, farmstead, hafod, house, hut, platform, platform house etc - to search the computerised database a large number of entries were identified which was then reduced by manual checking to around 170. These form what GAT has called the primary index. It is conceivable that a few relevant sites have been omitted because of an absence of relevant keywords from their entries, but the total is not likely to be significant. The variety of keywords referred to above is matched by the adequacy (or otherwise) of the free-text descriptions in the SMR which range from the precision of Ordnance Survey Field Investigators' reports to vague and uninformative two-word descriptions.
- 6.2 *NMR (Aberystwyth)* The 'Earthworks' files in the NMR were searched with some success, and a further 11 new sites were recorded in the notebooks of Richard Kay, a Herefordshire fieldworker, now lodged with the Royal Commission. It was unclear during the initial search whether the full results from recent survey work by the RCAHMW had found their way into the NMR. Certainly this did not appear to be the case with the West Radnorshire Survey for which a brief report in *Archaeology in Wales* offers the only available data (Brown and Percival 1992).
- 6.3 *Early Cartography* This was considered to be a potentially useful if largely untested source of data, depending on the date of the estate maps available. In general terms anything later than the 18th century is unlikely to be of much assistance, and even maps from that century are more likely to show the sites of post-medieval cottages than anything earlier. Sadly, for Radnorshire the ideal of 16th-century and 17th-century maps is not matched in practice. It is possibly the most impoverished county in Wales as far as estate maps are concerned. The National Library of Wales, the main source of early cartography for Powys, has only four 18th-century estate maps of the old county, all of them attributable to the second half of the century. That depicting Cefnlllys (c.1770) shows about six cottages or houses not on modern Ordnance Survey maps, but two of these whose ruins remain are certainly later post-medieval or early modern structures.
- 6.4 *Vertical aerial photography* A systematic search of the various collections of aerial photography that exist for Radnorshire was not possible because of the sheer quantity of accessible material in various repositories. However, a sample of late 1940s vertical photographs were examined in the archives of the Welsh Office and the Royal Commission at Aberystwyth. Both the quality and the quantity of the coverage varies considerably, but because total examination was out of the question, it was possible to select runs which were taken at optimum times of the year (e.g. the winter months when low sunlight throws earthworks into relief). The results emphasise the potential usefulness, particularly around the edges of the commons: of 29 new records, 6 were confirmed and 2 could not be located because of the vegetation. A further 6 were rejected for different reasons, e.g. the identification of quarry hollows as platforms and the recording of buildings of strictly post-medieval date. In passing it should also be noted that the search revealed a range of other sites such as pillow mounds, pounds and even a possible hillfort, of relevance to the SMR though not to the specific project.
- 6.5 *Oblique Aerial Photography* While much of the oblique photography in the CPAT and RCAHMW collections has been catalogued and the data accessed into the relevant records, recent flights by the RCAHMW had not been processed when the survey commenced. However, Chris Musson arranged access

to some of his uncatalogued material. As a result, 24 new sites were added to the database, many on remote parts of the commons. Five were confirmed in the field and one was rejected.

- 6.6.1 *Fieldwork* This method remains the most profitable method of identifying new sites and also the sole means of confirming and recording ones that have been generated by the other methods noted above. A significant number of new deserted rural settlement sites have been encountered during fieldwork trips to known sites. Some of these were discovered simply by assessing likely locations as with the long hut (PRN 34869) near the confluence of two streams by the ruins of Pant-y-llyn farm. Others were an extension of what was already known, e.g. a fourth platform on Aberedw Hill (PRN 33944) represents an addition to the three found during fieldwork of the late 1970s. Some 29 new sites have been discovered accidentally in this way.
- 6.6.2 Organised field survey programmes will inevitably generate new data. The Radnor Forest Survey (Owen 1992) recorded a useful number of new platforms and long huts, one dispersed group of platforms being of note not only because of the density but also because of their general location on north and north-east facing slopes. Concurrently with the Deserted Rural Settlement project, CPAT conducted an upland survey of a group of commons - Llanbedr, Glascwm and Rhulen Hills - in southern Radnorshire under the RCAHMS Uplands Initiative. It was not possible to integrate the results into the project database partly because of the timing and also because the level of recording adopted by the two programmes is rather different. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that around 30 new sites relevant to the current project were located during Uplands Initiative survey (see Section 13).
- 6.6.3 *Conclusions* There can be little doubt that the several sources of data referred to above have contributed considerably to the overall number of sites on the project database. Field discoveries and aerial photography have both added significant numbers of sites, and only early cartography is of little assistance. Because not all sites have been visited in the field accurate figures are impossible to obtain - a caveat which it will be necessary to refer to again - but assuming a minor margin of error, of 340 sites in the database, 84 or nearly 25% have been incorporated from sources other than the SMR and NMR.

Results

- 7.1 It was estimated in the original project design (Appendix 1) that an assessment of the sources might raise the 170 or so deserted rural settlement sites recorded in the Regional SMR to around 300 in all, and it was hoped that about 50% of these could be visited during the course of the project. In the event just over 340 sites were entered on the data base and it was possible to visit 226 (66%) of them. Figures from the RCAHMW-funded Radnorshire Hills Survey have been excluded (see Section 12).
- 7.2 Of the 342 sites, 167 were adjudged to be relevant to the project, 68 were rejected either because they were too recent in date or were interpreted as something other than rural settlement sites (e.g. pounds, quarries, folds etc), while 27 could not be located (because of subsequent destruction, imprecise records in the SMR etc) or the evidence on the ground appeared to be equivocal. The remaining 80 or so sites were not visited but on the basis of the available evidence they appear to be valid for the purposes of the study. Several better known sites were not visited. This included the scheduled site at Beili Bedw (SAM RD 129). Also a large proportion of the sites photographed for the first time by the RCAHMW in recent years were avoided, usually due to their remote locations. Nevertheless, it was assumed that the sites visited provided a reasonable cross-section of deserted medieval settlements in rural Radnorshire.
- 7.3 A bias in the dating, impossible to circumvent, is that of location. A large majority of the sites are in the uplands, in many cases on open moorland and common, in others on upland now enclosed. The number of sites in lowland locations - in valleys and in the lower lands in the eastern part of the county is small. A range of reasons can be adduced for this bias. The uplands have attracted more survey and research in the last 30 years, sites are much more likely to be well-preserved in the uplands than in the more intensively farmed lowlands where the chances of total destruction are much greater, and at the same time there is a great likelihood of site continuity in the lowlands with modern farms occupying the sites of their medieval predecessors. Indeed, it can be argued with some justification that those sites at higher altitudes and in a better state of preservation are the failures in the rural settlement pattern - the successful sites will be much more difficult to detect. Whether this introduces a further bias into the enquiry, implying that those at lower altitudes might also have developed in different ways is an aspect which can only be touched upon here but not assessed in any detail.
- 7.4 A further consideration is the question as to where village settlement gives way to rural settlement. Nucleation is not necessarily the issue here. Small nucleated groups of house platforms exist throughout the county, and Beili Bedw (PRN 1666) which reportedly had fifteen platforms (Courtney 1991, 250) was at one stage supposed to be the largest known agglomeration of platforms in the country. But the site of Beili Bedw is totally deserted and cannot be excluded from the analysis. CPAT's Historic Settlement Survey of Radnorshire (Silvester 1994) identified platform sites in the vicinity of more than a dozen modern villages. In places like New Radnor the 'urban' nature of these desertions is not in doubt, and even in a village like Kinnerton (Jones and Owen 1996, 5), the earthwork evidence points to a shrunken settlement. But at Glaschwym the platforms are spread out along the valley sides away from though within site of the church, which itself is 250m from the heart of the present village to the east. And there are more platforms - the Gellidywyll Hill group (PRNs 33998-99; 50331-5) - 1400m to the west, at least one (PRN 34823) 900m to the north-east and another (PRN 17717) less than 1500m to the north. It is not possible to determine with any objectivity at what point the village of Glaschwym stops and the rural settlement of the parish begins; rather there is a continuum. What is apparent is that the peculiar topography of Glaschwym has resulted in the identification of more archaeology in recent assessments than the average Radnorshire village, yet there is presently no reason to think that the village was exceptional in the medieval period (though this may not hold true for the early medieval period when there was a *clas* here).

8 Nomenclature

- 8.1 A specific concern of this project when it was set up was the terminology used in the SMR to describe deserted rural settlement sites (see above, Section 5). The Powys SMR adopts a variety of terms in its 'site-type' field resulting from piecemeal submission and input of data from a variety of sources spread over many years. Terms used as site types in the SMR include: hafod, hut, house, structure, building, farmstead, farm, barn, longhouse, house platform, platform house, platform, enclosure and earthwork.

Additional variations such as hafodty, long hut, long-house house terrace and hut platform appear in free-text descriptions appended to each site record.

- 8.2 Regardless of whether these terms are adopted in the SMR or are encountered in the context of field recording and description, they fall into three categories. Firstly there are the purely descriptive terms such as earthwork and structure. Secondly there are interpretative terms which may have reasonably specific chronological, functional or socio-economic implications. Examples in this category are longhouse, platform house and hafod. Thirdly there are intermediate terms carrying broad implications about function and use: hut, house, platform and long hut.
- 8.3 Potentially, the interpretative terms pose the most problems. The term long-house has a specific meaning in vernacular architecture first coined in Wales (Peate 1940; and see for example Wiliam 1992), but field evidence is rarely sufficiently precise to allow an unequivocal interpretation. Yet there is a tendency to adopt the term - and the writer must admit his own culpability here (Silvester 1991, 12) - wherever a long rectangular building is identified, regardless of whether the physical characteristics point to a sub-divided building that might have housed both humans and animals (see Alcock and Smith 1972). Hafod as a label is used indiscriminately for many smaller rectangular buildings, particularly in the uplands, and regardless of whether they are associated with enclosures or other structures, but with the fundamental assumption that they were occupied on a seasonal basis. However, much remains to be elucidated about the workings and chronology of the summer pasturing system and the types of building that resulted from this use of the uplands. Even the terms are not used exclusively or consistently for hafod can refer to both building and area of land as Davies pointed out some years ago (1980, 4), while there is disagreement about the nature of a hafod as is shown by the different viewpoints on the only excavated hafod group in Wales, that in the Brenig valley (cf the views of the excavator, David Allen [1979] with those of Stephen Briggs [1985]).
- 8.4 The use of 'platform house' also introduces problems, for it is implicit that a simple earthwork platform so described originally had a dwelling constructed on it, and by extension that the building was a permanent one. Such arguments cannot of course be sustained. Colin Gresham in a seminal article on such sites in north-west Wales did intimate that platform sites could be permanently or seasonally occupied (1954, 39), though one senses that this dichotomy has been overlooked by some later commentators. But Gresham also tended to class every platform as a platform house, and this unhelpful generalisation has influenced more recent thinking.
- 8.5 The simple descriptive terms such as earthwork and structure are less likely to be misleading but their very generality is not particularly useful. The intermediate group of terms such as long hut and platform are more specific, and as most of the platforms are terraced to a greater or lesser extent into hillsides, the term 'terraced platform' has been coined. Long hut as a term has the advantage of distinguishing such sites from the round huts and round houses of prehistoric date and providing integrity but not interpretation to an extensive group of features of medieval and later date.
- 8.6 The use of specific interpretative terms is best avoided, unless there is demonstrable evidence in favour of such an definition. There is, however, nothing to prevent such terms being introduced into free-text descriptions in the SMR or elsewhere as long as it is clear that it is the field recorder's interpretation and not a hard and fast classification, nor should they be excluded from general discussion on the problems and potential of medieval and later rural settlement. But the intermediate terms used above are considered to be the more useful for site-specific reports, and as descriptors they are used throughout this report.

9 Site Morphology

- 9.1 The analysis of morphology that follows is based on the sample of over 160 sites examined in Radnorshire together with an assessment of around 80 sites for which records exist but which have not been visited. In the study area there is a surprising uniformity in the surface appearance of the sites discussed in this study. In essence only two basic forms can be identified: the terraced platform and the long hut. These can be sub-divided though whether in any meaningful way is an aspect that needs to be addressed. Also there are one or two atypical sites/groups which stand alone.
- 9.2.1 *Terraced platforms and platforms* In discussing the morphology of deserted rural settlements, we are effectively introducing an anomaly by placing platforms and long huts side by side. While the long hut

represents the structure itself, the platform is of course no more than the artificially constructed base on which such a structure might be built, and in many instances it is only an assumption, albeit a quite reasonable one, that such a building existed. Nevertheless, platforms lacking any clear evidence of surface features form a large majority, over 100 having been confirmed to date.

- 9.2.2 Most common are those which are cut back into a natural slope, the spoil from this operation being thrown forward to level out a platform at the front as the ground falls away. For convenience, we have termed the artificial scarp at the rear the 'fan', the artificial slope at the front, the apron'. Collectively where fan or fan and apron are present we have termed these sites 'terraced platforms'. Where the whole earthwork is raised - a rarity, in Radnorshire at least - or where the description of an unvisited site is ambivalent, the simple term 'platform' has been adopted. Both are preferable, we believe to 'platform house' (see above, Section 8.4).
- 9.2.3 Platform size exhibits considerable variation. In overall dimensions several are over 30m long, one of the pair at Cwm y Bont (PRN 6084) at 34m long by 17.4m wide being the longest. The length of the actual platform, 26m, is also the longest but there are several others over 20m. At the other end of the scale some platforms are particularly small; one of those at Castell y Blaidd (Fig 3) has a level platform no more than 5m long and 2m wide (PRN 33987). The depth of the fan and height of the apron are largely a function of the natural slope, with the steeper the landfall, the bigger the earthwork. Most have a fan between 1m-2m, but the cutting of one on the north-eastern edge of Radnor Forest had a vertical height estimated to be 6.6m (PRN 6853). The height of the apron is usually less than its corresponding fan, and on occasions where poorly developed, there is little to distinguish it from the natural slope of the ground.
- 9.2.4 The common denominator here is the fact that every one of the terraced platforms is sunk into a hillslope. In a region of such undulating topography, it is inevitable that many sites were established in this manner. Furthermore, such a position may improve shelter and aid drainage, though it is noticeable that relatively few Radnorshire terraced platforms have hoods, the curved bank thrown up above the fan to deflect water which is apparently a common feature of house platforms in north-west Wales (Gresham 1954, 22). However, there is a self-perpetuating argument here. Those house sites on flattish ground will not require a terraced earthwork, and as it is the latter in many instances that identifies the site, it follows that a unknown number of house sites remain to be recognised. Given that a large number of terraced platforms show no traces of a structure on them, it is salutary to consider whether an unknown and unknowable proportion of deserted house sites could be detected at all on the ground.
- 9.2.5 There are cases where the ground has been built up to provide a platform, though examples are relatively few, perhaps no more than a dozen amongst the sites visited in Radnorshire. Earthworks on the edge of Kinnerton village fall within this category (PRNs 33032, 33033; Jones and Owen 1996, 9) as does one of the earthworks on Penybont Common (PRN 6726; Fig 00), but in all these cases the platforms run out from the natural slope and are artificially raised on only two or three sides. In effect these are variations on a common type, lacking the fan at the rear but retaining the front apron.
- 9.2.6 The vast majority of platforms, whether terraced or not, lie at right-angles to the contours of the land. Such is the predominance of this setting that it might be considered as a morphological determinant. Occasional exceptions are encountered with platforms set diagonally across the slope. For instance, one platform at Caer Fawr (PRN 50227; Fig 4) is set at an angle of around 30° to the contours, and there are about eleven recorded examples where platforms are set askew at angles of around 45°. More common are terraced sites lying along the contours but some at least of these can be shown to be later sites that fall outside this study. Two terraced platforms (PRN 2060) lying along the slope in forestry near Abbeycwmhir can be linked to a farm called Berries: all traces of the buildings have gone yet it was still shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1905. Similarly, PRN 34829 is a rectangular building sitting on a terrace above a stream in Llanbister. Though only its lowest foundations remain, in form it is more immediately reminiscent of post-medieval cottages and small farmsteads, and an ancillary structure in a similar location a short distance to the south strengthens the interpretation. There are others, however, where an earlier date is more plausible. The Cwm-twrch enclosure (PRN 34817) which must be medieval or early post-medieval, contains several definite or possible platforms which run along the contours. But it should be stressed that this is unusual and as a general rule platforms that are set across the slope should be examined and assessed on a case by case basis.
- 9.3.1 *Long Huts* By definition these are normally rectangular and as noted above the site type represents the building or structure rather than the setting prepared for it. Most of the buildings show a simple

rectangular outline, but less commonly there are visible divisions or partitions, and obvious or presumed entrances. Information on these morphological details has been entered on the record sheets and database but it is not proposed to consider this aspect here.

- 9.3.2 The number of sites in this category is surprisingly small - no more than 20 - and is almost certainly an inadequate reflection of the number that still exist, particularly in the more mountainous regions of Radnorshire. One bias which has certainly affected the total is that such structures often lie in remote areas and would require an inordinate amount of time to visit (see above). The 1993/94 survey undertaken by CPAT in the Breconshire portion of the Elan Valley exemplifies this very well: two groupings of long huts were identified but in addition individual long huts were recorded in the most remote valleys examined during the work: the Rhiwnant yielded three (PRNs 16580, 16581 and 16582) spread out along the base of its steep-sided valley and well away from any other indicators of human activity (Silvester 1994b).
- 9.3.3 Long huts have a considerable size range, and on this basis alone some variation in function might be anticipated. The longest recorded example (PRN 33948) is in the Marteg valley near Rhaiadr with external measurements of 27.4m by 6.4m, and at least four compartments. Only one other (PRN 21585) is over 20m long. At the opposite end of the scale PRN 4190 is only 6.5m long and 2.7m wide. The majority of those visited in the field lie between 10m-15m.
- 9.4.1 *Platforms with Long Huts* Occasionally terraced platforms do display the remains of buildings, though classifying them separately is misleading because as pointed out above, the vast majority of platforms would originally have supported structures of one form or another. Thus, their topographical modification apart, there is no reason to consider the buildings in different terms from those on flat ground.
- 9.4.2 Twenty-eight have been recognised during fieldwork. Where traces of such structures survive they are often fragmentary. One of the Treforgan platforms (PRN 6846) displays only the west wall foundations of a building, with only surface irregularities elsewhere. The platform at Pant-y-Ilyn (PRN 4089) has the rear of the building showing but the front half has largely disappeared, a similar disruption occurring at the Rhewl platform (PRN 33923) where the surviving side walls run from the rear of the platform but fade out at just over 9m though the base of the platform is at least 15m long. Where the complete building plan survives, the same variation in size as the ordinary long huts is in evidence. Exceptional is PRN 33949 in the Marteg Valley where the building lies along the slope and is 35m long; so unusual is this dimension that it is conceivable that two buildings have been put end to end, on a terrace excavated to size. But there are others around 20m in length such as one on Aberedw Hill (PRN 3796) as well as much smaller examples. Bwlchgwyn Rocks Longhouse (PRN 33953) has orthostats for the inner wall faces and for a partition, in contrast to the normal stony banks, but has a maximum length of less than 9.4m with a width of 4m; one of the sites near Castell y Blaidd (PRN 33983) is even smaller with external dimensions of only 7m by 5m..
- 9.5.1 *Miscellaneous* Amongst the large number of sites considered here a few that cannot be easily accommodated in the classes outlined above.
- 9.5.2 PRN 7046 has been classed as a 'bipartite longhouse' in the SMR but seems to consist primarily of a rectangular platform defined by a continuous gully with low external banks on two opposing sides. While this does not fit within the existing classification it seems likely that in functional terms it is but a variation on a broader theme, the platform providing a base for a building and enclosed within a drainage ditch.
- 9.5.3 PRN 23101 is a long enclosure with banks less than 0.5m high but a overall length of 19.2m and a width of 8.5m (externally). One end is almost impossible to detect, the other has what appears to be a central entrance formed by earthwork 'arms' running not at right-angles off the long sides but curving off at an oblique angle. While it is possible that such a width could have been roofed, the curiosity of the short side with its apparent entrance sets it apart, and there must be some doubt that it is a structure at all - for a photograph see Musson 1994, 149. Grouped with this is PRN 34864 on Bryngwyn Common, a long earthwork enclosure about 18.9m in overall length and 9.7m in width. This has a gully outside the bank on three sides, a small stream forming the fourth side; there are disturbances in the two long sides that could be entrances but it is more likely that the gap in the short, east end is the original access. As with the previous example, it is not certain that this was ever a roofed structure.

10 Associations

- 10.1 Association can take two forms, either where a settlement site has a perceived spatial relationship with another of like type, or where there are ancillary features tied in to its function. The absence of association should be assessed with care, and caution needs to be applied to all sites lacking obvious associations: a lack of comprehensive fieldwork in the immediate area is only the most obvious reason why a site appears to be in isolation.
- 10.2 This caveat apart there are only about 15 sites which appear to be without any obvious association whatsoever. Some are long huts but there are a number of terraced platforms as well. However, about 40 can be classed as solitary deserted settlements, at least several hundred metres from their nearest neighbours. Four such sites are to be found in adjacent valleys on the Radnor Forest massif. Two stone-walled huts (PRNs 6843 and 6864) are sited on or near the valley floor whilst two terraced platforms (PRNs 6870 and 33957) occupy steep valley sides; none is within 300m of its nearest neighbour.
- 10.3 Dispersed settlement sites are relatively common. A number of platforms have been recognised from aerial photographs on common land between Llanbister and Llangunllo where it tips downs to a pass between the hills. Some of these are paired platforms, others are spread out but generally are close enough to indicate a dispersed pattern around the edge of the common, and it seems very likely that more remain to be found through more detailed field examination. An even better example is offered by the numerous platforms overlooking Cwm Merwys, which runs off the north side of Radnor Forest (Fig 2). At least thirteen platforms have been observed, without exception surviving in enclosed grassland, though most have been subject to greater or lesser damage during improvement. None form nucleated groups, most are dispersed.
- 10.4 Paired sites have been recognised, all of them platforms. One platform may be larger than the other (e.g. PRNs 6480 on Bryngwyn Hill, 5216 above Cwm-y-bont, and 34835 and 34836 to the east of Llanbister) but in some cases the platforms are of similar size (PRNs 34840 and 34842, and 34832, all on the common land between Llanbister and Llangunllo). However, in all only five pairs have been checked in the field.
- 10.5 Larger groups of sites are rather more common, though none can compare with Beili Bedw with its fifteen platforms. Several have been surveyed: Bank House (PRNs 33939-33942; Fig 5) and Cwm-brith (PRNs 34873, 33943, 50244, and 50246-50347; Fig 6) within a short distance of each other near Llandrindod, Caer Fawr above Llanellwedd (PRNs 34819 and 50225-50227; Fig 4), Penybont Common (PRNs 6726, 33871, 33928 and 34872; Fig 7), and Castell-y-blaidd (PRNs 33984-33987; Fig 3). In addition there is a linear grouping of sites on Aberedw Hill (PRN 50313-50315), near Llynheilyn where there are three badly platforms (PRNs 33938 and 50135-50136), and groups on Little Hill near Glascwm (PRNs 33998-33999, 50331-50334) and on the eastern flank of Gwaunceste Hill (PRNs 50299-50302). At Gwernyrargllwydd, land known to the owner as 'the old village field' contains several sites including long huts (PRNs 4450, 4451, 33947 and 50349), and a platform (PRN 50350). What emerges from this is a consistency in the general size of the groups, all having between three and five platforms and/or long huts, and reinforcing the belief that Beili Bedw is exceptional.
- 10.6 Deserted settlements within or pendant to their own enclosures are also fairly frequent, and around 25 have been visited in the field. Some of these are of relatively simple form such as PRN 6728 on Penybont Common where a small platform is associated with an arcing bank and ditch which runs from the edge of a scarp to a stream gully, effectively forming an enclosure. Amongst the numerous dispersed platforms on the north-east flank of Radnor Forest is PRN 6845 which comprises an enclosure again butting on to a scarp slope above a stream, this one containing a main platform together with what appears to be a smaller subsidiary terrace. A complex near Graig (PRN 2096) has a platform and to one side of it the remnants of a long hut; the bank of a D-shaped enclosure runs up to the former but agricultural improvements have erased some of the significant archaeology. The sub-rectangular enclosure known as Cwm-twrch (PRN 34817) contains complex earthworks representing not only platforms but perhaps paddocks or the like, some of which are more obvious than others; though apparently all of one period, the analysis of the earthwork pattern is more complicated here than on many sites.
- 10.7 More complex settlements integrate not only other possible building sites and also enclosures, but boundaries, pounds and fields. Cwm-twrch (PRN 34817), above, may fall into this class for there are boundaries running up to it, but its location on the edge of the reclaimed zone confuses the original pattern. Fron Top above Llanbadarn Fynydd can be cited as an exemplar of the more complex patterns

that are encountered. The more westerly of two long-huts (PRN 7039) comprises a twin-compartmented structure with a protective bank along its north side and an enclosure around it on the south. Outside the enclosure is ridge and furrow. Two hundred metres to the east is a second long-hut (PRN 7040), this one much disturbed by burrowing animals. Again there are two compartments to the building and there is an enclosure surrounding it, though this is large and may itself lie at the centre of a group of small fields or paddocks. Ridge and furrow lies outside and there are suggestions that two phases of ridging are involved.

- 10.8 Ridge and furrow is a not uncommon association with long huts and platforms, but fields are much rarer. The only confirmed grouping is that on Penybont Common where several platforms (Fig 7) appear to be associated with a minimum of five strip fields containing fairly closely spaced ridges on the interfluvial spur above.

11 Chronology

- 11.1 Assigning a date to these deserted settlement sites is near impossible. The only excavated platform sites - at Beili Bedw - seem to have been occupied during and perhaps throughout the 15th-16th centuries, with a faint possibility that they could extend a few decades either side of this period (Courtney 1991, 241). But this need not necessarily indicate a similarly restricted date range for the settlement as a whole - as noted above there are possibly fifteen platforms at Beili Bedw, and those that were excavated are not at the heart of the settlement - and on the basis of current knowledge it is an exceptionally large and perhaps atypical settlement.
- 11.2 A second approach to establishing a chronology might be through historical documentation. A conscious decision was taken at the beginning of the project not to investigate the historical dimension of rural sites in Radnorshire. The writer is unaware of substantial medieval sources to compare for example, with the 14th-century Extents of Bromfield and Yale, and of Chirk. Courtney was unable to find any documentary evidence for Beili Bedw and also warned against the uncritical use of historical sources (1991, 244), though a generation earlier Gresham had felt able to link some of his platform houses to sites mentioned in historic sources (1954, 36ff). It remains to be established whether south-east Caernarvonshire is exceptional or if Gresham was over ambitious in positing such links. Notwithstanding this issue, it was felt that for Radnorshire, a detailed examination of the sources was not an appropriate use of limited resources.
- 11.3 The third approach is by comparison with analogous settlements elsewhere, but here the sparsity of well dated sites throughout Wales is a continued handicap. On the basis of a small number of excavated sites in the south and north-west of Wales, some platform sites can be attributed to the 13th and 14th centuries, and overall a broad medieval date is quite possible. But there is a growing awareness that apparently simple earthwork or stone-built sites could date from anytime from the early medieval era through to the post-medieval centuries - and this is something recognised in other regions such as Scotland where the acronym MOLRS has been promoted to stand for medieval or later rural settlement.
- 11.4 For the Radnorshire sites, there is virtually no concrete evidence to hand. The large number of platform sites around the edge of the commons are undated, but none has been recognised on 19th-century maps, and post-medieval/early modern enclosures on the waste are frequently in other locations. This cannot be taken as evidence that the platforms are not post-medieval, simply that by the time of widespread mapping they were no longer in use or recognised as former settlements. Many must be of medieval origin, others could have continued or even come into existence at a later date. Much the same is true of the stone-built rectangular structures in the uplands. Going further back in time the nature of early medieval settlement is a complete mystery and there is no way of knowing whether settlements of that era have left any visible surface traces.

12 The Radnorshire Hills Survey

- 12.1 It was coincidence rather than design that led to the Trust's successful application for Royal Commission grant-in-aid under the Uplands Initiative to conduct a field survey of a block of upland common in southern Radnorshire (Hankinson and Silvester 1997). The entire block - ranging across a number of hills

including Glaschw, Rhulen, Llandeilo and Llanbedr Hills - covers in excess of 27 square kilometres, but the survey was able to accommodate little more than half that area.

- 12.2 Fieldwork was not completed until the end of March 1997 and it was neither practicable nor desirable in view of the incompatible level of recording to incorporate the results into the Radnorshire Rural Settlement Assessment. Nevertheless the results are of relevance, not least because the methodical survey provides data which are paralleled only by the survey of Radnor Forest (Owen 1992).
- 12.3 No deserted building sites or platforms had previously been recorded in any detail in the survey area though there were imprecise references to sites in this area in an early Radnorshire Society newsletter. Several abandoned post-medieval farm holdings enclosed from the waste were, however, depicted on modern Ordnance Survey maps, and platforms were known from adjacent commons.
- 12.4 That situation has been changed completely with the discovery of over thirty platform sites, ranging from single, isolated platforms (eg PRNs 35466 and 35499), pairs of adjacent platforms (eg PRNs 35410 and 35411; 35440 and 35441), and readily defined groups of perhaps four platforms such as those found between Red Hill and Allt Dderw (PRNs 35481-3 and 38311), and those to the west of Lettypod (PRNs 35398, 35401-2, 35404). Two of those near Lettypod appear to be related to an enclosure bank (PRN 35403); there is one possible association between ridge and furrow (PRN 35375) and a platform (which was covered by dense bracken and fell outside the survey area), and perhaps two others within 100m-150m; and there are a number of platforms associated with fields or field banks, revealing encroachment onto the common - good examples of this practice are PRNs 35396 and 35397, and PRNs 35413 and 35414.
- 12.5 A key element is the prevalence of platforms within 100m or so of the boundary of the common with the enclosed land below, only about three lying further into the common. But this needs to be qualified. The edge of the common in the survey area extends for nearly 33 kilometres but the survey area did not reach as far as the common's edge for nearly one third of that length. In consequence the number of platform sites in this single area is almost certainly under-represented in the record and it is quite plausible to extend the figure of 27 known sites to around a total of 40. The presence of so many platform sites in a relatively restricted area is of relevance in any discussion of function, but the hypothetical figure introduced above also has considerable, perhaps even fundamental, implications for our perception of the level of deserted rural settlement in the Radnorshire hills.

13 The Archaeological Resource

- 13.1 It was recognised at an early stage in the work programme that the distribution of relevant sites had a strong bias towards the uplands of the county with under-representation of the lower, more heavily farmed lower lands in the valleys (see Section 7.3). To quantify this objectively is not possible without access to data on altitude and land-use for the county as a whole. However, a coarse overview can be achieved by examining the altitude and geographical location of the sites themselves. Of 246 sites for which data are available, only 29 (11.7%) lie at or below 250m (820') OD and 186 (75.6%) are to be found above 300m (984') OD. And many below the 300m contour were located close to existing centres of settlement, their rural status open to debate (see above, Section 7.4). In a separate exercise sites were subjectively classified as to whether they were on common land, on improved upland or in improved lower land. More than 35% fell in the first category, nearly 45% in the second while less than 15% lay in the more heavily farmed lowlands.
- 13.2 There are obvious factors that influence the bias in this picture. Radnorshire is a hilly county with more than half the land above 305m OD (see Section 3.1). Valley farms are more likely to have seen continuous occupation from the medieval period, and the level of abandonment is always likely to have been significantly less than on more marginal lands at higher levels. Continuous farming too will have had a detrimental effect on the archaeology with greater likelihood of sites being completely erased from the landscape. Furthermore, on the flatter lower-lying ground, settlement sites are much less likely to leave substantial earthworks. And in practice access to upland areas, trends in fieldwork over the last few decades and the varied effect and usefulness of aerial photography have all encouraged the identification of deserted sites in those areas. Undoubtedly then the distribution pattern is biased, displaying the remains of less successful settlements and perhaps not reflecting the full range of settlement types that existed in Radnorshire during the medieval period.

- 13.3 With so many of the recorded sites on common land and in moorland valleys it might be thought that active management does not represent a priority. For many this is probably true, but even on common land there are pressures. In a moorland environment near Pant-y-llyn on the Elan Estate is a long hut set on a terraced platform with an enclosure to one side (PRN 4089). Because of the sheltered and level location a local grazier has chosen to put his feeding racks for stock on the platform, resulting in poaching and gradual diminution of the long hut foundations and to a lesser extent the platform. The establishment or modification of access tracks can also inflict damage. In the case of PRN 33900, a vehicular track across common land has scooped away the front of a terraced platform. Fortunately such occurrences are relatively rare. But there is no obvious mechanism for monitoring such a large number of sites on a regular basis, nor any method for determining in advance which sites are vulnerable to changing patterns of farming activity on the commons.
- 13.4 Sites on farmed land are necessarily more vulnerable, and the threats are equally insurmountable. Pasture improvement is almost certainly the biggest problem, as the group of platforms on the north-east side of Radnor Forest exemplifies (Fig 2). Some remain superficially in reasonably good condition though it seems probable that their stratigraphy has been disturbed or destroyed by ploughing (e.g. PRN 6848). Others are degraded to a point where it is not absolutely certain that they are the remnants of man-made platforms rather than fortuitous natural formations (e.g. PRN 33958). Other platforms have suffered from more invasive practices. One platform (PRN 33991) has had the front removed by the cutting for a track, while another (PRN 6844) has become a dumping ground for old fencing materials and acts as a natural gathering place for stock. Such is its condition that interpretation relies more on the presence of a surrounding enclosure than on the platform itself. Potentially, any rural settlement site in enclosed farmland is vulnerable, unless the farmer or landowner has deliberately decided to avoid a specific site (e.g. PRN 34817?); and again there is no obvious way of monitoring such agricultural practices and changes.
- 13.5 A more positive approach to the conservation of the resource is offered firstly by statutory protection and secondly by the fact that Radnorshire is designated an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). Currently only two sites - Beili Bedw and Nant Brook - are scheduled ancient monuments, a significant underrating of the frequency of this particular monument type. Section 14 carries recommendations for additional sites to be considered by Cadw. The ESA designation allows for the inclusion of conditions of an archaeological nature in drawing up management prescriptions, and this may enable some level of protection to be agreed for a limited number of sites. However, as the ESA agreements are confidential and the conditions are drawn up without recourse to professional archaeological advice, there is nothing to indicate that this is an effective mechanism for conserving archaeology.

14 Site Management

Currently only two sites - Beili Bedw and Nant Brook Enclosure - are scheduled. Below are listed another 9 sites which as a result of assessment during the site visit are thought to merit statutory protection and for this reason are recommended to Cadw for consideration. Appendix 4 lists the criteria for these recommendations.

Site name	PRN	Survey available	Owner known	Comments
Pant y Rhiw	3778			Well-preserved long hut on terrace in own enclosure
Cwm-brith Bank	33943 50244-7	*	*	Platform complex
Caer Fawr	34819 50225-7	*	*	Complex of four platforms
Aberedw Hill	3747 5334 3796		*	Hafotai; ?longhouse; platforms

	33944 50313-5			
Castell Tinboeth	3587 2066		*	Two terraced platforms
Cwm-twrch	34817		*	Enclosed platform
Castell y Blaidd	33984-7	*	*	Platform with enclosure
Penybont Common	6726 6728 34871-2 33928	*	*	Platforms, enclosure, fields
Village Field	4450-1 33947 50349-50		(*)	Long huts and associate features

15 Conclusions

- 15.1 Three key issues can usefully be raised in conclusion. Firstly, the degree of consistency in the appearance of deserted settlement sites should be emphasised. Platforms are a common occurrence and there is an assumption which may need to be modified as a result of excavation that many of those terraced into slopes are medieval in origin. Yet any river valley will display working farms where the farmhouse and the outbuildings are set on platforms and often terraced into the slope. Such platforms may have a long history - in favoured areas the site may first have been occupied in the medieval era if not earlier - but new platforms still appear regularly as new buildings are erected. The only trend that has been observed from the field evidence is that there has been a greater tendency over the last couple of centuries to build along the slope rather than across it.
- 15.2 Secondly it is quite clear that the number of sites recorded to date in Radnorshire is only a small proportion of those for which ground remains survive. The two intensive field surveys conducted by CPAT on Radnor Forest and on the common land of Rhulen, Llanbedr and Glaschw Hills have demonstrated the incidence of platform sites on higher ground, particularly at the interface between unimproved moorland and enclosed farmland; and limited sampling of aerial photography specifically for this study has confirmed the prevalence of previously unidentified sites. In view of the large amount of common land in Radnorshire it would be not unrealistic to assume that the actual number of platforms in these areas alone might total well over one thousand.
- 15.3 Thirdly, only two sites enjoy statutory protection. Compared with most other types of ancient monuments this is an extremely low figure and the two that are scheduled ancient monuments are hardly representative of the range of settlements that are found in Radnorshire.

16 Acknowledgements

- 16.1 Fieldwork and data entry was undertaken by Ms P. Frost and Mr R. Hankinson in addition to the writer. Assistance at the RCAHMW was provided by staff of the NMR and by Mr C. Musson, and at the Welsh Office by Mrs E. Hopkins. Farmers and landowners too numerous to record individually allowed access to their land.

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APPENDIX 1

Project Design: March 1996

APPENDIX 2

Deserted Rural Settlement Recording Forms

APPENDIX 3

Radnorshire Rural Settlement Site List

(See also Fig 8)

Deserted Rural Settlements in Radnorshire

PRN	Site Name	NGR	Site Type 1	Site Type 2	Visit Date
902	Dyrysgol Platform I	SN95107389	Terraced platform		
1666	Belli Bedw Deserted Village {S}	SN99627345	Deserted settlement		
2047	Newhouse Ford Hafod	SO08266029	Long hut		12/06/96
2066	Castell Tinboeth Platform II	SO09197553	Terraced platform		27/09/96
2096	Graig Longhouse	SO13345890	Long hut		20/06/96
2097	Graig Platform	SO13325880	Terraced platform		20/06/96
2117	Cwm Blaen Erw Platform I	SO10625141	Terraced platform		
2118	Cwm Blaen Erw Platform II	SO10725159	Terraced platform		
2122	Bryn Fron Goch Platforms	SO13435096	Terraced platform		
2131	Colva Hill Platform	SO19745485	Platform ?		
2484	Pentre Deserted Village	SO22105777	Deserted settlement		
2635	Bank House Platform V and enclosure	SO08446061	Terraced platform		24/03/97
2757	Garn Fawr Farmstead	SO10255763	Terraced platform		
2819	Pistyll Gwyn Platforms	SO02416150	Terraced platform		17/08/96
3587	Castell Tinboeth Platform House	SO09177553	Terraced platform	Long hut	27/09/96
3733	Blaen Methyn Hafod	SN88916597	Farmstead		
3741	Pant y Llyn Enclosure	SN93706903	Terraced platform	Long hut	13/03/97
3747	Aberedw Hill Hafod	SO08164994	Long hut		10/10/96
3759	Sarn Geufron Platform	SN91137155	Terraced platform		18/06/96
3761	Lluest Pen Rhiw Hafod	SN93107148	Long hut ?		
3764	Rhiw Riad Longhouse	SN96177177	Long hut		17/06/96
3778	Pant y Rhiw House Site and Enclosure	SO08085737	Terraced platform	Long hut	06/10/96
3796	Aberedw Hill Longhouse	SO08265007	Terraced platform	Long hut	10/10/96
4109	Bryn y Maen Platform	SO17605658	Terraced platform	Barn	
4119	Esgair y Ty Platform House	SN89757247	Terraced platform	Long hut	17/06/96
4125	Aberhenllan hafod?	SN89947225	Long hut		17/06/96
4127	Esgair Rhiwlan Longhouse	SN88537111	Long hut		
4147	Pen y Clawdd Platform	SO18797031	Terraced platform		
4164	Moel Dod Platform House	SO07797640	Terraced platform		
4190	Nant y Ffrwd Hut I	SN86486868	Long hut		17/06/96
4191	Nant y Ffrwd Hut III	SN86456862	Hut		17/06/96
4193	Esgair Gris Longhouse	SN88756847	Long hut		
4195	Nant Caletwr Farmstead I	SN86966890	Farmstead		17/06/96
4197	Llwydnant Enclosure	SN89556359	Long hut		
4249	Garth Platform	SO05315057	Platform		
4267	Pen Blaen Farmstead	SO103505	Platform	Farmstead	
4417	Little Hill Platform	SO07416031	Terraced platform		11/06/96
4450	Gwernarglwydd Farmstead	SO15135945	Long hut		20/06/96
4451	Gwernarglwydd Long House	SO15115932	Long hut		20/06/96
4457	Dyrysgol Platform II	SN95107387	Terraced platform		
5190	Llidiart Wen Farmstead	SN96747099	Farmstead ?		12/11/96
5216	Cwm y Bont Platform III	SO18885676	Terraced platform	Long hut	16/08/96
5334	Aberedw Hill Hafod II	SO08275001	Long hut		10/06/96
6084	Cwm y Bont Platform I	SO19065711	Terraced platform		19/08/96
6085	Cwm y Bont Platform II	SO19095714	Terraced platform		19/08/96
6465	Gaer Farm Hafodty	SO058520	Long hut		
6479	Bryngwyn Hill Platform II	SO17834986	Terraced platform		26/02/97
6480	Bryngwyn Hill Platform III	SO17864489	Terraced platform		26/02/97
6656	Cerriggywnion house platform	SN97326605	Terraced platform		
6687	Penybont Common platform	SO12756511	Terraced platform		
6690	Penybont Common platform	SO11656470	Terraced platform		
6703	Blaen y Bwlch hafod	SN95177341	Terraced platform		
6726	Penybont Common platform	SO12596413	Platform		13/06/96
6728	Penybont Common	SO12546460	Terraced platform		13/06/96
6829	Rhiwiau platform	SO15856192	Terraced platform		
6841	Newhouse Farm platform	SO23206527	Terraced platform		26/09/96

6843	Fron Wen platform	SO17306604	Platform		19/06/96
6844	Fron Wen platform	SO17246600	Terraced platform		19/06/96
6845	Cwm Merwys platform I	SO16856559	Terraced platform		25/06/96
6846	Treforgan platform	SO16336634	Terraced platform	Long hut	25/06/96
6847	Treforgan platform	SO16296627	Terraced platform		21/06/96
6848	Treforgan platform	SO16196617	Terraced platform		21/06/96
6851	Cwm Merwys platform II	SO16576603	Terraced platform		19/06/96
6852	Cwm Merwys platform III	SO16706583	Terraced platform		25/06/96
6853	Cwm Merwys platform IV	SO16676574	Terraced platform		21/06/96
6854	Cwm Merwys platform V	SO16496559	Terraced platform		25/06/96
6858	Cwm Merwys platform VIII	SO16476525	Terraced platform		25/06/96
6863	Cwm Merwys hafod	SO16726393	Long hut		28/06/96
6864	Cwm Merwys platform	SO17216386	Terraced platform		28/06/96
6870	Vronlase Dingle platform	SO16356328	Terraced platform		28/06/96
7039	Fron Top Longhouse II	SO11987920	Long hut		26/09/96
7040	Fron Top Longhouse I	SO11807918	Long hut		26/09/96
7042	Bongham Bank Farmstead	SO07516104	Long hut		13/06/96
7046	Craig Goch Hafod	SN90407132	Terraced platform		17/06/96
7933	Green Hollow	SO23867180	Terraced platform		
7938	Gors Cribin-llwyd	SO23457029	Platform		
16207	Lowes, earthworks I	SO19084177	Platform group		
16208	Lowes, earthwork III	SO19224189	Terraced platform		
16209	Lowes, earthworks II	SO19334174	Platform ?		
16210	Lowes, earthwork IV	SO19164195	Platform ?		
16215	Llanstephan platform	SO11854219	Platform ?		
16239	Llansantffraed in Elvel platform	SO09835463	Platform ?		
16258	Pilleth earthworks	SO25586824	Platform		
16280	Llanfihangel Nant Melan earthworks	SO17965820	Platform ?		
16289	Glascwm earthworks II	SO15585321	Platform		
16290	Glascwm Court Cottage Platform I	SO15775315	Terraced platform		27/02/97
16291	Glascwm earthworks IV	SO15585308	Terraced platform		
16293	Glascwm earthworks V	SO15645334	Terraced platform		
16294	Glascwm earthworks VII	SO15445326	Platform group		
16296	Ednol Platform I	SO23206476	Platform		24/09/96
17972	Moelfre Hill settlement	SO117762	Platform Group		
17988	Little Hill house platform II	SO07805962	Terraced platform		13/06/96
19185	Nantmel hut platform I	SO04096819	Platform	Long hut	
19186	Nantmel hut platform II	SO041682	Platform		
21585	Park Shed	SO05947225	Building		14/01/97
23101	Carneddau earthwork	SO07495426	Earthwork		10/10/96
23106	Carneddau hafod	SO05895307	Long hut		10/10/96
23290	Llanelwedd platform	SO058529	Platform		
23590	Tyrhydvellin house platform	SO02235538	Terraced platform	House	15/08/96
23591	Purgatory house site	SO02255527	Terraced platform		15/08/96
33003	Old Radnor earthworks, platform I	SO25224593	Platform		
33004	Old Radnor earthworks, platform II	SO25241593	Platform		
33005	Old Radnor earthworks, platform III	SO25222593	Terraced platform		
33006	Old Radnor earthworks, platform IV	SO25246593	Terraced platform		
33015	Old Llandrindod Settlement Platform 1	SO06516022	Terraced platform		23/08/96
33027	Kinnerton DMV Platform 7	SO24536305	Platform ?		12/12/96
33032	Kinnerton Farmstead Platform 1	SO24616308	Platform		12/12/96
33033	Kinnerton DMV Platform 6	SO24656308	Terraced platform		12/12/96
33034	Kinnerton Farmstead Platform 3	SO24666308	Platform		13/12/96
33048	Kinnerton DMV Platform 1	SO24596304	Platform		12/12/96
33049	Kinnerton DMV Platform 2	SO24586301	Platform		12/12/96
33050	Kinnerton DMV Platform 3	SO24576300	Platform		12/12/96
33055	Old Llandrindod Farmstead	SO06105970	Farmstead	Platform	23/08/96
33135	Old Radnor Community Centre platform	SO24925901	Terraced platform		07/03/97
33900	Dol-y-fran Platform I	SO15897435	Terraced platform		11/10/96
33902	Dol-y-fran Platform II	SO16017438	Terraced platform		11/10/96

33904	Cefn Goleu I	SN97017351	Platform	Enclosure	
33910	Yr Allt Earthworks	SO07847491	Enclosure	Platform ?	
33912	Banc y Dolau/Red Lion Hill House site	SO05717639	Shelter	Cairn	14/01/97
33914	Trellwydion Platform	SO09207312	Platform ?		
33915	Trellwydion North Platform	SO09087368	Platform ?		
33916	Coxhead Bank Platform	SO16227125	Platform		09/10/96
33918	Carneddau North Longhouse/Enclosure Site	SO07115557	Long hut		
33920	Carn-y-Gaseg Farmstead and enclosure	SO95317430	Farmstead	Enclosure	
33922	Camnant Platform	SO10285626	Platform ?	Quarry ?	
33923	Rhewl Platform	SO11366108	Terraced platform	Long hut	18/06/96
33925	Pant-y-rhiw platforms	SO07755735	Platform Group	Enclosure	
33928	Penybont Common Terrace	SO12616408	Terraced platform		13/06/96
33929	Penybont Common Terrace 2	SO12906417	Terraced platform		13/06/96
33930	Penybont Common Platform 3	SO118650	Platform ?		
33931	Harley Valley Building	SO19366208	Building		
33932	Bryn Camol Platform Site	SO05986859	Platform	Enclosure	
33933	Camlo Hill Platform Site	SO03177028	Platform ?	Quarry ?	
33935	Beilibedw Stream Long hut	SO17405605	Long hut		21/08/96
33936	Cwm Byr Long hut	SO16406080	Long hut		
33937	Fron Goch Platforms	SO15466043	Platform group		
33938	Llynheilyn Platform III	SO16615795	Terraced platform		11/06/96
33939	Bank House Platform I	SO08466044	Terraced platform		12/06/96
33940	Bank House Platform II	SO08456043	Terraced platform		12/06/96
33941	Bank House Platform III	SO08436039	Terraced platform		12/06/96
33942	Bank House Platform IV	SO08436038	Terraced platform		12/06/96
33943	Cwmbrith Bank Platform V	SO08646041	Terraced platform		11/06/96
33944	Aberedw Hill Platform IV	SO08284995	Terraced platform		10/06/96
33946	Graig Platform II	SO13355886	Terraced platform		20/06/96
33947	Gwernarglwydd House Site	SO15155928	Long hut		20/06/96
33948	Pont Marteg Longhouse II	SN95357150	Long hut		17/06/96
33949	Pont Marteg Longhouse I	SN95807147	Long hut		17/06/96
33953	Bwlchgwyn Rocks Longhouse	SN94287282	Long hut		17/06/96
33954	Blaen y Bwlch Farmstead II	SN94997296	Terraced platform	Long hut	17/06/96
33956	Llandegley Rocks platform	SO12996124	Terraced platform	Long hut ?	18/06/96
33957	Cefn-y-grug	SO16516419	Terraced platform		28/06/96
33958	Cwm Merwys	SO16776575	Terraced platform		25/06/96
33964	Blaenmilo Enclosure I ??	SO08894975	Enclosure		
33965	Blaenmilo Enclosure II??	SO08904938	Enclosure		
33966	Aberedw Enclosures E ??	SO08505010	Enclosure		
33967	Pen Waun Pool Hafod I	SO079516	Long hut ?		
33968	Pen Waun Pool Hafod II	SO079516	Long hut ?		
33969	Pen Waun Pool Hafod III	SO079516	Long hut ?		
33972	Cwm Crogau Settlement	SO120770	Platform group	Field system	
33979	Castle Bank Garn Enclosure and platforms	SO07557783	Platform group	Enclosure	18/10/96
33980	Castle Bank Enclosure and Platforms	SO07367756	Terraced platform	Enclosure	18/10/96
33983	Castell y Blaidd Building and Enclosure	SO12287977	Long hut	Enclosure	26/09/96
33984	Castell y Blaidd Platform I	SO12257956	Terraced platform	Long hut	26/09/96
33985	Castell y Blaidd Platform II	SO12277960	Terraced platform		26/09/96
33987	Castell y Blaidd Platform IV	SO12187957	Terraced platform		26/09/96
33988	Bailey Hill-Windermere Platforms	SO24627249	Platform Group	Building	22/08/96
33989	Colva Hill Platforms	SO195535	Platform ?		
33991	Maes Brook	SO17106607	Terraced platform		19/06/96
33994	Beilibedw stream platform	SO17575605	Terraced platform		21/08/96
33996	Llanbedr ? platform/enclosure	SO13704795	Platform ?		
33997	Llanbedr platform II	SO13754790	Terraced platform		
33998	Gellidywyll Platform VI	SO14225283	Terraced platform		12/08/96
33999	Gellidywyll Platform V	SO14305283	Terraced platform		12/08/96
34800	Pistyll Gwyn Platform II and Enclosure	SO02446150	Terraced platform		17/08/96
34804	Rhos yr Hafod	SN903683	Long hut		
34805	Newchurch Hill Enclosure and Longhouse	SO19285030	Long hut		26/02/97

34812	Graig Platform	SO07795663	Platform		
34813	Cwm Sych Platform	SO132495	Terraced platform		
34815	Cwm-piban Platform I	SO14004927	Platform		
34816	Cwm-piban Platform II	SO14004935	Platform		
34817	Cwm-twrch Platform Settlement	SO15475454	Enclosure	Platform group	16/09/96
34819	Caer Fawr Platform IV	SO05625308	Terraced platform		10/10/96
34820	Gaer Platform	SO11506980	Platform ?		
34821	Tomen Bedd Ugre Longhouse	SO10156945	Long hut		
34823	Wern House Platform	SO16435354	Terraced platform		16/09/96
34824	Cefn Wylfre Farmstead	SO13475063	Terraced platform		18/09/96
34825	Beili Farm Platform I	SO13505063	Terraced platform		18/09/96
34826	Beili Farm Platform II	SO13425071	Terraced platform		18/09/96
34829	Dol-y-fran house	SO16267417	Building	Platform	11/10/96
34831	Carneddau platform	SO05455310	Terraced platform		10/10/96
34832	Ffoeslaprey Platforms IV - V	SO16647337	Terraced platform	Terraced platform	11/10/96
34835	Dafarndywarch Platform I	SO16027402	Terraced platform		11/10/96
34836	Dafarndywarch Platform II	SO16037403	Terraced platform		11/10/96
34838	Cefn Goleu II	SN97117358	Terraced platform	Enclosure	
34840	Ffoeslaprey Platform II	SO16957331	Terraced platform		11/10/96
34841	Ffoeslaprey Platform III	SO16927336	Terraced platform		11/10/96
34842	Ffoeslaprey Platform I	SO16927330	Terraced platform		11/10/96
34845	Castle Bank Platform I	SO07507777	Terraced platform		18/10/96
34846	Castle Bank Platform II	SO07487773	Terraced platform		18/10/96
34847	Castle Bank Platform III	SO07467769	Terraced platform		18/10/96
34848	Castle Bank Platform IV	SO07467779	Terraced platform		18/10/96
34849	Castle Bank Platform V	SO07107707	Terraced platform		18/10/96
34850	Castle Bank Platform and Enclosure II	SO07377750	Terraced platform	Enclosure	18/10/96
34853	Gamallt Platform I	SN96507130	Terraced platform		12/11/96
34854	Penrhiw Platform House	SN95357150	Terraced platform	Long hut	12/11/96
34855	Yr Wylorn Platform I	SN96117195	Terraced platform	Long hut	12/11/96
34857	Cefn Goleu III	SN97177331	Enclosure	Platform ?	
34859	Cefn Goleu IV	SN97087322	Long hut ?		
34860	Pant-y-rhiw platform	SO07695778	Platform ?		
34861	Cefndyrys Platform	SO04157369	Terraced platform		
34862	Byrgwm Woods Platform house I	SO11834676	Terraced platform	Long hut	07/03/97
34863	Bryngwyn Hill	SO17664954	Long hut	Field system	26/02/97
34864	Bryngwyn Hill	SO17874924	Earthwork		26/02/97
34865	Glascwm Court Cottage Platform II	SO15685314	Terraced platform		27/02/97
34866	Byrgwm Woods building II	SO11794676	Long hut		07/03/97
34869	Pant-y-llyn structure	SN93616880	Long hut		13/03/97
34870	Bank House Platform VI	SO08426062	Terraced platform		24/03/97
34871	Penybont Common Platform	SO12606408	Terraced platform		21/03/97
34872	Penybont Common Terrace	SO12596407	Terraced platform		21/03/97
34873	Cwmbrith Bank Platform VI	SO08636040	Terraced platform		11/06/96
50135	Llynheilyn Platform I	SO16595803	Terraced platform		11/06/96
50136	Llynheilyn Platform II	SO16605800	Terraced platform		11/06/96
50225	Caer Fawr Platform I	SO05615308	Terraced platform		10/10/96
50226	Caer Fawr Platform II	SO05595309	Terraced platform		10/10/96
50227	Caer Fawr Platform III	SO05605311	Terraced platform	Long hut	10/10/96
50244	Cwmbrith Bank Platform IV	SO08666042	Terraced platform		12/06/96
50245	Cwmbrith Bank Platform III	SO08656041	Terraced platform		12/06/96
50246	Cwmbrith Bank Oval Platform	SO08646038	Terraced platform		12/06/96
50247	Cwmbrith Bank Platform IV	SO08646041	Terraced platform		06/06/96
50299	Gwaunceste Hill Platform I	SO17705515	Terraced platform		27/02/97
50300	Gwaunceste Hill Platform II	SO17715520	Terraced platform		27/02/97
50301	Gwaunceste Hill Platform III	SO17645547	Terraced platform		21/08/96
50302	Gwaunceste Hill Platform IV	SO17725528	Terraced platform		21/08/96
50313	Aberedw Hill Platform I	SO08234994	Terraced platform		10/06/96
50314	Aberedw Hill Platform II	SO08244995	Terraced platform		10/06/96
50315	Aberedw Hill Platform III	SO08254996	Terraced platform		06/10/96

50331	Gellidywll Platform I	SO14215281	Terraced platform	12/08/96
50332	Gellidywll Platform II	SO14265280	Terraced platform	12/08/96
50333	Gellidywll Platform III	SO14275281	Terraced platform	12/08/96
50334	Gellidywll Platform IV	SO14425277	Terraced platform	12/08/96
50336	Ffordd Las House platform	SO04807718	Terraced platform	14/01/97
50345	Cwmmaerdy Platform I	SO13505886	Terraced platform	09/08/96
50346	Cwmmaerdy Platform II	SO13505887	Terraced platform	09/08/96
50347	Cwmmaerdy Platform III	SO13485889	Terraced platform	09/08/96
50349	Gwernarglwydd Longhouse II	SO15175941	Terraced platform	20/06/96
50350	Gwernarglwydd Platform II	SO15115932	Terraced platform	20/06/96

APPENDIX 4

Scheduling Recommendations: Criteria

Scheduling Recommendations: Criteria

Name	DC1	DC2	DC3	DC4	DC5	DC6	DC7	DC8	MC1	MC2	MC3	MC4
Pant y Rhiw 3778	L	L	M	H	H	M	H	H	M	M	L	L

A good example of a long hut set on a terraced platform within its own enclosure. Using the MPP discrimination criteria, it has a high rating for clustering, survival, potential and amenity value, with medium ratings for association, diversity and two of the management criteria.

Name	DC1	DC2	DC3	DC4	DC5	DC6	DC7	DC8	MC1	MC2	MC3	MC4
Cwm-brith Bank Group 33943 etc	M	L	M	H	H	L	M	M	M	H	M	L

Cwm-brith Bank is a borderline recommendation, comprising a group of several, tightly nucleated platforms. The group scores high on discrimination criteria for clustering and survival and is also considered to have a high fragility. Six other criteria are considered to have a medium rating.

Name	DC1	DC2	DC3	DC4	DC5	DC6	DC7	DC8	MC1	MC2	MC3	MC4
Caer Fawr Group 34819 etc	M	L	L	H	H	L	M	M	G	M	M	L

Caer Fawr is a well-defined group of platforms one with stone structural remains. It scores high on clustering and survival and medium on archaeological documentation, potential and amenity value.

Name	DC1	DC2	DC3	DC4	DC5	DC6	DC7	DC8	MC1	MC2	MC3	MC4
Aberedw Hill Group 3747 etc	L	L	H	H	H	L	H	M	M	H	L	L

Site with group value including 3747, 3796 and 5334 (long huts in enclosures) and platforms (33944 and 50313-50315). Criteria with high values are association, clustering and survival as well as potential, and these hold true to a greater or lesser for each of the sites in the group.

Name	DC1	DC2	DC3	DC4	DC5	DC6	DC7	DC8	MC1	MC2	MC3	MC4
Castell Tinboeth 3587 & 2066	L	L	L	L	H	L	M	H	M	H	M	L

Suggested extension of scheduled area around Castell Tinboeth to take in two platforms (all pillow mounds?). The better preserved of the two scores high for survival, amenity value and fragility, and medium for potential.

Name	DC1	DC2	DC3	DC4	DC5	DC6	DC7	DC8	MC1	MC2	MC3	MC4
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Cwm-twrch 34817	L	L	M	L	H	L	M	M	G	H	L	L
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Enclosed site with platforms, revealing a more complex pattern than is usual. Only survival amongst the discrimination criteria rates high, but group value potential and amenity value are all medium.

Name	DC1	DC2	DC3	DC4	DC5	DC6	DC7	DC8	MC1	MC2	MC3	MC4
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Castell y Blaidd 33984-7	M	L	L	M	H	L	M	H	G	H	M	L
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Major platform with building remains, subsidiary platforms, and enclosures. Recommended for group scheduling on the main criteria of survival and amenity value while clustering and potential rate in the medium category.

Name	DC1	DC2	DC3	DC4	DC5	DC6	DC7	DC8	MC1	MC2	MC3	MC4
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Penybont Common Group 6726, 6728 etc	M	L	M	H	H	L	H	M	G	H	L	L
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Site complex recommended for scheduling as group. Main criteria have high rating for clustering, survival and potential as well as fragility; medium values for archaeological documentation, group association and amenity value.

Village Field
33947, 50349-50

Not assessed; landowner animosity.

Illustrations

Fig 1 Radnorshire in its Welsh context

Fig 2 Map of the north-east sector of Radnor Forest showing known platform sites.

Fig 3 Platforms at Castell y Blaid (PRNs 33984-7)

Fig 4 Platforms at Caer Fawr (PRNs 34819, 50225-7)

Fig 5 Platforms at Bank House (PRNs 33939-33942)

Fig 6 Platforms at Cwm-brith Bank (PRNs 33943, 50244-7)

Fig 7 Platforms and fields on Penybont Common (PRNs 6726, 6728, 34871-2, 33928)

Fig 8 Known deserted rural settlement sites in Radnorshire

Present Structure of Counties and Districts

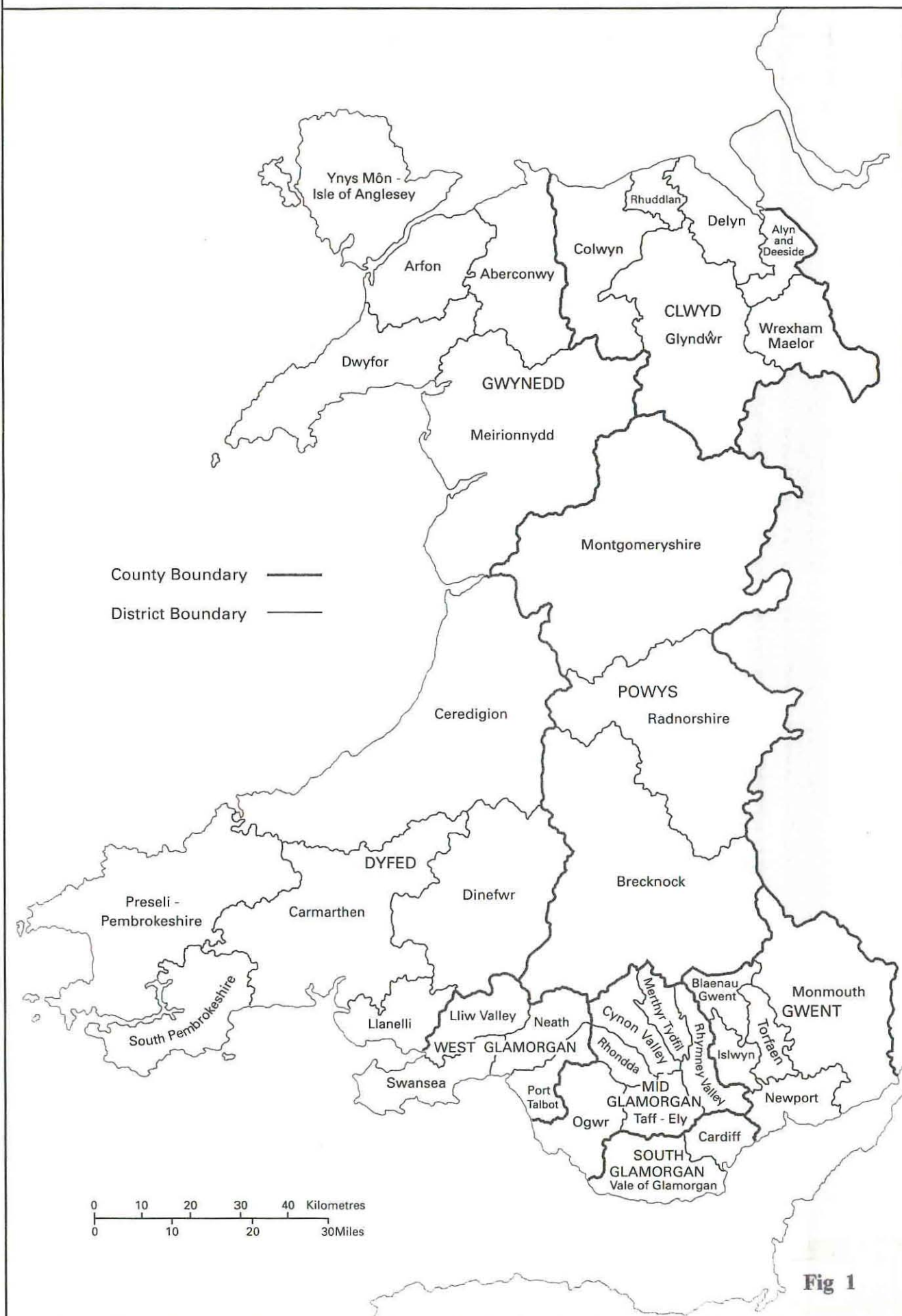


Fig 1

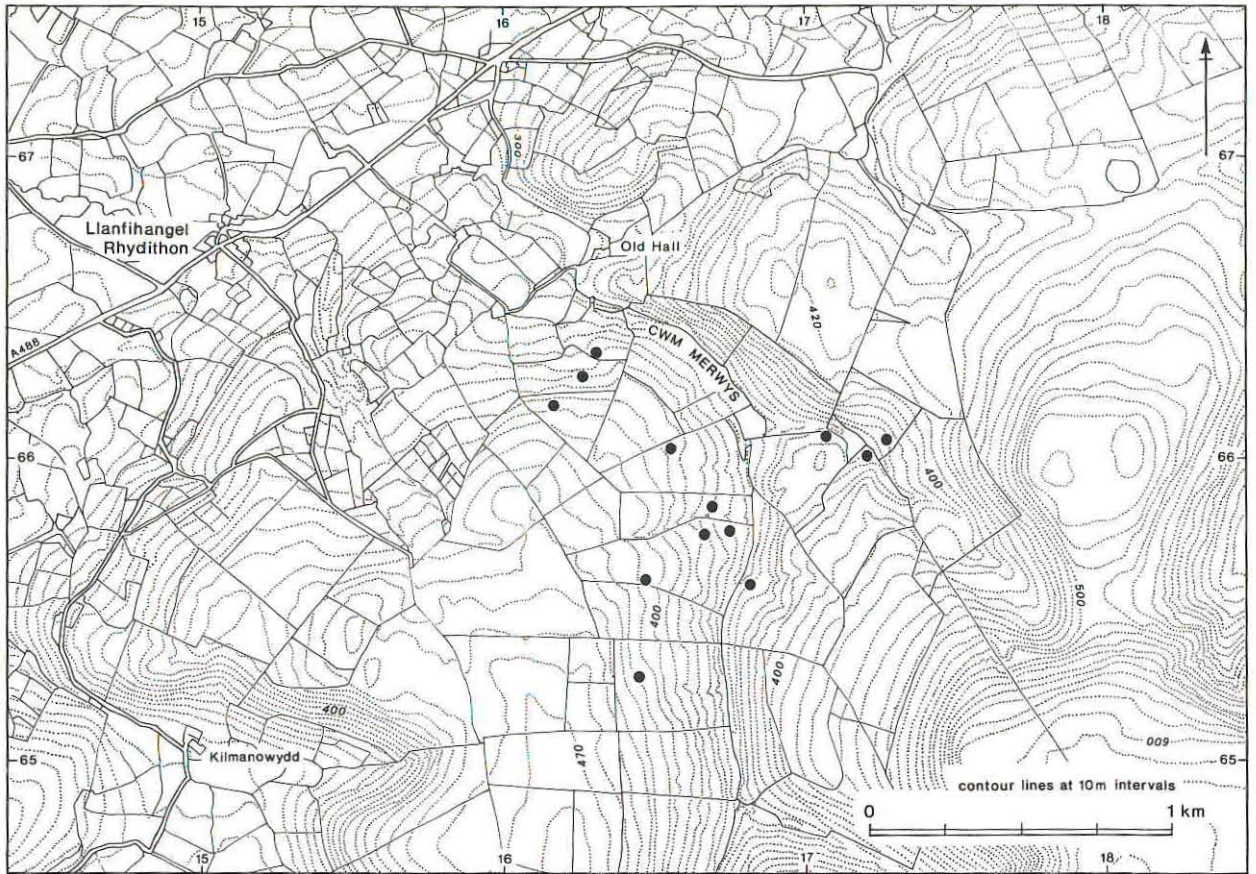


Fig 2

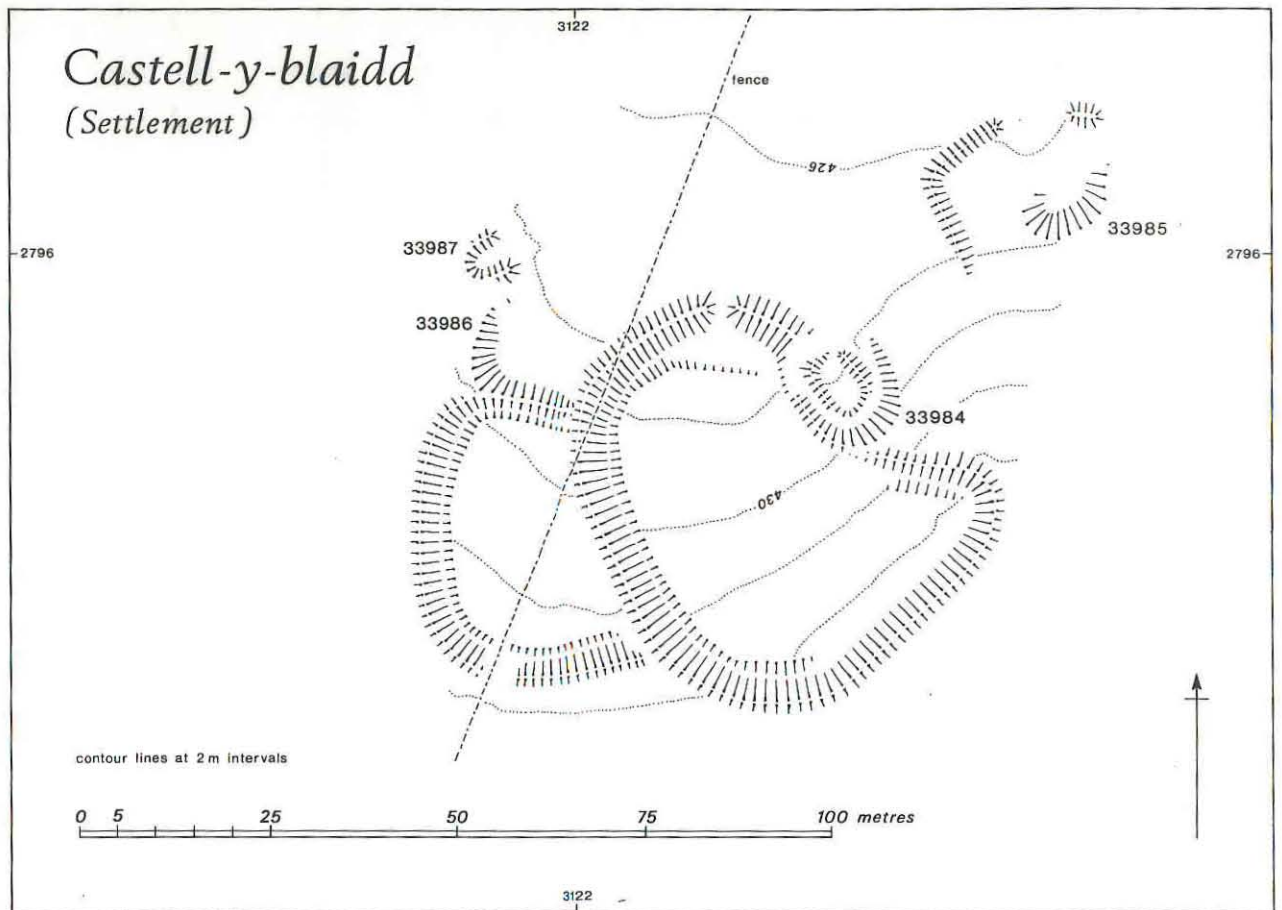


Fig 3

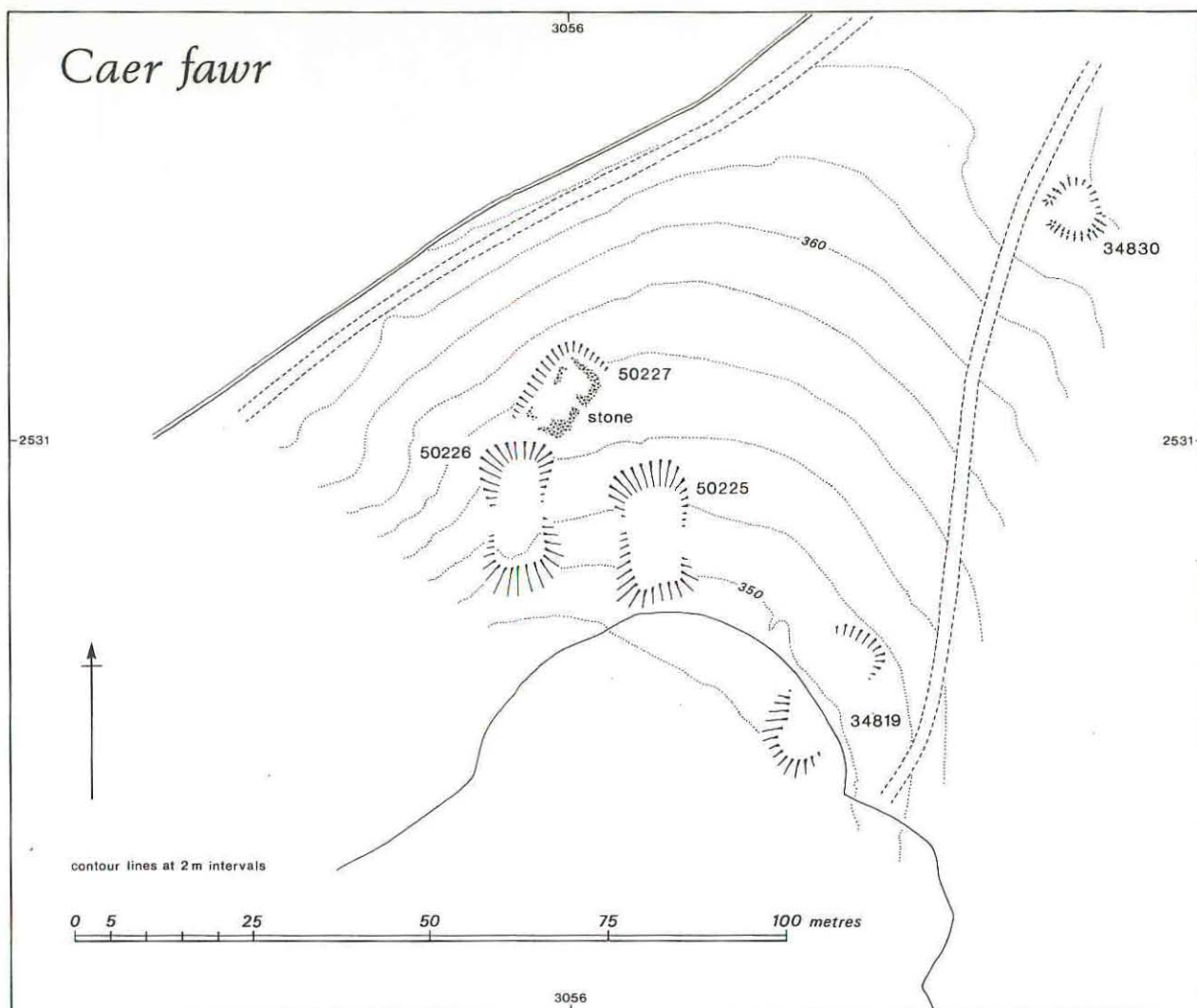


Fig 4

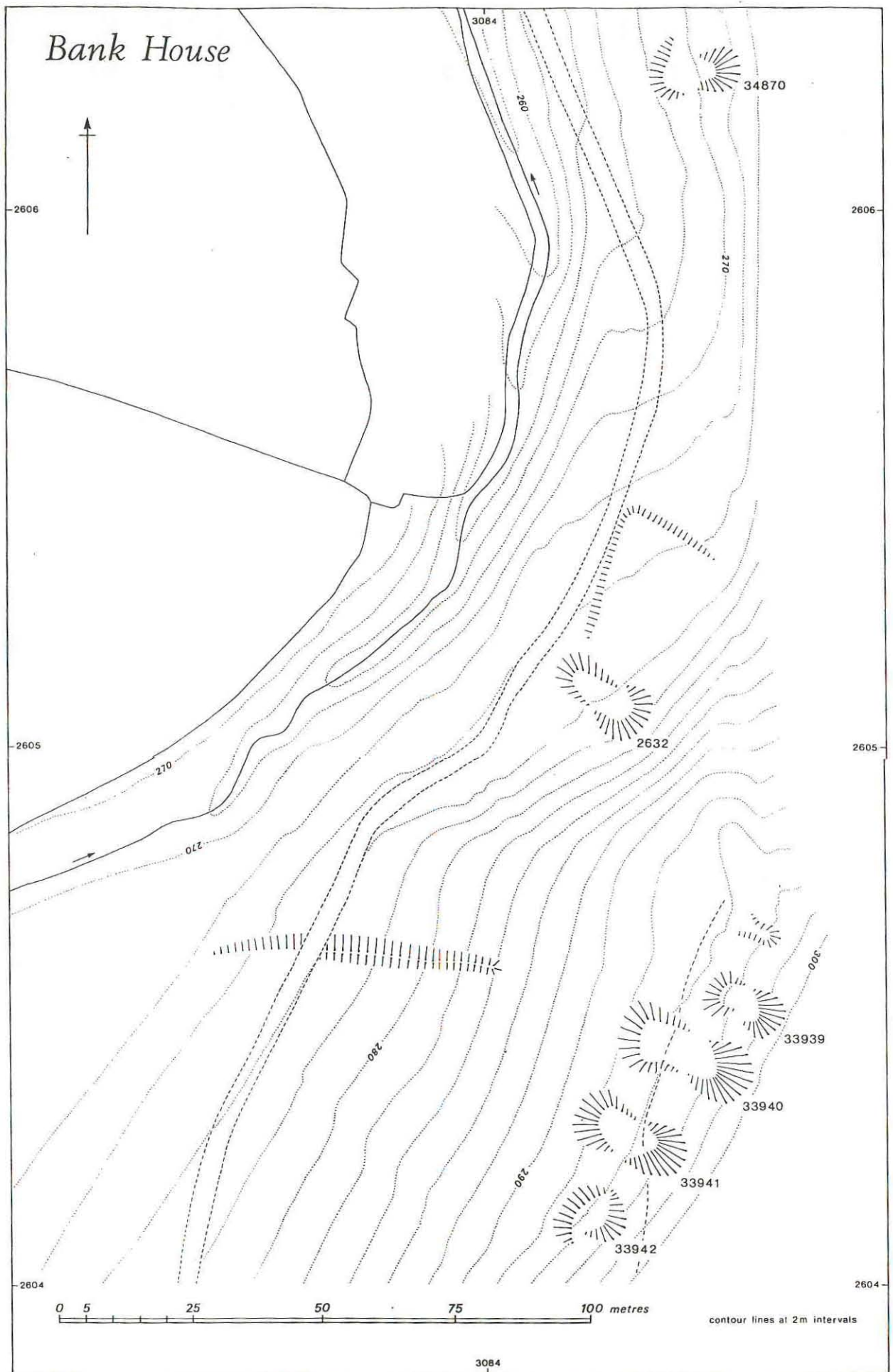


Fig 5

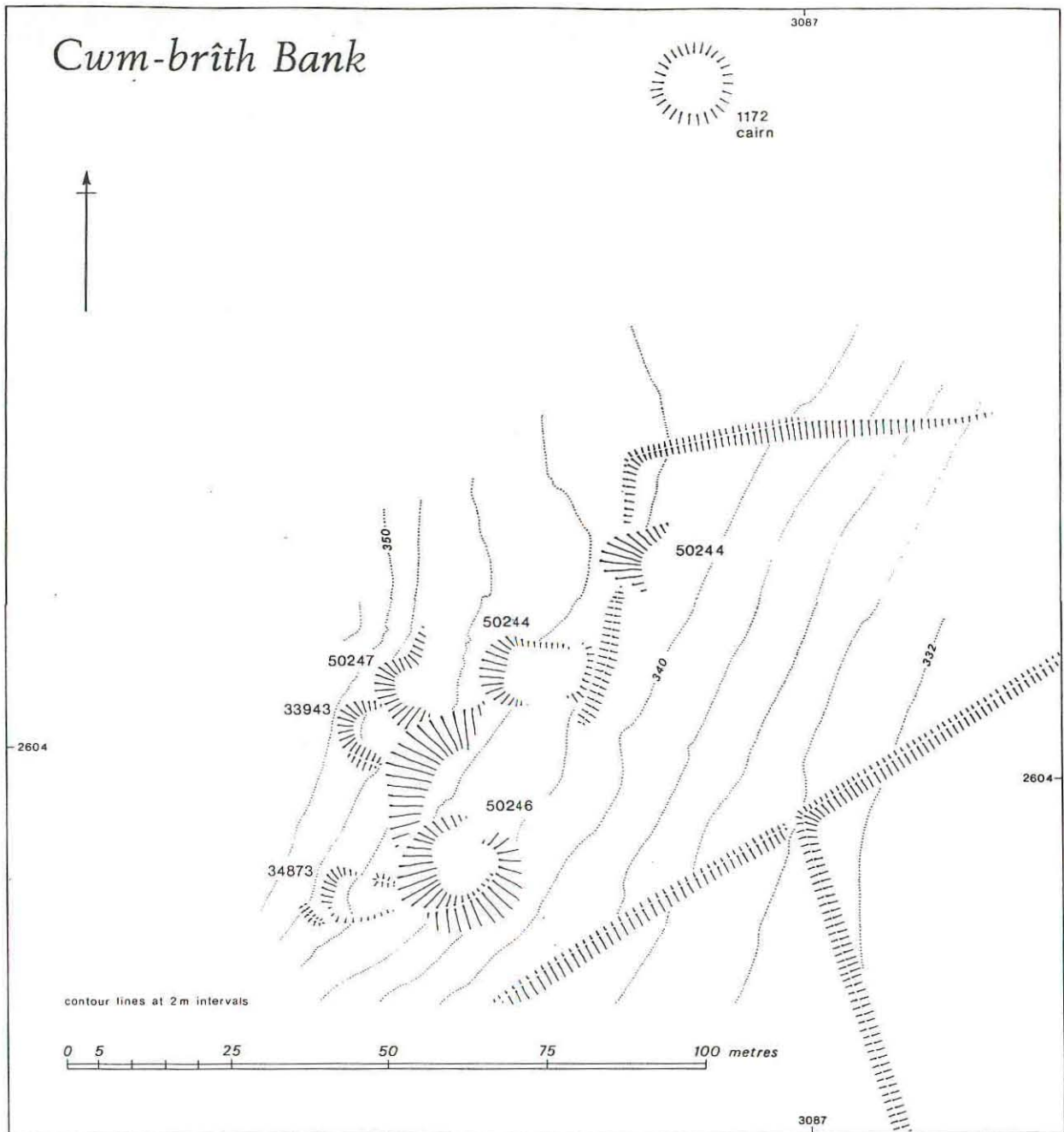


Fig 6

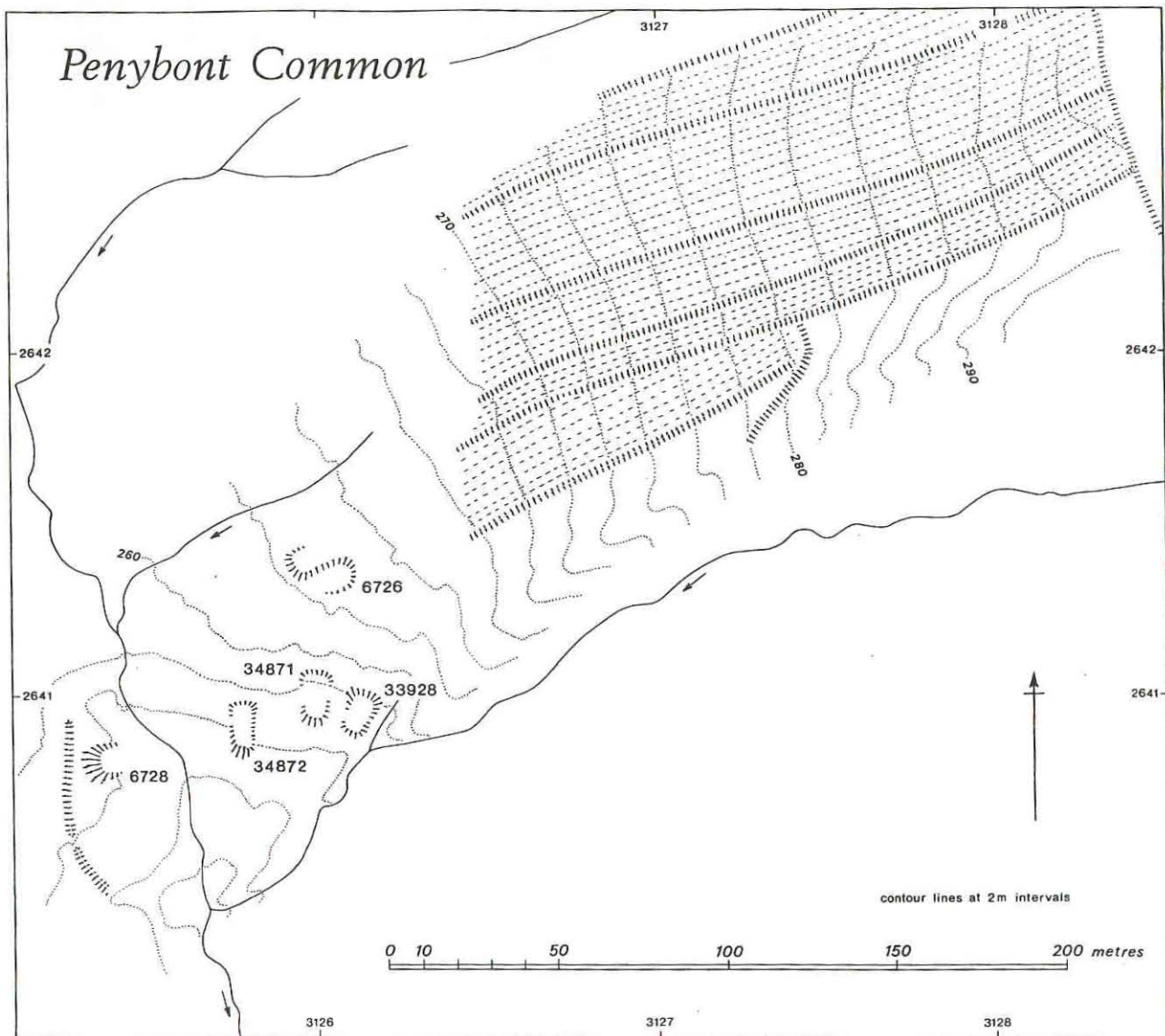


Fig 7

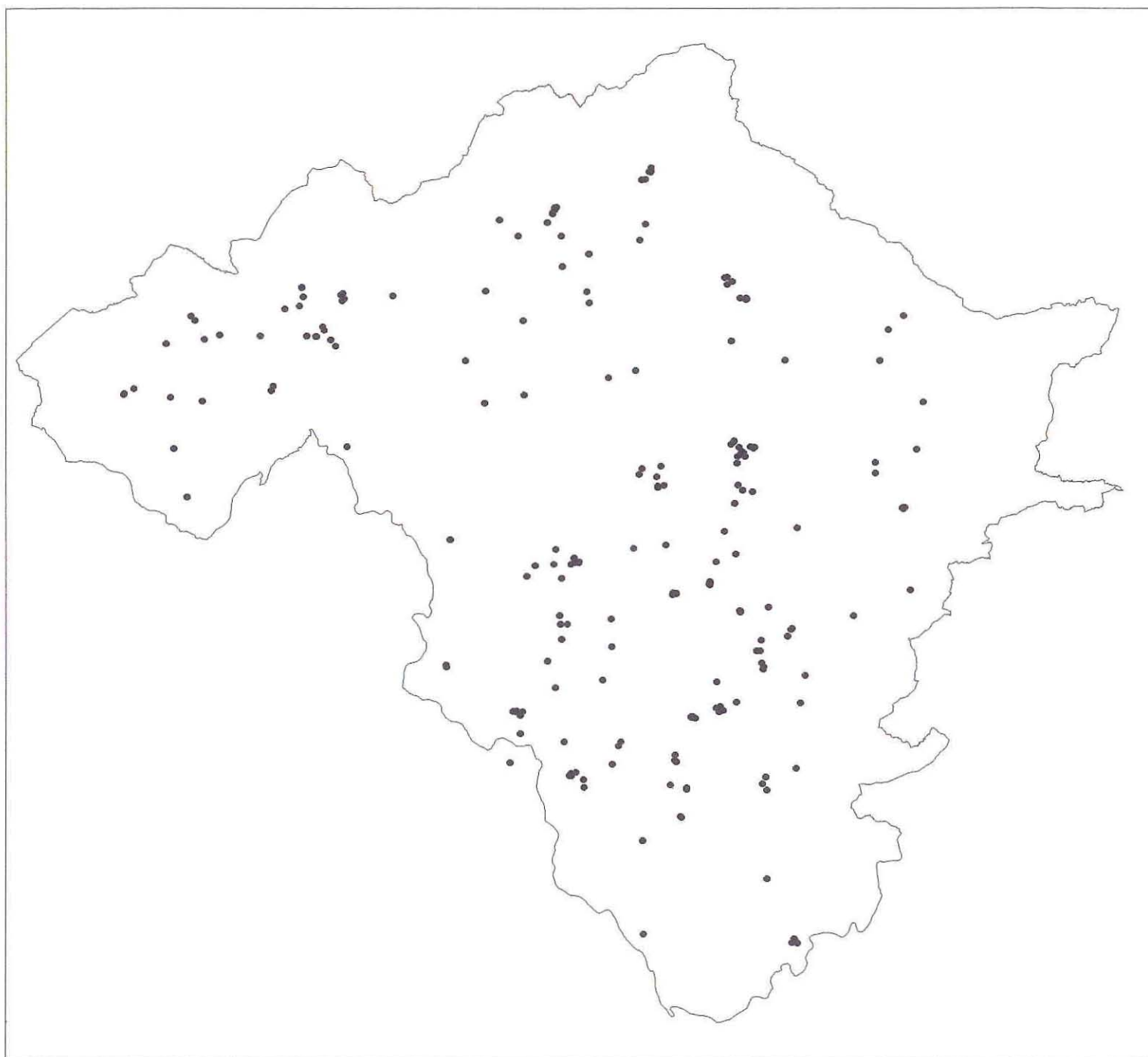


Fig 8