

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

An Uplands Initiative Monograph: Feasibility Study

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Report for the Royal Commission on the
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An Uplands Initiative Monograph: Feasibility Study (Draft)

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Summary

The study assessed the reports that have been prepared under the Uplands Initiative as well as those prepared for other purposes. A number of archaeologists who have been involved in the work of the Initiative over the past few years were also consulted. The study briefly assesses those reports and suggests one possible layout for a monograph. It concludes that such a volume is feasible and, equally importantly, desirable, but that certain conditions will have to be met in order to achieve a successful outcome, namely an adequate level of resourcing, the close co-operation of many of those who have been involved in uplands work over the last decade, careful preparatory planning and very tight editorial control.

1 Introduction

1.1 Between 1989 and 1999 the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts and subsequently other organisations conducted systematic fieldwork on a significant number of Welsh upland blocks, initially under the auspices of Cadw and from 1992 under the Uplands Initiative, a scheme grant-aided by RCAHMW which has continued up to the present. The Initiative represents an extremely important step in identifying and quantifying past activity in the uplands which constitute a considerable part of the whole of Wales (e.g. 84% of Powys; 52% of mid Glamorgan; 51% of Clwyd and 49% of Gwynedd: source: DOE Countryside Survey 1990).

1.2 In 1997/98 RCAHMW commissioned overviews of past upland work in the four Trust areas and during 1999 the possibility of producing a monograph based on the results from the Initiative was mooted. The first step towards this was taken in 2000 with the commissioning of this feasibility study.

2 Data Sources

2.1 At the present time some 30 specific fieldwork programmes have been completed under the Uplands Initiative, some of which – Mynydd y Ffynnon, Abergwesyn Common etc – have extended over more than one year. A similar number have been undertaken in earlier years with Cadw funding and as contracts or projects drawing on private-sector funding. Details of the programmes and their originators can be found in Appendix 2 and the reports generated by the fieldwork have here been termed area-specific. More rarely grants have been provided for desk-top analysis alone (Mynydd y Ffynnon I) or for the synthesis of existing data (Cwm Pennant, Llandrillo). In addition, and as noted above, four reports on the progress of the Uplands Initiative and other allied, uplands work between 1989 and 1999 were prepared by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts between 1998 and 2000.

3 Principles

3.1 A monograph almost by definition should have a significant academic base and purpose, and in broad terms should attempt to break new ground. It must be much more than a reiteration of lists of sites, types and reports, most of which will already be available in the National Monument Record (NMR), the regional Sites and Monuments Records (SMR), and perhaps on the Royal Commission's website. Basically it must say something new about the Welsh uplands, their archaeology and cultural

history, and in colloquial terms it must have a 'story' to tell. Above all it must present information that will be cited by researchers and authors in the future, and while it would be ludicrous to anticipate an indefinite shelf-life for such a volume, the sponsors and the editor(s) should aim to produce something that has a lasting academic value.

3.2 The four summary reports (DAT 1999; CPAT 1999; GGAT 2000; GAT 2000) do not in themselves provide the base for the correlation and synthesis of the considerable quantity of data that has been amassed over the ten or more years. Variable in the level and scope of their coverage, the four reports offer a guide to the large number of more specific fieldwork, excavation, evaluation, desk-top and palaeoenvironmental reports that are not all immediately accessible to the researcher, and which fall almost without exception into the category of what now seems to be termed 'grey literature', internal reports not intended for widespread dissemination.

3.3 The data alluded to in the numerous area-specific reports offer a fundamental resource. The basic question is whether these data can be assimilated into a useful synthesis.

3.4 There should, however, be no anticipation that a monograph will provide a comprehensive overview of the history of the Welsh uplands. It would offer a snapshot of the current state of knowledge at a particular time, with some contributions proving to be being more durable than others.

4 Justification for a Monograph

4.1 Systematic uplands survey funded by one organization or another, commenced in the Welsh uplands in the 1980s, continued on an annual basis during the 1990s and appears set to continue for some time to come. Other than the fact that the ten-year period, 1989-1999 offers a convenient time span for an assessment, there is probably neither a right nor a wrong time to prepare a monograph on the uplands survey work.

4.2 Its preparation, however, can be justified in the following terms:

4.2.1 A demonstration of what has been completed over a ten-year period using around £400K of public money. It should stand as a statement of achievement, enabling, or at least assisting in the development of, a clearer picture of uplands activity through time; and it must justify the expenditure to date and underpin the requirement for further expenditure on upland survey which is perceived to be both valid and necessary.

4.2.2 A statement of current knowledge on the Welsh uplands that can be referred to and referenced when necessary. The potential audience should be seen as reaching beyond the bounds of the Principality. Presented in an appropriate form it may also inform future uplands work.

4.2.3 The dissemination of data in a form where they are accessible and available to a wider audience; it might be noted here that the number of published reports on upland fieldwork in Wales are few (e.g. Arddudwy; Fforest Fawr).

4.2.4 A demonstration that the data are sufficiently varied (or consistent) and interesting to merit publication; that this range of information has not previously been made available in published form; and that a monograph could be a fundamental mechanism for demonstrating the value and interest of the Welsh uplands and their history to a wider audience.

5 Contents of the Monograph: broad issues

5.1 *Timeframe* The timeframe for work covered by the monograph is ostensibly the ten-year period from 1989 to 1999, conforming to the period from the start of systematic funding by Cadw to

the time when the overviews were being prepared and the monograph was being first mooted. The monograph however should not necessarily exclude work that was conducted outside that ten-year period, particularly where that work is informative and conforms to the ideals of the Initiative. The Blaencaron programme of 1988 is particularly interesting, while some work since 1999 might also be considered.

5.2 *External Surveys and Data* Consideration should be given to including material from fieldwork programmes conducted outside the Initiative. This would include work done by bodies such as the National Trust in their own upland areas, and work done by the Trusts but funded by other mechanisms. However, it cannot be assumed that the data from such work will be automatically available for incorporation in the monograph as independent publication programmes may be envisaged.

5.3 *Other approaches* The emphasis of the monograph must be on fieldwork throughout, given the nature of the Uplands Initiative to date. The incorporation of elements from desk-top assessments can be justified where they inform fieldwork, but excavations presently fall outside the remit of the Initiative and should be excluded, unless they can be built in seamlessly to survey studies.

5.4 Other themes with an analytical/academic base should be considered as relevant to the proposed monograph. i) though none of the surveys has had a specific palaeoenvironmental aim, the importance of such studies to an overall appreciation of the history of the uplands is widely recognized. ii) the management of the uplands as an historic resource. iii) the relevance of upland studies in understanding lowland activity and land use.

6 *Format*

6.1 An A4 format is recommended, in line with the majority of archaeological monographs being published at present. The length cannot be estimated with any accuracy but is likely to fall within the range of 250-300 pages on the basis of the proposed outline.

7 *Proposed layout of the monograph*

7.1 The following layout is suggested as one, reasonably conventional, approach to using and analysing the data. Some modification is anticipated. Four main sections but of unequal length are envisaged, covering different themes. More detail on specific sections is given in para 8 below.

- a) Section 1: Introduction
- b) Section 2: Case Studies
- c) Section 3: Chronological and thematic assessments
- d) Section 4: Putting the data to work
- e) Glossary
- f) Bibliography
- g) Appendices
- h) Illustrations

8 Elements of the Layout: details

8.1 Section 1: Introduction

8.1.1 Introduction: why field survey and why publish

8.1.2 Definition of the Welsh uplands: their nature and topography; the fundamental changes that have and are taking place; and the threats to the resource; sites and landscapes; the value of the uplands for the preservation of the archaeological and historical resource

8.1.3 Types of survey and methodology within and outside the Uplands Initiative (e.g. The Welsh Heritage Assets programme of Forest Enterprise); rapid identification/condition/impact. The place of the Uplands Initiative in the general run of upland studies and Welsh work in a national context; organisations involved; the comprehensiveness of the data and compatibility from survey to survey; levels of recording; site numbers; nature of the evidence: quantification of the evidence.

8.1.4 Other topics for assessment might include: use of aerial photography; the growing trend in examining whole landscapes rather than individual sites; upland/lowland patterns and variations.

8.2 Section 2: Case Studies

8.2.1 The selection of case studies should be dependent on the identification of specific and particularly noteworthy groups of sites or landscapes, or exceptionally on the amount of ground covered. Occasionally case studies might result from the amalgamation of individual projects.

8.2.2 Some degree of geographical balance is required across the Principality in the selection of case studies, recognising that considerably more work has been undertaken in central and north-east Wales than in areas such as south-west and south Wales (see Appendix 2). The studies should reflect the spread of work not the concentrations.

8.2.3 Case studies should not re-cycle the facts about everything found in the study area, nor should they simply describe what has been found. They should be selective in what is reported, and might in a sense be 'exemplars' to use the RCAHMS's own phraseology. Above all they must be analytical with the emphasis on geographical location, on the relationships of different types of features, on typology, on the inter-relationship of sites with enclosed land, on historic landscapes etc

8.2.4 Not one of the area-specific reports is currently presented in a state where it could be published with only minor amendments as a case study. The Blaencaron (Ceredigion) report comes closest but is too heavy on detail and not sufficiently selective in its reporting. All would require some and potentially a great deal of re-writing (and perhaps re-assessment).

8.2.5 Case studies might incorporate information from other programmes of work not directly linked to the Uplands Initiative but covered in some of the four summary reports, e.g. the WHA surveys.

8.2.6 Suggested studies fall into two groups, those in group A being strong contenders, those in Group B possible inclusions. The originators of the survey are included:

Group A

Berwyn (CPAT)
Blaenafon (RCAHMW/CAP)
Carneddau Estate, Snowdonia (NT/R Skeates)
Groes Fawr, Blaencaron (UWC/DAT)
Moel Bronmiod, Llyn (GAT)
Mynydd Epynt (RCAHMW/CPAT)
Mynydd y Ffynnon (DAT/CPAT)

Group B

Clwydians (CCC/DCC)
Elan Valley/Abergwesyn Common (R Skeates/NT/CPAT)
Mynydd Hiraethog (CPAT)
Ysbyty Estate (NT)

8.3 Section 3: Chronological and thematic assessments

8.3.1 Archaeological assessments of the new data might be chronological, thematic or, more realistically perhaps, a combination of the two. The nature and availability of data could dictate which assessments are adopted. These need not necessarily be lengthy chapters but should provide a current statement of knowledge. It has been suggested that some individual chapters might be written by academic specialists, and such an approach would undoubtedly enhance the prestige value of the monograph.

8.3.2 These will be the most difficult chapters to compile if there are to reflect satisfactorily the results from the Uplands Initiative. Writers will require access to data over and above those presented in the area-specific reports. The logistics in providing those data will need to be thought through carefully before agreements are finalised with specific contributors.

8.3.3 Four chapters are suggested:

Prehistoric and Roman activity
Medieval and later rural settlement and farming
Industrial and modern activity
Palaeoenvironmental aspects (a chapter less dependent on the results of the Uplands Initiative fieldwork, more on general advances in understanding the utilisation of the uplands)

8.4 Section 4: Putting the data to work

8.4.1 Individual chapters might cover among other aspects: site preservation and management; characterising the landscape; the economic potential of the uplands heritage based on recent developments in south Wales; the future of the uplands, fifteen years after the Darvill report; emerging regional differences; and an assessment of the success of 10 years' funding and the achievement of ten years' work.

8.5 Glossary

8.5.1 This to examine specific upland site types, rather than blanket coverage of all the types of site that appear in the uplands. The proposed format might have a brief description, one or more illustrations and a statement on the best sources of information on the specific types. Compiling this would be a co-operative drawing on the expertise of a number of people.

8.6 Appendices

8.6.1 Survey and Report lists

8.7 Illustrations

8.7.1 *Site plans (surveys)*: some are available as measured sketches in existing reports though generally the earlier ones. A handful of type-specific surveys might be derived from Cadw projects, particularly where not required for the DRS monograph. RCAHMW exemplar and inventory surveys might form another source?

8.7.2 *Maps*: maps would need to be newly drawn and to a consistent format.

8.7.3 *Aerial photos*: primarily from RCAHMW and Trust archives?

8.7.4 *Terrestrial photos*: primarily from RCAHMW and Trust archives?

9 *Conditions*

9.1 Various conditions will need to be met to ensure the successful delivery the monograph as a product.

9.2.1 *Co-operation* The monograph must be a collaborative venture, utilising in particular the expertise of those involved in the work. No one individual or group could be expected to compile a meaningful report from such a range of disparate data. The involvement of academic specialists should be considered.

9.2.2 The existing data as they are reported in the large series of internal reports cannot simply be re-cycled for the monograph. Data will need to be assimilated from the NMR/SMRs, and perhaps too from the National Trust, and have to be re-worked to create coherent and meaningful texts. This will in turn require the goodwill and co-operation of a number of organizations and in all probability those who actually undertook the survey work. It is conceivable too that some sites might need to be re-visited in the field though clearly this should be kept to a minimum.

9.3 *Resources* Inevitably the financial implications of commissioning studies, of analysing data, and of editing the volume will be significant, and will need to be carefully costed within sufficient flexibility to accommodate modifications to the structure of the volume.

9.4.1 *Control* The editor(s) or editorial committee must expect to exercise a rigorous degree of control over the content of each and every section of the monograph. In the case studies for instance this might mean determining in advance the key issues to be addressed and the elements to be considered, and in the themed papers, producing tight guidelines on what is required.

9.4.2 The editor(s) or editorial committee should expect to devote a significant amount of time to ensuring that the monograph appears as a consistent and coherent report, and that overlaps by different writers and across different sections within the volume are kept to an acceptable minimum. Careful cross-checking and correlation will be required. A fragmented monograph will reflect badly on all those involved and do nothing to justify the further input of resources to the study of the uplands.

9.5 *Illustrations* Many illustrations, whatever their source, will need to be re-drawn. The appearance of the volume would be greatly enhanced if these all emanated from a single drawing office. As a broad estimate 4-6 months of illustrator time might be required. The use of photographs and probably other illustrative material would have to be negotiated with copyright holders, preferably at an early stage in the monograph preparation.

10 Feasibility

10.1 The feasibility of producing an Uplands monograph has been discussed with a number of individuals in the course of preparing this report, and views have tended to polarize around two concepts: practicality and desirability.

10.2 On the former there is a minority view that the proposal is not practical and/or worthwhile, primarily because the approach adopted by the fieldwork programmes under the Uplands Initiative has been consistently geared to rapid identification survey rather than analysis and understanding. The premise is valid but the majority of consultees seem to accept that subject to the necessary resources being made available, these particular concerns can be answered.

10.3 There is a widespread belief in the desirability of a monograph, to bring Welsh upland data to a wider public, to mark the achievements of ten years of fieldwork, and to justify on-going expenditure on upland survey.

The preparation of an Uplands Initiative Monograph is considered to be feasible as long as certain, fundamental conditions are met.

11 References

CPAT, 2000, *Uplands fieldwork in Clwyd and Powys 1989-1999: a synthesis*, Welshpool

DAT 2000, *Review of upland archaeology in Dyfed: 1989-1999*, Llandeilo

GGAT 2000, *Uplands archaeology in Glamorgan and Gwent: a review of progress, 1989-1999*, Swansea

GAT 2000, *Mapping historical tide-marks - upland survey in Gwynedd (1983-2000)*, Bangor

Appendix 1: Consultees

The following individuals were consulted during the preparation of the feasibility study. Needless to say, a variety of views were expressed by those individuals, not all of which are find expression in the feasibility study above.

Denbighshire County Council: F Gale

Dyfed Archaeological Trust (Cambria Archaeology): G Hughes, K Murphy, P Sambrook

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust: M Locock

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust: D Thompson

National Trust: E Plunkett Dillon, J Latham

RCAHMW: T Driver, S Hughes, D Leighton

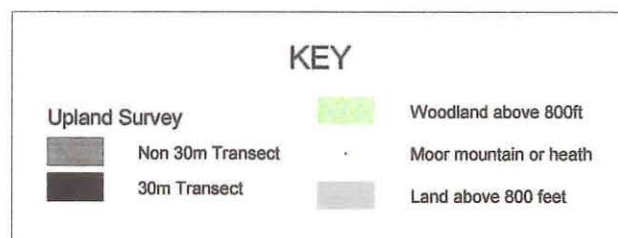
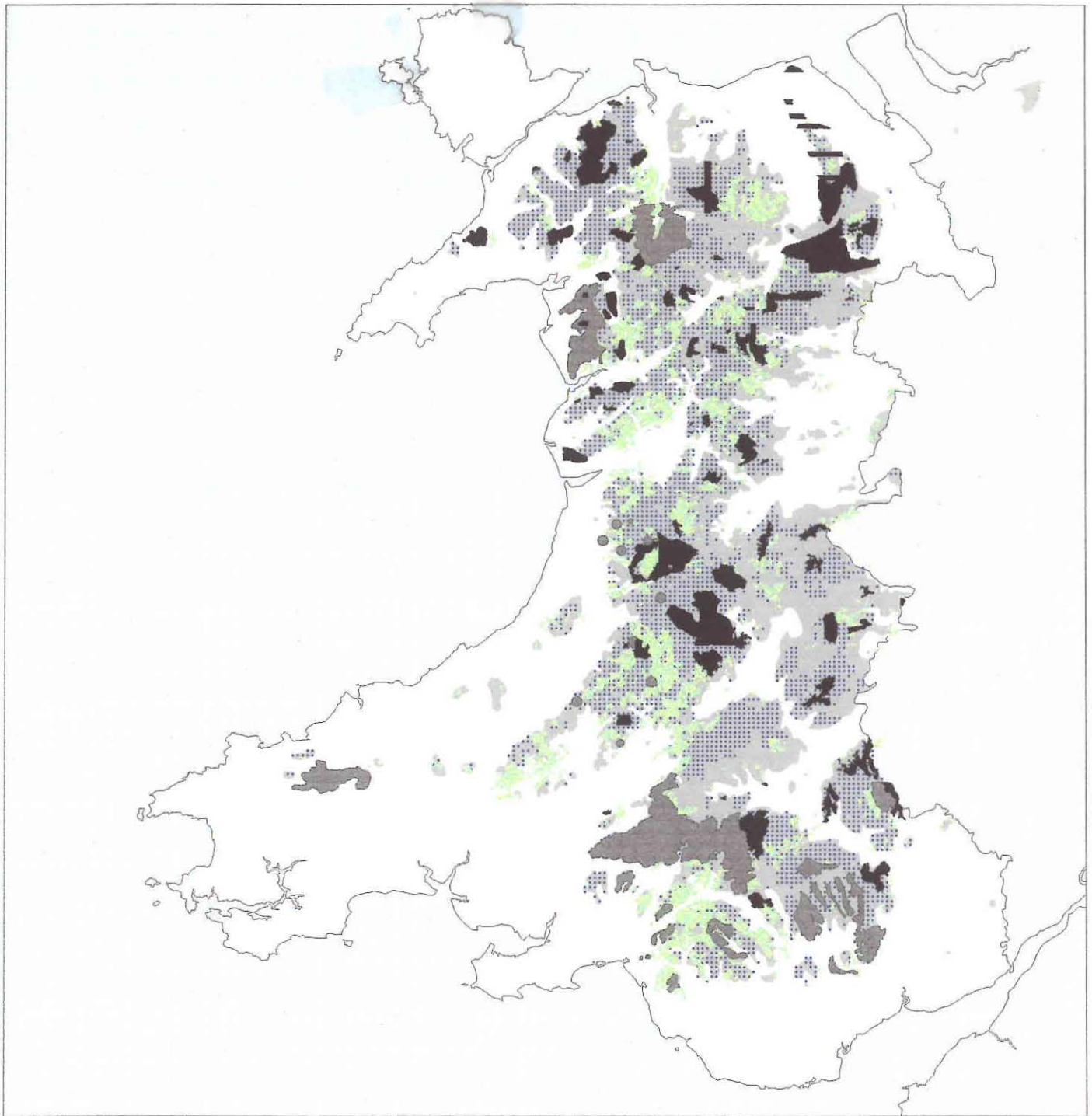
University of Wales Aberystwyth: R Dodgshon

University of Wales Lampeter: A Caseldine

Appendix 2 Welsh Upland Projects

<i>No</i>	<i>Fieldwork Area</i>	<i>Old County</i>	<i>Project Originator</i>	<i>Project Sponsor</i>	<i>Date</i>
60	West Radnor	Radnor	RCAHMW	RCAHMW	
31	Anafon Valley, Carneddau	Caernarfon	GAT	Welsh Water	1983
58	Ysbyty Estate	Caernarvon	NT	NT	1984
59	Dolmelynlllyn Estate	Merioneth	NT	NT	1984
32	Trawsfynydd	Merioneth	GAT	CEGB	1986
8	Carneddau	Caernarvon	NT/R Skeates	RCAHMW	1986/1997
22	Groes Fawr, Blaencaron	Cardigan	DAT/UWCC	Cadw	1988
33	Gwynedd pilots	Caernarfon/Merioneth	GAT	Cadw	1988
12	Carno - Dwyrhiw	Montgomery	CPAT	Cadw	1989
56	Gwaen Gynfi	Caernarvon	GAT	Cadw	1989
18	Y Foel Windfarm	Montgomery	CPAT	Windfarm client	1991
67	Penrhyddlan/Llidiartywaun	Montgomery	CPAT	Windfarm client	1991
3	Berwyn Transect	Denbigh/Merioneth	CPAT	Cadw	1991
9	Marcheini	Radnor	CPAT	Windfarm client	1991
66	Carno (Trannon)	Montgomery	CPAT	Windfarm	1992
2	Mynydd Hiraethog	Denbigh	CPAT	RCAHMW	1992
20	Mynydd Llanelidan	Denbigh	CPAT	Windfarm client	1992
62	Radnor Forest	Radnor	CPAT	Cadw	1992
4	Graiglwyd	Caernarvon	GAT	RCAHMW	1992
55	Corlan Fraith	Merioneth	GAT	Cadw	1992
35	Elan Valley	Brecknock	CPAT	RCAHMW	1993
68	Trwm y Fawnog	Montgomery	CPAT	RCAHMW	1993
25	Clwydian Range I	Denbigh	DAS (CAS)	RCAHMW	1993
40	Pale Estate	Merioneth	CPAT	CCW	1994
37	Pen y Gwely	Denbigh	CPAT	Windfarm client	1994
38	Pentrefoelas	Denbigh	CPAT	Windfarm	1994
36	Ruabon Mountain	Denbigh	CPAT	RCAHMW	1994
13	Reeves Hill	Radnor/Hereford	CPAT	Windfarm client	1994
10	Bailey Hill, Powys	Radnor	CPAT	Windfarm client	1994
1	Mynydd Nantcarfan	Montgomery	CPAT	Windfarm client	1994
6	Hatterrall and Gwernyfed Common	Brecknock	BBNP	RCAHMW	1994
44	Afon Erwent, Trawscoed	Merioneth	GAT	RCAHMW	1994
64	Cefn Cyfarwydd, Trefriw	Caernarvon	GAT	RCHAMW	1994
7	Clwydian Range II	Denbigh	DAS (CAS)	RCAHMW	1995
14	Cwm Pennant, Llandrillo	Merioneth	CPAT	CAS	1995
16	Moel Bronmiod	Caernarvon	GAT	RCHAMW	1995
23	Mynydd Mallaen	Carmarthen	DAT	RCAHMW	1995
26	Garn Goch	Carmarthen	BBNP	RCAHMW	1995
51	Llyn Brianne	Cardigan	DAT	RCAHMW	1995
17	Mynydd y Cemmaes	Montgomery	CPAT	Windfarm client	1996
39	Pennant, Llandrillo,	Merioneth	CPAT	Cadw	1996
70	Vyrnwy Estate I	Montgomery	CPAT	Severn Trent	1996
29	Berwyn SSSI Pilots	Merioneth	GAT	RCAHMW	1996
30	Cadair Idris SSSI	Merioneth	GAT	RCAHMW	1996
53	Moel Llechwedd-gwyn	Merioneth	Origin	RCAHMW	1996
52	Meithrin Mynydd	Cardigan/Brecknock	DAT	BBNP/CCW	1996-99
21	Black Mountains I	Brecknock	CPAT/BBNP	RCHAMW	1997
41	Mynydd y Ffynnon II	Montgomery/Cardigan	CPAT	RCAHMW	1997
47	Mynydd y Ffynnon I	Montgomery/Cardigan	CPAT/DAT	RCAHMW	1997
63	Radnorshire Hills	Radnor	CPAT	RCAHMW	1997
69	Black Mountains II	Brecknock	CPAT	RCHAMW	1997
71	Vyrnwy Estate II	Montgomery	CPAT	Severn Trent	1997
15	Clwydian Range III	Denbigh	DAS (CAS)	RCAHMW	1997
24	Mynydd Epynt	Brecknock	RCAHMW	RCAHMW	1997

<i>No</i>	<i>Fieldwork Area</i>	<i>Old County</i>	<i>Project Originator</i>	<i>Project Sponsor</i>	<i>Date</i>
45	Mynydd Maen/Mynydd Henllys	Monmouth	GGAT	RCAHMW	1997
48	Mynydd y Ffynnon III	Cardigan	DAT	RCAHMW	1997
49	Mynydd y Ffynnon F	Montgomery/Cardigan	DAT/CPAT	ADAS	1997
54	Bwlch Mawr/Gym Goch	Caernarvon	GAT	RCAHMW	1997
61	Radnorshire Commons	Radnor	CPAT	RCAHMW	1998
19	Mynydd Clogau	Montgomery	CPAT	Windfarm client	1998
5	Abergwesyn Common	Brecknock	NT/R Skeates	RCHAMW	1998
11	Begwns	Radnor	NT	NT	1998
43	Mynydd y Garth (Mynydd Uchaf)	Glamorgan	GGAT	RCAHMW	1998
46	Clwydian Range IV	Denbigh	DAS (CAS)	RCAHMW	1998
50	Mynydd y Ffynnon IV	Cardigan	DAT/CPAT	RCAHMW	1998
57	Bwlch Mawr/Gym Ddu	Caernarvon	GAT	RCAHMW	1998
27	Blaenau Gwent	Monmouth	GGAT	RCHAMW	1999
28	Llantisilio Mountain	Denbigh	DAS	RCAHMW	1999
34	Llethrcynon	Brecknock	CPAT	Windfarm client	1999
42	Moel Bowydd	Merioneth	GAT	RCAHMW	2000
65	West Merthyr Tydfil	Glamorgan	CAP	RCAHMW	2000



Archaeological Survey in
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