

**THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

# **Round Huts in North-East Wales**

## **2003-04**



**CPAT Report No 625**

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March 2004

Report for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

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## Round Huts in North-East Wales

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List 1: confirmed round huts ordered by name

List 2: confirmed round huts ordered by PRN

List 3: unconfirmed round huts ordered by name

List 4: unconfirmed round huts ordered by PRN

List 5: excavated round huts ordered by name

List 6: excavated round huts ordered by PRN

List 7: cropmark circles ordered by name

List 8: cropmark circles ordered by PRN

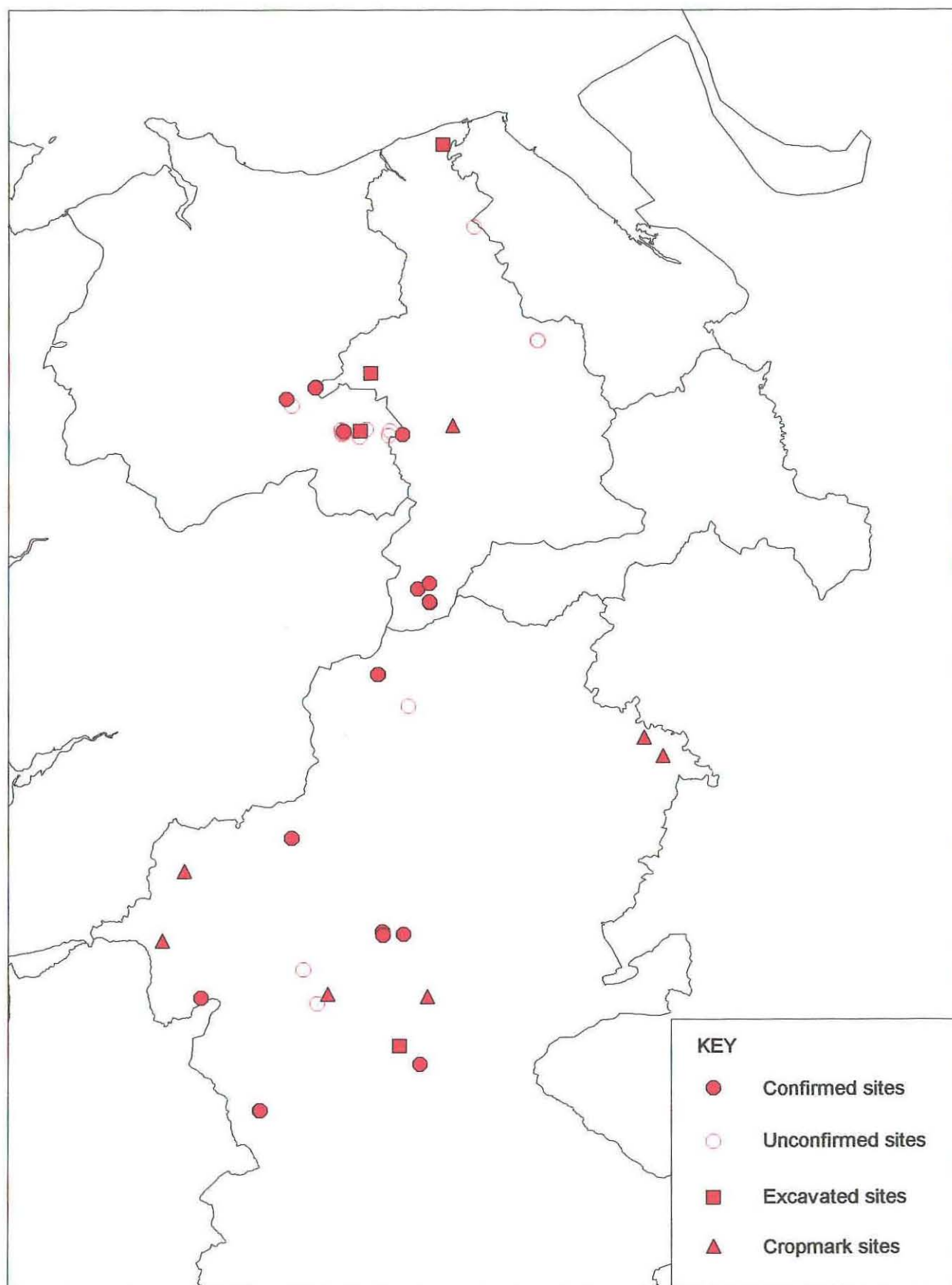
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Fig. 1 Round Huts in north-east Wales



## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 In 1998/99 Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments funded a scoping study of the putative prehistoric round huts that had been previously recorded in the modern county of Powys (Brecknock, Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire) and the former county of Clwyd (Flintshire and Denbighshire). This followed hard on the heels of an earlier study of hut circle settlements conducted in Gwynedd (Smith 1998). A preliminary report based on the desk-top exercise and entitled *Round Huts in Central and North-East Wales* (CPAT no.279; Silvester 1998) was prepared and circulated in May 1998. It considered all of the known and possible round huts in CPAT's region, drawing on information held in the regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and also the National Monuments Record (NMR) at Aberystwyth, the nature of the resource, the interpretation of the extant sites and the quality of the records that exist. The recommendations for further work produced in that first report included a systematic ground study of all relevant monuments, particularly as some of those recorded seemed not to have been visited for at least a couple of decades and the level of data available for them appeared inadequate. It was also anticipated that the creation of new and fuller records would inform future assessments of individual monuments and could be used to enhance any proposals that might offer a greater degree of protection.
- 1.2 The recommendations for a systematic study were accepted by Cadw as a valid continuation of the survey and it was agreed that all of the round huts in the historic county of Radnorshire together with some of those immediately to the north in Montgomeryshire would be examined during the second phase of work in 1998/99. The resulting report (CPAT no.303; Silvester 1999) provided detailed information on all of the recognisable huts that had been visited, together with scale plans where available and a discussion, which was limited because of the relatively small number of authentic sites in the area.
- 1.3 It had been anticipated that a further stage of work would be conducted in the following year in order to complete the assessment in Powys, but circumstances dictated that other field programmes took priority, and it was not until 2003/04 that the Trust was able to return to the project, with the enthusiastic support of Cadw and its regional inspector.
- 1.4 This report covers the fieldwork conducted during 2003/04. It has focused on those known or suspected round huts that exist (or have existed) in north-east Wales, the study thus covering the modern counties of eastern Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham County Borough, together with the sites in Montgomeryshire that were left unvisited in 1999.
- 1.5 The layout of the report is a conservative one, deliberately in keeping with the earlier report on central Powys to facilitate comparison. An initial introduction which incorporates a brief discussion on selected round huts setting them in their regional context, is followed by a detailed gazetteer of the round hut sites in the north-east region. The gazetteer is organized by PRN to facilitate ease of use and is preceded by a series of lists which distinguish the round huts according to their authenticity. Thus those sites which remain unproven are listed separately from known sites and from those that have been revealed during excavations. Where plans have been prepared of specific round huts these are incorporated with the relevant text entry in the gazetteer. The only points of divergence from the original report on Powys are firstly the inclusion within the gazetteer of all the sites in the north-east that have seen detailed assessment and/or field examination including those that have been rejected, and



secondly the exclusion from this report of the recommendations for statutory protection which form the subject of a separate submission.

## 2 Definitions

2.1 The following definitions from the first report have been adopted here:

2.1.1 *Round hut* Round huts (also frequently termed hut circles in the records) display a curving perimeter for a significant part of their outer and/or inner faces, the overall impression of the structure being curvilinear rather than rectilinear. In internal diameter they can range from less than 2m to well over 8m. However, perfect circularity is rare and they may be sub-circular or oval, and may even exhibit flattened sides. A round hut may show as an earthen or stone bank, or may be distinguished, much more rarely, by a gully. Round huts are generally attributed to the Bronze Age on the basis of the few excavated examples in the region and their general prevalence as upstanding monuments in the upland regions of Britain. From fieldwork Iron Age huts have also been mooted, and there are some sites for which a later attribution seems plausible.

2.1.2 *Round house* A term adopted here only for excavated examples of appropriate form, regardless of date.

2.1.3 *Hut Group* A term used for a close-set group of two or more round huts. The individual huts may or may not be linked by walls but will usually be within 100m of each other and represent what appears in plan to be a fairly coherent complex. Subsidiary structures may also be present.

2.1.4 *Enclosed round hut or hut group* Used where a boundary bank, wall or ditch totally surrounds one or more round huts. Such enclosures may be of any size. The corollary is that where no such enclosure exists the round hut or hut group is *unenclosed* though this will usually not be stated.

2.1.5 It must be remarked here, however, that as a result of recent deliberations within the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments for Wales (RCAHMW), the term *round hut* is no longer acceptable within NMR/SMR-related databases and needs to be substituted with the term *hut circle*. Also in keeping with the original *Thesaurus of Archaeological Site Types* (1992) produced by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), and adopted by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments for Wales (RCAHMW) for the Extended National Database (END), the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has adopted the general term '*hut circle settlement*' for all round huts regardless of whether they are single or multiple sites. *Hut circle settlement* thus offers an alternative nomenclature to that used here.

2.1.6 *Scoop* On sloping ground the removal of material to create a more level platform on which to build a structure results in a scoop. Scoops used for habitation sites are potentially difficult to distinguish, because other natural (slippage) or man-made (quarry) occurrences can result in features of similar appearance. Few if any have been excavated in Wales but in northern Britain scooped settlements are a recognised phenomenon. The term scoop is preferred here to distinguish such sites from the platforms that accommodated long huts in historic times.



### 3 Methodology

- 3.1 The initial phase of the project generated a database in which all the certain, probable and possible sites of round huts were entered (Silvester 1998, Appendix 1). Fieldwork in 1998/9 focused on those sites which had either been positively determined in the past to be round huts by fieldworkers or those where there was an element of uncertainty in the proposed chronology or function of the monuments concerned which found expression in the alternative type names within the SMR. These *possible* sites were considered to be worthy of examination, although in the event almost all of them proved to have other origins.
- 3.2 Unlike the previous work in 1998/9 this phase has included sites which now lie within forestry but has not conducted comprehensive field examination of those which had previously been identified as cropmarks, parchmarks, soilmarks or excavation discoveries. In the case of the latter group, the aerial records relating to some of these sites have been generated at various times in the past and any relevant photography is not always readily available to be re-assessed. More significantly, past field visits to such sites have rarely been of much value in determining the integrity of a particular round hut, and tend to be informative only about its locational setting, while there was little to be gained by visiting such well-known sites as the Glanfeinion round hut near Llandinam (Monts).
- 3.3 Fieldwork, as before, has focused on those sites with upstanding remains, or at least where there were remains when the last recorded site visit occurred. No prospecting for new sites has been attempted, and only a single new site (PRN 82155) has been discovered, as a result of examining a nearby enclosure. Our failure to locate more than the occasional site during systematic fieldwork campaigns in the Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire hills and further north on the Denbigh Moors and on Y Berwyn, together with a general appreciation that round huts are amongst the most difficult monument types to detect on aerial photography, dictated that random searching was not an appropriate use of the resources available to the project.
- 3.4 Fieldwork took place during the second half of the year, mainly in the period from November through to early March. Detailed records of each round hut were created during the site visit. Standard Trust recording forms were used, rather than the complex, multiple, DRS-based survey sheets that had been adopted in 1998/9. In addition, the first analysis (Silvester 1998, para 10.2.2) indicated just how few detailed plans were available to enhance the existing record. No more than 8% of the total number of certain and probable sites in Powys and the old county of Clwyd had been the subject of a measured survey, and most of these appeared to be in Brecknock. Our policy of rectifying this continued during the current study by surveying sites at a scale of 1:100 during the site visit, where it was considered that the site was of sufficient interest to warrant such a record. Photographs were taken, as much to show the monument in its setting, as to illustrate its morphology, but there were some sites where it was adjudged that a photographic record would be of little value. Information from the record sheets was entered into the standardised project database as soon as possible after the site visit and, as in the earlier programme, the free-field descriptions from that database, together with the plans, are reproduced at the end of this report.
- 3.5 It should be noted at this stage that in most cases access to the monuments under discussion was granted by their owners. Only in a few instances was it not possible to contact landowners, or it was deemed unnecessary.



## 4 Site Numbers

- 4.1 The assessment covers both those round huts which show as earthworks or stone-built features (Silvester 1998, para 8.1), and the platforms or scoops (Silvester 1998, para 8.4), that may have provided the bases on which timber or even stone huts were erected, although few are known in the north-east of Wales. Additionally, a third type defined in the first report, as ring gullies, are represented at one site – the Alwen Reservoir – in the region. For the sake of clarity these sites have been grouped together under the generic term ‘round hut’ (= hut circle) in the discussion that follows unless it is stated otherwise.
- 4.2 For the sake of overall uniformity and to produce a comprehensive distributional overview, those sites in Montgomeryshire that were examined in 1998/9 are included in the analyses that follow. This means that an additional six sites feature in the totals presented in the tables.
- 4.3 The preliminary analysis distinguished three categories of site, namely *certain*, *probable* and *possible*. The first of these categories, it hardly needs to be said, covered those round huts where there was absolutely no doubt about, or at least so it appeared from the existing records, about their authenticity. The second category included those sites which appeared to be reasonable contenders for the description *round hut* on the basis of the available SMR description and the descriptors used in the *type fields*, particularly *Type 1*, in the SMR database. The last category of *possible* sites, again, relied on information from the SMR where there was a suggestion, usually in one of the SMR *type fields*, that the site might have functioned as a hut circle, although alternative explanations were at least as likely. Fieldwork in 1998/9 and in other work programmes such as the Prehistoric and Funerary and Ritual Project has demonstrated that rarely are these possible sites of any relevance to the present survey, and as a consequence the majority in the north-east have been ignored during the current year.
- 4.4 The situation regarding site numbers as established by the preliminary desk-top assessment in 1998 is presented in Table 1. These figures can be compared with the figures in Table 2 which reveals the position during the current year. The minor discrepancies in the figure totals result from the fact that a further examination of the available information on each site was instituted before the commencement of fieldwork, and that as a result, in some cases of a better understanding of the sites in question, some have been relegated from the *probable* and *possible* categories to the list of non-relevant sites.

**Table 1. Site numbers recognised in 1998**

New County	Certain	Probable	Possible	Total
Conwy Borough	14	10	12	36
Denbighshire	8	2	2	12
Flintshire	3	3	1	7
Montgomeryshire	11	2	21	34
Wrexham Borough	1	0	0	1
Total	37	17	36	90

- 4.5 One outcome is that every site, with only a small number of exceptions where access could not be gained, has now been assessed in the field. New figures for the number of known round huts in north-east Wales are thus provided in Table 2, but no categorical statement can be made on the precise numbers of sites for two reasons. Firstly, a number of sites are suspected from aerial observation but these could not be confirmed without recourse to excavation and therefore must remain an unknown at least for the present. Secondly, there are a number of sites resulting from earlier observations which are no longer discernible, perhaps because of agricultural or forestry activity. Whether or not these were authentic hut circles must also remain a matter for conjecture.

**Table 2. Sites identified in 2003/4**

New County	Certain Sites	Excavated sites	Uncertain sites	Crop marks	Discredited sites	Total
Conwy Borough	6	1	10	0	14	31
Denbighshire	4	2	3	1	3	13
Flintshire	0	0	1	0	3	4
Montgomeryshire	10	1	5	6	15	37
Wrexham Borough	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	20	4	20	7	35	<b>86</b>

- 4.6 The figures confirm what was already broadly known from the earlier assessment, that the number of authentic round huts in the region is very small indeed. Where they do exist such huts are often obvious, even though there can be possible confusion with ring cairns in particular (for which see below). There are, of course, some which are less well-defined and whose interpretation is less clear cut. But overall the statement made in the earlier field report that ‘... this remarkably small number is a silent yet evocative statement on just how limited the resource is in central Powys, and it can be placed in perspective by noting that the Gwynedd Hut Circle Settlement Survey identified more than 1850 round huts’, an anomaly that is as applicable to the north-east as it is to central Wales.

## **5 Discovery and Management**

- 5.1 There is no significant tradition of round hut discovery in this region in contrast to earlier activity in areas such as Gwynedd (Smith 1998, 6). Some sites such as Lle yr Hen Eglwys in Powys (PRN 7872) have been known, if not necessarily correctly interpreted, since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. A few others, such as the seemingly discredited Moel Seisiog hut circles (PRN 100399; RCAHMW 1914) seem to have been first recorded by the Royal Commission in Denbighshire in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and Ellis Davies also noted some such as the complex of sites on Bryn Heilyn (PRN 100670; Davies 1929). Many others, including quite a number which have been now been rejected as round huts, have come to light as a result of the Ordnance Survey’s field and aerial photographic assessment work in the 1960s and 1970s. Systematic field survey in the uplands of north-east Wales, funded by Cadw, RCAHMW and others, during the 1990s has also produced a small crop of new examples, including several on the Berwyn – those on and near Cwm Pennant – and on Mynydd Hiraethog, specifically the Llyn Alwen platforms.



- 5.2 On the basis of the discernible trends it is likely that further discoveries will be made only either during general and non-site specific fieldwork programmes, particularly in the uplands, or by chance discoveries.
- 5.3 At present a total of only four out of the total of twenty-four certain and excavated sites are statutorily protected. Two of the sites form single elements of scheduled groups of monuments, leaving only two round huts which have been scheduled on the basis of their own merits. The nature of one further scheduled site (PRN 5058; SAM Mg301) is unconfirmed, but it has been scheduled as a prehistoric funerary monument.

## 6 Survival

- 6.1 In our first report on central Wales we identified how the geographical location of the round huts undoubtedly played a part in their preservation, both altitude and their location in unimproved or unenclosed land being of some significance. The picture in north-east Wales is not dissimilar.
- 6.2 Those sites which have been excavated and proven to be habitations of prehistoric date, but have not been visited because little would usefully be achieved by doing so, are included in this assessment and the accompanying tables, as are cropmarks which may denote relevant sites.

***Table 3. Comparison of the nature and altitude of sites***

Altitude OD	Certain sites	Excavated sites	Uncertain sites	Cropmarks	Total
0-100m	0	1	0	2	3
101-200m	0	1	1	1	3
201-300m	0	0	1	3	4
301-350m	1	0	1	1	3
351-400m	7	1	9	0	17
401-450m	5	1	6	0	12
451-500m	6	0	2	0	8
over 501m	1	0	0	0	1
Total	20	4	20	7	51

- 6.3 The trends in tables 3 and 4 might be used to clarify one of the reasons for the differential survival rates of round huts in upland and lowland contexts. Taking 244m (800') OD as an admittedly arbitrary but frequently cited boundary between lowland and upland, all the known hut circles occur in what must be classed as upland environments. In fact not one is found under 328m (1000') OD. Nevertheless, even at such high altitudes many lie in improved pasture - including two at over 500m (1640') OD - and are thus vulnerable to progressive degradation. Below 300m OD, there is cropmark evidence, together with a small number of uncertain sites. All of these lower sites lie in enclosed or improved land and it is not surprising that any surface traces would have been degraded by the more intensive land utilisation practised in these areas, particularly when the long timespan of this gradual erosive force is taken into account. That the uneven distribution could be largely a result of subsequent land-use

patterns is further borne out by the relatively even spread of elevations in the case of the small number of sites which have been revealed by excavation. In the case of excavated sites there can be little doubt of their authenticity.

**Table 4. Comparison of the authenticity of sites in relation to their altitude and the nature of land-use**

Altitude OD	Sites in improved land (certain)	Sites in unimproved land (certain)	Sites in improved land (uncertain)	Sites in unimproved land (uncertain)	Total
0-100m	1	0	2	0	3
101-200m	1	0	2	0	3
201-300m	0	0	4	0	4
301-350m	0	1	2	0	3
351-400m	2	6	6	3	17
401-450m	3	3	6	0	12
451-500m	0	6	1	1	8
over 501m	0	1	0	0	1
Total	7	17	24	4	51

- 6.4 In contrast to sites in the lowland areas, sites which lie above 300m OD are less likely to have been subjected to degradation by long-term land utilisation. This is evident when it is realised that 85% of the confirmed sites for which there were surface traces (i.e. excepting the excavated sites) lie within areas which remain unaffected by pasture improvement. Incidentally, the small number (less than 15%) of uncertain sites in unimproved ground reflects uncertainties regarding the interpretation of the remainder caused by land improvement, forest planting, etc.

## 7 Discussion

- 7.1 What emerges despite this relatively small number of authentic sites is the wide variation in both morphology and location. Our consideration can usefully start with the three sites (PRNs 105743-10745) beside the Alwen Reservoir on Mynydd Hiraethog. These are not hut circles in the conventional sense and might be better identified as scoops in as much as they are distinguished by near-circular, flattish platforms, slightly terraced into the slope. The terracing is so shallow, however, that while two of the platforms are reasonably distinctive if seen from the right angle, the third (PRN 105744) is so slight as to be virtually undetectable. If it wasn't for the fact that one of the other platforms is no more than fifteen metres away it is quite possible that this would not have been identified at the time of discovery. The other aspect of note is that each of these platforms has a faint ring gully around its edge. Again the fact that this re-occurs on each site is clear evidence of what may have originally functioned as an eavesdrip gully on each, although the possibility that the gullies held structural uprights cannot be dismissed.
- 7.2 What is more significant is the level of preservation on this gentle slope high above a stream whose valley has now been flooded as a reservoir. The slopes have been enclosed but there is no immediate evidence that the rough pasture has ever been



improved. The preservation here is akin to the well-known phenomenon of the palisade trenches preserved in the turf on the Cheviots. It seems likely that in a different context all traces of these fragile structures would have been removed by cultivation or disguised under less topographically sensitive forms of vegetation. Nothing similar to these sites have, as far as we are aware, been identified on the uplands of Hiraethog, let alone elsewhere in north-east Wales, although there is no reason to assume that they might be unique within the area. Given the right combination of topography and vegetation, there ought to be the potential for other, similar discoveries.

- 7.3 Yet it now comes as little surprise that the Alwen Reservoir platforms are hardly exceptional in their isolation. Further south in the western Berwyns, much field survey was conducted in the 1990s, revealing significant amounts of archaeology. One of the interfluvial spurs termed Cwm Pennant, that lay to the east of the main Pennant valley running down to the Dee flood plain, yielded the remains of several archaeological periods. Of particular interest in the context of this study was settlement of undoubted prehistoric date, characterised by its wandering walls and clearance cairns. Amongst these were two round huts, one (PRN 19596) rather larger than the other (PRN 19599) – the possibility of a third hut (PRN 19595), partly incarcerated below a much later circular sheep stell (PRN 105021), cannot be entirely discounted but this is more likely to be a ruined and robbed ring cairn. The significant point about this settlement with its various integral elements is that again it seems to be unique in this part of western Berwyn, and indeed virtually in the Berwyn as a whole. All of the surrounding areas have been systematically fieldwalked but nothing comparable has come to light, even on the opposite side of Nant Esgeiriau, the stream edging Cwm Pennant, where the physical conditions on another interfluvial spur are very similar. On nearby Cefn Penagored there is indeed a flat circular platform with a slight fan where it has been cut into the slope and elsewhere the meager hints of a ring bank, but this has been statutorily protected as a ring cairn and there seems no reason to doubt the attribution.
- 7.4 In the same general area there is a further hut circle, this with an appended enclosure just above the slope that pitches down into the Pennant Valley (PRN 26535; plan in *Archaeology in Wales* 35 [1995], 30). Unfortunately, farmers in recent times have seen this as an appropriate place to dump unwanted surface stone from the surrounding area, although the corollary is of course that had some other spot been chosen the hut circle itself might have been cleared away. The enclosure is an altogether more substantial affair with a distinctive earth bank.
- 7.5 There is also one other site to notice on the Berwyn and this only serves to emphasise the heterogeneity of the hut circle sites in the region. The Clochnant enclosures (PRN 101658; SAM Me148(DEN)) comprise a string of three contiguous, semi-circular platforms with a fourth, rather more elongated, platform at the south-west end. A faintly embanked entrance approach at that end may be contemporary, and the same is probably true for a shallow ditch cutting across the ground just beyond the most north-easterly enclosure, which appears to be a drainage gully emptying into a stream. The enclosures are defined by low scarps and stony banks, and it appears likely that at least two of them, and perhaps all three, may have supported round houses, but equally it appears improbable that the enclosure perimeters had any sort of structural role. Once again this site has no obvious parallels in the region. The Ordnance Survey field surveyors posited an Iron Age date for it, citing not Welsh parallels but Scottish ones, and this has largely stuck in the literature. But there is no intrinsic guide to such an attribution and in theory these small enclosures could be Romano-British, perhaps even early medieval, or an atypical Bronze Age settlement. The exposed location on flattish



and unsheltered moorland and at a height of only a little under 400m OD does not conjure up a particularly attractive environment, and the later Bronze Age and the succeeding Iron Age is perceived to be a time of deteriorating climate when settlement may have retreated from the higher grounds occupied during the Bronze Age. But the Clochnant enclosures are not so far from and at a similar altitude to, Ffridd Camen with its presumably permanent medieval agriculture and slightly later *bafodydd*, so that it would be unwise to rule out permanent or seasonal settlement at any time when pressures on land usage were in full play.

- 7.6 At the southern end of the Berwyns lies Lake Vyrnwy, again an area where there has been much systematic fieldwork in recent years, yet where only one hut circle complex has been recognized, and that an early discovery recorded on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1890, which goes under the name of Lle yr Hen Eglwys (PRN 7872). This anomalous site, consisting of an enclosure with a possible internal hut site, together with another round hut (PRN 82155) on an adjacent shelf of the valley side nearby, probably acquired its appellation as a result of a misguided local tradition supported by later antiquarian speculation, for there is no good reason to associate these features with early medieval ecclesiastical activity. That it is the only detected example of prehistoric domestic activity around the lake when prehistoric funerary and ritual sites are reasonably commonplace is indicative of a problem common to other upland areas in the region, and it is unsatisfactory to evoke a scenario that would see all such sites lying on or very close to the valley floor and therefore now under water.
- 7.7 Further to the south above the Severn Valley several classic hut circles have been detected in the vicinity of Garreg-hir, although, again the possibility that these may be ring cairns should not be overlooked. This is admittedly an area of later enclosure, parliamentary or otherwise, which may well have aided the survival of the huts (PRNs 917 and 4888), but this cannot explain adequately why similar hut circles have not been found elsewhere on the ridges and escarpments that lie to the north of the Severn Valley. One of the stone-built circular huts in this locality (PRN 5773) occupies a ridge crest position, overlooking an area of concentrated prehistoric funerary activity. The hut is of particular interest due to the well-preserved nature of its structure, which retains evidence of an entrance and, more importantly, a regularly-spaced group of large stones abutting the inner edge of the stone bank which forms its main identifying feature (see site plan). One possibility regarding the function of these stones may be that they were used as post-pads that formed a solid base on which to position roof supports.
- 7.8 Many of the sites earmarked for survey as potentially of prehistoric domestic origin have turned out to be of other periods and/or origins. In large part this reflects concerns about the quality of the data presented to the SMR and entered into its database by cautious staff over the years. In large part this is completely understandable. There always has been and almost certainly always will be a proportion of sites where the interpretation is clouded by ambivalent data and equivocal observations. Our own problems in distinguishing hut circles from ring cairns is only the most obvious manifestation of an issue which is unlikely ever to be completely resolved. On Ffridd Camen for instance, in a boulder field which has seen relatively little subsequent activity, is a medium-sized stony ring which we originally classed as a hut circle on its discovery in the mid-1990s. But this somewhat amorphous corona of stone lacks an obvious entrance gap and also contains in its south-east sector a large boulder which does not appear to be a collapsed part of the structure and certainly would have been a confounded nuisance if this was in domestic use. It thus seems that our initial contention was misguided and that this is actually a ring cairn.



- 7.9 But the problem of interpretation is best exemplified by what is known as the Nant y Gangen Ddu cairn (PRN 5058), now a scheduled ancient monument (Mg301(POW)). The site had already been recognized by 1992 when one of the writers (RJS) visited it. It was reputedly a cairn, seems to have been confirmed as such by Alex Gibson in his pilot project on prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments in Montgomeryshire, and has now been scheduled as such, the scheduling description identifying “a partly turf-covered cairn, 10m diameter by 0.5m high, with the remains of a cist in the north-west quadrant measuring 1.3 by 1.1 by 0.2m. A field bank 1.5m wide by 0.5m high curves round the north edge of the cairn and a large heap of rubble covers both the bank and the N edge of the cairn” (Cadw 2001). Gibson, however, thought that the cairn overlay the field bank! The only discordant voice is that of the writer who recorded a low circular bank of stones (i.e. a ring bank) with tipped clearance stone over the northern segment. Running off to the north and west were low linear banks of stone, and the writer considered the site to be not a cairn but a hut circle with an enclosure bank running off it (though possibly a wandering wall might be as likely). The writer would welcome the opportunity to re-assess the monument in the light of these disparate views, but regrettably it has not been possible to revisit this site as part of the present round hut survey. The owner has apparently seen too many archaeologists in recent years and refused access to it in March 2004. Because of the uncertainties over the origin of the site it is not included in the gazetteer, nor has it been included in the various analyses presented here.
- 7.10 A different sort of problem is set by the well-known settlement groups, known as Mynydd Poeth and Ffridd Bryn-helen, which lie between the villages of Cerrigydrudion and Pentre-llyn-cymmer in eastern Conwy. These were subject to intensive survey work by John Manley in the 1980s, and he also conducted an excavation at the nearby Graig Fechan enclosure (PRN 101736) which suggested an occupation period of between 1200 and 800BC. However, many of the remaining sites within the two main areas were undated although the general contention was and remains that they are good examples of coherent areas of prehistoric settlement, a rarity in this part of north Wales. Our reassessment of these features during the current study has, however, cast some doubt on the all-embracing attribution to the later Bronze Age. One of our main concerns is that many of the ovoid enclosures which form a major element of the archaeological landscape in the locality were found to be integrated with rectangular structures, of the type commonly known as long huts. These, of course, are generally presumed to be of medieval or later date. They were a largely unappreciated archaeological site type at the time of the original fieldwork and it may be that the degree of masking caused by later clearance and disturbance resulted in some misinterpretation. Certainly this does not appear to be a wholly prehistoric upland landscape. Yet the implication that at least some of the sites cannot be readily confirmed as prehistoric in no way precludes the area being the site of prehistoric settlement. We only have to look at the early post-medieval *hafod* site at Nant y Criafolen near Llyn Brenig, where excavation revealed traces of a circular post-built structure (PRN 100631) beneath one of the long huts.
- 7.11 Of course, the collective ability of field archaeologists to comprehend what they are looking at should continue to improve as time passes and more fieldwork is conducted on, and reported on, sites of all periods. Thus the identification by an Ordnance Survey field investigator in 1969 of several hut circles (PRNs 100257, 101846 and 101847) on Holywell Common in an area of intense surface mining activity would today be treated with much greater circumspection by field archaeologists more familiar with the earthwork remains of Industrial Age archaeology and horse whims in particular.



- 7.12 The construction of a hut circle is of course a very straightforward response to providing accommodation and shelter. It is perhaps not surprising that in upland areas some shelters constructed by medieval and post-medieval stock herders should appear superficially similar, and it may only be their degree of preservation and their rough appearance that imply rather than unequivocally confirm their much more recent origins. Again archaeological fieldwork competence and a more intimate familiarity with the general archaeology of an area has much to do with completing an accurate assessment of a site. Our own work on Mynydd Hiraethog exemplifies this precisely, the large number of small shelters of relatively recent date presenting a confused interpretation when survey work was first carried out there in the early 1990s.

## 8 Conclusions

- 8.1 It is of course difficult to draw any fundamental conclusions from such a small sample of sites. And there is no doubt that it is a small sample. Compared with the number of known prehistoric funerary monuments contemporary domestic sites are sparse indeed. The reasons for this inequality cannot be satisfactorily addressed here, but it is an issue that has been mentioned in previous reports and will continue to contribute to any discussions and debate on domestic settlement in the prehistoric and particularly the second millennium bc. What is evident is that enough systematic fieldwork has been carried out in north-east and mid Wales to confirm that there is no large concentration of round huts out there awaiting discovery, and that sites where they are found appear in ones and twos. It is self-evident that the majority of domestic settlements have left no surface trace.
- 8.2 This assumption in turn implies that those round huts that are visible may not be typical of prehistoric domestic settlement as a whole. They are the survivors and for whatever reason - the nature of their construction, location, or post-abandonment activity - they could be exceptional. As it is these surviving round huts do not conform to a standard pattern. There are some, certainly, such as those near Carno and on Cwm Pennant in the Berwyn which appear as traditional stone- or earth-banked huts, but the Llyn Alwen reservoir platforms (an example of which is shown on the cover of this report) and the unusual conjoined enclosures beside Clochnant in the Berwyns reveal the wider range of site forms that exist. We might logically assume that the Alwen sites are typical of the slighter earthworks that would have been created on prehistoric settlement sites but which have failed to survive as recognisable entities to the present day.
- 8.3 The round huts that have been recorded during the current survey thus represent a rare and valuable resource. It is imperative that those examples that are presently in reasonable condition should be protected from future depredation. We are in doubt that other examples will be located in north-east Wales in due course, but experience suggests that there won't be many.

## 9 Acknowledgements

Our thanks go to Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments who provided the funding for this study and particularly to Dr Sian Rees, their regional inspector, who oversaw the work. Thanks also must go to all the landowners who permitted access to sites on their ground.

## 10 Bibliography

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Silvester, R J 1998 *Round butts in central and north-east Wales* CPAT Report No. 279, Welshpool

Smith, G, 1998 *Gwynedd hut circle settlement survey G1104* (GAT draft report, Bangor)

**List 1      Confirmed sites by name**

<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Modern County</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>NGR:</i>
Alwen Reservoir hut platform I	Conwy	105743	SH9274555992
Alwen Reservoir hut platform II	Conwy	105744	SH9272555990
Alwen Reservoir hut platform III	Conwy	105745	SH9268555905
Bwlch Gwyn hut circle	Conwy	105641	SH89705472
Cefn Bannog farmstead	Conwy	100746	SJ01825099
Cefn Penagored hut circle	Denbighshire	26535	SJ03403456
Clochnant platforms	Denbighshire	101658	SJ04693520
Craig y Llyn Mawr Hut VI	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	4888	SN99769784
Cwm Pennant hut I	Denbighshire	19596	SJ04683325
Cwm Pennant hut II	Denbighshire	19599	SJ04703311
Foel Uchaf hut circle	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	21945	SN80799117
Graig y Llyn Mawr Hut III	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	917	SN99709818
Lle yr Hen Eglwys enclosure	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	7872	SH99242553
Lle yr Hen Eglwys hut circle	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	82155	SH99202550
Llynnytarw Hut	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	5773	SO01939794
Mynydd Lluest Fach settlement	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	16606	SH90230813
Mynydd Poeth platform	Conwy	101799	SH95665131
Nant Troedegair Round Hut I	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	21927	SN86917924
Nant Troedegair Round Hut II	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	21926	SN86907924
Waun Lluest Owain settlement	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	6664	SO03698418



**List 2      Confirmed round huts by PRN**

<b><i>PRN</i></b>	<b><i>Site Name</i></b>	<b><i>Modern County</i></b>	<b><i>NGR</i></b>
917	Graig y Llyn Mawr Hut III	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SN99709818
4888	Craig y Llyn Mawr Hut VI	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SN99769784
5773	Llynymarw Hut	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SO01939794
6664	Waun Lluest Owain settlement	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SO03698418
7872	Lle yr Hen Eglwys enclosure	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SH99242553
16606	Mynydd Lluest Fach settlement	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SH90230813
19596	Cwm Pennant hut I	Denbighshire	SJ04683325
19599	Cwm Pennant hut II	Denbighshire	SJ04703311
21926	Nant Troedegsair Round Hut II	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SN86907924
21927	Nant Troedegsair Round Hut I	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SN86917924
21945	Foel Uchaf hut circle	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SN80799117
26535	Cefn Penagored hut circle	Denbighshire	SJ03403456
82155	Lle yr Hen Eglwys hut circle	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SH99202550
100746	Cefn Bannog farmstead	Conwy	SJ01825099
101658	Clochnant platforms	Denbighshire	SJ04693520
101799	Mynydd Poeth platform	Conwy	SH95665131
105641	Bwlch Gwyn hut circle	Conwy	SH89705472
105743	Alwen Reservoir hut platform I	Conwy	SH9274555992
105744	Alwen Reservoir hut platform II	Conwy	SH9272555990
105745	Alwen Reservoir hut platform III	Conwy	SH9268555905

**List 3      Unconfirmed round huts by name**

<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Modern County</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>NGR</i>
Alltwen Cropmark	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	1461	SN929906
Bwlch Pen Barras hut circles A	Denbighshire	102300	SJ1626060940
Bwlch Pen Barras hut circles B	Denbighshire	102299	SJ1632060960
Bwlch y Garnedd hut circle III	Conwy	105196	SH90295401
Caer Ddunod earthen circle, site of	Conwy	100676	SH97995153
Careg y Terfyn Hut III	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	1453	SN91449418
Cefn Du earthwork	Denbighshire	102161	SJ09487300
Ffridd Fach hut circle	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	7831	SJ02442217
Fron-heulog huts	Conwy	101744	SH97305069
Hafoty Hendre hut circles, site of	Conwy	100727	SJ00525136
Moel y Fron hut circles, site of	Conwy	100744	SJ00385088
Mynydd Poeth Enclosure	Conwy	101558	SH95515102
Mynydd Poeth hut	Conwy	101798	SH95695113
Mynydd Poeth hut	Conwy	101802	SH95515112
Mynydd Poeth platform	Conwy	101796	SH95395145
Mynydd Poeth terraces	Conwy	101797	SH95665121



**List 4      Unconfirmed round huts by PRN**

<b><i>PRN</i></b>	<b><i>Site Name</i></b>	<b><i>Modern County</i></b>	<b><i>NGR</i></b>
1453	Careg y Terfyn Hut III	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SN91449418
1461	Alltwen Cropmark	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SN929906
7831	Ffridd Fach hut circle	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SJ02442217
100676	Caer Ddunod earthen circle, site of	Conwy	SH97995153
100727	Hafoty Hendre hut circles, site of	Conwy	SJ00525136
100744	Moel y Fron hut circles, site of	Conwy	SJ00385088
101558	Mynydd Poeth Enclosure	Conwy	SH95515102
101744	Fron-heulog huts	Conwy	SH97305069
101796	Mynydd Poeth platform	Conwy	SH95395145
101797	Mynydd Poeth terraces	Conwy	SH95665121
101798	Mynydd Poeth hut	Conwy	SH95695113
101802	Mynydd Poeth hut	Conwy	SH95515112
102161	Cefn Du earthwork	Denbighshire	SJ09487300
102299	Bwlch Pen Barras hut circles B	Denbighshire	SJ1632060960
102300	Bwlch Pen Barras hut circles A	Denbighshire	SJ1626060940
105196	Bwlch y Garnedd hut circle III	Conwy	SH90295401

**List 5    Excavated round huts by name**

<i><b>Site Name</b></i>	<i><b>Modern County</b></i>	<i><b>PRN</b></i>	<i><b>NGR</b></i>
Brenig 48: Nant Craifolen prehistoric	Denbighshire	100631	SH98495743
Glanfeinion round house	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	19453	SO01528605
Graig Fechan Enclosure	Conwy	101736	SH974513
Prestatyn, Melyd Avenue settlement (Ir	Denbighshire	102199	SJ06208173

**List 6      Excavated round huts by PRN**

<b><i>PRN</i></b>	<b><i>Site Name</i></b>	<b><i>Modern County</i></b>	<b><i>NGR</i></b>
19453	Glanfeinion round house	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SO01528605
100631	Brenig 48: Nant Craifolen prehistoric	Denbighshire	SH98495743
101736	Graig Fechan Enclosure	Conwy	SH974513
102199	Prestatyn, Melyd Avenue settlement (Ir	Denbighshire	SJ06208173

**List 7      Cropmark circles ordered by name**

<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Modern County</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>NGR</i>
	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	64999	SJ27201885
Bwlch Main Hut	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	1348	SN76719723
Coed Gamffrwd Cropmark	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	5161	SH790046
Geseilfa Ring Ditch	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	5088	SN94009160
Hendre Fawr cropmarks	Denbighshire	101761	SJ072519
Llandrinio Settlement I	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	2447	SJ2921816910
Moat Lane Ring Ditch I	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	2195	SO04469134

**List 8      Cropmark circles by PRN**

<b><i>PRN</i></b>	<b><i>Site Name</i></b>	<b><i>Modern County</i></b>	<b><i>NGR</i></b>
1348	Bwlch Main Hut	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SN76719723
2195	Moat Lane Ring Ditch I	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SO04469134
2447	Llandrinio Settlement I	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SJ2921816910
5088	Geseilfa Ring Ditch	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SN94009160
5161	Coed Gamffrwd Cropmark	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SH790046
64999		Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SJ27201885
101761	Hendre Fawr cropmarks	Denbighshire	SJ072519



**List 9      Discredited round huts by name**

<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Modern County</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>NGR</i>
Alltyrhendre enclosure	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	5754	SO022855
Bryn Gwyn Cropmark	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	5751	SO046870
Bryn Heilyn hut circle	Conwy	100670	SH96725207
Bryn Sannan circular earthwork A	Flintshire	100257	SJ18427418
Bryn Sannan circular earthwork B	Flintshire	101846	SJ18387420
Bryn Sannan circular earthwork C	Flintshire	101847	SJ18477423
Brynyfawnog round barrow	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	1557	SO03949830
Bwlch y Garnedd shooting butt I	Conwy	105187	SH91035465
Bwlch y Garnedd shooting butt II	Conwy	105189	SH91175461
Bwlch y Garnedd shooting butt III	Conwy	105190	SH91105463
Careg y Terfyn Hut I	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	5081	SN91049466
Careg y Terfyn Hut II	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	5082	SN91309450
Carreg Ais hut	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	6621	SH97630208
Cefn Penagored ring cairn	Denbighshire	105140	SJ04103390
Ceunant Coch Settlement	Denbighshire	23269	SJ02703196
Craig y Llyn Mawr Hut V	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	4889	SN99849769
Ffridd Camen ring cairn	Denbighshire	105121	SJ04493449
Ffynnon Llaethog hut	Conwy	105622	SH91505323
Gors Dyfwch hut	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	6604	SH99570315
Lle yr Hen Eglwys structure	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	7874	SH99352539
Moel Seisiog hut circles	Conwy	100399	SH86065683
Mwdwl Eithin hut I	Conwy	105422	SH91345383
Mwdwl Eithin peat stand	Conwy	105428	SH91455394
Mynydd Dwyriw hut	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	6538	SJ00570046
Mynydd Poeth Enclosure	Conwy	100665	SH95665118
Mynydd Poeth Farmstead	Conwy	100657	SH95935160
Mynydd Poeth Field System A	Conwy	101800	SH957512
Mynydd Poeth Field System B	Conwy	101801	SH953515
Mynydd Rhos Fach ring bank	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	6550	SH99030068
Nant Ffridd Goch Building	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	6416	SH96811073
Pen Esgair Wen Huts	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	6068	SN851955
Pen y Cae Cropmarks	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	1391	SN86959270
Penbryn-ci hut platform	Conwy	105718	SH87285661
Rhos Collfryn peat stand	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	7811	SJ01632273
Tan-y-Ffordd hut	Conwy	101790	SH96444943

**List 10      Discredited round huts by PRN**

<i><b>PRN</b></i>	<i><b>Site Name</b></i>	<i><b>Modern County</b></i>	<i><b>NGR</b></i>
1391	Pen y Cae Cropmarks	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SN86959270
1557	Brynyfawnog round barrow	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SO03949830
4889	Craig y Llyn Mawr Hut V	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SN99849769
5081	Careg y Terfyn Hut I	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SN91049466
5082	Careg y Terfyn Hut II	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SN91309450
5751	Bryn Gwyn Cropmark	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SO046870
5754	Alltyrhendre enclosure	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SO022855
6068	Pen Esgair Wen Huts	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SN851955
6416	Nant Ffridd Goch Building	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SH96811073
6538	Mynydd Dwyrw hut	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SJ00570046
6550	Mynydd Rhos Fach ring bank	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SH99030068
6604	Gors Dyfwch hut	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SH99570315
6621	Carreg Ais hut	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SH97630208
7811	Rhos Collfryn peat stand	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SJ01632273
7874	Lle yr Hen Eglwys structure	Powys (Montgomeryshire)	SH99352539
23269	Ceunant Coch Settlement	Denbighshire	SJ02703196
100257	Bryn Sannan circular earthwork A	Flintshire	SJ18427418
100399	Moel Seisiog hut circles	Conwy	SH86065683
100657	Mynydd Poeth Farmstead	Conwy	SH95935160
100665	Mynydd Poeth Enclosure	Conwy	SH95665118
100670	Bryn Heilyn hut circle	Conwy	SH96725207
101790	Tan-y-Ffordd hut	Conwy	SH96444943
101800	Mynydd Poeth Field System A	Conwy	SH957512
101801	Mynydd Poeth Field System B	Conwy	SH953515
101846	Bryn Sannan circular earthwork B	Flintshire	SJ18387420
101847	Bryn Sannan circular earthwork C	Flintshire	SJ18477423
105121	Ffridd Camen ring cairn	Denbighshire	SJ04493449
105140	Cefn Penagored ring cairn	Denbighshire	SJ04103390
105187	Bwlch y Garnedd shooting butt I	Conwy	SH91035465
105189	Bwlch y Garnedd shooting butt II	Conwy	SH91175461
105190	Bwlch y Garnedd shooting butt III	Conwy	SH91105463
105422	Mwdwl Eithin hut I	Conwy	SH91345383
105428	Mwdwl Eithin peat stand	Conwy	SH91455394
105622	Ffynnon Llaethog hut	Conwy	SH91505323
105718	Penbryn-ci hut platform	Conwy	SH87285661

*Site Name* Cwm Pennant sheep stell  
*Modern County.* Denbighshire

***PRN*** 105021

***NGR:*** SJ04813330

A circular sheep fold (or stell) with a stretch of wing wall running out from it. Beneath and outside it is a low arc of stone creating in places a stony bank, almost 50% of a full circle (PRN 19595). This might be the damaged remnants of a hut circle but is perhaps more likely to have been a ring cairn.



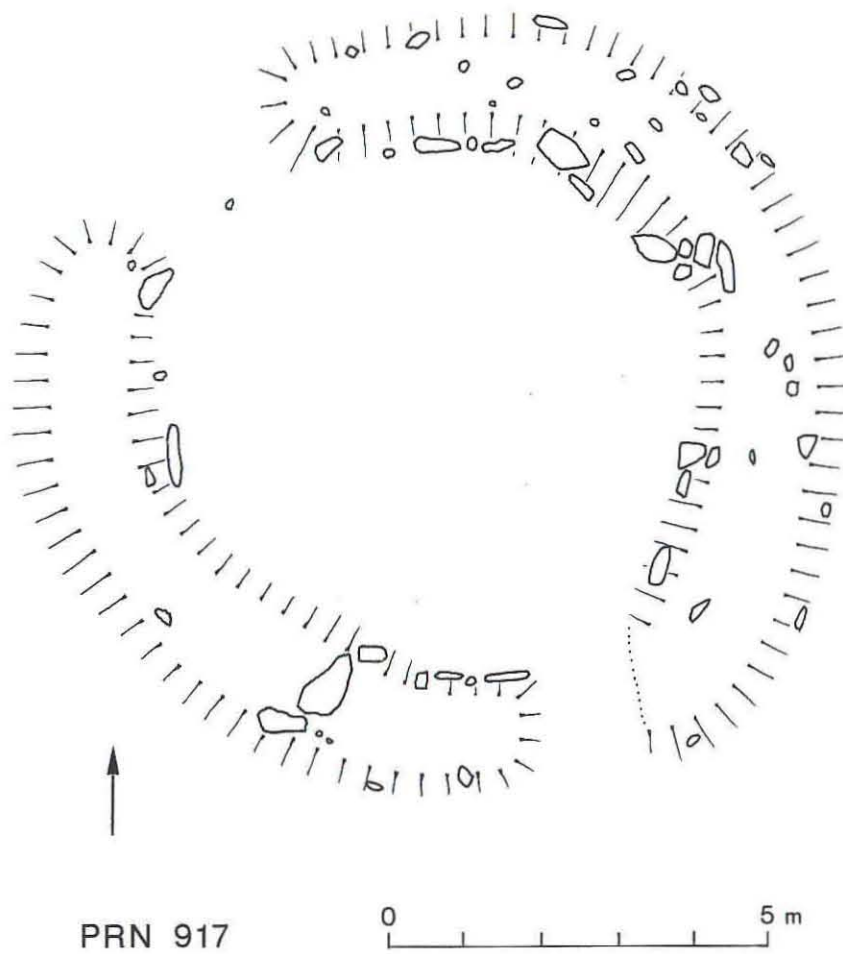


Fig. 2 Craig y Llyn Mawr Hut III

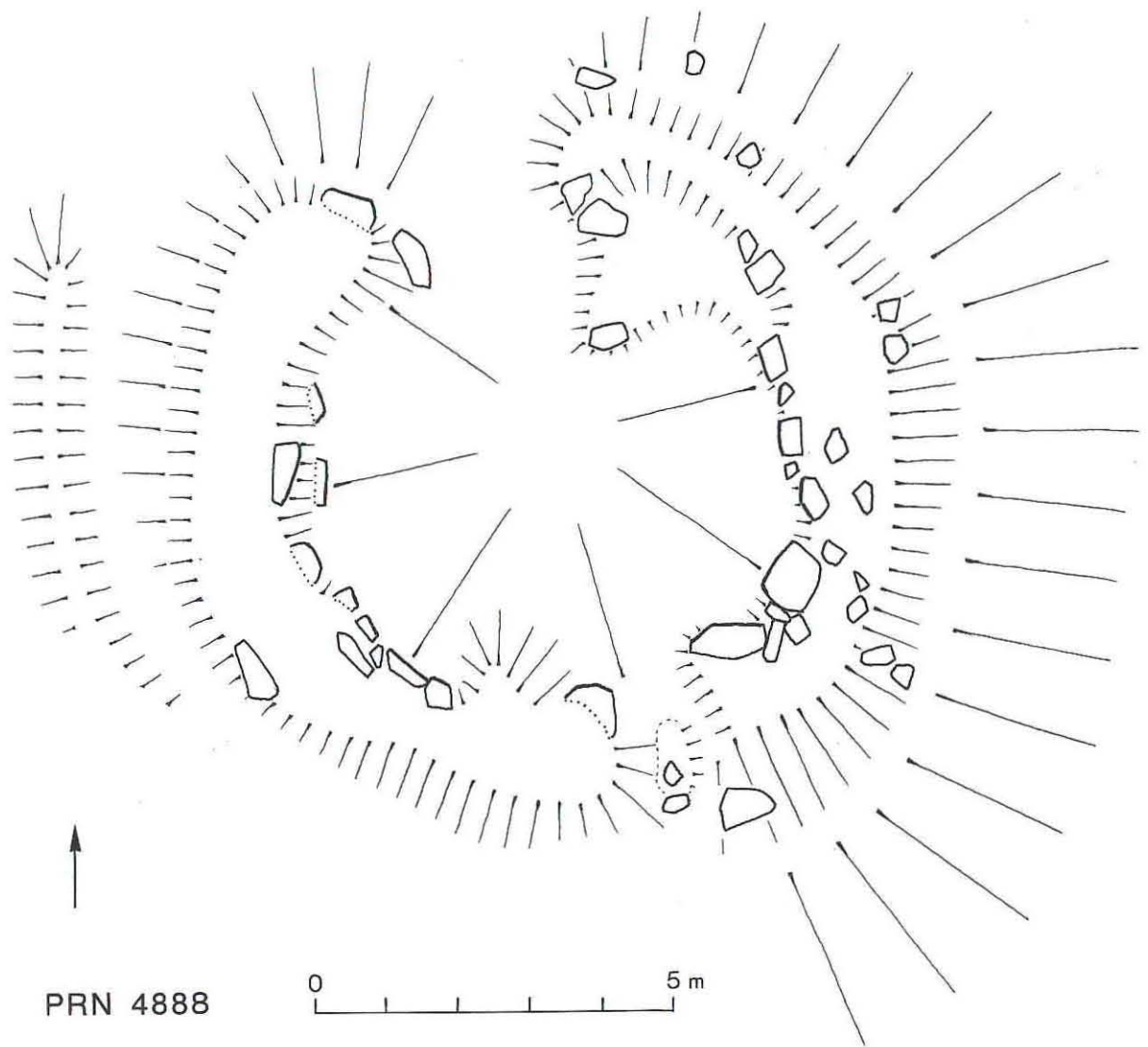


Fig. 3 Craig y Llyn Mawr Hut VI

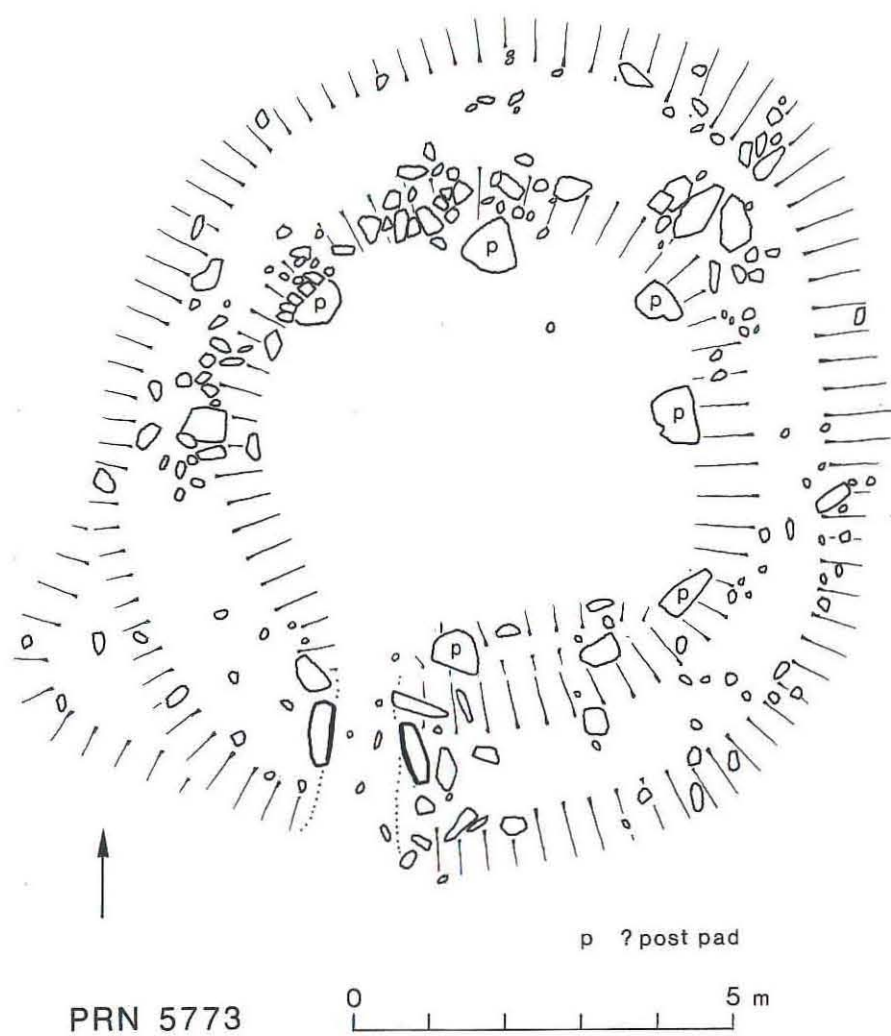


Fig. 4 Llynnytarw Hut



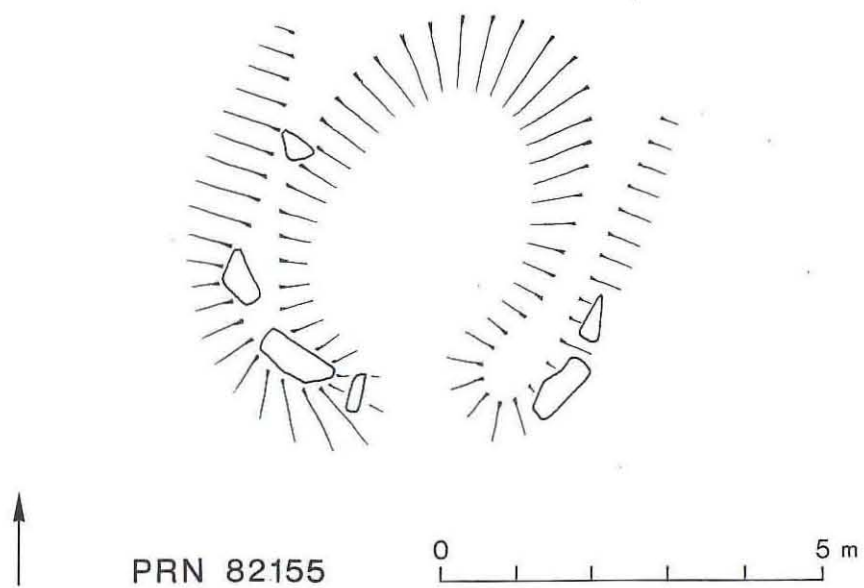
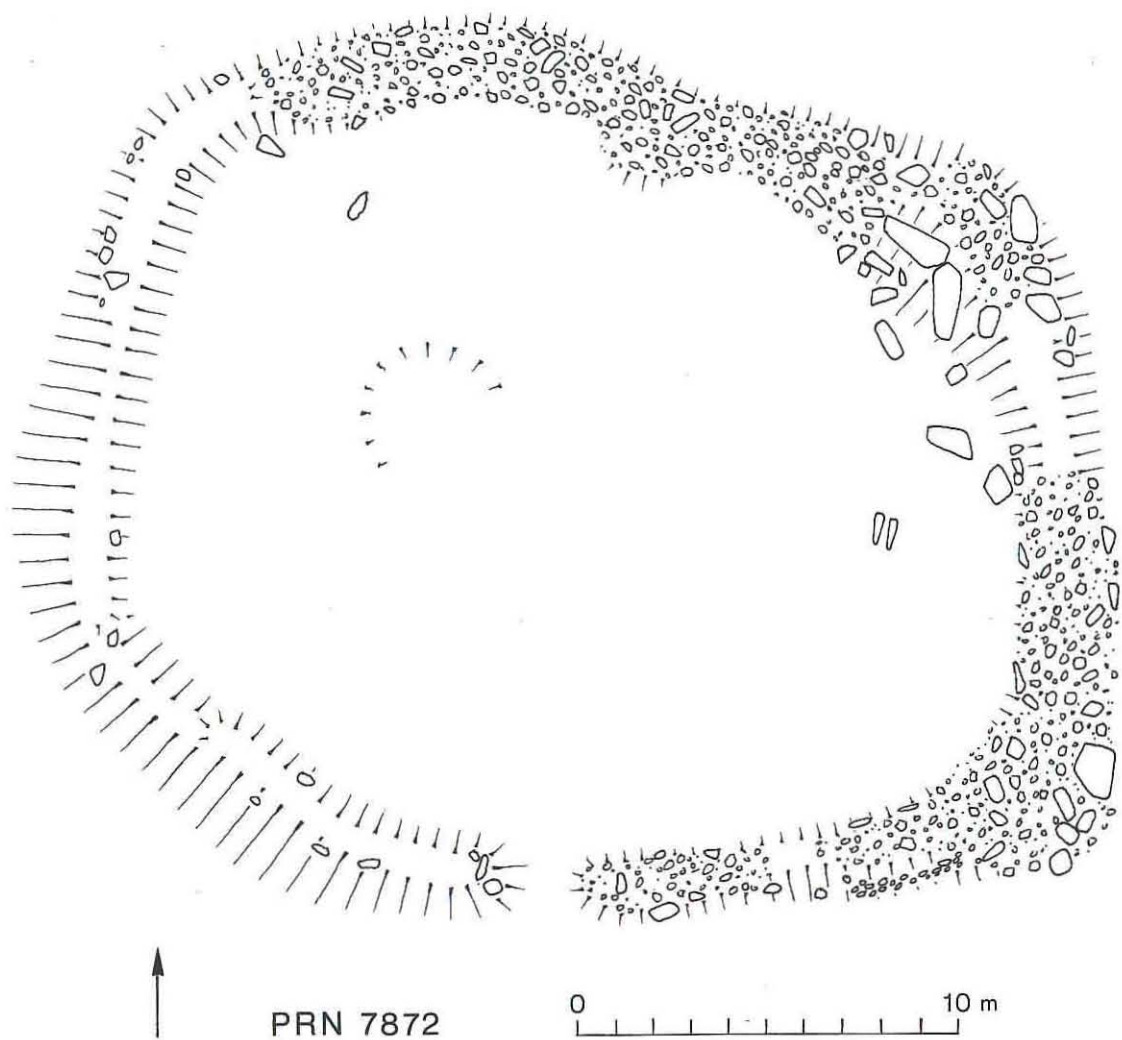


Fig. 5 Lle yr Hen Eglwys enclosure (PRN 7872) and hut circle (PRN 82155)

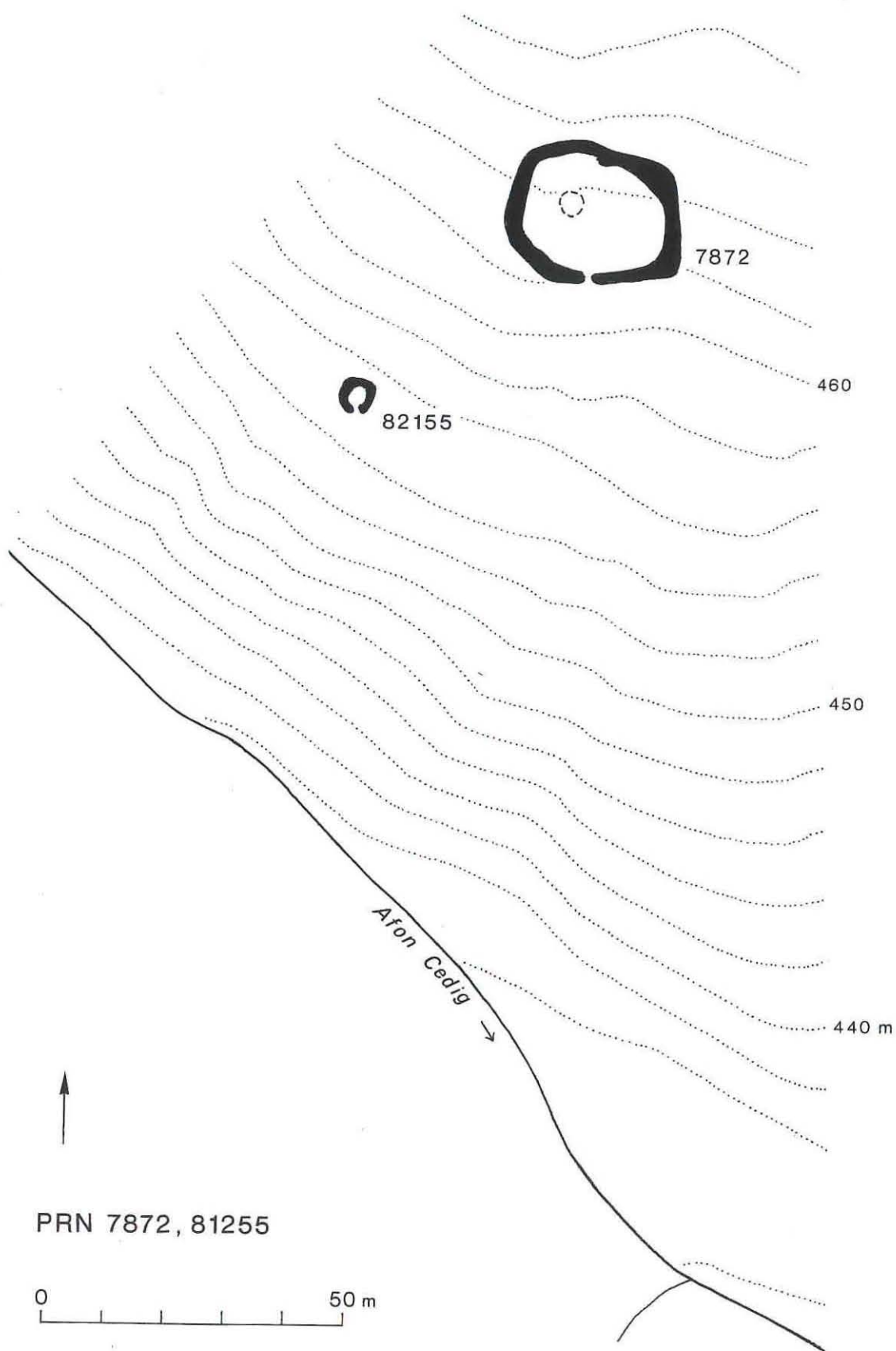


Fig. 6 Lle yr Hen Eglwys enclosure (PRN 7872) and hut circle (PRN 82155), landscape setting

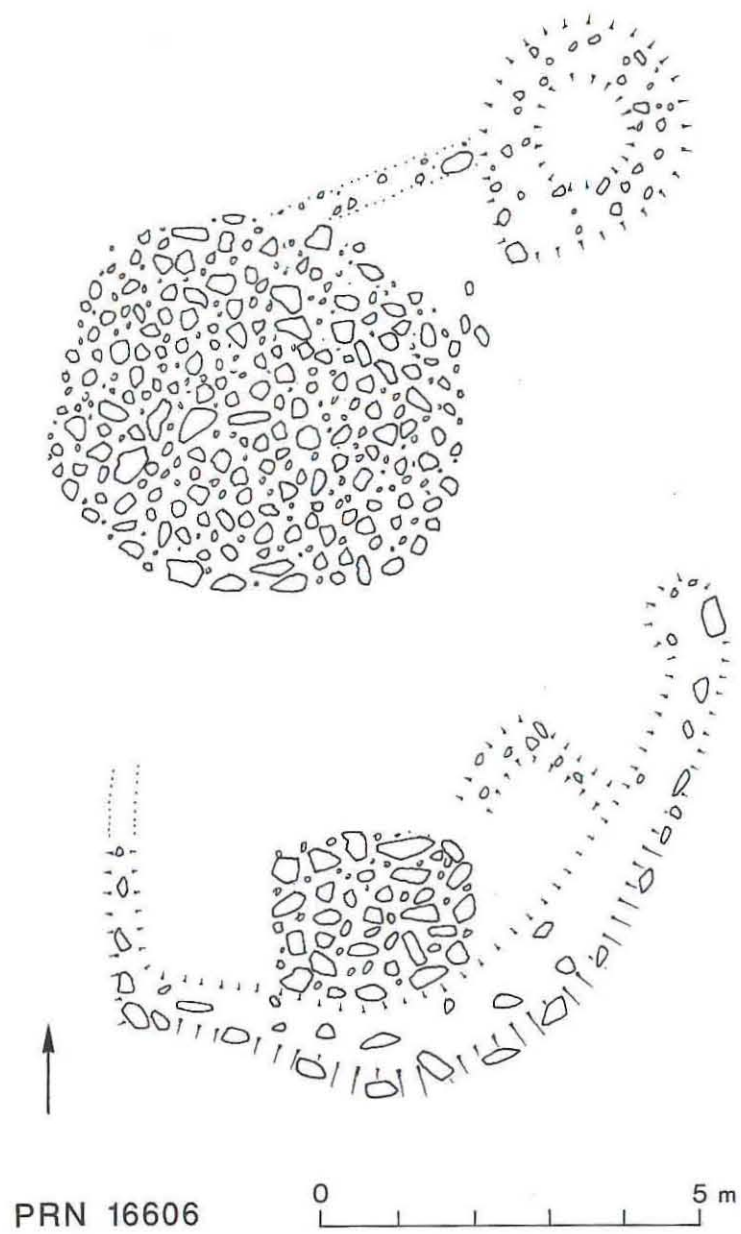


Fig.7 Mynydd Lluest Fach settlement



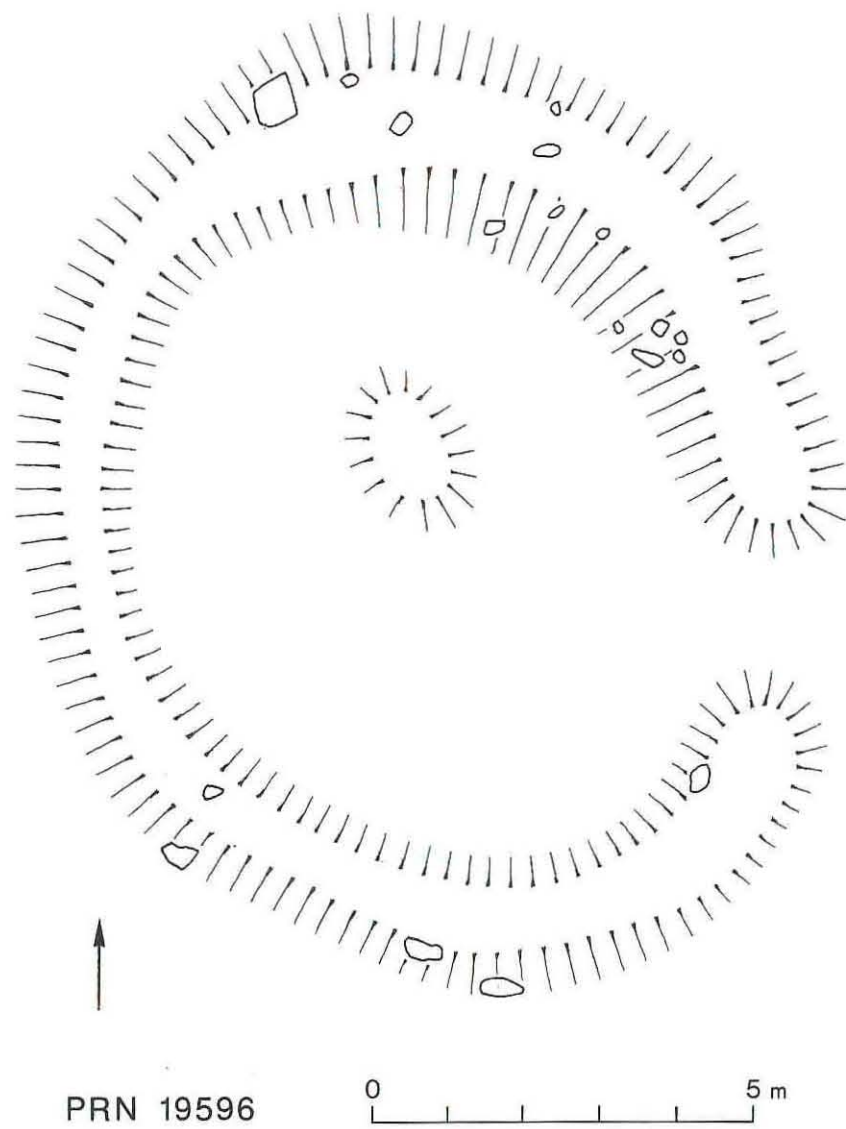


Fig. 8 Cwm Pennant hut I

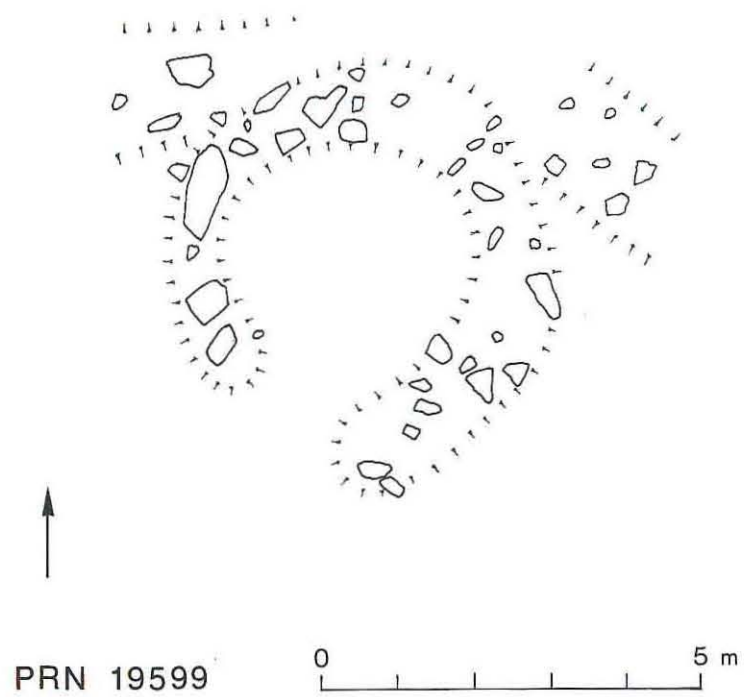


Fig. 9 Cwm Pennant hut II

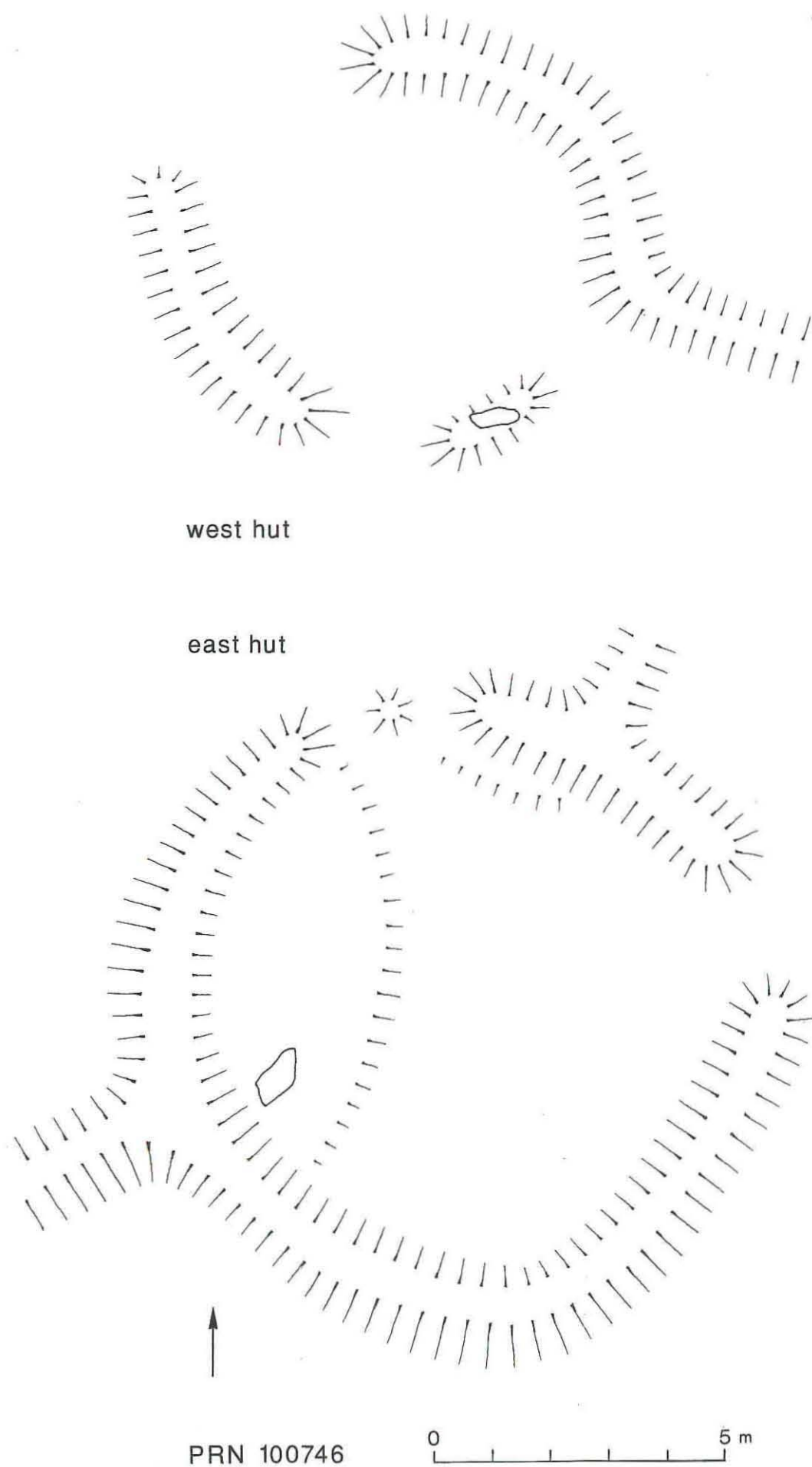


Fig. 10 Cefn Bannog farmstead



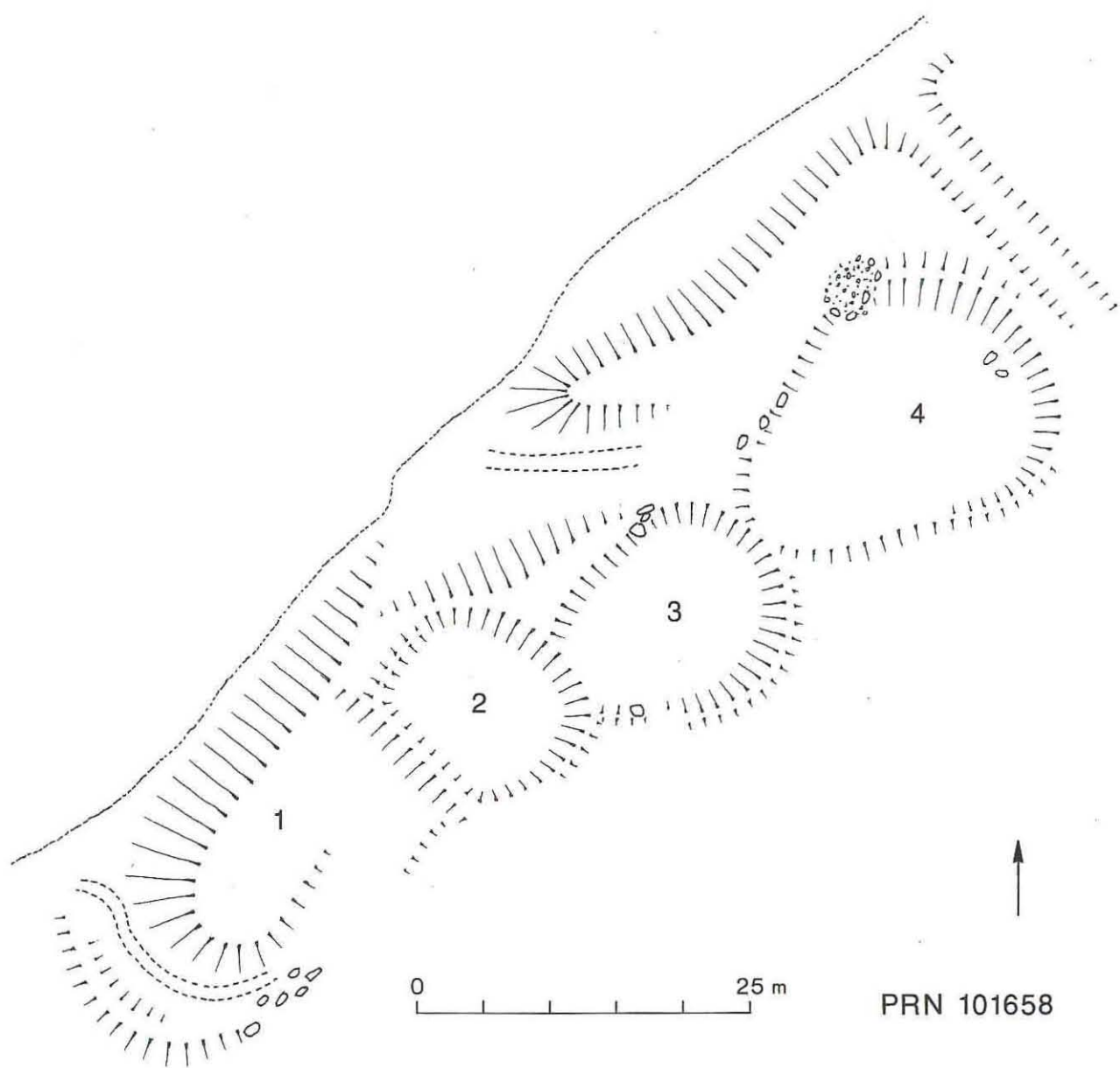


Fig. 11 Clochnant platforms

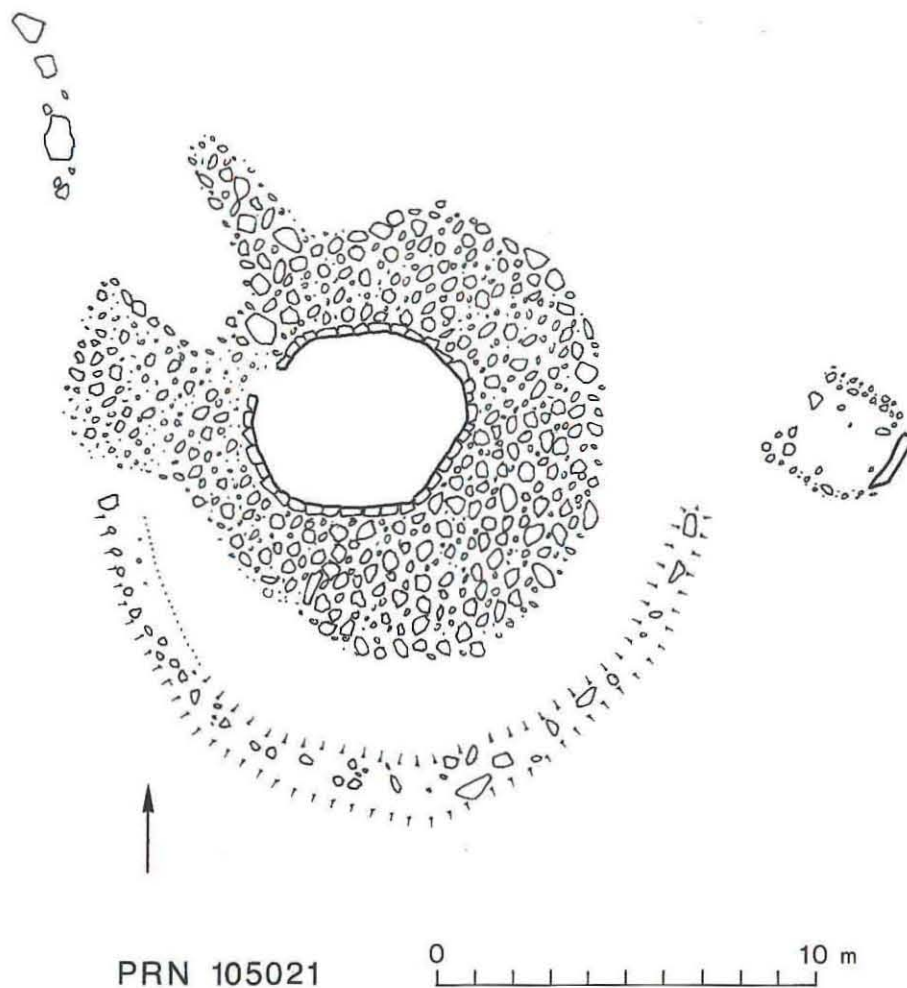


Fig. 12 Cwm Pennant sheep stall

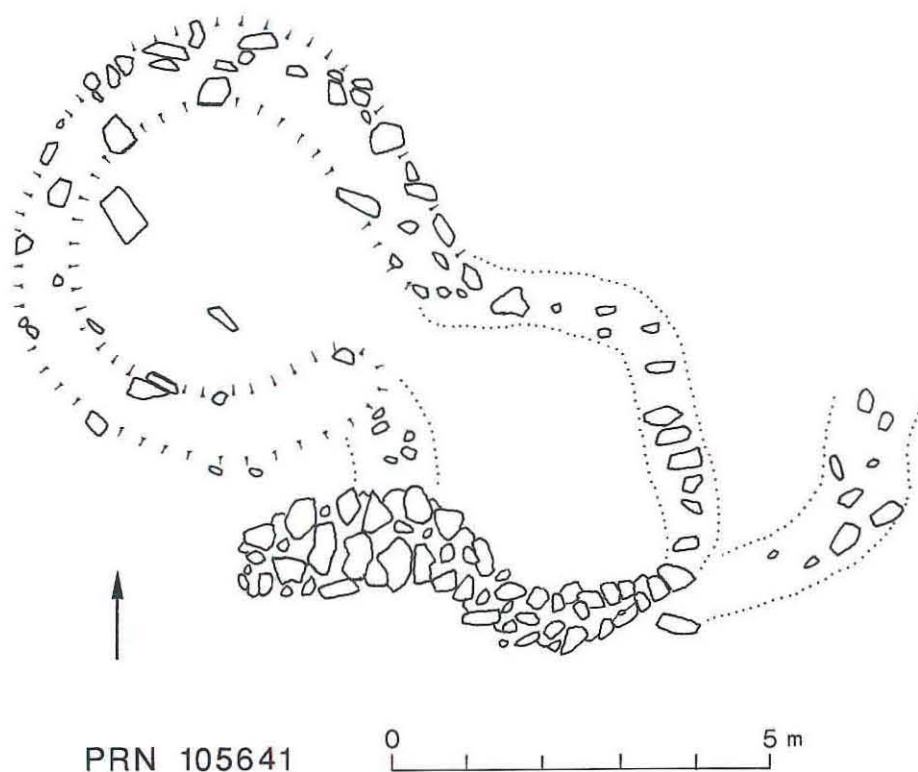


Fig. 13 Bwlch Gwyn hut circle



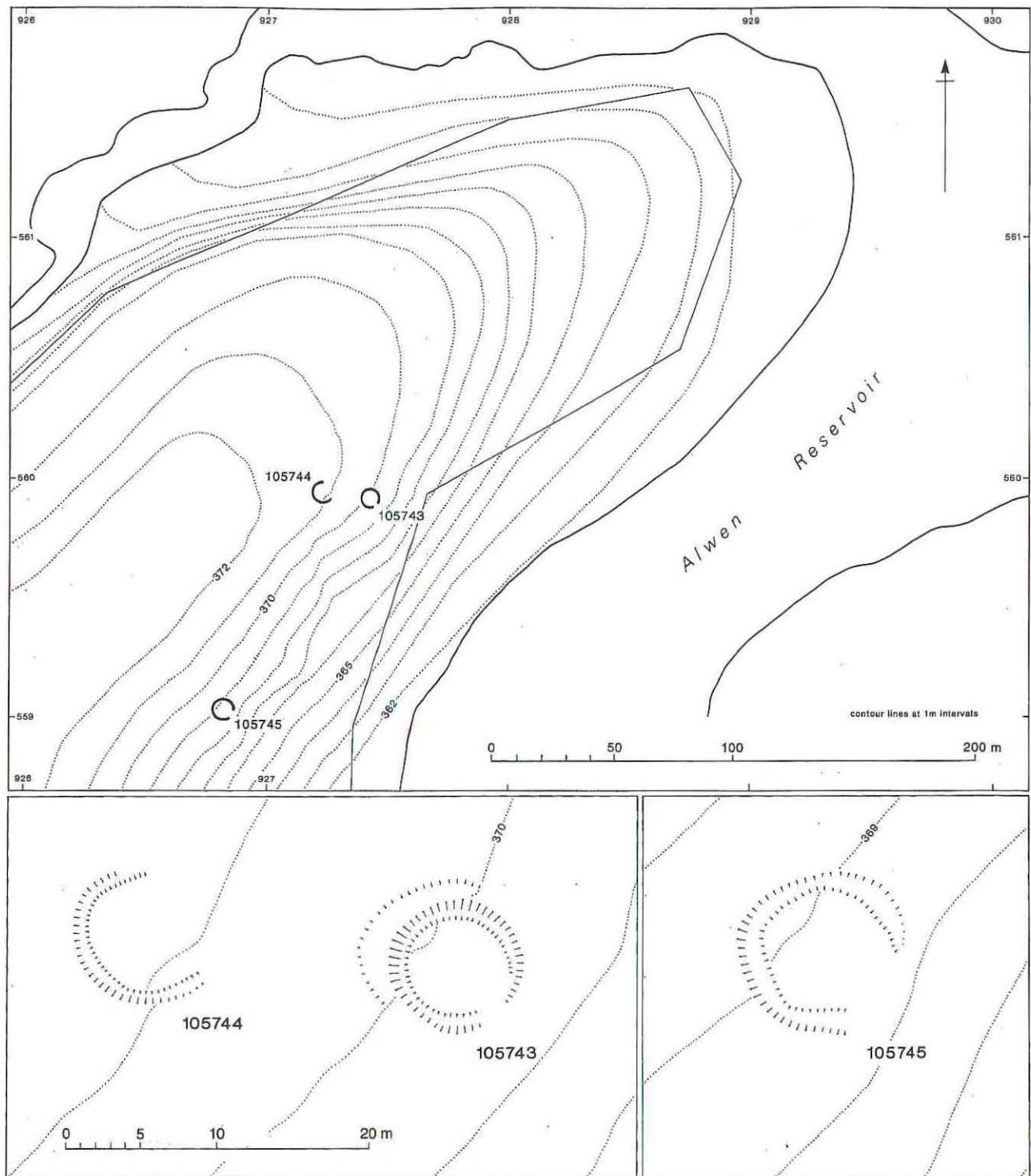


Fig 14 Alwen Reservoir hut platforms

**Site Name** Graig y Llyn Mawr Hut III  
**Modern County** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 917

**NGR:** SN99709818

Circular stone-built structure located on a shelf immediately to the west of Craig y Llyn Mawr.

Description: circular bank with large stone content, some of which projects through the surface. Most stones seem to be slabs or small boulders, over 0.3m in diameter. Edge-set stones seem to form an internal, though intermittent, face. Possibly also an external face. Bank varies from 1.5m to 2.0m wide with a maximum height of 0.3m, although larger stones project through the surface to a height of 0.5m. Two gaps in the bank which may define entrances, one on SSE, the other on NNW. Possibly both gaps are due to bank erosion in the past, but it is difficult to be certain from the surface evidence. Site could be interpreted as either a ring cairn or a hut circle, but only excavation is likely to provide determine its true nature. Original NGR given to the site was inaccurate and has been revised.

Dimensions: 11.0m E/W by 10.3m and 0.5m high.

Location: situated on a shelf, to the west of a rock ridge.

Condition and threats: no obvious threats apart from the long-term possibility of pasture improvement. Site is in good condition. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Bwlch Main Hut  
**Modern County.** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 1348

**NGR:** SN76719723

Circular cropmark, thought to represent a hut 14m in diameter, recorded from an RAF AP of 1946. The site was not recognised on the ground by either CPAT or the Ordnance Survey in 1978 and 1981, respectively. (SMR)

No surface trace of the cropmark was recognised. The ground here is level and improved, with only slight surface irregularities. It could have been a misinterpreted ring of rushes as some are present c.20m to the NE. Another possibility is that the cropmark is related to a trial mine at SN 76669723, where there is a linear openworking and a circular excavated hollow surrounded by a bank. The hollow is 1.0m deep and the bank is 10m in diameter. The trial mining was carried out to investigate a quartz outcrop, known locally as Cerrig Gwynion. (CPAT 2004)



**Site Name** Pen y Cae Cropmarks  
**Modern County** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 1391

**NGR:** SN86959270

Cropmark evidence of a circular ditch, 12m in diameter, with a semi-circular annexe on its S side. (SMR)

The site consists of a series of natural erosion scarps on a moderate W-facing slope above the stream. There is no evidence of any artificial earthworks apart from a short bank by the adjacent trackway. The area is unimproved and cropmarks are an impossibility here, so it seems that the record is due to slanting light picking out the natural scarps which were then interpreted as artificial earthworks or cropmarks. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Careg y Terfyn Hut III  
**Modern County.** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 1453

**NGR:** SN91449418

Possible hut site recorded from an RAF AP of 1963. The site was not recognised by the Ordnance Survey in 1981, who noted that the area had subsequently been afforested. (SMR)

No trace of a feature related to the recorded hut site at this location. Within forestry and ploughing of land before tree planting is likely to have removed all traces, even if the site was authentic. An area of c.50m diameter around the NGR was examined. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Alltwen Cropmark  
**Modern County.** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 1461

**NGR:** SN929906

Circular cropmarks and hollows recorded from an RAF AP of 1948. (SMR)

No trace of any of these features at this location, though the field has been improved. The only artificial feature is a low field bank in the wooded ground to the SE which probably crossed the S part of the site area prior to the land improvement. The ground has a reasonable slope but there is no evidence of platformed features. There are some wet areas and natural prominences in the field which may have led to confusion in the AP interpretation. (CPAT 2004)



**Site Name** Brynyfawnog round barrow  
**Modern County** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 1557

**NGR:** SO03949830

Probable hut circle, measuring 3m by 2m internally. Surrounded by a bank 3m to 3.5m wide and between 0.3m and 0.5m high. Entrance on SE. (SMR)

The visible evidence makes it unlikely that this is a hut as the site consists of a circular mound which has a central hollow but no entrance. The feature previously recorded as an entrance is little more than a slightly lower section of bank which has been affected by erosion. A further erosion hollow is present on the N side. The central hollow is oval in shape and measures 3.0m N/S by 1.9m and 0.3m deep. The appearance of the site suggests that this is either a robbed round barrow or possibly a ring-shaped barrow. Overall dimensions 7.3m N/S by 6.6m and 0.5m high. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Moat Lane Ring Ditch I  
**Modern County.** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 2195

**NGR:** SO04469134

Penannular ring ditch some 15m in diameter with the gap to the SW. Sited on a river terrace. Site not recognised on the ground by the Ordnance Survey in 1982 or CPAT in 1998. Britnell et al (1997, 195) reported three cropmarks of this type in the immediate area, possibly representing huts, with the evidence being taken from a CUCAP AP.

No surface traces of the site were seen. The surface of the pasture field is quite level and gives no clues regarding the potential location of the site. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Llandrinio Settlement I  
**Modern County.** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 2447

**NGR:** SJ2921816910

Group of cropmark enclosures and irregularly shaped huts recognised from CUCAP APs and believed to represent a prehistoric nucleated settlement. The average diameter of the enclosures is between 15m and 20m and some have distinct entrances. (SMR)

No features distinguishable in this arable field. There are some wet areas, but other parts are slightly raised above them which may have assisted their potential for settlement. Some fieldwalking (by CPAT) and metal detecting has been undertaken in this field, yielding pottery and a coin of probable medieval date and some metal finds (coins etc) of the Roman period. Half of the upper stone of a rotary quern (probably Romano-British) was recovered from the cropmark area (at SJ 29191689) during fieldwalking by CPAT. (CPAT 2004)



**Site Name** Craig y Llyn Mawr Hut VI  
**Modern County** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 4888

**NGR:** SN99769784

Approximately circular stone structure situated on a shelf, below Craig y Llyn Mawr.

Description: site consists of an approximately circular stone bank, with projecting edge-set stones which seem to define its internal and external faces. The stones are up to 1.0m across. The bank is generally 0.3m high, with stones projecting to 0.5m high. The entrance seems to be on the N side, where there is a gap and a change in the width of the adjoining bank. The interior is level. A gap on the SSE side is probably the result of later erosion as some stones are visible within it.

Dimensions: overall dimensions 12.0m E/W by 11.0m and 0.5m high max.

Location: situated on a natural shelf below a rock ridge.

Condition and threats: no obvious threats except for possible future land improvement.  
(CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Craig y Llyn Mawr Hut V  
**Modern County** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 4889

**NGR:** SN99849769

Poorly defined hut circle comprising a platform, 10.5m in diameter, with a slightly dished centre. Two possible edge-set stones on the perimeter. Defined by a low bank, 2m wide, with an entrance on the SE. (SMR)

Possible peat cutting or hut platform situated on shelf immediately west of Craig y Llyn Mawr.

Description: the site consists of a roughly oval hollow, aligned NNW/SSE, on a natural shelf, with a wet interior. The E side is cut into slope to a maximum depth of 0.3m, exposing a single stone 0.5m long and less than 0.1m high. The N side has the appearance of a bank, 1.5m wide and 0.3m high. The W side is very poorly defined, as is the S side. A stone, 0.7m long and 0.2m high, lies on the SSW side. There are further peat cuttings nearby and an old track which runs along the E side of some boggy ground. The bog has good palaeoenvironmental potential as it is hemmed in by a rock ridge to its W. The site appears to be a peat cutting, with only a slight chance that it was the site of a hut.

Dimensions: Overall dimensions 10.5m N/S by 9.1m. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Careg y Terfyn Hut I  
**Modern County:** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 5081

**NGR:** SN91049466

Possible hut site, recorded from an RAF AP taken in 1963. The feature was not recognised on the ground by the Ordnance Survey in 1981, but it is noted that the locality had been subsequently afforested. (SMR)

No trace of a hut, or any evidence of one, was seen at this location. An area of c.50m diameter was examined, centred on the given NGR. The ground is a little boggy, as it is near the head of a stream, so possibly this is a feature of natural origin. If it was authentic, the site could have been lost when the area was afforested. (CPAT 2004)



**Site Name** Careg y Terfyn Hut II  
**Modern County.** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 5082

**NGR:** SN91309450

Possible hut site, recorded from an RAF AP taken in 1963. The feature was not recognised on the ground by the Ordnance Survey in 1981, but it is noted that the locality had been subsequently afforested. (SMR)

No trace of a hut was seen at this location. An area of c.50m diameter was examined, centred on the given NGR. A large forest ride and stream provide decent visibility and are a good aid to location. If any traces were present, presumably these have been lost when the area was afforested. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Geseilfa Ring Ditch  
**Modern County.** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 5088

**NGR:** SN94009160

A probable ring ditch of some 10m diameter was seen on an RAF aerial photograph of 1963), and suggested as a hut circle by the Ordnance Survey in 1981. It is sited on a S-facing slope, but was not visible in any form when visited by the Ordnance Survey, later in 1981.

**Site Name** Coed Gamffrwd Cropmark  
**Modern County** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 5161

**NGR:** SH790046

Possible penannular cropmark, suggested to be a hut circle, which was recorded from an RAF AP of 1946. The site is said to lie on a SE-facing slope, but is reportedly invisible on the ground. (SMR)

No evidence of physical features related to the cropmark were seen. Given the steep nature of the terrain, the authenticity of the site is questionable, and it is perhaps more likely to be the result of an incorrect interpretation of one of the local rock outcrops. There are two terraces on the otherwise steep slope which may have been the site location, in which case it could have been lost to land improvement. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Bryn Gwyn Cropmark  
**Modern County** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 5751

**NGR:** SO046870

Apparently U-shaped ring marking a possible hut site, which was recorded from an RAF AP taken in 1963. Not visible on the ground when visited by the Ordnance Survey in 1980. (SMR)

No trace of an archaeological feature at this location which might have given rise to the record, or of any land improvement which might have removed the feature. The most probable explanation is that the presumed cropmark was actually a natural feature, perhaps a mound or spring hollow. The site is situated on a moderate slope. (CPAT 2004)



**Site Name** Alltyrhendre enclosure  
**Modern County** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 5754

**NGR:** SO022855

At least seven possible enclosures of varying morphology, sited on a gentle SW-facing slope. Recorded from an RAF AP, taken in 1963. The features were not seen on the ground by the Ordnance Survey in 1980, although dense bracken cover made inspection difficult. (SMR)

The only visible feature at this location is a sub-square earth banked enclosure, c.15m across. There are no traces of the other six enclosures mentioned, and it seems likely that these are an incorrect interpretation of natural spring hollows or other features of the natural topography. The bracken was low at the time of the visit, so it is not likely that any other sites remained undetected in the area. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Llynnytarw Hut  
**Modern County** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 5773

**NGR:** SO01939794

A ring-shaped stone hut or structure located on a ridge crest.

**Description:** an almost circular structure consisting of a stone banked ring. A gap on the SSW side, flanked by edge-set stones, seems to represent the entrance. There are some traces of an internal face to the bank on the N and NW sides. One interesting feature of the structure is the presence of a fairly regularly-spaced series of large stones on the internal side of the bank. These seem to be an integral part of the structure and not fortuitous, perhaps representing post-pads used as the base for roof supports. The interior is very slightly hollow in relation to the surrounding ground level, with the lowest point at the approximate centre of the structure. The site was originally mis-located (at SO 01869788), causing it to be unlocated and believed destroyed when a visit was attempted in 1994.

**Dimensions:** overall dimensions 11.5m diameter and 0.6m high. Internally, the structure measures 6.0m N/S by 5.6m E/W.

**Location:** situated on the crest of a ridge which runs ENE/WSW, in an exposed location.

**Condition and threats:** the site is in good condition, the only obvious threats concern the ridge crest roadway which lies within 20m. (CPAT 2004)

*Site Name* Pen Esgair Wen Huts  
*Modern County* Powys (Montgomeryshire)

*PRN* 6068

*NGR:* SN851955

Supposed hut sites recorded from an RAF AP, taken in 1963. No features were seen on the ground by the Ordnance Survey in 1981, who thought that the cropmarks were probably of natural origin. The Ordnance Survey also noted that the area had been ploughed and re-seeded and the features, of whatever origin, had probably been destroyed. (SMR)

No trace of any of the alleged hut sites at this location. Enough traces of the natural topography have survived land improvement to suggest that the site consists of a series of natural surface irregularities. Very exposed location. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Nant Ffridd Goch Building  
**Modern County:** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 6416

**NGR:** SH96811073

Apparent area of sub-square or sub-circular stone rubble, c.5m in diameter, sited near the lip of the slope above Nant Ffridd Goch. Only seen from the opposite side of the valley. (SMR)

No trace of a building at or anywhere near this NGR. The only feature which may have been confused with one is a landslip at SH 96811073, which has left a bare patch of soil and stones of c.10m diameter. There is also no evidence of a feature here prior to the landslip, and the lip of the slope is particularly unsuitable for settlement in this immediate area. The original NGR given was undoubtedly incorrect, being 1km to the E at SH 97801077. This would have put the site in a lane, facing SE, close to Nant Pen-y-cae. Given the nature of the original description it seems most unlikely that this is an authentic site. (CPAT 2004)



**Site Name** Mynydd Dwyriw hut  
**Modern County.** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 6538

**NGR:** SJ00570046

Sub-rectangular structure, measuring 4m by 4m and up to 0.4m high, recorded during CPAT fieldwork in 1990. (SMR)

The site of the hut is defined by an approximately square-shaped stone bank, with a partial covering of turf. The probable location of the entrance is at its E end. It is possible that the appearance of the site is due to natural forces, with the stone having been washed to this location by the nearby stream, but it does have a regular appearance suggestive of an artificial structure. There is no suggestion from the shape of the site that it is of prehistoric date. Overall dimensions are 3.5m E/W by 3.4m and 0.2m high. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Mynydd Rhos Fach ring bank  
**Modern County** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 6550

**NGR:** SH99030068

Sub-oval earthwork enclosure set at the end of a low ridge rising above boggy ground.

The shape is a reasonably regular oval though the flattened NW side is due to a straight scarp edge to the ridge. The bank appears to have no stone, either in or protruding from it. It is more pronounced on the E side and is also clear on the S and W. On the NW above the bog it fades almost completely, leaving only a slight rise which is more like a lip above the scarp. On this side too there appears to be a complete break of about 2m. The interior is relatively level and featureless, and there is a suggestion that it may be fractionally sunken though this could be a function of the slope. The external dimensions are 9.7m NW/SE by 8.3m NE/SW, and internally 7.4m by 5.9m. Nowhere is the bank more than 0.3m high and for much of the circuit it is rather less.

The site occupies one side of a ridge projecting above boggy flat ground. There are good all round views though not over great distances. (CPAT Visit 1998)

The function of the site remains uncertain. Possibly it is associated with peat cutting, for there is evidence of this in the vicinity, though not immediately adjacent. (CPAT Visit 1998).

**Site Name** Gors Dyfwch hut  
**Modern County:** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 6604

**NGR:** SH99570315

A small, ovoid hut appended to the perimeter bank of a large enclosure beside a low boggy area.

The hut is a roughly ovoid shape and defined by a broad bank that is not particularly high. No stone is visible in the make-up of this bank but probing indicates some localised lstone inclusions. Outside the bank is a shallow gully which undoubtedly provided the material for the bank. On the NE side the enclosure bank appears to act as a terminal, apparently the same width though slightly lower. On present evidence the enclosure pre-dates the hut.

The only possible site for an entrance would appear to be on the NNE side adjacent to the enclosure bank, and this is not wholly convincing. The hut bank is certainly lower here but it does continue, and the gully is not interrupted. The interior is featureless but slopes from SW to NE. Externally the hut is 5.2m NE/SW by a max. 4.8m NW/SE. Internally the equivalent measurements are 2.6m by 1.4m. The maximum height of the bank is around 0.4m and the gully is little more than 0.15m deep.

The hut is clearly associated with the enclosure bank which takes in a considerable area. Enclosed within it is a patch of ridging about 50m to the N of the hut. It is assumed though cannot be proven that this is associated.

The date of this hut is not known. On the basis of circumstantial evidence it is perhaps more likely to be medieval or post-medieval.

*Site Name* Carreg Ais hut  
*Modern County* Powys (Montgomeryshire)

*PRN* 6621

*NGR:* SH97630208

Remains of stone-built hut, reportedly having a bank of peat. (SMR)

No evidence of a hut, whether of stone or turf, was found at this location, despite a thorough search. The only features here were a large group of peat cuttings. Possibly the location is incorrect, but the name seems to suggest this is not so. (CPAT 2004)



**Site Name** Waun Lluest Owain settlement  
**Modern County** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 6664

**NGR:** SO03698418

A relatively small oval hut with a long hut appended to it, sited in improved pasture and now in the middle of a windfarm.

Description: an oval hut which may subsequently have functioned as a pen or very small enclosure. The perimeter bank is grass-covered though a few stones protrude, and probing suggests that many more lie just below the surface, indicative of a wall rather than an earth and stone bank. Few if any facing stones are evident. The wall dips in its N quadrant but this is less likely to represent an entrance than the similar, rush-filled dip in the S quadrant. The bank is higher than that of the adjacent long hut to the E, and there is inconclusive evidence of a shallow gully around the outside of the wall - pasture improvement which has avoided the huts confuses the interpretation.

Dimensions: externally the hut is 7.5m N/S by about 6m and internally 4.2m by 2.5m. The maximum height of the bank is about 0.5m. (CPAT Visit 1998)

Associations: abutting the SE side of the oval hut is a long hut, presumably the rectangular enclosure of the original report. This is approximately 12m long by 6m wide. The original report also referred to associated fields. Whatever their form may have been when first identified, nothing of their layout can now be detected.

Location: the hut is located on a gentle hillslope with a bog filling the basin immediately to the E. A small stream runs past the hut little more than 15m away. There is a little shelter with the ridge top to the W and SW cutting out the prevailing winds. The aspect is excellent with wide views to the NE, E and S.

Condition and threats: it appears that the field in which the site lies has been improved in recent years, but that the site itself was avoided during these works. This may have been a deliberate decision on the part of the owner who mentioned the presence of the long hut to the writer.

**Site Name** Rhos Collfryn peat stand  
**Modern County:** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 7811

**NGR:** SJ01632273

Probable hut platform. Stone revetted on N and E, and slightly set into the slope on the S and W. It may be a small shelter with peat infilling the central area. (SMR)

Site consists of a sub-circular levelled area, sited on a moderate ENE-facing slope. Created by an arcing revetment of boulders running from the N to E sides, an arc of 90 degrees, with little or no fan to the S and W. It is located immediately above a slightly wetter, rushy area. The small size of the feature and its proximity to an area of peat cutting (<20m downslope to NE) suggests this platform was created for drying peat. The slightly raised interior supports this suggestion and may represent the remains of a peat stack. Overall dimensions 3.3m NNW/SSE by 2.8m and 0.5m high. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Ffridd Fach hut circle  
**Modern County:** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 7831

**NGR:** SJ02442217

Levelled area representing a possible hut circle, with a concentration of stones around, incorporating one large natural boulder. No entrance apparent. An area of scree 7m to the W may have been hollowed to form small shelter. (SMR)

A sub-circular terrace created by the removal of an area of stone near the base of a scree fan. Large boulder on S side and another on SSW, with some loose stones against them. On the N and W sides, stone has been removed to leave a revetted curve, though how much of the stone is artificially placed is uncertain. The SE side is fairly amorphous, possibly an entrance location. Some stone in the interior giving an irregular surface. The appearance is more that of a temporary shelter than a settlement site. Overall dimensions 5.1m N/S by 4.8m and 0.4m high. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Lle yr Hen Eglwys enclosure  
**Modern County:** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 7872

**NGR:** SH99242553

A sub-circular stone-built enclosure in the upper part of the Cedig valley, above Hafotty Cedig.

Description: the site consists of a sub-circular enclosure defined by a stone bank which varies between 2m and 3m wide. The line of the bank is occasionally angular with markedly visible corners, while still preserving an overall circular appearance. The entrance, 1m wide, lies on its S side. There is no evidence of coursed walling, just a collection of stones held in place by occasional upright slabs, as in part of the SE side, or revetments, as on the S side. The slight hint of a circular depression in the NW part of the interior might represent the site of a hut, but the situation is confused by a covering of rushes. Some surface stone is present in the N part of the interior but no visible structure.

Dimensions: overall dimensions are 28.4m E/W by 23.8m N/S and 0.5m high.

Associations: a sub-circular hut (PRN 82155) is situated on the shelf below at SH 99202550. This overlooks the Afon Cedig and is about 6m in diameter.

Location: the site is situated on a sloping shelf overlooking the Afon Cedig.

Condition and threats: little obvious threat apart from minimal animal erosion. (CPAT 2004)



**Site Name** Lle yr Hen Eglwys structure  
**Modern County** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 7874

**NGR:** SH99352539

Circular or sub-square stone setting. (SMR)

The site consists of a seemingly random pile of stones, which lie in a linear hollow running ENE/WSW. The pile is aligned approximately N/S, with the only form suggested by upright stones near the NE corner. the most likely interpretation is a small fold which has collapsed or been slighted. A combination of factors, such as condition and siting, suggest that this is not of prehistoric origin. The location has been slightly adjusted, as the site had formerly been positioned at SH99362537. There are no other features in the vicinity which may have led to the creation of the record. Overall dimensions 9.0m N/S by 6.0m and 0.6m high. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Mynydd Lluet Fach settlement  
**Modern County:** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 16606

**NGR:** SH90230813

Possible hut circle, stone-walled, 5m in diameter with a smaller circle to the east and lengths of wall downslope, perhaps an enclosure or pound. Sited on a south-facing terrace. (SMR)

A probable settlement site located on a sloping shelf overlooking the upper part of the Nant Carfan stream.

Description: the site of the settlement is defined by very low, turf-covered stone banks. Two areas of cleared stone seem to have been dumped at significant points, unfortunately masking the nature of the alleged hut circle. The features which are visible appear to represent a hut/platform with an attached enclosure and a small circular feature at NE corner. The whole is located immediately to the SE of a small modern shed/shelter.

Dimensions: overall dimensions 14.3m N/S by 9.0m and 0.4m high max.

Condition and threats: some erosion is present in the area, mainly due to the adjoining shed. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Glanfeinion round house  
**Modern County:** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 19453

**NGR:** SO01528605

The round house at Glanfeinion was excavated in 1994, and there are therefore no surviving surface traces. The field in which the site lay is under pasture at present. It is possible that related sites exist in the immediate vicinity. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Cwm Pennant hut I  
**Modern County** Denbighshire

**PRN** 19596

**NGR:** SJ04683325

Broadly circular hut situated on the interfluvial ridge known as Pennant on the W slope of the Berwyn range.

Description: the site is approximately circular, some of the irregularity no doubt being due to differential erosion. The hut circle is defined by an earth bank with intermittent projecting stone, but there is no convincing visible walling as such. The bank is at its most pronounced on the NE where the structure is terraced slightly into the slope, and the W side is more scarp like; erosion is apparent in one or two places, particularly on the NNW. The entrance is probably on the ESE side, for this is where the most conspicuous breach in the encircling bank is, about 1.5m wide. The interior is slightly levelled when compared with the natural slope externally, and there is a slightly raised area, about 3m in diameter and 0.2m high to the N of the centre of the structure, which could conceivably reflect a buried feature.

Dimensions: overall dimensions 13.5m N/S by 11.8m and up to 0.6m high.

Location: the site is set on a gentle, west-facing slope.

Associations: the area is inhabited by wandering walls and clearance cairns. The nearest wandering wall is about 5m to the SSE. (CPAT 2004)



**Site Name** Cwm Pennant hut II  
**Modern County** Denbighshire

**PRN** 19599

**NGR:** SJ04703311

A small hut circle situated on the interfluvial ridge known as Pennant on the W slope of the Berwyn range.

**Description:** the site is revealed by a low bank with stones of various sizes projecting from it. There is no obvious established walling, although three of four blocks on the W side might have functioned as part of such a structure. It is clear, however, that more stone is now disguised beneath the grass. The entrance, now little more than 1.05m wide, is on the south-south-west side.

**Dimensions:** the overall diameter of the site is 13.5m, 8.6m internally. The general height of the bank is no more than 0.3m, although some stones rise to 0.4m.

**Location:** it is set non a gentle south-west-facing slope above Nant Esgeiriau.

**Associations:** The hut circle backs up against a wandering wall. Although there is no clear primacy here, the alignment of the wall might suggest that it was constructed around the hut circle rather than vice versa, and this might be reinforced by the appearance of the wandering wall here which is a little less pronounced than elsewhere. (CPAT 2004)

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**Site Name** Nant Troedesgair Round Hut II  
**Modern County:** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 21926

**NGR:** SN86907924

A scooped earthwork on a S-facing hillside with another of similar form (PRN 21927) nearby.

**Description:** the site basically consists of a scoop cut into the hillside, relatively small with a pronounced fan at the rear of a small level platform. Two large rocks and several smaller ones break the surface of the fan and platform, though there is little indication that these have any structural significance. Around the edge of the scoop is a low and intermittent bank of material, distinguished by a slight rise of no more than 0.2m but larger than the usual amount of moss. The bank is more evident on the E where it is uninterrupted, it is intermittent on the W and there is virtually no sign of it above the fan on the N. At the front of the platform is a flattish area of ground projecting forward: this could be natural but might be spoil thrown outwards. This could be a house platform yet the interpretation is not wholly convincing. The spoil round the lip is reminiscent of mining trials. Taken together with its more convincing neighbour (PRN 21927) it may be a hut site but is hardly typical.

**Dimensions:** the maximum dimensions of the feature are 8.7m W/E by c.7m N/S. The maximum size of the scoop is 6m by 6.5m and the level platform within it is only 2.3m by c.3m. The maximum height of the fan is around 0.6m.

**Associations:** a second similar sites lies nearby (PRN 21927).

**Location:** it is cut into a moderate sloping hillside with a stream - Nant Troedyresgair - about 150m away running along the valley floor. It has a generally good aspect from W through S to E.

**Condition and threats:** the condition is moderate to poor, and further improvement of the pasture will initiate greater degradation. (CPAT Visit 1998)

**Site Name** Nant Troedesgair Round Hut I  
**Modern County** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 21927

**NGR:** SN86917924

A scooped earthwork on a S-facing hillside.

Description: the site appears to be similar to PRN 21926 though better preserved. However, as it is now set almost wholly within an overgrown 'wayleave' beside a conifer plantation, the vegetation cover makes it extremely difficult to determine the details. It is certain that the entrance was on the S, and the scoop is fairly flat-bottomed, with a bank around the lip, most evident where it protrudes into the pasture field to the W. No stone is visible. It is interpreted as a circular house site, perhaps with a scooped interior?

Dimensions: none were established during the current fieldwork, but previous work in 1987 suggested an external diameter of 7.5m and an internal diameter of c.6m, which indicates a feature very similar in scale to PRN 21926.

Associations: a second similar sites lies 29m uphill and to the NNW (PRN 21926).

Location: it is cut into a moderate sloping hillside with a stream -Nant Troedyresgair - about 130m away running along the valley floor. It has a generally good aspect from W through S to E.

Condition and threats: it is presumed to be in reasonable condition but a long-term threat must be envisaged when the plantation is cleared. (CPAT Visit 1998)

**Site Name** Foel Uchaf hut circle  
**Modern County** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 21945

**NGR:** SN80799117

A large hut circle with a wandering wall attached, located in a remote valley.

**Description:** the hut circle wall is well-defined and composed of rubble with very little turf covering. External facing stones are visible, particularly on the south and east, and there is some evidence of internal facing on the north. An entrance gap, 0.7m wide, remains in the north-east quadrant. The thickness of the wall is reasonably consistent except in the north-west where it narrows. There is a small amount of internal stone but it is difficult to determine whether this defines internal features.

**Dimensions:** externally these are 9.7m N/S by 10.1m E/W, and internally 5.3m by 5.5m, with a maximum height of about 0.5m. The width of the wall is in excess of 2m.

**Associations:** meandering north-westwards from the hut circle is a rubble stone wall which abuts the hut circle just to the west of the entrance. This runs for around 40m before disappearing in natural rock outcrops, and there are two subsidiary walls running eastwards off the main wall. Approximately 30m to the NNE of the hut circle is a curving length of wall, also of rubble, about 6m long which might be a fragment of an oval hut, possibly 5m by 3m externally.

**Location:** the hut is placed on the side of a valley, mid-slope with the aspect to the S and SE. Rock outcrops shelter the site from the N. A stream runs in the bottom of the valley less than 50m away.

**Condition and threats:** in excellent condition with no obvious threats. (CPAT Visit 1998)



**Site Name** Ceunant Coch Settlement  
**Modern County:** Denbighshire

**PRN** 23269

**NGR:** SJ02703196

Suggested unenclosed hut group, recorded from the first edition OS map. (SMR)

A rectilinear L-shaped building, its main compartment set down the slope on an east/west axis, its smaller compartment along it. The walls are over 1m thick and up to 0.7m high, but it is impossible to determine whether they are drystone or not. The estimated length of the long axis is about 12m and 3m wide internally. Interpreted as a cottage or small farmhouse of post-medieval origin. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Cefn Penagored hut circle  
**Modern County** Denbighshire

**PRN** 26535

**NGR:** SJ03403456

A 'circular' hut set in a D-shaped enclosure on the W-facing slopes of Cefn Penagored.

**Description:** the hut is unfortunately largely obscured by clearance stone, some of it of considerable size, although ironically this may also perhaps have assisted in its overall preservation. Well over half of the interior is thus covered, and other surface stone that probably forms a part of the dumped material tends to confuse the picture. What can be seen is a low bank with some stone projecting from it which arcs around the N, W and S sides, although in some places the perimeter looks to have been disturbed or obscured. On the S there is a possible entrance break but this is not certainly an original feature. On the E the perimeter is disguised by dumped material, and here too a medieval lynchet may have had an impact.

**Dimensions:** the external dimensions of the hut circle appear to be up to 14.5m N/S by 14m+ N/S, but these measurements are certainly exaggerated by subsequent activity on the site.

**Associations:** the enclosure bank runs off the W side of the hut circle but there is here an entrance into the enclosure of about 2m width. The bank runs W for some 12m and then swings to the S, curving back gradually to the E and becoming more scarp like. It meets the medieval lynchet almost at right angles and although there is no direct visual evidence it seems likely that the lynchet fossilises the return of the original prehistoric enclosure.

**Location:** the hut and enclosure are set on gently sloping ground. Probably there would have been good views over the valley to the west but all has now been obscured by the forestry plantation. (CPAT 2004)

***Site Name***

***PRN*** 64999

***Modern County:*** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

***NGR:*** SJ27201885

Three huts, with diameters of 50-80' diameter, together with a large enclosure were identified on a Cambridge aerial photographs by Dr S Briggs in 1976 (CUCAP BQX 048, 051 & 053)

**Site Name** Lle yr Hen Eglwys hut circle  
**Modern County.** Powys (Montgomeryshire)

**PRN** 82155

**NGR:** SH99202550

Almost circular hut located on a shelf below the Lle yr Hen Eglwys enclosure.

Description: the site consists of an earth bank, with some stone content, on its W and E sides. The interior is cut into the slope on the N side and shows as a simple scarp. The S side seems to have been the location of the entrance and there is a corresponding gap. An EDM survey of the this site and PRN 7872 was carried out in March 2004.

Dimensions: overall dimensions are 6.4m E/W by 5.9m and 0.4m high.

Associations: the site is located on a shelf below the Lle yr Hen Eglwys enclosure (PRN 7872) and is probably associated with it. (CPAT 2004)



**Site Name** Bryn Sannan circular earthwork A  
**Modern County:** Flintshire

**PRN** 100257

**NGR:** SJ18427418

This site was recorded by the Ordnance Survey as a circular earthwork, 8m in diameter marked by a bank 1m wide, and 0.3m to 0.4m high. The interior was flat and it was interpreted as a possible hut. Other similar sites were noted nearby (PRNs 101846 and 101847). (SMR)

The area in which this features lies is very disturbed by mining activity. Nevertheless, close to the NGR given is a very low but obviously raised sub-circular flat-topped 'mound. Its curvilinear perimeter is interrupted on the south-east by a more linear protrusion. Whether this is due to erosion is open to discussion. The feature is 9.0m in diameter from north to south and 0.3m high. It may be more hollowed in its interior than is immediately obvious because of the coarse grass. Undoubtedly this is a horse-gin. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Moel Seisiog hut circles  
**Modern County.** Conwy

**PRN** 100399

**NGR:** SH86065683

Three shapeless masses of stone, possibly the remains of crude buildings. Their potential period and function are unknown. (SMR)

There is no trace of the recorded features at, or within 50m of, the given NGR. The location given occupies boggy ground with no stone present at all. Perhaps the NGR is incorrect and/or the site is of natural origin. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Brenig 48: Nant Craifolen prehist  
**Modern County.** Denbighshire

**PRN** 100631

**NGR:** SH98495743

Circular building surviving as postholes of which 7 formed the major part of a circle 4m in diameter centred upon the remains of a hearth. A few sherds of black coarse pottery suggest a prehistoric date. The site was discovered during the excavation of the overlying post medieval hafod. (SMR)

No surface evidence of this excavated feature survives, as can be expected. The post-medieval hafod which superseded it seems to have been reconstructed and the associated earth-banked enclosures appear to be intact. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Mynydd Poeth Farmstead  
**Modern County** Conwy

**PRN** 100657

**NGR:** SH95935160

Oval stone-banked enclosure situated to the NE of Mynydd Poeth.

**Description:** the site consists of the W half of a probable ovoid enclosure, which survives in pasture. It is likely that the E half has been lost in the adjoining forestry plantation. The boundary of the site is relatively easy to define, but discerning internal detail is rendered difficult by stone heaps cleared from the adjoining pasture. Beneath the clearance stone there appears to be a rectangular hut aligned NW/SE, which suggests that the site is a farmstead/hafod of medieval origin.

**Dimensions:** the enclosure is 28m in diameter, defined by a stony bank generally 2.5m wide and 0.4m high. The rectangular hut at the NW side of interior is approximately 10m NW/SE by 6m.

**Associations:** the feature is situated on dry ground to the NE of a redundant field system which is generally defined by lynchets and is probably of medieval origin.

**Location:** situated on a spur to the NE of Mynydd Poeth.

**Condition and threats:** the structure survives as a stone bank in unimproved pasture, but some clearance stone has been dumped on it which masks the overall appearance of the site. There ought, also, to be the remains of the E side of the enclosure in the adjoining forestry, but this seems to have been lost when the trees were planted. (CPAT 2003)



**Site Name** Mynydd Poeth Enclosure  
**Modern County** Conwy

**PRN** 100665

**NGR:** SH95665118

An ovoid enclosure on the E-facing slope of Mynydd Poeth.

**Description:** the site consists of an ovoid enclosure, which survives in pasture. The suggestion of the original recorder that it had attached circular huts seems unlikely and the evidence points to an integral longhouse-type structure, aligned WSW/ENE at its NW corner. This has three apparent units, each at a different level as the slope descends to the ENE. At the E end of the enclosure is a single-unit sub-rectangular structure aligned approximately N/S. The curved wall visible at the W end of the enclosure may represent a small appended enclosure or an attached oval structure.

**Dimensions:** the enclosure measures 40m E/W by 25m, defined by a stony bank up to 0.6m high. The rectangular structure (longhouse) on the NW side is approximately 16m E/W by 6m.

**Associations:** the feature is situated within a redundant field system which is generally defined by lynchets and is probably of medieval origin.

**Location:** situated on a spur to the NE of Mynydd Poeth.

**Condition and threats:** the structure survives as a series of stone banked features in improved pasture. (CPAT 2003)

**Site Name** Bryn Heilyn hut circle  
**Modern County:** Conwy

**PRN** 100670

**NGR:** SH96725207

An oval stone-banked structure situated on Ffridd Bryn-helen.

**Description:** the structure is not circular as previously described, being 6.1m long (N/S) by 5.1m, with the stony bank which defines it 0.3m high. The shape of the feature may be oval or sub-rectangular with rounded corners. There is no visible entrance. Given that the redundant field in which it lies (see below) is probably medieval in origin, as seems to be the case with other features in this locality, it seems unlikely that the structure is an isolated hut circle. The most plausible interpretation is that it represents a field barn or store, possibly also the base of a haystack.

**Dimensions:** overall dimensions 6.1m long by 5.1m wide and 0.3m high.

**Associations:** the feature is situated in the SW corner of a redundant field which is only defined by lynchets and is probably of medieval origin.

**Location:** situated on the gentle N-facing slope of Ffridd Bryn-helen.

**Condition and threats:** the structure survives as a low stone bank in improved pasture, but is scheduled. (CPAT 2003)

**Site Name** Caer Ddunod earthen circle, site  
**Modern County:** Conwy

**PRN** 100676

**NGR:** SH97995153

An earth circle, 20 paces around and 0.15m high, noted by Davies. Subsequently destroyed by ploughing. (SMR)

No evidence survives of this feature. The field has been improved and presumably was cleared at the same time, though little stone is evident in the vicinity. (CPAT 2003)

**Site Name** Hafoty Hendre hut circles, site o  
**Modern County:** Conwy

**PRN** 100727

**NGR:** SJ00525136

A series of hut circles, from 7 to 12 paces across, recorded by Davies 300 yds NNE of Hafoty Hendre. Probably destroyed by afforestation. (SMR)

There is no visible trace of the recorded features at, or within 50m of, the given NGR. The area is occupied by fairly dense forestry which is in its second rotation, which looks to have been ploughed prior to the original planting but not for the existing one. Nothing visible in the adjoining field. (CPAT 2003)



**Site Name** Moel y Fron hut circles, site of  
**Modern County:** Conwy

**PRN** 100744

**NGR:** SJ00385088

Several hut circles were noted by Davies on the hill known as Moel y Fron. These consisted of low banks of small stones from 10 to 18 paces in diameter. Subsequently destroyed by afforestation. (SMR)

The site area is located in mature forestry. Planting has left space for reasonable access but no trace of the site was found despite a thorough search around the NGR. Probably destroyed by the deep ploughing and drainage which criss-crosses the area. (CPAT 2003)

**Site Name** Cefn Bannog farmstead  
**Modern County:** Conwy

**PRN** 100746

**NGR:** SJ01825099

An apparently ovoid enclosure situated on a gentle SSE-facing slope.

Description: the enclosure is defined by a stone and earth bank within unplanted ground and maintained as an open area. Unfortunately the N edge may have been partially lost in the past, as the W part of the bank runs into previously ploughed and planted ground. The meeting point between the open and planted ground may define the N edge of the enclosure. The potential hut sites lie at the S end of the enclosure, but only two appear to be authentic, the third (most westerly) has the appearance of having been caused by machinery. The E hut has a gap, 1.5m wide, on its N side, which faces into the enclosure. The W hut has numerous gaps, some of which have probably been caused by past disturbance. The most convincing entrance is on the SE side, external to the enclosure.

Dimensions: overall, the enclosure measures 60m N/S by 30m and 0.5m high. The E hut is 12.0m in diameter, while the W hut measures 9.0m E/W by 8.0m N/S.

Associations: none visible.

Location: situated near the base of a gentle SSE-facing slope overlooking Nant-y-ffridd.

Condition and threats: some previous disturbance is evident due to forestry activity, but the site is scheduled and now lies within an area which has been left unplanted. (CPAT 2003)

**Site Name** Mynydd Poeth Enclosure  
**Modern County.** Conwy

**PRN** 101558

**NGR:** SH95515102

The RCAHM in 1912 recorded an irregular rectangular enclosure, marked by a bank of earth and stone, 3m wide and 0.4m high. A semi-circular bank, 10m in diameter is attached to the NW corner. (SMR)

There is no trace of the enclosure at the given NGR. It may have been removed during land improvement, but it is not impossible that this is a poorly located reference to one of the other sites in the locality. (CPAT 2003)

Location: all of this area is moorland and as a result the settlement is in a good state of preservation. Its altitude is 385m OD. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Clochnant platforms  
**Modern County** Denbighshire

**PRN** 101658

**NGR:** SJ04693520

A settlement site consisting of a group of contiguous, roughly oval, platforms cut into a SW facing slope. The settlement lies on the bank of a small stream that feeds into the larger Clochnant, one of several streams in ever deepening valleys that flow off the western Berwyn into Cwm Pennant. The original Ordnance Survey record made in 1977 provides an adequate statement on this site, as does their plan (at 1:1000) which was done at the time. Both have been amended and enlarged for presentation here.

**Description:** The site comprises four contiguous platforms set into the gently south-west shelving slope. It seems likely that some material was moved in order to create the platforms and all have stony banks, largely grassed over, around them, although some of the stone could have been brought from the surrounding moorland, the Ordnance Survey arguing that the ground to the E had been partially cleared of stone.

Of the four platforms, the two at the centre (nos 2 and 3) are roughly oval in plan, a third at the NE end (no 4) is more pear-shaped, and the fourth (no 1) at the opposite, SW end is elongated. Much of the perimeter of each enclosure is defined by what can be assumed to be a stony bank, although in places all of the stone is disguised by grass; the Ordnance Survey were inclined to see these as traces of walling. Only in a few places is it not possible to distinguish such a bank, and then usually a slight scarp is apparent. The Ordnance Survey suggested that the upper slopes of the enclosures were revetted with larger stones, and although there are certainly places where evidence of revetting may be likely, insufficient is exposed to make this certain.

An entrance on the SW to the most southerly enclosure is implied by the curving bank that swings upwards around from the stream - a ramp as the Ordnance Survey call it. This is now utilised by a sheep track which may see other traffic as well, but it would appear to serve only that particular enclosure. Entrances to the other enclosures may be simple gaps on their S sides. In each place there is a lower point (rather than a gap) along the length of the bank which could be significant, while in enclosure 3 there is an upright stone beside the low point that could conceivably be a portal stone. On the NW side there is some evidence for a shallow holloway or track running from the stream up to enclosure 4.

The Ordnance Survey were unable to cite any Welsh parallels for the site but saw superficial resemblances to the unenclosed hut platforms of the Scottish lowlands and plumped for an Iron Age date or earlier. It is on this basis that the site has entered the literature as an Iron Age platform settlement.

**Dimensions:** internal dimensions as provided by the Ordnance Survey in all but one case are, from south-west to north-east: 18m x 11m; 11m by 12m; 16m by 11m; and 23m by 15m.

**Associations:** incorporated into the circuit on the N side of enclosure 4 is a massive stone, 2.8m long with looser stone around it. The Ordnance Survey termed this a cairn but felt that it was unlikely to have been a burial chamber. Parallel to the stream a scarp bank is probably largely natural, although some of the man-made features merge into it. Immediately beyond the E end of the settlement, a gully runs into it at right angles. It appears that the gully is a drainage feature, capturing water that might have flooded into the site.



**Site Name** Graig Fechan Enclosure  
**Modern County:** Conwy

**PRN** 101736

**NGR:** SH974513

A circular enclosure, some 11m in diameter, on a N-facing slope. This was noted in by Manley in a survey carried out in 1983, and subsequently excavated in 1987 or 1989. The enclosure was defined by a stone wall, with a possible hut or shelter on its E side. Radiocarbon dates from within and under the wall suggest it was occupied between 1200 BC and 800 BC. It may be associated with adjacent field clearance. (SMR)

There is no surviving trace of the enclosure. The whole area has been heavily improved with stone being gathered into discrete piles. There is unlikely to be much possibility of sub-surface remains as a result of the site having been excavated (archaeologically) and the area improved. (CPAT 2003)

**Site Name** Fron-heulog huts  
**Modern County:** Conwy

**PRN** 101744

**NGR:** SH97305069

A group of earthwork terraces situated above what appears to be an old common boundary, with enclosed land and small farmsteads below.

Description: there are a total of five terraces, of slightly variable form. These can be described as follows:

- i) A possible terraced hollow in the hillside at SH 97225065. This measures 7m in overall diameter by 0.8m deep on its upslope side, merging with the ground level on the downslope side. A spring 20m to the E may be related.
- ii) A definite terraced platform located at SH 97285068. The rear of the fan is straight suggesting that the interior would have been rectangular. As a result the appearance of the site is of a medieval house platform aligned NW/SE. The terraced interior is approximately 8m by 6m, although the apron has been denuded by past land improvement, giving it an atypical appearance. Overall dimensions 18.4m NW/SE by 13.1m (fan) or 10.6m (apron).
- iii) A possible elliptical platform, terraced into a steep section of the SE-facing slope at SH 97305069. Long axis is aligned with the contours. Slight apron on the SE side. Could possibly have been circular prior to land improvement. Overall dimensions 10.6m NE/SW by 10.9m, interior 6.8m NE/SW by 5.0m.
- iv) A possible platform of overall diameter c.10m situated at SH 97345072. Only traces of the fan survive and past land improvement renders interpretation difficult.
- v) This terrace is situated at SH 97405080 and has more the appearance of a quarry. It consists of a large, curved, fan with a relatively smaller mound offset to the SW of where a corresponding apron would be expected. Overall dimensions 12.4m NE/SW by 15.0m.

Dimensions: given for each terrace separately, above.

Associations: apart from the association of these sites with each other, their location above the old common boundary may suggest some relation.

Location: situated on a moderate SE-facing slope, above the minor road to the NW of Fron Heulog farm.

Condition and threats: the past land improvement which has taken place appears to have modified the earthworks, but the extent to which this has changed the likely interpretation is uncertain. It may be that some of the terraces are merely quarries whose shape has been softened by improvement, but it seems certain that terrace ii), at least, represents a medieval house platform. (CPAT 2003)

**Site Name** Hendre Fawr cropmarks  
**Modern County:** Denbighshire

**PRN** 101761

**NGR:** SJ072519

Up to five circular cropmarks noted on Ordnance Survey APs, both adjacent to and inside an enclosure. They are presumed to be huts but may be round barrows. The area was ploughed and drained in 1986. (SMR)

There are no surface traces evident of the cropmarks in an improved field. The extent of damage due to improvement is unknown, but there may still be sub-surface evidence. Good location on the summit of a SW-facing spur. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Tan-y-Ffordd hut  
**Modern County.** Conwy

**PRN** 101790

**NGR:** SH96444943

Circular hollow surrounded by a low earthen bank, 0.25m high, with a gap, 1.5m wide, on the N side. The site is 4m in diameter. (SMR)

There are no traces of the recorded earthwork at the given NGR, although there is a 4m diameter and 0.4m deep hollow at SH 96444952. Whichever of the possible locations is taken to represent the record, it is very unlikely that the site represents a hut. The most likely explanation is that it is a quarry hollow, particularly as there are a group of larger stone quarry hollows in the immediate vicinity. Another possibility was mentioned by the landowner, who commented that this used to be the site of a golf course and he wondered if it was a bunker. If the record relates to the hollow at SH 96444952, there is no evidence of the surrounding earth bank mentioned in the original record, but this could have been lost to pasture improvement. If the original NGR is correct, then the site as a whole has been lost to pasture improvement. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Mynydd Poeth platform  
**Modern County** Conwy

**PRN** 101796

**NGR:** SH95395145

Two amorphous levelled areas situated in a NNE-facing bowl on Mynydd Poeth.

Description: although it is not impossible, neither of these terraces has the feel of a hut platform. Their origin may be explained by the traces of an old boundary down the slope, which runs in their approximate direction. The boundary is defined by a row of large, well-set stones and it is possible that the terraces represent stone quarries for material used in the boundary.

The lack of a suitable apron for each terrace argues against their interpretation as hut platforms, the only possibility may be that they have been heavily modified by land improvement.

Dimensions: the upper (S) area measures 3m WNW/ESE by 2m, while the lower (N) area measures 5.5m WNW/ESE by 3m.

Associations: the terraces lie on the line of a redundant boundary.

Location: situated in a N-facing bowl.

Condition and threats: some land improvement is evident on both terraces. (CPAT 2003)



**Site Name** Mynydd Poeth terraces  
**Modern County.** Conwy

**PRN** 101797

**NGR:** SH95665121

Two adjacent terraces on the E-facing slope of Mynydd Poeth.

Description: the terraces are adjacent and not conjoined, with an unmodified section of ground, 5m wide, separating them. The W side of both is what defines them, where they are terraced into the slope to a depth of c.0.4m. The E sides are more amorphous, although this could be a result of land improvement. Internally, both terraces slope slightly to the E. The nature of the site is difficult to confirm from its physical appearance, but it could represent a terrace on which two huts were placed.

Dimensions: the overall area measures 32m N/S by 15m. The S terrace measures 12m N/S by 10m, while the N terrace is 10m N/S by 7m.

Associations: the proximity of the site to the enclosure (PRN 100665) is probably not significant as that site is a stone-built structure.

Location: situated on a gentle E-facing slope.

Condition and threats: situated within an area of improved pasture. (CPAT 2003)

*Site Name* Mynydd Poeth hut  
*Modern County* Conwy

**PRN** 101798

**NGR:** SH95695113

A possible stone structure located on a slight terrace.

Description: there are slight surviving traces of this site, comprising of a random collection of stones visible within a patch of dense rushes. It is difficult to determine whether the structure has any form and it is possible that it represents a natural accumulation of stones. In this case, the clearance and improvement of the adjoining land may have artificially highlighted the importance of this group of stones. The interior is quite wet.

Dimensions: overall approximately 7m in diameter.

Associations: a clearance cairn 4.5m in diameter and 1.0m high is situated at SH 95685113.

Location: situated on a small terrace on the E-facing slope.

Condition and threats: the surrounding area has been subjected to land improvement. (CPAT Visit 2003)

*Site Name* Mynydd Poeth platform  
*Modern County:* Conwy

***PRN*** 101799

***NGR:*** SH95665131

A circular hollow on the E-facing slope of Mynydd Poeth.

Description: the site shows as little more than a circular hollow in the slope. Possibly it was better defined prior to land improvement, but its present appearance is not very convincing. The only thing in its favour is its circular appearance, but the levelled area at the base is no more than 3m across.

Dimensions: the earthwork is 9m in diameter.

Associations: located within an area of fields defined by banks and lynchets, which are probably of medieval date.

Location: situated on a gentle E-facing slope.

Condition and threats: within an area of improved pasture. (CPAT Visit 2003).

**Site Name** Mynydd Poeth Field System A  
**Modern County:** Conwy

**PRN** 101800

**NGR:** SH957512

A field system consisting of low banks of earth and stone, forming a cohesive block of fields which seem to be related to an enclosure (PRN 100665). Other linear ditches may relate to a system of a different date. (SMR)

The field system consists of a group of earth banks and lynchets, occasionally with traces of wall bases. Given that the most likely interpretation of many of the features on Mynydd Poeth is that they are related to medieval pastoral use, it seems appropriate to apportion the same date to the field system. (CPAT 2003)

*Site Name* Mynydd Poeth Field System B  
*Modern County.* Conwy

***PRN*** 101801

***NGR:*** SH953515

A field system consisting of low banks of earth and stone, forming a fragmentary, but nonetheless cohesive block of fields around the farmstead (PRN 100664). (SMR)

A series of banks with a significant stone content. Occasionally the line of a boundary survives only as a line of set stones, presumably the core of the original bank. The fragmentary nature of the surviving sections are due to past land improvement. Given that the most likely interpretation of many of the features on Mynydd Poeth is that they are related to medieval pastoral use, it seems appropriate to apportion the same date to the field system. (CPAT 2003)



**Site Name** Mynydd Poeth hut  
**Modern County** Conwy

**PRN** 101802

**NGR:** SH95515112

An irregularly-shaped structure situated on a gentle NE-facing slope below the summit of Mynydd Poeth.

Description: the evidence for the wall/bank alignments of which the site is composed are sparse, generally consisting of a line of individual stones rather than walling. The stones are up to 0.6m across and may represent the foundations of the structure. The outline which survives suggests that this is unlikely to be a hut, a more plausible interpretation could be that it is a stock enclosure. A 'windbreak' on the SE, which is recorded in the published article on Mynydd Poeth, could alternatively have been used to funnel animals into the entrance.

Dimensions: overall dimensions 9.6m NW/SE by 8.0m NE/SW and 0.3m high.

Associations: no direct associations visible.

Location: situated on a gentle NE-facing slope below the summit of Mynydd Poeth.

Condition and threats: only the basal part of the structure survives, perhaps due to the site being located in improved pasture. (CPAT 2003)

**Site Name** Bryn Sannan circular earthwork B  
**Modern County:** Flintshire

**PRN** 101846

**NGR:** SJ18387420

A circular enclosure 10m in diameter, marked by a bank 1m wide 0.3 to 0.4m high, and with a flat interior. This was one of three features flagged up as a possible prehistoric site hut by Ordnance Survey field investigators. (SMR)

The site lies on Holywell Common in an area of heavy mining activity where shafts are commonplace, and there is little doubt that this is a horse gin or whim circle. Little of it is now visible for it is covered in dense vegetation including gorse and brambles, but one part of the curving bank is visible on the south-east side. The bank is closer to 2m in width with a reasonably sharp profile and what is visible of the interior looks to be flattish. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Bryn Sannan circular earthwork C  
**Modern County:** Flintshire

**PRN** 101847

**NGR:** SJ18477423

This is one of three earthen circles noted by the Ordnance Survey, but when it was visited by the Clwyd Archaeology Service in 1983, it was not visible because of a thick covering of gorse. (SMR)

The previous situation still obtains. However, in view of the fact that the other two earthworks noted on this common by the Ordnance Survey are undoubtedly the sites of horse gins, it is more than likely this fits within the same category. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Cefn Du earthwork  
**Modern County** Denbighshire

**PRN** 102161

**NGR:** SJ09487300

A circular earthwork, 7m in diameter, consisting of a bank 0.4m high surrounded by a shallow ditch 2.5m wide. Davies suggested that this was a limekiln, an interpretation disputed by the Ordnance Survey. The site was not visible at the time of the last visit and has possibly been destroyed. (SMR)

No visible trace of the earthwork was recognised at, or within 50m of, this location. Presumably it has been destroyed by pasture improvement. At the exact NGR is a small spring with a shallow, wet, gully running downslope, perhaps there was some form of pond here. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Prestatyn, Melyd Avenue settlement  
**Modern County:** Denbighshire

**PRN** 102199

**NGR:** SJ06208173

Excavations in 1985 revealed a round house with a porched entrance and a multi-phased drainage gully. Other working areas and an infant burial were recognised. Radiocarbon dated to 30bc (+/- 60). (SMR)

The site was removed by excavation in 1980s. (CPAT 2004)



**Site Name** Bwlch Pen Barras hut circles B  
**Modern County** Denbighshire

**PRN** 102299

**NGR:** SJ1632060960

One of two possible hut circles investigated in 1950. A note of the work is given in a letter in the National Monument Record, which describes a hut circle 17' 9" by 19' 6" with tumbled walls 5' across. A trench and a quadrant were excavated but there were no finds and no evidence of a floor was seen. The excavator, M Bevan-Evans, thought it might even be 18thC. Both sites were probably destroyed by forestry planting and were not located by the Ordnance Survey in 1963. (SMR)

Despite a fairly thorough search in forestry, no trace of this site was seen. Some doubt regarding the location given was cast by the steepness of the slope. Surely this is too steep for a structure of approximately 6m in diameter. The area may be worth a visit when the trees are felled. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Bwlch Pen Barras hut circles A  
**Modern County** Denbighshire

**PRN** 102300

**NGR:** SJ1626060940

One of two possible hut circles investigated in 1950 without any finds or firm dating evidence. Excavated hut measured 3m across with 1m wide walls. Its entrance faced S. See also PRN 102299. (SMR)

A letter of 1950 in the National Monument Record, which describes the excavation, seems to suggest that this site was not excavated. No trace of the site was found despite a fairly thorough search in forestry. It is situated on a fairly steep slope but it is just possible that a small structure could have occupied this location. There is some doubt as to the location of PRN 102299 which casts corresponding doubts on the location of this site. It may be worth visiting the area when the forestry is felled. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Ffridd Camen ring cairn  
**Modern County:** Denbighshire

**PRN** 105121

**NGR:** SJ04493449

Possible hut site, measuring 6.6m by 5.2m. (SMR)

The site shows as a rather amorphous corona of stone, vaguely circular in appearance. Not only are there the visible stones, but others are hidden beneath the turf. Given, too that there is a lot of surface stone in this locality, determining what is manmade and what is 'natural' is difficult. There are no distinct facing slabs or kerb stones, although some stones on the S do give the impression, probably erroneously, that they form a sort of outer arc. On the E (upper) side the stony bank rises to around 0.4m and is wider here than on the other sides. Internally, the SE sector has one large stone and other smaller ones, producing a mounded appearance. Elsewhere, however, the interior is largely devoid of obvious stone. External dimensions are 6.3m E/W by 5.5m N/S.

The structure is set on one of several wide and slightly shelving terraces that are a feature of Ffridd Camen. The surrounding area has sparser than normal surface stone, suggesting that immediately local material may have been collected for the structure. It has a fine aspect to the W and further views to the S.

The nature of this structure, the build up of material in the interior, the lack of an obvious entrance and the absence of any associated features suggests that this is more likely to be a ring cairn than a round hut. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Cefn Penagored ring cairn  
**Modern County:** Denbighshire

**PRN** 105140

**NGR:** SJ04103390

A probable ring cairn sited on Cefn Penagored. Some potential for the site representing a hut circle was noted in 1998. (SMR)

The monument comprises a fairly circular ring of smallish boulders projecting through the turf. As a ring they are only intermittent, but others may be low and turf-covered, for on the S and the N there are traces of a scarp rising into the interior which may well have a stone foundation, and on the latter there are hints of a low bank. On the W the faint scarp tips into the interior, while on the E the visible circuit is interrupted for at least three metres with no visible trace of a continuation. The overall dimensions of the feature are 8.6m E/W by 7.9m N/S; the bank on the N side is now about 1.1m wide.

The structure occupies a faint spur running off the main ridge that lies immediately to the W. The interior is devoid of stone and has not been levelled, the gentle slope that is visible is the natural shelf of the spur. From a distance it could almost be the monument itself that creates the spur, but closer observation reveals that there is a natural rise. There are fine views over the valley to the east.

This is almost certainly a ring cairn. There is insufficient stone rubble for a hut circle. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Bwlch y Garnedd shooting butt I  
**Modern County:** Conwy

**PRN** 105187

**NGR:** SH91035465

A site initially described as either a probable prehistoric hut circle or a cairn. A subsequent visit recorded the site as a partially turf covered sub-square mound, 5.5m diameter x 0.3m high. An arc of stone was visible on the E side, but it was probably open on the SW side. The site was thought to be a forerunner of the H-shaped shooting butts found locally. Situated on level ground. (SMR)

A fairly amorphous sub-circular mound, 5.0m diameter by 0.4m high, situated on a small plateau forming the highest point of Bwlch y Garnedd. A marked stone content is visible, mainly on the crest of the mound. The exposed location surely precludes its function having been as a habitation. Either of the two alternative interpretations could be appropriate if the site was in isolation, but the presence of two similar structures in a line to the ESE makes it likely the site is a shooting butt. (CPAT 2003)



**Site Name** Bwlch y Garnedd shooting butt II  
**Modern County:** Conwy

**PRN** 105189

**NGR:** SH91175461

Probable roughly sub circular structure, 5.9m N/S x 4.5m E/W. Built up to form platform on E side by piled stone. Some turf covered stone on W and S sides banked up to 1.0m on n SW. No visible entrance but an end set stone on the S may form part of one. Beer bottle within probably not associated. Originally recorded as a probable prehistoric hut circle. (SMR)

A raised sub-circular mound situated on the gentle slope of a small plateau forming the highest point of Bwlch y Garnedd. Some roughly placed stone has seemingly been used as a revetment on the S side. Very slightly dished top. The exposed location surely precludes its function having been a habitation and it probably forms one of a line of shooting butts in combination with PRNs 105187 and 105190. The site measures 4.5m E/W by 4.0m and 0.6m high (max), 0.2m high (min). (CPAT 2003)

**Site Name** Bwlch y Garnedd shooting butt III  
**Modern County:** Conwy

**PRN** 105190

**NGR:** SH91105463

Square plan structure, 5.0m diameter x 0.6m high max. Coursed stone visible on E side, more stone elsewhere. Slightly hollow interior, open on the SW. The site was originally recorded as possible hut circle, but is more likely to be a forerunner of the H-shaped shooting butts found locally. Situated on level ground. Originally recorded as a hut circle. (SMR)

A raised sub-square or sub-circular mound on the gentle S-facing slope of a small plateau forming the highest point of Bwlch y Garnedd. The site has a marked stone content, possibly used as a revetment on the E side, which has a coursed stone surface. Some large slabs on W. There is a linear central hollow running E/W. The site measures 4.0m diameter and 0.5m high. The exposed location surely precludes its function having been as a habitation and it probably forms one part of a line of shooting butts in combination with PRNs 105187 and 105189. (CPAT 2003)

**Site Name** Bwlch y Garnedd hut circle III  
**Modern County:** Conwy

**PRN** 105196

**NGR:** SH90295401

Stone circle or possible hut circle, 6.0m x 6.3m x 0.3m. Made from rounded stone generally less than 20cm in diameter . Hollowed centrally. Entrance, 1m wide, on W. (SMR)

Small, apparently D-shaped, enclosure previously recorded as a hut, but of uncertain nature.

Description: the site is defined by a stony bank up to 1.5m wide, with a straight alignment on the SE side which gives it a D-shaped appearance. The core of the bank is possibly formed from small stones, up to 0.2m in diameter, some of which protrude through the turf. A 1.0m gap on the WNW side is probably the entrance, but may be a result of past disturbance. The straight alignment of bank on the SE looks convincing, but if it was curved and has been subsequently eroded, then the site may have been a hut or ring cairn.

Dimensions: overall dimensions are 5.7m NE/SW by 5.0m and 0.4m high.

Associations: the site is only a short distance SE of the Bwlch y Garnedd trackway, which was formerly a coach or turnpike road.

Location: sited on a broad interfluvium, sloping gently to the SW.

Condition and threats: the gap on the W side is probably an entrance but may signify past disturbance. Other sections of the bank appear to have been eroded. (CPAT 2003)

**Site Name** Mwdwl Eithin hut I  
**Modern County** Conwy

**PRN** 105422

**NGR:** SH91345383

A scatter of large and medium sized stone possibly forming a sub-rectangular structure, 4m NE/SW x 3m NW/SE. Extremely ruinous, with much tumble and scattered stone around and within it. Possibly demolished to provide stone for other structures in the area. (SMR)

A very ruinous D-shaped structure situated on a steep SE-facing slope. A straight alignment forms the SE side, while the NW part is curved. Defined by very rough, tumbled walling. Much rubble in the interior and a smaller amount outside to the NW. The site probably predates some of the nearby structures, but there is no suggestion that it may be of prehistoric origin. Overall dimensions are 5.1m NE/SW by 3.5m and 0.6m high. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Mwdwl Eithin peat stand  
**Modern County** Conwy

**PRN** 105428

**NGR:** SH91455394

Possible oval enclosure or hut, measuring c.5m x 4m, but much over grown with heather. Stone visible on the SW side. (SMR)

It is unlikely that this is a hut site due to the incompatible form and siting. The visible evidence consists of a stone revetment around the SW end of a low pointed ridge of heather-covered rock. The shape of the revetment is like the bow of a boat aligned NNE/SSW. There is no obvious return across the NNE side. The most likely interpretation is that this was a peat stand designed to utilise the dry ground at the end of the ridge. The peat cuttings were probably on the saddle to the N. Overall dimensions 7.1m NNE/SSW by 4.2m and 0.6m high. (CPAT 2004)



**Site Name** Ffynnon Llaethog hut  
**Modern County.** Conwy

**PRN** 105622

**NGR:** SH91505323

Extremely ruinous structure, 3.5m N/S x 3.0m E/W. Possible remains of a wall on a N/S line, while the stone elsewhere defines the site area/platform. Situated on S facing slope. (SMR)

A sub-rectangular collection of stones situated on a S-facing shelf. A fold lies c.10m to SW. The possible wall-line is little more than a raised bank of loose stone. More stones are piled nearby, so this is possibly an area of clearance. Overall dimensions 3.2m NNW/SSE by 2.9m and 0.3m high. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Bwlch Gwyn hut circle  
**Modern County** Conwy

**PRN** 105641

**NGR:** SH89705472

Platform with a low circle of stone surrounding, 6.0m diameter x 0.2m high, with the wall 1.0m wide. Located on a S facing slope within a possible prehistoric field system. (SMR)

Probable hut circle which may be associated with an early field system.

Description: the site is defined by a very low circular bank of stone, some of which is turf-covered. The entrance was probably on the SE side, where the stone is discontinuous. There may have been a contemporary structure which was on the same side as the entrance, possibly attached to the hut.

Dimensions: 6.2m diameter and 0.3m high.

Associations: on the SE side of the site are further, possibly contemporary structures, extending 6.3m from the location of the hut entrance. Unfortunately, these are so low and discontinuous that it is not possible to confirm their nature or function.

A relatively modern shelter wall, 6.0m E/W by 1.5m wide and 0.7m high, is located immediately to the S.

A very low, mainly turf-covered, wall of random stone, measuring 1.0m wide by 0.2m high, runs c.5m to N of the hut on an E/W line. The wall runs W for at least 20m and may represent part of a former field system.

Location: situated on a level shelf on the otherwise gentle S-facing slope.

Condition and threats: the remains of the site are fairly low, it appears that a significant proportion of the stone has been robbed to form the adjacent shelter wall on the S. (CPAT 2003)

**Site Name** Penbryn-ci hut platform  
**Modern County** Conwy

**PRN** 105718

**NGR:** SH87285661

Oval shaped earthwork bank, 5.0m NE/SW by 4.0m NW/SE and 0.2m high max. Interior levelled. Possibly associated with peat cutting. Situated on slight crest above NE facing slope. (SMR)

A level platform of oval shape situated on the edge of a natural terrace. The SW end is defined by a slight scarp cut into the slope. The NW and SE sides have a slight bank, while the NE end is platformed up to a height of almost 0.5m. The NE end is eroded with the material forming it having washed downslope. The earthwork is entirely of peat. There are two arguments against the interpretation of this as a hut site. Firstly, the earthworks, though slight, are too 'fresh' to be more than 100-200 years old. Secondly, the apron on the NE is too large in relation to the material removed from the SW end, suggesting that peat was imported which has then eroded and increased the size of the apron. Overall dimensions of 7.1m NE/SW by 5.2m and 0.5m high (max). Most of the earthworks are only 0.1m high. Probably a peat stand. (CPAT 2004)

**Site Name** Alwen Reservoir hut platform I  
**Modern County** Conwy

**PRN** 105743

**NGR:** SH9274555992

The probable site of a circular structure. Defined by near circular gully, 8.0m outer diameter x up to 0.2m deep, which is not visible for short distance on the SE side, possibly therefore the site of an entrance. The interior appears to have been partially levelled. The site is probably related to PRNs 105744 and 105745. Situated on a gentle SE facing slope overlooking the Alwen Reservoir. (SMR)

A hut site located on a raised spur overlooking the upper part of the Alwen Reservoir.

Description: the platform is reasonably obvious, the edge of the fan describing a near circle and on the north-west side there is a rim of soil built up behind it, sufficient to suggest that this material derived from a levelling of the platform area. Internally there is a gully, but it is shallow and without the consistent evidence of the other two platforms in the group it would not be convincing. The interior from some directions looks slightly domed, though this may be an optical illusion, but does appear to slope with the natural ground level. The break in the circuit on the south-east should indicate the location of the entrance.

Dimensions: the external dimensions, from platform lip to lip, are 9.1m N/S by 8.9m E/W. The internal measurements within the gully are 6.4m N/S by 6.6m.

Location: it is set on slightly gently sloping ground, just below the ridge crest and overlooking the valley, now occupied by the reservoir. (CPAT 2003)

**Site Name** Alwen Reservoir hut platform II  
**Modern County:** Conwy

**PRN** 105744

**NGR:** SH9272555990

The probable site of a circular structure. Defined by apparently circular gully, 8.0m outer diameter x up to 0.2m deep, possibly with a low bank on its outside. The E section of the gully is missing, possibly due to weathering. Probably related to PRNs 105743 and 105745. Situated on a gentle SE facing slope overlooking the Alwen Reservoir. (SMR)

A hut site located on a raised spur overlooking the upper part of the Alwen Reservoir.

Description: this is the least obvious of the three platforms that form this group above the Alwen Reservoir. Much of the E and SE perimeter has disappeared, although it is conceivable that there were never earthwork traces around this part. The scarp forming the platform edge is most obvious on the S and SW, and can be followed round to the W though not easily. There is slight evidence of an internal hollow but it is confused by a stock track which follows its southern course.

Dimensions: the external diameter is 10m NW/SE but cannot be gauged on the other axis. The internal diameter is approximately 7.6m.

Location: the location is the same as the neighbouring platform - PRN 105744 - which is only about 10m to the east. (CPAT 2003)



**Site Name** Alwen Reservoir hut platform III  
**Modern County:** Conwy

**PRN** 105745

**NGR:** SH9268555905

The probable site of circular structure, shown by a well defined sub-circular gully, 8.0m outer diameter x 0.3m deep. The interior appears to have been partially levelled. Probably related to PRNs 105743 and 105744. Situated on gentle E facing slope overlooking Alwen Reservoir. (SMR)

A hut site located on a raised spur overlooking the upper part of the Alwen Reservoir.

Description: this is the best preserved of the group of three platforms, its fan at the rear of the platform rising to a height of 0.3m or more. There is also the merest hint of material being banked up about the fan. Internally the shallow gully that presumably marks either the eaves drip or the wall line for posts, is reasonably clear, although there are places on the SW and E where erosion has broadened it slightly, and in the latter place deepened it as well. The SE arc of the platform is not visible: whether there was ever a visible earthwork on this side is open to debate. It is possible that some natural slippage may have occurred. The interior is not completely level but slopes slightly with the contours and appears faintly domed. There is an erosion hollow three metres above the platform, its run off perhaps on to the platform.

Dimensions: the external dimensions of the earthwork, from scarp lip to lip, are almost exactly 11m N/S by 11m E/W. The internal dimensions, from the inside of the shallow gully, are 9m N/S by 8.1m.

Location: the platform is set on the lip of a natural terrace, presumably a river terrace.

Condition and threats: as noted above, it is possible that there has been some slippage or erosion on the scarp side. (CPAT 2003)