CPAT Report No 930

Hendre Quarry, Rhydymwyn, Mold, Flintshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR AN APPLICATION FOR THE DETERMINATION OF NEW CONDITIONS

PERIODIC REVIEW UNDER SECTION 96 & SCHEDULE 14 OF THE ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995





THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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R Hankinson & R J Silvester May 2008

Report for Sloane Mead, on behalf of Tarmac UK Ltd

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

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CPAT Report Record

CPAT Report Title	Determination of new condition Flintshire: Archaeological		Rhydymwyn,
CPAT Project Name	Hendre Quarry assessment		
CPAT Project No	1528	CPAT Report No	930
Confidential (yes/no)	Yes	draft/final	Final

	Name	Signature	date	
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Revisions date made by no checked by approved by 10/06/2008 R.Hankinson & R. J. Silvester 1 R.J.Silvester 2 17/09/2008 R. Hankinson N.W. Jones, pp R.J. Silvester

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2008, the Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was asked by Sloane Mead, on behalf of Tarmac UK Ltd., to provide a quotation to undertake an archaeological assessment in connection with a planning application for the determination of new planning conditions at Hendre Quarry, near Rhydymwyn, in Flintshire.
- 1.2 The Application Site (Fig. 1), henceforward The Site, covers 55.9ha and comprises the full extent of Planning Permission Ref 3/768/92, which was granted on 29 November 1993. Limestone extraction has already extended across most of the Site with only a small area, henceforward the Permitted Extraction Area (around 7.5ha), remaining to be worked. This is outlined in red on Fig. 1.
- 1.3 The CPAT quotation was accepted by Sloane Mead in early April 2008. The assessment comprised a desk-top study and field survey, both of which were carried out during April, with this report being written immediately thereafter.

2 GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Hendre Quarry is located 5km north-west of Mold, to the north of the A541 and centred at SJ 193 682. It lies near to the watershed that divides the effectively continuous valley which carries the rivers Alyn and Wheeler, respectively tributaries of the rivers Clwyd and Dee. The quarry area lies on the north side of this valley, at an altitude of between about 160m and 230m OD. The ground to the north-east forms a broad escarpment which overlooks the estuary of the Dee and extends north-west from Buckley, culminating in Graig Fawr, above Prestatyn.
- 2.2 The solid geology of the quarry area consists of Dinantian (Carboniferous) Limestone (1994 British Geological Survey map), with the overlying Namurian (Millstone Grit) rocks outcropping some 1.5km to the north. The Alyn-Wheeler valley is of geological interest for its fluvio-glacial features, such as eskers, which were left behind when the glaciers retreated. Drift deposits, which are probably associated with the glaciation, are present on the north side of the valley and consist of mixed gravels in clay and sand matrices. The soils of the immediate area are fine loamy soils belonging to the East Keswick 3 Association (1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map and legend).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This section combines evidence from the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) with the results of the desk-top study. Existing sites are denoted by their Primary Record Number (PRN) in the HER. Evidence of archaeological features is considered in chronological order.
- 3.2 The quarry was the site of an archaeological excavation in 1989, funded by the then owners, Alfred McAlpine (Quarries) Ltd, together with Cadw, in advance of a phase of quarry expansion. The excavations were centred on a mound which was believed to represent a round barrow of presumed Bronze Age date. This site (PRN 100231) was located north-east of the quarry and has since been completely removed by quarrying activity.
- 3.3 The results of the excavation were unusual, in that the mound proved to be of natural origin, being composed of unconsolidated sands, silts and gravel. It had, though, evidently been the site of activity in the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, as a total of nine features were revealed, cut into the mound and the ground immediately surrounding it.

- 3.4 Four of the features were pits, forming an arc 8m long on the north-east side of the mound. Near the centre of the mound a shallow grave was revealed at the southern end of the arc, which contained the partial remains of an adult male and three children. Three features were found to the east of the pits and the butt end of a ditch was found further to the north. The earliest feature was the ditch, which contained burnt material; charcoal from it was radiocarbon dated to between 3017 and 2614 cal BC at a 95% confidence level.
- 3.5 A significant quantity of lithics, mainly flint, was present in the fill of the pits, together with some sherds of Grooved Ware pottery dating to the Neolithic period. The nature of the deposits in the pits suggested that they were probably contemporaneous, and alder charcoal from the basal fill of one pit was radiocarbon dated to between 2554 and 2058 cal BC at a 95% confidence level. Human bone from the multiple inhumation burial atop the mound was also radiocarbon dated, giving a date of between 1888 and 1682 cal BC at a 95% confidence level, which confirms continuing interest in the site into the Early Bronze Age (Brassil and Gibson, 1999).
- 3.6 No evidence has been found of later prehistoric, Roman, or medieval activity in the immediate locality of the quarry. The first detailed cartographic evidence comes from the Ordnance Surveyors' drawings of 1834-5 and the Tithe map of 1839 which show Hendre (Figillt) farm with its surrounding fields. The date when these fields were laid out cannot, however, be established. Evidence from the Tithe apportionment confirms the presence of the Hendre lead mine, its engine house (PRN 103373) still surviving within the eastern area of the quarry, north of the access road. At the time, the only evidence of minor industrial activity within the Site comprised a small area of quarrying which was probably related to the Hendre lime works (see PRN 19213) and the limekiln (PRN 103412), whose presence appears to be denoted on OS Surveyors' Drawing No 342, and confirmed by the field name 'Erw'r Odyn' (odyn = kiln) in the Tithe apportionment.
- 3.7 The area was subject to more intensive industrial activity in the latter part of the 19th century, starting about 1870, when the North Hendre Mine Company took up a lease to work ground under Hendre Figillt farm for lead ore. The workings eventually comprised an adit level from the valley to the south, which was linked to at least three shafts. A plan of the workings produced in 1879 (Strahan, 1890, 183) shows that most ore was obtained from an area just to the north of the farm buildings.
- 3.8 The Hendre lime works and quarry were in operation in 1874, when Hendre Figillt was sold by the Cilcain Hall Estate, but quarrying activity probably only extended into the area under consideration in the 20th century.

4 FIELD SURVEY

- 4.1 A field walkover survey was conducted on 28 April 2008 of the Permitted Extraction Area, comprising around 7.5 hectares of land located to the north-west and north of the current workings, together with a rapid assessment of the rest of the Application Site. Much of this area comprised heavily improved pasture fields. The field assessment was conducted in a methodical manner, with special attention being paid to the field boundaries.
- 4.2 One infilled shaft (Site 2) was noted beneath and immediately beyond the eastern boundary of the Application Site, but a second spread of stones a little to the north is more likely to be the result of sporadic stone clearance. A further and more prominent shaft (Site 3) just beyond the edge of the Permitted Extraction Area is visible on the post-war aerial photographs, but its

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surface traces were removed during recent soil-stripping operations on the north-western side of the workings (info: Mr Roberts of Fron Farm).

4.3 The field boundaries are predominantly hawthorn hedges interspersed with occasional broadleaved trees, all set on low banks less than 0.5m high, except where past ploughing on sloping ground has created lynchet banks. In two places double boundaries reveal where tracks, slightly hollowed with use, provided access to the fields (Site 4). One further, long disused, track (Site 5) follows the contour as a terrace way running parallel to and just inside the northern boundary of the scrub woodland.

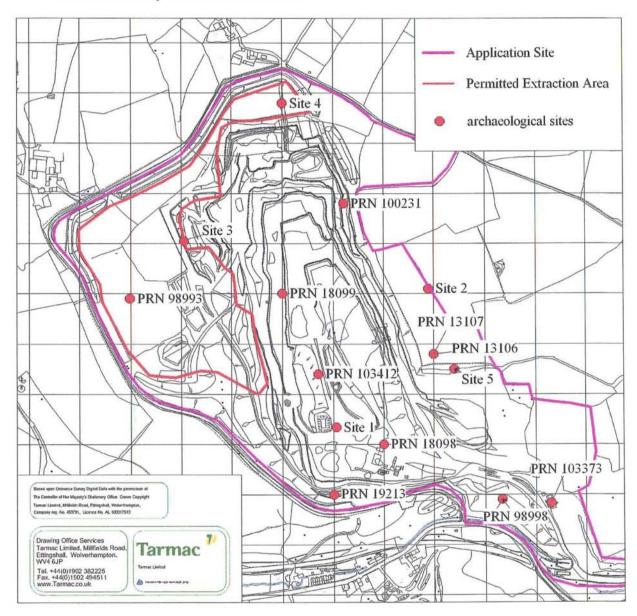


Fig. 1 Application Site and archaeological sites showing the permitted extraction area

5 BASELINE DATA

- 5.1 In total, 15 archaeological sites and features were identified across the whole Application Site, of which 10 were already recorded in the regional HER. Only two lie within the Permitted Extraction Area. All sites are depicted in Fig. 1 and tabulated below, where they are identified by PRN, or, in the case of new sites, site number. Further information is presented in Appendix 1. It should also be noted here that there are other archaeological sites and features lying just outside the study area, which have not been considered as part of this assessment.
- 5.2 The recorded sites have been classified according to a system based on that given in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume II Section 3 Part 2 (2007), which is explained in Table 1. The classification of each site (with the exception of scheduled sites and listed buildings) is based on the collective professional judgement and expertise of the field staff of CPAT. However, it must be stressed that the significance of a site and hence its classification might be enhanced by more detailed work.

Table 1: Matrix for assessing the value of archaeological sites and monuments

Factors for	assessing the value of archaeological assets
Very High	 World Heritage Sites (including those nominated) Assets of acknowledged international importance Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives
High	 Scheduled Monuments (including those proposed) Undesignated monuments of schedulable quality and importance Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives
Medium	 Designated or undesignated assets that contribute to regional research objectives
Low	 Designated and undesignated assets of local importance Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations Assets of limited value, but with the potential to contribute to local research objectives
Negligible	 Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest
Unknown	The importance of the resource has not been ascertained

Scheduled ancient monuments

5.3 On the basis of information provided by Cadw, it is clear that there are no scheduled ancient monuments within 1km of the assessment area.

Listed Buildings

5.4 On the basis of information provided by Cadw, there is one listed building within the assessment area, Hendre Quarry Engine House (PRN 103373), and a further 12 within 1km of the Site, all of which are classified as Grade II, with the exception of the Church of St John, Rhydymwyn (SJ 2045866923), which is Grade II*.

Registered Landscapes, Parks and Gardens

- 5.5 There are no registered historic landscapes, parks or gardens within 1km of the assessment area.
- 5.6 Table 2 provides brief information for every site, including perceived importance within the classification system described in Table 1. A single site was assessed to be of *High* value, while seven were of *Low* value, a further four were of *Negligible* value and another three of *Unknown* value, because insufficient information is now available to assess their value.
- 5.7 Only two sites fall within the Permitted Extraction Area PRN 98993 and Site 4 and these are highlighted in Table 2 below.

Table 2 - Archaeological sites within the Application Site

PRN/Site No	Name	NGR	Туре	Period	Value
13106	North Hendre Flat Workings, winch II	SJ19606808	Winch	20 th century	Unknown
13107	North Hendre Flat Workings, winch II	SJ19606808	Winch	20 th century	Unknown
18098	Hendre Figallt	SJ19506790	Lead mine	19 th century	Unknown
18099	Hendre, North	SJ19306820	Mine (lead/silver)	19 th century	Low
19213	Hendre quarry	SJ194678	Quarry	20 th century	Low
98993	Belt Chancery Wood old road	SJ1899868190	Road	Post Medieval	Negligible
98998	Hendre Limeworks	SJ1973367790	Lime works	Post Medieval	Low
100231	Hendre Farm 'barrow'	SJ19426838	Inhumation (natural mound)	Bronze Age	Negligible
103373	Hendre Quarry Engine House	SJ1983167783	Engine house	19 th century	High
103412	Hendre Quarry Limekiln	SJ1940068045	Lime kiln	Post Medieval	Negligible
Site 1	Hendre Figillt farm	SJ1940567934	Farmstead	Post Medieval	Negligible
Site 2	Hendre shaft 1	SJ1959068210	Mine shaft	19 th century	Low
Site 3	Hendre shaft 2	SJ1909068300	Mine shaft	19 th century	Negligible
Site 4	Hendre field boundaries	SJ19306858 (centred)	Field boundary	Unknown	Low
Site 5	Hendre terraceway	SJ1964068050	Trackway	Unknown	Low

5.8 The North Hendre lead mine (PRN 18099), which is given a single, general PRN in Table 2, actually comprised a group of associated features lying to the north and west of the former farmstead of Hendre Figillt (Site 1). The workings were depicted on a plan of 1879, reproduced by the British Geological Survey (Strahan 1890, 183). An adit level ran north from the Alyn valley and three shafts are shown: the 'engine shaft' and buildings (presumably for a winding engine) at SJ 19289 68191; 'Bromley's shaft' at SJ 19221 67900; and the 'No 1 shaft' at SJ 19270 67900. A shaft depicted on the 1873 OS map at SJ 19128 68317, was not apparent on Strahan's plan, but was presumably dug to test the continuation of the North Hendre Lode,

beyond an area of difficult ground. At the time when Hendre Figillt was sold by the Cilcain Hall Estate, the North Hendre Mine Company was leasing the buildings at Bryn-Glas, just to the north of Hendre Quarry.

6 PREDICTED IMPACTS

- 6.1 Of the sites recorded within the assessment area, most have already been removed by previous quarrying activity. In total only two sites fall within the Permitted Extraction Area.
- 6.2 The Belt Chancery Wood old road (PRN 98993), a route depicted on the Tithe map for Halkyn in 1839, appears to have been abandoned by the time of the first edition OS map of 1873. No surface remains of the road were evident at the time of the field survey and it is thus considered to be of *Negligible* value.
- 6.3 Site 4 covers an extant set of features, relating to the pre-industrial use of the area and comprises a series of field boundaries.
- 6.4 The only other known site which conceivably might be affected by extraction is the North Hendre lead/silver mine (PRN 18099). All the surface traces of the this mine, and certainly those shafts and structures depicted on the first edition OS mapping, have been lost to quarrying, but there is a slight possibility that some of the underground workings may have survived and run under the surface within the Permitted Extraction Area. These are, however, more likely on the eastern side of the current quarry workings, to judge from the 1879 map.

7 MITIGATION

- 7.1 Most of the surface evidence for archaeological sites has been removed by quarrying. The old boundaries and tracks within the Site are only of Low value and would probably no more than a brief descriptive record with some photographic recording, prior to their removal by quarrying. This work could be carried out at the same time as the watching brief described in paragraph 7.3, below.
- 7.2 Evidence of sub-surface mining remains may survive within the area which remains to be quarried, although the potential for the survival of features of the North Hendre mine is difficult to quantify. If sub-surface mining features are revealed during the working of the quarry, the most appropriate response would probably be for rapid recording, perhaps by photography, before their destruction.
- 7.3 Although the area of the development has been examined during the field visit, there still remains the possibility that archaeological sites or features without obvious surface remains may exist in the development area. This possibility is strengthened somewhat by the prehistoric activity at the Hendre mound, excavated by CPAT in 1989. In order to provide sufficient mitigation for any sites of this type which may be present, it is recommended that a watching brief be carried out during topsoil stripping on the remaining areas to be worked. To be effective, the stripping must remove all topsoil and ploughsoil, down to the top of the natural subsoil, or first significant archaeological horizon. If any features or sites are revealed by this work, then time and resources should be made available to carry out appropriate archaeological works in advance of their removal by quarrying. These works might involve archaeological excavation and/or survey.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The only archaeological site of *High* value within the Application Site is the preserved engine house (PRN 103373) of the Hendre lead mine, which is protected as a monument of national

- importance by Cadw. The site will not be affected by the proposals.
- 8.2 The only extant archaeological features within the Permitted Extraction Area are of *Low* or *Negligible* value. Two sites will be lost and a series of mitigation measures are proposed to enable rapid recording in advance of their loss to quarrying activities.
- 8.3 A significant proportion of the archaeological resource has already been lost to quarrying activity, including a number of mine shafts, a former farm, and a limekiln. Nevertheless, there remains the possibility that elements of the mine workings will be revealed in the course of mineral extraction.
- 8.4 It is also possible that there may be archaeological sites of pre-industrial date within the Permitted Extraction Area for which there are no surviving surface remains. In order to mitigate for this possibility, a watching brief should be carried out during the removal of topsoil within the future working area (see below).
- 8.5 The current planning permission for Hendre Quarry does not include any archaeological planning conditions. It is recommended that any New Conditions that are imposed as part of the Application for Determination of New Conditions should include the following planning condition:

A suitably qualified archaeological contractor should be engaged during soil stripping operations to undertake an archaeological watching brief according to the Guidelines produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The archaeological contractor should prepare a specification of works to be approved by the regional archaeological curator, who will be responsible for monitoring the archaeological works. Soil stripping should be undertaken using an excavator with a toothless bucket. To be effective, the archaeological contractor must observe the removal of topsoil and any other overburden, down to the top of the natural subsoil/glacial drift. If any evidence of archaeological activity is observed, time and resources must be made available to carry out appropriate archaeological works in advance of their destruction.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 The writers would like to thank the staff of the following repositories for their help and assistance: The regional Historic Environment Record, CPAT, Welshpool; The National Monument Record, Aberystwyth; the Denbighshire Record Office, Ruthin; the Flintshire Record Office, Hawarden; and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.
- 9.2 The writers would also like to thank the assistant quarry manager, Mr G Griffiths, for facilitating the watching brief.

10 REFERENCES

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Strahan, A, 1890, Memoirs of the Geological Survey: The Geology of the Neighbourhoods of Flint, Mold, and Ruthin, London: HMSO.

Documentary Sources

Flintshire Record Office, Hawarden

D/DM/200/1 Sale particulars of the Cilcain Hall Estate, 1874

D/DM/260/1-5 North Hendre Mine documents, 1870-1900

D/DM/260/7-23 Halkyn and Hendre Lime Company documents, 1889-1950

Denbighshire Record Office, Ruthin

DD/DM/51/38 Report of Hendrefigillt Farm, 1889

Cartographic Sources

1834-5 Ordnance Surveyors' Drawing No 341

1834-5 Ordnance Surveyors' Drawing No 342

1839 Halkyn Tithe map and Apportionment

1873 OS 1st edition 1:2,500 map

1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map (Sheet 2 - Wales) and Legend (1:250,000 scale)

1994 British Geological Survey map of Wales (Solid edition at 1:250,000 scale)

Aerial Photographs

1946 RAF/3G/TUD/UK/192/6035-6; 05 August 1946; scale c.1:10560

1948 RAF/541/119/3071-2; 30 July 1948; scale c.1:10560

1948 RAF/541/206/4061-2; 20 November 1948; scale c.1:10560

2006 Google Earth; 14 July 2006

APPENDIX 1

GAZETTEER OF SITES

North Hendre Flat Workings, winch I

PRN 13106

Type Winch NGR SJ19606808

Period 20th century Value Unknown

Hand-operated drum winch with a diameter of 1.2m. A geared device with a drum diameter of 0.6m. Was originally mounted upon timbers in the roof of an inclined passage. (Ebbs, C, 1996, 106)

North Hendre Flat Workings, winch II

PRN 13107

Type Winch NGR SJ19606808

Period 20th century Value Unknown

A geared winch with a 1.2m diameter flywheel. Manufactured by Charles Booth & Co of Park Lane Liverpool (ships chandlers and engineering supplies). Was used to raise ore up the Main East Incline and was powered by a surface compressor at the main shaft 0.44km to the north. (Ebbs, C, 1996, 106)

Hendre Figallt PRN 18098

Type Lead mine NGR SJ19506790

Period 19th century Value Unknown

The 19th century Hendre Figallt lead mine has been lost to Hendre Quarry. No evidence of associated features.

Hendre, North PRN 18099

Type Mine (lead/silver) NGR SJ19306820

Period 19th century Value Low

Lead/silver mine dating to between the early 19th century and 1913. This mine comprised a group of associated features lying to the north and west of the former farmstead of Hendre Figillt (Site 1). The workings were depicted on a plan of 1879, reproduced by the British Geological Survey (Strahan 1890, 183). An adit level ran north from the Alyn valley and three shafts are shown: the 'engine shaft' and buildings (presumably for a winding engine) at SJ 19289 68191; 'Bromley's shaft' at SJ 19221 67900; and the 'No 1 shaft' at SJ 19270 67900. A shaft depicted on the 1873 OS map at SJ 19128 68317 was not apparent on Strahan's plan, but was presumably dug to test the continuation of the North Hendre Lode, beyond an area of difficult ground. At the time when Hendre Figillt was sold by the Cilcain Hall Estate, the North Hendre Mine Company was leasing the buildings at Bryn-Glas, just to the north of Hendre Quarry.

A number of named mines are noted in the area, as described in the following paragraphs.

Hendre East was apparently operating in the Halkyn area 1869-77, with no detailed returns and no NGR given in Burt et al (1993, 46).

The Hendre South Mining Company operating 1869-71, with no detailed returns and no NGR (Burt et al 1993, 48) was probably working in the south of the valley at SJ18806760.

Hendre Figallt (Villt) appears as a single shaft on OS 1st edition 1869-70 map Sheet 1X.14 generally working the same sett as North Hendre.

Hendre Ucha is referenced as operating in the Rhydymwyn area 1861-66 (Burt et al 1993, 46) but no NGR given.

The Coed Hendre Vein runs north of the Hendre Valley and the later large North Hendre Company worked the sett to the south of the Bryngwiog Mine. The working evidence has been lost to the present Quarry.

The shafts that remain in the vicinity of Cilcen Hall and Fron Farm were part of the later North Hendre Mine sett as was Hendre Figallt, now lost to Quarrying. Bromleys' shaft remains to the south-east of Cilcen Hall, but the old engine shaft and the No 2 shaft have been lost to quarrying.

Hendre quarry PRN 19213

Type Quarry NGR SJ194678

Period 20th century Value Low

Modern quarry related to the Hendre lime works. Although the works was in operation by 1874, quarrying activity probably only extended into the area under consideration in the 20th century.

Belt Chancery wood old road

PRN 98993

Type Road *NGR* SJ1899868190 Period Post Medieval Value Negligible

Road recorded in former Flintshire SMR. Apparently abandoned in the mid-19th century according to the cartographic sources. No longer extant.

Hendre Limeworks PRN 98998

Type Lime works NGR SJ1973367790

Period Post Medieval Value Low

Lime works recorded in former Flintshire SMR. Hendre lime works and quarry were in operation in 1874, when Hendre Figillt was sold by the Cilcain Hall Estate, but quarrying activity probably only extended into the area under consideration in the 20th century.

Hendre Farm 'barrow'

PRN 100231

Type Inhumation (natural mound) *NGR* SJ19426838

Period Bronze Age Value Negligible

Large mound in field called Cae'r Orsedd originally thought to be a round barrow and excavated in 1989 in advance of Hendre Quarry extension. Excavation (PRN 39999) revealed mound to be glacial in origin, but had been used as a burial mound. A single inhumation was revealed towards the centre of the mound within a poorly defined grave/pit (Brassil et al 1989). C14 dates of 1888-1682BC (Brassil 1991b, 18). Adjacent to E side of mound 7 pits formed an arc, producing flint and prehistoric pottery. Report on teeth in British Dental Journal 1995.

Multiple inhumation consisting of the partial remains of one adult aged 25yrs or more and three children aged 7 to 9, 5 to 7 and 3.5 to 5 years, within a pit dug into a natural mound produced a date of c. 1900-1750 cal BC. The partial remains may suggest pre-depositional excarnation. Neolithic activity consisted of a butt-ended ditch (c 2900-2700 cal BC), which may have been an elongated pit or possibly a hearth, together with 7 pits containing Grooved Ware and lithics, one pit producing a date of c. 2500-2200 cal BC (Brassil and Gibson 1999).

Hendre Quarry Engine House

PRN 103373

Type Engine house NGR SJ1983167783

Period 19th century Value High

The engine house for the Hendre mine, which is preserved as a listed building. It is a substantial limestone 4-walled structure measuring 15m high by 6m wide by 6m long.

Hendre Quarry Limekiln

PRN 103412

Type Lime kiln NGR SJ19376804

Period Post Medieval Value Negligible

A limekiln was depicted here from the time of the OS surveyors drawings of 1834-5, its presence confirmed by the Tithe field name of 'Erw'r Odyn'. It was still evident on an OS map of 1964, but has since been lost to quarrying activity.

Hendre Figillt farm

Site 1

Type Farmstead NGR SJ1940567934

Period Post Medieval Value Negligible

Former farmstead, first depicted on the OS surveyors drawings of 1834-5. Now lost to quarrying activity.

Hendre Shaft 1 Site 2

Type Mine shaft NGR SJ1959068210

Period 19th century Value Low

Mine shaft visible on post-war (1940s) aerial photographs. Evidence probably removed by quarrying activity.

Hendre Shaft 2 Site 3

Type Mine shaft NGR SJ1909068300

Period 19th century Value Negligible

A possible shaft sited just within the existing quarry extraction area. No visible remains present. Probably related to the North Hendre mine complex.

Hendre field boundaries

Site 4

Type Field boundary NGR SJ19306858

Period Unknown Value Low

Series of surviving field boundaries in the area surrounding the quarry. The grid reference denotes an arbitrary point within the area covered by the boundaries. The field boundaries are predominantly hawthorn hedges interspersed with occasional broadleaved trees, all set on low banks of less than 0.5m high, except where past ploughing on sloping ground has created lynchet banks. In two places double boundaries reveal where tracks, slightly hollowed with use, provided access to the fields.

Hendre terraceway

Site 5

Type Trackway NGR SJ1964068050 Period Unknown Value Low

Terraced trackway. Now abandoned.