

CPAT Report No 948

Scheduling Enhancement Programme
Vale of Clwyd

PROJECT REPORT



THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Vale of Clwyd**

PROJECT REPORT

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Report for Cadw

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Cover photo: Nurse Fawr Mound on the Clwydians

The Vale of Clwyd

1 The Scheduling Enhancement Programme: Introduction

This brief report covers one element of a scheduling enhancement programme extending to all four Welsh Archaeological Trusts which was initiated by Cadw in 2008. It was needed to inform their thinking on priorities for scheduling enhancement in the two years up to April 2010 when the provisions of the Heritage Reform White Paper, it was hoped, were due to be implemented.

A scoping study was conducted at Cadw's request in the second quarter of the financial year 2007/8, to identify in very general terms the number of sites and features recorded in the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) that still needed to be assessed in order to complete the scheduling programme for prehistoric and Roman sites in the region, taking the study from the earliest times through to 400 AD.

The scoping report was submitted to Cadw in September 2007 and was discussed at a meeting of the trusts' directors and Cadw on 3 October. This was followed by a further meeting between the trusts and Dr Mike Yates on 7 November, as a result of which some preliminary work on a general scheduling enhancement programme across the whole of Wales was conducted by some but not all trusts during the remainder of 2007/8. All four trusts are currently involved, at the time of writing, in this programme, with a view to completing it by the end of the financial year 2009/10.

A series of enhancement programmes had already taken place during previous years across Powys and the former county of Clwyd, in some cases going back into the early 1990s, to study thematically a range of monument types including: unenclosed prehistoric settlements identified through their lithic concentrations (2001-2), prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments (from 1997 until 2005/6 with follow-up programmes in two subsequent years), hut circles/round huts (from 1998 to 2008), defended enclosures of Iron Age and Roman date (in 1993, 1995, 1998 & 2006-7), Roman military establishments (2004 to 2008), and Roman roads (2002 to 2004), together with post-Roman-era studies of early medieval ecclesiastical and burial sites (2001-2003), churches and churchyards (1995-1998), and historic settlements (1992-1994). Such enhancement programmes were designed not only to identify sites which held sufficient potential to qualify them for scheduling as sites of national importance, but also to undertake a rationalisation of the HER, through the validation of authentic sites and rejection of spurious examples, the amplification of existing records as necessary, and the removal of duplicate records.

The scoping study in 2007 utilised a recent extract from the HER to identify: a) all sites and features of prehistoric and Roman date and b) all recorded examples of specific site types such as 'enclosure', 'pound', field system' and the like where the period had been defined as 'unknown'. Sites already assessed during the enhancement programmes of previous years were then removed from this database. Similarly, sites which had nothing better than a four-figure grid reference were removed in the belief that there was no realistic prospect of identifying any such site on the ground, an approach paralleling that followed by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

The study identified over 1600 sites (or cultural heritage assets to use the current phraseology) where assessment might be useful. Some site types such as burnt mounds, field systems including pit alignments, and caves appeared to provide in themselves typologically discrete studies, but it was equally clear that there were some areas of east and north-east Wales where concentrations of various types of site suggested that a more geographically defined approach might be a more efficient mechanism for assessment. Where a field element might be involved in the assessment, it was felt that it would be a more economical use of resources to look at the sites of varying types as a group rather than to examine them individually over different years.

One such geographical area lying towards the northern edge of the region was the Vale of Clwyd and the hills to either side of it, the Clwydians up to the top of the ridge of hills on the east and the foothills of the Denbigh Moors to the west. Several of the defined site types are represented along and above the

Vale, including enclosures and pounds, field systems, and both Roman domestic funerary and ritual sites. Total numbers in the HER relevant to these themes appear to be in the order of fifty, which were in need of assessment.

Table 1: Occurrence of specific sites types against geographical areas

Area	Black Mountains	Brecon Beacons	Clwydians	Elan Valley	Epynt	Mynydd Hiraethog	Severn Valley	Tanat Valley	Vale of Clwyd	West Monts uplands
Site type										
<i>Burnt mounds</i>		■			■					■
<i>Caves</i>		■	■						■	
<i>Mines and quarries</i>										
<i>Cairn-fields</i>	■	■		■						
<i>Enclosures</i>	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■
<i>Field systems</i>	■	■		■		■	■	■		
<i>Roman settlement</i>							■			
<i>Roman religious sites</i>									■	

Five research objectives, common to all the scheduling enhancement projects, were identified in the proposals for grant aid submitted to Cadw in their final version in March 2008. These were in order:

- a) an assessment of the archaeological significance of the various site-types and the sites that comprise them, within both the regional and particularly the national framework.
- b) the identification of those sites that might merit further examination through ground survey, geophysical survey and evaluation.
- c) the recommendation of future management strategies, specifically including scheduling.
- d) the enhancement of the regional HER and through it the Extended National Database (END) maintained by the Royal Commission.
- e) the dissemination of information through publication if appropriate.

Particular emphasis here is placed on objectives a), c) and d).

2 The Vale of Clwyd: Methodology

The preliminary stages of the Vale of Clwyd study were whole desk-top based, defining and checking the integrity of the database, assessing the authenticity of the sites and features within it, and establishing which if any sites might merit a field visit which in turn might lead to a scheduling recommendation. A basic assumption from the commencement of the project was that no site would be recommended for statutory designation without a field visit being undertaken as a preliminary.

An up-to-date copy of the HER was provided by the curatorial section of the Trust, and from this the total archaeological resource in the geographical area of the Vale of Clwyd was distinguished. With a total of just over 6600 sites in the HER, the removal of all sites and features specifically attributed to the post-Roman era (*i.e.* from the Early Medieval through to the 20th century) left 722 records in total which formed the core database for the study. However, this total included 62 prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments that had already been assessed in previous years, 67 lengths of Roman road and 31 defended

enclosures, as well as 72 sites (or 10%) already classified as scheduled ancient monuments. All of these were removed for the purposes of the assessment, leaving 490 sites.

There were also nearly 90 'multi-period records', constituting, in the main, group records which duplicated other records in the database. These were checked and then most were removed.

A further 92 sites and features – caves and cave occupation, Roman settlement, Roman finds and occasional Roman funerary and ritual monuments - were put to one side to be treated separately in order to avoid duplication, because of their coverage within other forthcoming elements of the scheduling enhancement assessment during the programme for 2008/09.

A significant number of 'buried feature' records resulting from excavations and evaluations, usually in towns, were discarded, none of which were considered worth pursuing.

Finds accounted for a significant number of records, 132 in all of which 33 had already been assessed during unenclosed prehistoric settlements (lithic concentrations) study. A cursory examination of the remainder did not reveal any significant concentrations that might lead to the close definition of a settlement site, the majority being what are usually termed 'stray finds'.

26 place-names were removed, virtually every one including elements such as *carn*, *carreg*, or *maen*, considered perhaps to be redolent of prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments.

There were 88 sites within the Vale of Clwyd where the period was given as 'Unknown'. A preliminary weeding out of generally acknowledged natural landforms, excavation features, and speculative place-names left 27 'Unknown' records for consideration.

The residue amounted to 39 sites. Minor amendments were made to 6 HER records while 25 HER records were substantively amended. These revisions are incorporated into Appendix 1. Only eight sites were deemed to be worth site visits.

3 Amended Records

Standards of data entry into the old SMRs, both that compiled by CPAT and that from the former Clwyd Archaeology Service, have not always met the high standards that all the trusts try to maintain. Perhaps too often the précis of existing or original texts has led to the omission of more vital information.

By way of example the existing entry for what have been termed the Pwll Callod Barrows (PRN 100926) stated that a correspondent of the respected 17th-century antiquary, Edward Lhuyd noted one or more barrows on Pwll Callod, a farm in Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd, and this led to the SMR compiler giving a general grid reference to the farm itself. Lhuyd, however, actually wrote that a tumulus or two lay within Pwllh Kalhod land on the boundary of Llanellidian parish, and while that boundary passes close to Pwll Callod Farm, Lhuyd's record might equally put the barrows on the limestone ridge above the farm.

The Bryn Newydd cemetery and prehistoric working floor on the outskirts of Prestatyn (PRN 102300 & 102229) offer various problems of interpretation. That the latter is Mesolithic is generally agreed with several commentaries in print to back up Grahame Clark's pre-war observations, although virtually none of this has got into the HER. The cemetery is another matter. Originally it was thought to be prehistoric but later, Clark seems to have thought it Romano-British, probably resulting from the excavator's rethinking of what he had uncovered while W. J. Varley, the excavator of Old Oswestry and other hillforts, pronounced it sub-Roman, perhaps largely on the basis of an iron object. While we have not been able to identify any recent commentary on the burials, the dating of the cemetery to the Mesolithic in the SMR meant that the site slipped through the net and was not assessed during the more recent Early Medieval ecclesiastical study. The finds are believed to be in the Manchester museum.

In some other cases, time has not been available for the transferral of full information from a source to the HER. This is the case with the Flintshire SMR compiled as a paper record by the late Diane Morgan

over a number of years and passed across to CPAT relatively recently. It has been possible for staff of the HER to generate new computer records in outline, but not to transcribe the full descriptions into those records. The result is that a number of features have been ascribed an 'unknown' date, though more detailed analysis suggests that they are unlikely to be earlier than the post-medieval era. Such are the various mounds and stones in the vicinity of Penycloddiau hillfort which research on old Ordnance Survey maps demonstrate to be boundary markers between the historic counties of Flintshire and Denbighshire as well as between ecclesiastical parishes. That these are all probably post-medieval, though possibly medieval seems indisputable, and the prehistoric date given to one (PRN 99391) in the HER (and perhaps the Flintshire SMR) cannot be justified, without further research and a specific case being made for it.

4 Site Visits

Eight sites were identified which it was thought merited site visits, comprising one burnt mound (PRN 101593), two other earthwork mounds (PRNs 24333 & 99383), one standing stone (PRN 101980) and another group of stones (PRN 98826), a set of earthworks (PRN 104568), one enclosure (PRN 24349) and a cairn (PRN 54193).

Most of these turned out to be of restricted authenticity. The cairn and one of the mounds could be prehistoric burial features, but the visible evidence in both cases is ambivalent, and only excavation is likely to clarify the situation. Neither on this basis can be recommended for scheduling, although the mound if found to have been used for burial, should be re-considered. Details of the remaining sites can be found in the gazetteer in Appendix 1.

	Total HER record numbers	Records assessed	Finds	Records enhanced	Records: minor changes	Site visits	Scheduling recs.
Vale of Clwyd	726	168	99	25	6	8	0

Appendix 1 – Site List ordered by name

Boncyn Bonhadlen enclosure	24353	SJ17205675	Enclosure	Post Medieval
Bonhadlen Uchaf enclosure	24354	SJ17555690	Enclosure	Medieval?
Bryn Golau Enclosure B	102208	SJ06798089	Enclosure	Iron Age ?
Bryn Newydd cemeteries	102230	SJ07248270	Cemetery	Early Medieval
Bryn Newydd working floor	102229	SJ07248270	Flint working site	Mesolithic
Bwlch Pen Barras hut circles A	102300	SJ1626060940	Hut	Prehistoric
Bwlch Pen Barras hut circles B	102299	SJ1632060960	Hut	Prehistoric
Castell placename	102590	SJ111687	Hillfort	Iron Age
Cefn Meiridog Hall cropmark	34051	SJ017712	Enclosure	Unknown
Cerrig Llwydion stone row	102603	SJ15355378	Stone row	Prehistoric
Clwyd Forest east stone	98785	SJ1394866752	Standing stone	Post Medieval
Coed Ty-newydd Enclosure	13753	SH9618674493	Enclosure	Post Medieval
Coed-y-Mynydd Ucha Stone	99394	SJ1284069636	Standing stone	Unknown
Coetiau Orsedd Isa Field	99383	SJ1283669143	Clearance cairn	Post Medieval
Cwm Mound	101944	SJ07337743	Mound	Unknown
Cyfnant Uchaf	101593	SJ178573	Field Boundary	Post Medieval
Ffos-y-Bleiddiaid	18070	SH93527696	Mine (lead/copper)	Multiperiod
Ffos-y-Bleiddiaid (Roman Phase)	23446	SH93527696	Mine (lead/copper)	Roman ??
Ffrith y Llwynog Earthworks	104568	SH96237356	Field System	Medieval?
Graig Fawr	18084	SJ06008050	Mine (lead/copper)	Multiperiod
Graig Fawr (Prehistoric Phase)	23449	SJ06008050	Mine (lead/copper)	Prehistoric ??
Kilford Farm cropmarks (south east	101909	SJ079659	Field system	Prehistoric
Moel Plas Ym cropmark II	99202	SJ1507066363	Linear feature	Unknown
Moel Plas-ym stones	98826	SJ1529966548	Standing stone	Unknown
Moel Plasyw cairn II	54193	SJ1493066499	Round barrow	Bronze Age
Nurse Fawr Mound	24333	SJ1687454895	Landform	Bronze Age
Penycloddiau Mound 1	99385	SJ1211968913	Mound	Post Medieval
Penycloddiau Mound 10	98799	SJ1298067832	Mound	Post Medieval
Penycloddiau Mound 2	99386	SJ1218268828	Mound	Post Medieval
Penycloddiau Mound 3	99387	SJ1231768689	Mound	Post Medieval
Penycloddiau Mound 4	99388	SJ1237268622	Mound	Post Medieval
Penycloddiau Mound 5	99389	SJ1247868528	Mound	Post Medieval
Penycloddiau Mound 6	99390	SJ1257968432	Mound	Post Medieval
Penycloddiau Mound 7	99392	SJ1270368206	Mound	Post Medieval
Penycloddiau Mound 8	99393	SJ1272568099	Mound	Post Medieval
Penycloddiau Mound 9	98798	SJ1292267794	Mound	Post Medieval
Penycloddiau Stone	99391	SJ1261668340	Standing stone	Post Medieval
Pwll Callod Barrows	100926	SJ1154	Round barrow	Bronze Age
Tandderwen pit alignment	106392	SJ07836598	Pit alignment	Prehistoric
Tanydderwen Stone	101980	SJ1057563216	Incised stone	Unknown
Waen Ffynnon enclosure	24349	SJ16205540	Enclosure	Medieval?
Wesley Place Milestone	102249	SJ07528102	Milestone	Roman

Appendix 1: Gazetteer of newly assessed sites

PRN	Name	Name	Type	Period
13753	Coed Ty-newydd Enclosure	SH9618674493	Enclosure	Post Medieval

Old description

Enclosure W of Coed Ty-newydd, as noted on OS map

New description

The early Ordnance Survey map (Denbs 1:2500 no 04.16 from 1872) shows this to be a cottage and associated enclosure called Ffrith. It is now within woodland (RS 07/2008).

23446	Ffos-y-Bleiddiaid (Roman Phase)	SH93527696	Mine (lead/copper)	Roman ??
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Old description

Roman element of multiperiod mining site.

New description

The evidence for a Roman extraction phase at Ffos-y-Bleiddiaid relies wholly on the 19th-century claim that Roman hammers and tools together with the hilt of a Roman sword were found in the vicinity of the hill. This is hardly substantive evidence (RJS 07/2008).

23449	Graig Fawr (Prehistoric Phase)	SJ06008050	Mine (lead/copper)	Prehistoric ??
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Old description

Prehistoric ? element of multiperiod mining site.

New description

The suggestion that there is a prehistoric phase to Graig Fawr is at best speculative. The Metal Mines surveys simply suggests that there could be activity earlier than the 18th century, and even this is based on no more than the appearance of the workings on the hill (RS 07/2008).

24333	Nurse Fawr Mound	SJ1687454895	Landform	Bronze Age
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Old description

New site recorded during Clwydian Range Upland Survey in 1996/7.

New description

There must be a strong possibility that this is the same mound (PRN 100941) that was recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1963 as a non-antiquity. Their respective NGRs are only 20m apart. The OS were dismissive of its artificiality, while the County Council from a visit in 1988 were ambivalent. It was not examined by CPAT during the Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Monument programme, presumably because of the Ordnance Survey's comments (Desk-top observations: RS 07/2008).

A large mound, 18m or more from east to west, by 17m north to south, and from some directions at least 2m high. It looks more oval than it actually is because it is linked by a tail of material running downslope to the east and this then links too with a localized tump of material to the south. Together these suggest that the mound may be natural. However around the north side is a shallow curving depression, 2.5m wide and 0.3m deep, which is ditch-like, but it does not continue around on to the south side, and an alternative interpretation would be a slightly hollowed trackway, displaying some natural erosion.



Overall it is a distinctive feature which is probably but not certainly wholly natural. It lies to the east of the footpath and there is no doubt that it is the same as PRN 100941 (CPAT 2008).

24349 Waen Ffynnon enclosure SJ16205540 Enclosure Medieval?

Old description

New site recorded during Clwydian Range Upland Survey in 1996/7.

Small elongated enclosure running alongside Waen Fynnon. Low bank on south side of stream in poor condition. Other boundaries in the area are straight and at right angles to each other, presumed later than the enclosure. This is one of a series of similar enclosures on the west side of the Clwydian range. The others, mainly to the north of this one are also located close to water and bear no relation to modern field boundaries. Though their date and function are uncertain, it is thought that they may have been used for the corralling of stock during their movement from the lowlands to uplands in summer (transhumance) and could date from the Prehistoric, Medieval or Post-Medieval periods (HER).

New description

The Getmapping aerial photography appears to show an elongated, partly curvilinear enclosure with dimensions of approximately 64m NNW/SSE by 24m. In its form and location it is of some interest but its date remains uncertain. Assuming the parallels cited in the earlier are sound, further work on these undated enclosures would be useful (RS 07/2008).

Site visited on 14 August 2008. A linear bank lying north to south was visible within 30m of the NGR co-ordinates previously recorded. No other enclosure remains were apparent owing to the dense vegetation of heather, bracken and bilberry that covered the area. Its location on a valley bottom next to a small stream suggests that the enclosure was used for agricultural purposes and that its date is most probably medieval or later. Another site visit during the winter might be more informative (CPAT 2008).

24353 Boncyn Bonhadlen enclosure SJ17205675 Enclosure Post Medieval

Old description

New site recorded during Clwydian Range Upland Survey in 1996/7.

New description

Google Earth aerial photography shows a large intake enclosure here with a potentially substantial relict boundary still in existence. Unless otherwise reported differently, it should be assumed that this is what the record is referring to. It is unlikely to be earlier than the post-medieval era (RJS 07/2008).

24354 Bonhadlen Uchaf enclosure SJ17555690 Enclosure Medieval?

Old description

New site recorded during Clwydian Range Upland Survey in 1996/7.

New description

None of the available vertical aerial photography shows an enclosure at the given location. There is, however, a relict, field enclosure bank 190m to the east associated with the farmholding PRN 37308, and another 70m to the north. It is possible that the original NGR is slightly wrong (RS 07/2008).

34051 Cefn Meiridog Hall cropmark SJ017712 Enclosure Unknown

Old description

Possible enclosure noted on AP 79/105 48 (taken 1979). (Gibson, A M 1996d, 3).

New description

This was not checked as part of the 2007/8 Defended Enclosure survey because of its cropmark nature. The AP number is misleading for the report indicates that this is an Ordnance Survey vertical photograph, and goes on to say that the oval enclosure may be an agricultural mark, though the an authentic enclosure cannot be ruled out (Gibson 1996d, 5; RS 07/2008).

OS aerial photo consulted at NMR in August 2008. The 'enclosure' is not convincing. It occupies the centre of a field, and there appears to be no more than two sides of a 'feature' which from its dark tone could be a ditch, but perhaps might be agricultural. Not considered to be worth pursuing (RS 08/2008).

54193 Moel Plasyw cairn II SJ1493066499 Cairn Bronze Age

Old description

A single probable Bronze Age cairn 5m in diameter with a circular earthen and stone bank 0.8m wide and 0.3m high with a central stone filled depression 0.3m deep. A later clearance cairn 10m in diameter and 1m high in places can be seen 3m to the east of the Bronze Age cairn. Located on a plateau within an area of improved upland fringe enclosure. (CPAT Tir Gofal assessment, 2005)

New description

A possible cairn, its axes about 12m in both directions, although on the east it lacks definition because of a modern dump of stone. The height is around 0.5m, though looking from the south it could be up to 0.7m. The cairn is distinguished by a reasonably clear 'rise' on the west and south, with some stone pushing through the turf. Two larger blocks lie or are set on the edge. The south-east side is less clear, while the east and north-east perimeter is disguised. At the centre of the feature there is some stone but it is largely grass-covered. Off-centre is the possible cist, but it is not particularly distinctive and could be

an accidental configuration of small stones with one larger one on the north-east edge of a slight depression.



The feature is located on ground sloping gently from west to east with the slope interrupted by one or more terraces or shelves, but the views are not extensive. It is set beside a footpath of unknown antiquity.

It could be an authentic prehistoric cairn, but equally could be grassed over clearance stone of much later date (CPAT 2008).

98785 Clwyd Forest east stone **SJ1394866752** **Standing stone** **Post Medieval**

Old description

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

Although the relevant early Ordnance Survey maps do not mark a stone at this spot, the position on the county boundary between Flintshire and Denbighshire suggests strongly that this is or was a boundary stone of post-medieval date (RJS 24/07/2008).

98798 Penycloddiau Mound 9 **SJ1292267794** **Mound** **Post Medieval**

Old description

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

Boundary mound on the parish boundary between Ysceifiog and Nannerch (Flintshire) on the top of the Clwydians (see OS 1:2500 Flints Denbs 08.15 of 1871). It is unlikely that this and the various other mounds and stones set regularly along the boundaries are earlier than the post-medieval era unless a pre-existing feature was utilised.

98799 Penycloddiau Mound 10

SJ1298067832 Mound

Post Medieval

Old description

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

Boundary mound on the parish boundary between Ysceifiog and Nannerch (Flintshire) on the top of the Clwydians (see OS 1:2500 Flints Denbs 08.15 of 1871). It is unlikely that this and the various other mounds and stones set regularly along the boundaries are earlier than the post-medieval era unless a pre-existing feature was utilised.

98826 Moel Plas-ym stones

SJ1529966548 Standing stone

Unknown

Old description

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

At the recorded NGR, the slope is very steep and although on this valley side there are one or two natural terraces the NGR does not coincide with one of them. It is too steep for stones marking human activity, although a boundary stone could be a possibility. However, the slope is covered with heavy vegetation which because of its nature (gorse, high bracken) is not likely to be very much more accessible at the end of winter; one or two small stones would not be visible (RS 2008).

99202 Moel Plas Ym cropmark II

SJ1507066363 Linear feature

Unknown

Old description

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

In the absence of further information as to source it is difficult to see how a cropmark could represent a settlement at this altitude on this degree of ground slope (RJS 07/2008).

99383 Coetiau Orsedd Isa Field

SJ1283669143 Clearance cairn

Post Medieval

Old description

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed (HER).

New description

The field name - Coetiau Orsedd Isa - translated as Lower Throne Field was identified in the Clwyd Archaeological Record and visited in 1979, although as an HER entry it was derived not from the CAR but from the more recent Flintshire SMR.

A site visit on 16 July 1979 by CAS showed a mound 22.7m in diameter and up to 2m high, only part of which appeared to be in improved pasture. Eroded ground on the north-east side revealed many fragments of shale, derived from the underlying bedrock. The fieldworkers at that time believed that this might be a natural outcrop or mound (RJS 07/2008).

A new site visit was undertaken on 14 August 2008. A mound was visible on the hill slope within a grass field currently used for pasture. The mound appears to be a natural feature typical of the locality and its base had been used as a dumping ground for stone collected during improving works. The mound merges into the surrounding landscape and therefore actual measurements are difficult to obtain (CPAT 2008).

99385 Penycloddiau Mound 1

SJ1211968913 Mound

Post Medieval

Old description

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

Boundary stone on the parish and county boundary between Ysceifiog (Flintshire) and Llandyrnog (Denbighshire) running along the top of the Clwydians (see OS 1:2500 Denbs 09.15 of 1874). It is unlikely that this and the various other mounds and stones set regularly along the boundary are earlier than the post-medieval era unless a pre-existing feature was utilised.

99386 Penycloddiau Mound 2

SJ1218268828 Mound

Post Medieval

Old description

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

Boundary stone on the parish and county boundary between Ysceifiog (Flintshire) and Llandyrnog (Denbighshire) running along the top of the Clwydians (see OS 1:2500 Denbs 09.15 of 1874). It is unlikely that this and the various other mounds and stones set regularly along the boundary are earlier than the post-medieval era unless a pre-existing feature was utilised.

99387 Penycloddiau Mound 3

SJ1231768689 Mound

Post Medieval

Old description

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

Boundary stone on the parish and county boundary between Ysceifiog (Flintshire) and Llandyrnog (Denbighshire) running along the top of the Clwydians (see OS 1:2500 Denbs 09.15 of 1874). It is unlikely that this and the various other mounds and stones set regularly along the boundary are earlier than the post medieval era unless a pre-existing feature was utilised.

99388 Penycloddiau Mound 4

SJ1237268622 Mound

Post Medieval

Old description

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

Boundary stone on the parish and county boundary between Ysceifiog (Flintshire) and Llandyrnog (Denbighshire) running along the top of the Clwydians (see OS 1:2500 Denbs 09.15 of 1874). It is unlikely that this and the various other mounds and stones set regularly along the boundary are earlier than the post-medieval era unless a pre-existing feature was utilised.

99389 Penycloddiau Mound 5

SJ1247868528 Mound

Post Medieval

Old description

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

Boundary stone on the parish and county boundary between Ysceifiog (Flintshire) and Llandyrnog (Denbighshire) running along the top of the Clwydians (see OS 1:2500 Denbs 09.15 of 1874). It is unlikely that this and the various other mounds and stones set regularly along the boundary are earlier than the post-medieval era unless a pre-existing feature was utilised.

99390 Penycloddiau Mound 6

SJ1257968432 Mound

Post Medieval

Old description

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

Boundary stone on the parish and county boundary between Ysceifiog (Flintshire) and Llandyrnog (Denbighshire) running along the top of the Clwydians (see OS 1:2500 Denbs 09.15 of 1874). It is unlikely that this and the various other mounds and stones set regularly along the boundary are earlier than the post-medieval era unless a pre-existing feature was utilised.

99391 Penycloddiau Stone

SJ1261668340 Standing stone

Post Medieval

Old description

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

Boundary stone on the parish and county boundary between Ysceifiog (Flintshire) and Llandyrnog (Denbighshire) running along the top of the Clwydians (see OS 1:2500 Denbs 09.15 of 1874). It is unlikely that this and the various other mounds and stones set regularly along the boundary are earlier than the post-medieval era unless a pre-existing feature was utilised.

99392 Penycloddiau Mound 7

SJ1270368206 Mound

Post Medieval

Old description

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

Boundary stone on the parish and county boundary between Ysceifiog (Flintshire) and Llandyrnog (Denbighshire) running along the top of the Clwydians (see OS 1:2500 Denbs 09.15 of 1874). It is unlikely that this and the various other mounds and stones set regularly along the boundary are earlier than the post-medieval era unless a pre-existing feature was utilised.

99393 Penycloddiau Mound 8**SJ1272568099 Mound****Post Medieval***Old description*

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

Boundary stone on the parish and county boundary between Ysceifiog (Flintshire) and Llandyrnog (Denbighshire) running along the top of the Clwydians (see OS 1:2500 Denbs 09.15 of 1874). It is unlikely that this and the various other mounds and stones set regularly along the boundary are earlier than the post-medieval era unless a pre-existing feature was utilised.

99394 Coed-y-Mynydd Ucha Stone**SJ1284069636 Standing stone****Unknown***Old description*

Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.

New description

This is one of potentially many stones shown on early Ordnance Survey maps of the area. Its depiction on Flints 12.94 (in 1871) does not mean that it is a prehistoric standing stone, although this of course cannot be entirely ruled out. It could equally be a natural boulder, and is not considered to be worth a special visit (RJS 07/2008).

100926 Pwll Callod Barrows**SJ1154****Round barrow****Bronze Age***Old description*

LLWYD IN 1699 NOTES ONE OR MORE BARROWS ON PWLL CALLOD NONE ARE KNOWN IN THIS AREA.;

New description

The HER states: [Edward] Llwyd (= Lhuyd) in 1699 notes one or more barrows on Pwll Callod. None are known in this area (Clwyd County Council record).

Transcribed, Lhuyd actually stated: 'a tumulus or two on Pwllh Kallhod land on the boundary of Llanelidion'. Though the boundary passes close to Pwll Callod Farm within the NGR given, the reference from Lhuyd might equally put the barrows on the limestone ridge above, around SJ 123535. Ellis Davies made no mention of them in his volume, and the Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Monument programme made no attempt to locate them (RS 2008).

101593 Cyfnant Uchaf**SJ178573****Field Boundary****Post Medieval***Old description*

A possible boiling mound about 4.5m diameter lies 456m W of Cyfnant Uchaf farm on the S of stream. No visible trace of mound. (CCC, 1988; HER)

New description

A site visit (14 August 2008) revealed no trace of a burnt mound. However, at the NGR recorded, the remains of a field boundary measuring 4.5m by 2m was located. The boundary appeared to have a slightly rounded shape and lay 3m to the west of a field boundary that runs on an east to west alignment. Probably this was once a continuous boundary and that the gaps to the east and west of PRN 101593 were due to erosion, partly from the stream and also from agriculture. This seems to be the 'burnt mound' (CPAT 2008).

101909 Kilford Farm cropmarks (south east) SJ079659 Field system Prehistoric

Old description

COMPLEX OF CROPMARKS NOTED ON CPAT AIR PHOTO IN FIELD TO E OF KILFORD FARM. THE MARKS LACK GOOD DEFINITION BUT SEEM TO INCLUDE A PIT ALIGNMENT (PRN 106392) AND A POSS RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE (PRN 106400) SEE ALSO CAR 1885 TO NE.;

New description

These sites are now known by the name Tandderwen rather than Kilford Farm, with some excavated between 1985 and 1988 (RJS 07/2008).

101944 Cwm Mound SJ07337743 Mound Unknown

Old description

Large probably natural oval mound circa 35m in diameter 2.5m high.

The mound is large and grass covered. The E side of mound is steeper. Probably artificial since it is almost a regular circular shape. (CCC, 1982)

New description

Based solely on the HER record there is a disagreement between the authorities with the earlier record (OS?) claiming a natural origin and Clwyd County Council flagging its artificiality. The former's view has been accommodated in defining the Period 1 entry and the name, and for these reasons, no doubt, the site was not included in the assessment of Denbighshire prehistoric funerary and ritual sites in 1999. This was unfortunate (RS 07/2008).

101980 Tanydderwen Stone SJ1057563216 Incised stone Unknown

Old description

Irregular stone standing upright at end of wall 0.9m high 0.69m wide tapering at top with about 12 deep linear cuts up to 5 inches long some in radial designs (HER).

New description

A site visit (on 14 August 2008) revealed no sign of the Tanydderwen stone at the given NGR. The only walls visible were those of a bridge that straddles the River Llwyd. The bridge itself appears to have had some recent re-working to the parapet and possibly this was when the stone was lost. However, it is more likely that the NGR is incorrect as the property known as Tanydderwen lies a couple of kilometres to the north-west.

Further archival research demonstrated that the original HER compiler had generated a completely fallacious NGR for this feature, contrary to the Ordnance Survey index card. The original record of the feature from 1924 indicates that it is located at Tanydderwen Cottage at Glascoed to the west of St Asaph. The text and an accompanying photograph shows that it was built into a wall, near the doorway of the cottage. Bezant Lowe, the original recorder, called this and similar incised blocks, arrow stones. Unless a better explanation emerges, the most reasonable interpretation is that the stone was used for sharpening metal tools (CPAT 2008).

102208 Bryn Golau Enclosure B**SJ06798089****Enclosure****Iron Age ?***Old description*

NO VISIBLE REMAINS OF ALLEGED ENCLOSURE. MAJORITY OF FINDS FOUND IN AREA 1912. NOW IN NATIONAL MUSEUM CARDIFF. U0885. Finds are 2 Early Bronze Age flint barbed and tanged arrowheads and Neolithic / Bronze Age chert retouched flake. (NMGW Record) (CPAT Lithics (2001)

New description

Ellis Davies (1949, 162) provides a reasonable description of an oval earthwork which he clearly saw, about 73yds from N to S by 65yds from E to W. A bank up to 1m high and an outer ditch were visible. Excavations by T A Glenn in 1912 produced pottery and flint, fire-cracked stone and perhaps hammerstones, which indicate Bronze Age and perhaps Neolithic activity but do not necessarily date the enclosure which has the look of a late prehistoric enclosure.

A second enclosure lay no more than 30ft to the N and produced baked clay fragments and more flint. This must be PRN 101934, but as Quinnell pointed out in 1959 the association of enclosure and finds is almost certainly a coincidence. A fuller report by the excavator may be contained in Archaeologia Cambrensis 1913, 187-90.

The area was visited during the north-east Wales defended enclosure survey in 2007/8 but nothing was identified, probably because of the dense gorse cover there.

The finds from here merit having their own PRN, particularly as they do not seem to be associated with the enclosures (RS 07/2008).

102229 Bryn Newydd working floor**SJ07248270****Flint working site****Mesolithic***Old description*

ON CENTRAL OF THREE ISLANDS OF TUFA A MASS OF FRAGMENTS OF CHERT AND FLINT WITH BONE AND CHARCOAL . A REPRESENTATIVE COLLECTION ANALYSED INCLUDED MANY MICROLITHS.

New description

Mesolithic working floor excavated in 1925 by F Gilbert Smith, the date of the material originally confirmed by the British Museum. Several thousand flakes and a small number of non-lithic objects were collected. Various report in local journals published, and Graham Clark reported on some in the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society. The material has since been assessed and dated, to around 8200 cal BC (see Bell in Prehistoric Coastal Communities, 2007, 308, which provides further information on the site and other potentially useful references).

Visited by the Ordnance Survey in 1961 and by Clwyd CC in 1982, and an assessment project by CPAT in 1994 under project PRN 26928. The site(s) lies under the Bryn Newydd housing estate, although the precise locations as given in the HER are in a garden or gardens at the rear of a house (RS 07/2008).

102230 Bryn Newydd cemeteries**SJ07248270****Cemetery****Early Medieval***Old description*

TWO DISTINCT CEMETERIES OF PROBABLE NEOLITHIC DATE THOUGH PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT TO BE POST ROMAN WITH MANY BURIALS AND ASSOCIATED HEARTHS.

A fire-place cut into the boulder-clay was accompanied by a polished stone axe and a 'spearhead'. Graves of Romano-British date were also dug into the boulder-clay (Clarke, J G D, 1938).

New description

An interesting and incompletely understood site (sites), covered in a variety of small reports mainly in the proceedings of the Dyserth and District Field Club, a list to be found on the relevant OS card (SJ 08 SE 41). The first excavations were by F Gilbert Smith in 1925, but one suspects there were later excavations as well, and doubt the reports would confirm this.

Two groups of graves were found, but also features of a more domestic nature. The excavator(s) originally believed that these were Paleolithic or Mesolithic burials, but later concluded that the burials had been cut through a Mesolithic flint-working site. Varley thought the crude pottery was sub-Roman and this seems to have led to the view that the burials were post-Roman. There was also an iron artefact which suggested a historic rather than prehistoric date. The finds are reputedly in the Manchester Museum. Visited by the Ordnance Survey in 1961 and by Clwyd CC in 1982. The site(s) lies under the Bryn Newydd housing estate, although the precise locations as given in the HER are in a garden or gardens at the rear of a house.

There is nothing to suggest that the site or the finds have been re-assessed in recent times. (RS 07/2008).

102249 Wesley Place Milestone

SJ07528102

Milestone

Roman

Old description

Dolerite milestone found in 1956 in wall of empty cottage, moved to private house. Length 1.1m and 0.3m wide. Assumed to originally come from the Roman road 4 miles S of Gwaenysgor.

Milestone of Severus Alexander, dated to 231-5 AD. (OS, 1974)

Nothing visible on site. (CCC, 1979)

Nothing visible of milestone on NGR given, may have been removed. (See OS 1974 for place moved to). (CCC, 1988)

New description

The milestone - which is described in detail in the sources - was found in the 1930s when work was being undertaken on the churchyard wall at Gwaenysgor, and was then moved to the cottage which was demolished in 1956. By 1959 it had been moved to Mr T T Pennant Williams' house: Garth, Ffroddlas, Prestatyn but was earmarked for rehousing at the Prestatyn Museum (info: OS Card SJ 08 SE 61; also Jarrett 1969, 183). It has not been shown on the new OS map of Roman Britain (2001). The nearest known road is in indeed the Chester to Caernarfon road (RR67a), 5.9km to the south, although the unsubstantiated road to Meliden (RRN 16) is only 1.3km to the west (RS 2008).

102299 Bwlch Pen Barras hut circles B

SJ1632060960

Hut

Prehistoric

Old description

One of two possible hut circles investigated in 1950. No finds or dating evidence. Both probably destroyed by forestry planting and were not located by the OS in 1963. Site has been destroyed due to forestry activity. (CCC, 1988). Not known (Thomas D, 1997)

Hut circle 17' 9" by 19' 6" with tumbled walls 5' across. Trench and quadrant but no find and no floor. The excavator M Bevan-Evans thought it might even be 18thC. A smaller circle nearby which might be PRN 102300 but this not excavated (Letter to WE Griffiths 18-02-1950 in NMR)

New description

There appears to be no means of determining the authenticity of this site and the neighbouring one (PRN

102300). The OS card (SJ16SE 12) seems to indicate that they are genuine, prehistoric hut circles, but the letter in the NMR archives implies otherwise. Whatever their date and function, the chances of their survival within forestry seems remote (RS 07/2008).

102300 Bwlch Pen Barras hut circles A SJ1626060940 Hut Prehistoric

Old description

Site has been destroyed due to forestry activity. (CCC, 1988)

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 PRN102299. Not known (Thomas D, 1997)

New description

See note on PRN 102299.

102590 Castell placename SJ111687 Hillfort Iron Age

Old description

A SMALL MODERN HOUSE ON A PLATEAU OF RISING GROUND PROBABLY OF NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE.;

New description

There is no clear reason why this should be called Castell (or Castle on the late 19th-century, 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey map), but equally it is not an obvious location for an ironically termed cottage encroaching on the waste. The record should be maintained (RS 07/2008).

102603 Cerrig Llwydion stone row SJ15355378 Stone row Prehistoric

Old description

PLACENAME MEANING GREY STONE.THERE IS A REFERENCE IN PAROCHIALIA 1699 TO A WALK OF STONES WHICH DAVIES TRANSLATES AS A STONE AVENUE.NO SUCH AVENUE IS KNOWN HERE.

New description

The HER based on a Clwyd Archaeology Service record states: [a] placename meaning grey stone. There is a reference in [Lhuyd's] Parochialia in 1699 to a walk of stones which Davies translates as a stone avenue. No such avenue is known here.

Ellis Davies thought that Y Cerrig Llwydion was presumably the Y Cerrig Llwyd on 19th-century maps and was now (in 1929) Y Garreg Lwyd farm on the road to Llandegla. Nothing in the way of a stone row existed any more at the farm at the time that he wrote, but a few boulders were to be seen near the house, and several were incorporated in the walls of an old kiln close to the gate leading from the road to the farmyard (RS 2008).

104568 Ffrith y Llwynog Earthworks SH96237356 Field System Medieval?

Old description

A seemingly complex series of earthworks forming an irregular rectilinear enclosure. Noted on County

Council vertical air photo cover (HER).

New description

A field visit (on the 14 August 2008) revealed a series of earlier and now redundant field boundaries, perhaps dating from the medieval period. The boundaries are situated upon a gently sloping field that is under pasture and also contains a modern electricity pylon. The boundaries consist of grassed, raised banks that are both curved and irregular in shape, measuring 2m to 3m in width and 0.3m in height. At the west side of the curved bank, two gaps appear and lead to a trackway that is 3.5m wide. Small sub-angular stones are visible on the surface from this feature. The modern field boundaries appear to be from the 19th Century (CPAT 2008).

106392 Tandderwen pit alignment

SJ07836598

Pit alignment

Prehistoric

Old description

LINEAR CROPMARK EVIDENT ON CPAT AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH. AREA EXCAVATED BETWEEN 1985-88 BY K BRASSIL. CROPMARK IS A POSSIBLE PIT ALIGNMENT.

Pit alignment runs roughly north-west/south-east for c.200m (Brassil, K S, Owen, W G & Britnell, W J, 1991, 46-7).

New description

A pit alignment running roughly north-west to south-east for around 200m, on a different alignment from the existing field system. The only one of its kind at Tandderwen and not excavated. Mentioned in passing in the excavation report of nearby features and reputedly showing on currently unavailable CPAT APs 86-15-17 & 18 (Brassil et al. 1991, 46-7; RS 2008).