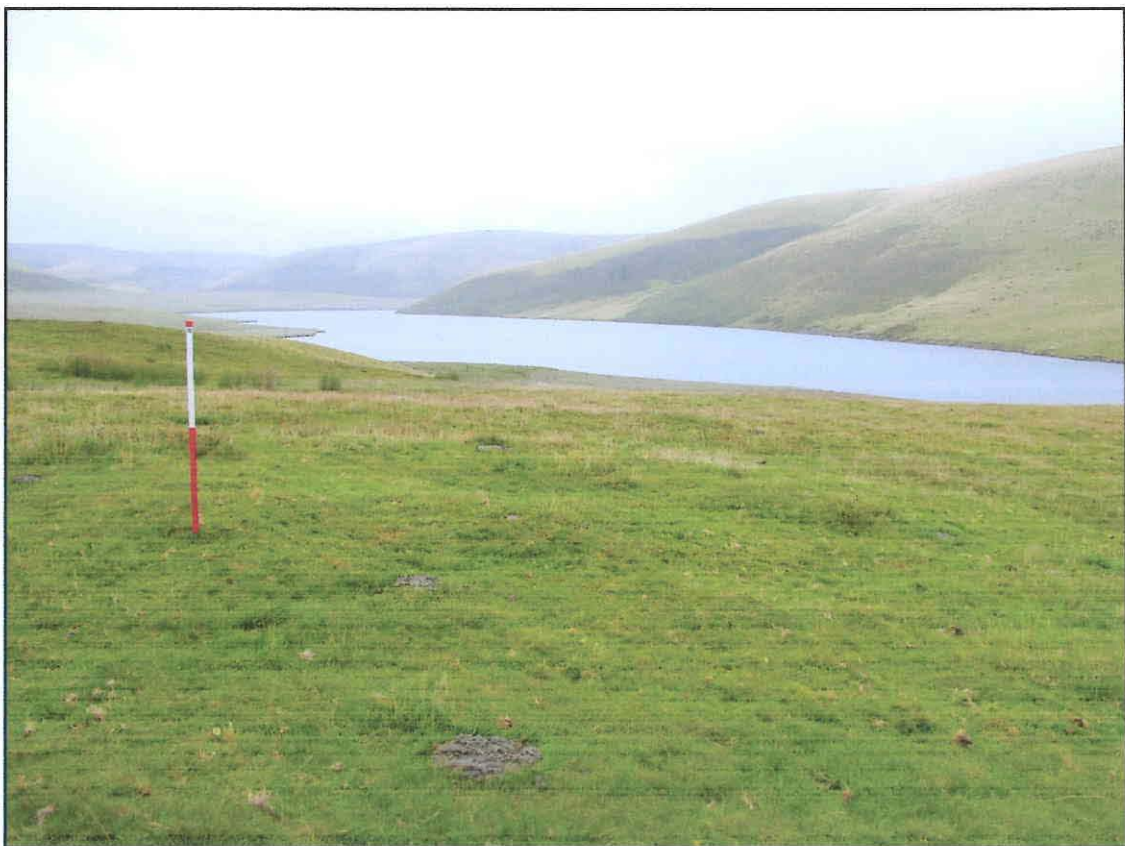


CPAT Report No 1004

Elan Valley

The Scheduling Enhancement Programme



THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Report for Cadw

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Cover photo: Cefn Gwair cairn II (PRN 4087) overlooking the Craig Goch Reservoir

The Scheduling Enhancement Programme: Introduction

In the second quarter of the financial year 2007/8, a scoping study was conducted at the request of Cadw which identified in overall terms the number of sites and features recorded in the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) that might still need to be assessed in order to complete the scheduling enhancement programme for prehistoric and Roman sites in the region, taking the study from the earliest times through to around 400 AD. It was needed to inform their thinking on priorities for scheduling enhancement in the two years up to April 2010 which at that time was the projected date timetabled for when the provisions of the Heritage Reform White Paper were to be implemented.

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 three subsequent years), hut circles/round huts (from 1998 to 2008), defended enclosures of Iron Age and Roman date (in 1993, 1995, 1998 & 2006 to 2008) Roman military establishments (2004 to 2008), and Roman roads (2002 to 2004 with follow up work as a result of the projected revision of Nash-Williams and Jarrett's *Roman Frontier in Wales* volume). 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) across Powys and the former county of Clwyd 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 was the upland region spanning the northern end of the historic county of Brecknock and the western portion of Radnorshire. In Ordnance Survey parlance this has been termed the Elan Valley, but is known also as Elenydd, based on the word *Eleyrn*, the mid-13th century name for the River Elan. This displayed a limited mix of relevant site types (see table 1) but was judged to be a sufficiently cohesive area to merit an areal as opposed to a thematic approach to scheduling.

The Elan Valley itself might be seen as a misleading term as it is generally used to cover not only the valley of the Elan itself but also that of its tributary, the Claerwen, together with the upland catchments that surround them. For the purposes of this assessment the bounds have been defined even more widely, ranging from the Ceredigion border in the north which lies just to the south of the Ystwyth valley, the upper Wye Valley to the east, the edge of the uplands to the south before they drop down to the Irfon, and again the Ceredigion border on the west. South of the Elan Valley this large block of upland extending over 375km² takes in what have been termed the high moorlands of Abergwesyn Common and Drygarn Fawr.

Table 1: Occurrence of specific sites types against geographical areas

<i>Area</i>	<i>Black Mounts</i>	<i>Brecon Beacons</i>	<i>Clwyd- ans</i>	<i>Elan Valley</i>	<i>Epynt</i>	<i>Mynydd Hiraethog</i>	<i>Severn Valley</i>	<i>Tana Valley</i>	<i>Vale of Clwyd</i>	<i>West Monts uplands</i>
<i>Site type</i>										
<i>Burnt mounds</i>		■			■					■
<i>Caves</i>		■	■						■	
<i>Mines and quarries</i>										
<i>Cairnfields</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 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 in this study was placed on objectives a), c) and d).

SEP Methodology

The preliminary stages of the Elan Valley study were wholly desk-top based, defining and checking the integrity of the database, assessing the authenticity of the remaining, unscheduled 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 assumption that has underpinned all of the Trust's Scheduling Enhancement Programme studies (SEPs) to date.

An up-to-date extract from the HER was initially provided by the curatorial section of the Trust, and with this as a base, the total archaeological resource in the geographical area of the Elan Valley/Elenydd region was identified.

The HER currently carries a very substantial number of records for the Elan Valley area, resulting at least in part from the amount of upland survey and associated record creation that has occurred under the heading of the Uplands Initiative in recent years. Table 2 shows that numbers are high even compared with the Brecon Beacons and as Fig 1 reveals there is a strong concentration in the east of the region in the salient formed by the confluence of the Elan and the Wye.

The removal of all sites and features that had been specifically attributed to the post-Roman era (i.e. from the Early Medieval through to the 20th century) left around 430 records, the vast majority of them attributed to the prehistoric era with little more than 50 being period-classed as 'Unknown'. From the surviving records, a further 83 already scheduled sites were removed. The number of existing SAMs may be actually higher than that because recent schedulings have yet to be entered into the HER. This was recognised during the assessment as an omission with the Craig-y-Llysiau/Craig Rhiwnant complex of enclosures and huts, simply because the known quality of the group had led to a scheduling recommendation in the past, but it is beyond the remit of this programme to correlate all new schedulings with the HER.

Just under 350 sites and other assets remained. From this total, a small number already covered in such projects as Roman roads (4), prehistoric hut circles (3), early medieval dykes (1) and wrongly dated deserted medieval rural settlements (2) were removed, and a very much greater number of sites classed as prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments, nearly 190 in total, although some of these had originated after the funerary and ritual survey had been completed, and led to limited re-assessment. Finds accounted for 23 records, the small number of flint scatters, only 9, presumably reflecting the pastoral upland environment. Surprisingly, there are three records of prehistoric goldwork and one of Roman date. Place-names were also removed where these could not be correlated with known sites. Of 11 place-names, 4 contained the element *bedd* signifying a grave. Finally 14 records appeared to refer to natural landforms on the evidence of later authorities. Removal of all of these classes of record led to about 100 records being considered in more detail.

Table 2 Current state of research on the Scheduling Enhancement Programme 2009/10

Theme/area		HER record numbers	Records assessed	Finds	Records enhanced	Records: minor changes	Site visits	SAM recs.
<i>Vale of Clwyd</i>	CPAT Report 948	726	168	99	25	6	8	0
<i>Roman Settlement</i>	CPAT Report 963	51	41	313	13	12	1	1
<i>Roman Religious Sites</i>	CPAT Report 964	25	21		12	7	2	0
<i>Brecon Beacons</i>	CPAT Report 982	1317	485	71	51	37	108	8
<i>West Montgomeryshire</i>	CPAT Report 983	376	254	3	19	14	4	1
<i>Elan Valley</i>	CPAT Report 1004	1864	431	23	28	49	47	5

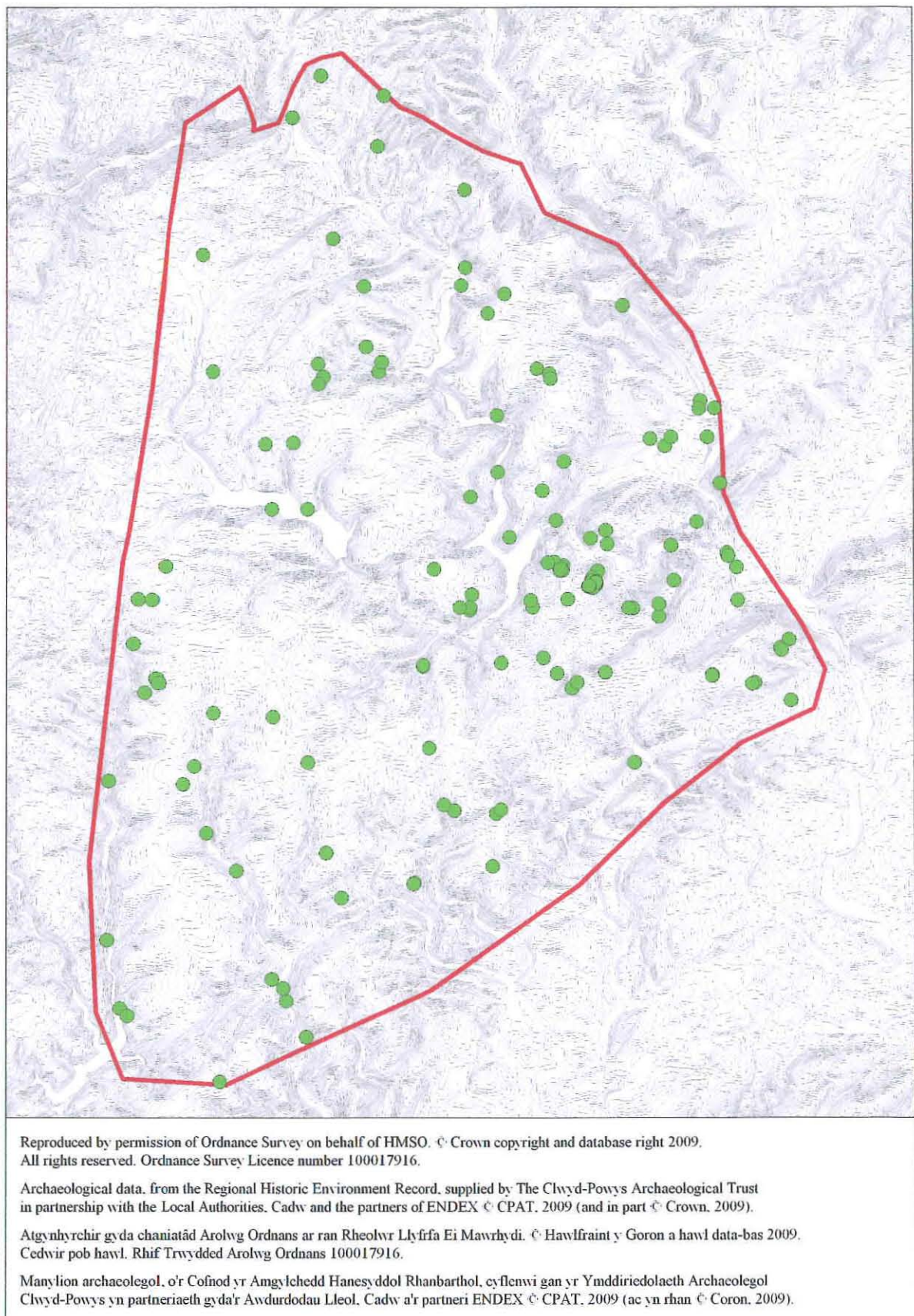


Fig 1 Distribution of unscheduled sites in the Elan Valley area not visited during previous scheduling enhancement programmes

The Assessment

The Elan Valley area together with Abergwesyn Common contains a high proportion of sites that are of either prehistoric funerary and ritual origin or medieval and post-medieval rural settlement, and for this reason alone, the number of HER entries that required assessment was not as large as for some other areas examined under the SEP. Though there is virtually no known Roman activity, other than the temporary military camp on Esgair Perfedd, there are perhaps more potential prehistoric occupation sites of open character here than in some other upland areas of mid Wales.

Re-assessment included the utilisation of a wide range of records including the Ordnance Survey records, early Ordnance Survey maps, and vertical aerial photography available within the Trust's archives. Limited research was also undertaken in the NMR archives at Aberystwyth to resolve specific queries.

The assessment process removed a reasonable number of the sites and features of 'unknown' date from consideration, usually because site information was too sparse, the location too imprecise, or that it was patently clear from the existing description that the remains that were recorded were unlikely to score heavily against the scheduling criteria.

A small number of sites in the HER where there was some uncertainty as to which county they were in (and by extension which Trust area) were examined. Examples include the Trum y Gwr Stones (PRN 817), the Nant y Esgair lake dwelling (PRN 3359) which for some reason is included in the Powys HER even though an examination of the Ordnance Survey index card revealed that that organisation were adamant that it was in Ceredigion.

The opportunity was taken to examine a few sites which perhaps should have been examined in an earlier assessment, but which for one reason or another had not been covered. Some may have been overlooked, but the majority resulted undoubtedly from a misleading attribution under 'type' or 'period' or because information had reached the HER too late for consideration. The Banc Ty-coch cairn I (PRN 13416) is an intact circular funerary cairn positioned on a low promontory and was presumably found (or at least reported to the HER) after the prehistoric funerary and ritual monument programme had been initiated. The Y Gamriw NE cairn (PRN 13486) was similar

The Esgair Cloddiad stone (PRN 3436) had presumably got onto the HER because of a lack of knowledge on the part of the recorder. The Welsh hills are home to very large numbers of natural boulders and rocks that were used, for want of anything better, as boundary markers, and as such were recorded by the Ordnance Survey surveyors in the late 19th century without any presumption on their part that what they were recording was of any great antiquity. Unfortunately, this seems to have been overlooked by some desk-top recorders. Esgair Cloddiad was one of them. Another might be the Llyn Clap stone (PRN 43641) which fits the above description adequately but cannot now be checked in the field because it has been submerged beneath the Garreg-ddu reservoir. The reasoning behind the prehistoric (and specifically Bronze Age) origins of the Nant Gwyllt stones (PRN 43744) is wholly unclear.

The Lan Fawr stone (PRN 3454) was for whatever reason omitted from the prehistoric funerary and ritual study. Perhaps it was the difficulties that the Ordnance Survey had in 1977 which acted as a deterrent, but a cursory examination of relatively recent vertical aerial photography revealed that a possible contender had been left in a clearing a couple of hundreds metres to the east of the original National Grid Reference. A visit confirmed that a large stone lay in the clearing and that forestry workers had created an approach track to it. The stone itself looks like a natural boulder, though of considerable size, but it evidently impressed the forestry workers who had put lumps of quartz in a circle on its surface, or at least this is what we assume. More important here is the imposing stone in Llanwrthwl churchyard (PRN 883) which was probably overlooked because it is now set in a churchyard. Tradition has it that St Wrthwl founded his church because of the presence of the stone and while there is no way of proving this to be true, there can also be no doubt that this stone is not a

natural setting but was deliberately erected, and in the absence of any form of inscription or symbol, a prehistoric date must be assumed. As such it should surely be scheduled, even though it is on sacred ground, and is thus recommended below.



Plate 1. The Llanwrthwl churchyard stone (PRN 883). Photo CPAT 2904-012

In a similar vein, Clawdd Du Stone II (PRN 4337) was re-visited during an examination of the Crugiau Bach interfluvium. This may have been recommended for scheduling during the prehistoric funerary and ritual programme, but if so the recommendation does not appear to have met with any success. We would urge reconsideration of this particular monument, primarily because careful examination has provided a little more information about it, reinforcing its prehistoric significance, but also in a landscape context because the nearby Crugiau Bach stone circle (PRN 13522) has been scheduled, and while a religious ceremonial link between the two cannot be proved, it should not be dismissed either. And in addition a further site on this small plateau is also being recommended for scheduling (see below).

The small mounds on Esgair Rhiwlan (PRN 4124) remain an enigma. Their landscape location militates against one obvious explanation as a cairnfield resulting from agricultural activity, yet they do not have the 'feel' of prehistoric burial cairns, being too small and irregular and well-spread out across the ridge, and their appearance as mounds rather than pits really does not favour the suggestion that they are the result of military firing or bombing practice. As far as can be established on the evidence available to us (and a lot of work under the Uplands Initiative has been completed in the Elan Valley region which is not available in the HER) there are no comparable sites locally which is a further handicap. By a process of exclusion it might be suggested that these could be graves of a later, post-prehistoric origin, but we cannot convince ourselves that this is the case, let alone anyone else.



Plate 2. The Esgair Rhiwlan cairnfield and the difficulties of recognition (the walking pole is placed on the cairn which shows as a mound projecting slightly above the long moorland grass). Photo CPAT 2904-010

The Allt Goch Cairnfield (PRN 5514) is more straightforward, for there can be little doubt that the cairns were the product of agricultural clearance in the prehistoric era. Unfortunately, there is virtually no associated evidence of agriculture which may have enhanced the prospects of scheduling on these moorland shelves, and the only possible hut site (PRN 113651) which is set into the slope immediately above one of the shelves and only a few metres from one of the cairns is not only difficult to define beneath its partial covering of rushes, but is also too small and incomplete to merit scheduling in its own right. There are several records of the Allt Goch Cairnfield, one of them wildly misleading. It proved impossible to correlate all of the cairns that were seen during the visit and were registered using GPS with the existing records, but some were, and we have thus rationalised the record to an acceptable degree.



Plate 2. The Crugiau Bach Enclosure, PRN 50406 (CPAT 2904-005)

As to why the Crugiau Bach Enclosure (PRN 50406) was not scheduled when the adjacent stone circle was afforded that protection is unclear to the writers. Had it been clearly flagged up in the HER when CPAT was examining prehistoric house sites in Breconshire a couple of years ago, it would probably have been recommended then. However, it is not actually a house site, more an enclosure in which an otherwise invisible hut was set. There can, however, be no doubt that it merits protection. Such sites are rare – and the jury has not yet adjudged whether nearby PRN 113667 is similar, although the evidence is reasonably satisfactory – and this one with some peat cover is well-preserved, and the plan in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 156 (2007) points to associated agriculture with adjacent clearance cairns clearly present. The merits of this site can hardly be understated.

One burnt mound (PRN 5910) – near Ffynnon Mary – was examined. It is considered to be worth scheduling and is recommended in the last part of this report because it might be easier for Cadw' inspector to examine it while in the Elan Valley. A proper description has, however, been held over to the burnt mounds report which will be submitted at the end of the year.

The Waun Lwyd boundary bank (PRN 16552) had been registered as an 'Unknown' in the HER. As a result of a site visit, we can now be reasonably satisfied that it was a medieval or post-medieval boundary bank defining the upper edge of the enclosed land and thus a head dyke, in all probability associated with Llanerch-y-cawr farm and its holding. The Crugyn Ci bank (PRN 53006) is probably of a similar nature.

Finally, we might in slightly flippant vein note how records once created and regardless of their authenticity, are encased in stone, never to be excised from the HER. The Nant y Fedw enclosure (PRN 72453) is recorded 'as a square enclosure with large beds', intriguing in itself, and the source is given as the RCAHMW archive. Despite a careful search by CPAT and assistance from the Royal Commission staff in the NMR, no trace of this archival record can be recognised. A ghost site has been created, and we shall probably never know the nature of the large beds.

Appendix 1 – Site List ordered by name

<i>Name</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>
Allt Goch Cairnfield	5514	SN93886295	Cairnfield	Prehistoric
Allt Goch N standing stone	70618	SN9385763117	Stone	Undated
Allt Goch south cairn IV	70611	SN9383162963	Clearance cairn	Prehistoric
Banc Ty-coch cairn I	13416	SN9496062272	Round barrow (cairn)	Bronze Age
Banc Ty-coch cairn II	13418	SN9484562277	Round barrow (cairn)	Bronze Age
Cefn Gwair Cairn II	4087	SN8941269530	Round barrow (cairn)	Bronze Age
Clawdd Du Stone II	4337	SN9325562437	Standing stone	Bronze Age
Coed y Foel boundary bank	7921	SN91566423	Boundary bank	Post Medieval
Crugiau Bach Enclosure	50406	SN9307562413	Enclosure	Prehistoric
Crugiau Bach enclosure II	113667	SN9317362519	Enclosure	Prehistoric
Crugiau Bach hut	113651	SN9393462944	Hut	Prehistoric
Crugyn Ci bank	53006	SN9271368622	Bank	Post Medieval
Esgair Cloddiad Boulder	13881	SN8281057900	Non antiquity	Unknown
Esgair Cloddiad Stone	3436	SN82505740	Standing stone	Bronze Age
Esgair Rhiwlan Mounds	4124	SN8753071177	Round barrow cemetery	Bronze Age
Ffynnon Mary Burnt Mound	5910	SN98226018	Burnt mound	Bronze Age
Gors Goch boundary bank	43964	SN8944063350	Natural drain	Undated
Gurnos, ring cairn	44037	SN9015962285	Rock outcrop	Undated
Lan Fawr Stone	3454	SN888547	Standing stone	Bronze Age
Llanwrthwl churchyard stone	883	SN97576372	Standing stone	Bronze Age
Llyn Clap stone	43641	SN91226603	Standing stone	Bronze Age
Nant Cwmrun S clearance cairn	13505	SN9653161130	Clearance cairn	Post Medieval
Nant Gwyllt stones	43744	SN90496265	Boundary stone	Prehistoric
Nant Madog cropmarks	43704	SN9308066330	Hut circle	Prehistoric
Pen y Ffynnon Ring	5885	SN97315997	Round barrow	Bronze Age
Waun Lwyd boundary bank	16552	SN9131660754	Field boundary	Post Medieval
Y Gamriw NE hut group	13414	SN9566062380	Shelter	Post Medieval
Y Gamriw NE cairn	13486	SN9607363042	Round barrow (cairn)	Bronze Age

Appendix 2 – Gazetteer of newly assessed sites

883 Llanwrthwl churchyard SN97576372 Standing stone Bronze Age

Old description

Stone some 1.8m high, 1.4m wide and 0.8m to 1.4m thick. Stands by the SE corner of the S porch of the church. Top rounded and weathered. Piece broken off the W side. Probably prehistoric, though noted as a cross shaft by Lewis, S, 1833.

(SS 22) Beside the S. door of LLANWRTHWL CHURCH, 180 m above O.D., is a standing stone 1.83 m high, 1.27 m by 1.16 m by 0.74 m at the base.

O.S.Card SN 96 SE 1

James 1971, pls. 30 a-b

1978-9, p.27, no. 11/36.

RCAHMW, 1995 - Draft Inventory description.

New description

A standing stone, probably prehistoric, located no more than two metres from the south-east corner of the south porch of Llanwrthwl Church. It is a large, well-smoothed block, a rounded-quadrilateral in cross-section, it is c.1.8m high, and 1.3 m by 1.2 m by 0.7m at the base, and 4.6m in circumference. The top is rounded and weathered and a piece has broken off the west side. Lewis in 1833 remarked, surely without any justification, that it was a cross shaft. The local belief, articulated in the church literature, is that the church was founded on this site by St Wrthwl because of the presence of the stone. This is not impossible, not least because the effort involved in bringing such a large block to this spot would have been enormous. (RS 2009)

3436 Esgair Cloddiaid Stone SN82505740 Standing stone Bronze Age

Old description

Standing stone shown on old series 1" OS map. (OS, 1835)

Area densely afforested and no such feature is now apparent. (OS, 1977)

New description

The Ordnance Survey surveyors' drawing (no 310) of 1820-1 at 2" to the mile on which the 1st edition was based shows 'a block of quartz' at this spot. It was presumably a feature standing out in the landscape but there is no reason to believe it was a prehistoric standing stone rather than a natural feature, and the surveyors did not use the script reserved for antiquities (RS 09).

3454 Lan Fawr Stone SN888547 Standing stone Bronze Age

Old description

Standing stone shown on old series OS 1" map. (OS, 1835). Dense afforestation now covers the area and no such feature could be recognised. (OS, 1977).

(LSS 1) A standing stone is marked on O.S. one-inch First Edition 1835 on Lan Fawr but cannot now be found. RCAHMW, 1995 - Draft Inventory description

New description

Vertical aerial photography (Getmapping from the early 2000s) shows the probable site of the standing stone at SN 88875 54662, avoided during re-planting (RS 2009).

Fieldwork showed this to be large recumbent stone occupying a deliberately left clearing in a forestry plantation. Its dimensions are around 2.6m W/E by 1.7m and it is about 0.7m high. Beneath and around it are smaller blocks and slabs, differentially visible in the vegetation, and there is the hint that it is set on a slight mound although this may be largely a natural phenomenon. More obvious is a second much smaller stone, 0.6m long by 0.35m wide and 0.4m high which is set in the ground 2.9m to the NNE. The inclination is to treat both as natural features. At the time of the visit blocks of quartz had been placed in a circle on the top surface of the stone, presumably by forestry workers. (RS 2009).

4087 Cefn Gwair Cairn II SN8941269530 Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age*Old description*

Round cairn. Turf covered. 5.5m diameter. 0.3m high. Centre hollowed out.

A hut site, diameter 3m (Davies & Webster, 1977).

Small round cairn situated on a shelf on sloping ground. Low turf covered stone mound, diameter 5.5m, height 0.3m. Hollowed out centre (probably accounting for Davies & Webster's identification as hut). No trace of an entrance (OS visit, 1977).

Difficult to determine whether this is a badly damaged cairn or the remains of a small hut. The site is defined by a low turf covered bank up to 0.3m high and 1.5-2m wide, with a possible entrance on E side. Overall, the site is c. 6m NE-SW x 4m NW-SE. The centre is hollowed. Some stone visible through turf. The surviving earthworks are elongated and could be a disturbed and spread cairn although the possible entrance does suggest that it may be a hut. Extensive areas of peat bog over to W and particularly in shallow valley to S with good palaeoenvironmental potential (CPAT, 24/8/00).

New description

The central hollow and general irregularity of the site has been taken, in the past, to suggest its origin as a hut, although this seems much more likely to be a result of past disturbance eating into the edges and centre of the site. Interpretation as a cairn on the evidence available seems much more realistic. The width of up to 2.5m of the alleged bank also seems to preclude the hut interpretation given that the interior is no more than 3m across at its maximum. Some stones are visible on the N, S and E sides of the central hollow and more were found by probing; it is the presence of stone which confirms the more circular layout of the site than has been previously stated. Both the N and S sides have been partially truncated by disturbance. Overall, the evidence points towards this being a funerary cairn rather than a hut. The site is in a prominent location on a spur which overlooked the valley floor prior to dam construction. Overall dimensions approximately 6m in diameter and 0.3m high (RH 2/9/2009).

4124 Esgair Rhiwlan Mounds SN8753071177 Round barrow cemetery Bronze Age*Old description*

Group of at least 40 irregular moss-covered mounds, some with adjacent pits, each about 2m to 3m across and about 0.3m high. Possibly the site of an old bombing range. May be clearance heaps but this not likely as they form no regular pattern and don't seem to delineate fields.

Series of roughly circular or slightly elongated mounds generally 3-4m across and up to 0.4m high, some with flat tops. Unknown number of mounds extending over at least a 100m length of the broad ridge. No obvious pattern to the distribution with mounds not in groups or noticeably more

concentrated in any one area. Each mound is covered in short grass in an area of generally long, tussock grass. Probing suggests a stoney composition. Not obviously clearance as no associated features or other clearance anywhere in locality. (CPAT 2000)

These seemingly enigmatic mounds are clearly not the result of bombing but are more likely to represent some form of field clearance or though less likely a Bronze Age barrow cemetery. The eleven most obvious mounds were identified at SN8735571072, SN8736971114, SN8737071128, SN8745371158, SN8748841155, SN8749771157, SN8753071163, SN8756571170, SN8756671181, SN8757671220 and SN8757871167. (CPAT Tir Gofal assessment, 2003)

New description

The existing description of these mounds as a group is reasonably satisfactory. Those that have been seen are on average about 3m by 2m in overall extent, though there are a few larger and some smaller than this, and if the suggestion that there are at least forty of these mounds is to be believed, a significant number must be rather smaller and less obvious, perhaps not impossible given the ground cover of coarse grass.

The location for these small mounds is a whale-back ridge at a height of around 450m OD. They are randomly scattered with some close together, others dispersed. They do not appear to be BA cairns, nor at this height are they likely to be from agricultural clearance, for there are large tracts of ground at lower altitudes and in less inhospitable spots nearby. More ridiculous is the suggestion that these might be the relics of a bombing range, for these are stony mounds and any adjacent hollows are insignificant. The only possibility that comes to mind is that these could be graves of a later date, but this is purely hypothetical. (RS 2009).

4337	Clawdd Du Stone II	SN9325562437	Standing stone	Bronze Age
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Old description

Recumbent stone. 3.3m long by 0.9m high and 1m wide. Square in section at NW end, tapers to SE end. Rests on small stones in a sheep-worn hollow.

A stone measuring 3.3m x 0.9m high x 1m wide, square in section at NW end, tapering to SE end. It rests on small stones in a sheep-worn hollow but there is no sign of a hole in which it could have stood upright (OS 1977)

Moorland boulder - one of three . [The grid references for the other two match PRNs 4336 and 4339] Listed under the Boundary Stones heading (RCAHMW 1997). Uncertain if it is PRN 4337 or PRN 4338 which is referred to. No description of the stone given, just a grid reference.

New description

Large recumbent stone on the plateau near Crugiau Bach stone circle, measuring 3.6m long by 1.0m and 0.9m high. The stone is aligned east-west but this seems to be due to it having fallen to the east from an original upright position. Its west end appears to have been set on a number of boulders which are visible in a hollow eroded by stock at about 0.3-0.4m below the present ground level, the socket thereby having been lost. A rounded stone (PRN 4338), 1.6m long, lies alongside but is probably natural. Conversely, this stone has two angular faces (north and top) which suggest it was removed from a larger outcrop and this is supported by the south face (which is now vertical) where obvious traces of glacial smoothing can be discerned, suggesting it once formed the upper surface of an outcrop. The stone can thus be proved to have been moved in the post-glacial period and is therefore a good candidate as a standing stone.

The views to the west-south-west to Drygarn Fawr and around from the north to the east-north-east are excellent. It could therefore be suggested that the stone acted as a marker highlighting the position of

the stone circle, which is about 100m to the west and in a position with more restricted views. (RH 20/07/2009)

5514 Allt Goch Cairnfield SN93886295 Cairnfield Prehistoric

Old description

Group of 16 cairns roughly aligned E-W along a terrace. Probably a cairnfield containing a mixture of clearance and sepulchral sites.

New description

This record is an overall reference to a group of 16 clearance cairns located on two natural shelves to the SW of the summit of the Allt Goch spur, covering an area of about 3ha. The cairns suggest that this area was improved in the past, although the period in question is uncertain, none of the features appears to be of funerary origin. A range of numbers have been attributed by previous fieldworkers (PRNs 50380-50396, 70608-70618) but it has proved impossible in all but one case (PRN 70611) to relate these numbers to the clearance cairns visible on the ground as a result of the paucity of description and poor grid references. They have therefore been superseded by PRNs 113652-113666, with only PRN 70611 having been retained as an authentic site. The overall grid reference for this group has been changed from SN940633. (RH 20/07/2009)

5885 Pen y Ffynnon Ring SN97315997 Round barrow Bronze Age

Old description

Ring (RCAHM, citing RAF AP). Site invisible on the ground in area of bracken. (OS, 1978)

New description

The ring, about 77m SW/NE by 69m is visible on other APs. It is not however very convincing and could be a combination of vegetation changes and paths or gullies. This appears to have been confirmed in 2005 when no trace was found of any earthwork on the bracken-covered hillslope (RS 2009).

7921 Coed y Foel boundary SN91566423 Boundary bank Post Medieval

Old description

Sub-circular enclosure consisting of a single earthwork bank, 1m high and 1.5m wide with a silted up outer ditch and possible single 1.5m wide entrance on the SE side (though this may be a former forestry access track). At the western extreme, the bank is less well defined where it runs into a natural stone outcrop and has been partially destroyed by forestry planting ridges (M Walters 1998).

New description

No evidence of a coherent enclosure despite the trees having been felled and removed since last visited. The feature is probably a redundant boundary bank running in a general NE/SW direction, and it seems to end on the SW at a rock outcrop. The NGR has been revised from SN 91716430 to reflect the centre of the earthworks that were observed. It seems likely that some evidence was lost to forestry operations. The bank is generally about 2m wide and up to 0.5m high. (RH 31/07/2009)

13414	Y Gamriw NE hut group	SN9566062380	Shelter	Post Medieval
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Old description

3 rectangular huts, located 5-10m apart: (i) 1.5x2.5, 1.2m h; (ii) 1x1m; (iii) 2-celled structure, 6.5x3m, 1.5m h, cut into hillslope; substantial destruction. (Skeates, R, 1998)

New description

There was no conclusive evidence to identify all elements of this group within an area of the size suggested in the original description. The two smaller features were potentially seen about 40m north-east of the given NGR, although these actually comprised a section of rough walling about 2m long on top of a rock outcrop, and an approximately square shelter with walls on three sides and just over 1m across. No trace of the third structure was identified in close proximity. The only other structure in the wider area was a possible long hut with overlying fold, about 50m to the south-south-west of the given NGR, but it only survived to a height of about 0.8m, so did not match the dimensions given. (RH 16/07/2009)

13416	Banc Ty-coch cairn I	SN9496062272	Round barrow (cairn)	Bronze Age
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Old description

Well-defined circular cairn on a small natural platform, just W of the head of Nant Siencyn stream: 6m diameter, c. 0.3m high; partly grass-covered; substantially intact but possibly robbed. (Skeates, R, 1998)

Skeates does not appear to state whether a clearance or funerary cairn.

New description

Seemingly intact circular funerary cairn on a low promontory. There is no evidence of a cist, but this could be a result of the site being undisturbed. The profile of the cairn is convex, but becomes steeper at 0.6m from the edge. Overall dimensions 5.4m diameter and 0.5m high. (RH 16/07/2009)

13418	Banc Ty-coch cairn II	SN9484562277	Round barrow (cairn)	Bronze Age
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Old description

Circular cairn - 5.5m diameter, 0.3m high; damaged - robbed. (Skeates, R, 1998)

Skeates does not appear to state whether this is a clearance or funerary cairn.

New description

Funerary cairn which appears to have been originally circular but has become slightly eroded/disturbed on its NW side where there is a small pile of stone. Large voids are visible between the stones in the centre of the cairn. Elsewhere the cairn is of a similar profile to the nearby PRN 13416, with a relatively flat central area and steeper edges. Measures 5.6m north-east/south-west by 5.0m and 0.6m high. (RH 16/07/2009)

13486	Y Gamriw NE cairn	SN9607363042	Round barrow (cairn)	Bronze Age
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Old description

Low circular cairn. (Skeates, R, 1998)

Skeates does not appear to state whether a clearance or funerary cairn.

New description

Approximately circular funerary cairn with a hollow central area suggesting it may have been disturbed. To the south of the centre, and perhaps defining a cist which coincides with the hollow and measures 1.5m north-south by 0.8m, is a natural pointed boulder. The other stones are up to 1.0m across and were probably gathered locally. The edges of the cairn are covered by vegetation, so its shape is not at first apparent, but close examination and probing proved that it was circular. The site is set on a gentle north-facing slope. The site measures 5.5m in diameter and 0.55m high.

13505 Nant Cwmrun S clearance SN9653161130 Clearance cairn Post Medieval

Old description

Group of three circular clearance cairns (4x2m, 1x1m, 4x2m) - substantially intact. (Skeates, R, 1998)

New description

Three possible clearance cairns comprise the following. An oval mound 4m north-west/south-east by 2m and 0.3m high. Mostly grassed over but some stone protruding through the turf. A further mound 2m diameter and 0.4m high lies at SN 96506 61186 and comprises turf-covered stone, while the third cairn at SN 96522 61154 is similar and measures 2m long by 1m and up to 0.3m high. Their location in a line in a former enclosure taken from the common suggests a post-medieval origin (RH & RJS 20/07/2009)

13881 Esgair Cloddia Boulder SN8281057900 Non antiquity Unknown

Old description

Block of quartzite as noted on original OS drawings.

New description

Contrary to the existing record the original OS surveyors drawing does not show a 'block of quartz[ite]' here, although the 1850 date attributed to the drawing by the record originator is a puzzling citation. The 1820/1 OS drawing shows a 'block of quartz' about 500m to the south-west which is recorded as PRN 3436 (RS 09).

16552 Waun Lwyd boundary SN9131660754 Field boundary Post Medieval

Old description

Low bank runs across plateau on broadly north/south alignment. Appears to be largely of stone, in places quite well laid, although grown over in many places. Flattish top. Full extent not gauged. Southern end marked by spoil from relatively recent grip.

New description

An old field boundary which appears to start at SN 91121 60115 and runs for just over 1km to SN 91287 61103, linking two stream courses. It appears as either an earthen or stony bank, up to 2m wide and 0.5m high, depending on the state of erosion and the site's visibility. From its southern end the feature continues through the following locations, SN 91184 60414, SN 91219 60505, SN 91247 60593, SN 91276 60647, SN 91296 60668, SN 91320 60724, SN 91316 60754, SN 91319 60788, SN 91313 60816, SN 91307 60841, where a stream gully leads to its recommencement at SN 91307 60919 and SN 91334 60992 before reaching its northern end. Almost certainly a medieval or post-medieval boundary defining the upper edge of the enclosed land. Probably, therefore, related to Llanerch-y-cawr farm. (RH 2/9/2009)

43641	Llyn Clap stone	SN91226603	Standing stone	Bronze Age
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Old description

Site of stone as marked on OS 1st edition 1891 map. Stone now submerged by reservoir (CAP 2000)

New description

Stone depicted on 1st edition 1:2500 map of 1889, but nothing suggests it has any archaeological significance (RS 2009).

43704	Nant Madog cropmarks	SN9308066330	Hut circle	Prehistoric
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Old description

Circular cropmarks in field W of Nant Madog farmouse. Each approx. 3-4 M in diameter. Possibly modern features or round hut platforms. Uncertain. Not located at time of field visit. (CAP 2000)

New description

These show as vegetation marks on vertical APs and are about 5-6m in diameter. The most logical explanation is that they result from the former presence of a circular feeding rack(s). They do not look to be of any archaeological significance (RS 2009).

43744	Nant Gwylt stones	SN90496265	Boundary stone	Prehistoric
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Old description

Site of stones as marked on OS 1891 map. Area covered substantially in stones, likely quarried from area of Gurnos rock outcrop. May well have Bronze Age origins. (CAP 2000)

New description

Stones depicted on 1st edition 1:2500 map of 1889, but nothing suggests they have any archaeological significance. On what basis the Bronze Age origins have been adduced is unclear (RS 2009).

43964	Gors Goch boundary	SN8944063350	Natural drain	Undated
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Old description

Curvilinear boundary bank, approx. 1-2m in width, 0.5m high. Bank curves E-W across area of Gors Goch bog for approx. 20-25m. Poss. prehistoric in date (CAP 2000).

Possibly a peat stand or drying platform associated with the bog. Unlikely to be prehistoric in origin. (CPAT Tir Gofal assessment, 2004)

New description

No trace of an earthwork bank in this area of boggy ground. The only feature which might have been mistaken for an artificial earthwork (from the air ?) is a curving drainage line/gully, which is a natural and negative feature caused by water erosion. Neither was there any evidence of peat drying features. (RH 31/07/2009)

44037	Gurnos, ring cairn	SN9015962285	Rock outcrop	Undated
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Old description

Place name 'Gurnos' mutated from Gyrnos. Translates as 'place of cairns'. At time of field visit no cairns found in immediate area, however area of rocky outcrop on E slope & top of Gurnos has numerable possible iron age features (CAP 2000). A small ring cairn 3m/3.5m in diameter and roughly 0.3m high. Seven set curb stones can be seen to the east and south-east with a very slight ditch. (CPAT Tir Gofal assessment, 2004)

New description

At the given location, the only feature which might relate to the record is an arc of boulders (some part of the bedrock) on the E side of a low natural eminence on a saddle. A slight linear hollow corresponds with the arc. The area is partly hidden under long grass but there is no evidence that it is artificial. Oddly, the diameter suggested by the arc is more like 10m to 11m, significantly larger than recorded by the previous source. There are also some smaller arcs of stones on the ridge to the SE, these are artificial but are undoubtedly relatively modern sheep shelters. (RH 2/9/2009)

50406	Crugiau Bach Enclosure	SN9307562413	Enclosure	Prehistoric
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Old description

Mound of indeterminate shape. Possibly a cairn of group PRN 5515.

New description

The description is superseded by the following from the prehistoric funerary project: A low lying earthwork constructed from stone and turf, almost circular in form with a gap/entrance on the western side. The earthen bank is 1.2m in width and 0.2m high and it encloses an area that gives an interior diameter of approximately 3m north to south. The overall diameter is 5.5m north to south and 5.3m east to west. Beyond the circle to the east lies a large stone. Immediately to the north-west of the entrance to the circle lies a horseshoe shaped earthen enclosure, 10.4m in length (north-west to south-east) and 10.6m wide. The enclosure bank is 1.5m wide and 0.3m high. The two earthworks appear to represent a hut circle with adjoining enclosure. It lies on the west facing side of a plateau west of Crugiau Bach on exposed moorland. Situated 60m to the east is a stone circle (PRN 13522). The site is also surrounded by a funerary cairnfield (PRN 13526) and numerous standing stones to the east, all possibly within a wider funerary ritual complex. Therefore a funerary interpretation of the site must also be considered. (CPAT 2005)

EDM survey in June 2007. Oval enclosure c. 14m NW-SE x 10.7m NE-SW, with a possible entrance on the SW side. Earth and stone bank, mostly turf covered, up to 1.6m wide and 0.2m high, although on NW side the inner edge is not apparent and part of the E side is indeterminate. There is a suggestion of an internal feature against the bank on the SE side, which could be a hut, although it is not clear. (CPAT 07)

Faint banked oval enclosure, the bank at best 0.2m-0.3m high, but no terracing because the ground flat enough not to require it. Probably some peat growth around the stone. In a fine location on a grassy plateau, with the ground dropping off gently to the west where there is a cairnfield. Good views to east and west. (RJS 20/07/2009)

53006	Crugyn Ci bank	SN9271368622	Bank	Post Medieval
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Old description

Area of possible former settlement platform, oval in form, approx. 60m x 40m, aligned NE-SW. Platform area densely covered in vegetation, predominantly heather. Curvilinear bank & ditch at NE

end with shallow pit at NE end of this, approx. 4m x 2m. Difficult to interpret as bracken and heather covered. Numerous other potential archaeological features. (RSJ 2000) (summary of ENDEX description).

New description

It is difficult to relate the existing description with the visible features and vegetation at the NGR given by the original record of SN9263668622. The vegetation is bilberry and grass, not heather and bracken as stated. The only feature which does seem to correspond with the record is a bank 20m long by 2m wide and up to 0.5m high. This runs NNE for 15m and then curves to run N for the last 5m. There is a shallow ditch, 1m wide and 0.3m deep, on its W side which expands to form a hollow 3.5m long by 2m wide at its N end, although again this is only 0.3m deep. There is no evidence of a settlement platform in association with the bank, the area to the W is formed by a natural terrace apparently devoid of archaeology. The function of the bank is not clear, perhaps it was some sort of boundary feature or a bank which was abandoned in the course of construction. Probably post-medieval. (RH 31/07/2009)

70611 Allt Goch south cairn SN9383162963 Clearance cairn Prehistoric

Old description

Cairn (7m dia), with traces of original kerb stones - damaged - with three modern cairns (2m dia; 0.75m h). (Skeates, R, 1998)

New description

This cairn was identified, but its grid reference was changed from SN 93760 62930 using GPS. The attribution of some stones as kerbs is uncertain. (RJS 20/07/2009)

70618 Allt Goch N standing stone SN9385763117 Stone Undated

Old description

Standing stone (0.5m h, 0.4m w, 0.2m thick) - substantially intact. (Skeates, R, 1998)

New description

As described, except only 0.3m thick and grid reference has been changed from SN 9383 6309. Sited on a scree slope and this seems a strange place to have a standing stone. It could possibly be a natural phenomenon (RJS 20/07/2009).

113651 Crugiau Bach hut SN9393462944 Hut Prehistoric

New description

Potential hut site partially obscured by rushes. The visible part consists of about half of a circle formed by a bank of stones individually up to 0.4m in length, larger than those in clearance cairns nearby. Terraced into the natural slope and set back into the base of the slope as it meets the shelf. Stones under rushes appear to be more sporadic. Measures 4.4m E/W by 4.1m N/S and 0.4m high. (RS 2009)

113667	Crugiau Bach enclosure	SN9317362519	Enclosure	Prehistoric
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New description

A small enclosure, first encountered by the Trust a couple of years ago during work on prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments, but not recorded at the time. The enclosure appears to be sub-oval verging on sub-rectangular with its slightly flattened sides. Its dimensions bank top to bank top are around 8m ESE/WNW by 7m and the bank itself which is stony with some projecting through the turf, is no more than 0.3m high. There is a possible entrance on the SW side. Its date is not certain but it is probably more likely to be prehistoric (and thus BA?) than medieval, and could be a dwelling? It is set on a flattish plateau with good views to the E (RS 2009).

Appendix 3: Scheduling Recommendations

Site Name: Llanwrthwl churchyard stone

PRN: 883

NGR: SN97576372

Map: SN96SE

Altitude: 180

Type: Standing stone

Form: Structure

Period	Rarity	Documentation	Group Value	Survival	Fragility/Vulnerability	Diversity	Potential
X	X	X		X			

A standing stone, probably prehistoric, located no more than two metres from the south-east corner of the south porch of Llanwrthwl Church. It is a large, well-smoothed block, a rounded-quadrilateral in cross-section, it is c.1.8m high, and 1.3 m by 1.2 m by 0.7m at the base, and 4.6m in circumference. The top is rounded and weathered and a piece has broken off the west side. Lewis in 1833 remarked, surely without any justification, that it was a cross shaft. The local belief, articulated in the church literature, is that the church was founded on this site by St Wrthwl because of the presence of the stone. This is not impossible, not least because the effort involved in bringing such a large block to this spot would have been enormous.



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Site Name: Clawdd Du Stone II

PRN: 4337

NGR: SN9325562437

Map: SN96SW

Altitude: 455

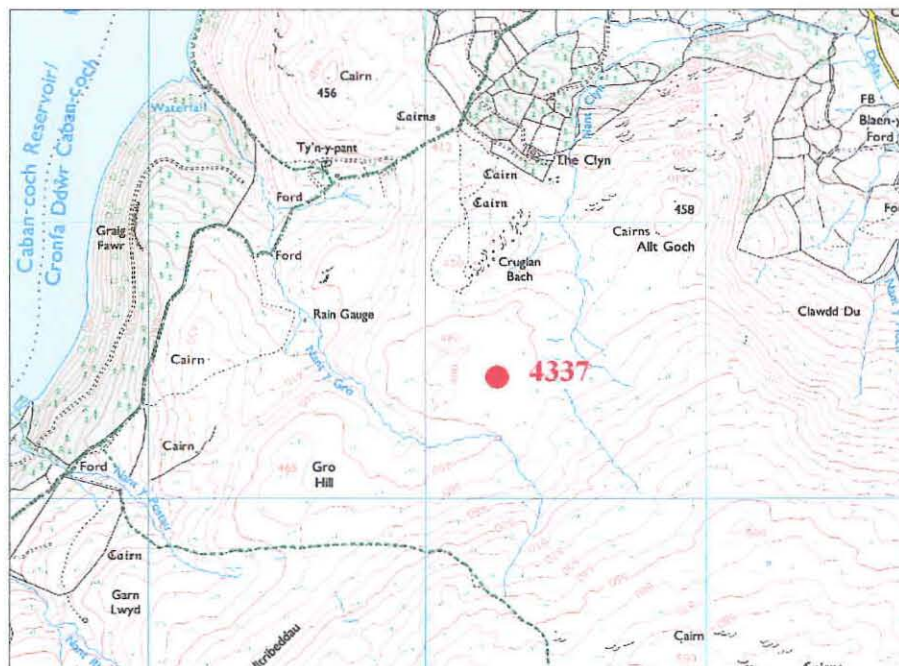
Type: Standing stone

Form: Structure

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
X	X		X	X		X	

A large recumbent stone on the plateau near Crugiau Bach stone circle, measuring 3.6m long by 1.0m and 0.9m high. The stone is aligned east-west but this seems to be due to it having fallen to the east from an original upright position. Its west end appears to have been set on a number of boulders which are visible in a hollow eroded by stock at about 0.3-0.4m below the present ground level, the socket thereby having been lost. A rounded stone (PRN 4338), 1.6m long, lies alongside but is probably natural. Conversely, this stone has two angular faces (north and top) which suggest it was removed from a larger outcrop and this is supported by the south face (which is now vertical) where obvious traces of glacial smoothing can be discerned, suggesting it once formed the upper surface of an outcrop. The stone can thus be proved to have been moved in the post-glacial period and is therefore a good candidate as a standing stone.

The views to the west-south-west to Drygarn Fawr and around from the north to the east-north-east are excellent. It could therefore be suggested that the stone acted as a marker highlighting the position of the stone circle, which is about 100m to the west and in a position with more restricted views.



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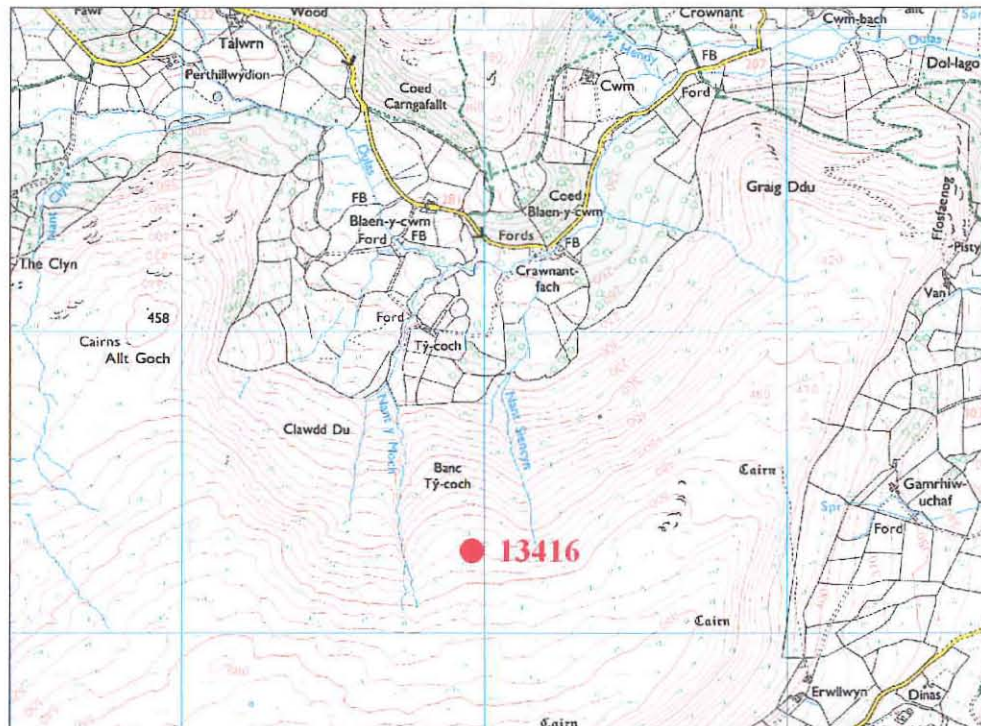
Mae'r map hwn yn seiliedig a'r ddeunydd yr Arolwg Ordans gyda chaniatâd Arolwg Ordans ar ran Rheolwr Llyfrfa Ei Mawrhydi © Hawlfraint y Goron. Mae atgynhyrchu heb ganiatâd yn torri hawlfraint y Goron a gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru 100017916, 2009

Site Name: Banc Ty-coch cairn I**PRN: 13416****NGR: SN9496062272****Map: SN96SW****Altitude: 477****Type: Round barrow****Form: Structure**

Period	Rarity	Documentation	Group Value	Survival	Fragility/ Vulnerability	Diversity	Potential
X			X	X		X	X

Robin Skeates identified a well-defined circular cairn on a small natural platform, just west of the head of Nant Siencyn stream. It was 6m in diameter and about 0.3m high, partly grass-covered and substantially intact.

To this should be added that it is seemingly intact and placed on a low promontory. There is no evidence of a cist, but this could be a result of the site being undisturbed. The profile of the cairn is convex, but becomes steeper at 0.6m from the edge. Our measurements suggest that its overall dimensions are 5.4m diameter and 0.5m high.



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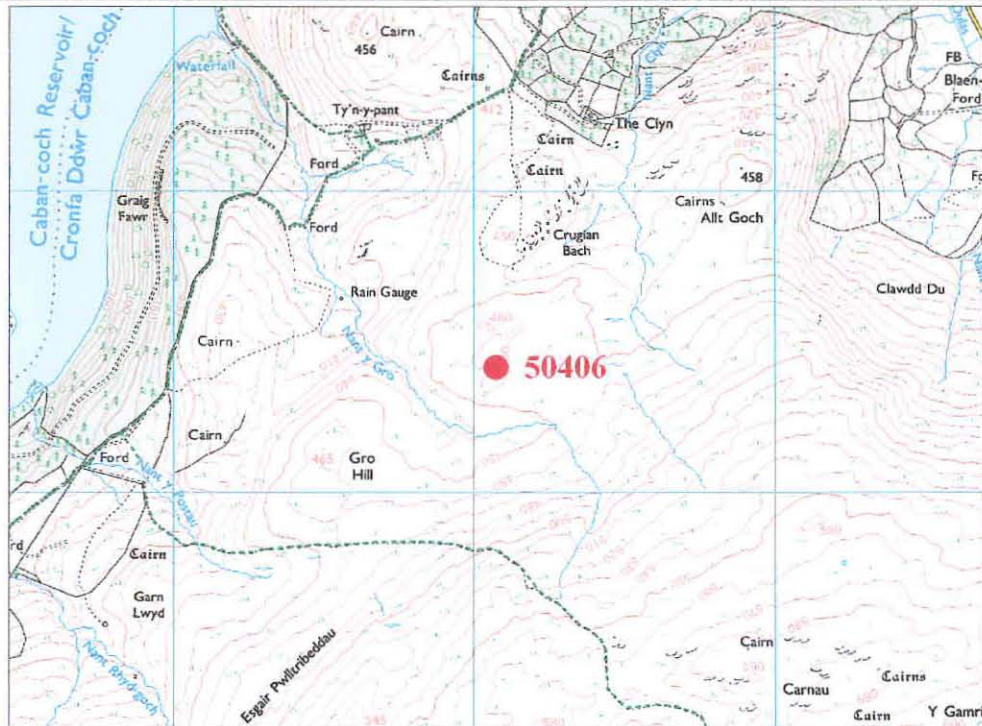
Site Name: Crugiau Bach Enclosure**PRN: 50406****NGR: SN9307562413****Map: SN96SW****Altitude: 460****Type: Enclosure****Form: Structure**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

From the PFRM survey: a low lying earthwork constructed from stone and turf, almost circular in form with a gap/entrance on the western side. The earthen bank is 1.2m in width and 0.2m high and it encloses an area that gives an interior diameter of approximately 3m north to south. The overall diameter is 5.5m north to south and 5.3m east to west. Beyond the circle to the east lies a large stone. Immediately to the north-west of the entrance to the circle lies a horseshoe shaped earthen enclosure, 10.4m in length (north-west to south-east) and 10.6m wide. The enclosure bank is 1.5m wide and 0.3m high. The two earthworks appear to represent a hut circle with adjoining enclosure. It lies on the west facing side of a plateau west of Crugiau Bach on exposed moorland. Situated 60m to the east is a stone circle (PRN 13522). The site is also surrounded by a funerary cairnfield (PRN 13526) and numerous standing stones to the east, all possibly within a wider funerary ritual complex. Therefore a funerary interpretation of the site must also be considered. (CPAT 2005)

An EDM survey in June 2007 provided an oval enclosure c. 14m NW-SE x 10.7m NE-SW, with a possible entrance on the SW side. Earth and stone bank, mostly turf covered, up to 1.6m wide and 0.2m high, although on NW side the inner edge is not apparent and part of the E side is indeterminate. There is a suggestion of an internal feature against the bank on the SE side, which could be a hut, although it is not clear. (CPAT 07)

Faint banked oval enclosure, the bank at best 0.2m-0.3m high, but no terracing because the ground flat enough not to require it. Probably some peat growth around the stone. In a fine location on a grassy plateau, with the ground dropping off gently to the west where there is a cairnfield. Good views to east and west. (RJS 20/07/2009)



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