

CPAT Report No 1031

Black Mountains

The Scheduling Enhancement Programme



THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Report for Cadw

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Cover photo: Blaenau Enclosure near Capel-y-ffin, showing the upper part of the Vale of Ewyas

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 region known as the Black Mountains which spans the border country in the south taking in parts of Breconshire, Monmouthshire and Herefordshire. This displayed a limited mix of relevant site types including cairnfields, enclosures and field systems (see table 1), but was judged to be a sufficiently cohesive area to merit a geographical as opposed to a thematic approach to scheduling.

For the purposes of this assessment only those hill ranges that fall into Breconshire have been considered, but the area extends almost from the edge of Brecon in the Usk Valley to the west, down river to Crickhowell in the south and northwards to Hay-on-Wye. This is still a large area of some 387km².

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 though 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 Black Mountains 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 Black Mountains region was identified.

The HER currently carries over four thousand records for this region, 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. Table 2 shows that numbers are high even compared with the Brecon Beacons. However, here we should enter a caveat for considerably more work has been done under the Uplands Initiative that is not reflected in the HER. In large part this is an effect of the freezing of the data exchange system (END) while new HER software is being created and implemented by the Trusts, but it has also been hampered by the fact that though this information is available on Coflein over the Internet, electronic datasets are available from the Commission only by purchase. This, however, should not necessarily be an issue because in theory all Uplands Initiative field investigators recommend any sites perceived to be of national importance to the Commission who then pass these recommendations on to Cadw. Such information is submitted in confidence and the Trusts are not made aware of any sites recommended for scheduling in their areas, so there is always the possibility that a particular site might be recommended twice, though as far as we can judge this will not be the case for the Black Mountains.

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 686, the vast majority of them attributed to the prehistoric era with about 115 being period-classed as 'Unknown'. From the surviving records, a further 60 already scheduled sites were removed, but the number of existing SAMs may be actually higher than that because recent schedulings have yet to be entered into the HER.

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

<i>Theme/area</i>		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
<i>Mynydd Hiraethog</i>	CPAT Report 1009	2056	184	54	32	6	22	0
<i>Black Mountains</i>	CPAT Report 1031	4384	626	168	170	83	144	3

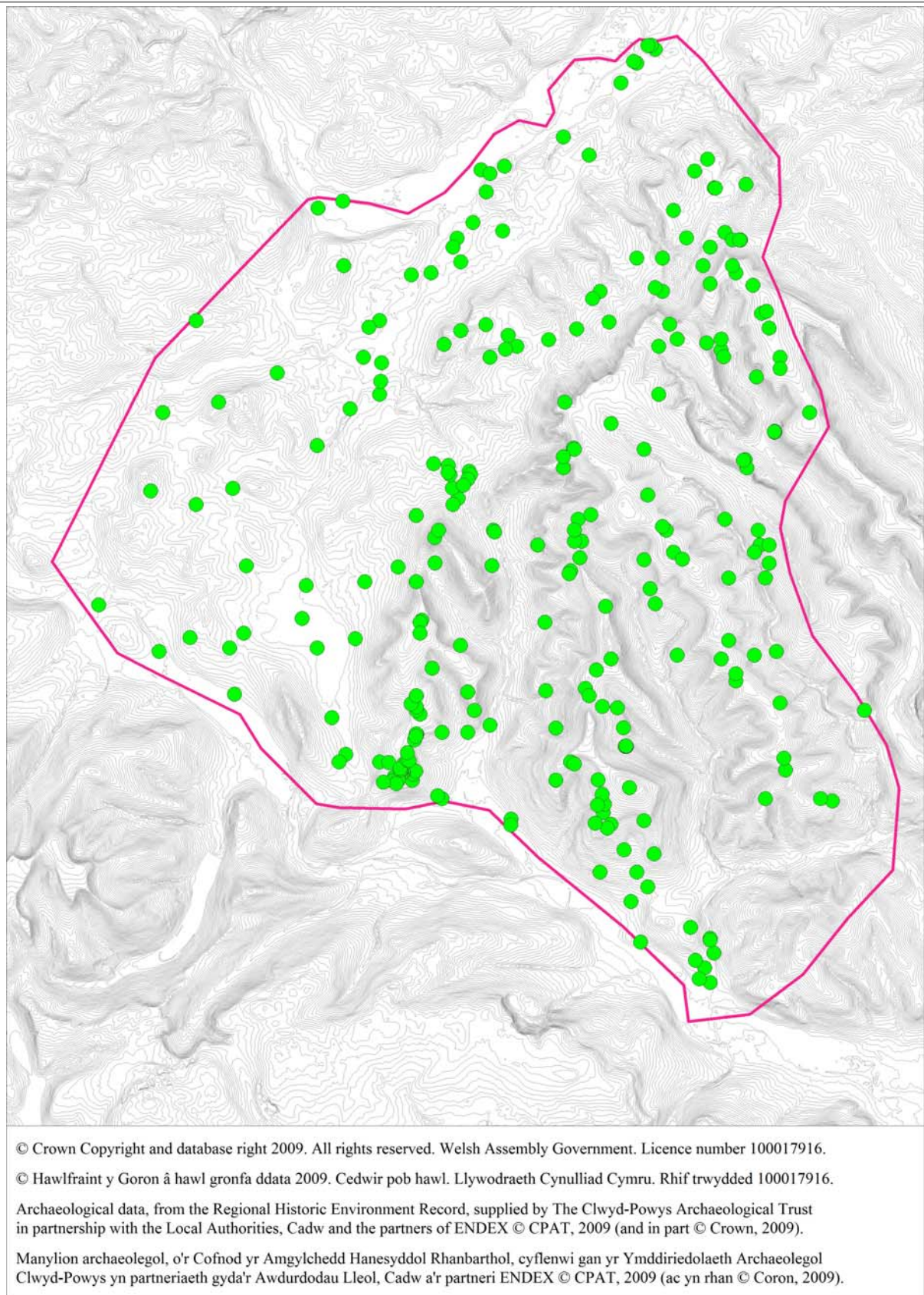


Fig 1: Distribution of unscheduled sites in the Black Mountains not visited during previous scheduling enhancement programmes

Over 600 sites and other assets remained. From this total, a number already covered in such projects as Roman roads (36), prehistoric hut circles (37), defended enclosures (14) and wrongly dated deserted medieval rural settlements (3) were removed, and a very much greater number of sites classed as prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments, over 180 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 168 records, a large majority of them being prehistoric flints and scatters, and there were 23 placenames that were not followed up. Finally 24 records appeared to refer to natural landforms on the evidence of later authorities, and there were a couple of geophysics events. Removal of all these records led to just over 130 records being considered in more detail. Some were followed up at desk-top level or in the field, while some were abandoned at an early stage as it became evident that there was little to be achieved in pursuing further lines of analysis.

Table 2 shows comparative figures for the Black Mountains SEP and other previous programmes. It should be noted here that fieldwork resulted in the discovery of other, new sites, not recorded in the HER and generally later in date than the Roman era, and their numbers have been included in the 'site visits' column.

The Assessment

The Black Mountains area examined in this report is a discrete block of upland defined by the valley of the River Wye on the north, the border between England and Wales on the east, and the valley of the River Usk on the south-west. The section between the Wye and Usk valleys is formed by an arbitrary line running between the town of Brecon, on the Usk, and the village of Llyswen, on the Wye. The ground rises from around 70m OD on the banks of the Usk and 80m OD on the Wye, up to the highest ground in the centre of the area on the summits of Pen y Gadair Fawr and Waun Fach, at 800m OD and 810m OD, respectively.

The main block of upland is dissected by a number of valleys occupied by rivers draining in approximately a south-south-east direction, notably Cwm Rhiangoll, the Grwyne Fawr and Fechan, and the upper part of the Vale of Ewyas, most of which lies in England. Elsewhere the ground displays an escarpment facing north-west, which is fronted by a series of lower summits between Mynydd Troed and Hay Bluff, ranging in height from about 600m OD to just over 700m OD. The effect, as has been noted before, is rather like a series of thin fingers stretching southwards.

Our re-assessment included the utilisation of a range of records including the Ordnance Survey cards, early Ordnance Survey maps, and some aerial photography available within the Trust's archives. Limited research was also undertaken in the NMR archives at Aberystwyth to resolve specific queries, particularly aerial photographic ones.

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.

The opportunity was taken to examine several sites that 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.

Fieldwork overall focussed on a relatively small number of sites, primarily because most of those targeted for examination were fairly remote and also widely dispersed throughout the Black Mountains, though there were exceptions such as Cefn Moel above Bwlch where several assets required re-assessment. Usually it was practicable to visit no more than a couple of sites in a day, so the opportunity was taken to record sites of other periods encountered en-route. Some of the results of this approach are

discussed below. Most of those sites that were visited were poorly described enclosures and huts, potential cairnfields and field systems. A number of these had been identified during his forays into the Black Mountains by the late Graham Makepeace whose indefatigable enthusiasm was not always matched by his precision in recording as his thesis published as a British Archaeological Report demonstrates (Makepeace 2006).

Finally, the subject of 'scoop graves' has been revisited. The Black Mountains is a popular area for 'scoop graves' and new ones have been identified during the current programme. Later in this report a brief statement on them is presented, in the hope that they may be reintroduced as a specific monument type, albeit not a prehistoric one, into the HER.

The Vale of Ewyas

Only the northern 5km of the Vale of Ewyas falls within the study area, the remainder running through the old county of Monmouthshire. The valley is steep-sided and follows a south-south-east course from the slopes of Hay Bluff, where some sites were recorded as part of an Upland Survey project in the late 1990s. One of these, the Blaenau enclosure (PRN 35830), was believed to contain a circular hut, and was thus worth visiting as a potential prehistoric enclosure. The field visit demonstrated that the settlement was much more likely to be of medieval date. Evidence of prehistoric occupation has been recorded in the area in previous Cadw programmes, but no further prehistoric sites were discovered while accessing the Blaenau enclosure. However, sites of other periods were identified and rapidly recorded including a fine post-medieval farm complex, possibly with a medieval predecessor nearby, and significant numbers of scooped mounds.

Partrishow Hill

The unenclosed common overlooking Partrishow, a small hamlet situated in the extreme south-east of Powys which overlooks the Grwyne Fawr river from the west, was earmarked for examination because of its known prehistoric usage on the ridge further north and that it had a cairn which had been identified as a possible indicator of a cairnfield and ground clearance. In accessing the area, other sites that were encountered were recorded, but it was only after this that it was realised that the area had already been covered by an Uplands Initiative project. This should have meant that the area was covered systematically and the majority of the archaeology recorded, but a visual comparison with the data on Coflein rather contradicts this assumption. We recorded six new houses or structure platforms (in an area where Graham Makepeace's work had already led to three platform complexes being scheduled), none of which had been noted in the Uplands Initiative programme, and there were also three previously unrecorded structures including two small, stony platforms, more rectangular than curvilinear whose function has baffled us.

It is from this area that one of the few scheduling recommendations comes. There is an abandoned extensive late medieval or early post-medieval farmholding on the tip of the common with numerous field enclosures and two very fine, deeply cut, house platforms at its heart. We would recommend these platforms for statutory designation and at least some of the field system around them for scheduling, for they are more than the equal of some of the other platforms that have already been designated on Partrishow Hill.

Cwm Banw

In the valley of Cwm Banw, an offshoot of the Grwyne Fechan, work was confined to the east-facing slopes, where features of potential prehistoric interest had been recorded by Graham Makepeace (2006, 140-1). These included two enclosures (PRNs 43228 and 43232) and a hut circle (PRN 43236), the latter having already been assessed during the Round Huts project and considered to be an authentic prehistoric structure. In the event, one of the enclosures (PRN 43232) turned out to be of medieval origin as it contained a number of rectangular structures in the long hut tradition, while the alleged

association of the other enclosure with a further prehistoric hut circle proved to be incorrect, although the site is still potentially prehistoric in date. In examining the vertical aerial photographic coverage for the locality, another enclosure (PRN 113785, see plate 1 below) was seen nearby which was potentially of prehistoric origin. This was bi-partite and measured 68m ESE/WNW by 55m NNE/SSW. It was defined by a series of rubble banks and scarps, much the same as PRN 43228, although interestingly without an interconnection between the two cells which seemed to have functioned separately. The origin of these two potentially prehistoric enclosures remains somewhat uncertain, but they were most probably used as some form of stock pens as there is no definite trace of any associated settlement. The distinctive nature of two of these enclosures (PRNs 43228 and 113785) suggests they may merit statutory designation as being of significance in the understanding of the pastoral agrarian utilisation of the Black Mountains.

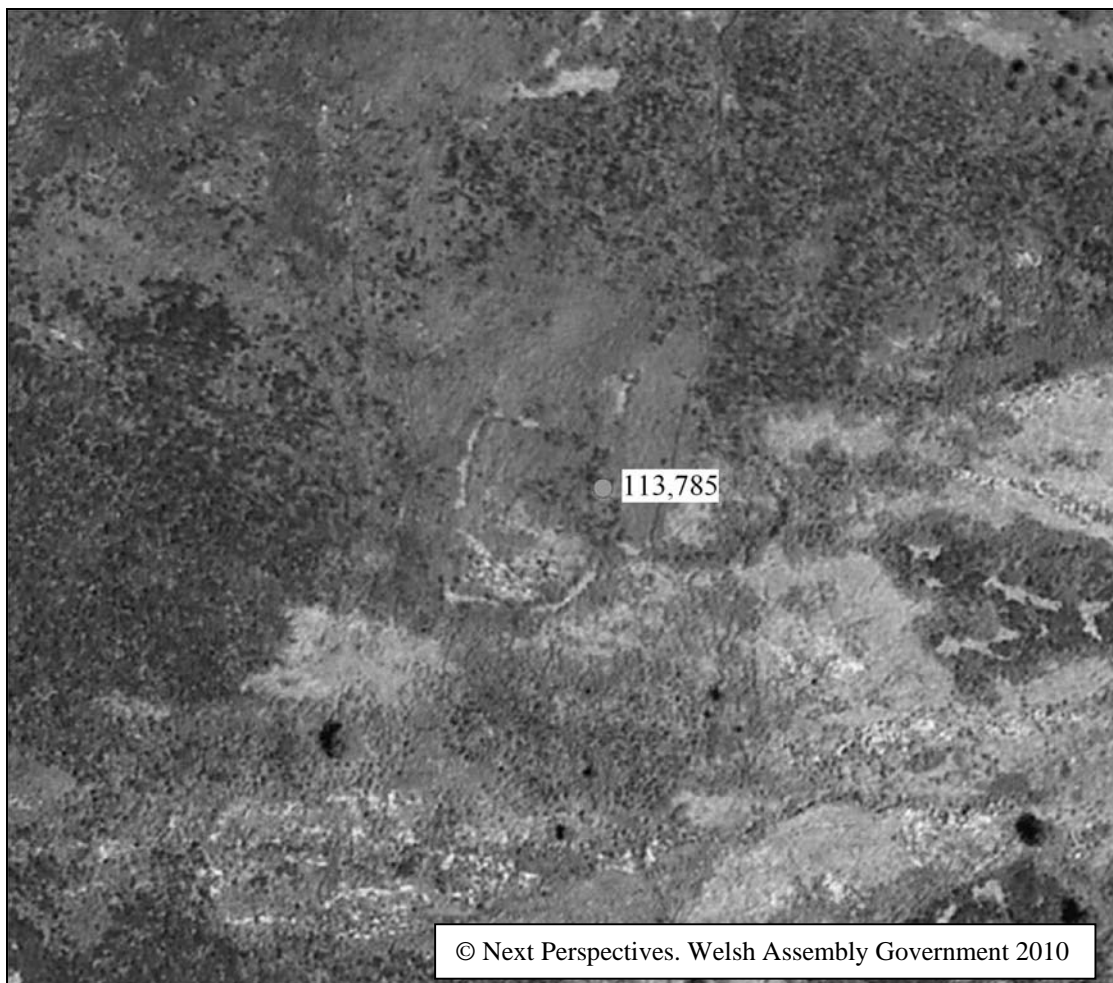


Plate 1: Vertical aerial photograph showing the bi-partite enclosure PRN 113785

Cwm Rhiangoll

On the west-facing slopes of the Rhiangoll valley, an area of Bronze Age settlement (PRN 77859) had been identified by Makepeace (2006, 136) on a shelf to the north of Cwm Charles and this was targeted for a field visit to determine its authenticity. On closer field examination, however, the field boundaries and clearance features visible on the shelf seemed rather too recent and, although they cannot be directly dated, it was evident that the only habitation present was of medieval and later origin and characterised

by rectangular buildings and a platform at right-angles to the contours. There were no features which could be confidently ascribed a prehistoric date and it seems very probable that the settlement traces are

therefore of medieval or post-medieval origin. In addition to this, the upper limit of the settlement was effectively defined by an earth bank which contours around the hillslope and seems to merge with the existing field systems in this part of the valley. Further redundant banks were examined on the slopes of Mynydd Llysiau, again identified by Makepeace (2006, 135, 137), but this potential field system defies categorisation at present.

At about the point where Cwm Rhiangoll merges with the valley of the river Usk, it is overlooked on the east side by the mountain summit of Pen Carreg Calch. The western slopes of this mountain form a series of shelves descending into the minor tributary valley of Cwm Gu, where a prehistoric settlement site comprising two hut circles and an enclosure was recorded under the hut circles project some years ago. Examination of vertical aerial photographic coverage of the upper slopes, above the prehistoric settlement, revealed a significant area of linear stone stripes which appeared to form a discrete field system (see plate 2), even though this is at about 550m OD, so it was considered possible that they might form an upper extension of the prehistoric activity already recorded. Examination of these features suggested that they probably were representative of enclosure, but the dating of this activity was rather more problematic as no convincing prehistoric habitation was found in association. Medieval and post-medieval structures were, however, present and it might be assumed that these relate to the period of enclosure, although confirmation of this suggestion would require further examination and perhaps detailed survey to allow for the emergence of a pattern of occupation.

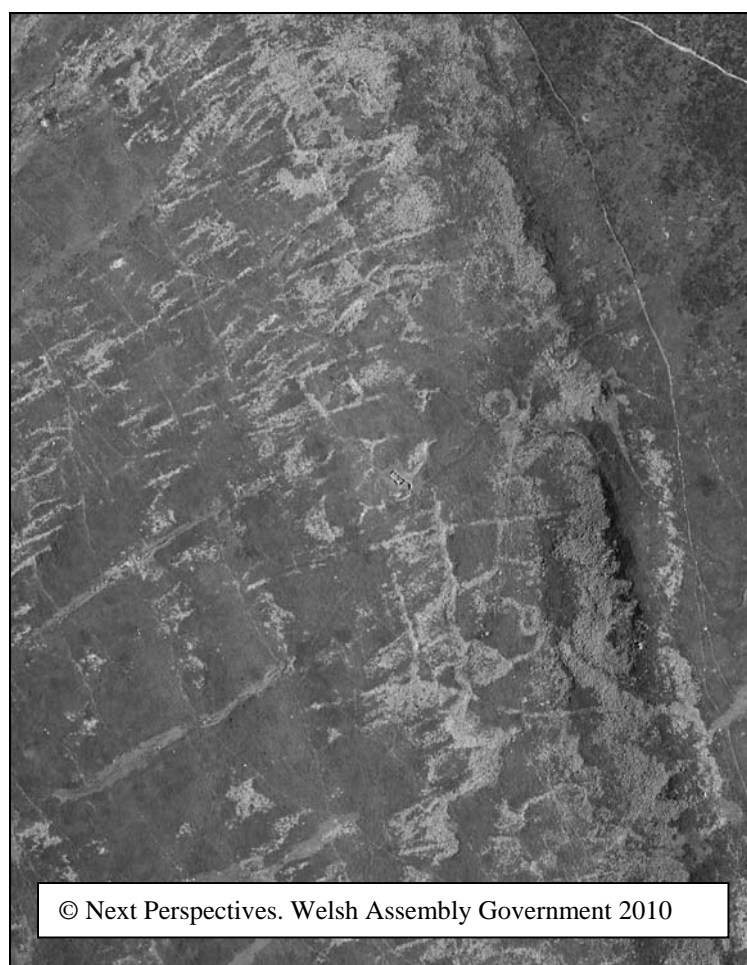


Plate 2: Traces of former fields on the shelf below the western escarpment of Pen Carreg Calch

Scooped mounds

Sporadically, small earthworks of a distinctive type have been recorded in the Historic Environment Records from various upland localities across Wales. Essentially these consist of low mounds, usually several metres across, the material for which was scooped from one side, normally on the uphill side, leaving a hollow. The Royal Commission in 1976 described them thus: an elongated mound with a trench along one side of it (1976, 106).

Having been termed scoop graves and thought to be of prehistoric date, these were discussed at an early stage by the co-ordinating group of the Cadw-funded prehistoric funerary and ritual monument survey in the late 1990s, and dismissed as authentic prehistoric features. In itself this was perfectly logical, but the corollary was that the term ‘scoop grave’ was dropped from the thesaurus of terms used in the HER in favour of the much broader term ‘mound’ with the result that it is no longer possible to detect easily where these particular earthworks have been recognised and recorded in the past.

‘Scoop graves’ are particularly prevalent in the Black Mountains, that border area where three counties – Breconshire, Monmouthshire and Herefordshire – meet. A significant number were located on Cefn Moel above Bwlch in the late 1990s but because of the nature of the rapid field survey then employed they were not very well recorded. The opportunity to improve the record was taken during the present scheduling enhancement programme when queries arose over other sites on Cefn Moel allowing the writer to re-examine some of these features. Furthermore fieldwork above Capel-y-ffin led to the discovery of two further groups, which were only generally recorded, but one near the abandoned farmstead of Waun-goch comprised at least twenty-four examples (see plate 3).



Plate 3: Scooped mounds near Waun-goch in the Black Mountains

This short note is compiled with this particular concern in mind and aims simply to put down on paper a general statement about these anomalous features which can be used as a baseline for future research. For the sake of clarity these earthworks will be termed scooped mounds in the hope that this may more be more acceptable to curators who rightly eschew the original term.

'Scoop graves' originated with Aileen Fox, who encountered examples on Margam Mountain and Cefn Gelligaer in the 1930s. She also noted that Peter Murray Thriepland had come across large numbers of them in Brittany. Briefly described in the Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies, she and Leslie Murray Thriepland then went on to excavate several examples on moorland near Hirwaun in Glamorgan and these were published in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* in 1942, and one other was looked at Gelligaer in 1938, the only time that these enigmatic features have been examined with the trowel as far we can ascertain. Fox seems to have seen them as integral elements of cairn cemeteries. Certainly this was the case with Hirwaun where other, more conventional cairns were excavated on the same stretch of moor, though with a lack of success in the search for graves and artefacts.

We can isolate several points of interest here. Firstly, Fox's scoop graves were in a minority, outnumbered by ordinary cairns. Secondly, of the three that were excavated at Hirwaun, two had scoops, albeit of different sizes, on both sides of the mounds, and the third, while it had a single scoop, was not certainly an artificial construction but could have been natural. Fox tried hard to argue for these being graves, and because of an apparent lack of obvious chronological niches for such previously unrecorded features she favoured a late Roman or even post-Roman origin. With the hindsight that many decades bring, her arguments for graves positioned on the ground surface beneath the mounds looks unconvincing, and her chronology can hardly be sustained.

'Scoop graves' have been recorded in several parts of Wales, and are very much an upland phenomenon. Gwynedd seems to be the only one of the four Welsh regions where they are unknown (George Smith: pers. comm.). As noted above they were originally recognised, rather like several other monuments types, in the Glamorgan uplands, in at least four different locations. To those listed by Fox, the Royal Commission added a group of ten or twelve near Penrhiw-fawr, 'the precise number hard to estimate since some are so slight' (1976, 115). They have been recorded too in the Black Mountains, hence the stimulus for considering them in this report, a small group in the Elan Valley, another small group in the Montgomeryshire uplands to the south of the Banwy Valley, with some too in one area of Mynydd Hiraethog in the north. In northern Carmarthenshire, George Williams recorded seventy or more on Mynydd Mallaen in the mid 1990s, producing plans of many of them (Williams and Darke 1996), Paul Davis encountered significant numbers in the Rhondda (1989), and David Leighton found a few on the northern slopes of Mynydd Du in Brecknock (D. Leighton: pers. comm.).

Pre-dating all of these records by many decades is a report in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1801, which has been reprinted in the Royal Commission's Brecknock Inventory (1997). Under 'Lost settlement sites', Gilbert Gilpin's report of mounds in the Nedd valley near Pontneathfechan is transcribed in full, together with a sketch, and the former is reproduced here:

'The banks of the Neath River, above . . . [Pontneathfechan] . . .', for near a mile in length, and about half a one in width, on each side, contain a great number of mounds of earth and stones, of about 2 or 3 yards 12-3 m) long, 1 wide and 12 high [sic]: and some few of about 4 or 5 yards long, 1 or 2 wide, and 1 high. They all appear of great antiquity. They lie pretty nearly in straight lines up to the ascents of the ground, with their sides opposite thereto and to each other. Their distances from each other are various: in some cases only 3 or 4, and in others more than 20 yards. Their numbers on each side of the river must have been several hundreds; but of late years they have been greatly diminished by levelling them for the purposes of facilitating the ploughing of the land. These mounds are evidently artificial, an excavation on the upper side of each, from whence the matter was got to form them, is still visible. It is not likely that they have been the effect of quarrying' or even trying for stones, because they are situated in the most earthy parts, and in the midst of grounds whose surface is in many places almost covered with stones that are detached from the rocks, and, of course, might have been removed at a less expense, and with greater facility, than in the opening of new quarries. Several stones are also contained in the mounds themselves, which would not have been the case if quarrying had been their only object. It is not probable that they have been the effect of any mining adventure, because the rock itself is not a mineral measure . . . ' (RCAHMW 1997, 270, after *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1801).

Except in Glamorgan and Brecknock, virtually all of these records have been generated by staff of the Trusts, and this raises the question as to whether other organisations working on the Uplands Initiative may have come across similar features and recorded them. Unfortunately there seems to be no easy way of determining whether this is the case: the term scoop is used in Coflein but, on the rare occasions that it appears, it appears to be used for settlements and quarries, and only one record, from Carmarthenshire, might be relevant in the current context.

One other factor that we should note is that in Glamorgan and perhaps at some other locations they have been noticed because of their geographical association with other monuments, particularly cairnfields. It is in a sense a corollary to the original record for Cefn Moel in the Black Mountains where all the earthworks, including scoop-less mounds and cairns were originally lumped together as ‘scoop graves’ in the HER.

How do we interpret these relatively insignificant earthworks. Aileen Fox’s interpretation as early graves has been generally rejected, as there is no objective evidence that they ever functioned as burial places. George Williams did however consider that the Mynydd Mallaen examples in Carmarthenshire had ‘every appearance of antiquity’ and he appeared to favour a prehistoric origin, noting that unlike relatively recent monuments of late medieval and post-medieval date they did not occur in areas of blanket peat. As they appeared in conjunction with clearance cairns, he considered that prehistoric ‘cairnfields might include a ritual dimension in addition to the purely functional (in terms of pastoral or agricultural clearance) and that the scoops might be part of this additional function’ (Williams and Darke 1996, 4).

Edith Evans of GGAT has suggested to the writer that they might have functioned as sheep shelters on the grounds that their distribution appears to complement that of the more conventional shelters. But while there is no doubt that a sheep might on occasions take advantage of such a scoop, it seems unlikely that they would have been constructed for this purpose. The weighted distribution to certain localities, sometimes in considerable numbers, militates against this. An alternative suggestion that occasionally emerges is that they may have resulted from the windblow on trees yet the same counter-arguments apply, even if an occasional earthwork might result from such a force of nature.



Plate 4: Scooped mound on Cefn Moel in the Black Mountains

A more plausible explanation to be advanced is that they were dug by troops on military manoeuvres (see for instance RCAHMW 1976, 115), in which case they would almost certainly have originated during the last couple of hundred years. They do not compare with the 'fox-holes' that troops would construct today, but as temporary protection they could have been dug rapidly to give cover. This should explain their sporadic distribution, focused in areas where troop training takes place, and their large numbers, yet this needs to be confirmed by rather more research, and excavation is unlikely to be a particularly fruitful approach.

We might perhaps be wary of seeking a single, all-encompassing explanation for these features. Simple as they are, features of similar form could also have been created by natural processes, by animal activity, and as the Royal Commission amongst others have pointed out, by fallen trees. Solitary examples, specifically, might be explained by such agents.

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Appendix 1 – Gazetteer of newly assessed sites

550 Cwr y Gaer Placename SO11003044

Old description

Name possibly suggestive of a defended site. Name probably taken from hill to east which has appearance of hillfort though a possible enclosure (probably an old field) noted at SO11253052 by CPAT site visit, 1979.

New description

It might have been worth checking what appears to be the hill top at SO 1175 3039, for with the field boundaries and relict marks on aerial photographs, almost a complete circuit of an oval enclosure is apparent, though of course these could simply be field boundaries mirroring the contours of the hill-top. However recent aerial photography indicates that much of the interior has now been quarried away for its limestone. A rapid check of the field names in the Tithe apportionment also proved fruitless, as there is a paucity of record field names for Llanfilo parish (RS 11/2009).

2475 Rhos Fawr Enclosure SO19603448

Old description

Rectangular enclosure some 18.3m by 13.7m contained by sub-square enclosure some 548m across recognised in drifting snow (CUCAP, AP, 1969). No such feature apparent to CPAT site visit, 1980 but enclosure 23m by 18m seen at SO1961343. Poss a mis-siting by CUCAP.

New description

Photographed by JKS St Joseph on 03/02/1969 (CUCAP AWY 40) this appears as a small embanked feature which was almost certainly a house site contained by a larger enclosure with three straight sides, the fourth slightly bowed. The side closest to the 'house' could have an internal bank that creates a series of 'pens' along its length. A modern track cuts across it passing close to the 'house' site. The position of the enclosure contiguous to but separate from the enclosed fields to the north strongly suggests a post-medieval encroachment (RS 11/2009).

2477 Pen yr Allt Enclosure SO10623278

Old description

Rectangular field some 70m NW-SE by 30m wide with boundaries removed on SE and part of SW (CPAT site visit, 1979). Formerly noted as a cropmark enclosure by CUCAP 1967.

New description

A copy of the Cambridge AP (AQV 22) is held by the RCAHMW, but not by CPAT. A study of this indicates that two sides remains as field boundaries, while the other two have gone, leaving the 'ghost' of a rectangular outline. This looks slightly platformed on the photograph but is not sufficiently distinctive to merit a field visit. The area covers around 2.6 acres, and there are anomalies in the alignment of the existing boundaries that could indicate the presence of an earlier feature, though this is not reinforced by the early Ordnance Survey maps which imply no more than a strip-field type presence (RS 11/2009).

3425 Tremynfa Mounds I SO154226

Old description

Eight low circular mounds c.5m diameter revealed on scarp edge and on a slope by bracken cutting (Jones, P M, 1977). No such features located by OS, 1981; CPAT site visit, 1980. Clearance heaps of above description run from SO15992444 to SO16072437 which may suggest an error in NGR of Jones; see PAR 5708. Visited during Black Mountains survey. Probably part of large group of mounds in this area (Black Mountains Uplands Survey database, 1998).

New description

There is a considerable geographical discrepancy (1.9km) between Jones' record and that registered under PRN 5708. We should not write off the Jones record on the basis of similar sites being identified at such a distance, but rather treat it in its own right. That said, Jones' 6-figure NGR is not particularly helpful. The position given is on gently sloping land which then falls with a sharper slope to the next terrace below. The area is bracken-covered with tussocky grass and an undulating surface exacerbated by sheep and pony trails. There are mounds here but they are likely to be natural landforms. There is no sign either that the area has ever been cut for bracken - currently cutting occurs closer to the common edge. The site must be dismissed until more positive evidence is encountered (RS 11/09).

5708 Tremynfa Mounds II SO160244

Old description

series of clearance heaps on top of SW facing scarp running from SO15992444 to SO16072437. No associated fields apparent. Poss the mounds noted but mis-sited by Jones 1977 see PAR 3425. Visited during Black Mountains survey. Probably part of the large group of mounds in this area (Black Mountains Uplands Survey database, 1998).

New description

This is a confused record because of the link back to the Jones record which is PRN 3425. The grid referenced locations come from the Ordnance survey visit of 1981 (RS 11/2009). The interpretation of clearance heaps need to be modified. The mound of stone at the western end of the group @ SO 15992 24467 is relatively recent, the spoil from an adjacent tilestone quarry. Similarly that towards the eastern end is spoil or debris from a linear quarry @ SO 16035 24373. The stone @ SO 16019 24404 could be of natural deposition. That @ SO 16023 24425 is perhaps the best instance and could be authentic. It is around 3m, sub-square in form but barely rises above the surrounding ground surface. This is not convincing as a group of monuments (RS 02/2010).

9333 Blaen Nant Mair house SO2664322488

Old description

House site and field boundaries on edge of moorland (CPAT 1980).

New description

Rectangular house with walls surviving to over 1m in height. Main axis set at right-angles to the contours (SE/NW), with chimney at SE end. There is a flat platformed area to the NW, either a yard or for structures which are no longer extant. Overlooked by the barn (PRN 9334). The whole is set within a stone-walled enclosure, with sub-divisions formed by scarp banks. (RJS 05/02/2010)

9334 Blaen Nant Mair barn SO2662422474

Old description

House site and field boundaries on edge of moorland (CPAT 1980).

New description

The second building in this complex is a barn, with a triangular ventilation hole in its gable. It overlooks the house (PRN 9333). (RJS 05/02/2010)

9335 Partrishow Hill House Site II SO2751022955*Old description*

House site and field boundaries on edge of moorland (CPAT 1980).

New description

The stone walls of the building survive in ruinous condition on a platform for the whole, aligned NE/SW. Either two or three units. Scarp bank to E. Walls are up to 1.5m high and an alcove is visible from the track which runs past the site. (RJS 05/02/2010)

9336 Partrishow Hill Field System SO27502297*Old description*

Old field boundaries on edge of moorland (CPAT 1980).

New description

Embanked track leads up the hill onto moorland from farm site (PRN 9335). (RJS 05/02/2010)

12687 Darren hut SO2092921830*Old description*

(US 112 ii) A hut or fold, 455 m above O.D. upon a patch of scree. 1. P.M. Jones, Arch. in Wales 19 (1979), p.9, no.1; O.S. Card SO 22 SW 20. 2. O.S. Card SO 22 SW 3. 3. P.M. Jones, loc. cit. n. 1. RCAHMW, 1995 - Draft Inventory description

New description

Rectangular long hut of drystone construction, measuring 7m E/W by 5m wide and up to 1.2m high. Entrance on N side. There is also an attached semi-circular enclosure on the N side, measuring 20m E/W by 14m, defined by a low rubble wall. (RH 26/02/2010)

12688 Darren hut SO2094522514*Old description*

(US 112 iii) A long hut or fold, possibly on an earlier site, 565 m above O.D. upon a patch of scree. 1. P.M. Jones, Arch. in Wales 19 (1979), p.9, no.1; O.S. Card SO 22 SW 20. 2. O.S. Card SO 22 SW 3. 3. P.M. Jones, loc. cit. n. 1. RCAHMW, 1995 - Draft Inventory description

New description

Rectilinear structure composed of drystone walls up to 1.2m high. Irregular shape suggests it is not too old, except perhaps for the alcove at its N end. Pound attached to its S end. About 10m to the NW is a small rectangular building 6m NE/SW by 4.5m which appears to have been robbed. Central to an enclosure (NGR SO 20929 22514). (RJS 26/02/2010)

12691 Darren enclosure SO2105922114*Old description*

(US 112 vi) Enclosures and huts upon a patch of scree 535 m above O.D. 1. P.M. Jones, Arch. in Wales 19 (1979), p.9, no.1; O.S. Card SO 22 SW 20. 2. O.S. Card SO 22 SW 3. 3. P.M. Jones, loc. cit. n. 1. RCAHMW, 1995 - Draft Inventory description

New description

Elliptical pound measuring 13m NE/SW by 7m externally. Drystone-built but roughly constructed. Possible entrance near the N corner where there are one or two edge-set stones. There are also two roughly built 'pens', one certain and one suspected but no more than 1m across, attached to the internal side of the SE wall. A stone-filled hollow above the site to the NE is probably natural. (RJS 26/02/2010)

22233 Curlews Quarry (dis) SO2036321104*Old description*

Quarry, captured from 1:25,000 map (OS, 1988)

New description

Quarry for sandstone slabs, probably used in local buildings. It measures about 100m NNE/SSW by 40m, including the spoil which has spread downslope. Some small shelters are present in the main part of the quarry, perhaps one or two of which are contemporary with the workings. The main area of the quarry is about 50m by 25m and around 4m deep. (RH 11/02/2010)

35830 Blaenau enclosure SO2575131968*Old description*

Long oval shaped enclosure defined by an earth and stone bank up to 3m wide x 0.4m high. Aligned N/S. A clearance cairn of c.1.5m diameter is situated within the N part. Likely to be related to either the rectangular hut (PRN 35831) or the hut circle (PRN 35832).

New description

Elongated enclosure set on a terrace of the otherwise very steep W-facing slope. It measures 110m N/S by 27m, with the surrounding bank up to 3m wide and 0.4m high. The S end is straight and from there the enclosure widens out to its maximum at approximately half its overall length, from where it gradually diminishes to a point at the N end. The entrance, about 5m wide, is half way along the E side, perhaps with a second entrance adjacent to PRN 35831. Seemingly a small subdivision on the N, beyond the structures (PRNs 35831 and 35832). (RH 30/11/2009)

35831 Blaenau hut SO2575031991*Old description*

Remains of rectangular building aligned NE/SW. Walls of drystone construction, c.1.2m wide. Entrance probably on SE side. Adjacent to the circular hut (PRN 35832) within the N part of the enclosure (PRN 35830). Description: Examination of this site did not reveal any components which could be attributed to the medieval or post medieval periods; the surface remains suggest a prehistoric origin. Most probable interpretation is of a damaged circular hut within along oval or sub-rectangular enclosure/field system. Field system consists of 1 pen near hut, 1 small field to N, and a large field to SSE. Some stone clearance in the large field. Overall dimensions of field system 125m N/S x 20m-25m wide; hut approx 5mdiam. Location: Situated on a shelf on the otherwise steep W facing slope.(CPAT, DRS project).

New description

Sub-rectangular levelled terrace/platform cut into SE-facing slope of knoll within enclosure PRN 35830. Surrounded by a stone bank on the NE, SE and SW (largest). A pile of stones in the centre extends to the NW side, perhaps suggesting there was some form of structure (fireplace ?) on that side. Possible entrance gap in enclosure adjacent on E. Overall dimensions 7.3m NE/SW by 4.6m and 0.5m high, internally 4.7m by 3.3m. (RH 30/11/2009)

35832 Blaenau circular structure SO2574431983*Old description*

Approximately circular ruinous structure of drystone construction. Entrance on S side. Wall c.1.3m wide. Adjacent to the rectangular hut (PRN 35831) within the N part of the enclosure (PRN 35830).

New description

Sub-circular structure in N part of enclosure PRN 35830. Open on the S side, rubble on the E, stone embankment with two edge-set external facing stones on the N and a broad bank on the W. Possibly more pear-shaped than circular overall. Measures 5.5m N/S by 4.6m and up to 0.8m high. Interior measures 1.8m N/S by a maximum of 1.5m. Wall/bank on N is 1.5m wide. Could be one of a number of possibilities of which a lime kiln or perhaps a pen are the most likely. (RH 30/11/2009)

39354 Cwmrhos occupation SO194254*Old description*

A series of linear and curvilinear banks, cairns (burial) and clearance cairns situated on a broad shelf overlooking the Rhiangoll Valley. The linear banks form the beginnings of a field system. Also a possible hut circle (Makepeace, G A 2001, pp110).

New description

The terrace on which the occupation lies faces generally W and is the site of various linear field banks, clearance cairns and structures. The banks and cairns cannot be directly dated, although some at least appear much too recent to be of prehistoric origin. What can be ascertained, however, is that the three main earthwork/stone structures which represent settlement are all rectangular. The earliest seem likely to be medieval in date, namely a large platform measuring 12m by 5m (internally) at SO 19351 25219 and the remains of a split level rectangular embanked structure at SO 19370 25278. On this basis, it is reasonable to suggest that the earliest banks and clearance cairns are also of medieval date, and there are certainly no features which could be confidently ascribed a prehistoric origin. The upper bank, which delineates the E extent of the features, contours around the hillside to the NE and is at a similar level to the upper limit of enclosure in the next valley. The implication of the visible evidence is that this area was enclosed and utilised in the medieval and perhaps also post-medieval periods, but has subsequently been abandoned. (RH 30/11/2009)

39583 Cefn Moel mound IV SO1534322485*Old description*

One of a group of earth mounds, which are generally oval in shape and aligned in a N/S direction. Mound measures approx. 5m x 3m x 0.7m high with the scoop on the upslope side, where mound material has been excavated. Differing from the quarry trials in the same locality. Scoop grave ? (Black Mountains Uplands Survey database 1998)Not a funerary site (CPAT 2003)

New description

A broad, spread mound, under bracken.. 5m long on both axes and no more than 0.5m high. Hint of a scoop on the north side but the overall visual impression is hampered by vegetation (RS 12/2009)

39584 Cefn Moel mound V SO1551122502*Old description*

One of a group of earth mounds, which are generally oval in shape and aligned in a N/S direction. Mound measures approx. 5m x 3m x 0.7m high with the scoop on the upslope side, where mound

material has been excavated. Differing from the quarry trials in the same locality. Scoop grave ? (Black Mountains Uplands Survey database 1998)Not a funerary site (CPAT 2003)

New description

A mound still reasonably evident beneath heavy bracken cover. No dimensions established because of this vegetation. No obvious scoop. On gently sloping ground above a natural shelf. Were it not for the location it might have been classed as a funerary monument (RS 12/2009).

39585 Cefn Moel mound VI SO1589122492

Old description

One of a group of earth mounds, which are generally oval in shape and aligned in a N/S direction. Mound measures approx. 5m x 3m x 0.7m high with the scoop on the upslope side, where mound material has been excavated. Differing from the quarry trials in the same locality. Scoop grave ? (Black Mountains Uplands Survey database 1998)Not a funerary site (CPAT 2003)

New description

This is a little distance from the location given originally, but the latter cannot be sustained. This is a mound about 5.5m E/W by 2.5m N/S and 0.4m high. It is not so different from a rather small pillow mound. A new NGR has been entered in the HER (RS 12/2009).

39587 Cefn Moel mound VIII SO1587822805

Old description

One of a group of earth mounds, which are generally oval in shape and aligned in a N/S direction. Mound measures approx. 5m x 3m x 0.7m high with the scoop on the upslope side, where mound material has been excavated. Differing from the quarry trials in the same locality. Scoop grave ? (Black Mountains Uplands Survey database 1998). Not a funerary site (CPAT 2003)

New description

Mound, steep-faced on its west side above a scoop. A large slab of rock acts as a facing stone. 6m N/S by 3.5m E/W x 0.9m high. NGR corrected (RS 12/2009).

39598 Cefn Moel mound XIX SO1566322946

Old description

One of a group of earth mounds, which are generally oval in shape and aligned in a N/S direction. Mound measures approx. 5m x 3m x 0.7m high with the scoop on the upslope side, where mound material has been excavated. Differing from the quarry trials in the same locality. Scoop grave ? (Black Mountains Uplands Survey database 1998)Not a funerary site (CPAT 2003)

New description

Mound 5m NE/SW by 3m by 0.4m with a distinctive scoop to the north-west (RS 12/2009).

39610 Penlan mounds III SO1598022750

Old description

Group of 5 mounds, each measuring 5m x 3m, with adjacent scoop. Scoop graves ? (Black Mountains Uplands Survey database 1998)Not a funerary site (CPAT 2003)

New description

At the broadly correct NGR is a small curvilinear hollow with spoil spread around the perimeter, the hollow about 2.5m across, though the impression from a distance is of a feature slightly more elongated, like a small platform. In an area of bailed bracken, but otherwise probably wouldn't have been visible. Another slightly hollowed area with spoil thrown out to the south-east, yet the whole feature appears flattened out and may not represent a man-made construction (RS 12/2009).

39647 Ffynnon Las mound VI SO1595123593*Old description*

Oval mound measuring 4m NE/SW x 2m x 0.5m high, with scoop 1.5m wide x 0.3m deep on NW side. Scoop grave ? (Black Mountains Uplands Survey database 1998) There are several small irregular mounds in this area. Not funerary. (CPAT 2003)

New description

This mound is not a scoop mound or 'grave'. The mound description given by the previous authority is sound, although there is a raised tail of material running off to the south-west. However, at best there is an extremely shallow hollow on the north-west, and the mound is completely disproportionate to it. This is best seen as an anomalous mound, perhaps but not certainly man-made (RS 02/2010).

39651 Cefn Moel shooting butt I SO1601723748*Old description*

Possible stone built shooting butt (or poss shelter). Main structure is a broad bank 1.7m wide aligned NW/SE. Two walls project c.2m to the NW from NW part of bank. (Black Mountains Uplands Survey database 1998)

New description

A shooting butt constructed of tilestone to a height of around 1m. Walling visible and in good condition compared with its counterpart 16m away (PRN 39652). Both overlook a broad shelf to the west (RS 02/2010).

39652 Cefn Moel shooting butt II SO1599923760*Old description*

Sub-rectangular amorphous structure with much collapsed stone and a built up bank on its SW side. May represent a collapsed stone built shooting butt, with the earth bank acting as a disguise. Original structure ? c.5m long x 2m wide constructed as a drystone wall. Earth bank extends c.1m to SW beyond the wall. 12m NNW of PRN 39651. (Black Mountains Uplands Survey database 1998)

New description

A shooting butt constructed of tilestone to a height of around 1m, but rather damaged and bank over. PRN 39651 is 16m away. Both overlook a broad shelf to the west (RS 02/2010).

39688 Cefn Moel enclosure SO1545222412*Old description*

Elongated enclosure with rounded ends, defined by a shallow ditch. Its southern end is truncated by a trackway. Seen on an oblique aerial photograph (CPAT 87-MB-478) but not identified in the field. There may be a patch of ridge and furrow cultivation a short distance to the west (Black Mountains Uplands Survey database 1998)

New description

This is remarkable because the evidence for the enclosure on the aerial photo is unequivocal, yet nothing is detectable on the ground (and enough control points are visible on the aerial photograph to ensure precision in the site's location). The area is bracken covered, and this must be disguising a very slight bank. The location is a good one for the site occupies a slight bowl with a natural scarp at least 32m high on the north side and curving round to the east (RS 12/09).

43228 Cwm Banw, Grwyne Fechan, kidney-shaped enclosure SO2164023930*Old description*

Boulder-walled, kidney-shaped enclosure divided by stoney terrace and lying on a gently sloping shelf. 35 x 40m in size with a possible hut circle on the northern side (though this has been much damaged by the recent building of a shelter) (Makepeace, G, 2001).

New description

Kidney-bean shaped enclosure defined by rubble banks and scarps, although there is a very short section of wall-facing on the SW side of the interior. The enclosure is divided centrally (N/S) by a further stony scarp whose S end seems to coincide with an entrance gap where it meets the indented perimeter. The alleged hut circle on the N side of the enclosure is no more than a collection of stones signifying late disturbance, with no conclusive trace of an earlier feature. Overall dimensions 42m E/W by 35m N/S, maximum height c.1.0m. This could be either medieval or prehistoric but appears, from the lack of settlement evidence, to have been a pastoral enclosure. Structurally similar to enclosure PRN 113785, about 500m distant. (RH 27/01/2010)

43231 Cwm Banw boundary SO2146924471*Old description*

Linear boulder bank, part of old boundary leading towards Pen Allt Mawr from Cwm Banw (Makepeace, G, 2001).

New description

Redundant boundary defined by a rubble bank running from the NGR given to the SW, visible on AP sources to at least SO 20991 24084 but not followed to this end. The NE end fades out above the very steep slope leading down to the stream in the floor of Cwm Banw. Overall length about 620m. (RH 27/01/2010)

43232 Cwm Banw, Grwyne Fechan, rectangular enclosure SO2171823420*Old description*

Roughly rectangular stoney enclosure lying on a shelf above the valley. Internally there appears to be at least 3 phases of occupation. The remnants of a possible Bronze Age hut circle (PRN 43233), 2 stone-built long houses and associated features (PRN 43234), and a C19th shepherd's hut/shelter (PRN 43235) (Makepeace, G, 2001).

New description

Near square enclosure defined by stony banks which are quite heavily vegetated, so the entrance is not immediately identifiable. The only structures within the enclosure which are likely to be contemporary are the two, probably medieval, buildings recorded under PRN 43234. The alleged hut circle (PRN 43233) is not authentic and the enclosure is probably medieval. Overall dimensions 45m by 40m. NGR altered to correct discrepancy. (RH 27/01/2010)

43233 Cwm Banw, Grwyne Fechan, hut circle I SO2168723426*Old description*

The remnants of a possible Bronze Age hut circle lying within a roughly rectangular stoney enclosure (PRN 43232) on a shelf above the valley (Makepeace, G, 2001).

New description

There are two possible features which might be the alleged hut circle. The first is no more than a quarry scoop cut into the vegetation covered rubble slope just outside the enclosure (see given NGR). It was probably dug to obtain material used in the construction of either the enclosure or the buildings within it, and is therefore likely to be of medieval or perhaps post-medieval date. The second possibility is that the L-shaped building that forms part of PRN 43234 was incorrectly interpreted as a rectangular building overlying the remains of a hut. The plan produced by Makepeace suggests the second interpretation while the description suggests the first. NGR altered to correct discrepancy. (RH 27/01/2010)

43234 Cwm Banw, Grwyne Fechan, 2 longhouses SO2170523425*Old description*

2 stone-built long houses and associated features lying in a roughly rectangular stoney enclosure (PRN 43232) on a shelf above the valley. Long houses measure 6 x 4m and 7 x 4m, the latter has a right-angled wall attached to it, and overlies Bronze Age (?) round hut (PRN 43233) (Makepeace, G, 2001).

New description

The two buildings which are apparently contemporary with the surrounding enclosure (PRN 43232) comprise a rectangular building at SO 21702 23429 and an L-shaped building at SO 21706 23422. The rectangular building might be a hut or fold measuring about 6m by 4m, while the L-shaped building is more likely to be the dwelling and consists of two rectangular units set at right-angles to each other, measuring about 11m by 7m. NGR altered to correct discrepancy. (RH 27/01/2010)

43235 Cwm Banw, Grwyne Fechan, shepherd's hut SO2171223432*Old description*

A C19th shepherd's hut/shelter situated within a roughly rectangular enclosure (PRN 43232) (Makepeace, G, 2001).

New description

Drystone hut or fold, apparently post-dating the other buildings within enclosure PRN 43232. NGR altered to correct discrepancy. (RH 27/01/2010)

72475 Mynydd Llysiau hut circle I SO2000727912*Old description*

One of 2 Bronze Age hut circles, visible as a low circular stone wall, with associated field system (PRN 77857) (see plan) (Makepeace, G, 2000). Hut circle 4.6m in diameter, lying to the SW of hut circle PRN 77858. Has revetted coursed walling on the downslope side. Situated at between 550m and 650m OD (Makepeace, G A, 2001, pp110).

New description

The revetted walling is only present on the S to SW side, but there is no definite evidence of a continuation to form a complete circle. In terms of its structure the feature has more akin with some types of shooting butt than with a hut circle. NGR revised by the use of GPS. (RH 11/02/2010)

77857 Mynydd Llysiau field system SO20162812*Old description*

Field system comprising at least 5 linear boulder banks running downslope on the western side of Mynydd Llysiau, with 2 other banks at right angles to 2 of the downslope banks. Associated with two Bronze Age hut circles (PRNs 72475 & 77858), one of which (PRN 77858) is attached to one of the banks. Situated at between 550m and 650m OD (Makepeace, G A, 2000 & 2001, pp110).

New description

A series of overgrown rubble banks, averaging about 4m wide and 0.4m high, which probably represent the remains of a field system. The age of the field system remains uncertain, but a prehistoric date is possible given the nature and condition of the banks. The S bank runs slightly N of E from SO 20011 28025 to SO 20483 28079, a length of about 475m. A second bank runs NW for 75m from the first at SO 20075 28039, ending at SO 20041 28104. A third bank, roughly parallel and about 160m to the N of the first runs slightly S of E for about 240m from SO 20458 28239 to SO 20217 28201, where it becomes indistinct. It may continue further as there is another, L-shaped, bank in that direction which runs from SO 19887 28147 to SO 20026 28165 then at right-angles to SO 20021 28221, a distance of about 200m. The overall NGR relates to the approximate centre of the system, not any of the individual features. (RH 11/02/2010)

77858 Mynydd Llysiau hut circle II SO2045728077*Old description*

Easternmost of two Bronze Age hut circles with associated field system (PRN 77857) (see plan). Oval in shape, 5m by 4m, attached to one of the banks of the field system. Situated at between 550m and 650m OD (Makepeace, G A, 2000 & 2001, pp110).

New description

No evidence that this is a circular hut, the structural remains represent two near-parallel walls running NNW/SSE for about 4m and about 6m apart. What these walls define in terms of a structure is uncertain, perhaps they are the remains of some type of shelter. NGR altered as the HER location was over 800m to the N of the site. (RH 11/02/2010)

77859 Cwmrhos clearance cairns SO19402540*Old description*

Large area of clearance and associated linear banks. Covered in dense bracken (Makepeace, G, 2000).

New description

The terrace on which the features lie faces generally W and is the site of various linear field banks, clearance cairns and structures. The banks and cairns cannot be directly dated, although some at least appear much too recent to be of prehistoric origin. What can be ascertained, however, is that the three main earthwork/stone structures which represent settlement are all rectangular. The earliest seem likely to be medieval in date, namely a large platform measuring 12m by 5m (internally) at SO 19351 25219 and the remains of a split level rectangular embanked structure at SO 19370 25278. On this basis, it is reasonable to suggest that the earliest banks and clearance cairns are also of medieval date, and there are certainly no features which could be confidently ascribed a prehistoric origin. The upper bank, which delineates the E extent of the features, contours around the hillside to the NE and is at a similar level to the upper limit of enclosure in the next valley. The implication of the visible evidence is that this area was enclosed and utilised in the medieval and perhaps also post-medieval periods, but has subsequently been abandoned. This is effectively a duplicate record for PRN 39354. (RH 30/11/2009)

86792 Partrishow, cairn SO2732521933*Old description*

Possible small cairn. 30 cms high, and 4m in diameter. Dimensions difficult to assess due to heather. (Makepeace, G, 1998)

New description

Fairly obvious mound on ridge crest, with dimensions as already recorded. No evidence of stone within it and there are no other cairns in the vicinity, but it seems unlikely to be clearance. There is nothing as convincing at the given NGR of SO 2737 2196, which is below the crest of the ridge with more heather than bracken. (RJS 05/02/2010)

113753 Cefn Moel mound SO1590722500*New description*

An elongated mound about 8m E/W by 5m and 0.5m high. No scoop or gully associated. Close to PRN 39585, but slightly larger (RS 12/09).

113754 Cefn Moel mound SO1563622390*New description*

A small mound, oval in shape and 3.5m NW/SE by 2.5m and 0.4m high (RS 12/2009).

113755 Cefn Moel mound SO1559022386*New description*

A mound with a scoop beside it; the former is 6m NE/SW by 2.5m and 0.4m high. The scoop to the NW is smaller and shallow at 0.2m. One stone protrudes from the mound (12/2009).

113758 Cefn Moel mound SO1559122408*New description*

A very spread mound about 4m long on both axes and 0.2m high. A slight hollow immediately to the west and above the mound (RS 12/2009)

113759 Cefn Moel mound SO1555322422*New description*

A spread mound about 3.5m NW/SE by 2.5m and 0.3m high. A very shallow scoop immediately to the west (RS 12/2009)

113760 Cefn Moel mound SO1550322454*New description*

Mound well disguised by bracken, its dimensions difficult to gauge accurately though far lower than the adjacent PRN 39584. No sign of a scoop beside it; some small stone exposed in top surface (RS 12/2009).

113762 Cefn Moel mound SO1572623112*New description*

Possible man-made mound with sharp-sided scoop on its north side. 8m NNE/SSW by 3m by 0.8m. Perhaps natural.

113763 Cefn Moel mound SO1157522747*New description*

Elongated mound, 8m N/S by 4m by 0.6m. West side straight, while east side indented. Could even be a shooting butt (RS 12/2009).

113775 Cefn Moel platform SO1595822701*New description*

A large platform with a distinctive fan but no identifiable apron. Internally about 13m NW/SE by 9m, the fan perhaps 0.9m high. This is large and amorphous compared with some platforms but is nevertheless probably a medieval or early post-medieval house platform. Good views over the Rhiangoll valley and Tretower (RS 12/2009).

113776 Cefn Moel mound SO1599022723*New description*

Two adjacent mounds, one 6m NW/SE by 3.5m by 0.5m with a scoop to the south-west; the other 6m N/S by 4m by 0.4m with a scoop to the west (RS 12/2009).

113777 Cefn Moel mound SO1551423991*New description*

Moound 4.5m NE/SW by 3m by 0.4m. Faint hollow to west (RS 12/2009).

113778 Waun-goch mounds SO2476231367*New description*

The north-east-facing hillside above the Nant Bwch valley has a large group of so called 'scoop graves' on it. A minimum of twenty-four were observed, some spread out, a few grouped together. The precise number is almost certainly higher than this as no systematic survey was made. Almost every one had the scoop uphill from the mound, with the majority broadly in line with the contours. 10-figure NGRs were recorded from the GPS for twenty of the mounds and can be found on the record sheet. The NGR given here is a central one, marking a close-set group of four mounds which were photographed (RS 02/02/2010).

113781 Taren yr Esgob enclosure II SO2537530792*New description*

A large and irregularly shaped enclosure fills a naturally formed bowl (Perhaps glacial?) with higher ground around virtually its entire perimeter. It includes a marshy area, as well as drier ground. It is

enclosed by a well-built stone wall, which has been buttressed in places. The entrance through the enclosure lies opposite the farm building (see below). There is evidence particularly towards the western end for some development in the form of the enclosure. Another, internal bank, more a result of clearing stones to one side than building a linear barrier, edges the marsh on the north side. A house, more square than long, of dry-stone construction lies within the enclosure and its NGR is what is given in this record. Dimensions were paced at 5.5m north to south, and similar distance from east to west, externally. Inside there is a fireplace and the start of a flight of stone stairs winding over the top of the fireplace and creating a cubicle beneath. A possible building or structure lies just to the east at SO 2538730795 occupies a platform overlooking the marsh whose apron is largely natural. Most of the stonework representing the 'building' is at the rear of the platform. Dimensions of the building 6m north to south by 3m east to west. Within the main enclosure is a spring at SO 25398 30755 which provides some water for the marsh. House abandoned by the late 19th century, and no known name for it (RS 02/2010).

113784 Waun-goch mounds II SO2422931651*New description*

Unknown number of 'scoop graves' on the north-east side of a hill to the north-west of Waun-goch abandoned farm. Recognised but not recorded in any detail (RS 02/2010).

113785 Cwm Banw W enclosure I SO2132723493*New description*

Bi-partite enclosure measuring 68m ESE/WNW by 55m NNE/SSW, overall, and defined by rubble banks, or scarps where it is terraced into the E-facing hill slope. The banks are about 0.6m high, scarps up to 1.2m high. Very similar in form to enclosure PRN 43228. The W part measures about 38m NNE/SSW by 31m, the E part 39m NNE/SSW by 42m. There is no apparent interconnection, the entrance to each probably being on the S side. There is no associated settlement so perhaps used in hefting, it seems too large to be used in everyday animal husbandry. (RH 27/01/2010)

113786 Cwm Banw W sheepfold SO2135423383*New description*

Drystone-walled sheepfold of irregular (near-pentagonal) shape, measuring 24m NW/SE by 16m NE/SW. Entrance on S side into main unit, with an entrance from this into a smaller unit which occupies the E side of the interior and was presumably used for sheep husbandry. Walls up to 1.0m high. Almost certainly associated with the adjacent rectangular building (PRN 113787), to the NW. (RH 27/01/2010)

113787 Cwm Banw W long hut SO2134523394*New description*

Rectangular long hut aligned NE/SW, measuring 11m by 5m, adjacent to sheepfold PRN 113786 on its NW side. Stone-built but with overgrown walls, the interior seems to have a step down at half its length. The proximity of the site to the sheepfold, and its alignment, suggests strongly that the two structures are contemporary although this might mean the fold had an earlier predecessor. (RH 27/01/2010)

113788 Cwm Banw shelter SO2140324608*New description*

Stone building, perhaps a shelter or fold, in the upper reaches of Cwm Banw. Measures about 6m by 5m. (RH 27/01/2010)

113789 Cwm Banw platform SO2152224296*New description*

Possible small platform for a timber structure, part way up the valley side of Cwm Banw, near a trackway (RH 27/01/2010)

113790 Cwm Banw W enclosure II SO2133923617*New description*

Oddly positioned rhomboid enclosure, approximately 10m across. Stone-built. (RH 27/01/2010)

113791 Cwm Banw W shelter wall SO2125323600*New description*

Site recorded as a hut by Uplands Survey in 2007 under NPRN 501560. Allegedly the SW corner of a building, but actually no more than a 3m-long curved section of shelter wall. (RH 27/01/2010)

113792 Maes-y-ffin platform SO2551530744*New description*

Rectangular earthwork platform aligned WNW/ESE, on gentle WNW-facing slope of a natural hollow. It lies outside the stone-walled enclosure which occupies much of the hollow. The fan on the ESE is reasonably sharp although slightly disturbed, while the apron on the WNW is quite short and drops off more steeply at the end; it is crossed by a recent vehicle track but has not been badly affected. The interior is slightly irregular and has no visible features. It measures 10m by 4.5m, within an overall extent of earthworks measuring 14m by 8m. The fan is 1.0m deep, apron 0.8m high. (RH 28/01/2010)

113796 Crug Mawr platform SO2735122822*New description*

Remains of a rectangular platform aligned NW/SE at 90 degrees to the contours. The fan on the NW is well defined and cut into the slope to a depth of c.1.2m, while the interior has a somewhat irregular surface with perhaps the slightest hint of a building on the NE and SW sides. The apron is in poor condition, probably having been truncated when the later stone wall was built to its SE. Overall dimensions 18m by 8m, interior approximately 12m by 4.5m. (RH 05/02/2010)

113807 Partrishow Hill building I SO2734222131*New description*

The boundary wall of Partrishow Hill incorporates the remains of an earlier building at this point, comprising a terraced area about 8m NNE/SSW by 6m. A broken stub of wall projects into the terraced area from the NNE end, where there is a butt-joint in the wall and it has a dogleg course. (RH 05/02/2010)

113809 Partrishow Hill building II SO2758521993*New description*

Stone-walled field barn forming an integral part of the boundary wall of Partrishow Hill. Measures approximately 10m NE/SW by 5m NW/SE and 3m high. Possibly had an upper floor. Entrance in SE wall at S corner. Internally, an alcove in the NE wall and a slit window in the SW wall. (RH 05/02/2010)

113812 Partrishow Hill pond SO2754821749*New description*

Probable artificial pond whose shape forms almost a quarter segment of a circle. Interior sunken with surrounding bank, and slopes slightly to the S. Measures 8.5m N/S by 8.5m E/W. (RH 05/02/2010)

113814 Partrishow Hill platform I SO2732821618*New description*

Platform aligned NW/SE, with its interior on two levels, the SE end lower than the NW. Unusual in that it is mostly cut into the slope, with a protective bank around its NW and NE sides and a slight bank/apron on the SE. Measures 13m NW/SE by 7m NE/SW, max 1.2m deep and 0.5m high. (RH 05/02/2010)

113817 Cwm Beusych platforms SO25692147*New description*

Perhaps two or more platforms on the W side of Cwm Beusych, seen in low light from the other side of the valley. Not examined on the ground. (RH 05/02/2010)

113819 Partrishow Hill platform II SO2752721725*New description*

Large platform just outside a redundant embanked field system (PRN 86796). Internally, it measures 11m NW/SE by 5m, with the fan 2m deep and the apron almost as sizeable. (RJS 05/02/2010)

113820 Partrishow Hill platform III SO2751121702*New description*

Another large platform on the same contour as platform PRN 113819 and also just outside a redundant embanked field system (PRN 86796). Interior measures 12m NW/SE by 7m with roughly similar apron and fan. Rubble present in the interior and hints of a foundation wall at the SE end. (RJS 05/02/2010)

113821 Partrishow Hill platform IV SO2746021655*New description*

Rather smaller platform than PRNs 113819 and 113820, within the same embanked field system. Measures 11m by 5m overall, fan 1.6m deep. Lies beside and parallel to a field boundary running down the slope (RJS 05/02/2010)

113828 Blaen Nant Mair mound I SO2665222367*New description*

Small, sub-rectangular mound of stone measuring 7m E/W by 5m. An unusual position for a cairn but perhaps too regular for clearance. Not a building. (RJS 05/02/2010)

113829 Blaen Nant Mair mound II SO2667722357*New description*

A second mound of similar shape and character to PRN 113828. Measures 6m ESE/WNW by 4m. Origin unexplained. (RJS 05/02/2010)

113830 Blaen Nant Mair platform SO2670822194*New description*

Large amorphous platform, probably in excess of 30m by 30m in size. Could be entirely natural or have been used for buildings which are no longer extant. Sited at the head of the valley. (RJS 05/02/2010)

113833 Partrishow Hill platform V SO2722622043*New description*

Small level platform set along the contours on a sloping shelf of the steep hillside. Approximately 7m long (RJS 05/02/2010)

113845 Pen Carreg Calch fold I SO2054022894*New description*

Sub-rectangular fold measuring 6m NNE/SSW by 4m and 0.7m high. Entrance in the ESE wall with a curving wall springing its SSW side. SSW end of structure tumbled. (RH 26/02/2010)

113847 Pen Carreg Calch W cairn SO2077822303*New description*

Cairn of loosely piled stones. 2m in diameter and 0.7m high. (RH 26/02/2010)

113848 Pen Carreg Calch fold II SO2091522263*New description*

Square-shaped fold, measuring 5m N/S by 5m E/W and up to 1.0m high, with an entrance at the NE corner. A wall alignment projects from the NE corner to the N for 15m, after which the wall curves to form the W side of a possible shelter, 4m in diameter. The wall extends for a further 5m to the N before ending. (RH 26/02/2010)

113849 Pen Carreg Calch field system SO2096522480*New description*

Former field system on the highest shelf below the W-facing escarpment of Pen Carreg Calch. It comprises a series of raised stony banks on a partially scree-covered slope, apparently forming a system

which extends over an area up to 500m NNW/SSE by 250m. The largest section of bank measures about 4m in width and 0.7m high, although others are rather more difficult to define on the ground owing to the similarities with lines of natural scree. Nevertheless, the alignments are sufficiently distinct on the aerial photographic coverage to enable their general extent to be determined. The age of the system remains somewhat uncertain in that the identifiable structures in this area are of medieval or post-medieval date, although the latter is evidently too recent for the visible remains. A prehistoric origin remains a possibility given that there is a pair of circular hut sites on a lower shelf to the W and there are occasional hints that the banks may extend further in this direction. (RH 26/02/2010)

113850 Pen Carreg Calch fold III SO2052222747

New description

Small rectangular structure comprising low, jumbled walling. Entrance possibly on the downhill (SW) side, though this is not certain. Measures 5m SW/NE by 4.5m SE/NW and up to 0.4m high. Slightly platformed up in front. (RJS 26/02/2010)

115622 Pen Carreg Calch fold IV SO2114021617

New description

Rectangular pound/enclosure measuring 11m NE/SW by 7m externally, with walls comprising roughly piled together surface stone and up to 1.5m in width. An edge-set stone on the S could mark a narrow entrance. Obvious constructed walling on the N. Might be prehistoric. (RJS 26/02/2010)

115623 Pen Carreg Calch hut SO2113221942

New description

Rectangular building measuring 7.5m N/S by 6m E/W externally. Although it is slightly bowed, the N wall is best preserved, standing to 1.3m high, while the W and S walls are only 0.4m high. The E wall and adjoining part of the S wall are only visible as foundations. The entrance seems to have been in the S wall where there is a possible jamb. (RJS 26/02/2010)

115624 Pen Carreg Calch platform SO2047921100

New description

Platform aligned NE/SW, at right-angles to the slope, which measures 12m in length and 5m wide. Comprises various elements, on the NE there is a building of drystone slab walling, about 6m long by 4.5m wide and up to 0.6m high, which is set back into the slope so no platform per se. Material has been thrown forward to create the front of the platform with an apron of perhaps 2m high which has some quarrying in its SW face. It partially utilises a natural scarp. (RJS 26/02/2010)

115625 Cefn Moel enclosure SO1579223430

New description

A small perhaps D-shaped enclosure, with an internal diameter of around 16m, defined by a small ditch or large gully which is around 0.6m deep. There is little in the way of an accompanying bank. Both the ditch and the interior have an irregular appearance because the ground is hummocky and very uneven. The ditch is visible on all sides but the east and this could be because of the presence of a small building. The evidence for this is equivocal, but at its southern-east end is a raised ridge which swings around to give short 'arms'. This does not have the appearance of being a natural configuration, yet there is no

convincing traces of the opposite end of the building. The most likely interpretation is a hafod-like feature (RS 02/2010).

115626 Cefn Moel mound SO1599622701

New description

A large scoop mound. The hollow on the uphill side is around 6m long by 2m, and the mound has similar dimensions with a height of about 0.7m (RS 02/2010).

Appendix 2: Scheduling Recommendations

Site Name: Cwm Banw, Grwyne Fechan, kidney-shaped enclosure

PRN: 43228

NGR: SO2164023930

Map: SO22SW

Altitude: 470

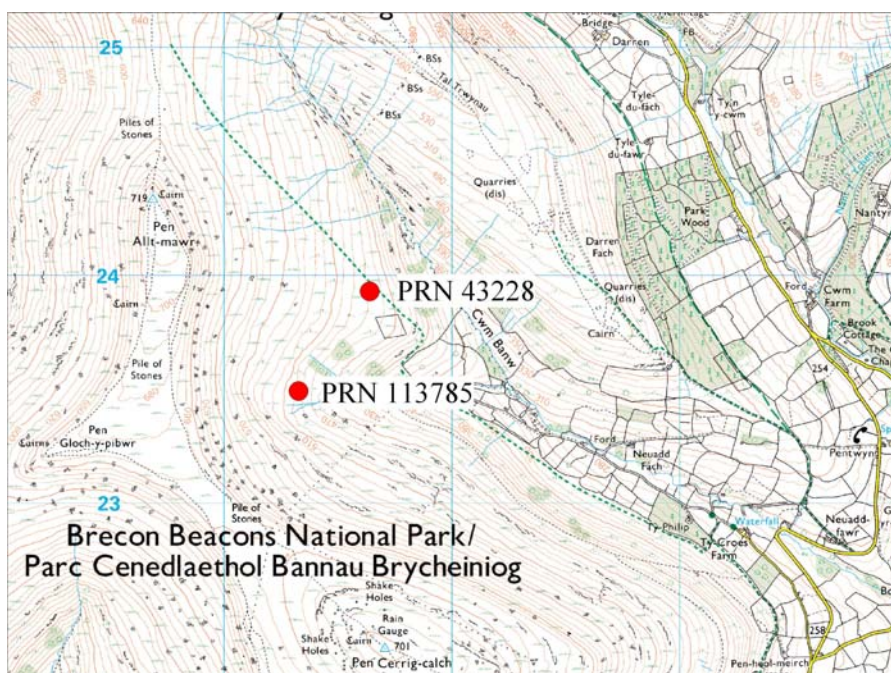
Type: Enclosure

Form: Structure

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

Kidney-bean shaped enclosure defined by rubble banks and scarps, although there is a very short section of wall-facing on the SW side of the interior. The enclosure is divided centrally (N/S) by a further stony scarp whose S end seems to coincide with an entrance gap where it meets the indented perimeter. The alleged hut circle on the N side of the enclosure, recorded by Makepeace, is no more than a collection of stones signifying late disturbance, with no conclusive trace of an earlier feature. The overall dimensions are 42m E/W by 35m N/S, with a maximum height c.1.0m. This enclosure could be either medieval or prehistoric in date but appears, from the lack of settlement evidence, to have had a pastoral function. Structurally similar to enclosure PRN 113785, about 500m distant.

This and PRN 113785 may merit statutory designation as being of significance in the understanding of the pastoral agrarian utilisation of the Black Mountains.



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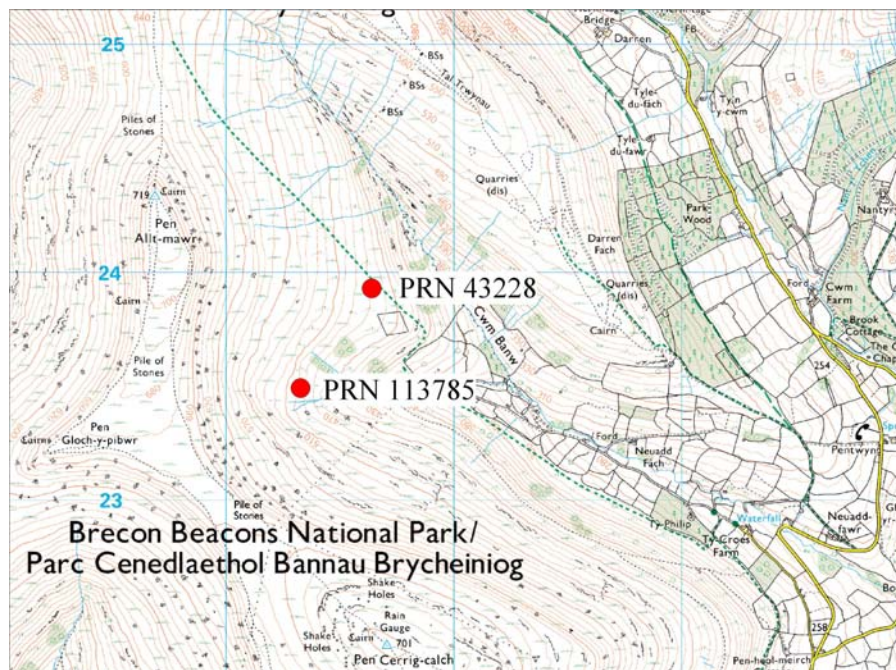
Mae'r map hwn yn seiliedig a'r ddeunydd yr Arolwg Ordnans gyda chaniatâd Arolwg Ordnans ar ran Rheolwr Llyfrfa Ei Majesttydi © Hawlfraint y Goron. Mae atgynhyrchu heb ganiatâd yn torri hawlfraint y Goron a gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru 100017916, 2010

Site Name: Cwm Banw W enclosure I**PRN:** 113785**NGR:** SO2132723493**Map:** SO22SW**Altitude:** 490**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

Bi-partite enclosure measuring 68m ESE/WNW by 55m NNE/SSW, overall, and defined by rubble banks, or scarps where it is terraced into the E-facing hill slope. The banks are about 0.6m high, scarps up to 1.2m high. Very similar in form to enclosure PRN 43228. The W part measures about 38m NNE/SSW by 31m, the E part 39m NNE/SSW by 42m. There is no apparent interconnection, the entrance to each probably being on the S side. There is no associated settlement so perhaps used in hefting, it seems too large to be used in everyday animal husbandry.

This and PRN 43228 may merit statutory designation as being of significance in the understanding of the pastoral agrarian utilisation of the Black Mountains.



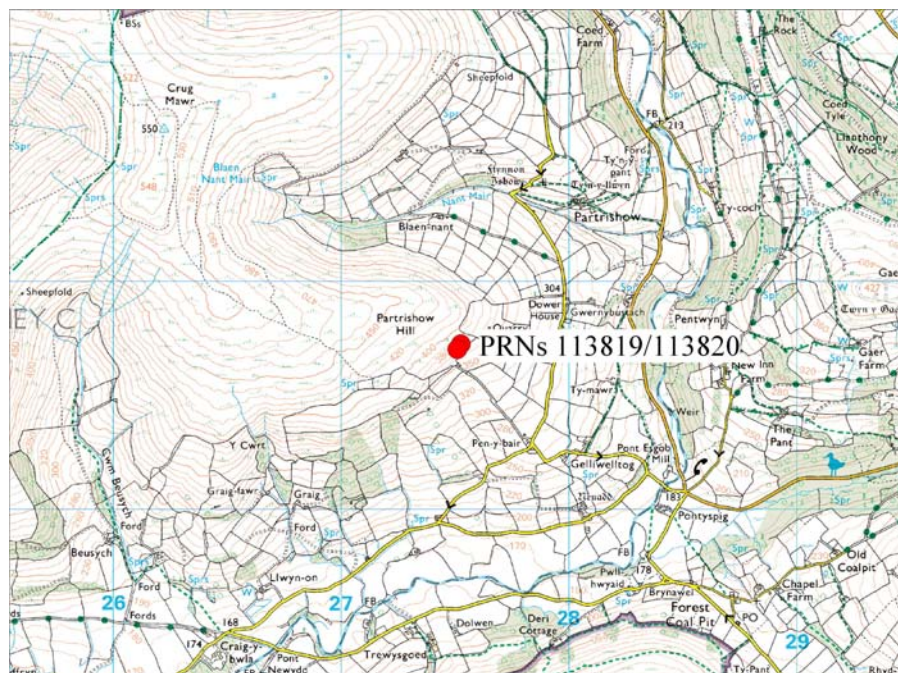
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Site Name: Partrishow Hill platforms II & III**PRN:** 113819 & 113820**NGR:** SO2752721725/SO2751121702**Map:** SO22SE**Altitude:** 380**Type:** Platform**Form:** Earthwork

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

Two medieval house platforms adjacent to each other and in near association with an abandoned embanked field system. PRN 113819 is a large platform just outside the field system (PRN 86796). Internally, it measures 11m NW/SE by 5m, with the fan 2m deep and the apron almost as sizeable. About 25m distant is the second site (PRN 113820) which is another large platform on the same contour as platform PRN 113819 and also just outside the field system (PRN 86796). Its interior measures 12m NW/SE by 7m, with a roughly similar apron and fan. Rubble is present in the interior and there are hints of a foundation wall at the SE end.



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