

CPAT Report No 1032

Severn Valley

The Scheduling Enhancement Programme



THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Report for Cadw

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Cover photo: Llandyssil Bridge Mound (PRN 4948), set in a possible abandoned course of the Severn
(photo CPAT 3022-0007)

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 valley and hinterland of the River Severn within the historic county of Montgomeryshire. The area is well known for its prehistoric and Roman occupation, and has contributed to many programmes of work within the prehistoric funerary and ritual monument, defended enclosure and hut circle projects as well as for Roman defensive sites and settlements. These projects have been reported on in various 'grey literature' reports carried out under the auspices of the on-going scheduling enhancement programme. The work considered in the present report is designed

as a tidying up exercise to ensure that all sites in the area relevant to the prehistoric and Roman era have been properly assessed.

For the purposes of the assessment, the bounds of the area have been defined more widely than the immediate environs of the River Severn and its valley, to include the hills on either side to a distance of approximately 5km from the river. The area at its southern end extends into the upper reaches of the Severn, where it broadens out into what has been termed the Caersws Basin with the eponymous village at its heart and where the Severn has its confluence with the Afon Trannon/Cerist and the Afon Carno. The defined area then continues downstream to the north-east for about 45km with an average width of 9km to 10km, widening out at the north-east end to around 14km where the Severn is joined by its major tributary, the River Vyrnwy, and then veers into England.

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:

- 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.
- the identification of those sites that might merit further examination through ground survey, geophysical survey and evaluation.
- the recommendation of future management strategies, specifically scheduling.
- the enhancement of the regional HER and through it the Extended National Database (END) maintained by the Royal Commission.
- 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 Severn Valley study were wholly desk-based, involving 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 Severn Valley region was identified.

The HER carries a very large number of records for the Severn Valley area, as defined for the terms of this enhancement project and depicted on Fig. 1. A total of just over 4,700 were included in the HER extract, and there is no doubt that this results from the accessibility of the area and, perhaps in large part, from the nature of the local soils combined with agricultural practice which have given rise to the recognition of a significant number of sites through the medium of aerial photography over the years.

When all sites and features that specifically attributable to the post-Roman era (i.e. from the Early Medieval through to the 20th century) were put aside, a revised total of just over one thousand records remained to be considered. Sites that were already statutorily designated and thus well-recorded accounted for a further 236 entries and there were also two sites which had been de-scheduled following excavation, one, the Trelystan round barrows (PRN 132), where the site had been removed by the excavations and the other, the so-called Crosswood Camp (PRN 1245) where the findings of the investigation led to its reassessment as a fortuitous arrangement of a trackway and boundaries, not deemed worthy of statutory designation. It is possible that the number of schedulings is not a definitive figure as recent designations have not yet have been entered into the HER.

There remained 771 sites to be assessed, a large figure in comparison to most of the other scheduling enhancement programmes, but from this total a greater than normal number could be removed as a result of them having been assessed by previous site-specific projects, such as Roman roads (110), prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments (65), and defended enclosures (158). Together with lesser numbers considered during other projects, this gave the remaining resource as 434 sites. A further 115 records could be removed as they were related to chance finds that were not known to be associated with any known surviving features. The finds were of all types and materials, with a reasonably even spread of lithic and metal objects, but few examples of ceramic material. The most significant record was probably that relating to the hoard (PRN 96) of over 120 objects dating to the Late Bronze Age, found about 2km to the east of Guilsfield in 1862.

Further sites were removed from consideration as knowledge of them was already felt to be sufficient on which to base an assessment of their potential value. These were primarily sites which had already been subject to programmes of either geophysics (16) or excavation (55). As already mentioned there is a significant number of cropmark sites in the Severn Valley, and outline plots of many of these are available in a GIS layer created by CPAT some years ago, and generally are as detailed as they can be without a further input from new aerial photography. In the case of 88 of these cropmarks, the plotted evidence appeared to be sufficient to use as a basis for assessment.

There were some 39 place-names in the HER extract which were disregarded. These have been variously thought to denote the presence in the past of defensive sites, stones, or potential funerary monuments but could not be correlated with any known physical remains. A further 10 records appeared to refer to natural landforms on the evidence of visits by subsequent commentators, and a further 12 records were reassessed as duplicates of others already present within the HER. Finally, a single site was found to be within England when the aerial photograph on which it showed was re-examined. Removal of all these records led to around 150 records being analysed 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 Severn Valley SEP and other previous programmes.

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

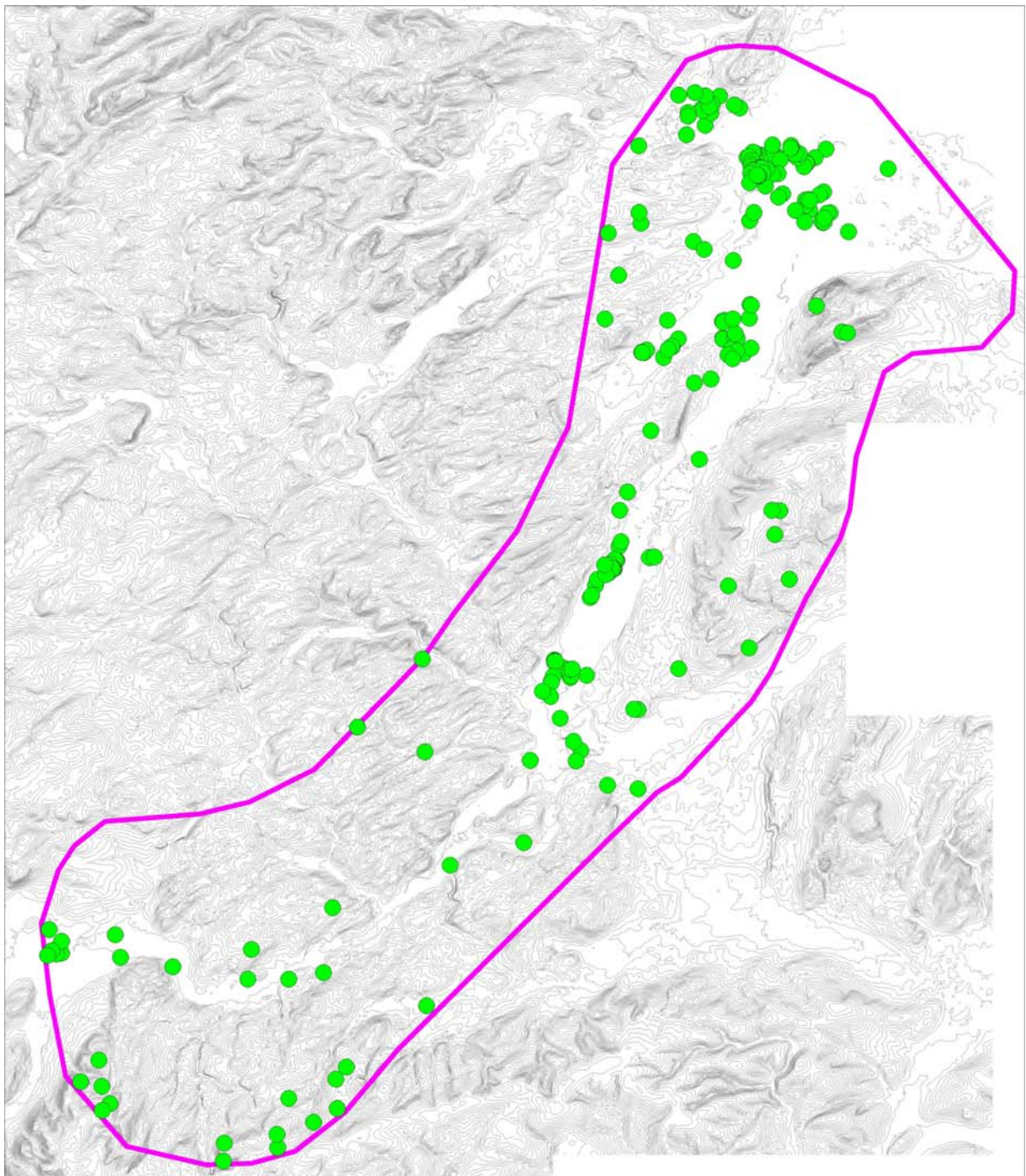
<i>Theme/area</i>		HER record numbers	Records assessed	Finds	Records enhanced	Records: minor changes	Site visits	SAM recs.
<i>Vale of Clwyd</i>	CPAT Report 948	726	168	99	25	6	8	0
<i>Roman Settlement</i>	CPAT Report 963	51	41	313	13	12	1	1
<i>Roman Religious Sites</i>	CPAT Report 964	25	21		12	7	2	0
<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
<i>Severn Valley</i>	CPAT Report 1032	4703	771	115	96	62	29	0

The Assessment

As noted above the Severn Valley area examined in this report follows the course of the river for about 45km, from the vicinity of Caersws in the south-west to its confluence with the River Vyrnwy in the north-east. The area extends for an average of 5km on either side of the river, expanding to an overall width of about 14km at its north-east end where the valley floor is significantly wider owing to the action of the Vyrnwy (see Fig. 1). The area embraced by the study is a little over 450km².

In its upper reaches the valley has a relatively flat floor, from 0.5km to 2km in width, with quite steep sides. Only some 5km downstream of Welshpool does this change, when the valley floor broadens gradually to an eventual width of around 7km at the north-east end of the study area. The heavily stream dissected ground to either side has a general slope down from south-west to north-east, the highest part of the study area probably being the hills overlooking Caersws on its south side at just over 500m OD, while to the north-east the ground eventually falls to an overall level of about 150m OD. The only exceptions to this trend are the pronounced summits of the Long Mountain and Breiddin Hills, on the south side of the Severn near Welshpool, which reach just over 400m OD. Within the valley, the river itself falls in elevation from about 120m OD at Caersws to around 60m OD at the Vyrnwy confluence and is joined by two major tributaries, the rivers Rhiw and Camlad, both of which emerge near the village of Berriew.

Our re-assessment included the utilisation of a range of records including the Ordnance Survey cards, early Ordnance Survey maps, and 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.



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Archaeological data, from the Regional Historic Environment Record, supplied by The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in partnership with the Local Authorities, Cadw and the partners of ENDEX © CPAT, 2009 (and in part © Crown, 2009)

Manylion archaeolegol, o'r Cofnod yr Amgylchedd Hanesyddol Rhanbarthol, cyflenwi gan yr Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn partneriaeth gyda'r Awdurdodau Lleol, Cadw a'r partneri ENDEX © CPAT, 2009 (ac yn rhan © Coron, 2009).

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

The more detailed assessment process removed a reasonable number of the sites and features from consideration, usually because site information was too sparse, the location too imprecise, or because 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 earlier assessments, 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.

It has already been mentioned that sites recorded from aerial photographs are a significant factor in the known archaeological resource of the Severn Valley, also that many of these have been plotted against the GIS background by CPAT over the years. It became clear, however, that there were a small number of sites for which sources were available that had not been plotted in this manner, so, once the desk-based assessment was complete, the opportunity was taken to create plots for the purposes of HER enhancement. Ten sites were found to have suitable sources from which plots could be created, and the additional detailed information that was obtained regarding each has been appended to the relevant HER records. An example of one of the plots is given below for illustrative purposes.

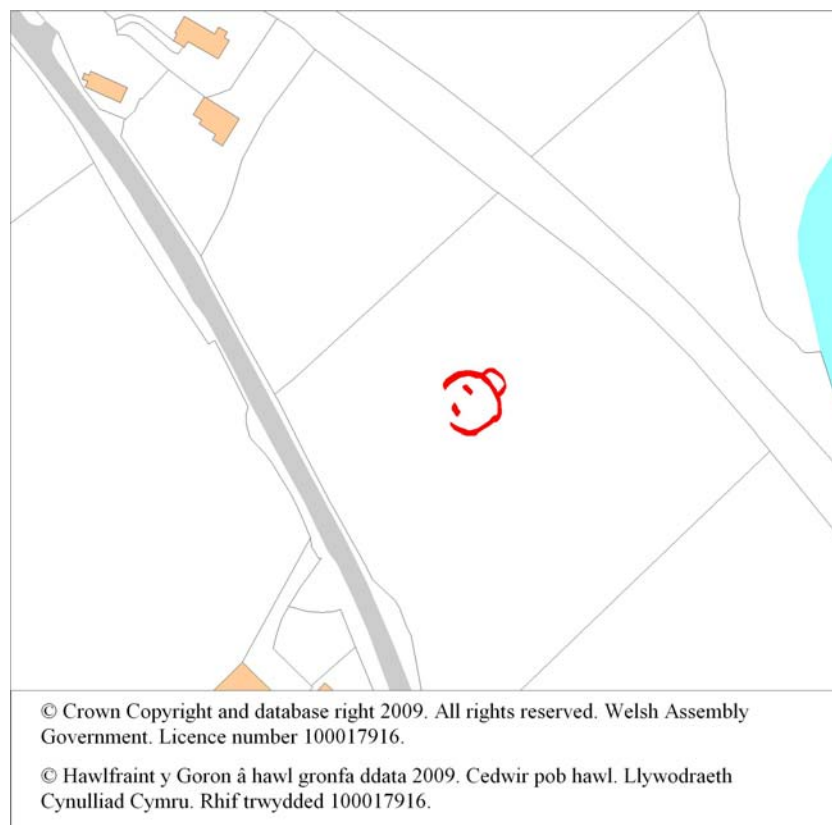


Fig. 2 Plot of PRN 4692, near Penstrowed, Newtown created from CUAP CAZ 39

Pit alignments belong to a class of monument which has not been considered under other programmes of scheduling enhancement but is of potential relevance to late prehistoric activity in the lower Severn Valley. In the area around Four Crosses these are represented by linear series of pits (almost exclusively identified from the air) which form what appear to be inter-related fields. At present none of these pits have provided dating evidence, but a late Bronze Age or early Iron Age origin has been suggested, within a more general concept that sees the formalisation of land tenure in the hands of

certain local groups during that era (Wigley, 2007, 119-134). The widespread nature of these alignments and the fairly intensive cultivation which characterises the area leads to some difficulties in considering the merit of statutory protection, particularly as there are no surface traces of any of the alignments. The depth of individual features is a mitigating factor which implies that even intensive ploughing regimes would be insufficient to remove significant evidence, and it seems likely that any significant future threats would be ameliorated by the planning process. On the other hand as fine examples of a very distinctive type of prehistoric field system, these might be considered worthy of scheduling because of their significance in a national context. But field systems by their very nature and extent are more difficult to evaluate for designatory purposes and arguably a more strategic and specifically focused overview needs to be taken of such systems, looking at the evidence from the country as a whole, rather than from a single area.



Plate 1: Aerial view of the pit alignments at Four Crosses (photo CPAT 83-C-0131)

Fieldwork overall focused on a small number of sites, despite the relatively large potential resource, but there were a number of mitigating factors that explained this anomaly. One of the most significant has been alluded to above and concerns the large number of cropmark sites present in the study area, very few of these were visited as it was reasonably certain that no surface traces would be present to examine. In part, this is due to the agricultural use of some areas having smoothed out the traces of many sites. Even in the prehistoric and Roman periods, the area was no doubt a centre for crop production, its relative fertility in comparison to the surrounding hills owing in major part to seasonal flooding and the corresponding silt distribution on the flood plain, something which still occurs despite the construction of flood defences throughout much of the lower section of the study area in the late 18th to early 19th centuries.

Another major reason is geographical, in that the area is close to centres of population and easily accessed, and of course CPAT is based within the area and therefore any sites which have been

discovered are more likely to have been examined in the past. The result of this is that sites of interest are generally better understood than might be the case in more remote areas, where they may only have received a single visit at the time of, or subsequent to, their discovery.

In relation to those sites which were visited, a significant proportion could either not be located or proved to be unrelated to the study period. One example of the latter was the Middletown Quarry (PRN 4515), which is situated on the small knoll lying between Moel y Golfa and Middletown Hill in the Breiddin Hills, and where the original record suggested that the earthworks might represent a hillfort. Given that there are a number of prehistoric enclosures in the locality, this seemed to merit further examination but its resemblance to a hillfort was entirely fortuitous and only evident from the Middletown Hill side. Its nature was confirmed by the spoil which had been left and the irregular base of the excavated hollows, which cover a sinuous line running for approximately 120m. It is presumed that the quarrying was for stone, rather than any metalliferous ore as the workings are in volcanic ash and conglomerate which is not mineralised.



Plate 2: Middletown Quarry taken from Middletown Hill (photo CPAT 3022-0001)

Similarly, a wrong attributed site of potential interest within this study was the Maes y Gwastad platform (PRN 5643), on the outskirts of Welshpool, where the earthworks had been seen as potentially late prehistoric or Roman and even compared to a Roman fort. The site comprises a levelled platform on the crest of a broad ridge, but the earthworks are only present on the north-east and north-west sides, so the site is not defensive as such and certainly not Roman from its appearance. It seems most probable that it represents a 19th-century military encampment, as it is known that the local militia used the area as a training ground for 28 days each year from the late 1850's to the 1870's.

More obviously speculative was an alleged hill figure (PRN 972) on Glog Hill, near Dolfor, recorded in passing by the Ordnance Survey in 1959. This has not been subsequently identified, despite the hill slope in question being readily visible from the main A483 road between Llandrindod Wells and Newtown, and it is reasonably certain that the recorder mistook patterns in the natural vegetation cover (bracken) for an artificially created figure.



Plate 3: The site of the alleged Glog Hill figure lies above the roadside quarry
(photo CPAT 3022-0014)

Few of the visited sites were found to be authentic, though one of the positive discoveries was the Black Gate enclosure (PRN 1896), near Dolfor, which had been effectively dismissed in the past as an aberrant mark on an aerial photograph, but proved to be a sub-circular earthwork enclosure. This lay on a very gentle slope at the natural saddle/watershed between the Mule and Ithon river catchments and was approximately 45m in diameter, defined by a low bank about 4m-5m wide and up to 0.4m high, with hints of an external ditch. A possible entrance gap, 5m wide, lay on the SW side.

A linear parchmark (PRN 4946) seen on a Cambridge aerial photograph on the floor of the Severn Valley, near Berriew, in 1967, was another of the sites selected for visiting. This had been recorded in the HER as a probable former field boundary, but a closer examination of its alignment highlighted the fact that it was heading directly towards the Roman fort at Forden, on the opposite side of the Severn, so there was a possibility that it signified the remains of a Roman road. The overall width of the parchmark, excluding the possible ditches to either side was between 4m and 5m, which supported the hypothesis. If correct, the most likely interpretation is that this is a Roman road running towards Forden Gaer from Caer Gai, suggesting it links up with the road northward from Caersws somewhere to the south-east of Lake Vyrnwy. The alignment also suggests that there was a river crossing between about SJ 2013 0025 and SJ 2019 0014, depending on the course of the river in the Roman period. A

subsequent field visit revealed no definite trace of the feature, although it seems to have only been apparent in the central area of the field which is slightly higher in elevation. Augering at the north-north-west end of the field showed that gravel was present at 0.7m below the ground surface, but this extended across the projected line of the feature for more than 25m, so is probably natural in origin. Further work would be needed to resolve the nature of the feature, as it was not possible to auger its immediate area due to a crop.

Although fieldwork was tightly focussed on known sites of reasonable potential, one new site was recorded in passing, during the examination of an alleged enclosure on the flood plain of the Vyrnwy near Four Crosses. This proved to be a possible fish weir comprising two parallel rows of oak posts, each about the size of modern fencing posts or slightly larger (maximum diameter about 0.25m), which collectively projected about 5m into the waters of the River Vyrnwy, at an acute angle on the outside of a meander. The post tops were at least 3m below the level of the adjoining fields, which suggested they were of considerable antiquity, perhaps medieval in origin. Each row was aligned east-north-east/west-south-west with four posts in the north-north-west row and six posts in the south-south-east row. The posts were between 0.6m and 0.8m apart, while the two rows are about 1.2m apart, and are actively eroding out of the clay/silt which forms the river bank. No doubt some have been lost to river action, particularly as the two lines stop a similar distance from the river bank when the north-north-west line should continue for at least another 2m. There is a degree of assumption in the measurements as most of the site was not readily accessible at the base of the steep river bank, but it was possible to examine the west-south-west end of the north-north-west line where wattling was observed at and below the water line, linking the last two visible posts.



Plate 4: The possible fish weir on the Vyrnwy, buried beneath deep silts (photo CPAT 3022-0012)

Appendix 1 – Site List ordered by name

<i>Name</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>
Bank House enclosure III	32868	SJ2806504662	Defended enclosure	Iron Age
Black Gate Enclosure	1896	SO1061585248	Enclosure	Prehistoric
Black Wood Mound	3715	SO15649878	Non antiquity	Unknown
Bryn Gwyn Cairn	65583	SO0462787343	Mound	Undated
Cae Thygley Hollow Way	4586	SJ15560193	Trackway	Medieval
Corfield Wood Cropmarks	5063	SO13349960	Hillfort	Iron Age
Dol-las Roman road	4946	SJ1993500653	Road	Roman
Domgay Farm Cropmark	38114	SJ2865318876	Cropmark	Unknown
Dyffryn Lane Cropmarks II	5253	SJ19650083	Field system	Prehistoric
Four Crosses pit alignments	50521	SJ2730018670	Pit alignment	Iron Age
Glanmilheli Fort	1051	SO157901	Fort	Roman
Glog hill figure	972	SO08778479	Vegetation mark	Undated
Limekiln Cottages Cropmark	2452	SJ21770515	Building	Post Medieval
Llandrinio Cropmark	38073	SJ2946517187	Clas boundary	Dark Age
Llandyssil Bridge Mound	4948	SO19019567	Motte and bailey	Medieval
Llandyssilio cropmark	7969	SJ2662919085	Field boundary	Unknown
Llwynwron Cropmark	3969	SJ2145504450	Ring ditch	Bronze Age
Lords Buildings Cropmark II	4924	SJ27480701	Ring ditch	Bronze Age
Maen Llog Stone	5619	SJ2255307639	Non antiquity	Unknown
Maerdy Brook Ring Ditch	4626	SJ2671716913	Round barrow	Bronze Age
Maes Gwastad Platform	5643	SJ22290701	Military camp	19th Century
Middletown quarry	4515	SJ29871311	Quarry	Post Medieval
Old Court Cropmark	1894	SO11008693	Round barrow	Bronze Age
Penstrowed Cropmark	4692	SO0704691428	Enclosure	Bronze Age
Penthryn Fach Ring Ditch	5257	SJ2686317197	Round barrow	Bronze Age
Pwll Ring Ditch	5044	SO2290997510	Round barrow	Bronze Age
Red House Enclosure II	6150	SO0508192528	Non antiquity	Undated
Rhandre-gynwen banks	23561	SJ2932419356	Drainage ditches	20th Century
Sarkley hollow way	43201	SO21879764	Hollow way	Medieval
Sarn-y-bryn-caled Junction,cropmark	4025	SJ2195405164	Trackway	Post Medieval
The West fish weir	114442	SJ2942519344	Fish Weir	Medieval
Trwst Llewelyn "Earthworks"	150	SO1924298485	Non antiquity	Unknown
Weavers Plantation Ring Ditch	7117	SJ2757706184	Round barrow	Bronze Age
Whitehouse Bridge Barrow	5026	SJ2235005960	Round barrow	Bronze Age

Appendix 2 – Gazetteer of newly assessed sites

150 Trwst Llewelyn "Earthworks" SO1924298485 Non antiquity Unknown

Old description

Ancient earthworks (OS, 1901). Apparently a natural bank (RCAHM, 1911ff).

Spurgeon agrees that the earthworks are a natural feature (1966).

Remfry believes that they may be remnants of an army camp (1998).

New description

Depicted on the first edition OS map of 1886 (Montgomeryshire 30.14). The OS record card cites the RCAHMW Inventory of 1911, which describes the site as being naturally broken ground forming a bank less than two feet (0.6m) high with no ditch. It apparently possessed no resemblance to a defensive position. (RH 08/01/2010)

972 Glog hill figure SO08778479 Vegetation mark Undated

Old description

Supposed hill figure depicting a man in a rectilinear enclosure (OS archive, 1959; OS archive, 1959 A). Probably a fortuitous vegetational pattern. No such feature located by CPAT site visit, 1978; OS, 1977.

New description

According to the OS record card the feature comprised a twin hill figure within a rectilinear enclosure, the S and E sides of which were seen within fresh bracken growth in May and June 1959. The location was described as being to the E of a minor stream and above a quarry, so the NGR has been changed from SO087848 to better reflect this. It is also mentioned that similar vague markings are apparent on RAF APs 541/40/Nos 3287 & 3288, taken on 22/5/1948. (RH 08/01/2010)

The site was not apparent on the ground and is presumed to have been due to patterns formed in the partial bracken cover of this location. (RH 16/02/2010)

1051 Glanmilheli Fort SO157901 Fort Roman

Old description

Roman camp found at Glanmilheli (St Joseph, J K, 1973). Apparently visible as slight ridge running N/S through centre of field. Partial excavation on E side revealed 'v-shaped' ditch some 1.07m wide by 0.76m deep. No further detail.

New description

This site was assessed as a possible fort by the Roman military project, but no other evidence was forthcoming bar the very small ditch already revealed by excavation. The fields were examined by RCAHMW in 1985 but nothing was visible except for some linear depressions running N/S across the W field which had just been resown. A few sherds of post-medieval pottery were found but nothing of any significance. It is unlikely that permission will be forthcoming to repeat the exercise. (RH 19/02/2010)

3969 Llwynwron Cropmark SJ2145504450 Ring ditch Bronze Age

Old description

Probable ring ditch or round barrow ditch. Some 20m dia. No surface indications (OS, 1981).

Ring ditch c24m in diameter, ditch c2m wide (Thomas D, 1998b)

New description

Ring ditch alongside main road about 250m N of Moat Farm. The site shows very well on CUAP BVQ 019, taken in 1975, and has been plotted from this source giving a diameter of 19m and a ditch width of about 2m. The location was also revised from SJ 2140 0450. (RH 08/01/2010)

4025 Sarn-y-bryn-caled Junction,cropmark SJ2195405164 Trackway Post Medieval

Old description

Two parallel ditches possibly separated by a bank. Ditches approximately 12m apart. Possibly a ploughed out boundary, though may be a continuation of cursus feature PRN 3482.

New description

The cropmark was plotted from CUAP BGR 5, taken on 21/7/1971, where it appears as two broad parallel ditches exhibiting a very slight curve in their overall NE/SW alignment. They have a total visible length of 185m, and an overall width of about 8m-10m, leaving a medial gap of about 3.5m. The OS record card notes that the ditches are not on the same alignment as the nearby Welshpool cursus (PRN 3482) and are therefore not related; this is correct, as the alignments differ by about 8 degrees, such that a projected alignment of the cursus to the NE would diverge from the visible cropmark. The projected line would be 40m distant at the SW end of the visible cropmark up to 70m distant at its NE end. The origin of the cropmark remains uncertain, perhaps a former road ? (RH 11/01/2010)

4515 Middletown quarry SJ29871311 Quarry Post Medieval

Old description

Series of small quarry pits on E and N side of Middletown Hill. Major linear quarry running roughly N/S across E side. Resembles hillfort.

New description

The original record is somewhat misleading, as the quarrying is actually on the N and E sides of the small knoll lying between Moel y Golfa and Middletown Hill. There is no doubt that this is quarrying; its resemblance to a hillfort is entirely fortuitous and only evident from the Middletown Hill side. Its nature is also confirmed by the spoil which has been left and the irregular base of the excavated hollows, which cover a sinuous line running for approximately 120m between SJ 2987 1311 and SJ 2994 1302. The only evidence of quarrying on the N and E sides of Middletown Hill is a series of small road construction quarries alongside the minor road running NE/SW. (RH 22/01/2010)

Note that this record is duplicated by PRN 34880 which has the following description: Area of surface quarrying/mine trials immediately north of the modern disused quarry on the hillside. The workings extend from the present quarry edge to a point 250m north in the saddle between Middletown Hill and Bryn Hill to the west. A long linear openwork with lateral and terminal tips is located at the junction of 6 footpaths in the saddle of the hill. South of this the workings consist of shallow pits, 1 shaft mound and more extensive curved quarry faces above the modern quarry. No mineral can be seen on

the tips and the workings are in volcanic ash and conglomerate which is not mineralised so this is probably stone quarrying. (CPAT 1997).

4586 Cae Thygley Hollow Way SJ15560193 Trackway Medieval

Old description

Hollow way 2.2m wide and 1m deep going from SJ15430199 to SJ15650187 running down slope to Cae Thygley enclosure (PRN 111) and possible associated with it. A mound at SJ154020 associated with a junction of the hollow way was removed during forest operations in 1979 but nothing manmade was noted. (CPAT 1979).

New description

This is perhaps more likely to be an abandoned route of the trackway which once linked Caethugley and Bank Farm. If this is so, then it must predate the first edition OS mapping of 1886 (Montgomeryshire 29.08 and 30.05), where the existing trackway to the west is depicted, although it seems unlikely that it would predate the post-medieval period. It is not directly aligned towards the Cae Thygley enclosure and there seems to be no particular reason for the alleged association. (RH 05/01/2010)

4626 Maerdy Brook Ring Ditch SJ2671716913 Round barrow Bronze Age

Old description

Circular ring ditch c30m diameter (ESE half truncated by railway cutting - now infilled). Possible barrow with PRN 3606 and 4625. (Owen, W G 1993).

New description

The NGR for the site was changed from SJ27601690, which was obviously incorrect. The cropmark was plotted from CPAT oblique AP 79-CM-0006, due to the lack of control points on the main source (CPAT 79-CM-0005). It was not visible in low light on RAF AP 541/214 No 3060, taken on 8/12/1948.

Plotting allowed the NGR to be accurately determined and provided a revised diameter of c.18.0m, with a ditch width of 1.8m. About one third of the diameter has been lost as a result of the railway cutting. (RH 20/01/2010)

4692 Penstrowed Cropmark SO0704691428 Enclosure Bronze Age

Old description

Irregular cropmark appearing as 2 oval pits surrounded by a sub-circular ditch some 25m across. Possibly a tree ring. No further detail.

New description

Although irregular in detail, the overall shape of the cropmark is circular, measuring approximately 21.5m in diameter, with a semi-circular annexe on the NW side some 9.8m in diameter. The ditches are between 1.5m and 2.0m in width, but a section is missing, or not readily decipherable, on the W side. Internally there are two probable pits, one at SO 07045 91433 measuring 4.1m NW/SE by 1.8m, the other at SO 07041 91427 measuring 4.2m NW/SE by 2.0m. The location has been refined to a 10-figure grid reference. The above information was gleaned by plotting the site from CUAP CAZ 39. (RH 07/01/2010)

4924 Lords Buildings Cropmark II SJ27480701 Ring ditch Bronze Age

Old description

Possible ring ditch, some 15m in diameter. Irregular.

New description

The cropmark was recorded from CPAT AP 75-c-0003, which appears to show a circular feature at his location, looking from the west. However, on examining CPAT AP 75-c-0001, which was taken from the south, it is apparent that the marks are not as regular as they appeared and are probably fortuitous. It therefore appears that the site is not an authentic ring ditch. RAF APs were also examined, but the location was cloud-covered on RAF 106G/UK 1468 Nos 3117 & 3118, taken 4/5/1946, and the site was not visible on RAF 106G/UK 1698 Nos 5042-4, taken 27/8/1946. (RH 05/01/2010)

4946 Dol-las Roman road SJ1993500653 Road Roman

Old description

300m long parchmark. Straight. Bearing 340 degrees. Very probably part of field system PRNs 3589 & 5253.

[PRN 2250 cancelled duplication of this record.]

New description

The parchmark was plotted and defined from CUAP ASQ 31 between SJ 19893 00737 and SJ 19973 00576, a distance of about 180m on a NNW/SSE alignment. The overall width of the parchmark, excluding the possible ditches to either side is between 4m and 5m. It is perhaps visible in the plotted location on RAF 106G/UK 1468 No 4105, taken on 4/5/1946, but only appears there as the slightest hint of a mark.

The 1764 Vaynor estate map demonstrates that it is not part of the medieval field system in this locality and the most likely interpretation is that this is a Roman road running towards Forden Gaer fort, with which it is aligned. Its origin is presumably Caer Gai, suggesting it links up with the road northward from Caersws somewhere to the SE of Lake Vyrnwy. The alignment also suggests that there was a river crossing between about SJ 2013 0025 and SJ 2019 0014, depending on the course of the river in the Roman period. Might be worth augering as a rapid means of determining whether there are any sub-surface traces. (RH 08/01/2010)

A subsequent field visit revealed no definite trace of the feature, but it seems to have only been apparent in the central area of the field which is slightly higher in elevation. Augering at the NNW end of the field showed that gravel was present at 0.7m below the ground surface, but this extended across the projected line of the mark for more than 25m, so is probably natural in origin. Perhaps it has been subject to river erosion in the vicinity of the Rhiw/Severn confluence. Further work would be needed to resolve the nature of the feature, but it was not possible to auger its immediate area due to a crop. (RH 04/02/2010)

4948 Llandyssil Bridge Mound SO19019567 Motte and bailey Medieval

Old description

Mound, 32.5m diameter NW/SE by 28m across and 2.7m high, constructed on morainic mound possibly used as bailey (OS, 1981). Poss ditch cropmark 60m diameter (CPAT, AP, 1978).

New description

Large mound on the valley floor near Llandyssil with something of a 'tail' on the east side, measuring overall 110m E/W by 75m N/S and up to 6m high. Its appearance hints at use as a motte and bailey with the higher part on the W and a lower, though somewhat irregular, area to its E. The mound composition is mostly gravel with occasional larger, sub-angular, stones visible in the eroded areas next to the two trees which grow on the mound. The top of the higher part measures 15m WNW/ESE by 10m. Overall this looks almost like an incomplete attempt to construct a motte and bailey on a natural glacial mound. The valley at this point has the appearance of a long abandoned course of the River Severn, as it is far too wide for the existing stream on the valley floor. (RH 04/02/2010)

5026 Whitehouse Bridge Barrow SJ2235005960 Round barrow Bronze Age

Old description

Mound some 18.5m N/S by 17m E/W by 0.5m high (max), apparently composed of earth and small stones. Lies on W flood plain of River Severn. Probably a barrow.

PRN 17003 may be a duplicate record for this (CPAT 1997).

New description

A mound is visible at this location on RAF AP 106G/UK 1698 Nos 3054 & 3055, taken on 27/8/1946. (RH 21/01/2010)

Only a single mound is visible in this field, so it is likely that the other records describing extant barrows in this immediate area (PRNs 17001 and 32829) are duplicates. The mound is now scheduled. (RH 16/02/2010)

5044 Pwll Ring Ditch SO2290997510 Round barrow Bronze Age

Old description

Possible ring ditch showing as area of flattened crop, c 20 metres diameter. (CPAT, AP, 1979; CPAT, AP, 1979).

New description

The site was plotted from CPAT AP 79-C-005, where it appears as an authentic ring ditch. Overall diameter obtained from the plotting was c.19m with a gap of about 4m in the circuit on the WSW side, although whether this relates to the crop response or is an authentic gap is unclear. The ditch appears to be between 2m and 2.5m in width. (RH 07/01/2010)

5063 Corfield Wood Cropmarks SO13349960 Hillfort Iron Age

Old description

Series of curved and linear cropmarks. Appearing in part as a bivallate hillfort. Possibly a geological feature. No surface indications of the linear marks and the bivallate mark may be a natural swelling (OS, 1982).

New description

Original description in HER slightly incorrect in that the OS comment is that the allegedly bivallate cropmark visible on CPAT APs 79-12-35 & 36 coincides with a natural swelling of the ground, although this is not surprising given that the marks appeared as a result of the parching of grass cover on the natural swelling. The bivallate attribution is somewhat debatable, the marks on the aerial

photographs seem to represent a sub-oval enclosure measuring about 60m NNE/SSW by 20m, with a rectangular annexe on the SSW end measuring approximately 20m WNW/ESE by 10m. The marks appear to be rather more convincing than has been previously suggested. (RH 07/01/2010)

5253 Dyffryn Lane Cropmarks II SJ19650083 Field system Prehistoric

Old description

Series of connected linears. Appearing as three sides of a rhombus. Probably part of field system. See also PRNs 3589 & 4946.

New description

Almost certainly part of the medieval field system in the area around Dyffryn Lane, Berriew. The NGR coincides with one of the boundary alignments shown on a Vaynor estate map of the late 18th century. (RH 11/01/2010)

5257 Penthryn Fach Ring Ditch SJ2686317197 Round barrow Bronze Age

Old description

Ring ditch some 15m in diameter. No further detail.

New description

Cropmark plotted from CUAP BTP 097, taken in 1975. Overall, the plot gives a diameter of 11.2m, the ditch traces being of variable width, from 1.0m to 2.2m. The NGR was slightly refined to reflect the results of the plotting. (RH 11/01/2010)

5619 Maen Llog Stone SJ2255307639 Non antiquity Unknown

Old description

Sub cubical stone block some 0.8m high, 0.66m broad and from 0.64m (top) to 0.8m (girth) wide. Two railing holes (1 with stump) in top. Possibly relates to font of Thomas, 1874.

Noted as former standing stone by Bird, A J, 1977.

New description

Large stone next to the sundial outside the main entrance of St Mary's church. It rests on the ground and there is no evidence for prehistoric utilisation. The reason for the traces of railing in its upper surface is not readily apparent. (RH 04/02/2010)

5643 Maes Gwastad Platform SJ22290701 Military camp 19th Century

Old description

Level platform some 55m square by 1.1m high with a trace of an enclosure (scarp 0.7m high on NW and a bank 0.1m high on NE) adjoining to NE. Prob a medieval feature (possibly a fairground) though does bear a remarkable resemblance to a Roman fort.

New description

A levelled platform on the crest of the broad ridge. The earthworks are only apparent on the NE and NW sides so the site is not defensive as such and certainly not Roman from its appearance. It is possible that it may have been a fair site, but perhaps more likely is the possibility of it being a 19th century military encampment, as suggested by PRN 77930, whose description states "From the late

1850's to the 1870's, the local militia had 28 days training each year, utilising Maes y Gwasted in Powis Park as a training ground. (Brown, R L, 2000, 5)"

6150 Red House Enclosure II SO0508192528 Non antiquity Undated

Old description

Trapezoidal single-ditched enclosure some 40m NE/SW, being 35m across at the NE and 25m at the SW ends. Showing no apparent entrance. No further detail.

New description

The site seems to show as an earthwork on RAF AP CPE/UK 2474 No 3003, taken 9/3/1948, although the location is slightly different and the NGR has been altered to suit. It lies within one of the meanders of the Severn on the north bank of the river, an unusual position given the threats from flooding and erosion. Although the site visibility was fairly poor, it was plotted from the above photograph giving dimensions of 38m NNW/SSE by 50m ENE/WSW on the SSE side and 30m ENE/WSW on the NNW side, the ditch appeared to vary from 4.5m to 6.0m in width. The river course was also plotted and this demonstrated that it had shifted closer to the site, from 60m in 1948 to about 40m at the present day. (RH 21/01/2010)

Examination of the area on the ground revealed that the features visible on the RAF AP coverage were fairly amorphous hollows, probably created by scouring during floods, and not artificial. Both this and the previous location (SO 0496 9258) provided no evidence of an enclosure. (RH 12/02/2010)

7117 Weavers Plantation Ring Ditch SJ2757706184 Round barrow Bronze Age

Old description

Cropmark ring ditch some 25m across. In an area of geological cropmarks.

New description

Plotted from CPAT AP 84-C-0352, which has led to the revision of the NGR for the site from SJ 2755 0615. The overall diameter obtained from the plot was about 21.5m, with what appears to be a definite gap on the W side of 5.5m. Width of ditch about 1.5m. (RH 07/01/2010)

7969 Llandyssilio cropmark SJ2662919085 Field boundary Unknown

Old description

Cropmark some 100m long, identified from aerial photographs (CPAT, 1995).

New description

Hook-shaped cropmark visible on CPAT APs 95-019-0006 and 0007. Plotted from 95-019-0007 as this showed additional detail to the existing plot. Total length of visible cropmark is c.290m, with a width of 2m-3m. It runs SSE from SJ 26551 19206 to SJ 26665 19051, where it begins to curve around to the S then WSW, before finally ending at SJ 26599 19013. The nature of the feature is unknown, but it seems unlikely to be an enclosure, more probably a ditch or redundant boundary. (RH 11/01/2010)

23561 Rhandre-gynwen banks SJ2932419356 Drainage ditches 20th Century*Old description*

Possible enclosure demarcated by banks 4m wide and 0.4m high. Width of enclosure 26m. Possible entrance in north-east corner (Smith, I R 1995, 24).

New description

This is not an enclosure, the rectangular area reported is defined by ditches up to 4m wide. The only banks appear where the ditches have been cleared out in the past. The whole field is very wet and liable to flooding. Completely unsuitable for an enclosure. Overall dimensions 135m NNE/SSW by 34m. Maximum depth of ditches is 0.5m. (RH 22/01/2010)

32868 Bank House enclosure III SJ2806504662 Defended enclosure Iron Age*Old description*

D-shaped enclosure 33m NW/SE by 27m SW/NE. Possible entrance on E side. Possible associated linears to NW.

New description

The cropmark was plotted from CPAT AP 89-MB-866, giving dimensions for the enclosure of 34.0m NW/SE by 28.8m, with a cropmark ditch running NW from the W corner for 28.3m. There also appeared to be two gaps in the enclosure which might represent entrances, one on the N, 4.0m wide, and one on the E, 4.5m wide. (RH 11/01/2010)

38073 Llandrinio Cropmark SJ2946517187 Clas boundary Dark Age*Old description*

Cropmark of linear arc. Of unknown purpose. Two short linear marks to N.

New description

The site was not visible in a pasture field, although its location is slightly raised, perhaps suggesting an earthwork component. One possibility is that this represents the boundary of the early clas settlement at Llandrinio, as evidence on an early 19th-century map of New Hall Farm (Shropshire Records and Research Centre 4175/4, dated 1810) demonstrates that the churchyard was originally ovoid and it seems that land was lost from it when the turnpike road which passes the church was built. The enclosure therefore seems to have included land which is now on the opposite side of the road from the present churchyard and may have extended as far NW as this cropmark. (RH 16/02/2010)

38114 Domgay Farm Cropmark SJ2865318876 Cropmark Unknown*Old description*

Two semi-circular cropmarks of unknown purpose. Henge site PRN 4624 lies in same position, but was not located during AP project 696. Site may relate to the same features.

New description

Of the two curving ditches alleged to form this site, the NE is presumed to be PRN 4624. The SW appears more likely to be natural from its appearance on CPAT APs 84-C-0134 and 77-10-035. PRN 4624 appears to be only a curving ditch running through a parched area on CPAT AP 84-C-0134. The conjunction with the alleged cropmark bank is a factor of the natural sub-surface ground conditions which led to the parching. (RH 05/01/2010)

side, which perhaps hints that it might be a dump of spoil. The nature of the site is unlikely to be confirmed without evaluation. (RH 12/02/2010)

114442 The West fish weir

SJ2942519344 Fish Weir

Medieval

Old description

New description

Two parallel rows of oak posts, each about the size of modern fencing posts or slightly larger (maximum diameter about 0.25m), which collectively project about 5m into the waters of the River Vyrnwy, at an acute angle on the outside of a meander. The post tops are at least 3m below the level of the adjoining fields, which suggests they are of considerable antiquity, perhaps medieval in origin. Each row is aligned ENE/WSW, with four posts in the NNW row and six posts in the SSE row. The posts are between 0.6m and 0.8m apart, while the two rows are about 1.2m apart, and are actively eroding out of the clay/silt which forms the river bank. No doubt some have been lost to river action, particularly as the two lines stop a similar distance from the river bank when the NNW line should continue for at least another 2m. There is a degree of assumption in the measurements as most of the site was not readily accessible at the base of the steep river bank, but it was possible to examine the WSW end of the NNW line where wattling was observed at and below the water line, linking the last two visible posts. (RH 16/02/2010)

