

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

## Defended Enclosures in Brecknock



CPAT Report No 859

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# Defended Enclosures in Brecknock

Project Report

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March 2007

Report for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

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Cover photo: The hillock with the Garth earthworks in the middle distance, above the Wye Valley



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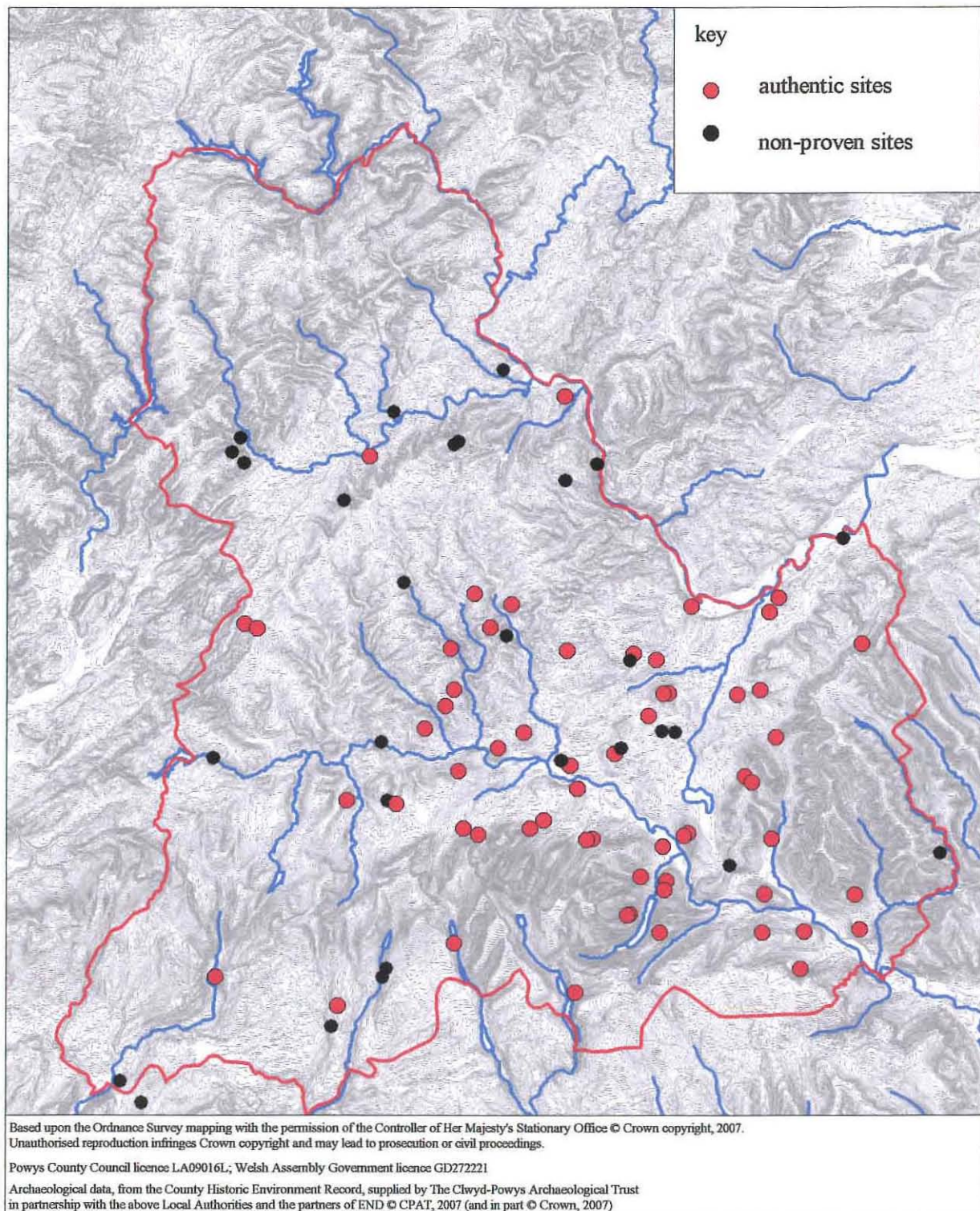


Fig. 1 Distribution of authentic and non-proven defended enclosures in Brecknock



## 1 Introduction

1.1 In 1992 CPAT conducted an assessment of the large number of cropmark and earthwork enclosures of putative Iron Age and Roman date in the Montgomeryshire lowlands (Silvester and Britnell 1993). Many of these had been first recognised from the air, but at the time it was not anticipated that the study might in subsequent years develop and be integrated into a larger pan-Wales project that would consider all of the defended enclosures throughout the Principality. Even when the small enclosures in Clwyd had been rapidly examined and later surveyed in the second half of the 1990s (Frost 1995; Jones 1999) there was no clear intention of conducting a systematic study across the entire eastern region. The Cadw-funded pan-Wales defended enclosures project was initiated with a scoping study by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in 2004 and this offered the opportunity to extend the study to the rest of east Wales and additionally to enlarge its scope by taking in the larger defended enclosures as well. In 2005/6, a survey was undertaken in Radnorshire (Silvester and Hankinson 2006).

1.2 The present survey examines the defended enclosures and hillforts of Brecknock and completes the study of the enclosures in southern Powys. As with its immediate predecessor the scope of the survey has been enlarged to take in those enclosures revealed only as cropmarks, but in practice this has meant little additional work as these are far from numerous when compared with adjacent regions to the north and east.

1.3 In contrast to the poorly known earthworks of Radnorshire, their Brecknock neighbours are well-known. In the 1980s, most though not all were the subject of a detailed study by the Welsh Royal Commission, so this report has an illustrious predecessor. Brecknock is one of only two Welsh counties with a modern Royal Commission *Inventory* covering the late prehistoric period, the other being neighbouring Glamorgan (RCAHMW 1986). That *Inventory* which also covered the Roman era sets a standard which we cannot hope to emulate here. It includes high quality plans, comprehensive descriptions and a substantive discussion of the various forts and their nature. In addition, it was originally within the Commission's royal warrant to list those sites that they had studied which were worthy of preservation, but by 1986 this had been dropped as an overt statement from published inventories. Nevertheless, sites were still being recommended for statutory protection and consequently Brecknock's defended enclosures are probably better represented in the schedule than some other counties.

## 2 Objectives

2.1 A set of objectives were identified for both this and the earlier Radnorshire study. These, as given in a submission to Cadw in March 2005, were:

- i) the identification, definition and distribution of cropmark and earthwork enclosures in Brecknock (and Radnorshire).
- ii) the compilation of a corpus of plans to accompany detailed descriptions of all relevant sites.
- iii) the assessment of the archaeological significance of the sites within both a regional and national framework.



iv) the assessment of the vulnerability of this element of the archaeological resource and recommendations for future management strategies.

v) the enhancement of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) and END.

2.2 These objectives are broadly in line with those cited in the proposals and reports on defended enclosures from the other Welsh Trusts, and are considered to have been fulfilled for Brecknock by the preparation of this and allied reports, and the submission of data to the HER. The assessment of the archaeological significance of the sites will be considered more fully after the compilation of this report, as an aim in the future is the preparation and publication of a monograph under the auspices of Cadw on defended enclosures throughout Wales, and it is anticipated that work will commence on this during 2007/8.

### 3 Methodology

3.1 The methodology for the programme was developed during the preparation of the scoping survey in Gwynedd in 2003/4 and has been modified as other Welsh Archaeological Trusts have become involved. Further adjustments have come about as a result of liaison meetings between the four Trusts and Cadw, to the point where it is believed all four Trusts are working on parallel courses using record forms of a consistent type, and in this respect the Brecknock parallels precisely what was done in Radnorshire in 2006/7.

3.2 *Desk-top assessment.* The dataset for the project was established initially by conducting an electronic trawl through the regional HER for all site types which contained the following words: enclosure, enclosed settlement, defended enclosure and hillfort. It included sites where the most likely interpretation (as given in the Type 1 field of the HER) was not necessarily 'enclosure' or one of the cognate terms given above, or where the Period 1 field was something other than Iron Age or Roman, but where any of these terms did appear as Type 2 or 3 or Period 2 or 3, respectively. This trawl yielded 139 sites, whereas in Radnorshire this initial procedure had resulted in 202 sites.

3.3 The records were then assessed individually, and those sites where the descriptions were clearly so poorly recorded as to be meaningless were removed, as were occasional sites where the data were duplicated, usually because a site had been given an additional (P)rimary (R)ecord (N)umber relating to a specific phase in its history, over and above the PRN for the site as a whole.

3.4 Sites that were immediately identifiable as of earlier prehistoric (*i.e.* Neolithic or Bronze Age), medieval or post-medieval date, usually because the period attribution by earlier authorities had been unequivocal and, one would like to assume, entirely reliable, were removed from the database list. For Brecknock this was a more serious issue than in Radnorshire. Many sites, particularly in the Brecon Beacons and adjacent hill ranges have been typed in the HER simply as 'enclosure' of unknown date. Most of these in such locations are likely to be of Bronze Age or medieval/post-medieval origin, but it is not always possible to determine this from the descriptions. Aerial photography can help but in some cases only a field visit reveals the true character of the monument.



3.5 Individual desk-top research on specific sites followed, and a further, more detailed assessment of those sites where the key period was given as something other than of the prehistoric era, and where the description again suggested a later attribution, were also removed. Some sites in the record were also omitted from the survey on the grounds that earlier observers had failed to find any traces of them.

3.6 A further stage weeded out sites predicated solely on the basis of place-names. Castell Manest (PRN 457) is a good example, the earliest highlighting of it coming from an Ordnance Survey desk-top exercise within the Archaeological Division, probably in the 1960s when interesting place-names were gleaned from their own 6" maps. Within a kilometre of the known hillfort of Gaer Fach, the farm with this name lay towards the head of an upland valley. The adoption of the term 'castell' for a now abandoned small farm which was still active in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century recalls the popularity, either humorous or ironic, of using the term for encroachments on the waste. Detailed fieldwork might clarify the situation but this project is not the best umbrella for that fieldwork, and the 'site' has been classified only as an unconfirmed one. Similarly, the Castell Du place name (PRN 791) was also an Ordnance Survey desk-top 'discovery', though perhaps rather more difficult to dismiss in locational terms because it lies immediately above the River Usk, has been visited in the past by CPAT in 1981 with no success and the aerial photograph that has been examined has not proved to be illuminating. This too has been excluded from the database. In a similar vein are Castell Madoc (PRN 844) and Mae y Gaer ((PRN 950), while the reasoning behind including the Pen y Gader Fawr place-name (PRN 3209) is obscure, and the Gaer Fan Foel place-name (PRN 5574) is generally accepted to refer to a natural landform. One place-name given to an old cottage, now in ruins, near Llangammarch Wells - Castell Du (PRN 2228) - was subsequently visited, but with negative results. As with Castell Manest above we would suspect that this was an encroachment cottage on the edge of the common.

3.7 This is not to rule out all place-names, however, although clearly if found to signpost an authentic site, the record would then be altered to reflect the change in status to an earthwork or cropmark. For the Cae'r Castell place-name in Ystradgynlais (PRN 2348), the record is not particularly positive but cannot be ruled out altogether. Likewise the place-name, Cwr y Gaer, (PRN 550) surely refers to Cwr y Gaer hillfort (PRN 21901) but an earlier record in the HER appears intent on placing it elsewhere.

3.8 Unlike Radnorshire, the NMR files for Brecknock were not consulted in the belief that anything of relevance would have been picked up in the work for the 1986 *Inventory* and that anything after date was likely to have been recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record (now the HER). An assumption was also made, which unfortunately proved unwarranted, that any sites recorded in the *Inventory* would have been given a record in the SMR. However, instead considerably more use was made of the available high level vertical aerial photography available in the NMR and as a result of a careful study of the photographs of selected sites a number of sites have been removed (and one new site added: PRN 83738). Other sites have been removed from the database as a result of the re-examination of aerial photographs or just general re-assessment. The original RAF photograph for the Pen Fathor Isaf Cropmark (PRN 3236) failed to convince us of the integrity of the site and in view of the failure of both CPAT and the Royal Commission to locate any visible traces on the ground this 'enclosure' was classed as one of several which remains to be confirmed by further much more detailed work.



3.9 Fieldwork led to a further thinning of sites. The majority of those where the attribution was ambivalent were considered to merit a field visit. Some were unverified, others rejected, but there remain quite a number where the visible evidence is still ambivalent. This has led to the grouping of a number of sites under the heading of *non-proven* (see Appendix 2). These various categories are considered in more detail below.

3.10 The number of non-proven sites amounts to 29, leaving 64 positive identifications in the county, both earthworks and cropmarks, though with two of the total an element of doubt remains of their authenticity. Of the sites 39 are scheduled ancient monuments, all earthworks.

3.11 *Fieldwork.* Fieldwork took place at various times during the year, some of it dictated by the condition of the vegetation. A *pro forma* prepared by Cambria Archaeology and the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was adopted for authentic earthworks and some cropmarks in order to ensure compatibility with the records being generated in other regions of Wales. Photographs were taken selectively, sometimes to show the monument in its setting, or to illustrate its morphology, but there were some sites where it was adjudged that a photographic record would be of little practical value.

3.12 Information from the record sheets was entered into the project database as soon as possible after the site visit. The database was a version of the standard HER database, modified by the addition of the various fields noted on the *pro forma*.

3.13 The free-text field descriptions from that database, together with plans where available, are reproduced as a gazetteer (Appendices 1 and 2) at the end of this report.

3.14 It should be noted at this stage that in all cases access to the monuments under consideration was granted by their owners.

## 4 Discussion

4.1 This section offers a brief discursion on some elements of the stock of Brecknock defended enclosures. It cannot claim to replace the discussion in the Royal Commission's *Inventory* which remains the most comprehensive consideration on the hillforts and allied enclosures in the county.

### 4.2 Rejected Sites

4.2.1 It has been necessary to reject a significant number of records ostensibly relating to enclosures, because of their inadequacies or their perceived irrelevance to this project.

4.2.2 Some sites have been rejected immediately: aerial photographs suggest that the Aber Clydach Enclosure (PRN 656) is not authentic. Likewise the Cwm Gwrgi Enclosure (PRN 3055) on the periphery of the Sennybridge Military Range revealed no traces whatsoever even though conditions were ideal for a field search. The scheduled Ty Helyg Enclosure (PRN 677), above Bwlch and the Usk Valley, has been rejected because though it is a perfectly legitimate enclosure it is almost certainly pre-Iron Age in origin. Likewise the Craig Cerrig Gleisiad Enclosure (PRN 3169) and the Hepste Fechan Enclosure II (PRN



3282) are on the basis of current thinking more likely to be Bronze Age than Iron Age and has been included in the Round Huts survey of Brecknock on that basis.

4.2.3 The HER contains information culled from a variety of sources, but specifically the index cards of the Ordnance Survey's former Archaeological Division, which include sites that were rejected after their initial identification. Many of these seem to have resulted from a trawl through the RAF aerial photography of the later 1940s and the recognition of anomalies that had potential archaeological significance. Subsequent field visits by the Ordnance Survey led to their rejection as authentic archaeological features, but the records remain in the HER.

4.2.4 The stone-built Darren Enclosure (PRN 4344) lies high in the uplands south of the Elan Valley at a height of 490m OD. For whatever reason the HER has it as an Iron Age or Roman enclosure though internally it is considered to be not more than 6m across; a post-medieval or perhaps medieval origin seems much more likely, and it has been omitted from the database of authentic sites. The Drum Ddu N enclosure complex (PRN 13433) was excised from the database because showing clearly on vertical aerial photographs it has all the hallmarks of a post-medieval stock enclosure set above a stream.

#### 4.3 Unauthenticated (Non-proven) Sites

4.3.1 There is, inevitably, a significant number of potential defended enclosures for which the records are so vague in their description or location, or the source of the information so suspect, that nothing substantive can be said of the site itself. The known details of many of these can be found in Appendix 2. Thus Blaen Camlais Fawr Enclosure (PRN) is in the HER as a result of an unauthenticated report in the Royal Commission's archives. Neither the Ordnance Survey in 1976 nor CPAT in 1981 were able to locate any traces on the ground, and it seems unlikely that more than twenty-five years on, a further site visit would alter the picture. One suspects that the site was observed on an aerial photograph, and initially a more profitable approach might be to track down that photo and evaluate it.

4.3.2 Park Farm Enclosure (PRN 576) is in a different category. Though heavily degraded by agriculture, its form as a large platform is still discernible, and this is arguably a more appropriate label than enclosure. More than 40m across it could of course have comfortably accommodated a large round house with perhaps some room to spare, while its shape does not rule out a prehistoric origin. Equally, however, it could be later in date, though its morphology is not typically medieval. Excavation is probably the way that its date will be clarified.

#### 4.4 Confirmed sites

4.4.1 The relevant details of more than 60 sites that have been authenticated can be found in Appendix 1 and need little further comment. An exception, however, is the Pen y Garn Enclosure (PRN 624), a small rectangular enclosure, which confirms the value of surveys such as this one. First seen on an aerial photograph by the Royal Commission, subsequent commentators had virtually dismissed it as an authentic site, as is clear from the HER entry. Re-examining the RAF aerial photography confirmed its presence and with a copy



of this in hand, it was possible to identify the site on the ground, though it has been badly degraded by regular ploughing.

#### 4.5 Types of hill-fort and enclosure (Fig 1)

4.5.1 The following section provides no more than a summary overview of the hillforts and defended enclosures in Brecknock. A thorough analysis of the evidence was given in the 1986 *Inventory*, and there is nothing to be achieved by re-working the same information, or indeed repeating it in this report. That would be a classic case of 're-inventing the wheel'. In the section that follows we have simply itemised the sites under some general headings to give an impression of the range of hillforts and kindred sites in the county, but in doing so we have maintained the classification used in the Radnorshire report in the belief that this will facilitate comparison across southern Powys.

Site type	No. of sites	No of sites not in the 1986 <i>Inventory</i>	Scheduled ancient monuments	Comparable sites in Radnorshire
Hillfort	32	1	26	15
Promontory fort	5		5	5
Defended enclosure	24	5	8	13
Cropmark enclosure	3	3		20
Unclassified				1
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>54</b>

*Table 1: Brecknock enclosures by site type*

#### **Simple and complex hill-crest hillforts**

4.5.2 The *Inventory* has already revealed that there are a sizeable number of hillforts set on hill tops in the county, many of them relatively simple univallate structures. Slwch Tump Hillfort (PRN 611) above Brecon which has the second largest internal area of any hillfort in the county, Twyn y Gaer on Mynydd Iltyd (PRN 583) and Coed Fennifach Camp (PRN 607) all fall within this category. Another Twyn y Gaer near Llanddew (PRN 458) occupies a prominent spot on a broad ridge, though one with little in the way of natural defences other than a shallow dry valley, and a third Twyn y Gaer (though known to the Royal Commission simply as Y Gaer) near Defynnog (PRN 573) is more complex with what is probably a later annexe appended to its south side.

4.5.3 Allt yr Esgair Hillfort (PRN 657) is the largest multivallate fort in the county, though this only serves to highlight the problems of identification of the putative hillfort on the conifer-planted Myarth Common (PRN 664) which is accepted by the Royal Commission on the basis of early reports by the Ordnance Survey surveyors and by Dr Hubert Savory.

4.5.4 Gaer Fawr Hillfort (PRN 450) is a double-banked enclosure which butts up against the lip of a precipitous drop, obviating the need for any defences on its south side. The intermediate ditch between the banks is visible only as a shelf. Gaer Fach (PRN 452) has points of similarity in as much as it too utilises a steep natural slope on the south and has



an internal area of very similar size, although there are indications that the protection given by the southern escarpment has been enhanced by some embanking. Furthermore it might be argued that the rather truncated section of outer rampart at the east end of Gaer Fach represents a lobate appendage covering the entrance to the fort, rather than representing a fragment of a conventional bivallate enclosure. Hillis near Llanfilo (PRN 534) classed as multivallate and with complex entrances appears to have the largest internal area, albeit one that is thought to have been reduced by half with the addition of a bank traversing the centre of the fort.

### **Promontory forts**

4.5.5 It may well be specious to separate promontory forts from the main class of hillforts. They are after all a pragmatic response to defending a small tract of ground in the most economical fashion, by utilising the natural topography for defence. As such the degree of construction effort required to throw up the resulting earthwork of relatively short length may have been quite small in comparison with the standard hillfort with its complete perimeter. In theory, one result of this may be that there are possibly rather more promontory forts than there are conventional hillforts with their complete enceintes awaiting discovery for the latter should be rather more apparent from the ground and from the air.



Corn y Fan Hillfort (PRN 747)

4.5.6 Pendre (PRN 556) is a good example of an inland promontory, a sharp bend in the River Ennig creating a position which needed artificial protection only on one side. Rhyd Uchaf Enclosure II (PRN 3248) stands out as being different from the general run of defended enclosures in Brecknock for having close-set multiple banks, whether two or three depending on the authority cited. It is not this so much as the small internal area that is curious for it is like a small promontory fort with the defences out of proportion to the area enclosed. There may have been some minimal erosion but not a great deal and



certainly not enough to make this larger than the 0.01ha of quite heavily shelving land that it occupies. It could be no more than a small heavily defended homestead enclosure, but its position high above the watershed with the valley of the Tarrell running down to the Usk on the north and the Taf flowing south together with its seemingly unnecessary internal slope argues for another function, perhaps to do with watching one of the easier passes through the Beacons. There is a rather similar site north of the Beacons. Corn y Fan Hillfort (PRN 747) has a triple set of defences enclosing an area of less than 0.1ha with steep and apparently natural cliffs forming the remainder of the perimeter. Interestingly Ken Dark in 1994 postulated a Dark Age date for the site though not on any substantive grounds.

#### **Multiple-enclosure forts.**

4.5.7 Multiple enclosure forts and enclosures were first distinguished as a group by Aileen Fox in the 1950s when she identified such sites in both the south-west peninsula and in south Wales, many of them on hill slopes rather than on the crests of hills (Fox 1960). That they extended also into central Wales was not recognised at the time, and the present writer is not aware of any work that has set these type of sites in their national or western British context, although he is not as well versed in the subject as he used to be. What is clear, however, is that it is the plurality of enclosures, not their topographical positioning, that generates the parallels with south Wales and beyond.

4.5.8 In Breconshire the fort or enclosure at Llyswen (PRN 504) is a complex site set low down on the slopes above the River Wye and well below the crest of the ridge. It is almost certainly of more than one period and as the RCAHMW have noted there have been suggestions of an early medieval element here (1986, 113).

4.5.9 Amongst the more interesting sites is Tump Wood Hillfort (PRN 649) near Llanddettty with its outworks suggestive of one non-concentric enclosure and at a greater distance further earthworks covering the approach to the site, though all appear to be incomplete and not readily explicable. Others include Nant Tarthwyni (PRN 925) with its eccentric outer enclosure apparent only on the south side where it is not covered in a conifer plantation. On the northern periphery of the Brecon Beacons is Llwyn Bedw Enclosure (PRN 930), a pleasantly complex little site with the works of later eras confusing the overall impression.

#### **Smaller enclosures on hillslopes**

4.5.10 There is no tradition of discovery of smaller defended enclosures in the county – in this respect it is very different from northern Powys. Those that have been identified have emerged by chance rather than design, and there must be a strong sense that many still remain to be detected.

4.5.11 The only one that has been excavated has normally been termed a hillfort. Coed y Gaer (PRN 660) a univallate enclosure set on a steep spur, and with substantial defences on its north side. Excavations by Cardiff University in 1997 suggested it was of Iron Age date, though no datable material was encountered, and it clearly to be classified as a strong defended enclosure.





Allt yr Esgair enclosure

4.5.12 Some smaller enclosures occupy prominent locations. The Coed Gaer Enclosure (PRN 446) sits on the north-western tip of a long, ridge-like hill above the little River Ysgir. The location is thus reasonably defensive with fine views over the valley to the east and north. However, quarrying and particularly land improvement have had a deleterious effect on this site to the extent that it was barely visible to the field officer in 2006. The small and rather insignificant earthwork known as the Ffinant Isaf Enclosure (PRN 447) is set on a hillslope in a position which offers virtually nothing in the way of natural protection. Yet others are clearly positioned to exploit the local topography for convenience. Thus the Dixies Corner enclosure (PRN 3092) lies on flattish ground, which then falls away to the valley beyond.

4.5.13 Inevitably some sites do not fit within the standard conventions that we have defined. The Dyffryn Nedd settlement (PRN 2293) occupies a flat shelf on a slope off one of the valleys running southwards off the Beacons. It is small with a maximum internal diameter of 23m and it could be Iron Age in date, though it could also be earlier.

4.5.14 The so-called Caemarchog cropmark (PRN 39388) remains an anomaly. It was seen from across the valley by an observant holidaymaker back in 2001. There is now nothing to see on the ground and it is clear that what was observed were vegetation changes. Nevertheless, the photographs and aerial photographs appear reasonably convincing, and it is tempting to think they mirror an almost circular enclosure defined by a sub-surface ditch in the foothills below the Black Mountains, even though it lies at around 430m OD.

### **Unfinished Hillforts**

4.5.15 The perceived incompleteness or unfinished state of some multiple enclosure sites has been a matter for discussion, pretty well since their recognition in the 1950s (Fox 1960, 43; Silvester and Quinnell 1993). Several of the Radnorshire multiple enclosure forts were found to be unfinished and the same appears to be true of Brecknock, assuming that we can put such an interpretation on the apparently incomplete lines of defences. However, as pointed out in the Radnorshire survey, such is the repetition of this phenomenon, however, that it is much more likely that other types of barrier were utilised to complete the enclosures.

4.5.16 Twyn y Gaer (PRN 583) is less obviously unfinished. The Royal Commission (1986, 35) drew attention to the fact that the defences around the entrance to the enclosure were of a more considerable scale than elsewhere on the circuit and flagged up the possibility that this might reflect unfinished refurbishment of an existing hillfort. Accepting that it is often the entrances, defences that receive the initial attention, this is not a feasible suggestion. The best example of an unfinished hill top fort is arguably Garth Hillfort (PRN 4243) where both inner and outer defences are incomplete, both interrupted abruptly at the points where their entrances would have been.

### **Cropmark Enclosures**

4.5.17 As the various tables reveal there are no more than a handful of known cropmark sites in the county. With a such a small group nothing useful can be said, other the fact that many more undoubtedly await discovery. This view needs to be tempered by the realisation that the soil- and crop conditions in Brecknock appear to be rarely satisfactory for the production of crop- and soilmarks.

## **5 Archaeological Aspects of the Study**

5.1 The field study, through the use of the on-site *pro formas*, coupled with elements of the desk-top assessment allows certain aspects of site location, morphology and condition to be quantified. In this and the following section on 'Management' some of these aspects are considered, utilising the same layout as for the Radnorshire study which permits direct comparison. Only those hillforts and defended enclosures which are felt to be authentic and included here; unconfirmed sites have not been assessed. And as with the previous study, a caveat must be entered here, for a significant number of what must be considered as the more important or at least notable sites were not examined in the field because they were already statutorily designated. Consequently, some data are not available and the following tables will not be consistent in the total number of sites that are referred to.

### **5.2 Site Altitude**

5.2.1 The figures in Table 2 for the absolute height of the settlement site above sea level is largely what might be anticipated. The inland location of Breconshire means that there are few sites below 100m OD, even in river valleys. Cropmarks are sparse, so the presence of the Caemarchog cropmark (PRN 39388) on the slopes of the Balck Mountains at over 400m OD is an anomalous occurrence; the fact that it appears reasonably convincing on



the aerial photography could be taken as a salutary warning that cropmarks generally are under-represented in the Brecknock record.

Site Type	<151m	151-200m	201-250m	251-300m	301-350m	351-400m	401-450m	451m+
Hillfort	2		3	7	9	8	5	1
Defended Enclosure	1	3	4	5	7	3	3	
Cropmark enclosure		2					1	
Unproven Sites	3	7	2	3	5	5	4	
Total	6	12	9	15	21	16	13	1

Table 2: Site altitudes

### 5.3 Site location

5.3.1 The general spread of locations is predictable with more hillforts on hill tops and conversely a greater number of smaller enclosures on hill slopes. Perhaps the only point of interest is the existence of several hillforts classed as being on spurs.

Site Type	Hilltop	Hillslope	Inland Promontory	Ridge	Plateau	Spur	Others
Hillfort	16	4	4	6	1	5	
Defended enclosure	2	13		4	1	4	
Cropmark enclosure	1	1					1
Total	19	18	4	10	2	9	1

Table 3: Site locations

### 5.4 Settlement size

5.4.1 In size the enclosures set on hillslopes which are generally classed as defended enclosures not surprisingly cluster at the lower end of the range. That said there are very few large hillforts with only six having an internal area of more than one hectare and three of those being over 3.5hecatres in extent to which the poorly known Myarth Hill would be added, if it could be surveyed.

Site Type	0.01-0.25ha	0.26-0.5h	0.51-0.75ha	0.76-1.0h	1.01-1.25ha	1.26-1.5ha	1.51-1.75ha	1.76-2.0ha	2.0ha+
Hillfort	6	9	8	4	1	0	1	1	3
Defended Enclosure	10	7	2	1					
Cropmark Enclosure									
Total	16	16	10	5	1	0	1	1	3

Table 4: Internal size of enclosures

## 5.5 *Settlement shape*

5.5.1 The shape of an enclosure is often a function or partial function of the natural topography, a derivation particularly applicable when the analysis is applied to hillforts. Furthermore, whenever shape is assessed it is normally on the basis of a subjective reading of a plan; one person's irregular (or D-shaped) enclosure might be interpreted by another as polygonal. The pro-formas allow only a very limited range of shape types but this is possibly no bad thing, except in cases such as Allt yr Esgair fort which can only be described as elliptical because of the form of the ridge on which it lies but for which no descriptive equivalent has been allowed (it is classed here under 'other', as are several promontory forts whose shapes realistically cannot be judged). It is included here only for consistency, a similar exercise having been undertaken last year for Radnorshire. The difference is that the latter county had a few more cropmark enclosures in what might be termed open-landscape positions, and it is where there are few if any topographical constraints as in river valleys or plateaux that shape may be considered a potentially meaningful facet, a result of a conscious design decision. Brecknock, however, is not the best county to test such an assumption. The table below takes into account only authenticated sites.

Site Type	Rectilinear/ sub- rectilinear	Curvilinear /ovoid	Triangular/ sub- triangular	Polygonal	Irregular	Others
Hillfort	4	12	4	4	3	10
Defended enclosure	9	12	2	1	3	
Cropmark enclosure	2					1
Total	15	24	6	5	6	11

Table 5: Enclosure shape

## 5.6 *Internal habitations*

5.6.1 The presence of hut or house sites or more usually house platforms merits attention, if only because they are uncommon and where they do occur they are usually only in very small numbers. Only Crug Hywel Hillfort above Crickhowell (PRN 1057), with at least six small platforms visible on a plateau where the short-cropped grass ensures excellent conditions for identification, stands out as exceptional. Even where there are internal features there is often no certainty that they are contemporaneous with the hillfort or enclosure. A single hut platform at Coed y Caerau (PRN 933) has been interpreted as a charcoal burning platform, while that at Coed y Brenhin Hillfort (PRN 937) is felt to be later because of its rectangularity. Twyn Llechfaen hillfort (PRN 620) sums up the issue in as much as two hut sites were found by Dr Savory during the excavations in 1959 but no visible hut sites can be detected within the interior. The situation is, no doubt, paralleled by most other unexcavated hill forts in the county.



Site Type	No of platforms
Hillfort	5 + 1(?)
Defended Enclosure	5 (?)
Cropmark enclosure	0
Total	5 + 6 (?)

Table 6: Habitation sites within enclosures. The second set of figures reveal those sites where uncertainty exists as to the integrity of the features

## 5.7 *Dating hillforts and defended enclosures*

5.7.1 The end of the report was considered to be an appropriate place for a consideration of the dating of defended enclosures in Radnorshire, because there so very little could usefully be said on the subject. The same is true of Brecknock.

5.7.2 Hillforts are generally perceived to be of Iron Age date on the basis of the many analogous monuments excavated elsewhere in the United Kingdom, but excavations have also revealed they can have their origins in the preceding Bronze Age and that they can also be the setting for later though not necessarily continuous occupation in the Roman and post-Roman eras. Without excavation, however, it is unlikely that much advance will be made in understanding the dynamics of hillfort usage over the centuries. Hill-slope enclosures are equally difficult to pin down and on analogies from the south-west of England are as likely to be Roman as they are Iron Age.

5.7.3 Several Brecknock hillforts have seen some excavation, usually with defence sections an integral part, although cumulatively the results do not seem to be particularly informative, indicative of the low level of material culture in the region. Dol y Gaer hillfort (PRN 927) in Llanddetty above the Usk Valley was reputedly excavated by Peter Murray Threipland in 1950s, but no records seem to have survived. Twyn Llechfaen hillfort was examined by Dr H.Savory in 1959, the evidence of occupation including pottery, bone and slingstones from a hut attributed to the 4<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. Coed y Gaer Hillfort (PRN 660) was excavated by the University of Cardiff in 1997, but yielded only early Roman material over what must have the Iron Age rampart. Aberllynfi Gaer hillfort (PRN 50376) was examined by Savory in 1951, producing a single sherd of probable pre-Roman Iron Age pottery and one of Romano-British type.

## 5.8 *The state of the record*

5.8.1 The records of the hillforts and allied enclosures in Brecknock are consistently better than those for neighbouring Radnorshire, hardly surprising in view of the admirable work undertaken by the Royal Commission in the early 1980s. Most of the hillforts and allied enclosures have high-quality plans, backed by excellent descriptions, as can be seen from the gazetteer. The few enclosures that are more recent discoveries, however, usually lack the same level of detail. Where a site has been scheduled there is an inspector's report and subsequent field monument warden's reports, which offers some compensation.



## 6 Management Issues

6.1 Data have been collected on a series of issues that are management related, and using this information which is now stored in the database various analyses might be attempted. Here, as with Radnorshire last year, the analyses have been restricted to one or two of the major facets, namely the nature and degree of the threat to defended enclosures from a range of agencies.

6.2 Threats to hillforts and defended enclosures do vary, but there are several common ones and some interesting trends. Regular cultivation (shown in the table as agriculture) is rare on scheduled sites but commonplace on unscheduled sites, demonstrating perhaps not only that ploughing has denuded some sites to a point where scheduled is not considered to be an option, but also a reluctance to designate sites where this type of threat is on-going. Stock erosion and disturbance is a problem common to many sites, whether scheduled or unscheduled, and one that is difficult to counter. Disturbance by visitors which is higher on scheduled sites presumably reflects the fact that some of the better known and more accessible sites are visitor attractions and that equally they are more likely to be statutorily designated. Perhaps the aspect should be of most concern is that in a not single instance was it possible to identify earthwork defences which were not under any threat.

	Nature of threat	Defences	Interior
<b>SAMS</b>	Agriculture		1
	Stock disturbance	10	3
	Vehicle disturbance	4	2
	Forestry/woodland	2	2
	Visitors	4	4
	Other erosion		1
	Animal burrowing		
	No obvious threat		6
<b>Unscheduled Enclosures</b>	Agriculture	11	11
	Stock disturbance	8	6
	Vehicle disturbance	1	2
	Forestry	2	2
	Visitors	1	
	Other erosion		1
	Extraction		
	Animal burrowing	1	
	No obvious threat		1

Table 7: Threats to enclosures

	Significance of threat	Defences	Interior
<b>SAMS</b>	Low	5	9
	Medium	7	2
	High	1	
	Not known		
<b>Unscheduled Enclosures</b>	Low	7	7
	Medium	8	6
	High	4	4
	Not known		

Table 8: Significance of threats to enclosures

6.3 One of the key elements in management is the availability of a good plan at a scale suitable not only for academic judgements about its morphology, but also in the identification and location of management problems. Brecknock is fortunate in having a fairly full set of plans, through the Royal Commission's work, and courtesy of the Commission are reproduced here. A few other sites such as the scheduled Dixies Corner enclosure (PRN 2092) have had plans produced by the Ordnance Survey or other agencies which have not been reproduced here. Thus all of the major hillforts have been surveyed with the exception of Myarth Camp which as the gazetteer reveals has intrinsic difficulties. A number of smaller enclosures, most of them damaged by cultivation or other erosive agencies, are currently without plans and do require a survey in order to complete the corpus.

<i>SAM</i>		<i>Unscheduled Enclosure</i>	
Name	PRN	Name	PRN
Myarth Camp	664	Coed Gaer enclosure	446
		Pen y Garn enclosure	524
		Llwyfen enclosure	2438
		Ty-mawr enclosure	3012
		Cross Oak hillfort	3475
		Cefn enclosure	3481
		Garth hillfort	4243
		Llwyn Llwyd hillfort	4524
		Coed y Polyn enclosure	5817
		Bryn Melyn hillfort	37582
		Blaencamlais enclosure	83738

Table 9: Enclosures requiring detailed survey



## 7 Acknowledgements

The writer would like to thank the numerous landowners who allowed them access to their land, and to their colleagues, Dr Fiona Grant, Mr Ian Grant, Mr Richard Hankinson, Mr Nigel Jones and Ms Wendy Owen, for their assistance with various aspects of the fieldwork, desk-top analysis and report preparation that resulted in the successful completion of this study. The Royal Commission are thanked for their permission to reproduce the plans of individual sites from the 1986 *Inventory*.

## 8 References

Fox, A, 1960, South-western hill-forts, in S S Frere (ed), *Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain*, London: Institute of Archaeology, 35-60

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## **The Gazetteers**

The two gazetteers provides information that has been entered into the project database which in turn is based on the pro forma record forms designed for the project, as well as data derived from the desk-top assessment. Inevitably what appears in the gazetteers is selective and focuses on the archaeological rather than the management elements of the defended enclosures.

The gazetteers cover two types of site, those that have been fully authenticated, usually by a combination of desk-top appraisal and fieldwork, and those which could not be confirmed from the works that were undertaken during this project but which may nevertheless have some validity. Each part of the gazetteer is prefaced by concordances which are ordered by PRN (the form in which the individual sites appear in the gazetteer), and by name.

The gazetteer entry normally includes first the entry as it is currently given in the HER, secondly the Royal Commission's verbatim description as given in the *Inventory* of 1986, and finally where fieldwork or detailed desk-top research has been conducted as part of the current study, a further description.

Each authenticated entry in the gazetteer is accompanied by a maplet at 1:25,000 scale showing the location of the defended enclosure in relation to its contoured landscape and, where available, a plan of the site. It should be noted that the plans are not to a consistent scale, but have been reduced to fit on the page

# **AUTHENTIC SITES**



## Appendix 1: Gazetteer of Authentic Sites by PRN

<i>PRN</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Map Square</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>SAM</i>
444	Twyn Y Gaer Hillfort	SN93SE	SN96953060	Br044(POW)
446	Coed Gaer Enclosure	SN93SE	SN98733294	
447	Ffinant Isaf Enclosure	SN93SE	SN98193195	
450	Gaer Fawr Hillfort	SO03NW	SO02203805	Br052(POW)
452	Gaer Fach Hillfort	SO03NW	SO00903664	Br053(POW)
458	Twyn y Gaer Hillfort	SO03NE	SO05443526	Br034(POW)
461	Pwll y Cwrw Hillfort	SO03NE	SO09303510	
466	Pen-y-crug hillfort	SO03SW	SO02933037	Br063(POW)
504	Llyswen Camp	SO13NW	SO12773790	Br085(POW)
534	Hillis Hillfort	SO13SW	SO11403273	Br040(POW)
535	Pen yr Allt Hillfort	SO13SW	SO11083269	Br039(POW)
537	Drostre Bank Hillfort	SO13SW	SO10203137	
547	Tre Durn Wood Hillfort	SO13SW	SO10673472	
556	Pendre Hillfort	SO13SE	SO15583263	Br062(POW)
573	Twyn y Gaer Hillfort	SN92NW	SN92252630	Br035(POW)
583	Twyn Y Gaer Hillfort	SN92NE	SN99002805	Br043(POW)
587	Llanilltyd churchyard	SN92NE	SN97122611	
607	Coed Fennifach Camp	SO02NW	SO01402945	Br042(POW)
608	Coed Mawr Hillfort	SO02NW	SO04102512	
611	Slwch Tump Hillfort	SO02NE	SO05622840	Br038(POW)
620	Twyn Llechfaen Hillfort	SO02NE	SO08212911	Br247(POW)
624	Pen y Garn Enclosure	SO02NE	SO0604227035	
649	Tump Wood Hillfort	SO12SW	SO11272149	Br036(POW)
657	Allt yr Esgair Hillfort	SO12SW	SO1261024350	Br153(POW)
660	Coed y Gaer Hillfort	SO12SE	SO17622402	Br115(POW)
664	Penmyarth Hillfort/Myarth Camp	SO12SE	SO17202070	Br116(POW)
695	Coed Cefn (Llangenny Camp)	SO21NW	SO22811859	Br061(POW)
747	Corn y Fan Hillfort	SN93NE	SN9852035402	Br051(POW)
799	Clawdd Brythonig Hillfort	SN83NE	SN86253687	Br032(POW)
925	Nant Tarthwyni defended enclos	SO01NE	SO0911019510	
927	Dol y Gaer hillfort	SO01SE	SO0595014800	Br123(POW)
929	Plas y Gaer Hillfort	SO02SW	SO03292462	Br154(POW)
930	Llwyn Bedw Enclosure	SO02SW	SO00202424	Br242(POW)
933	Coed y Caerau Hillfort	SO02SE	SO06922400	Br151(POW)
937	Coed y Brenhin Hillfort	SO02SE	SO06592396	Br245(POW)
981	Pen Ffawyddog Hillfort	SO11NE	SO19571845	Br060(POW)
1057	Crug Hywel Hillfort	SO22SW	SO22552065	Br128(POW)
1178	Pant y Wenallt enclosure	SO12SW	SO3111822098	
1497	Craig y Rhiwarth Hillfort	SN81NW	SN84591572	Br246(POW)
2438	Llwyfen enclosure	SO13SW	SO13133169	
3012	Ty-mawr enclosure	SN95NE	SN98845755	
3021	Cefn Trybedd Gwilym	SN84NW	SN84864783	
3092	Dixies Corner enclosure	SN83NE	SN86993660	Br218(POW)
3199	Tyle Clydach Hillfort	SO02SE	SO0974021750	Br253(POW)
3248	Rhyd Uchaf Enclosure II	SN91NE	SN98741776	Br241(POW)
3265	Gelli-nedd hillfort	SN91SW	SN91741399	Br248(POW)
3342	Coed Pentwyn Hillfort	SO11NE	SO19351622	Br190(POW)
3475	Cross Oak Hillfort	SO12SW	SO1104023545	
3481	Cefn Enclosure	SO13SE	SO1697332919	
3526	Afon Tarell Hillfort; Waenfaeo	SN92SE	SN99302463	Br243(POW)
3586	Allt yr Esgair Enclosure	SO12SW	SO1230224222	
3860	Mynydd Llangorse Hillfort	SO12NE	SO16032774	Br250(POW)

<i><b>PRN</b></i>	<i><b>Name</b></i>	<i><b>Map Square</b></i>	<i><b>NGR</b></i>	<i><b>SAM</b></i>
3862	Caeau Enclosure	SO12NE	SO16462738	Br251(POW)
4007	Nant Tarthwyni defended enclos	SO01NE	SO0895019440	
4243	Garth Hillfort	SO05SE	SO05285050	
4524	Llwyn Llwyd Hillfort	SN93NE	SN99963869	
5817	Coed y Polyn Enclosure	SO13NE	SO18063845	
7992	Llangammarch Wells Enclosure	SN94NW	SN93584691	
17470	Lan Fawr Enclosure	SO11NE	SO17071838	
37582	Bryn Melyn hillfort	SO11NW	SO10881840	
39388	Caemarchog cropmark	SO23NW	SO22963566	
50376	Aberllynfi Gaer hillfort, iron	SO13NE	SO17503758	Br159(POW)
50422	Castell Dinas Hillfort	SO13SE	SO17913009	Br015(POW)
83738	Blaencamlais enclosure	SN92NW	SN95242610	



## Appendix 1: Gazetteer of Authentic Sites by Name

<i>Name</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>Map Square</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>SAM</i>
Aberllynfi Gaer hillfort, iron age	50376	SO13NE	SO17503758	Br159(POW)
Afon Tarell Hillfort; Waenfaeog hillfort	3526	SN92SE	SN99302463	Br243(POW)
Allt yr Esgair Enclosure	3586	SO12SW	SO1230224222	
Allt yr Esgair Hillfort	657	SO12SW	SO1261024350	Br153(POW)
Blaencamlais enclosure	83738	SN92NW	SN95242610	
Bryn Melyn hillfort	37582	SO11NW	SO10881840	
Caeau Enclosure	3862	SO12NE	SO16462738	Br251(POW)
Caemarchog cropmark	39388	SO23NW	SO22963566	
Castell Dinas Hillfort	50422	SO13SE	SO17913009	Br015(POW)
Cefn Enclosure	3481	SO13SE	SO1697332919	
Cefn Trybedd Gwilym	3021	SN84NW	SN84864783	
Clawdd Brythonig Hillfort	799	SN83NE	SN86253687	Br032(POW)
Coed Cefn (Llangenny Camp)	695	SO21NW	SO22811859	Br061(POW)
Coed Fennifach Camp	607	SO02NW	SO01402945	Br042(POW)
Coed Gaer Enclosure	446	SN93SE	SN98733294	
Coed Mawr Hillfort	608	SO02NW	SO04102512	
Coed Pentwyn Hillfort	3342	SO11NE	SO19351622	Br190(POW)
Coed y Brenhin Hillfort	937	SO02SE	SO06592396	Br245(POW)
Coed y Caerau Hillfort	933	SO02SE	SO06922400	Br151(POW)
Coed y Gaer Hillfort	660	SO12SE	SO17622402	Br115(POW)
Coed y Polyn Enclosure	5817	SO13NE	SO18063845	
Corn y Fan Hillfort	747	SN93NE	SN9852035402	Br051(POW)
Craig y Rhiwarth Hillfort	1497	SN81NW	SN84591572	Br246(POW)
Cross Oak Hillfort	3475	SO12SW	SO1104023545	
Crug Hywel Hillfort	1057	SO22SW	SO22552065	Br128(POW)
Dixies Corner enclosure	3092	SN83NE	SN86993660	Br218(POW)
Dol y Gaer hillfort	927	SO01SE	SO0595014800	Br123(POW)
Drostre Bank Hillfort	537	SO13SW	SO10203137	
Ffinant Isaf Enclosure	447	SN93SE	SN98193195	
Gaer Fach Hillfort	452	SO03NW	SO00903664	Br053(POW)
Gaer Fawr Hillfort	450	SO03NW	SO02203805	Br052(POW)
Garth Hillfort	4243	SO05SE	SO05285050	
Gelli-nedd hillfort	3265	SN91SW	SN91741399	Br248(POW)
Hillis Hillfort	534	SO13SW	SO11403273	Br040(POW)
Lan Fawr Enclosure	17470	SO11NE	SO17071838	
Llangammarch Wells Enclosure	7992	SN94NW	SN93584691	
Llanilltyd churchyard	587	SN92NE	SN97122611	
Llwyfen enclosure	2438	SO13SW	SO13133169	
Llwyn Bedw Enclosure	930	SO02SW	SO00202424	Br242(POW)
Llwyn Llwyd Hillfort	4524	SN93NE	SN99963869	
Llyswen Camp	504	SO13NW	SO12773790	Br085(POW)
Mynydd Llangorse Hillfort	3860	SO12NE	SO16032774	Br250(POW)
Nant Tarthwyni defended enclosure I	4007	SO01NE	SO0895019440	
Nant Tarthwyni defended enclosure II	925	SO01NE	SO0911019510	
Pant y Wenallt enclosure	1178	SO12SW	SO3111822098	
Pen Ffawyddog Hillfort	981	SO11NE	SO19571845	Br060(POW)
Pen y Garn Enclosure	624	SO02NE	SO0604227035	
Pen yr Allt Hillfort	535	SO13SW	SO11083269	Br039(POW)
Pen-y-crug hillfort	466	SO03SW	SO02933037	Br063(POW)
Pendre Hillfort	556	SO13SE	SO15583263	Br062(POW)
Penmyarth Hillfort/Myarth Camp	664	SO12SE	SO17202070	Br116(POW)
Plas y Gaer Hillfort	929	SO02SW	SO03292462	Br154(POW)

<i>Name</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>Map Square</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>SAM</i>
Pwll y Cwrw Hillfort	461	SO03NE	SO09303510	
Rhyd Uchaf Enclosure II	3248	SN91NE	SN98741776	Br241(POW)
Slwch Tump Hillfort	611	SO02NE	SO05622840	Br038(POW)
Tre Durn Wood Hillfort	547	SO13SW	SO10673472	
Tump Wood Hillfort	649	SO12SW	SO11272149	Br036(POW)
Twyn Llechfaen Hillfort	620	SO02NE	SO08212911	Br247(POW)
Twyn Y Gaer Hillfort	444	SN93SE	SN96953060	Br044(POW)
Twyn y Gaer Hillfort	458	SO03NE	SO05443526	Br034(POW)
Twyn y Gaer Hillfort	573	SN92NW	SN92252630	Br035(POW)
Twyn Y Gaer Hillfort	583	SN92NE	SN99002805	Br043(POW)
Ty-mawr enclosure	3012	SN95NE	SN98845755	
Tyle Clydach Hillfort	3199	SO02SE	SO0974021750	Br253(POW)



Twyn Y Gaer Hillfort

SN96953060

SN93SE

Scheduled No: Br044(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.45 ha*Height:* 351mOD*Location:* Hilltop

Visited

The HER describes a sub-oval univallate enclosure. Main defence bank 1.2m high and ditch 0.2m deep. Entrance by gap at W. Annex 40m by 35m at SW bounded by field way and scarps. Prob remains of more field ways to W. Sited on local summit.

RCAHMW: gives the following description: About 1.1km N of Trallwng church a small, roughly oval, univallate enclosure occupies the highest part of a small, south-projecting spur which has a maximum altitude of 350 m above OD. The ground to the E falls away steeply to the narrow valley of Nant Bran and to the N. a saddle connects the hill with somewhat higher moorland to the NW. Near the W side of the enclosure is the source of Nant Sefin which descends rapidly to join the Usk 1.7 km due S. The enclosure commands broad views of the valleys of the Usk and Nant Bran.

The earthworks have been reduced considerably by agricultural activity and erosion. The grass-grown interior of the enclosure slopes gently down from W to E and measures about 92m N to S by 67m, an area of approximately 0.45ha. The earth and stone bank appears to have been laid out in short, straight stretches to take full advantage of the crest of the natural hillslope except at the SW corner where a small, projecting knoll was excluded from the enclosure. Its outer scarp has a maximum height of 2m on the NE while its inner scarp is best preserved to a height of 1.2m on the NW. For a 10m length around the N corner of the site the ditch survives as a depression 0.2m deep and up to 2m wide. In 1968 it appeared to be a series of irregular, conjoined hollows pecked into the rock.

The probable site of the entrance is indicated by an interruption of the bank just S of the centre of the W side. Movement along a modern path has caused breaches in the rampart on the N and SW. A vague linear bank between 3m and 5m wide and only a few centimetres high with faint traces of a ditch on its S side bisects the interior of the enclosure and is probably an ancient structure. A gap in both features towards their W. ends is probably the site of a gateway between the two halves of the interior. Another low bank, 2.7m wide, crosses the interior NE to SW but, from its alignment, it is clearly associated with the better preserved, recent field boundaries extant to the NE of the site.

Formerly it was possible to discern clearly a complex of earthworks on the slopes adjacent to the W side of the site but recent ploughing has rendered them indistinct. A series of hollow-ways and terraced tracks subdivided the ground into irregular plots. The following major features were observed:

- a) a sub-rectangular plot measuring 40m by 38m. This was bordered on the NW by a hollow-way about 6 m wide approaching the entrance of the hill-fort. The fort forms the boundary on the NE while the SW and S sides are limited by a partially embanked terraced track, 14m wide overall, connecting the hollow-way with the foot of the natural knoll at the SW corner of the main enclosure. The track peters out 16m SE of the knoll. It is continued for 26m NW of the junction with track a) as a partial hollow-way.
- b): to the N. of a), two hollow-ways approach the NW corner of the hill-fort. The more northerly runs for 54m and is embanked on both sides as it ascends the hill with an overall width of 12m and surviving depth of 0.3m. As it turns S to run parallel to the hillslope it is scarped on the uphill side and embanked on the downhill. It is joined by a shorter track which is 20m long W to E and only embanked on its N edge. From this junction a terraced track 22 m long and 4m wide connects them with the first hollow way. A series of lynchets between 80m and 100m S and SW of the main enclosure may represent ancient features but are probably accumulations over geological scarps 1986 (37-9).

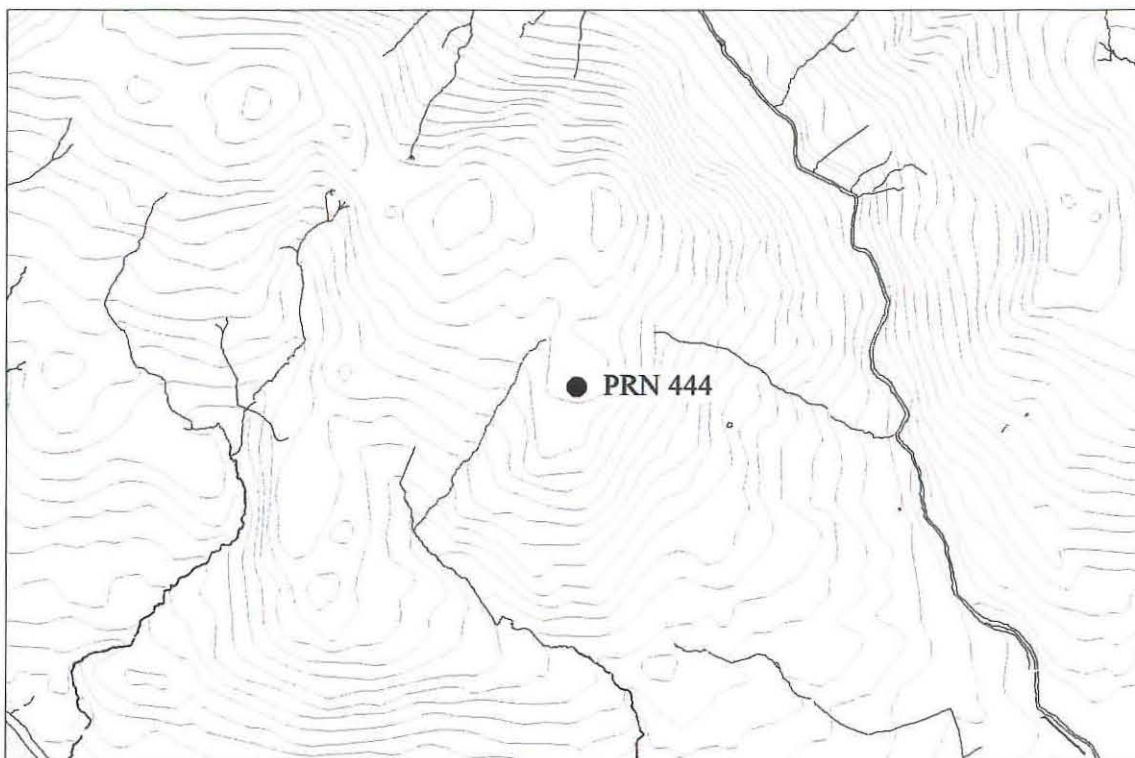
CPAT 2007: the site is generally as described in the main, RCAHMW description, with a few additions and revisions. The furthest extent of the main enclosure is 121m NNW/SSE by 86m (c.0.8ha), internally 104m NNW/SSE by 67m. The scarp bisecting the interior is still evident, but as its ENE end is approached, there is a possible circular platform on its N side, represented by a dished area 13m in diameter and 0.4m deep (on the

NW). This was potentially the site of a circular hut, its slight nature due to the gentleness of the internal slope of the enclosure.

The ditch, which measures up to 4m wide and 0.5m deep, is only intermittently visible, mostly on the E and N, and appears to have been filled in by erosion elsewhere. The bank is more pronounced and is up to 1.1m wide. Externally it is up to 1.6m high (on the E), but never exceeds 1m high in the interior. The WSW entrance described by RCAHMW is the only visible possibility, but even this is not particularly convincing. The series of possible fields on the W side of the enclosure comprise at least three distinct enclosures, but those on the S are eroded and only just visible. Those to the N are still in reasonable condition.

The landowner has recently found the incomplete lower portion of a rotary quern, approximately 0.4m in diameter, on the slopes to the SE of Twyn-y-gaer. At the present time it is being kept at the farm house.

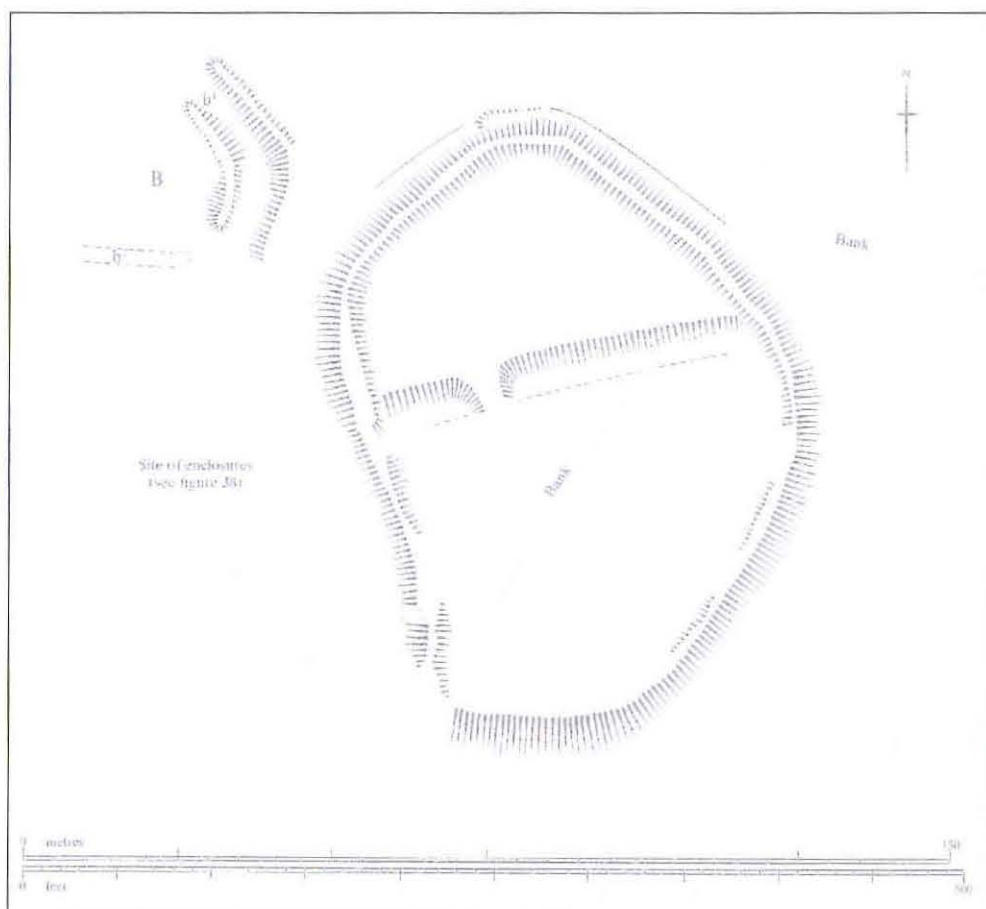




PRN 444 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 444 Twyn y Gaer Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

Coed Gaer Enclosure

SN98733294

SN93SE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure ?*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.45 ha*Height:* 351mOD*Location:* Ridge

Visited

The HER records this as a univallate enclosure defined by a single bank with west entrance and partial ditch running NW/SE for about 70m and then turning to run NE for 40m. Situated on NW end of spur. Possible modern quarrying (CPAT 1979).

RCAHMW: a small, roughly rectangular, univallate enclosure lands at about 351 m above OD, 1.5 km SW of Pont-faen. The site occupies the upper end of a ridge which extends NW from the slightly more elevated summit of Mynydd Aberysgir (367 m above OD) overlooking the narrow valley of Afon Ysgir. The ground falls away steeply on the NW and NE, but there are relatively gentle slopes to the S.

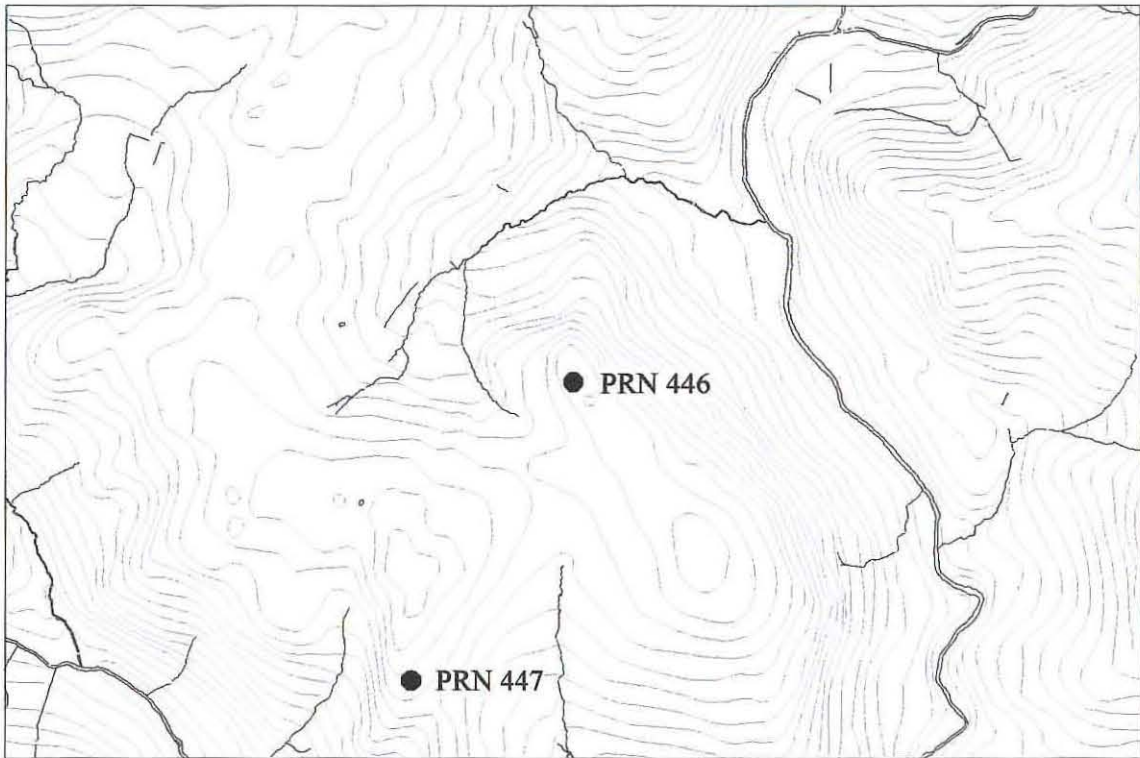
The site has been damaged by former cultivation and is now under pasture. The enclosed area measures about 75 m NW to SE by 60m, an area of 0.45ha, and comprises two summits separated by a shallow, natural depression running SW to NE. The plan, following the shape of the ground, is roughly rectangular with rounded corners.

The rampart is best preserved on the SW where it is a simple, grass-grown bank with external ditch, about 13m wide by 1.5m high overall. No trace of it appears on the NE. and the other two sides are worn down. The entrance was a simple gap, now about 8m wide, through the SW side near the W corner and the adjacent rampart to the SE appears to be slightly thickened and curving outwards. No features are visible in the interior. It is possible that the enclosure is an unfinished structure.

About 100 m SW of the fort is a broad, low bank, almost levelled, which can be traced for about 200m NW to SE. Its function and age are uncertain, but it does not seem to have been defensive and was probably a field boundary (1986, 41).

CPAT assessment: part of a rectangular enclosure on the north-west end of a ridge. Erosion at a point near the apparent south-east corner appears to confirm that at least part of the earthwork is a result of bedrock close to the surface rather than an artificial bank. The arrangement is also odd, with a moderate northern slope to the interior, when there are better locations nearby. It may be that more convincing traces have been removed by agricultural land improvement. Quarrying of the underlying outcrop has taken place on the east. (CPAT 2006).





PRN 446 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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Ffinant Isaf Enclosure

SN98193195

SN93SE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure ?*Date:* Iron Age ?*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.24 ha*Height:* 320mOD*Location:* Ridge

Visited

HER: a pear-shaped hillslope enclosure 50m E-W by 60m N-S. Bounded by bank and ditch on upper side double bank with medial ditch on W and scarp around remainder. Poss entrance at E.

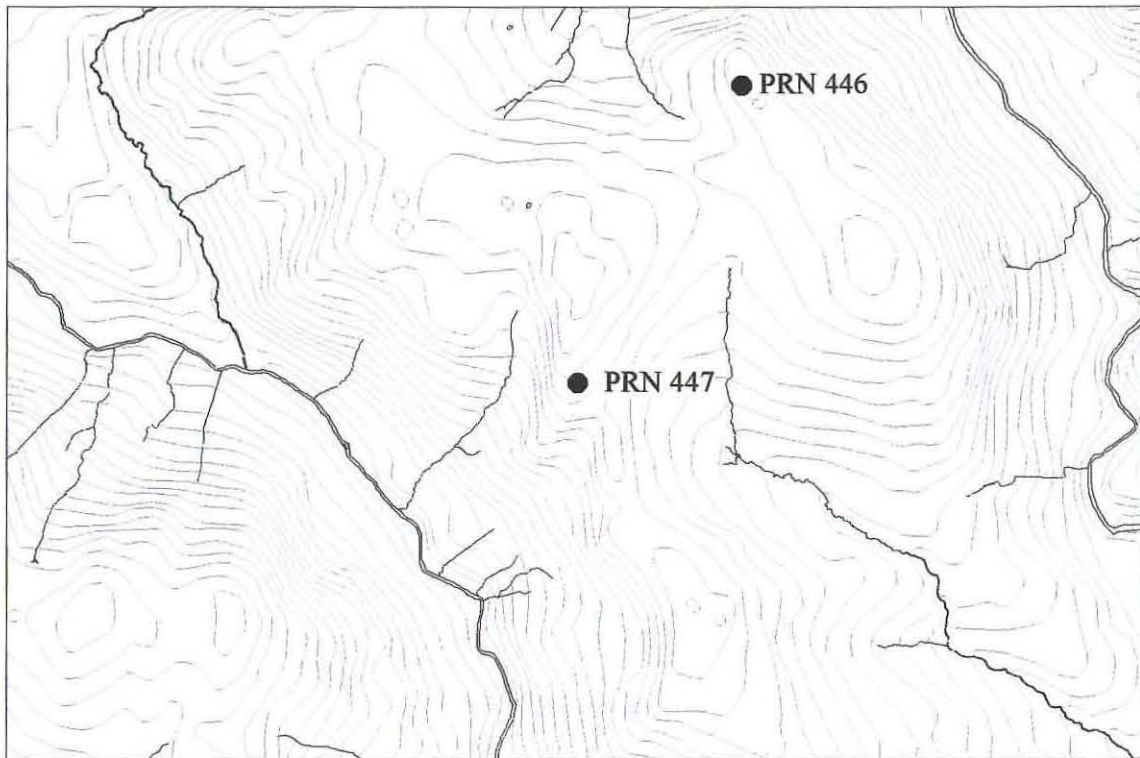
RCAHMW: 1.3km NW of Aberysgir is a small, oval, univallate enclosure at 335m above OD on a moderate SE-facing hillslope. The site has been damaged considerably by ploughing, particularly on the downhill (SE) side. Its overall dimensions are 73 m NE to SW by 63m and the area enclosed is approximately 0.24ha.

The earthwork is best preserved in its western half where the main bank rises to a maximum height of 1m above the interior on the NW and 0.9m above the exterior on the SW. Further to the S the bank fades into a single scarp before disappearing completely. On the NE the bank is only 0.2m high above the interior and 0.3 m above the ditch. On the SE it has been ploughed out completely. Around the uphill (N) side is a shallow ditch which may have served as a drainage hood. Around the NW side only, there is a short length of counters carp bank standing to a maximum height of 0.6m above the base of the ditch.

A modern field boundary bisects the enclosure on the E. The site of the entrance is uncertain and there are no recognisable ancient features in the interior (1986, 40).

CPAT Assessment: ovoid enclosure situated on a S-facing shelf of a ridge crest aligned N/S. The N side of the enclosure ascends a S-facing slope and is the most pronounced part of the earthwork, but elsewhere the defences are represented by little more than a low external scarp. An old linear field bank cuts across the E part of the enclosure and this may have created the apparent entrance on the NE side. The SE side of the enclosure has been effectively lost to land improvement. The outer element of the double bank system mentioned previously on the W side is actually a linear rock outcrop, now revealed as such by stock erosion, though the RCAHMW claimed it as a counterscarp bank. There are no internal features visible. The low appearance of the earthworks and the overlooked location of the site suggest that it is not likely to have had a purely defensive function. Overall dimensions are 70m NNE/SSW by 55m with the bank up to 0.8m high. (CPAT 2006).

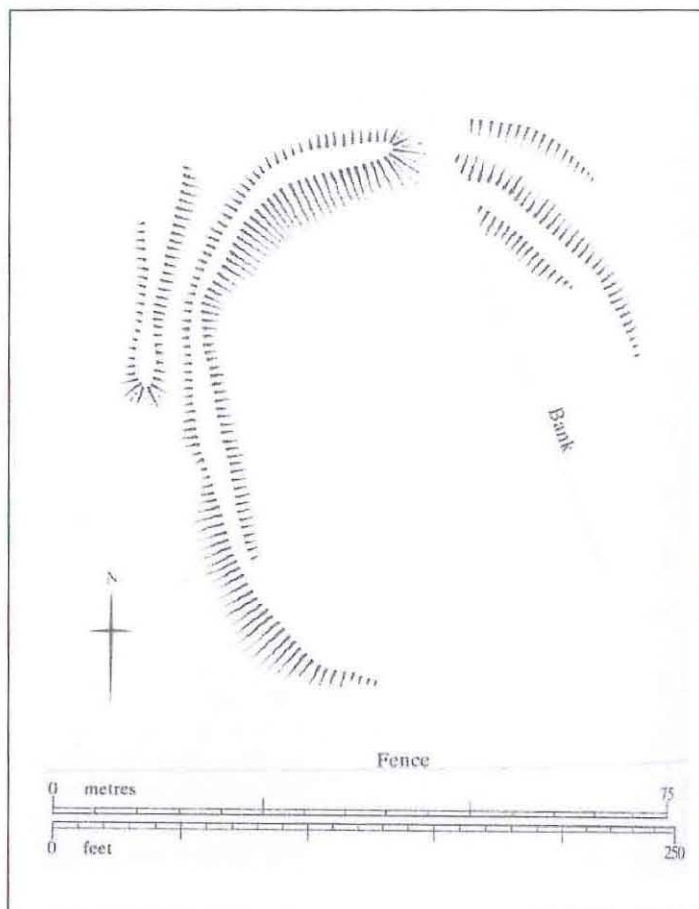




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PRN 447 Ffinant Isaf Enclosure. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

Gaer Fawr Hillfort

SO02203805

SO03NW

Scheduled No: Br052(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.48 ha*Height:* 395mOD*Location:* Spur

Visited

HER: elongated oval bivallate enclosure containing an area some 150m E-W by 35m N-S. Bivallation separated by 10m wide berm. Simple entrance at E. Lies on crest of S-facing escarpment. Scheduled (Cadw 2001).

RCAHMW: a small bivallate fort encloses the summit of the terminal spur of the Allt Arnog ridge, 3.5km east of Merthyr Cynog. The elongated-oval plan of the site is formed by precipitous natural defences on the other sides, enclosing an area sloping downwards from the south to the north, from a maximum altitude of 388m OD. The ground beyond the defences falls away steeply on the north and the south-west, and the least arduous approach to the site is from the north-east where a low saddle separates it from the main ridge.

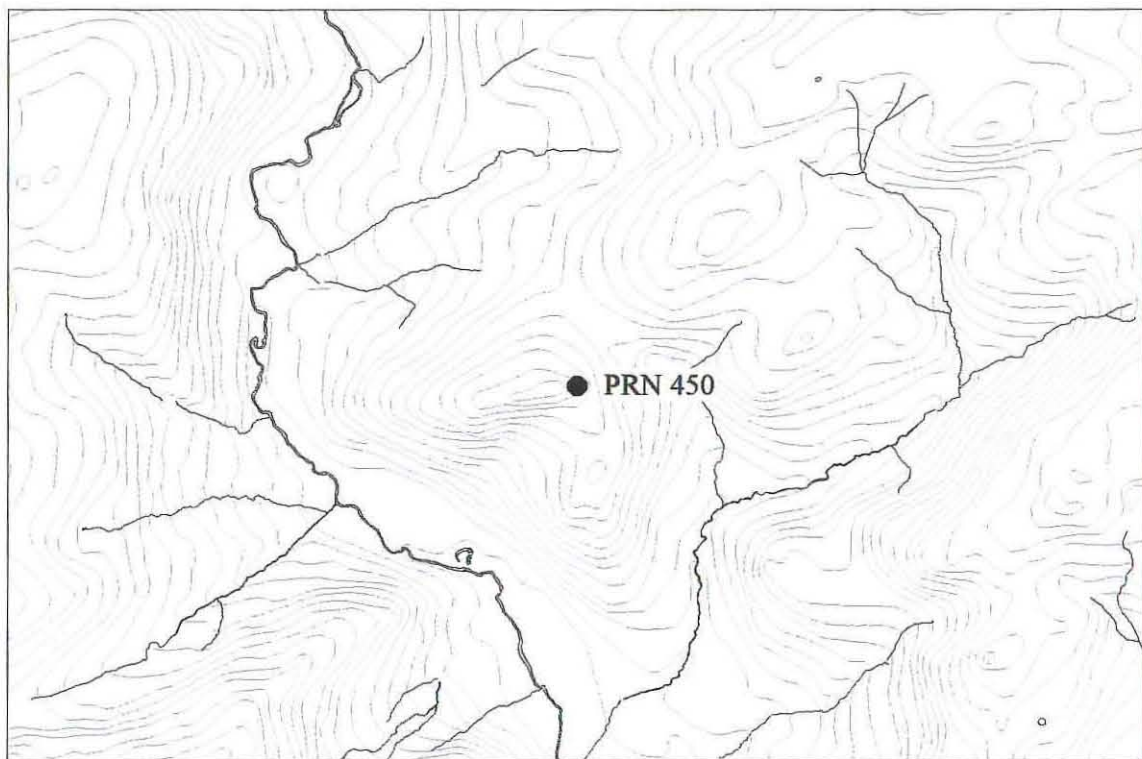
Lying in improved grassland, the fortifications are well-preserved despite some damage by ploughing, especially to the outer ditch. A modern field bank and ditch impinge on the west end of the earthworks and a modern fence occupies the crest of the outer rampart.

The enclosure measures internally 155m east to west, by 40m, and area of 48ha. The inner rampart is curved back on the west to join the natural slope but on the east stops short of the precipice to allow access to the interior. The inner face of the bank is preserved best on the west where it is 0.9m high. The outer scarp is up to 3m high. The earth and rubble comprising the bank were probably obtained from the fronting ditch and an internal quarry ditch of which there are slight indications along the northern side. Most of the inner ditch has been reduced to a shelf at the toe of the rampart but a shallow depression at the western end, and a hollow and slight counterscarp bank 0.6m high on the east are still visible. Between 5m and 10m in front of the inner ditch is the outer rampart which has been reduced to a stony, outward-facing scarp up to 2.75m high. Ploughing has obscured the full extent of the western end of the bank which does not seem to have been continued round to correspond to the inner rampart since there is no trace of it on the uncultivated ground above the natural southern slope. A shelf running the length of the rampart toe probably represents the site of an outer ditch. There is no sign of the counterscarp bank noted by Kay (R.E. Kay, Notebooks, p1004, copy in NMR).

The entrance is on the east through simple gaps between the ends of the ramparts and the natural slope. The inner rampart appears to have been strengthened here but there is no trace of the inturn indicated by Kay. Traffic crossing towards a wet hollow about 50m outside the enclosure has eroded both ramparts in corresponding positions towards the western end of the northern side for a length of about 10m. The use of this route rather than a more direct one suggests there may have been narrow gaps in the original works. There are no ancient features visible in the interior except the quarry ditch (1986, 75-77).

CPAT 2007: the site is generally as described by the RCAHMW. There are several areas of active stock erosion occurring on both the inner and outer ramparts towards the western end. A track (for wheeled vehicles) accesses the fort from the south-west, crossing through the inner ramparts, but this does not appear to be currently extensively used. An earlier field bank (as marked by the RCAHMW) connects with the ramparts of the fort in the west, then a branch continues along the exterior of the ditch in the south-west then downslope to the south-east.

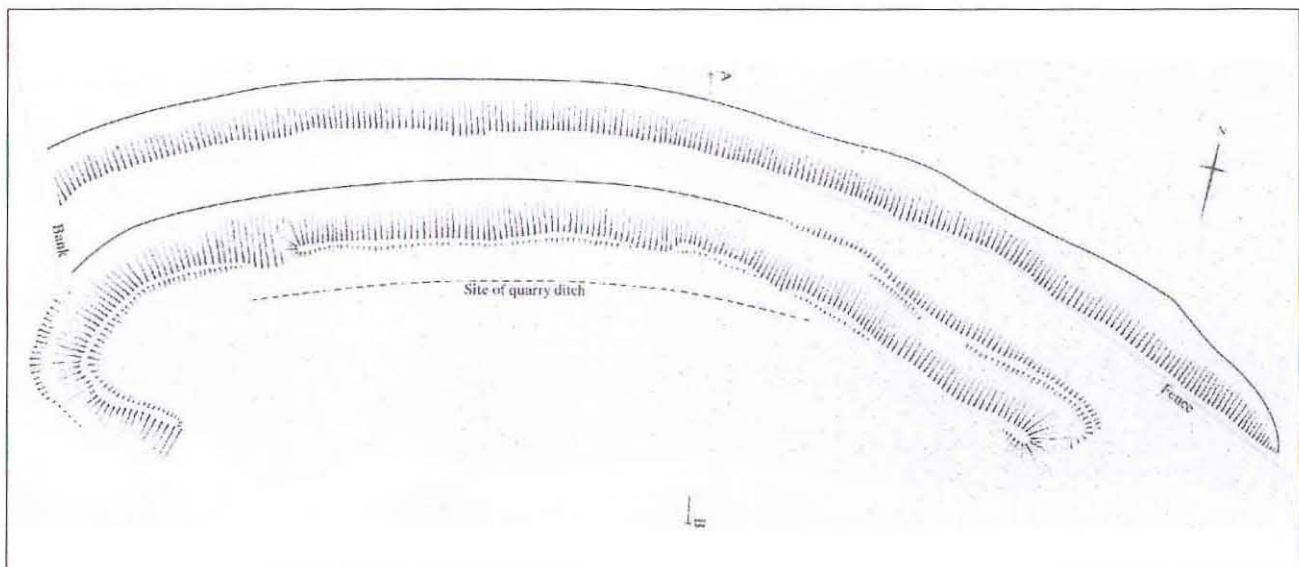




PRN 450 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 450 Gaer Fawr Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

Gaer Fach Hillfort

SO00903664

SO03NW

Scheduled No: Br053(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.48 ha*Height:* 413mOD*Location:* Ridge

Visited

HER: bivallate hillfort c135m EW by 44m wide comprising double bank and ditch separated by 16m wide berm. Entrance on east lies on crest of SE facing escarpment. New fence built across fort 1979.

Defences also have a counterscarp bank in the east and west. The entrance in the east is a simple gap between the end of the rampart and the natural slope.

RCAHMW: a small, bivallate fort stands in a commanding position on the summit of a ridge rising to 413m above OD, 2.5km east-south-east of Merthyr Cynog church. The ground beyond the defences falls away steeply in all directions especially in the south-east where there is a sharp drop between 15m and 25m deep. The site has been eroded severely by ploughing and is at present grazing land with sporadic bracken cover.

The elongated-oval plan is formed by natural defences on the south-east and a single curved rampart following the contours of the ridge on the other sides.

The site measures internally 140m north-east to south-west by 44m, and area of 0.48ha. The north-eastern side is strengthened by an additional widely-spaced rampart and the south-west end by a closely-spaced short length of bank.

Most of the main rampart has been reduced to a single outward-facing scarp up to 1.8m high, but at the south-west end it survives as a low bank about 5m wide by 1.2m externally. For a distance of 23m on the north the line of the rampart is interrupted by an expanse of bare rock which would have been cut away had the bank been constructed.

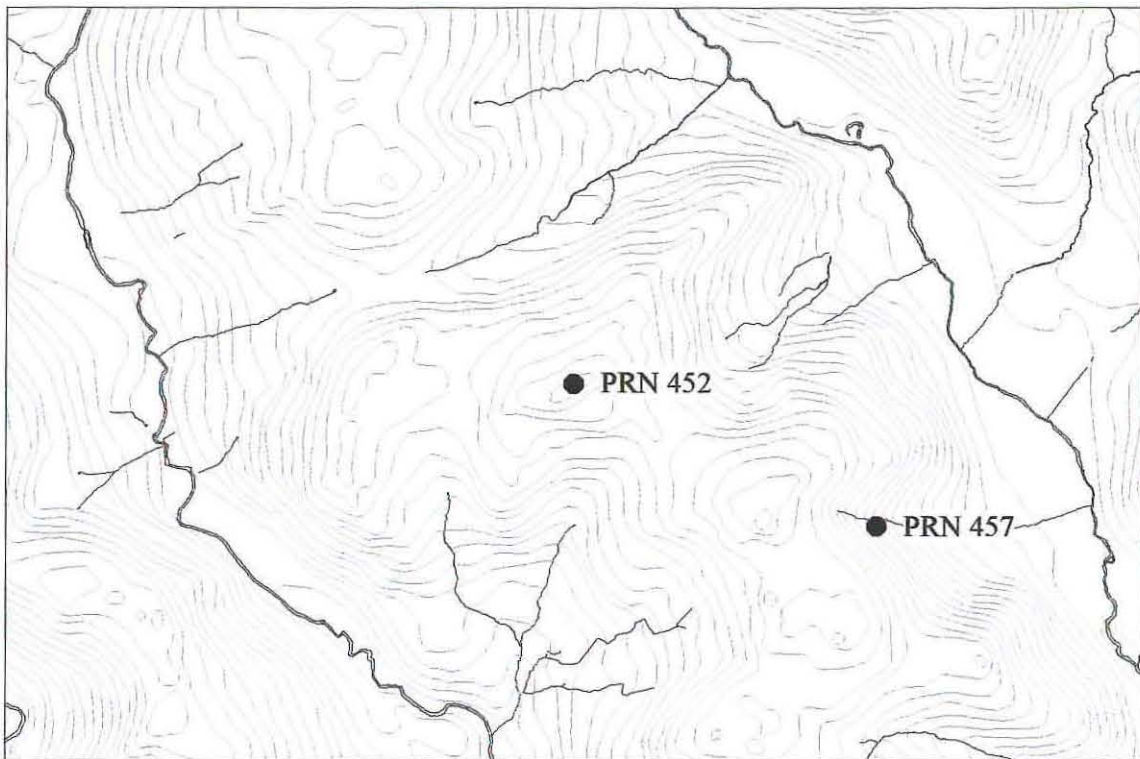
On the south-west the site of the ditch is indicated by a lush growth of grass at the toe of the rampart scarp, and further north by a vague hollow. At the foot of the scarp around the north is a shelf up to 3m wide.

Immediately outside the main rampart on the south-west is a bank 20m long standing 2.3m high above the shallow ditch in front of it. There is no sign that this rampart was originally longer. The outer rampart on the north-east is separated by about 30m from the inner. It stands up to 1.8m high above its fronting ditch which is 0.9m deep. The northern arm of the rampart is an outward-facing scarp tapering westwards into the natural slope. The indications are that efforts to strengthen the original enclosure were curtailed before the works were completed. The ditches and the lower parts of the rampart scarps are rock-cut and the main body of the banks constructed of earth and stone rubble. A quarry-ditch, 0.9m deep, is visible behind the bank on the south-west, which suggests that much of the material for the inner rampart may have been obtained from the interior. There are no discernible traces of the denuded scarp claimed to stand 16m in front of the main bank and represent further works around the northern side (1950 b.3 OS record card SO03NW3).

The only entrance seems to have been at the north-eastern end through a gap between the outer rampart and the edge of a natural scarp, and through a gap in the inner rampart a short distance from its north-eastern termination. IN the north-east half of the interior a possible hut site is represented by a levelled platform about 5m across which has been damaged considerably by ploughing. Elsewhere there are several modern pits, one of which may have been a beacon (1986, 74-75).

CPAT 2007: the site is generally as described in the main, RCAHMW description. There are two sites of active stock erosion at the south-western end on the main rampart and on the shorter length of additional bank. In addition to the area of bank remaining of the main rampart in the south-west, a lower stretch remains at the north-eastern end, standing to no more than 0.4m internally. There is evidence of faint ridge and furrow on the north-west sloping fields at the western end of the hillfort.

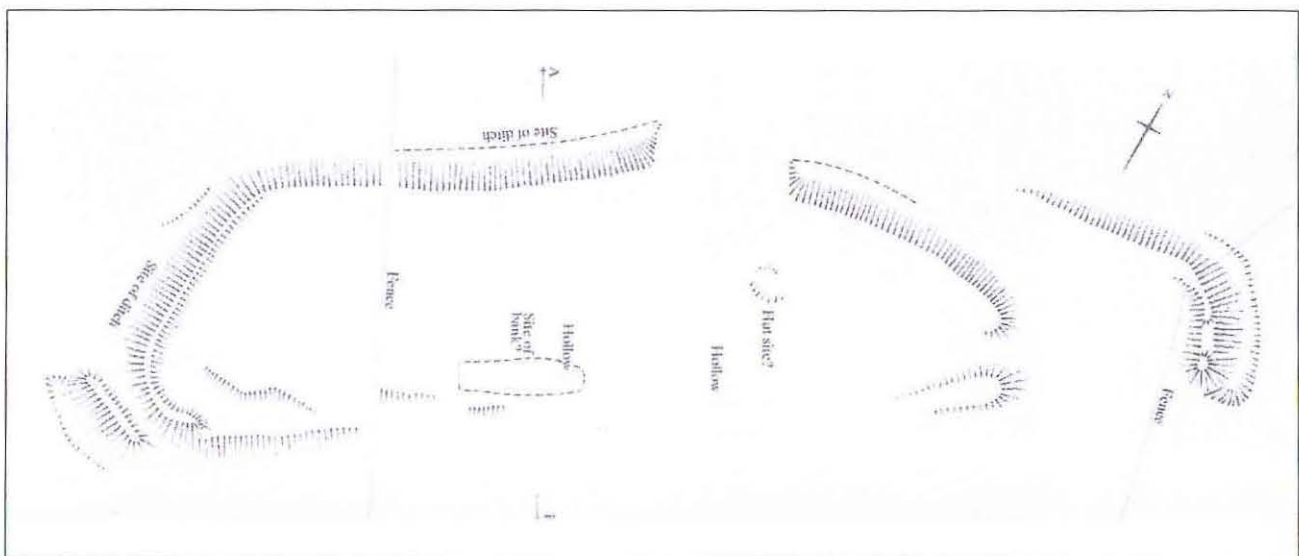




PRN 452 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 452 Gaer Fach Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

Twyn y Gaer Hillfort

SO05443526

SO03NE

Scheduled No: Br034(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.38 ha*Height:* 370mOD*Location:* Hilltop

HER: a sub-circular enclosure c.70m E/W by 75m N/S bounded by bank and ditch. Originally causewayed. Entrance at east, modern gap at west. Oval fold in south corner 14m across. A length of bank and ditch (50m long) projects axially from entrance. OS trig pillar within interior. Evidence of stone rampart revetting on SW side (CPAT visit 1979). Included in desktop study (PRN 85297) and visited during field survey (PRN 85298) as just outside area proposed for new windfarm (Hankinson, R, 1999e).

RCAHMW: a small oval, univallate fort encloses a rounded hilltop rising to 370m above OD, 4.4km north of Llanddew. Natural defences are provided by ground falling steeply to a small marshy valley on the north, but, from other directions, the site is approached easily from across land falling gently away from the defences on the south and west and almost level ground to the east.

The grass and bracken-covered earthworks are well-preserved generally, although the main rampart has been reduced for the most part to an outward facing scarp. Modern ploughing has damaged the mound projecting from the entrance and the passage of tractors has churned up the ditch on the south-west. The interior appears to be undisturbed.

The site measures internally 80m north-east to south-west by 60m, and area of 0.38ha. The rounded summit of the interior overlooks the main rampart whose outer scarp, between 1.5m and 3m high, is most prominent above the ditch either side of the entrance. The inner face of the bank survives in intermittent lengths up to 0.6m high. Concentric with the main rampart and composed similarly of earth and stones is a continuous counterscarp bank standing between 0.9m and 1.2m high above the surrounding ground. On the north side of the entrance the counterscarp bank is heightened to 1.5m but there is no corresponding strengthening of the main rampart. The ditch is an infilled hollow on all sides except the north where it is reduced to a shelf, and the inner face of the counterscarp bank is absent. The ditch bottom is deepest on the southern side of the entranceway, being up to 1.8m below the crest of the counterscarp bank.

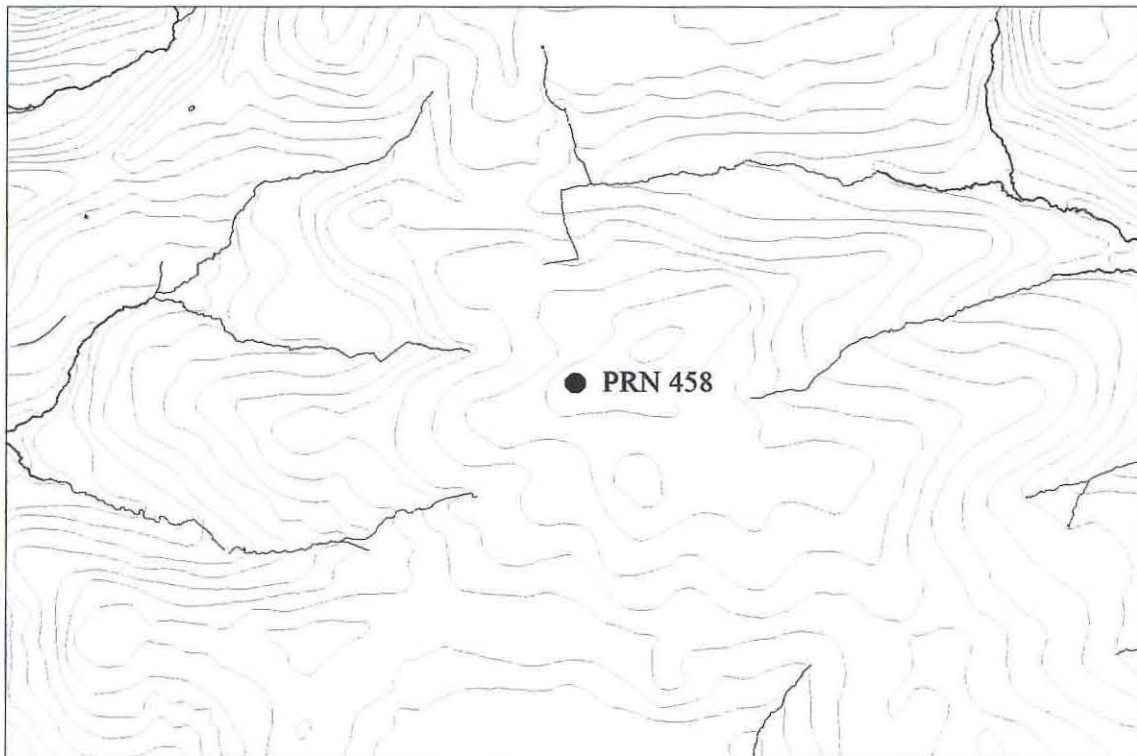
A long mound of earth and sandstone rubble, flanked by ditches, projected east from the entrance gap for about 50m. Recent ploughing has shortened the mound and obliterated the ditch on the north side. Originally the feature was about 14m wide overall by 0.6m high, the top of the mound being between 2m and 3m wide. The mound is placed symmetrically relative to its entrance. It is not possible to be sure of its relationship with the enclosure without excavation. The probability is that it is a later feature functionally unrelated to the fort. The mound bears a superficial resemblance to pillow mounds found in the vicinity.

The only feature visible in the interior is a levelled platform with a slight curving bank on its upper side attached to the south-east rampart. This may be the site of a contemporary hut about 10m in diameter or the remains of a later fold.

A post-Roman date for the enclosure cannot be ruled out.

Dr C.B. Crampton (Arch Camb 1967 CXVI, p 64) from a study of enlarged aerial photographs, records an extensive system of very small fields surrounding the fort. These were not identified during ground inspections in 1968 and 1978 an part of his map seems incompatible with the visible remains: e.g. the tongue extending the line of the long mound across the fort. However, on the steep slopes north-east of the enclosure there were the remains of what appeared to be very irregular, probably hand-dug, ridge-and-furrow or lazy-bed cultivation. The lines of this were not parallel but converged and butted-up against each other, the average width being about 2m by up to 0.3m high. The whole are of these 'fields' was ploughed in 1981 (1986, 71-73).

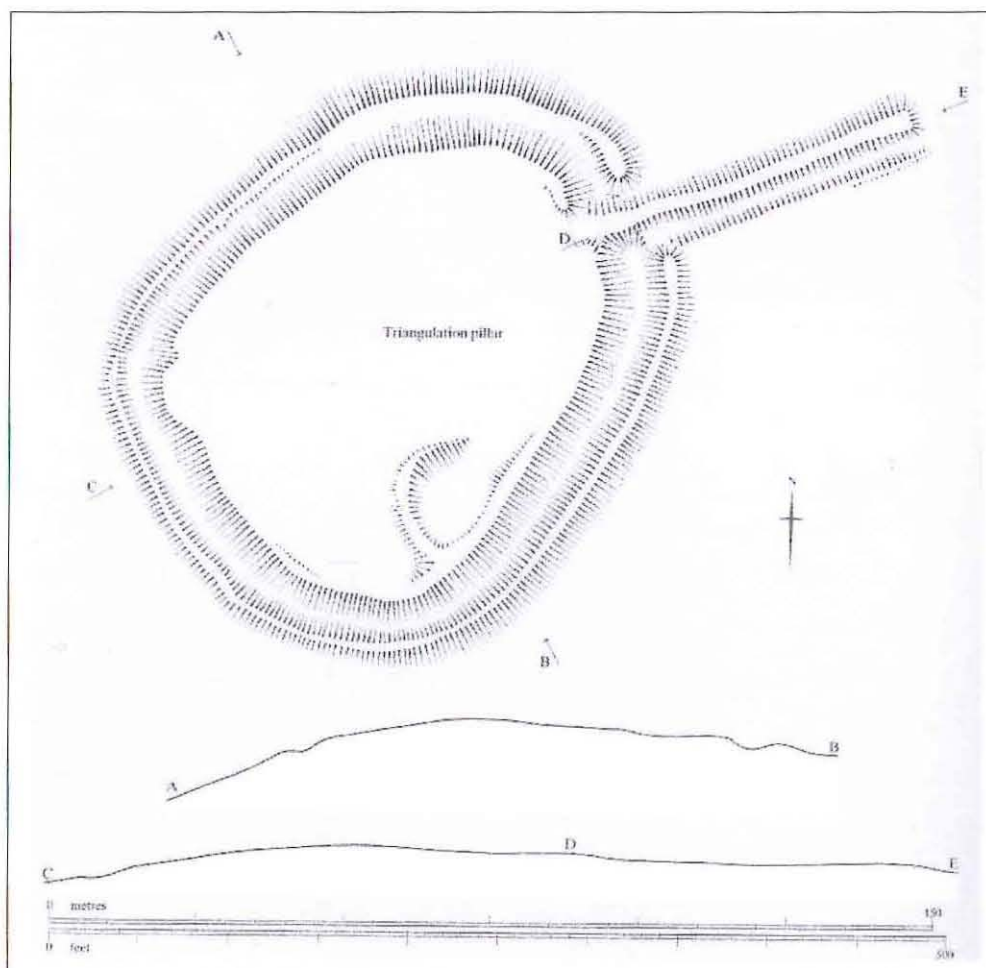




PRN 458 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 458 Twyn y Gaer Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

Pwll y Cwrw Hillfort

SO09303510

SO03NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure  
*Area:* 0.8 ha

*Date:* Iron Age  
*Height:* 298mOD

*Form:* Earthwork  
*Location:* Hilltop

Visited

HER: a bivallate enclosure seen as cropmark, sub-circular c160m diameter. Bounded by much reduced scarp 1m high. Possible entrance at SE.

RCAHMW: early authorities record the existence of a fort on Pwll-y-cwrw farm which is probably that identified by RCAM in 1968. The earthworks enclose the upper slopes of the S end of a small ridge which rises to 290m OD, 1.5km WSW of Llandyfalle. The easiest approach to the site is from the NW where the ground beyond the defences slopes away less steeply than elsewhere.

Surface indications of the supposed fort are meagre and difficult to interpret as the field in which they occur has been, and continues to be, intensively cultivated. When re-identified in 1968, the fort appeared to be of roughly circular plan about 160m in diameter overall, and possibly 100m internally, an area of about 0.8ha. A strong scarp up to 2.5m high, below the existing field boundary on the SE, and a less prominent curving scarp, up to 1.5m high, coinciding with the field boundary on the NW, were taken to form the outer defences of the site, and concentric changes of slope within the field to represent at least one inner rampart.

In 1973 these general details were confirmed by an OS investigator who identified within the outer works three poorly defined scarps on the E, reducing to two on the S, and one on the W, forming with the NW boundary a roughly circular plan. However, there was considerable uncertainty about the degree to which these reflected fortifications or erosion features.

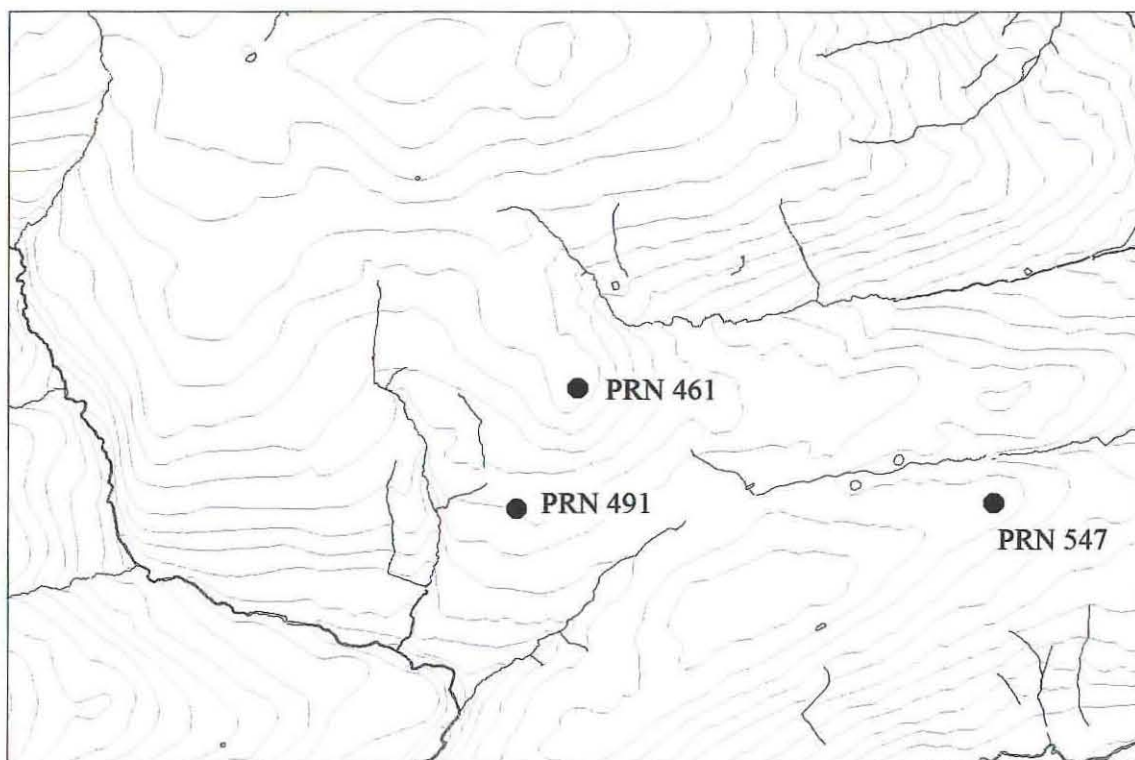
Since then further damage has been done to the site and in 1982 there remained only vague traces of the lines identified by the OS.

A depression in the scarps on the SE may indicate the position of an entrance.

The site requires confirmation by excavation 1986 (70).

CPAT Assessment: the site sits atop the summit of a small hillock within an area of gently rolling, rounded hillocks and gently sloping pasture ground. It consists of a sub-circular bank and intermittent ditch enclosing a relatively level, platform area c.25m N to S by 20m. No internal features or entrances were identified. The bank appears generally earthen with some loose stone in the central area. The bank is up to 2m wide and 1m high (externally) in the S with 0.20m deep ditch in the same area. Elsewhere the ditch is much less pronounced. The surrounding area shows evidence of ridge and furrow ploughing, particularly in the S, which probably accounts for some of the degradation of the site. There was no sign of the larger enclosure as described in the original description. The site is currently planted with Scots pines.





PRN 461 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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Pen-y-crug hillfort

SO02933037

SO03SW

Scheduled No: Br063(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 1.86 ha*Height:* 330mOD*Location:* Hilltop

HER; sub-oval multivallate contour enclosure c.170m north/south by 140m east/west internally. Simple entrance in south-east. Possible annexe at south (also said to be part of an earlier fort by Foster & Daniel 1965). Quarry damage on east and north.

RCAHMW: a large, oval, multivallate fort encloses the summit of a prominent, isolated hill, about 2km north-west of the confluence of the rivers Usk and Honddu at Brecon. The undulating interior of the site rises from east to west with a peak towards the western side 330.3m above OD, and another on the southern 331.62m above O.D. The position is a conspicuous and commanding one, the ground beyond the defences falling away fairly steeply in all directions.

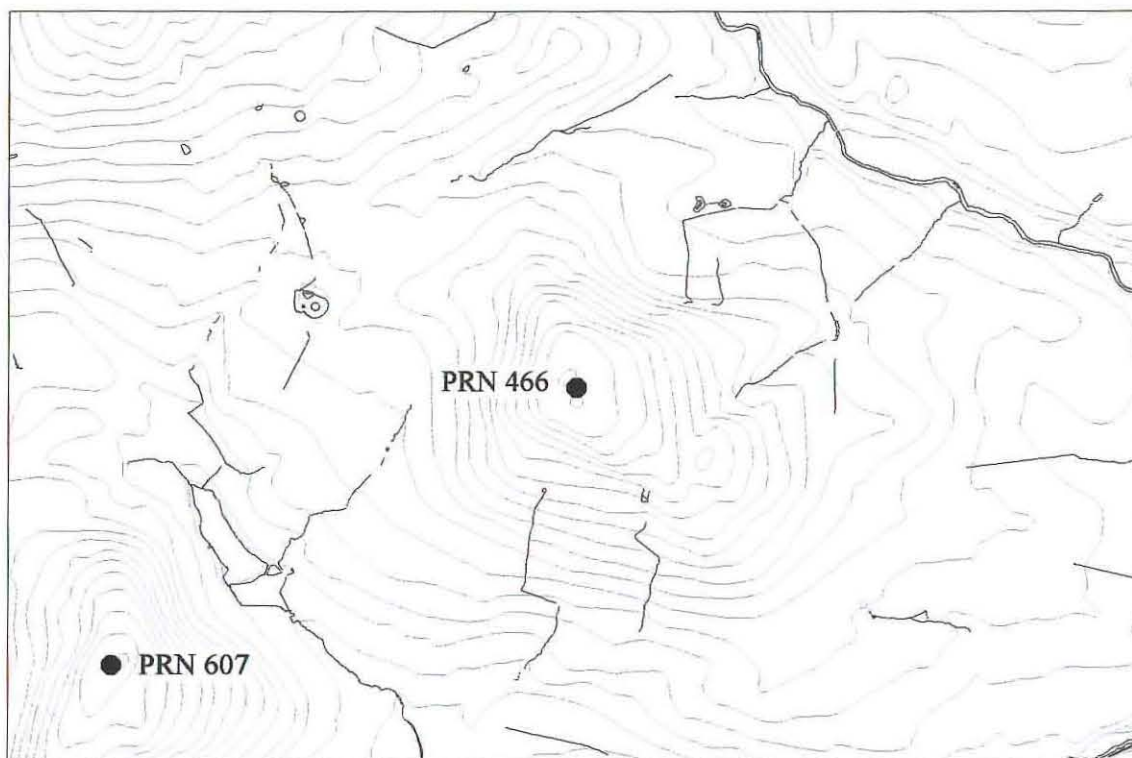
Although denuded, the surviving earthworks are still prominent features. Quarrying has damaged the outer perimeter defences on the north, south and east, and parts of the site have been eroded by movement along the paths and tracks crossing it. The defences are covered by grass, bracken and patches of gorse and the ploughed interior is grazing land at present.

The series of ramparts follows closely the contours of the upper part of the hill. For most of the circuit there are four ramparts and a counterscarp bank, reduced to three on the west where the slope is steeper. The banks were constructed of earth and stone, probably by the method termed 'downward construction'. Traces of a quarry ditch are visible behind the innermost rampart. The enclosure measures internally 182.5m north to south by 134m, an area of about 1.86 ha.

The innermost rampart is the most substantial with an inward-facing scarp up to 0.6m high on the north and east and an outer scarp between 4m high on the south-east and 5.2m high on the north-east. On the south-east the inner scarp of the second rampart is up to 1.9m high and the outer scarp just under 4m high, but elsewhere is less substantial. The inner face of the third bank is up to 0.7m high and the outer face varies between 0.9m high on the south-east and 2m on the south-west. The fourth rampart which coalesces in to the third on the north-east and south-west appears as either a bank or terrace. The outer scarp is up to 1.5m high and where an inner face exists is about 0.5m high. The fifth rampart or counterscarp bank has an inner face a maximum of 0.9m high on the south and an outer scarp which varies between 1m and 3m high, being especially prominent on the north-west. Attached to the counterscarp bank on the south, to the west of the entrance, is a mutilated stretch of bank and ditch forming a triangular annexe measuring internally 65m east to west by 22m. The bank has been reduced to a single outward-facing scarp at its west end, 2.4m high, and the ditch is extant only on the east side where it is a shallow hollow. The earthworks are discontinuous at the south-east corner, terminating either side of a sloping track approaching the interior at a slight angle to the main trend of the defences. The third and fourth banks are intrenched both sides of the entranceway which narrows as it ascends to the restricted gap between the sharply intrenched ends of the innermost rampart.

In the south-west corner of the interior, overlooked by the highest point of the hill, is an L-shaped scarp up to 1.7m high on the west and 0.5m high on the south. At the foot of the west-facing side is a vague irregular hollow. It has been suggested that this could be the remains of an earlier hillside enclosure but it could be equally well a structure contemporary with the occupation of the fort. Its alignment does not suggest a connection with the annexe on the south side of the fort which is probably a later addition. Apart from the latter, the only other internal feature is a semicircular hollow cut into the north-eastern slope of the south summit of the site. Its purpose is obscure, possibly a quarry or hut site (1986, 68-70)

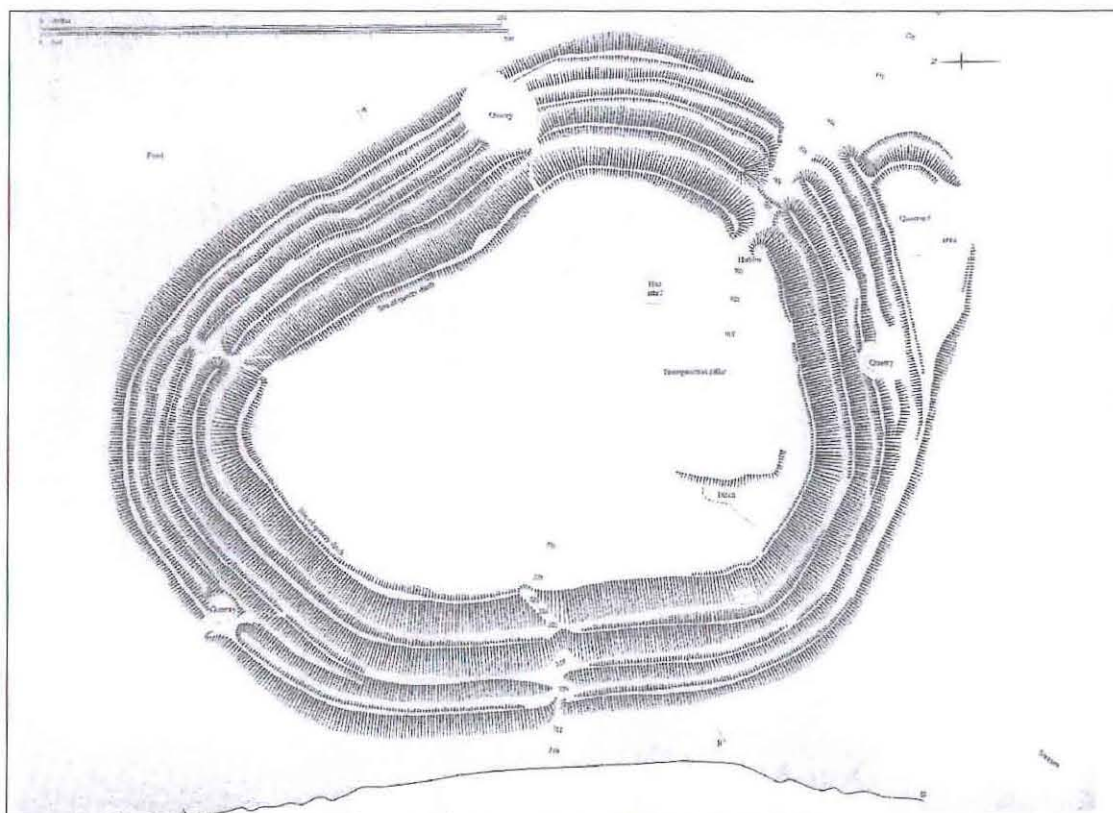




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PRN 466 Pen-y-crug hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

**Llyswen Camp**

SO12773790

SO13NW

Scheduled No: Br085(POW)

*Type:* Defended enclosure*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.7 ha*Height:* 182mOD*Location:* Hill slope

HER: bivallate sub-circular hillslope enclosure with an overall dia of 140m to 150m. Orig entrance to E. Ramparts on downhill side reduced to 2 scarps. Sited on ESE facing slope.

Cadw: two large steep sided banks on upper (W) side, inner 2-2.5m high on inside and c.1.5m high on outside. Outside is a deep (c.2m) steep-sided ditch. Two deep gullies cut through banks. Farm track cuts through banks. Banks continue on N, with inner effectively a scarp 2-2.5m high on outside and outer 1.8m high on inside and 1.5m high on outside. Outer ditch shallower and peters out to the E. Inner bank becomes a scarp towards E end, and at the NE corner the outer bank lowers and stops. Defences continue as 2 scarps on E, upper 2-2.5m high and lower c.1.602m high. Pond between the scarps at the SE corner. On S side, inner bank is c.0.7-1.5m high on inside, c.2m high on outside. Outer bank is 2m high with streams in ditches on either side. At SW corner a scarp runs W from the outside of the outer ditch. Animal erosion present. (Cadw 1988). Scheduled (Cadw 2000).

RCAHMW: a large, multivallate enclosure stands between 180m and 210m above OD on a steep SEE-facing slope overlooking the Wye valley, 0.5km W of Llyswen church. The land falls steeply on the N and E while the site is overlooked by rising ground to the W.

Most of the defences lie in deciduous woodland where they have suffered natural denotation which in places has reduced them to single scarps. They have been eroded further by a series of small streams and movement along relatively recent tracks and paths. Stream erosion has made the earthworks appear more prominent than they were originally. Recently, one streamlet has been dammed between the inner and outer scarp at the SE corner. The grass- and bracken-covered interior slopes upwards from E to W and does not appear to have been ploughed in recent times.

The main enclosure is an irregular pentagon formed by straight lengths of bank and measures internally 97m N to S by 81m, an area of about 0.7ha. The annexe is an irregular quadrilateral enclosing about 0.42ha. The annexe and the outermost rampart on the S appear to be additions to the main enclosure, probably at the same date.

The inner rampart of the main enclosure is a strong earth and stone bank on the uphill W and S sides but around the E has been reduced to an outward-facing scarp between 1.3m and 2.5m high. On the W the inner scarp of the bank is up to 3m high. The outer scarp is up to 5m high at the SW corner where stream erosion has scoured the ditch at its foot but elsewhere it is between 2m and 4m high. The outer rampart is slighter than the inner. On the E it is reduced to an outward-facing scarp between 1.5m and 2.5m high. Elsewhere it is a bank whose inner face is about 4m high at the SW corner but between 2m and 2.7m high along the S side. The outer scarp stands up to 3m high on the S, decreasing to between 0.6m and 1.2m on the W but rising again to 2.5m on the NW. The outer ditch is a discontinuous feature, lacking on the N and E and poorly preserved on the S. On the W it is between 1.5m and 2m deep with an exaggerated depth of 3.1m at the SW corner where streams have enlarged both ditches into miniature ravines.

There are several breaches in the defences but the simple gap through the two scarps on the E was probably the only original entrance to the main enclosure. No ancient features are visible in the interior.

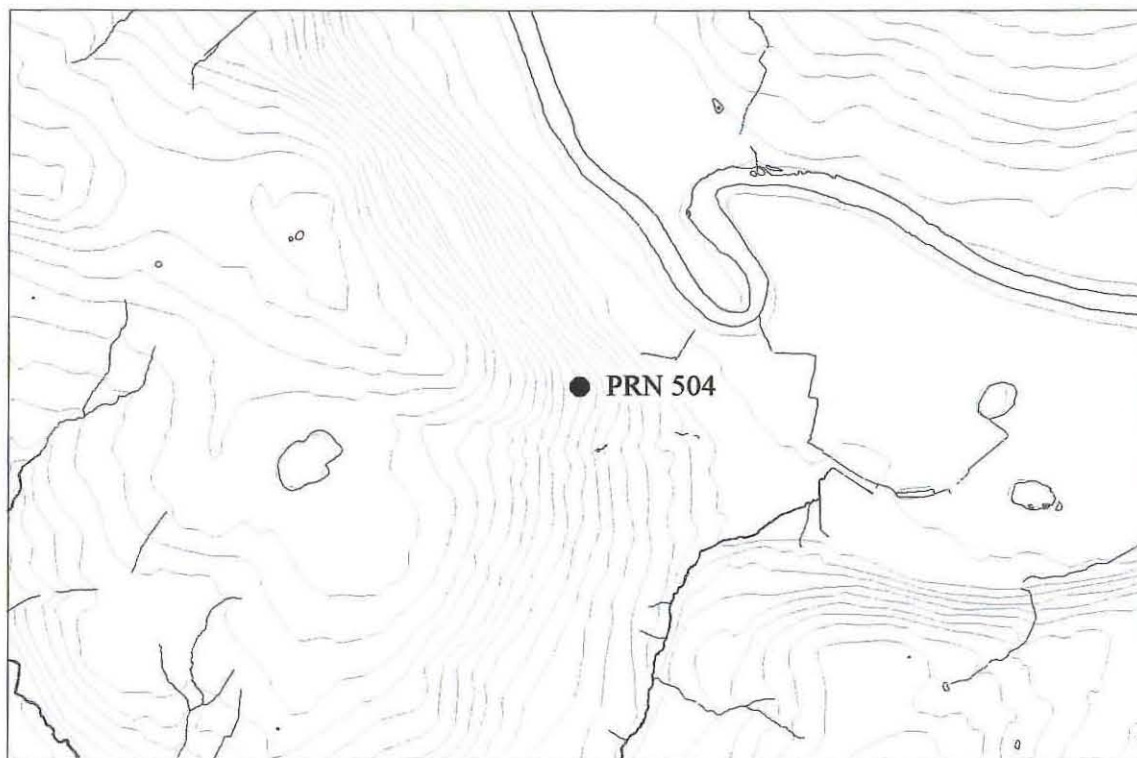
The inner scarp of the annexe rampart is up to 2m high although it is generally lower and partly absent on the S. The outer face is very prominent, about 3.4m high, near the junction with the SW corner of the main enclosure. Around the W side it is between 0.4m and 1m high. It is uncertain whether or not the bank was accompanied by a true ditch. Access to the annexe was obtained through a broad gap at the N end. A low L-



shaped earthwork has divided off from the rest of the interior a small rectangular area at the tip of the enclosure which is entered through a narrow gap in the NW corner. This structure may post-date the building of the annexe.

The third rampart on the S has been damaged considerably but in places the outer crest stands up to 1.7m above the base of a shallow ditch in front which seems to accompany the earthwork for about half its length.

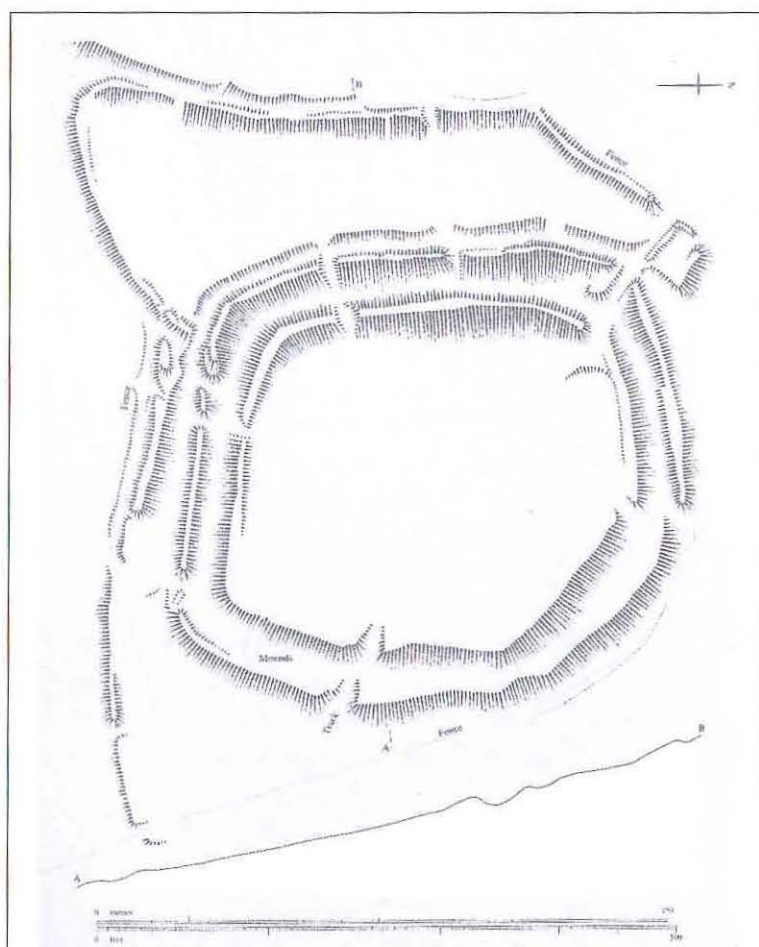
Llyswn was an important centre in early medieval times, for legal disputes between Gwynedd and Deheubarth were adjudicated here. It is conceivable that some of the works of the enclosure belong to this period. (This was suggested by Professor Dewi-Prys Thomas, who also believes that the shape of the enclosure represents a conscious attempt at an architectonic shaping of pentagonal space, setting this site apart from other hillslope enclosures in the county) (1986, 112-15).



PRN 504 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 504 Llyswen Camp. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



**Hillis Hillfort**

SO11403273

SO13SW

Scheduled No: Br040(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort  
*Area:* 3.6 ha*Date:* Iron Age  
*Height:* 305mOD*Form:* Earthwork  
*Location:* Hilltop

HER: sub-oval hillfort some 330m N-S by 130m wide defined by multivallate ramparts on W and S and bivallate and univallate in E and N. Inturned entrances at S and NE. Cross-bank (running E-W) almost bisects interior.

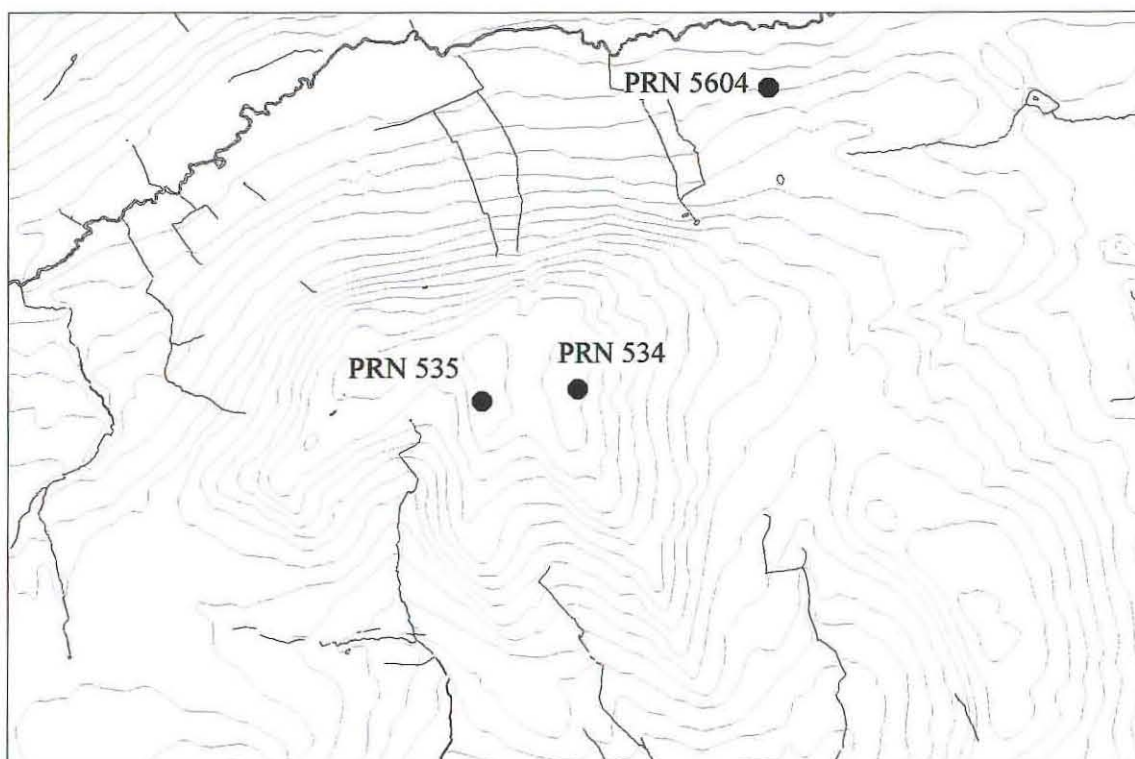
RCAHMW: a large, oval, multivallate fort encloses ground rising to 310m above OD at the end of a ridge south of Afon Dulas, 0.6km SW of Llanfilo. Beyond the defences the land falls away fairly steeply on three sides while the approach from the W is easy across the gently undulating crest of the ridge. The interior rises generally to a high point near the middle of the W side.

For most of the circuit the defences are grass-covered and wooded and a line of trees follows the crest of the scarp subdividing the interior. Ploughing has denuded the interior and inner defences. Part of the NE side has been damaged by quarrying of which there are further remains beyond the SW corner. Recent field banks and fences cross and partly utilise the lines of the earthworks and movement along paths and tracks has caused erosion.

The site measures internally 340m N to S by 132m, an area of 3.6ha. The ramparts consist at present of consolidated banks of stone rubble. For much of its circuit the inner rampart has been reduced to an outward facing scarp between 0.8m and 0.31m high above a terrace on the site of the inner ditch. Around the NW side and at the S entrance traces of the inner face of the bank survive up to 0.9m and 1.1m high respectively. The inner bank is the only defence on the N and there is no surface indication of a ditch in front. Throughout its circuit the second rampart has been reduced to an outward-facing scarp varying between 0.5 and 3.1m high. A counterscarp bank gives additional strength to the defences on the W and S where the approach is easiest. The inner and outer scarps of the bank attain maximum heights of 1m and 1.5m respectively but in places on the W the feature is of no more than a field bank proportions and there are no traces of a ditch in front.

There are two entrances. On the S the inner rampart is deeply inturned forming a passageway about 28m long, narrowing to 3m wide at the gate end. This passageway is approached obliquely from the SE through simple gaps in the outer defences. The inner rampart is also deeply inturned on the NE forming a passageway at least 25m long which narrows to 2m wide. The sloping passage to the gate here may have been partly rock-cut. The approach to the entrance is obscured by quarrying but appears to have been via a causeway at an angle to the line of defences.

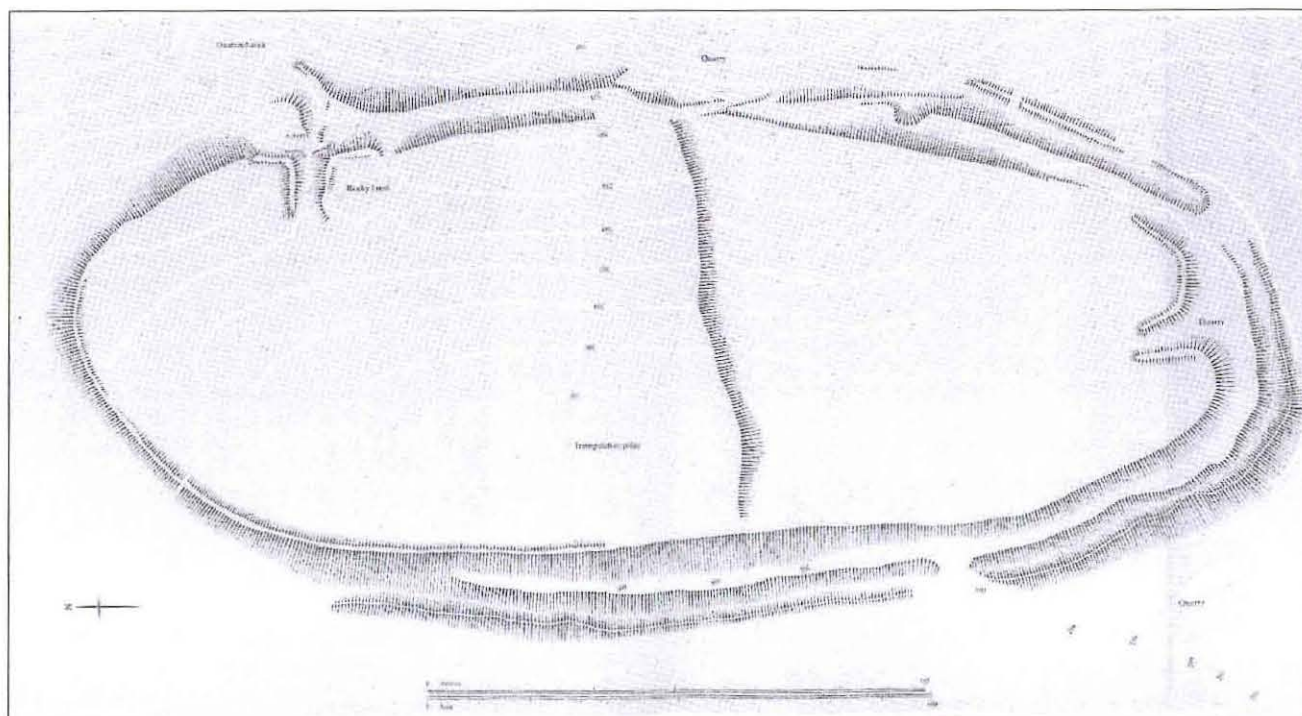
The interior is subdivided by a S-facing scarp up to 3m high into two enclosures respectively 191m and 143m long N to S. The scarp is probably the eroded remains of a rampart inserted at a later date to reduce the defensible area to the N half of the site. No other ancient internal features are visible. (1986, 104-06).



PRN 534 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 534 Hillis Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Pen yr Allt Hillfort

SO11083269

SO13SW

Scheduled No: Br039(POW)

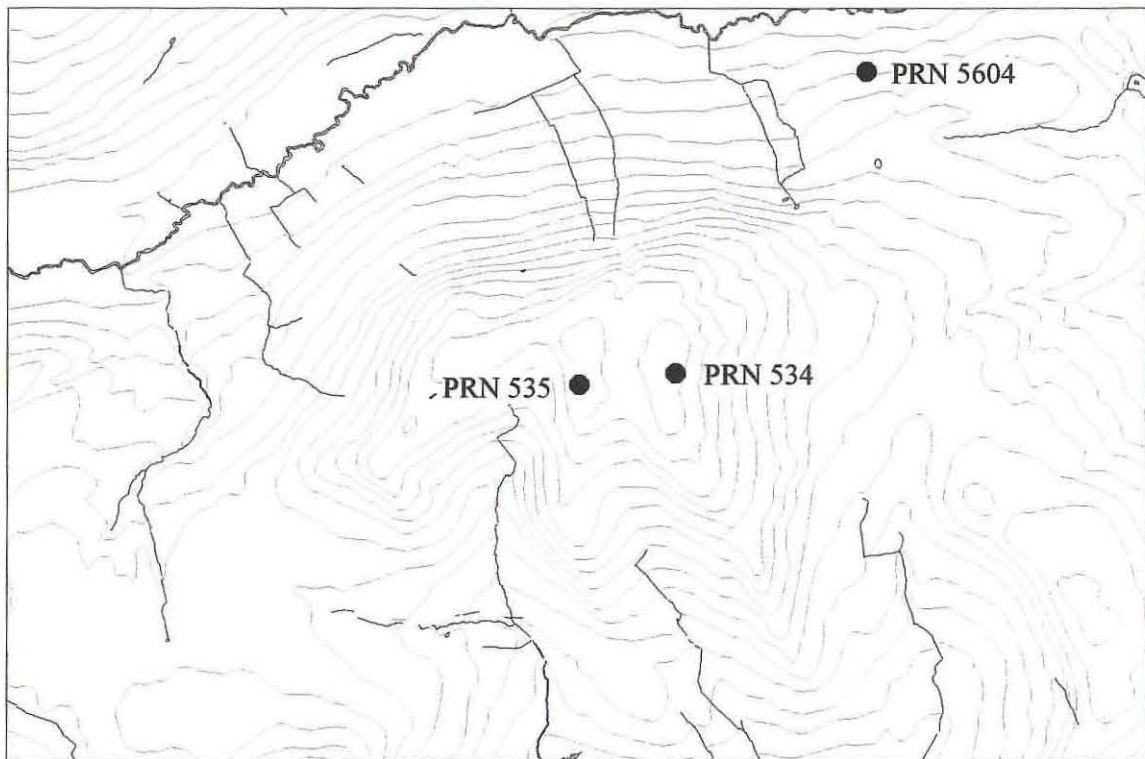
*Type:* Defended enclosure*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.23 ha*Height:* 305mOD*Location:* Ridge

HER: roughly oval univallate enclosure some 60m N-S by 45m E-W defined by bank and ditch on N reducing to ditch on E and S with poss bivallation on W. Entrance at N.

RCAHMW: a small, oval, univallate enclosure stands at 300m above OD on the edge of a low, steep, W-facing escarpment, 1km SW of Llanfilo. To the E of the site the ground rises gently towards the large fort of Hillis, 200m away. To the S there is a narrow stretch of level land before the fairly steep fall towards Pengoyffordd. The W side of the enclosure is formed by a natural escarpment up to 2.5m deep, whose slope may have been enhanced artificially. The latter is now grass-grown and wooded, and in places there are lengths of outcropping rock which have been quarried slightly. The S and SE defences have been denuded by ploughing and are overlain by later field boundaries. The NE part of the rampart is grass-grown and tree-covered. Movement along pathways has eroded the W escarpment and a modern trackway truncates the bank on the N. The interior slopes gently from E to W and has been ploughed.

The site measures internally 60m N to S by 47.5m, an area of 0.23 ha. The rampart is best preserved on the NE where it is a grass-grown earth and stone bank whose inner and outer scarps are respectively up to 1.3m and 2m high. On the SE the bank is reduced to a single outward-facing scarp up to 1.4m high and on the S is represented probably by a very low, plough-spread mound. The ditch on the S is up to 0.7m deep while that around the E and N is between 0.3m and 0.8m deep. A likely position for the entrance is the gap between the end of the bank and the natural escarpment on the N but modern damage has obscured the details.

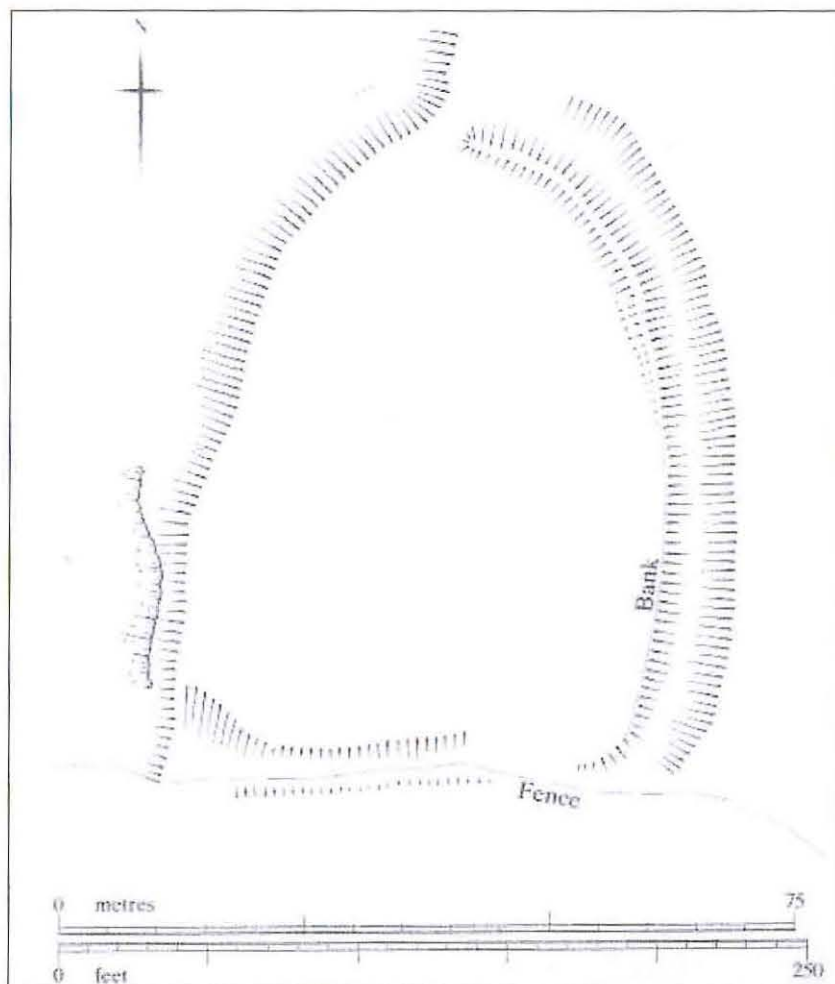
Similarly, plough damage and later boundary construction have obliterated the original form of the SE corner. A short hollow, partly impinged upon by a field bank, exists at the foot of the natural escarpment beyond the NW corner of the enclosure. The nature of any functional relationship between the two features is uncertain. No ancient structures are visible in the interior (1986, 103-04).



PRN 535 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 535 Pen yr Allt Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



**Drostre Bank Hillfort**

SO10203137

SO13SW

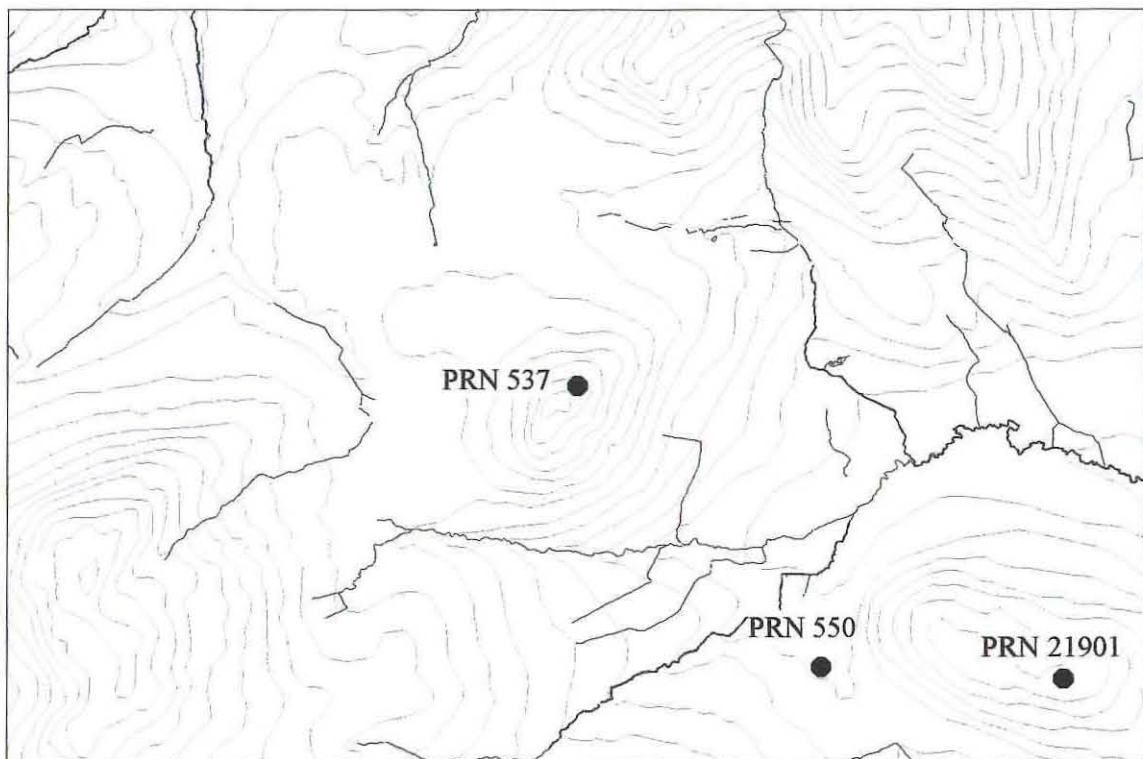
Scheduled No:

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.65 ha*Height:* 274mOD*Location:* Hilltop

Visited

HER: univallate enclosure defined by a ploughed down bank (1.1m high) on S and W and a low scarp on E. Remains of inturned entrance S. Modern fence cuts NE-SW across enclosure.

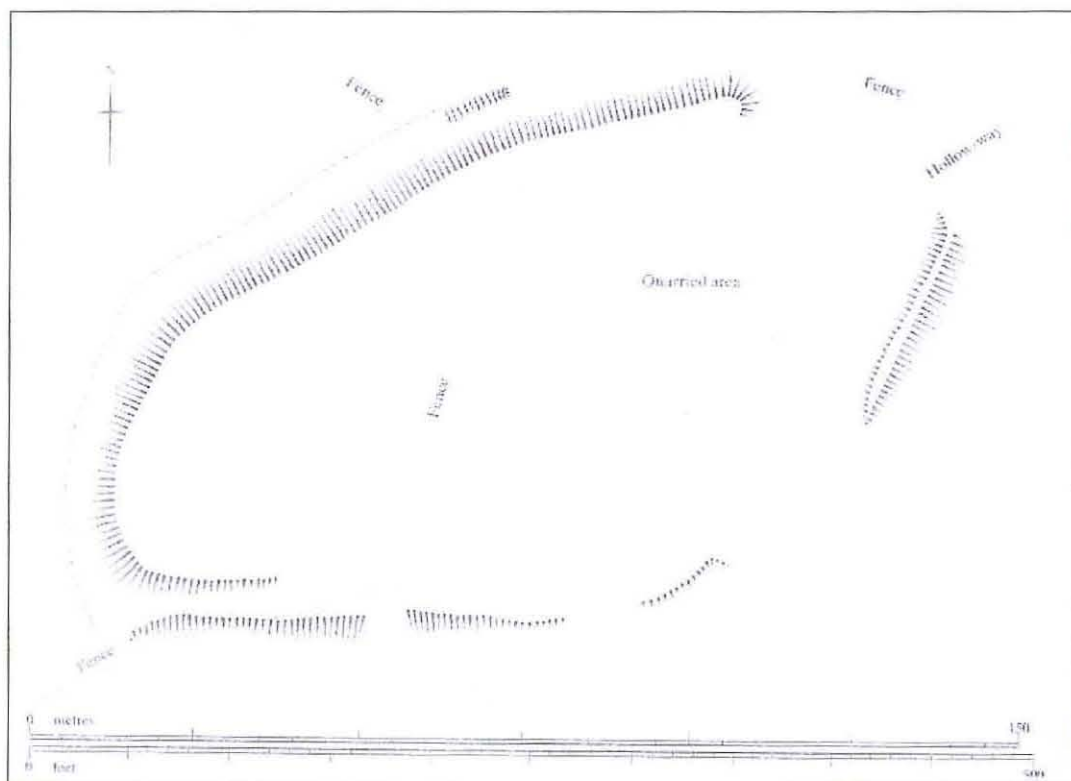
RCAHMW with CPAT modifications: an oval, univallate defended enclosure/hillfort enclosing the top of a steep-sided hill rising to 284m above OD, 2.5km SW of Llanfilo. The western part of the fort has been denuded severely by ploughing and is at present, pasture. The east side is wooded and for the most part pitted with post-medieval quarry hollows and masked by spoil tips and bracken. A holloway, 3m wide, runs through the north-east corner of the defences. Although it has opportunistically been used as the quarry access, it is still a good contender for the site of the original entrance to the fort. The site measures 133m east-north-east to west-south-west x 72m, an estimated area of 0.65ha. Two thirds of the internal area of the site have been quarried. A fenceline running north to south demarcates the boundary of the quarry. To the west a plateau, 44m east to west by 58m north to south, is all that survives of the original internal ground surface. The platform is almost certainly the site of dwellings, but no evidence could be seen of structural earthworks. On the north and west side, the rampart varies between 2m and 2.5m in height. On the south and south-east it appears as a discontinuous scarp between areas of quarrying. On the east, a bank of earth survives along with a scarp between 1m and 1.2m high. The scarp survives up to a height of 0.5m. Around the west and north-west sides the outer ditch is represented by a shelf at the foot of the rampart scarp. The ditch survives at its best in the north where a short stretch, of about 30m, of counterscarp bank 0.3m high also survives. An alternative site for the entrance lies on the south-west where the line of the rampart scarp is broken by a terrace at an angle to it. A later (?) holloway track ascends the south-east hillslope up to this point (RCAHMW 1986, 99 with additions).



PRN 537 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 537 Drostre Bank Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



**PRN: 547**

**Tre Durn Wood Hillfort**

**SO10673472**

**SO13SW**

**Scheduled No:**

*Type:* Hillfort

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* 0.25 ha

*Height:* 229mOD

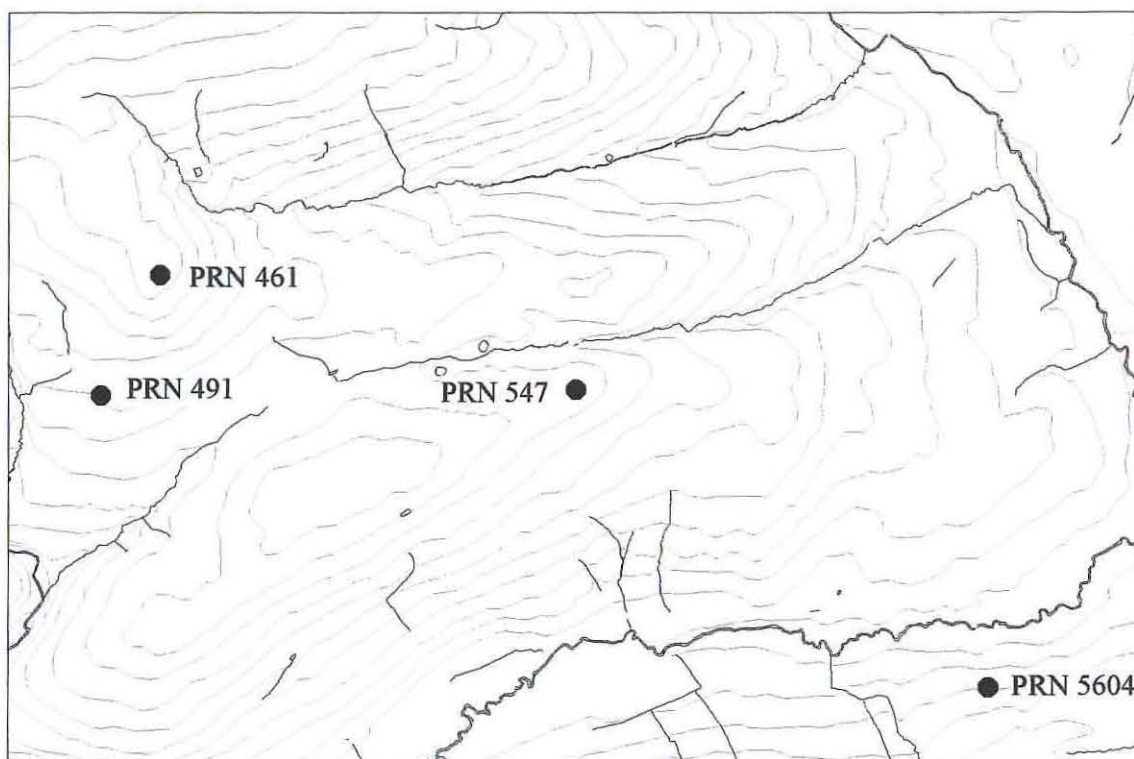
*Location:* Ridge

HER: sub-rectangular enclosure some 70m E-W by 50m wide defined by a bank 1.5m high above a 0.5m deep ditch except on W where the bank rises 2m from the bottom of a 1m deep ditch. Sub-division at W end. Entrance on E.

RCAHMW: a small, sub-rectangular, univallate enclosure stands at about 230m above OD on the E tip of a ridge, 0.8km S of Llandefalle. The site can be approached fairly easily from most directions but on the S the slopes of the spur falling fairly steeply to the upper reaches of Afon Dulas afford some natural protection.

Afforestation has caused extensive damage to the earthworks. Most of the old conifer plantation has been felled and replaced by young trees but remnants survive on the perimeter of the site. Grass, bramble and holly cover the banks and interior and reeds grow in the ditch and waterlogged hollows.

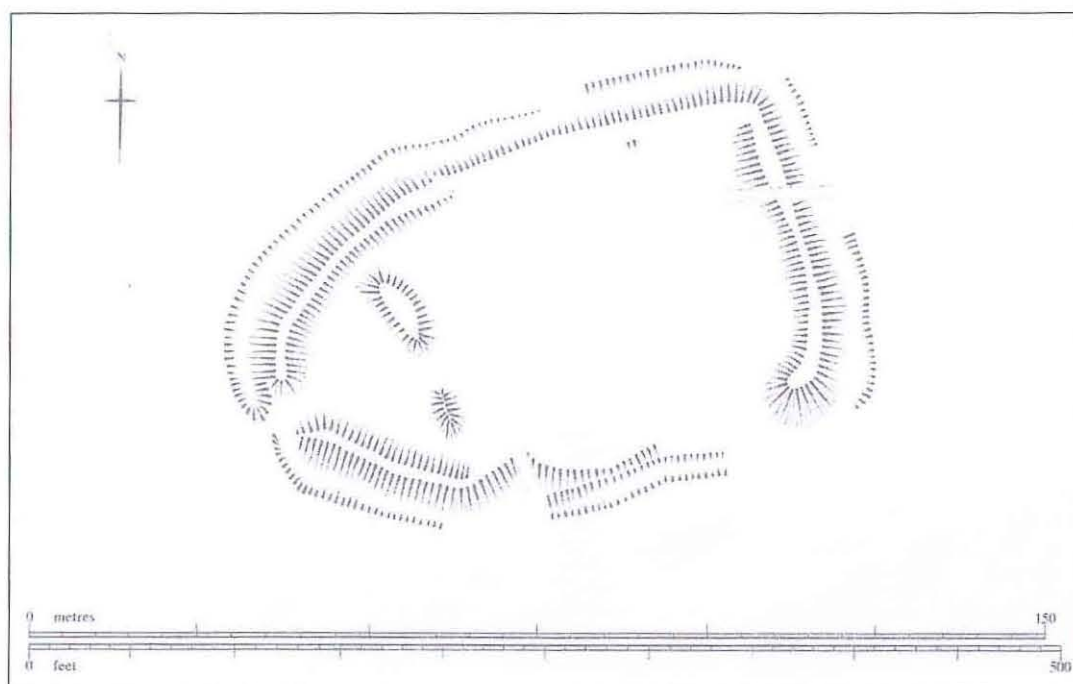
The site measures internally 74m E to W by 45m, an area of 0.25ha. The earth and stone rampart is most prominent where it is transverse to the ENE to WSW axis of the ridge and poorly defined parallel to it, particularly on the SE. On the W the inner and outer scarps are up to 0.7m and 1.6m high. The ditch is a discontinuous feature up to 1.2m deep on the W but between 0.2m and 0.4m deep elsewhere. The entrance is a simple, narrow gap in the centre of the W side. A small part of the W interior is divided from the rest by two lengths of low bank up to 0.3m high which may have been accompanied by a very shallow ditch. It is not clear whether or not this is an original feature. No other structures are visible (1986, 107-8).



PRN 547 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 547 Tre Durn Wood Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



**Pendre Hillfort**

SO15583263

SO13SE

Scheduled No: Br062(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort (promontory)*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 1.57 ha*Height:* 182mOD*Location:* Inland promontory

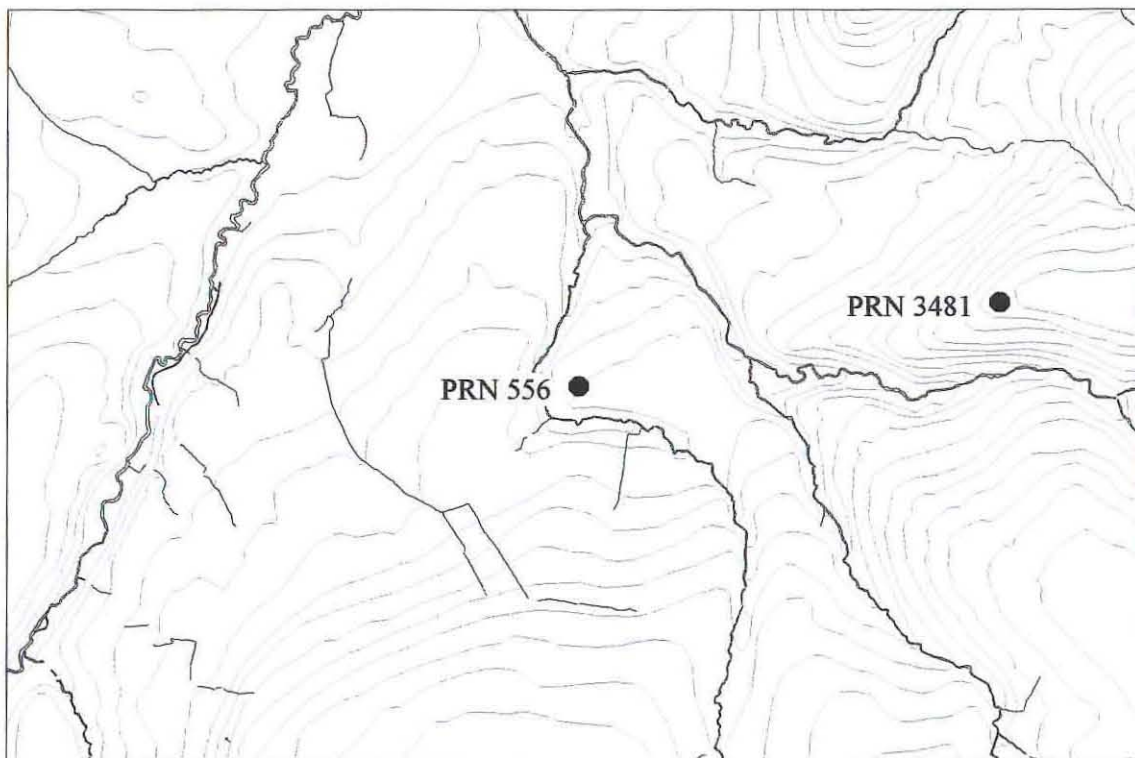
HER: univallate hillfort defined by bank ditch and counterscarp isolating tip of SW facing steep sided promontory and creating an enclosure some 200m E-W by 150m N-S. Prob entrance at N corner. Poss outer ditch much reduced by ploughing.

Cadw: counterscarps are turf-covered with bracken, small trees and shrubs, whilst interior is planted with small fir trees. (Cadw 1986)

RCAHMW: curving, bivallate fortifications and steep natural defences define a pentagonal promontory enclosure between 168m and 183m above OD, 1km S of Talgarth. The defences cross the broad neck of the promontory protecting it against an easy approach from the E and NE. On the other sides there are steep natural falls to a tributary stream of the River Enig.

The E part of the defensive circuit is well preserved but ploughing has denuded the NE side and all but obliterated the surface remains of the outer ditch. Previously both banks were covered by trees and dense undergrowth but this has been removed from the outer. Modern fences cross and in places make use of the line of defences. Beyond the N end of the banks are traces of a field bank system pre-dating the modern boundaries but later than the fort. A ploughed-out track is visible crossing the grass-grown interior.

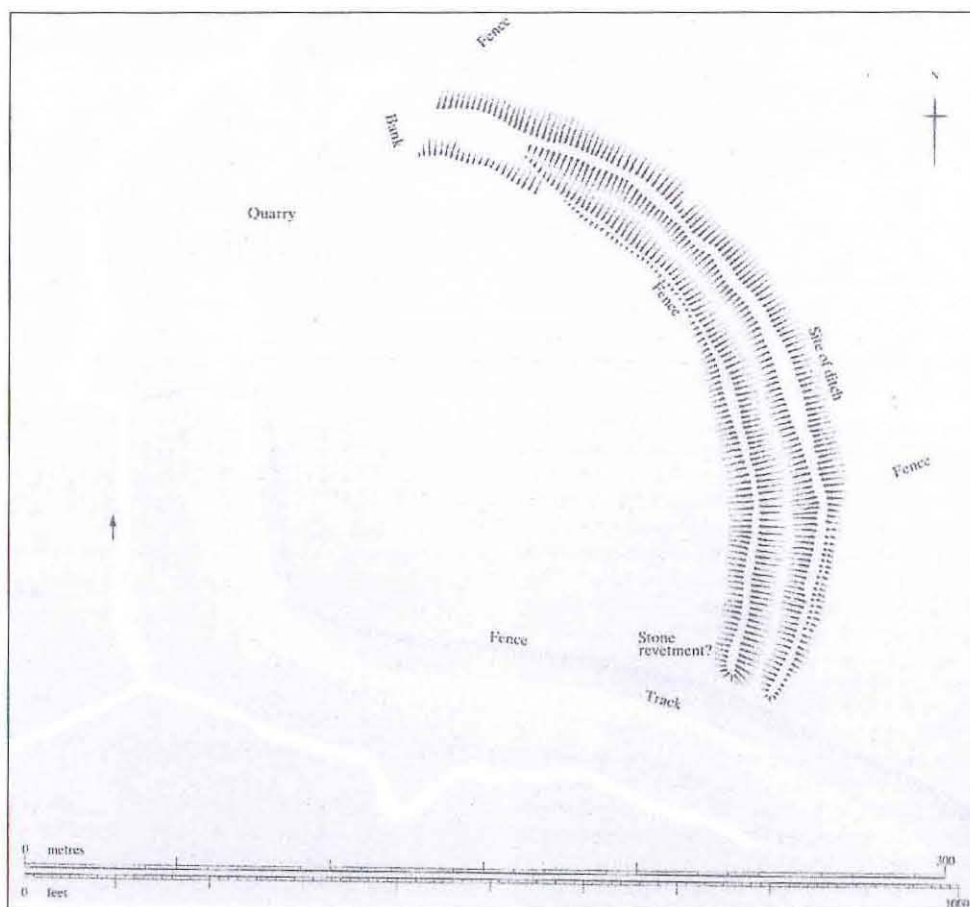
The site measures internally 161m N to S by 154m, an area of 1.57ha. The earth and stone banks seem to become less prominent as they run N but this impression may have been created by plough damage. There is no definite evidence of ancient artificial works around the W or S sides where a relatively modern trackway has been terraced into the natural scarp. The inner scarp of the main bank stands up to 3.1m high, and near its S end a short line of sandstone blocks is exposed which may belong to a revetment. The outer scarp of the inner bank is up to 5.6m high towards its S end. The inner scarp of the outer bank is up to 3.6m high towards its S end while the outer scarp is up to 1.7m high near the N end. For about 90m along the E side are vague traces of the ploughed-out outer ditch. Both banks seem to stop short of the natural scarp edges at either end suggesting that there were two entrances to the site. The NE terminations of both banks seem to be very slightly inturned. There are no ancient features visible in the gently undulating interior (1986, 101-2).



PRN 556 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 556 Pendre Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Twyn y Gaer Hillfort

SN92252630

SN92NW

Scheduled No: Br035(POW)

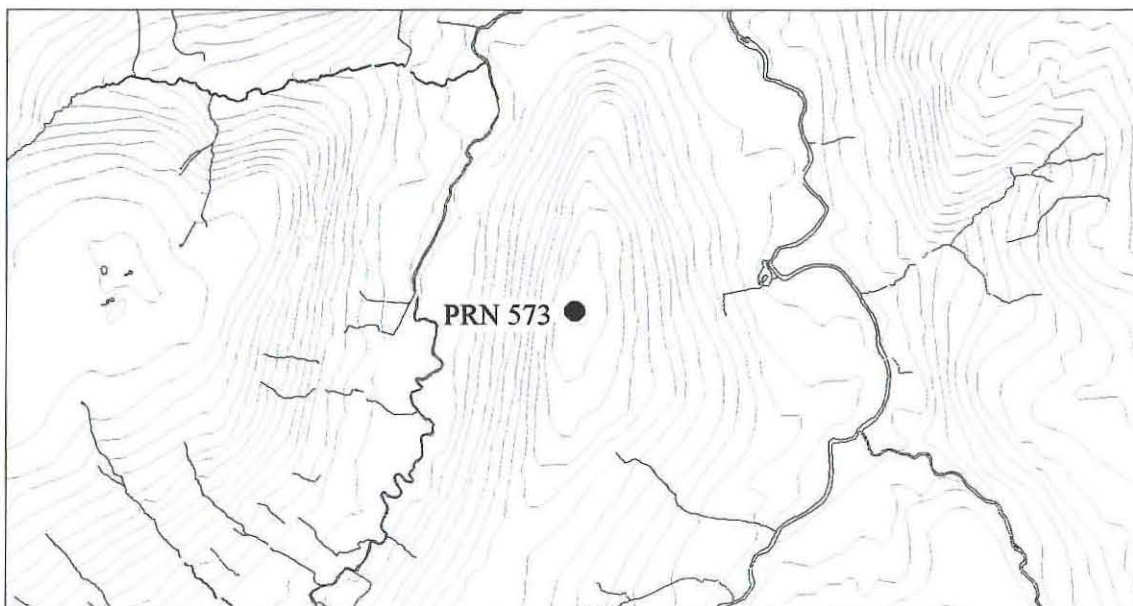
*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.7 ha*Height:* 343mOD*Location:* Hilltop

HER: oval univallate enclosure some 120m N-S by 80m wide. Defined by bank and ditch on N and scarp and berm elsewhere. Poss outwork and entrance on N. Annexe 60m E-W by 40m wide to S. Quarry damage at S end. Sited on N-S hilltop.

RCAHMW: about 1.5km S of Defynnog is a small, oval, univallate enclosure with a sub-rectangular annexe. The site stands at about 340m above OD towards the N end of a ridge bounded by Cwm Trewaren on the W and Afon Senni on the E. The defences of the main enclosure take advantage of the natural scarps of the ridge summit which is divided into a higher, small, fairly flat-topped knoll on the S and a lower, more extensive, gently undulating area to the N. Linear quarrying has left exposed crags along the break of slope between the two areas. The annexe occupies the fairly steep slopes immediately S of the summit. Beyond the site, the ground falls away on the E and W while to the N there is a short stretch of gently sloping land before the steep drop at the end of the ridge. The denuded, grass-covered main enclosure measures internally 113m NNE to SSW by 80m, an area of about 0.7ha. The annexe is better preserved and its bracken-infested interior measures 71.5m NNE to SSW by 70m, an area of about 0.35ha.

The rampart of the larger enclosure has been reduced mostly to a single scarp but in a few places the inner face survives up to 0.5m high. The outer scarp stands between 1.1m and 2m high above the fronting ditch or shelf, being most prominent on the NE and SW. The toe of the rampart is fronted on the N by a ditch up to 0.4m deep and, elsewhere, by a shelf continuing the line of the latter except on the SE and SW where it appears to be absent. A curving hollow up to 0.5m deep connected to the N end of the enclosure is perhaps the remains of an ancillary enclosure or an entrance approach although there is no significant break in the rampart here. The entrance was probably at the SE corner.

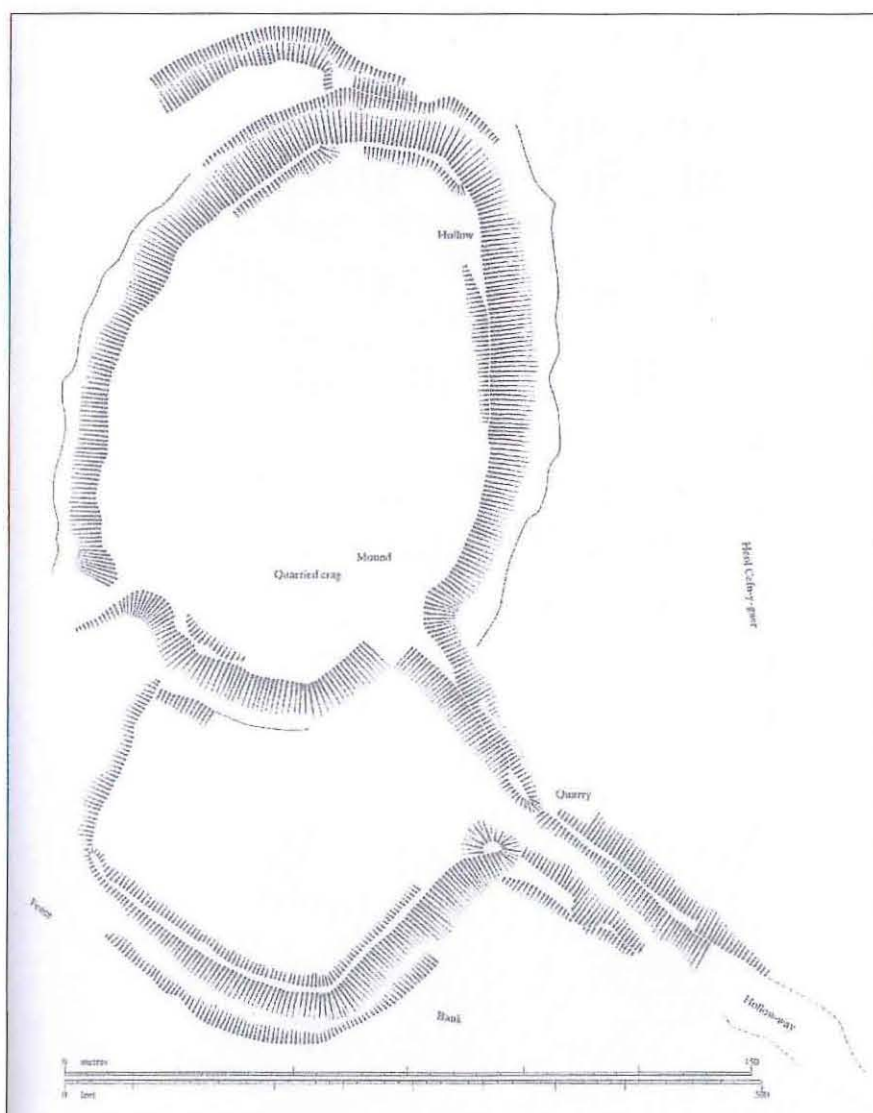
The annexe bank is best preserved on the S, its inner scarp standing up to 0.6m high and outer scarp up to 2.5m above the bottom of the fronting ditch. The ditch is about 0.8m deep and has traces of a counterscarp bank along its outer lip. It is not present on the W where the rampart has been reduced to a single scarp up to 1m high. The NE corner of the annexe is approached from the SE by an embanked track which is probably contemporary with it. The track is between 3m and 7m wide. Its N bank runs along the edge of a natural change of slope and is reasonably well preserved although the precise nature of its junction with the main enclosure is obscure and the linear quarrying here gives the false impression that it continued right across the S end of the latter. Its outer scarp is up to 0.9m high and its inner scarp up to 1.1m above the hollowed track. The less well-preserved S bank is roughly parallel to the N bank and adjoins the toe of the NE end of the annexe bank. Its inner scarp is up to 1.5m high above the track but its outer scarp is preserved only to a maximum of 0.3m. It is probable that the annexe and its approach are later than the main enclosure. The old ridgeway, Heol Cefn-y-gaer, appears to cross and post-date the track which can be traced as a holloway for at least 40m SE beyond it. There are no recognisable ancient features in the interior of either enclosure ((1986, 32-3).



PRN 573 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 573 Twyn y Gaer Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



**PRN: 583**

**Twyn Y Gaer Hillfort**

**SN99002805**

**SN92NE**

Scheduled No: Br043(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* 0.7 ha

*Height:* 367mOD

*Location:* Hilltop

Visited

HER: sub-oval univallate hillfort 110m E-W by 88m N-S with simple entrance at east. Low scarp and ditch in either side of entrance. See also PRN 584, 575. Scheduled area includes barrow to east of hillfort PRN 19354. Scheduled area extended in 1996 to include earthworks and pillow mounds on slopes below hillfort (Cadw 1996). See PRNs 585, 50411-50421.

RCAHMW with additions: Twyn y Gaer is a medium-sized, univallate enclosure, oval in shape, which surmounts a rounded hilltop at the north-east end of the Mynydd Illtyd ridge. The summit at 367 m is marked by a triangulation pillar. Northwards the ground falls away steeply to the valley of the Usk which is 1.25km away and westwards to Nant Rheon, a tributary of the river, which at its closest is 0.5km away. The slopes on the E. are less steep while to the south there is a saddle occupied by the road over the common, the ground then rising to less elevated, land.

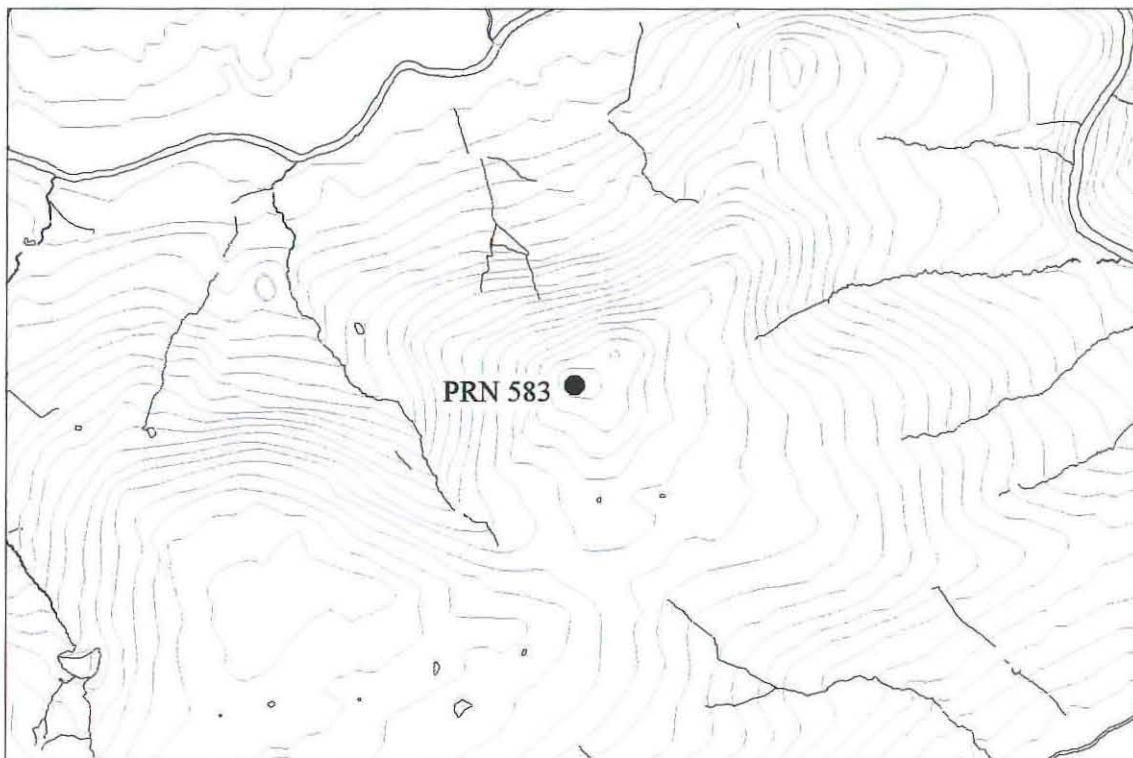
The site measures internally 112m east to west by 85m, covering an area of 0.7ha. The rampart composed of earth and stone stands on the lower of two concentric natural scarps which seems to have been terraced to receive it. The bank is best-preserved on the east side at the entrance where immediately to the south of the gap its outer scarp is 3.5m high externally and 0.8m high internally. The inner slope dies out further south and north giving way to a grass-covered outer scarp that is generally less than 2m high, but is more emphatic on the north than the south. Only occasionally does the inner slope rise to 0.2m. The scarp continues around the north-west side but here the Royal Commission have expressed doubts as to whether it is artificial.

An external ditch is visible only on the east, to either side of the entrance. On the south it achieves a depth of 0.2m and a width of 3m, while to the north it is 0.4m deep and 5m wide. A couple of ridges within the ditch on the north side may signal gangwork, but there is no certainty that these earthwork features are contemporary with the hillfort construction and they may relate in some way to the nearby hut and rabbit farm. The better preservation of the bank on the east and the limited extent of the ditch suggest either that there may have been an unfinished reconstruction of the site or that these are the less damaged remains of stronger original defences at the entrance.

The entrance is 2.5m wide at its narrowest and on the north side the bank is inturned at right angles though not to the degree suggested by the Commission's plan. A slightly hollowed, linear approach to the entrance is visible.

Behind the scarp bank, particularly in the south-east and north-west quadrants there are traces of the ground levelling out which might indicate quarry scrapes and perhaps too the likely locations of dwellings and other structures. There are two hollows in the interior which are relatively recent, though whether quarries or military excavations is not clear. The natural scarp inside the northern defences has been partially quarried but at what date is unclear.

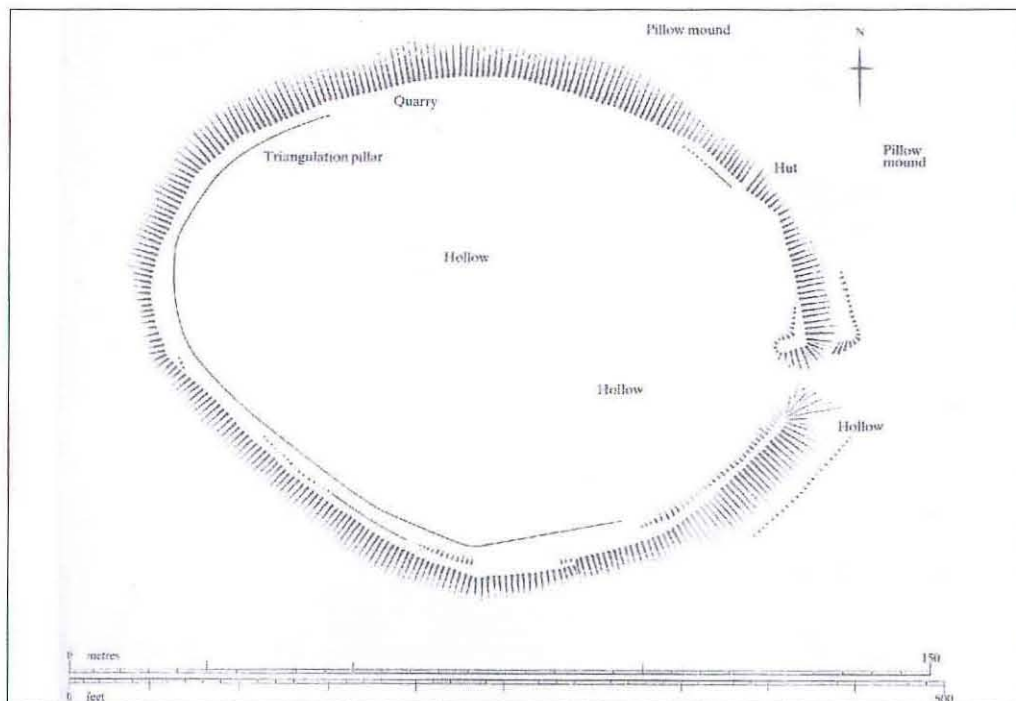
Abutting the outer face of the defences on the north-east is a hut and enclosure together with a pillow mound, and there are other pillow mounds, both long-banked examples and Wessex-type pillow mounds, as well as one round mound on the northern, eastern and southern slopes below the fort (RCAHMW 1986, 34-7).



PRN 583 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 583 Twyn Y Gaer Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Llanilltyd churchyard

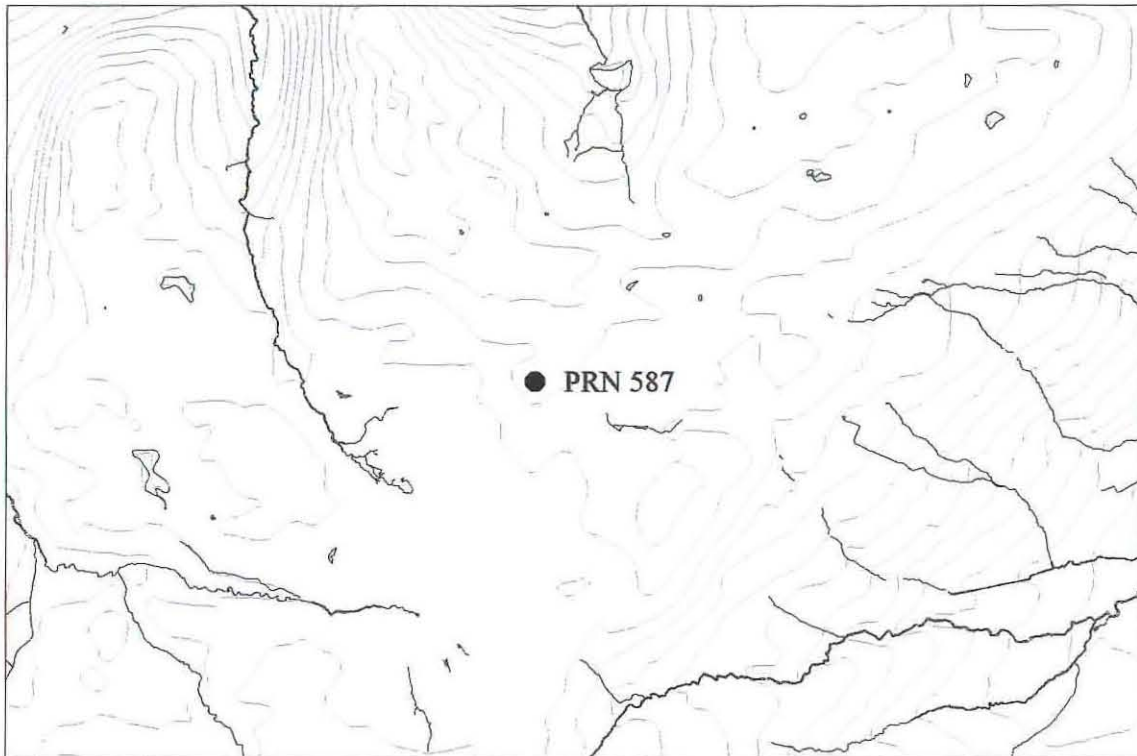
SN97122611

SN92NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.57 ha*Height:* 345mOD*Location:*

RCAHMW: the enclosure which contains the nineteenth-century chapel of St. Iltyd and its associated graveyard stands in a conspicuous but uncommanding position on the W part of a low hillock at 345 m above OD, about 2.3km W of Libanus. It is a roughly oval, univallate structure measuring internally 84 m E to W by 77m, an area of 0.57ha. In the SW corner there is an oval subdivision measuring internally 43m NE to SW by 34m. The turf-and tree-covered bank of the main enclosure is between 2m and 7m wide, composed of earth and stone rubble, and stands between 0.25 m and 1m high above the graveyard interior. A relatively modern drystone wall revets its outer face which stands between 0.9m and 1.5m high above the surrounding ground, being most prominent on the SE. There is no trace of either an associated ditch or the original entrance which may have been where the E gate of the graveyard now stands. The main enclosure shares a common perimeter with a smaller internal enclosure on the W and SW. The distortion in the outline of the larger enclosure that this entails perhaps suggests that the smaller structure was the earlier. The earth and stone rubble bank of the inner earthwork is best preserved on the SE where it is about 4m wide with an inner scarp up to 0.8 m high and outer face up to 1.4m. The elevated platform on which the chapel stands is superimposed on the bank on the E and to the N of the chapel the bank has been severely mutilated and spread by grave-digging. Immediately in front of the bank on the SE. is a hollow about 3m wide and 0.3m deep, possibly a surviving fragment of a ditch. A modern breach in the earthwork S of the chapel may be on the site of the original entrance. Apart from the chapel and graveyard the only recognisable feature in the interior is a low linear bank 3m to 4.7m wide and up to 0.6m high running from the S side of the E gate of the churchyard towards the SE corner of the inner earthwork. As it conjoins neither, its relationship to the two enclosures is uncertain, as is its function. About 9m beyond the S and SW sides of the main enclosure are the remains of a bank concentric with it and originally a constituent of a partially defunct field system developed around the structure in relatively recent times. A late eighteenth century map does not show the enclosure around the church (1986, 31).



PRN 587 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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Coed Fennifach Camp

SO01402945

SO02NW

Scheduled No: Br042(POW)

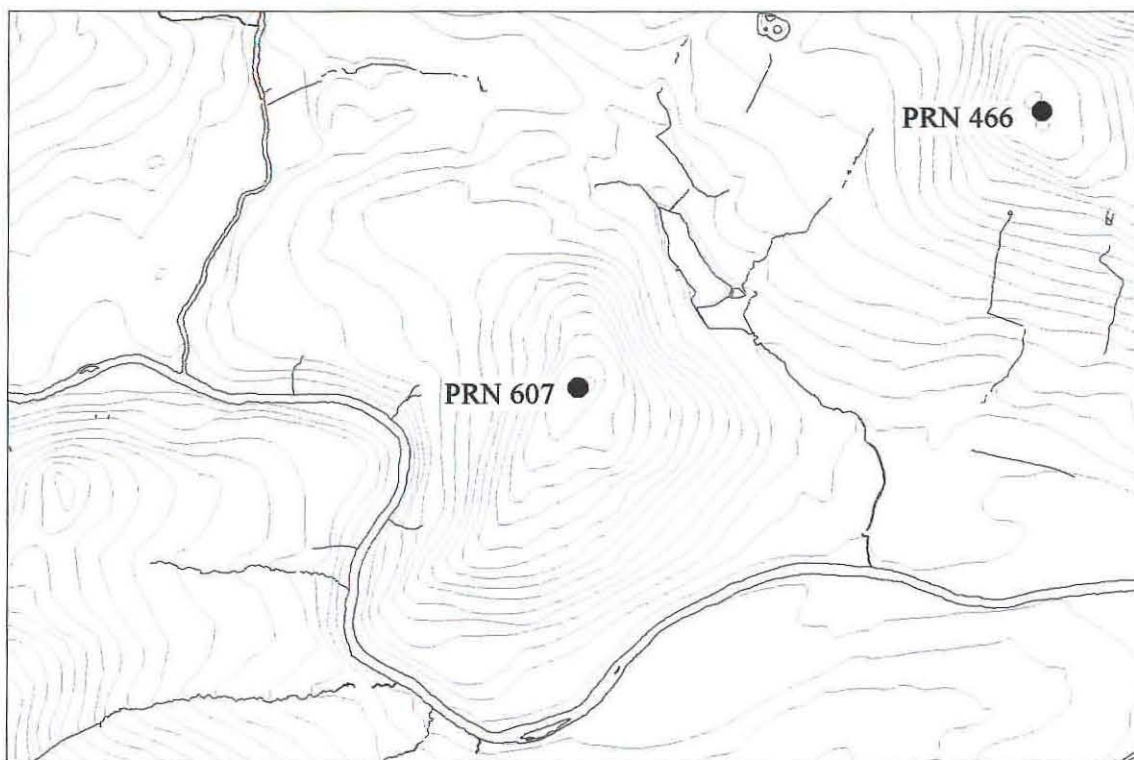
*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.88 ha*Height:* 289mOD*Location:* Hilltop

HER: sub-oval univallate enclosure about 120m NE-SW by 90m NW-SE defined by bank and ditch with low outer scarp and counterscarp. Orig entrance prob at SW.

RCAHMW: a fairly large, oval, univallate fort encloses the summit of a prominent hill rising to 289m above OD, 2.5km W of Brecon. Beyond the defences the hillslope falls away steeply on all sides, the least arduous approach being from the S.

Dense conifer forest encroaches on the S and NE perimeter but elsewhere recent felling has opened up the margins of the site. A less closely planted stand of fir with a dense undergrowth of bracken and bramble, covers the interior SE of the field bank that bisects the enclosure. The NW half of the interior is more open with a cover of larch, bracken and bramble undergrowth and areas of grass. A field bank crossing the site, with an associated quarry ditch and derelict fence, is part of a long boundary which runs from the Roman road (RR3) at the NE foot of the hill, across its crest, to the River Usk on the SW. The construction of this feature and traffic along its line have breached the earthwork on the NE and SW and other modern breaks occur in the N and S perimeter. There are traces of relatively recent quarry hollows in the SW of the interior.

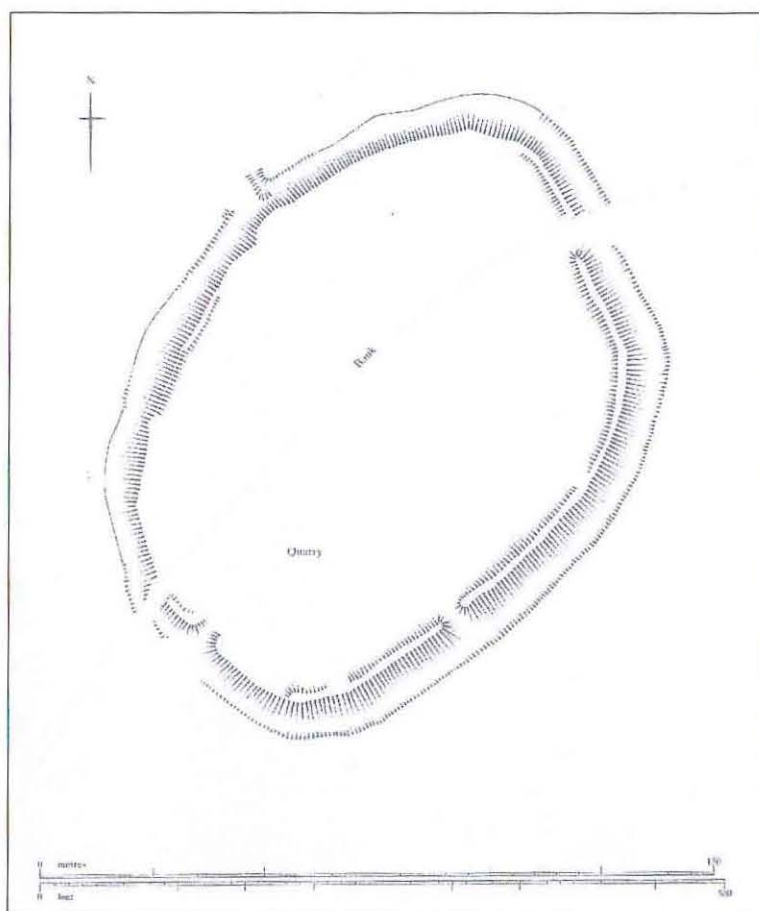
The site measures internally 131m NE to SW by 87m, an area of 0.88ha. The rampart on much of the N and W sides has been reduced to a single, outward-facing earth and stone scarp whose crest stands up to 2.8m above the terrace or faint depression of a ditch which lies in front of it. A low counterscarp bank may have stood on the outer lip of the ditch but there are no unambiguous traces of it. The entrance was probably on the SW where a simple gap in the rampart is approached by a shallow hollow trail. No ancient features are visible in the interior (1986, 66-7).



PRN 607 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 607 Coed Fennifach Camp. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Coed Mawr Hillfort

SO04102512

SO02NW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended Enclosure*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.33 ha*Height:* 260mOD*Location:* Hillslope

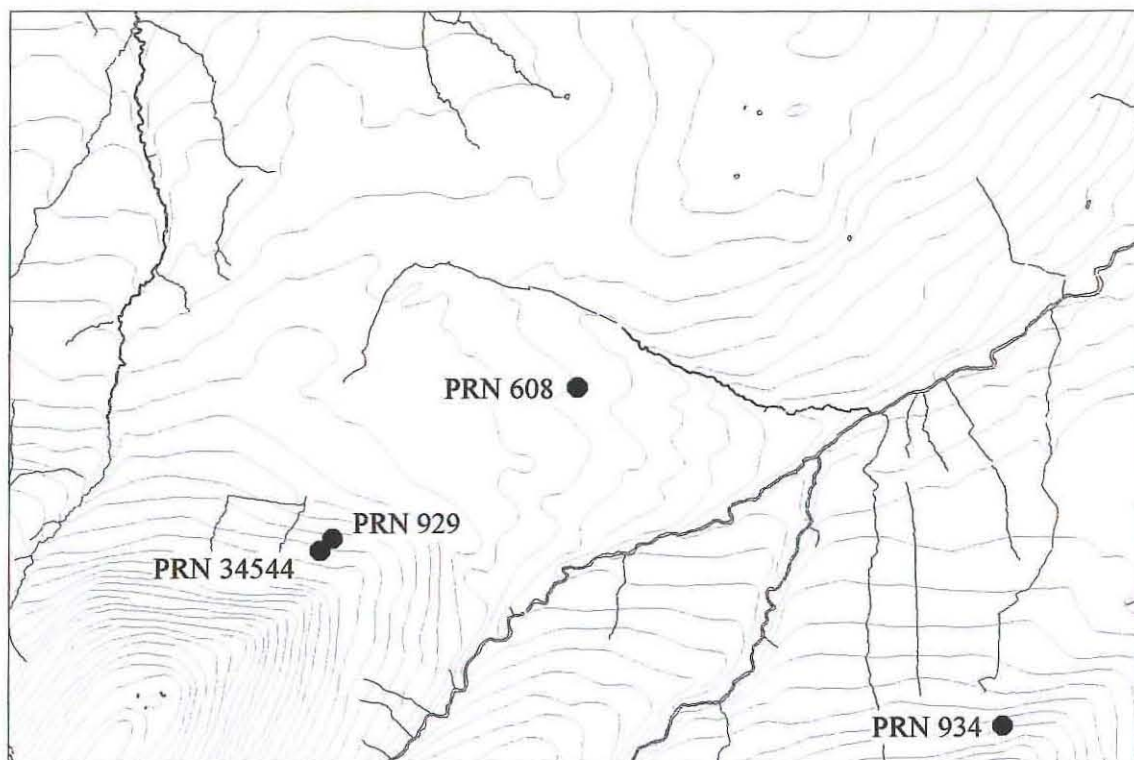
Visited

HER: sub-circular univallate enclosure some 67m N-S by 60m E-W defined by a denuded bank some 0.3m high reduced to a scarp in places. Entrance 10m wide at W.

RCAHMW: a small, sub-oval, univallate enclosure stands at 260m above OD on a gentle E-facing slope, 3.2km S of Llan-faes church. The structure is sited poorly for defence as it is easily approachable from all sides. A few large trees of the woodland formerly covering the site on the perimeter bank which has been ploughed out on the N and reduced considerably elsewhere. The enclosure is bisected by a field boundary and truncated by another at its N end.

Overall, the site measures 68m N to S by 65m, the area enclosed being about 0.33ha. At the SW corner both faces of the turf-covered, rubble bank survive, the inner 0.3m high and the outer 0.25m high. On the W only an inward-facing scarp is intact to a maximum height of 0.35m. Elsewhere the bank has been reduced to an outward-facing scarp up to 0.5m high. A gap on the SW may represent an entrance. No ancient features are visible in the interior.

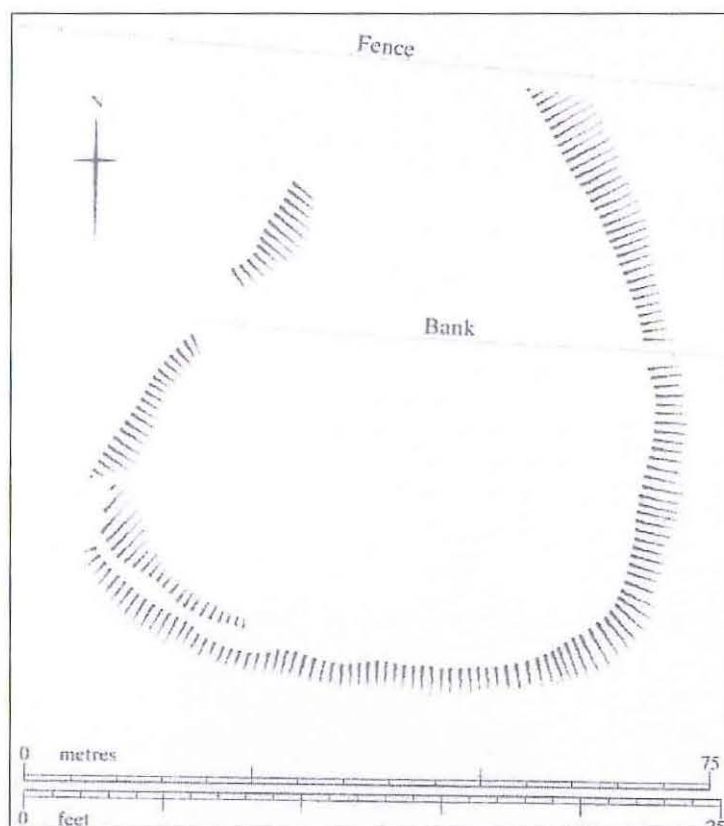
CPAT based on RCAHMW: univallate enclosure sited on a gentle east-facing slope (260m OD), 3km south of Brecon with excellent views eastwards overlooking the Usk valley. To the south-west the site is overlooked by Allt Du and Cefn Cyff (Beacons National Park). The sub-oval enclosure was discovered after 1945 when woodland was removed, although some of the trees remain in the northern area. The site is now bounded on three sides by field boundaries. The northern boundary, east to west, truncates the northern extent of the enclosure bank. There is no surviving evidence of the enclosure within the neighbouring field. The RCAHMW site report notes the 'field boundary' truncating the central part of the site, east to west. The bank is only just discernible (0.2m high) and there is no evidence of it truncating/breaching the enclosing banks, suggesting its origins are much earlier, possibly an internal contemporary feature. There has been considerable field clearance in the immediate area (evident by the clearance cairns heaped around the mature trees in the north-west corner of the site). The entrance, a simple 5m wide gap, is located in the south-west quadrant of the enclosure. Preservation of the enclosing bank is at its best in the south and west, the width varying between 5 - 7m, the height being 0.3m on the west side and up to 0.5m in the east. Internally, the enclosure measures 60m north to south x 47m east to west. Apart from the central linear bank there are no internal features evident. Externally, to the south, a low bank, 0.2m high x 5m wide x 50m long, traverses the field north-west to south-east, its origin is unknown. (RCAHMW 1986, 61-2; CPAT 2007)



PRN 608 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 608 Coed Mawr Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



**Slwch Tump Hillfort**

SO05622840

SO02NE

Scheduled No: Br038(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* 3.8 ha

*Height:* 247mOD

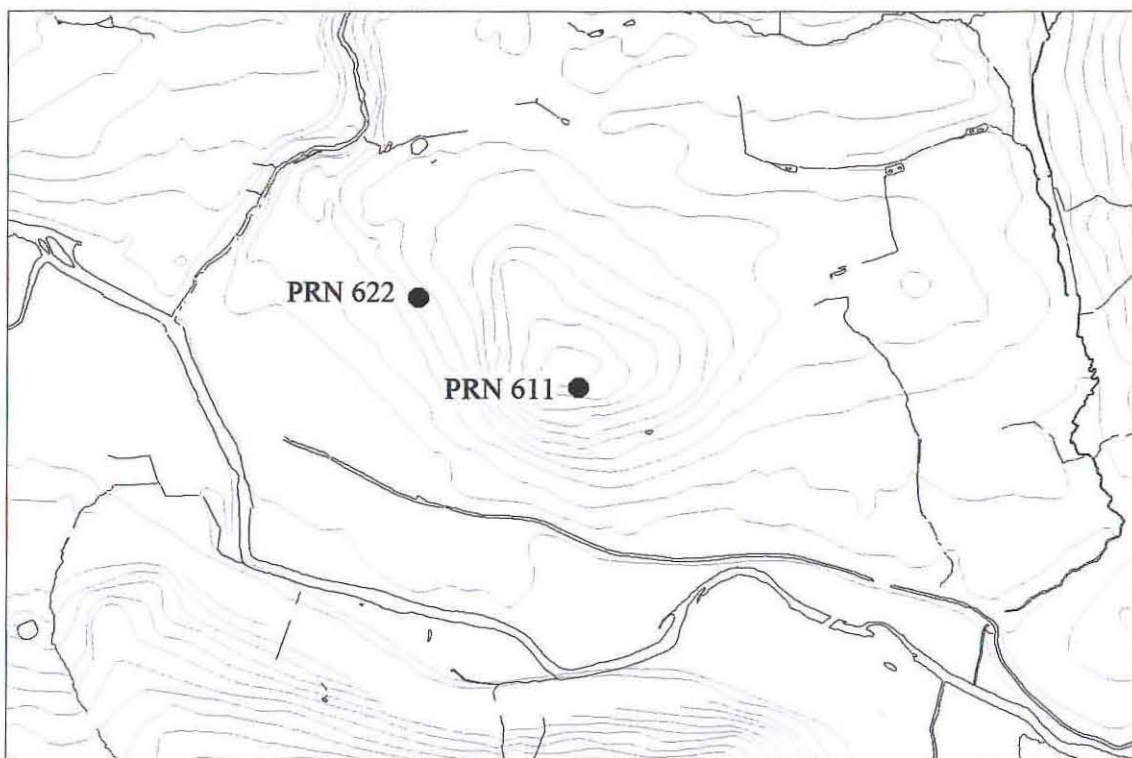
*Location:* Hilltop

HER: univallate contour enclosure with traces of outer berm around north and east. The bank rises about 5-7m from slope and defines an area of 3.6hec. Inturned entrance at west. Some quarrying of centre.

RCAHMW: a large, sub-oval, univallate enclosure incorporates the upper slopes of a prominent hill rising to 246m above OD, 1.3km E of the confluence of the rivers Usk and Honddu. The ground below the fort falls away steeply to the S and W but less markedly on the other sides. The highest part of the hill is towards the NW corner of the enclosure and the interior slopes upwards to this area from the rampart on the S and E.

The main perimeter bank has been reduced for the most part to a single substantial scarp, the crest of which is now occupied in several places by lines of trees and bushes. Recent field banks and fences cross the earthwork and run around the circuit of the defences, set back from the crest of the scarp except on part of the W side where they coincide. There are derelict quarry hollows within the SE part of the interior and beyond the defences on the NW and NE. The rampart scarp immediately S of the entrance has been dug away. The interior has been ploughed and is at present grazing land.

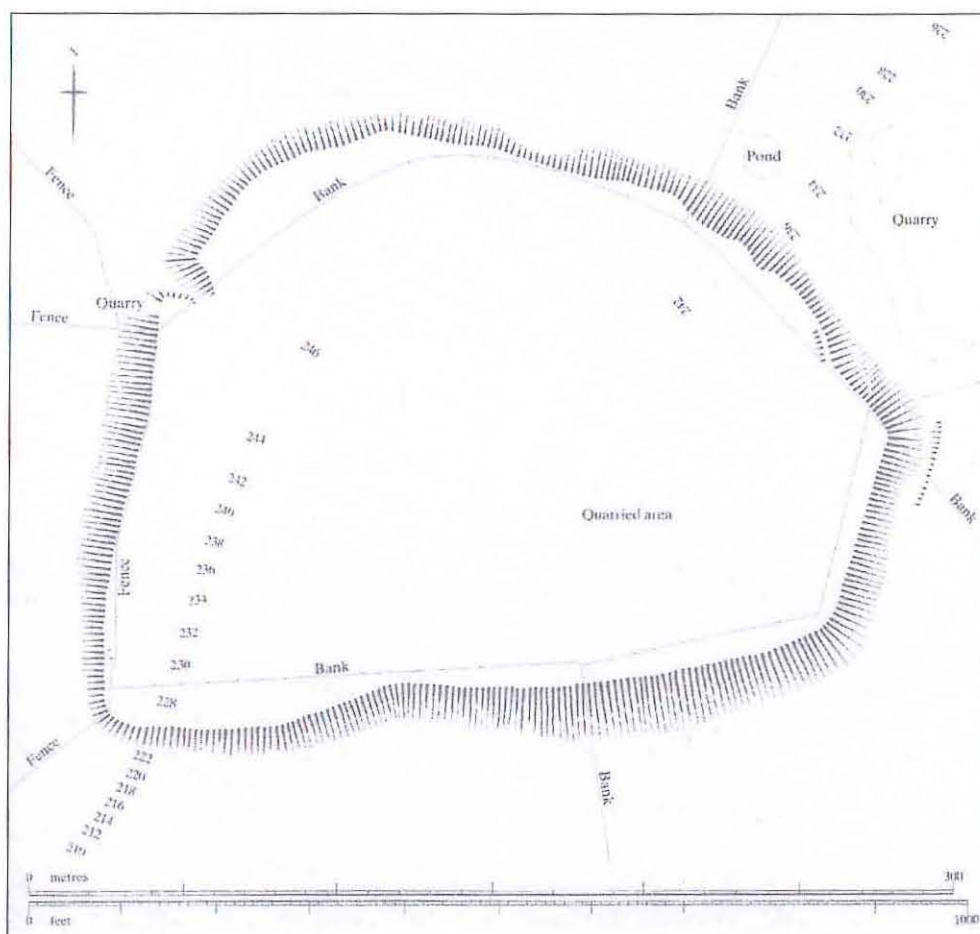
Generally, the defences follow the natural contours of the hill and consist of a single bank and traces of a fronting ditch. Theophilus Jones mentions that the site had "a double foss, in some places nearly destroyed" but there is no trace of a further bank or ditch. The site measures internally 187m N to S by 242m, an area of 3.8ha. The greater part of the rampart survives as a single, outward-facing scarp of earth and stone between 3m and 4.6m high. A ten-metre length of the inner face of the bank, 0.6m high, is extant on the NE. On the N the site of the ditch is represented by a terrace up to 10m wide. On the E a 28m length of ditch, 0.9m deep, separates the foot of the rampart scarp from a small knoll and there is a vague hint of a low counterscarp bank at this point. There are no visible traces of the ditch on the S and W, where it was probably unnecessary because of the steep fall of the ground. The entrance is on the NE where the rampart seems to have been inturned either side of a sloping approach. No ancient features are visible in the interior. An estate map of 1780-81 records that the fort lay in a field named 'Ginger Wall' (1986, 62-4).



PRN 611 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 611 Slwch Tump Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Twyn Llechfaen Hillfort

SO08212911

SO02NE

Scheduled No: Br247(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.37 ha*Height:* 305mOD*Location:* Hilltop

HER: elliptical enclosure 90m east-west by 62m north-south defined by single bank up to 2.3m high and external ditch with a simple entrance at south-west. Excavation by Savory in 1959 revealed hut floors near the centre and the entrance together with Iron Age pottery. Banks at east possible natural features (OS, 1972).

Small univallate hillfort, sited defensively on a prominent natural hillock, offering commanding views over the surrounding area. Comprises a single rampart, rising 4m at its greatest height, with an outer ditch for some of its perimeter. Scheduled 7/12/98 (Cadw, 1998). Finds from the excavations include pottery dating to the C3rd/4th BC, slingstones, animal bones and a corroded iron object (Cadw, 1998).

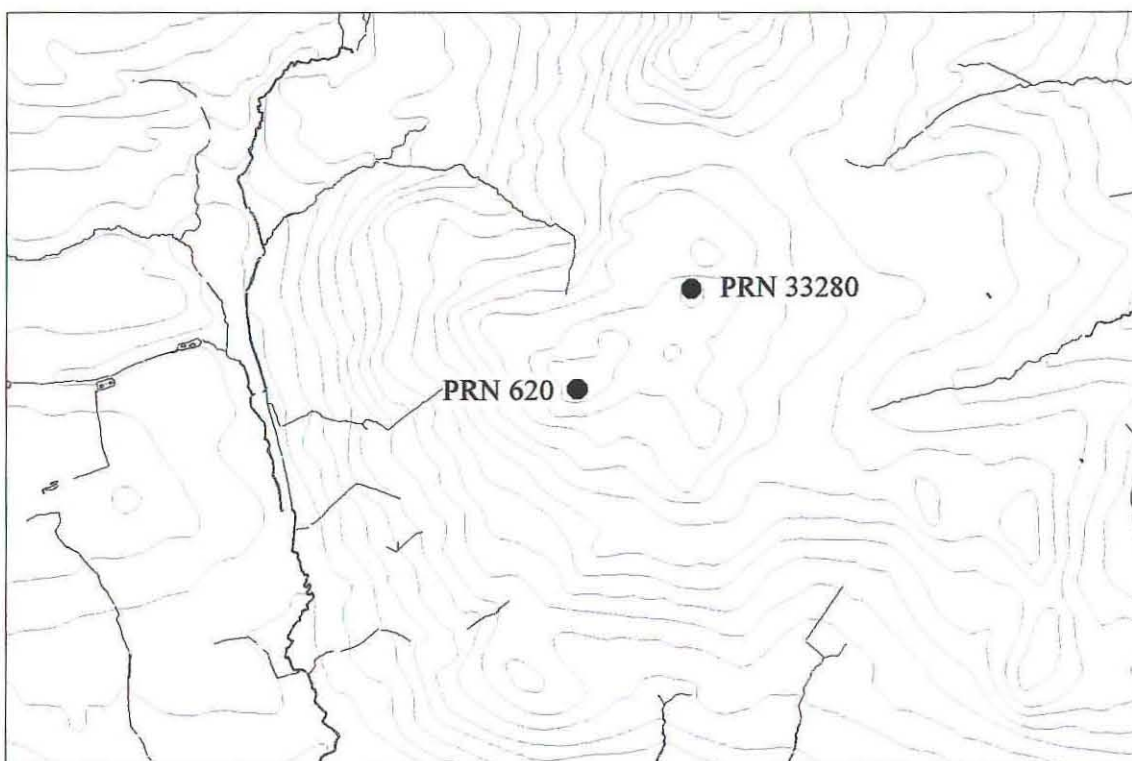
RCAHMW: a small, triangular, univallate fort encloses the summit of a prominent hillock rising 317m above OD, 0.7km NNE of Llechfaen village. The slopes of the hill immediately adjacent to the defences fall away steeply but after a short distance the surrounding land takes on a much gentler gradient. The ploughed interior is dominated by a largely grass-grown rock ridge trending approximately E to W from which the defensive perimeter is overlooked. The rampart has been reduced to an outward-facing talus scarp partially masked by trees and undergrowth and incorporated into a later field system. The ditch located by excavation on the SW side is not visible as a surface feature.

The site measures 89.5m by 63m, and area of about 0.37ha. Limited excavations by Dr. H. N. Savory in 1959 revealed detailed evidence of the construction of the defences, showing that the scarp visible now gives only an indirect indication of the original form of the enclosure bank. The present scarp is between 3m and 4m high in the N, up to 3.5m high on the SW and a maximum of 2.6m high on the SE.

Excavation at the SW corner of the enclosure showed that the lower part of the original bank was just over 3m wide and built of dumps of clay and clay with pebbles derived from the ditch in front which had been dug through sandstone into underlying marl. Sandstone blocks from the same source may have been used for revetting and capping the front of the bank, though few were found in situ. Short lengths of partly displaced wall-facing formed of courses of sandstone slates are visible on the SE side near the E corner. The ditch at the SW corner was flat-bottomed, 4.57m wide by 0.91m deep. At the junction of the SW and SE ramparts a simple entrance gap was identified but not thoroughly examined. A hollow was found on the W side of the gap which may have held an upright timber belonging to a gate structure. At the E corner there is an embayment in the line of the scarp which may represent the site of another entrance.

Trenches in the NW and E parts of the site failed to locate any evidence of occupation. However, overlapping the tail of the rampart just W of the entrance was an oval occupation deposit 5.79m long associated with a posthole at its E end. The excavator considered this to be connected with a lean-to hut. The deposit contained coarse, hand-made pottery, slingstones and animal bones. Near the centre of the enclosure a small, sub-rectangular hut floor paved with small flags was excavated which yielded a few coarse potsherds, slingstones and a corroded iron object.

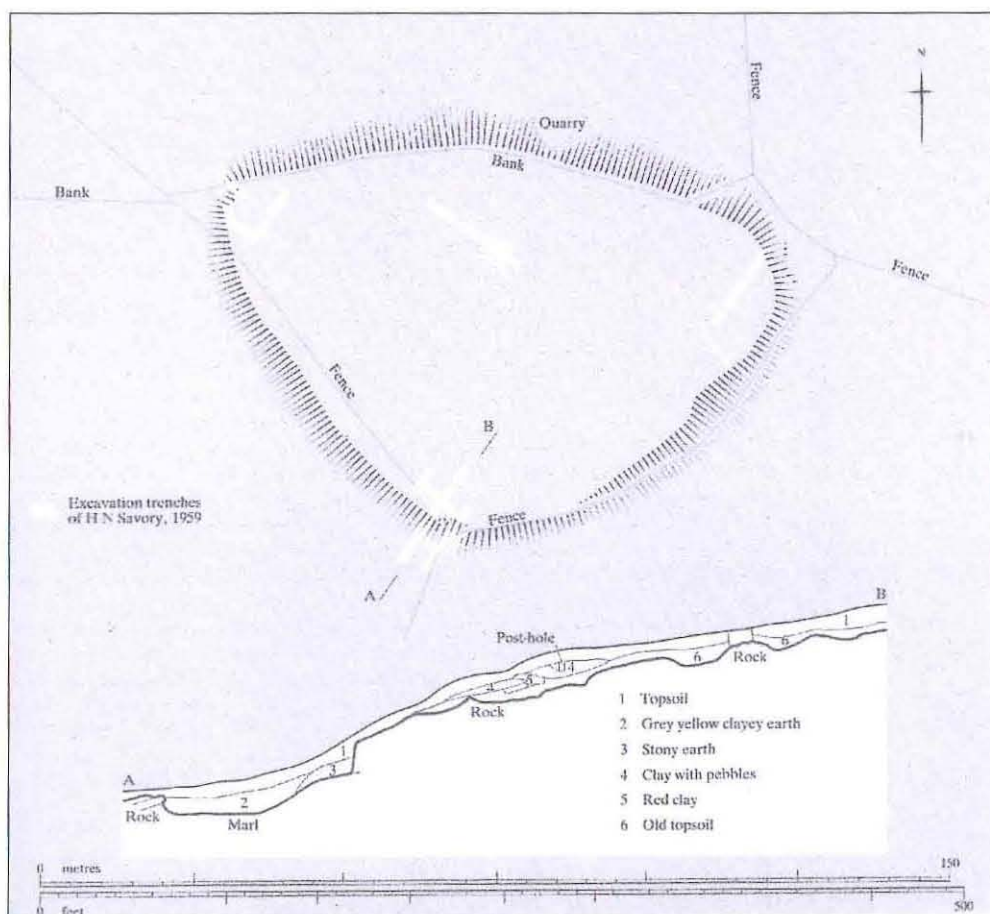
The bones from the hut by the entrance represented at least three oxen, nine sheep and four pigs, a ratio which Savory considered gave a rough indication of the relative importance of these species in the local Iron Age diet. The pottery assemblage contains fragments of jars of Iron Age 'A' character and probably a sherd of Malvernian stamped ware. A fourth or third century BC date is assigned to this material (1986, 64-66)



PRN 620 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 620 Twyn Llechfaen Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Pen y Garn Enclosure

SO0604227035

SO02NE

Scheduled No:

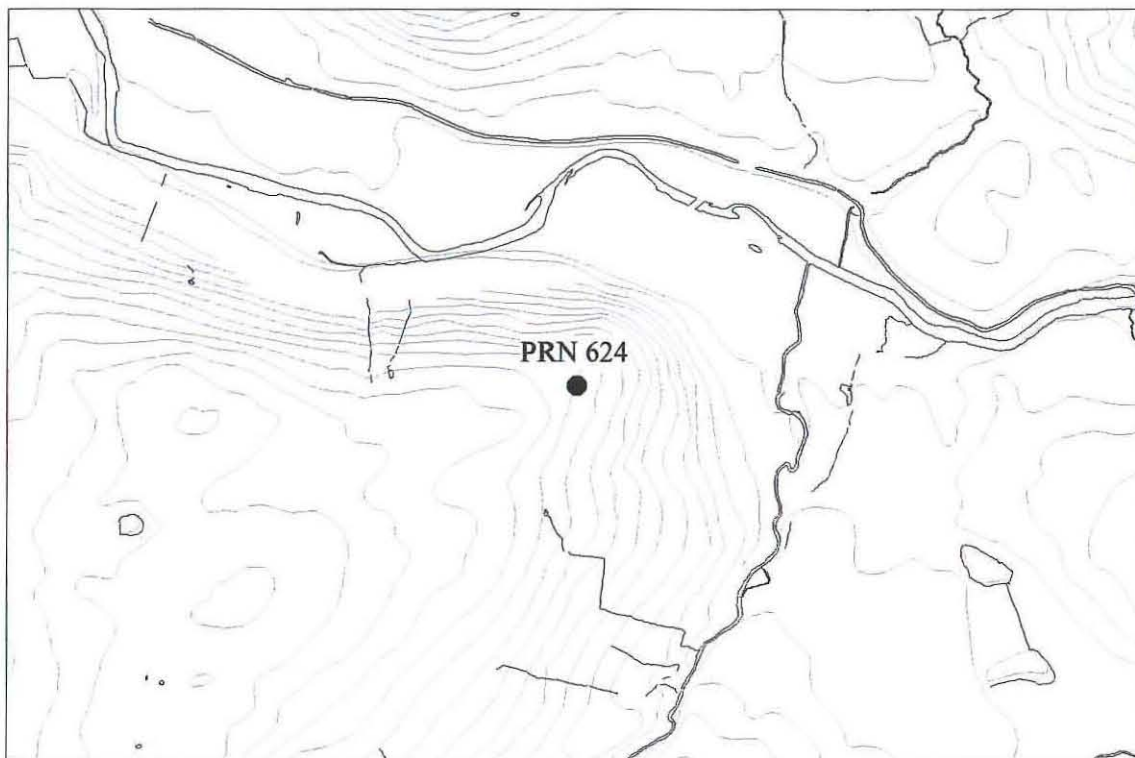
*Type:* Defended Enclosure*Date:* Iron Age?*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.06 ha*Height:* 244mOD*Location:* plateau/hillslope

Visited

HER: prob early enclosure (RCAHMW). No such feature noted by any subsequent reference though two parallel cropmarks noted by OS in 1973 may represent an enclosure.

CPAT Assessment: RAF/CPE/UK/2079/no.4256 (19 May 1947) shows the enclosure clearly as a faint rectangular earthwork immediately to the south of the covert intruding into the north end of the modern field. The enclosure appears rectangular except for its west side which angles back to form a quadrilateral shape. A rough calculation of the area covered suggests about 45m east to west by 27m north to south. It should also be noted that the OS field investigator in 1973 recorded two parallel strips of stunted growth in a field under crop, perhaps the result of sub-surface walling.

The site is located north of Berllan farm, on a gentle east facing slope atop a high plateau (250m OD) that overlooks Brecon and the River Usk to the north. The defended enclosure is sited in open pasture that is seasonally ploughed; consequently the upstanding earthworks are difficult to assess due to plough erosion, but nevertheless quite discernible. The enclosure is rectangular in plan, the internal area consisting of an undulating platform measuring 32m east to west x 20m north to south, with a small hut-platform (?) annex, 6m x 10m, to the north-west. The north and east banks have been almost destroyed. Where it does survive the bank is 5m wide with an internal height of up to 0.7m, and externally 0.4m. A faint ditch, 3- 4m wide, is just about evident on the outward facing west and southern bounds. Although no entrance could be positively identified, the north-eastern corner of the enclosure seems to be a likely contender. To the north of the site is a tree-shrouded quarry of 19th century origin. To the west, upslope, a low ridge bank (possibly a relic field boundary) traverses the field north to south. Sited to the south-east is a sub-rectangular depression with a cairn-like' structure (13m x 12m) (CPAT 2007).



PRN 624 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**Tump Wood Hillfort**

SO11272149

SO12SW

Scheduled No: Br036(POW)

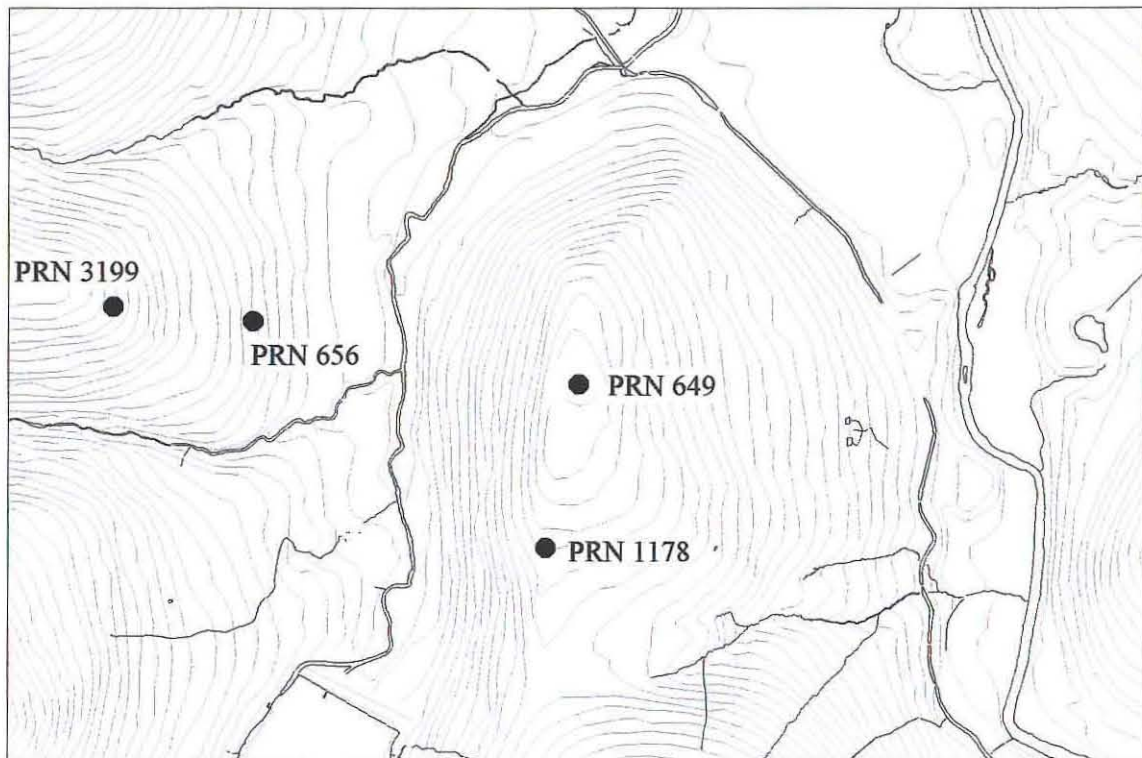
*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Structure*Area:* 0.63 ha*Height:* 356mOD*Location:* Hilltop

HER: mainly bivallate hillfort with third bank at N and S. Defined by earth and stone ramparts enclosing about 0.8hec. Simple entrance at SE. Poss has unfinished phase of defences (OS, 1973).

RCAHMW: a small, oval bivallate fort stands on the summit of a prominent hill rising to 356m above OD, 1.2km S of Tal-y-bont ar Wysg. The enclosure is set diagonally across the long axis of the hilltop and has steep natural defences beyond it on all sides except the south where the slopes of the saddle connecting Tump Wood and Tor y Foel are more moderate. The fort is approached from the south-east by a probably ancient trackway guarded by outworks.

The defences are well preserved despite some damage by erosion and afforestation. The interior is subdivided by a modern fence which has replaced an earlier boundary bank. To the north of the fence is partially felled woodland and to the south the land has been ploughed and is under grass. A modern track breaches the north-east side.

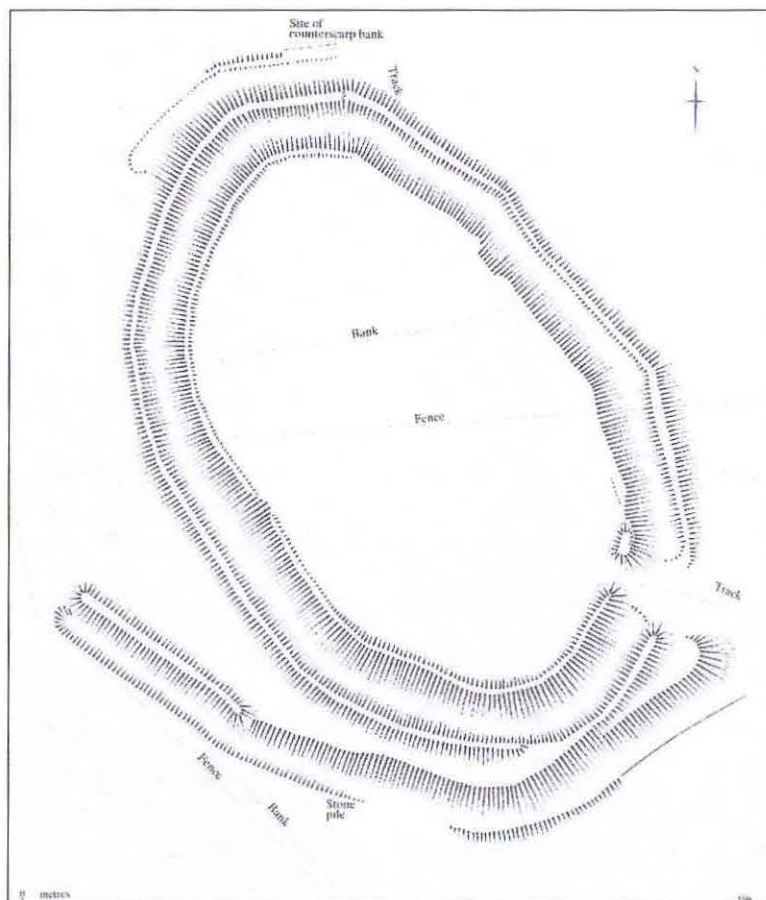
The site measures internally 120m north to south by 69m, an area of 0.63ha. The banks area constructed of stone and earth probably derived largely from ditch-digging. IN the early part of this century Lt.-Col. Ll.Morgan noted that "The inner face of the inner rampart is a rough stone wall" but such positive signs of construction are no longer visible. The inner bank is most prominent on the south where its inner and outer scarps are respectively up to 0.6m and 3.3m high. Elsewhere, it is a less impressive feature. The inner scarp of the outer bank varies between 0.6m and 1.9m high. The only trace of a ditch in front of the outer bank is a short stretch up to 0.9m deep around the north end with the remains of a stony counterscarp bank up to 0.55m high occupying its outer lip. A third rampart and ditch make use of the side of a large, natural hollow to the south of the site to enhance its defensive capability. Constructed from the south side of the entrance, the bank is concentric with the inner works for just over half its length, but then diverges heading north-west before coming to an abrupt end. It would appear to represent an unfinished attempt to add a wider-spaced extra defence around the south-west side of the site where it was most vulnerable to attack. The inner and outer scarps of the bank are respectively up to 1m and 2.7m high. The ditch continues the line of the natural hollow north-west and is up to 1m deep. The entrance is a simple gap in the ramparts on the south-east. No ancient features are visible in the interior (1986, 85-87).



PRN 649 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 649 Tump Wood Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Allt yr Esgair Hillfort

SO1261024350

SO12SW

Scheduled No: Br153(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 5.45 ha*Height:* 395mOD*Location:* Hilltop

HER: univallate contour fort enclosing south-east end of ridge which runs north-west to south-east. Much damaged by recent linear quarries encircling the ridge and giving the appearance of a large three phase enclosure. See also PRN 3203.

RCAHMW: a very large, multivallate fort occupies the upper part of a prominent ridge rising to 393m above OD. between the Usk and Afon Llynfi, 3km north-west of Bwlch. Beyond the enclosure are steep natural defences on all sides, the least arduous approach being from the south along the main axis of the hill.

Interpretation of the remains is rendered difficult by the afforestation of most of the eastern half of the site and the very extensive pit and linear quarrying that has been carried out, particularly in the area of the summit. The unwooded parts of the enclosure are covered by moorland grass and often dense bracken. Field walls and banks of various later dates also dissect the site.

At its south end the main enclosure takes in the summit of the ridge which is marked by prominent cliffs along its western edge. The rest of the perimeter follows mostly the line of a major break of slope around the ridge-top to the north, and on the north-east stands about 60m below the summit. It is very difficult to distinguish genuine defensive earthworks from linear quarrying around the summit but it is possible that the main enclosure incorporates an earlier fort confined to the highest part of the ridge. To the south of the main defences a smaller enclosure takes in less sharply sloping ground, about 30m below the summit at its south end.

The principal enclosure measures internally 566m north-north-west to south-south-east by 114m, an area of 5.45 ha. In most places the rampart is represented by a single, substantial, outward-facing scarp continuous except where later narrow breaches have occurred or, as near the south end of the west side, it was dispensed with because adequate natural defences were available. The scarp varies in height between 2m and 8m, being particularly prominent along the northern part of the west side. At the south-east corner the main scarp on the east seems to have merged into the outer scarp of the counterscarp bank around the south end, while the main bank around the south fades into the natural slope of the interior. A stone revetment 28m long was visible near the centre of the east side, but recently part of it has been destroyed. Near the middle of the west side are discontinuous traces of a low inner scarp up to 0.7m high. In several places within the line of the rampart are irregular depressions, probably the sites of quarries providing stone for the bank. A ditch and counterscarp bank lie in front of the main bank on the north and south sides, and at the south end of the west side. The inner face of the counterscarp bank is up to 3m high in its present eroded form. On the east the ditch has been reduced to a terrace and along part of the west side it was dispensed with where the ground is particularly steep.

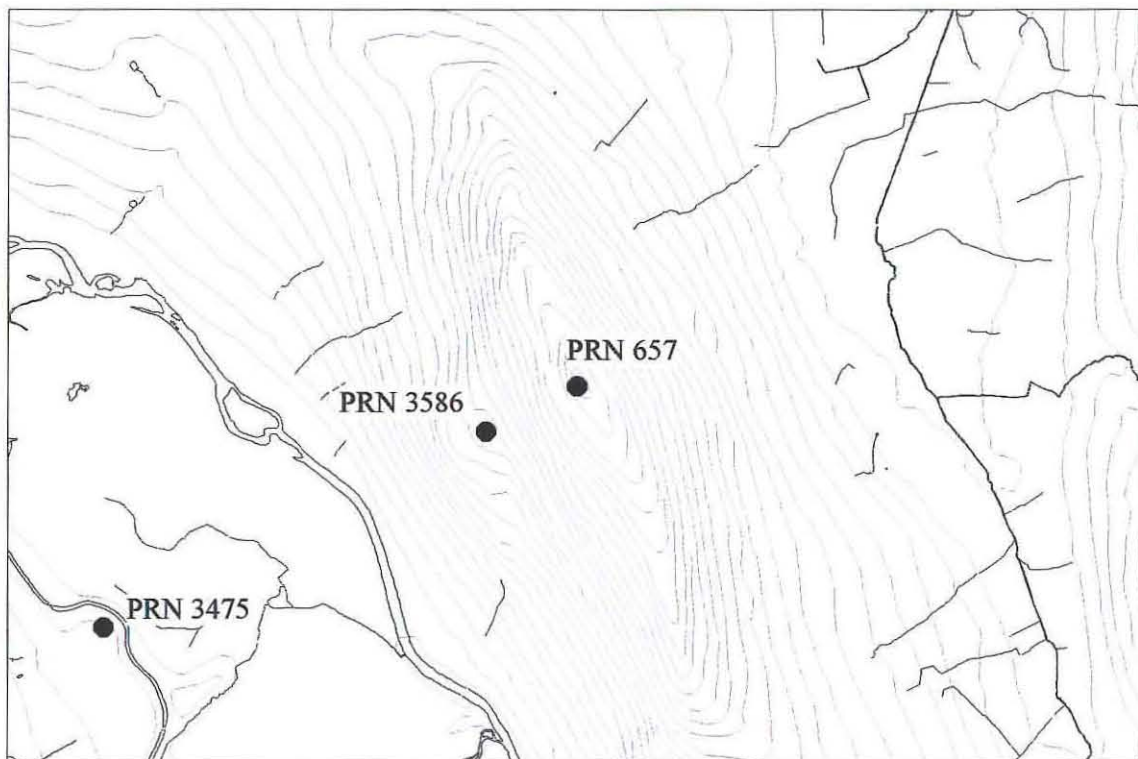
The main entrance is a simple gap in the defences at the northern end. A holloway, undoubtedly deepened by later traffic, leads north-north-west down the hill. A lesser entrance may have existed near the centre of the west side where the ditch and counterscarp bank give out and a terrace approaching at an angle breaks the line of the main scarp. Another minor entrance may have existed in the corresponding position on the east side but the details have been obscured by recent bulldozing.

The smaller enclosure appears to be annexed to the larger although details of the north junction are uncertain. The main defence is a robbed stone wall above outcrop on the west, continued round the south and east as an outward-facing scarp up to 3m high which appears to fade into the natural hillside. Between the apparent end of this scarp and the east edge of the hill is a small, curved length of rubble bank, now partly destroyed, which appears to represent one side of a funnel-shaped entrance-passageway. It is possible that a fence or bank once connected the later to the south-east corner of the main fort making an enclosure of just under 0.8 ha.

Alternatively, the curved bank is unrelated and the annexe either unfinished or destroyed along its north-east side. Later building activity at the south-east corner of the main enclosure has obscured the surface details further. The surviving defences are accompanied by a ditch up to 1m deep and a counterscarp bank up to 1m high.

No definitely ancient features are visible in the interior of either enclosure (1986, 91-3).

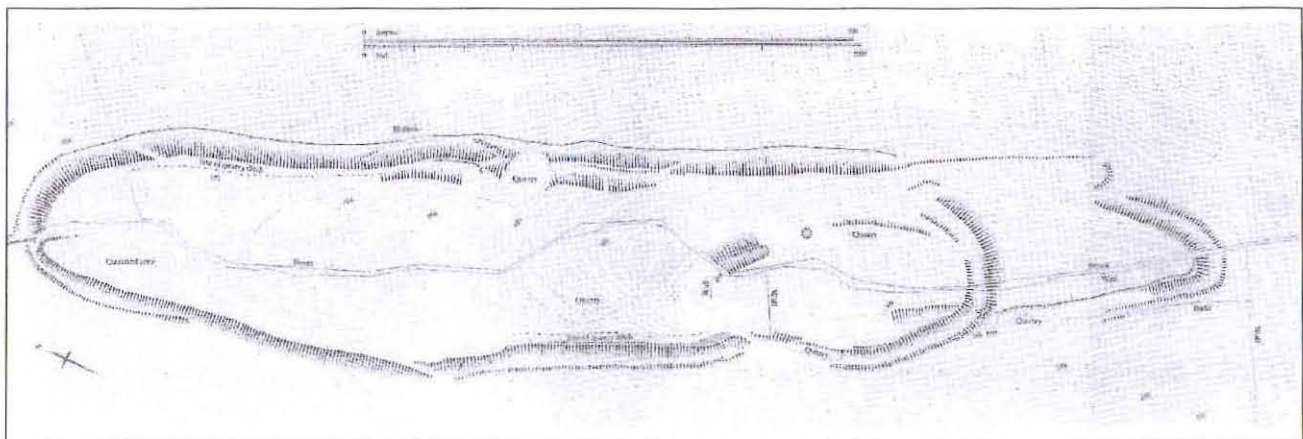




PRN 657 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 657 Allt yr Esgair Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

Coed y Gaer Hillfort

SO17622402

SO12SE

Scheduled No: Br115(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.57 ha*Height:* 229mOD*Location:* Spur

HER: enclosure on S facing promontory with single bank of earth and stone defining N and W sides and a scarp on E. Poss entrance in SW. Encloses 0.44hec. Hut platform noted by OS, 1973 at 17582404.

Hillfort is set in a prominent position on the ridge leading up to the summit of Pen Tir. The fort is set on a sloping platform between steeper slopes to the north and south. It dominates the valley of Cwmdu below it.

Univallate enclosure, but a second bank or counterscarp identified on the west side of the site (RCAHMW, 1986). Substantial rampart and outer ditch on the north side, and a rampart, ditch, and outer bank on the west, but no upstanding earthworks visible on south and east - may have been robbed, or covered with hillwash.

Survey and excavation in 1997 (Lane, Macdonald and Young, 1998) revealed a buried rampart on the south and perhaps east sides of the site, indicating that it was once a complete enclosure. Pottery of an early Roman date found overlying the collapsed rampart implies that the enclosure is Iron Age or earlier in date.

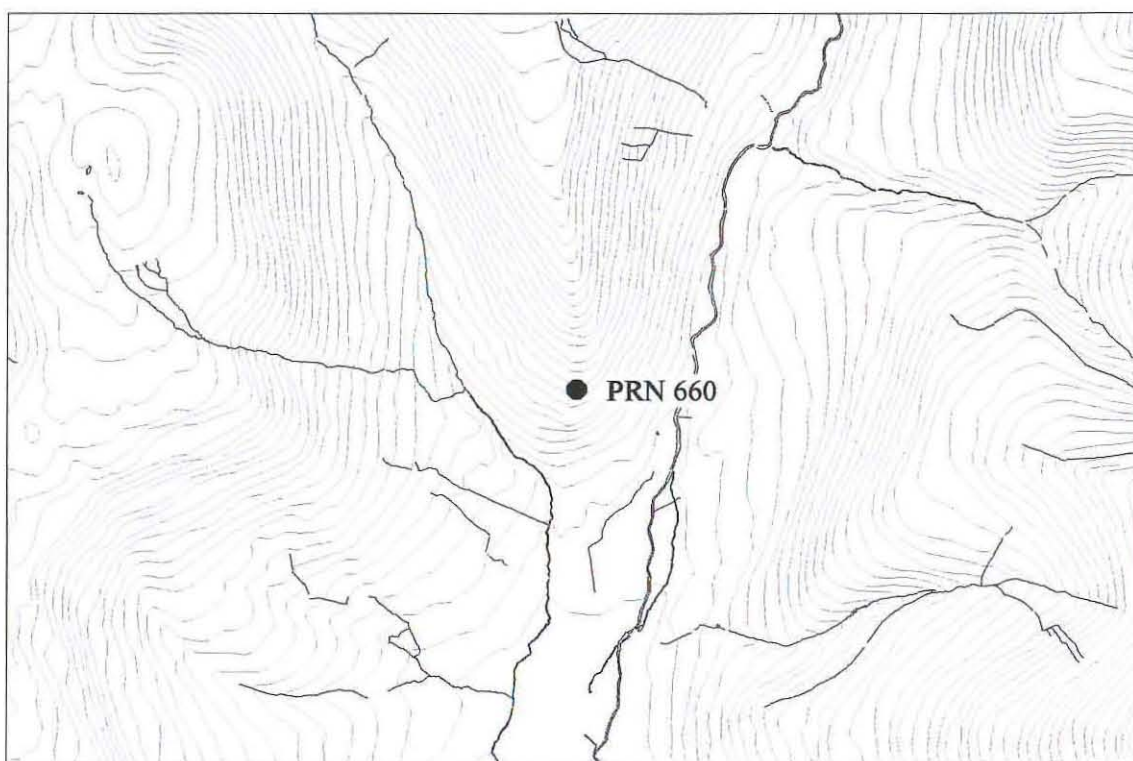
The interior of the fort has been heavily ploughed. The only remaining structural remains are those that cut the bedrock. Evidence for Post-Medieval lime burning was also found in hillfort interior (Lane, Macdonald and Young, 1998).

RCAHMW: a small, triangular, univallate enclosure stands at about 229m above OD on a steep, south-facing hillslope, 0.4km north-west of Cwm-du. Beyond the defences on the north the site is overlooked by rapidly rising ground while in the other directions the land falls away steeply to the Clarach Brook and the Rhiangoll.

The north and west sides of the earthworks are preserved reasonably well under a cover of grass and trees. Ploughing has damaged the interior, now under grass, and reduced the defences on the south and east to outward-facing scarps. Breaches in the earthworks occur on the north and south-east, the latter apparently associated with a track approaching a quarry.

The site measures internally 97m north to south, by 88m, an area of 0.57 ha. On the north the main rampart is a substantial earth and stone bank whose inner and outer faces are up to 3.2m and 2m high respectively. On the west the bank is much slighter on its inner face, up to 0.2m high only, but the outer face is between 2.5m and 3m high and along the outer crest are the remains of a drystone wall between 0.8m and 1m wide. Elsewhere the rampart has been reduced to a single, outward-facing scarp between 1.1m and 1.7m high on the south and 0.3m to 1.5m high on the east. A ditch is present only on the north and west where its maximum depth is respectively 2.2m and 1.5m. It fades as a discernible feature at the south-west corner and is absent on the south and east sides where it was probably never built. At the north-west corner and at the point corresponding to the later breach in the north rampart the ditch has been partly infilled. A counterscarp bank between 1.3m and 2m high stands on the lip of the west ditch. The breaches in the north and south-east were made probably later than the period of construction of the enclosure and the most likely site for an original entrance is on the west side where there is an angled ramp-like approach across the defences (1986, 88-90).

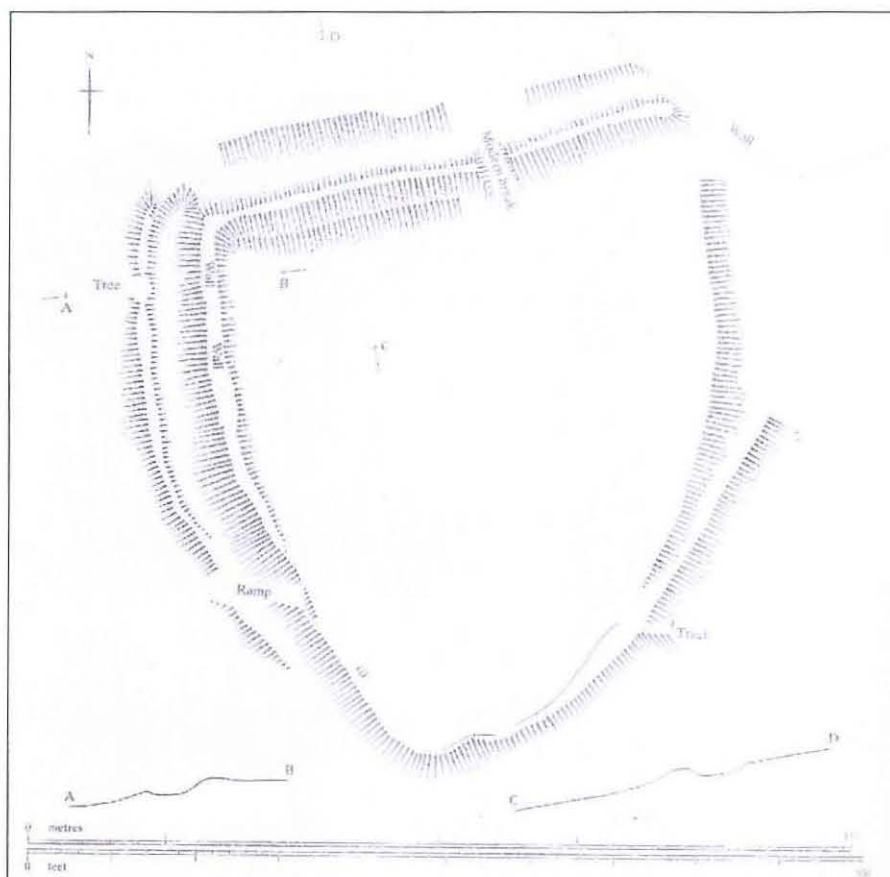




PRN 660 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 660 Coed y Gaer Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

Penmyarth Hillfort/Myarth Camp

SO17202070

SO12SE

Scheduled No: Br116(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort ?*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* ha*Height:* 277mOD*Location:*

HER: Bivallate hillfort with inturned entrance and guard chamber (Savory, H N, 1952 citing some of refs 01 to 07 and Savory's field visit of 1947). Not recognised by refs 08 09 11 and rashly dismissed by them as having been destroyed or as being a fortuitous arrangement of natural features quarrying bulldozing and forestry activity. The site was scheduled in 1949 on the recommendation of an inspector of ancient monuments (whose name is not known to CPAT) who considered that the inturned entrance was of exceptional interest though it is not clear from the 'AM7' now with Cadw whether or not this inspector actually visited the site or if he was merely acting on information received from Savory as a result of his 1947 visit (CPAT archive, 1988). The only recorded visit by an inspector of ancient monuments was made in 1955 after the hill was afforested and which failed to find any trace of the hillfort. The antiquity of the site is accepted by RCAHM, 1986 though they failed to find any of the features noted by Savory, H N, 1952 and assume that these have all been destroyed (they also rightly point out that OS, 1973 is wrong in claiming that the guard chamber noted by Savory, H N, 1952 is probably the quarrymans hut at SO17182061 - this feature is obviously 'modern' and is unlikely to have been mis-identified by Savory). CPAT site visit, 1988 identified a length of double 'rampart' running around the north eastern part of the hill and although it is much disturbed by quarrying at it's easterly end and by forestry over it's entire length it seems likely that this is the bivallate defence of the hillfort last noted by Savory. The inturned entrance was not identified by CPAT site visit, 1988. Scheduling revised 25/5/94.

RCAHWMW: Myarth is a prominent, steep-sided hill rising to just over 297m above OD, 5km north-west of Crickhowell. It dominates a narrow stretch of the middle Usk valley to the south and the lower reaches of the Rhiangoll valley to the north-east.

Early antiquaries mention that the hilltop was fortified with a slight stone-built defence. The 1st edition of the 1-in OS map published in 1832 clearly indicates in the style used for other undoubted antiquaries a mainly univallate, oval enclosure situated in the east half of that area of the hilltop delineated by the 900ft (274m) contour on the later 6-in maps. The site measures about 354m west-north-west to east-south-east by 210m. On the east-south-east side is a centrally-placed entrance formed by a deep inturn of the rampart and in front of this are two short lengths of bank either side of the entrance approach. The indicated position of this entrance is SO 1741 2061 approximately. Two mounds or small enclosures are shown in the interior, one abutting the north-west corner of the rampart, the other adjacent to its south side.

The first large-scale OS map of the area omits these details indicating "Site of Camp" by a general antiquities symbol, a convention maintained in the subsequent editions of the large-scale series until the 6-in Provisional Edition of 1964 which omits any mention of the site.

In 1947 Dr. H. N. Savory observed on the east tip of the hilltop traces of a partially bivallate system of drystone rampart which appeared to end at the precipitous face on the south but possibly continued around the north side. On the east Savory located a well-preserved, inturned entrance with a rectangular chamber of drystone walling about 1.5m square built into the internal face of the north rampart return.

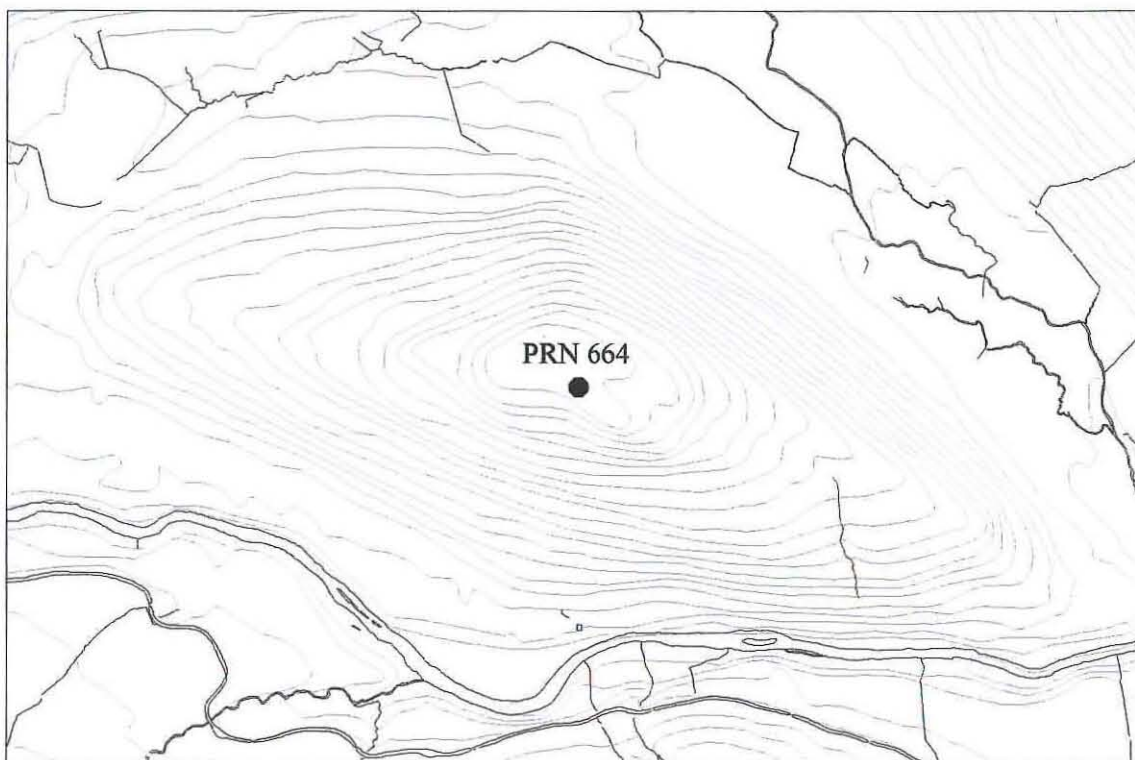
The aforementioned evidence suggests strongly that a partly bivallate fortification once occupied the east part of the hilltop, but on several visits between 1973 and 1982 OS and RCAHWMW surveyors failed to locate the remains or find any unequivocal traces of ancient construction. Myarth is now heavily afforested and scattered about the hilltop are linear quarries with their associated spoil dumps which were last worked during the First World War. These activities may account for the disappearance of most of the defences since 1828 but it is difficult to explain the absence of the entrance-way noted by Savory unless it was destroyed by the reforestation which has taken place in the general area of the feature between 1948 and 1973. At 1729 2061 a turf-covered stone mound about 10m in diameter by 1.5m high occupies the crest of a narrow ridge. The



north-west end of the ridge has been quarried extensively and built into one of the spoil heaps at 1718 2061 is a ruined drystone-walled shelter. This is not to be confused with Savory's "guard chamber" which was apparently further east.

A plausible line of defence can be postulated by following a sequence of scarps, crags and breaks of slope around the hilltop just within the 900 ft contour but at no point, e.g. between 1695 2083 and 1690 2080, can the observed scarp be attributed conclusively to artificial agencies. A defensive circuit based on this line would entail a fort about 630m long by up to 260m wide which is larger than the enclosure indicated by the 1-in OS map, 1st edition, but better adapted to the local topography.

Despite the complete absence of positive traces of a defensive work at the present day, the evidence of the early OS surveyors and Dr. Savory's observations seem to point to the former existence of a hill-fort on Myarth which would have been the largest in the county (1986 83-84).



**PRN 664 site location, scaled at 1:25,000**

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Coed Cefn (Llangenny Camp)

SO22811859

SO21NW

Scheduled No: Br061(POW)

*Type:* Defended enclosure*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.29 ha*Height:* 220mOD*Location:* Hilltop

Visited

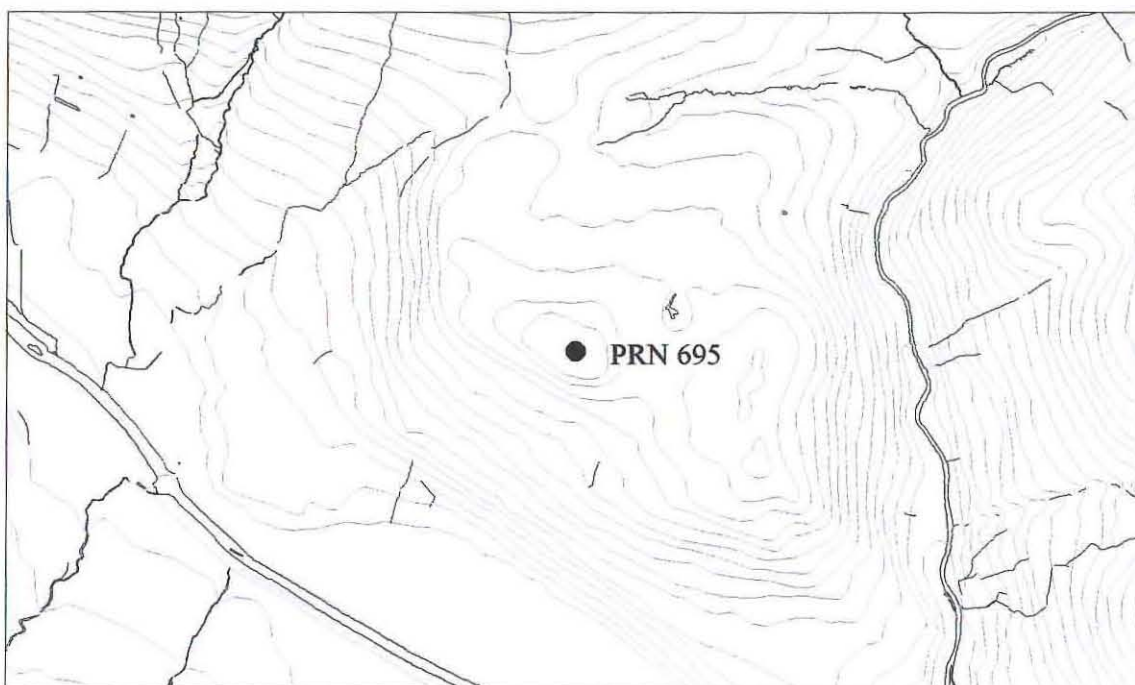
HER: univallate sub-rectangular enclosure marked by bank and outer ditch. Possible stone walling surmounting bank at south. Simple entrance at south-east and possibly another at north-west.

RCAHMW with additions: variously known as Llangenny Camp (HER) or Coed Cefn [Enclosure] (RCAHMW), the site comprises a univallate sub-rectangular enclosure marked by a bank with an outer ditch. It has been fully described by the RCAHMW, whose description, slightly modified, follows.

A small, sub-rectangular, univallate enclosure stands at about 228m OD on a small and rather rounded hilltop 1km E of Crickhowell. Beyond the defences the ground falls away sharply to the S but more moderately elsewhere. The site is incorporated into a small wood owned by the Woodland Trust. Some trees grow on the defences and in the interior, and there are other areas covered by heavy undergrowth. The greatest damage to the site has been done by quarrying, especially internally in the SW and NW quadrants where hollows and tips, some linear, are in evidence. A modern track passes through the rampart near the centre of the W and E sides.

According to the RCAHMW calculations the site measures internally 68m N to S by 51m, giving an area of about 0.29ha. Because of the nature of the hill-top with its rising ground, the interior appears generally higher than outside the defences. On the S and E the rampart has been reduced to an outward-facing scarp with hints of an inner drop only intermittently. Elsewhere it is an earth and stone bank whose inner scarp is generally between 0.2 and 0.8m high, though up to 1.1m at the NW corner. The outer scarp is most prominent on the S where it is up to 1.75m high. On the N it is up to 1.25m high. The remains of a stone wall on the S were recorded in 1962 but this feature could not be traced in 1977, though a certain amount of stone still remains on the surface.

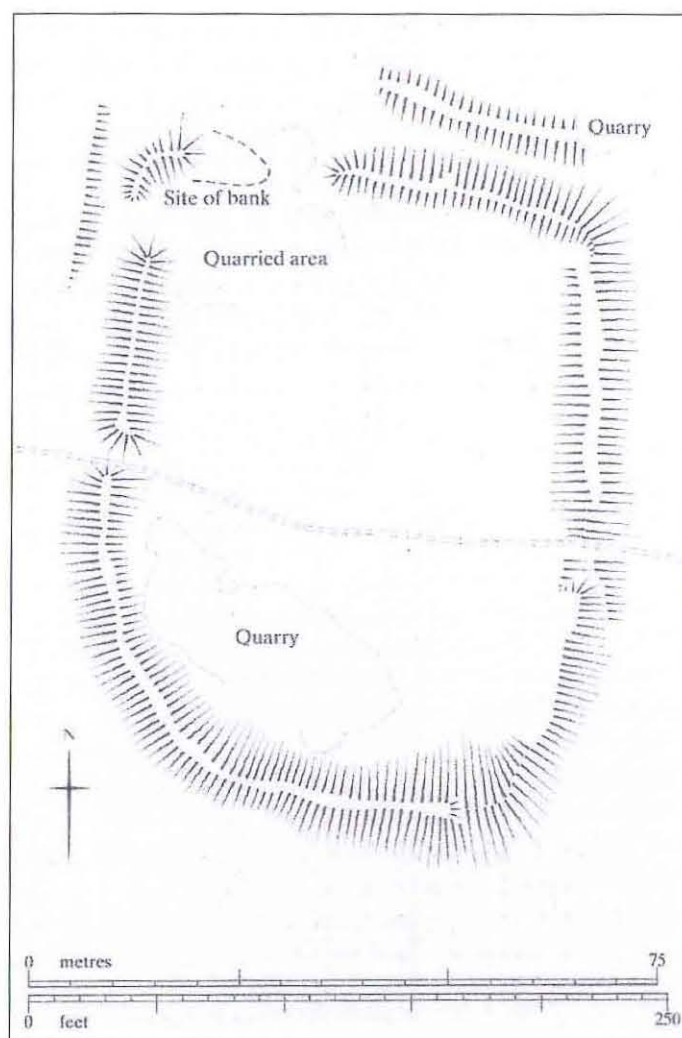
The site of the ditch is indicated by a shelf at the SW corner and along the NE side and by two linear depressions, respectively 0.5m and 0.7m deep, along the N side and at the NW corner. A low counterscarp bank may have been present on the N. The original entrance, though not clearly evident, is represented by a simple gap in the rampart just S of the centre of the E side and is now utilised by the modern track. The corresponding gap on the W side is a relatively modern breach. It is possible that there was another entrance at the N. W. corner but the area is obscured by quarrying. No features contemporary with the defences are visible in the interior. Again in the SW quadrant the apparent inner bank must be a result of quarrying with a linear if curving dump of spoil (1986, 118-19).



PRN 695 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 695 Coed Cefn (Llangenny Camp). © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Corn y Fan Hillfort

SN9852035402

SN93NE

Scheduled No: Br051(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.09 ha*Height:* 290mOD*Location:* Hilltop

Visited

HER: multivallate enclosure comprising 3 ramparts about 3m high and 3 ditches isolating a rocky promontory. Entrance at E. Occupiable area about 48m across (NE-SW). Tiny trivallate fort on a prominent and steep hill. May be a post-Roman site, though has no finds to support such a dating (Dark, 1994).

RCAHMW: the fort consists of a triple system of banks and ditches defending the summit of a prominent knoll which stands 350m above OD, 2 km south of Merthyr Cynog. The area enclosed is small and irregularly oval in shape, measuring about 50m north-east to south-west by between 16m and 20m, an area of 0.09ha. The south edge of the site is formed by sheer cliffs, and elsewhere the ground slopes down steeply away from the summit. The site would have been very difficult to approach except from the north and the north-east against which the defences are set. The fort has commanding views of the middle reaches of the Afon Ysgir valley.

The earthworks are well-preserved for the most part. Ploughing has obscured the outermost ditch which is only faintly discernible, and quarrying of uncertain date has destroyed some details of the entrance approach on the east. There are three, close-set, curving ramparts of earth and stone, now grass- and tree-covered. The spacing between the centres of the bank crests averages just over 10m between middle and outer. The broadest spacing, over 11m, occurs at the east, entrance, end. All three banks are inturned at their western ends, the inner particularly sharply. The east end of the outer bank is inturned also. The maximum surviving heights of the inner and outer scarps of the banks, taken in succession outwards, are respectively 0.2m, 4.2m, 0.3m, 3m, 0.3m and 3.9m. The ramparts were probably built according to the technique termed downward construction, whereby the material for the rampart was heaped downwards on the hillslope from a quarry ditch above, and the process repeated for the other two banks by excavating the inner and middle ditches. The outer ditch may have been relatively shallow, providing some upcast for the outer bank and possibly some for a low counterscarp bank, which if it existed, is no longer visible. An irregular ditch up to 1.2m deep can be traced behind the inner rampart. There is no convincing evidence for a suggested fourth, more widely spaced, rampart on the west (R.E. Kay, Notebooks, p 1023, copy in NMR).

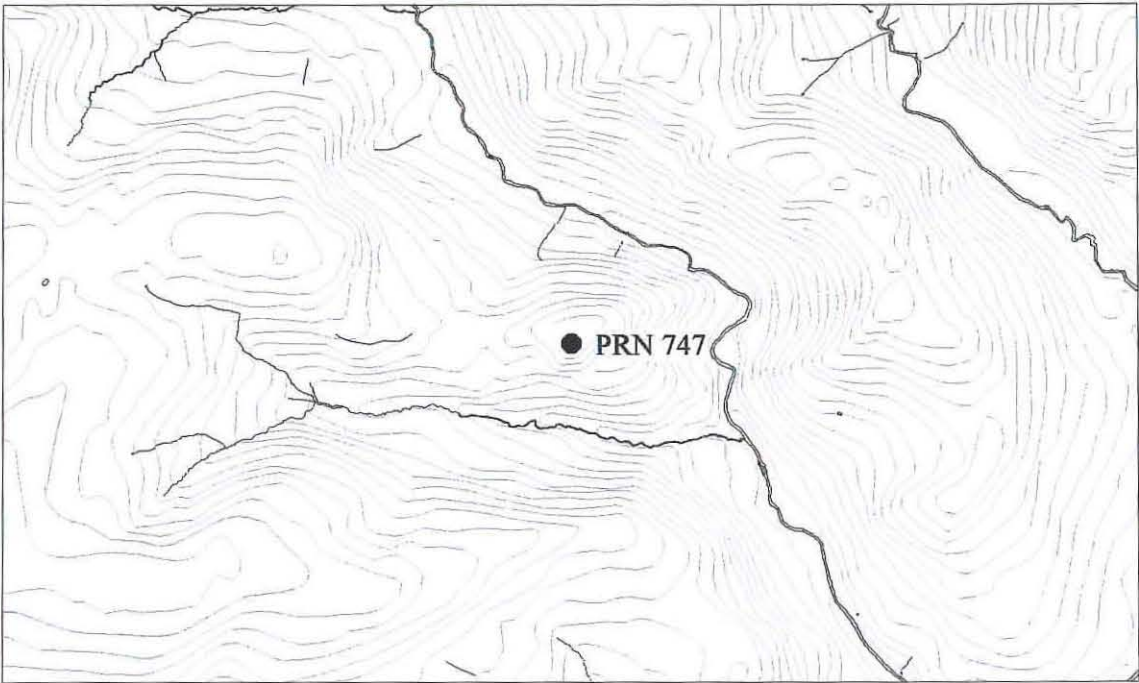
The entrance approach is from the north-east up a V shaped stretch of sloping ground between the ends of the earthworks and the sheer slopes and crags of the south-east side. In its present form this approach seems more poorly defended than is consistent with the strength of the main defence. It is possible that the change of slope at the edge of the most easterly of the more recent quarries in the area is the severely damaged remains of some additional protection and other works have been destroyed. A narrow passage is formed between the end of the main inner rampart and a short length of bank along the cliff edge, and here there was probably a gate.

The surface of the interior is very irregular, the main features being two rock bosses separated by a hollow. The least exposed and most habitable area is the base of the quarry ditch behind the inner rampart (1986, 41).

CPAT: the defences are as previously described by the RCAHMW. The internal area of the fort is crescent shaped with the defences along the outer, western, curve of the crescent. Internally the site consists of a series of platforms and level areas with rocky outcrops on the two 'horns' of the crescent, in the south and north-east. The north-eastern outcrop has been deliberately raised and levelled using stone to create a sub-circular platform c.6m x 4m. A gently undulating terrace lies to the west and south-west. Approximately 12m in this direction lies a circular feature, with an external diameter of 2m, consisting of a circular bank around a 1m central hollow. The banks are built from stone but are now turf-covered. The central area is in-filled but has a hollow sound to the fill. A second 4m diameter circular platform lies 2m just upslope from the circular feature to the south. The southern rock outcrop lies just behind this platform, and appears also to have possible artificial stone enhancement. The southern edge of the site is defended by the cliff, as described. However, there is possible second exit in the crook of the crescent which gives access to a scramble route down the cliffs.

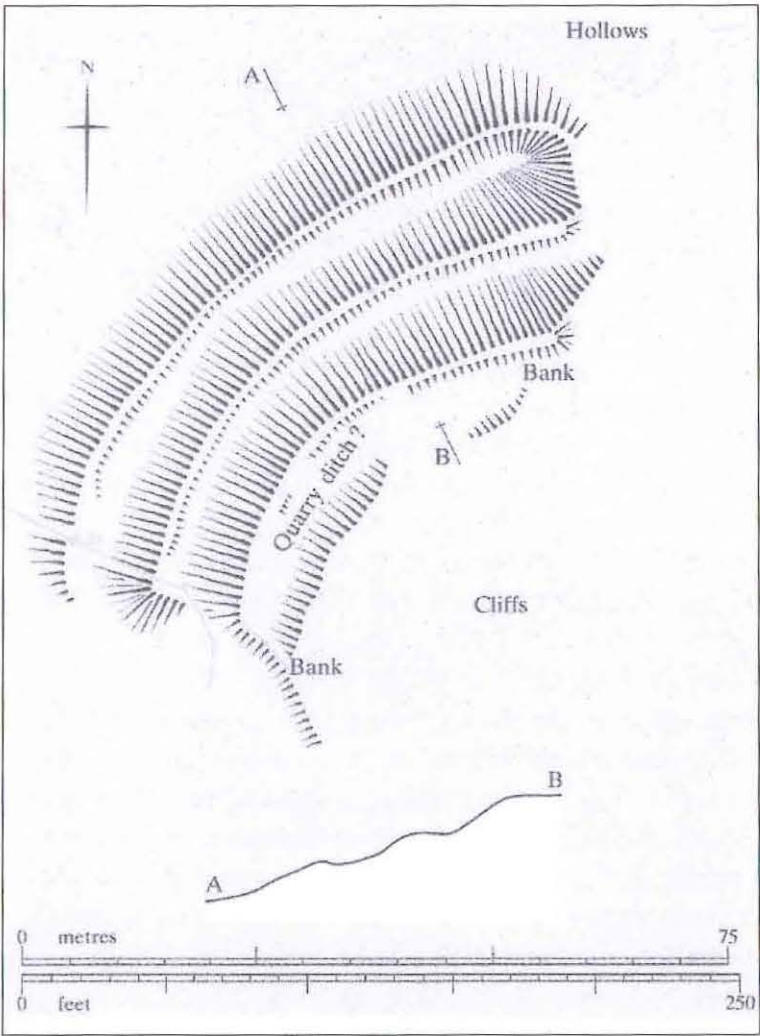
At the lower end of the 'tongue' of slope leading to the entrance are the remains of a linear bank, less than 0.20m high x 1m wide, leading upslope to the entrance of the fort. This may be the remains of a later field boundary, or may be related to the fort itself. At SN 9845635461, downslope to the north-west of the site is a 9m long linear groove with a western bank up to 0.30m high. Function and date unknown but may be related to fort.





PRN 747 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 747 Corn y Fan Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

Clawdd Brythonig Hillfort

SN86253687

SN83NE

Scheduled No: Br032(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.09 ha*Height:* 304mOD*Location:* Hillslope

Visited

HER: sub-rectangular 2 ditched enclosure some 35m E-W by 13m N-S internally. Prob entrance at SE corner. Sited on SE pointing spur. Formerly noted as ringmotte by Savory, H N, 1952-03 but prob an Iron Age hillslope enclosure.

The site measures about 39m N/S by 30m, is roughly oval in shape with an external bank and an internal ditch. The bank is about 5m wide and the ditch is 7m wide. There is some internal damage at SN 8625 3688, possibly military disruption. On the south and west faces there is an external ditch and the east face has been cut by the road. There is a simple entrance in the south face with a hollow way heading south into the valley. The existing road runs parallel to this. Further disturbance in the southeast corner is military in origin (Boucher, A & Crooks, K, 2000).

An unusual feature is an internal ditch which is 4m wide and runs around the inner edge of the bank, thus making the level interior small in comparison with the defences. The fact the inner bank is complete and comparatively uniform suggests it may well be original rather than a later disturbance. (Cadw 1994). Scheduled (Cadw 2000).

RCAHMW: a small, oval univallate enclosure stands at 30.7m above OD on the edge of a moderate SE facing slope overlooking the headwaters of Nant y Dresglen, 6.8km N of Llywel. The position is defensively weak as the site is overlooked by higher ground on three sides. To the SE the land falls sharply and dissected by streams.

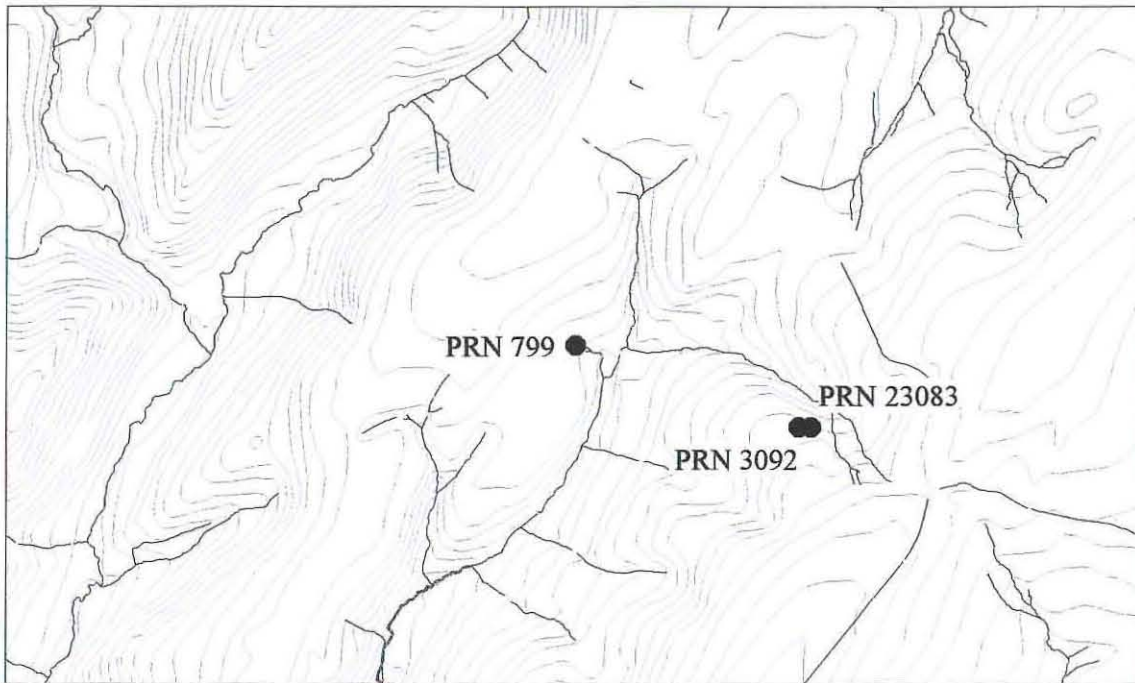
Moorland vegetation and a few trees cover the earthworks which are generally well-preserved, although in places cut into by the military who conduct exercises here. On the S the ditch forms a stream course and elsewhere a boggy hollow. A modern metalled track skirts the N of the site.

The enclosure measures internally 44m NW to SE by 29m, an area of 0.09ha. The interior consists of a float, gently sloping platform 36m long NW to SE by up to 18m wide. Its surface is separated from the rampart on all sides except the SE by a depression between 0.6m and 1.2m deep. Although some material may have been added to the platform it is probably a largely natural surface made more prominent by excavation around its edges, which was the probable source of material for the earth and stone rampart. The latter is most prominent on the W where its inner and outer scarps are respectively up to 2.1m and 3m high.

Elsewhere the outer scarp is between 1.2m and 1.9m high while on the SE the inner scarp is as low as 0.5m high. The ditch is 2.9m deep on the W but becomes shallower eastwards being about 1.6m deep at the SE corner. There is a low counterscarp bank up to 0.8m high opposite the E rampart. The most likely position for the entrance is at the SE corner where stream erosion has obscured the details. No ancient features are visible on the internal platform (1986, 22).

CPAT Assessment: the site has good views over the valley to the SE and E, and the valley sides beyond. It is as the RCAHMW says overlooked from the NW and NE, but to the SW the ground is level. Nevertheless it is not a defensive location. Of the earthwork itself, it is more D-shaped than oval; the outer ditch is impressive on the W and S, but around the N it has been superseded by the track that curves around the earthwork. The interior has now largely been cleared of any trees formerly there. The site is curious for its morphology. The large inner 'ditch' is hardly typical of late prehistoric enclosures. Could it be of another date entirely?

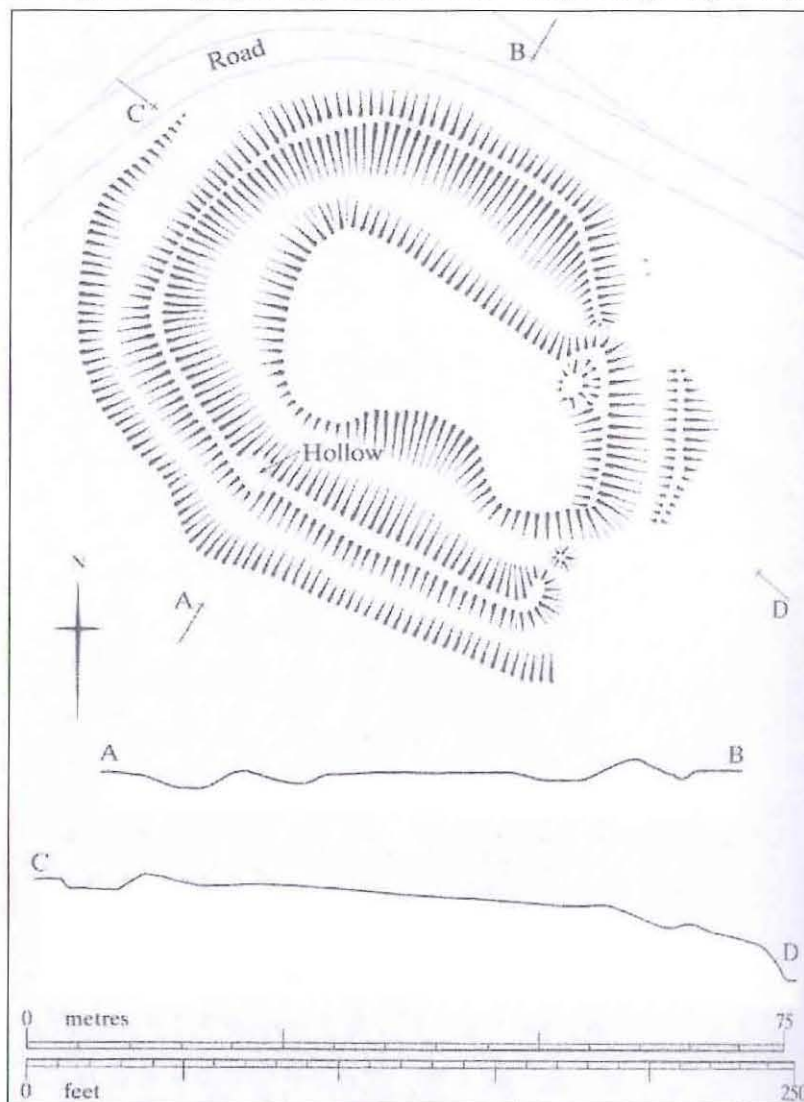




PRN 799 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 799 Clawdd Brythonig Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

Nant Tarthwyni defended enclosure I

SO0911019510

SO01NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.38 ha*Height:* 380mOD*Location:* Hillslope

Visited

HER: univallate hillfort enclosure with sub-circular inner enclosure c.75m diameter with bank reduced to scarp in places. Further outer ditch around uphill side. Entrance in east side. Outer bank to south c.1.5m high with associated ditch. Sited on east facing slope in forestry. Second small hillfort (PRN 4007) c.60m to east.

Badly damaged by forestry felling, ploughing and replanting in 1990 due to the Forestry Commission's failure to appreciate the importance of the site and lack of any prior consultation about the scheme.

RCAHMW with CPAT additions: the larger of two defended enclosures above Nant Tarthwyni, the site comprises a univallate enclosure with an outer enclosure on the south side. A further outwork has been recognised on aerial photographs. The earthwork is separated into two unequal portions by a fence line and its predecessor, a now-ruined stone wall, to the north of which the earthworks lie in formerly enclosed moorland, to the south within a conifer plantation. The latter is largely impenetrable and much of the description relies on earlier records.

The inner enclosure is sub-circular and the RCAHMW give the internal measurements as 69m from N to S by 70m E to W. It is enclosed by a scarp bank of earth and stone and in the open moorland on the north and through most of the eastern perimeter. On the uphill side to the W and SW the bank has an inner drop. Also on the uphill side there are the remains of an outer ditch. Both the ditch and the inner bank face are discernible outside the forestry, but disappear to the N of the stone wall. In the moorland all that remains is the scarp bank, no more than 0.5m high with immediately outside it a shallow terrace, the origins and purpose of which are obscure but seem to post-date the occupation of the enclosure. It is probable but unprovable that they result from activity associated with the enclosure of the valley within the stone walls. Elsewhere the Ordnance Survey gauged the height of the bank scarp as 1.6m on the E side, and the inner face as 1.4m high on the W side, with the ditch broad but only 0.4m deep. The entrance was represented by a simple gap on the E side.

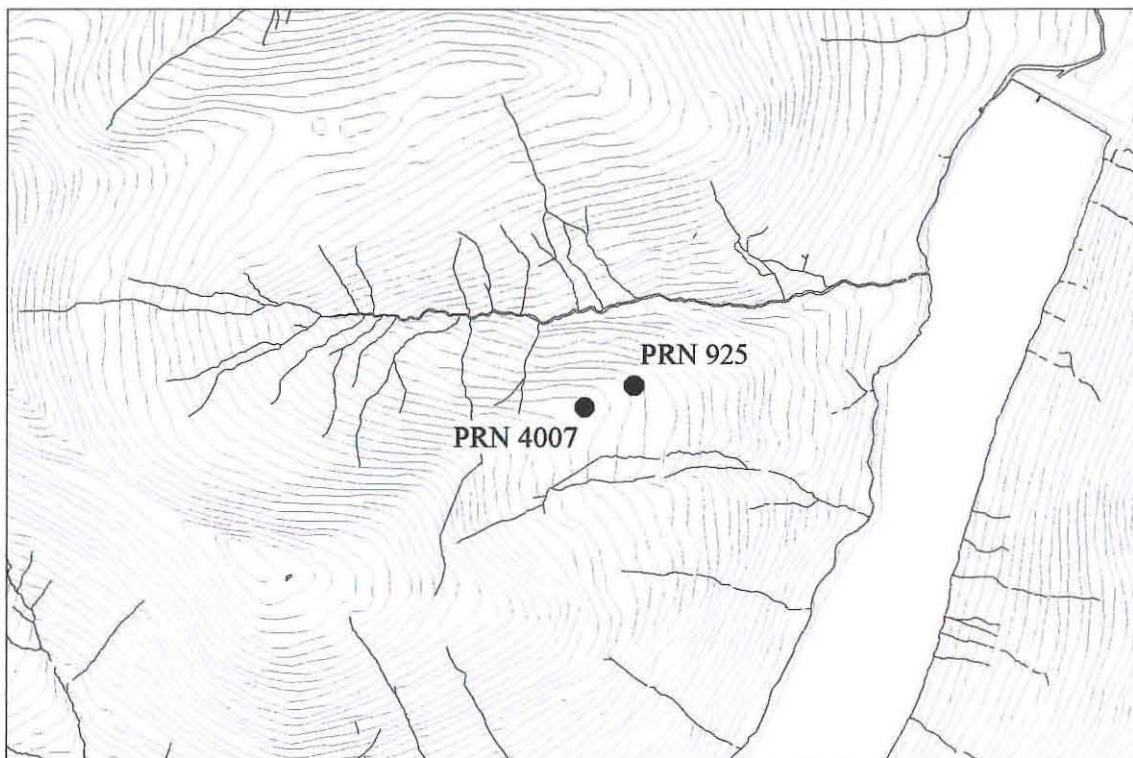
The outer bank covers the S and parts of the E and W sides, but does not appear to extend as far north as the inner enclosure's entrance. The RCAHMW stated that it lies between 12m and 26m from the inner enclosure. This outer earthwork thus lies across the more accessible approaches to the main enclosure. A true bank was visible for much of its course, reverting to a scarp bank only from the SE corner northwards. A ditch accompanies the bank on the W and a part of the S side. The bank height is of similar magnitude to the inner enclosure - 1.5m high on the W and the ditch is calculated to be 0.6m deep. No features have been identified in the interior of either enclosure.

Aerial photographs show a further outlying bank 60m to 70m to the S of the outer enclosure, again in forestry. This has a similar alignment to the S side of the outer enclosure, but no length has been defined.

The enclosure occupies moderately sloping ground, perhaps best described as a spur off Allt Lwyd. The N side of the main enclosure lies immediately above the break of slope where the ground pitches down into the valley of Nant Tarthwyni. It commands extensive views over the valley to the W and E.

A second smaller enclosure (PRN 4007) lies 50m or so the SW.

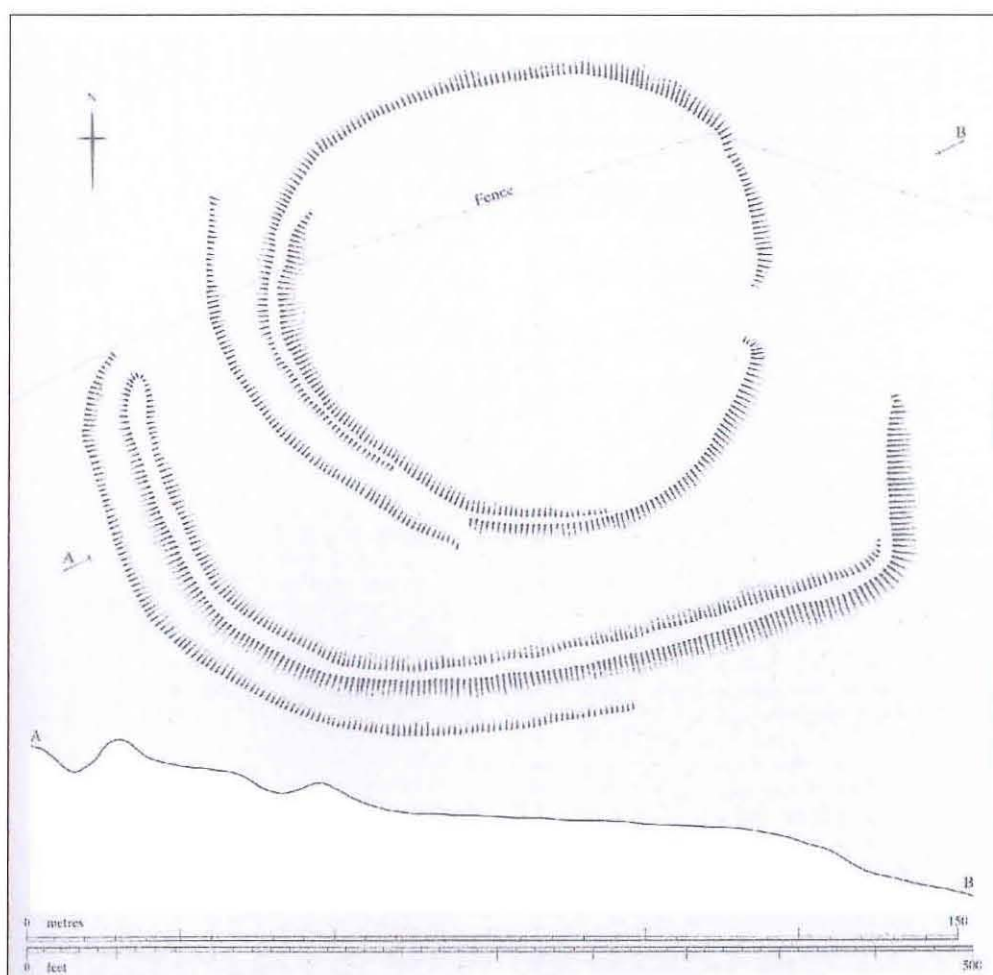




PRN 925 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 925 Nant Tarthwyni defended enclosure. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

**Dol y Gaer hillfort**

SO0595014800

SO01SE

Scheduled No: Br123(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Structure*Area:* 0.75 ha*Height:* 426mOD*Location:*

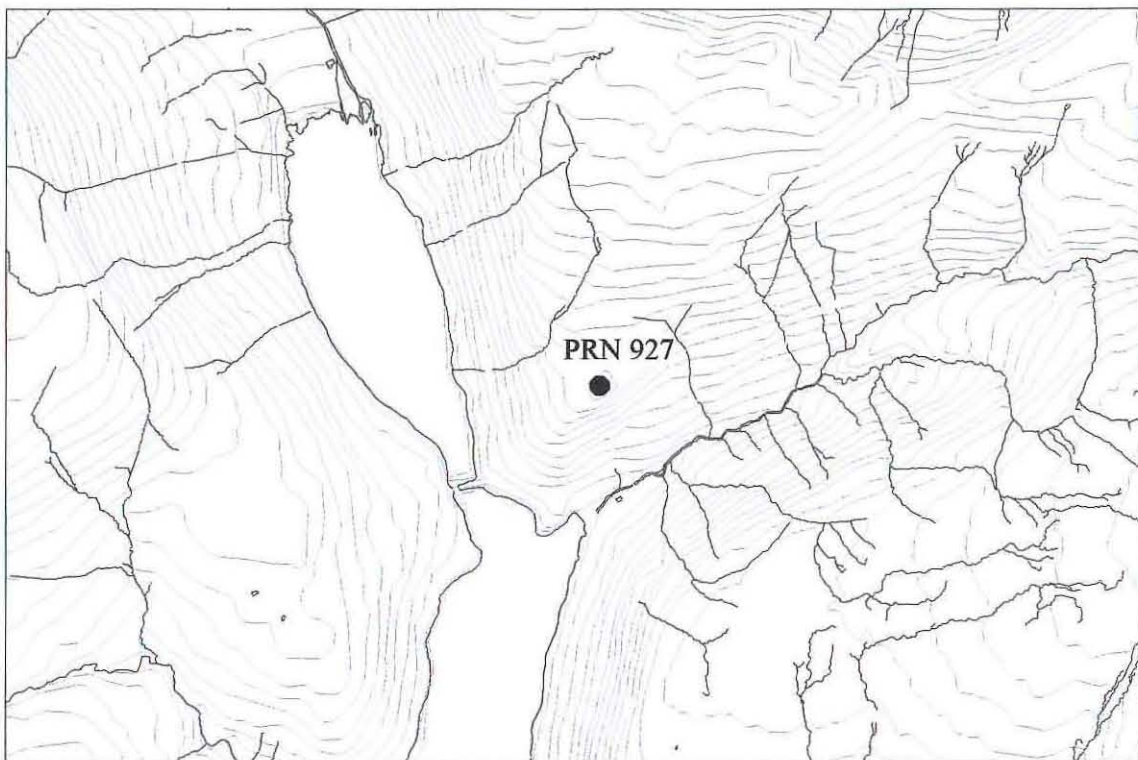
HER: D-shaped univallate hilltop enclosure c.135m x 85m. Bounded by steep natural slopes on SE side and elsewhere by semi-circular bank and ditch. Entrance at SW corner. Part excavated by P Murray Threipland in 1950s(?). Part of NW now destroyed by quarrying. Casual finds from interior (PRN 6198).

RCAHMLW: a small, D-shaped, univallate enclosure stands at 427m above OD on the S edge of a ridge between the Taf Fechan and its small tributary Nant Callan, 3.6km N of Pontsticill. The ground to the W, S and SE of the site drops sharply to the rivers but that to the N and NE rises gradually to the twin ridge-summits, Pant y Creigiau and Cern Tareni-cochion.

Where it has not been disturbed by later activity the earthwork is well preserved and covered predominantly by moorland grass and bracken. The centre of the W side has been obliterated by quarrying for a length of about 40m and, elsewhere, there has been sporadic damage by the same activity leaving hollows and spoil heaps. The remains of a kiln dug into the outer scarp of the bank are visible on the NE. There is a gap about 30m wide between the NE end of the earthworks and the natural scarp forming the SE side of the enclosure where either the construction of the defences was not completed or any remains have been completely ploughed out. The site is crossed by modern field walls, including a sheepfold in the NE part of the interior.

The enclosure measures internally 143m NE to SW by 89m, an area of about 0.75ha. The SE side is formed by a steep, natural scarp with no artificial defences. The other sides are defended by a curving bank of earth and stone with an external ditch. The bank is most prominent on the N where its inner face stands up to 1m above the interior and its outer face is up to 2.2m high above the base of the partially infilled ditch. The visible ditch is of variable depth with a maximum 0.8m. The entrance was probably on the SW where there is a simple gap between the end of the rampart and ditch and the natural scarp. There are no ancient features visible in the relatively level interior. It is recorded that an excavation took place at the site but no details have been published (1986, 49-51)

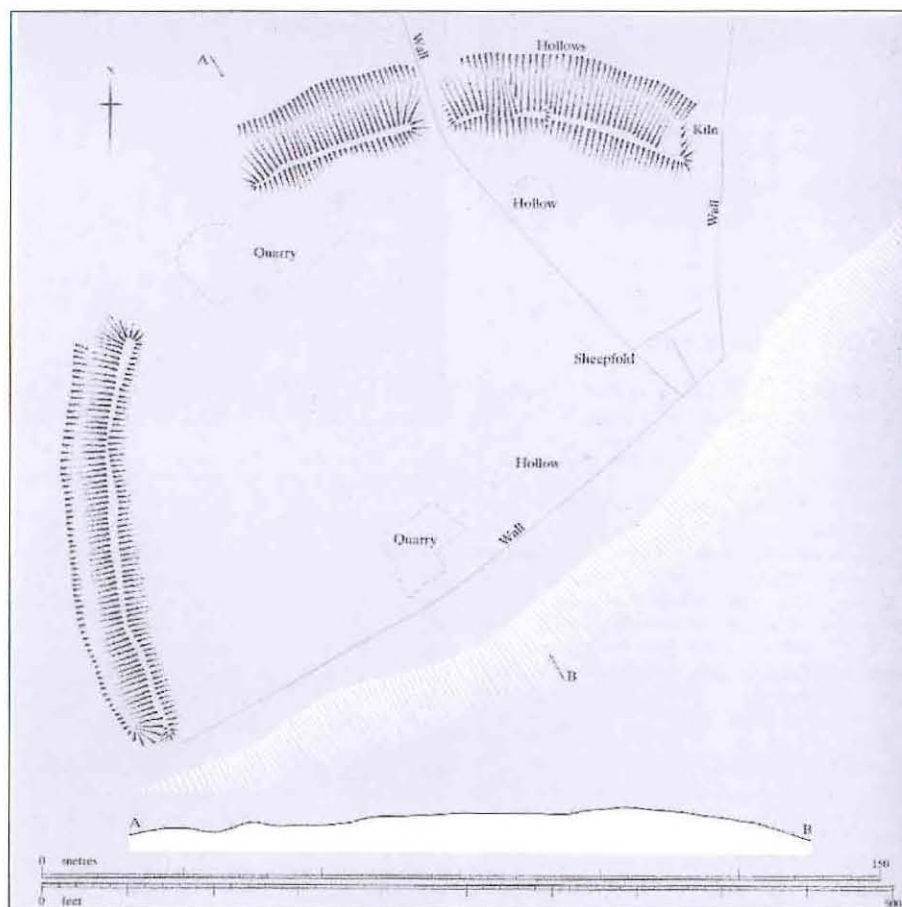




PRN 927 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 927 Dol y Gaer hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

Plas y Gaer Hillfort

SO03292462

SO02SW

Scheduled No: Br154(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.58 ha*Height:* 297mOD*Location:* Hillslope

Visited

HER: bivallate hillslope enclosure some 100m E-W by 60m N-S. Ramparts much denuded on N (lower) side. Lies on steep NE facing slope.

RCAHMW with CPAT additions: the site stands at about 300m above OD on the north-east-facing slopes of Allt Ddu, 3.7km south of Llanfaes church. The terrain levels out a short distance to the north of the sloping ground on which the enclosure stands, but to the south the site is overlooked by steeply rising moorland.

The surviving earthworks are fairly prominent grass-grown banks of earth and stone covered by trees and scrub vegetation. Small streams have dissected the outer ditch on the south and exaggerated its depth on the east. Recent field walls and fences occupy part of the line of both banks. The interior has been ploughed repeatedly and is at present grazing land.

The existing works form an incomplete oval the main element of which is a substantial rampart and ditch around the whole of the surviving perimeter with a shorter, less-elevated bank inside it. A short spur of bank acts as a counterscarp to the outer ditch on the west. Aerial photographs indicate that the slighter works which have been ploughed away completed the circuit in the north. The site measures internally approximately 65m north to south, by 115m, an area of 0.58ha.

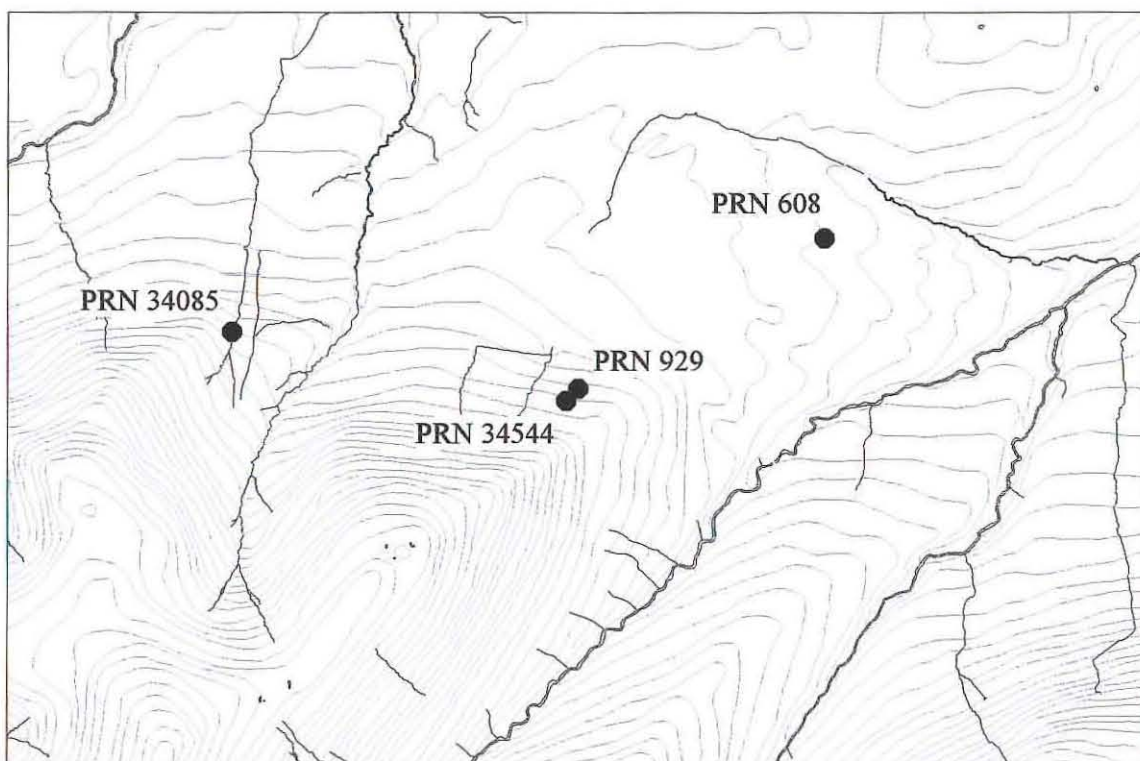
The crest of the inner bank stands up to 1.5m above the sloping interior and is between 1.4m and 2.2m above the base of the ditch in front. A faint scarp on the west may represent the continuation of this bank or may be the product of quarrying for the main bank. The height of the rampart varies generally between 2m and 3.2m but its inner face is up to 3.6m high in the south and its outer face up to 4m high at the south-west corner. The outer ditch on the south is between 1.2m and 3m deep. On the east a stream bed has been modified to act as a ditch, and erosion has scoured this to a depth of 2.8m. On the western edge of the outer ditch is a damaged spur of bank up to 1.3m high beyond which is unmodified downward sloping ground. As there is no sign of an entrance through the existing works, access to the interior must have been gained from the north. No ancient features are visible in the interior. RCAHMW 1986

An entrance in the south-east has been formed consisting of a groove through the outer bank giving access from the hill above. This is probably a later feature, and is currently used by stock and quad bikes. Stone eroding from the outer bank in the south-west probably derives from a former boundary wall which topped the bank and is has since been replaced by a fence.

A second stream runs in to the outer ditch in the south-west.

Very low earthworks could be viewed downslope to the north of the site. Two of these consist of holloways leading from the farmhouse up to the enclosure. A possible bank remnant appeared to continue from the western bank curving across the contour below the terrace of the main enclosure.

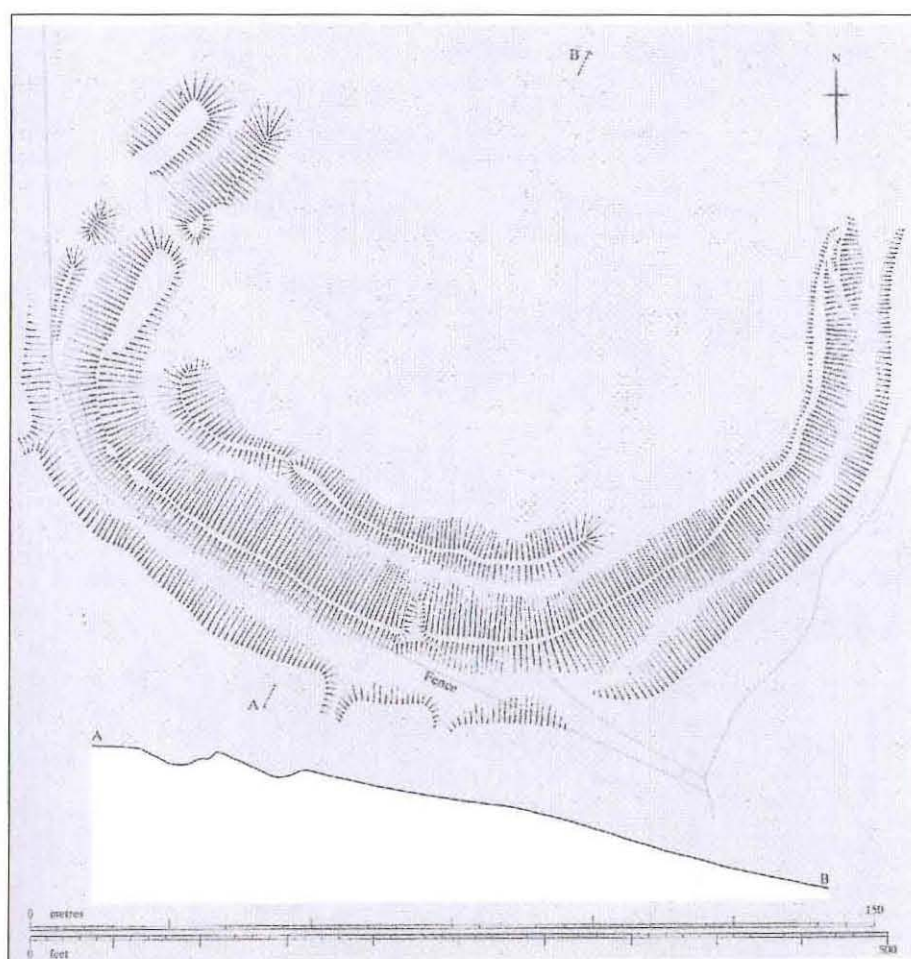




PRN 929 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 929 Plas y Gaer Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

Llwyn Bedw Enclosure

SO00202424

SO02SW

Scheduled No: Br242(POW)

*Type:* Defended Enclosure*Date:* Iron Age ?*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.1 ha*Height:* 305mOD*Location:* hillslope

Visited

HER: enclosure situated at the end of a spur, a small hill-slope enclosure consisting of a small oval inner enclosure with a simple entrance and a widely spaced outer bank on the south uphill side. The bank survives only to the north and south but probably existed also to the west. Enclosure covers c100 metres N/S and 50 metres E/W. Earthworks within the enclosure include four platforms of varying sizes. (OS 1975).

Multivallate enclosure consisting of a central, well defined, oval shaped enclosure, surrounded by a number of well preserved banks with external ditches of varying dimensions. Complex series of outer banks suggests multi-period construction or long term occupation. There is evidence for later re-use in the form of charcoal burning platforms. Scheduled 11/11/98 (Cadw, 1998).

RCAHMW: A small, multivallate enclosure with wide-spaced ramparts stands at 305m above OD on the NE-facing lower slopes of Pen Milan, 5.4km SW of Llan-faes church. The site is defensively poor for, although the land falls away fairly abruptly to Nant Cwm Llwh on the E, the approach uphill from the N is relatively easy and to the S the land rises gradually for 450m to the foot of the main, steep-sided N scarp of Pen Milan.

Coarse grass, bracken and gorse cover the poorly preserved earthworks which are dissected by later trails and lesser tracks. The overall shape and area of the enclosure cannot be determined accurately as the W side of the outer earthworks has disappeared and there are only faint and dubious traces on the E. The surviving plan consists of a roughly oval, univallate inner enclosure with two banks and ditches to the N and a single bank and ditch uphill to the S. The inner enclosure measures internally 54m NNW. to SSE. by 27m, an area of just under 0.1ha. The overall dimensions of the site were at least 128m N to S by 65m.

The hillslope seems to have been terraced artificially for the erection of the inner enclosure whose earth and stone bank has been reduced to a single outward-facing scarp 1.5m high on the downhill, N and E sides. On the uphill side an inner scarp is preserved up to 0.6m high and the outer scarp is up to 0.9m high. On the S and SW the external ditch is a shallow depression 0.15m deep but elsewhere it has become thoroughly obscured or was never excavated. The enclosure is bisected by a trail which may pass through the site of the original entrance. Two short banks immediately W of the gap through the earthwork may be the remains of an entrance outwork. Two stretches of vague scarp E of the enclosure may be the remains of an outer bank but could equally well reflect a natural change of slope.

Overlooking the inner enclosure from the S, about 10m away, is a bank up to 2.1m high at its present W end with an external ditch 0.3m deep. Curving away NE from near the N end of the inner enclosure is a low bank 0.3m high with a hump at its E end up to 1.2m high. North of this is a short, vague scarp, probably a vestige of an accompanying ditch. A more substantial stretch of bank and ditch lies 3m N of the latter scarp. The crest of the bank is up to 0.6m above the interior of the enclosure and up to 0.9m above the present bottom of its accompanying ditch which is 0.6m deep. A platform dug into the outer scarp of the ditch is probably the site of a later charcoal-burning hearth. The S outer defences and probably the inner works on the N are associated clearly with the inner enclosure but the outer of the N works are less closely aligned. It is possible that the latter acted as a driveway approach to the site, although no continuation can be traced NE.

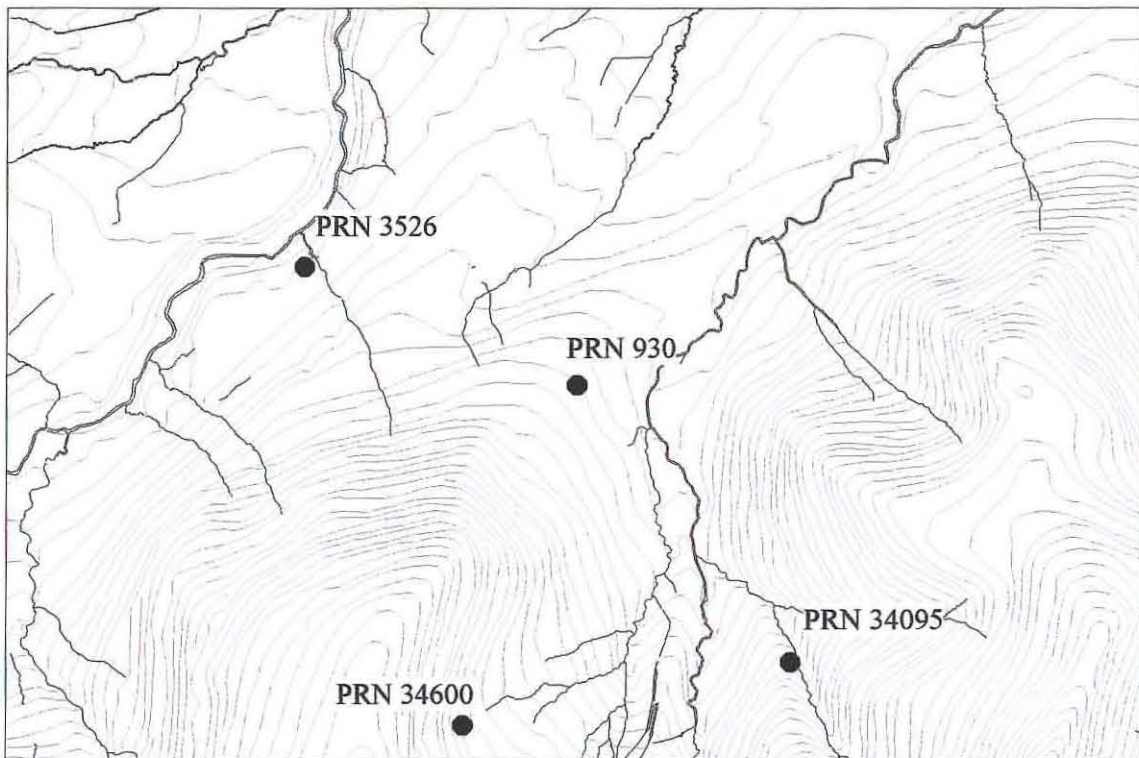
There are no other visible ancient features within the earthworks (1986, 58-60).

CPAT 2007: a small, multivallate enclosure with wide spaced ramparts stands at 305m above OD on the north-east facing slopes of Pen Milan. The site is defensively poor with the approach uphill from the north being relatively easy. Coarse grass, bracken and gorse cover the poorly preserved earthworks. Until recently the overall shape and area of the enclosure could not be determined accurately as the west side of the outer



earthworks had not been identified. However a recent CPAT visit (2007) identified a length of previously unrecorded embankment that possibly projects the line of the western extent of the enclosure. The surviving plan consists of a roughly oval, univallate inner enclosure with two banks and ditches to the north and a single bank and ditch uphill to the south. The inner enclosure measures internally 54m north-north-west to south-south-east by 27m, an area of just under 0.1ha and there would appear to be at least two sub-rectangular house platforms within the inner enclosure. The overall dimensions of the site are at least 128m north to south by 75m. The hillslope seems to have been terraced artificially for the erection of the inner enclosure whose earth and stone bank has been reduced to a single outward-facing scarp 1.5m high on the downhill, north and east sides. On the uphill side an inner scarp is preserved up to 0.6m high and the outer scarp is up to 0.9m high. On the south and south-west the external ditch is a shallow depression 0.15m deep. The enclosure is bisected by a post-medieval trackway which may pass, north-east to south-west, through the site of the original entrance. Two short banks immediately west of the gap may be the remains of an entrance outwork. Further west, orientated north to south, are the low lying remains of an embankment, previously unrecorded.

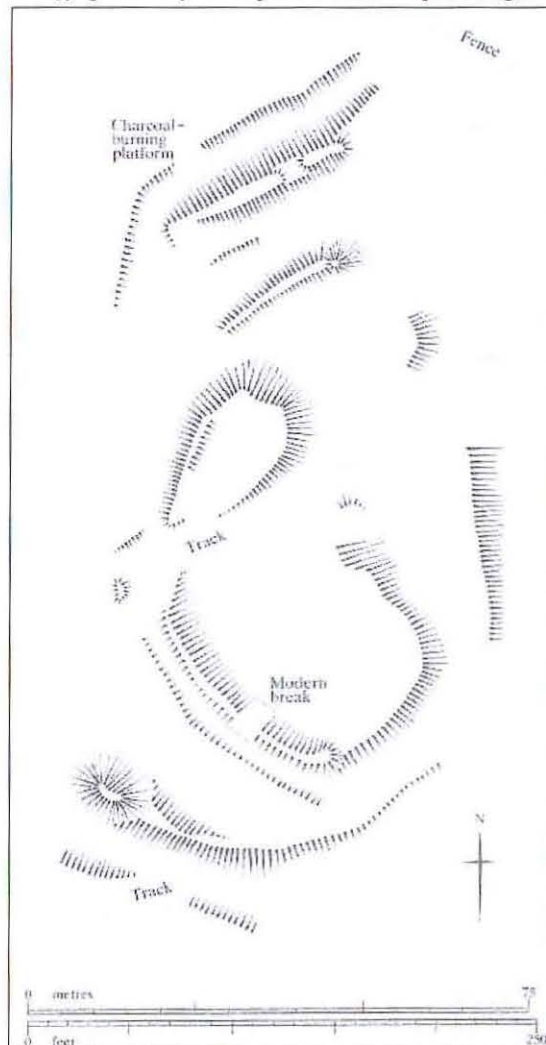
Overlooking the inner enclosure from the south is a bank up to 2.5m high with an external ditch 0.3m deep. Curving away north-east from the north end of the inner enclosure is a low bank 0.3m high with a hump at its east end up to 1.2m high. North of this is a short, vague scarp, probably a vestige of an accompanying ditch. A more substantial stretch of bank and ditch lies 3m north of the latter scarp. The crest of the bank is up to 0.6m above the interior of the enclosure. A platform dug into the outer scarp of the ditch, until recently thought to have been the site of a later charcoal-burning hearth but since disproved due to the small dimensions of the platform and lack of residual evidence, remains open to interpretation. The southern outer defences and probably the inner works on the north are associated clearly with the inner enclosure but the outer of the north works are less closely aligned. It is possible that the latter acted as a droveway approach to the site, although no continuation can be traced north-east. Overall the site appears to be multi-phased and may well have been re-occupied during the Romano-British or possibly Early Medieval periods. Edited RCAHMW report (CPAT 2007).



PRN 930 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 930 Llwyn Bedw enclosure. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Coed y Caerau Hillfort

SO06922400

SO02SE

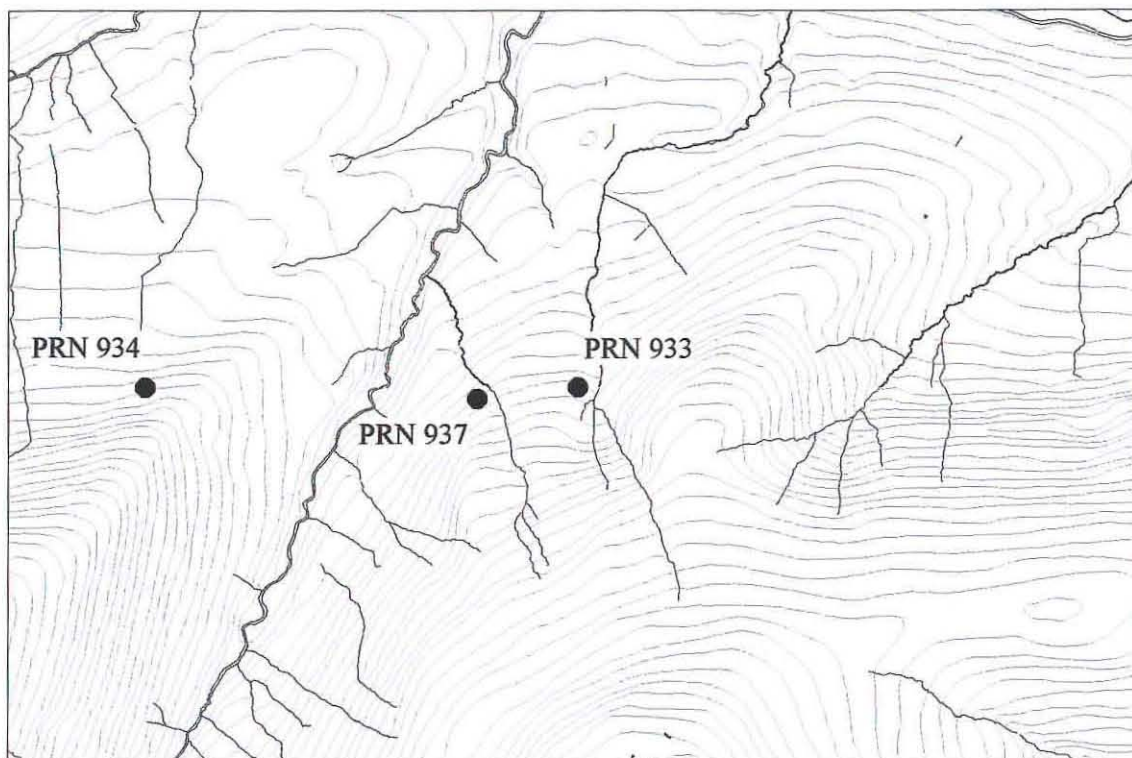
Scheduled No: Br151(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.86 ha*Height:* 290mOD*Location:* hillslope

HER: sub-triangular hill-slope enclosure with ditch and bank at S and W and scarped slopes At N and E. Whole measuring 110m by 110m. Stream delimits E side. Poss entrance at S.

RCAHMW: a triangular, univallate enclosure stands at 300m above OD on a fairly steep, N-facing slope, 1.8km SSW of Llanfrynach. Natural protection is afforded by ravines on the E and SE but the site is overlooked by ground rising quite steeply to the SW, against approach from which the most substantial defences are set. These are well preserved under a cover of grass and trees but elsewhere the defences seem to have been relatively slight, perhaps only simple scarping on most of the E perimeter where the natural side of the ravine provides adequate protection. The earthworks at each corner of the site have been eroded by movement along it, pathways. The sloping, grass-grown interior has been cultivated

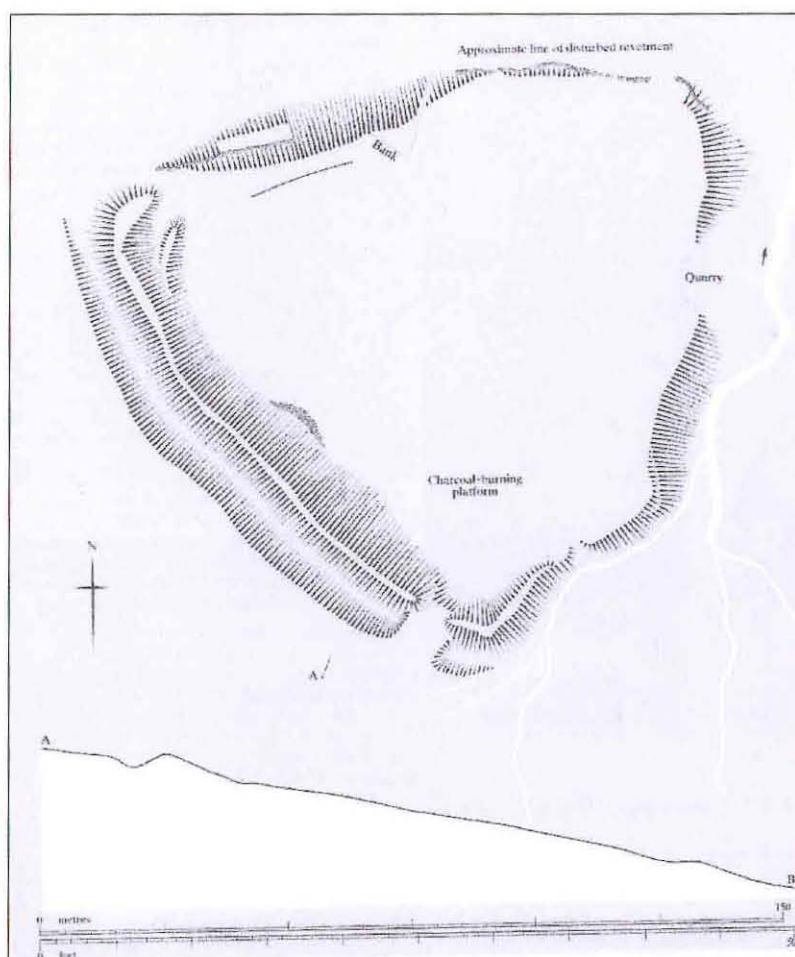
The site measures internally 102m NE to SW by 109m, an area of 0.86ha. Beginning as a low barrier at the S angle of the site, the bank swells rapidly to become a massive rampart with external ditch along the whole of the SW side with a maximum overall width of 26m. The crest of the bank stands up to 3.7m above the interior and 3m above the present base of the ditch which is, in places, 3m deep. The bank is stony here, particularly on its inner slope, but '1 no revetment is visible. The NW part of the ditch was created probably by broadening and deepening a natural ravine which can be seen continuing in an attenuated form down the slope beyond the NW angle. Along the N side there is only an outward-facing scarp which is fronted for much of its length by the remains of a drystone revetment wall standing almost 1m high near the W end. The position of any entrance is uncertain, though it is likely to have been at one of the angles, all of which have been subject to modern disturbance. A bank of stones 0.3m high near the middle of the N side could conceivably be an entrance work but is probably more recent. The only visible feature in the interior is a level, oval platform about 7m by 5m near the SW rampart. Charcoal debris is visible on its surface and there are similar platforms in the adjacent wood which were certainly the sites of charcoal-burning hearths (1986, 56-8).



PRN 933 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 933 Coed y Caerau Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Coed y Brenhin Hillfort

SO06592396

SO02SE

Scheduled No: Br245(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Structure*Area:* 0.2 ha*Height:* 312mOD*Location:*

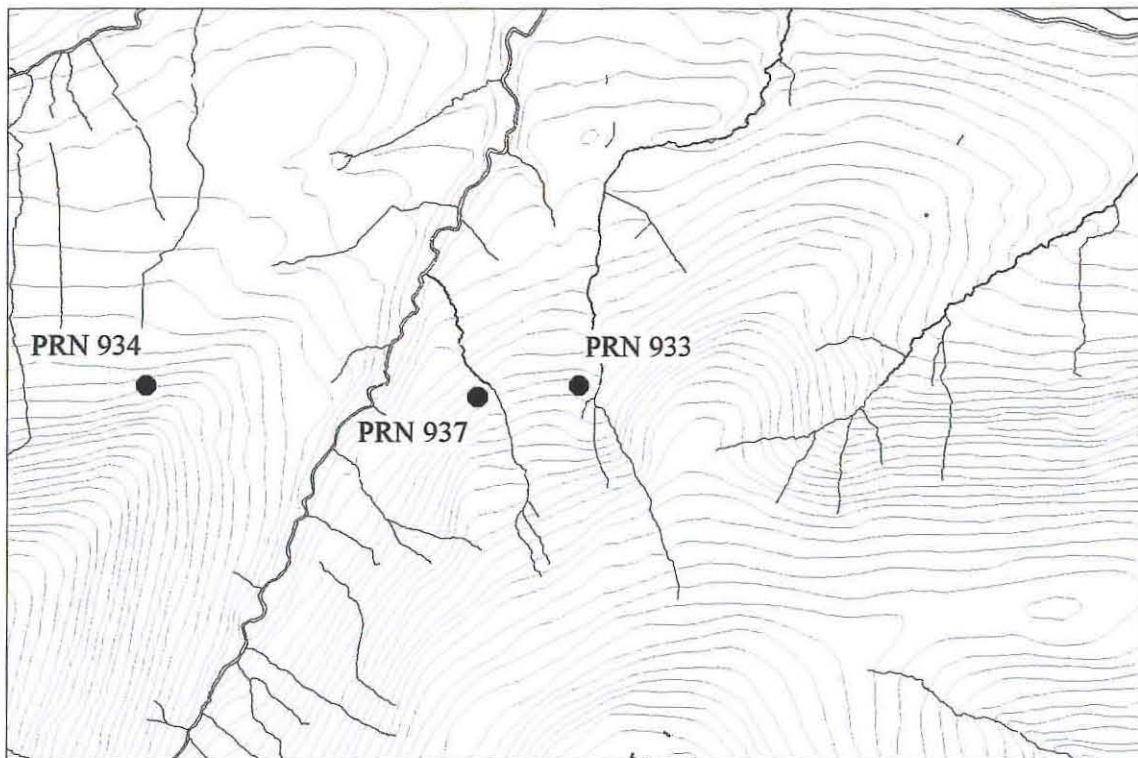
HER: rectangular hillslope enclosure some 60m W-E by 40m wide defined by bank and ditch at N and S and scarp at W. Poss entrance and double bank at E. Level platform 20m by 10m inside NW part of enclosure.

Importance of this site is enhanced by its close proximity to a larger, more obviously defensive, Iron Age hillfort (PRN 933) with which it is likely to have been contemporary. Site shows indications of a number of internal features including at least one hut platform. Was possibly re-used in later periods and associated with a nearby holloway. Scheduled 12/10/98 (Cadw 1998).

RCAHMW: a small, sub-rectangular, univallate enclosure stands at 300m above OD, 2km SW of Llanfrynach. The site is on steeply sloping, NW-facing land which forms part of the E side of the valley of Nant Menasgin. Some natural protection is provided by deep stream gullies on the E and W, but to the S the enclosure is overlooked by steeply rising ground. The defences are poorly preserved but the sloping interior shows little sign of having been disturbed. Dense bracken covers the majority of the site.

The enclosure measures internally 57m NE to SW by 43m, an area of just over 0.2ha. The majority of the stony rampart has been reduced to a single outward-facing scarp but on the SE and for a short length on the NE a slight inner face about 0.15m high is preserved. The outer scarp is most prominent on the W where it is up to 1.2m high but elsewhere it varies in height being as slight as 0.15m on the SE. A short length of stone revetment is visible at the S corner of the bank. The external ditch is up to 1.5m deep on the uphill side (SE) becoming shallower downhill, until on the W its site is represented by a shelf. The entrance is a featureless gap near the middle of the NE side. A hollow trail runs uphill between the NE side and a nearby stream gully but there is no indication of a branch from it leading to the enclosure.

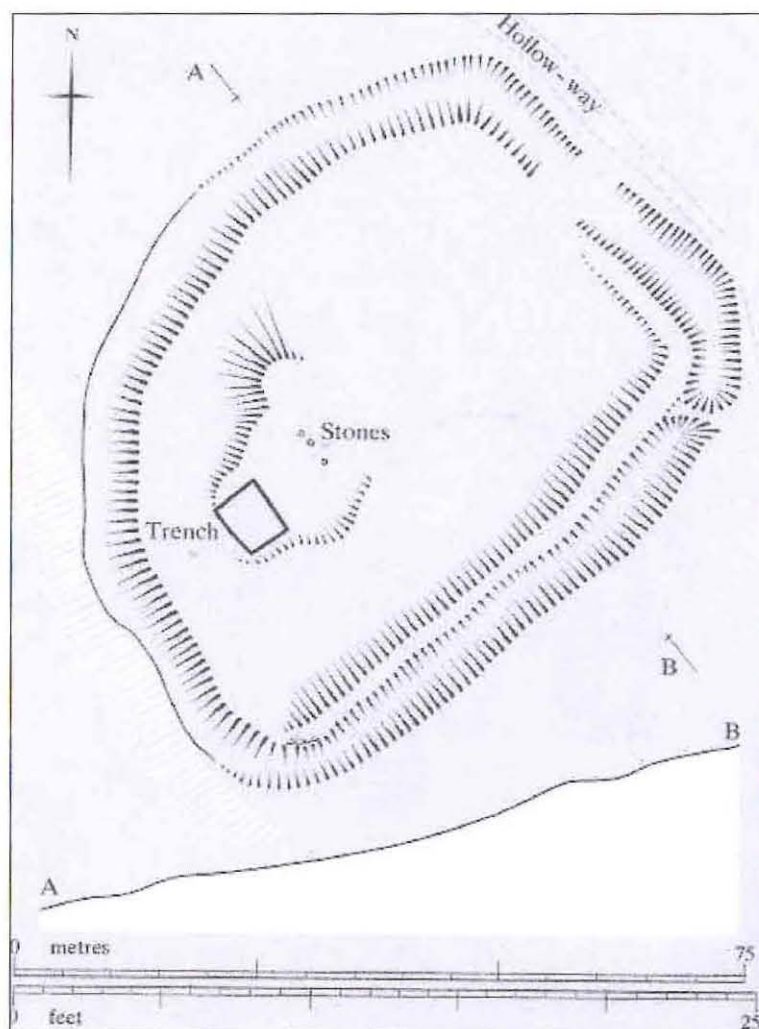
In the SW half of the interior is an irregular rock platform which, probably, has been enlarged artificially. On it is a groove about 0.5 m wide but only a few centimetres deep which is probably the wall- trench of a roughly rectangular building about 6m by 5m. Further NE is a line of three boulders which may have been placed artificially (1986, 55-6).



PRN 937 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 937 Coed y Brenin Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Pen Ffawyddog Hillfort

SO19571845

SO11NE

Scheduled No: Br060(POW)

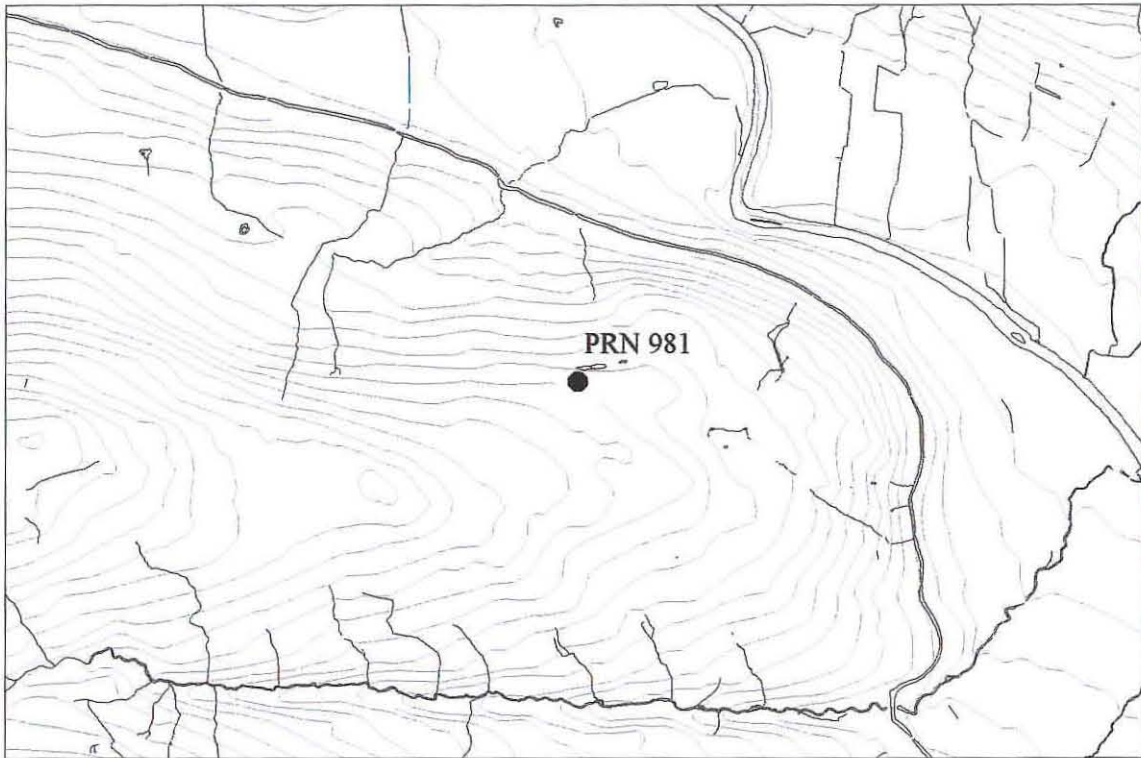
*Type:* Defended Enclosure*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.4 ha*Height:* 107mOD*Location:*

HER: univallate oval hillslope enclosure 75m by 84m. Three modern breaks in rampart with poss orig entrance on S. Circular features within interior are result of wet weather cattle feeding troughs and are not hut circles (see CPAT site visit, 1981; CPAT archive, 1984).

RCAHMLW: a small, oval, univallate enclosure stands at 214m above OD on a N-facing hillslope, 1.5km WNW of Llangatwg. Overlooked by gently rising ground to the S, the earthwork is sited poorly for defence although beyond its N side the ground is marshy and slopes away fairly steeply.

The S half of the defences is well-preserved under grass and trees but the N side has been reduced to a single, outward-facing scarp. A badly ruined, recent stone building impinges on the ditch in the SW corner where the earthworks are breached also by a modern trackway. Much of the interior is covered by a dense mat of bracken. Circular hollows, which under grass appear to represent hut sites, have been created by the movement of cattle around feeding troughs.

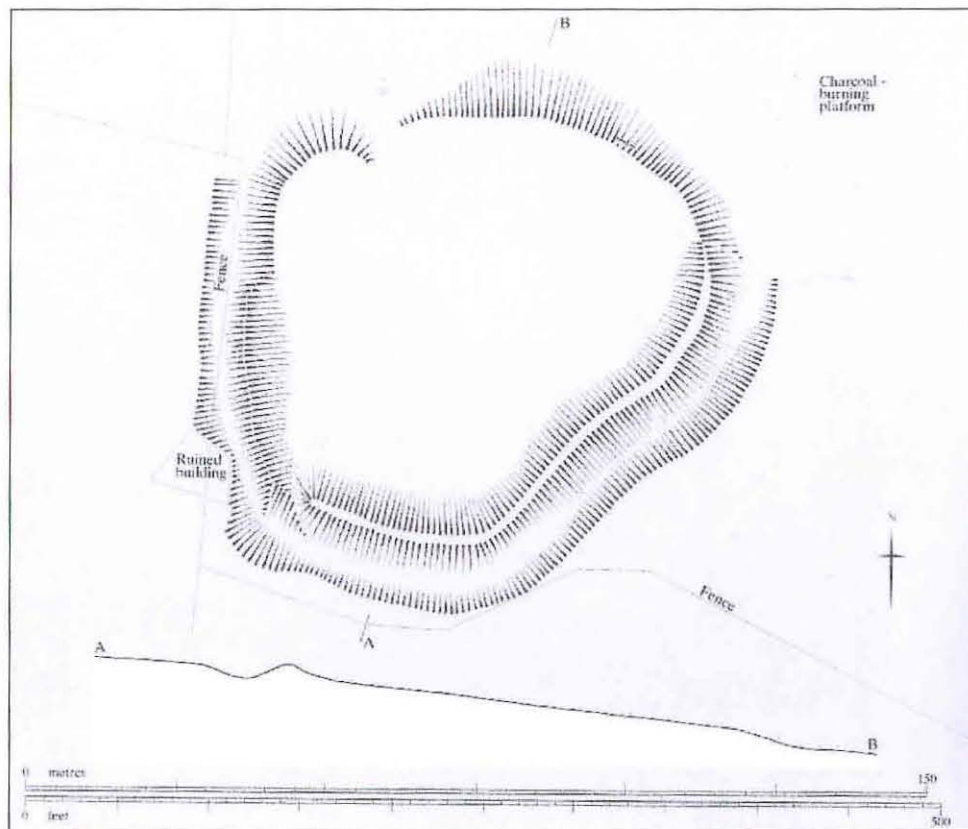
The site measures internally 83m NE to SW by 67m, an area of 0.4ha. On the S and SE the rampart is a substantial earth and stone bank whose inner and outer faces are respectively up to 2.5m and 2.7m high. Around the N side the rampart is reduced to a single, outward-facing scarp from which a roughly-coursed stone revetment protrudes for a length of 3m. The ditch is well preserved on the S where it is up to 2.5m deep but fades as a discernible feature downhill and is absent apparently around the N side. A depression in the scarp on the NNW probably represents the site of the entrance. No ancient features are visible in the interior. About 15m NE of the site is a circular hollow 8m in diameter, probably a charcoal-burning platform (1986, 80-2).



PRN 981 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 981 Pen Ffawyddog Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



**Crug Hywel Hillfort**

SO22552065

SO22SW

Scheduled No: Br128(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.63 ha*Height:* 450mOD*Location:*

Visited

HER: a bivallate sub-triangular hillfort occupying isolated plateau with steep slopes on all but the north side. Dry stone rampart apparent. Inturned entrance on east. Six hut platforms set into inner face of rampart. The fort measures 162m x 59m.

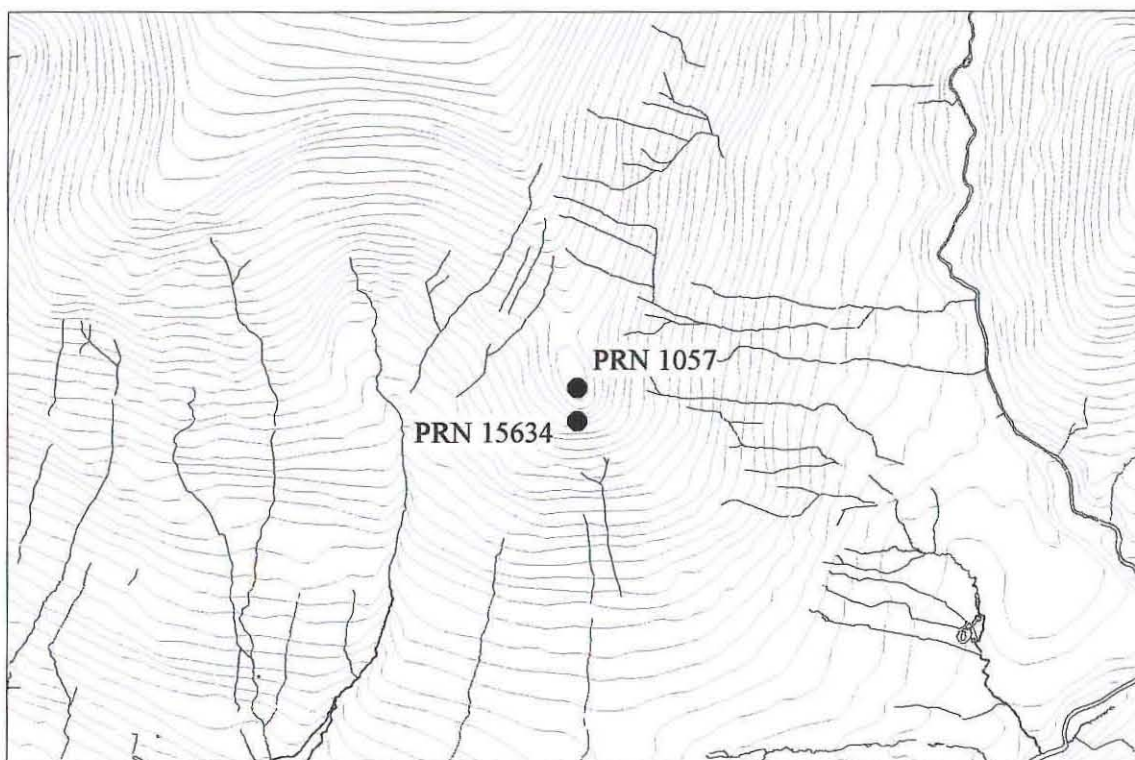
RCAHMW with CPAT additions: Crug Hywel is an extremely prominent pear-shaped plateau with an undulating surface, rising above the Usk Valley close to Crickhowell and is the terminal spur of a Black Mountains ridge, Pen Cerrig Calch. It is fringed by steep, rock edges, falling away steeply to the Usk and Grwyne Fechan valleys and offers a strong natural defensive position, with superb views in all directions.

There has been some natural erosion to the defences, but more damaging are the on-going disturbance of the stony banks of the site by walkers building cairns and shelters. The Royal Commission's plan was prepared in 1983 and new shelters and cairns have appeared since that time.

The enclosure measures 162m on its north-west to south-east axis and has a maximum width of 59m. Around the edge of the plateau are the footings of a stone wall, the original height of which cannot be gauged. It shows as a turfed stone bank on the south and south-east which reaches a height of 1.7m south of the entrance, while on the west and north-east it shows as a loose stony area, about 1.6m wide, but most of the outer scarp is natural, in places reaching a height of 7m to 8m. On the west side there is evidence at the rear of the bank of a shallow trench with stones pitched in it on edge. Below the scarp are the remains of a rock-cut ditch, visible as a rock-strewn hollow on the east, but on the south and west represented by a narrow terrace frequently masked by scree. Beyond this the counterscarp has another stony scarp between 4m and 7m high, but with no obvious outer ditch, except perhaps at the northern tip which might be an unfinished attempt.

The solitary entrance is on the east where both the rampart and the counterscarp turns inwards to create a steeply rising passageway which narrows to the site of a gate, 1.75m wide and the terminals of the inner rampart. Immediately to the west of this point and inside the hillfort is a distinctively sunken area

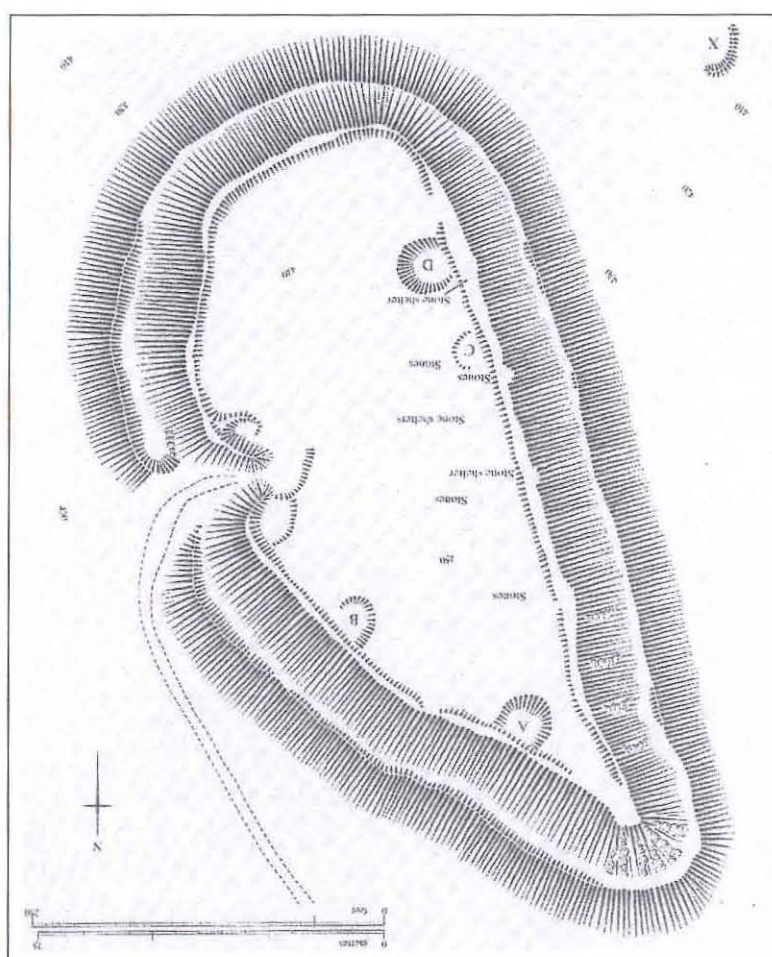
Four shallow oval depressions abutting the rear of the perimeter wall are probably hut sites, up to 11m across, and there are other vague depressions in the south half of the interior which may be further hut sites. A hollow behind the north inturn of the entrance may be another, but the sub-rectangular are defined by a low stone bank behind the south inturn is seen by the Royal Commission as a later shelter. It should be noted that none of these is as prominent as the Royal Commission's plan would suggest, and in some places the Ordnance Survey's plan of 1975 is more accurate in its representations of the internal features (1986, 119).



PRN 1057 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 1057 Crug Hywel Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Pant y Wenallt enclosure

SO3111822098

SO12SW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure*Date:* Iron Age ?*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.18 ha*Height:* 308mOD*Location:* hillslope

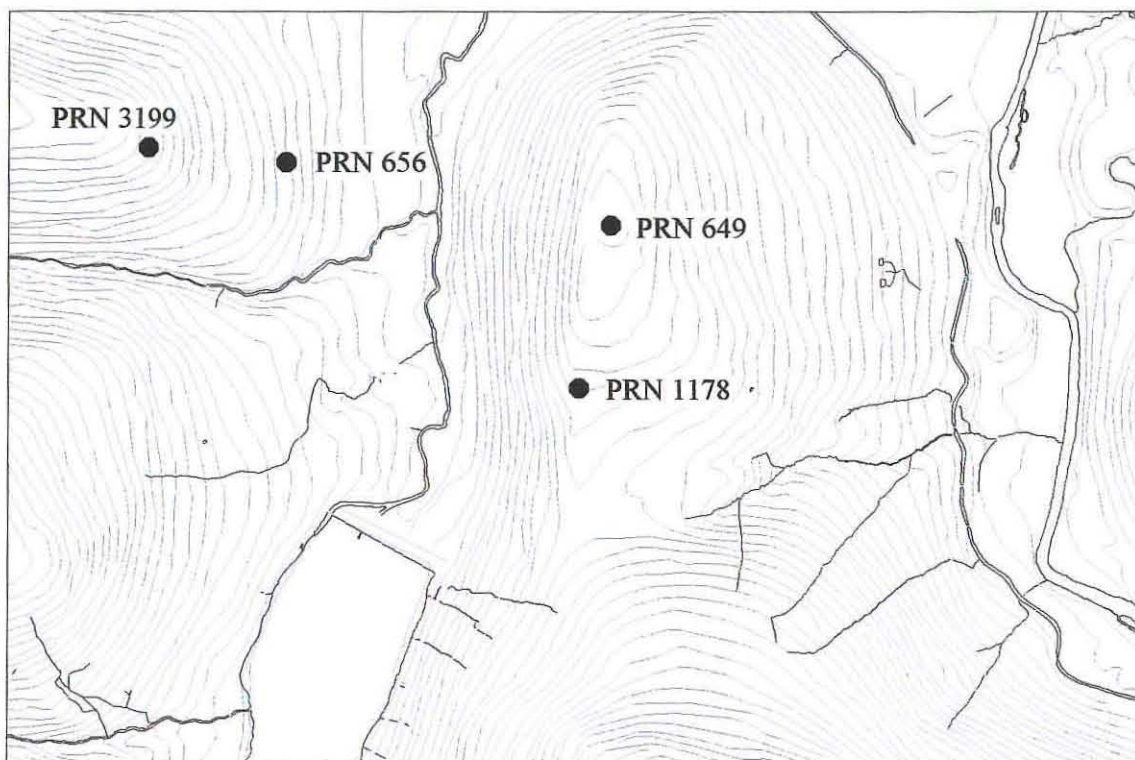
Visited

HER: sub-rectangular enclosure 55m N-S by 42m E-W internally. Bounded by scarp and ditch with inner bank at north. Probable entrance in SE corner. Partially bulldozed before 1976 (OS 1976 citing OS AP 1976).

RCAHMW: a small, sub-rectangular, univallate enclosure stands at 310m OD on a relatively gentle S-facing hillslope, 1.8km S of Talybont ar Wysg. About 60m to the W, the ground falls away steeply to the floor of the Clydach valley 150m below. To the N the land rises gradually to the hilltop occupied by Tump Wood fort, about 0.5km away. About 1970 the site was levelled extensively by bulldozer and is now a low earthwork covered by grass and bracken. A recent fieldbank encroaches on the SE corner.

The site measures internally 53.5m N to S by 41m, an area of about 0.18ha. On the N side the slight stone bank has an outer and inner scarp respectively 0.2m and 0.6m high but elsewhere it has been reduced to a very low, stony platform. The ditch is a shallow depression up to 0.4m deep, apparently absent on the S side where it is probably masked by talus and the encroachment of a modern field bank. A depression in the rampart on the SE may indicate the position of the entrance. No internal features are visible (1986, 84).

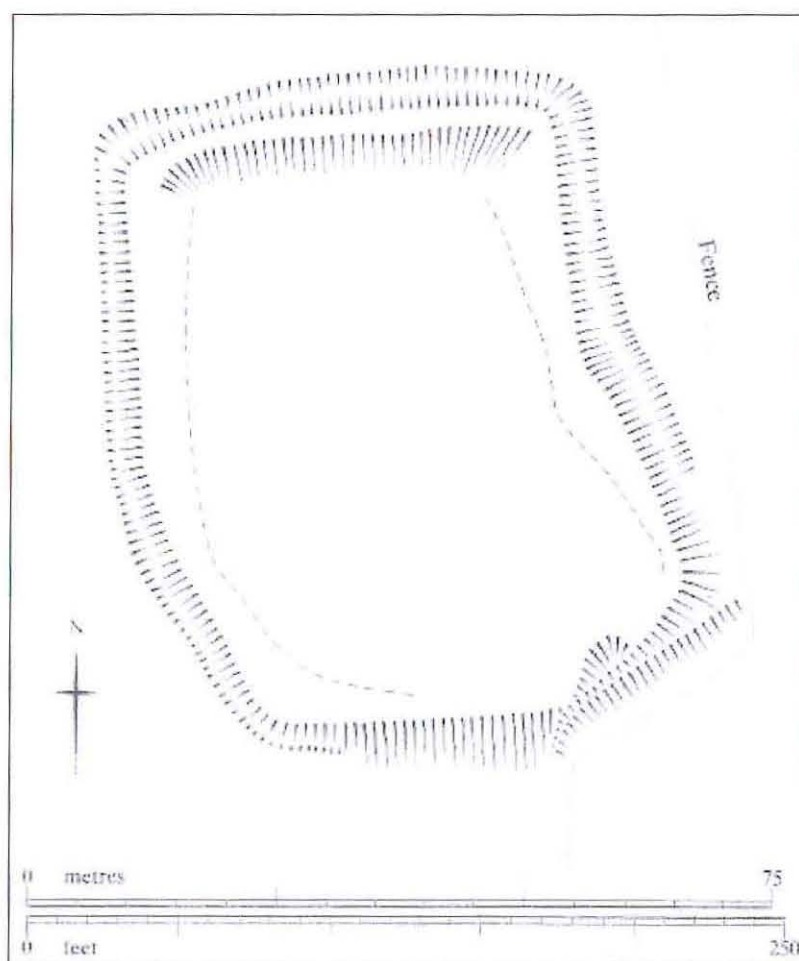
CPAT: located on the south-facing slopes of Craig Dan Y Wenallt, 0.5km south of Tump Wood Hillfort (PRN 649), is a sub-rectangular enclosure, with internal measurements 58m north to south x 44m east to west. The northern bank, 5m wide x 0.7m high, has an external ditch 2m wide x 0.5m deep with a counterscarp that incorporates the natural hillslope. The eastern side of the enclosure bank has been reduced to a height of 0.3m. A 3m-wide gap in the south-eastern defences could possibly be the site of an entrance, although this may well be related to a later post-medieval holloway track/ditch that is associated with a relic field boundary to the south. The southern extent of the enclosure is defined by a 0.5m high bank that has now been incorporated into a modern field boundary that runs east to west. Although the line of the western edge of the enclosure can be traced, it has almost been reduced down to ground level. This, together with the undulating character of the inner ground surface, is probably the result of recent groundworks. The enclosure 'siting' is unusual in that the northern end encloses the hillslope with only the lower third forming a terrace/platform. It appears unlikely to have been a purely domestic site, but could have been a stock enclosure, possibly contemporary with the prehistoric fort, 0.5km to the north. To the south-east, two ring-ditches testify to the previous Bronze Age occupation of the hillside.



PRN 1178 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 1178 Pant y Wenallt enclosure. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Craig y Rhiwarth Hillfort

SN84591572

SN81NW

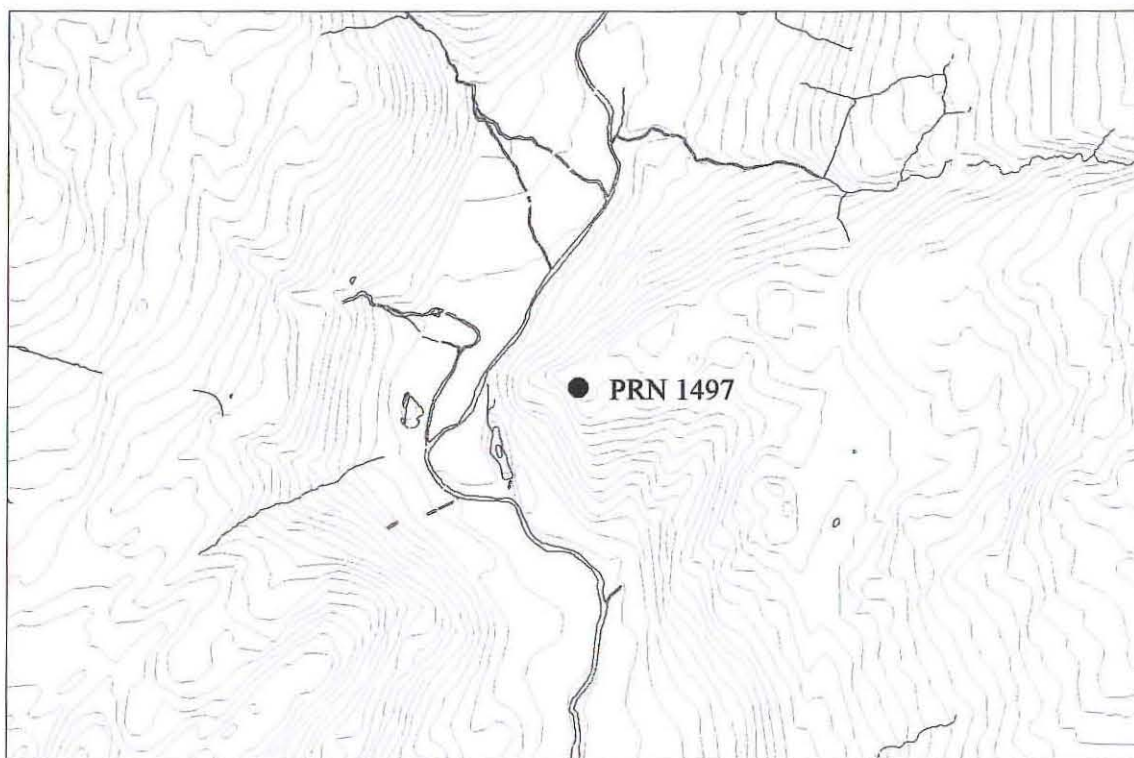
Scheduled No: Br246(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.24 ha*Height:* 325mOD*Location:* spur

HER: oval univallate enclosure some 48m N-S by 80m E-W. On ridge. Bank some 0.5m high on natural scarp in the E and S. Bank some 0.4m high externally in W. Entrances located in the NW SE SW.

Cadw: An irregularly oval enclosure is located at 325m above OD on the edge of limestone cliffs forming the E side of the Tawe valley. Its rampart, which follows the crests of steep natural scarps on the S and E and is set a few metres in from the edges of the cliffs on the W and NW, encloses an area of c.0.24 ha. Internally it measures 78m (NE-SW approx) by 49m. The bank is a low mound of tumbled limestone rubble which is partly grass grown. The outer scarp of the rampart is not more than 0.5m high generally and the inner face nowhere exceeds 0.3m. Around the SE side the siting of the bank on a natural scarp creates a defence whose outer face reaches a height of 1.7m. The construction of a field wall has destroyed part of the N circuit. There is no trace of a ditch. Three simple gaps in the bank mark the sites of entrances. The breach on the ESE is probably recent. The interior is grass covered and contains no visible structures. Listed in RCAHMW Inventory as a Hill-fort (HF 1). 19 ii 80. Scheduled 21/12/98.

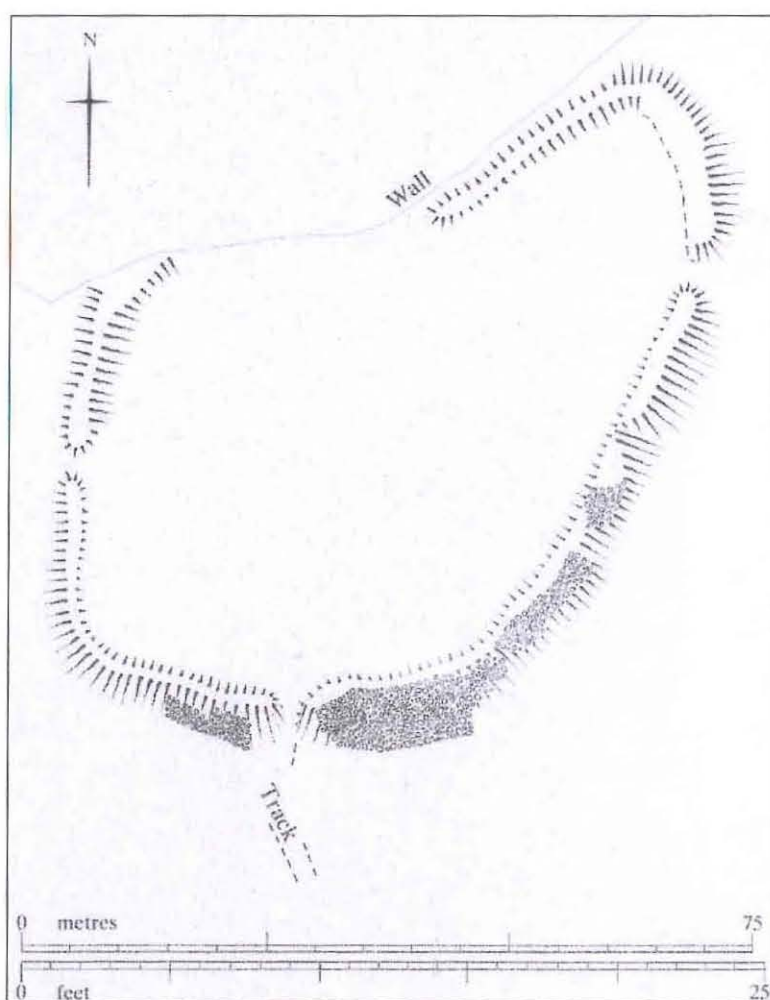
RCAHMW: an irregularly oval enclosure stands at 325m above OD on the edge of limestone cliffs forming the E side of the Tawe valley, 700m E of Craig-y-nos. Its rampart, which follows the crests of steep natural scarps on the S and E and is set a few hundred meters in from the edges of the cliffs on the W and NW, encloses an area of about 0.24ha. The easiest approach is from the E. The bank is a low mound of tumbled limestone rubble which is partly grass-grown. The outer scarp of the rampart is not more than 0.5m high generally and the inner face nowhere exceeds 0.3m. Around the SE side the siting of the bank on a natural scarp creates a defence whose outer face reaches a height of 1.7m. The construction of a field wall has destroyed part of the N circuit. There is no trace of a ditch. Three simple gaps in the bank mark the sites of entrances. The breach on the ESE is probably recent. The S entrance is approached by a track which has been cleared through the scree strewn over an exposed limestone platform. A track across a natural slope approaches the e entrance at an angle. The grass-covered interior contains no visible structures (1986, 21).



PRN 1497 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 1497 Craig y Rhiwarth Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



**PRN: 2438**

**Llwyfen enclosure**

**SO13133169**

**SO13SW**

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure

*Date:* Iron Age

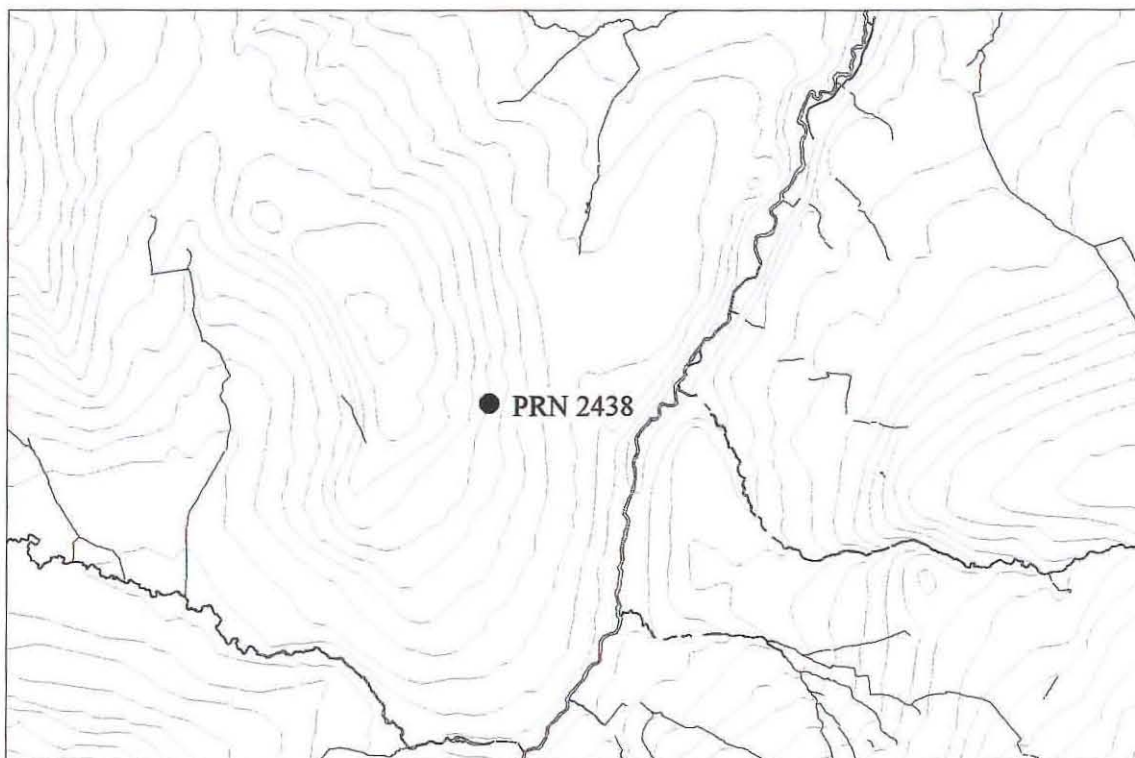
*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* 0.3 ha

*Height:* 200mOD

*Location:* Hill slope

RCAHMW: a small, oval, univallate enclosure stands at 200m above OD on a fairly steep, E-facing slope, 2km SE of Llanfilo. The uprooting of the copse formerly covering the site and subsequent ploughing have denuded the enclosure severely. The defences consist of a low, spread earth bank about 9m wide enclosing an area 38.5m N to S by 25.5m. The external ditch survives as a barely discernible depression. The most likely position for an entrance is on the SW to judge from aerial photographs. No internal features are visible (1986, 100).



PRN 2438 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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Ty-mawr enclosure

SN98845755

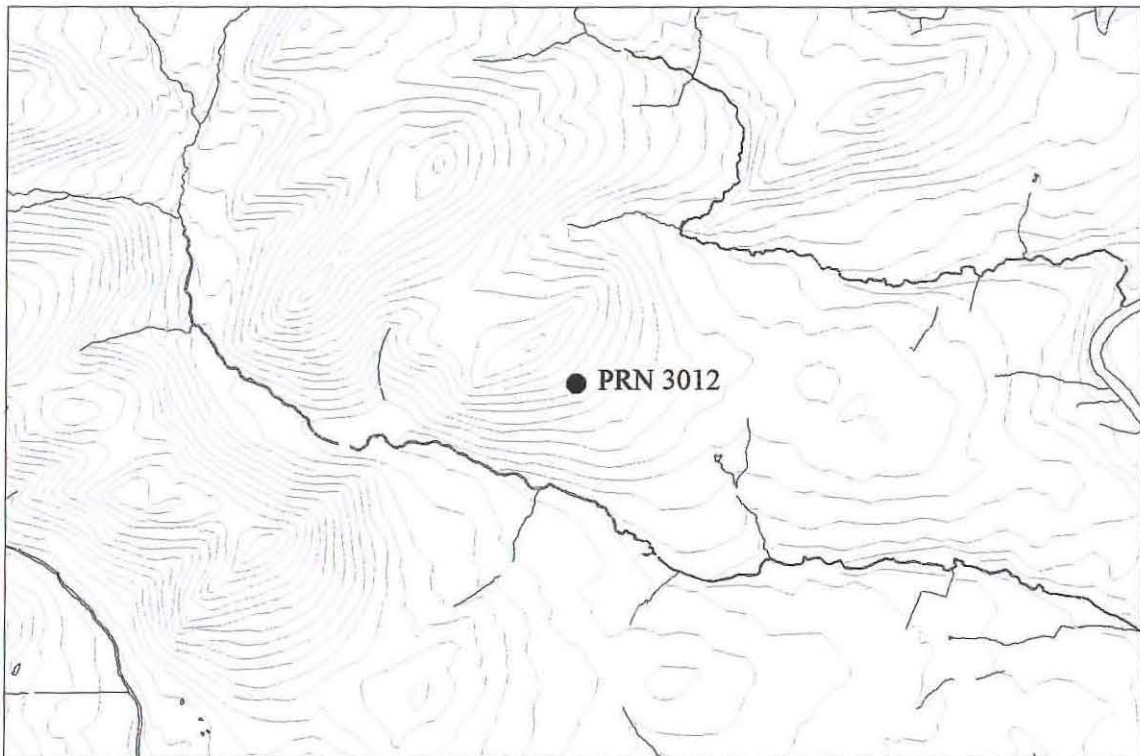
SN95NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* ha*Height:* 274mOD*Location:* Hill slope

RCAHMW: a small, sub-rectangular, univallate enclosure stands at about 274m above OD on the fairly steep SE-facing slope of a hill between Estyn Brook and Hirnant, 3km W of Newbridge-on-Wye. The site which is under pasture at present has been severely damaged by ploughing so that only its general character is apparent now. A reliable assessment of the original shape and dimensions of the interior is not possible, but overall it measures 59m N to S by 50.5m.

The bank was constructed of earth and stone. On the N it is represented by a levelled spread of material 23m wide with an inner scarp 1.3m high, which suggests that the uphill side of the site was the most substantial part of the circuit, possibly even bivallate. The W side is poorly defined with an outer scarp up to 0.2m high. The E side is better preserved, the outer scarp being up to 0.5m high and the inner up to 0.6m. On the S the bank has been reduced to a single outward-facing scarp up to 1m high. The ditch can be traced on all sides except the E. On the N it has been reduced to a terrace 4m wide with an uphill scarp 0.2m deep. The distinction between its inner lip and the outer scarp of the N bank has been obliterated almost totally. There is a more definite hollow on the W side about 4m wide and up to 0.2m deep. On the S the ditch is represented by a slight depression and shelf. The position of any entrance is no longer clear but an aerial photograph taken in 1974 suggests that there was one in the lower, SW, side (1986, 45).



PRN 3012 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 3021**

**Cefn Trybedd Gwilym**

SN84864783

SN84NW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure ?

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Earthwork

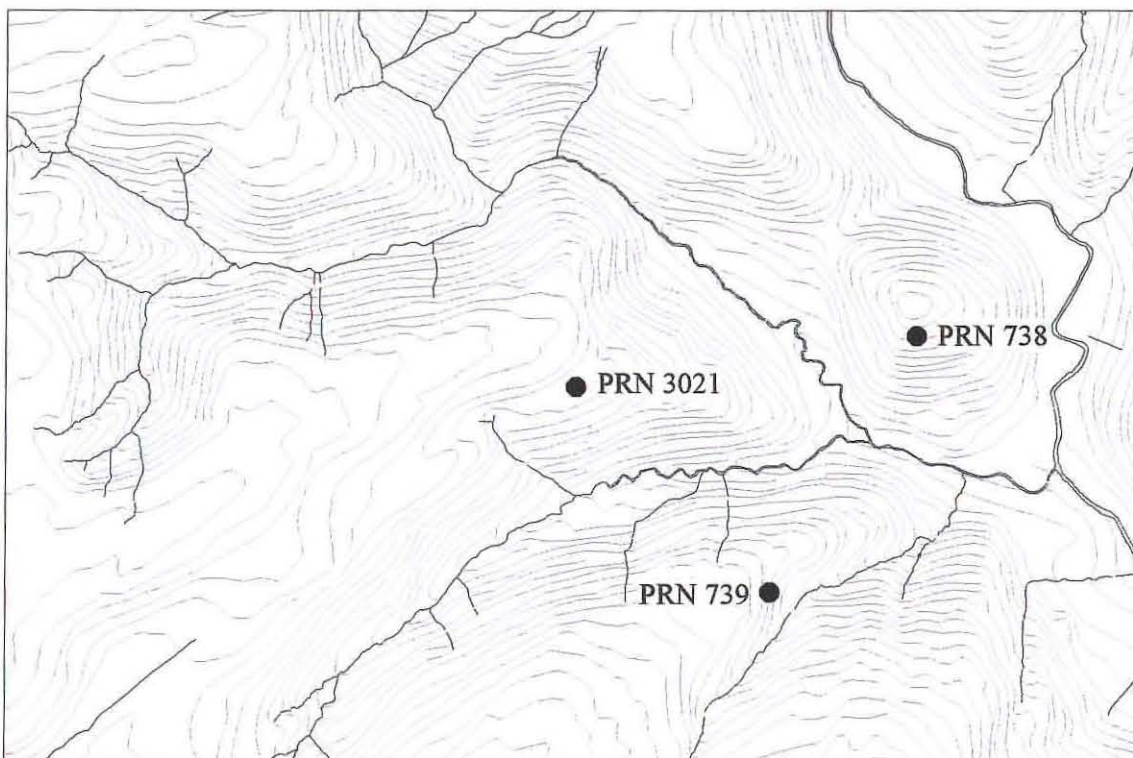
*Area:* ha

*Height:* 415mOD

*Location:* Hill slope

RCAHMW: a small univallate enclosure stood at 415m above OD towards the E end of the ridge at Cefn Trybedd Gwilym on ground falling steeply to the SE, 1.5km W of Llanwrtyd. It had a flattened-oval shape about 70m long E to W by 50m wide. the bank on the uphill side appeared to be more substantial than that on the downhill side. It is now inaccessible in dense forest (1986, 23).

CPAT: this was not visited for the same reasons cited by the RCAHMW. It should be noted however, that the enclosure occupies a natural shelf that interrupts the steep slope.



PRN 3021 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**Dixies Corner enclosure**

SN86993660

SN83NE

Scheduled No: Br218(POW)

*Type:* Defended enclosure

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* 0.08 ha

*Height:* 365mOD

*Location:* spur

Visited

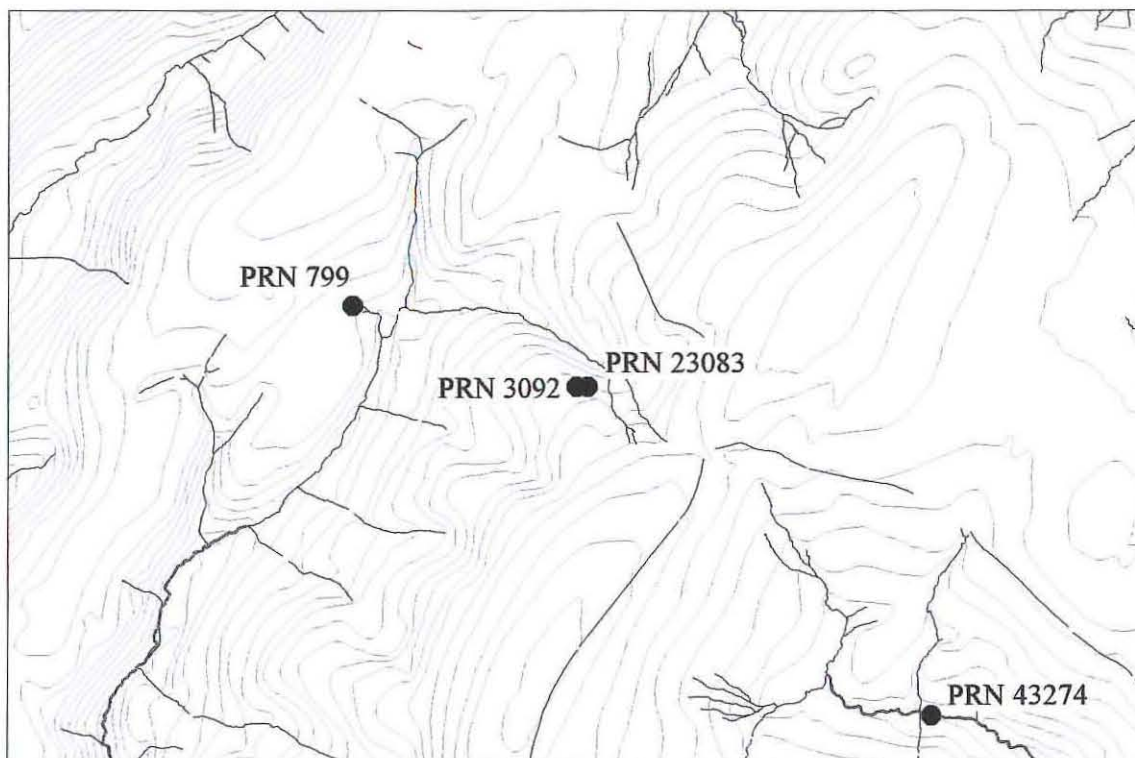
HER: sub-square enclosure some 34m N-S by 33m E-W internally and sited on crest of NE facing scarp. One rampart with ditch on all but NE and poss entrance at E corner. Part overlain by ridge and furrow.

Cadw: sub-circular enclosure of probable prehistoric date, 42 x 44 metres, comprising a low bank and ditch, spread by ploughing. The bank is 3m wide, 30cm high and there are traces of an external ditch on the two long sides. It lies on a hilltop in a fenced field by the side of a track. Traces of ridge and furrow cultivation can be seen over the field and enclosure. The bank has gaps on the south-west and north-east which may mark the site of entrances. Scheduled 5/10/1994 (Cadw 1994).

CPAT: the Dixies Corner enclosure is a sub-circular or faintly polygonal enclosure of probable prehistoric date, about 42m by 44 metres. It consists of a low bank and ditch, spread by ploughing. The south-east side is fairly straight, the rest of the perimeter rather curved. The bank is broad but low, 3m wide, but only 0.3m high, but better preserved on the east where its is up to 5m wide and 0.5m high. There are traces of an external ditch on the east and more markedly on the west where the ditch hollow is 3m wide and 0.4m deep. On the north side is the most likely entrance, now utilised by a sheep track. Internally there is a terrace, its fan to the south, which may or may not be original. It has seen relatively little disturbance but traces of ridge and furrow cultivation can be seen over the enclosure and surrounding field.

It is set towards the edge of a spur running off the Mynydd Bwlch-y-groes; the ground slopes very gently to the north-north-east, the enclosure set just back from the break of slope A track passes close to its south-west side, and conifer plantations lie to the south.

It was scheduled in 1994.



PRN 3092 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**Tyle Clydach Hillfort**

SO0974021750

SO02SE

Scheduled No: Br253(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* 1.0 ha

*Height:* 320mOD

*Location:*

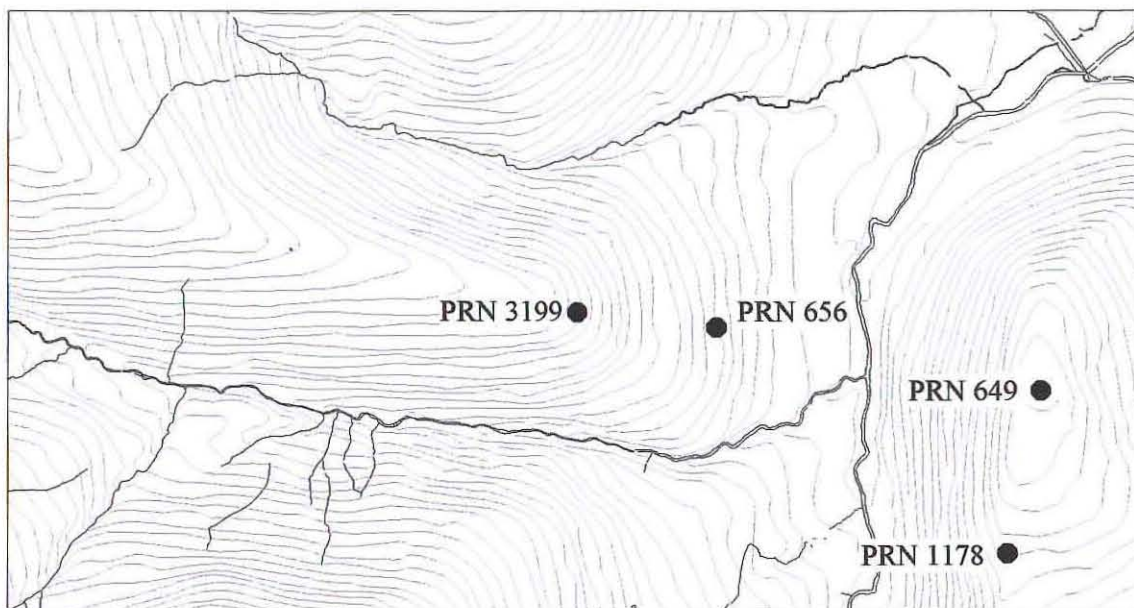
HER: univallate enclosure defined by crescentic bank and ditch on west but with no rampart on east. Towards the north-east the rampart 1.7m high externally and 1.1m internally with outer ditch 1.4m deep. Flat area at south end of interior. Enclosure measures c260m x 180m.

Cadw: enclosure stands on the tip of a small sloping spur close to Afon Clydach. A semicircular length of bank and ditch marks the uphill side of the enclosure. Due to the natural slope of the ground to the east of the enclosure, the hillfort was probably never surrounded by a complete rampart. Importance of this hillfort enhanced by the known presence of a further 3 hillforts within a 1.5km radius of the site. By having remained in woodland, the site is likely to have retained some of its internal archaeological floor levels.  
Scheduled 5/10/98.

RCAHMW: the site stands at 320m above OD on the tip of a sloping spur, 1.8km SW of Tal-y-bont ar Wysg. The extant remains are a semicircular length of bank and ditch which probably formed the uphill side of a univallate hillslope enclosure. The site is overlooked by moderately rising ground to the W but the land falls away steeply in other directions. Despite being engulfed in forestry the surviving earthwork is well preserved in parts. A modern track follows the line of the ditch on the S and the recent passage of machinery has done further damage here. A ruinous, modern field wall rises across the scarp of the bank on the S to follow its crest around the SW before diverging up hill to the W.

The area is delineated by the existing bank measures internally 112m N to S by 53m. There is no surviving surface evidence for a continuation of the earthwork on the E which, if symmetrically placed, would have created an enclosure of just under 1ha. Hillslope enclosures of this nature tend to have slighter works on the downhill sides in which case may have been obliterated by afforestation. Alternatively, either some defence other than embanking was employed originally for the E side of the enclosure or the site was abandoned in an uncompleted state.

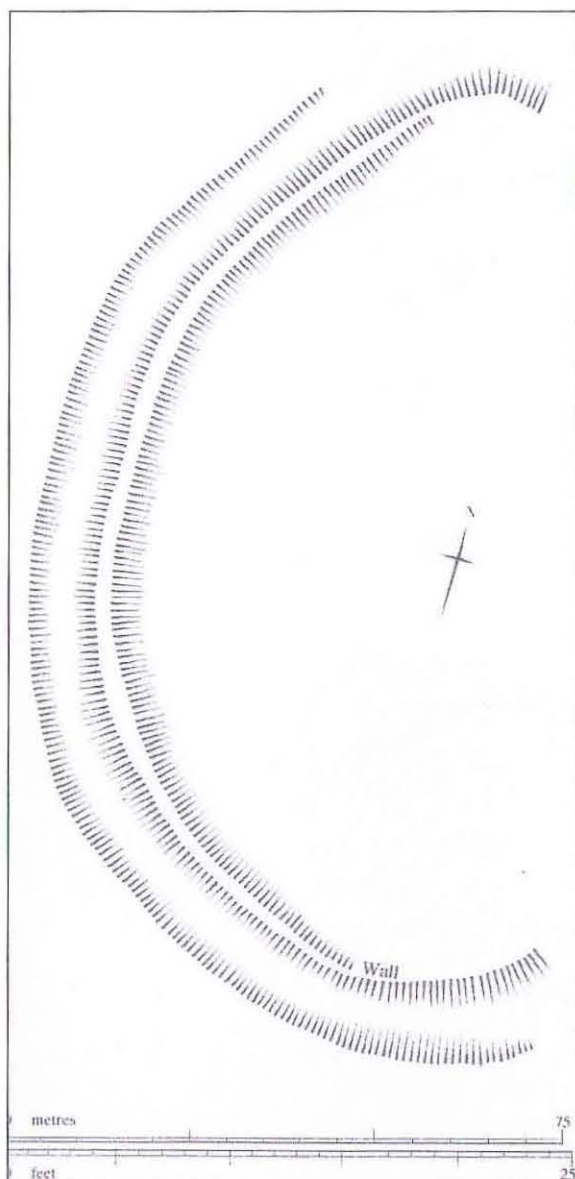
The earth and stone bank has an outward-facing scarp up to 1.7m high on the W and an internal scarp up to 1.1m high. The external ditch is 0.7m deep on the S and up to 1.4m deep on the W. There are no signs of an entrance or internal structures (1986, 54-5).



PRN 3199 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 3199 Tyle Clydach Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



**Rhyd Uchaf Enclosure II**

SN98741776

SN91NE

Scheduled No: Br241(POW)

*Type:* Defended enclosure*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.01 ha*Height:* 440mOD*Location:* Spur

Visited

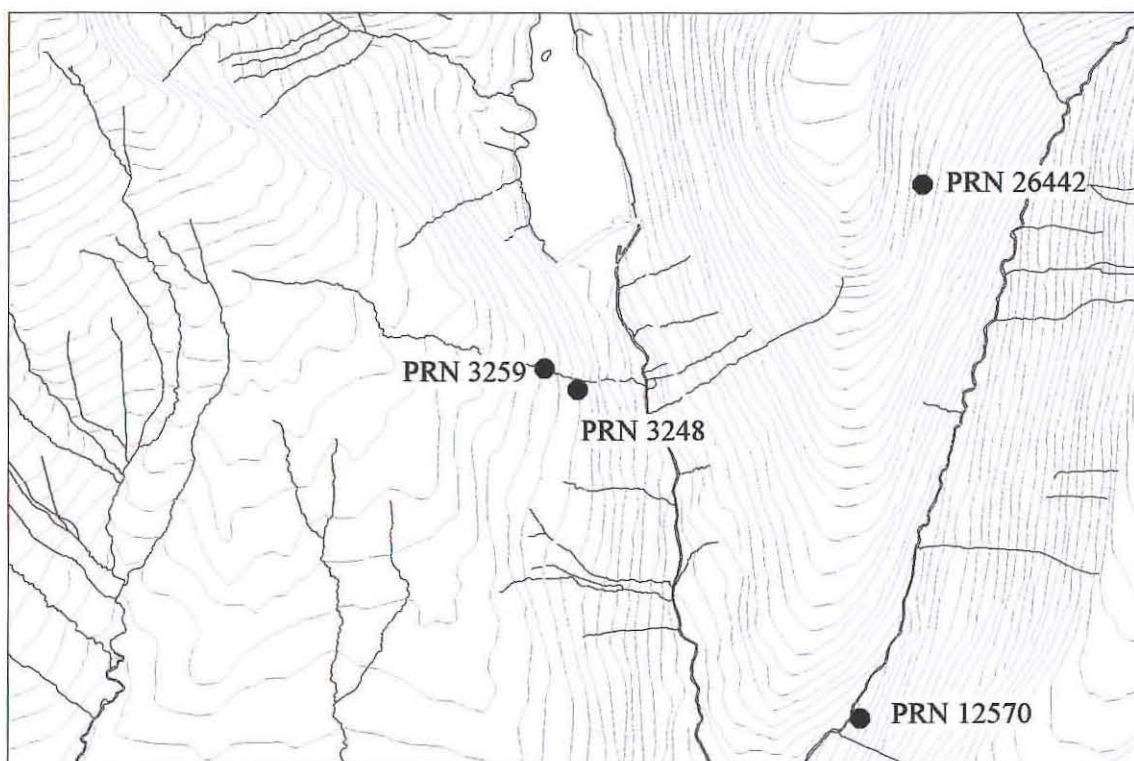
HER: roughly triangular earthwork enclosure sited on E facing slope. Defences comprise 3 low crescentic banks 30m long and up to 20m wide with external ditches. Interior measures 13.5m NE-SW by 16m NW-SE.

RCAHMW: a very small, roughly triangular, trivallate enclosure stands on a moderate, east-facing slope at about 440m above OD, 2.6km S of Storey Arms. The site lies in the angle formed by the deeply incised Nant yr Eira stream to the N and a scarp above a terraced track to the E. There is no natural approach to the W and S, and it is against approach from the moorlands in these direction that the earthworks are directed. The grass-covered interior measures only 10.7m by 9.8m, and area of just under 0.01ha, but the curving defences occupy a zone of up to 22m wide, which suggests that the site may have been larger originally although the present topography would support little further extension. The earthworks consist of three low, grass-covered banks, built of earth and stone and fronted by shallow ditches. Severe erosion has masked the distinctions in the original profile of the defences and the banks have been reduced to maximum heights of: inner 1m, middle 0.4m, outer 0.8m. The outer lip of the outer ditch is only 0.1m deep. The most likely position for an entrance is at the e end of the banks by way of a narrow passage along the top of the scarp. There are no internal features visible (1986, 27).

CPAT Assessment: the enclosure known as Rhyd Uchaf is extremely small and is described by the RCAHMW as roughly triangular, its bank and ditch showing only on two sides and abutting on converging natural valley slopes to create a spur-like situation. One of these natural slopes edges the deeply incised stream of Nant yr Eira, the other a scarp above a terraced track, the latter probably swinging around the scarp edge rather than being cut back into it. The enclosed space measures 10.7m from north to south by 9.9m, with an internal area on a pronounced slope of under 0.01ha; the bank of earth and stone is about 4.5m wide, the ditch 2.4m wide but the external height of the bank can be little more than 0.6m. The RCAHMW argue that 'the curving defences occupy a zone up to 22m wide which suggests that the site may have originally been larger', but admit that 'the present topography would support little further extension. The RCAHMW Inventory carries a useful aerial photograph of the site (1986, fig 25).

West of the inner enclosure are two further banks which form a narrow outer enclosure but seem to converge on the inner defences a little as they swing to the south. The RCAHMW however see a much broader middle bank, creating greater concentricity of design. These outer defences are very slight. A track breaks the line of the outermost bank on the south-east and it is conceivable that the original entrance lay at or close to this position.

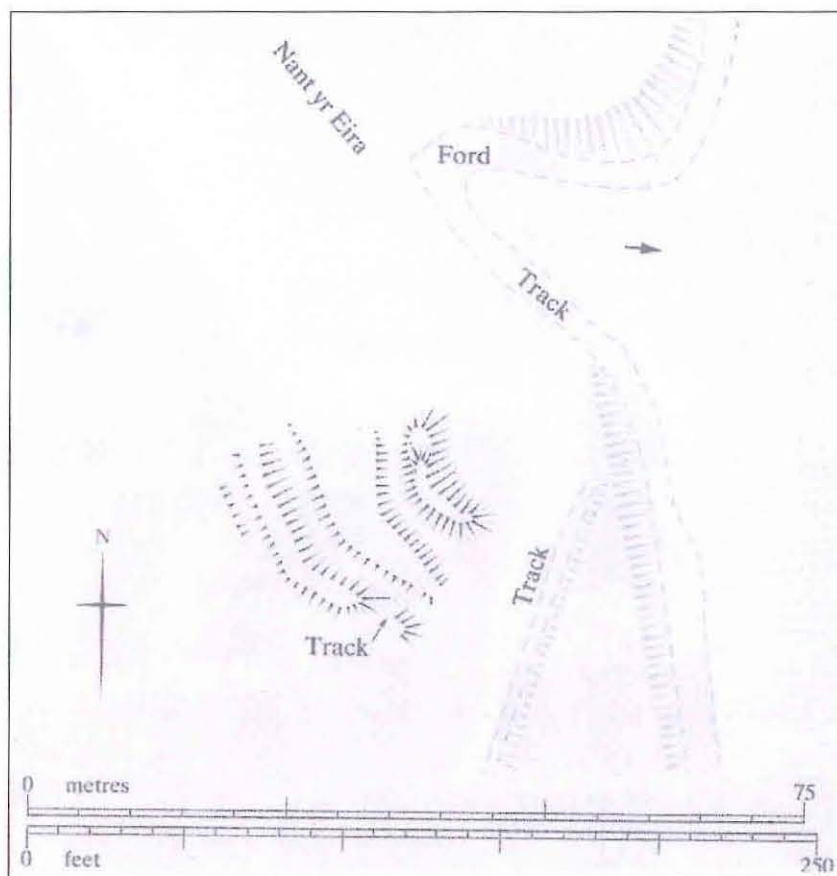
The site occupies a spur on a moderate east-facing slope at about 440m O.D.



PRN 3248 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 3248 Rhyd Uchaf Enclosure II. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



**Gelli-nedd hillfort**

SN91741399

SN91SW

Scheduled No: Br248(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Structure

*Area:* 0.41 ha

*Height:* 370mOD

*Location:* Ridge

Visited

HER: Cadw record: small, oval-shaped univallate hillfort. It is defensively sited on a prominent rocky ridge offering strong natural protection on the east and west. A large rampart consisting of a bank of limestone rubble with an outer ditch in places, encloses the hillfort on all but the west side. This rampart stands to a height of 0.9m above the interior and 3m above the exterior of the hillfort. The hillfort entrance is situated on the NE side of the enclosure and is a simple gap c.3m wide.

There are some indications of interior features - 2 circular hut scoops in the western half of the enclosure, c.2-3m diameter, and a rectangular quarry scoop is situated near the entrance.

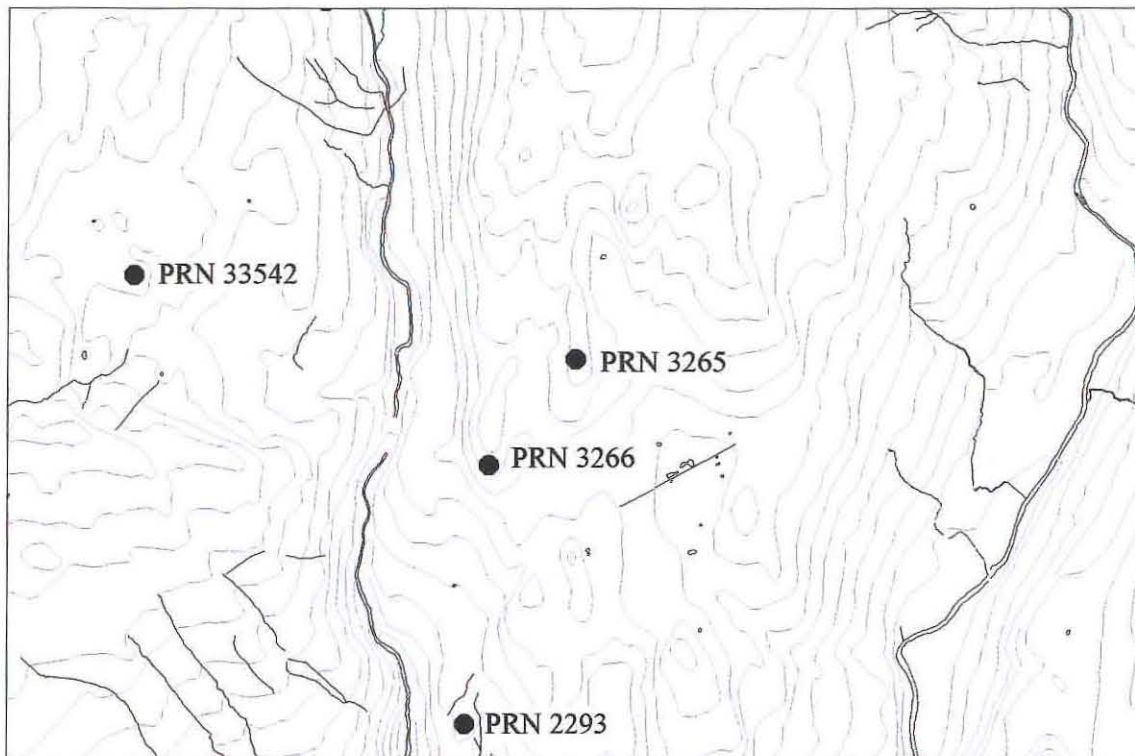
Directly to the south of the hillfort, outside the defences, there is a large earthen mound, approx. circular in shape, with a diameter of c.17m (see PRN 70159). It is unclear whether this feature is associated with the hillfort. Scheduled 4/1/99.

CPAT Assessment based on RCAHMW (1986, 26-27): Gelli-nedd is a small, oval-shaped, univallate enclosure, scheduled in 1999. It is well sited on a prominent rocky ridge that offers strong natural protection on the east where there is a narrow steep-sided valley and the west where there are precipitous cliffs overlooking the valley of the Neath. To the north and south the natural defences are weaker, but generally, this is a good defensive location.

A large rampart consisting of a bank of limestone rubble and the Royal Commission have suggested that originally this may have formed a roughly coursed wall. In places this rampart stands to a height of 0.9m above the interior and 3m above the exterior of the hillfort. An outer ditch encloses the hillfort on all sides but the west, and on the north appears as vertically-sided and is cut through the rock to a depth of 1.3m. The entrance is situated on the north-east side of the enclosure and is represented by a simple gap, about 3m wide.

The interior slopes gently up from east to west and covers an area of about 0.41ha. There are some indications of interior features, but intermittently much of it has a scatter of surface stone, and there are also undulations. Two circular hut scoops in the western half of the enclosure, about 2 to 3m in diameter, were recognised by the Ordnance Survey in 1976, but the Royal Commission were not convinced by them; the field visit in 2006 identified a shelf a little west and north of the centre of the enclosure which did not appear to be entirely natural; and a rectangular quarry scoop is situated near the entrance.

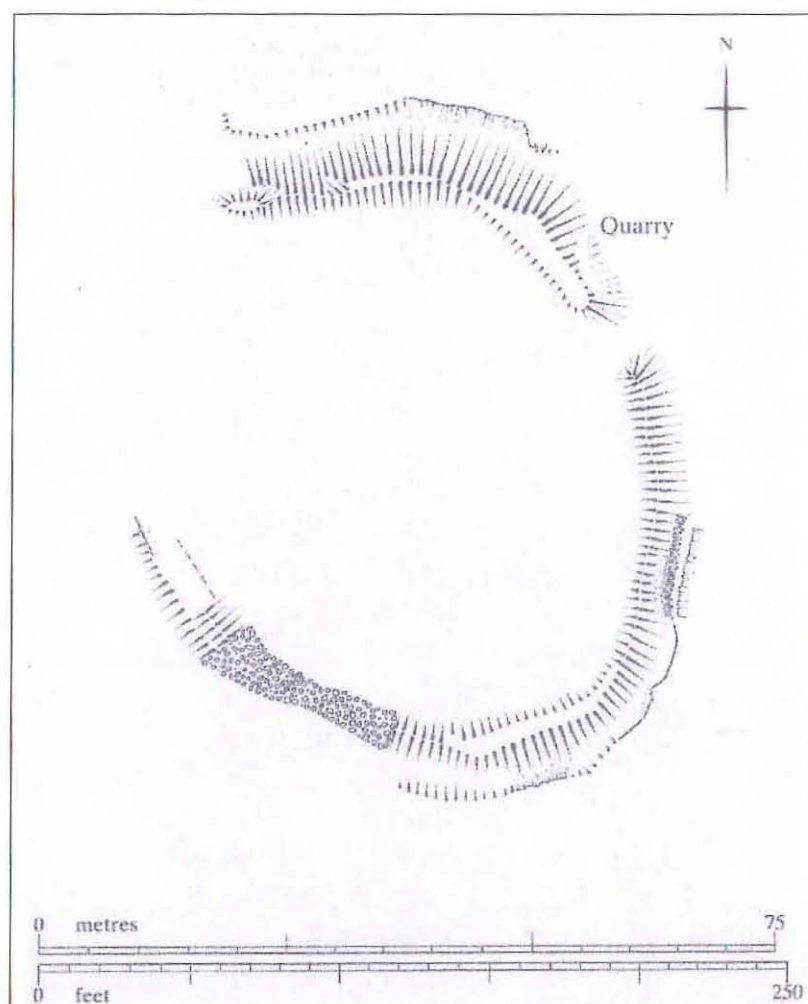
Directly to the south of the hillfort, outside the defences, there is a large earthen mound, roughly circular in shape, with a diameter of about 17m. Its association with the hillfort has not been demonstrated



PRN 3265 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 3265 Gelli-nedd Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Coed Pentwyn Hillfort

SO19351622

SO11NE

Scheduled No: Br190(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.89 ha*Height:* 305mOD*Location:*

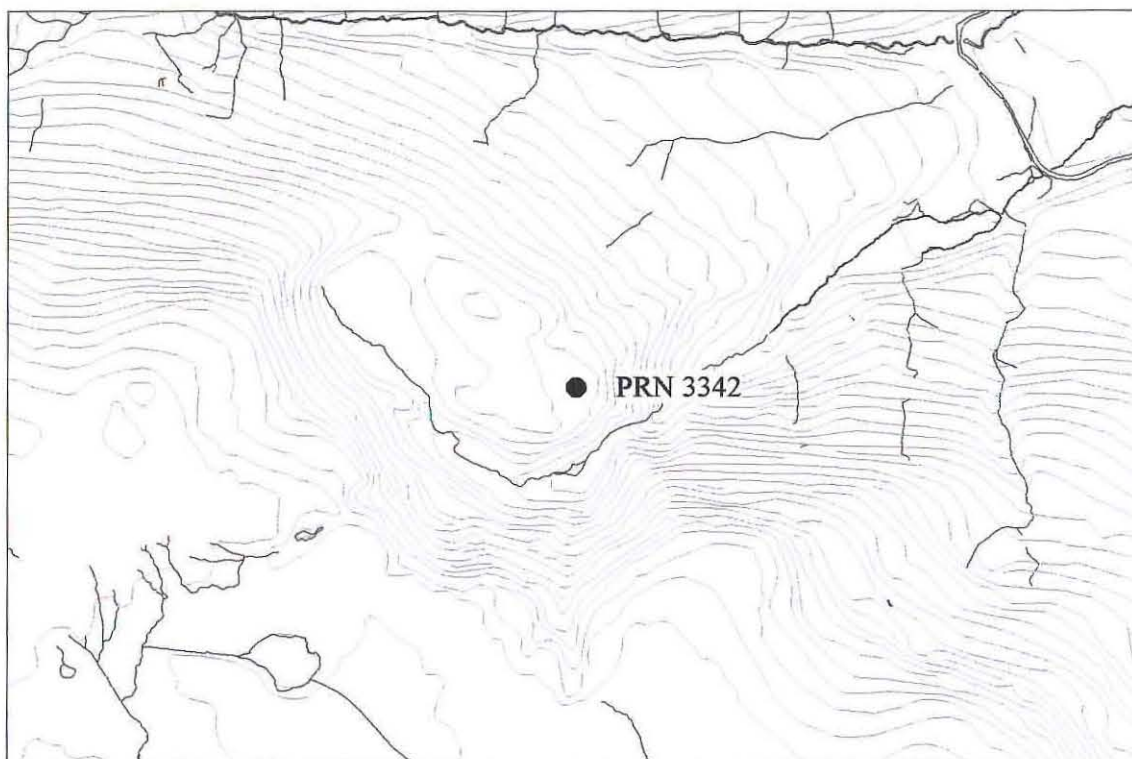
HER: irregular reniform bivallate enclosure sited on E end of ridge. Natural defences on part of W. Inturned entrance at N. Poss hut site 9m dia in SE.

RCAHMW: a large, bivallate enclosure stands about 305m above OD at the south-eastern end of a small, gently undulating ridge separated by the small valley of Cwm Onneu fach from the imposing cliffs of Craig y Cilau to the south. The east and south sides have steep natural defences but the perimeter is easily approached and it is here that the strongest fortifications are found.

The defences survive as substantial earthworks although they are denuded and covered with grass, bracken and trees. Ploughing has damaged the gently south-east sloping interior and has spread badly the west counterscarp bank. The west outer bank seems to have been slighted and levelled deliberately. In several places drystone walls of a later field system cross and utilise part of the line of the banks. Traffic along a later trackway has made breaches in the defences on the north-west and south. South of the break in the north-west are the ruinous remains of a sub-rectangular drystone structure built into the inner rampart and ditch. The lower walls of a derelict cottage built into the outer scarp of the north-east rampart are better preserved. Rubble mounds against the inner scarp of the outer rampart on the south are probably the remains of a building. The inner end of the original entrance has been blocked deliberately with piles of stone, probably when the later field system was constructed. Other dumps and spreads of rubble unrelated to the structure are scattered about the enclosure.

The site measures internally at least 140m to north-west to south-east, by 103m, an area of 0.89ha. Steep natural slopes form the only visible defence on the south-east, but it is probable that some artificial work, perhaps a fence, completed the fortified perimeter. The main rampart, constructed largely of stone, is most prominent around the north where its inner and outer scarps are respectively up to 1.7m and 4.2m high. Around the south it has been reduced to a single outward-facing scarp. No revetment is visible. The outer bank is concentric with the inner terminating on the north, opposite where the latter inturns sharply to form the north-west side of the entrance and increasing therefore the length of the covered approach on this side. Around the north the rampart is up to 3.3m high externally, becoming less prominent westwards. On the west it appears as a broad, level-topped embankment, apparently slighted, its inner and outer faces respectively 1.5m and 1.3m high. The outer rampart is accompanied, on the west side only, by a short length of outer ditch and counterscarp bank, the latter badly spread by ploughing but still up to 0.8m high. It is uncertain whether or not the inner and outer defences were constructed at the same time but it appears that an attempt to strengthen the fortifications on the west was left unfinished.

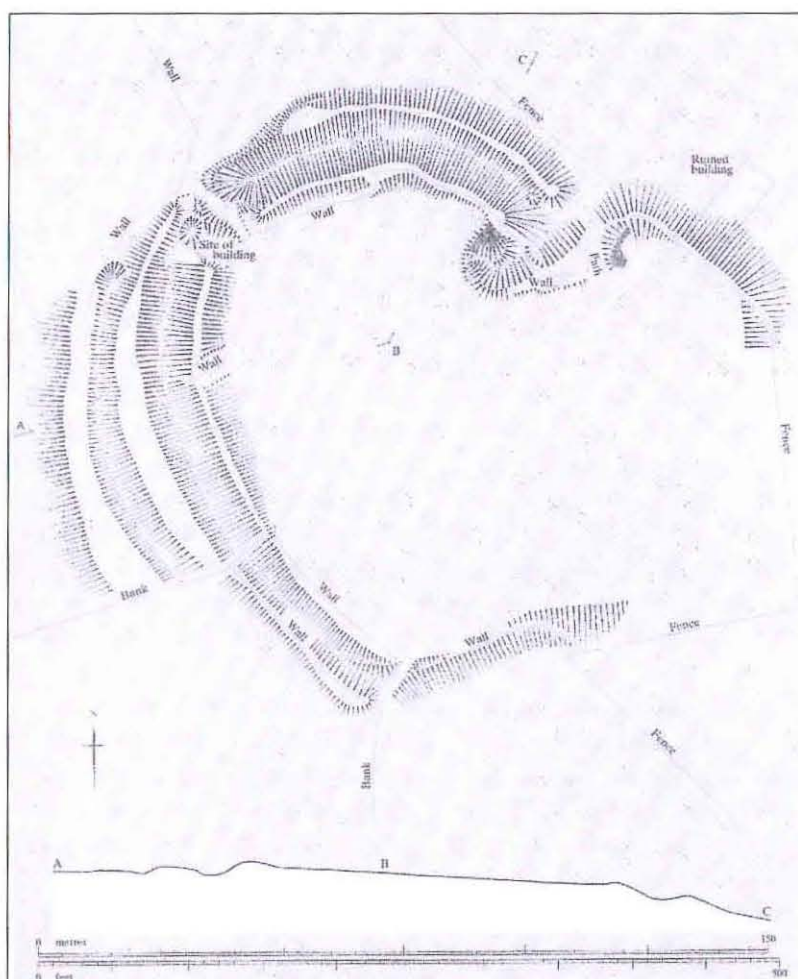
The entrance was formed by inturning sharply the main rampart on the north-east creating a passage sloping upwards to a gap at the ends of the inturned banks where the gate presumably stood. The passageway is now blocked and partially infilled with tumbled stone. The bank forming its east side is up to 1.7m high. The bank on the west side is 4.2m high at the outer end reducing to 1.3m at the inner. A faint depression indicating the continuation of the passageway can be traced for about 2m south-west of the later blocking of the gateway. A possible hut site is represented by a round hollow 9m in diameter by 0.4m deep lying in the angle formed by the natural scarps on the south-east, but the feature may be geological (1986, 78-80)



PRN 3342 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 3342 Coed Pentwyn Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Cross Oak Hillfort

SO1104023545

SO12SW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.3 ha*Height:* 130mOD*Location:* Valley floor, local knoll

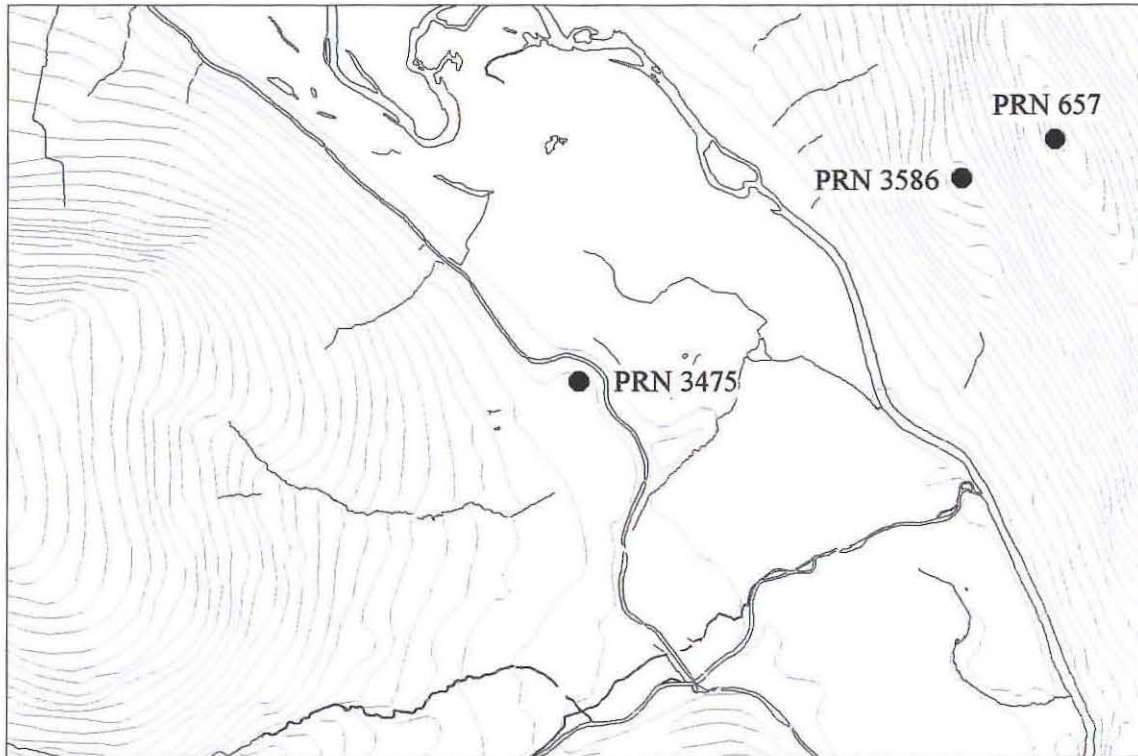
Visited

HER: circular univallate contour fort c60m diameter internally with ramparts originally 20m across but now near destroyed (RCAHM archive, 1975). No such feature recognised by OS 1981 - possibly destroyed. Note presence of Gaer field name to south east (Tithe map, ). Slight remains of enclosure bank can be seen from the elevated position of Forest Enterprise office at Coety Bach. (CPAT 1996).

RCAHMW: a small, nearly circular, univallate enclosure occupies a small knoll rising to almost 140m above OD on the W edge of the flood plain of the Usk, 0.7km N of Tal-y-bont ar Wysg. The position is slightly elevated but of no particular strength and is overlooked by rapidly rising ground to the W. Periodic flooding of the river valley would have provided additional natural defence on the N and E where the site is now skirted by the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal. The enclosure has been denuded severely by ploughing which has filled in the ditch and left the bank only just traceable above the general surface of the knoll. The form is discernible most readily from the air. The fort measures internally 105m NE to SW by 95m, an area of 0.8 ha. The overall width of the defences seems to have been about 20m originally. A group of four field names to the SE include the gaer element (1986, 87).

CPAT Assessment: located half a km north-west of Talybont-on-Usk, north-east of the B4558 road on a local hillock that overlooks the flood plain/valley floor of the River Usk. The site is presently arable and has been ploughed extensively. Aerial photographs clearly show a fort, possibly bivallate in its layout. The ramparts have been almost reduced down to ground level and, where they survive appearing as patches of degraded sandstone/millstone grit, approximately 8m wide. The terracing on the south-east, west and north-west sides could possibly be ploughed-in ditches. On the south-east side there are the remains of another low bank that has been ploughed down into a broad glacial channel/gully that runs north-east to south-west. To the west a broad stream gully forms a formidable outer defence and it is possible that the natural scarp above this has been modified to incorporate this natural feature into the defences of the fort.

The internal area, measuring 95m north-west to south-east x 97m north-east to south-west, forms a level plateau, with a slight raised brow at the centre. A broad 5-8m gap in the southern inner embankment could indicate the site of an entrance. The lower slopes of the north-west side of the site have been truncated by the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal. The canal has been sited on a terrace that follows the contour of the hill and it is quite possible that this may have originally been the site of an outer ditch to the main rampart. Along the crest of the north-west ridge runs a 2.5m wide bank, 0.4m high, possibly the remains of an internal defensive bank. Heavy plough erosion along the south-west side enhances the appearance of this linear bank. A number of Neolithic finds-spots (stone axe and flints) from the interior of the fort attest to pre-Iron Age occupation of the site (CPAT 2007).



PRN 3475 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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Cefn Enclosure

SO1697332919

SO13SE

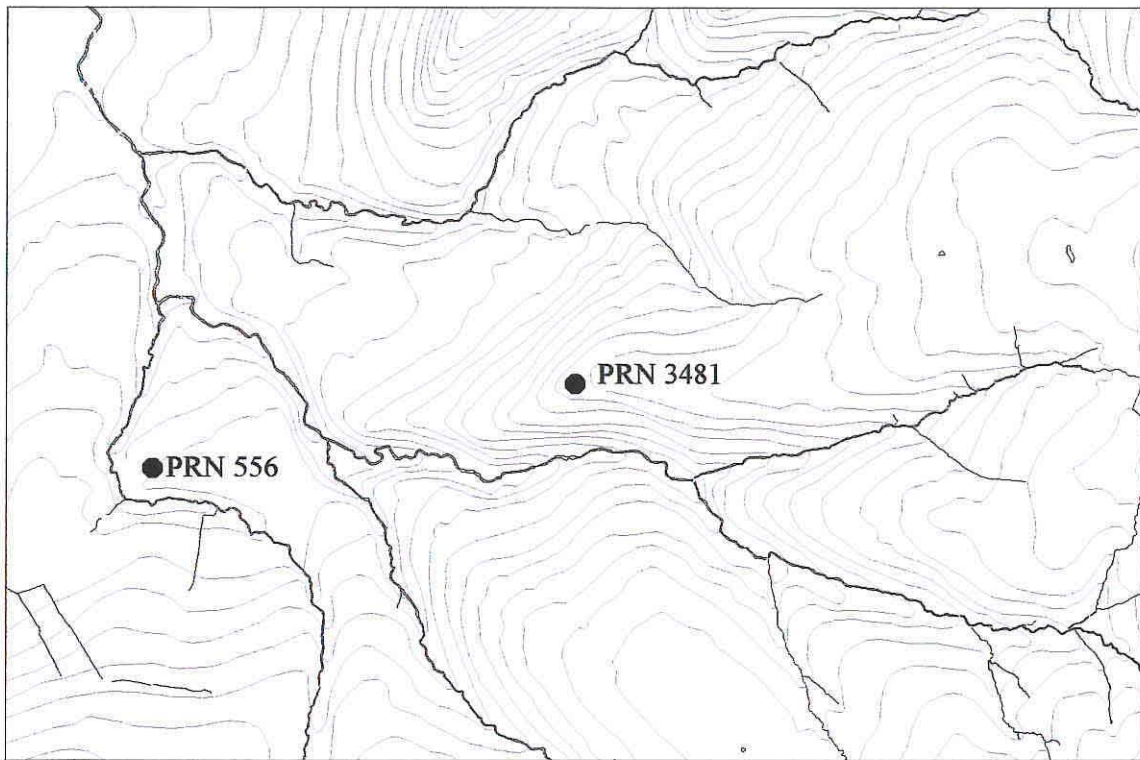
Scheduled No:

*Type:* Enclosure*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* ha*Height:* 285mOD*Location:* Spur

Visited

HER: poss enclosure (RAF, AP, 1946). Lies on W facing steep sided spur. Site invisible on ground (OS, 1981; CPAT site visit, 1980).

CPAT Assessment: the enclosure is sited on the north-west facing spur of a local summit above Cwm Pwll-y-Wrach at 285m OD), less than 1km south-east of Talgarth. The site is in the form of a sub-rectangular enclosure with a 5m wide 0.4m high bank on the east and north side. The rest of the circuit is defined as a sharp slope/scarp enclosing an interior area measuring 30m east to west and 50m north-west to south-east. There is a break/gap, approximately 5-10m wide, in the south-east side which could indicate the site of an entrance. Also within the south-east quadrant there is the hint of a rectangular platform, 20m x 6m. The internal area is rough grassed, rising to an undulating ground surface in the north-west quadrant. Externally the site is bounded by two disused trackways on the south-west and north-east. To the north-west the ground develops into a rocky outcrop that gives way to a bracken covered north-west facing hillslope. Beyond the enclosure, but following the same alignment with the south-east bank, are the remains of a relic field boundary of post-medieval origin. (CPAT 2007)



PRN 3481 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**Afon Tarell Hillfort; Waenfaeog hillfort**

SN99302463

SN92SE

Scheduled No: Br243(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort (promontory)*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.36 ha*Height:* 244mOD*Location:*

HER: promontory fort with double ramparts isolating an area of some 0.75 hec and protection from steep natural slopes on NW. Original entrance prob in E. Modern trackway in NW part of interior emerging at SE.

Cadw: inland promontory fort situated on 2 connecting spurs of land overlooking the Afon Tarell. It is defended by steep natural slopes on its N, E and W sides, and by 3 lines of artificial ramparts with outer ditches on the SE. Ramparts average 2m in height and cut off the neck of the promontory. Its entrance probably lay on the E side where the inner and outer ramparts stop short of the natural slope. It is possible that a level platform at the E end of the middle rampart could have served as the base of a gatehouse. Good potential for surviving internal features. Hillfort forms part of an unusually complete Iron Age landscape (close to 4 other hillforts). Scheduled 12/10/98.

RCAHMW: (this has been termed Llwyncelyn-fawr by the RCAHMW). About 1km S of Libanus the SE side of Glyn Tarell is dissected in to a series of short, narrow spurs and ravines by streams originating on the slopes of Pen Milan. Bivallate defences, which are strengthened on the SE by an additional, more widely spaced rampart, run across the common neck of two of these spurs at about 244m above OD, cutting them off from rising ground to the S. The edges of the spurs become increasingly precipitous to the NW making artificial defences unnecessary elsewhere. The irregular interior slopes down moderately to the NW and has an area of about 0.36ha. Deciduous woodland covers the whole of the enclosure but the surviving earthworks are well preserved generally. A later, but old, track from a ford of Afon Tarell to the modern lane above the site crosses the enclosure NW to SE.

There are three defensive lines which, commencing from the N, are as follows:

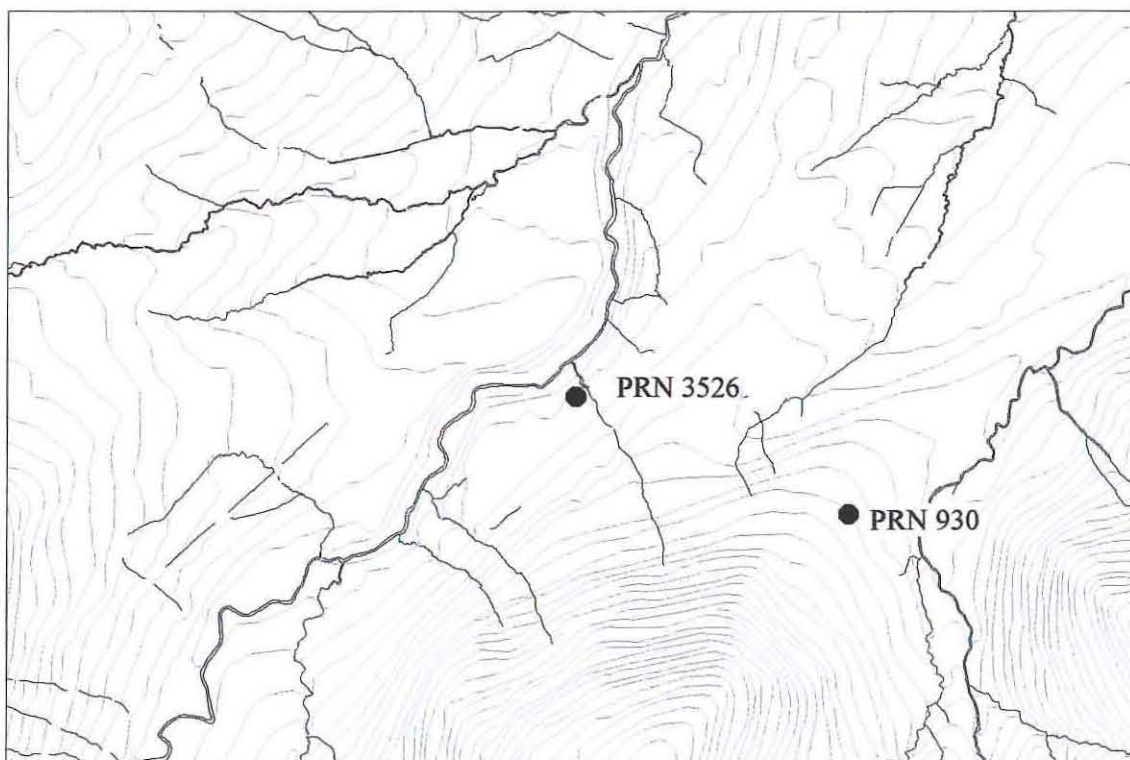
(i) A stony bank whose crest is up to 1m above the interior and up to 2.5m above the base of the fronting ditch on the SE. This bank decreases westwards until at the SW corner it is a single scarp coalescing with the natural slope.

(ii) Another stony bank, up to 2.5m above the base of the inner ditch, which also decreases westwards taking advantage of steepening natural slopes. Its outer face is only 1.8m above the base of the fronting ditch, which stops short of the marshy ground at the SW corner.

There is a narrow gap between both banks and the ravine on the SE, which is the probable site of the entrance. The curving, level platform which continues the line of the second bank here may have been the site of a gatehouse.

(iii) On the SE about 12m in front of the second ditch is a shorter, curving bank with no accompanying ditch. Its inner scarp is a maximum of 1.6m high and its outer 1.2m. This was built probably to strengthen the defence of the entrance. The breach at the turn in the bank is recent.

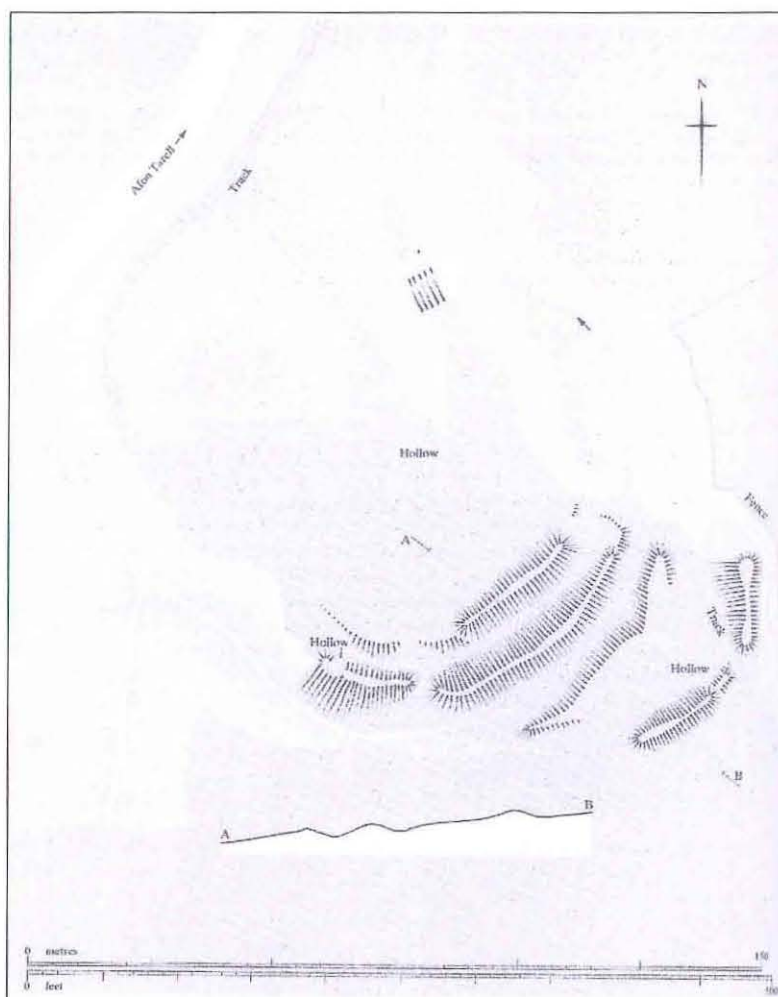
A short ditch up to 2m deep crosses the E spur of the enclosure but had no apparent useful function. There are no recognisable ancient features in the interior (1986, 29).



PRN 3526 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 3526 Afon Tarell Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Allt yr Esgair Enclosure

SO1230224222

SO12SW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.08 ha*Height:* 244mOD*Location:* Hillslope

Visited

HER: oval banked enclosure some 42m NW-SE by 26m wide with entrance at NW end and having its interior subdivided along major axis (OS, 1976).

RCAHMW: a small, oval, univallate enclosure stands at about 244m above OD on the edge of a narrow natural terrace in the steep SW facing slope of the ridge Allt yr Esgair, 0.7km N of Llansanffraid. To the E the site is overlooked by steeply rising ground while to the S and W the land falls rapidly to the flood plain of the Usk.

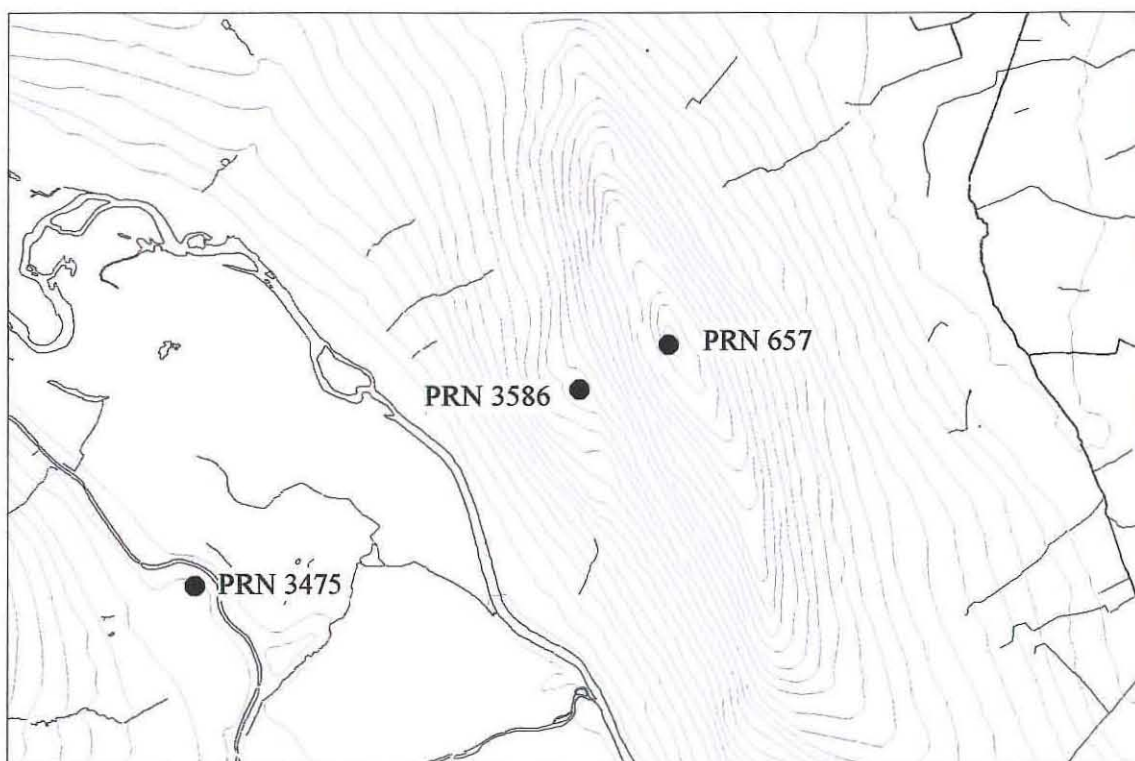
Recent cultivation activities have denuded the earthworks which are largely grass-grown with sporadic patches of bracken and other vegetation. In places, particularly the W side, piles of stones from field clearance have been added to the bank.

The site measures internally 44m NW top SE by 25.5m, an area of 0.085ha. The defences seems to be weaker on the uphill side but this impression may have been created by the later damage to the site. On the W the stony bank takes advantage of the natural change of slope and in its present spread form the outer scarp is up to 3.1m high while the inner scarp is only 0.25m high. In contrast, on the E the inner scarp is up to 1.1m high while the outer is only 0.2m high. There are no signs of an external ditch. The entrance is a simple gap in the bank on the NW.

The interior is subdivided by a shallow ditch up to 2.2m wide by 0.25m deep which runs from the toe of the W butt-end of the entrance, the gap here being possibly the site of a gate. The relationship of the interior ditch to the main bank is unclear (1986, 90-1).

CPAT: the site is now completely grass-covered with no bracken or other vegetation.

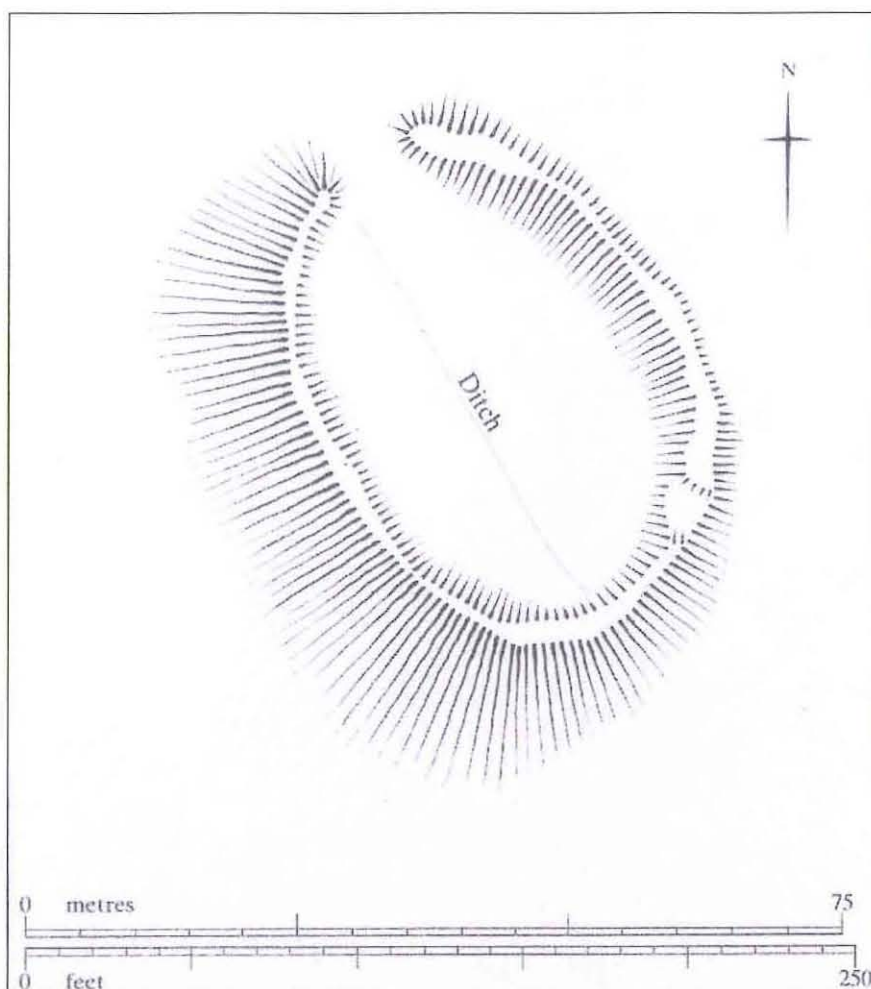
The internal ditch does not truncate the earthworks and is confined to the enclosure, separating the interior into two terraces, the NW half being slightly elevated compared to the SE side. A further external ditch was apparent curving around the NE side only. This was unrelated to the later field boundary ditch to the NW. No platforms were evident in the interior. A ruined, post-medieval stone-built cottage sits uphill to the east, overlooking the site. A further ruined building lies 50m to the NW. The site is generally in good condition with over 60% intact.



PRN 3586 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 3586 Allt yr Esgair Enclosure. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



**Mynydd Llangorse Hillfort**

SO16032774

SO12NE

Scheduled No: Br250(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort (promontory)

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* 0.09 ha

*Height:* 460mOD

*Location:*

HER: bank (1.1m high) and external ditch (0.3m deep) 'L-shaped' in plan isolating NNW pointing spur and thus forming a triangular enclosure covering about 0.08hec. Poss entrance in SSE facing side. Whole some 55m NNW-SSE by 29m (max) wide.

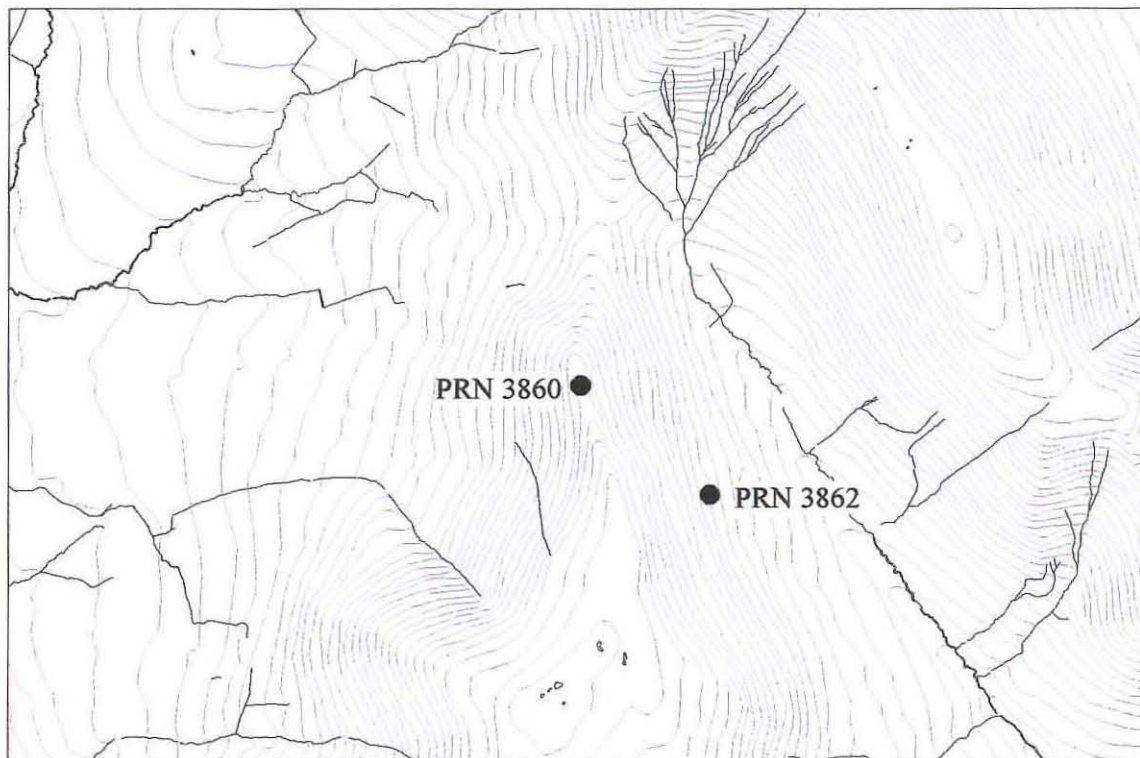
Visited during Black mountains survey. As described (Black Mountains Uplands Survey database, 1998).

Scheduled 30/11/98. Enclosure is located on a flattened area on the 1st rise of the narrow ridge of Cockit Hill. Takes the form of a triangular shaped area measuring 60 x 30m, and defined by natural slopes to the west, east and north. The south facing side is defended by a single stretch of bank and ditch which cuts off this promontory from the rest of the ridge. Possibly two phases of construction and activity. Earthworks may also have been re-used in the C8/9th as a cross ridge dyke. A second enclosure at the bottom the ridge slope may be contemporary (Cadw, 1998).

RCAHMW: a single bank and ditch at 460m above OD cut off from the rest of the ridge the triangular N tip of Mynydd Llangors, 2.5km E of Llangors. the edge of the promontory is formed by precipitous cliffs on the N and E and very steep, grassed slopes on the W. To the S the ground faced by the earthworks rises gradually to the summit of the ridge.

The promontory defined by the earthwork is 60.6m long by 30m at its broadest, an are of about 0.09ha. The grass-grown bank consists of two unequal lengths of earth and stone rubble up to 1.2m high. The E end curves inwards slightly and there is a narrow gap between it and the natural cliff-edge. The largely infilled ditch in front is up to 0.3m deep and does not seem to run to either edge of the ridge. A trackway divides the bank into two unequal lengths and seems to have truncated the E part. The track ascends the NNW side of the ridge, crosses the promontory and continues S along the crest of the mountains. The breach in the bank is probably the site of an entrance that was originally narrower.

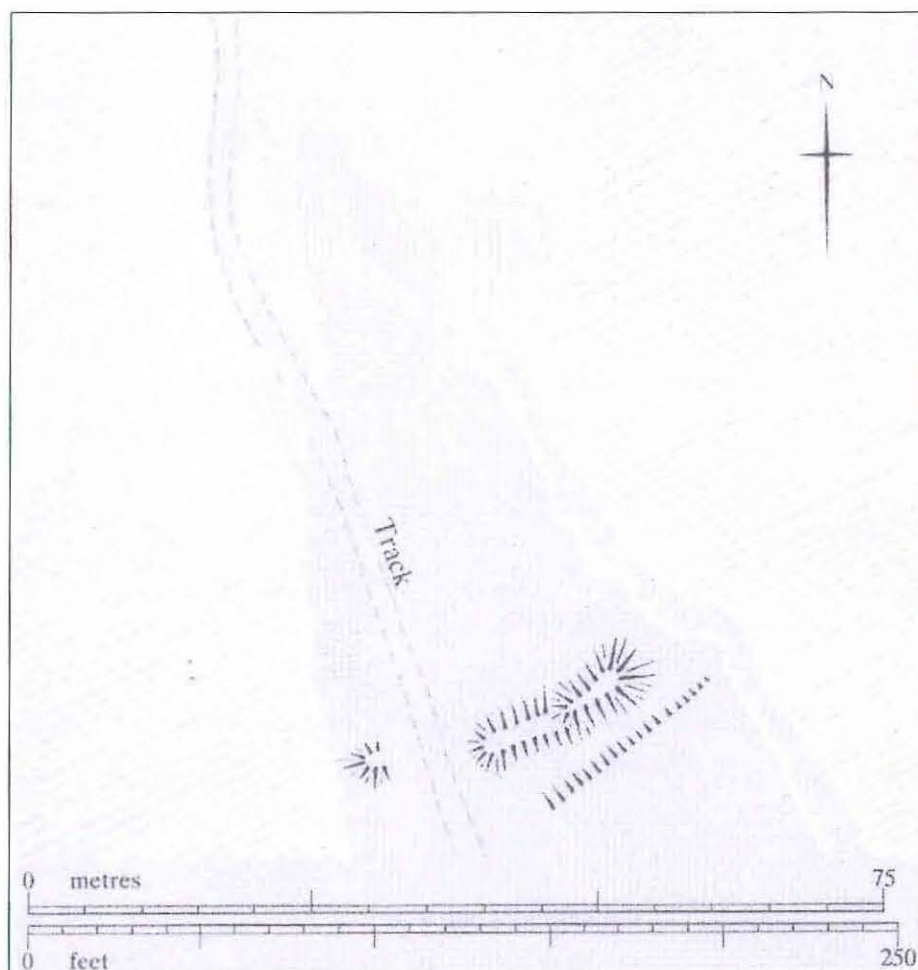
The site might be interpreted as a promontory fort although in its present form the earthwork is an unimpressive barrier. Alternatively it might be a cross ridge dyke controlling traffic along the ancient ridegeway in the manner of those known from Glamorgan which are assigned to the eighth or ninth century AD or earlier (1986, 95).



PRN 3860 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 3860 Mynydd Llangorse Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Caeau Enclosure

SO16462738

SO12NE

Scheduled No: Br251(POW)

*Type:* Defended enclosure ?*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.13 ha*Height:* 330mOD*Location:*

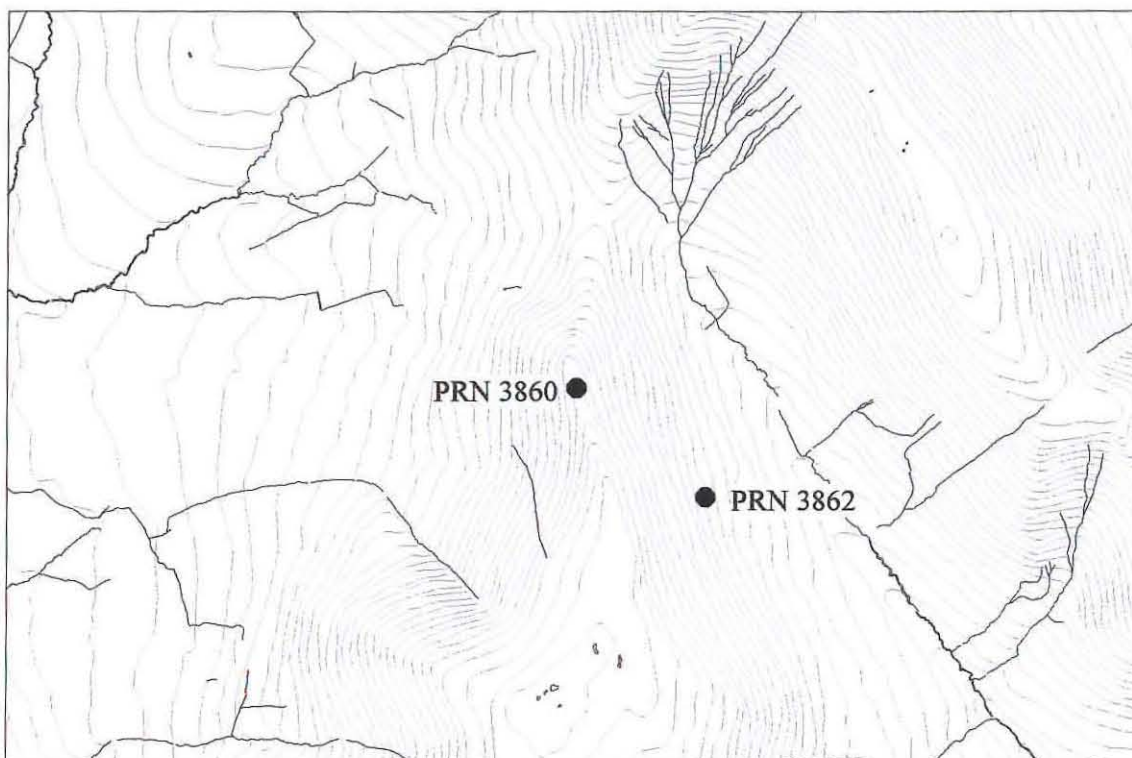
HER: sub circular enclosure some 40m N-S by 30m defined by a stony bank some 3m high (max) on all but W side where the ground is scarped. Sited on E facing slope. Modern quarrying adjacent (OS, AP, 1975). Site much overgrown (OS, 1976; CPAT site visit, 1980). Bank 3m wide x 1.5m high. Quarrying on E side is probably for stone to construct enclosure. (Black Mountains Uplands Survey database, 1998).

Cadw: scheduled 30/11/98. Enclosure measuring 45 x 38m. It is set upon an artificially created terrace and defined by a single line of earth and stone bank. Bank survives up to a height of 2m in places. Enclosure is close to, and possibly contemporary with another (PRN 3860) (Cadw, 1998).

RCAHMW: A small, oval, univallate enclosure stands at 330m above OD on a fairly steep, E-facing slope, 3km E of Llangors. To the W the site is overshadowed by the cliffs of Mynydd Llangors while to the E the ground falls away rapidly to the small stream in Cwm Sorgwm. The approach to the site from the N and S parallel to the mountain side, is relatively easy. Covered in tussocky grass and bracken, the enclosure is in a ruinous condition having been used as a stone quarry.

The site measures 45m N to S by 38m, an area of 0.13ha. The hillslope has been terraced to give a more moderate gradient to the interior. The downslope side is bounded by a stony bank up to 2m high which probably supported originally a stone wall of which badly ruined traces are visible on the S. Upslope the hillside is scarped to a maximum depth of 2.2m. Material excavated from here was probably used in the construction of the bank. On the SW a substantial length of a retaining wall of boulders is visible, and sporadic remains of it occur on the W side also. There is no trace of a ditch which was probably not required. At the NW corner there is a discontinuity between the uphill scarp and the beginning of free-standing bank. The inner crest of the latter is continuous with a stony scarp running S, a short distance in front of the foot of the uphill scarp. As this feature curves SE it becomes a ruined, free-standing wall about 0.3m high with a narrow gap towards its end. There is a corresponding break in the walling of the outer perimeter close to its present termination. The inner scarp and wall may represent a later reduction in the size of the enclosure and either its entrance was placed relative to a pre-existing one or a breach in the outer perimeter walling was made to correspond to the new one.

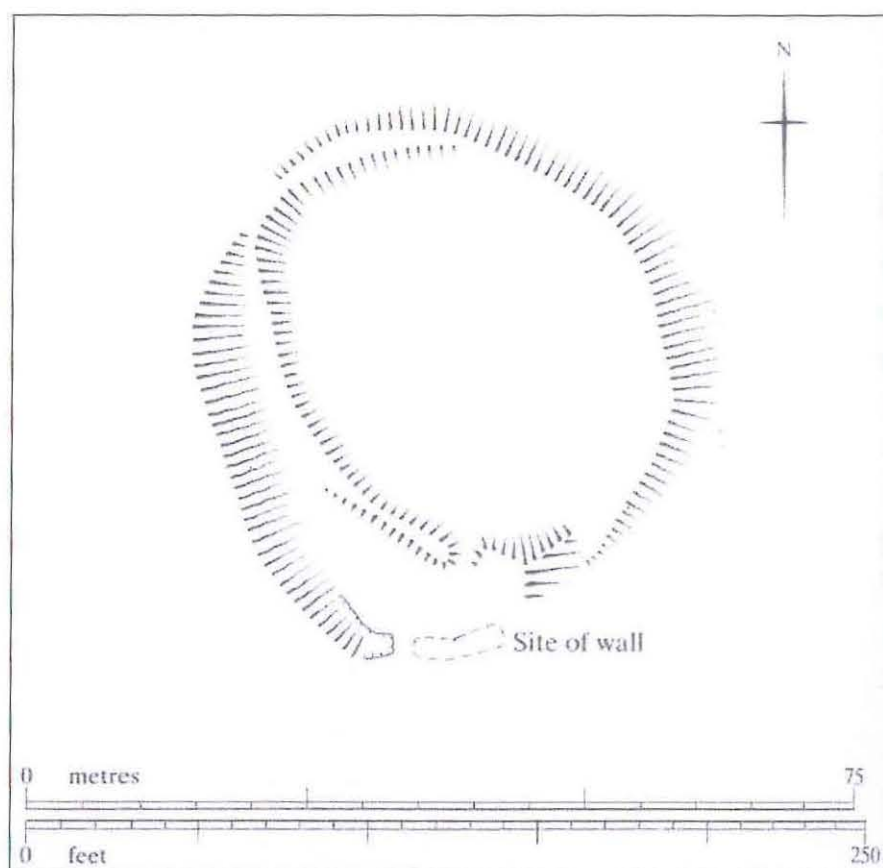
Adjacent to the site are later stone quarries and running from it in a general direction a few degrees W of N is a broad, stony lynchet about 2m high falling to the E. The relationship of the lynchet and enclosure is uncertain (1986, 94).



PRN 3862 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 3862 Caeau Enclosure. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



**PRN: 4007**

**Nant Tarthwyni defended enclosure I**

SO0895019440

SO01NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* 0.26 ha

*Height:* 411mOD

*Location:* Hillslope

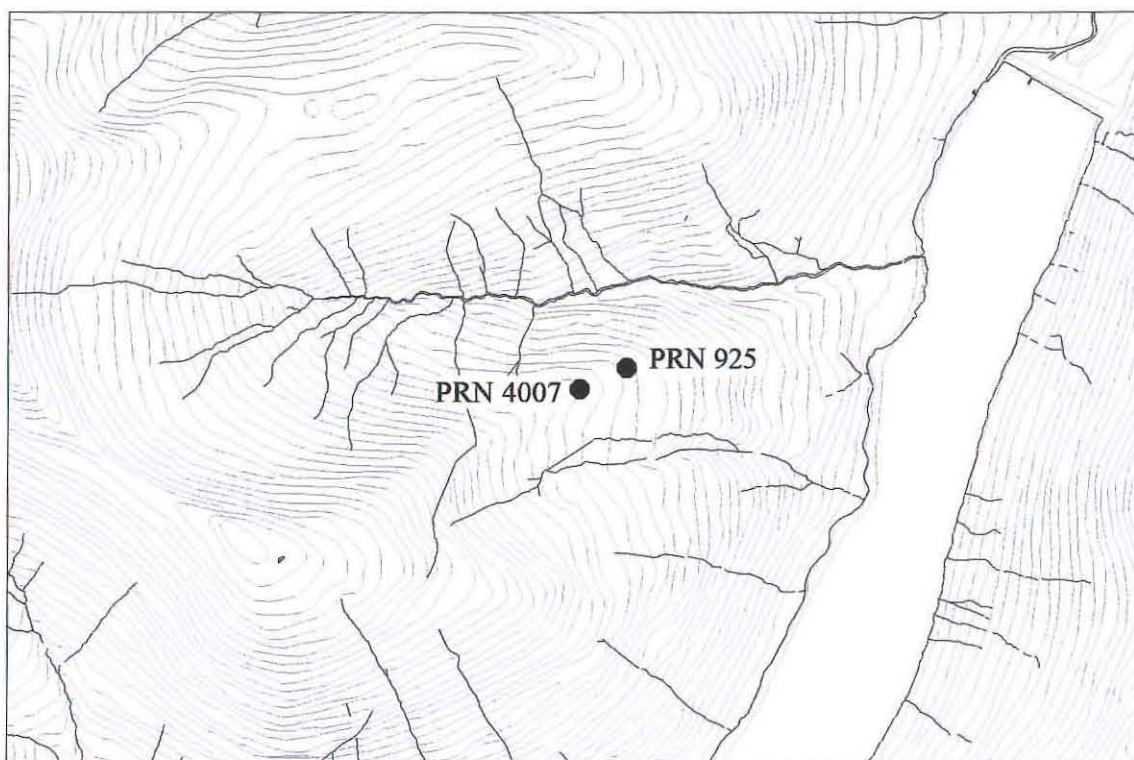
Visited

HER: univallate sub-rectangular hillfort c63m E-W by 55m N-S. The ramparts are much reduced on all sides except on west where there is a slight bank and ditch and on the east side where there is a slight ditch. The fort is sited on an east facing slope in forestry. Second larger hillfort (PRN 925) c60m to the east. Badly damaged by forestry felling, ploughing and replanting in 1990 due to the Forestry Commission's failure to appreciate the importance of the site and lack of any prior consultation about the scheme.

CPAT based on RCAHMW (1986, 51-2): a univallate sub-rectangular defended enclosure. Like its larger counterpart just to the NE (PRN 925), the enclosure is divided into two unequal portions by a fence line and its predecessor, a now-ruined stone wall, to the north of which the earthworks lie in formerly enclosed moorland, to the south within a conifer plantation. The latter is largely impenetrable and much of the following description relies on earlier records.

The enclosure is small and sub-rectangular. Internally, it is said to measure 60m N to S by 62m E to W. The bank of earth and stone is largely a scarp but on the more southerly part of the W side an inner bank slope is evident, matched by an outer ditch and on the east to either side of the simple entrance gap, ditch terminals were also visible to the Ordnance Survey. According to the RCAHMW aerial photographs from about 1946 show the ditch also on the N side, but here it can no longer be traced. The scarp bank is about 1.1m high, where present the inner face of the bank is 0.7m high and the ditch is 0.5m deep.

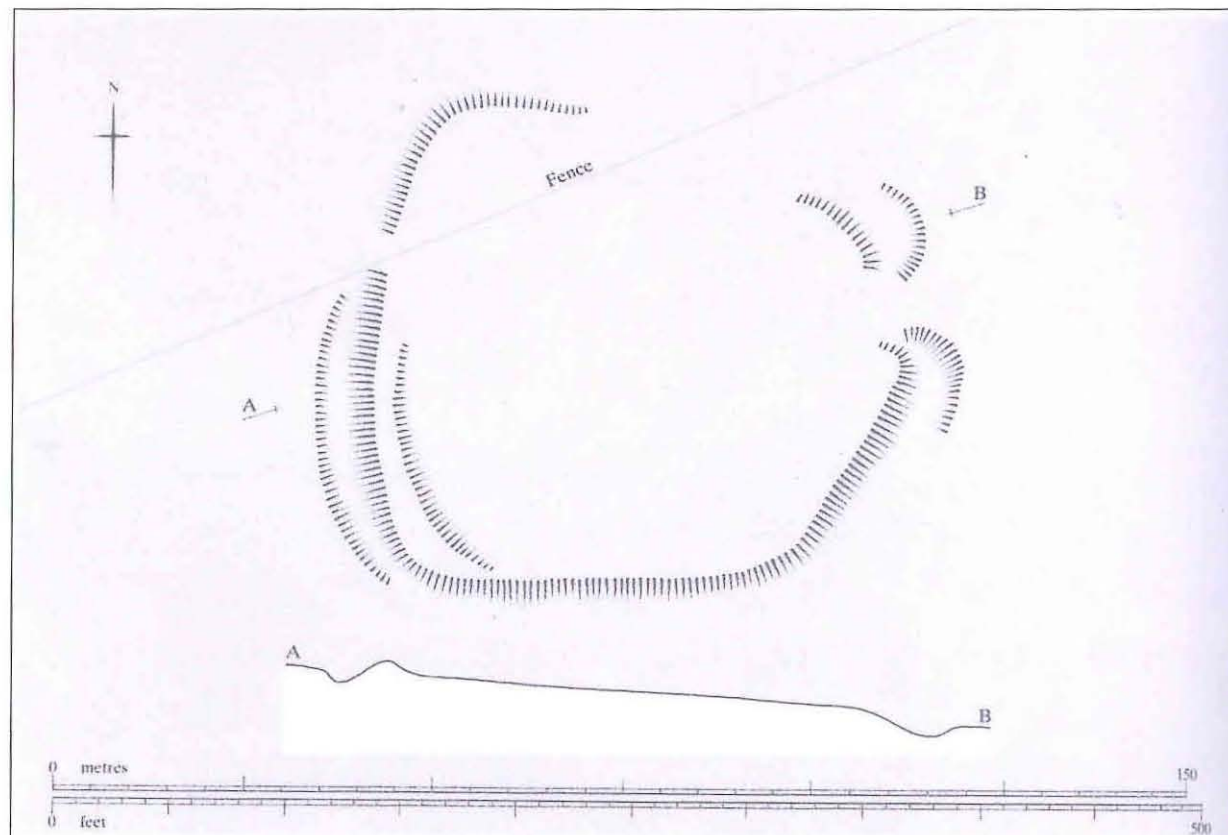
The fort is sited on a gentle E-facing hill slope between Nant Tarthwyni and a smaller valley to the S. It is higher up the valley than its neighbour and lies back from the break of slope; the ground it occupies is more level and the defensive potential less. Notwithstanding it has tremendous views where these are not disguised by the forestry.



PRN 4007 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 4007 Nant Tarthwyni defended enclosure I. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Garth Hillfort

SO05285050

SO05SE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* ha*Height:* 265mOD*Location:* Ridge

Visited

HER: arcuate bank (12m long) and external ditch (29m long) forming SE segment of enclosure. Poss entrance on W. apparently a hillfort despite rantings of Crampton, C B, 1966b; Crampton, C B, 1967.

CPAT/RCAHMW: Garth is a steep-sided hill rising to 280m OD, about 1km ESE of Builth Castle. To the ENE it overlooks the confluence of Afon Dunhonw and the River Wye. The easiest approach to the summit is from the S. along the main axis of the hill, crossing a moderately sloping saddle which connects Garth with a less elevated eminence just N. of Maescwm farm.

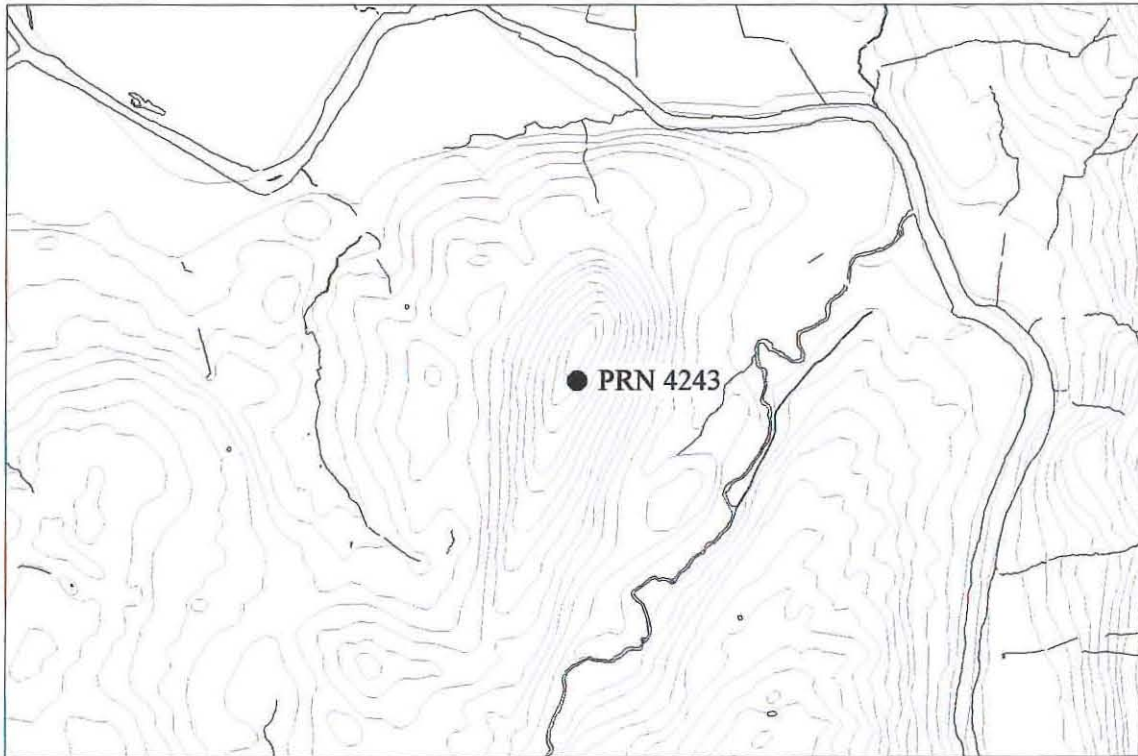
Dr. C. B. Crampton identified a 'camp' just to the S. of the summit on the basis of evidence from aerial photographs and ground inspection. A trial excavation by him at an unspecified point across the bank of the postulated enclosure revealed that turf had been stripped from the area prior to the construction of the earthwork (Crampton 1967, 65), and it was this report that formed the basis for the original record in the HER. The RCAHMW investigations could not confirm the Crampton's 'camp', but identified two lengths of bank and ditch cutting transversely across the long axis of the hill and below its summit which represent an unfinished attempt to fortify the hilltop with two wide-spaced ramparts, the innermost the more substantial of the two.

Lying 124m SSW of the OS triangulation station that surmounts the summit is a S-facing, grassed, scarp bank with a very slight inner drop, virtually no more than a levelling out of the natural ground slope. The bank has a curve to it and is 23m long by 8 m wide and up to 2.5m high, at the toe of which is a shallow ditch, over 4m wide and at most 0.6m deep. Both the inner slope of the bank where it is visible and the ditch fade out before the scarp bank which in turn fades in the natural slope.

55m further S. is another S-facing, scarp bank, with a very slight internal drop little more than the levelling out of the natural slope. The earthwork is slightly curving, 48m long by 5.6m wide and up to 1.2m high, at the toe of which is a shallow ditch, 2m to 3m wide, but no more than 0.2-0.3m deep, which in part becomes a shelf between 2.5m and 3.5m wide. On the E this terminates as the natural slope starts to steepen. West of the track to the summit of the hill, there is a slighter bank that appears to have gone previously unnoticed. This is little more than 2m wide and 0.3m high, and is only 9m long at best, but it is line with that to the E of the track and is probably a marking out bank.

Both features are artificial and of defensive character but they are not continued around the rest of the hilltop and no other features likely to be related to them have been discovered. It is likely that their W terminals mark the proposed sites for entrance ways but this cannot be proved.

The possibility of a third much slighter bank just below the knoll cannot be completely ruled out. It is a scarp no more than 0.4m high with a very slight gully in front. Whilst probably artificial it may not of course be associated with the unfinished defended enclosure.



PRN 4243 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN: 4524

Llwyn Llwyd Hillfort

SN99963869

SN93NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Hillfort

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* ha

*Height:* 360mOD

*Location:* Spur

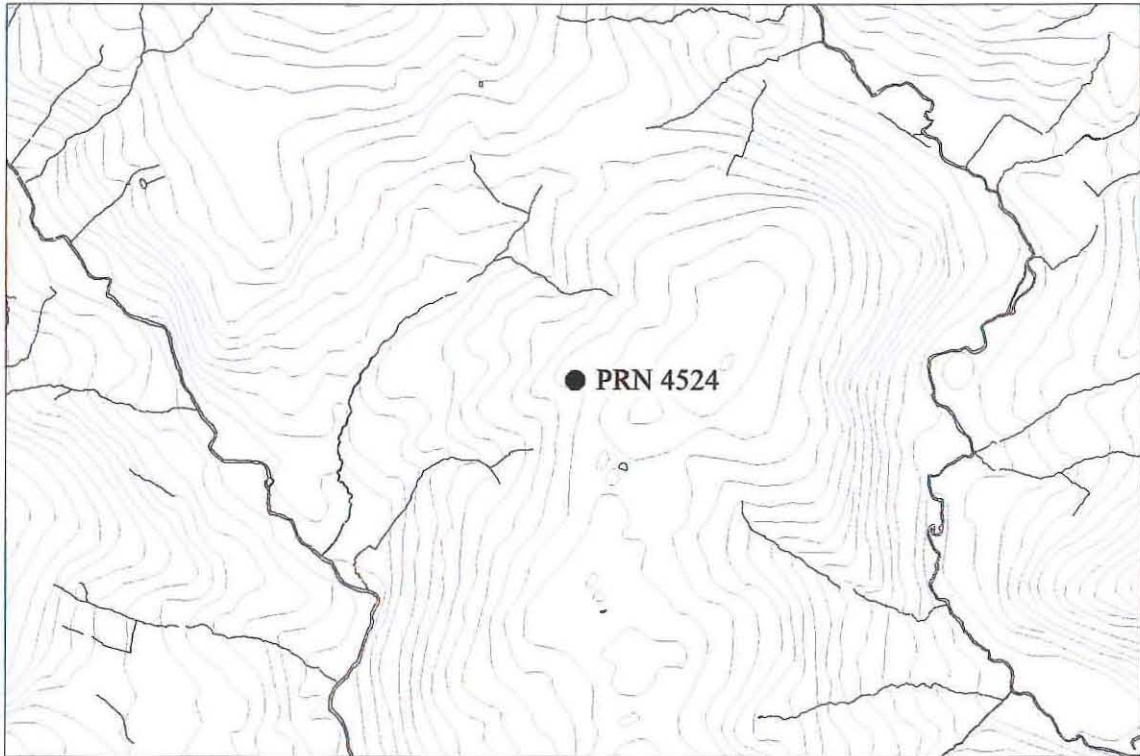
Visited

HER: Oval bivallate hillside enclosure. 75m NE-SW by 45m internally. Only 16m length of rampart remaining on W while other defences show as scarps and berms. Apparent entrance on W.

RCAHAW: 1.9km NE of Merthyr Cynog are the severely damaged remains of a small, oval, univallate enclosure which stands at 358m above OD on gently sloping land overlooked by on the E by the N summit of Cefn Bach (389m above OD). To the W of the site the ground falls away fairly steeply but there are relatively few easy approaches along the hillside from the N and S.

The site seems to have been of oval shape, measuring about 70m NE to SSW by 44m. The only reasonably well preserved part is a 20m length of WSW-facing bank and ditch, 13m wide overall, which is [partly] encroached upon by later boundaries. The bank is constructed of earth with a few stones and stands 2.5m high above the ditch and 1m above the interior. The outer lip of the ditch is masked by a recent field bank but is at least 0.4m deep. The earthwork can be traced for some distance to the NW in an adjacent field as a single, ploughed-down scarp with a vague hollow in front. The best preserved length of bank is truncated on the S by a trackway which passes through the interior of the enclosure, now subdivided by recent field boundaries. During ploughing the course of the earthwork on the E is indicated by a linear spread of stones, but otherwise all surface traces have been completely removed (1986, 45).

CPAT Assessment: remains of an oval univallate enclosure sited on a false crest/spur on the W side of Cefn Bach. Only the W and N sides of the defences are visible and comprise, in the main, a scarp with a level terrace below (on the exterior) representing the filled-in ditch. The W side is slightly more pronounced, where the possible entrance lies, but has been disturbed by a farm track a number of existing and former fence lines. There is no evidence of an outer defensive circuit. Overall area roughly 70m NE/SW by 40m and generally 1.0m high. (CPAT 2006)



PRN 4524 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 5817**

**Coed y Polyn Enclosure**

**SO18063845**

**SO13NE**

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Cropmark/Earthwor

*Area:* ha

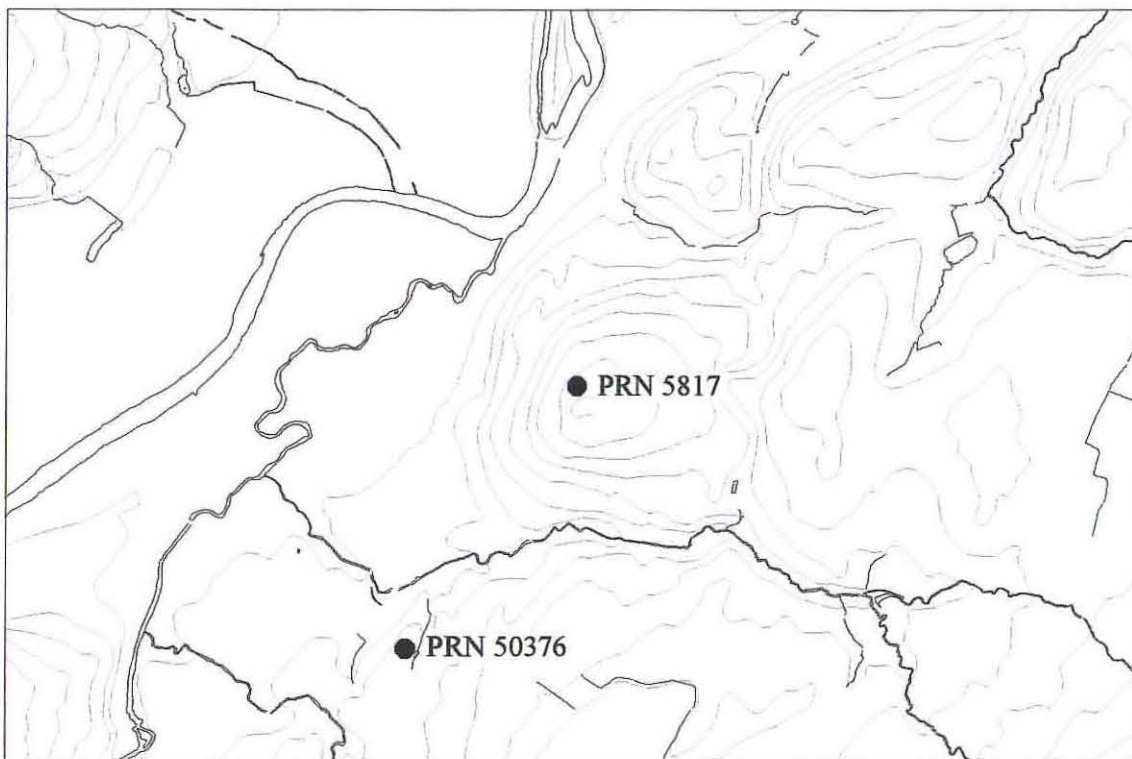
*Height:* 168mOD

*Location:* Hilltop

Visited

HER: part of a triple ditched enclosure probably originally sub-rectangular. Now c.250m NNE-SSW by 200m ESE-WNW (WNW end obscured on CUAP AP 1977). Sited on north-west part of local summit. See also PRN 526. Watching brief 21.07.92 during cutting of gas pipeline. It was not possible to distinguish any archaeological features (Walters, M 1992).

CPAT Assessment: located on a summit (168m OD), overlooking Glasbury and the Wye Valley to the north, north-west and north-east. The north-west facing slope of the site lies within common land (Coed Y Polyn wood) whilst the bulk of the enclosure lies on enclosed improved pasture on the summit. Although the aerial photographic evidence clearly shows cropmark evidence for a multivallate (triple-ditched) site of considerable size there are no upstanding earthworks at ground level, apart from two possible terraces orientated north-west to south-east. The terracing appears to correspond with the internal defences illustrated on the aerial photos, although they could easily be mistaken for natural glacial features. The internal plateau between the two raised areas is approximately 95m north-north-east to south-south-west. On the upper slopes of the woodland to the north-west are two terraces and slopes that could possibly be the remnants of the north-west defences of the enclosure, although this has been distorted somewhat by local quarrying of the hillside. A burial mound (PRN 49133 excavated in the 1930s) lies on the outer limit of the enclosure in the south-east. (CPAT 2007).



PRN 5817 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 7992**

**Llangammarch Wells Enclosure**

**SN93584691**

**SN94NW**

**Scheduled No:**

*Type:* Enclosure

*Date:* Roman

*Form:* Cropmark

*Area:* ha

*Height:* 200mOD

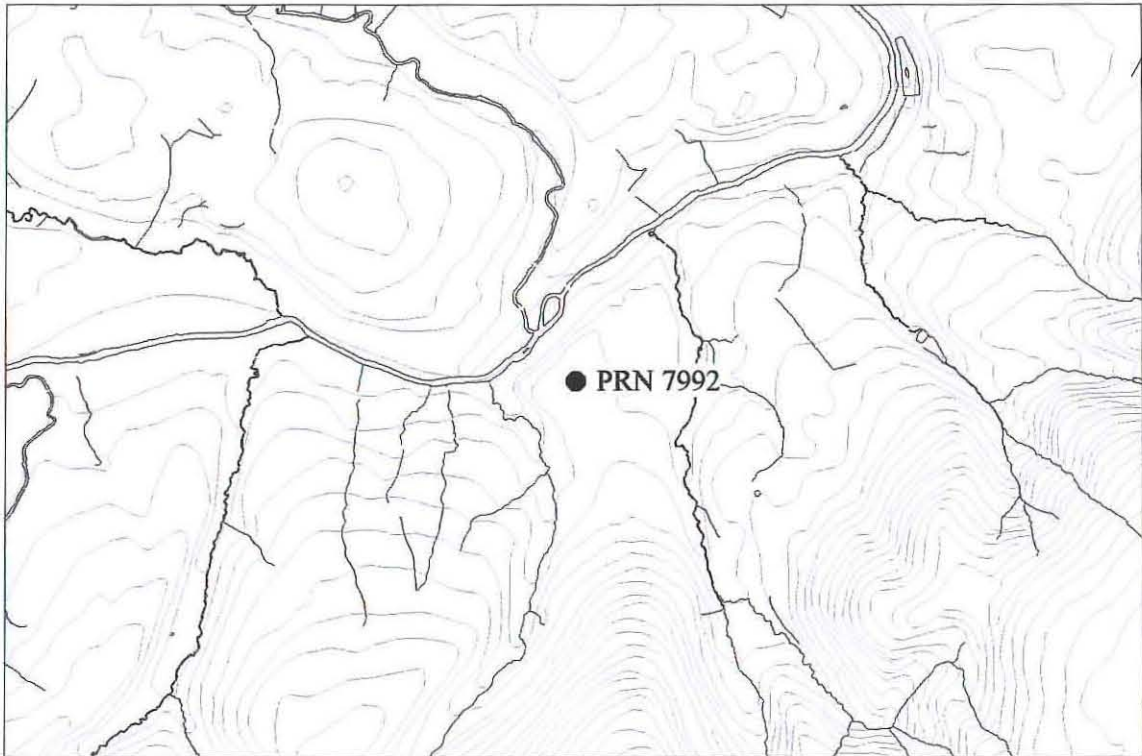
*Location:* Natural terrace

Visited

HER: the HER carries a record only of a cropmark enclosure photographed and recorded by Dr A Gibson in 1995. It should be added that an erroneous NGR had been given to the site, and this has now been corrected.

CPAT assessment: studied in more detail the aerial photograph (CPAT 95-014-0020) appears to show a rectilinear enclosure as a cropmark or parchmark - it is difficult to determine which - on the south-east side of the River Irfon, on a flat and low-lying interfluve between two tributaries. Two sides of the enclosure on the north-east and north-west with the intervening right-angled corner are clearly defined, the other two are virtually undetectable, although there is a hint that the south-west side may be curved to form, effectively, a D-shaped enclosure.

A field visit reveals that the site occupies a broad shelf high above the river. Linear ridge of rocks push up to create a gently undulating surface, and it is between two of these that the visible portion of the enclosure lies. There are no visible surface traces, the field being heavily improved for grazing, and from the available aerial photos it is not possible to produce a valid plot or estimate of the enclosure's size.



PRN 7992 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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Lan Fawr Enclosure

SO17071838

SO11NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.22 ha*Height:* 350mOD*Location:*

Visited

HER = RCAHMW 1988: on a spur bordering pastures to the ? of LAN FAWR at a height of 350 m above O.D. is an enclosure comprising an annular inner bank and probably a partly concentric outer bank and ditch. Overlying or immediately adjacent is a sequence of later boundaries, the latest of which are modern wire fences. A stone, partly ruined commons enclosure wall, lies to the S.W., standing up to 1.8 m high and constructed in a mixed build of coursed sandstone slabs and roughly coursed sub-angular boulders, with a 'soldiered' crown. Where there are gaps these have been closed by iron hurdles and post and wire fencing. There is an even earlier field system comprising ruined, structureless walls constructed of small sub-angular sandstone boulders, the best part of which runs along the crest of the inner bank. At the W. end of this wall there is an entrance through the gap created between it and a further wall running N.-S. There are two further gaps on the E. which may also have been entrances, and a more modern opening has been created by farm traffic on the S.E. The wall is extensively robbed, creating hollows, and elsewhere, the wall is merely a low bank of grassed rubble.

A small undated horseshoe-shaped quarry is cut into the upper part of the N. scarp slope of this spur. In the field to the E. of the site, close to and roughly parallel with the field wall shown on the plan, are two scarps which may be artificial and probably mark the limits of ploughing.

The inner bank of the older earthwork consists of a broad, low, bank, of grass-grown rubble, up to about 0.5 m high, in places covered with bracken. The bank, indistinct from vehicular erosion, is punctuated by occasional small hollows caused by stone robbing. Mutilation is particularly pronounced on the W. The bank terminates on the N.E. and N.W., coinciding with a sharp steepening in the natural slope of the spur. The only possible entrance site is at the S.E. corner, where there appears to be a re-entrant in the bank's outer line. Downslope of the N.W. terminal is an accumulation of grass and bracken-covered rubble talus. There is a low, grass-covered rubble mound protruding from the bank near the S.W. corner, though its origin is unclear. Alongside the inner toe of the bank, on the S.W., is a very shallow hollow, passably the last remaining indication of a quarry ditch. There is no sign of an outer ditch associated with the bank.

A low linear swelling of the ground up to 0.45 m high, and an associated hollow to the S.W. between 8 m and 15 m in front of the latter bank are probably the remains of an outer defensive system.

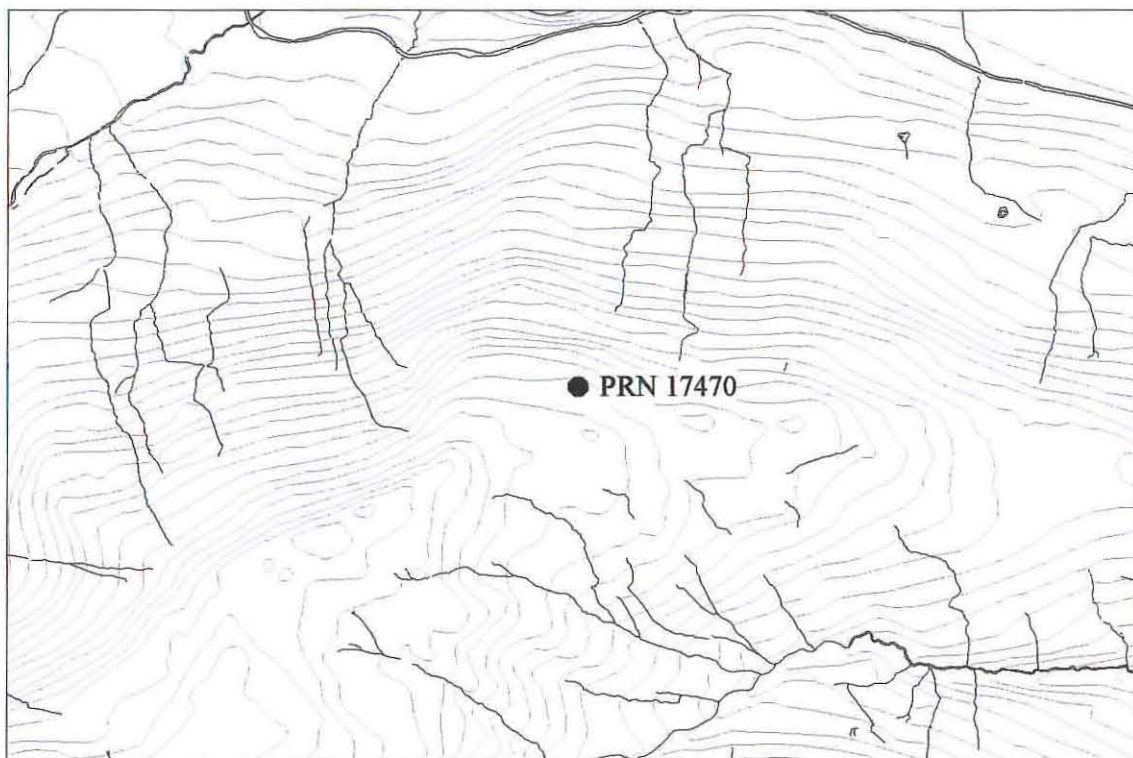
No interior features are visible. The dating and cultural affinities of the site are uncertain, but there is a general similarity in plan between later prehistoric, multivallate enclosures with concentric, wide-spaced ramparts. D.M.Browne and D.J.Percival, *Arch.in Wales* 28 (1988), p.45.

CPAT based on RCAHMW: located on a spur overlooking the Usk valley to the north, the site is on pastures to the right of/bordering the common above LAN FAWR, at a height of 350 m above OD. The enclosure comprises an annular inner bank and a partly concentric outer bank. Overlying or immediately adjacent is a sequence of later boundaries, the latest of which are modern wire fences. A stone commons enclosure wall, lies to the south-west built upon a raised boundary bank that may overlay the line of the outer defences.

There is an even earlier field system comprising ruined, structureless walls constructed of small sub-angular sandstone boulders, the best part of which runs along the crest of the inner bank. At the west end of this wall there is an entrance through the gap, 2m wide, created between it and a further wall running north-south. There are two further gaps on the east which may also have been entrances, and a more modern opening has been created by farm traffic on the south-west. The wall is extensively robbed, creating hollows, and elsewhere, the wall is merely a low bank of grassed rubble.

The inner bank of the older earthwork consists of a broad, low, bank, of grass-grown rubble, up to about 0.5 m high and 8m wide, in places covered with bracken. The bank, indistinct from vehicular erosion, is punctuated by occasional small hollows caused by stone robbing. Mutilation is particularly pronounced on the west. The bank terminates on the north-east. and north-west, coinciding with a sharp steepening in the natural slope of the spur. A possible earlier entrance site is at the south-east corner, where there appears to be a re-entrant in

the bank's outer line. There is a low, grass-covered rubble mound protruding from the bank near the south-west corner, though its origin is unclear. A low linear swelling of the ground up to 0.7 m high, between 6m and 8m in width, and an associated hollow to the south-west between 8 m and 17 m in front of the inner bank are probably the remains of an outer defensive system. Although no interior house platforms are visible the enclosure is centered on a raised plateau. Additionally, at the north-west/west extent of the site there appears to be some structural form, possibly rectangular, within the mutilated remains of the inner bank. The overall dimension of the inner enclosure is 90m south-east to north-west and 43m north-east to south-west. The enclosure would appear to have Iron Age origins although the inner features and modifications to the defences suggest a multi-phased site with possible re-use in the late Romano-British/Early Medieval periods. (CPAT visit 2007).



PRN 17470 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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Bryn Melyn hillfort

SO10881840

SO11NW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* ha*Height:* 440mOD*Location:* Ridge

Visited

HER: possible unfinished hillfort/enclosure situated on the ridge top of Bryn Melyn. A curving section of the western bank is visible for c.26m. Inside the enclosure there seems to be 2 platforms and a circular feature. There are numerous quarry holes around the site (Makepeace, 1998).

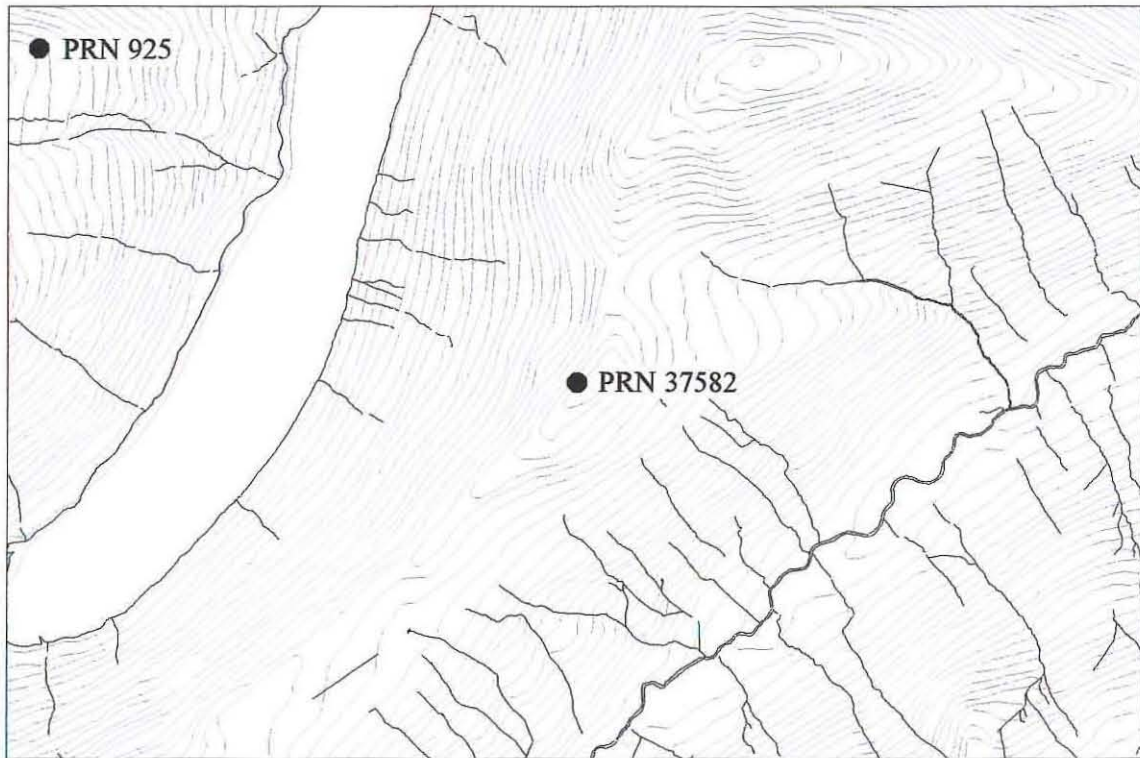
CPAT Assessment: Bryn Melyn is a long ridge running SSW to NNE linking to the south with the uplands of Mynydd Llangynidr several kilometres away, and to the north to the isolated hill of Tor y Foel overlooking the Usk Valley. The slopes of Bryn Melyn fall away steeply to the valley of Afon Caerfanell to the W, now drowned beneath Talybont reservoir, and initially a little more gently towards Afon Crawnnon to the SE. The most accessible approach is from the Sand that is what is covered by the earthwork.

The earthwork compresses a curving bank which starts at the NE and then swings almost through 90 degrees to the SE. Where measured the bank was about 2.4m high above the ditch bottom and nearly 8m wide. There was a slight internal fall of little more than 0.3m but this faded out towards the SE end. The accompanying ditch was generally little more than 0.4m deep and 2.5m wide, but was longer than the bank, but spoil had been thrown up from it to create a marker bank at the SE end. In two places slight rises (or ribs) across the line of the ditch suggest that (conventionally) gangs had been at work, each digging their own section of ditch. Adjacent to the more southerly rib is a hollow which is almost certainly one of the surface quarries that have been excavated across this part of the ridge in relatively modern times.

No entrance is apparent. There is a walkers' cairn on the top of the bank.

G Makepeace recorded several internal features and all of these were re-located:

- a) About 18m to the NE of the defences on the W side of the ridge was a probable hut platform terraced into the slope, its dimensions 6m SE/NW by 4.5m and about 0.2m deep;
- b) about 19m NE of a) was another platform (at SO 10931843) about 8m SW/NE by 3.5m and 0.4m deep, elongated in form and perhaps a little less convincing than the first;
- c) 5m NE and closer to the centre of the ridge an earth and stone embanked circle with an average diameter of around 6.5m. The bank is generally <0.2m high and 1m wide except on the NE where it spreads into a low mound, 2m+ wide and 0.3m high with some stone showing through the turf.



PRN 37582 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 39388**

**Caemarchog cropmark**

SO22963566

SO23NW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Enclosure ?

*Date:* Prehistoric

*Form:* Cropmark

*Area:* ha

*Height:* 430mOD

*Location:* Hillslope

Visited

HER: a large circular cropmark in a field at the base of Lord Hereford's Knob, reported to CPAT in March 2001. Not validated by CPAT.

CPAT Assessment: a large circular cropmark, presumably in pasture, in a field at the base of Lord Hereford's Knob in Llanigon Community, was reported to CPAT by Mr G Standing of Exeter in March 2001. Further information including ground photographs were provided on a website. Examination of the vertical aerial photography does indeed reveal a distinctive feature immediately to the east of the given NGR, showing as a flattened circle, It looks like a vegetation feature rather than an authentic cropmark, but is nevertheless reasonably convincing.

The location was visited in March 2007. There was no trace of any surface features and the vegetation was of a uniform appearance, improved pasture across the whole field. The ground drops gently from south-west to north-east and the position is a sheltered one as well as representing one of the flatter spots in the area. Though there are no recognisable surface traces, we should accept the possibility that this is an enclosure distinguished solely by vegetation changes.





PRN 39388 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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Aberllynfi Gaer hillfort, iron

SO17503758

SO13NE

Scheduled No: Br159(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.45 ha*Height:* 115mOD*Location:*

HER: oval bivallate enclosure 120m north-south by 45m. Ramparts on west reduced to scarps 2m and 3m high. Ploughed out on east, inturned entrance at north approached by hollow way. Excavation of entrance 1951(Prn35068). Hillfort probably late Iron Age. (Conway, Lloyd & Savory, 1958).

RCAHMW: a small, sub-rectangular, multivallate fort stands up to 115m above OD on a minor plateau overlooking the lower reaches of Afon Llynfi near Three Cocks. The platform is aligned NNE by SSW and bounded on the east by a small ravine whose stream has its source at a spring close to the SE corner of the enclosure. To the N and W the ground beyond the defences falls away fairly steeply but the land to the S is virtually level. As Savory pointed out, the fort is well sited tactically but not in a commanding position being only about 30m above the valley floor and overlooked by higher ground to the E of the ravine.

The site is very poorly preserved. Much of it was levelled deliberately just after World War II with the result that surface remains observed in 1951 bore only a general relationship to the configuration of the defences as revealed by excavation. As an example, the outer scarps of the levelled inner and outer banks E of the entrance on the NNE were shown to be several metres in front of their presumed original positions. Continual ploughing since 1951 can be expected to have exacerbated the damage.

The main enclosure measures internally 122.5m NE to SW by 48m, an area of about 0.45ha. The ravine provides natural protection on the E while the other sides have bivallate defences, the W being further strengthened with a counterscarp bank. There are inturned entrances on the NNE and SSW. The NNE entrance is approached from the N by a slightly sunken track bounded on its W side by a low spread bank extending about 55m downslope. The N end of this bank is joined by the N extension of the counterscarp bank on the W side of the main enclosure. Two short lengths of banking about 0.1m high lie roughly at right angles to the track on the E, apparently demarcating a small annexe. The present maximum heights of the outer scarps of the three banks on the W, inner to outer, are 2m, 1m and 1m respectively. On the SSW the outer scarp of the inner bank is up to 0.3m high while the inner and outer faces of the outer bank are up to 0.5m high.

The excavations conducted by Dr H N Savory in July 1951 consisted of a trench across the defences just E of the NNE entrance with a westward extension to include the latter and both ends of the inner rampart on either side of the gap. The inner rampart was not sectioned fully and its structure is inferred from the filling of its associated ditch. The material for both ramparts seems to have been obtained largely from the ditches and varied according to the nature of the subsoils in to which they were cut. The inner ditch was dug through an upper layer of marl, a stratum of laminated sandstone and a lower marl deposit. The main trench revealed only the front of the inner rampart consisting of the foot of a sloping-fronted bank of clayey brown earth lying directly on the upper marl. The material was interpreted as the foundation of the rampart, being composed of the old surface soil with the addition of similar material derived from the preliminary stages of ditch-digging. A deposit of small stones rested on the slopes of the brown earth and the marl and was continuous with the main filling of the inner ditch which consisted of a loose accumulation of sandstone blocks and smaller stones with only a slight amount of earth in the interstices. Although the largest slab found lay on the inner slopes of the ditch towards the lower fill, the majority of the larger stones occurred towards the top of the fill near the inner lip. The excavator considered that the deposit derived from the original superstructure of the inner rampart, the outer foot of which stood at a higher level and some distance S of the end of the main trench. The stones appeared to have accumulated rapidly and Savory favoured the idea that the filling was the result of deliberate slighting of the rampart. The largest block may have been a facing stone which would have been among the first to have been thrown into the ditch, accounting for its lower position. Amongst the stone fill were a few slingstones and, towards its upper part, a small piece of early Romano-British pottery. The bottom filling of the ditch was a sticky clay, up to 0.38m deep in the main trench but decreasing to a very slight



deposit as the ditch bottom rose W to the area opposite the entrance. The clay probably accumulated fairly rapidly and contained redeposited Late Neolithic artefacts, a single Early Iron Age potsherd and a few flecks of charcoal. The profile of the inner ditch as revealed in the main cutting was V-shaped with a flat base, its dimensions being: upper width 1.67m, base width 0.46m, inner lip depth 1.6m, outer lip depth 1.07m. A small part of the original superstructure of the inner rampart was extant W of the entrance consisting of superimposed sandstone blocks revetting an earth core directly over the upper marl.

Between the inner and outer ditches the original brown topsoil was sealed under the lower part of the outer rampart which consisted of clean brown earth containing a few water-worn pebbles. Resting on the inner toe of the bank was a small deposit of mixed brown earth and yellow clay probably derived from cleaning out of the inner ditch.

The outer ditch was larger than the inner with a V-shaped profile measuring 3.96m wide at the mouth, 2.13m deep at the inner lip and 1.22m deep at the outer lip. The inner lip was stepped as a result of quarrying through bedded sandstone while the outer slope was cut entirely through the lower marl. Above a shallow primary silt the ditch was filled with sandstone blocks probably derived from the outer revetment of the outer rampart. The upper fills were accumulations after the abandonment of the site.

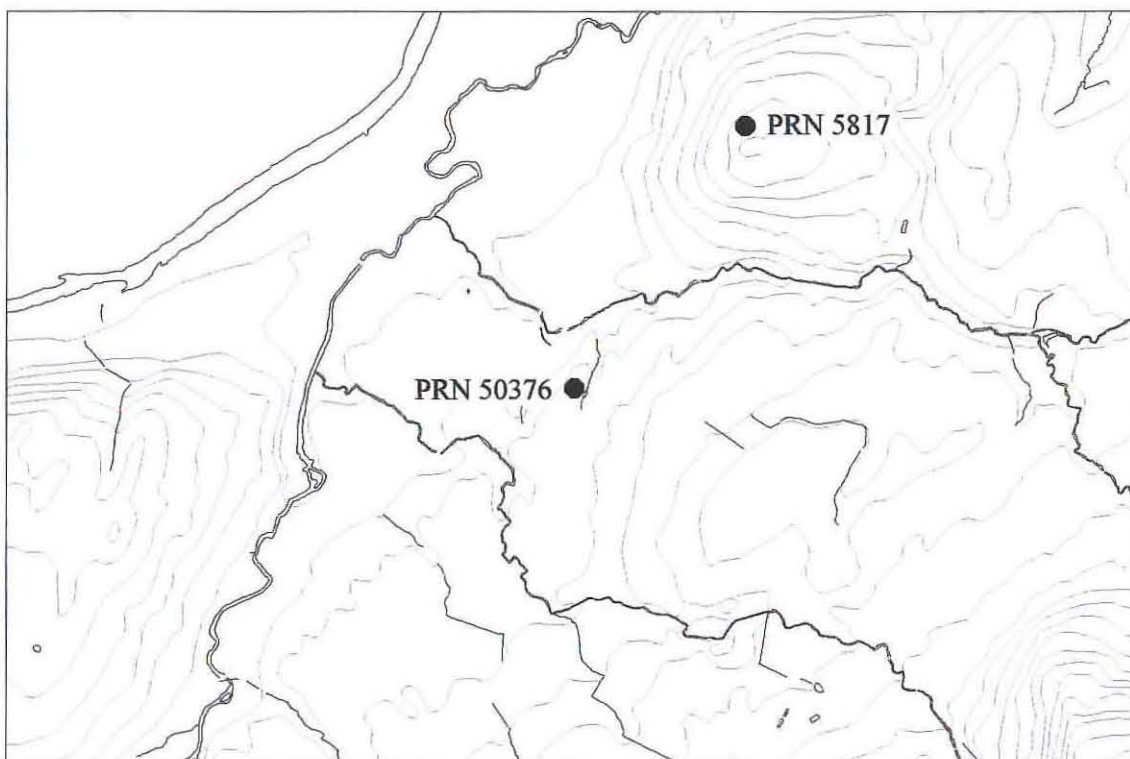
The excavation of the NE entrance gap was not carried out to the rear of the inner rampart and therefore it was not established certainly that the latter was inturned as the surface remains suggest. The entrance passage proved to be narrower than expected being only 1.07m wide. Two post-holes, one either side of the gap but not directly opposite each other, represented the gate. The sandstone revetment expected at the ends of the inner rampart was absent, presumably removed. In front of the entrance the inner ditch was an unbroken feature widened to 2.74m, its base rising westwards with the natural slope. The continuity of the ditch appeared to be part of the original plan. In front of the main entrance passage and E of the line of the thoroughfare, a post-hole 0.31m in diameter and 0.15m deep lay in a mainly natural recess in the bedrock. Opposite it, 3.66m away on the other side of the entranceway, was a smaller post-hole 0.15m in diameter. Savory suggested that the larger post-hole may have held a support or mooring post of a moveable bridge to span the ditch while the smaller hole held a post to which the bridge was secured at night or at times of attack. The primary fill of the inner ditch opposite the entrance was a thin deposit of yellow clay containing some charcoal and redeposited Neolithic artefacts. The ditch near the entrance of a hill-fort was a favourite place for dumping rubbish and the sparseness of the deposit here led the excavator to suggest that the ditch had been cleared out only a short time before the demolition of the rampart. However, the NE entrance was probably of lesser importance than the SW where occupation may have been more concentrated.

Below the rampart core to the W of the entrance and beneath the old topsoil lay a thin spread of dark earth, 0.46m in diameter, associated with charcoal and Neolithic potsherds. The deposit probably filled the base of a hollow of some kind, largely obliterated by agricultural activity a considerable time before the hill-fort was built.

No ancient features are visible in the interior and none were excavated in 1951.

One potsherd of probable pre-Roman Iron Age date was found in the primary silt of the inner ditch but it is of little help for the chronology of the site. A sherd of Romano-British type jar of possible late first century date came from the upper part of the same ditch apparently associated with the rampart debris. Iron smelting at nearby Gwernnyfed Park attests growing Roman influence in the area towards the end of the first century AD and Savory suggested that it is probably in the context of this that the slighting of the fort should be seen (1986, 108-12).

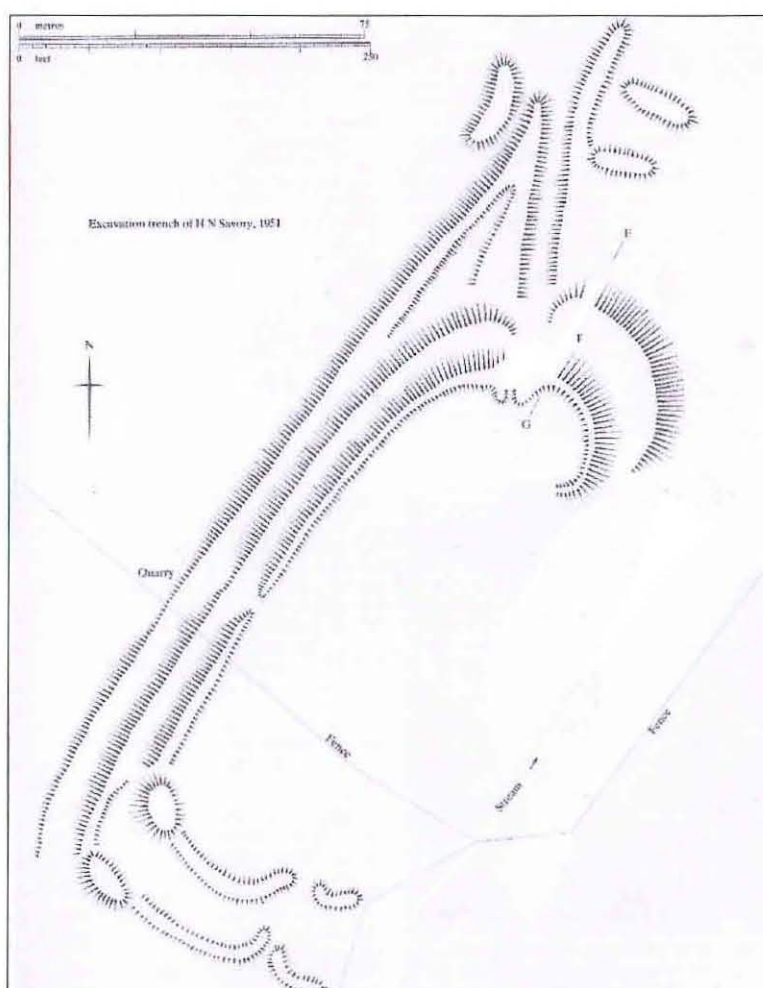




PRN 50376 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 50376 Aberllynfi Gaer Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

**Castell Dinas Hillfort**

SO17913009

SO13SE

Scheduled No: Br015(POW)

*Type:* Hillfort*Date:* Iron Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 1.03 ha*Height:* 450mOD*Location:*

HER: oval multivallate hillfort with cross bank running east to west. Length c240m NNW/SSE by 160m wide. Oblique entrance on north. Occupies isolated knoll.

Situated on a steep-sided hilltop in a commanding position on the north-west edge of the Black Mountains. Inner defences are strongest. Outer defences were covered in bracken and difficult to see (Cadw 1998).

Castle visited by Walker and Spurgeon in July 1997. No traces could be seen of the outer gate or its flanking mantlet walls, though the eastern wing of these might have followed the line of the innermost rampart of the Iron Age fort. The position of the inner gate was well defined by its surviving jambs. The stump of the small square tower to the south of the gate is comparatively well preserved (Walker, R F, 1999, 27-8).

RCAHMW: a large, irregularly oval, multivallate fort occupies the summit of a prominent, steep-sided hill rising to 450m above OD, 4.2km SE of Talgarth. On the N and W additional works enclose the more moderate slopes below the crown of the hill. The site commands the saddle between Mynydd Troed and Y Grib which forms a pass though the NW edge of the Black Mountains between Rhiangoll valley and the Afon Llynfi valley, a tributary of the Wye.

The site consists of fortifications of at least two periods, a pre-Roman Iron Age hill-fort and a medieval castle. The remains of both are now largely reduced to grassed stony banks and scarps covered in places, particularly on the E and SW by scattered trees and bushes. A small coniferous plantation covers the outworks on the SW. Post-medieval boundaries cross and follow part of the line of the earthworks. There has been damage by quarrying to part of the W outworks and at the S end of the main defences.

The summit of the hill is subdivided into three enclosures (A, B, C). The interior of A is fairly level though it begins to fall away on the E. B slopes downwards more markedly to the S and E while the surface of C stands considerably below B and falls away sharply to the SE. Enclosure A is divided from B by a wall, a ditch deeply rock-cut on the W, and a counterscarp bank which in their present form represents works of the castle period although they may have been founded on an earlier system. Together the enclosures measure internally 174m N to S by 93m, an area of about 1.03ha. The common inner rampart occupying the edge of the hilltop has been modified substantially by being incorporated in the medieval perimeter defences. The latter are described, along with the other remains of the medieval castle, by R.E.Kay. The present outer scarp of the inner rampart is between 5.2m and 15m high but this may represent an exaggeration of the original dimensions as Kay has suggested that this scarp was deepened during the building of the castle. The main gate of the castle lies in the SW of the rampart and is approached by a ramped track from the NW crossing the line of the defences at an angle. It is not possible to say whether or not the gate occupies an original gap in the Iron Age defences. However, the later N gate of the castle probably does, for although later building has obscured the details it seems that the original rampart was inturned, at least on the NW. The approach to this entrance is more complicated as several sloping, terraced tracks converge to the N at the foot of the second rampart through which there is an inclined passage between somewhat inturned bank terminals which emerges at the toe of the N corner of the inner rampart and follows it in a curving course to the site of the gate.

The second rampart, considerably below the edge of the hilltop, runs concentric with the inner on the E and W. On both sides a low inner scarp is present up to 0.8m high on the E and 2.3m high on the W. The outer scarp is up to 6.7m high on the W and 11m high on the E. To the NE of the entrance the defence is strengthened in depth by widening this rampart and splitting it into two levels for a short distance. Similar strength in depth is given to the W of the entrance by the coalescing of the second with the NE ends of two other ramparts. Although the details are somewhat obscure it appears that on the SE and SW the rampart departed from running parallel with the circuit of the inner bank to take in quite steeply sloping ground to the



S forming the irregularly shaped enclosure C. This suggests that the second rampart system is a later addition to the original plan. The scarp forming the SW and SE perimeter of enclosure C is between 6m and 8.5m high. The NW side is formed by the outer scarp of the inner rampart, up to 10m high, with a rock-cut ditch up to 4m deep in front on whose S lip is a massive counterscarp bank up to 3.5m high. The ditch is almost certainly an original feature but its depth was probably increased, and the counterscarp created or heightened, during construction of the castle. Kay considers that the quarry hollow extending S from between the W end of the counterscarp bank and the W perimeter scarp is an unfinished dry moat intended to continue that of the middle bailey (enclosure B) of the castle. In the interior, NE of a length of outcrop within and parallel to part of the SWE side, is a shallow cut of uncertain purpose or date. Around the foot of the perimeter scarp is a narrow shelf below which it is uncertain whether or not any further artificial scarping has occurred. Although the junction and relationship of the enclosure C and the outworks on the W is indistinct, the latter are probably later.

The evidence for a consistent third rampart system is ambiguous. Along the toe of the second rampart on the E side of the main enclosure is a shelf below which it is also uncertain whether there has been further artificial scarping. However, NW of the modern field wall crossing the E corner of the ramparts the slope definitely has been modified below a short length of ditch to further strengthen the area in front of the entrance. Along the W side and concentric with the inner two is a third rampart between 4.3m and 6m high originating from the lower part of the outer scarp of the second rampart just W of the entrance and perhaps re-coalescing with it in the area obscured now by the ramp leading to the SW gate of the castle.

A series of partly artificial terraces in the N and NE slopes below the main entrance comprise approach tracks and possibly additional defences of uncertain date. Among these, just outside the entrance, is Dinas Well, a hollow containing a brackish pool from which a boggy channel leads downslope.

To the W of the hill-fort ploughing, quarrying and tree-planting have combined to render the system of outworks on the lower slopes of the hill indistinct and fragmentary. Whatever the nature of these structures, they are unlikely to have been defensive and their dating is uncertain. A crescentic area of land about 210m N to S by 75m seems to be enclosed by a discontinuous curving earthwork whose N end branches from the outer scarp of the third rampart 55m SW of the entrance. Where an inner scarp is present, on the W, it is up to 0.6m high while the denuded outer scarp is between 0.8m and 3.2m high. Immediately in front of the NW side of this structure, below a shelf, is another scarp up to 4m high concentric with it, which has its origin at the point where the second and third main ramparts join at the entrance. On the W also are fragmentary traces of banks and scarps in front, but it is not possible to be sure that these belong to a consistent system. However, running in front of and concentric with the SW side of the crescentic enclosure is a distinctive scarp up to 2.5m high with a short length of counterscarp bank in front. Its line is continued N by a low bank and scarp partly disturbed by quarrying which diverges slightly W from a line truly concentric with the enclosure upslope. The earthwork runs N to the SW side of a hollow trail from the W which leads towards the ramp ascending the hill to the SW gate of the Castle. The earthworks to the NE of the Trail are ill-defined scarps.

The whole complex of earthworks at Castell Dinas covers a zone 363m N to S, by 280m E to W, and area of 6.58ha. A later prehistoric flint flake was found in 1981 on the second rampart at the SE corner (SO 1797 3006) (1986, 96-99).

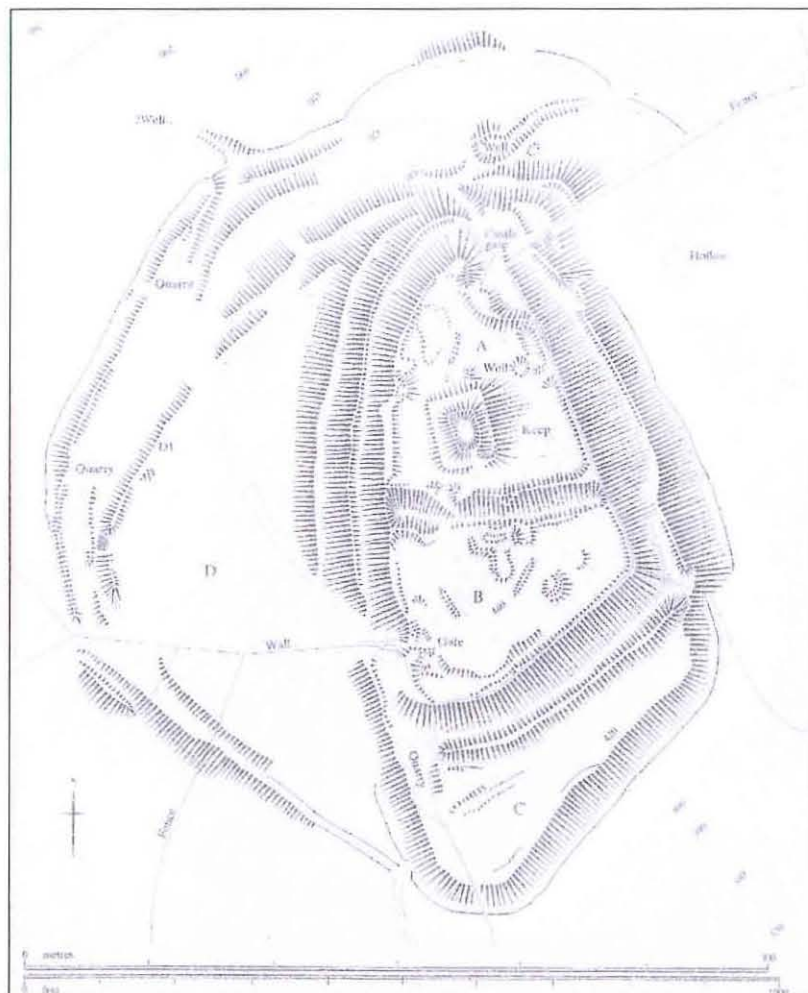




PRN 50422 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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PRN 50422 Castell Dinas Hillfort. © Crown copyright: RCAHMW

**PRN: 83738**

**Blaencamlais enclosure**

SN95242610

SN92NW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure

*Date:* Iron Age?

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* ha

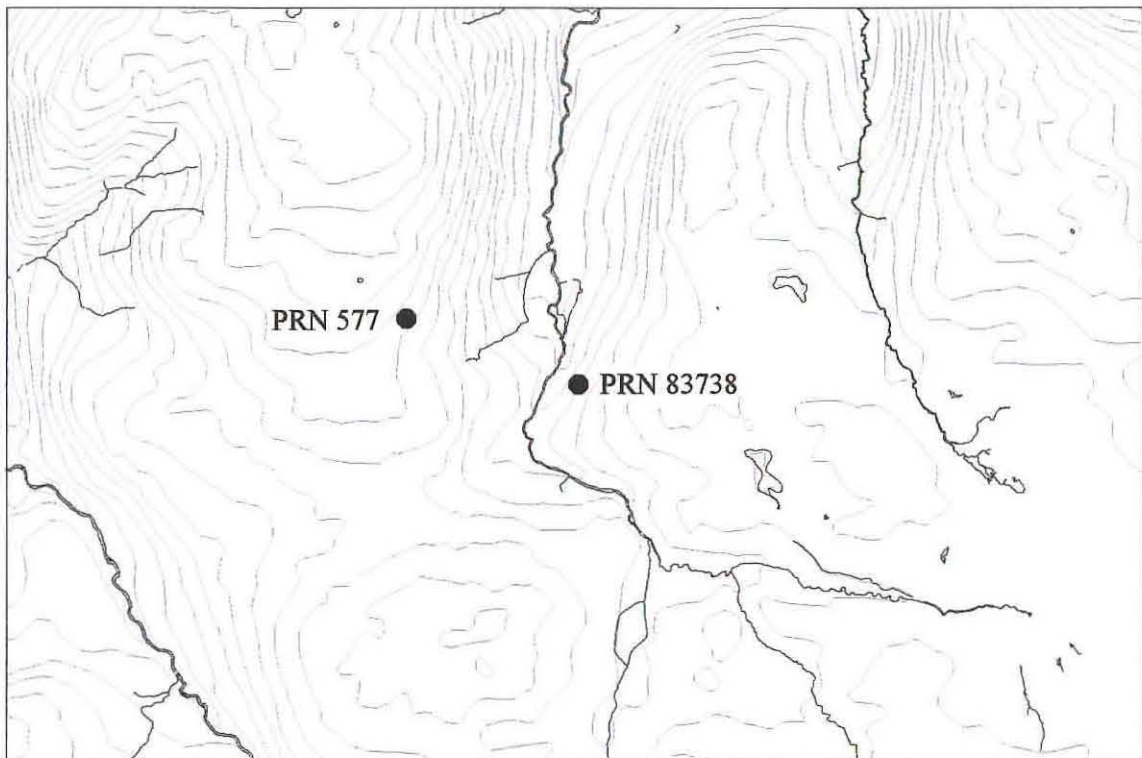
*Height:* 295mOD

*Location:* Hillslope

Visited

CPAT Assessment: located 2km south-east of Defynnog, a circular embanked enclosure sited on the west facing slopes of Blaencamlais overlooking Cwm Camlais-Fawr to the west. The enclosure lies in a steep-sided pasture field, located on a slight shelf that falls east to west. The internal diameter of the enclosure, north to south, is 18m. The embankment, constructed from earth and stone, survives to an internal height of 0.5m on the downslope rising to 1m to the east, the width being 4m. There is a possible entrance sited on the western side, 3m wide. Two banks, orientated east to west 5m long x 3m wide x 0.4m high, sub-divide the internal platform area. The monument appears to be a small enclosure, perhaps a well-defended round hut site, possibly of Iron Age origin (CPAT 2007)





PRN 83738 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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## **NON-PROVEN SITES**



## Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Non-proven Sites by PRN

<i>PRN</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Map Square</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>SAM</i>
457	Castell Manest Placename	SO03NW	SO01903617	
491	Maes y Llan Enclosure	SO03SE	SO091347	
529	The Small Gaer, Gwernyfed	SO13NE	SO17763788	
550	Cwr y Gaer Placename	SO13SW	SO11003044	
576	Park Farm Enclosure	SN92NW	SN9430029822	
577	Blaen Camlais Fawr Enclosure	SN92NW	SN94682632	
622	Slwch Tump Enclosure	SO02NE	SO051287	
677	Ty Helyg Enclosure	SO12SE	SO15122241	Br271(POW)
734	Banc Glyn Gyrnant Enclosure	SN84NE	SN86204650	
738	Pen y Ddinas Placename	SN84NE	SN85994800	
739	Banc y Ddinas Placename	SN84NE	SN85504715	
791	Castell Du Placename	SN82NW	SN84442887	
948	Blaen Fernant Cropmark	SO04NE	SO05314546	
950	Maes y Gaer Placename	SO04NE	SO07154646	
2293	Dyffryn Nedd settlement, enclosure	SN91SW	SN91371278	Br188(POW)
2348	Cae'r Castell Placename	SN70NE	SN78920950	
2676	Garth, enclosure	SN94NE	SN9500649585	
2690	Rhosferig Boundary	SO05SW	SO0165552087	
3055	Cwm Gwrgi Enclosure	SN94NE	SN98984781	
3058	Caer Mynach Enclosure	SN94NE	SN987476	
3064	Cynala Uchaf Oval Enclosure	SN94SW	SN92044427	
3111	Abercriban Enclosure	SN93NE	SN95643936	
3236	Pen Fathor Isaf Cropmark	SN91NW	SN94641623	
3237	Pen Fathor Isaf Enclosure I	SN91NW	SN94401571	
5833	Gipsy Castle Enclosure	SO24SW	SO21874200	
15829	Henllan Uchaf cropmark enclosure	SN80NW	SN80200820	
21901	Cwr y Gaer hillfort	SO13SW	SO118304	
33280	Llwynrhidaf Hillfort	SO02NE	SO0859229443	
64002	Partrishow Hill, enclosure	SO22SE	SO27552314	

## Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Non-proven Sites by Name

<i>Name</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>Map Square</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>SAM</i>
Abercriban Enclosure	3111	SN93NE	SN95643936	
Banc Glyn Gyrnant Enclosure	734	SN84NE	SN86204650	
Banc y Ddinas Placename	739	SN84NE	SN85504715	
Blaen Camlais Fawr Enclosure	577	SN92NW	SN94682632	
Blaen Fernant Cropmark	948	SO04NE	SO05314546	
Cae'r Castell Placename	2348	SN70NE	SN78920950	
Caer Mynach Enclosure	3058	SN94NE	SN987476	
Castell Du Placename	791	SN82NW	SN84442887	
Castell Manest Placename	457	SO03NW	SO01903617	
Cwm Gwrgi Enclosure	3055	SN94NE	SN98984781	
Cwr y Gaer hillfort	21901	SO13SW	SO118304	
Cwr y Gaer Placename	550	SO13SW	SO11003044	
Cynala Uchaf Oval Enclosure	3064	SN94SW	SN92044427	
Dyffryn Nedd settlement, enclosure	2293	SN91SW	SN91371278	Br188(POW)
Garth, enclosure	2676	SN94NE	SN9500649585	
Gipsy Castle Enclosure	5833	SO24SW	SO21874200	
Henllan Uchaf cropmark enclosure	15829	SN80NW	SN80200820	
Llwynrhidaf Hillfort	33280	SO02NE	SO0859229443	
Maes y Gaer Placename	950	SO04NE	SO07154646	
Maes y Llan Enclosure	491	SO03SE	SO091347	
Park Farm Enclosure	576	SN92NW	SN9430029822	
Partrishow Hill, enclosure	64002	SO22SE	SO27552314	
Pen Fathor Isaf Cropmark	3236	SN91NW	SN94641623	
Pen Fathor Isaf Enclosure I	3237	SN91NW	SN94401571	
Pen y Ddinas Placename	738	SN84NE	SN85994800	
Rhosferig Boundary	2690	SO05SW	SO0165552087	
Slwch Tump Enclosure	622	SO02NE	SO051287	
The Small Gaer, Gwernyfed	529	SO13NE	SO17763788	
Ty Helyg Enclosure	677	SO12SE	SO15122241	Br271(POW)

Castell Manest Placename

SO01903617

SO03NW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure ?

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Placename

*Area:* ha

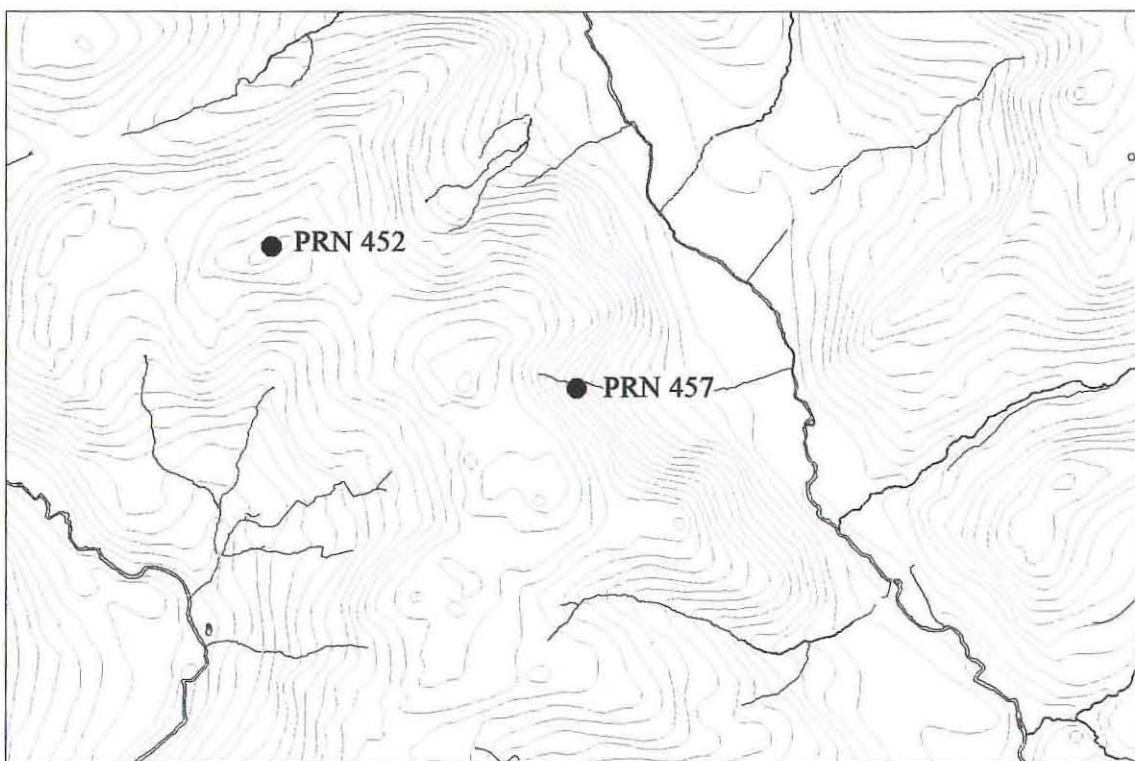
*Height:* 335mOD

*Location:*

The HER states that the name is suggestive of some sort of defended site, and that it probably relates to Gaer Fach (PRN 452). No further detail is given, and the record appears to have originated during a desk-top search of the Ordnance Survey 6" maps of 1964 by the Archaeological Division of that organisation. There is nothing to suggest that it was followed up by a field visit.

Castell Manest was the name of a farmstead set high up a small valley. Gaer Fach is about one kilometre to the north-west and could be the origin of the name, but equally the predilection of giving the term 'castell' or 'castle' to encroachment cottages should be recalled. Until such times that something positive is seen on aerial photographs, the implications of this name are best treated with considerable caution.





PRN 457 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 491**

**Maes y Llan Enclosure**

SO091347

SO03SE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure ?

*Date:* Unknown

*Form:* Cropmark

*Area:* ha

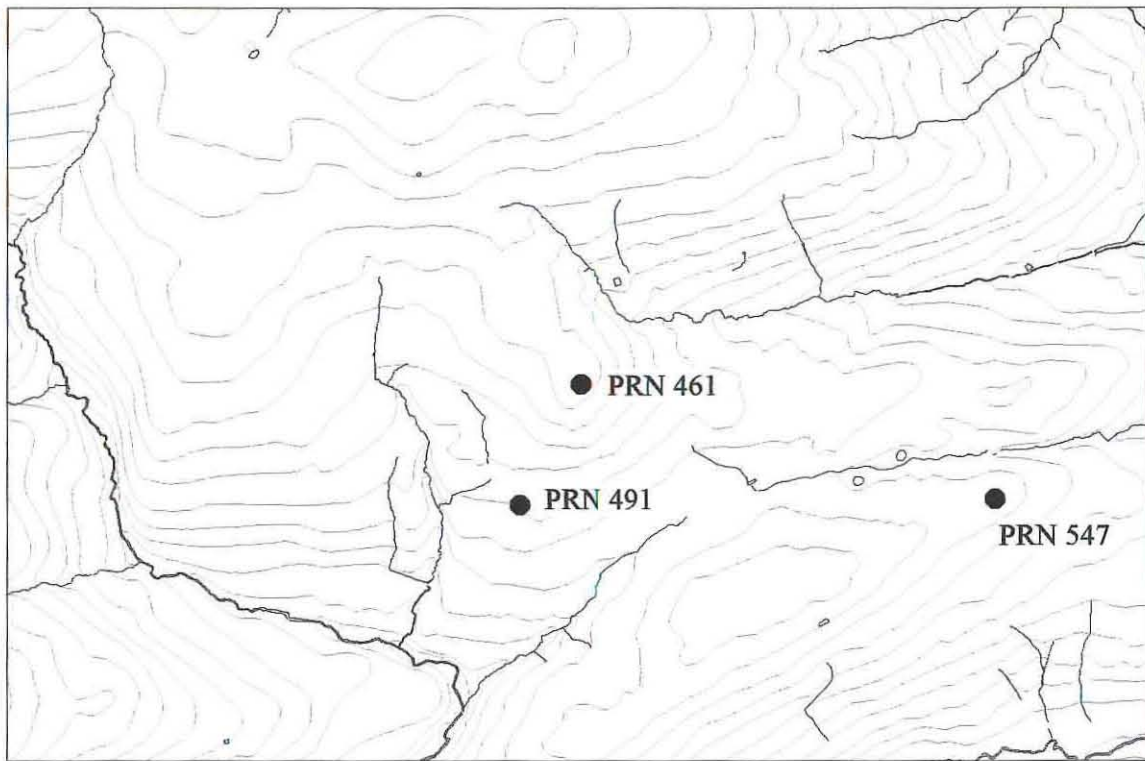
*Height:* 244mOD

*Location:* Hill slope

Visited

HER: cropmark of possible enclosure (OS, AP, 1972). No such feature apparent on ground (OS, 1973). Note the place-name, Maes y llan at SO 0900 3480 (OS, 1964). Deleted by OS 26/6/80 (CPAT archive, 1977).

CPAT Assessment: RAF APs showed nothing of interest. There are no visible surface traces of the alleged enclosure, which is apparently situated in a pasture field alongside the access road to Maes-y-llan farm (CPAT, 2006)



PRN 491 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**The Small Gaer, Gwernynyfed**

SO17763788

SO13NE

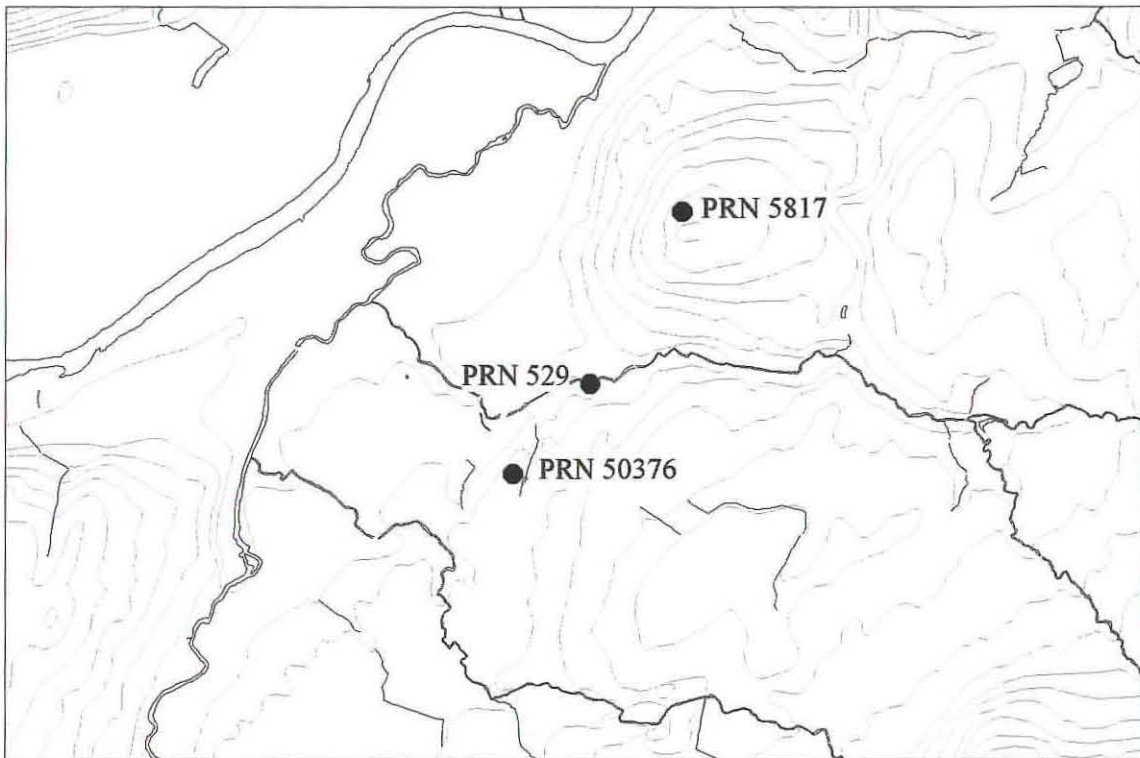
Scheduled No:

*Type:* Pond*Date:* Unknown*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* ha*Height:* 100mOD*Location:*

RCAHMW: The earliest 25-in OS map depicts an enclosure named 'Gaer' at about 100m above OD just over 300m ENE of Three Cocks Inn. Three conjoined straight lengths of bank up to 10m wide form the W, NW and NE perimeter while the meander of a small stream forms the S and SE sides. The area enclosed measures 70m NE to SW by 40m. The position is weak defensively as the site is overlooked by higher ground to the S of the stream and the land beyond the enclosure falls away very gently to the N and W.

The site was apparently in a ruinous condition at the beginning of this century. In a rather confusing account of the remains Lt.-Col. Ll Morgan seemed to regard the extant bank as a counterscarp to a main rampart which had been levelled throughout. A ditch, only intermittently visible, accompanied the bank. The stream had truncated the work on the SE. Just before a visit by Dr H.N. Savory in 1950 much of the earthwork was bulldozed when the parkland was converted to arable, leaving only part of the W side upstanding. At present under trees and undergrowth, the latter is a bank of red-brown clayey earth incorporating angular fragments of local sandstone and waterworn sandstone pebbles. It is perched on the edge of the stream cliff just over 2m above the present water level and measures about 6m wide by 2m high.

The site must be considered doubtfully worthy of inclusion as a defensive earthwork. An alternative interpretation is that it is the remains of an old pond bay at the head of the millrace of the defunct Aberllynfi mill (1986, 112).



PRN 529 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 550**

**Cwr y Gaer Placename**

SO11003044

SO13SW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Hillfort ?

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Placename

*Area:* ha

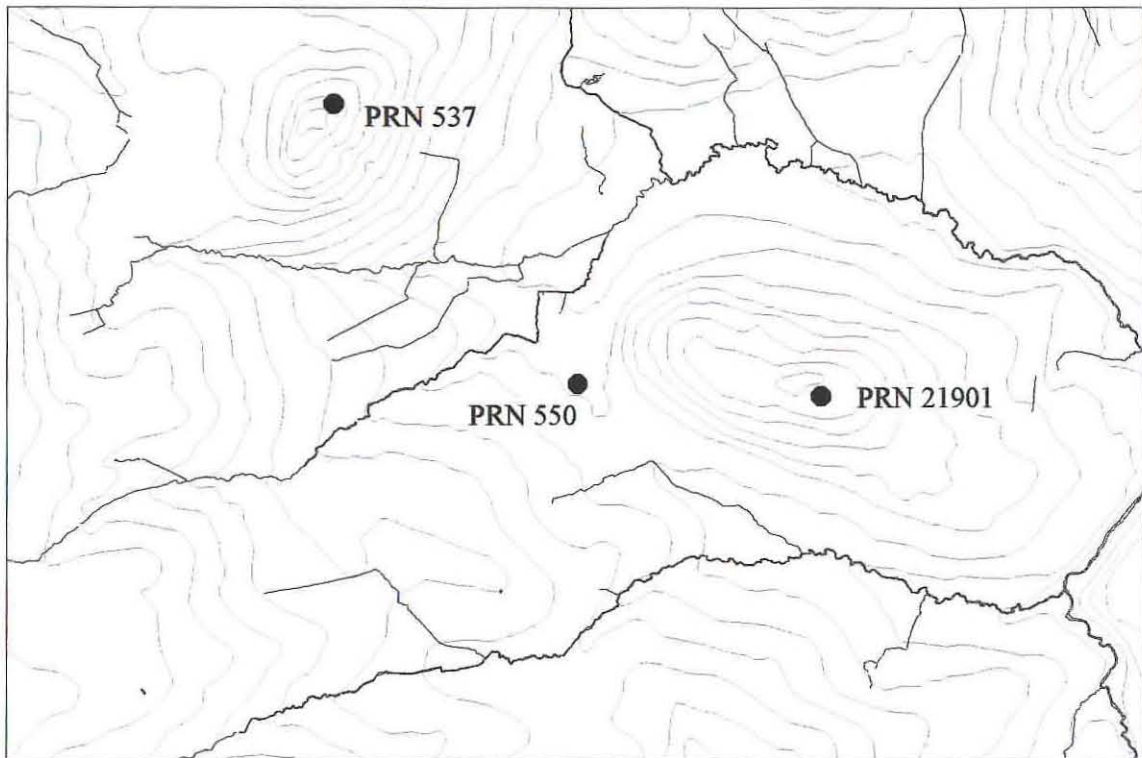
*Height:* 168mOD

*Location:*

HER: 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 SO 11253052 by CPAT site visit, 1979.

CPAT: unless there is any good reason to consider to the contrary, the name should refer to the earthwork cited as PRN 21901





PRN 550 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**Park Farm Enclosure**

SN9430029822

SN92NW

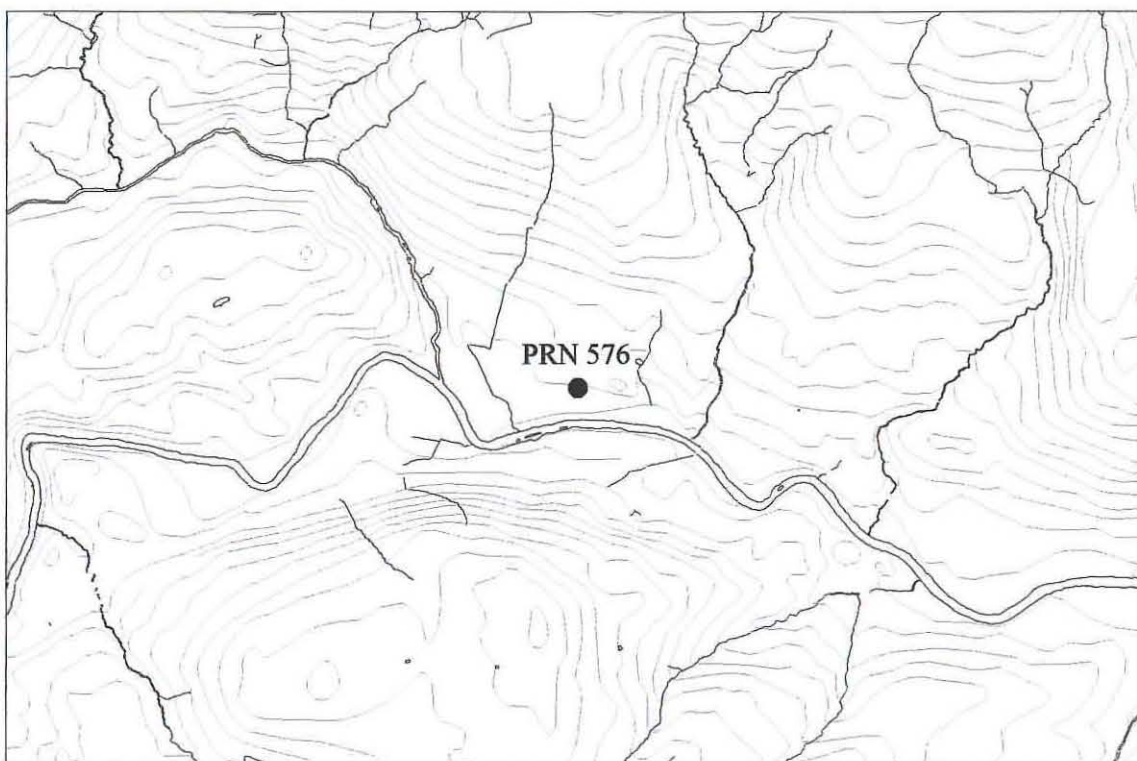
Scheduled No:

*Type:* Enclosure*Date:* Medieval ?*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* 0.15 ha*Height:* 175mOD*Location:* Hillslope

Visited

HER: ploughed down sub oval platform 46m by 36m with 28m long bank defining W edge sited on S facing slope (RCAHM). Poss a much degraded hillslope enclosure.

CPAT: the enclosure is located on the northern slopes of Park Farm, above the River Usk, 2 miles north-east of Pontsenni (NGR SN 94300 29822). The site lies within improved pasture, bounded on the east by birch woodland and to the south the River Usk. The enclosure, heavily eroded from ploughing, has been set into the base of a south-facing slope, and in effect forms a sub-oval platform approximately 52m east to west and 30m north to south. There is no discernible bank evident on the south facing apron. The western scarp is 28m in length by 8m wide and stands to a height of 0.2m (where it is evident). The eastern scarp is 36m long by 5m wide and about 0.2m high (although much of the line of the bank can only be assumed). The northern edge comprises the steep slope. Internally, located on the western side, there is evidence of a small platform, 8m wide, with an east-facing apron, though this could be a geological feature. This much degraded hillslope enclosure appears fairly non-defensive and may be medieval in origin (CPAT 2007)



**PRN 576 site location, scaled at 1:25,000**

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**PRN: 577**

**Blaen Camlais Fawr Enclosure**

SN94682632

SN92NW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Enclosure ?

*Date:* Prehistoric ?

*Form:* Document

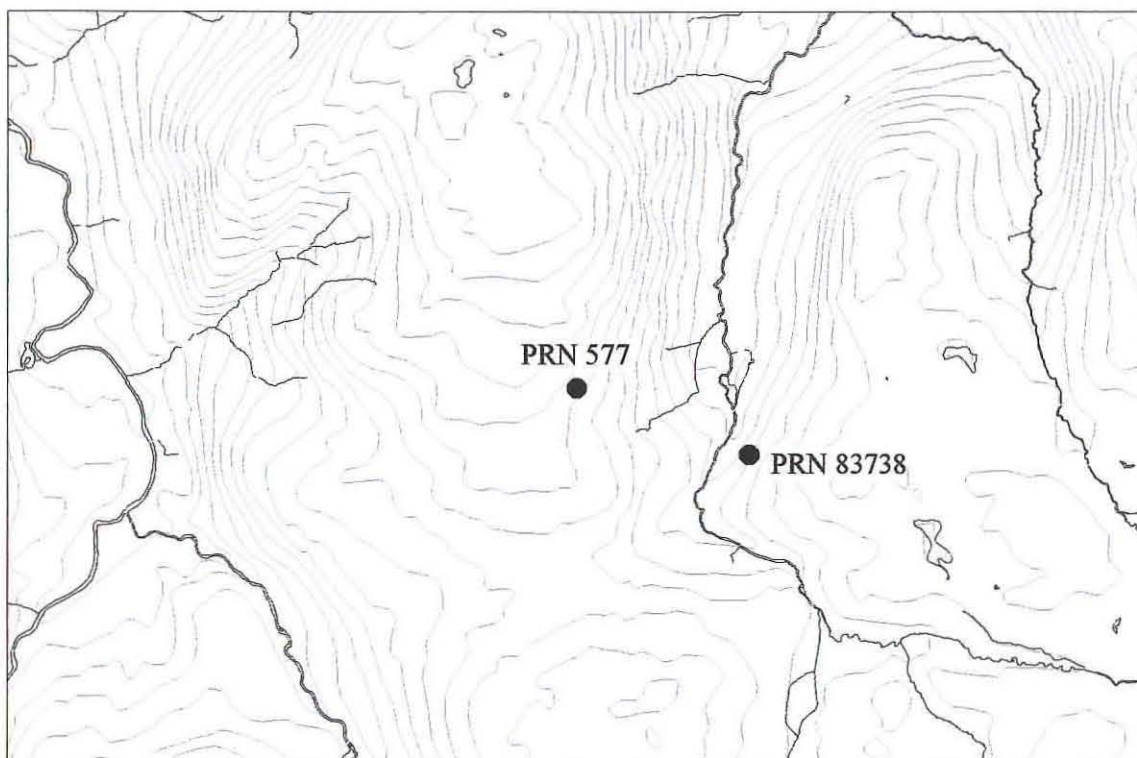
*Area:* ha

*Height:* 310mOD

*Location:*

HER: ploughed out enclosure (RCAHM). No such feature now apparent (OS, 1976; CPAT site visit, 1981). No further detail.

CPAT: the RCAHMW archives claimed a possible ploughed-out enclosure at this spot, although there is no indication of their source of information. No such feature was apparent on the ground either to the Ordnance Survey in 1976 or to CPAT in 1981, and it seems unlikely that more than twenty-five years on, a further site visit would be likely to alter this picture.



PRN 577 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 622**

**Slwch Tump Enclosure**

SO051287

SO02NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended Enclosure ?

*Date:* Iron Age ?

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* ha

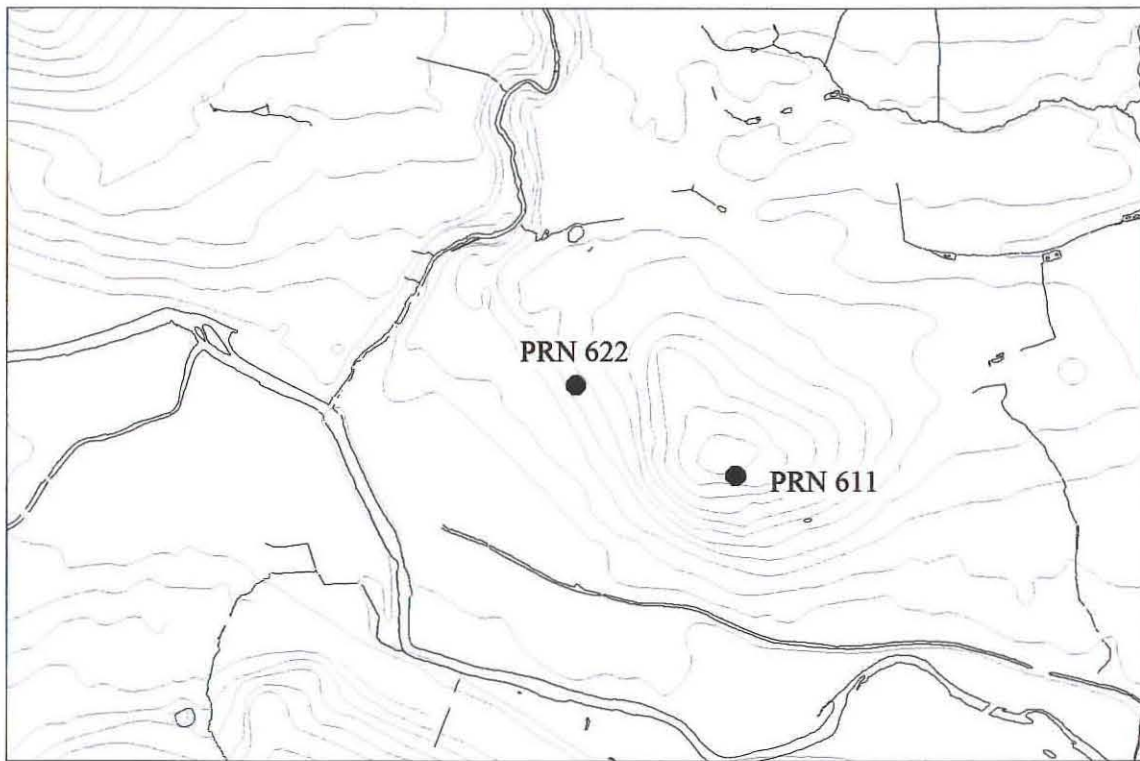
*Height:* 175mOD

*Location:*

HER: a univallate enclosure some 20m by 11m defined by a bank, 1m high inside and 2m outside. Sited on the hillslope of Slwch Tump. Part of the bank destroyed by a modern field at the north-east.

CPAT Assessment: none of the available RAF aerial photographs were of any assistance in identifying this site.





PRN 622 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**Ty Helyg Enclosure**

SO15122241

SO12SE

Scheduled No: Br271(POW)

*Type:* Enclosure*Date:* Bronze Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* ha*Height:* 290mOD*Location:* Natural terrace

Visited

HER: an area of linear quarrying with associated spoil banks and natural stone outcrops (OS 1978). It had formerly been noted as an ovoid enclosure 65m NW/SE by 50m NE/SW. Not an antiquity according to the OS.

Seen by RCAHMW during fieldwork for the Brecknock Inventory (D. Leighton: pers comm.).

Visited on 11 February 1998 during the Black Mountains survey. Ovoid enclosure on slightly S sloping shelf overlooking Bwlch village. Bank which defines enclosure is present on W, N, and E sides and measures c.6m wide x 0.4m high with stone protruding through surface. No evidence of bank on S side where the crest of the S facing scarp has been subjected to later quarrying. Bulldozed modern track runs adjacent to N end.

Independently recognised by G Makepeace in May 1998 and planned (Makepeace 1998, 103). Scheduled as Br271(POW). For some reason also recorded as PRN 13258 where it is called Greenlane Enclosure.

CPAT: the enclosure occupies almost level ground abutting the slope that drops down to Bwlch village and overlooking in the distance the Usk Valley. The broad shelf extend behind and to the east of the enclosure.

The enclosure is D-shaped and consists of a bank which curves around at both its W and E ends to abut the natural scarp slope on the S side. Makepeace suggests that although there has been extensive quarrying along that S edge, there is no good evidence to indicate that the enclosure bank was originally constructed along it. The bank is built of rubble stone, in places held in by kerb slabs, and is fairly low, so much so that once the bracken has sprouted it is not at all easy to plot its course. Furthermore there are places where it is better condition than other parts. Makepeace suggested that it was 4-5m wide and around 0.25m high (the present writer gauged the width as 5.7m and the height as 0.3m). A single entrance exists on the NE. Makepeace was unable to identify any features in the interior but suggested that stone might have been cleared from the surface to create the bank. The plan suggest that the enclosure is about 76m in maximum width from E to W, and 66m from N to S, while Cadw claim its dimensions as 80m by 70m.

**PRN: 734**

**Banc Glyn Gyrnant Enclosure**

SN86204650

SN84NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Hillfort ?

*Date:* Iron Age ?

*Form:* Document

*Area:* ha

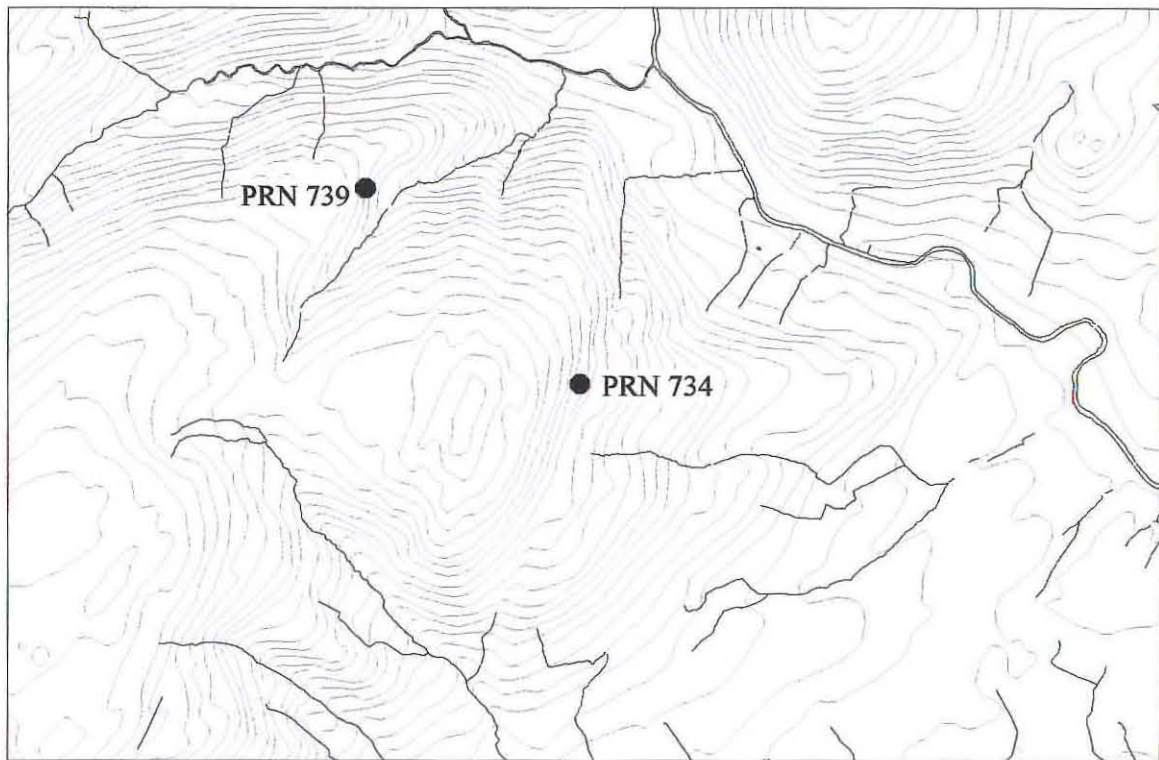
*Height:* 404mOD

*Location:*

HER: circular enclosure on summit of small hill (RAF, AP, 1960). Site under dense afforestation and no such feature now apparent (OS, 1975; CPAT site visit, 1979).

CPAT Assessment: nothing could be identified on the one early aerial photograph available for examination (F21 58RAF3618/0308). It should be noted however that the NGR given does not tie in with the stated topography for the nearest hill is 400m to the west.





**PRN 734 site location, scaled at 1:25,000**

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**PRN: 738**

**Pen y Ddinas Placename**

**SN85994800**

**SN84NE**

**Scheduled No:**

*Type:* Hillfort ?

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Placename

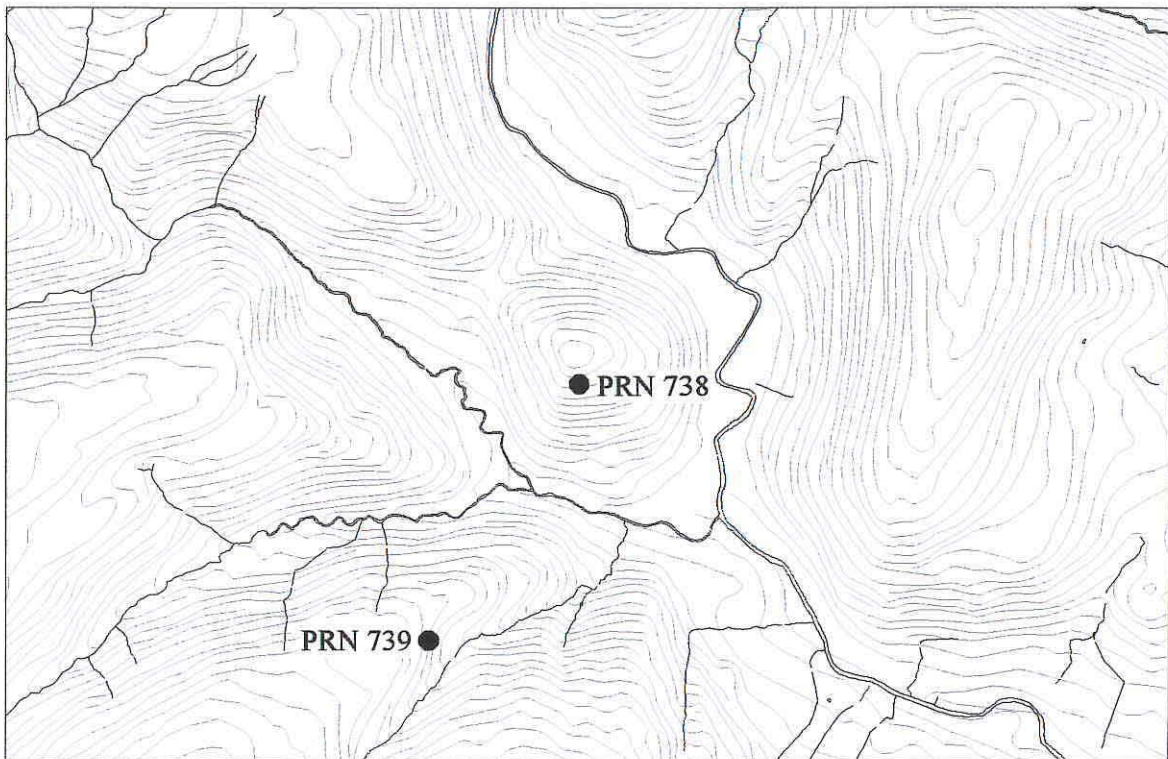
*Area:* ha

*Height:* 320mOD

*Location:*

HER: name suggestive of a defended site. No such feature apparent on this afforested hill (OS, 1975; CPAT site visit, 1979). See also par 739.

CPAT Assessment: a vertical aerial photograph of reasonably good quality (RAF 540/498/3020) showed absolutely nothing of significance in this area prior to afforestation. However, one should commend the location for its defensive potential.

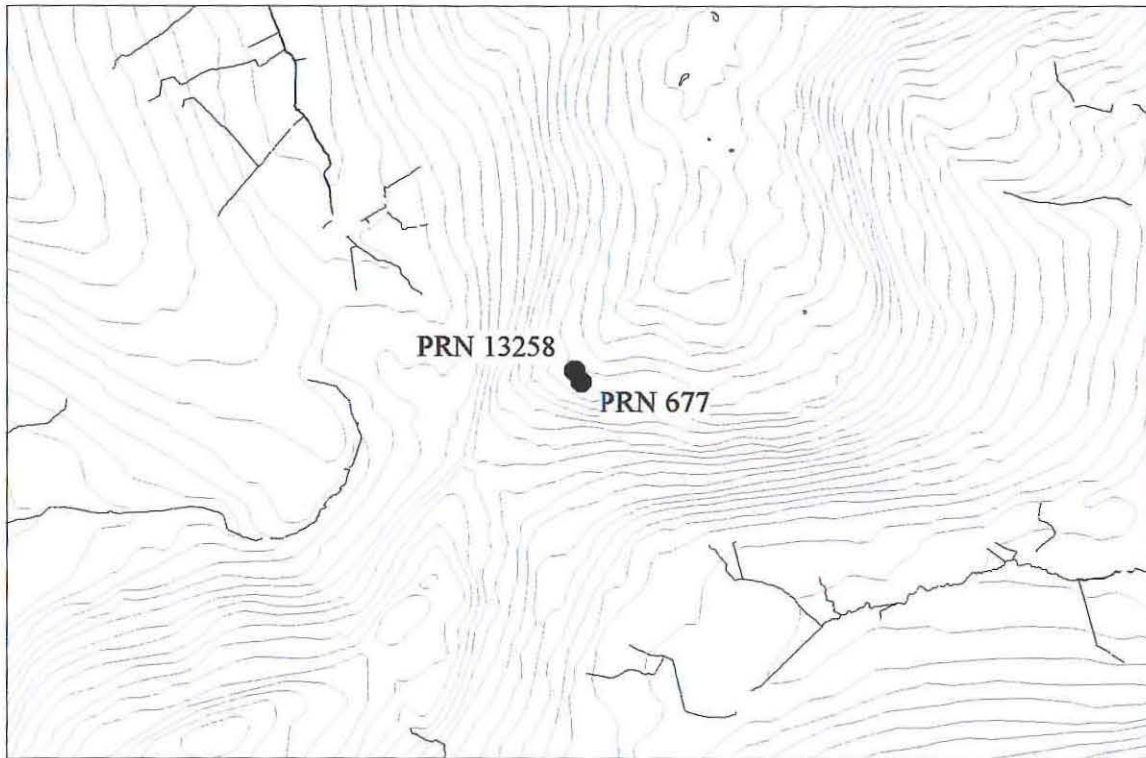


PRN 738 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN 677 site location, scaled at 1:25,000**

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**PRN: 739**

**Banc y Ddinas Placename**

SN85504715

SN84NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Hillfort ?

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Placename

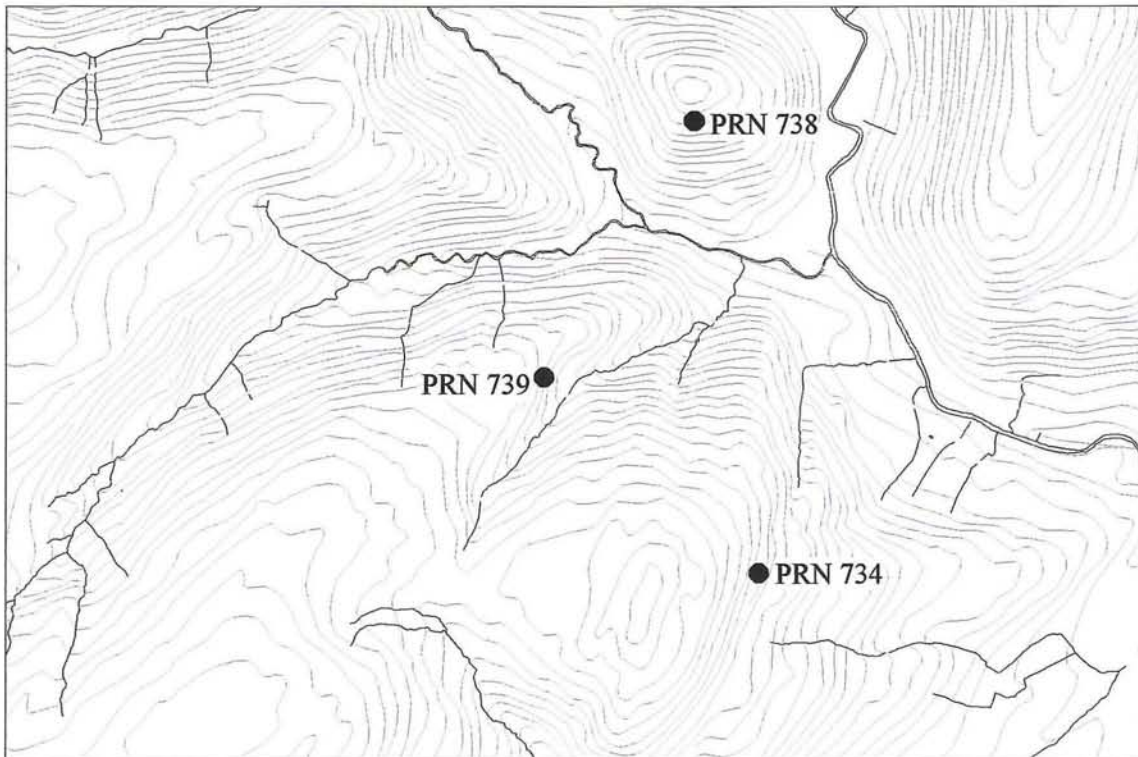
*Area:* ha

*Height:* 427mOD

*Location:*

HER: name suggestive of poss defened site. No such site apparent in this densely afforested area (OS, 1976).  
See also PAR 738.

CPAT Assessment: a vertical aerial photograph of reasonably good quality (RAF 540/498/3020) showed absolutely nothing of significance prior to afforestation, though the location is a potentially defensible spur.



PRN 739 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 791**

**Castell Du Placename**

**SN84442887**

**SN82NW**

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Hillfort ?

*Date:* Iron Age ?

*Form:* Placename

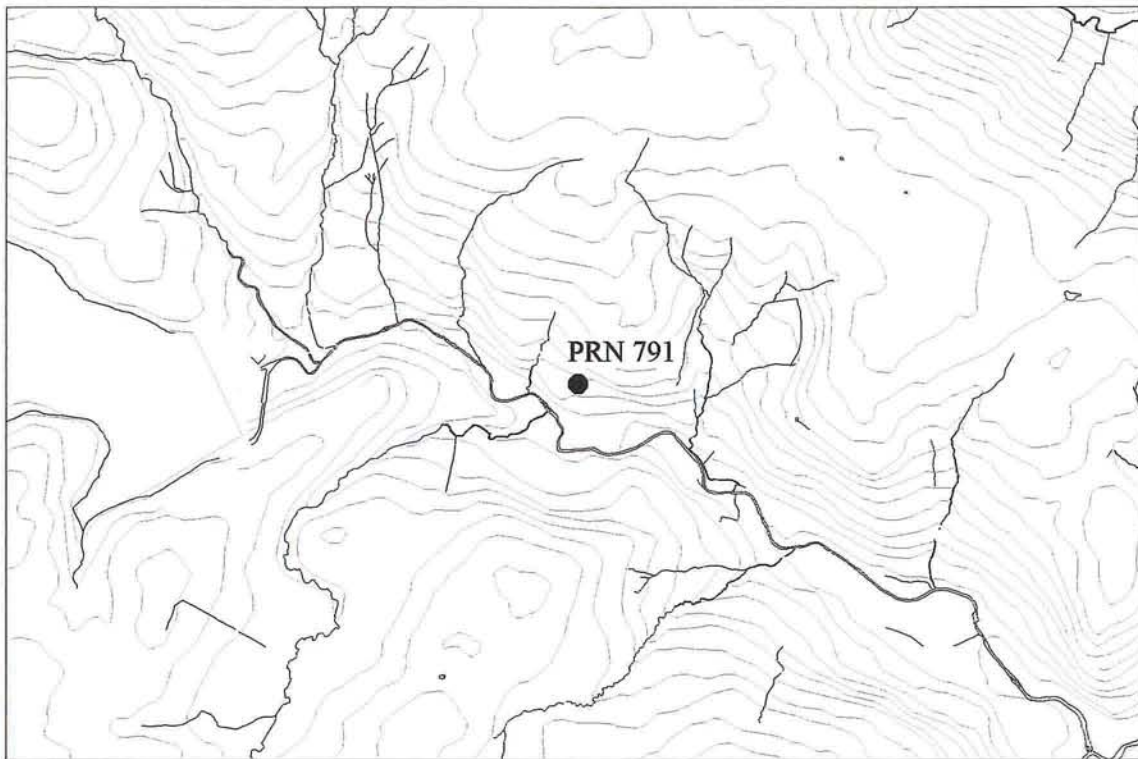
*Area:* ha

*Height:* 290mOD

*Location:*

HER: place-name suggestive of a defended site. No such feature noted by OS, 1976; CPAT site visit, 1981.

CPAT Assessment: as with Castell Manest (PRN 457), this record appears to have originated during a desk-top search of the Ordnance Survey 6" maps of 1964 by the Archaeological Division of that organisation. Nothing of interest was apparent either to the Ordnance Survey in 1976 or to CPAT in 1981, and it seems unlikely that more than twenty-five years on, a further site visit is likely to alter this picture.



PRN 791 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 948**

**Blaen Fernant Cropmark**

SO05314546

SO04NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Enclosure ?

*Date:* Unknown

*Form:* Cropmark

*Area:* ha

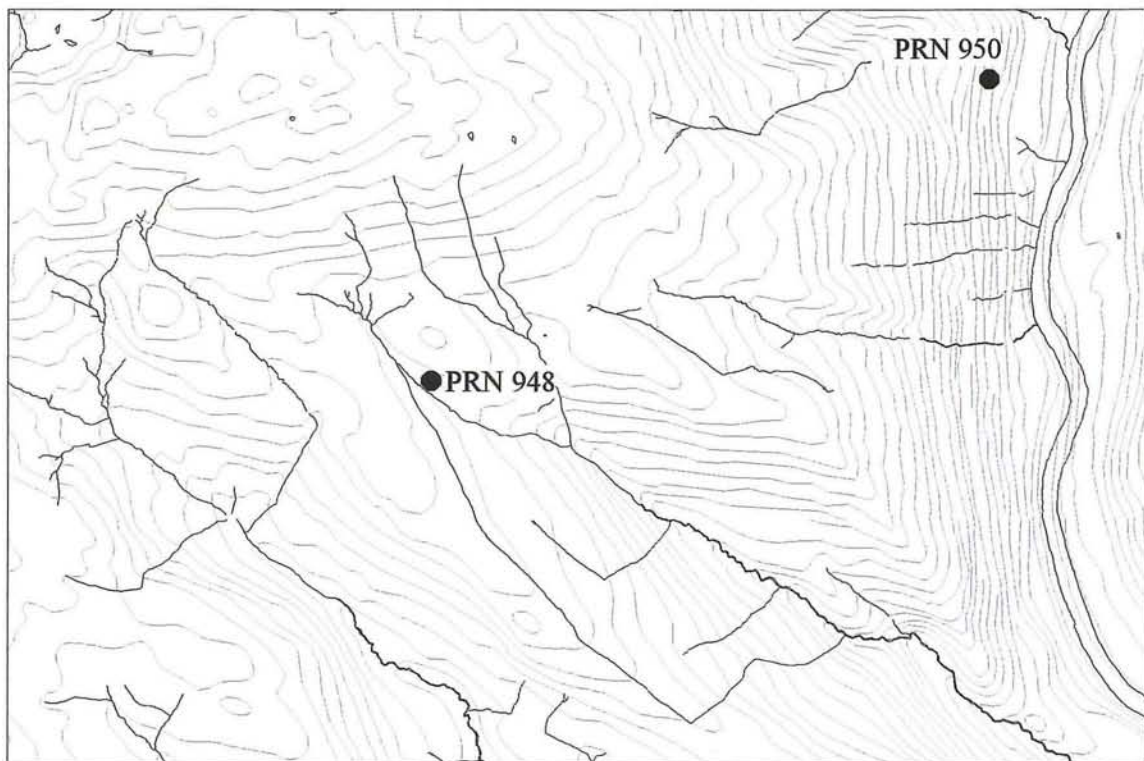
*Height:* 385mOD

*Location:*

HER: a vague circular cropmark, some 50m across (RAF AP, 1946), lying on a steep south-east-facing slope. Site invisible on ground (OS 1980).

CPAT Assessment: the existing RAF APs showed nothing of interest, although the eye of faith can make out A. H. A. Hogg's faint circular mark. But in all fairness, the APs he examined are not now available. A field visit is unlikely to assist in confirming the integrity of this site.





PRN 948 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 950**

**Maes y Gaer Placename**

SO07154646

SO04NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Hillfort ?

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Placename

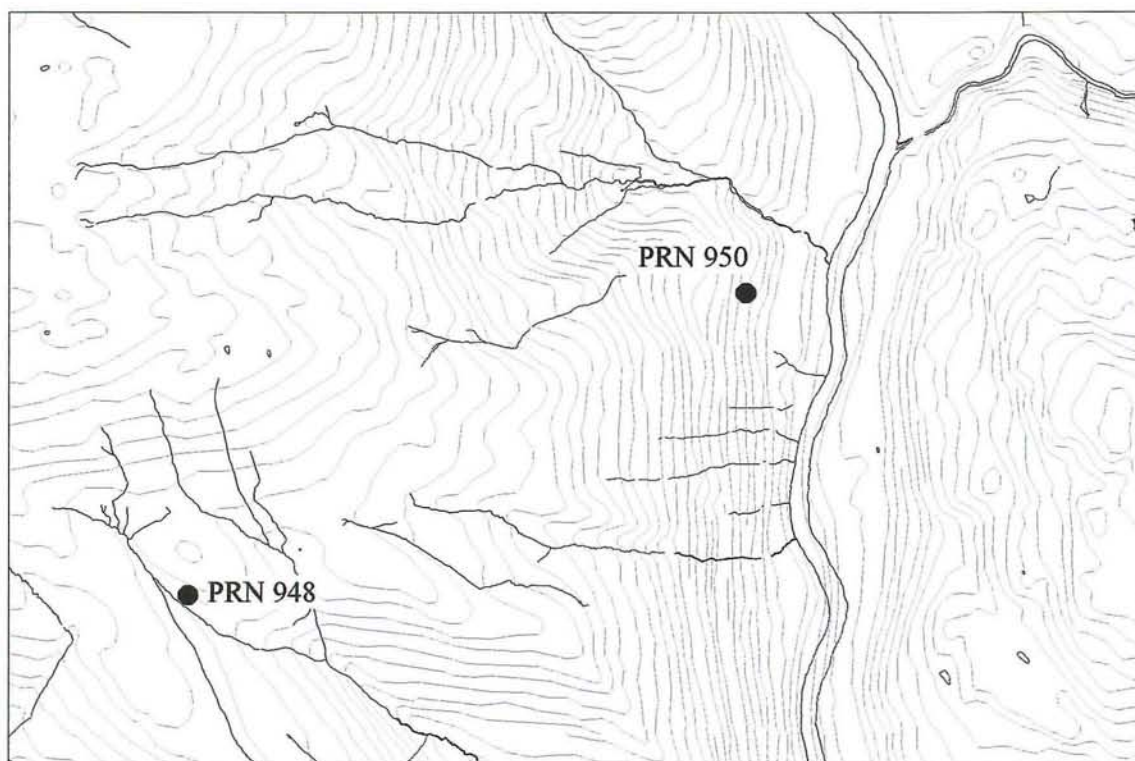
*Area:* ha

*Height:* 175mOD

*Location:*

HER: name suggests defended site. No further detail.

CPAT Assessment: the HER reflects that the name suggests a defended site, but gives not further detail. The available RAF aerial photographs were checked as part of the present study but showed nothing of interest. Our only suggestion to progress this is that the field names on the Tithe Apportionment might be worth checking, something which has not yet been done.



PRN 950 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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Dyffryn Nedd settlement, enclosure

SN91371278

SN91SW

Scheduled No: Br188(POW)

*Type:* Defended enclosure ?*Date:* Iron Age ?*Form:* Structure*Area:* 0.06 ha*Height:* 285mOD*Location:*

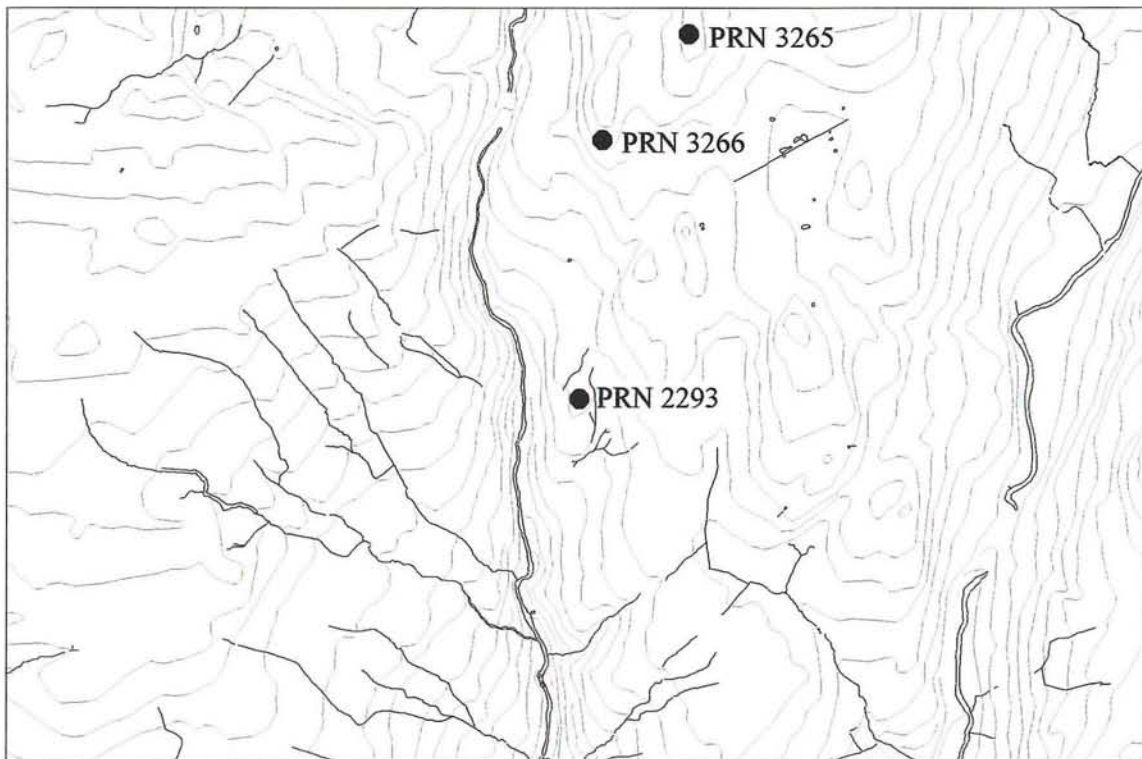
HER: oval univallate enclosure some 22.9m N-S by 18.3m wide. Prob orthostatic limestone facing on S side. W and E sides reduced. 1m wide entrance in SW. Occupies ridge top position. Visited by CPAT (CRM separately from CPAT site visit, 1981) and by RCAM (SB) during 1981 but no record available to CPAT (CHRM 21\5\85). Threatened destruction May-June 1985 resulting in scheduling.

RCAHMW: (US 68;Fig. 112a) On the level summit of a poorly-drained slight ridge 290 m above O.D. to the N.E. of DYFFRYN NEDD farmhouse and on the E. of the AFON NEDD, lies an oval enclosure (US 68 i) associated with a series of fugitive field walls of presumed agricultural origin. The enclosure measures 23 m (N.-S.) by 21 m internally and it is bounded by a boulder-based wall up to 2.5 wide and 0.5 m high. Some boulders are up to 1 m in diameter. For part of its course on the W., the wall appears to take advantage of a natural rock outcrop. and on its northern boundary, the earlier enclosure is incorporated into a later field wall, where it can be distinguished by the presence of boulder orthostats and a turf with rubble infill.

O.S.Card SN 91 SW 18

R.E. Kay in lit. to R.C.A.M., 17 vi 71.

RCAHMW, 1995 - Draft Inventory description



PRN 2293 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 2348**

**Cae'r Castell Placename**

**SN78920950**

**SN70NE**

**Scheduled No:**

*Type:* Hillfort ?

*Date:* Iron Age ?

*Form:* Document

*Area:* ha

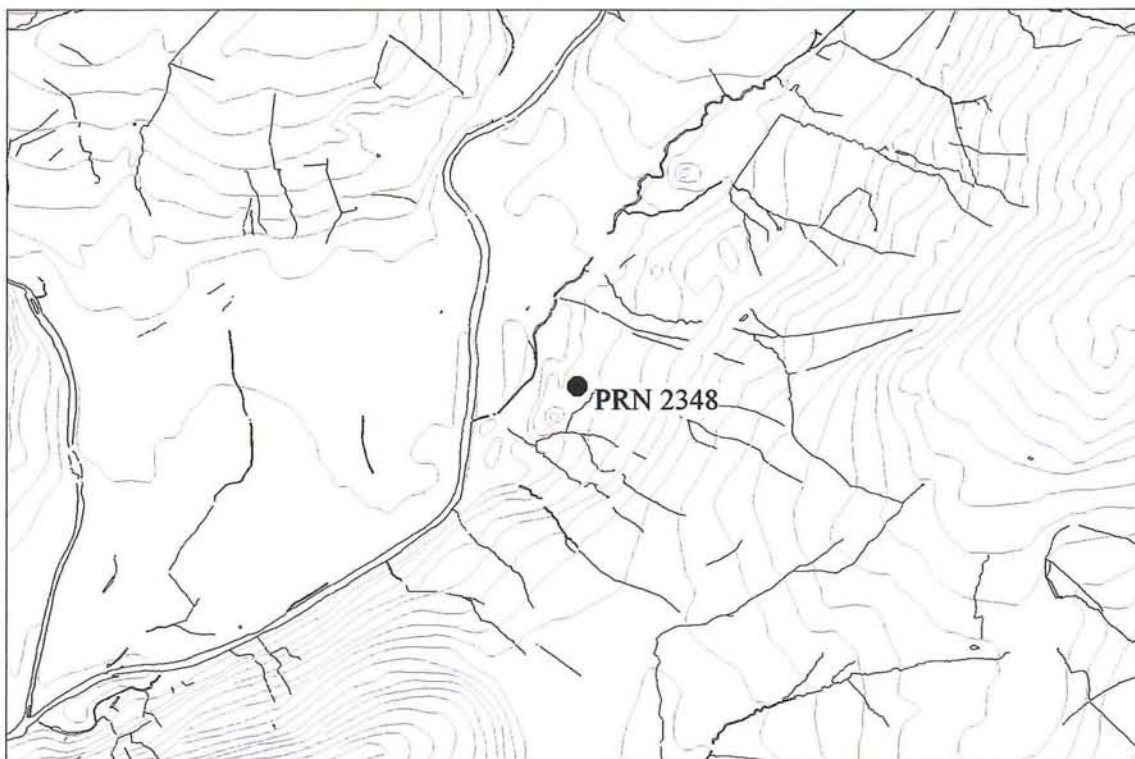
*Height:* 95mOD

*Location:*

The HER has a rather mixed record on the one hand indicating an earthwork of indeterminate type, while a field visit of 1981 noted nothing of archaeological interest, and on the other suggesting that it was a place-name only, and that there were no archaeological features.

CPAT Assessment: one aerial photograph - RAF/CPE/UK/1997/4403-4 (13 April 1947) - indicates spoil heaps in the immediately surrounding area and their presence implies very little archaeological potential. It was considered that this record did not look worth pursuing in the field.





PRN 2348 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 2676**

**Garth, enclosure**

SN9500649585

SN94NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Enclosure

*Date:* Unknown

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* ha

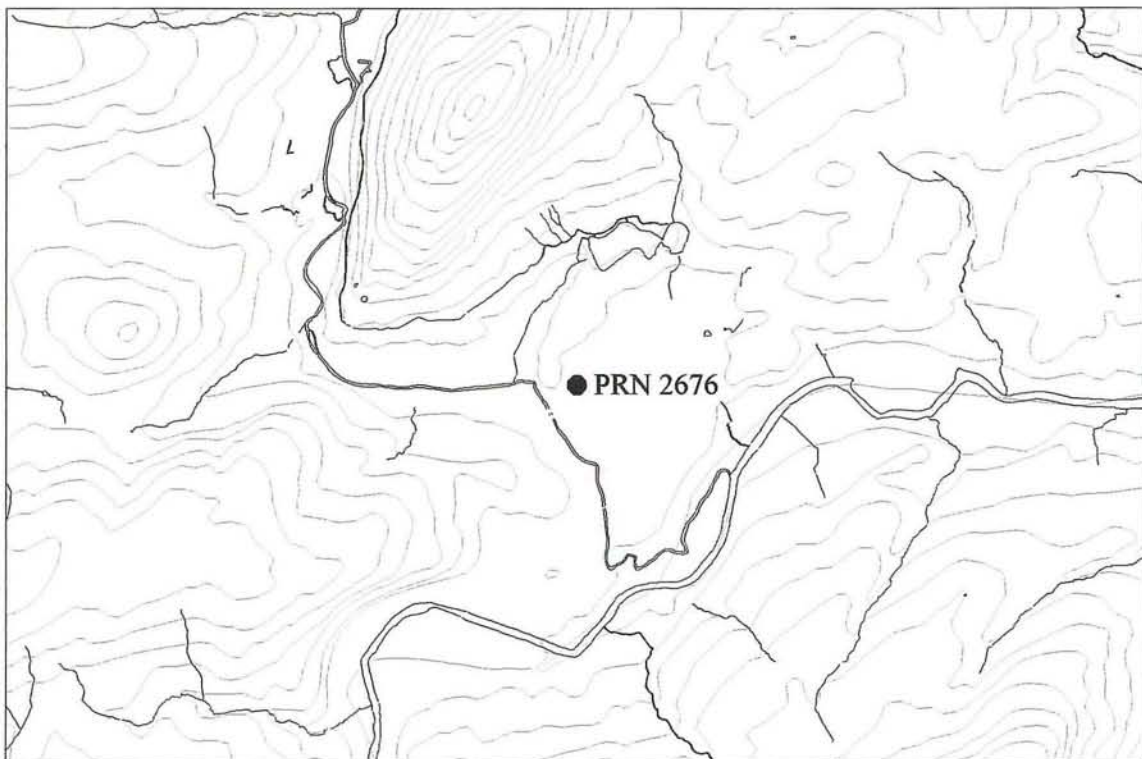
*Height:* 170mOD

*Location:* valley bottom

Visited

HER: a semi-circular boundary enclosing the northern part of the settlement, and is also reflected on the southern side of the road, although this section is incomplete.

CPAT Assessment: the high level vertical APs add nothing to this, other than confirming its presence. It was difficult to determine the nature of the site from the surviving remains. The area to the N of the road is affected variously by a track leading to Garth House and activity associated with the dwellings within the enclosure. There are hints that it may once have been embanked. There are some irregularities in the field to the S of the road, including a little ridging, but not enough to confirm that an enclosure extended into this area. The area is roughly 100m in diameter.



PRN 2676 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 2690**

**Rhosferig Boundary**

SO0165552087

SO05SW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Field boundary ?

*Date:* Medieval ?

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* ha

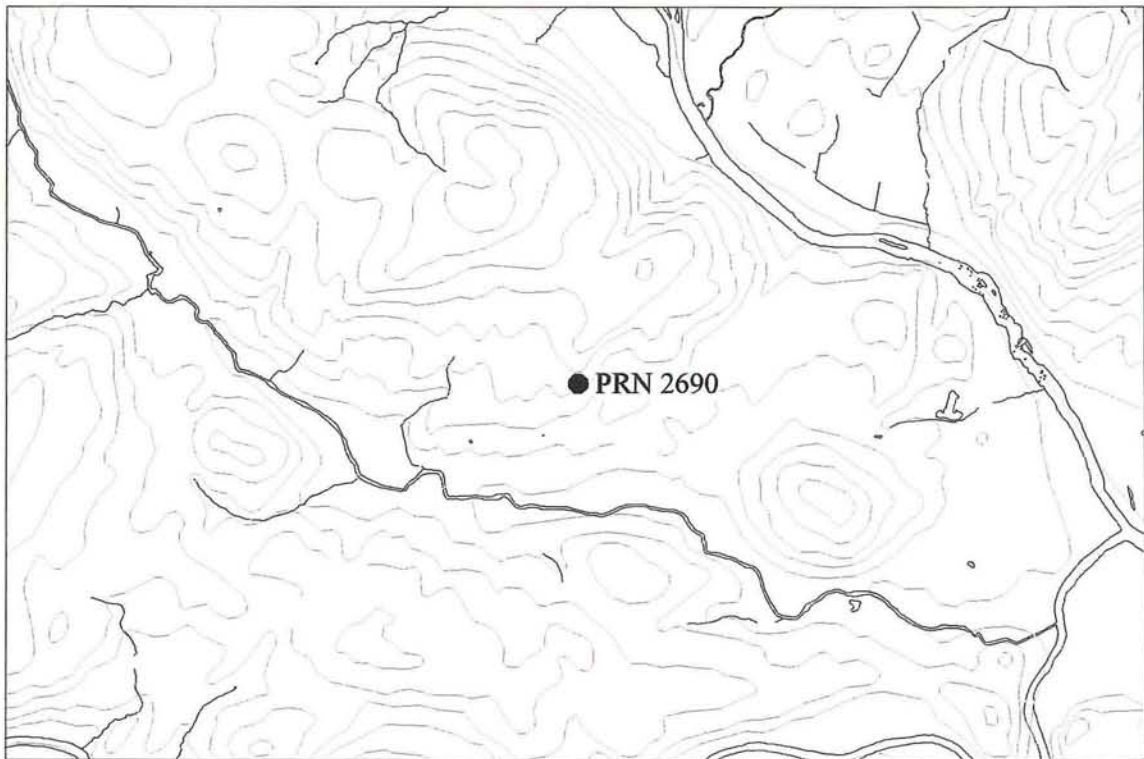
*Height:* 170mOD

*Location:*

Visited

HER: the 1842 Tithe survey shows that Rhosferig Fawr Farm was formerly bounded on the east by a sub-semi-circular boundary which was no longer apparent at the time that the record was made. The shape of this boundary suggested that it might just be the remnant of an earlier enclosure.

CPAT: there is now no certain trace of the boundary seen on the Tithe map. Slight earthworks to the north-east of the house are probably related to a farm track. It may be that the boundary enclosed the present garden of the house but there is no evidence of a bank in this position either. At best this site is unproven.



PRN 2690 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 3055**

**Cwm Gwrgi Enclosure**

SN98984781

SN94NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Enclosure ?

*Date:* Unknown

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* ha

*Height:* 419mOD

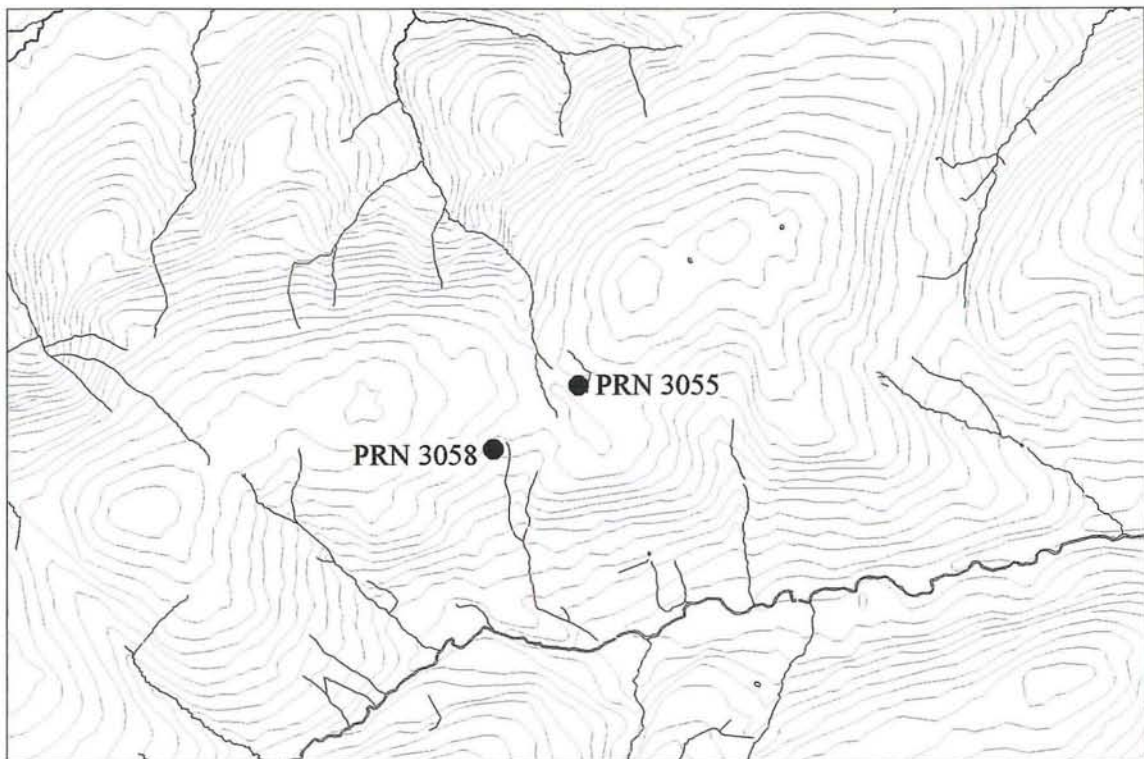
*Location:*

Visited

HER: possible enclosure (OS 1964). No such feature visible to CPAT site visit in 1979. No further detail.

CPAT Assessment: examination of a vertical aerial photo (RAF/ 106G/UK/1471/3122 from 1946) suggests a possible hollowed feature at SN 9892 4800, though this was not particularly convincing as an enclosure. A field visit in April 2006 confirmed CPAT's earlier observation that there was no evidence of an enclosure in the field at the NGR given. This portion of the field had been fairly heavily improved and some agricultural ridging is visible, though at the time of the site visit the vegetation was reverting. To the E is a field where there has not been any improvement for a long period and tussock grass is in the ascendancy. However there was nothing visible in this either.





PRN 3055 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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Caer Mynach Enclosure

SN987476

SN94NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Enclosure ?

*Date:* Unknown

*Form:* Document

*Area:* ha

*Height:* 396mOD

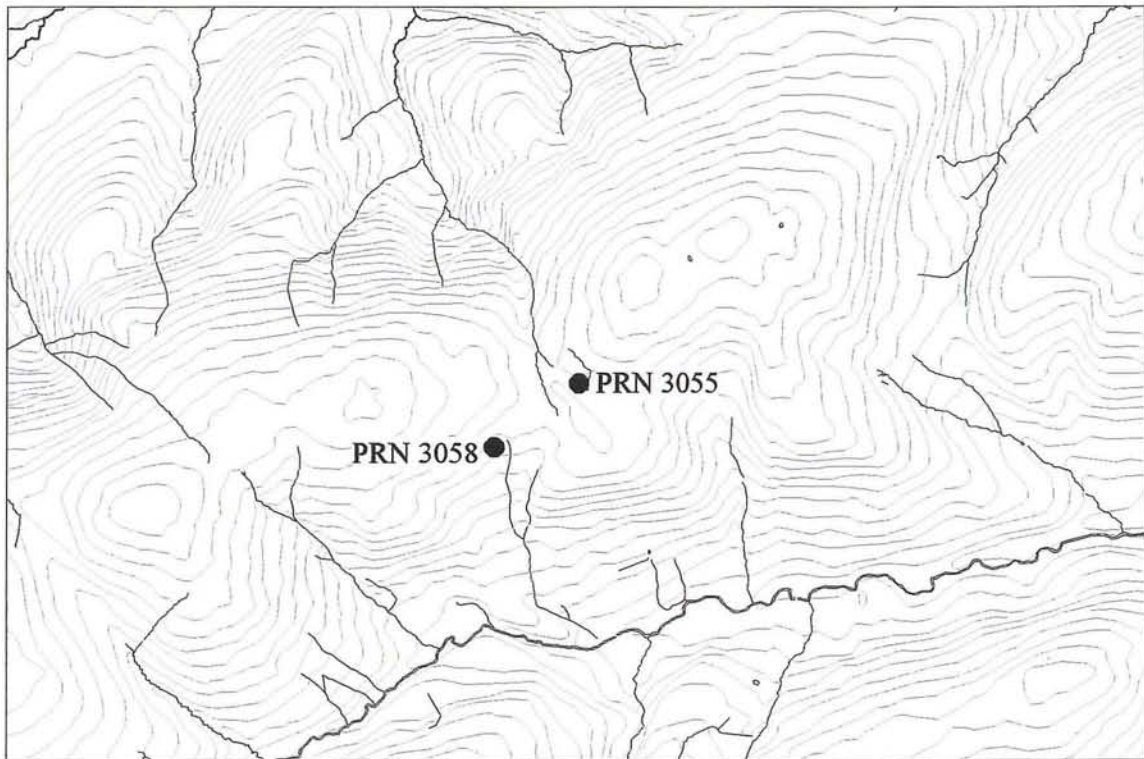
*Location:*

Visited

HER: possible enclosure (OS 1964). No such feature visible to CPAT site visit, 1979. No further detail.

CPAT Assessment: a vertical aerial photo (RAF/106G/UK/1471/3123) does appear to show a dark, near circular, mark set in the corner of a field at SN 9873 4751. This does not show on other later photos and is not convincing. There is also a much larger relict enclosure boundary meandering around the north side of the post-medieval farmstead.

As noted the NGR embraces a small abandoned farmstead. Access to this area had previously been refused by the owner of Neuadd during the earlier DRS survey. However, it was possible to overlook the site from the adjacent military range. The area has been heavily improved and there is a large flat-bottomed platform and several relict banks. It seems likely that most of the features noted on early APs relate to this farm, and although the possibility of an earlier settlement cannot be entirely ruled out rather more substantive evidence is needed before it can be accepted as such.



PRN 3058 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 3064**

**Cynala Uchaf Oval Enclosure**

SN92044427

SN94SW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Enclosure ?

*Date:* Unknown

*Form:* Document

*Area:* ha

*Height:* 357mOD

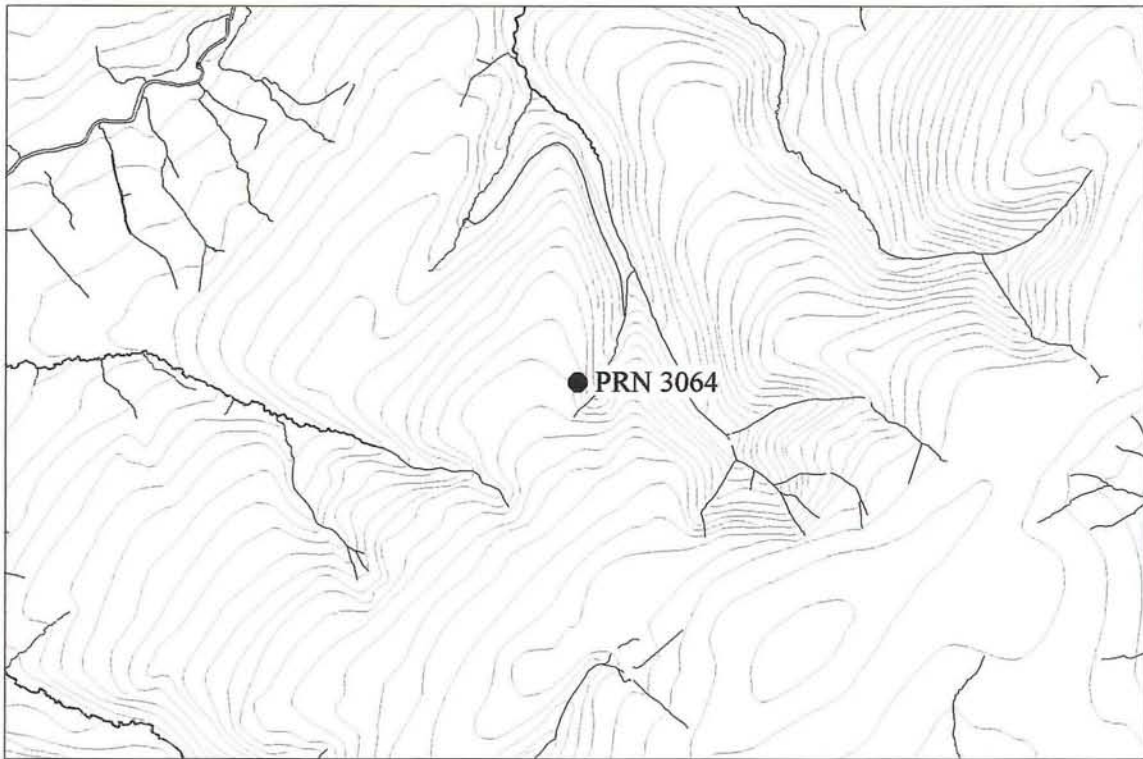
*Location:* hill slope

Visited

HER: a faint oval - AP 6110 (OS, 1976, citing RCAHMW archive, ). No such feature apparent to the OS field investigator in 1976. No further detail.

CPAT Assessment: RAF AP 106G/UK/1471/6111 (4 May 1946) does show the faint oval, up against the then boundary of the field and running under it southwards to the lip of the scarp. The NGR has been amended to the best possible fit.

Fieldwork failed to detect any visible trace on the ground of the enclosure at the given location. The field has been improved and the site may have been destroyed as a result. Another possibility is that a small rill runs towards the ravine from the W. It describes a slight curve and this may have formed part of an oval mark on the AP source.



**PRN 3064 site location, scaled at 1:25,000**

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**PRN: 3111**

**Abercriban Enclosure**

SN95643936

SN93NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Enclosure ?

*Date:* Unknown

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* ha

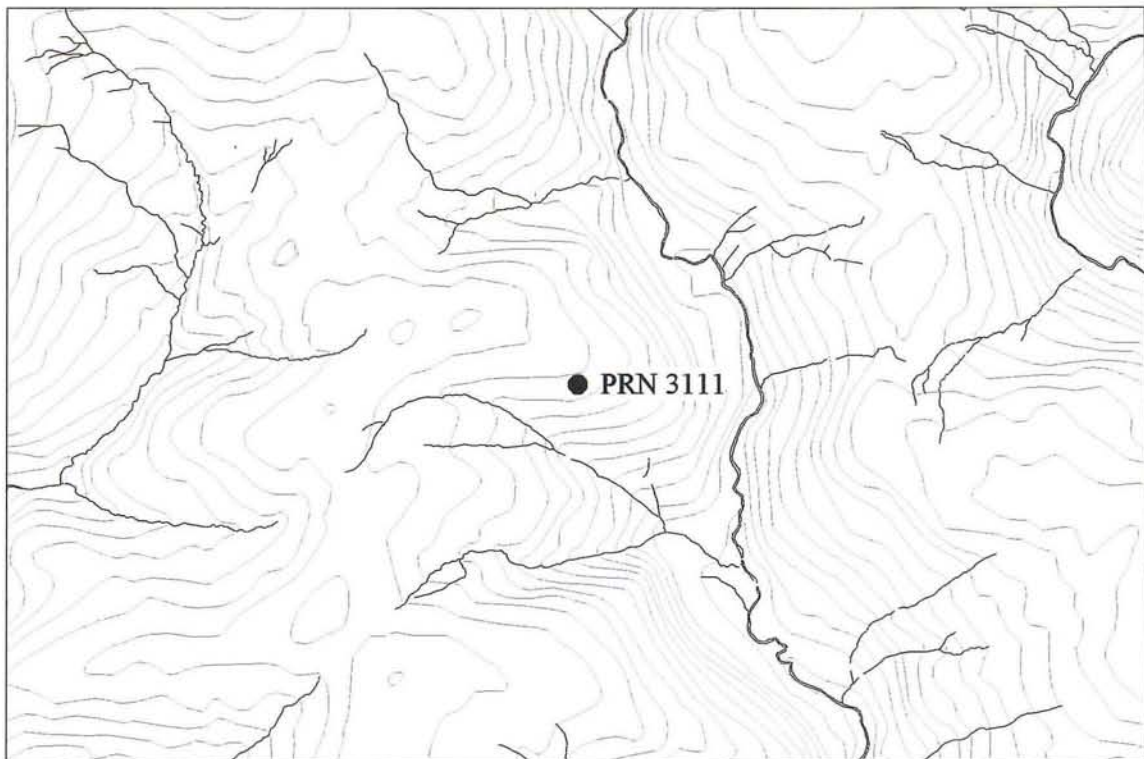
*Height:* 381mOD

*Location:*

HER: possible enclosure (RCAHMW archive ). Area now ploughed and any remains probably destroyed (OS 1976). No further detail.

CPAT Assessment: a 1960 RAF photo (F42 58/RAF/3916/0065; 7 November 1960) confirms the ploughing and that nothing was then visible. Nothing was visible either on a 1946 RAF photo, and this generally confirms the Ordnance Survey Field Investigator's findings (or lack of them) in 1976.





PRN 3111 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 3236**

**Pen Fathor Isaf Cropmark**

**SN94641623**

**SN91NW**

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Enclosure ?

*Date:* Unknown

*Form:* Cropmark

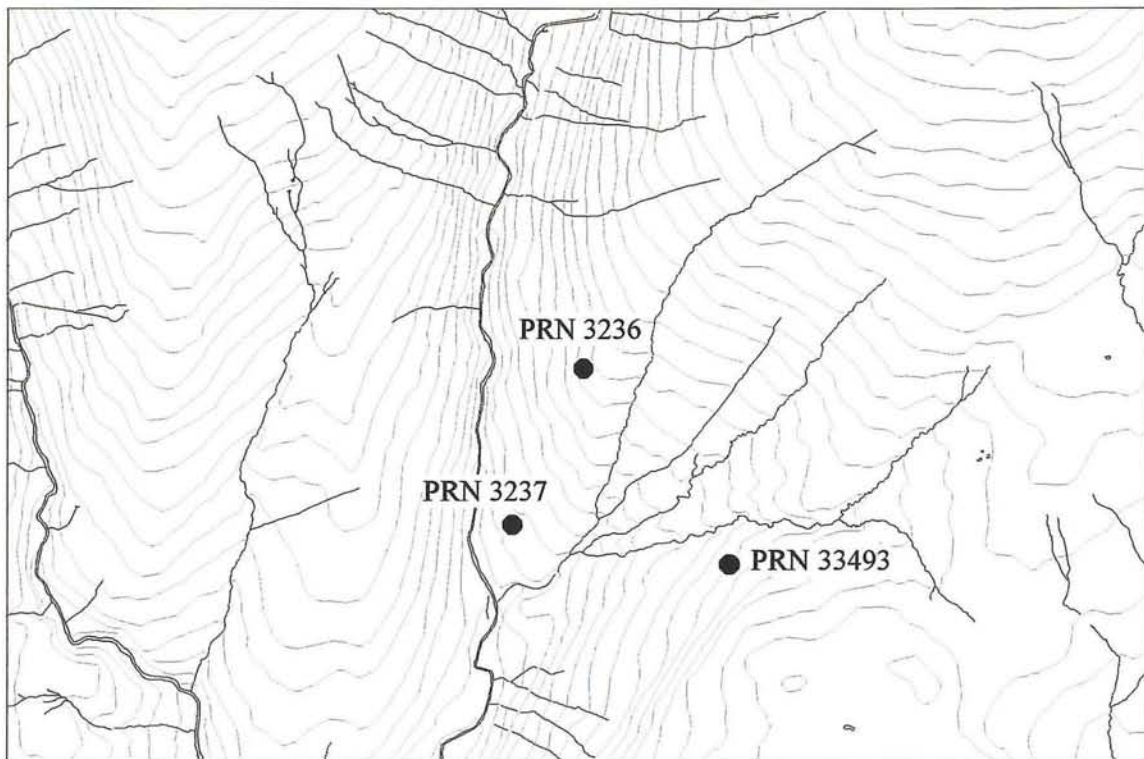
*Area:* ha

*Height:* 410mOD

*Location:*

HER: this was stated by the HER to be an enclosure, some 42m by 11m in its dimensions as seen on an RAF photo of 1947. It could not be detected on the ground by CPAT in 1981 nor perhaps in 2003, while the RCAHMW also visited it, perhaps in the 1980s and recorded it as a U-shaped enclosure recognisable on aerial photographs (US48) on the spur between Afon Dringarth and Nant yr Esgyrn, about 430 m OD, but could not locate it in field survey.

CPAT Assessment: our re-examination of the same aerial photographs (RAF CPE/UK 2079/4103-4; 19 May 1947) which were taken in extremely good lighting conditions shows a faint line which could be made into a rectangular enclosure, yet it is not wholly convincing. A previous examiner of the AP had highlighted the site in chinagraph. The appearance of the feature was in contrast to the much clearer image of another potential enclosure (PRN 3237) to the south. On the basis of both the photographic observations and the failure of previous fieldworkers to identify any archaeology, it was not felt that a site visit would be particularly productive.



PRN 3236 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 3237**

**Pen Fathor Isaf Enclosure I**

SN94401571

SN91NW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Enclosure ?

*Date:* Unknown

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* ha

*Height:* 320mOD

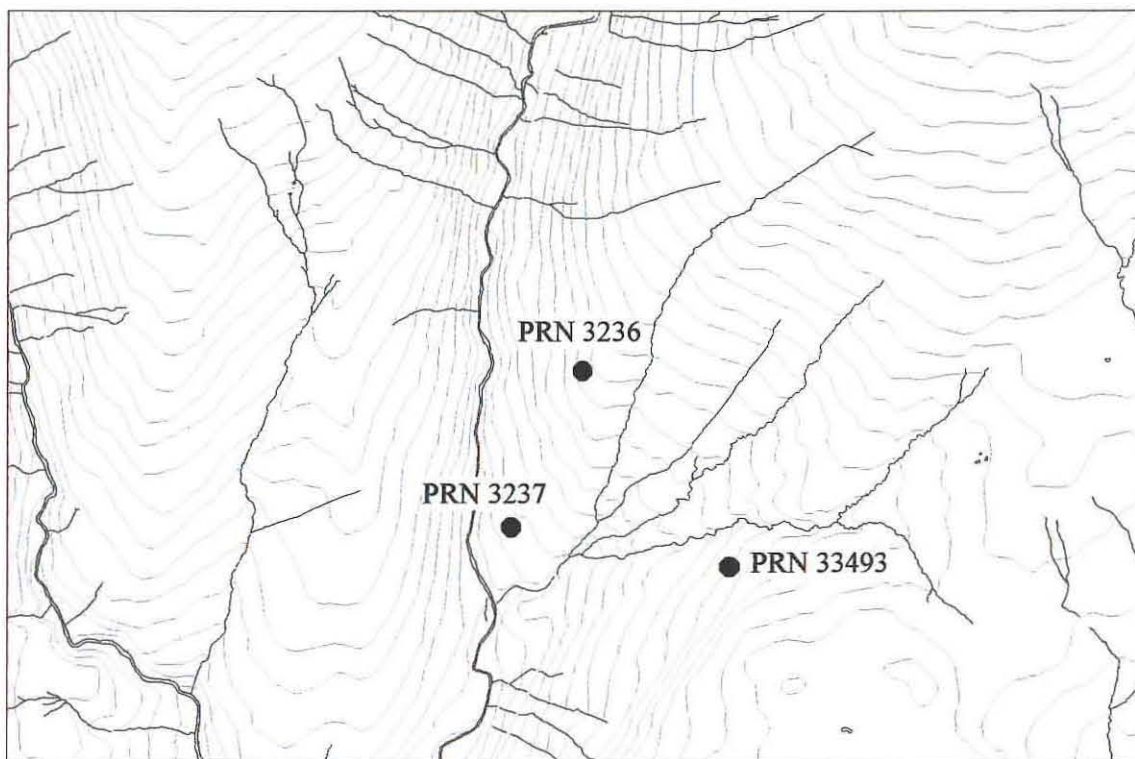
*Location:*

Visited

HER: univallate rectangular enclosure (OS, 1964). No further detail though circular ditch apparently surrounding raised area sporting different vegetation (seen from adjacent land by CPAT site visit, 1981) may indicate enclosure site.

CPAT Assessment: examination of the same aerial photographs (RAF CPE/UK 2079/4103-4) which were taken in extremely good lighting conditions shows a darker line in the vegetation which does not really appear to be a ditch of any substance, and in the form of a slightly irregular parallelogram with rounded corners, the long axis aligned generally north-east to south-west.

Visited but there was no evidence of an archaeological feature at this location. Perhaps the marks on the aerial photographs represent attempts at drainage.



PRN 3237 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 5833**

**Gipsy Castle Enclosure**

SO21874200

SO24SW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure?

*Date:* Iron Age?

*Form:* Cropmark

*Area:* ha

*Height:* 91mOD

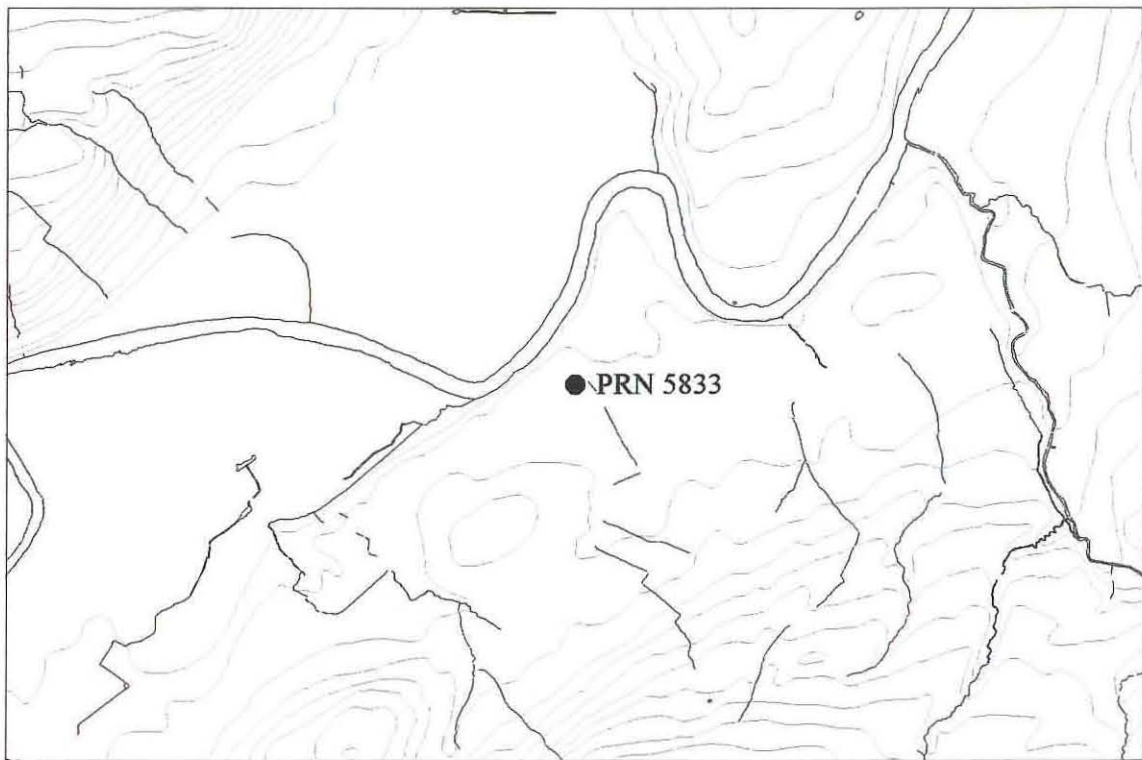
*Location:* Flood plain

Visited

HER: cropmark some 180m NW-SE by at least 70m wide resembling a 3 ditched oval enclosure with its E part obscured. Occurs in an area of removed boundaries (showing as cropmarks - see OS, 1964) and improvement and thus may be a fortuitous combination of this and geological features.

CPAT Assessment: the site has been previously described as a cropmark, 180m north-west to south-east x 70m wide, resembling a triple ditched oval enclosure with the eastern quadrant obscured. Presently the area is pasture, parceled into five modern enclosures. The north-west area is a gentle slope up to a low-lying local summit that overlooks the River Wye to the north/north-west. Gypsy Castle farm complex obscures the eastern part of the given grid referenced site. No earthworks were visible on the ground in the area west/north-west and north of the farm. Geological features, possibly palaeochannels, run north to south to the east of the farm. Although no features were visible, the rising ground to the north-west of the farm affords a suitable location for an enclosure (CPAT 2007).





**PRN 5833 site location, scaled at 1:25,000**

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**PRN: 15829**

**Henllan Uchaf cropmark enclosure**

SN80200820

SN80NW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Defended enclosure ?

*Date:* Iron Age ?

*Form:* Cropmark

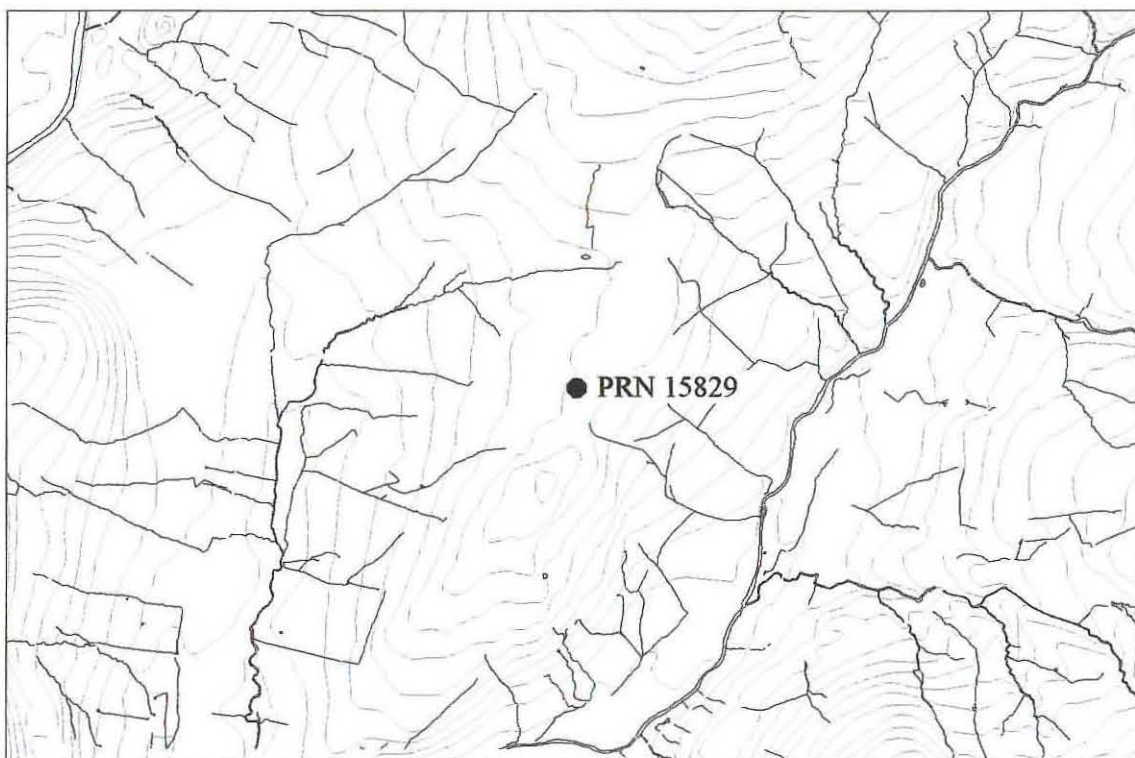
*Area:* ha

*Height:* 200mOD

*Location:*

HER: enclosure seen as cropmark (RAF 1948): appears to represent an oval-shaped bivallate enclosure, located on the crest of the ridge with an entrance on its SE side. As the ditches approach it they seem to converge slightly. Area became an open cast mine in 1950s and site destroyed (Hankinson, R 1994c, 5).

CPAT this record must stand on its own merits.



**PRN 15829 site location, scaled at 1:25,000**

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**PRN: 21901**

**Cwr y Gaer hillfort**

SO118304

SO13SW

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Hillfort ?

*Date:* Iron Age

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* ha

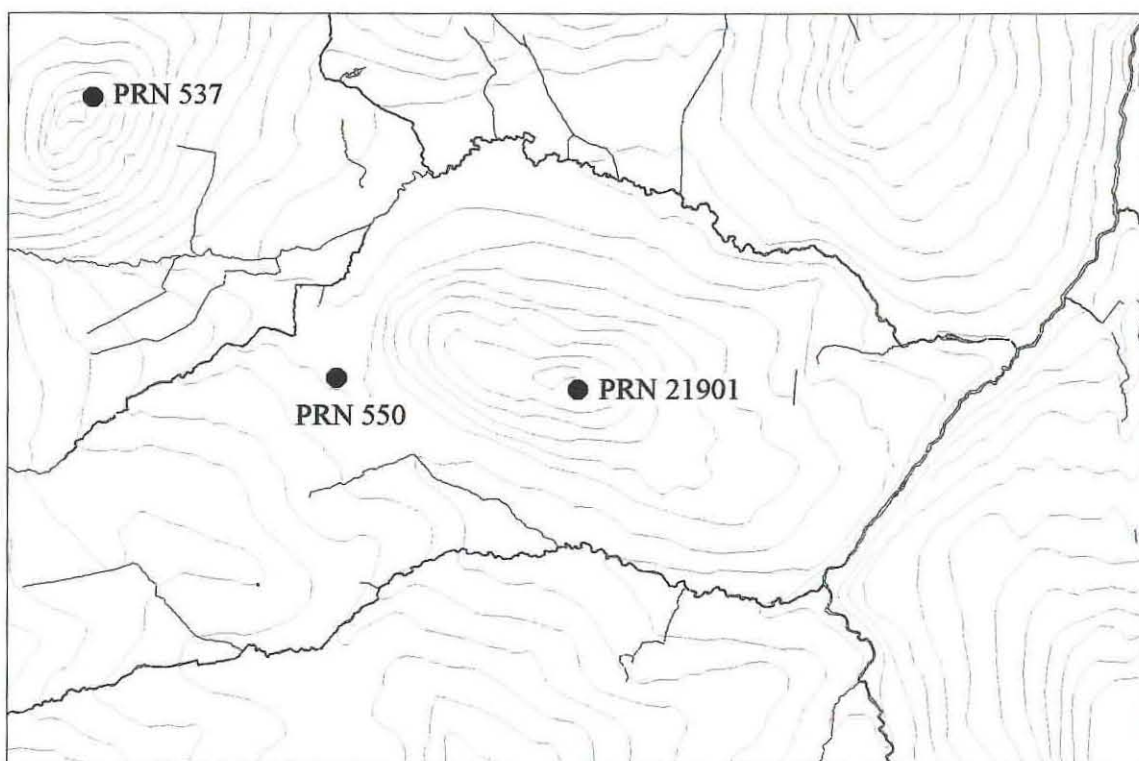
*Height:* 232mOD

*Location:* hilltop

Visited

HER: visit 1997 identified site as univallate enclosure c 200 x 100m, oval in shape and best preserved on north-west and west. Much damaged in central sections. Possible entrance on west where track cuts through bank (Makepeace, G A 1997).

CPAT Assessment: located one & three quarters of a mile north of Llanfihangel Tal-y-llyn, on a summit of a hill that, until recently, was 232m OD. The site is now accessed from a purpose built quarry road, re-opened post 1997. Subsequently 100% of the internal area/summit has been quarried and removed to depths of 50-100ft. Without access to earlier site records it is almost impossible to determine whether or not anything remains of Cwr-y-gaer hillfort. In addition, many of the earlier quarry workings and spoil banks cover what remains of the lower summit. The only notable feature is the terracing on the southern slopes, although this could be a natural feature. At the south-western corner of the quarry there is evidence of the earlier 19th-century quarry access. (CPAT 2007).



PRN 21901 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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**PRN: 33280**

**Llwynrhidaf Hillfort**

SO0859229443

SO02NE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Quarry spoil

*Date:* Post Medieval

*Form:* Earthwork

*Area:* ha

*Height:* 302mOD

*Location:* hilltop

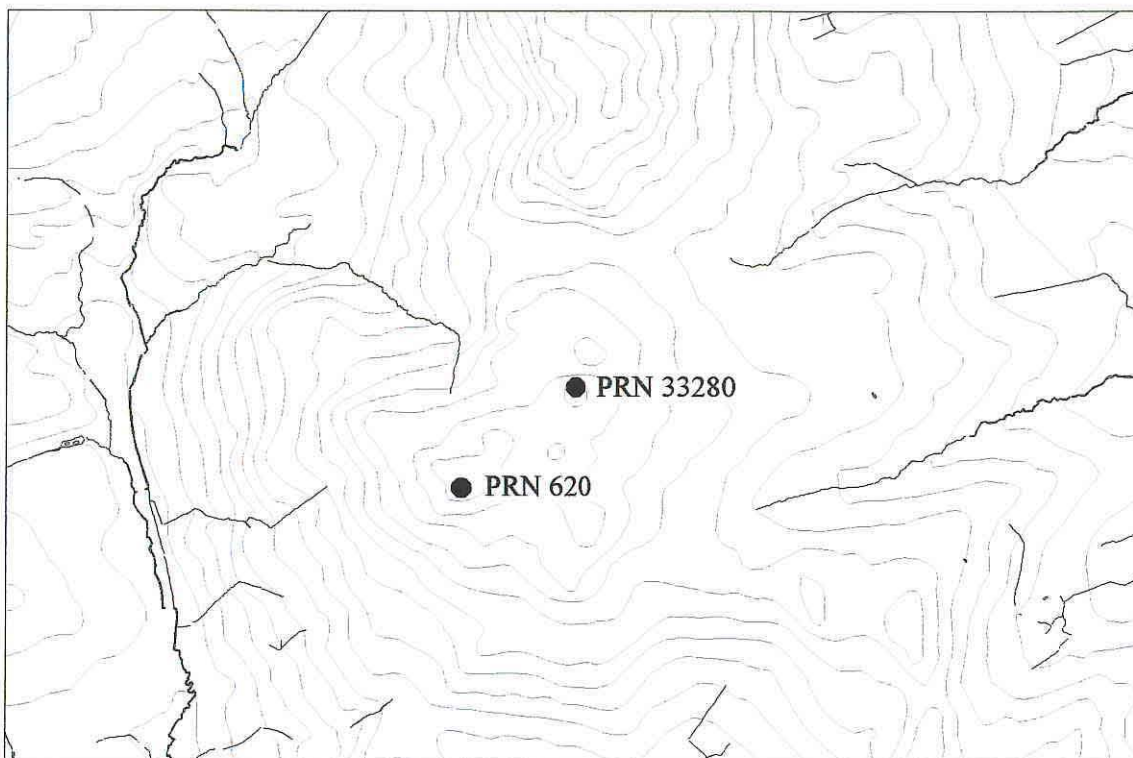
Visited

HER: the remains of banks on the north and west side of hill, but much damaged by quarrying. Possible univallate enclosure around natural outcrop (CPAT 1981).

CPAT Assessment: the available RAF APs showed nothing of interest.

The postulated site, is located on a local summit (302m OD), 460m north-east of Twyn Llechfaen hillfort (PRN 620), and south-east of Llwynrhydaf Farm. There are a number of relict field boundaries visible, together with a holloway track that traverses the area of improved pasture, east to west. The banks referred to in the previous site report are formed from post-medieval quarry spoil, the 'ditches' being surface quarry rakes. There is a large amount of quarry stone and field clearance littering the northern extent of the site. Consequently, no evidence for an enclosure was recorded. (CPAT 2007).





PRN 33280 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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Partrishow Hill, enclosure

SO27552314

SO22SE

Scheduled No:

*Type:* Enclosure*Date:* Bronze Age*Form:* Earthwork*Area:* ha*Height:* 385mOD*Location:* Shelf

Visited

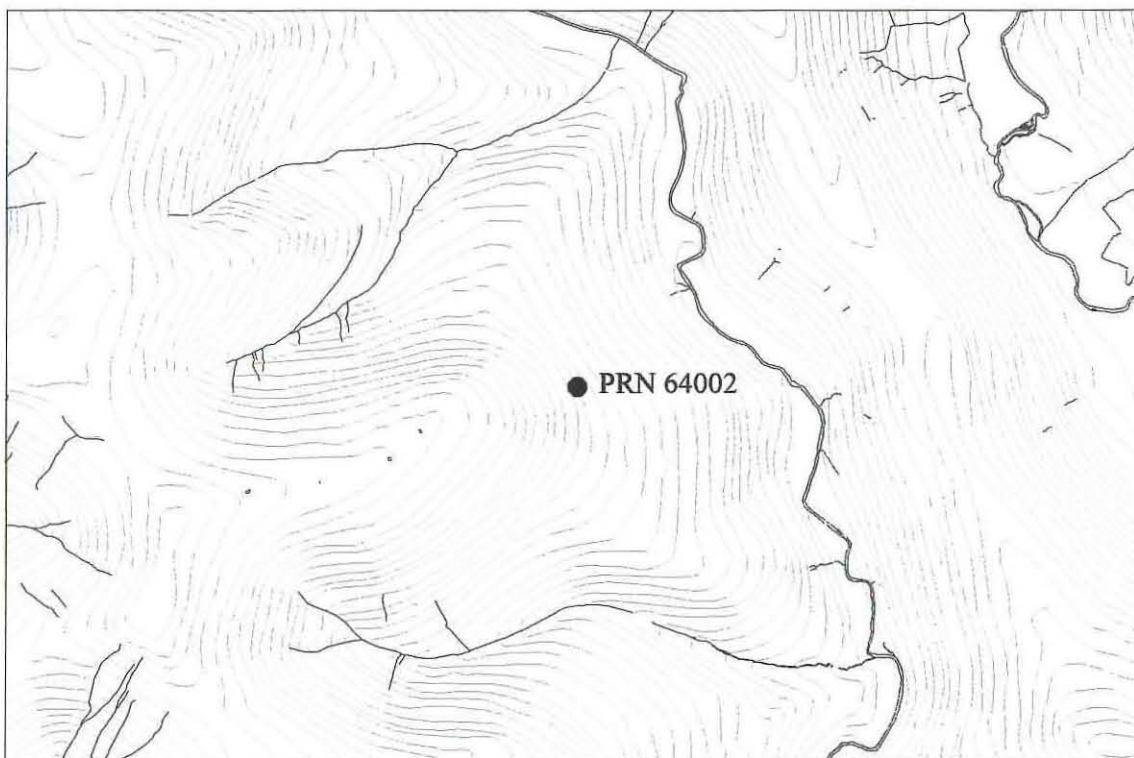
HER: this was first recorded by G Makepeace in 2001 as a roughly circular embanked enclosure, 18m by 16m, on a gentle shelf cut into the hillside and embanked on the lower portion, overlooking the Grwyne Fawr.

CPAT Assessment: the enclosure occupies a shelf on an E-facing hillside ; the ground drops moderately steeply, both behind (to the SW) and in front to the NE, though the former is sharper. Its position offers excellent wide-ranging views over some of the valley to the E and much of the ridge beyond. On the evidence of the shelf to N and S the slope may have been slightly modified to accommodate the enclosure for the rest of it has more of a slope. There is no obvious reason why the shelf appears to be at such a high altitude - there are other comparable locations at lower altitudes.

It is difficult to establish a clear picture of the layout of the enclosure because of the dense bracken that has invaded the site. It looks to be fairly straight-sided on the SW where the defences are no more than a scarp dropping into the interior, but elsewhere there is an inner slope to the bank; it is much more curvilinear on the NE, and the other 'sides' also have some curvature. No traces of a ditch were recognised. The earthwork is most prominent on the NE and N, visible when approaching from below, and clearly signalling an artificial construction. The entrance on present evidence could be on the SE, though this is not convincing and there are other variations in height around the perimeter.

The axes were measured at 21.2m NW/SE by 18.3m. Externally the bank is up to 0.7m high on the NE but rarely is the inner slope more than 0.3m except on the SW scarp.

No date can be firmly attached to this site. Its small size precludes a defended enclosure of late date, but it could be Bronze Age in origin.



PRN 64002 site location, scaled at 1:25,000

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