

CPAT Report No 1034

Burnt Mounds

The Scheduling Enhancement Programme



THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

CPAT Report No 1034

Burnt Mounds

The Scheduling Enhancement Programme

R Hankinson, R J Silvester & W Owen

March 2010

Report for Cadw

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL

tel (01938) 553670, fax (01938) 552179

© CPAT 2010

The Scheduling Enhancement Programme: Introduction

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

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

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

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

The study identified over 1600 sites (or cultural heritage assets to use the current phraseology) across Powys and the former county of Clwyd where assessment might be useful. Some site types such as caves, mines and quarries and field systems including pit alignments appeared to provide in themselves typologically discrete studies, but it was equally clear that there were some areas of east and north-east Wales where concentrations of various types of site suggested that a more geographically defined approach might be a more efficient mechanism for assessment. Where a field element might be involved in the assessment, it was felt that it would be a more economical use of resources to look at the sites of varying types as a group rather than to examine them individually over different years. This permitted an examination of some examples within particular thematic groups to be assessed in advance of when they might otherwise have been assessed, and nowhere was this more the case than with burnt mounds.

Burnt mounds form a small group of seemingly similar and reasonably distinctive monuments found across Wales and beyond in the rest of the United Kingdom and in parts of mainland Europe. Examples in east Wales are few relative to west Wales, but some of those that are known are considered to be sufficiently important to warrant statutory designation.

Table 1: Occurrence of specific sites types against geographical areas

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

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

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

Particular emphasis in this study was placed on objectives c) and d).

SEP Methodology

The preliminary stages of the Burnt Mounds study were wholly desk-top based, defining and checking the integrity of the database, assessing the authenticity of the unscheduled sites that emerged from the initial vetting process, and establishing which, if any, sites might merit a field visit which in turn might lead to a scheduling recommendation. A basic assumption from the commencement of the project as a whole was that no site would be recommended for statutory designation without a field visit being undertaken as a preliminary, an assumption that has underpinned all of the Trust's Scheduling Enhancement Programme studies (SEPs) to date.

An up-to-date extract from the HER was initially provided by the curatorial section of the Trust, and with this as a base the number of known burnt mounds in the region was identified. However, because of the on-going development of the new HER software, it was recognised that the records were not completely up to date and several new examples were added to the list which the writers were aware of from other work undertaken by them and other archaeological organisations. The Royal Commission's online database, Coflein, was also accessed.

The dataset for burnt mounds is not a large one. Even with the additional sites from recent fieldwork included the number of records was less than fifty. Four burnt mounds were already scheduled, three of them grouped together, three records were found to be duplicate of others, and a further three sites were in Glamorgan, though previously in Brecknock. A rapid assessment removed a further eight sites which were classed during the present study as pits and hearths, a reflection on the wide use of the term 'burnt mound' to encompass a wider range of features where cooking or heating may have occurred. And finally, a further two records were dismissed because the use of the term 'burnt mound' did not seem entirely appropriate after consideration of the existing descriptions.

Table 2 shows comparative figures for the Burnt Mounds SEP and other previous programmes.

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

<i>Theme/area</i>		HER record numbers	Records assessed	Finds	Records enhanced	Records: minor changes	Site visits	SAM recs.
<i>Vale of Clwyd</i>	CPAT Report 948	726	168	99	25	6	8	0
<i>Roman Settlement</i>	CPAT Report 963	51	41	313	13	12	1	1
<i>Roman Religious Sites</i>	CPAT Report 964	25	21		12	7	2	0
<i>Brecon Beacons</i>	CPAT Report 982	1317	485	71	51	37	108	8
<i>West Montgomeryshire</i>	CPAT Report 983	376	254	3	19	14	4	1
<i>Elan Valley</i>	CPAT Report 1004	1864	431	23	28	49	47	5
<i>Mynydd Hiraethog</i>	CPAT Report 1009	2056	184	54	32	6	22	0
<i>Black Mountains</i>	CPAT Report 1031	4384	626	168	170	83	144	3
<i>Severn Valley</i>	CPAT Report 1032	4703	771	115	96	62	29	0
<i>Mines and Quarries</i>	CPAT Report 1033	10923	1717	1	9	40	8	3
<i>Burnt Mounds</i>	CPAT Report 1034	48	38	0	30	8	14	2

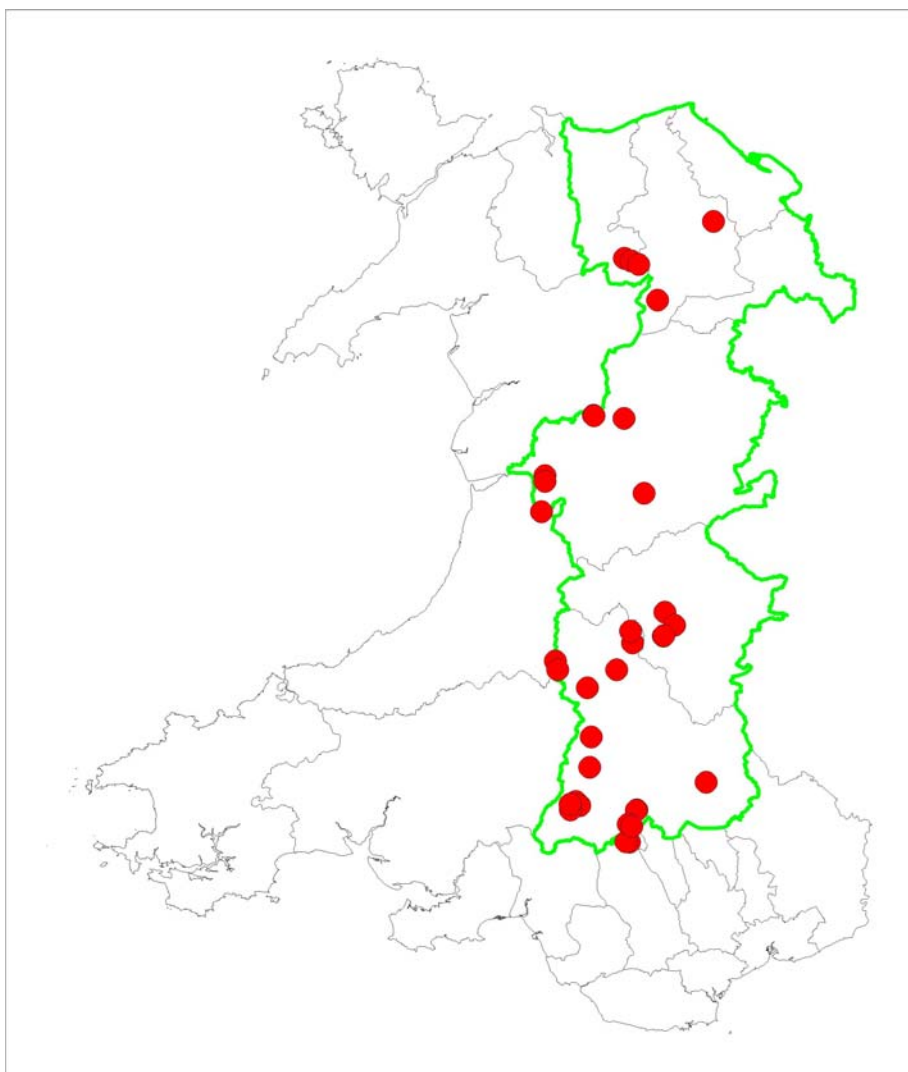


Fig 1: Distribution of all burnt mounds in east and north-east Wales

The Assessment

Burnt mounds

What are burnt mounds? Burnt mounds have been a recognised site type for many years, and various interpretations have been put forward and continue to emerge. In the west Midlands in the 1980s Lawrence Barfield and Mike Hodder argued that many had been prehistoric saunas, articulating their theory in the famously titled *Burnt Mounds and Hot Stone Technology* (1991). Much more recently in Ireland it has been suggested that burnt mounds were a by-product of beer-making in prehistoric times, an idea that appears to have been taken up enthusiastically in Gwynedd (for which see *British Archaeology* January/February 2010). To these can be added suggestions that they might have resulted from salt or leather production. All this is against the background of more conventional thought that many burnt mounds were the waste from the cooking process, with water being heated with stones from a fire that shattered when put into the trough, trench or pit that had been dug, the food being put in the water to cook, and the stones ultimately discarded in a mound around the trough. This resulted in the diagnostic kidney-shaped form of the classic burnt mound. Fortunately, for the purposes of this report we don't have to reach a firm conclusion as to their function, as this is not an imperative for the scheduling process.

One of the present authors, working in the East Anglian Fens twenty-five years ago identified many hundreds of spreads of burnt stone in the arable fields on the fen edge. The purpose of sharing this anecdote is that for every mound of debris that was represented there were many surface spreads of so-called pot boilers where no mound was visible. In other words, in that region mounds were the exception rather than the rule and most of the activity that left spreads of burnt stone (or flint in that area) was not sufficiently localised and intensive to create mounds of debris.

What does stand out is that east Wales is not apparently liberally endowed with burnt mounds. Compared with west Wales we have very few recorded examples, and this is a phenomenon that is difficult to explain. The geographical spread is wide.



Plate 1: Nant Tawe Fechan burnt mound (PRN 84913). The announcement that this burnt mound had been scheduled as Br406 reached the Trust as the final touches were being put to this report

Hearths and fire pits.

There is some confusion in the HER as a result of the tendency to shoehorn past discoveries not only into a category of hearths and fire or fired pits but also cite the term 'burnt mound' as an alternative as though it was a generic term for any feature whose content included burnt stone. This is clearly demonstrated by the recent work at Dinorben near Abergele in north Wales, where the excavators have classed pits filled with fire-cracked stone as burnt mounds, even though from the interim reports there were no visible mounds to be seen prior to excavation. It might be reasonable to assume that over the centuries any mounds that were associated with the activity have been levelled out, leaving only the pit fills as testimony to the activity. Recent excavations by CPAT at Borras near Wrexham has uncovered in excess of thirty of what have been termed fired pits, some interpreted as cooking pits others as hearths. None could be termed a burnt mound, in the usual sense of the word 'mound'.

The issue is further exemplified by the descriptions of several features found during a watching brief near Caersws in 1998. Three shallow scoops containing humic soils and burnt stones were found, but the HER description refers to them as burnt mounds which clearly they were not. It is reasonable to assume that those at Caersws were broadly similar in terms of function, perhaps also in date, to the Borrass pits.

Hearths also find themselves labelled as burnt mounds, usually where a few burnt stones have been found but regardless of whether there is a mound or not. Thus at Llanwrtyd Wells two hearths were uncovered in 1923 with some fire-cracked stone nearby (PRN 733). These have been classed as burnt mounds rather than hearths in the HER, although the latter would be a more appropriate term.

More problematic are the 'cooking hearths' recorded by T Cantrill at Bwysfa Fawr Farm at the beginning of the 20th century (PRN 3136 & 12304). These can no longer be identified so it is not possible to determine whether these were genuine hearths or whether Cantrill's use of the term was a collective term that on occasions could embrace burnt mounds. This certainly seems to have been the case with Fannog Hearth I and other features in the vicinity of Llyn Brianne (PRN 5897-5899; 6385-6386), where the description of another set of cooking hearths by Evan Jones in 1923 leaves little doubt that these were burnt mounds, even though their incorporation into forestry (Tywi Forest) offers no chance of relocating them.

Numbers

The HER has records of only 48 burnt mounds across east Wales, a figure that includes a couple of recently identified sites not yet fully integrated into the record. A few of these entries do not stand up to serious scrutiny. Gelli Wen Mound II in western Montgomeryshire (PRN 5955) for instance seems to have made its way into the record as a burnt mound, somewhat perversely, because the Ordnance Survey in 1977 stated plainly that what they saw did not resemble a burnt mound. Rather more serious is the use of the term 'burnt mound' as a generic descriptor to cover several other site types where the mound element is not appropriate (see above). This leaves around 26 examples currently known in the region.



Plate 2: Nant-y-geuryd burnt mound (PRN 89376)

Distribution

Burnt mounds are usually found singly. Thus the group of three, all scheduled, beside a small stream to the west of Llwyn Ceubren, a farm south-east of Llandrindod is atypical. These aside, the geographical spread is wide. We have a single example from the Epynt Uplands in northern Brecknock, a single recorded example from the edge of Mynydd Hiraethog, but rather more from the Brecon Beacons. Is this perhaps a result of the failure of identification? It is noticeable that the most recently discovered burnt mounds have come from the fieldwork of Royal Commission staff, from contracting work on Mynydd Epynt where the contractors misinterpreted the mound that they saw, and from the Trust's contract work on the periphery of Mynydd Hiraethog. Is it significant that not a single burnt mound appears to have been recorded as a result of the various recent Uplands Initiative field programmes in this region?

Size and shape

The classic burnt mound is kidney-shaped or horned, a result of the burnt stone and perhaps other debris being dumped beside the putative trough or pit, which generally retains a hollowed appearance even after centuries of gradual erosion and degradation. It is usually this distinctive shape that is instrumental in the recognition of a burnt mound in the uplands, rather than the exposure of burnt stone in an animal scrape or stream bank. It also follows, however, that where this hollow is not present, there is a greater possibility that a mound will not be recognised for what it is, and arguably the likelihood that in a lowland situation, where pasture improvement has smoothed the contours, a mound could go virtually unnoticed because it is indistinguishable from natural landforms.

Mounds vary in shape but also in size. Smaller mounds include those such as that known as Cefn Cul Mound I (PRN 787), at little more than 4m across, while that near Capel Callwen (PRN 788), if authentic, is even smaller. But much larger mounds also exist. That known as Castle Bank Mound (PRN 4418) is about 12m in length but forms a quite low landscape feature with a height of no more than 0.4m, while the Ffynnon Mary Burnt Mound (PRN 5910) is over 10m long and 0.7m high. Again we can presume that the larger and more prominent a mound the more likely it is to be recognised as an artificial feature.



Plate 3: Ffynnon Mary burnt mound (PRN 5910)

Uncertainties

Inevitably there are some uncertainties. The Cwm Crew W mound (PRN 26350) was first identified as a possible burial mound in 1995 by Robin Skeats, but the Royal Commission in the same year were understandably reluctant to accept this interpretation, seeing some morphological parallels with burnt mounds. We likewise felt in 2008 that the position of the mound was suggestive, but could see nothing in its form to confirm that this was an authentic burnt mound.



Plate 3: Cefn Esgair Carnau burnt mound (PRN 33633)

Rationalisation of the record

In the case of the Llwyn Ceubren burnt mounds, the scheduling record requires some modification. Mound I was scheduled back in 1974 when it was considered to be a barrow. Even at that time Chris Dunn, who probably found this and the adjacent mounds, considered that it was a burnt mound and all subsequent writers, including Cadw, have concurred. However, the schedule appears not to have been corrected, for Rd127 remains listed as a barrow rather than a burnt mound. The two other mounds at Llwyn Ceubren both less than 100m to the north-east are jointly scheduled as Rd 141 and are correctly described in the schedule. In passing we can also note that the SAM polygon does not appear to be in quite the correct spot for Mound 1 whilst the others are correct.

Scheduling Recommendations

We have recommended two burnt mounds for scheduling as a result of this study. We might have recommended a third – Nant Tawe Fechan burnt mound (PRN 84913) – but as already noted in the caption to plate 1 notification that it had now been scheduled reached us on the day this report was finalised. The two that are being recommended are shown in plates 3 and 4. Slightly reluctantly, given the rarity of burnt mounds in this region, we have decided not to recommend Nant-y-geuryd burnt mound (PRN 89376), shown as plate 2, more because its lack any contemporary associations than for any other reason.

Appendix 1 – Gazetteer of newly assessed sites

706 Bryn Cynfyl Hearth SN7797096960 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

Hearth, possible burnt mound (Crawford, O G S, 1953). No such featured noted - probably destroyed (OS 1981). Search also made in 1996 by M. Walters of CPAT (Nothing found). Unlocated, but presumed destroyed (Thomas D, 1997)

New description

The given siting falls within coniferous woodland, close to the north bank of a stream, at about 145m OD. An inspection of the area by the Ordnance Survey in 1981 revealed no trace of a mound, cooking stones or black earth, but the area was much overgrown, and had been disturbed by tree planting. Subsequent visits appear to confirm that the site has been destroyed by tree planting (IG 03/2009).

707 Coed yr Allt Fawr Mound SN7801095590 Burnt mound Bronze Age

Old description

Boiling mound or hearth (Crawford, O.G.S). Area now densely afforested-presumed destroyed. (OS, 1977). Search by M. Walters in 1996 also failed to locate site. Unlocated but presumed destroyed (Thomas D, 1997).

New description

Dense afforestation has presumably destroyed this site. Site visits in 1976, 1977, 1996 and 1997 all failed to locate the site (IG 03/2009).

787 Cefn Cul Mound I SN86191879 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

One of two small mounds, probably prehistoric hearths (Cantrill, T C & Jones, O T, 1906). No such features noted by OS in 1976.

SN 8619 1879 & 8620 1878. Two cooking mounds, Cefn Cul BR. 2e.

Two grass-grown mounds lie on the north-east bank of a stream at 370m above O.D. on the E side of Cefn Cul. Both are eroded by water action on the south-west exposing a core of earth and small pebbles and are ill- defined in outline; the mound at SN86191879 measures approx 4m in diameter; that at SN86201878 is approx 7m in diameter, and both are about 0.4m high. The mounds have the appearance and siting of cooking hearths and are probably prehistoric. Visited BAM. 15 MAY 87

(BM 3-4) About 270 m N.E. of CEFN-CUL farm, about 370 m above O.D. one of two small mounds, probably prehistoric hearths were noted in 1906.¹ They lay upon the bank of a small stream forming a shallow ravine in ground falling steeply to the S.E. These were re-located in 1969,² though could not be found later due to the depth of bracken cover .3 (BM 3) One was about 6.1 m. in diameter with a dished centre, not more than 0.3 m. high on the uphill side, but about 1.5 m. high on the downhill. The S. side has been eroded away. revealing the mound to be composed of small stones and charcoal dust.

New description

The RCAHMW provide an accurate description of this pair of burnt mounds (PRNs 787 & 33346). They are separated by less than 5m, one to the north-west and upslope of the other. Both are 'open' to the stream, the upper one is more an oval mound, the lower more traditionally crescentic. The latter too is set back into a spread of natural rubble now grassed over. Both show slight signs of erosion, the more southerly in particular revealing small fragments of sandstone. Adjacent are two medieval house

platforms, the closest (PRN 84924) no more than 5m from the mounds, but their presence is assumed to be coincidental (RS 03/2009).

788 Capel Callwen Mound SN8527019780 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

Mound at SN85281965 of no apparent archaeological interest, some 6m by 3.6m by 0.3m high noted by CPAT site visit, 1981. This is probably not the mound noted as a hearth by Cantrill, T C & Jones, O T, 1906.

Possible cooking mound, Cefn Cul. No mound was located at SN 8528 1965 (NAR ref: F1 GB 23.12.76), however, at SN 8526 1977 lies an ill-defined and completely heather-grown mound, at the edge of a cliff on the S bank of a stream at 370m above O.D. on the W side of Cefn Cul. It measures approximately 4m in diameter and 0.2m high and may have been a cooking mound, although it is now some 3m above the water level. visited BAM. 16 SEP 87

(BM 2) In 1906 a prehistoric hearth was located on the S. side of a stream 80 yards (73 m) from the main road on the E. side of the TAW VALLEY 1 3/4 miles (2 km) N. of CAPEL CALLWEN and 370m above O.D. Although this feature cannot now be re-identified with confidence, a tiny mound 3.4m by 2.1 m and 0.3 m high survives on the tip of a stream ravine in ground falling to the W. Its apparent crescentic shape facing the stream is probably due to former scraping by sheep to form a shelter.

New description

A small horseshoe shaped mound, with a concave face that is almost too sharp to be convincing. Probing suggests that it has a stony make-up and this together with its location favours the burnt mound identification (RS 03/2009).

827 Llwyn Ceubren Mound I SO0600758994 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

Burnt mound 16m N-S by 12.5m. 0.8m high. Top disturbed showing burnt earth and stone composition. Scheduled as barrow by Cadw. Lies at the foot of a slope (Cadw, 1974ff). see also PRNs 4094 & 5959.

Two grassy mounds, heel shaped and oval respectively, on east bank of small stream. Shape and situation suggest that they are not barrows. Possibly cooking mounds (Dunn, 1974).

Two fine examples of prehistoric cooking places (AMB, 1977).

Position at foot of a slope and next to a stream, also the crescentic shape suggest this may be a cooking mound. Mound measures 16m N-S x 12.5m and 0.8m high (Cadw, 1985).

Disturbance by moles shows a soil that is dark in colour and containing heat-fractured fragments of red sandstone (Cadw, 1992).

Circular mound, max 13m in diameter and c.0.8m in height. There is a distinct circular depression 1.5m diameter and c.0.25m deep suggesting past disturbance as does an area of disturbance on its west side. Has the appearance of a barrow but its proximity to two cooking mounds suggests that it may also be a cooking mound. It is located some 10m to the east of a stream on flat ground (Cadw, 1999).

Circular mound 13m diam x 0.8m high with circular depression centrally 1.5m diam and 0.25m deep. There is also a disturbance on its W side which suggests its origin as a burnt mound rather than a

barrow. There are 2 other burnt mounds to the N. The S is quite clear but the N is by now indistinct, very low and well-covered by rushes. (CPAT 2002).

New description

Scheduled as Rd127(POW).

2045 Devil's Hearth Mound SO06326469 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

Mound some 9.8m long by 6.1m wide and 0.45m high which was 'opened' just before 1913 and found to contain small burnt stones and soft black ash (RCAHM, 1913). Probably a burnt mound. A modern clearance heap now occupies site (OS, 1980).

New description

It was not possible to gain access to this site as it is now a poultry farm with restricted access. Nobody was around to give permission. The site location was observed from the nearby public road but no mound was apparent. (RH 17/03/2010)

2430 Cefn Moel Burnt Mound SO1627824269 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

Kidney shaped mound 14m north-west/south-east by 10.4m wide by 1m high. Horns 6.4m apart extend to north-east by 4.3m. Possibly a burnt mound (RCAHM archive,).

(BM 22) On CEFN MOEL, 385 m above O.D. in a slight hollow on moorland immediately above the confluence of two rivulets, is a grass-and gorse-grown mound. It is crescentic and open to the E., 14 m long N.-S., 10.4 m wide and 1 m high. The hollow is 6.4 m wide between the horns and extends 4.3 m into the body of the mound.

Visited during Black mountains survey. Examination of this site suggests that it is of natural origin and not an antiquity. The 'burnt' soil appears to be humic in nature; the mound appears to have been formed by surface water erosion which has left a number of similar features in the locality (Black Mountains Upland Survey database, 1998).

New description

The mound is low and flat, and the dimensions as given by the RCAHML are fine. It is gorse covered but much of that cover has been burnt off or otherwise removed. It has a crescentic shape, although the hollow between the 'horns' is relatively narrow, about 2m wide and along its 5m length it narrows considerably. The stream is 6m away. The mound stands out as a sizeable, and exceptional, feature in generally flattish terrain. This is a burnt mound and the 1998 report should be ignored (RS 02/2010).

4094 Llwyn Ceubren Mound II SO0602959051 Burnt mound Bronze Age

Old description

Heel shaped mound. Possibly the remaining half of an oval mound. Last noted 1978 (CPAT site visit, 1978). Unlocated 1980 (OS, 1980) and presumed destroyed. One of two such unlocated supposed cooking mounds (with PRN 5959) noted by Cadw (see Cadw, 1977-10). See also PRN 827.

New description

The record for the nearby PRN 827 states: Its [PRN 827] proximity to two cooking mounds suggests that it may also be a cooking mound (Cadw, 1999). There are 2 other burnt mounds to the N [of PRN

827]. The S is quite clear but the N is by now indistinct, very low and well-covered by rushes. (CPAT 2002). Scheduled as Rd141(POW).

4418 Castle Bank Mound SO0864061616 Burnt mound Bronze Age

Old description

Kidney shaped mound some 12m NE-SW by 9.5m and 0.4m high lies adjacent to old stream course. It is composed of black earth and little burnt stone. Probably a burnt mound.

New description

The OS description includes a plan at 1:500 which is reasonably convincing.

Low flattish mound adjacent to a rush-filled and Y-shaped wet flush on the floor of the Ithon valley. The mound is indented by about 1m on the NW side but otherwise has little form. Now entirely grass-grown and there is no evidence of the burnt stones reported, but the soil is very dark where visible. The edges of the mound merge gently with the surrounding ground, except on the west where the edge is more pronounced, probably due to water erosion from the wet flush. Measures 12.0m north-east/south-west by 8.6m north-west/south-east and up to 0.4m high. (RH 17/03/2010)

5889 Ty Mawr Bank Hearth SN9870057400 Burnt mound Bronze Age

Old description

A cooking hearth some 24yds diameter noted by a spring in a field called Banc at Ty Mawr during ploughing in 1917 (Evan, Jones, 1923). Site now unlocated but spring probably at SN 98765747 (OS, 1980).

No obvious platform or earthworks associated with this site. The burnt remains could be related to the platforms to the north (PRN 48806), which are probably charcoal burning platforms. (CPAT Tir Gofal assessment, 2004)

New description

This was of some considerable size if the dimensions quoted from 1923 are correct, except that they are not. It was 24 yards in circumference, and thus about 7m across. The jury is out on whether there is an association between this feature and the postulated charcoal burning platforms. Not visited in view of the failure to identify it in 2004 (RS 03/2010).

5894 Ffynnon Ysgolheigion Hearth SN9551 Burnt mound Bronze Age

Old description

A cooking hearth found in 1917 while digging a drain from a spring called Ffynnon Ysgolheigion to Pen y Banc farm (Evan, Jones, 1923). Exact site now unlocated (OS, 1980). See also PRN 5889.

(BM 19) A cooking hearth was located when digging a drain to PEN Y BANC from a spring known as FFYNON YSGOLHEIGION,¹ about 215 m above O.D. A layer of black earth 1 foot (0.3 m thick), with traces of burnt wood and fire-coloured stone was followed for 7 yards (6.4 m). Neither the spring nor the hearth can now be identified.²

New description

Previous authorities have failed to identify the site in this field. It is not considered that a field visit would be worthwhile (WO 2010)

5897	Fannog Hearth I	SN8151	Burnt mound	Bronze Age
-------------	------------------------	---------------	--------------------	-------------------

Old description

One of two cooking hearths, reniform, 15yds by 5yds and sited with PRN 6385 on a south facing slope of Y Glas mountain near Ddu Fannog farm (Evan, Jones, 1923). Not now locatable but probably near Fannog, SN808512 (OS, 1980)

(BM 9-10) On a S.-facing slope of Y Glas mountain over 300 m above O.D., by a streamlet at Ddu Fannog Farm were two cooking mounds. The first, kidney-shaped and placed horizontally across the slope, was 15 yards by 5 yards (13.5 m by 4 m) The other, higher up the slope, was circular and 14 yards (12.5 m) in circumference. There was an associated abundance of ashes and cracked stones at both sites.¹

The entire area is now changed through afforestation and the construction of the LLYN BRIANNE DAM.²

New description

There can be little doubt that these were burnt mounds, but in view of the reported afforestation of the area and dam construction work it is not considered that a field visit would be worthwhile (WO 2010)

5898	Pant y Clwydau hearth	SN8045253084	Burnt mound	Bronze Age
-------------	------------------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------

Old description

A cooking hearth on Esgair Bustach to the N of Nant yr ych on Pant y Clwydau farm (Evan, Jones, 1923). Area now afforested and no such feature recognisable (OS, 1980)

(BM 11) A cooking mound was noted in 1923 300 m above O.D. on Esgair Bustach in a narrow valley to the N. of Nant yr Ych on Pant y Clwydau farm. The area is now under dense forest cover.²

New description

Previous authorities have failed to identify the site and in view of the reported afforestation of the area it is not considered that a field visit would be worthwhile (WO 2010)

5899	Llethr Cefn y Gwair Hearth I	SN8100051000	Burnt mound	Bronze Age
-------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------

Old description

One of two cooking hearths noted on Llethr y Cefn Gwair mountain and described by Evan, Jones, 1923 as being a 10yd circumference mound 1ft below surface. Area now afforested and no such feature noted by OS, 1980.

(BM 12-13) Two cooking hearths were noted in 1923 on Llethr Cefn y Gwair., S. of Y Glas, 1 over 300m above O.D.

(BM 12) One was a submerged mound a foot or more (over 0.3 m) below the adjoining surface and ten yards (about 9 m) in circumference on the W. side of a small brook flowing into the Groesnant. Both sites are apparently lost, largely owing to afforestation and the construction of the Llyn Brianne Dam.²

New description

In view of the reported afforestation of the area and dam construction work it is not considered that a field visit would be worthwhile (WO 2010).

5959 Llwyn Ceubren Mound III SO0607559073 Non antiquity Unknown

Old description

Burnt mound (Cadw, 1981). Sited at given NGR by Cadw, 1981ff but with no corroboration. Probably arising from a siting error for PRN 4094 or from confusion with PRN 827. There does not appear to be a site of any description at this location (AM107, 1985)..

New description

The record for PRN 827 states: Its [PRN 827] proximity to two cooking mounds suggests that it may also be a cooking mound (Cadw, 1999). There are 2 other burnt mounds to the north [of PRN 827]. The southern one is quite clear but the northern is by now indistinct, very low and well-covered by rushes. (CPAT 2002). Scheduled as Rd141(POW).

6226 Hengwm Burnt Mound SN77208838 Burnt mound Early Medieval

Old description

Burnt mound identified as a spread of reddened stones on the north bank of Afon Hengwm. Submerged by Nant y Moch resevoir 1962 and only re-discovered when water level lowered for maintenance in 1984. This site also recorded in Dyfed archaeological record.

New description

No further details are available. However the description on the north bank of the submerged river would put this just in Powys rather than Ceredigion. (IG 03/2009).

6385 Fannog Hearth II SN8151 Burnt mound Bronze Age

Old description

One of two cooking hearths, circular, 14yds in circumference and sited with PRN 5897 on a south facing slope of Y Glas mountain near Ddu Fannog farm (Evan, Jones, 1923). Not now locatable but probably near Fannog, SN808512 (OS, 1980)

(BM 9-10) On a S.-facing slope of Y Glas mountain over 300 m above O.D., by a streamlet at Ddu Fannog Farm were two cooking mounds. The first, kidney-shaped and placed horizontally across the slope, was 15 yards by 5 yards (13.5 m by 4 m) The other, higher up the slope, was circular and 14 yards (12.5 m) in circumference. There was an associated abundance of ashes and cracked stones at both sites.¹

The entire area is now changed through afforestation and the construction of the LLYN BRIANNE DAM.²

New description

Not visited because of modern conditions, but the description suggests that this was an authentic burnt mound.

6386 Llethr Cefn y Gwair Hearth II SN8100051000 Burnt mound Bronze Age

Old description

One of two cooking hearths on Llethr y Cefn Gwair mountain described by Evan, Jones, 1923 as being of horseshoe plan and some 17yds by 5yds by 2ft high (Evan, Jones, 1923). The area is now afforested and no such feature noted by OS, 1980.

(BM 12-13) Two cooking hearths were noted in 1923 on Llethr Cefn y Gwair., south. of Y Glas,¹ over 300 m above O.D.

(BM 13) The other site was higher up the valley on the same slope and resembled a horseshoe 17 yards (about 15 m) long, 5 yards (about 4.5 m wide and around 2 feet (0.6 m) high with a 6 foot (1.6 m) gap adjoining the water. There was an abundance of charcoal and chipped stone. Both sites are apparently lost, largely owing to afforestation and the construction of the LLYN BRIANNE DAM.2

New description

Not visited because of modern conditions, but the description suggests that this was an authentic burnt mound.

23721 Trawsnant Burnt Mound SN8401718017 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

Just E of the N end of a linear bank (which deviates slightly in recognition of its presence), on the S side of a small stream at SN 8401 1801, is a well preserved, crescent-shaped cooking mound open to the W. It measures 7.5m. N-S by 6.0m., 1.5m. high, and is turf-covered. Altitude 465m OD. (RCAHMW visit 5/2/85).

Scheduled April 1999 (Cadw, 1999).

New description

This was last visited by Cadw in 2006 and the NGR was given as SN 84051802. All parties seem to agree that this is a well-preserved example of a burnt mound (RS 03/2010).

26350 Cwm Crew W mound SN9972717698 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

Peat-covered mound (7m long, x 6m wide), probably constructed of stone underneath, shallow pit on top - possible prehistoric burial mound (barrow). Located on SE upper-mid slope of Gwaun Crew, adjacent to a small stream-bed. Extensive views in most directions (SE, SW and NE). (Skeats, R 1995).

(BM 14) On the S. side of, and adjacent to a stream flowing down the S.E.-facing slope into Nant Crew about 500 m above O.D., is a mound 8.5 m in diameter and 0.4 m high. Its edge seems to mark a change in vegetation and the mound itself supports short-cropped turf in contrast to longer grasses which surround it. On the stream side of the mound there is a slight, though perceptible indentation suggestive of the 'kidney' shape common to some larger examples of burned mound.

New description

Turf-covered mound measuring 7.5m south-west/north-east by 6.5m north-west/south-east, sited on a south-east-facing slope on the south-west side of a small stream gully. The earthworks give more impression of a platform than a typical burnt mound and the upslope side appears to have been cut slightly into the slope. The 'hollow' is covered in reeds and faces the stream. On the downslope side the mound is at most 0.7m high, although this in part includes the natural slope. The general form and position next to a stream are suggestive of a burnt mound, although there is no visible stone. The general location is unusual, however, although there is no other obvious explanation for the feature. (CPAT 2008).

33633 Cefn Esgair Carnau burnt mound SN9773014330 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

84 SN97731433 (revised from 9773 1432)

A cooking mound lies within a sharp bend of a stream which feeds the Afon y Waun. The mound is roughly semicircular in shape and measures 15m (NE-SW) by 10.5m with a maximum height of 1m. On its SE (stream) side there is a shallow, but characteristic, indentation. The mound is turf-covered but

occasional patches of blackened earth, charcoal and small jagged broken stones are visible. Apart from some erosion on its streamward side, this cooking mound is in good condition.

(BM 16) Below and W. of CEFN ESGAIR CARNAU, about 355 m above O.D. is a cooking mound lying within a sharp band of the small stream which feeds the AFON Y WAUN. It is situated in the same general area as a large number of clearances and enclosures (US 79). RCAHMW, 1995 - Draft Inventory description

New description

Visited by CPAT in 2008 for Brecon Beacons SEP. A substantial mound, hollowed out on the east, the NAR record being perfectly adequate. There is virtually no visible surface stone, but on the west in particular stone lies immediately below the surface. The nearby stream diverts around the a stony material of the mound, and some erosion from the stream shows small stone fragments in the exposed face, though difficult to distinguish burnt stone from red sandstone (RS 12/2008).

43291 Nant Eithrim mound II SN88933506 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

About 20m from the stream is a raised mound, 7m in diameter that stands approx 0.70m above the surrounding bog. Surrounding this mound is a circular arrangement of medium to large sized stones (Boucher, A & Crooks, K, 2000).

New description

Site was first identified by Boucher & Crooks in 2000, but their description requires some refinement. The mound is not circular, but more akin to trapezoidal. The very irregularity of the mound creates problems for a description. The surface undulates, and the north-east side is "open". There are stones. Those on the south-west - two of them plus small stones - are adjacent to a fairly steep sided T-shaped foxhole. Those on the north-east - 3 or 4 in an arc - lie at least 3m from the edge of the mound. a thorn tree grows on the south side. The hollow on the east side could be due to the loss of a large tree, the adjacent stump being a relic of it. The site is unlikely to be a round barrow - the morphology is not convincing, and the location is atypical. What immediately comes to mind is a burnt mound, but there is no visible evidence to corroborate this. although there is stone 0.2m below surface its condition is not known. Site is located on flat ground. The U-shaped valley is rather damp, but this feature is established on a dry patch. Boggy nearby, with >0.55 m of peat to the north. (CPAT 2004)

Site visit found only one site in this vicinity (PRN 43291). PRN 43261 is probably a duplicate record, as the grid references are identical, and the two previous descriptions are generally very similar. (CPAT 2004)

54130 Ty'n-y-wern burnt mound SJ0458038567 Burnt mound Bronze Age

Old description

A mound 16.5m in diameter and between 0.3m and 0.35m high with seven large stones just visible between 0.3m/0.4m wide and 3m/4m apart ringing the north-west side of the mound. A shallow drainage gully has been cut along the north-eastern edge of the mound. The ground surrounding the mound is heavily poached although the mound itself is not being affected. An attempt has been made to flatten the mound removing an area of roughly 2 square meters to the north-west revealing a layer of burnt soil and stones. (CPAT Tir Gofal call out assessment, 2005)

New description

This could be a burnt mound but it needs to be corroborated, probably by excavation (RS 03/2010).

84913 Nant Tawe Fechan burnt mound SN8397219095 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

New description

A classic horseshoe-shaped burnt mound on the west side of small stream with the open side to the east-north-east, facing the stream. It is 10.5m north-north-west/south-south-east x 9.5m overall and up to 1.5m high on the downslope, south-south-east side (NJ 09).

89376 Nant-y-geuryd burnt mound SJ00144704 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

New description

Large sub-circular earth mound in the base of a shallow valley. The stream seems to have eroded one sector which covers an arc from the west to the north-north-west. Possible remnant of the sector, measuring 3.0m by 2.5m and 0.4m high, on the opposite bank of the stream. Plenty of burnt stone in evidence in molehills at the edge of the mound. A 'passage', or possible secondary oven, runs inwards from the south-east edge of the mound, initially 1.3m wide with a narrow gap leading to a circular section, 0.8m in diameter, at its north-west end. The edges are defined by slabs on the north-east and stones on the south-west, one of which is 0.5m high. The stones which define the circular section have been affected by heat. Overall dimensions 15.5m east/west by 13.7m north/south and 1.3m high. (CPAT/RH 2005)

101593 Cyfnant Uchaf Burnt mound SJ178573 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

A possible boiling mound about 4.5m diameter lies 456m W of Cyfnant Uchaf farm on the S of stream.

No visible trace of mound. (CCC, 1988)

New description

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

101742 Tai-draw Burnt Mound SH968485 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

Small mound 5 by 3m 0.75m high contains largely burnt stones and possibly ash.

New description

There were no visible traces of the recorded feature in either of the two fields adjacent to the given location, though the given NGR is not as precise as one would like. Some irregularities were present in the wetter ground bordering the road to the north, but most of these are natural in origin. The only two

mounds which are artificial in this area are due to recent agricultural activity/improvement and are relatively stoneless. (RH 09/11/2009)

101743 Bryn-llys Burnt Mound SH984479 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

Mr Humphries tenant of Tai-draw told our fieldworker of a burnt mound near Nant yr Odin. Not visited.

New description

There was no physical trace of the feature at the given location or for either 500m downstream or 200m upstream. There are one or two mounds of either natural or recent agricultural origin in the approximate location but none of these is a burnt mound. There is also some rough walling alongside the stream which is probably of post-medieval origin. (RH 09/11/2009)

114446 Cwm yr Afon burnt mound SN8347624565 Burnt mound Prehistoric

Old description

New description

Burnt mound found by D Leighton of the RCAHMW in February 2009. By a tributary stream of Afon Hyder.

Coflein description is: on the north bank of a minor stream, a braided tributary of Crognant, lies a burnt mound. The mound is turf-covered and overgrown with tussocky grass. It is slightly oval on plan and measures 13m (north to south) by 11.5m and 1m high. The mound is indented on its south-west, streamward, side where there has been some slight erosion but it is otherwise intact. Probing reveals the mound to be made up of small grade stones, though not the 'scrunchy' gravel grade typical of others, and some larger stones are also visible. The finer make up of similar mounds gives them a better-drained, well-grazed, greener sward. Such is not the case here.

114452 Marcheini Fawr burnt mound SN9456273889 Burnt mound ? Prehistoric ?

Old description

Burnt mound found by RCAHMW in 1992, next to the Marcheini Fawr stream.

The Coflein description reads: An apparently artificial mound measuring 7m (N/S) by 4m and 1.5m high, slightly kidney-shaped and concave on E side. Composed of small boulders and stones consolidated in turf, it is located on the bank of the stream.

New description

An oval mound on the valley floor, only 5m north-east of the Marcheini Fawr stream. It is aligned north to south with an evenly-graded slope to its east side where the ground level is 0.5m below the crest of the mound. On the north and west sides material seems to have been removed from around the earthwork, giving it a more pronounced profile, which increases from 0.8m high on the north to its maximum of 1.4m high on the west. On the S side the mound is 1.2m high and its edge seems to coincide with a natural scarp. The mound is composed of a mixture of stones (local shale) and earth, the maximum stone size being about 0.3m across. This could be a burnt mound, but there is no visible evidence to corroborate burning and the mound appears to have been created with material excavated from the hollow on its west side. A number of other earthworks, including a sizable bank, are present a short distance away to the north-west and the site might be related to this activity, its proximity to the stream perhaps being misleading in the case of the original interpretation. (RH 17/03/2010)

Appendix 3: Scheduling Recommendations

Site Name: Ffynnon Mary burnt mound

PRN: 5910

NGR: SN98226018

Map: SN96SE

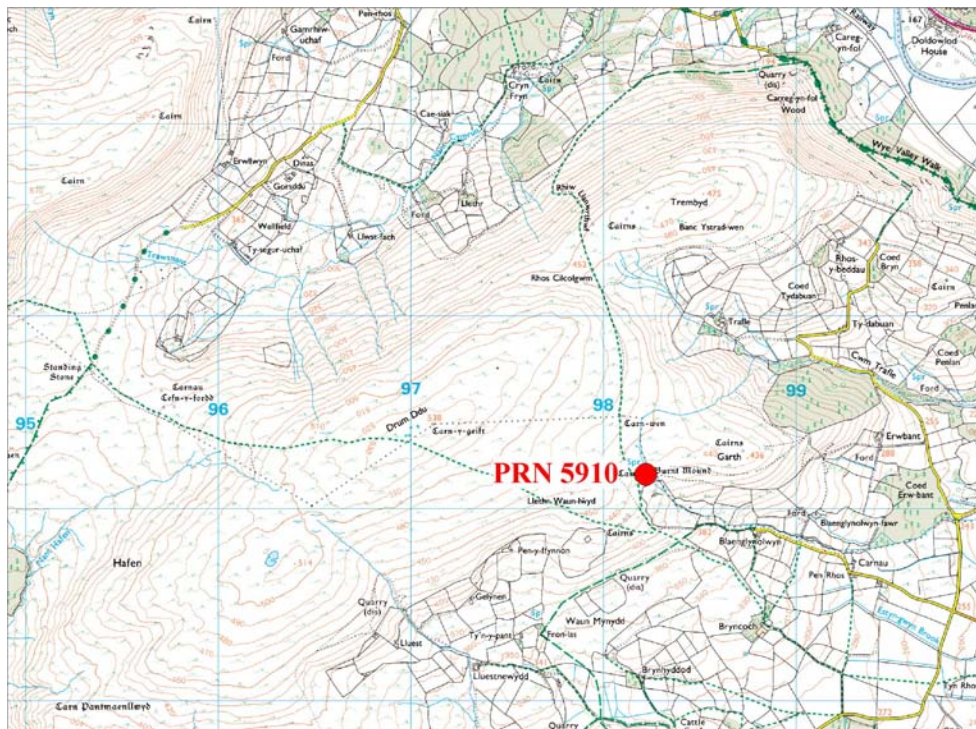
Altitude: 430

Type: Burnt mound

Form: Earthwork

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

This is a well-preserved, horseshoe-shaped burnt mound, largely turf-covered and extending over about 10.5m N/S by 8.5m overall. It is up to 0.7m high and the central 'space' opens eastwards towards the stream which is immediately adjacent. There is a further small mound of stone beyond the south-east corner, and further stone is exposed by the stream on the north-east side. The burnt mound is sited at the head of a small valley (NJ 2009).



This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Welsh Assembly Government 100017916, 2010

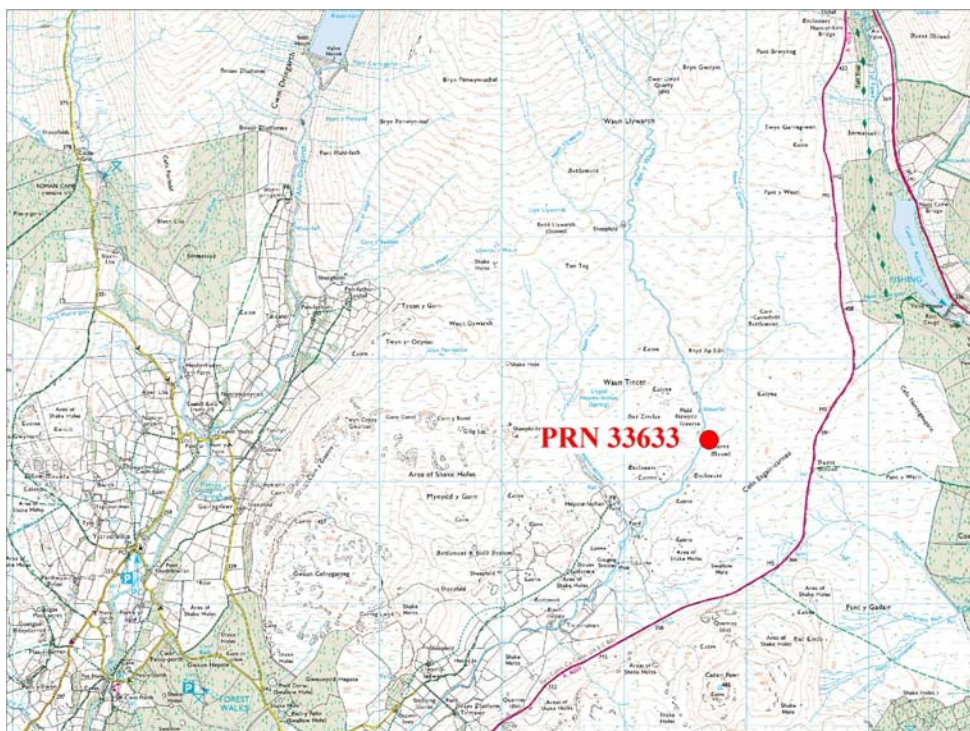
Mae'r map hwn yn seiliedig a'r ddeunydd yr Arolwg Ordans gyda chaniatâd Arolwg Ordans ar ran Rheolwr Llyfrfa Ei Mawrhydi © Hawlfraint y Goron. Mae atgynhyrchu heb ganiatâd yn torri hawlfraint y Goron a gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru 100017916, 2010

Site Name: Cefn Esgair Carnau burnt mound**PRN:** 33633**NGR:** SN9773014330**Map:** SN91SE**Altitude:** 360**Type:** Burnt mound**Form:** Earthwork

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

A cooking mound lies within a sharp bend of a stream which feeds the Afon y Waun. The mound is roughly semicircular in shape and measures 15m (NE-SW) by 10.5m with a maximum height of 1m. On its SE (stream) side there is a shallow, but characteristic, indentation. The mound is turf-covered but occasional patches of blackened earth, charcoal and small jagged broken stones are visible. Apart from some erosion on its streamward side, this cooking mound is in good condition. It is situated in the same general area as a large number of clearances and enclosures.

A substantial mound, hollowed out on the east, the NAR record (above) being perfectly adequate. There is virtually no visible surface stone, but on the west in particular stone lies immediately below the surface. The nearby stream diverts around the a stony material of the mound, and some erosion from the stream shows small stone fragments in the exposed face, though difficult to distinguish burnt stone from red sandstone.



This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Welsh Assembly Government 100017916, 2010

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