CPAT Report No 1083

Hepste Valley Prehistoric Landscape, Breconshire FIELD SURVEY 2010





THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Hepste Valley Prehistoric Landscape, Breconshire FIELD SURVEY 2010

N W Jones April 2011

Report for Cadw

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APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF SITES

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Afon Hepste rises on the southern slopes of Fan Fawr in the Brecon Beacons and flows southwards into the Afon Mellte, itself a tributary of the River Neath. The moorland surrounding the upper reaches of the Afon Hepste is a landscape rich in evidence of multi-period activity, although it is the remains of prehistoric landuse and funerary practices which provides the principal interest.
- 1.2 An intensive archaeological and historic landscape field survey undertaken in the mid-1980s by the National Archaeological Survey revealed the widespread survival of archaeological remains representing the recurrent, and at times intensive, occupation and exploitation of this area and its natural resources from the prehistoric period to the recent past. These remains include prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments, evidence of early agriculture and land allotment, and a range of settlements from the prehistoric and the medieval periods, the whole superimposed in parts by more recent remains of quarries, lime works and workings, and abandoned land intakes.

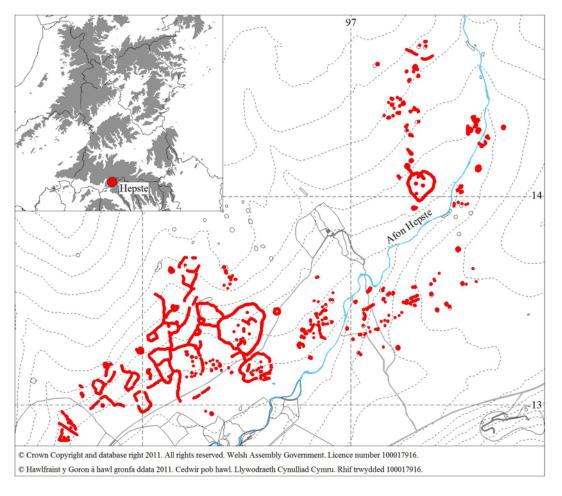


Fig. 1 The known extent of archaeological features within the upper Hepste valley

1.3 Further fieldwork was conducted in 2010 as part of the continuing study of prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments in mid and north-east Wales, with funding from Cadw. The work included the field examination of remains relating to early field systems and settlement, which were recorded during the 1980s, during which several previously unrecorded features were identified, together with a small-scale excavation to investigate a presumed Bronze Age burial cairn, the detailed results of which are reported elsewhere (Jones 2011). The opportunity was also taken to produce a detailed measured survey of a group of medieval platforms which form an integral part of the landscape.

1.4 The Hepste valley forms part of the East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-glôg Historic Landscape, and more specifically the Mynydd y Garn character area (Cadw 2001; Britnell 2008). This has been identified as an important area of early abandoned settlement and land use which covers an area of about 70 hectares, extending into the tributary stream valleys of the Nant Hepste-fechan and Afon y Waun and onto the sheltered east-facing slopes of Mynydd y Garn and Waun Tincer. These lower-lying traces of land use and settlement appear to represent all-year-round settlement and agricultural activity during favourable climatic periods, probably during the prehistoric and medieval periods, and just beyond the modern limits of enclosure. Visible remains include numerous prehistoric round huts some of which are associated with irregular, rubble walls and banks, some forming curvilinear enclosures of 0.4 to 3 hectares in extent, and clusters of clearance cairns which appear to denote cultivation. In addition, there are groups of rectangular building platforms with the remains of stone-built long huts, clustered especially along the Afon Hepste stream below the 380m contour, which probably represent settlement and land use in the medieval to earlier post-medieval period.

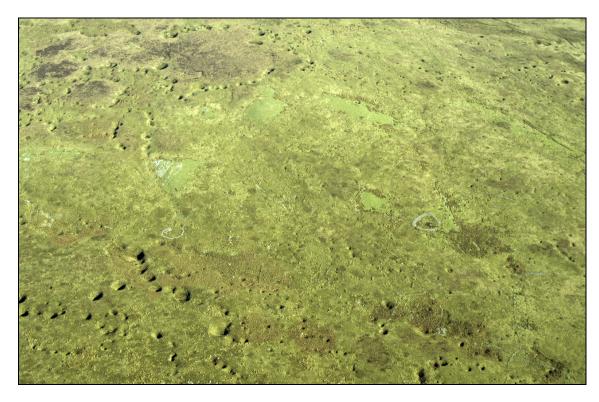


Fig. 2 Aerial view of some of the enclosures and field systems in the Hepste valley, including PRNs 3282 and 12591. Photo CPAT 08-c-0039

2 PREHISTORIC BURIAL CAIRNS

2.1 The stone-built burial cairns, which are assumed to date from the Bronze Age, provide the only visible evidence for prehistoric burial and ritual practices in the Hepste valley. The cairns, of which around 30 have been identified, vary considerably in size with the largest measuring 18.5m in diameter and 1.2m high (PRN 839), while some are only 4m across. The smaller examples are difficult to distinguish from the many clearance cairns and there is often an element of doubt in the attribution. The only known excavations are those undertaken as part of the current project, which investigated a site at Blaen Hepste (PRN 3285; see below), although it is assumed that each cairn was constructed to cover one or more inhumations and may have seen later reuse with the deposition of cremations.

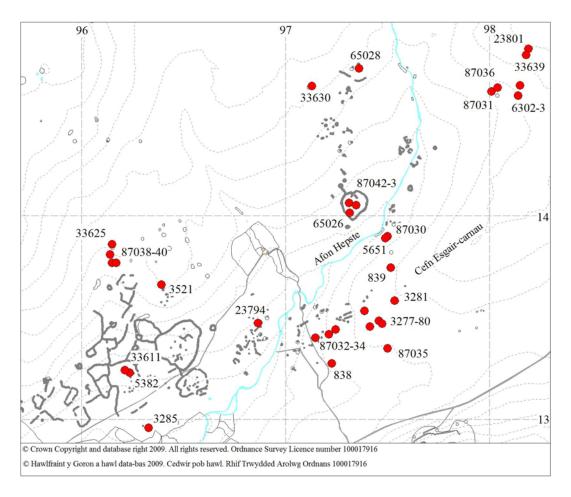


Fig. 3 Prehistoric burial cairns

2.2 There are two notable concentrations of burial cairns, both on the broad ridge of Cefn Esgair-carnau. The main group comprises 13 cairns in an area around 400m across which also includes a significant number of clearance cairns (Fig. 4). Although the cairns are scattered across the ridge there are also several clusters of two or three cairns which could, perhaps, have formed the burial places of family groups, as for example with the three prominent cairns PRNs 3277-9. The other grouping lies further to the north-east and comprises six cairns, of which two (PRNs 6302-3) are noticeably larger at 10-12m in diameter, the remainder measuring 5-7m across. Although there is another apparent grouping on the north-west side of the valley, only PRN 33625 can be identified as a burial cairn with any certainty, while the other three cairns (PRNs 87038-40) are all rather small and could relate to field clearance.



Fig. 4 The landscape of burial cairns and sink holes on Cefn Esgair-carnau, to the south-east of the Afon Hepste. Photo CPAT 08-c-0034

2.3 It is significant that although the majority of burial cairns are situated away from areas of settlement and agriculture, there are nevertheless several cairns within some of the rubble-walled enclosures as, for example, with PRNs 5382, 33611, 65026 and 87042-3. As already noted, some of the cairns are also in areas where clearance cairns are numerous, despite the lack of evidence for other evidence of agricultural activity such as field systems and enclosures.



Fig. 5 One of the more prominent burial cairns on Cefn Esgair-carnau (PRN 838). Photo CPAT 3099.0001

2.4 The excavated site at Blaen Hepste (PRN 3285) is of a different form than the other cairns in the Hepste valley, which are all fairly simple mounds of stone, although some could have originally had a kerb of larger stones around the perimeter. Instead, the cairn consists of an outer bank of earth and stone up to 0.3m high and 2.0m wide, with an external diameter of 12.9m, and an internal ditch about 2m wide and 0.7m deep, surrounding a low central platform 5.5m in diameter. There is also the suggestion of an original entrance or causeway on the eastern side where a break in the bank and ditch is flanked on one side by an edge-set stone. The excavations identified a large pit in the centre which, although lacking any surviving skeletal remains, did contain evidence for the former presence of an inhumation which had affected the distribution of stones within the fill. Although the form of the monument is unusual it is not unique and two similar sites are recorded at Carnau Gwynion, near Ystradfellte, around 4.2km to the west-north-west (PRNs 3264 and 5733), perhaps indicating a regional variation in the tradition of Bronze Age funerary and ritual monuments.



Fig. 6 Blaen Hepste burial cairn under excavation in 2010. Photo CPAT 3149-0062

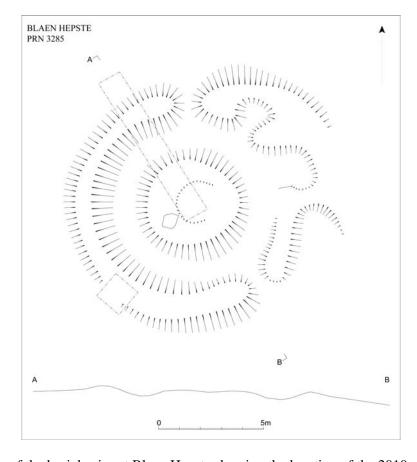


Fig. 7 Plan of the burial cairn at Blaen Hepste showing the location of the 2010 excavations

3 PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT AND LAND-USE

3.1 An important area of early settlement and land use has been identified in the upper valley of the Afon Hepste, extending into the tributary stream valleys of the Nant Hepste-fechan and Afon y Waun, as well as onto the sheltered east-facing slopes of Mynydd y Garn and Waun Tincer. The visible remains include hut circles, stock enclosures, abandoned field walls and clearance cairns. Although none of these have so far been closely dated it seems likely that at least some remains date broadly to the period between the Bronze Age and the Roman periods, though others are also likely to be of medieval and post-medieval date. For the purposes of this report these remains have been divided into two main areas, around Blaen Hepste (Fig. 9) and Waun Tincer (Fig. 10).

Settlement

3.2 There are around 20 presumed prehistoric hut circles which are currently known, appearing either singly or in small clusters and may either indicate seasonal or all-year settlement during favourable climatic periods. These are sometimes associated with small stone-banked enclosures where possibly animals were herded. The huts appear as circles of low, dry-stone walling, which measure between 4.5-10 metres in diameter, some of them having an obvious entrance.



Fig. 8 Ffald Newydd hut circles PRN 50264. Photo CPAT 3099.0023

3.3 In the area around Blaen Hepste one hut (PRN 97125) appears to be directly associated with a probable stock enclosure (PRN 3282), positioned immediately inside the entrance and measuring perhaps 6m in diameter. Although there are also two hut circles (PRNs 12592-3) within enclosure PRN 12590, this is a much larger enclosure and presumably had a different function. At Waun Tincer there are several groups of probable hut circles, including three conjoined huts (Fig. 8; PRN 502645) with a number of enclosures close by.

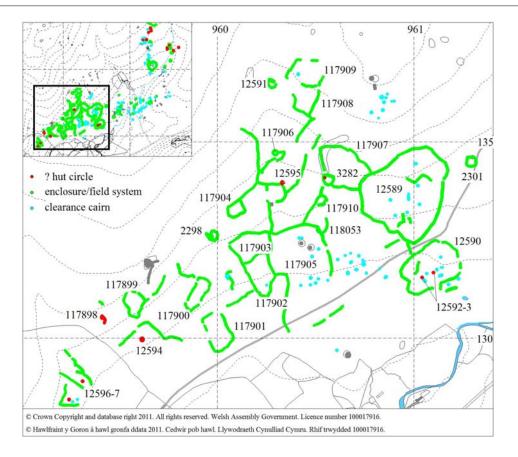


Fig. 9 Prehistoric settlement and land use near Blaen Hepste

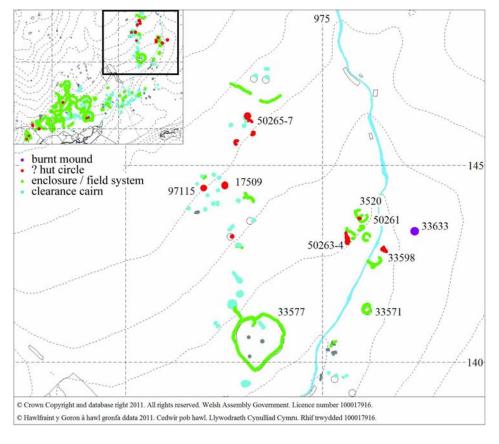


Fig. 10 Prehistoric settlement and land use at Waun Tincer

3.4 Another facet of early settlement and land use is the presence of a burnt mound next to the Afon-y-waun, towards the head of the Hepste valley (Fig. 10; PRN 33633). Burnt mounds, which evidence elsewhere suggests are likely to be Bronze Age in date, are represented by accumulations of burnt stones, ash and charcoal, usually sited next to a stream. Traditionally they have been thought to be associated with cooking activities, although more recent theories suggest that some could have been used as a kind of sauna bath. Like the distribution of prehistoric burial and ritual sites these monuments appear to avoid areas of contemporary settlement and land use which again suggests significant functional division of landscape in the early prehistoric period.

Landuse

3.5 There are a number of enclosures which, by virtue of their size and form, have been classed as stock enclosures, perhaps the best example of which is Hepste Fechan Enclosure II (Fig. 11; PRN 3282). The enclosure is sub-circular, measuring approximately 30m across and defined by a stone bank, which is generally 4m wide with an entrance gap on the north-west side. The interior of the site has been levelled in relation to the natural slope and there is a probable hut just inside the entrance. Other comparable enclosures include PRNs 2301, 2289 and 12591.



Fig. 11 Hepste Fechan Enclosure II, PRN 3282. Photo CPAT 3099.0040

- 3.6 As well as the smaller stock enclosures there is an extensive system of rubble field walls and banks, some of which form larger enclosures, or perhaps more correctly enclosed fields, varying in size from 0.3ha to 3.5ha. The field system was clearly more extensive than the visible remains suggest and it is likely that stone was robbed for reuse in building the walls which surround the later, post-medieval fields, which lie beyond the unenclosed moorland land.
- 3.7 The field walls are all rather irregular, often with sinuous curves, and the fields which they form also lack any formal pattern. What is apparent, however, is that the field system may have developed on a rather piecemeal basis. There are several instances where a wall or enclosure has been appended to an existing feature as, for example, with one of the larger enclosures near Blaen Hepste, PRN 12589, which has another enclosure (PRN 117907) adjoining the north-west side and a short length of wall on the south side which leads to another enclosure (PRN 12590).



Fig. 12 Mynydd y Garn enclosure I, PRN 2298. Photo CPAT 3099.0045

- 3.8 Some of the smaller prehistoric enclosures have seen more than one phase of activity, although it is difficult to determine whether this was broadly contemporary or significantly later, perhaps indicating reuse of earlier structures during the medieval and post-medieval periods. Mynydd y Garn enclosure I (Fig. 12; PRN 2298), for example, is an irregular stock enclosure within which there are traces of internal subdivisions, and appended to the north-west side is a sub-rectangular, two-celled structure which appears to be considerably later. Another stock enclosure in the same area (PRN 12591) has the ruins of an irregular building or shelter built against the inside of the enclosure wall.
- 3.9 Other evidence for prehistoric and later landuse is provided by numerous clearance cairns, which often occur in extensive but loose clusters or cairnfields, and represent the collection of surface stone either for pasture improvement or to improve cultivated land. Most clearance cairns are simply small heaps of stone, perhaps 3-4m across, although some are more elongated. The enclosure and field walls will also have utilised stone cleared from the surrounding area. Clearance cairns exist both within some of the enclosed areas and also in areas with no obvious field systems, indicating that the exploitation of the Hepste valley for agriculture was widespread.

4 MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL ACTIVITY

4.1 Evidence for medieval settlement in the upper Hepste valley is, with one possible exception, concentrated in a small area on the north-west side of the river, near Hepste-fechan. There are also a number of post-medieval buildings and structures, including the abandoned farmstead at Hepste-fechan, together with limestone quarries and kilns.

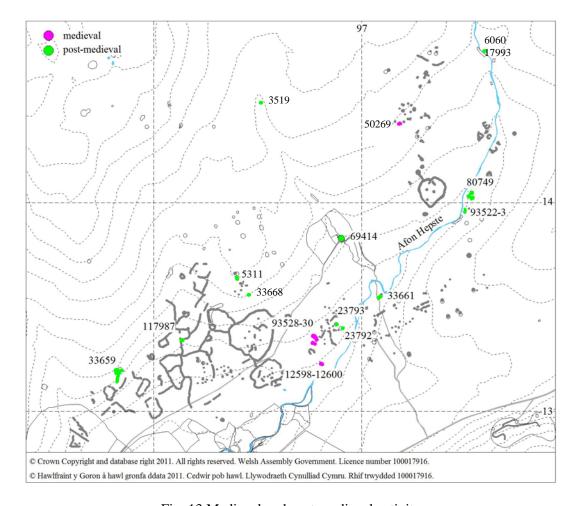


Fig. 13 Medieval and post-medieval activity

Medieval settlement

4.2 The medieval settlement at Hepste-fechan consists of three earthwork platforms, the rubble foundations of a building, and the vestigial remains of two other structures, all of which were surveyed in 2010 as part of the current project (Fig. 14). The platforms had all been cut into the slope, one of which also included a small fan of material to level the front of the platform (PRN 93530), creating a levelled area of around 9.5m by 7.5m on which a timber building would have stood. The original length of the other two platforms (PRN 12528-9) could not be determined. The rectangular building (PRN 12600) is 6.7m long and 4.3m wide, with rubble and earth walling which included some facing stone on the interior. The remains of two other structures (PRNs 12598-9) appear to be too small to have been houses and were, perhaps, ancillary buildings. The area to the north-east contains a number of clearance cairns of uncertain date, together with the earthwork remains of two possible structures which could be post-medieval in date (PRNs 23792-3).

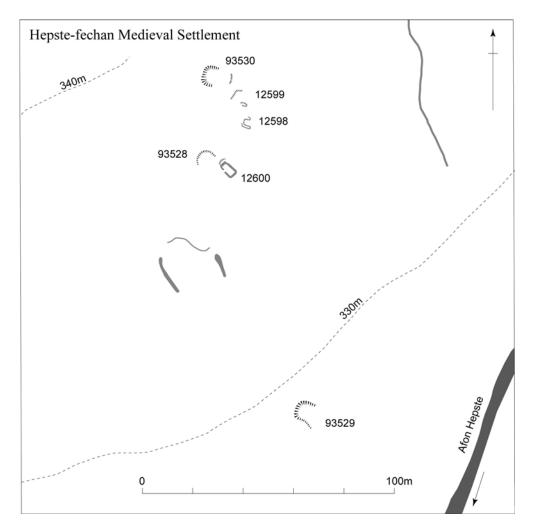


Fig. 14 The medieval settlement near Hepste-fechan

4.3 Some distance to the north-east, at Waun Tincer, an elongated cairn may be the remains of a long hut of medieval or later date with some suggestion of internal walling, which has been obscured by collapse and field clearance, although this is far from certain.

Post-medieval settlement

- 4.4 Later settlement is largely focused on stream-side locations, the most northerly of which is on the eastern bank of Afon y waun where there are the remains of two small rectangular buildings. The southern building (PRN 17993) measures 10m by 6.5m overall with an internal partition and is likely to have been the dwelling. The northern building (PRN 6060) is smaller and appears to have been open-sided, facing the stream.
- 4.5 Further south, on the east bank of the Afon Hepste and set amongst a limestone outcrop, are three ruined buildings, together with an associated enclosure and the ruined abuttments of a bridge (PRNs 80749 and 93522-3). On the same side of the stream, but further downstream, are the ruins of one or two longhouses and a third indeterminate structure. The more obvious longhouse (PRN 33661) has rubble walling defining a building measuring 11.5m by 4m internally, with traces of an internal partition. Immediately to the north-east are the vague ruins of a smaller rectangular structure (PRN 93524), possibly an outbuilding. The north-eastern end of a second possible longhouse lies around 80m to the south-west (PRN 93525).

4.6 On the north-west slopes of the valley, away from the stream, are the ruins of a rectangular building (PRN 117897) divided into three rooms, the western end of which is formed by one of the meandering field walls which appears to be part of the prehistoric field system. However, there are suggestions that at least part of the field system, including some of the smaller enclosures, may have been reused in the post-medieval period and some of the walling may, therefore, have been rebuilt. This is particularly evident to the south-east of the building where the north-east corner of one of the large prehistoric enclosures, or fields (PRN 117905), appears to have been rebuilt and realigned using stone from an earlier enclosure (PRN 118053) which it now overlies. Overlooking the earlier field



Fig. 15 The foundations of a rectangular postmedieval building (PRN 5311). Photo CPAT 3099.0033

system and immediately to the south of a burial cairn (PRN3521), are the foundations of rectangular building measuring 12m by 4.3m externally (Fig. 15).

4.6 It is also worth noting the disused farmstead at Hepste-fechan (PRN 69414) which occupies an isolated position alongside the Nant Hepste-fechan, surrounded by three enclosed fields, two of which are still cultivated. It is thought that the farmhouse may have been used subsequently as a shooting lodge by the Tredegar Estate.

Industrial sites

4.7 There are two disused limestone quarries on the slopes of Mynydd y Garn, one of which has the well preserved remains of a small stone-built limekiln (PRN 33659), while the other (PRN 33668) has associated earthworks which are suggestive of a limekiln. Small-scale lime burning would have been undertaken for use as an agricultural fertilizer.



Fig. 16 Mynydd y Garn limekiln PRN 33659. Photo CPAT 3099.0047

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The landscape of prehistoric fields, enclosures and burial cairns which occupies the upper reaches of the Hepste valley is unique in Powys in terms of its extent and diversity. In most areas prehistoric activity is largely evidenced by the presence of often numerous burial monuments and occasional ritual sites. There are a few examples, particularly in the Brecon Beacons, where hut circles are evident and occasionally these may be associated with traces of field walls or enclosures. In the Hepste valley, however, a prehistoric landscape survives to a significant extent, with the remains of habitation and agriculture lying side by side with funerary sites.
- 5.2 Of course, the visible evidence is not sufficient to determine any contemporaneity between the various elements of which the landscape is composed. In particular, it is not possible to draw conclusions from the location of a number of burial cairns within field enclosures. There is, however, a general separation of burial cairns from areas which were obviously used for agriculture and this is perhaps best illustrated by the concentration of funerary sites on Cefn Esgair-carnau, an area where field walls and enclosures are generally absent. The presence of clearance cairns within this area does signify some agricultural activity, although these could have been simply the result of improvement for grazing.
- 5.3 The pattern of enclosures and fields does provide some evidence for the development of the field system, however, and it is possible to identify a number of enclosures which appear to have been constructed at an early stage in the process and to which later elements have been appended. Sadly, the visible remains are perhaps too fragmentary to permit a thorough analysis of the field system as a whole. The survival of prehistoric features appears to be related to their proximity to later, presumably post-medieval, activity. It is therefore no coincidence that the vast majority of prehistoric remains lie on the unenclosed common land and that the degree of survival seems to increase with distance from the enclosed fields. The implication is that the earlier field walls were systematically robbed many centuries later to provide walling stone for a new system of enclosure. This is not universally the case, however, and there is evidence for the later reuse of some of the early enclosures, with the addition of small stone-built shelters and perhaps even the rebuilding of some sections of field walls.
- 5.4 Although it is the prehistoric features for which this landscape is best known there are also important remains which relate to later activity. Medieval settlement is also apparent with a number of hut platforms and other structures concentrated in a relatively small area near Hepstefechan. There is post-medieval settlement too, with three clusters of stream-side buildings, although whether permanent or seasonal is uncertain, as well as areas of limestone quarrying and agricultural lime burning.
- 5.5 This is, therefore, a multi-period landscape which has developed over perhaps four millennia, possibly with recurring rather than continuous use which may have been related to periods of more favourable climatic conditions.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6.1 The writer would like to thank the following: Wendy Owen and Richard Hankinson, for their assistance with the survey; Matthew Williams and Judith Harvey, Brecon Beacons National Park; Mr Anderson of the Graziers Association; Mr Rees, the local grazier; and Cadw for funding the survey.

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APPENDIX 1 GAZETTEER OF SITES

BRONZE AGE BURIAL CAIRNS

PRN 3285 SN9633012960 Blaen Hepste burial cairn

Round barrow Bronze Age

The earthworks lie on a slight natural eminence at SN 96331296 at an altitude of around 324m OD. They consist of an outer bank of earth and stone up to 0.3m high and 2.0m wide, with an external diameter of 12.9m. The internal ditch is about 2m wide and 0.6m below the top of the bank, surrounding a low central platform 5.5m in diameter with a slight hollow, to the south-west of which there is an earth-fast boulder. The eastern side of the site has been subject to some disturbance and the presence of dense reeds makes it hard to distinguish the earthworks in this area. There is, however, the suggestion of an eastern entrance where a break in the bank and ditch is flanked on one side by an edge-set stone. There are also breaks in the bank to the north and south, although neither has an accompanying causeway across the ditch and are unlikely to be original.

Excavations by CPAT in 2010 (Jones 2011) revealed the ditch to be around 2m in width and 0.7m deep. The bank sealed a peat deposit which extended beyond the bank to the north. The ditch surrounded a central area between 4m and 4.4m across which had been raised slightly by around 0.16m above the natural subsoil. A large pit was identified, measuring at least 1.2m across, which was offset from the centre of the mound on the south-eastern side. Within the lower part of the pit there were a number of stones which had not been deliberately set but rather gave the impression of having come to rest against an object which was no longer apparent. Assuming that the central pit originally contained a burial the distribution of stones would indicate the position of the body, of which no physical trace remained. A fragment of hazel charcoal from the pit date has been dated to 4550 – 4370 cal. BC, suggesting that the charcoal had been redeposited within the pit.

PRN 838 SN9722713275 Cefn Esgair Carnau Cairn VII

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A well-preserved cairn of rubble construction, the outer edge of which is now partly turf-covered (RCAHMW, US 79 iii). The cairn measures 15m in diameter, and is up to 0.8m high. The edge is generally well defined, particularly on the north side, suggesting the possibility of a kerb, although none is actually visible. There is evidence of slight disturbance in the centre and on the south edge, although this is not recent or serious. Cairn is sited on the west end of a low east-west ridge, with views down the valley to the west.

PRN 839 SN9751713745 Cefn Esgair Carnau Cairn IV

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A large cairn (RCAHMW 1997, US 79 viii), c. 18.5m in diameter by 1.2m, sited on the north side of a low ridge. It is composed of loose stone, with the perimeter partly turf-covered. The centre has been disturbed by a large robber crater/shelter at the north end, which measures 5m across by 0.2m deep, and a smaller area of disturbance at the south end 3.5m E-W by 1.5m N-S by 0.5m deep. The apparent height of the cairn has been raised by stone removed from the centre. Stone has also been removed from the north end, possibly to form a small rectangular shelter within a small modern cairn - this is surrounded by a spread of stone 6m across which is of uncertain origin. A small ?shelter has been cut into the SE side of the cairn. There is a single small shakehole on the west side.

PRN 3277 SN9745913484 Cefn Esgair Carnau Cairn I

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

The cairn (RCAHMW 1997, US 79 vi) is disturbed such that its original form is now difficult to determine. The surviving remains consist of a low circular cairn c.10m in diameter by 0.3m high,

within which stone appears to have been removed from the north side to form an arc on the south side, occupying most of the cairn's interior and standing up to 0.6m high.

PRN 3278 SN9747413471 Cefn Esgair Carnau Cairn II

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A well-preserved cairn (RCAHMW 1997, US 79 vii), c.9m in diameter by 0.6m high, sited on the crest of a low ridge, and affording views to the west. It is the south-eastern of a group of three cairns (which include PRNs 3277 & 3279). The cairn is composed of loose stone, and is largely turf-covered except in its centre, which is slightly hollowed suggesting disturbance, possibly associated with a small modern cairn on the SE side. There is certainly a hollow on the north and east sides, although this is unlikely to be a ditch.

PRN 3279 SN9741513457 Cefn Esgair Carnau Cairn III

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A large cairn (RCAHMW 1997, US 79 v) measuring 12m from N-S by 11.6m from E-W and 0.5m high, composed of loose rubble but with its perimeter turf-covered. There is a central disturbance, probably a shelter, 2-4m across by 0.6m deep. This is the western cairn of a group of 3 (with PRNs 3277 & 3278).

PRN 3280 SN9738713533 Cefn Esgair Carnau Cairn VI

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

Large cairn (RCAHMW 1997, US 79 iv), c. 11.6m in diameter by 1.0m high, composed of loose stone, and with a slight turf cover around its perimeter. The centre has been disturbed by the construction of one or possibly two shelters. A linear depression running eastwards from the centre may be an old excavation trench, although it terminates in a small shakehole, suggesting that this might be the cause of the subsidence. A second small sinkhole lies on the north side. The cairn is sited towards the crest of a low ridge, with views to the north.

PRN 3281 SN9753613584 Cefn Esgair Carnau Cairn V

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A roughly circular low cairn (RCAHMW 1997, US 79 ix), measuring 11m N-S by 10.6m E-W and 1m high. The surface of the cairn has been disturbed by the construction of a number of small rough shelters, although the disturbance does not extend to any depth. There is a small sinkhole on the northwest side.

PRN 3521 SN9639213662 Hepste Fechan Cairn

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A possible cairn (RCAHMW, RC 109) located in a prominent position. Its diameter is c.10m and height up to 0.7m. The site, however, is not entirely convincing as a cairn. Although it looks good form the west side, the south side merges with the slope. The surrounding area is a turf-covered limestone pavement whilst the cairn material is sandstone, but this may be a remnant of overlying sandstone bedding.

PRN 5382 SN9623613230 Blaen Hepste cairn I

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A well preserved cairn (RCAHMW 1997, US75 xiii), c.7.4m in diameter by 0.5m high, with a central depression, exposing some stone, though generally turf-covered. There is a possible lobed extension to the cairn on its S side. The cairn is sited on a very gentle S-facing slope in an area of irregular low field walls and clearance cairns. A second possible barrow (PRN 33611) lies 20m to the NW.

PRN 5651 SN9750013900 Cefn Esgair Carnau Cairn X

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A cairn, c. 8.6m in diameter and 0.6m high, composed of loose stone, with its perimeter partly turf covered. A small shelter c. 1.75m across by 0.5m deep, has been built in the centre. The site lies within cairnfield PRN 12606. A second cairn PRN lies 15m to west. Neither cairn appears to have been carefully constructed, although both appear to be funerary rather than clearance cairns.

PRN 6302 SN9815014640 Carreg Saith-troedfedd Cairn I

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A large low cairn (RCAHMW 1997, RC 129), c. 12m in diameter and up to 0.75m high, composed of small to medium-sized stone, and its perimeter covered with turf. The cairn has been partly disturbed by the construction of a horseshoe-shaped shelter against its west side, which uses stone from the cairn. On the east side are several adjoining heaps of larger stones which are not cairn material, and within which is a curious small dry-stone structure, two courses high and measuring 1.4m by 0.8m overall. This area of stone is c. 10m across an roughly circular in shape. It is clearly different from the main cairn, but could conceivably be the disturbed remains of a second cairn. There are the remains of several small shelters within this spread of stone. The siting is at the head of a broad valley, and is in the area of cairnfield PRN 6301. Just to the north of the site is an arc of stones extending for 10m which is of uncertain antiquity.

PRN 6303 SN9814014590 Carreg Saith-troedfedd Cairn II

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A well-preserved cairn (RCAHMW 1997, RC 128) built of angular stone, its perimeter turf-covered. The cairn measures 10m in diameter by 0.5m high, and is sited on the north side of a slight valley and in the area of cairnfield PRN 6301. On the SW side of the cairn is a low arc of partly turf-covered stones, which extends for c. 6m. The surface of the cairn is uneven, but it is certainly not very disturbed, as previously reported. Cairn is generally in very good condition, and has no active erosion. There is a possible kerb, but this is largely turf-covered.

PRN 23794 SN9686613473 Tir-yr-onen cairn III

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A possible funerary cairn in the area of cairnfield PRN 33756. It consists of a low mound of small stone, its diameter c. 7.4m E-W by 6m N-S, and 0.3m high. The west side of it has been disturbed and the top is rather uneven. This cairn appears to be rather more regular than others in the area, and may be a funerary one rather than clearance.

PRN 23801 SN9819114820 Carn-caniedydd cairn

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A possible round barrow, surviving as a well-preserved small cairn c.5.5m in diameter and 0.3m high, composed of angular stone and largely turf-covered. There is a slight central depression and a small modern marker cairn on the SW side.

PRN 33611 SN9621313242 Blaen Hepste cairn II

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

An irregular cairn (RCAHMW 1997, US75 xii), c. 8m in diameter and 0.5m high, which is generally turf-covered, but with stones and small boulders visible. It has a slight depression centrally, where small stones are exposed. There is a slight mound to the west of the hollow, which may be upcast spoil, although the surface of the cairn is generally uneven. It lies within an area of field system and clearance cairns, and lies 20m NW of cairn PRN 5382.

PRN 33625 SN9615013860 Mynydd y Garn cairn I

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A small cairn (RCAHMW 1997, RC 108), c. 6m by 5.2m and 0.4m high, composed of sandstone and limestone blocks, with partial turf cover.

PRN 33630 SN9712914638 Glog Las cairn Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A cairn of sandstone rubble measuring 8.8m E-W by 8.2m N-S and 0.3m high. The perimeter is consolidated with turf, giving the impression of a ring bank, although the width of this varies considerably. There is no sign of an entrance. The interior is very disturbed and uneven, and there is a depression towards the south side (caused by a sinkhole) and also two heaps of loose stone.

PRN 33639 SN9818014790 Pant y Waun cairn Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A cairn (RCAHMW 1997, RC 130) lies on the edge of a narrow shelf, the ground beyond falling away down valley to the S. It consists of a consolidated mound of small and medium grade stones and measures 7m (N-S) by 5m with a height of c.0.6m. At the centre there is a shallow depression. The site is surrounded by shake holes.

PRN 65026 SN9731514014 Hepste-fechan cairn IV

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A cairn c. 6.8m in diameter by 0.4m high, located in the SW corner of enclosure PRN 33577. The outer edge of the cairn is well consolidated and has partial turf cover, whilst the interior is loose stone with is a central depression. The site's association with the enclosure suggests a possibility of it being a clearance cairn, though its construction seems rather too regular and deliberate when compared with the clearance cairns in this general area. The site also seems associated with funerary cairns PRN 87042 and PRN 87043.

PRN 65028 SN9736014724 Waun Tincer cairn II

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A mound of stones c. 6m in diameter and 0.6m high, with its outer edge partly turf-covered. The centre is infilled with loose stone. A small well-set upright stone on the west side gives the suggestion that this may be an infilled hut circle although the general appearance is more like a disturbed funerary cairn.

PRN 87030 SN9749013890 Cefn Esgair Carnau cairn XI

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

Lying 15m to west of cairn PRN 5651 is a probable funerary cairn measuring 6.4m N-S and 6.8m E-W by 0.5m high. It is composed of loose stone of varying size, and partly turf covered around perimeter. Neither cairn appears to have been carefully constructed, although both appear to be funerary rather than clearance cairns. Sited within cairnfield PRN 12606.

PRN 87031 SN9801014610 Carreg Saith-troedfedd cairn III

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A cairn 5.5m diameter by 0.5m high, mostly composed of larger boulders resembling a kerb cairn. It is mostly turf covered, with larger stones on the S side and a small length of wall appended on W side.

PRN 87032 SN9721313419 Tir-yr-onen cairn VIII

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A small, circular cairn of loose stone, now partly turf-covered, 5.3m in diameter and 0.4m high. It is part of cairnfield PRN 33631, although this site appears to be more regular and of more deliberate construction compared to the more obviously clearance cairns around.

PRN 87033 SN9714713402 Tir-yr-onen cairn IX

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A small, irregular cairn, c.4.7m in diameter and 0.4m high, of rubble construction, and now partly turf-covered. It is part of cairnfield PRN 33631, although more regular and of more deliberate construction compared with other more obviously clearance cairns around.

PRN 87034 SN9724613443 Hepste-fechan cairn III

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A possible funerary cairn c. 4.3m in diameter by 0.5m high, composed of mostly turf-covered stone. Part of cairnfield PRN 33631, and may possibly be clearance, but this cairn is rather more regular and of better construction than the other clearance cairns around.

PRN 87035 SN9750013350 Cefn Esgair Carnau cairn XII

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A small, low cairn c.7.5m E-W by 6.8m N-S and 0.4m high, sited on the south side of a ridge in an area of sink holes. Two sinkholes are immediately adjacent to the cairn, one to the SW and other to NE. The centre of the cairn has been disturbed by an excavation trench running SW-NE, exposing the rubble stone construction of the cairn. The undisturbed areas of the cairn are largely turf-covered. Cairn lies in close proximity to PRNs 3277, 3278 and 3279.

PRN 87036 SN9804014630 Carreg Saith-troedfedd cairn IV

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A cairn 4m in diameter and 0.5m high which may been funerary rather than clearance.

PRN 87038 SN9614013810 Mynydd y Garn cairn II

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A small round cairn lies on a SW facing slope of a small dry valley, near its head, at c.380m above O.D. It measures c. 4.4m in diameter and 0.3m high, and is composed of sandstone blocks, mostly covered by turf and bilberry.

PRN 87039 SN9615013770 Mynydd y Garn cairn III

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A small round cairn lies on a SW facing slope of a small dry valley, near its head, at c.380m above OD. It measures 4.2m in diameter and 0.4m high, and is composed of consolidated sandstone rubble with some larger limestone blocks. To the S are two smaller stone piles at SN 9613 1379 and SN 9614 1376, which measure 2.5m in diameter and 0.3m high, and 4m in diameter and 0.2m high respectively.

PRN 87040 SN9617013770 Mynydd y Garn cairn IV

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

Small cairn c. 3.2m in diameter by 0.4m high, composed of sandstone blocks, mostly covered by turf and bilberry.

PRN 87042 SN9731214064 Hepste-fechan cairn VIII

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A small cairn, c. 6m in diameter by 0.3m high, its outer edge consolidated by turf, and its interior of loose stone. The east side of the interior has subsided into a sinkhole, which led RCAHMW to record this site on the 1997 Inventory map as a hut. The site lies within enclosure PRN 33577.

PRN 87043 SN9734714053 Hepste-fechan cairn IX

Round barrow (cairn) Bronze Age

A slightly oval cairn, 9.4m E-W by 8.4m N-S and 0.4m high. The cairn has two large sandstone blocks on the east side, and smaller stones on the south side, suggesting a kerb. The outer edge is consolidated by turf, while its interior is loose stone. The west side has sunk into a sink hole. The whole site sloped to the east. The site lies within enclosure PRN 33577.

PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT

PRN12567 SN9803015320 Carn Canienydd settlement, hut

Hut circle? Prehistoric

This was recorded by the Royal Commission as the fourth hut circle in a small settlement (RCAHMW 1997, US60 iv; PRN 323491) that occupies an isolated knoll near Afon y Waun. It lay immediately south of the main enclosure and consisted of a depression bounded by a turf-consolidated rubble bank up to 1.5m wide and 0.7 m high, with an internal diameter of 3m.

The feature lies just off the top of the hillock and is set into its south-facing slope just above the lower-lying and potentially boggy flats surrounding the hillock which presently support a 'sea' of coarse grass and rushes.

The slope setting has necessitated a degree of scooping resulting in the creation of a fan at the rear (on the north). This fan is submerged by rubble including large blocks, perhaps implying the presence of a wall that has collapsed inwards. On the west and east there are low stone walls and these continue round to merge on the south, though the stone here is sparser, covered by rushes and is less convincing. Probably the entrance was on this side, too. The interior as noted above is choked by rubble. Natural stone outcrops immediately to the north of the feature. Its external dimensions are in the region of 5.7m from north to south by 5.6m. The authenticity of this feature as a round hut is a little doubtful.

PRN 12592 SN9652113155 Mynydd y Garn hut

Hut Prehistoric

A sub-square hut (RCAHMW 1997, US 75v) defined by a partially turf-covered rubble bank averaging 0.8m wide and 0.3m high. Entrance, 0.8m wide, on SW side. The SE, NE and NW banks are straight, but with rounded corners. The W corner is even more rounded. No visible internal features. The shape of the site may suggest it is not prehistoric in origin. Overall dimensions 5.1m NE/SW by 4.7m and 0.3m high.

PRN 12593 SN9655013168 Mynydd y Garn hut

Hut circle? Prehistoric

A small, sub-circular hut (RCAHMW 1997, US 75vi) with the entrance probably a having been a gap on the SW. The structure is defined by a partially turf-covered stony bank averaging 1.0m wide and 0.3m high. Some stone in the interior, but there is no definite structural evidence. Overall dimensions 4.5m WNW/ESE by 3.9m.

PRN 12594 SN9580912997 Mynydd y Garn hut

Hut circle ? Prehistoric

A near circular enclosure (RCAHMW 1997, US75 vii) with apex and entrance, 1.5m wide, on the S side. Defined by a partially turf-covered rubble bank, between 1.2m and 1.9m wide and up to 0.3m high. Plenty of tumbled stone in the interior. Possibly the site of a hut or fold. The overall dimensions are 8.1m N/S by 8.0m, the interior approximately 5.2m in diameter.

PRN 12595 SN9616413395 Mynydd y Garn hut

Hut Prehistoric

A sub-rectangular fold or hut (RCAHMW 1997, US 75 viii) which extends from the outer corner of a rubble-walled field enclosure. The interior measures 3.6m by 2.7m and the exterior is broadest on the N corner. Internal and external facing stones are visible in the E part. There is a lower section at the S corner, adjacent to the field wall, which is the only evidence of a possible entrance. Overall dimensions 6.9m NW/SE by 5.8m and 0.3m high. Interior 4.0m NW/SE by 3.0m.

PRN 12596 SN9562312843 Mynydd y Garn hut

Hut circle? Prehistoric

A 4.5m-diameter hut circle (RCAHMW 1997, US75 ix) on enclosed land to the SW of late prehistoric settlement on the S to SE-facing slope of Mynydd y Garn. An approximately circular structure composed of a stony bank. The bank is larger on the W, where it is 2.0m wide and 0.6m high, diminishing as it curves to meet the entrance on the ESE, where only the outer edge of the structure is visible. Few stones in the interior. The very low remains of a probably contemporary stone bank curves around the site on the W, S and E sides, some 10m distant. The structure is small to be a dwelling, having an internal diameter of only 2.1m, so it was perhaps an ancillary structure to the settlement in the area. Overall dimensions 4.9m E/W by 4.3m.

PRN 12597 SN9565712890 Mynydd y Garn hut

Hut circle? Prehistoric

A 4m-diameter hut circle (RCAHMW 1997, US75 x) on enclosed land to the SW of late prehistoric settlement on the S to SE-facing slope of Mynydd y Garn. The sub-circular structure composed of a low stone bank, partially turf-covered. Entrance, 1.2m wide, on the SE. Level interior. The site is situated within an area of low wandering walls/banks to which it is probably associated. It seems to be too small to be a dwelling. Overall dimensions 4.4m NE/SW by 4.0m and 0.3m high. Internally 2.5m NE/SW by 2.0m.

PRN 12604 SN9763014250 Waun Tincer hut Hut circle? Prehistoric

Opposite the settlement complex on the N side of the river bank are two well-defined subrectangular enclosures with adjacent hut circles. The first (RCAHMW 1997, US 78 ix) is an oval-shaped enclosure bounded by a bank on the SE and NE, and on the NW by the river, is 30m E-W by 16 m. There is a hut circle on the S outside anincorporated into the bank, but some damage has been done here by converting it to a shooting box.

A possible hut circle appended to the S side of a larger oval enclosure. The interior has been damaged by theonstruction of a later structure, as described by RCAHMW. The evidence of a possible hut comprises curving bank of stone running SSW from the enclosure, turning S, then SE before becoming difficult to identify around the possible SE entrance. The E side is perhaps defined by a stone bank running N to meet then closure bank. The interior is quite irregular, but this may be due to later damage. Overall dimensions 9.1N/S by 8.3m, internally 5.6m N/S by 6.5m.

PRN 17509 SN9725014450 Waun Tincer hut circle

Hut circle? Prehistoric

A probable circular hut defined by a partially turf-covered stone bank. From the WSW side round to the SSE the bank is not present, but there is a wider scatter of stone which suggest past disturbance. There is then an entrance gap on the SE, before the bank re-emerges. Some stone in the interior, but nothing which is definitely structural. The overall dimensions are 9.7m N/S by 9.6m, the interior about 6.7m in diameter and the bank 0.3m high.

PRN 33597 SN9763014280 Waun Tincer hut Hut circle ? Prehistoric

This is one of three enclosures (RCAHMW 1997, US 78 ix) on the south-east bank of Afon Hepste in this area. Thought to be basically oval in plan by RCAHMW, it is bounded by a stony bank on the south and east and by the river on the west; it is open on the north. The enclosed area measures about 30m (east to west) by at the most 16m; its bank is 1.5m-3m wide and 0.3m high. Appended to the south side is a probable round hut. Its appearance is confused by the later addition of what the Royal Commission, probably correctly, thought to be a shooting box, which lies eccentrically within it. The round hut can be traced as a jumble of sandstone blocks which roughly form a circle, though perhaps more oval than circular, particularly as the north wall is partially the straighter enclosure bank. There are hints of facing slabs in some places, but nothing that is truly convincing. The entrance is difficult to detect but could be on the south-east. Internally it is about 5.4m north to south by 6.3m east to west, and the wall is around 1.6m wide and generally no more than 0.3m high.

PRN 33633 SN9773014330 Cefn Esgair Carnau burnt mound

Burnt mound Prehistoric

The cooking mound lies within a sharp band of a small stream which feeds the Afon y waun. It is situated in the same general area as a large number of clearances and enclosures. The mound is roughly semi-circular 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.

PRN 35887 SN9761214145 Waun Tincer hut Hut Bronze Age

On the river terrace overlooking the S. bank of the River Hepste is a small sub-oval enclosure (RCAHMW 1997, US 78), measuring 25m N-S by 20m E-W, within a low turfed over perimeter wall about 2 m wide and 0.2 m high. The entrance lay on the E, uphill side, and a small hut circle is located inside the N, wall.

PRN 50265 SN9731014630 Waun Tincer hut I Hut circle Prehistoric

A circular hut set on a slight terrace. Entrance, 1.5m wide, on the SE side. The site is defined by a stone/rubble bank which includes stones up to 0.6m across. No internal or external facing to the bank is evident and there are no visible internal features. Overall dimensions 11.5m E/W by 10.8m and up to 0.4m high. The bank is between 1.5m and 2.2m wide.

PRN 97110 SN9757014260 Ffald Newydd hut Hut circle Prehistoric

A sub-circular hut defined by a stone bank. Situated at the base of a SE-facing scarp on a level river terrace. Difficult to discern an entrance due to its condition, but there are hints of internal facing stones to the bank. Only some 4m to the SE, there is a second possible hut. This is so poorly defined that it has not been recorded separately but would, if authentic, have been some 5m in diameter. The site may

be associate with the enclosures in the vicinity. Overall dimensions 4.8m N/S by 4.5m and 0.3m high, internally 3.0m N/S by 2.6m.

PRN 97115 SN9719814443 Waun Tincer hut Hut circle Prehistoric

A probable hut circle subsequently used as a dumping place for cleared stone. A bank of stone - the hut circle wall - is visible on the south, west, north and intermittently on the east sides as a raised rim. There is a lowering of this bank on the south side but no absolute certainty that this is an entrance, and something similar on the north-east where the lowered bank is 'blocked' by stone. Internally on the west there could be some facing slabs.

In the interior stone has been dumped to a maximum height of around 0.8m over much of it. In the east quadrant a small covered, cist-like 'store' has been constructed, its interior no more than 0.3m long and surely reasonably recent in date?. The maximum dimensions are 8.6m north to south by 9.2m east to west, with the width of the bank 1.4 to 1.7m.

PRN 97123 SN9799015330 Carn Caniedydd hut circle

Hut circle Prehistoric

A sub-circular hut defined by a stone bank/wall, which is now partially turf-covered. The interior is levelled in relation to the gentle SW-facing slope, having been cut into it on the NE. Internal facing stones are visible on the NE. No entrance was discovered. The SW wall seems to have collapsed inwards, leading to the interior having the (false) appearance of ovality. No internal features were apparent. The site measures 7.0m NW/SE by 6.4m and up to 0.4m high.

PRN 50264 SN9756014310 Ffald Newydd Hut Hut circle ? Prehistoric

The site is recorded as three interlocking stony circles averaging 5m in diameter and having rubble walls to a maximum of 0.3m high. The whole resembles huts, and adjoining are disjointed linear walls probably representing a derelict field system. These compartmentalized enclosures are small enough to be huts., The central one is the largest with internal diameters of 2.7m by 2.5m, an interior largely clear of rubble, and a possible entrance, choked with rubble, on the east. To the south of the central hut is another, reasonably convincing though lacking curvilinearity in places. It has an obvious entrance on the south-east. The party wall separating the central from the northern 'hut' is rather straight, and the latter is the smallest of the three and has rubble in the interior. As such it is the least convincing. The walls at the rear (on the west) are broader and imply boulder dumps which might even have been existence before the huts. Low walls run off to the north and south of the hut group and although they are not complete they do suggest small, enclosed fields.

PRN 50267 SN9733014580 Waun Tincer hut III Hut circle? Prehistoric

The site actually seems to comprise two almost straight sections of stone bank at right-angles to each other. The E/W section is shorter, the other runs from it, giving the appearance of an offset T-shape. A possible third section of bank runs W from the S end of the N/S bank, but there is no evidence of a fourth side. Overall dimensions 8.5m N/S by 4m.

PRN 97125 SN9627213408 Hepste Fechan Enclosure II hut

Hut circle ? Prehistoric

The enclosure (PRN 3282) is sub-circular, measuring approximately 30m in overall diameter and defined by a stone bank, which is generally 4m wide. A simple entrance gap, 1.0m wide, lies on the NW side. The interior of the site has been levelled in relation to the natural, S-facing, slope and was dismissed as a defended enclosure because of the variation in the height of the bank. On the N, the

bank is at least 1.0m high internally, but only 0.4m high externally, whereas on the S, the bank is 0.7m high externally and only 0.2m high internally. The interior of the enclosure contains what is probably the remains of a circular hut (not noted in the previous description of the enclosure), immediately to the S of the entrance. This is 6m in diameter, but is only evident from a few stones poking through the turf. Its exact layout is not possible to determine. Further evidence of internal features was just visible, perhaps defining a central partition running NW/SE, although this is only really visible where it meets the SE part of the surrounding bank.

PRN 117898 SN9571013055 Mynydd y Garn hut?

Hut circle? Prehistoric

Possible round hut comprising a low curving rubble bank c. 1m wide and 0.2m high which defines the SW side of an arc c. 5m in diameter. A curving rubble bank leads away from this downslope to the S. Around 15m to NNW (SN 9569713072) there is a possible platform terraced into the slope, measuring c. 6m across, with a second, similar, platform at SN 9571813083, immediately NE of a short rubble bank. These could be natural but are of a size and location to suggest possible round hut platforms.

PREHISTORIC AND LATER LANDUSE

PRN 2298 SN9599013260 Mynydd y Garn enclosure I

Enclosure Prehistoric

The enclosure measures (RCAHMW 1997, US75iii) 21m by N-S by 16m with walls up to 1m high and 1.2m wide, though of coursed stone and having seen use as a sheepfold in recent times, is not unlike some Romano-British homesteads in appearance. Disjointed wall sections are also to be found both within and outside the enclosures, suggesting an original pattern of considerable complexity. There is a sub-rectangular, two-celled structure appended to the NW interior of the enclosure, measuring 12.3m NW-SE by 6m at the SE end, narrowing to 3.2m at the NW end. This structure appears to be post-medieval.

PRN 2301 SN9664013450 Hepste Fechan Enclosure I

Enclosure Prehistoric

Well-defined sub-rectangular enclosure with rubble banks 1.3-2m wide and up to 0.3m high, including some orthostats on the NW corner. There is a large shakehole on the N side. No obvious entrance.

PRN 3282 SN9628013400 Hepste Fechan Enclosure II

Enclosure Prehistoric

A pastoral enclosure, measuring 21m NE-SW by 22M NW-SE internally, lying at the junction of three redundant field boundaries and seeming to be a focal point for the enclosures which are widespread in this part of the Hepste valley. The stone banks approach the site, from the N, S and SE. The enclosure is sub-circular, measuring approximately 30m in overall diameter and defined by a stone bank, which is generally 4m wide. A simple entrance gap, 1.0m wide, lies on the NW side. The interior of the site has been levelled in relation to the natural, S-facing, slope. Any view that this was a defended enclosure can be dismissed because of the variation in the height of the bank. On the N, this is at least 1.0m high internally, but only 0.4m high externally, whereas on the S, the bank is 0.7m high externally and only 0.2m high internally.

However, the interior of the enclosure contains what is probably the remains of a circular hut PRN 97125, immediately to the S of the entrance. This is 6m in diameter, but is only evident from a few stones poking through the turf. Its exact layout is not possible to determine. Further evidence of nternal features was just visible, perhaps defining a central partition running NW/SE, although this is only really visible where it meets the SE part of the surrounding bank.

PRN 3516 SN9761014140 Ffald Newydd Enclosure I

Enclosure Prehistoric

A sub-circular enclosure about 20m to 25m across, on a terrace above Hepste river, composed of a partially turf-covered stone bank without any obvious facing or coursing. Bank is up to 2m wide and 0.5m high although more generally 0.2-0.3m high. Gap on the SE where there is a probably natural small hollow. Also a gap, 7m wide, on the E side. This seems anomalous but two possibilities exist: either that stone has been robbed for another structure in the area, or alternatively that a timber-built hut was sited here, as there are slight traces of a platform on the interior of the projected circuit of the bank. There is a more well defined feature on the N side, comprising a sub-circular structure incorporated into the stone bank of the enclosure. This looks to be contemporary with the enclosure.

PRN 3520 SN9760014365 Cefn Esgair Carnau enclosure

Enclosure Post Medieval

Set above the floodplain is an enclosure (RCAHMW 1997, US 78 iii) measuring 120m E-W by 130m N-S, scarped into the natural slope on the W, with low wall orthostatic walling around the NE and E. a slighter enclosure (US 78 iv) nestles against the western natural scarp with low walling 0.3 high around the E. There is a rectangular platform on the WSW side and a small stone-built shelter, presumably a later addition, in the NW corner. Part of another enclosure projects from the NW corner.

PRN 12589 SN9647013360 Mynydd y Garn enclosure II

Enclosed settlement Prehistoric

Between 320 m and 380 m above OD on the S to SE-facing slope overlooking the Afon Hepste is about 60 ha of settlement and field systems, including enclosures, isolated lengths of bank or wall, hut circles, and cairns which are presumed to date from later prehistoric times. The hillside is bisected by a shallow N-S running dry valley. The enclosures are mainly irregularly-shaped and bounded by heather-covered rubble and boulder banks up to 0.4 m high and about 2 m wide. The largest, on the E, is of about 3.5 ha, seemingly without direct settlement evidence.

PRN 12590 SN9655013200 Mynydd y Garn enclosure III

Enclosure Prehistoric

An enclosure of about 1.25 ha (US 75 ii) with some settlement evidence recorded within which has been allocated separate PRNs.

PRN 12591 SN9613813647 Mynydd y Garn enclosure IV

Enclosure Prehistoric

An oval enclosure (RCAHMW 1997, US 75 iv) defined by rubble walls c. 1m wide and up to 0.8m high with a probable entrance on the E side to the NW of which are the ruins of an irregular building or shelter with an entrance on the SW side. The SE end is roughly rectangular while the NW is curved, both probably later additions against the interior of the enclosure wall. No clear evidence that the enclosure has earlier foundations.

PRN 33577 SN9731014080 Hespte Fechan enclosure

Enclosure Prehistoric

An enclosure, associated with a number of cairns, lies on the SE facing slope of Waun Tincer on the W side of the river Hepste. The enclosure, centred at 97331405, is heart-shaped and measures 135m (N-S) by 120m with a perimeter bank consisting largely of consolidated rubble, but unconsolidated on the NW. In places the bank is spread to c. 4m in width. On the N and NW, the edges of shake holes lying outside the enclosure have been skirted but the bank has started to collapse into them. There are two possible entrance gaps, on the N and on the NE, both c.1.5m wide. Immediately to the E of the N entrance a later wall, some 1.5m wide and 0.8m high, has been built on top of the bank (which at this

point is itself 0.3m high). After running along the bank for about 15m, the wall turns S into the interior of the enclosure, fading into a rubble bank some 1.5m wide and 0.3m high, about 35m from the entrance. The wall appears to have been constructed with material from the earlier bank. The interior contains three cairns and a possible hut circle:

SN 97341409. Cairn (linear) 18m (NW-SE) by 3m, 0.2m high; consolidated rubble.

SN 97341405. Cairn 8m diameter, 0.3m high; loose rubble consolidated around the edges, NW side is collapsing into a small shake hole. PRN 87043

SN 97311401. Cairn 6m dia., 0.3m high; loose rubble consolidated around the edges. PRN 65026

SN 97311406. Cairn measuring 5m dia. overall, its edge slightly raised as a vague bank 1.5m wide and 0.2m high, composed of consolidated rubble. Interior filled with loose stones. Possibly a former hut circle, subsequently filled in. Hollowing at the centre may have been caused by shake hole development beneath. PRN 87042

PRN 33598 SN9765014280 Waun Tincer enclosure

Enclosure Prehistoric

One of two enclosures located on the SE bank of the Afon Hepste. The site appears as an irregular enclosure, about 10m in overall diameter, with a semi-circular bite taken out of the SE side, surrounded by a stony bank. Although the stony bank might signify a hut, it seems far too small, having a maximum diameter of 2m. The SW side of the enclosure is slightly curved and has the remnants of a section of low wall, c.1m wide, with external facing. In contrast, the bank which defines the site on the NW seems to be associated with a flanking gully and feels later in origin. There are also some stones in the rushes to the NNE. The origin of the site remains uncertain, and it is only likely to be resolved by excavation.

PRN 33631 SN9746113553 Cefn Esgair Carnau cairnfield Prehistoric

On the NW slope of a ridge upon the crest of which are located a number of large burial cairns, lies a cairnfield comprising a number of smaller stone piles and linear features. They lie between the larger cairns and the river Hepste, between elevations of 330m and 360m O.D. The majority of cairns are circular in plan and vary between 2m and 6m in diameter and average about 0.3m in height. They are mainly composed of unsorted stones, consolidated with light vegetation. A large proportion of them lie between SN 97031301 and SN 97331352, along a level NE-SW running terrace, below and to the NW of the ridge. A feature of the NE end of this group is the use of shake holes as stone dumps. A small circular enclosure at 97061341, lying amongst the cairns, is possibly a hut circle. The linear features are vague and fragmentary, and are generally about 2m wide, although spreading has caused an exaggerated width. Height averages c.0.2m. A bank at SN 97061343 and another at right angles to it on the NE, suggest a former enclosure, as do two banks in the vicinity of SN 97301351 which run parallel, NE-SW, about 20m apart for 40m. Taken together, the distribution of the cairns and the banks can be seen to form, very roughly, three sides of a rectangle.

PRN 33756 SN9684013400 Waun Tincer cairnfield Cairnfield Prehistoric

A group of small cairns lies in the vicinity of linear banks, two platforms and a small ruined rectangular building, all of which are situated on the gentle E facing slope of Waun Tincer, on the W bank of the river Hepste. They lie between elevations of 330m and 340m O.D. If all the features are contemporary, the platforms suggest a Medieval or later date. A short distance to the W, however, lies a field system of likely prehistoric date. It remains possible, therefore, that the platforms and rectangular building are intrusions into a much earlier landscape, of which the cairns and banks are part. The cairns are mainly circular in shape, varying in diameter between 2.5m and 7m with maximum height 0.4m, and are composed of unsorted stones consolidated with light vegetation. One at SN96901340 appears to rest on a platform and may be the site of a building. Group of at least 10 small irregular cairns, but includes one possible funerary cairn, PRN 23794.

PRN 50268 SN9720014400 Waun Tincer cairnfield

Cairnfield Prehistoric

A group of cairns varying between 4m and 9m diameter and from 0.3m to 0.5m high, within which are two probable hut circles and one possible longhut PRN 50269.

PRN 50261 SN9761014320 Ffald Newydd Enclosure II

Enclosure Prehistoric

An enclosure 15m N-S by 13m E-W internally, bounded on by stony bank 1.5m wide by 0.3m high. A naturally occurring flood bank on the E may have been strengthened as part of enclosure. The entrance was probably on the SE (RCAHMW 1997, US78ii).

PRN 50263 SN9760014340 Ffald Newydd Enclosure IV

Enclosure Prehistoric

A partial sub-circular enclosure set into the natural E-facing scarp and bounded on the E by a low tumbled wall some 0.3m high. The smallest of three enclosures forming complex PRN 3517 lying above flood plain of River Hepste.

PRN 117899 SN9578013100 Mynydd y Garn enclosure V

Enclosure Prehistoric

An irregular field defined by low rubble walling and measuring up to 50m NW-SE by 60m, enclosing an area of 0.25ha.

PRN 117900 SN9595013110 Mynydd y Garn enclosure VI

Enclosure Prehistoric

A field defined by low rubble walling and measuring up to 85m NE-SW by 30m, enclosing an area of 0.25ha.

PRN 117901 SN9600013020 Mynydd y Garn enclosure VII

Enclosure Prehistoric

The partial circuit of a field defined by low rubble walling and measuring up to 95m NNW-SSE by 53m, enclosing an area of 0.4ha.

PRN 117902 SN9610013170 Mynydd y Garn enclosure VIII

Enclosure Prehistoric

An irregular field defined by low rubble walling and measuring up to 105m NNW-SSE by 60m, enclosing an area of 0.55ha. Adjoins PRN 117903 and 117905.

PRN 117903 SN9609013240 Mynydd y Garn enclosure IX

Enclosure Prehistoric

An irregular field defined by low rubble walling and measuring up to 95m E-W by 65m, enclosing an area of 0.6ha. Adjoins PRN 117902 and 117905.

PRN 117904 SN9605013330 Mynydd y Garn enclosure X

Enclosure Prehistoric

An irregular field defined by low rubble walling and measuring up to 42m ENE-WSW by 30m, enclosing an area of 0.1ha. Another wall adjaoins the NE corner.

PRN 117905 SN9622013190 Mynydd y Garn enclosure XI

Enclosure Prehistoric

The partial circuit of a large, irregular field defined by low rubble walling and measuring up to 250m N-S by 150m, enclosing an area of 3.5ha. The field includes two round barrows, PRNs 5382 and 33611, as well as numerous clearance cairns. The NE corner overlies an earlier enclosure, PRN 118053, although the walling here may have been rebuilt and realigned across the earlier feature, using stone robbed from it.

PRN 117906 SN9614513470 Mynydd y Garn enclosure XII

Enclosure Prehistoric

A sub-circular enclosure c. 12m across with another wall adjoining the E side.

PRN 117907 SN9632013430 Mynydd y Garn enclosure XIII

Enclosure Prehistoric

An irregular field defined by low rubble walling and measuring up to 130m NW-SE by 100m, enclosing an area of 1ha. Ajacent to enclosure PRN 3282 on the SW side and PRN 12589 to the SE.

PRN 117908 SN9622013610 Mynydd y Garn enclosure XIV

Enclosure Prehistoric

An irregular field defined by low rubble walling and measuring up to 70m N-S by 60m, enclosing an area of 0.4ha. Adjacent to PRN 117909 to the N.

PRN 117909 SN9622613677 Mynydd y Garn enclosure XV

Enclosure Prehistoric

The partial circuit of an irregular field defined by low rubble walling and measuring up to 80m E-W by 70m, enclosing an area of 0.5ha. Adjacent to PRN 117908 to the S.

PRN 117910 SN9626013350 Mynydd y Garn enclosure XVI

Enclosure Prehistoric

An oval defined by low rubble walling and measuring up to 25m NE-SW by 22m. Walling adjoins to the N and SW.

PRN 118053 SN9626013280 Blaen Hepste Enclosure

Enclosure Prehistoric?

The partial circuit of an oval defined by low rubble walling and measuring up to c. 35m N-S by 22m. Underlies the NE corner of PRN 117905 the walling of which may have been rebuilt and realigned across the earlier feature, using stone robbed from it.

MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL ACTIVITY

PRN 3519 SN9650014490 Nant Hepste Fechan Longhouse

House Post Medieval

A longhouse surviving as a stone rubble pile some 10.5m NE-SW by 5.5m wide, with a discernable partition 3.5m from the N end.

PRN 5311 SN9640013640 Hepste Fechan Building

Building Post Medieval

The foundations of rectangular building located to the south of a round cairn. It measures overall 12m by 4.3m externally and is defined by low rubble walls of sandstone and limestone.

PRN 6060 SN9759514730 Afon y waen house site II

Building Post Medieval

On the E bank of Afon y waun are the remains of two small rectangular buildings, of which this is the smaller, northern building. The building measures 6.6m (E-W) by 4.8m overall, open to the W and facing the stream. Its rubble walls are 1.4m thick at the base and rise to 0.5m high. The other building is PRN 1709.

PRN 12598 SN9678213342 Hepste Fechan settlement, platform I

Platform Medieval?

This PRN was originally a duplicate of PRN 93529 but has been reattributed to an adjacent platform measuring at least 7.5m NW-SE by 2.3m internally, with low banks c. 0.8m wide and 0.25m high on all but the SE end.

PRN 12599 SN9678013353 Hepste Fechan settlement, platform II

Platform Medieval?

This PRN was originally a duplicate of PRN 93530 but has been reattributed to an adjacent platform measuring 6.5m NW-SE by 3.2m internally. Cut into the slope at NW by 0.5m, SW defined in part by a bank up to 1.3m wide and 0.3m high. A large boulder is all that defines the NE side.

PRN 12600 SN9677313326 Hepste Fechan settlement, house platform

Platform Post Medieval

The foundations of a small building (RCAHMW 1997, US 77 iii) are defined by rubble and earth walling generally 0.8m wide by 0.2m high defines a rectangular structure c. 4.8m NW-SE by 2.4m NE-SW internally, and 6.4m by 3.2m overall. There is an entrance gap 1m wide towards the NW end of the SW wall. The NW end has an external gully c. 1.3m wide by 0.2-0.3m deep. Around 3m to the NW is a levelled platform PRN 93528, terraced into the slope by up to 0.5m at the NW end and measuring 6m SW-NE x 4.5m NW-SE, although any structure could have extended further to the SE.

PRN 17993 SN9759514730 Afon y waen house site I

Long hut Post Medieval

On the E bank of Afon y waun are the remains of two small rectangular buildings. The S building measures 10m (N-S) by 6.5m overall with a partition 4m from the N end; S of the partition the walls are badly damaged and rise to only 0.2m high; whereas the N half has been recently rebuilt to 1.5m high to form a roofless shelter with walls c.1.4m thick at the base. The N building measures 6.6m (E-W) by 4.8m overall, open to the W and facing the stream. Its rubble walls are 1.4m thick at the base and rise to 0.5m high. This PRN now refers to the larger, southern building, which appears to be a longhut. The other is PRN 6060.

SN9691013400

PRN 23792 SN9691013400 Hepste Fechan Shelter I

Shelter? Post Medieval

A possible shelter around 5m across utilising a rock outcrop, with what may be rubble walling on the SE side, or perhaps a small area of quarrying an spoil. Formerly recorded as a clearance cairn.

PRN 23793 SN9688013410 Hepste Fechan Shelter I

Shelter? Post Medieval

A possible shelter around 5m across with what may be rubble walling on three sides, the north side being open. Formerly recorded as a clearance cairn.

PRN 33660 SN9752014040 Hespte Fechan enclosed settlement

Farmstead Post Medieval

Situated on the narrow floodplain of the River Hepste, on its E bank, amongst limestone outcrop, are three ruined buildings of post-medieval date. Also associated are an enclosure, a flood bank and the remains of a bridge.

SN 97521404: a rectangular building measuring internally 8.5m (NE-SW) by 2.5m, bounded by coursed rubble walls 0.8m wide and surviving to 0.6m high. An internal wall divides the building into two rooms, the NE measuring 3m (NE-SW), the SW 4m (NE-SW). The interior is strewn with rubble. There are no obvious entrances or doorways. The whole is built on a consolidated platform slightly larger than the building itself, and about 0.2m high. A stone wall 1m wide and 0.4m high, runs SE from midway along the SE side, for some 5m to an outcrop and together with another less well-defined wall running NE from the E corner, forms a small yard.

SN 97531402: a second similar building measures internally 8.5m (E-W) by 2.5m at the W end and 3.5m at the E end. It is bounded by rubble walls up to 1m wide and 0.8m high, and has a dividing wall of similar dimensions midway along. The building is wedged between natural outcrops at the W and E, the latter end having been excavated into the rock, but appears to have end walls standing free of the outcrop. To the S of the W half is a square annexe measuring 2.5m internally, bounded on the E and S by walls less substantial than the main structure, and on the W by outcrop. There are no obvious entrances in these buildings.

SN 97511403: the third building, measuring internally 3.5m (E-W) by 3m is bounded on the S by outcrop and elsewhere by walls 1m wide and 0.4m high.

SN 97561409: some distance to the NE of the buildings is an enclosure. It is oval in plan, the S and E sides being formed by outcrop, and the remainder by a vague bank together with lines of small boulders up to 0.4m high. The interior is partly floored by flat outcropping rock. About 15m to the W a substantial floodbank runs SW for 75m It is probably contemporary with the homestead and measures up to 4m wide and 1m high. It is flat topped and is composed of consolidated rubble and boulders.

SN 97481398: the remains of a bridge over the River Hepste in the form of two abutments about 6m apart. The W abutment is about 4m wide at the river's edge and consists of a stone wall 0.6m high, on top of natural rock, the total height above the river being about 2m. The E abutment appears more substantial. It measures about 2m width at the water's edge, widening to 3.5m some 4m back. The foundations are of rock, the abutment being built up to 2m above the water level with coursed slabbing 1.7m high. Around 30m SE of the bridge, at 97491396, a track has been engineered down the steep 4-5m high river cliff in the form of a ledge about 2m wide, running down from N to S for about 15m, revetted on the downhill (W) side by a rubble wall some 0.4m high.

SN 97521404: building 8.5m (NE-SW) by 2.5m internally, walls 0.8m wide and 0.6m high; there is a subdividing wall 3m from the NE end.

SN 97531402: wedged between outcrop exposures, building 8.5m (E-W) by 2.5m internally, walls up to 1m wide and 0.8m high; a wall divides it into two equal halves. On the W is a small annexe.

SN 97511403: a small building, 3.5m (E-W) by 3m; bounded by outcrop on the S, and by walls 1m wide and 0.4m high.

SN 97561409: an oval enclosure c.17m (NE-SW) by 14m, bounded by outcrop on the S and E, and elsewhere by a vague bank and lines of small boulders 0.4m high. A flood bank 75m long lies about 15m to the W; it is 1m high with a maximum width of 4m.

SN 97481398: a ruined bridge in the form of two stone built abutments.

PRN 33661 SN9708613548 Hespte Fechan building

Building Post Medieval

Two ruined longhouses, and a third indeterminate structure, all of medieval or later date, lie on the SE bank of the river Hepste on a level gravel terrace between the river floodplain and the base of the river cliff. The first, at SN 97081355, measures 11.5m (NE-SW) by 4m, internally. It is bounded by a rubble wall up to 1.2m wide and 0.2m high. About midway along the two long sides are the remains of entrances, that on the SE being fairly clear and measuring about 1.4m across. Inside the building there are vague traces of a dividing wall 1m wide and 0.1m high; the smaller room measures about 3m (NE-SW) by 4m. At SN 97091356 there are traces of another structure, in the form of a vague bank enclosing an internal area 5m (NW-SE) by 3.5m, possibly a yard or outbuilding to the longhouse. The second longhouse lies some 80m SW of the first, at SN 97021349. Only the NE end remains discernible, but it seems to have been orientated NE-SW. It measures internally some 5m by 5m, bounded by a wall up to 2m wide and 0.3m high. The surviving end seems to be rather pointed in plan, but this may be due to the derelict state of the remains.

PRN 33632 SN9677013300 Hepste Fechan settlement

Platform settlement Medieval

A group of small cairns associated with linear features, two platforms and a small ruined rectangular building, are situated on the W bank of the river Hepste. They lie between elevations of 330m and 340m .D. If all the features are contemporary, the platforms suggest a medieval or later date. A short distance to the W, however, lies a field system of likely prehistoric date. It remains possible, therefore, that the platforms and rectangular building are intrusions into a much earlier landscape, of which the cairns and banks are part (RCAHMW 1997, US 77). Comprises PRNs 12598-12600 and 93528-30.

PRN 33659 SN9583513185 Mynydd y Garn limekiln

Lime kiln Post Medieval

On a SE-facing hillside, below a small limestone quarry, there is a well preserved limekiln constructed of roughly squared limestone rubble. It measures 6.5m (SE-NW) by 6m, c.3m high and has a single draw-hole facing S, the passage to which measures 1.9m high, 1.6m wide at ground level, tapering in towards the top, and 2m long. The charging hole is fairly intact and measures about 1.9m diameter, 1m deep on the S. A graded track rises from the E to enter the quarry near the top of the kiln while a second track leads SW from the base of the kiln.

PRN 33668 SN9645413556 Hepste-fechan, limekiln

Lime kiln Post Medieval

Earthwork remains of a limestone quarry which may have incorporated a limekiln on the S, downslope side, although the surviving evidence is hard to interpret.

PRN 50269 SN9718114381 Waun Tincer longhut

Long hut Medieval

An irregular cairn may be the remains of a long hut c. 10m E-W by 5m N-S. There is much collapse and possible later clearance, but the north side in particular looks convincing, and there is the suggesion of internal walls.

PRN 69414 SN9689113834 Hepste-fechan Farmstead Post Medieval

Now derelict farmstead which may have formerly been used as a shooting lodge.

PRN 80749 SN9752614048 Afon Hepste long hut I

Platform hut Post Medieval

Situated on the narrow floodplain of the River Hepste, on its E bank, amongst limestone outcrop, are three ruined buildings of post-medieval date, part of PRN 33660. Also associated are an enclosure, a flood bank and the remains of a bridge. One is a rectangular building measuring internally 8.5m (NE-SW) by 2.5m, bounded by coursed rubble walls 0.8m wide and surviving to 0.6m high. An internal wall divides the building into two rooms, the NE measuring 3m (NE-SW), the SW 4m (NE-SW). The interior is strewn with rubble. There are no obvious entrances or doorways. The whole is built on a consolidated platform slightly larger than the building itself, and about 0.2m high. A stone wall 1m wide and 0.4m high, runs SE from midway along the SE side, for some 5m to an outcrop and together with another less well-defined wall running NE from the E corner, forms a small yard.

PRN 80750 SN9751014020 Craig y Nos quarry Quarry Post Medieval

A small quarry on the slopes of Craig y Nos.

PRN 93522 SN9751414031 Afon Hepste hut I Hut Post Medieval

Part of PRN 33660, situated on the narrow floodplain of the River Hepste, on its E bank, amongst limestone outcrop, are three ruined buildings of post-medieval date. Also associated are an enclosure, a flood bank and the remains of a bridge.

SN 97511403: the third building, measuring internally 3.5m (E-W) by 3m is bounded on the S by outcrop and elsewhere by walls 1m wide and 0.4m high.

PRN 93523 SN9753014024 Afon Hepste long hut II

Long hut Post Medieval

Situated on the narrow floodplain of the River Hepste, on its E bank, amongst limestone outcrop, are three ruined buildings of post-medieval date (part of PRN 33660). Also associated are an enclosure, a flood bank and the remains of a bridge. The second similar building measures internally 8.5m (E-W) by 2.5m at the W end and 3.5m at the E end. It is bounded by rubble walls up to 1m wide and 0.8m high, and has a dividing wall of similar dimensions midway along. The building is wedged between natural outcrops at the W and E, the latter end having been excavated into the rock, but appears to have end walls standing free of the outcrop. To the S of the W half is a square annexe measuring 2.5m internally, bounded on the E and S by walls less substantial than the main structure, and on the W by outcrop. There are no obvious entrances in these buildings.

PRN 93525 SN9702313495 Afon Hepste long hut IV

Long hut Post Medieval

The second longhouse lies some 80m SW of the first, at 97021349. Only the NE end remains discernible, but it seems to have been orientated NE-SW. It measures internally some 5m by 5m,

bounded by a wall up to 2m wide and 0.3m high. The surviving end seems to be rather pointed in plan, but this may be due to the derelict state of the remains.

PRN 93528 SN9676513330 Hepste Fechan house platform

Platform Medieval?

Originally a duplicate record for PRN 12600 this number has now been taken to refer to a levelled building platform 3m NW of PRN 12600, terraced into the slope by up to 0.5m at the NW end and measuring 6m SW- NE by 4.5m NW-SE, although any structure could have extended further to the SE.

PRN 93529 SN9680613230 Hepste Fechan platform I

Platform Medieval?

A rectangular platform c. 11m NW-SE by 5.5m NE-SW, cut into slope at the NW end by c. 1m, and with a single large boulder at the SE end. The site is covered by reeds and not readily apparent.

PRN 93530 SN9676713363 Hepste Fechan platform II

Platform Medieval?

An earthwork platform measuring 9.5m NW-SE by 5.8m NE-SW, cut into the slope at NW end by 0.9m and built above the slope at SE by 0.5m.

PRN 117897 SN9613013345 Blaen Hepste Building

Building Post Medieval

Ruins of a rectangular building c. 12m E-W by 4.4m N-S externally, with walling 0.6-0.8m thick and up to 0.9m high. The W wall is formed by a N-S field boundary wall and the building appears to be contemporary with it. The building is divided into three rooms. The W and central are each 2.7m E-W. There is significant collapse at the E end with a hollow along the N wall probably caused by a sinkhole. A short wall stub projects from the building to the N.