

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SURVEY OF THE
GROES FAWR VALLEY,
BLAENCARON,
CARON-IS-CLAWDD,
MID WALES
BY P.T MUCKLE & G.H. WILLIAMS**

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1. INTRODUCTION

In 198 Cadw initiated an uplands project, the intention being to investigate the neglected archaeological potential of the Welsh uplands through the agency of the four archaeological Trusts. A major part of the project involved sampling of these upland area by intensive survey. The contribution to the project by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust was carried out partly in collaboration with the School of History and Archaeology, University of Wales College Cardiff, who also had an interest in the subject. The Groes Fawr Valley was chosen partly because of the personal knowledge of J G Evans, HISAR, that the archaeological record of the area grossly under represented the true archaeological content. The fieldwork was carried out by P T Muckle under the general supervision of J G Evans for HISAR and D G Benson for the Trust. There was some input into the survey by students of HISAR under J G Evans, as a training exercise, involving 2 periods of 1 week each with 10 students. The present synthesis is by G H Williams (DAT) and P T Muckle using the latter's surveys and catalogue.

As detailed below, more survey work is needed. Also, although the potential for studying the post-Medieval landscape is limited, certain sources would benefit from study in more detail: particularly the Vestry Book of Caron is Clawdd and some of the Welsh sources. (During the period allocated to complete this report, G H Williams time has been taken up with the study and correlation of material and the creation of text with some time in the field leaving little time for original research: P Muckle was unavailable for consultation for part of the study period).

2. THE STUDY AREA

The Groes Fawr valley is situated in Blaencaron, an upland parcel in the upper Teifi valley, 5 km east of Tregaron in the north-east of the parish of Caron-is-Clawdd, part of the old County of Cardiganshire (Fig 1). It is an area of good preservation of archaeological remains (Figs 2 and 3) at the junction between the main upland plateau of central Wales (the Cambrian Mountains) and the more lowland area of the Teifi Valley to the west. The valley runs east-west, leading upward, from the upper limit of habitation and enclosure, onto the moorland plateau. To the north is the valley of the Groes Fechan (and to the north is the valley of the Berwyn, outside the area illustrated). The Groes Fawr (and its tributary the Nant-y-Moelau) and the Groes Fechan form the headwaters of the Afon Groes - joining, with other streams, at a series of confluences on the west where the valleys open out.

The main western and central area of the valley (Figs 8 etc) is steep sided, rising to 509m on the south and 513m on the north; on the north rising to a ridge between it and the Groes Fechan valley. The south side is stony, with rocks fairly evenly distributed whilst the north side has areas free of stones, areas of 'clearance' cairns, areas of amorphous stone spreads and areas of uncleared stone: on this side also is a particularly steep and rocky area, Craig-yr-Ochrau. On the east the upland ridge to the north draws away and the valley leads onto the upland moorland plateau. Here two small tributary valleys run to the north. The western valley does

not have a name on the maps and is referred to below as the Llethr Llwyd Valley (the name given to its steep western flank). The first edition 6" map shows a stream in the valley but this is now choked by peat. The eastern valley is that of a small stream - Nant-y-Moelau. These valleys are separated by Moelau, an elongate hill running north-south.

The local geology consists of hard shales, mudstones, silty flags, grits and conglomerates of the upper Llandovery series of the Lower Silurian system. The rocks are well bedded, outcropping in near vertical strata in places, particularly on the southern slopes of Castell Rhyfel (Craig-yr-Ochrau) (shales and mudstones giving smooth, gentle relief and bands of grit giving rise to sharper ridges and knolls). The weathering of these outcrops produces large slabs 5 - 15 cms thick which were used extensively in the nineteenth century for walls and for gateposts, flooring, troughs etc and in the Early Bronze Age in the construction of ritual cairns, being used for kerbs and cists.

The study area (Figs 2 and 3) extends from the upper limit of enclosure and habitation - most of it, including the areas of concentrated survey C, D and E, lying above the limits of enclosure. The land is used for the summer grazing of sheep, forestry, and by walkers in the summer. It displays a classic sequence of three ecological zones, from enclosed sheep pastures and woodland in the lower western area to unenclosed grazing on the mid slopes and moorland on the upland east. The zones are internally fairly homogeneous and with clear boundaries: vegetation tends to occur in blocks, composed of a limited number of species, broadly corresponding to these zones.

On the west the lowest zone (240 - 325 m OD) is the valley head (Zone I), where the valley opens out, the area of nineteenth century enclosure. Much of it is now part of the farm of Glan-yr-Afon Uchaf. Trees (deliberately planted) are found mostly in this zone, on the lower valley slopes, along field boundaries, around farmsteads and in small enclosed plantations. The main tree species are hawthorn, hazel, mountain ash, birch and beech. Bracken occurs at the upper limit of the enclosed zone, particularly above Cae Tudur, reflecting cultivation in the past and the present extensive summer grazing regime.

Zone II is the moorland fringe (325 - (500) - 435 m OD) which extends from the upper limit of enclosure to the lower limit of blanket bog (in the Moelau area), and include the main, steep-sided western and central area of the valley. The lower part of the zone supported brushwood and stunted gorse - the latter occurring in an enclosure 136, of debatable date, on the north side of the Groes Fawr just above the present limit of enclosure. The lower valley slopes are pasture, mainly Bent-Fescue (*Agrostis-Festuca*), with bents dominating the wetter areas and fescue the dryer areas. Further up the valley side Mat grass (*Nardus*) occurs on flat or gently sloping areas on summits or shoulders of hills. Mat grass also often invades Bent-Fescue grassland where drainage is poor and peat tends to be formed. In particular a bog has formed around the Afon Groes at its junction with the Llethr llwyd valley and continues up the Llethr Llwyd valley. As mentioned, a stream is shown running down the Llethr Llwyd valley on the 1st edn 6" map but

is now obscured by the bog. Purple Moor Grass (*Molinia*) occurs around the margins of peat and in damp areas, and grows into tussocks. Rushes occur locally in the valley, particularly around springs and on valley floors with impeded drainage. Forestry plantation begins at this altitude, although just outside the study area.

Zone III, the moorland plateau (435 - > 500 m OD), extends eastwards, from the head of the Groes Fawr valley and the Nant-y-Moelau, through the parish and ultimately the county border. Blanket bog extends over much of the zone: it covers most hollows and a considerable amount of flat land, and is composed of mosses, sedges and rushes.

Archaeological evidence in the survey area (Fig 2) includes ritual cairns, small clearance cairns including cairnfields, a hillfort, sub-circular or oval rectangular 'building platforms, long huts of various type including classic 'platform houses', a corbelled structure, sheep shelters, enclosures, rectilinear and curvilinear field walls and boundaries, lynchets, ridge and furrow ploughmarks, tracks and paths, ditches, banks, bridges and fords, post-Mediaeval enclosure, farms and cottages. The archaeological sites beyond the zone of enclosure sites are on the whole difficult to date, with the exception of the earliest (ie burial/ritual cairns) and the latest (nineteenth century sheep shelters).

Variations in the archaeology often correspond to the different ecological zones. In part this is an accident of survival corresponding to the absence of enclosure beyond zone I.

Zone I is characterised by a large number of small irregular fields and deserted farmsteads and cottages dating from the early nineteenth century. Some remains of Prehistoric and Mediaeval occupation are also found, on the southern slopes where the valley opens out on the west - including long huts, ridge and furrow cultivation, clearance cairns and stony banks - although these only occur in pockets rather than generally.

Zone II has the highest number and diversity of archaeological sites, including probable Bronze Age burial cairns, platforms, clearance cairns, a hillfort and long huts. This is partly due to differential survival, the divide between the enclosed and unenclosed zones is very sharp in terms of archaeological sites, which occur literally metres from enclosures walls. However, within this area there are marked differences in distribution - Prehistoric settlement is particularly concentrated on the northern slopes of the Groes Fawr Valley (but avoiding the very steep and rocky Graig-yr-Ochrau and, with some exceptions, particularly Castell Rhyfel, ignoring the high ground flanking the valley): this latter south facing slope in a deeply incised valley is sheltered and, locally, forms a good location for settlement.

In the valleys of the Llethr Llwyd and of the Nant-y-Moelau on the edge of zone II and zone III there are a large number of long huts. On higher land on Moelau and the nearer part of Moorland plateau on the parish boundary (beyond the study area) there are burial cairns. Further into the moorland there is less evidence of settlement, although there are some long huts and also evidence of peat cutting.

Zone I can be seen as a derelict landscape, zone II a relic landscape and zone III a marginal landscape.

3. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

Prior to the survey, a number of sites in the area were recorded (and had been included in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Sites' and Monuments' record). Survey work in the area had been carried out primarily by the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings for Wales, followed by the Ordnance Survey and by the Trust - the last by D M Metcalf (1980) during a marginal land survey in Ceredigion. A fairly limited amount of this information has hitherto been published.

Many of the ritual/burial cairns had been recorded: ritual cairns 98, 110, 111, 112 and 113 and ? ritual cairn 49 (and 50) were first recorded by the RCAMW (largely by C S Briggs and also by A H A Hogg); cairn 98 was also included in D K Leighton's published survey of structured round cairns in west central Wales (Leighton 1984, 345-346); cairns 114a and 115 were first recorded by the Ordnance Survey (OS cards SN 75 NW 4 and 76 SW 2 respectively, site 115 figuring on the 1st edn 1" map). The Castell Rhyfel and Llethr Llwyd cairnfields were recorded by the Trust (PRNs 9148 and 9367 respectively), the former being published in Archaeology in Wales (Metcalf 1980; Stenger 1983). Two other apparent cairns, noted by the Trust, were not definitely identified amongst the Cwm-yr-Olchfa sites (sites 117 and 118). Castell Rhyfel (site 59) appears on the first edn 1" map. It is included as an 'embanked enclosure' in Nash-Williams' list of hill forts in Wales (Nash-Williams 1933, 327, No J35) and in Hogg's list of hill forts in Cardiganshire (Hogg 1962, 358, No 4): there is no adequate published description.

Long huts 100, 101, 102, 104, 109 and 116 were DAT discoveries (D M Metcalfe). Long huts 60, 61, 65 79, 96, 97, 99, 102, 105, 106, 107 and 108 were OS discoveries (OS record cards SN 75 NW 14-18).

The nineteenth century farms of Blaen Groes Fechan (119), Gwarffynnon (122), Ochr Bryn Lloi (123) and Waun Groes (129), and the cottages Garnwen (127) and Lluest Abercaeau (128), have been listed by Smith as being type 'B' regional houses and as having wickerwork fireplaces (Smith 1966; 1988, 574-575 and maps 6 and 29): sites 123 and 128 are illustrated (Smith 1988, 205, Fig 112d and 318 Fig 185a). Groes Fechan (120), Tan-y-Garn (121) and Tan-y-Bylchau (125) were also recorded on DAT's SMR. The holdings of Blaencaron were briefly described in a note and inquiry to Archaeology in Wales in 1966 (Lloyd and Vernon 1966) ¹.

4. SOURCES

Eighteenth and nineteenth century manuscript maps relating to Caron-is-Clawdd only show farms on the valley floor and the lower slopes of the hills, and do not supply detail on the situation in the uplands. The farms of Glan-yr-Afon Uchaf and Pantycraf (the latter incorporating an originally separate farm Bryn Mawr) appear on three estate maps relating to Nanteos estate in the National Library of Wales: Nanteos deposit map 180 (1807); Vol 45 (Plans of the Estates in the Counties of Cardigan and Brecon the Property of

William Edward Powell Esq), P 68 (1819); Vol 14 (A Survey of Nanteos Estate), P 75 (1831). The Tithe schedule was completed in 1845 with information gathered between 1836-1839. The Tithe map and apportionment show the enclosure in Blaencaron largely as it is today, although its final extent had not yet been reached: unenclosed land was divided into sheep walks relating to farms in the lower lying districts of the parish. Four unnamed rectangular structures are shown around the confluence of the Groes Fawr and Nant-y-Moelau. Other map sources, including the 1st edition 6" maps (1891), show later development of enclosure. They also show several sheepfolds in the Llethr Llwyd area and also farmstead 99.

One further important source of information is the Vestry Book of Caron-is-Clawdd, particularly between 1786 and 1846 when the Vestry was responsible for the relief of the poor, education and roads as well as the affairs of the church (summarised by Powell 1936). A certain amount of ethnographic oral history on the area can be gained from farmers living in the area.

5. HISTORY - PUBLISHED WORKS

The main work concerning Tregaron is D.C. Rees' *Tregaron: Historical and Antiquarian* (1936), although apart from a few notes the book does not give much detail on the landscape of the parish. A sociological study of Tregaron was published in *Welsh Rural Communities* (Jones 1960), working on information gathered in the mid 1940's. Articles by Powell (1936) on the Vestry Book and Davies (1936) in *Transactions of the Ceredigion Antiquarian Society* and the more recent work by the Woman's Institute, *Tregaron: The Womens Institute Looks Round its Town and Country* (1984) complete the bulk of the literature in English. Welsh works, particularly concerning the history of the chapels and community they served, include the centenary booklet on the Presbyterian Capel Blaencaron, *Yr Hen Dderwen*.

6. THE SURVEY

The whole of the study area (Fig 3) was walked initially. Following that, attention focused on the five areas A-E (see below) which showed surviving concentrations of evidence of intensive occupation and other human activity in antiquity. After these initial surveys, during further field visits and following recent vegetational changes etc, a number of revisions were made to the original survey with the recognition of new sites and the rejection and conflation of others.

6a Areas of detailed survey

Area A Cae Tudur (Fig 4. Ritual cairn, clearance cairns, stony banks, ridge and furrow, long huts).

Sited on a N/NW facing hillside, well drained above the trackway (No 58). Above the trackway there are thick concentrations of bracken covering c. 1 hectare, which it was not possible to survey. The area covers 17.5 hectares.

Area B Waun Groes (Fig 5. Clearance cairns, stony banks, ridge and furrow lynchets, long hut).

Sited on the crest of a moderate NE facing slope of unenclosed rough grazing land, largely bent-fescue pasture and purple moor grass, with some rushes. The area covers 6 hectares.

Area C Cwm-yr-Olchfa (Fig 6. ? ritual cairn, platforms, clearance cairns, enclosures, long huts).

Sited on a moderately steep S/SW facing slopes (14-17 degrees) between 310 m and 350 m. The sites lie just above the upper limit of nineteenth century walled enclosure, largely within a dilapidated enclosure 136 defined by a bank and external ditch. The valley side is stony and uneven, particularly where the sites are concentrated, and there are well worn sheep tracks running through many of them. The area covers 19 hectares.

Area D Castell Rhyfel Cairnfield (Fig 7. Ritual cairns, clearance cairns).

Sited on a broad shelf just below the crest of the spur on which the hillfort Castell Rhyfel lies. The cairns are on the whole easily visible in unenclosed bent-fescue pasture, though most are low and unrounded. The area covers 22.5 hectares.

Area E Llethr Llwyd - Moelau (Fig 2. Ritual cairns, platforms, clearance cairns, ridge and furrow, long huts).

This includes the head of the Groes Fawr valley and parts of the Llethr Llwyd valley, Moelau Hill and the Nant-y-Moelau valley. The Llethr Llwyd valley is a well drained N-S valley of bent-fescue pasture with bog and rushes in the valley bottom and at the confluence with the Groes Fawr. On the upper slopes the sites are reasonably visible, particularly those long huts overlain by sheep shelters, although the cairns (Nos 81-90) are more difficult to see because they are low and in an area of rushes. In the boggy areas the sites are less distinct. Moelau is relatively bare of sites. A concentration of long huts and other features at the junction of the Nant-y-Moelau and Groes Fawr is clearly visible. The area covers 35 hectares.

6b Definition of sites

Outside the areas of nineteenth century enclosure sites of all periods were recorded. 'Sites' are taken to include any physical evidence of the presence of man - therefore a blackthorn tree ringed with stone, a peat cutting or a trackway are all considered to be as much a site as a cairn, long hut or farmstead. Within the area of enclosure recording concentrated on pre-enclosure features. However, the nineteenth century farmhouses showed excellent preservation of certain original features such as wickerwork firehoods coupled with the very rapid disintegration of these features in the last decade or so and it was decided that any uninhabited house within the study area should be treated as an archaeological site.

Only a small area of post-Mediaeval enclosed landscape was included in the study area. A considerable area of such landscape needs to be studied before any reasonable conclusions can be reached as to its evolution and consequently it has not been studied in any depth.

6c Survey methodology

The survey was intended to be a rapid survey, with detailed planning only of selected and representative sites. A variety of survey methods (eg EDM, prismatic compass) and planning methods (eg measured surveys, sketch plans) were also deliberately used in an attempt to assess their efficiency. Much of the detailed planning was carried out by students as part of a training exercise. The methodology is summarised in appendix I which also gives some data on the time spent on survey. In the areas of high site density on average 10 ha could be field walked and plotted in 1 day, with an average of 2.7 sites a hectare: where there are few sites the area covered can rise to 50+ ha.

The survey is as yet incomplete, partly because of bad weather and, at the time, impenetrable vegetation: partly because, with hindsight, greater numbers of the more important sites should have been surveyed. The opportunity for further work in areas A and B and on the post-Mediaeval structures may, however, be limited by the takeover of Glanrafon Isaf farm by a new and hostile generation.

1. The detailed area survey of area E remains to be completed.
2. Further survey needs to be done of area A following the spraying and, hopefully, elimination, of bracken in the area.
3. The ridge and furrow in areas A, B and E needs to be planned and its relationship to other features ascertained.
4. The survey of Castell Rhyfel hillfort needs to be completed.
5. The policy of selective planning of minor features seems to have been successful. But it is considered that many of the ritual cairns and long huts would benefit from further survey. Most are important enough sites to warrant individual detailed plans, but this has not always been carried out due to the policy of selective planning: sketch plans only exist for long huts 76, 77, 96, 102 and 105 and for ritual cairns 98 and 110; no plans of any type have been produced of long huts 73, 95, 97, 104, 238, 318, 319 and 328. Furthermore, in those cases where detailed planning has been carried out the survey skills of the students involved have been variable and very often inadequate (the plans of long huts 28 and 108 being particularly inadequate).

For these reasons, we only feel confident in presenting a selected number of plans of representative long huts in detail. The plans of the majority are presented in schematic form.

6. Although surveys have been carried out of the nineteenth century farmsteads Cwm-yr-Olchfa (130) and Tan-y-Goppa (131) and cottage Lluast Abercaeu (128), the survey of Waun Groes (129) is incomplete and detailed written descriptions of all these sites are needed.
7. Buildings shown on the 1st edn 1" map in the area of encroachment 10 and on the Tithe map north-west of Waun-y-Groes (Fig 18) need to be searched for on the ground.

7. SITES OF PREHISTORIC TYPE

A number of classes of monuments are found which are broadly of Prehistoric - more specifically Bronze Age or possible Bronze Age - type. These cover a possible wide time span but may have a degree of overlap and are therefore described together. They include ritual/burial monuments, particularly cairns, of the Early Bronze Age. There are also smaller cairns, including distinct cairn fields. The nature of such small cairns, in Britain generally, is uncertain but the majority are probably clearance cairns and of Prehistoric date. Some of the cairns have a broadly complementary distribution to platforms, the majority probably building platforms, of possibly Later Bronze Age date and possibly akin to the 'unenclosed platform settlements' of Northern Britain. These features, of putative Later Bronze Age date, may relate to a hillfort, Castell Rhyfel, which occupies part of the highest ground in the area (and also to a rectangular enclosure 21). There are also other, more ephemeral, traces of possibly ancient enclosures/? field systems, of uncertain date, which can conveniently be described at this stage.

7a Early Bronze Age Sites (Fig 8)

A number of round cairns are ritual/burial monuments of the Early Bronze Age - 55, 72, 98a, 110, 114a (and also 111, 112, 113 and 115 which lie outside the area of detailed study). Their identification as such is clear from factors such as large size, regularity, associated features (eg cists) and location away from areas of clearance cairns. Features 49 and 319 are probably also ritual cairns but this is less certain as they are small and occur in areas of similarly sized clearance cairns. (Feature 31 could also, doubtfully, be a ritual cairn). 267 and 282 may be rectangular cairns of a type which is rare but not unknown in the Early Bronze Age. 62 may be a standing stone. A barbed and tanged arrowhead of Sutton type (No 337) was found low in eroded peat 400m NE of Castell Rhyfel.

The ritual cairns show considerable morphological variation. Variations include shape, size and the presence of associated features such as cists and stone rings. Some specific types can be recognised. However, one must be wary of over classification. The complex arguments relating to the classification of round cairns and related sites in Wales will not be gone into here. Suffice it to say that a classification scheme based on plan and associated features has been progressively developed by Lynch (eg 1980). More recently it has been suggested that this may, in part, reflect factors such as differential destruction or differential exposure of structural features (Leighton 1984), while such sites may well be polythetic, plans and associated features being independently variable characteristics (Williams 1988, 19-20 following Clarke 1978, 35-37). The need for a much simpler basic classification has been recognised (Leighton 1984, 331; Ward et al 1987) although at the same time, such a system must take into account potentially independent variables.

In reviewing some of these problems a simple terminology has been adopted by Ray (1988, 10-11). This is of particularly useful as it is of local relevance, having been developed during a survey of an area comparable to, and only some 5 Km south-west of, Blaencaron -

Carnau, Llanddewi Brefi. The system recognises simple round cairns; massive but simple hilltop cairns; structured cairns including ring cairns and cairn circles (the latter having an orthostatic circle within the body of the cairn); and clearance cairns.

Cairns 55, 98a and 114a are the largest in the study area, of a similar size - 12m (55) and 11 x 10m (98a and 114a). The rest are smaller and well within the size range of the clearance cairns - 72 and 110 are 5.5m across and 49 and 319 are 3 m and 5 m across respectively.

Cairn 55 (Fig 9) is an unusual monument. It consists of a ring bank surrounding a flat topped mound: a 'causeway' leads from the bank to the top of the mound. This combination of ring cairn and 'mound' cairn is not completely unparalleled (cf perhaps RCAMW 1976, 77, No 210; also Hart 1985, site 43).

The remaining monuments are, by and large, more 'standard' types of cairn. 98a and 114a (Fig 9) are similar. Both are very ruined but were probably platforms with central rectangular cists. Further possible cists lie within the SW quadrant of 98 and beyond the limits of the cairn to the north-west of 114a (No 271). 98a has a stone ring part at least of which is embedded in the body of the cairn and which is not circular. 98a has been recognised as belonging to a characteristic group of cairn circles in west central Wales (Ray 1988, 27). These are defined by rings of close set upright slabs within the body of the cairn. The rings tend to be oval rather than circular, the slabs barely protrude above the cairn surface and there is evidence of a central rectangular cist usually oriented North-West/South-East. But, as mentioned, this type possibly represents one permutation within a polythetic set which includes the presence or absence of cists and rings, compounded by vagaries of destruction and exposure.

Cairn 72 is a small but definite platform possibly with a raised rim on the south-west (cf Williams 1992, site XII). 110 (Fig 9) is small and apparently bowl shaped with a ? rectangular cist located unusually high in the mound. As we have seen, the interpretation of features 49 and 319 as ritual cairns is less certain. They are small, low and largely featureless (although 49 has a possible kerb) and occur in areas occupied by clearance cairns of a similar size (and the distinction between ritual and clearance cairn may not be hard and fast - see below). However, given their regularity and commanding position, they can probably be accepted as ritual cairns - simple round cairns.

(Of the sites outside the area of detailed study 115 is an example of a massive hilltop cairn; 111 is a cairn with structural complexities the nature of which is not clear; 112 is a cairn circle ? with a cist; and 113 is a simple round cairn.)

Rectilinear structures adjacent to 98a (98b) and 114a (114b) and overlying the former (98c) call for particular comment. They are similar to, and may well be, much later long huts. However, another, albeit less likely, interpretation can be mentioned. The position of 98b and 98c on Moelau is exposed when compared to the position of other long huts in the area. One may also expect a certain superstitious reluctance on the part of dwellers in long huts to

live on or adjacent to an ancient burial site whose special nature, one would have thought, would have figured in their folklore. These rectilinear features could, conceivably, be broadly contemporary with the cairns. The long axes of 98c and 114b are radial to the cairns (and the axis of 114b is the same as that of the cist in the cairn). The possible occurrence of rectilinear features within an Early Bronze Age ritual context should not be overlooked (Williams 1988). The annex at the cairn at Aber Camddwr may provide a broad local parallel for these features, particularly in respect of its similar symmetrical relationship to the cairn and to a burial structure within the cairn (Murphy 1991, 70-73). Structure 98b overlies the cairn (interest was also taken in the top of the mound at 55 - approached by a causeway - and 100 - where the cist lies high in the mound). Attention can be drawn to other possible instances of ritual features on the tops of cairns (Ward et al 1987, 9).

Cairns 49, 55, 319 (and 115) occupy commanding positions overlooking lowland areas to the west. (As we have seen, 115 occupies a summit position). 49 and 139 occupy positions on the end of ridges projecting from the Valley side. Cairn 72 also occupies a commanding position on a ledge overlooking the moorland plateau to the east. 98 and 110 (and 111, 112 and 113) occupy relatively elevated but not commanding positions on the edge of the moorland plateau. Cairn 114a is somewhat isolated in that it lies near the valley floor in the central valley.

There is obviously considerable variation in these locations. Leighton and other workers in the field have indeed seen little evidence for any specific preference for siting of cairns in Wales (summarised by Leighton, 1984, 328). However Ray (1988, 30-31) has drawn attention to some more specific locational preferences for classes of cairn (and also makes a plea for local studies of such factors be instigated as a first step to broader studies). The characteristic massive summit cairns such as 115 have been noted. Structured cairns such as 98 and 112 (to which 114 is possibly also related) are generally not found in hilltop positions, which is the case at Blaencaron. The locations and sitings of the cairns at Blaencaron may suggest foci of interest outside the narrow confines of the valley, although this will probably only really be understood in terms of the more general location of cairns in the area in relation to land use potential etc - studies which remain to be done.

Two other features, 267 and 282, also stand out as different from the other cairns. These are rectangular platforms, 267 measuring 10.3 x 5m x 0.5m high and 282 measuring 8 x 5m x 0.4m high. 282 and doubtfully 267 show kerbs. Similar structures have been recognised in Wales amongst the Glamorganshire cairnfields and one near Penrhiw Cradoc has been proven to be an Early Bronze Age ritual structure (Owen-John 1986). Elsewhere similar structures occur within the cairnfields on Stanton Moor, Derbs (Hart 1985).

The nature of the small leaning monolith 62 is uncertain. Its altitude is well beyond the normal range for a standing stone in Cardiganshire or elsewhere in Wales although its relatively inconspicuous position on the flank of a valley is characteristic of the type (Roese 1980, 646).

7b Clearance Cairns (Fig 10)

The cairns interpreted as clearance cairns are generally small: the majority are between 2 and 5 m across, only one (291, at 7.6m) exceeding 7m diameter, and they are also low (rarely exceeding 0.6m in height). They are commonly circular or sub-circular, oval forms are rare. Some of the features incorporate natural outcrops and some are probably wholly natural but all are included in Fig 10.

(Probable natural features include, in particular, features in the area between areas C and D, especially 262, 268 and 314 which are large probably natural stone spreads lying on natural platforms). A number of the cairns show well defined edges and some (in areas B and C/D) have possible kerbs (24, 218, 219, 220, 253, 287 and 293) although these are poorly defined. They are otherwise similar to the other cairns.

Cairns in the various different areas differ in nature and include a number of distinct cairnfields.

The main cairnfield is Castell Rhyfel (area D), which lies on sloping ground below the scarp crowned by Castell Rhyfel hillfort (Figs 7 and 10, Nos 4, 8, 51, 134 and cairns within No block 276 - 317). The cairns tend to be relatively large and of variable height, from very low up to 1.5m, and are usually sub-circular. Two possess possible kerbs (287 and 293). They tend to take the form of flat platforms, with a colluvial build up upslope and often the top is grassed over, although their nature is betrayed by a lower stony scarp. The cairnfield include two east-west linear arrangements of cairns, with cairn-free areas to the north of these: these linear arrangements therefore probably define the edge of cultivated areas. The southernmost of these lines marks the southern edge of the whole cairnfield (see below).

Cairns also occur, lower down the valley side, between area D and area C (Figs 3 and 10, Nos in block 257 - 275) and into the south east corner of area C (Figs 6 and 10, Nos in block 246 - 254) where they overlap with the area of platforms. As mentioned they include possible natural features. The cairns are generally relatively large and often sub-circular; they are often clearly stony and some include large stones. 253 has a possible kerb. Cairns also occur further within area C, intermixed with the platforms, but are much less frequent (of these 24 has a possible kerb). The distribution of cairns and platforms is, therefore, largely mutually exclusive.

The next best defined cairnfields are in area A (Cae Tudur, Figs 4 and 10). Here there are two groups of cairns. One group occupies relatively level ground toward the top of the hill on the south (Nos in block 169 to 203). The cairns in this group are generally circular, small in diameter (max 4.2, often 1.5m across) but often quite high (up to 0.6m). They are generally grassed over. They lie largely to the east of an enclosure/field system 331. To the north a further group of cairns lies on sloping ground (Nos in block 142 - 168). These latter generally take the form of a grassed over platform with a lower stony scarp representing cairns overlain by a build up of colluvial material upslope. The features are larger than those further south (5.5 x 3.5m max) but their size tends to be exaggerated by the overburden. The colluvial material overlying them

is likely to be the result of cultivation. Area A is occupied by ridge and furrow but its relationship to the cairns is uncertain.

Cairns within area B (Figs 5 and 10, Nos 56 and cairns within Nos block 215 - 229) are less frequent than in area A or B. They are variable in size (with some large examples, max 6 x 3.5m). They tend to be more obviously stony than those in area A. 218, 219 and 220 show possible structure. Again the area is occupied by stony banks (? enclosures) and ridge and furrow of uncertain relationship to the cairns.

In area E there is also a small group of cairns (Figs 3 and 10, Nos in block 82-90). They appear as low earth/stone mounds. It is tempting to associate this group with a nearby group of platforms (although long huts also occur in the area).

Cairnfields are a common phenomenon throughout upland Britain and are known in west central Wales, although relatively sparsely (Ray 1988, 35-36 and Fig 10). Their limited occurrence in the area may, however, be the result of a lack of fieldwork - a concentration of such sites is appearing in the area east of Tregaron. Cairnfields can generally be ascribed to an Early Bronze Age horizon (they often occur in the same area as cairns of a more emphatically ritual nature; Ray 1988, 34) but could conceivably overlap into a later, Middle Bronze Age (or even an earlier, Late Neolithic) horizon while some may belong to considerably later, historic times (Briggs 1985, 300-301; Manley 1986, 410-411). As mentioned, their nature is often uncertain. They are thought to be, in the main, the result of clearance - for arable farming but possibly also for pastoral farming. However, some cairnfields may have been used for ritual/burial and some may show a mixture of a clearance and burial function (RCAMS 1978, 8-10; RCAMW 1976, 105-109; Owen-John 1986, 281): the dividing line between ritual/burial and clearance cairns may not be hard and fast. This is understandable when one considers the often ritualised and votive nature of Prehistoric burial, particularly the occurrence of votive burials and other deposits in association with the all important processes of food production and storage: a good example is the deposition of human remains and other materials in Iron Age storage pits (eg Walker 1984).

The spacing of the cairns bordering 'empty' areas in area D, suggests the cairns are basically for clearance. The presence of possible kerbs on some of the cairns at Blaencaron may perhaps reflect a ritual function, although structured small cairns have been proven, by excavation, to be of a non-ritual nature (Griffiths 1954).

The mutually exclusive distribution of the clearance cairns and platforms in areas C/D (and, to a lesser extent, area E) suggests the contemporaneity of the two types of feature (see below). These cairns are probably of Prehistoric date. The cairns in areas A and B, which also show enclosures and ridge and furrow, could, however, be of a later, Mediaeval date. Cairns in these different areas are not clearly distinguishable on morphological grounds. The possible Mediaeval date of these cairns is discussed further below.

The platforms and cairns at sites C/D are south facing and show a tendency to favour mid-slope locations. South facing locations have

been noted for platform settlements and cairnfields elsewhere (Briggs 1985, 287; Jobey 1980a; Ray 1988, 34) and in the case of cairnfields these locations have been taken to favour the interpretation that they were used for agricultural purposes. South or south-east facing slopes receive the most sunlight, especially the morning sun, resulting in higher soil temperatures for longer periods. Mid-slope locations are generally the warmest and most sheltered.

7c Platforms (Figs 10 and 11)

These are terraced into the hillside. They typically (Fig 11) appear as level or slightly concave grassy areas, usually sub-circular or sub-oval shaped, cut back into the slope forming a crescentic upper scarp and built up over the downslope to produce an 'apron'. The built up area at the front of the platform is generally more prominent than the excavated upper area, particularly when viewed from below, and is regularly gorse covered. When oval or elongate the platforms are usually, although not always, built along the contour. Some are double or triple platforms (13, 17, 29, 37 and 44).

They vary in size from 2.0 x 2.0m (47) to 8.2 x 6.7m (3) ². The upper scarp is rarely more than 1.5 m deep, whilst the lower scarp is usually under 1 m high, although this varies according to the immediate topography. The platforms are built into slopes ranging from 11 degrees to 20 degrees, with most around 15 degrees.

Some of the platforms are stone free (No 3) but most have some stone visible, either in the upper scarp (Nos 13, 19), the lower scarp (Nos 10, 15, 16), or both (Nos 2, 5, 12). Peripheral scatters of stone (not distinct foundations) are visible on 14 and possibly 41 and 236.

There are perhaps four groups of these platforms. The main, and by far the largest group, already mentioned, is in area C, Cwm-yr-Olchfa (Figs 6 and 10, Nos in blocks 1-19, 25-27, 36-48, 233-245 and 135). The main body of the group lies on the northern slope of the valley below a slight spur on the west (34 platforms in all). This includes two loose lines of platforms running along the contour and another tier running uphill on the west (and more irregularly on the east). There appears to be some differentiation between an eastern sub-group 330-350 m OD and a western sub-group 305-320 m OD: the platforms in the western sub-group platforms are on the whole smaller and less well defined than those in the eastern sub-group, although there are exceptions (No 41). To north of the spur is a further small sub-group of more doubtful platforms.

A smaller group of platforms in area E (Figs 3 and 10, Nos in block 73 - 78 and 95) are, on balance, probably of the same general type as those in area A and have been mentioned as being also possibly associated with a nearby cairnfield. Other small groups (Fig 10) lie between area B and C (Nos 29, 32 and 230-232 (although the platforms 29 (a triple platform) are somewhat different from the others) and between D and E, these last (33) being very doubtful. There is a fairly regular spacing of the groups up the valley.

The function of the platforms is problematic. Various mundane possibilities include charcoal burning platforms, peat drying platforms, old quarries (though this is unlikely because stone is freely available on the hillside) and tree holes.

But it seems most likely that the platforms are of a broadly later Prehistoric date, comparable to those known from the interior of hillforts in many areas of Britain or as unenclosed platform settlements in Northern Britain. This interpretation is strongly supported by the close and relatively regular grouping of the features. The larger examples at least were presumably created as stances for timber buildings (although the smaller examples are perhaps too small for this: the extent to which such platforms in hillforts supported buildings is debatable; Guilbert 1981, 114-118).

Concentrations of such platforms (as opposed to stone-built round houses) are common in Welsh hillforts. In Dyfed, such features are a particularly notable feature of Moel Trigarn Hillfort, Pembs (Baring Gould et al 1900). Other local, Cardiganshire, examples are Caer Cadwgan (AUSDUC 1984, 26-27), Pen-y-Daren and Pen-y-Castell (Thorburn 1987a, 34). Outside the hillforts, possible sites of unenclosed platform settlements have recently been recognised in Wales by Manley (1986) but are relatively rare. Following his initial recognition of the type on Mynydd Poeth, Clwyd, Manley discussed the problems posed by sites of this type and gave a brief list of Welsh examples, to which can now be added some other possible examples (Appendix II), in addition to the Blaencaron sites which now form by far the largest group known in the principality.

In a more specifically upland British context such features are characteristic of *hohenseidlungen* - Later Bronze Age hilltop settlements associated with, or on sites later occupied by, hillforts (Coombs 1971; Burgess 1980, 148): at Mam Tor hillfort, Derbs, such a settlement has been dated to the late Bronze Age (Coombs 1971 and 1976) and a similar suggestion has been made for Eildon Hill North, Bewks (Halliday 1985, 238). Moel Trigarn hillfort may also have originated as a settlement of this type; it is a potentially early site (Savory 1976, 270) and some platforms may pre-date the inner rampart (St Joseph 1966, 266).

But the best known parallels to the Blaencaron platforms are the 'unenclosed platform settlements' of the eastern English-Scottish border region. Those on the Scottish side of the border have been summarised by Jobey (1980a: see also Jobey 1980b; Halliday 1985; RCAMS 1967, 1978). (More recent discoveries of unenclosed platform settlements on the English side of the Border in north Northumberland have been, somewhat confusingly, summarised in conjunction with other types of unenclosed settlement (Jobey 1985 and Gates 1983) and will not be considered here).

The south-east Scottish examples show similarities to the Blaencaron sites. They are mostly found on the southern flanks of hills around the 310 m contour (although this upland distribution is seen primarily as an accident of survival resulting from differential land use). The number of platforms within a settlement varies, averaging 9, although with up to 30 known on one site. 'On larger settlements the platforms are strung out in linear fashion, more or less along the same contour, or sometimes arranged in ascending

tiers up the hillslopes' - a description which fits the situation at Blaencaron. The platforms are circular or oval shaped, and often have pronounced frontal aprons sometimes reinforced with stone. Excavation at Green Knowe has revealed timber houses on the platforms sometimes surrounded by a ring-bank of stones (Jobey 1980a and b and see also Jobey 1983, 14-15). Radio-carbon dates fell between the thirteenth and eighth centuries bc.

A major difference between Blaencaron and the Northern sites is in terms of size: the platforms in south-east Scotland range in size from 7.6 m to 30 m across, with most being 10 m to 18 m, with rear scarps rising to 4 m high in some examples - much larger than the Blaencaron examples. Also, only a handful of the platforms in south-east Scotland are associated with field systems and, in particular, it has been pointed out that the distribution of unenclosed platform settlements and cairnfields is largely mutually exclusive (Halliday 1985, 232).

7d Sub rectangular enclosure 21

The sub-rectangular embanked enclosure 21 (Fig 12) lies in area C, near the small group of platforms on the spur above the main concentration. Nothing else like enclosure 21 exists in the study area, there are no long huts nearby, and it is tempting to associate the enclosure with the platforms. Markedly rectangular enclosures are a common feature of the Later Bronze Age in England (Burgess 1980, 202-208) and are now known in the period in Wales at Stackpole Warren, Pembs (Benson et al 1990, 202-204). (Further speculation as to the relationship of the area C platforms, enclosure 21, banks and ditches 136 and 20 and trackway 54 are included in the catalogue under entry 136.)

7e Castell Rhyfel Hillfort

The site occupies a commanding position on the end of the ridge between the valleys of the Groes Fawr and Groes Fechan (Fig 10), one of the highest points in the area and overlooking the Cwm-yr-Olchfa settlement and the Castell Rhyfel cairnfield (areas C/D). The fort consists of a bank following the break of slope apparently derived from a fairly haphazard line of internal quarry scoops. The site may be early. It is the highest hillfort in Dyfed. Its position, so far within the uplands, is unusual ('upland' hillforts invariably occupying the edge of the uplands, overlooking more lowland areas). It is tempting to speculate that it was associated with (or successive to) the Cwm-yr-Olchfa settlement which it dominates. The arrangement of the defences is extremely unusual and nothing quite like it is known to the authors. A combination of outer bank on the break of slope and internal quarry ditch set back from the break of slope, somewhat similar in appearance to the arrangement at Castell Rhyfel (although internally much more regular), may be found over part of the circuit of Pendinas Lochdyn hillfort, Cards (personal observation G Williams). This site has produced a radiocarbon date falling in the eighth century bc for internal features (but also a radiocarbon date of the first century ad; Murphy forthcoming).

7f Stony banks, ? enclosures (uncertain date)

The remains of ancient stony banks, to a greater or lesser extent associated with lyncheting, exist in areas A and B (Figs 2, 4 and 5). The banks are rarely over 0.2 m high and between 1 and 2 m wide. They are sometimes reduced to lines of stones, presumably robbed banks.

In area A these features (grouped under number 331) perhaps define a sub-rectangular enclosure/field, with other more fragmentary remains of enclosure beyond these on the south, west and north. Some of the banks are backed by lynchets. The surviving elements largely occupy fairly level ground. The system lies largely outside the area of the cairnfield described above. It lies in an area of extensive ridge and furrow (not yet surveyed in detail). The relationship of these features remains uncertain but, on balance, the ridge and furrow appears to pre-date the walls.

In area B the features (grouped under number 330) include a series of parallel banks (57, 223, 222 and 226) which run downslope at right angles to the contour to terminate near a lynchet/trackway 214 and 224 and bank and ditch 213 running along the contour. Clearance cairns and ridge and furrow also occur in the area. Bank 57 appears to be overlain by the ridge and furrow.

A stretch of walling 23 in area C (Fig 6) could also be contemporary. It runs across the front of ? platform 46 although the relationship of the two is not certain.

These features are difficult to date as their relationship to other features remains uncertain. The problem is dealt with below in conjunction with a discussion of the ridge and furrow and cairns which also occur in these areas.

7g Bank 136 etc (uncertain date)

136 is a large banked and ditched enclosure, with a partly orthostatic external revetment, which straddles Banc Mawr between the trackways up the Groes Fawr and Groes Fechan valleys (Figs 2 and 6). Most of the area C platforms lie within it and one (235) may be related to it although some platforms lie outside and some pre-date it. From an entrance on the south-east a trackway 54 leads upward, between the area C platforms, to a further detached but similar stretch of bank and ditch 20. These features are difficult to date: they could merely represent nineteenth century boundaries or conceivably be of some antiquity: they are further discussed in the catalogue under entry 136.

7h Discussion

It is clear that the greatest concentration of Prehistoric settlement and clearance in the study area (in areas C and D, (Fig 10) lies within the western, relatively narrow section Groes Fawr valley (but avoiding the rocky Craig-yr-Ochrau) in a south facing but relatively sheltered position (and within zone II). In local terms this would provide optimum conditions for arable farming. However, this may represent the upper limit of more widespread occupation of a similar type. Similar sites would have been

susceptible to destruction within the enclosed area of zone I, as emphasised by the patchy occurrence of archaeological features further west and their complete absence from the Groes Fechan valley where enclosure reached a greater altitude.

We have seen that cairnfields represent the major (albeit relatively rare) indicator of (Early) Bronze Age settlement in south-west Wales. Settlements, consisting of stone built round houses and enclosures, have been notably absent from upland south-west Wales. Only in a few areas have enclosures and round houses hitherto been found - north Pembrokeshire and south-east Dyfed (south-east Carmarthenshire and the Black Mountains; these being part of a group which continues into Brecknockshire) (Drewett 1987; Ray 1988; Williams 1986; Ward 1989 etc). In this respect the area contrasts with comparable upland areas in north-west Wales and south-west England. This has been taken to suggest that the Dyfed uplands, although clearly not unpopulated by the evidence of ritual and burial structures, did not generally develop any sophistication of settlement in the Bronze Age, possibly because of climatic/environmental/economic factors and possibly involving nomadic or transhumant settlement: the north Pembrokeshire uplands are in the climatically favoured south-west of the area; here (and perhaps in south-east Dyfed also) local factors may have led to increased productivity which became manifest eventually in more sophistication of structure (Williams 1986; Murphy and Williams 1989).

This may yet prove to be the case. However, the Blaencaron evidence suggests that traces of settlement of the general period may be widespread but unrecognised. Professional archaeologists and others may have hitherto simply failed to notice the vague platforms of Blaencaron type which are not as obvious as the stone-built round houses and enclosures of other areas. Manley (1986, 395) has pointed out the difficulty in recognising such features: attention is drawn to their existence in hillforts and credence given to their interpretation as artificial features by the existence of ramparts; 'Remove the ramparts and the uncertainties of the type are much more manifest'.

(But, having said the above, it is just possible that the stony banks/enclosures in areas A and B represent stone built settlement of Bronze Age date (see below).

8. THE MEDIAEVAL/EARLY POST-MEDIAEVAL PERIOD

8a Long huts (Fig 13)

The terms long hut has been used to describe rectangular and sub-rectangular stone and earth foundations, sometimes on levelled platforms, stream terraces or stream sides, and includes platform houses and putative longhouses.

Like the earlier settlements, long huts occur throughout the valley. However, they differ from the earlier settlements in that they show a concentration higher up the valley in area E. The structures probably vary in date and function: while the majority are probably of Mediaeval/ early post-Mediaeval date others may be more recent. But they can conveniently initially be considered together.

The majority are definite, well defined long huts. However 73, 98b and c and 114b can be considered uncertain and 5, 43, 47, 66, 103, 240 and 321 can be considered doubtful (the characteristics of these less certain examples are not usually considered in the following general description).

The long huts vary in size and form. Some are accommodated on platforms, others are not. Leaving aside 'platform houses' (earthen platforms where there is little or no trace of superstructure) in the majority of cases the platform is the same size as, or sometimes integral with, the long hut forming a raised interior: however in the case of long hut 30 (Fig 17) the platform is larger than the long hut, perhaps suggesting it supported an earlier structure, and the same situation may have pertained in the case of long hut 76 (Fig 17). The majority of long huts occupy sloping ground and the long axis lies at right angles to the contour, whether or not a platform is present. (Exceptions which lie along the contour are 97 and 238 (and 103 and 240 if indeed these are long huts). 52 and 53 lie on natural platforms (Fig 16).

Four distinct types of long hut can be defined although the attribution of individual sites to these groups is not always certain: other 'miscellaneous' long huts do not fall readily into these groups. Types 1, 2 and 3 are rectangular or sub-rectangular structures capable of use as dwellings. Type 4 are clearly subsidiary structures to type 3.

Type 1. Nos 206 (Figs 14 and 17), 328, possibly 73 and an early phase of 30 (Fig 17) (and perhaps an early phase of 76, Fig 17) seem to be classic 'platform houses': they consist of elongated platforms, a negative platform excavated into the slope on the upslope (the hood) and a corresponding positive platform formed by excavated material on the downslope. Hood banks for drainage, lying upslope from the hoods, are present on 76 and perhaps 328. 328 is on two levels with a narrow upper area. There are no traces of foundations on 328 and 73; 206 more doubtfully has stone foundations and even a doubtful partition again perhaps forming a narrow upper compartment. It is arguable that 76 was a platform house succeeded by a more substantial long hut later robbed (see below). (It is also arguable that 206 originally had a more substantial superstructure which had been robbed to build a nearby ? sheep shelter 207).

Type 2. Nos 28 and 165 (Figs 14 and 17) (and the paired long huts 221 and 237 which lie outside the study area) are also characteristic structures - rectangular with markedly rounded corners, opposed entrances in the sidewalls and wall bases which are stony banks, not walls. 28, 237 and ? 212 lie on small platforms integral with the structure, 28 is partitioned. 165 is associated with a mound, ? midden.

Type 3. Nos 30 (Fig 17), 60 (Figs 13 and 17), 79 (Fig 17), 97, 99 (Figs 15 and 17), 100, 101, 102 (Fig 17), 105 (Fig 17), 106 (Fig 17) and 107 (Figs 15 and 17) were substantial long huts (as perhaps were 76 (Fig 17) and 96 (Fig 17). All are markedly rectangular. 102, 105 and 108 have rounded corners (externally in the case of 102) ³. All except 76 and 96 preserve coursed stone walling to a greater or lesser extent.

60, 79, 97, 99, 100 and 101 seem very substantial, with platforms or raised interiors in 60, 79 and 97, the walls in 79 and 97 forming a revetment to the raised interior (although 60 (main compartment), 97, 99 and 101 are relatively short). 102, 105, 106 and 107 appear less substantial and more ruinous and do not have raised platforms/interiors (although 102 and 107 are relatively long with cross passages). The more substantial nature of the former group gives the impression of less antiquity than the latter, particularly the height of surviving walling in 79, 100 and 101 (and the field wall associated with 99 also gives the impression of no very great antiquity). The possibility of sub-dividing type 3 into two further categories or sub-categories was considered. However, the above distinctions are very subjective - the height of surviving walling in 79 and 97 may be largely a function of the platforms/raised interiors - and for the present the single category has been maintained.

Long huts 76 and 96 appear to have been almost completely robbed to form later, relatively recent structures, only a few foundations remaining. Long hut 96 seems to have corresponded to a low platform. The situation in 76 is uncertain but the footings lie on a platform with semi-circular hood and hood bank which may relate to an earlier structure, perhaps a platform house. The substantial original nature of 76 and 96 is reflected by the substantial nature of the later structures. Later structures also overlies 60, 79 and 97: 97 was again almost completely robbed to form the later structure although walling revetting the platform remains (and the later structure has itself completely collapsed).

The type 3 long huts show various other characteristics. Double laid stone facing survives in 100, 101, 102, 106 and 107. Orthostats occur in the structure of the walling of 60. Opposed entrances in the side walls occur in 30, 102 and 107. Single entrances occur in 99 and 105 and possibly 60 (a single entrance survives in one of the side walls of 79; it is not known if an opposing entrance exists). In 60, 79 and 107 there is a change in level in the interior. This was associated with a partition in 60, possibly in 79 and 107, and partitions also occurred in 102 and 106 and perhaps in the main part of 60. The smaller area created by this sub-division in 79 is very small. The southern end compartments in 60 and 106 were, however, perhaps less substantial than the northern and can be seen as subsidiary structures. Subsidiary structures, again perhaps less substantially built, are attached to the ends of 99 and 107 and perhaps 100 (that attached to 99 appears relatively recent but, as mentioned, such impressions may be of limited value). A drains leads from the downslope end in 30.

Small mounds, possibly middens, are associated with 60 (independently numbered as site 63), 79 and 107. Long huts 79, 102 and 105 are set in bays dug into the hillside to the rear and side of the long hut: in the case of 105 the bay clearly formed a yard as it is associated with a walling and has an entrance; the same is probably true of the bays associated with 79 and 102, 79 being complex and also possibly associated with walling. 99 is more complex farmstead with long hut, associated yard and subsidiary features.

Type 4. Nos 77 (Fig 17), 80 (Fig 17), 95 and perhaps 318 and 104 and 319 are structures which are small, relatively long and narrow, sunken into a trench in the ground with entrances on the open, downslope end. 77, 80 and 95 are the best defined with walling revetting the trench. This is cruder than in the type 3 long huts but relatively substantial: facing rarely survives but is partly orthostatic and sometimes includes large stones. The spoil from the trenches is thrown downslope to form a mound outside the entrance in the case of 77 and 80 but forming a bank surrounding the structure in 95. 80 and 95 may have had rounded upslope ends. 104 and 318 are less certainly structures of this type, being elongated hollows with less certain traces of walling. All seem to be simple structures with no sub-division.

Miscellaneous long huts. These are variable. 61 (Fig 17) and 65 (Fig 17) were probably originally fairly substantial. The long walls consist of overgrown collapsed walling, with faces preserved in the case of 61. The end walls were apparently less substantial. There was a partition in 61. 52 and 53 (Figs 16 and 17) are paired long huts - 52 being relatively large, 53 relatively small. Like many of the type 3 long huts they are large and of a regular rectangular shape (and 52 is fairly substantially built) but contrast with the type 3 long huts (and resemble the type 4 huts) in that they are fairly crudely built without laid facing, their walling including large stones and an orthostatic element, 52 having double orthostatic facing. 53 was possibly partitioned. Others long huts are less substantial or more crudely constructed. 109 (Fig 17) is perhaps similar to 52 and 53, with partly orthostatic walls containing large stones, but is even more crudely constructed. 108 (Fig 17), in the same area, is a small sub-rectangular structure with fairly crude stony foundations built into a stream terrace. 238, like the type 4, long huts, is long and narrow and includes an orthostatic element but differs from the type 4 structures in that it is less substantial and not sunken, lying along the contour on a ? earlier platform. 239 (Fig 17) is a small stone built rectangular long hut with rounded corners. 64 (Fig 17) is rectangular with one substantial surviving stone wall, perhaps indicating a pent roof: it is probably later than some of the other long huts in the area.

Apart from their differences, attention can be drawn to some features common particularly to the larger long huts. Orthostats occur in the walling of 60, 61, 64, 77, 52, 53, 80, 95 and 238. Opposed entrances occur in 28, 30, 102, 107, 165, (221 and 237). Changes in level of the interior occurs in 60, 61, 79, 107 and 328, in 107 corresponding to the opposed entrance. Partitions occurred in 60 (and possibly in 79, 107 and 328) corresponding to the change in level, and also occurred in 28, 102, 106 and possibly in 206. The resulting smaller areas in 79, 206 and 328 are very small, in 79 and 328 possibly merely benches. The opposed entrances in some long huts suggest the structures were longhouses, with cross passages with living areas above and a byre below. In 107 the opposed entrance corresponded to a change in level and possibly to a partition (representing the two compartments) and in 30 and 165 the opposed entrances were accompanied by drains on the downhill side. In 102 the presence of a partition to the north of the cross passage suggests a further sub-division of the living area. Possible middens are associated with 60, 79, 107 and 165 and this interpretation was supported by excavation in the case of that associated with 60.

Sizes range from 13 x 6m (60) down to 3.2 x 1.7m (328). A size division at 10m has been chosen (Fig 13) to distinguish between large and small long huts. This is fairly arbitrary. However, the type 1 and 2 long huts tend to be large, the type 4 long huts are all small (the type 3 long huts are of mixed size and the miscellaneous long huts again tend to be small). Furthermore, the larger long huts, with the exception of 96, 102 and 328, tend to have a length/width ratio of 2:1 or above. Excluding the type 4 structures, which internally show the 2:1 or above ratio, the smaller examples tend to have a length/width ratio of less than 2:1; ie they tend to be short, more nearly square - although smaller structures 53, 106 and 237 also show the 2:1 ratio.

The long huts occur singly, often in pairs or occasionally in larger groups (Fig 13, although, amongst the sites in the concentration in area E, it is sometimes difficult to determine what constitutes a group). Paired and grouped long huts of a broadly comparable type are 52 and 53; 60, 61, 64 and 65; perhaps 98b and c; 100 and 101; 206 and 328; (237 and 212 (and perhaps 164) outside the study area) 238, 239 (and 240) and the streamside grouping 106, 107, 108, 109 (and 132). The pairings 52 and 53 and 212 and 237 have one large building (larger than 10m), the other being markedly smaller. 60 is also larger and more substantial than 61, 64 or 65. But this dimorphism is particularly marked by the association of the relatively larger and substantial type 3 long huts with the less substantial type 4 long huts. The association involves 76 (type 1) perhaps with 318 and 77 (both type 4); 79 (type 1) and 80 (type 4); 96 (type 1) and 95 (type 4); 105 (type 1) and perhaps 104 (type 4). The type 4 structures can be seen as subsidiary structures to the type 3 (and a similar situation may also be reflected by the dimorphism amongst the other pairs) ⁴.

The single long huts in the west (those west of area C) tend to be large (Fig 13, only 159 being less than 10m); those on the east (east of area C) being small (less than 10m).

Considering their general distribution (Fig 13): as mentioned, the long huts occur throughout the valley with a concentration high up the valley in area E. Elsewhere in the valley long huts are fairly scattered although there is perhaps a further concentration in area A, Cae Tudur. (A further small group lies on the southern slopes of the Groes Fechan valley outside the study area.) On the west (in zone I) they lie on the southern slopes of the valley after it opens out. These long huts are of types 1, 2 and 3. With the exception of long hut 206 they are all large. Those in and near areas A and B may relate to ridge and furrow cultivation and other features in the areas. In the steep central and western area of the valley (zone II) they lie on the north slopes and on the valley floor, sometimes near the stream. These are miscellaneous long huts of no specific type. They seem to be fairly isolated from other contemporary features. In area E, in the upper part of zone II, the long huts are of types 3 and 4, with one possible example of type 1 and various miscellaneous long huts. They form groups and pairs occupying two very specific locations. The first is at the foot of the steeper upper slopes of the Llethr Llwyd and Nant-y-Moelau valleys (the land below them sloping more gently to the valley floor). The western slopes of the Llethr Llwydd valley are occupied by long hut 79 and by groups

consisting of 60, 61, 64 and 65, which occupy a relatively flat plateau between the upper and lower slopes of the valley; 76, 318 and 77; and 79 and 80. The eastern slopes of the Llethr Llwydd valley are occupied by 97, 96 and 95; and farmstead 99. The western slope of the Nant-y-Moelau valley is occupied by 102 (and the very doubtful site 103) and by 105 and 104. The second location is in a streamside position along the Groes Fawr and Nant-y-Moelau near the confluence of the two (below 102-105), where there is the linear grouping of sites 106, 107, 108, 109 (and 321).

Other features may be associated with the long huts. Ridge and furrow will be described in the next section. Other features of an uncertain nature (322-326) occur close to and in a similar relationship to the streams as long huts 106-109 and the two groups of features may be related.

8b Ridge and furrow cultivation and other features

Areas of ridge and furrow are present in areas A and B (in zone I) and in area E (zone II/ zone III) (Figs 2 and 13. Only parts of the ridge and furrow, in areas A and E, have been surveyed and it is not illustrated in detail). In all areas they lie near long huts and may have been associated with them but there are differences in the ridge and furrow in the various zones.

In area A the ridge and furrow occupies much of the area, on both the level ground on the south and the slope on the north. It consists of blocks of narrow rigg, those surveyed varying from 1-2m wavelength, the blocks running at a variety of angles. On the south the ridge and furrow is bounded by a trackway 158, and boundary 335/163, which run along the contour. Type 1 and 2 long huts 165, 206 and 328 lie in the area and 165 can possibly be more directly related to the ridge and furrow in that it seems to be related to trackway 158.

In area B the ridge and furrow again consists of narrow rigg, 2m wavelength, occupying sloping ground. A lynchet/trackway 214, lynchet 224 and bank and ditch 213 run along the contour at the townhill termination of the ridge and furrow and may correspond to a headland for the ridge and furrow. But, as mentioned, these latter earthworks also correspond to the downhill termination of a series of linear banks one of which seems to be overlain by the ridge and furrow. Long hut 28 lies to the east.

In area E broad ridge and furrow of variable wavelength (generally 4-5 m) lies in the south west of the area. It occupies the north slope of the Llethr Llwyd valley immediately below and to the west of the long hut groups in this area, disappearing into a bog in the valley bottom. It apparently predates the 'miscellaneous' long hut 61 but its exact relationship to the other long huts, including types 3 and 4, is uncertain. It is tempting, however, to associate the ridge and furrow with these other long huts.

Test pits were cut through the ridge and furrow in area E. The original soil profiles were ploughed away, and were overlain by deposits (36 to 44 cm deep) of ploughsoil overlain by incipient podsolisation following the cessation of ploughing.

The ridge and furrow in areas A and B and that in area E differ not only in their wavelength but also in the fact that the ridge and furrow in areas A and B lies in an area which also has clearance cairns and stony banks ? representing enclosure/field systems. The relationship of these features is particularly interesting but as yet uncertain and undue speculation as to the nature of these additional features hence premature. In area A the mutually exclusive distribution of cairns and enclosure boundaries leads to the tentatively suggestion that the former were robbed to construct the latter. One possibility is that the latter represent the remains of an enclosure system possibly of Later Bronze Age date ⁵. Bank 57 in area B is apparently overlain by ridge and furrow. At Carnau, Cards (some 5 km south-west of the study area) and at Caer Cadwgan (some Km south-west) the remains of possible field walls represented by lines of stones have recently been discovered and at Carnau were associated with a cairnfield of presumed Prehistoric date (Ray 1988). As with the platform settlements, the lack of recognition of such features may reflect the subtlety of the evidence.

But wall 172 in area A apparently post-dates the ridge and furrow. Systems of linear banks, some only showing as a line of stones, and possibly comparable to those in area B, are known on Dartmoor and are probably of Mediaeval or post-Mediaeval date (Guilbertson and Collis 1985). Perhaps in both areas A and B both the ridge and furrow and some or all of the additional features relate to phases of Mediaeval farming associated with the less substantial long huts of types 1 and 2, different in origin from the broader rigg ? associated with the long huts of types 3 and 4 in area E (see below).

8c Trackways and boundaries

A trackway (137) leads up the Groes Fawr valley (Fig 2). At the foot of the Llethr Llwyd valley it splits, one branch leading up the Llethr Llwyd valley and the other continuing along the Groes Fawr valley and up the valley of the Nant-y-Moelau. These join with a track which runs across the heads of the Valleys on the east. The tracks could be Mediaeval or earlier: after their split both tracks are flanked by a cluster of long huts, both in the Llethr Llwyd valley and in the Nant-y-Moelau valley; the track they join with on the moorland plateau corresponds to the parish boundary. (A similar trackway (138) leads up the Groes Fechan valley).

8d Discussion

The long huts form a small but interesting group and as such are worthy of some discussion.

Various rectilinear structures, including long huts and associated features, are a common feature of upland Wales but are, in general, poorly researched. The general type was first recognised in Glamorgan by the Foxes (1934, as 'platform houses'). Detailed survey have since been carried out in Caernarvonshire (RCAMW 1956, 1960 and 1964; see also Gresham 1954) and particularly in Glamorgan (RCAMW 1982), and more recently by Ward in the Black Mountain area of Carmarthenshire (Ward 1988, 1989 and 1991; see also Morgan 1988 and 1989). They have been noted in various other surveys in the past (eg

Fox, C 1939, Fox and Fox 1948, Crampton 1966 and 1968) and are being recorded during parallel upland surveys carried out by the Trusts and by private individuals (eg Briggs and Murphy 1984; Davis 1989). (An interim statement by Ward (1991) on his work along the Avon Clydach on the Black Mountain includes a useful summary of the problems of such structures in Wales at the present time).

The structures in these surveys, including Blaencaron, show considerable morphological variation. Again, these should be viewed as potentially polythetic entities. There is need for a more rigorous application of morphological analysis with more care in the description, definition and the use of terminology (Crew 1984; Kelly 1982, 885). Major variations concern siting, the presence or absence of platforms and how substantial the remains are. Amongst permutations on the variations some specific types can be seen. Variations also include regional differences and it seems likely that regional variations will emerge more clearly when structures of this kind are better known. Variations may also reflect different date ranges of the sites in question.

The distinction most commonly made is between platform houses and long huts *sensu strictu*. In Glamorganshire the Royal Commission found a clear distinction between the types. The former - a classic form first recognised by the Foxes - consist of platforms built at right angles to the contour associated with little or no evidence of superstructure and sometimes with an upslope hood bank to aid drainage. Long huts were more substantially built in stone, and aligned along the contour. This distinction is not always so clear outside Glamorgan: Ward has drawn attention to a greater mixture of characteristics amongst the Black Mountain sites, which are relatively substantial, some being on platforms at right angles to the contour. Such a mix also seems to occur amongst the Caernarvonshire examples although the definition of types here is not so clear ⁶.

The Blaencaron structures are particularly variable - some are substantially others less substantially built; they may or may not be associated with platforms although most are aligned at right angles to the contour. These permutations possibly betraying different dates and functions and their characteristics are variously paralleled amongst the different surveys.

The platform houses of type 1 are of classic type. As mentioned, these are a particular feature of the Glamorganshire uplands but have been recognised elsewhere eg Radnorshire (Fox C, 1939; Fox C and Fox A, 1948) and more recently the Black Mountains (Ward 1989, 39 No 172).

The type 2 structures, rectangular buildings with rounded corners and opposing entrances, occur also in the Black Mountain (Ward 1989 39, No 72) and Bryn Cysegrfan, Cards (Austin 1988), the latter cut into the slope on the uphill side in the same manner as site 165: sites showing this combination of characteristics may prove as distinctive as the classic platform house, if not as common.

The Blaencaron long huts of type 4 are very unusual. Nothing like them is known to the authors.

The Blaencaron long huts of types 2 and 3 and the miscellaneous long huts are all long huts *sensu strictu*, rectangular buildings with substantial traces of superstructure.

Like the majority of the Blaencaron structures, the long huts and platform houses of Caernarvonshire and Glamorganshire are fairly simple structures, with one or sometimes two obvious compartments, the latter being fairly rare in Glamorgan, more common in Caernarvonshire). Compartmentalised long huts are a distinctive feature of the Black Mountain sites (and occasional more complex forms are known (eg Ward (1991) site 25 with four compartments and on the Brecon Beacons: Crampton 1966). The Black Mountain sites also included less substantial end compartments which may be paralleled by Blaencaron sites 60, 106, 107 (and 99).

As mentioned, the opposed entrances (and other features) in a number of the Blaencaron long huts suggests these structures were longhouses although other long huts clearly did not have opposing entrances. Entrances to long huts in other areas of Wales are also usually single (although opposing entrances sometimes occur eg in the Glamorganshire platform houses). This forms an interesting contrast to south-west England where equivalent upland sites are usually longhouses with opposing entrances and sometimes surviving cross passages (Preston-Jones and Rose 1986, 146-151; Austin 1985). The living area of long house 102 was perhaps further subdivided and there was a further separate compartment beyond the end of 107. This sort of sub-division again occurs in south-west England.

The differences in level seen in some of the Blaencaron long huts are reported in the Glamorgan and Black Mountain long huts and elsewhere. Hood banks (found on Blaencaron sites 76 and perhaps 328) are sometimes found in the Glamorganshire and Caernarvonshire platform houses. Sites in both areas and elsewhere (eg the Black Mountain and the Carmarthen Fan, Crampton 1968) also sometimes have rounded corners (but see note 3). The relatively large enclosure associated with site 99 can be generally paralleled elsewhere, in Glamorganshire and, particularly commonly, in Caernarvonshire (where garden plots sometimes occur). The small semi-circular enclosure associated with 79, 102 and particularly 105 are paralleled in the Black Mountain by Ward's site 3. The mounds, ? middens at a number of the long huts are paralleled at Nant-y-Moch sites 10 and 11 (Briggs and Murphy 1984).

The Black Mountain, Glamorganshire and Caernarvonshire long huts, like those in area E, fall into clusters of sites - suggesting 'dispersed nucleation' (Ward 1991, 13). Long huts may occur singly: the Glamorgan and Caernarvonshire sites also tend to occur in pairs or (more rarely) larger groupings or more complex farmsteads broadly comparable to site 99. In all areas the sites also show the association of substantial, well built structures/larger structures with a 2:1 ratio of length to width with less substantial/smaller structures with a length width ratio of less than 2:1 (although in Caernarvonshire the correlation of size and length/width ratio is not so marked).

The close association with streams which characterises the Nant-y-Moelau sites is particularly characteristic of the Black Mountain sites and found also at Nant-y-Moch.

The date of these sites is uncertain. In general a Mediaeval or early post-Mediaeval date is probably to be preferred (Ward 1991, 16): a Mediaeval date was provided at Gelligaer Common, Glam by late thirteenth or early fourteenth century pottery (Fox, A 1939) and, indirectly (from an apparently associated pillow mound) by a radiocarbon date of 1375 ad at Bryn Cysegrfan, Cards (Austin 1988): an early post-Mediaeval date is instanced at Hafod y Nant Criafolen, Brenig Valley, Denbs (Allen 1979). Other excavations have not produced clear dating evidence (eg Griffiths 1954; Butler 1963 and 1988, 956).

It may turn out that the platform houses and other less substantial structures (similar to Blaencaron types 1 and 2) will prove to be the earlier: the Gelligaer structures were platform houses and the Bryn Cysegrfan structures were also insubstantial, one being similar to the Blaencaron type 2 long huts. More substantial long huts (like Blaencaron type 3) may prove to be late Mediaeval or early post-Mediaeval: this may suggested by the Brenig dates which were for relatively substantial structures. (In fact, some of the Blaencaron long huts may be relatively recent. Structures corresponding to sites 102, 105 and elements within group 106-109 are shown (albeit as abandoned) on the Tithe map. This is further discussed below.)

Long huts generally seem to have been mainly involved with pastoral farming involving cattle (eg Ward 1991, 15 and 17). There is only limited field evidence for arable farming in association with long huts in the Black Mountains and such evidence is rare in Glamorgan. (Evidence of arable farming is commonly found close to the Caernarvonshire long huts but is commonly seen as belonging to a different period; RCAMW 1956, xxxvi). Nearer to hand, there was only limited field evidence (including ridge and furrow) and palaeoenvironmental evidence for arable farming at Bryn Cysegrfan.

Within this pastoral framework, the social/economic function of long huts and related sites is an area of argument. (The arguments will not be rehearsed here in detail. For a recent summary see Ward 1991, 16-19; see also Austin 1988, 152-153 and Kelly 1982, 885-886;). The seasonal movement of stock, to an upland summer grazing or hafod from a permanent lowland settlement or Hendre, is well documented in the Mediaeval and earlier post-Mediaeval periods in Wales and there is an extensive literature on the subject. The identification of upland structures with the summer dwellings of the hafod system is less certain. Long huts and related sites have often been claimed as hafotai but the evidence of excavation of long huts is as unhelpful in regard to function as to date and they may include some other forms of settlement. It seems likely that both permanent and seasonal upland settlement are represented at different times by long huts.

One hypothesis can be suggested which has been touched on already. It may be that the construction of actual summer dwellings on the upland pastures was a late Mediaeval or early post-Mediaeval phenomenon (Davies 1980). Such structures may prove to be represented by more substantial, and ? later, long huts. The less substantial, and ? earlier, long huts may in part represent permanent upland settlement of the climatic optimum (permanent settlement was claimed at Gelligaer).

Indeed, as has been suggested above, two types of long hut settlement may be represented at Blaencaron. The concentration of long huts at site E, in the upper part of the valley on the edge of the moorland plateau, possibly relates to the exploitation of upland grazing. These are largely of type 4 and the substantial type 3 and miscellaneous long huts - only one, 77, is of type 1. Sites associated with a yard (Nos 79, 102, 105) or enclosure (No 99) and those with opposed entrances interpreted as longhouses suggest habitation with stock. This does not exclude an arable input - in area E ridge and furrow is possibly associated with long huts - but suggests the main emphasis was pastoral. These sites may indeed be hafotai. The long huts at Blaencaron site E can be contrasted with the lower lying, less substantial (and ? earlier) long huts of types 1 and 2 in the western areas A and B. Here the associated remains of farming may be more complex and of a different type and include narrower ridge and furrow and other features. These settlements might be quite different in origin from the (? later) long huts of area E. They may conceivably be the upper survivor of more extensive permanent settlements which have been destroyed in adjacent lowland areas, reflecting, in local terms, the upper limits of settlement during the Mediaeval climatic optimum, later abandoned.

(The interest in pastoral farming shown at area E also contrasts with the Prehistoric interest in arable farming on the more sheltered slopes of the lower valley area. In this respect a further parallel can be drawn between Blaencaron and the Black Mountain sites: in the latter area cairnfields are located away from long huts and associated with circular or sub-oval foundations of Prehistoric type (Ward 1991, 15).)

While a specialised function of long huts in regard to the uplands is undeniable, it is worth pointing out that, if these structures were Prehistoric, their upland distribution would be seen as an accident of survival. In discussing the distribution in Glamorgan, the Commission are of the opinion that the upland distribution of platform houses is a real one. However, in the same county they document (RCAMW 20 and 44) the lowland equivalent of upland long huts (albeit presumably existing in a different - socio-economic milieu) and below ground evidence for similar structures in the County has more recently been reviewed by Robinson (1982): this emphasises our lamentable knowledge of the range of Mediaeval, vernacular architecture in much of lowland Wales with which the upland sites can be compared.

9. THE POST-MEDIAEVAL PERIOD

The post-Mediaeval landscape includes the fields and associated farms and cottages in the lower, western part of the study area (zone I). However, as mentioned, only a small area of this landscape was included in the study area *sensu strictu*. A somewhat larger area has therefore been considered in this section in order to adequately indicate the development of the post-Mediaeval landscape (Figs 18 and 20). This includes the valleys of the Groes Fawr and Groes Fechan and areas to the west. However it is necessary to study a far larger area to do justice to this development and consequently this aspect has not been studied in any depth. Other features, within the

unenclosed areas, sheep shelters and possibly some long huts, are also of post-Mediaeval date.

From the late Mediaeval period transhumant exploitation of the uplands declined for a variety of reasons. Permanent farms encroached on the summer pastures, often developing from Hafod sites (Davies 1984-5, 82-86). Sheep farming became important in the uplands from the seventeenth century and the upland summer pastures became sheepwalks, controlled from lowland farms (descendants of the original Hendrefi). These upland sheepwalks were sometimes associated with Lluestau (Davies 1980; Vaughan 1966): although there is confusion between Hafodydd and Lluestau the latter seem to be of late date (from the eighteenth century) originally summer residences for shepherds later becoming permanently occupied. These were originally simple sites consisting of cottage and enclosure, sometimes later becoming more developed.

The late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries saw profound changes and upheavals throughout Wales and particularly in Cardiganshire (Jones 1964). There was widespread enclosure and intake of common land which, in the early part of the nineteenth century, culminated in the enclosure of all but the highest and most remote areas: also population increase and agricultural depression accompanied by rural poverty and land hunger.

Enclosure of the commons was both legal and illegal. The latter involved a number of processes (Thomas 1957). There was intake of areas of common adjacent to existing farms. There was intake of areas some distance from existing farms by landowners or their tenants. There was also squatting, generally by landless people, often on the higher, poorer commons, by building a ty-un-nos (literally 'a one night house'); it being (falsely) believed that if a person built themselves a house on common land between sunset and sunrise and had the chimney smoking by dawn, they acquired freehold right to the property (Sayce 1941-2 and 1942). The first house built was usually a temporary mud and turf hut, replaced by a more substantial structure. The enclosing of common land often meant that 'legitimate' farmers in the valley floor lost valuable summer grazing land, causing resentment, and the squatters were also often accused of unruly behaviour: the squatters were often threatened.

Illegal enclosure in Caron-is-Clawdd is documented in 1815, when the Vestry book of the parish states: 'Agreed that we shall not suffer any fence to be erected on the common on the mountain opposite to the Parish of Caron to enclose into field or fields and we shall march in a body and demolish such enclosure.' Rees in *The History of Tregaron* (1936, 123) quotes a local informant as stating that, in Blaencaron, 11 tai-yn-nos were built between 1800 and 1839 and 5 in 1839 (Rees 1936, 123, but see below: see also Jones 1960, 85-86).

In the later nineteenth century and into the twentieth century rural areas, particularly the uplands, underwent dramatic depopulation and many upland small holdings were abandoned.

9a The unenclosed areas

The Tithe map shows the unenclosed areas divided into sheepwalks belonging to established farms in more low lying areas (Figs 18 and

19). The sheepwalks nearest to the area of enclosure include those belonging to nearby farms - the sheepwalks belonging to Glan-yr-Afon Uchaf and Pantycraf continuing as strips from the farms proper. Other sheepwalks relate to farms in the valleys of the Groes and Berwyn but also to farms in more low lying districts of the parish in the Teifi Valley proper. The boundaries of the sheepwalks belonging to Camer Fawr and Trecefel farms is marked today by a slight ditch and accompanying banks 133 which run across the Llethr Llwyd valley.

Five post-Mediaeval structures, sheep shelters or possible sheep shelters, are known overlying and built from the ruins of long huts 60, 76, 79, 96 (Figs 15 and 17) and 97 and a small corbelled shelter incorporates the cist in cairn 114 (Fig 9). Those overlying 60, 79 and 97 appear to be the oldest (that overlying 97 having collapsed completely) and are presumably the sites marked as 'old sheepfold' (60) and 'sheepfold' (79 and 97) on the first edition 6" map (Fig 20). 79 is shown as a double structure possibly indicating the sheepfold lying to one side of the long hut. Those overlying 76 and 96 appear more recent and do not appear on the first edition 6" map. The structure above 60 is L-shaped, that above 76 is E-shaped (with the central arm missing), that above 79 is a complete enclosure with a further stretch of walling flanking one side of the entrance (a similar flanking wall runs from one side of the shelter on 114). The structure overlying 96 is a small enclosure, possibly originally a roofed building. In area A further short stretches of walling, in most cases built over earlier clearance cairns, may be sheep shelters - Nos 154, 156, 157, 207 and 334.

Outside the area of enclosure a number of other features may be ascribed to the post-Mediaeval period. The possibility must be considered that some long huts may have been post-Mediaeval. The Tithe map shows four abandoned structures at the confluence of the Nant-y-Moelau and Groes Fawr (Fig 18) which could be identified with long huts 102, 105 and long huts in the group 106-109 (however, the orientation of the latter is difficult to reconcile with the structures shown on the map). The presence of these structures on the Tithe map suggests they were fairly substantial at that time and hence perhaps relatively recent: possibly a squatter community in the ty un nos tradition, possibly Llest sites: the latter occur on the banks of streams and sometimes there are two or three within a short distance of each other. The 1st edn 6" map also shows site 99 and associated enclosure as abandoned, again perhaps suggesting a fairly recent date (Fig 18).

However, having said the above, it can be pointed out that the long huts in question are similar to the other long huts in the area (and sites 104 and 105 are paired sites of types 3 and 4) which, with their associated ridge and furrow, are most likely to be of Mediaeval date. If the structures on the Tithe map were squatter huts they could only have been in occupation for a short time, having been abandoned by the time the map was made. Unlike other squatter sites they show no associated enclosure.

Peat was cut for fuel from the blanket bog of the moorland plateau (outside the study area) in the post Mediaeval period, evidence of which can be seen by the steep tracks leading up to areas of peat with long rectangular trenches cut through it.

The trackways up the valleys and along their heads are in use up to the present day, although, as we have seen, they may be of some antiquity.

9b The enclosed areas

The origin of settlement and the development of enclosure in Blaencaron is somewhat obscure in the absence of documentation. There is no enclosure award for Caron-is-Clawdd. The pattern seems typical of the Teifi valley and other areas of Wales, with the enclosure of established farms and the encroachment of these farms and of squatter settlement onto the commons.

The development of enclosure in the parish is hinted at in the vestry book (Powell 1936, 80-81). In 1817 a partial valuation was made of farms and houses £4 and upwards in value in the parish. In 1821 another valuation gave the annual value of each parcel. In 1837 it was decided to stick with this evaluation of the parish, with a few small adjustments, suggesting that the enclosure of farms had come to an end by that date. Blaencaron is given by far the lowest rating (£34 10 0 as opposed to the highest rated parcel, Argoed and Ystrad, at £130 10 0), perhaps because of the large number of farmsteads too poor to be valued.

The development of the post-Mediaeval landscape is also clear from various maps (only the landscapes shown on the Tithe map and 1st edn 6" map are illustrated, Figs 18 and 20).

To the west of the study area were established farms - Pantycraf, Bryn Mawr (later incorporated into Pantycraf), Glan-yr-Afon Uchaf and Cae Tudur. These appear on the Tithe map as established farms: most of the fields have names; they have sheepwalks; all were held by tenant farmers. Pantycraf, Bryn Mawr and Glan-yr-Afon Uchaf were part of the Nanteos estate (whose owners were the biggest landowners in Blaencaron) and also appear on the early nineteenth century estate maps (1807, 1819 and 1831).

There is little change in the farms as depicted on the estate maps from 1807 to 1831. Much of the area within the farm boundaries is unenclosed. There are many small enclosed areas, some belonging to other farms (including complex arrangements in the area of later field Tithe No 897, OS No 223/225) and including small enclosures for arable around Bryn Mawr, Glan-yr-Afon Uchaf and particularly Pantycraf. It can be noted that on all these maps that the eastern boundaries of the farms, the beginning of the commons, are shown further west than on later maps - corresponding to the eastern boundaries of later fields Tithe No 836, OS No 226; Tithe No 996, OS No 261; Tithe No 991, OS No 265; and Tithe No 993, OS No 206. (The same eastern boundaries appear to be shown on the ms surveys for the OS 1st edn 1" map (1822). However, detailed arrangements as portrayed on the OS 1st edn 1" - ms surveys and published maps - are often unclear.)

There are no estate maps for the area to the south of Glan-yr-Afon Uchaf although again the edge of enclosure appears to correspond approximately to that of the farm of Cae Tudur which is shown on the 1822 ms survey.

The origins of these established farms is uncertain but the small fields around the farmsteads of Pantycraf and Cae Tudur in particular (with the larger intake beyond) is typical of the later development of Hafod sites (Davies 1984-5, 83-84).

The 1822 ms survey shows that squatter settlement on the edge of the commons immediately east of these farms had begun by 1822. As mentioned, detail is often difficult to resolve on this (and the published 1st edn 1" map) but it seems to show the settlements, encroachments and sometimes associated buildings, of farmsteads Bryn Lloi, Gwar Castell, Tan Bylchau; perhaps Waun Groes and Bryn Coch; cottages Garnwen and Lluast Abercaeau; and enclosure 10. (Enclosure 10 appears, on the Tithe map, as an unnamed enclosure with no building shown. A building is, however, shown in the area of enclosure 10 on the 1922 ms survey (and Gwar Castell and enclosure 10 are shown as one encroachment although with two buildings). Lluast Abercaeau is perhaps shown as a smaller holdings than on the Tithe map.)

In the short period between the 1831 estate map and the Tithe map (information gathered between 1836 and 1839) there are changes. The Tithe map and schedule shows essentially the same major elements of the post Mediaeval landscape as exist today (Fig 18). Within the established farms, there was some new enclosure, particularly within the farm of Bryn Mawr, and also rationalisation of small enclosures and ownership (particularly field Tithe No 897, OS No 223/225)). Bryn Mawr was incorporated into Pantycraf. Enlargement of the farms also occurred by enclosure of the commons between the farms and the squatter sites. There also seems to have been an encroachment by Cae Tudur since the 1922 survey (field Tithe No 884, OS No 166).

Squatter encroachment also continued east of that shown on the 1922 survey. (Much more detail of these squatter settlements is now available from the map and schedule). Farmsteads Gwarffynnon, Tan-y-Garn, Ochr Bryn Lloi, Cwm-yr-Olchfa, Tan-y-Goppa and cottage Pen Bryn Lloi appear. The earlier settlements are also shown (farmsteads Bryn Lloi, Gwar Castell, Tan Bylchau, Waun Groes and Bryn Coch; cottages Garnwen and Lluast Abercaeau; and enclosure 10). Only Gwar Castell and Bryn Lloi are named on the map. All are named on the schedule apart from Tan Bylchau. Bryn Coch is named but the building is not shown. As mentioned, enclosure 10 is an unnamed enclosure also with no apparent building. The illustration of Tan-y-Goppa does not seem to be very accurate. A number of the settlements, Ochr Bryn Lloi in particular, seem to be shown as simpler than the farmsteads they later became. In the field to the north-west of Waun Groes (belonging to Cae Tudur) an apparent further building is shown.

They vary in size from settlements with apparently no associated land (Tan-y-Garn), through single intakes (eg Cwm-yr-Olchfa and Gwar Castell) to intakes with a number of fields (Bryn Lloi, Ochr Bryn Lloi). All are named as owner occupied on the Tithe map but Pen Bryn Lloi, Tan Bylchau and enclosure 10 are described as encroachments; Bryn Lloi, Pen Bryn Lloi, Gwarffynnon, Tan-y-Garn, Gwar Castell, Garnwen, Waun Groes and Lluast Abercaeau are claimed by Colonel Powell of Nanteos presumably because they were carved out of

sheepwalks belonging to him; and Bryn Coch is claimed by the Earl of Lisburn.

The sites form two groups at the end of the Groes Fawr and Groes Fechan valleys (Bryn Coch is included but lies on the top of the ridge to the south).

While the majority of these sites are presumably squatter sites *per se* Lluast Abercaeau is presumably a Lluest site in origin. According to local information the building on it was used as a Sunday school.

The first edition 6" map shows further extension of enclosure into formerly unenclosed land (Fig 20). These include areas east of Gwarffynnon and Tan-y-Groes (the area of Tan-y-Graig): enclosure further east up the Groes Fechan (the upper limit of enclosure in the Groes Fechan valley being higher than in the Groes Fawr valley with more penetration into the valley): along the banks of the Groes Fechan from Tan-y-Bylchau to a point south of Tan-y-Graig: a large enclosure straddling the Banc Mawr ridge east of Tan-y-Bylchau (site 136): enclosure south and south west of Cwm-yr-Olchfa and Tan-y-Goppa. The fields in this additional enclosure are smaller than previously and, by this time, there was also sub-division of earlier fields in the squatter settlements, particularly in the Cwm-yr-Olchfa and Tan-y-Goppa areas (there was no such sub-division in the established farms).

Tan-y-Graig, Croes Fechan and Blaen Croes Fechan appear on these maps, concomitant with the extension of enclosure, as does a school house near the confluence of the Afon Groes and Nant-y-Castell (built in a preexisting small parcel of land). Ochr Bryn Lloi is shown as a more developed site. The map also shows two small rectilinear ? structures west of Tan Bylchau. All the settlements are named apart from Pen Bryn Lloi which seems to have been abandoned.

(As mentioned, in the unenclosed area the map also shows site 99 and associated enclosure as abandoned (and the site is not named).

It is interesting to compare the information from these maps with that given by Rees' informant. As mentioned, the latter mentions the construction in Blaencaron of 11 tai-yn-nos before 1839 and 5 in 1839. This ties in fairly well with the Tithe map evidence. We have between 11 and 14 squatter settlements depending on what sites are included: we could perhaps exclude Lluast Abercaeau on the grounds that, as a Lluest site, it may have had an earlier or different origin from the other settlements; Bryn Coch may be considered outside the area; enclosure 10 has no associated structure on the tithe map. The 1st edn 6" only shows 3 new settlements but the nature of landholding at this date is uncertain. However it is perhaps too much of a coincidence that the date quoted by Rees, 1839, is the date by which the Tithe information had been collected, perhaps suggesting Rees' informant had gained his information from the various maps.

There is some indication as to land use of these settlements. In the Tithe schedule Blaencaron and Groes/Berwyn have a combined area of 2955 acres, of which only 155 acres were arable and 50 acres woodland. This suggests that the smallholders went elsewhere for

cereal crops, growing potatoes for subsistence and relying on hay meadows and common land to feed their stock. Local farmers indicate that the fields were drained on the lower slopes and used to grow hay.

The squatter settlements are typical of such small upland farms in the Teifi Valley and elsewhere. Local tradition suggests that a proportion of the community in Blaencaron were dispossessed estate workers from Bettws Bledwrs to the north of Lampeter (Mr S Jones, Glanrafon Isaf, pers comm). The community which formed in Blaencaron was non-conformist, and a Presbyterian chapel was built in 1876 above the Afon Groes, between the farms of Glanrafon isaf and Glan-yr-afon Uchaf (TWI 1984, 33). The chapel is still used by the families of half a dozen local farms. The schoolhouse was built in 1883 and had over sixty pupils towards the end of the century. As mentioned, a Sunday school was also built, near the confluence of the Groes Fawr and Groes Fechan (Lluast Abercaeau, site No 128), which is now a ruin.

The farms of Blaen Groes Fechan, Gwarffynnon (122), Ochr Bryn Lloi (123) and Waungroes (129) and the cottages Garnwen (127) and Lluast Abercaeau (128), are classified as type 'B' regional houses (main chimney backing on entry), a sub Mediaeval house type which continued to be built by poorer farmers in the nineteenth century (Smith 1966; 1988, 574-575; maps 6 and 29; 205, Fig 112d and 318 Fig 185a). They all possessed wicker firehoods although today only Tan-y-Goppa, a deserted farmhouse recently unroofed, has a complete wicker firehood *in situ* (though exposed to the elements).

The 1904 25" map (not illustrated) shows little difference in field pattern, no further extension of enclosure (what differences there are include additional subdivisions of enclosure, particularly to create further small fields in the area of Tan Bylchau). In fact settlement had clearly begun to contract. Sites now abandoned are Gwarffynnon, Tan-y-Garn, Tan-y-Graig, Tan Bylchau, Waun Groes, Groes Fechan and cottages Pen Bryn Lloi, Garnwen and Lluast Abercaeau.

Today the majority of the homesteads are empty. Only Gwar Castell is still occupied. The date of final abandonment for many was during the depression. The school closed down in 1932 the numbers having fallen to only six pupils (TWI 1984 33). Cae Tudur has been recently abandoned. The land today is in essence an amalgamated sheepwalk run by the Joneses of Glanrafon Isaf.

The present day landscape is essentially the same as that shown on the 1904 map. But the landscape is slowly decaying; gateways walled in, wire fences set over tumbling walls. The pattern of small irregular fields, originally enclosed pasture, hay meadows and lazy beds, is now one of large wire-bound enclosures with sheep wandering freely among the fields and houses. Some of the farms are used as barns for storing fodder (for example Bryn Coch), but the majority are empty and roofless. Houses which have been with roofs in the last year or two and are now losing them to vandals and strong winds. The school building survives, converted into a Youth Hostel which attracts walkers and cyclists, but with a totally unsympathetic addition at the front.

10. CATALOGUE OF SITES

Various revisions to the original survey has led to the inclusion of new sites and the rejection and conflation of others. Where sites have been rejected their number has not been reallocated but has been left blank (to avoid confusion with earlier (archived) versions of the catalogue). New sites, not yet surveyed in detail, are No 318 onwards.

1 **Platform**, sub-circular, stony upper and lower scarp, the lower particularly stony (doubtfully a collapsed wall), 5.3 x 5.2 m, 345 m OD. SN 7255 6009. Area C.

2 **Platform**, sub-circular, stone free, 2.7 x 3.3 m, 345 m OD. SN 7256 6008. Area C.

3 **Platform**, sub-oval, stone free, 8.2 x 6.7 m, lower scarp H 1 m, upper scarp H 1.75 m, 335 m OD. Overlain by wall element of 136. Area C.

14704 4 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, earth/stone, O 3.5 m, 335 m OD. SN 7250 6011. Area C.

5 **Platform/? type 1 long hut** (platform house). Sub-rectangular platform (across contour), 5.7 x 4.6 m, curved upper -ve scarp, lower +ve scarp straight, some stone on upper scarp and sides and particularly lower scarp. The shape is unusual for a Prehistoric type platform and the site may be a platform house. 340 m OD. SN 7250 6013. Area C.

6 **Platform**, sub-oval, 5.4 x 6.2 m, stone free, 340 M OD. SN 7253 6012. Area C.

14707 7 **Clearance cairn**, top dug into, 4.6 x 4.0 m, 335 m OD. SN 7247 6015. Area C.

14708 8 **? Clearance cairn**, sub-circular stone group, probably natural, O 2.6 m , 335 m OD. SN 7246 6016. Area C.

9 **Platform**, sub-oval, vestigial, 3.0 x 3.6 m, some stone, 340 m OD. SN 7248 6017. Area C.

10 **Platform**, sub-oval, 4.8 x 4.6 m, stone free, deeply scooped, upper scarp H 1.5 m, 345 m OD. SN 7247 6020. Area C. (Fig 11.)

14711 11 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, O 4.5 m, H 0.4 m, vestigial mound on upper side, 340 m OD. SN 7240 6022. Area C.

12 **Platform**, sub-oval, 5.7 x 4.3 m, some stone, 340 m OD. SN 7242 6022. Area C. (Fig 11.)

13 **Platform**, double, sub-oval, some stone, lower 4.4 x 5.4m, upper 4.4 x 3.2 m, 340 m OD. SN 7240 6023. Area C.

14 **Platform**, sub-circular, O 5.2 m with vestigial upper scarp, stony lower scarp with large stones incorporating natural outcrop. Stones scattered around the periphery of the platform.

5.2 x 4.3 m, 325 m OD. SN 7234 6021. Area C. (Fig 11.)

15 **Platform**, sub-oval, 6.6 x 5.0 m, upper scarp H 0.5 m, large stones on lower scarp, 330 m OD. SN 7233 6023. Area C. (Fig 11.)

16 **Platform**, sub-oval, 6.2 x 4.5 m, upper scarp H 1.5 m, large stones on lower scarp, 325 m OD. SN 7233 6021. Area C. (Fig 11.)

17 **Platform**, double, sub-circular, some stone, lower 5.3 x 4.9 m, upper 3.2 x 4.2 m, total L 13.8 m, 315 m OD. SN 7227 6021. Area C.

18 **Platform**, sub-oval, 2.8 x 3.6 m, lower scarp H 0.75 m, stony upper scarp ? bedrock, 310 m OD. SN 7224 6021. Area C. (Fig 11.)

19 **Platform**, sub-oval, 2.6 x 4.2 m, stone free, scooped, 310 m OD. SN 7223 6022. Area C. (Fig 11.)

14720
20 **Linear bank and ditch**, revetted on ditch side with laid stone and intermittent orthostats, orthostatic element particularly marked on north. Revetment collapsed in places. W 1.0 m, H 0.5 m, L 85 m, gap/entrance W 3.5 m, 35 m from W end, with a trackway (No 54) leading SE downslope. The feature runs along the edge of a slight spur which projects from the valley side and occupies a 'false crest position' when viewed from below. It runs across front of an outcrop on N. For possible interpretations see 136. Altitude 330-345 m OD. SN 7233 6024 (E end) to SN 7241 6026. Area C.

14721
21 **Banked enclosure**, sub rectangular, 24.0 x 15.0 m, bank W 1.0 m, H 0.3-0.5m. Remains of external ditch on the S and E. Bank largely stone free, though concentrations of stone on S side in middle and NE corner. Orthostats in NW. Probably original entrance in NW - other gaps probably modern. Situated on a 17 degree slope just above the limit of enclosure at 345 m OD. SN 7241 6032. Area C. (Fig 12.)

14722
22 **Clearance cairn**, low earth/stone mound, 0 2.5 m, 305 m OD. SN 7221 6025. Area C.

23 **Linear stone wall/bank foundations**, L. 80 m, W 1.25 m, H 0.2m. It runs across the front of ? platform 46 although the relationship of the two is not certain. 335 m OD. SN 7239 6036 (N) to SN 7236 6029. Area C.

14724
24 **Clearance cairn**, low earth/stone mound, 0 4.6 m, ? kerb, 340 m OD. SN 7252 6018. Area C.

25 **Platform**, some stone, 4.6 x 4.2 m, 350 m OD. SN 7252 6018. Area C.

26 **Platform**, 4.4 x 4.4 m, 350 m OD. SN 7251 6018. Area C.

27 **Platform**, vestigial, c. 4.0 x 4.0 m, 340 m OD. SN 7245 6019. Area C.

28 **Long hut, type 2**. Long rectangular, rounded corners, opposed entrances in lateral walls, upper end 10 x 6.7 m, total L 14 m.

Walls earth/stone W 0.75 m, H 0.4 m. 300 m OD. SN 7164 6023. Area B.

29 **Platform**, triple, lower sub-rectangular 7.3 x 5.4 m, middle sub-circular 4.0 x 4.5 m, upper sub-oval 6.5 x 3.4 m, H 0.4-0.6 m, 315 m OD. SN 7173 6011. Area B/Area C.

30 **Long hut type 3**, ? overlying earlier type 1 (platform house). Long rectangular stone foundations, 12.3 x 5.7 m, walls W 0.75 m, H 0.5 m, opposing entrances, drain on downslope end. Located on a much larger platform 24 x 11 m, possibly an earlier platform house. 315 OD. SN 7177 6008. Area B/Area C. (Fig 17.)

14731 31 **Uncertain**. Apparently a raised stony area, overgrown with rushes, central orthostat, ? kerbstones on S. Interpretation very uncertain: possibly a ritual cairn, very doubtfully a long hut. 0 3 m, orthostat H 0.4 m, L 0.6 m, 340 m OD. SN 7239 6034. Area C.

32 **Platform**, sub-oval, 4.6 x 3.0 m, stone free, 320 m OD. SN 7245 6007. Area C.

33 **Platform group** (2-3), c. 5 x 4 m each, some ? deliberately placed stone visible although the group is in a very stony area and the features may well be natural 390 m OD. SN 7317 5958. Area D/Area E.

34 **Foundations**, 2 raised stone/earth platforms, c. 5 x 3 m, 4 x 3 m. Outside study area. 405 m OD. SN 7208 5974.

35 **Sheep dip** (dam) at foot of small waterfalls, large orthostats, pool c. 10 x 7 m, 320 m OD. SN 7240 5988. Area C/Area D.

36 **Platform**, sub-circular, 5.3 x 4.5 m, stone on upper scarp, lower scarp H 1.0 m, 305 m OD. SN 7225 6018. Area C.

37 **Platform**, double, sub-oval, lower 5.2 x 3.4 m, upper 5.6 x 5.1 m, some stone, 315 m OD. SN 7227 6019. Area C.

38 **Platform**, sub-oval, 4.7 x 3.8 m, some stone, 315 m OD. SN 7229 6019. Area C.

39 **Platform**, sub-oval, 3.4 x 2.7 m, stony lower scarp H 1.5 m, 310 m OD. SN 7225 6024. Area C.

40 **Platform**, sub-oval, 2.7 x 2.5 m, 310 m OD. SN 7225 6024. Area C.

41 **Platform**, sub-circular, 4.7 x 3.7 m. Possible scatter of stones around the periphery of the platform. 310 m OD. SN 7227 6024. Area C.

42 **Platform**, sub-circular, 6.0 x 4.6 m, stony upper scarp, large stone on lower scarp, 305 m OD. SN 7222 6025. Area C.

43 ? **Long hut**. Corner of bank, truncated by ditch and wall on W, survives as an 'L' shaped, possibly the remains of a long hut.

3.0 x 2.5 m, 1.0 m wide, 0.4 m high, 305 m OD. SN 7220 6025. Area C.

44 **Platform**, triple, sub-circular, lower 3.4 x 3.7 m, middle 4.6 x 3.5 m, upper 3.4 x 3.7 m, 315 m OD. SN 7226 6026. Area C.

45 **Platform**, vestigial, dished, 5.0 x 4.5 m, 320 m OD. SN 7227 6027. Area C.

46 ? **Platform**, some stone, 2.0 x 2.5 m, may be natural. Front scarp obscure as wall 23 runs across its front, relationship uncertain. 340 m OD. SN 7239 6036. Area C.

47 ? **Long hut**. Consists of L-shaped ? stone foundations, natural outcrops being utilised as a further wall, 2.0 x 2.0 m, on a platform with a further, dubious platform upslope to the N. 345 m OD. SN 7244 6036. Area C.

48 **Platform**, some stone, 4.0 x 4.0 m, poorly defined upper scarp, 355 m OD. SN 7245 6037. Area C.

49 **Probable ritual cairn**. A small, low although well defined earth/stone mound, 0 3.0 m, in a commanding position overlooking lowland area to the west. Built against natural outcrop to west. ? kerb. 360 m OD. SN 7243 6040. Area C.

50 ? **Cairn**. Low stone spread near site 49, probably natural outcropping. 0 3.5 m, 365 m OD. SN 7245 6041. Area C.

51 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular stony platform, 0 3.5 m, H 0.2 m, 320 m OD. SN 7244 6010. Area C. 14251

52 **Long hut**, 10.5 x 5.3 m. Rectangular foundations, partly collapsed. Substantial but crudely constructed, including very large stones and double orthostat footings. On a natural platform. Associated with 53 and similarly but more massively constructed. 320 m OD. SN 7242 5993. Area C/Area D. (Figs 16 and 17.)

53 **Long hut**, 6.5 x 3.2 m but length uncertain due to destruction of SW wall. Rectangular foundations, substantial but crudely constructed. Incorporating natural upright outcropping on SE (natural +ve slope of platform). Otherwise including large stones and orthostats. Laid walling also on SE into natural slope of platform. Possible partition. On natural platform. Associated with 53 and similarly but less massively constructed. From N of the long hut a vestigial trackway runs N, down to a ford and recent trackway. 315 m OD. SN 7240 5993. Area C/Area D. (Figs 16 and 17.)

54 **Trackway**, 2.0 m wide, running SE downslope from a gap in the bank and ditch No 20 (at SN 7235 6025) for 50 m and then along the contour, passing below platforms and cairns (Nos 1 - 20), through a gap in the bank and ditch No 136, merging into a sheep track at SN 7251 6017. More ephemeral than trackway 137 which is in use at the present day. For possible interpretations see 136 335 m - 330 m OD. Area C.

14755
55 **Ritual cairn.** Ring bank. The enclosed area is occupied by a mound, flat topped (but perhaps with traces of a slight central hollow). A raised 'causeway' leads from the bank to the top of the mound on the S. The bank area has been dug into and there is further disturbance to the N. 0 12.0 m, 325 m OD. SN 7130 6030. Area A. (Fig 9.)

14756
56 **Clearance cairn,** low earth/stone mound, 0 2.6 m, H 0.5 m, 325 m OD. SN 7146 6030. Area B.

57 **Stony bank.** Part of enclosure system 330. L 67 m, W 15 m, H 0.3 m, stones c. 0.5 x 0.4 m. The bank loses definition 11 m S of a lynchet/trackway (No 214). Ridge and furrow, wavelength c. 2 m, runs parallel to and over the bank. 310-325 m OD. SN 7248 6030 to SN 7150 6036. Area B.

58 **Ridge and furrow.** Low earthwork, wavelength c. 4 - 5 m but sometimes larger, L c. 40 - 100 m, H c 0.1-0.3 m, starting c. 20 m upslope from a trackway and disappearing under bog in the lower valley slope. Test pits were cut through this area of ridge and furrow. In both ridge and furrow areas the original soil profile had been ploughed away down to subsoil. The overlying deposit were between 36 and 44 cm deep and consisted of ploughsoil overlain by incipient podsolisation which had developed after the cessation of ploughing. At the base of the ploughsoil in one of the pits was a layer of charcoal. 410 - 420 m OD. SN 7360 5935. Area E.

59 **Hillfort, 'Castell Rhyfel'.** C. 1 ha. The site occupies a commanding position on a knoll forming the end of the ridge between the Groes Fawr and Groes Fechan valleys. Outside the bank, the slope falls steeply away with scree and outcropping rocks on the N, W and S sides (with some spectacular outcropping spines of rock) whilst the E side of the knoll slopes down somewhat less steeply to the ridge. The defences consists of a low bank which tends to follow the break of slope, resulting in a sub-circular plan. The bank, although low, is regular but appears to have been derived from a series of internal quarry scoops, L 3 - 8 m, W 2 - 5 m, lying a few metres to the inside of the bank, which are very irregular in size, shape and layout. (The defences are not terribly well defined on the W amongst natural gullies etc). Only on the S is there any indication of a possible continuous internal ditch, a 'platform' which is probably merely due to the build up of colluvial material against the rear of the rampart. Care was taken over the construction of the bank but not in the excavation of the quarry scoops.

An alternative interpretation of these scoops as primarily building platforms was rejected: they are clearly the only source of the bank. However, it is possible that they had a secondary role as house platforms. No building platforms of the type common elsewhere in the study area are definitely present (excluding some very vague and unportrayable examples).

An entrance on the SE appears to be represented by a gap in the bank beyond which doubtful indications of a trackway continue for a few metres. There is a doubtful entrance on the NE also marked by an indentation (but not a gap) in the bank with vague ?

outworks, the latter possibly natural. 490 - 500 m OD. SN 732 598. Area D.

60 **Long hut, type 3**, 13 x 6 m. Rectangular stone foundations. Two separate compartments. The N compartment (5 m long internally) is the most substantial, with laid stonework and an integral platform. It may have an entrance on the east and also internal partitions (partly orthostatic). The S compartment has orthostats on the S internal wall face and lies at a lower level: it was perhaps less substantially built than the N, possibly forming a subsidiary structure, although this is uncertain as the structure has been extensively robbed. The S compartment is partially overlain by a sheep shelter. This is of L-shaped plan and itself somewhat dilapidated. A mound, probably a midden (site 63), lies just to the SE of the long hut (and an upright stone 62 stands to the S). 430 m OD. SN 7359 5948. Area E. (Figs 15 and 17.)

61 **Long hut**, 5.0 x 4.5 m. Rectangular. Overgrown ruinous long walls on north and south preserve internal faces including laid walling and orthostats. End walls possibly less substantial but the base of the eastern and part of the western end wall survives. There is a step up faced with stone half way along the long hut, ? representing two compartments with a partition. 540 m OD. SN 7359 5949. Area E. (Fig 17.)

62 **Monolith**, 0.8 m high, leaning at 45 degrees, sheep rubbing hollow at base and a further hollow to the SW. ? standing stone (and not associated with nearby long hut 60). 425 m OD. SN 7359 5948. Area E.

63 **Mound**, earth, 0 6.5 m, c. 1.0 m high. Probably a midden associated with adjacent long hut 60. (Fig 15.)

A test pit was excavated through the mound and suggests it was a midden. The buried soil showed gleying overlying an iron pan. Above this were layers some 30cm thick containing organic material and charcoal interpreted as dumped midden material. Layers above this (a further 17 cm) included charcoal and slate. 425 m OD. SN 7358 5947. Area E.

64 **Long hut**, 5.3 x 3.5 m. Rectangular with stone foundations, including orthostats. Walls low on N, S and W, the end walls in particular not being well defined. The remains of the E wall are more substantial: this may indicate a pent roof. Post-dates ridge and furrow (flanked by furrows). 420 m OD. SN 7359 5944. Area E. (Fig 17.)

65 **Long hut**, 6.0 x 5.5 m. Sub-rectangular. Ruinous N and S long walls preserved as overgrown stony banks. End walls not apparent (and therefore less substantial). Set into slope at rear. 420 m OD. SN 7367 5949. Area E. (Fig 17.)

66 **Doubtful feature**. Scattered stones conceivably representing enclosure or long hut 13.5 x 7 m. Apparently overlies ridge and furrow 58. 410 m OD.

- 67 **Doubtful feature.** Group of flat stones, 1.6 x 1.4 m, apparently overlying edge of furrow. ? clearance. 410 m OD. SN 7362 5942. Area E.
- 69 **Clearance cairn,** L c. 6 m, 410 m OD. SN 7374 5942. Area E.
- 72 **Ritual cairn.** Circular raised stone platform, 0 5.5 m, overlain by peat or colluvium on N (upslope). A raised edge to the cairn may be an original feature (cf Williams 1992, site XII). The site occupies a natural platform, isolated from other, clearance cairns, commanding the valley as it opens out onto the moorland plateau and with extensive views across the latter. 440 m OD. SN 7352 5951. Area E.
- 73 **? Long hut, type 1** (platform house), 9 x 4.8 m. Elongated ? platform with a possible semi-circular upper -ve scarp (hood) and rectangular lower +ve platform. Not well defined. Accommodated in a natural semi-circular platform in the hillside. 445 m OD. SN 7367 5959. Area E.
- 74 **Platform,** stone free, 3.5 x 3.0 m, 440 m OD. SN 7369 5960. Area E.
- 75 **? Platform.** +ve Platform, vestigial lower scarp, 2.5 x 4.5 m. Very Doubtful. 435 m OD. SN 7369 5958. Area E.
- 76 **Long hut and sheep shelter.** Probably a type 3 long hut possibly overlying an earlier type 1 long hut (platform house). The site consists of a platform of 'platform house' type, 12.5 x 5.5 m, with a semi-circular upper -ve scarp (hood) and rectangular lower +ve platform. The hood is narrower than the +ve platform. There is a hood bank, partly obscured upslope by colluvial deposits. There are stone footings on the platform which is overlain by a substantial sheep shelter, E-shaped with the centre arm missing. It can be suggested that a substantial long hut (represented by the footings) was robbed to provide the sheep shelter and that the long hut itself possibly post-dated a platform house. 450 m OD. SN 7369 5962. Area E. (Fig 17.)
- 77 **Long hut, type 4,** 6.5 x 4.5 m. Relatively long and narrow internally. Sunken into a trench, the spoil from which appears to have been thrown downslope (S) to form a mound fronting the entrance. The walling includes orthostats and is fairly substantial. 450 m OD. SN 7372 5964. Area E. (Fig 17.)
- 78 **Platform.** +ve platform, 2.5 x 3 m, 445 m OD. SN 7373 5964.
- 79 **Long hut, type 3,** yard and sheepfold. A complex site; the interpretation below is tentative. The long hut is set in a bay dug into the hillside to its rear and E side. The long hut measures 12 m x 5 m. It is substantially built with laid stone surviving to a height of 0.5 m and has an integral platform. There is an entrance on the W. There is a step up on the N, faced with stone, to a smaller, upper area some 4 m long and presumably representing a division into two compartments. The bay to the SE of the long hut is edged by a stony bank, ? wall. The bay is also at two levels divided by a further stretch of ? wall/revetment. The bay probably formed a yard (cf site 105). A mound, ? midden,

lies to the S of the yard. The long hut, the lower part of the yard and the mound were partially overlain by a small fold or enclosure 6 x 4 m, with an entrance on the SE and the E wall continuing S to flank this entrance. Ditch 333, a remnant of nineteenth century sheepwalk divisions, runs past the E side of the site, and is diverted slightly and cuts the toe of the mound (not illustrated). 455 m OD. SN 7376 5971. Area E. (Fig 17.)

80 **Long hut, type 4**, 5.5 x 3 m. Long, narrow, rectangular. Sunken into a trench, the spoil from which appears to have been thrown downslope (S) to form a mound fronting the entrance. The walling includes orthostats and is relatively substantial. Walling collapsed at front. 455 m OD. SN 7377 5971. Area C. (Fig 17.)

81 **Clearance cairn**, circular earth/stone mound, 0 3.5, 455 m OD. SN 7381 5973. Area E. ^{PRN} 14781

82 **Clearance cairn**, low earth/stone mound, 0 4.0 m, with a low stony bank leading c. 12m SW, 450 m OD. SN 7380 5972. Area E. 14782

83 **Clearance cairn**, low earth/stone mound, 0 2.0 m, 450 m OD. SN 7380 5070. Area E. 14783

84 **Clearance cairn**, low earth/stone mound, 0 2.0 m, 450 m OD. SN 7379 5970. Area E. 14784

85 **Clearance cairn**, low earth/stone mound, 0 2.0 m, 450 m OD. SN 7380 5969. Area E. 14785

86 **'U' shaped ditch**, c. 6.5 x 3.5 m, 450 m OD. SN 7378 5970. Area E. 14786

87 **Clearance cairn**, circular earth/stone mound, 0 3.0 m, including a large stone (L 1.2 m), 445 m OD. SN 7380 5967. Area E. 14787

88 **Clearance cairn**, low earth/stone mound, 0 4.0 m, 440 m OD. SN 7381 5967. Area E. Cut by sheepwalk ditch 333. 14788

89 **Clearance cairn**, low earth/stone mound, 0 4.5 m, 435 m OD. SN 7381 5966. Area E. 14789

90 **Clearance cairn**, low earth/stone mound, 0 3.0 m, 435 m OD. SN 7380 5966. Area E. 14790

91 **Very doubtful long hut**, 6.0 x 3.5 m. Sub-rectangular, represented by tenuous banks. 440 m OD. SN 7381 5965. Area E.

92 **Clearance cairn**, stony lower scarp, W 2 m, 435 m OD. SN 7378 5963. Area E. 14791

93 **Clearance cairn**, stone spread, amorphous, c. 30 x 5 m, 435 m OD. SN 7380 5963. Area E. 14793

94 **Spring**, in boggy ground. Takes the form of a platform, but natural. C. 12 x 10 m, 430 m OD. SN 7378 5959. Area E.

95 **Long hut, type 4**, 5.0 x 4.0 m. Long and narrow. Excavated into hillside, the spoil forming a horseshoe shaped bank. Fairly substantial but roughly constructed walls on inside of bank including an orthostatic element at the end. 435 m OD. SN 7392 5965. Area E.

96 **Long hut, probably type 3, and recent structure**. The site consists of a slight +ve platform some 8m across on which are large foundation stones probably representing a long hut measuring some 10 x 8 m. A relatively recent, rectangular structure, 6.5 x 5.0 m, overlies the platform and the long hut was presumably completed robbed during its construction. The rectangular structure was perhaps originally roofed. Its walls lean inward, ? due to collapse. 440 m OD. SN 7392 5965. Area E. (Fig 17.)

97 **Long hut, probably type 3, and sheep shelter**. The nature of the site is uncertain and the explanation given below tentative. The site consists of a platform built along the contour, 5.5 x 4.8 m, with stone wall facing on the downhill sides on the S and W and ? remains of a wall on the N end of the platform also (the situation on the E is uncertain). Downslope on the S and W there is extensive collapse measuring 15 x 8 m. The best explanation seems to be that the platform represents a long hut the ruins of which were robbed to construct a sheep shelter along its S and W edges which has, in turn, collapsed. To the N the situation is very uncertain: there is a small mound, also associated with stonework, and a further possible E-W length of wall. 440 m OD. SN 7393 5966. Area E.

98 **Ritual cairn**, with central and ? off-centre cists, orthostatic ring, and later rectangular structures - probably long huts/possibly ritual structures. A survey of the cairn but not the rectangular structures was published by Leighton (1984, 395-396). The cairn (98a) seems oval rather than circular, 11.0 x 10.0 m x 0.5 m high. The ring of low slabs is visible on the W: it is apparently partly straight sided and at least partly embedded in the cairn material. Although the cairn is disturbed it is relatively low and was probably a platform or low bowl shape. The central cist apparently rectangular oriented NW-SE, two overlapping side stones survive to form the NW wall (1.2 m) and a single slab at right angle forms the SW wall (0.6 m), with a hollow between them. The ? off-centre cist is represented by a single slab some 2 m to the NW of the central cist. A flat slab lying beyond the E of the cairn may represent the capstone.

The cairn is overlain by a sub-rectangular structure 98b, some 7.5 x 4 m. It is fairly substantially although roughly built. Near the NE corner is an entrance. Beyond the E edge of the cairn is a further rectangular structure 98c, the long axis of which is roughly radial to the cairn. It measures c. 7 x 5.5 m. It has internal stone facing incorporating the kerb of the cairn and encloses the aforementioned ? capstone. 98b and 98c appear superficially to be long huts, 98c possibly using the ? cist cover as a hearthstone or fireback stone. However, another possibility is that these structures, and a comparable structure next to cairn 114, are themselves Early Bronze Age ritual

structures. This is further discussed above. 435 m OD. SN 7396 5954. Area E. (Fig 7.)

99 **Farmstead** including a **type 3 long hut**, a rectangular embanked enclosure and other features and lying in the NE upslope corner of a large field. Like other long huts in the Llethr Llwyd valley the farmstead lies at the base of the steeper upper valley slope (although this is not particularly steep or high at this point) above a less steep slope to the valley bottom. The long hut, enclosure and field appear to be of one build.

The long hut A, 7 x 7 m, lies externally to the NE corner of the field. It contains substantial laid stonework. It is cut into the scarp to the E (upslope) but there is no real platform. The corners form a right angle at front, are curved at the rear. It has an entrance on the SW. A later small drystone compartment B (6 x 3m), has been added to the E of the long hut, its E wall revetting the slope which has been cut back to accommodate it.

The rectangular, embanked enclosure C (15 x 12 m) is formed in the corner of the field - which forms its E and N boundary - adjacent to the long hut. The enclosure bank has a slight external ditch on the W (and a further parallel ditch lies some 4m S of the enclosure). It has an external revetment, including edge set vertical stones on the W. The revetment has been ? rebuilt on the SE with laid stonework. Entrance gaps (later blocked) lead into the enclosure on the NW and, immediately W of the enclosure, through the field boundary (a gap in the W of the enclosure is a sheep track).

Other features of uncertain nature lie to the outside of the field boundary N of the long hut. Immediately N of the additional compartment B is a hollow D. An 'enclosure' E (7 x 5 m) lies further N. It is ditched on 3 sides (including the downside): the interior is a slightly raised platform with two higher mounds. One possible interpretation is as a building platform but, if this were the case, why is it ditched on the downhill side? It may be an unfinished structure. To the E of feature E is a further ambiguous feature F, consisting of a linear hollow in the hill slope, expanded into two bays on the E, and revetted internally on the W.

The field G is roughly square. Its boundary runs W to the stream which runs down the centre of the Llethr Llwyd valley and S to the Groes Fawr. Here it turned W to follow the course of the Groes Fawr and the trackway down the valley again as far as the Llethr Llwyd stream. This course is shown on the first edn 6" map but the boundary now disappears into the bog which has formed at the junction of the Groes Fawr and Llethr Llwyd. The boundary consists of a bank with an external ditch on the E and a ditch on both sides on the N. The bank has an external revetment. To the W of the small enclosure the revetment is massive and orthostatic. Elsewhere it is intermittent and less substantial - variously orthostatic or of edge set vertical or laid stones. Where the bank turns to run along the side of the Groes Fawr there is a gap, now blocked by a wall, ? for access to the stream. Before it disappears into the bog the bank and ditch is replaced by a stone wall.

The NW entrances to the field and enclosure are also blocked by walling and a further stretch of walling has been built against the S face of the long hut. This walling is recent, to prevent sheep crawling under a fence which utilises the course of the earlier boundaries. Farmstead SN 7390 5944: Area E. (Figs 15 and 17.)

100 Long hut, type 3, 9.5 x 6.2 m. Rectangular stone foundations. Substantial walls with laid stone faces standing to some 0.5 m high but largely overlain by quantities of tumble both inside and out. Structurally complex. There is probably a single entrance in the E wall (a possible opposing entrance being illusory). There may be an alcove in the N wall. There are additional wall faces internally on the SW and externally on the N, the latter possibly additional/earlier structures. 395 m OD. SN 7338 5932. Area E.

101 Long hut, type 3, 8.5 x 5.2. Sub-square stone foundations, Substantial walls with laid stone faces standing to some 0.5 m high but largely overlain by quantities of tumble both inside and out. Terraced into slope at rear but no real platform. Single entrance in E wall. 400 m OD. SN 7342 5929. Area E.

102 Long hut, type 3, and yard. The long hut is set in a bay dug into the hillside to its rear and E side, which probably formed a yard (cf site 105). The long hut measures 10.0 x 6.2 m. No platform as such but there is an artificial flattening to the S between the long hut and a natural scarp. Substantial construction. Rectangular stone foundations filled internally with collapsed walling (less collapsed stone externally). Rounded external corners. Part of internal and external wall face survives. Opposed entrances to S of centre. To N of the centre is a stone partition (dividing the rubble infill) defining a separate N room. The trackway up the valley 137 passes some 4 m S of the long hut. 420 m OD. SN 7395 5940. Area E. (Fig 17.)

103 Very doubtful long hut. ? rectangular platform along contour, c. 4 x 5 m, ? walls at end, particularly on S. Adjacent and parallel to track 137 on W. Conceivably a long hut partly destroyed by track. 415 m OD. SN 7395 5938. Area E.

104 Probable long hut, type 4. Long, narrow trench, 4.3 x 2.3 m, some stone ? walling. 425 m OD. SN 7398 5944. Area E.

105 Long hut, Type 3, and yard. The long hut is set in a bay dug into the hillside to its rear and E side. The edge of the bay is associated with the remains of stone walling and formed a yard 9 x 6 m. The long hut measures 8.0 x 6.0 m. Rectangular stone foundations, wall base well preserved on S. Tumble from end walls on W (inside) and E (largely outside). Entrance near W corner. 2 m to the E is a mound, ? midden. 420 m OD. SN 7403 5941. Area E. (Fig 17.)

106 Long hut, type 3, 8.5 x 4.0 m. Rectangular stone foundations, eroded by stream on W and otherwise difficult to interpret. Two compartments, both c. 3 m long, with a cross wall. The N compartment was perhaps more substantial, the S is perhaps

a less substantial subsidiary structure, although this is not certain and the structure could be a long hut with a partition. Tumble is densest on the E, perhaps indicating a more substantial wall here and a pent roof (or possibly a later sheep shelter, collapsed, cf site 97). On stream terrace, adjacent to trackway 137. 410 m OD. SN 7405 5940. Area E. (Fig 17.)

107 **Long hut, type 3**, 10 x 4.5 m. Foundations take the form of an overgrown stony bank but represent a substantial stone structure with collapse at N and S. Rounded corners. Opposed entrances. Immediately N of these is a step up faced with stone, ? representing two compartments with a partition. On the N is a ? less substantial additional enclosure, 5 x 4 m, eroded on the W by the stream. A fragmentary wall runs N from this some 12 m. There is a further very doubtful platform to the S (not illustrated). On stream terrace, adjacent to trackway 137. 410 m OD. SN 7405 5941. Area E. (Figs 15 and 17.)

108 **Long hut**, c. 5.5 x 5.5 m. Sub-square, one rounded corner, backing into stream terrace. Relatively crude stone foundations. Entrance on S. On stream terrace. 410 m OD. SN 7405 5940. Area E. (Fig 17.)

109 **Long hut**, c. 6.0 x 4.0 m. Sub-rectangular, vestigial foundations but including double walling, partly orthostatic, with some very large stones. There is possibly a platform integral with the structure of the long hut although this may merely be incidental alluvial build up which appears to occur against the upstream (N) wall of the long hut. Other stones to N and S are probably natural. Adjacent to stream. 410 m OD. SN 7405 5940. Area E. (Fig 17.)

110 **Ritual cairn with cist**. Stone earth mound, c. 5.5 m x c. 0.5m, originally bowl shaped (or some other relatively elevated form) but partly obscured by hillwash on upslope side. The cist, probably originally rectangular and oriented N-S, stands superficially on the top of the cairn. Two side stones survive at right angles presumably forming half the cist, c. 1.0 x 0.6 m. The SE stone stands to a height of 0.3 m above the surface of the cairn (and there are two other vertical stones behind it in the body of the cairn); the SW stone has partially collapsed. A hollow in the angle between the stones is probably due to sheep erosion. Even allowing for some erosion the cist must always have lain superficially in the cairn. 435 m OD. SN 7407 5959. Area E. (Fig 9.)

111 **Ritual cairn**, associated with complex orthostatic settings inside and outside the cairn. Outside study area. 440 m OD. SN 7422 5959. East of area E.

112 **Ritual cairn**, ? internal orthostatic ring, ? with cist. Outside study area. 435 m OD. SN 7444 5952. East of area E.

113 **Ritual cairn**. Small circular cairn. Outside study area. 430 m OD. SN 7448 5945. East of area E.

114 **Ritual cairn with central cist, and ? later rectangular structure** - probable long hut/possible ritual structure. Recent

corbelled shelter built onto cist. The cairn 114a measures 11 x 10 m. The central cist is slightly trapezoidal, oriented NE-SW, L 1.6 m, W 0.95 m wide max, the southern side has collapsed. A further slab can be seen beyond the northern side slab. Downhill (SW) of the cairn is a somewhat trapezoidal structure 114b, L 9 m, W 7 m max, the long axis of which is roughly radial to the cairn (and to the cist). The side walls and the NE end wall adjacent to the cairn are relatively substantial of earth/stone construction. The SE end wall is less substantial and contains an entrance. The side walls are somewhat curved, the NE end wall is curved toward the cairn. Overlying the cairn and incorporating the cist is a corbelled shelter 114c, open to the SW, the NW wall of which continues further SW for some 3.5 m. 375 m OD. SN 7272 5986. Area D. (Fig 9.)

115 **Ritual cairn**, large, c. 0 15 m, large central cist. Outside study area. 495 m OD. 2049. SN 7321 6069. N of Area D.

116 **Building**, rectangular with upstanding drystone walls, c. 10 x 5 m. Outside study area. 500 m OD. SN 7405 6079. N of Area E.

117 **Cairn, not certainly identified**, (? No 255), 315 m OD. SN 7237 6009.

118 **Cairn, not certainly identified**, (? No 249), 320 m OD. SN 7242 6011.

119 **Farmstead** - 'Blaen Groes Fechan', 440 m OD. SN 7366 6024. N of Area E.

120 **Cottage** - 'Croes Fechan', 415 m OD. SN 7322 6033. N of Area D.

121 **Farmstead** - 'Tan-y-Garn', 420 m OD. SN 7296 6076. N of Area D.

122 **Farmstead** - 'Gwarffynnon', 390 m OD. SN 7275 6027. N of Area D.

123 **Farmstead** - 'Ochr Bryn Lloi', 355 m OD. SN 7255 6063. N of Area C.

124 **Farmstead** - 'Tan-y-Graig', 395 m OD. SN 7291 6073. N of Area D.

125 **Cottage** - 'Tan Bylchau', 330 m OD. SN 7236 6046. N of Area C.

126 **Farmhouse** - 'Gwar Castell' (inhabited), 320 m OD. SN 7221 6068. N of Area C.

127 **Cottage** - 'Garnwen' (Tithe schedule), 290 m OD. SN 7205 6048. Area B/Area C.

128 **Cottage** - 'Lluast Abercaeau' (Tithe schedule). Local information suggests it was used as a Sunday school. 275 m OD. SN 7198 6038. Area B/Area C.

129 **Farmhouse** - 'Waun Groes', 280 m OD. SN 7174 6039. Area B/Area C.

130 **Farmstead** - 'Cwm-yr-Olchfa', 310 m OD. SN 7211 6010. Area B/Area C.

131 **Farmstead** - 'Tan-y-Goppa', 340 m OD. SN 7211 5998. Area B/Area C.

132 **Farmstead** 'Bryn Coch', 350 m OD. SN 7170 5990. Area B/Area C.

133 **Platform**, sub-circular, 0 6.1 m, 335 m OD. SN 7237 6035. Area C.

14834 134 **? Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, ? outcrop, 0 2 m, 235 m OD. SN 7234 6028. Area C.

14835 135 **? Platform**, 4.5 x 3.5 m, distinctly dished, pronounced lower scarp. ? the result of a fallen tree. 345 m OD. SN 7240 6036. Area C.

136 **Bank and external ditch**, H c. 1 m, W c. 2 m. Revetted on ditch side with laid stone and intermittent orthostats. Revetment collapsed in places. Where it runs upslope the bank has a marked backslope, on the downhill side its backslope is overlain by colluvial build up. The bank begins at the upper limit of walled enclosure at SN 7215 6025 (300 m OD: its relationship to the enclosure is uncertain.), running parallel to trackway No 137 for 350 m, where it turns upwards, running over the crest of the spur 'Banc Mawr' and dropping to the trackway by the Groes Fechan at SN 7270 6240 (375 m OD). From a point 60m NE of its SE corner for a distance of some 50 the bank is replaced by a stone wall: possibly this stretch was initially left open. At the SW junction of bank and wall is an apparent entrance. The area enclosed by 136 includes most of the platforms in area C but excludes some. The bank may overlies platform 3 and the stone walled stretch overlies platforms 3 and 5. But platform 235 lies against the inside of the bank which has been revetted internally in the area of the platform hinting at a possible relationship between the two. C. From the entrance a track No 54 leads up, through the area of platforms, to a detached but similar length of bank and ditch No 20 which runs along the edge of a slight spur projecting from the valley side some 220 m away. Stunted gorse grows within the enclosure on the Groes Fawr valley side.

The feature is difficult to date. A similar level of present day dilapidation may be shown by earthwork features of this type whether they date from the nineteenth century or Prehistoric times. It may merely represent the early abandonment of a post-Mediaeval enclosure. But one is tempted to speculate more wildly as to the nature of the feature. Bank and ditch 20, with its entrance approached by track 54, occupies a false crest position on the ridge overlooking the majority of the platforms: it could be contemporary with the platforms forming a facade to an elevated area of particular significance; to the south slope of the ridge is the possibly contemporary enclosure 21 (and a further group of doubtful platforms lies further north). 136 is

perhaps related to bank and ditch 20 forming a large outer enclosure enclosing the majority of the platforms - although it excludes or post-dates some of the platforms it may be related to platform 235. Area C.

137 **Trackway**, grassy, some stone revetment, walled for first 350 m, running from just below the upper limit of enclosure at SN 7195 6045 (280 m OD), following the Croes Fawr on its N side for c. 2 km to the foot of the Llethr Llwyd valley (SN 7350 5940), where it divides. One route follows the river along the now boggy valley floor and up the valley of the Nant-y-Moelau to join with a track which follows the parish boundary at SN 7440 5951 (figures on OS 1st edn 6" map). The other runs up the Llethr Llwyd valley to join this track at SN 7414 5999 (270 m OD). The first track is largely defunct, although it remains the right of way through the valley. Another change of course can be seen at SN 7250 5993, where steep slopes have caused alternative routes to be chosen over a distance of about 200 m.

138 **Trackway**, stony surface, mostly walled, following the Croes Fechan on its N side for 1.5 km. From it a further trackway leads up towards 'Y Garn'. Outside study area. N of Area D.

139 **Lynchet**. Outside study area. 290 m OD. SN 718 606. N of Area B.

140 **Footbridge**, drystone revetment on river banks, and large slab (c. 3 x 1 x 0.2m) downstream. Another possible bridge site lies 50 m downstream, 270 m OD. SN 7200 6033. Area B/Area C.

141 **Uncertain**. The feature appears as a curved -ve platform, with ? stone revetment visible in an erosion hollow, ? colluvial build-up upslope suggesting a bank followed the upper edge of the platform. ? natural. 10 x 4 m, 320 m OD. SN 7128 6032. Area A.

142 **Clearance cairns**. 2 cairns 2.4 m, H 0.8 m, overlain by colluvium, +ve platform, stony lower scarp. There are also 3 small but similar features to the SE. 320 m OD. SN 7126 6032. Area A.

143 **Clearance cairn**, low grassy mound, 0.2 m, H 0.2 m, 315 m OD. SN 7125 6032. Area A.

144 **Clearance cairn**, low stone/grass mound, 0 3.8 m, 315 m OD. SN 7128 6035. Area A.

145 **Clearance cairn**, low, 0 4.5 m, with some stone in centre (including quartz), 315 m OD. SN 7127n 6035. Area A.

146 **Clearance cairn**, 2 x 3.7 m, overlain by colluvium, +ve platform, some stone in lower scarp, large stone 1.5 x 1 m, 320 m OD. SN 7125 6036. Area A.

147 **Clearance cairn**, 2 x 3.5 m, overlain by colluvium, +ve platform, stony lower scarp, H 0.9 m, 310 m OD. SN 7125 6036. Area A.

- 148 **Clearance cairn**, 5 x 3 m, overlain by colluvium, platform, some stone, 310 m OD. SN 7126 6039. Area A.
- 149 **Clearance cairn**, 3.5 x 3.0 m, overlain by colluvium, platform, stony lower scarp, 310 m OD. SN 7123 6037. Area A.
- 150 **Clearance cairn**, 1.5 x 2.5 m, H 0.7 m, overlain by colluvium, +ve platform, stony lower scarp, 310 m OD. SN 7123 6038. Area A.
- 151 **2 Clearance cairns**, 5.5 x 3.5 (lower), 3.5 x 3.0 (upper), overlain by colluvium, platform, stony lower scarp, 305 m OD. SN 7122 6038. Area A.
- 152 **Clearance cairn**, 1.25 x 1.0 m, overlain by colluvium, +ve platform, stony, 300 m OD. SN 7121 6039. Area A.
- 153 **Clearance cairn**, 2 x 3 m, overlain by colluvium, +ve platform, stony lower scarp, 305 m OD. SN 7120 6036.
- 154 **Clearance cairn and ? sheep shelter**, 4.9 x 4.0 m. Cairn overlain by colluvium, platform, stony lower scarp. A short length of relatively recent wall has been built over the platform (along the contour), ? nineteenth century sheep shelter. 300 m OD. SN 7118 6036. Area A.
- 155 **Clearance cairn**, 4.3 x 2.5, overlain by colluvium, +ve platform, stony lower scarp, 300 m OD. SN 7117 6037. Area A.
- 156 **Clearance cairn and ? sheep shelter**, 4.0 x 3.0 m. Cairn overlain by colluvium, platform, stony lower scarp. A short length of relatively recent wall has been built over the platform (along the contour), ? nineteenth century sheep shelter. 295 m OD. SN 7117 6039. Area A.
- 157 **Clearance cairn and ? sheep shelter**, 3.5 x 1.75 m. Cairn overlain by colluvium, +ve platform, stony lower scarp. A short length of relatively recent wall has been built over the platform (along the contour), ? nineteenth century sheep shelter. 290 m OD. SN 7116 6040. Area A.
- 158 **Trackway**, +ve terrace with ? revetment, W 2.0 m, H 1.0 m, running from SN 7112 6040 to SN 7120 6045 (terminating at the boundary of enclosure). The terrace is cut into by the back of the long hut 165, but the trackway itself curves round the end of the long hut. From the NE terminal to a point some 15 m S E of the long hut the terrace is fronted by a stony bank with ditch 335, which is itself interrupted by the long hut, and which continues further SE for a short distance as stone line 163. These features can all be seen as related: we can propose a tentative sequence viz the establishment of the track, the building of the long hut, the continued use of track and the construction of boundary 335. 285 m OD. Area A. (Fig 14.)
- 159 **? Clearance cairn**, 5.0 x 2.7 m, sub-rectangular, stony, abutting the trackway 158. 285 m OD. SN 7112 6040. Area A.

- 160 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 1.5 m, H 0.6 m, 320 m OD. SN 7151 6033. Area A.
- 161 **Stony bank** (end of). ? part of enclosure system 331. W 2 - 3 m, not clearly visible because of thick bracken, therefore length unknown. 300 m OD. SN 7112 6029. Area A.
- 162 **Wall/revetment**. ? part of enclosure system 331. 4 courses, L 0.75 m. 285 m OD. SN 7116 6041. Area A.
- 163 **Stone line**, four large stones, 4 m N of trackway 158, stones c. 1.0 x 0.5 m, line 10 m long, 285 m OD. SN 7118 6044. See No 158. Area A.
- 164 **Long hut**, 5 x 4.3 m, walls H 0.5 m. Double faced drystone walls of flat weathered stone, ? single entrance in W end. Outside study area. 410 m OD. SN 7320 6013.
- 165 **Long hut, type 2**, 10.5 x 5 m. Defined by stony banks H 0.5 m. Rectangular, rounded corners, opposed entrances in lateral walls, gap presumably for drain in downhill end wall. Appears to cut into the terraced trackway No 158 on the uphill side (see 158 for relationship), but no definite, corresponding lower platform is present. A circular mound, ? midden, lies 1 m NE of the long hut. 285 m OD. SN 7120 6045. Area A. (Figs 14 and 17.)
- 166 **Clearance cairn**, 2.5 x 2 m, overlain by colluvium, +ve platform, stony lower scarp, 285 m OD. SN 7125 6049. Area A.
- 167 **Clearance cairn**, 3 x 3 m, overlain by colluvium, +ve platform, stony lower scarp, 290 m OD. SN 7119 6042. Area A.
- 168 **Clearance cairn**, 2.5 x 3 m, overlain by colluvium, +ve platform, stony lower scarp, 290 m OD. SN 7120 6041. Area A.
- 169 **Clearance cairn**, grassy mound 0 1.5 m, H 0.2 m, with a stone c. 0.7 x 0.4 m in the centre, 325 m OD. SN 7123 6023. Area A.
- 170 **Clearance cairn**, 1.0 x 1.5 m, H 0.4, overlain by colluvium, +ve platform, some stone, 325 m OD. SN 7123 6022. Area A.
- 171 **Clearance cairn**, grassy mound 0 4.2 m, 0.3 m, 320 m OD. SN 7121 6022. Area A.
- 172 **Stony bank**. Part of enclosure system 331. L 50 m, W 1 - 1.5 m, H 0.3 m, some large stone (0.4 x 0.4 m) visible in eroded areas. The bank is most clearly defined from SN 7122 6023 to SN 7119 6023 (30 m), although it continues NW for 20 m, ending at No 173. 322 - 314 m OD. Area A.
- 173 ? **Clearance cairn**, surmounted by hawthorn tree, 315 m OD. SN 7116 6024. Area A.
- 174 **Stony bank/? +ve lynchet**. Part of enclosure system 331. W 1.0 m, H 0.4 m, running S from SN 7116 6024, defined by orthostats (? double facing), losing definition toward S but possibly continuing to SN 7118 6019, defined by stones 0.6 x 0.5m

and a +ve lynchet. 315 m OD. SN 7116 6024 to SN 7118 6019. Area A.

176 **Clearance cairn**, oval/sub rectangular, 3.5 x 1.7 m, some stone, 315 m OD. SN 7116 6021. Area A.

177 ? **Clearance cairn**/? section of bank (possibly part of enclosure system 331). Stone pile 1.25 x 0.75 m, 320 m OD. SN 7119 6021. Area A.

178 **Clearance cairn**, 1.5 x 1.0 m, overlain by colluvium, +ve platform, stony lower scarp, H 0.45 m, 320 m OD. SN 7120 6020. Area A.

181 **Clearance cairn**, circular grassy mound with stone, 0 2.3 m, H 0.7 m, 320 m OD. SN 7119 6018. Area A.

182 **Clearance cairn**, circular grassy mound with stone, 0 2.2 m, H 0.6 m, 320 m OD. SN 7120 6018. Area A.

183 **Clearance cairn**, circular grassy mound 0 1.5 m, H 0.4 m, 320 m OD. SN 71205 60175. Area A.

184 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 c. 2.0 m, stony, including 3 large stones, 0.7 x 0.4 m, 320 m OD. SN 7120 6017. Area A.

185 **Clearance cairn**, circular grassy mound, 0 1.5 m, H 0.4 m, no stone visible but apparent on probing, 320 m OD. SN 7119 6017. Area A.

186 **Clearance cairn**, circular grassy mound, 0 c. 1.5 m, H 0.4 m, 320 m OD. SN 7119 6017. Area A.

187 **Clearance cairn**, circular grassy mound, 0 c. 1.5 m, H 0.4 m, 320 m OD. SN 7119 6017. Area A.

188 **-ve Platform**/? section of stony bank (possibly part of enclosure system 331). 2.2 x 1 m, 325 m OD. SN 7122 6018. Area A.

189 **Clearance cairn**, circular grassy mound, 0 c. 1.5 m, H 0.2 m, 325 m OD. SN 71215 60185. Area A.

190 **Clearance cairn**, circular grassy mound, 0 c. 1.5 m, H 0.2 m, 325 m OD. SN 71220 60195. Area A.

191 **Clearance cairn**, circular, some stone, 0 1.0 m, H 0.4 m, 325 m OD. SN 71225 60200. Area A.

192 **Stone**, 0.6 x 0.8 m, ? part of bank 188. ? part of enclosure system 331. 325 m OD. SN 7122 6017. Area A.

193 **Stone line** (end of), comprising of 4 stones (c. 0.6 x 0.8 m) c. 2 m apart, running towards 192. ? part of enclosure system 331. 320 m OD. SN 7120 6016. Area A.

194 **Stone**, c. 0.7 x 0.7 m, ? leading to 195. ? part of enclosure system 331. 320 m OD. SN 7119 6015. Area A.

195 **Stone**, 0.6 x 0.3 m, ? connected to 194. ? part of enclosure system 331. 320 m OD. SN 7118 6016. Area A.

196 **Stone line** leading W to 197/198. ? part of enclosure system 331. 320 m OD. SN 7118 6016. Area A.

197 **Part of entrance**. Stone pile at end of bank. Opposite 198. Part of enclosure system 331. 0 1.2 m. 315 m OD. SN 7116 6017. Area A.

198 **Part of entrance**. Stone pile at end of bank 200. Opposite 197. Part of enclosure system 331. 315 m OD. SN 7116 6019. Area A.

199 **? Bank**. Stone/grass elongate mounds, one 1.75 m long, ? discontinuous bank, ? part of enclosure system 331. 320 m OD. SN 7118 6017. Area A.

200 **Low stony bank** (W 1.0 m, H 0.3 m). Part of enclosure system 331. The bank supports a hawthorn around the base of which are stacked large stones (0.7 x 0.8 m). 315 m OD. SN 7114 6018. Area A.

201 **Stony bank** leading from 200 in a slight arc, L 50 m losing definition for 11 m at SN 7112 6020. Part of enclosure system 331. A stone line continues to SN 7112 6023. 315 m OD. Area A.

202 **? Bank/? cairn**. ? part of enclosure system 331. 0 1.75 m, 310 m OD. SN 7114 6023. Area A.

203 **? Stony bank/? cairn**. ? part of enclosure system 331. c. 6.0 x 1.5 m, running N/NW towards 202, 315 m OD. SN 7115 6022. Area A.

204 **Stone**, c. 1.0 x 1.5 m, 310 m OD. SN 7113 6024. Area A.

205 **Section of stony bank**, 2.0 x 1.5 m, with one stone L 0.7 m. SN 7114 6024. A large stone lies at SN 7115 6024. ? part of enclosure system 331. 310 m OD. Area A.

206 **Long hut type 1** (platform house). Semi-circular upper -ve scarp (hood) and rectangular lower +ve platform, 9.5 x 5 m externally: platform cut into a natural scarp. The base of the platform is stony in places, possibly representing foundations with a suggestion of a partition 3 m from back wall (this is not readily portrayable). Although the structure appears to be a classic platform house with little traces of superstructure, it is possible that it has been robbed to construct the nearby walling 207 (cf Nos 76 and 97). 310 m OD. SN 7113 6025. Area A. (Figs 14 and 17.)

207 **? sheep shelter**. Short stretch of well built, relatively recent drystone wall, slightly curved at ends. Built around small tree (now dead). Stone dumping at both ends. L 6.7 m, H 0.4 m, 4 - 6 courses, 310 m OD. SN 7112 6026. Area A.

208 **Uncertain**. Arrangement of roughly parallel ? orthostats, the largest being 1.7 m long and 0.7 m high, forming a very doubtful

structure 2.0 x 2.6 m. Those on the E are against the foot of a low scarp/lynchet and may well be natural outcropping, that on the W may be deliberately set up and supported by stone packing. 295 m OD. SN 7111 6034. Area A.

209 ? **Corner at end of wall/bank** 210. Part of enclosure system 331. 290 m OD. SN 7111 6036. Area A.

210 **Wall/bank** with stone on lower (N) side. Part of enclosure system 331. 290 m OD. SN 7112 6037. Area A.

212 **Long hut, type 2**, 10 x 4.9 m. Rectangular with rounded corners walls stony banks H 0.3 m, opposed entrances on lateral walls, ? platform. Outside study area. 405 m OD. SN 7235 6015. N of Area D.

213 **Bank/ditch**, stone free. ? part of enclosure system 330. L 50.5 m, W 1.5 m, H 0.5 - 1.5 m, curving away from a 19th C field wall, around the back of a small hill crest and losing definition downslope, 320 m OD. SN 7139 6036. Area B.

214 **Lynchet/trackway**. ? part of enclosure system 330. H c. 1.5 m, running W in an arc towards a 19th field wall, 310 m OD. SN 7150 6037 to 7150 6038. Area B.

215 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, stony 0 1.8 m, H 0.2 m, 320 m OD. SN 7151 6034. Area B.

216 **Clearance cairn**, stony 0 1.5 m, eroded lower face displaying rounded and sub-angular weathered stones c. 0.4 x 0.3 m, 320 m OD. SN 7151 6032. Area B.

217 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, stony, 0 2.1 m, 320 m OD. SN 7150 6032. Area B.

218 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, stony 0 6.8 m, ? kerb, 330 m OD. SN 7150 6026. Area B.

219 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, grassy 0 3.2 m, H 0.4 m, ? kerb, 330 m OD. SN 7149 6024. Area B.

220 **Clearance cairn**, circular platform 0 1.2 m, H 0.1 m, stones 0.3 x 0.4 m, kerb. A line of 6 stones extends c. 30 m S/SW. 325 m OD. SN 7152 6024. Area B.

221 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular grass/stone, 0 4.5 m, H 1 m, mounded, 325 m OD. SN 7153 6027. Area B.

222 **Stony bank**. Part of enclosure system 330. L 60 m, W 2 m, H 0.1 m, running down a 6 - 12 degree slope and ending 18 m above a lynchet (No 224). A stone 1.0 x 0.6 m lies 40 m from the S end, where there is a cairn 0 3.5m. 315 - 325 m OD. SN 7151 6025 to 7155 6029. Area B.

223 **Stony bank**. Part of enclosure system 330. L 50 m, W 1.5 - 2.0 m, H 0.3 m, running down a 12 degree slope and ending 5 m above a hawthorn tree, on the same contour and in line with the lynchet/trackway No 214 and lynchet No 224. Runs toward cairn 218

but its relationship to the cairn is not clear. 310 - 325 m OD. SN 7152 6029 to 7155 6032. Area B.

224 **+ve Lynchet**, some stone. ? part of enclosure system 330. L 31.5 m, H 12.2m, bank 226 joins the lynchet at the E end, where there is a hawthorn tree. Ridge and furrow ploughmarks run down to the lynchet in an arc, roughly 215 up an 11 slope. 310 m OD. SN 7157 6030 to 7159 6027. Area B.

14925 225 **Clearance cairn**, 0 3.5 m, including central stone 1.5 x 1.5 m. 315 m OD. SN 7157 6027.

226 **Stony bank**. Part of enclosure system 330. L 74.5 m, W 1.5 m, H 0.4 m, running down a 12 degree slope to a lynchet (No 224) . 310 - 320 m OD. SN 7154 6021 to SN 7159 6027. Area B.

14927 227 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular grassy mound, 0 4.5 m, 235 m OD. SN 7152 6016. Area B.

14928 228 **Clearance cairn**, some stone, 0 1.5 m, 325 m OD. SN 7154 6014. Area B.

14929 229 **Clearance cairn**, sub-oval, 6 x 3.5 m, N side badly damaged by sheep track. 330 m OD. SN 7147 6015.

230 **Platform**, stone free, 4.7 x 3.2 m, 310 m OD. SN 7175 6011. Area B/Area C.

231 **Platform**, stone free, 4.7 x 3.5 m , 310 m OD. SN 7176 6011. Area B/Area C.

232 **Platform**, stone free, 3.5 x 2.5 m, 315 m OD. SN 7174 6009. Area B/Area C.

233 **Platform**, sub-oval, very stony, 7.2 x 4.4 m, ? collapsed upper scarp/cairn, 340 m OD. SN 7241 6034. Area C.

234 **Platform**, sub-circular, vestigial, stone free, 5.1 x 4.5 m, 345 m OD. SN 7245 6021. Area C.

235 **Platform**, sub-circular, 5.8 x 4.2 m, stony lower scarp, 320 m OD. SN 7247 6008. Area C.

236 **Platform**, sub-oval, 5.4 x 3.5 m, stony upper scarp, possible scatter of stones around the periphery of the platform. 240 m OD. SN 7249 6010. Area C.

237 **Long hut, type 2**, 7 x 4.9 m. Rectangular with rounded corners, walls stony banks H 0.3 m, opposed entrances in lateral walls, no obvious partition, ? platform. Outside study area. 405 m OD. SN 7319 6015.

238 **Long hut**, ? on earlier platform. The long hut is located to the front (S) of a small oval platform, set along the contour, which may be of Bronze Age date. The long hut is small, narrow and possibly oval in shape, measuring 3.2 x 1.7 m.. It is insubstantial and fairly crudely built of small stones with a small orthostatic element. In some respects it resembles the type

4 long huts but is less substantial. 325 m OD. SN 7244 6014. Area C.

239 **Long hut**, 7.0 x 6.0 m, rectangular with rounded corners. Insubstantial, walls take the form of stony banks, W 1.5 m, H 0.1 m, Built on a slight platform. 315 m OD. SN 7242 6011. Area C.

240 **? Long hut**, 6 x 4.5 m. Very doubtful sub-rectangular foundations of rounded stone, on a platform, ? using outcropping rock as a back/side wall, 315 m OD. SN 7241 6013. Area C.

241 **Platform**, sub-circular, 2.8 x 3.2 m, some stone, 320 m OD. SN 7239 6015. Area C.

242 **Platform**, sub-oval, 4.9 x 3.9 m, 314 m OD. SN 7239 6013. Area C.

243 **Platform**, sub-circular, 3.8 x 3.6 m, some stone, eroded by sheep track, 315 m OD. SN 7236 6017. Area C.

244 **Platform**, vestigial, 5 x 3 m, eroded by sheep track, 315 m OD. SN 7232 6018. Area C.

245 **Platform**, vestigial, 5 x 3 m, eroded by sheep track, 315 m OD. SN 7232 6018. Area C.

14946 246 **? Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 4.5 m, large stones, no mounding, 310 m OD. SN 7243 6005. Area C.

14947 247 **? Clearance cairn**, 0 1.5 m, no mounding, 310 m OD. SN 7242 6006.

14948 248 **? Clearance cairn**, 0 3.5 m, mixed stone concentration in stony area, 310 m OD. SN 7242 6006. Area C.

14949 249 **Clearance cairn**, sub-oval, 6 x 4 m, H 0.1 m, no mounding, small stones, 313 m OD. SN 7241 6009. Area C.

14950 250 **Clearance cairn**, 0 4 m, small stones, no mounding, 310 m OD. SN 7241 6008. Area C.

14951 251 **? Clearance cairn**, sub-oval, 4.2 x 2 m, ? some indication of structure ie laid stone, large stone, 310 m OD. SN 7241 6007. Area C.

14952 252 **Clearance cairn**, circular, 0 1.5 m, H 0.2, 310 m OD. SN 7239 6007.

14953 253 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 4 m, H 0.5 m, ? kerb, 310 m OD. SN 7237 6010. Area C.

14955 255 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 6 m, large stones, 310 m OD. SN 7238 6011. Area C.

14956 256 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 6 m, large stones. 335 m OD. SN 7257 5999. Area C/Area D.

- 14959 257 **Clearance cairn**, platform, 0 4.5 m, stony lower scarp. 340 m OD. SN 7258 6001. Area C/Area D.
- 14958 258 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 2.5 m, 340 m OD. SN 7256 6003. Area C/Area D.
- 14959 259 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 5.5 m, stony lower scarp, 340 m OD. SN 7257 6004. Area C/Area D.
- 260 **Platform**, sub-oval, 6 x 4 m, large stone on lower scarp, stony perimeter. 400 m OD. SN 7270 6007. Area C/Area D.
- 14961 261 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 2.5 m, mounded, some large stones, 335 m OD. SN 7256 5998. Area C/Area D. 14961.
- 14962 262 **Clearance cairn/stone spread**, 10 x 7 m, on ? natural platform 11 x 9 m, 340 m OD. SN 7259 5997. Area C/Area D.
- 14963 263 **Stony band**, W c. 5 m. 340 m OD. SN 7259 5994. Area C/Area D.
- 14964 264 ? **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 5 m, H 0.6 m. large stones, 345 m OD. SN 7257 5993. Area C/Area D.
- 14965 265 ? **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 4 m, large stones, 345 m OD. SN 7259 5989. Area C/Area D.
- 14966 266 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 4 m, large stones, 345 m OD. SN 7259 5989. Area C/Area D.
- 14967 267 **Rectangular 'cairn'**, flat platform of small stones, 10.3 x 5 m, H 0.5 m, doubtful kerb. 350 m OD. SN 7260 5987. Area C/Area D.
- 14968 268 ? **Clearance cairn**, sub-oval, 8 x 6 m, on front of natural platform 0 20 m. 350 m OD. SN 7262 5994. Area C/Area D.
- 14969 269 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 3 m, 360 m OD. SN 7267 5993. Area C/Area D.
- 14971 271 ? **Cist**, 0 1 m. Four ? orthostats embedded in the ground, ? forming 3 sides of a cist. Could well be natural. No cairn material but lies near cairn 114. 375 m OD. SN 7271 5987. Area C/Area D.
- 14972 272 ? **Clearance cairn/? weathered outcrop**, sub-circular, 0.5 m, large stones on edge, 365 m OD. SN 7268 5984. Area C/Area D.
- 14973 273 **Clearance cairn**, sub-oval, 4.5 x 5.5 m, some large stones on edge, 36- m OD. SN 7266 5986. Area C/Area D.
- 14974 274 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 1.75 m, 10 large stones, 360 m OD. SN 7268 5982. Area C/Area D.
- 14975 275 ? **Clearance cairn/? weathered outcrop**, sub-circular, 0 5 m, 360 m OD. SN 7269 5979. Area C/Area D.
- 14976 276 ? **Clearance cairn/? weathered outcrop**, 0 3 m, 365 m OD. SN 7271 5981. Area C/Area D.

- 14977 277 Clearance cairn, sub-oval, 2.5 x 1.5 m, H 0.2 m, flat-topped, 440 m OD. SN 7290 6071. Area D.
- 278 Footbridge, revetted stream bank and slab c. 2 x 0.75 x 0.2 m, 450 m OD. SN 7367 6045. N of Area E.
- 14981 281 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 6.7 m, H 0.3, 395 m OD. SN 7282 5989. Area D.
- 14982 282 Rectangular 'cairn', flat platform, 8 x 5 m. H 0.4 m. Incorporates natural outcropping in S edge, elsewhere ? kerb. 400 m OD. SN 7285 5989. Area D.
- 14983 283 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 3.9 m, H 0 0.3 m, some stone, 400 m OD. SN 7285 5987. Area D.
- 14984 284 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 3.3 m, H 0.3, some stone, 405 m OD. SN 7287 5988. Area D.
- 14985 285 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 3.3 m, H 0.3, some stone 405 m OD. SN 7287 5988. Area D.
- 14986 286 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 4.9 m, H 0.2, some stone, 395 m OD. SN 7283 5986.
- 14987 287 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 4.7 m, H 0.2 m, flat topped, ? kerb, stony lower scarp, 390 m OD. SN 7282 5985. Area D.
- 14988 288 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 4.2 m, H 0.4 m, flat topped, stony lower scarp, 390 m OD. SN 7284 5984. Area D.
- 14989 289 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 4.2 m, H 0.4 m, flat topped, stony lower scarp. 385 m OD. SN 7281 5982. Area D.
- 14990 290 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 5 m, H 0.1 m, little/no mounding, small stones. 390 m OD. SN 7283 5982. Area D.
- 14991 291 Clearance cairn, sub-oval, 0 7.6 m, H 0.1 m, little/no mounding, stony lower scarp, 390 m OD. SN 7284 5982. Area D.
- 14992 292 Clearance cairn, ? double, sub-oval, 12.5 x 5.5 m, H 1.2 m, flat topped, 390 m OD. SN 7284 5981. Area D.
- 14993 293 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 4.6 m, H 0.1 m, low, no mounding, ? kerb, 390 m OD. SN 7286 5980. Area D.
- 14994 294 Clearance cairn, sub-oval, along contour, 6.2 x 5.7, H 1.2 m, flat topped, stony lower scarp, small stones, 390 m OD. SN 7289 5979. Area D
- 14995 295 Clearance cairn, sub-oval, 3.4 x 3.9 m, H 0.6 m, flat topped, stony lower scarp, 395 m OD. SN 7293 5979. Area D.
- 14996 296 Clearance cairn, sub-oval, along contour, 5.2 x 3.2, flat topped, stony lower scarp, 400 m OD. SN 7295 5979. Area D.

- 14497 297 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 5.2, H 0.4 m, flat topped, stony lower scarp, 400 m OD. SM 7297 5978. Area D
- 14498 298 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 4.8, H 0.6 m, flat topped, stony lower scarp, 425 m OD. SN 7300 5988. Area D.
- 14499 299 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 3.2 m, H 0.3 m, stony lower scarp, 420 m OD. SN 7298 5988. Area D.
- 300 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 4.4 m, H 0.1 m, flat topped, stony lower scarp, 415 m OD. SN 7297 5986.
- 14441 301 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 7.2 m, H 0.2 m, large stones on upper edge, very disturbed, 415 m OD. SN 7295 5987. Area D.
- 14442 302 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 6.2 m, H 0.5 m, flat topped, 410 m OD. SN 7293 5987. Area D.
- 14443 303 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 4.5 m, H 0.3 m, flat topped, 420 m OD. SN 7292 5987. Area D.
- 14444 304 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 3.8 m, H 0.2 m, flat topped, 410 m OD. SN 7202 5988. Area D.
- 14445 305 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 6.2 m, H 0.4 m, 410 m OD. SN 7289 5988. Area D.
- 14446 306 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 6.2 m, H 0.4 m, 410 m OD. SN 7289 5988. Area D.
- 14447 307 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 3.7 m, H 0.5 m, 395 m OD. SN 7282 5986. Area D.
- 14448 308 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 4 m, H 0.3 m, 395 m OD. SN 7286 5987. Area D.
- 14449 309 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 5.4 m, H 0.3 m, 400 m OD. SN 7283 5987. Area D.
- 14450 310 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 3.6 m, H 0.2 m, 395 m OD. SN 7281 5989. Area D.
- 14451 311 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 1.5 m, H 0.1 m, no mounding, 405 m OD. SN 7287 5991. Area D.
- 14452 312 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 6.7 m, H 1.5 m, flat top, stony lower scarp, 415 m OD. SN 7292 5993. Area D.
- 14453 313 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 3 m, H 0.3 m, flat top, stony lower scarp, 410 m OD. SN 7288 5994. Area D.
- 14454 314 Clearance cairn, sub-circular, 0 6.4 m, H 1.5m, grassy, flat top, stony lower scarp, on the front of a ? natural platform 0 20 m, 415 m OD. SN 7290 5996. Area D.
- 14455 315 Clearance cairn, sub-rectangular, 0 3 m, H 0.2 m, grassy, 430 m OD. SN 7292 6003. Area D.

- 14456 316 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 4.2 m, H 0.6 m, grassy, flat top, stony lower scarp. 435 m OD. SN 7293 6004. Area D.
- 14459 317 **Clearance cairn**, sub-circular, 0 4.6 m, H 0.3 m, grassy, flat top, stony lower scarp, ? kerb, 435 m OD. SN 7292 6004. Area D.
- 318 **Long hut, possibly type 4**, 5.4 x 3.4 m. Long and narrow, sunken into a trench, possible remains of walling. Roughly plotted. SN 737 596. Area E.
- 14459 319 **Probable ritual cairn**. Regular, circular cairn, 0 5 m, H 0.15 m, situated in a commanding position on the end of a spur overlooking lower lying ground to the west. Roughly plotted. SN 723 602. Area C.
- 320 **Uncertain**. A roughly regular, rectangular plantation, 13 x 7 m, of 15 trees, mostly betula with one example each of quercus and prunus sanosa. A stone or stones have been placed at the base of or near 7 of the trees (and in one instance the pattern is completed by a stone unaccompanied by a tree). Roughly plotted. SN 711 603. Area A.
- 321 **Uncertain**. A stone scatter, possibly a deliberate setting, possibly representing a structure: a very doubtful interpretation is as a long hut with separate N and S compartments, lying at an angle to each other, the former 3.5 x 2m, the latter smaller at 3 x 1.5 m. On a very slight terrace above stream. Roughly plotted. SN 740 594. Area E.
- 322 **Stone spread**, including upright stones, 5.5 x 2.5 m. Very doubtfully representing a structure. On stream terrace. Roughly plotted. SN 740 594. Area E.
- 323 **Artificial cut** into slope above stream terrace, 6 x 1.5 m,, with slight traces of ? walling (partly orthostatic) at N end. 8 x 4m. Roughly plotted. SN 740 594. Area E.
- 324 **2 stone spreads** on edge of stream bank, 4.5 x 2.5 m and 0 1.5 m. ? Clearance. Roughly plotted. SN 740 594. Area E.
- 325 **Uncertain**. Stone setting. A very curious feature consisting of a clearly deliberate setting of stones, too superficial and scattered to represent walls, but forming a distinct pattern with a central 'compartment', 2 x 3 m, and elongated 'compartments' to N and S, the S, 7 x 2 m, the best defined. Overlies scarps which are probably natural. Near to stream. Roughly plotted. SN 740 594. Area E.
- 326 **Elongated stone spread** along edge of stream bank, 2.5 x 8.5. ? clearance. Roughly plotted. SN 740 594. Area E.
- 14469 327 **? Cairn**. Small earth/stone ? cairn 15 m E of ritual cairn 115. Outside study area. 495 m OD. SN 7322 6069. SN 740 594. N of Area D.

328 **Long hut type 1** (platform house). Rectangular upper -ve scarp (hood) and semi-circular lower +ve platform. The structure is 14.5 m long. The +ve platform is wider (at 10.5 m) than the hood (at 7.5 m). The hood is also relatively short (5 m). Two mounds flank the sides of the hood but are not carried round as a bank above the top of the hood. The narrow hood end is raised above the rest of the long hut. The edge of the lower platform is obscured by a stone dump and dies out on the SE. No trace of superstructure. Roughly plotted. SN 711 603. Area A.

329 **Uncertain**. Mound, 0 c. 2 m, H 0.3 m, circular, grassy: not apparently a cairn, possibly vegetation. Roughly plotted. SN 740 594. Area E.

330 **Enclosure/field system**, area B (see main text).

331 **Enclosure/field system**, area A. This covers a large part of area A. The remains are densest on the S and include stony banks possibly forming part of a rectangular enclosure/field, with other more fragmentary remains of enclosure immediately beyond these on the S and W, and also further N. These fragmentary remains include lines of stones which could represent the larger footings of walling otherwise robbed out. The different elements are described here collectively but are also described separately under individual numbers. The sub-rectangular field comprises Nos 172, 173, 174, 177, and ? 188). 174 and 179 show orthostats (? forming a double facing in 174). 179 and perhaps 174 are backed by positive lynchets. Further W, on a slightly different alignment, is a further possible boundary represented by fragmenting stony banks 202, 203 and 205 (these are, however, possibly cairns). Further W and S again, forming an arc partly enclosing the above, is a further possible stretch of walling, running in approximately straight sections, but with 'alternate' courses. To the NW this consists of a stony bank and line of stone 200 and 201. At SN 761166017 is a possible entrance, represented by a pair of stony mounds 197 and 198 at each end of a gap in the bank (although again these could be cairns). This putative entrance may correspond to a change in alignment, the bank being displaced further S and the entrance lying diagonally to the line of the bank. The continuing course of the bank to the E is marked (variously) by lines of stones 196, 195, 194, 193 and 192 to connect with a further ? section of bank 188. An alternative, additional course from 198 to the E is provided by bank 199.

To the N further surviving elements of the system may be represented in particular by stony bank and lynchet 332 and also by stony bank 161, wall/bank 210 (including a ? corner 209) and wall/revetment 162. Bank and stone line 335 and 163, although apparently relating to trackway 158, are also similar. Area A.

332 **Stony bank and lynchet**. ? part of enclosure system 331. Not plotted. SN 711 603. Area A.

333 **Sheepwalk division**. Ditch, with slight bank on both sides, running across the Llethr Llwyd valley from. Post dates cairns 87 and 88 and long hut 79. Corresponds to a division between

sheepwalks belonging to Camer Fawr and Trecefel Farms shown on the Tithe map. Not plotted. SN 740 595. Area E.

334 **Clearance cairn and ? sheep shelter.** Cairn overlain by colluvium, +ve platform, stony lower scarp. A short length of relatively recent wall has been built over the platform (along the contour), ? nineteenth century sheep shelter. Not plotted. SN 712 604. Area A.

335 **Boundary,** bank and ditch, running 2m N of track way 158. See No 158. Area A.

336 **Bank.** A stretch of ? ancient bank in cultivated area E of area A. Not apparently as stony as banks in area A, complex 331. Not plotted. SN 713 603. E of Area A.

337 **Barbed and tanged arrowhead,** of Sutton type (inf S Green), found at a low level in peat in an erosion gully some 400 m NE of Castell Rhyfel. Donated to the National Museum of Wales. SN 734 601. N of Area D.

APPENDIX I SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Field walking was often difficult. The terrain does not generally allow straight lines to be walked easily. Also, many sites are in stony areas or covered in gorse or bracken and cannot be seen until close by, and to achieve 'blanket' coverage lines of survey must be less than 10 metres apart. These limitations were discovered fairly early on in survey and a flexible method was applied (chiefly for use in conjunction with an electronic distance meter). Initially a map of the area to be surveyed was drawn to a scale of 1:1000, including contours, streams, field boundaries and known sites. The information was taken from OS 6" (second edition) and 1:10 000 maps (in the absence of the larger scale OS 1:2500 (25")), which did not cover the majority of the survey areas). The known sites were plotted from the Sites and Monuments Record of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. (As usual, at these scales, there are problems in getting accurate reference points on the ground). As individual sites were located they were marked with a numbered white cane. The area would be covered by walking along the contour from one side to the other, using the canes and map as guidance. For each site a 'rough sketch plan' was drawn in a notebook, adding measurements and written detail. The sites would also be 'roughly plotted by eye' on a copy of the survey map. Less than five minutes would be spent at each site at this stage.

Plotting

Five methods were used to plot the sites: (i) electronic distance meter (EDN), (ii) theodolite/tacheometer, (iii) prismatic compass, (iv) by eye and (v) from maps or records.

(i) The electronic distance meter was used to plot the platforms etc of area A and adjacent sites, and proved to be a rapid and accurate method of plotting sites up to a distance of 500 metres, though greater distances are possible. Short wave radios were used to communicate with the person holding the staff, and the readings were written down rather than down loaded into a portable computer (which would have been faster but was not available). The major drawbacks were the cost (to hire or buy), the sensitivity of the instrument in question in wet weather⁷, and the weight of the instrument, though with a three wheeled motor bike this could be overcome.

(ii) The theodolite was used to plot the cairnfield in area D by tacheometry. Whilst this method is accurate if care is taken, it became difficult to read the staff over distances of 100. This problem could be solved by setting up two or more stations to read from. The weather affected the use of the theodolite more than other methods.

(iii) The prismatic compass was used to plot area A, and proved to be rapid and reasonably accurate, with the highest degree of flexibility and mobility of the methods. Sites were plotted initially using two canes and a tape, from a known point, usually a field corner. A bearing was taken and the distance measured, which was generally under 20 m, and the value adjusted using a clinometer where slopes were over 5 or distances over 30 m. By

this method one could progress across the area from one site to another, taken bearings from the previous site, therefore if there were any mistakes they would not be compounded. The magnetic deviation of the area was calculated and marked on the map with parallel lines, and a rectangular protractor used to strike off compass bearings. The sites were plotted directly onto a board in the field, and checks were made where possible with field corners. In a later survey with a team of two the readings were written down to save time, and plotting was carried out in the evening, but with little saving of time.

(iv) Where there are sites nearby that have been plotted using one of the above methods it was sometimes considered acceptable to pace the distance and use a bearing to plot the site. This method was to plot the sites in area E in advance of an EDM survey.

(v) Sites marked on the OS maps or the sites and monuments record could be plotted directly. These were checked in the field in most cases, and found to be accurate to within 10-20 metres.

Planning

Not all of the sites were planned, but a representation of each site type. The sites were planned in three ways; (i) line and level surveys, (ii) sketch plans, and (iii) rough sketch plans.

(i) Line and level surveys, usually at a scale of 1:100, 1:200 or 1:500, measuring individual stones and filling in detail of tumble, etc. The plans were drawn directly onto boards where possible, or booked where space on the board was short or the weather/wind was severe. These plans were mostly drawn by students (in groups of three) under supervision. The time taken over these plans cannot necessarily be seen as typical because of the inexperience of many of the students and the general training nature of the exercise. Time taken ranged from half an hour for a simple platform (Nos 5-17) to 3 days for a complex farmstead (Nos 130, 131). In 2 surveys totalling 8 days (excluding bad weather), 3 groups planned 24 sites, including 15 platforms, 4 farmsteads, 1 cottage, 4 long huts and 1 cairn with cist (No 114).

(ii) Sketch plans, also at a scale of 1:100, using a 30 m tape as a temporary baseline and a 2 m surveyors rule for offsets. Lengths, widths and heights were measured, as were features such as large stones, orthostats and platform limits, the rest of the details was drawn in by eye. The plans were drawn by P T M on A4 graph paper, and could be usefully compared with line and level surveys on sites where both types of survey were carried out (Nos 114, 99). Time taken ranged from 3 hours (No 99) to 15 minutes (Nos 106, 107). In 3 days 23 plans were produced, including 1 farmstead, 12 long huts, 6 cairns and 4 platforms.

(iii) Rough sketch plans, with scales varying between 1:50 and 1:100. These were drawn into notebooks by eye. The lengths and widths were obtained using a measuring rod, or tape for distances over 5 m, and a brief description was included. The plans were drawn (in ink) by marking the dimensions onto graph paper at a

scale of 1:100 and filling in the details from the notebooks. This is a good method for rapidly characterising the archaeology of an area, particularly as the plans often took less time than the written descriptions. This type of planning was used in conjunction with plotting by theodolite, in order to identify the site, or with a prismatic compass. The time taken ranged from 2-5 minutes. In one survey Cae Tudur, 65 features were planned (and plotted) in under 2 days.

Time Span

The data below is a result of 5 intensive surveys covering 100 hectares at a scale of 1:1000, plotting the location of 241 sites. The time taken to field walk an area depended on a number of factors, such as the accessibility of the area, the number of sites and their complexity, the terrain and vegetation of the area, the method of survey (plotting and planning) employed, the visibility of the sites, the experience of the survey team, and the weather. The details of these surveys are summarised below.

N B The data relates to the original survey and only the sites recognised in this original survey are included here.

Area A Cae Tudur

A total of 17.5 hectares was walked and plotted in two days using a prismatic compass, with 54 features plotted, giving a site density over the whole area of 3 sites per hectare. The sites were concentrated in 8 hectares, giving a site density of 7 sites per hectare.

Area B Waun Groes

A total of 6 hectares was walked by a group of two in half a day, with 20 sites plotted using a prismatic compass. The sites were fairly spread out, with a total site density of 3.3 sites per hectare.

Area C Cwm-yr-Olchfa

A total of 19 hectares was walked and plotted in 2 days using an EDM, with 50 sites plotted. A further 25 sites were discovered on a subsequent survey using a prismatic compass. The site density over the whole area is 3.9 sites per hectare, with 64 sites concentrated in 8 hectares, giving a site density of 8 sites per hectare.

Area D Castell Rhyfel Cairnfield

A total of 22.5 hectares was walked by a group of three and plotted in 2 days using a theodolite, with 37 sites plotted. A further 4 sites were included in a later survey, bringing the number up to 41. The site density over the whole area is 1.8 sites per hectare, with 34 sites concentrated in only 4 hectares, giving a site density of 8.5 sites per hectare.

Area E Llethr Llwyd - Moelau

A total of 35 hectares was walked in 1 day, with 51 sites plotted in by eye in advance of an EDM plot (unfinished because of bad weather). The sites are fairly evenly spread over the whole area with a site density of 1.4 sites per hectare. The area had been walked on a number of previous occasions, and had the highest number of sites represented on the Sites and Monuments Record.

Summary

	A	B	C	D	E	TOTAL
total area (hectares)	17.5	6	19	22.5	35	100
number of sites	54	20	75	41	51	241
site density (total area)	3	3.3	3.9	1.8	1.4	av 2.7
site area ('complex')	8	6	8	4	35	61
number of sites (in complex)	54	20	64	34	51	223
site density (of complex)	7	3.3	8	8.5	1.4	av 5.6
days (approximate)	2	0.5	2/3	2	1(+)	
9/10						

The average time taken to field walk and plot 10 hectares was a day, where there was an average of 2.7 sites a hectare. It must be noted that these areas had a greater concentration of sites than the remainder of the Groes Fawr Valley, and where there are few sites to be plotted the area covered in one day can range from 30-50+ hectares, depending on how much landscape detail is included.

APPENDIX II ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE UNENCLOSED PLATFORM SETTLEMENTS IN WALES

MID WALES

Cards

Llety Ifan Hen, Trefeurig (SN 685 848), faint surface traces of two or three platforms with long axis parallel to slope, c. 8 x 5 m.

Broginan, Trefeurig (SN 663 847), a number of 'very subdued earthwork platforms'.

Goginan Fawr, Melindwr (SN 684 823), a small platform 3 x 10 m.

Gwar Graig, Llandysul (SN 459 404), three earthwork platforms.

(Thorburn 1987b, 66)

Carms

Nant Garw (SN 7223 1603) Site No 8, a small stony platform.

Nant Gwyn, nr, Brynamman (SN 7299 1512). A building platform 5, x 3.5 m, cut into the hillside to a depth of 0.6 m, and built out with small boulders to about 0.6 m. The platform is 10 m NW of a stream on a gentle S facing slope.

(Leighton et al 1987)

Cefn Llwn, nr. Pontardulais (SN 623 044). Four platform sites, in a loosely scattered group, all 50' x 20' (c. 15 x 6 m) no enclosures or field banks are associated with the sites.

(Morris 1964)

NOTES

1. They are described as having 'a rectangular outbuilding almost square in plan, sometimes attached and occasionally built at the same time as the dwelling; two bays in length with doorways at both ends of the front wall. It is undivided internally and has no windows and certainly no direct access to the house.'

2. The length of a platform was taken from the front of the levelled area to the centre of the foot of the upper scarp. The width (distance side to side) was often more difficult to measure because of erosion (by sheep etc), and so the width of the lower scarp was measured.

3. However, where a site is collapsed or overgrown angular corners can appear rounded. only sites with clearly visible rounded corners should strictly speaking be included in this class.

4. Long huts 102 and 103 may also be paired and involve a comparable dimorphism although 103 is a very doubtful site.

5. A succession of cairnfield to walled enclosures in a Prehistoric context has been suggested in Northern Britain (Yates 1983).

6. In Caernarvonshire the Commission also distinguished between platform houses and long huts not on platforms (and Gresham (1954) also defined platform houses at right angles to the contour in the county). However, stone structures commonly survive on the platforms while in some cases the platforms themselves may be vestigial. Kelly (1982, 885) has suggested that, in the area, the term platform house has been too widely applied when the term long hut would be more appropriate. But, in Caernarvonshire, stone is the normal medium of building and the stone structures associated with platforms perhaps do tend to be less substantial than in the case of the long huts *sensu strictu*, echoing the situation in Glamorgan.

7. More modern versions of EDMs are not sensitive to wet weather.

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21

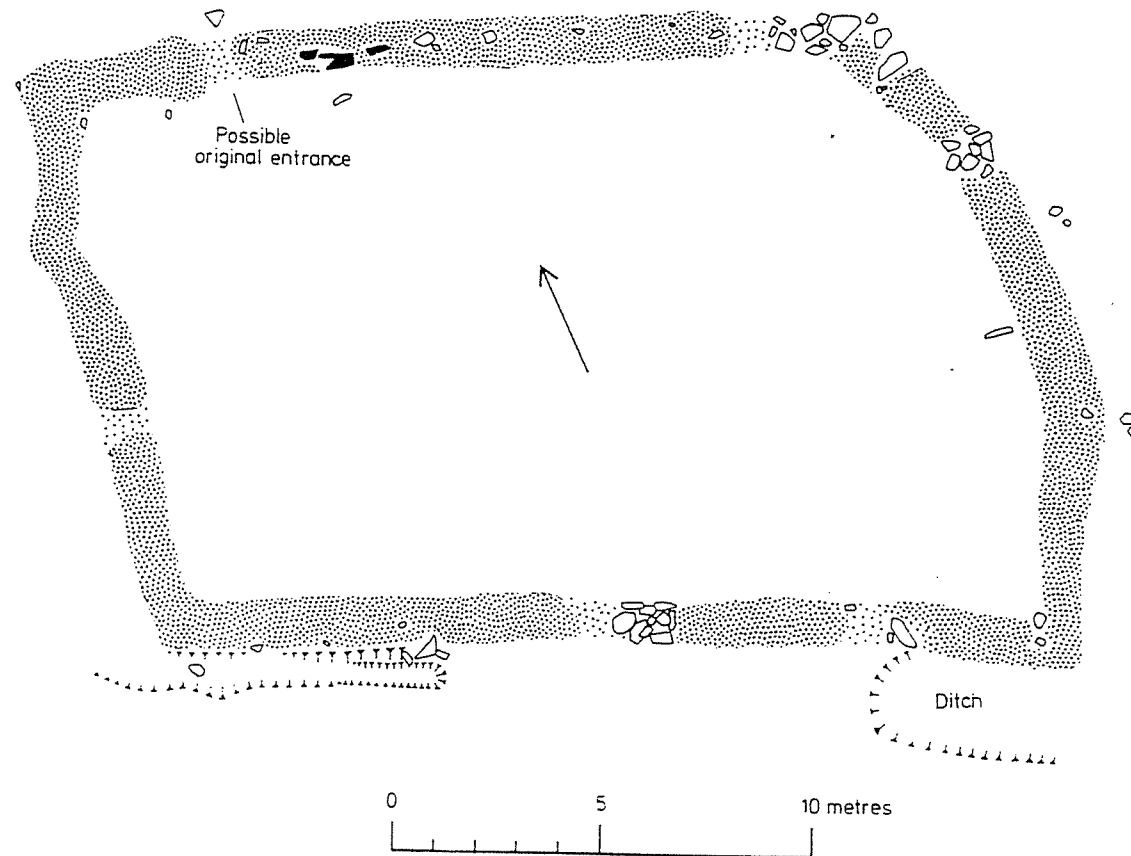


Fig 12. Site 21

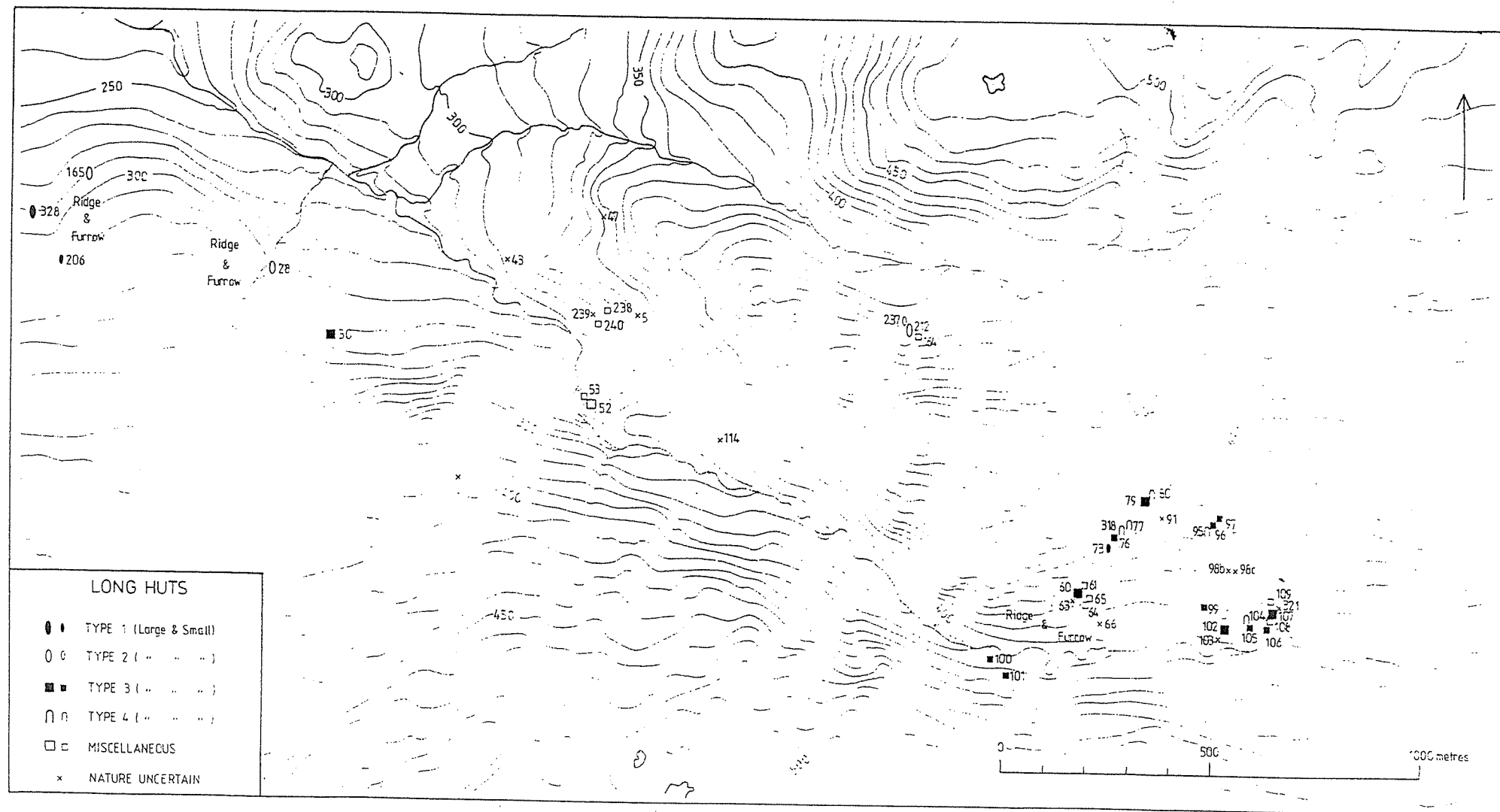


Fig 13

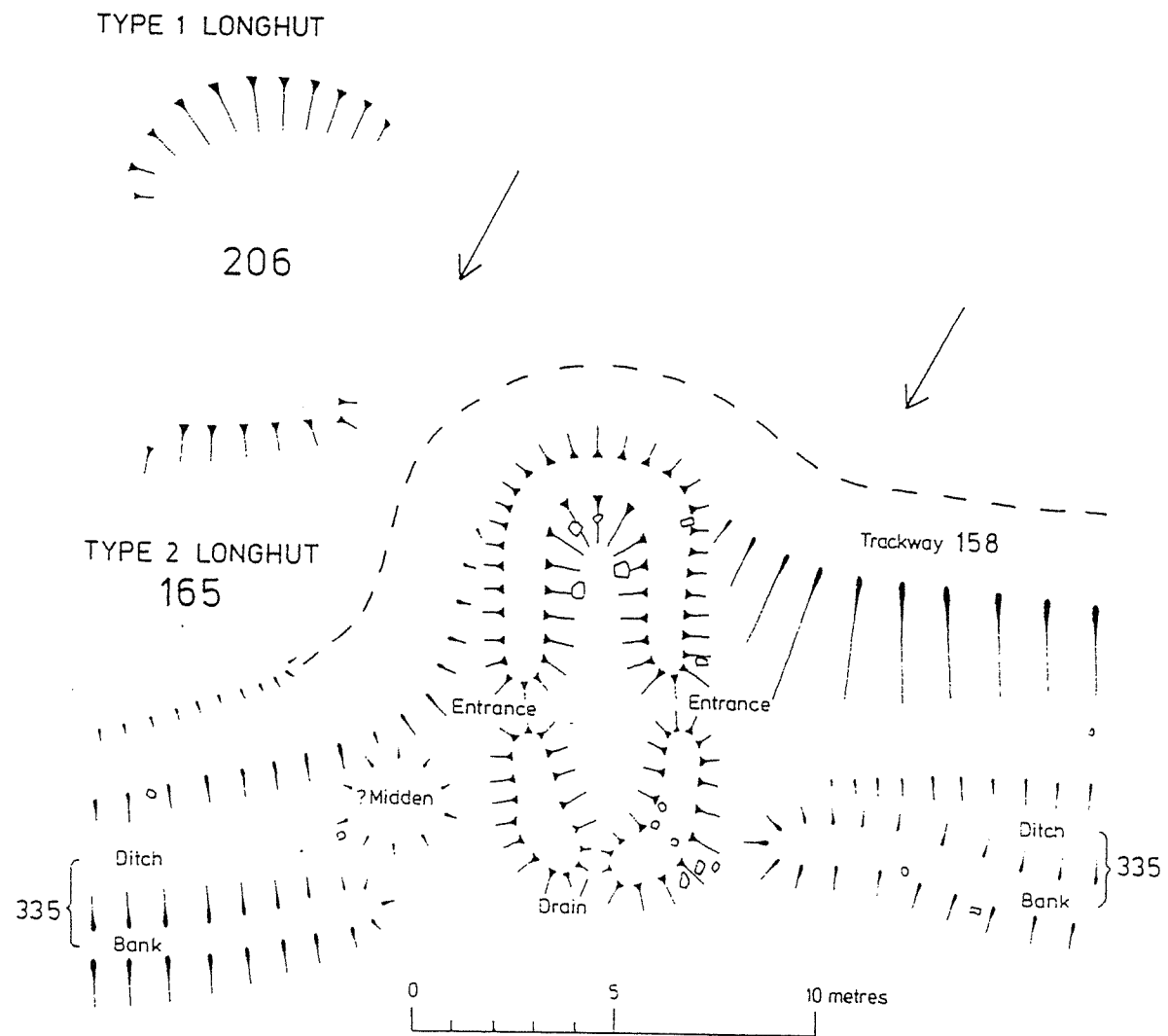


Fig 14. Selected long huts, measured plans

TYPE 3 LONGHUTS

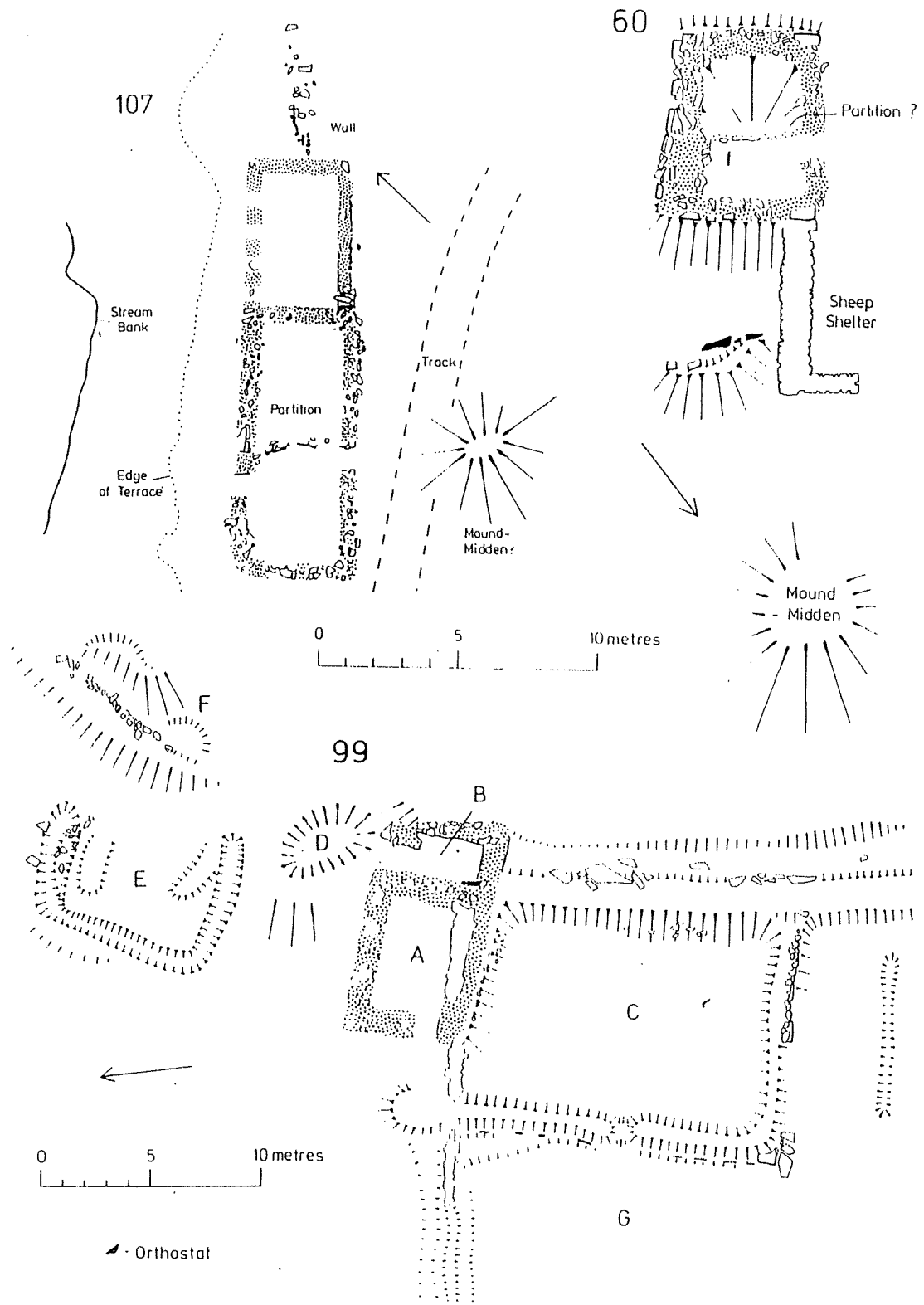


Fig 15. Selected long huts, measured plans

MISCELLANEOUS LONGHUTS

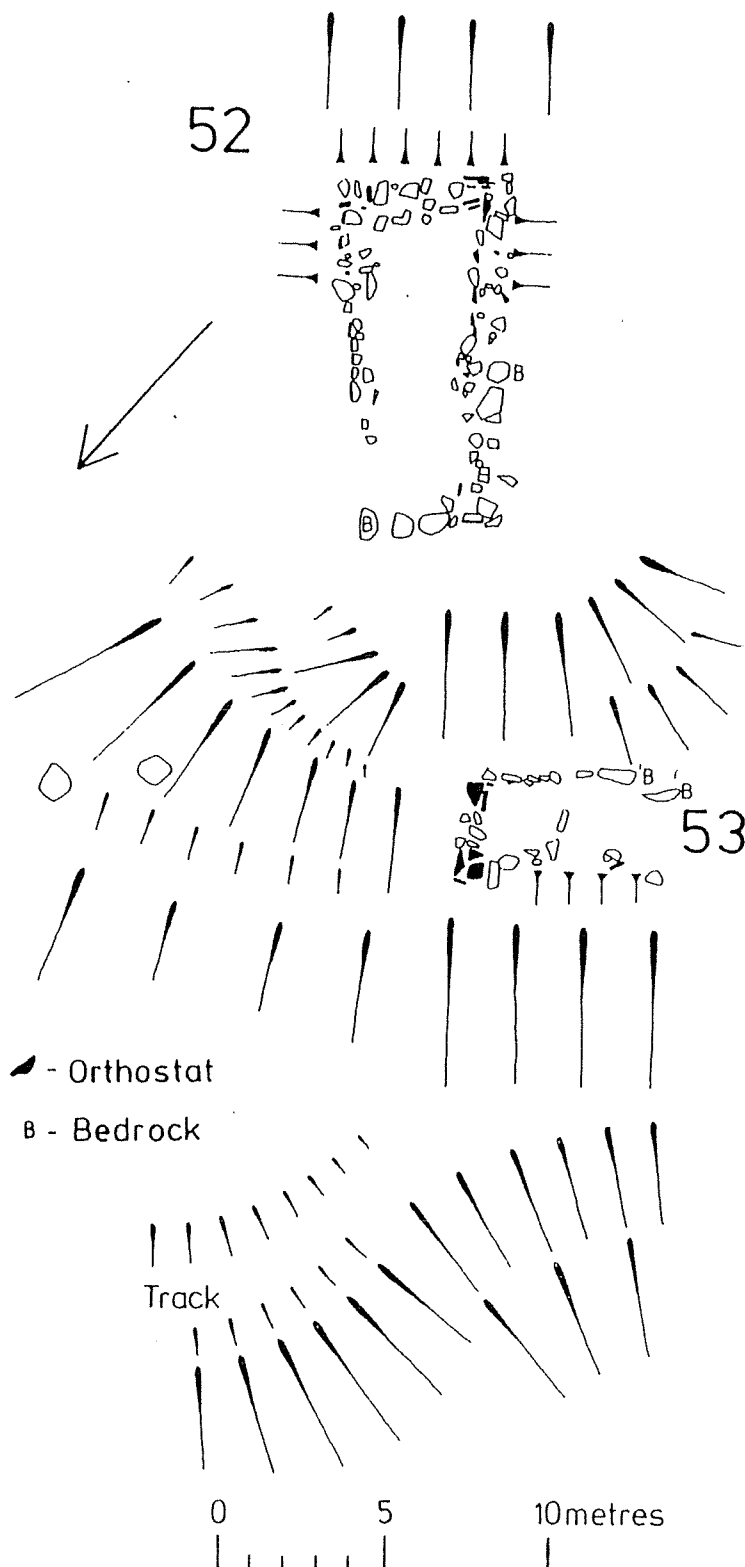
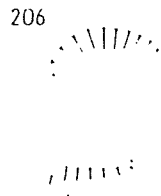


Fig 16. Long huts 52 and 53, measured plans

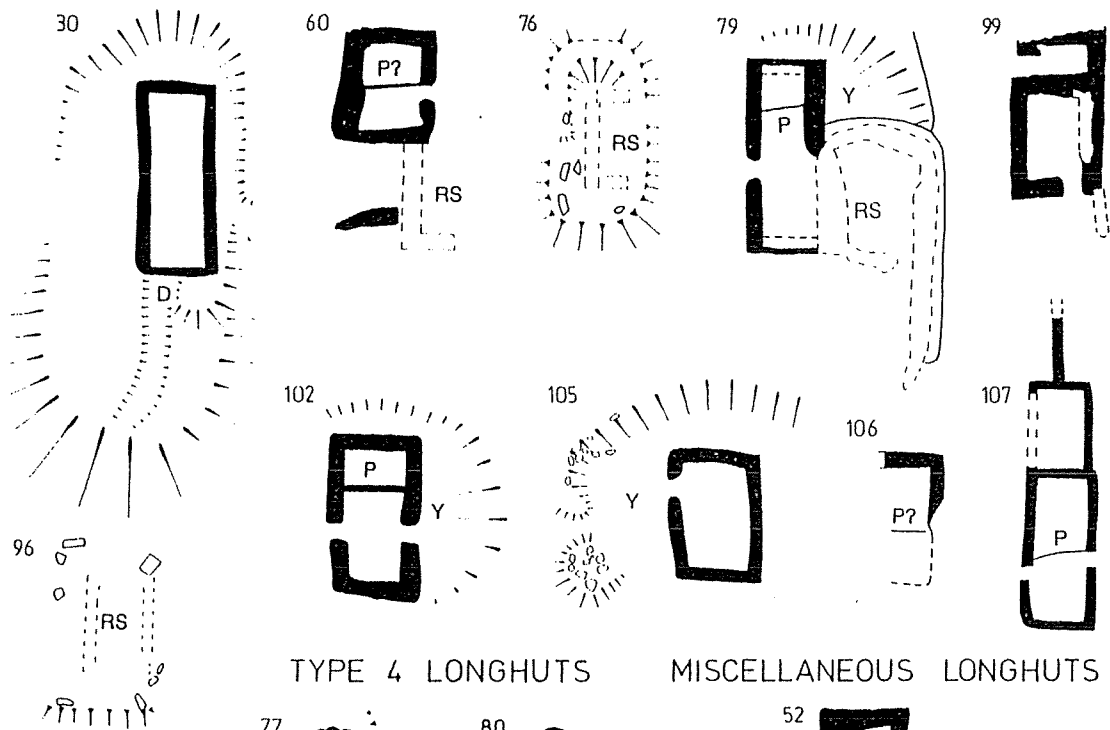
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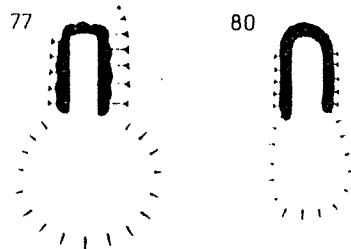
TYPE 2 LONGHUT



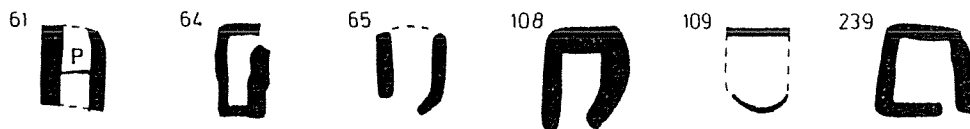
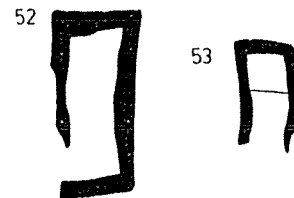
TYPE 3 LONGHUTS



TYPE 4 LONGHUTS



MISCELLANEOUS LONGHUTS



P Partition
D Drain
Y Yard
RS Recent Structure

0 10 20 30 metres

Fig 17. Schematic plans of long huts. 96, 76, 102, 105, 77 and 108 based on sketch plans: the remainder based on measured plans

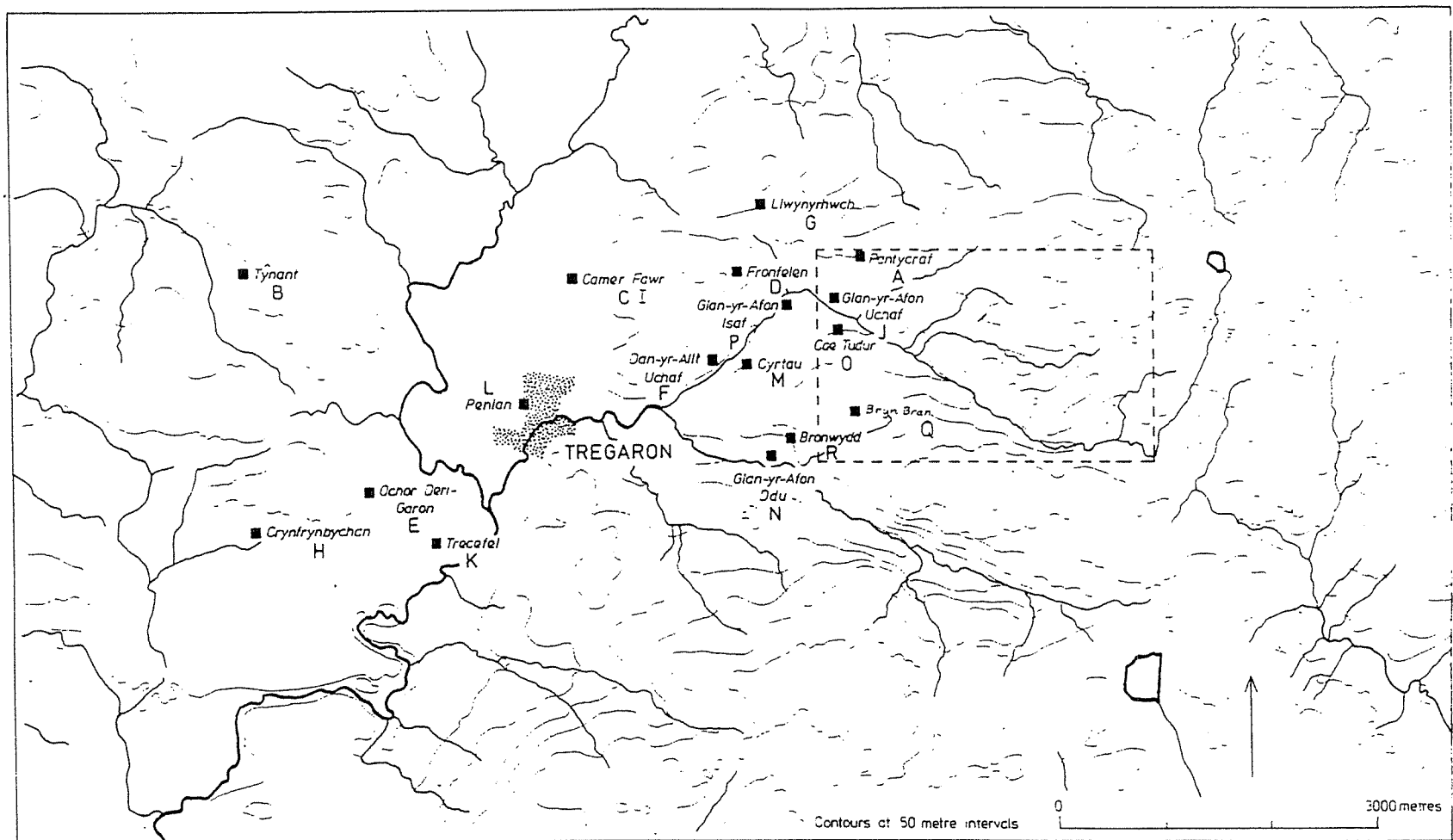


Fig 19. Location of farms with sheepwalks in study area

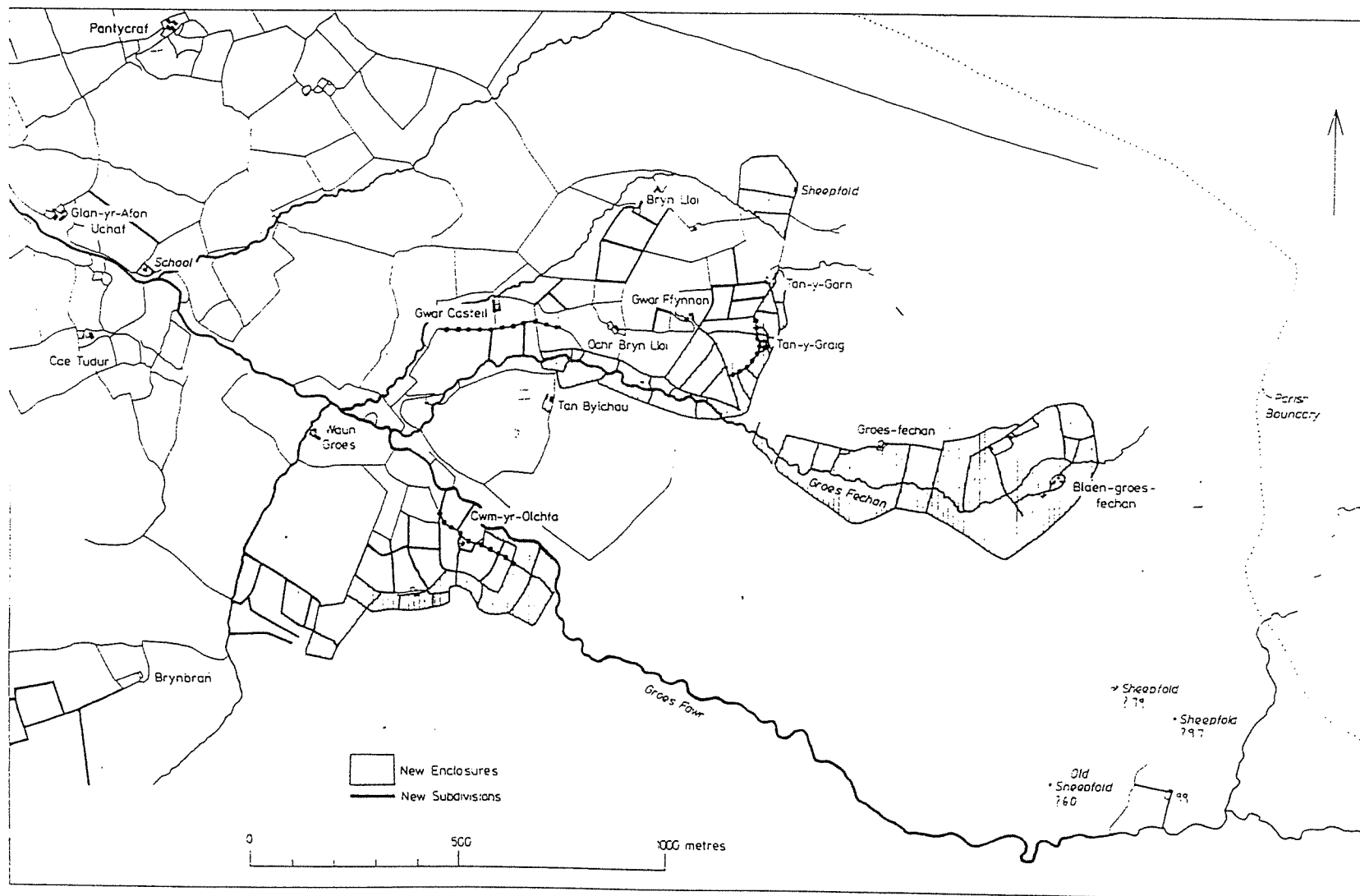


Fig 20. Additional enclosures shown on 1st edn 6" map

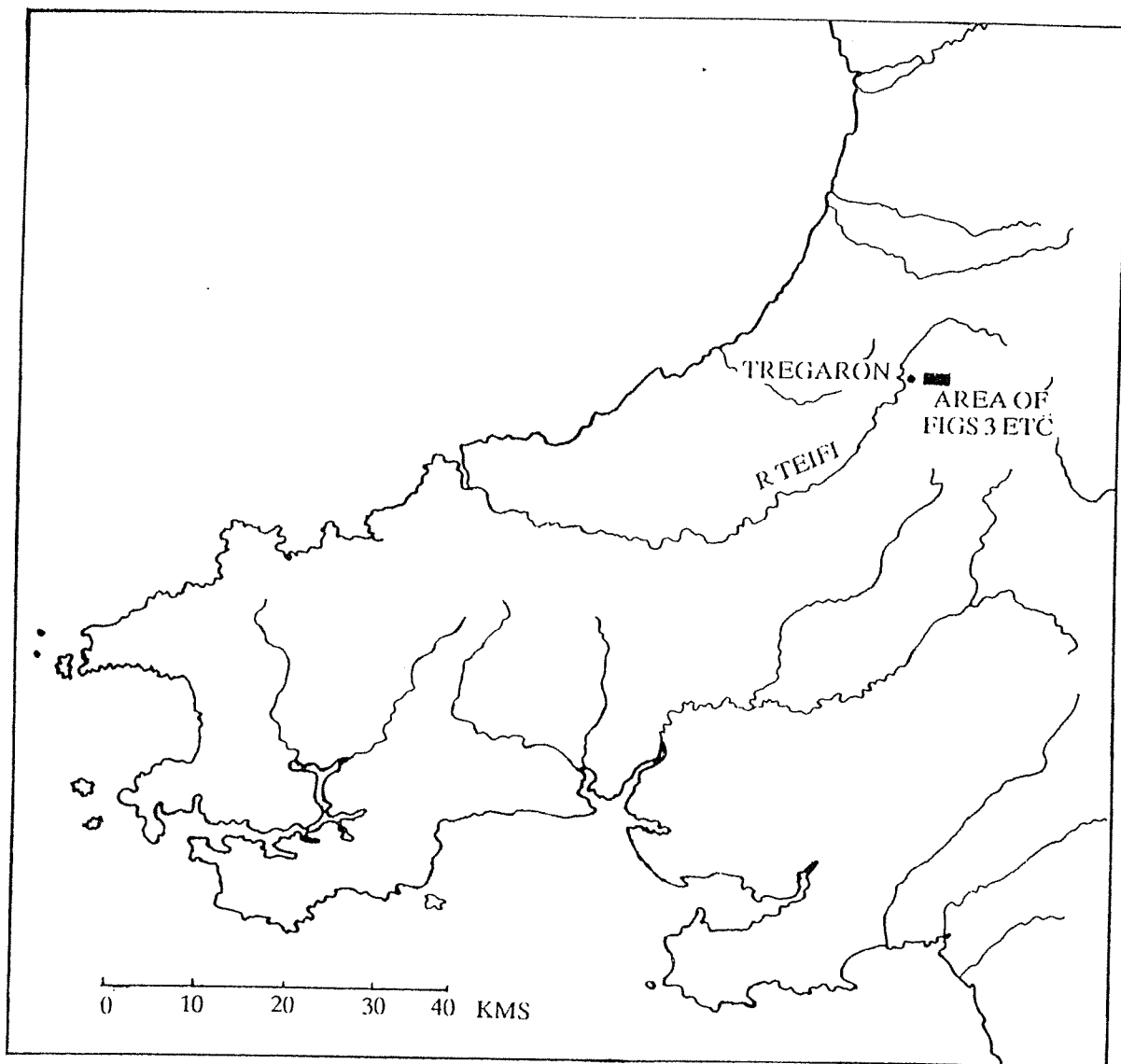


Fig 1. Location plan

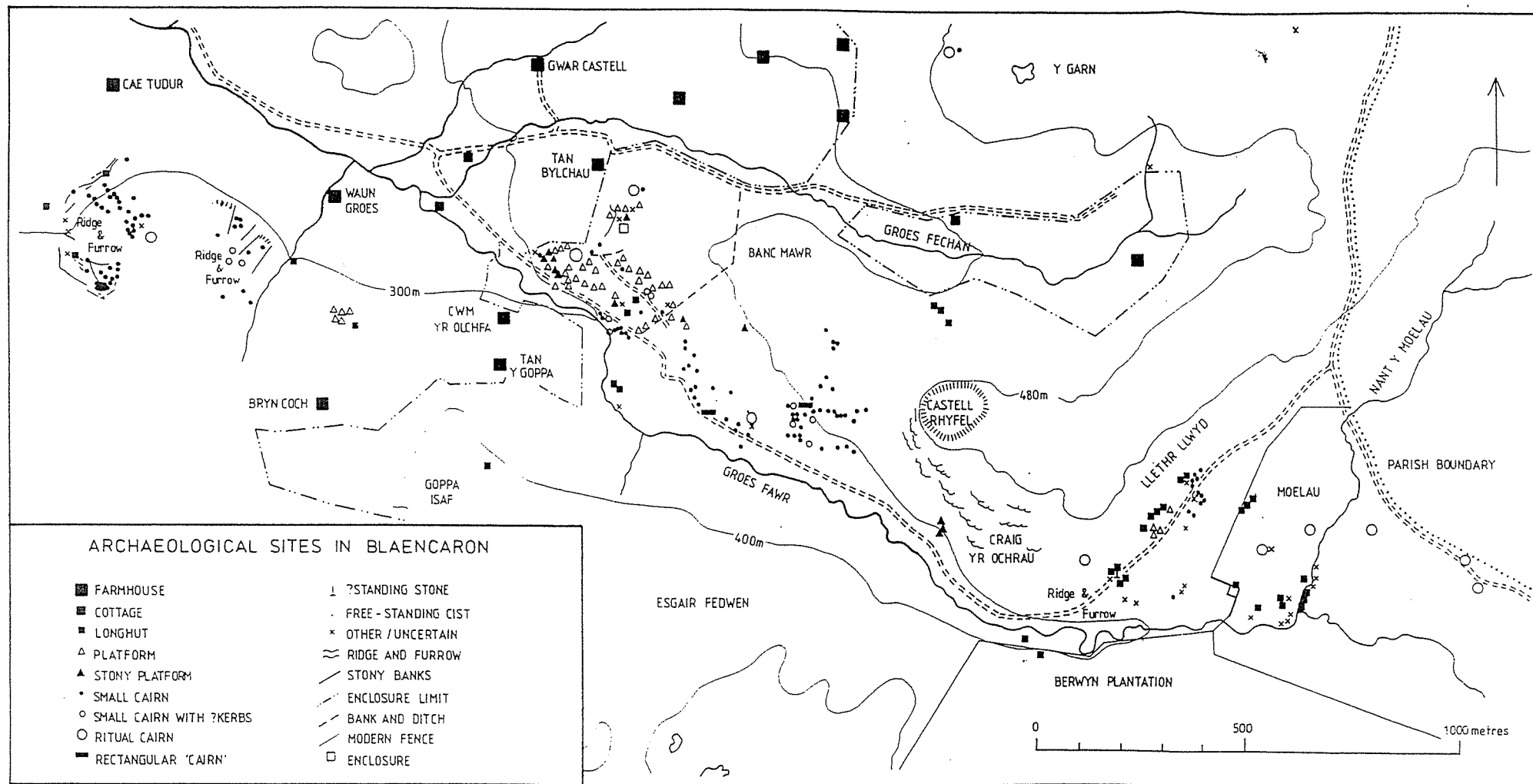


Fig 2

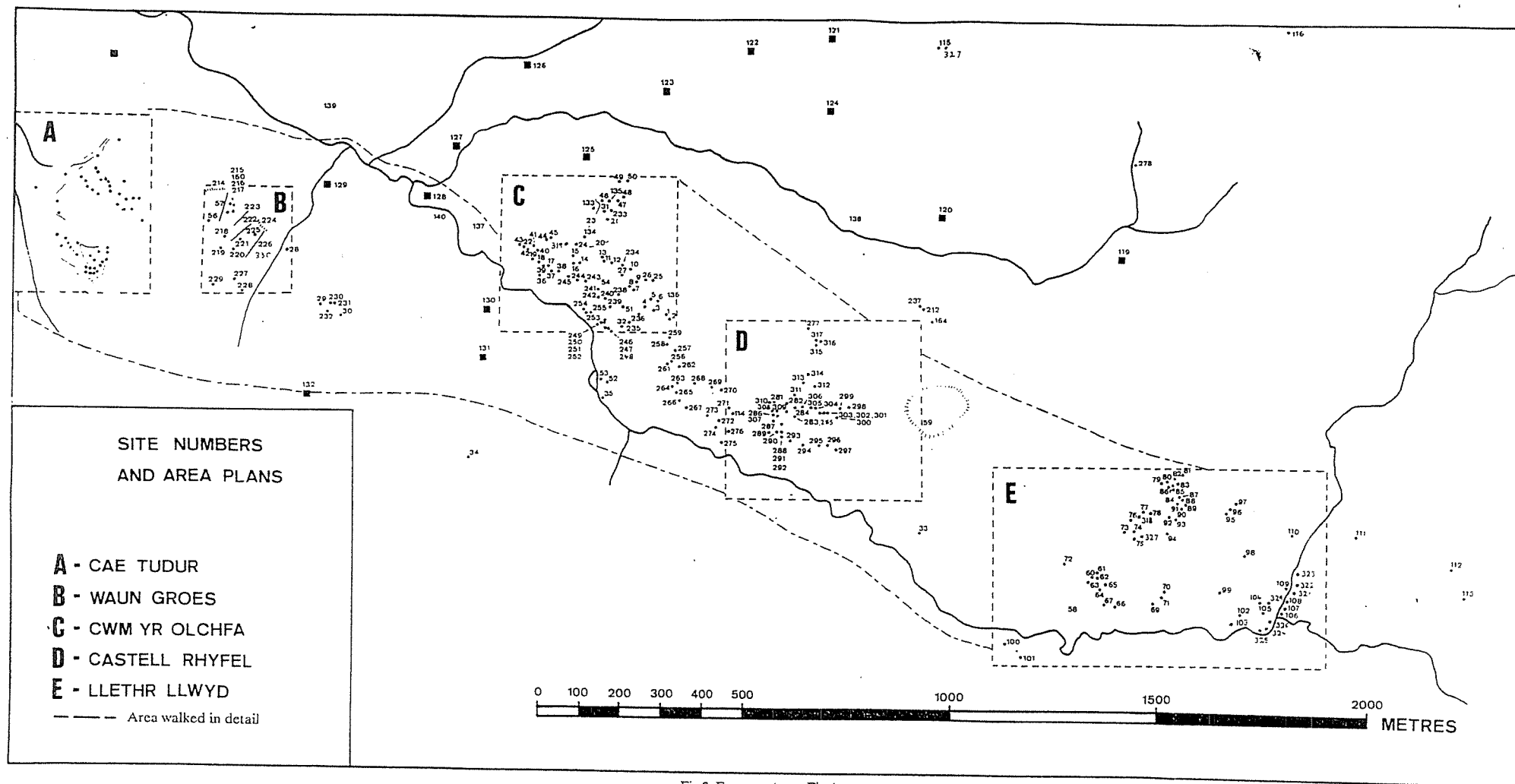


Fig 3. For area A see Fig 4

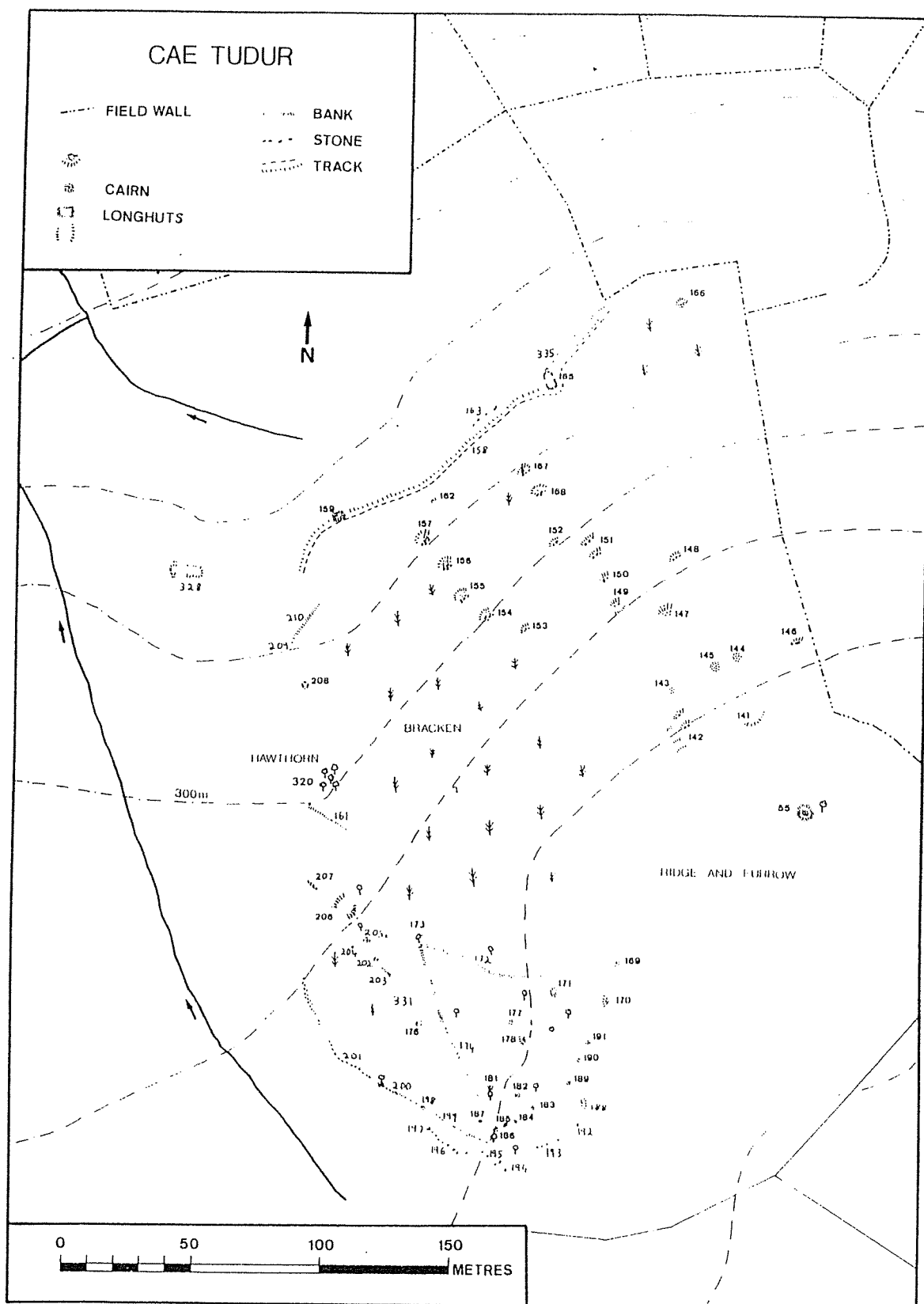


Fig 4

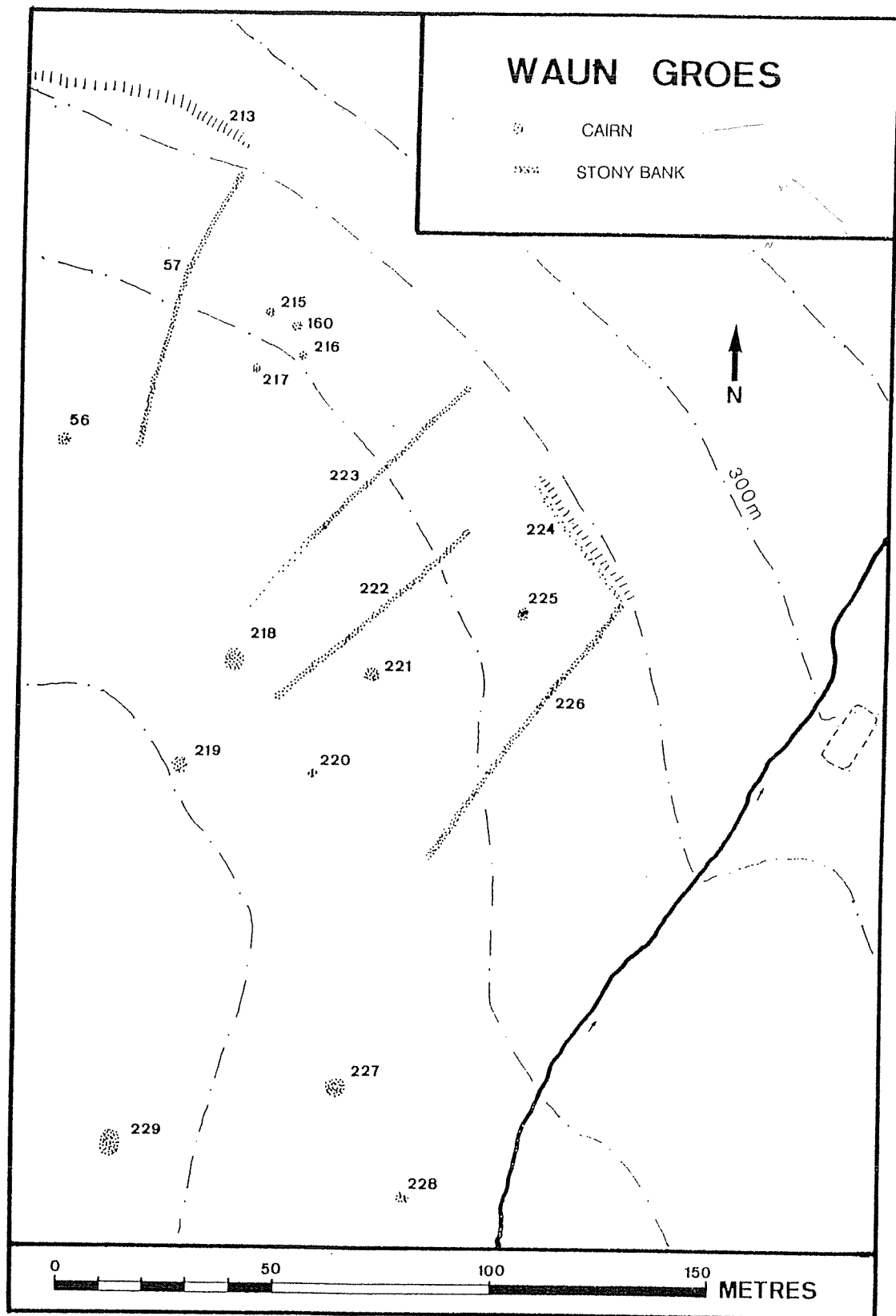


Fig 5

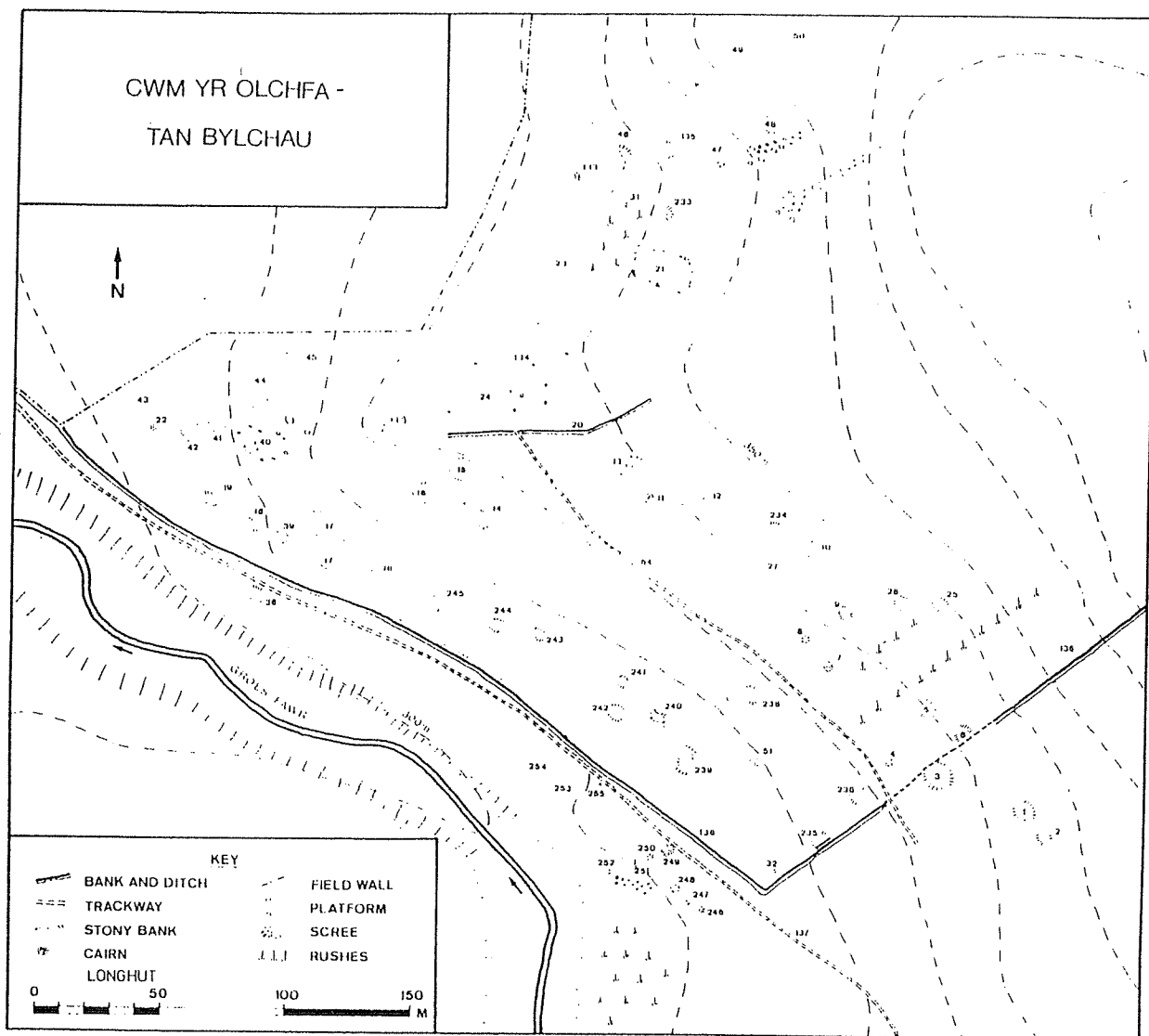
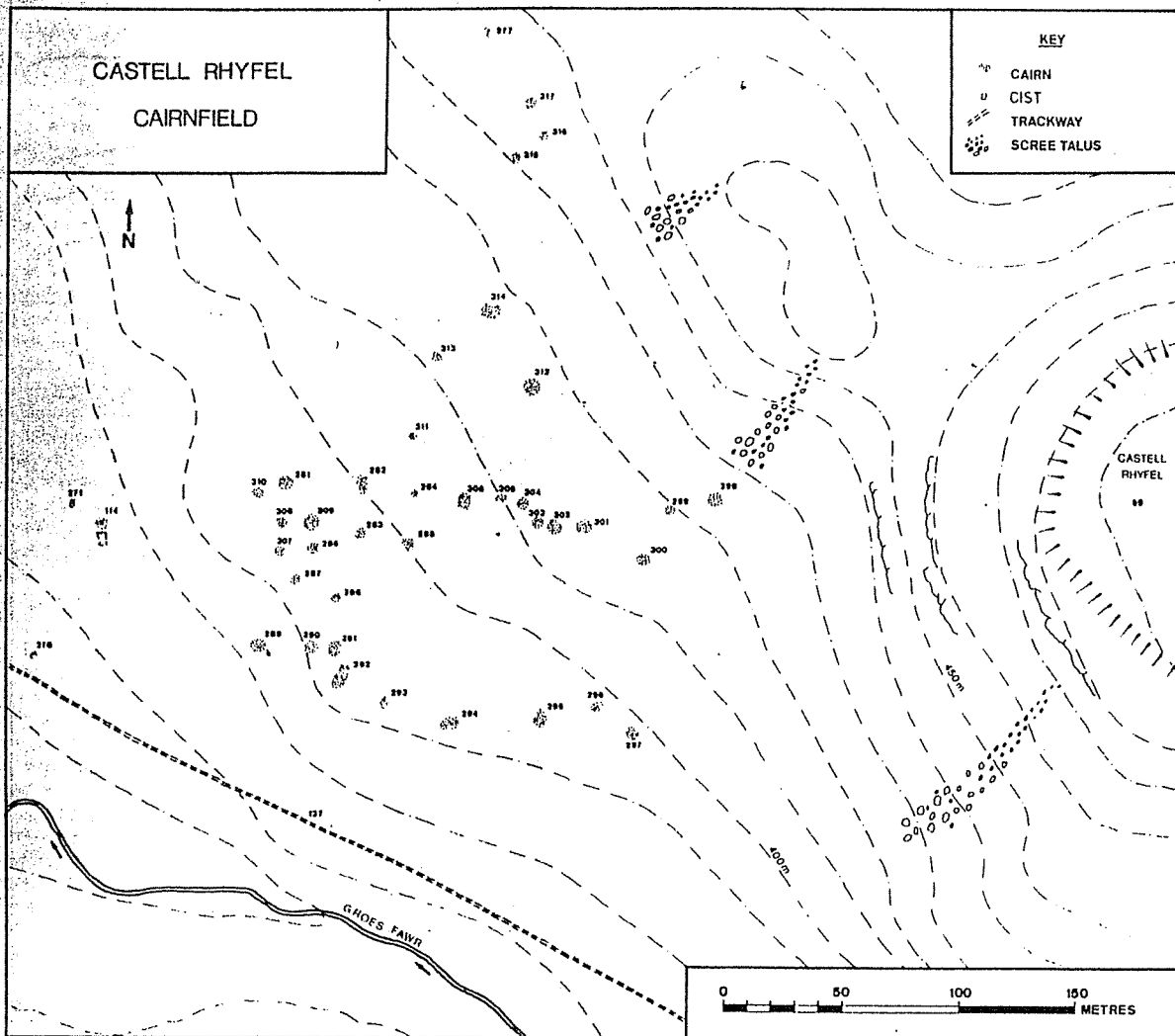


Fig 6



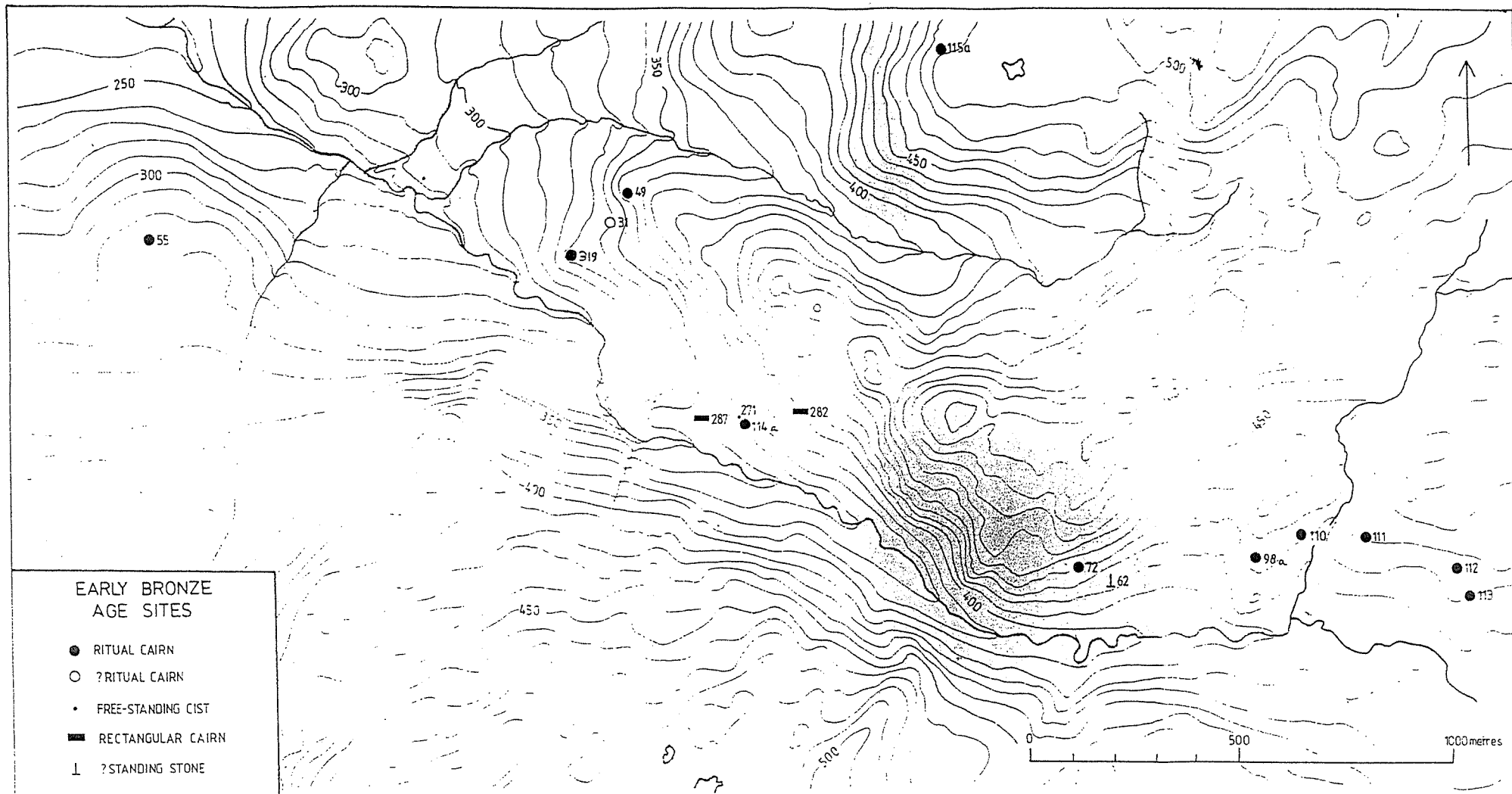
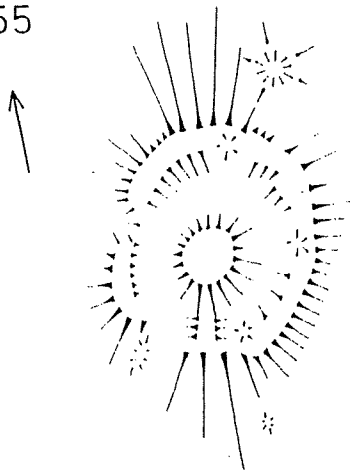


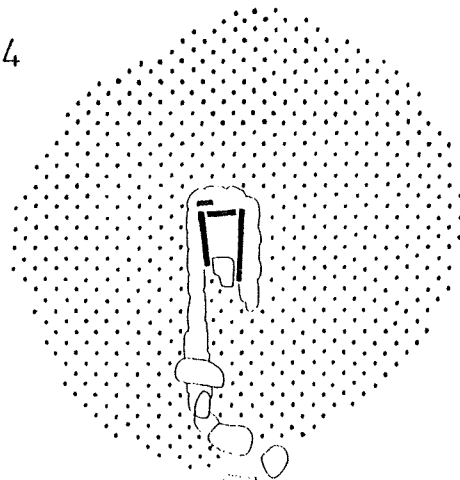
Fig 8

SCALE PLANS

55

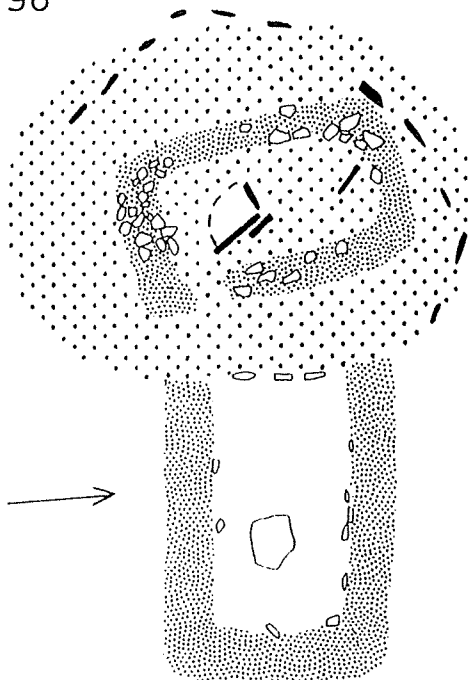


114

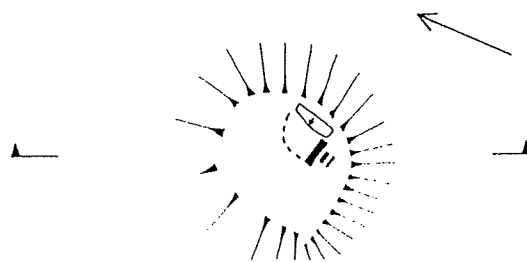


SKETCH PLANS

98



110



SECTION

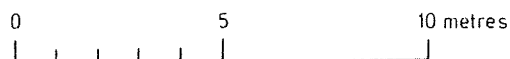
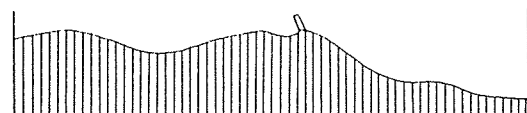


Fig 9. Selected ritual cairns

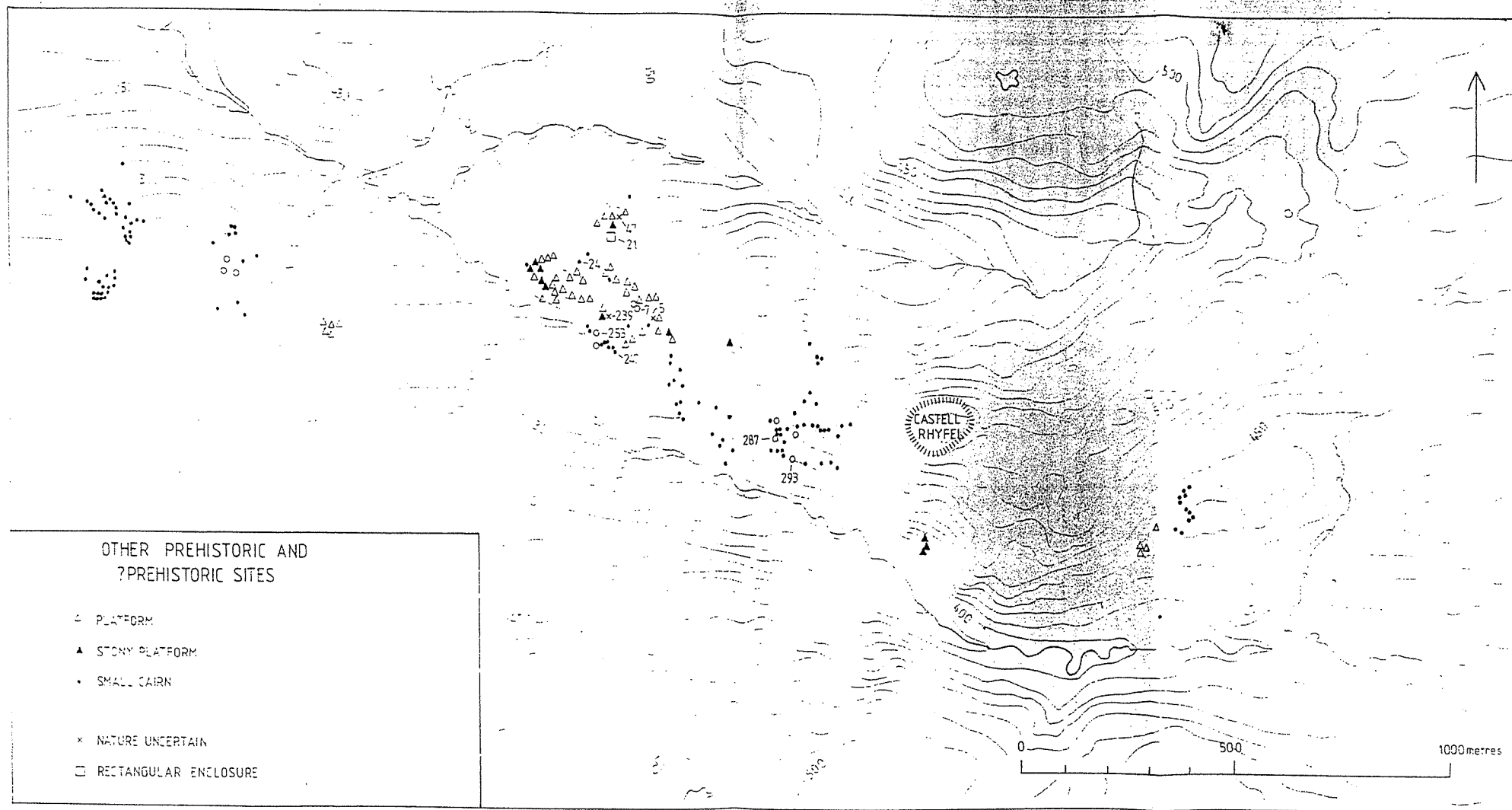


Fig 10

14,15,16

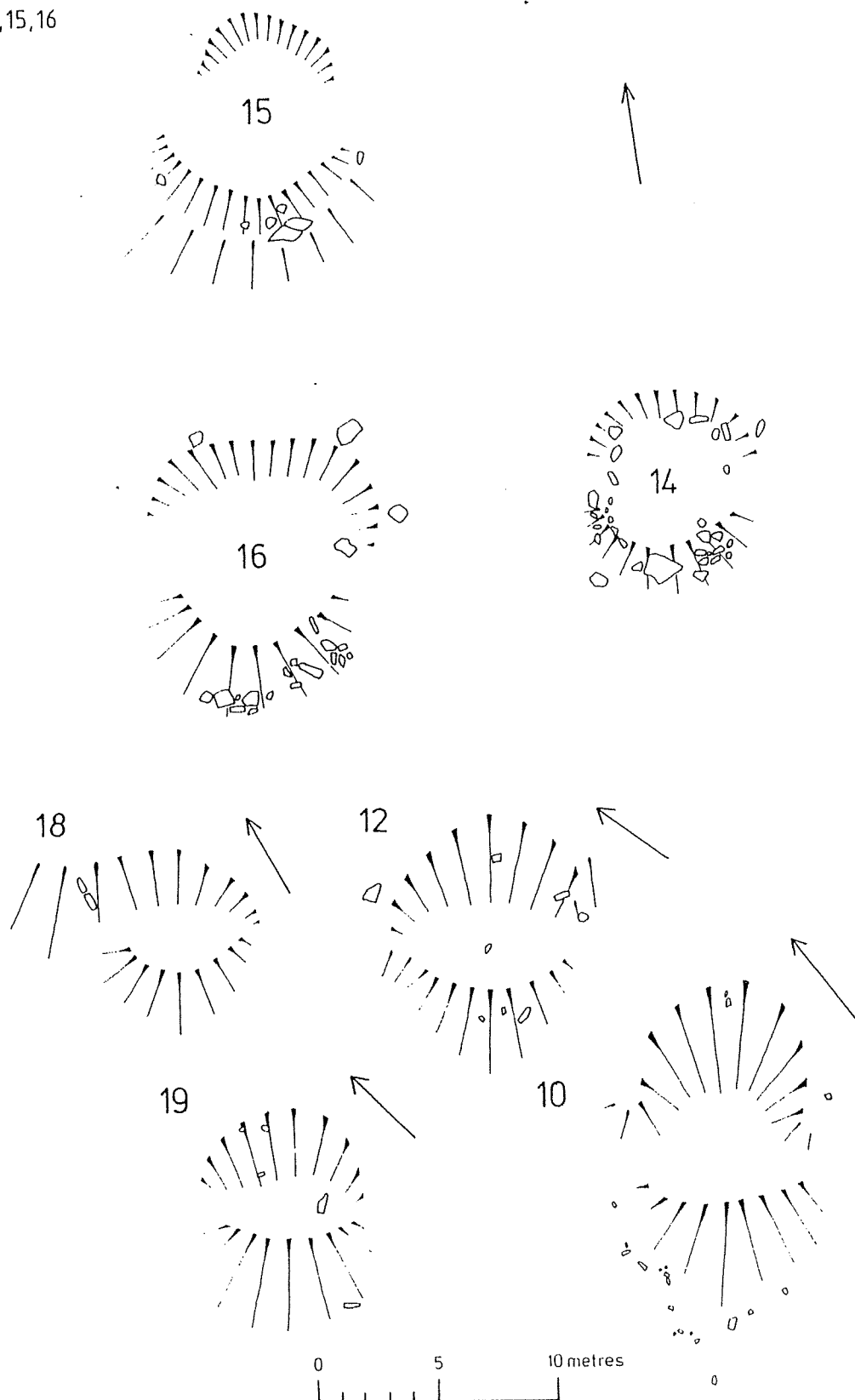


Fig 11. Selected platforms

