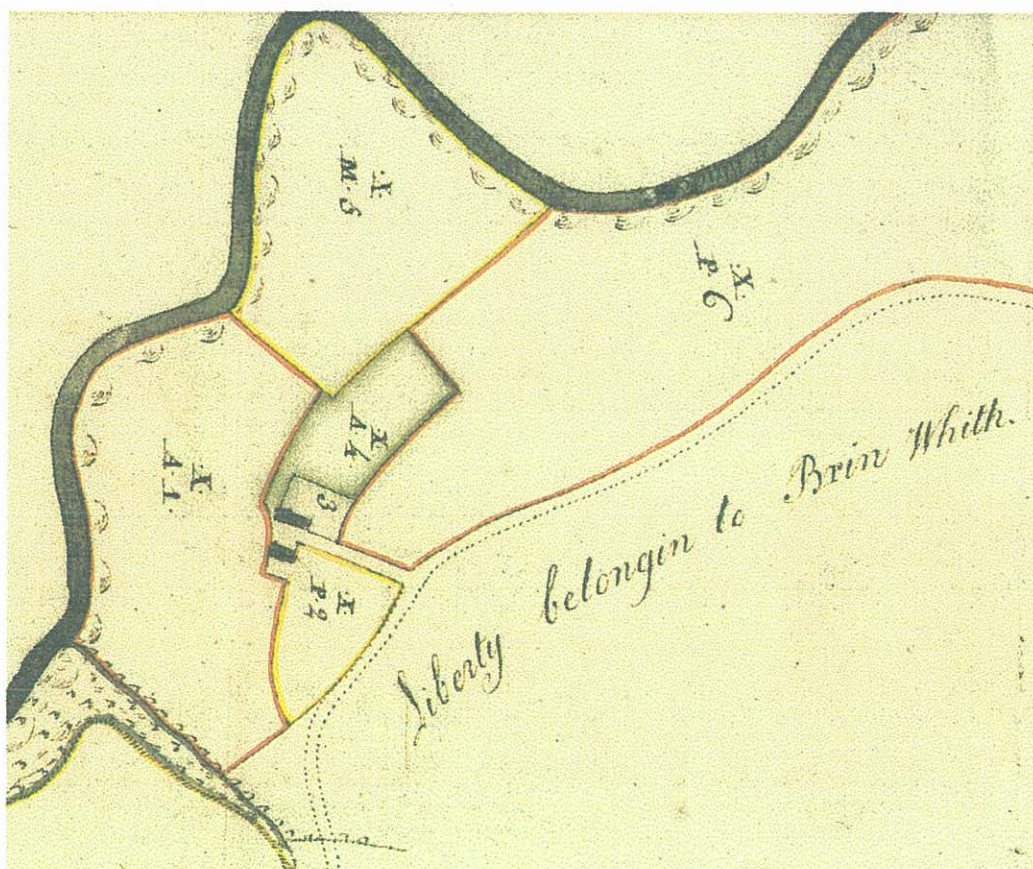


THE MYNYDD Y FFYNNON PROJECT CASTELL - RHEIDOL UPLAND SURVEY



Report prepared for: RCAHMW

By: Paul Sambrook & Ian Darke

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A R C H A E O L O G Y
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COVER ILLUSTRATION: PORTION OF NANTEOS ESTATE MAP OF BRYNCHWYTH, PONTERWYD, 1811.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Mynydd y Ffynnon Project: Background.

1.1.1 The area which is termed the Mynydd y Ffynnon survey area occupies part of a large block of upland in the heart of the Cambrian Mountains in central Wales between the Castell valley on the north, the Ystwyth Valley on the south, the Rheidol Valley on the west and the Wye Valley to the east. The area is defined on the north by the A44 trunk road, which links Aberystwyth with east Wales. The area is bisected by the Ceredigion/Powys county border.

1.1.2 The area consists of open hill land and forestry plantations to a maximum height of 573m OD, and is a land block that falls within the Cambrian Mountains ESA. ADAS and Forest Enterprise as large landowners and land agents in the region have developed a joint project for Mynydd y Ffynnon which is termed 'a new Welsh upland vision for the restoration of upland ecosystems' and is defined as:

"a pilot scheme for the uplands aimed at restoring indigenous upland habitats and their wildlife conservation whilst ensuring that there are true economic returns for forestry and agriculture and hence the rural economy of the same area."

1.1.3 Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology (ACA) (formerly the Dyfed Archaeological Trust) and the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT), after discussion with ADAS, Forest Enterprise and RCAHMS, are conducting a joint archaeological survey of the Mynydd y Ffynnon region. In 1996, an Archaeological Survey Area in the centre of the

Mynydd y Ffynnon upland was designated for initial archaeological field survey work, and a detailed desk-top survey of the landscape history of the whole area was carried out (see Sambrook & Sylvester, 1997).

1.1.4 As a continuation of the 1996 survey programme, the detailed survey of blocks of upland adjacent to the main valleys was proposed for 1997/98, with the intention of providing valuable contextual, distributional and site-specific information for the Mynydd y Ffynnon project and assist considerably in the development of the picture of past land-use and activity in the area between the Wye and the Ystwyth. This report presents the findings of the survey carried out by ACA along the Castell and Rheidol valleys during May and June, 1997.

1.2 The 1997 Survey Area.

1.2.1 The survey area chosen by ACA for the 1997 survey programme included over 11km² of land which lies between the afforested portion of the wider Mynydd y Ffynnon survey area and the Rheidol and Castell rivers to the west and north respectively. The Afon Mynach was taken as the southern border of this area, and the A44 trunk road and forest boundary above Cwmergyr Farm to be its northern limit (See Fig.5).

1.2.2 The land surface of the 1997 survey area includes a chain of hills which run along the southern margin of the Castell valley, peaking at 550m on Y Glog at the eastern edge of the area, but descending in height from east to west and also sloping quite sharply to about 270-280m on the valley floor. Southwards of the confluence of the Castell with the Rheidol, at Ponterwyd, the margin of the Mynydd y Ffynnon upland block is characterized by a line

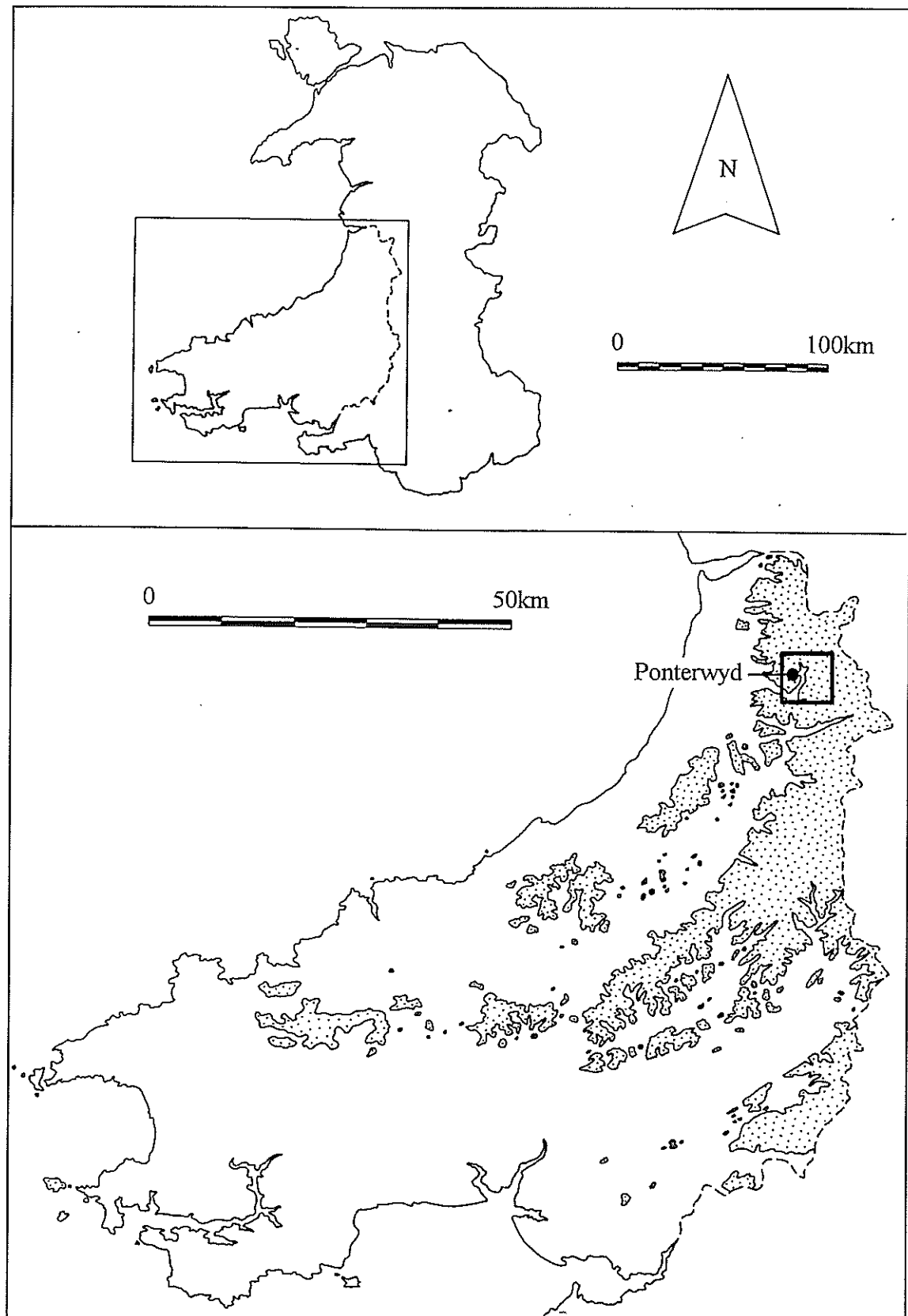


Fig.1; Location of Study Area

of lower, but also often steep sided hills, the highest being Banc Uchaf on Ty Mawr (459m OD), descending southwards to about 400m on Bryn Ty'n Llwyn. The hills overlook the spectacular landscape of the deep Rheidol gorge to the west.

1.2.3 The highest parts of the hills above the Castell valley are characterized largely by unenclosed moorland, with some modern enclosure and land improvement affecting the lower slopes along the valley edge. On the valley floor, the land quality varies between well improved pasture and former arable land, to remaining patches of peat bog and some parcels of industrial wasteland at former metal mining sites. Along the Rheidol valley most of the land between the river and the forest boundary has now been enclosed, either by 18th and 19th century boundary walls and banks or more modern sheepwire fences. Most of this land has now been improved, but a few patches of upland peat bog remain. Only one farm, Tymawr, Ysbyty Cynfyn, retains a large area of traditional heather pasture, around Banc Tymawr and Esgair Ychion. The steep sides of the Rheidol gorge are the location of a relatively narrow strip of deciduous woodland, in an area with otherwise limited broadleaf tree cover.

1.3 Fieldwork Methodology.

1.3.1 A rapid survey of the survey area was carried out by two members of ACA staff during late May and early June, 1997. 20 days were allocated to complete this element of the project and, helped by favourable weather conditions during this period, full coverage of the survey area was achieved within this time. Where it was felt appropriate, record photographs were taken of sites encountered and measured site plans were drawn for the

most notable features encountered; the latter are included within this report.

1.3.2 Fieldwork methodology followed that used by ACA in comparable upland surveys, namely uniform transect walking at 30m intervals, with the rapid recording of all archaeological features encountered. Vertical aerial photographs of the area held by the RCAHM in Aberystwyth were consulted prior to engaging in fieldwork and annotated record maps with relevant AP detail were used in the field.

1.4 Summary.

1.4.1 The field survey of the land along the eastern margin of the Rheidol valley and the southern margin of the Castell valley was undertaken by Archaeolog Cambria Archaeology during late May and early June, 1997. A two-man team covered an area of some 11.5 km² and recorded nearly 100 new archaeological features. The sites recorded were overwhelmingly of post-Mediaeval date and largely concerned with either the settlement history of the district or industrial activity.

1.4.2 Fresh evidence of prehistoric activity was scant and represented by a single round barrow near Ysbyty Cynfyn and a cluster of small earth and stone mounds on Banc Brynchwyth which were tentatively identified as a possible cairnfield. Observation of the 'stone circle' at Ysbyty Cynfyn church seems to confirm that the largest stone there is indeed a bronze age monolith. It is possible that several large stones set into the churchyard wall are relics of a more complex stone alignment which once stood here.

1.4.3 Settlement sites recorded included a large number of deserted rural settlements, ranging from *lluest*

type shepherding cottages found typically at median altitudes in sheltered tributary valleys of the main rivers, to ruined stone cottages associated with the population increase which accompanied the industrial development of the district during the 19th century. Sites loosely defined as representing industrial activity included metal mining sites, areas of charcoal burning and peat cutting (turbaries) and a woollen factory/corn mill. Again this evidence is solely confined to the post-Mediaeval period. It is evident that throughout the historic period the river and stream valleys of the district have been the main focus of settlement, and the current distribution of prehistoric sites in the area suggest that this observation may also be true of earlier periods. There was no evidence recorded of settlement on the hills other than that located in sheltered tributary valleys.

1.5 Acknowledgements.

Permission was sought for access to all sections of the survey area and during this process discussions were held with a number of landowners about the history of the property in their ownership. In several cases we are very much indebted to individuals for sharing their knowledge and time with us and thanks is due to the owners of the relevant farms and cottages between Cwmergyr in the north and Ty'n Llwyn in the south. Mr Elwyn Howells, Arnant, Dyffryn Castell and Mr Hywel Jones, Y Goedwig, Ponterwyd, deserve particular mention for their contribution to our understanding of the agricultural and population history of the area. Information supplied by the proprietor of Llywernog Lead Silver Mine Museum, Ponterwyd regarding the history of local metal mines and their workforce is also acknowledged.

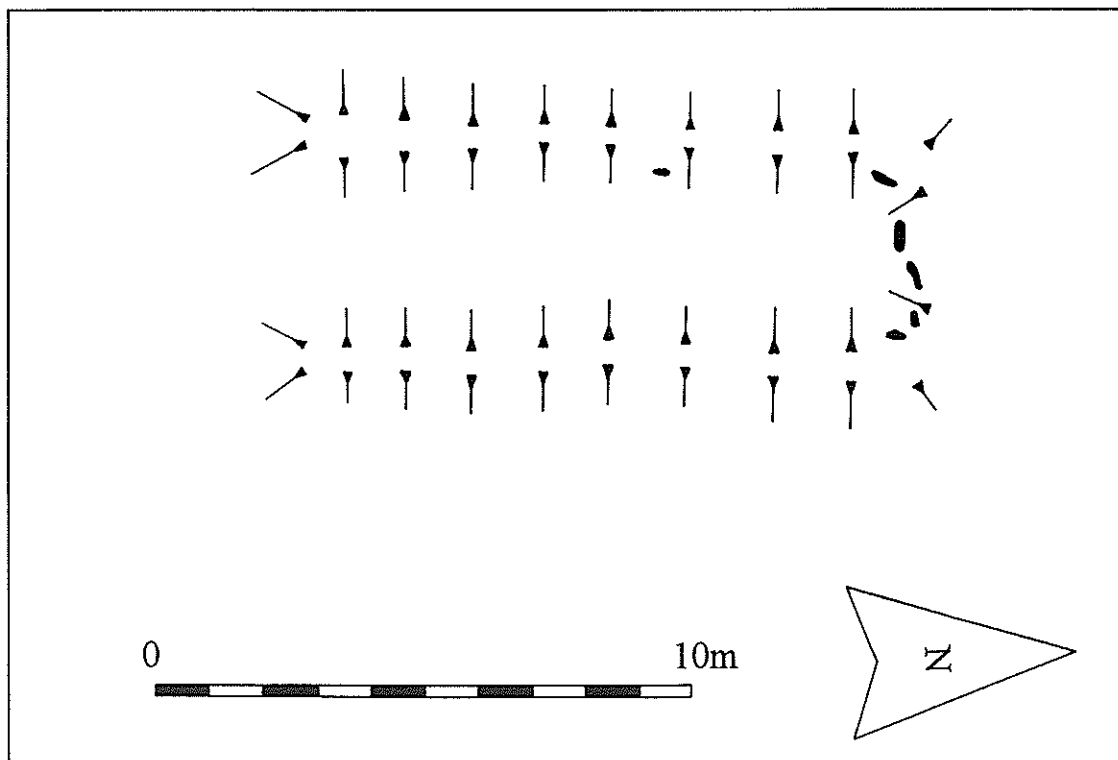


Fig. 2; Long hut on Esgair Ychion, Ty Mawr (PRN34862) and deserted settlement at Nant Ty'n Llwyn (PRN34882)

2. SURVEY RESULTS: AN OVERVIEW

2.1 Prehistoric.

2.1.1 There is little evidence of prehistoric activity in the survey area. Such evidence as is recorded certainly points to some activity in the district during the Bronze Age (2500 - 700BC). It has been recently demonstrated that there was some metal mining at neighbouring Cwmystwyth during this period and this fact, as well as the proximity of a small number of bronze age round barrows on the hills around Cwmystwyth (i.e. Penygarn - PRN8619 - and Pen Bwlch y Cloddiau - PRN6198) seems to suggest the presence of settled communities in the area.

2.1.2 A probable bronze age burnt mound has previously been recorded at Ponterwyd (PRN19824), and it is suspected that a large standing stone (PRN34873) incorporated into the churchyard wall at Ysbyty Cynfyn is a genuine bronze age monolith. It has been argued recently the smaller stones of the 'stone circle' or henge (PRN2064) also incorporated into this wall are not antiquities as some of these stones do not touch the ground (Briggs, 1994, 139; Houlder, 1994, 114). However, it was noted that the southernmost stone, which has been used as a gatepost for the main gate into the churchyard, is firmly fixed into the ground and is actually almost freestanding, standing in a rather awkward position just inside the gate and not incorporated into the line of the churchyard wall. This may indicate that it was in that position before the wall was raised and suggests that it may be unwise to dismiss outright the possibility that there was indeed a prehistoric stone alignment here.

2.1.3 Only two possible prehistoric features were recorded during the 1997 survey.

A cairn (PRN34858) was recorded on Banc Ty Mawr, near Ysbyty Cynfyn. Its location, in relatively close proximity to the standing stone at Ysbyty Cynfyn churchyard and overlooking the Rheidol Valley, may be significant and further reinforce the theory that bronze age activity in this area would have focused on the valleys at the margins of the upland block. Further north, on Banc Brynchwyth, a possible bronze age cairnfield was identified (PRN34938). A loose cluster of approximately 9-10 small, sub-circular earth & stone mounds were observed, on average measuring about 4m x 3m and c.0.2 - 0.3m in height.

2.1.4 The absence of any comparable features in the rest of the survey area was in some respects surprising. The hills east of the Rheidol rise to between 450 and 550m OD and are now bare moorland, but timber preserved in the peat bogs of the district (which have been regularly extracted by farmers in the past) suggest that these hills remained wooded during the Bronze Age and may not have been generally frequented - although they may have been valuable hunting grounds. This may explain the absence of cairns and barrows on these hills. The degree to which the peat has masked evidence of prehistoric activity on the higher ground is of course unknown, although the discovery of cairns, field boundaries and flint microliths on the bed of the then partly drained Nantymoch Reservoir, north of Ponterwyd, in 1984, where the peat had been stripped from the surface by water action, may be significant (Briggs & Murphy, 1984).

2.2 Dark Age and Mediaeval.

2.2.1 Although there is little physical evidence of Dark Age or Mediaeval settlement in the survey area, it is probable that there have been settled agricultural communities in the area since pre-Norman times. It is generally accepted that the sheltered valleys of this part of Ceredigion have long been exploited for all available arable land on the valley floors and lower slopes of the valley sides, whilst using the surrounding mountain ground for the depasturing of stock animals during the summer months. This arrangement was of course the framework of the *hafod/hendre* system described in mediaeval Welsh lawbooks. We have no knowledge as to how the mediaeval *hafod/hendre* system might have been applied in the Rheidol and Castell valley districts and can only surmise that much of the upland block south of the Afon Castell was used to pasture stock during the summer months before being returned to lowland farms for the winter.

2.2.2 There is little evidence of foci of Mediaeval settlement in the survey area. It is suspected that since at least the 12th century the area has been included in the township of Llanbadarn y Creuddyn Uchaf, one of the townships or hamlets of Llanbadarn Fawr parish. It is believed that these townships were based on earlier Welsh *trefi*, which may have existed as administrative units for some centuries prior to the Norman conquest. Neither the *trefi* nor townships would necessarily include any significant concentrations of settlement, but were usually characterized by a typical Welsh settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads, which is very much the pattern which emerges on the earliest detailed maps of the area (in the late

18th century) and largely remains true to the present day.

2.2.3 The only ecclesiastical site within the survey area is the church at Ysbyty Cynfyn. The *ysbyty* element of the name has given rise to a tradition that a mediaeval hospice or *hospitium* was located here, but there is an absence of evidence to confirm or disprove this belief. The present church building is probably of early 19th century construction, but it is thought likely that the site has mediaeval origins (pers. comm., Neil Ludlow, Cambria Archaeology).

2.3 Post Mediaeval.

2.3.1 One of the most important developments in the management and ownership of the land during the post-Mediaeval period is the success of some minor gentry families in accumulating land and wealth and creating large estates, such as the Ceredigion examples of Hafod, Nanteos and Trawscoed. The process has its roots in the late mediaeval period but gathered pace following the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538, which allowed extensive estates to be purchased by leading families. Several farms along the Rheidol and Castell valleys belonged to this estate by the 18th century. Lesser landowners also owned properties in the area, such as Thomas Hughes Esq., who lived at Ty'n Llwyn, Devil's Bridge during the latter half of the 18th century and who appears to have owned a fairly large but unconsolidated estate in the Devil's Bridge/Ysbyty Ystwyth district.

2.3.2 The recording of architectural features and standing buildings was in general beyond the capacity of this rapid survey, however it is important to draw attention to the historical

significance of many farmsteads. Most of the farm complexes present in the area include dwellings and outbuildings of post-18th century date. In some cases early dwellings remain, now used as outbuildings, having been superseded by later 19th or 20th century houses. Rarely do a good range of traditional farm buildings survive. Tymawr, Ysbyty Cyufyn (PRN33189) is perhaps unique in having preserved features such as the wooden threshing floor in the barn, a pig-pen, goat-pen and the site of an earlier dwelling. One particularly interesting structure on this holding is a stone built goose pen (PRN34864), located on higher ground some 0.5km from the farmyard, which was used within living memory. Cwmergyr Farm (PRN33167), at the head of the Castell valley, is now empty and although the house and outbuildings are still mostly complete, they will almost certainly become derelict in the near future. The need for a full survey of pre-20th century structures at such properties is becoming increasingly important, as it is evident that the structures themselves are often becoming dilapidated and the oral history associated with them is being rapidly lost.

2.3.3 An important addition to the enclosed lands of the farms owned by these estates were the rights of common pasturage which they had traditionally enjoyed on the extensive moorlands of the area. Some properties had rights of common on several hundreds or even thousands of acres by the 19th century (parish census returns show that John Howells of Cwmergyr farmed 1900 acres in total in 1881). These practices have had an important influence on the present form of farms in the survey area, for almost all the occupied farms retain sheepwalks similar in extent and location to those

on which they had grazing rights in the 18th or 19th centuries; furthermore, many of the placenames of hills in the survey area often reflects this pattern of land management - i.e. Banc Tymawr, Banc Erwbarfe, Banc Brynchwyth each belong to the farm of the same name.

2.3.4 The origins of these sheepwalks are uncertain - they may correspond in part with earlier *hafod* pastures, never fenced or walled in, but defined by traditional boundaries based on natural features, which have, in modern times, been reinforced by wire fencing. There are suggestions on early estate maps that smaller sheepwalks have been incorporated into larger holdings, such as the example of the parcel known as Esgair Neint, within which is found the deserted cottage of Neint (PRN9424). As early as 1764, Nanteos estate maps (i.e. NLW Nanteos No.332) show that the cottage was ruined and what one assumes to have been its sheepwalk on Esgair Neint incorporated into the much larger sheepwalk of Fuchswen. The same may well be true of the other *lluestau* and deserted settlements on the upland pastures listed in the Gazetteer of Sites appended to this report.

2.3.5 In relation to the previous point, an interesting example of the former land management practices in the area was provided by the owner of Tymawr, Ysbyty Cynfyn, which was a Nanteos property according to estate maps of 1764 and 1811. Tradition has it that the heather pasture on Esgair Ychion, within the farm boundaries, was used for the summer grazing of their cattle, sent to graze the heather in order to increase the copper content in their diet. This hill is bounded to the east and north by a substantial stone wall (PRN34863), which oral tradition maintains to have been built to control stock grazing on Mynydd yr Ychen.

Tymawr is notable as being the only holding within the study area where a substantial area of heather pasture has survived.

2.3.6 Whereas most of the farms along the Castell and Rheidol valleys have remained in occupation until the present day, a number of cottages and other dwellings at higher altitudes have been abandoned. These sites are usually found in the upper reaches of tributary streams of the two main rivers in the survey area and several of them are undoubtedly *lluestau* or shepherding cottages. *Lluestau* have been well described by 18th and 19th century sources and were the permanent homes of shepherding families. The evidence of Lewis Morris, writing in 1744 of the *lluestau* of neighbouring Pumlumon district, suggests that they may have originally been only seasonally occupied (Vaughan, 1966). Several excellent examples were recorded in the survey area, each possessing the range of features which would be expected of the *lluest*; a dwelling, a small parcel of enclosed land, evidence of lazy-bed cultivation and of structures ancillary to the main dwelling (i.e. PRNs 9422, 9423, 9424, 34884 & 34900). PRN 34866, on Erw Barfe farm, was perhaps the most compact and complete example in the survey area and could be described as a classic *lluest*.

2.3.7 The inhabitants of the *lluestau* of the district during the 18th and 19th centuries are known to have included peat cutters as well as shepherds. Peat cutting had certainly developed into an important industry in the locality by this period. Following the loss of native woodland in previous centuries, peat became the main source of domestic fuel in the area and rights of turbary were as important as rights of common

on the mountains above the Rheidol valley. During field work, it became apparent that peat and turf has been dug in considerable quantities along almost the whole of the land surface between the top of the Castell valley and Devil's Bridge; the old peat cuts are still visible landscape features in many locations. Many of the old footpaths which lead from the valley floors up onto the hilltops are still known as peat cutters tracks and have indeed been used for this purpose within living memory. One such track (PRN34862) is attested in oral sources as running from the direction of Erw Barfe farm across Tymawr farm and onto the extensive Derw turbary (PRN33188). Peat was brought down from the hills on *cartiau llusg* or sleds, usually with one horse before and one after, in order to better control the descent of the heavy loads down the steeper slopes (Elwyn Howells, pers. comm.). Peat deposits along the Castell valley floor were still being dug for domestic fuel during the second half of the 20th century (Elwyn Howells, pers. comm.).

2.3.8 The most obvious evidence of industrial activity in the survey area is of course associated with the metal mines of the district. The earliest direct evidence seen of mining in the survey area is shown on a Nanteos estate map of 1807 (NLW Nanteos 340), which shows lead workings in the vicinity of the Castell mine - although it is certain that local ore veins had been exploited long before this date. Two mine sites are found within the survey area; Castell or West Esgairlle (PRN9171) and Crown (PRN9354), although there are also numerous minor features associated with mines such as Temple Mine, Brynglas Mine, West Nantycreiau and Esgairlle which lie beyond the survey area boundary.

2.3.9 Castell Mine possesses the greatest number of surviving features, which include an impressive stone built wheelpit (PRN34951) an office building (Ty Wil, PRN34929) and part of the Crusher House and its wheelpit (PRN34952). However, much of the site has been bulldozed and little else other than levelled spoil tips remain.

2.3.10 The effect that the growth of metal mining activity during the 19th century had on the population of the district expressed itself in quite surprising ways. Although some new dwellings were built in both the villages and in open country to house the growing population, it is apparent that previously existing farms and cottages also housed a large proportion of the miners and their families. Indeed it appears likely that established local families accounted for a substantial proportion of the workforce. Comparison of the returns for the 1841 and 1881 Censuses, for properties within the survey area only, demonstrates quite clearly the remarkable changes in employment which occurred as mining activity reached its zenith in the district.

2.3.11 An interesting passage in the 18th century account "An Attempt to Describe Hafod" (Cumberland, 1796, 45), refers to the inhabitants of Devil's Bridge as being "chiefly miners and charcoal burners, or those who wash the black jack". This suggests that, despite the belief that woodland in this district had been decimated by early post-Mediaeval times, there was apparently sufficient woodland, surviving or regenerated, to sustain charcoal burning in the area until relatively recent times. It is perhaps significant that the field survey of Ty'n Llwyn farm, Devil's Bridge identified two clusters of charcoal burning

platforms (PRNs 34878-9). They are located in the only deciduous wood of any significance found above the steep valley slopes of the Rheidol gorge (Coed Ty'n Llwyn), and may indicate that the wood here has been managed and retained throughout the post-Mediaeval period.

2.3.12 One site within the survey area may be said to be elevated to the status of national importance by virtue of its associations with a prominent historical figure. This is the now ruinous Bodcoll Factory (PRN34892), formerly Ty'n Llwyn Mill, located on the northern side of the Afon Mynach. The renowned Methodist minister Dafydd Morgan, Ysbyty Ystwyth, famed for the role he played in the great religious revival of 1859, was born at the mill in 1814 and spent the first 10 years of his life here before moving to Pontrhydygroes (Morgan, 1906, 5). Comparison of the 1841 census, when a miller lived here, and 1881, when a woollen manufacturer was in residence, suggests that this was originally a corn mill, which was converted into a woollen factory. Although the mill buildings are now very ruinous, the site is noteworthy for the surviving wheelpit and a subterranean outflow which returned water from the wheelpit to the Afon Mynach.

2.3.13 Cwmergyr Chapel (PRN34940). This small, rural Methodist chapel was opened in 1883, as a branch of the Methodist chapel in Ponterwyd village, and closed in 1986. It is in the process of being converted into a private dwelling. Mr Elwyn Howells, Arfryn, was the last secretary of the chapel and retains all the chapel records. They provide interesting details of the make up of the chapel congregation during its 103 years of use. Throughout this period

membership was confined to a relatively small group of families, occupying farms along the Castell valley between Eisteddfa Gurig and Ponterwyd village. The only members to come from outside this area were from Blaenmyherin farm, at the head of

the Nant Syddion valley, some 3km to the south. Mr Howells recalls members of this family walking to chapel across the old peater's trackways across the moor.

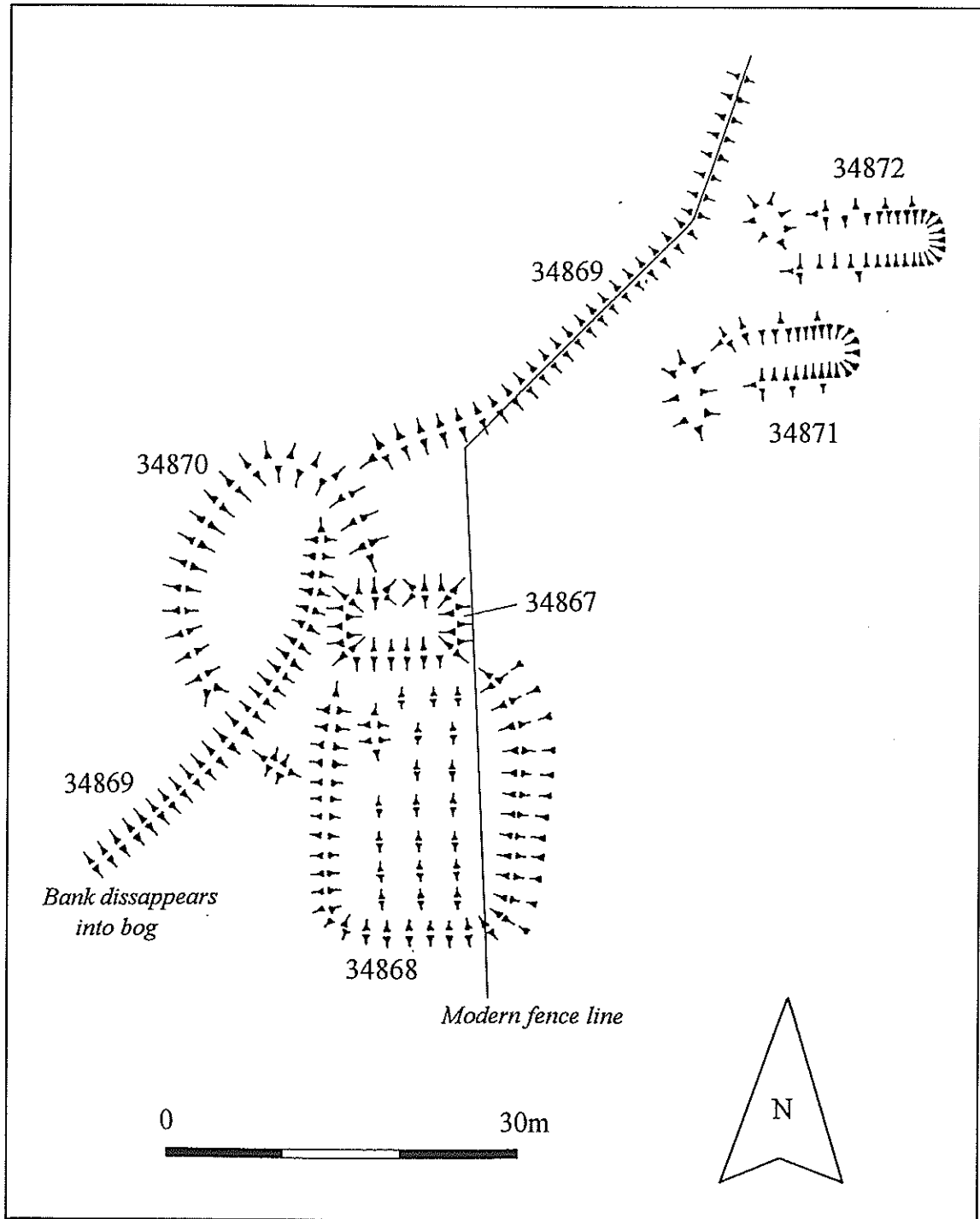


Fig.3; Plan of lluest on Banc Erw Barfe

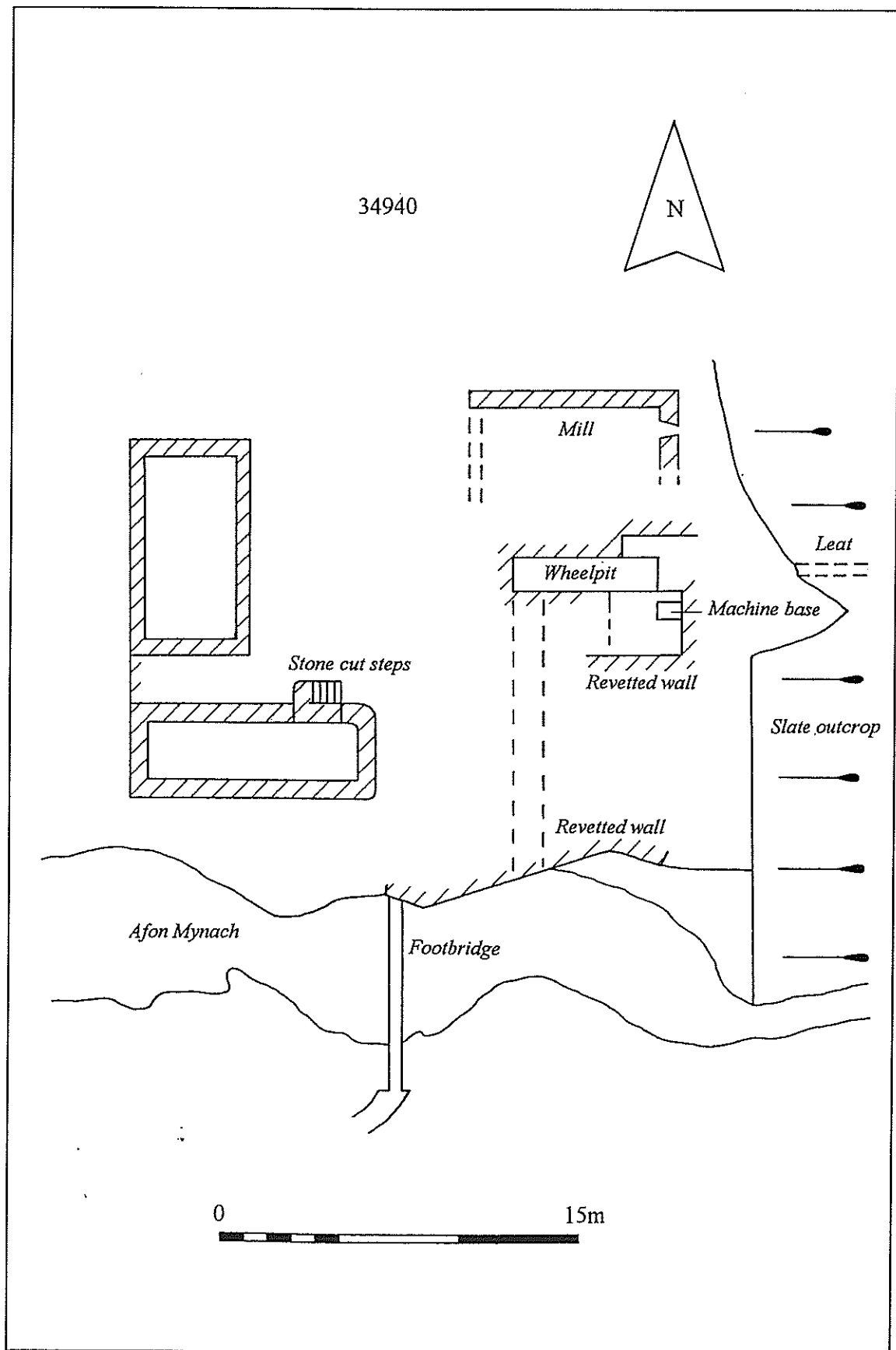


Fig. 4; Bodcoll Factory, birthplace of
Rev. Dafydd Morgan, Ysbyty.

3. GAZETTEER OF SITES

TABLE 1; Sites and features recorded during field survey.

PRN	NGR	NAME	TYPE	PERIOD	DESCRIPTION
34855	SN759790	Nant Maes	Cottage	Post Med	Ruinous stone building which appears to have served as an agricultural building at some stage but which is known to have been occupied as a dwelling during the 20th century.
34856	SN760790	Nant Gwynion I	DRS?	Med?;Post Med?	Faint earthwork traces of a rectilinear structure, 13m x 4m, within a small enclosure.
34857	SN761790	Nant Gwynion II	DRS;Hut platform	Med? Post Med?	Hut platform scooped into foot of slope. Ridge and furrow cultivation ridges across adjacent terrace.
34858	SN789765	Banc Ty Mawr	Cairn	Bronze Age	10m in diameter x 1m high on natural terrace between two prominent hilltops at the top of Banc Ty Mawr.
34859	SN766793	Mynydd yr Ychen	DRS; Long Hut	Med? Post Med?	Well preserved earth & stone built rectilinear dwelling, 13m x 6m, no associated features recorded. In well sheltered position.
34860	SN782818; SN793815	Lluest yr Ochr; Y Glog	Peat Cutters Trackway	Post Med	Partly improved trackway which links Fagwr fawr and the turbary on Draws Drum.

34861	SN775811; SN780806	Fuches Wen	Peat Cutters Trackway	Post Med	Grassy trackway which can be followed from Cefn Fuches up to turbaries on Fuches Wen.
34862	SN764790; SN771799	Banc Ty Mawr	Peat Cutters Trackway	Post Med	Grassy trackway which crosses Banc Ty Mawr , heading in the direction of the large turbary on Y Dderw.
34863	SN76407919; SN76327970	Mynydd yr Ychen	Boundary Wall	Post Med	Well built stone wall, surviving up to 1.5m high. This is the boundary of enclosed land on early Nanteos estate maps.
34864	SN76277930	Mynydd yr Ychen	Goose Pen	Post Med.	Small stone built pen, 6m x 4m; walls complete but now roofless.
34865	SN75407813; SN75787884	Erw Barfe	Boundary bank	Med? Post Med?	Substantial earth boundary bank, 3-4m in width with a silted up ditch on the eastern side. Possibly the old <i>clawdd eithaf</i> or boundary of the common - early Nanteos estate maps certainly show this line as the boundary between enclosed and common land.
34866	SN75637811	Banc Erw Barfe	DRS; Lluest	Med? Post Med	Classic <i>lluest</i> site. Rectilinear earth built dwelling appended to a small enclosure with evidence of lazy bed cultivation. Two fairly large scoops in hillside nearby appear to be either the foundations of ancillary structures or root vegetable storage clamps. (See Fig. 3)
34867	SN75637811	Banc Erw Barfe	Dwelling	Med? Post Med	Dwelling of PRN 34866
34868	SN75637811	Banc Erw Barfe	Enclosure; Garden	Post Med	Lazy bed cultivation plot of PRN34866

34869	SN75637811	Banc Erw Barfe	Boundary Bank	Post Med	Bank of undetermined relationship to PRN34866 - appears to be cut through by enclosure boundary PRN34870 at one point, but then interrupt the same boundary at another point. Eventually disappears or stops in boggy area alongside Nant Ty'n Llwyn stream.
34870	SN75637811	Banc Erw Barfe	Enclosure	Post Med	Small sub-circular enclosure, c.25m x 15m; appended to the dwelling PRN34867
34871	SN75647812	Banc Erw Barfe	Potato Clamp?	Post Med	One of a pair of narrow scoops cut into slope near settlement site PRN34866; each c.10m x 5m overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Possibly potato clamps.
34872	SN75647812	Banc Erw Barfe	Potato Clamp?	Post Med	As PRN34871
34873	SN75257908	Ysbyty Cynfyn Churchyard	Standing Stone	Bronze Age?	Large monolith, over 3m high, incorporated into the northern side of the churchyard wall.
34874	SN75357823	Danyllan; Lan Fawr	Dwelling	Post Med	Danyllan house site. This is an deserted farmstead or smallholding (PRN33194) which was integrated into Erw Barfe farm by 1764 (NLW Nanteos 339) but remained occupied until late 19th century. Now an earthwork site. Rectilinear earthwork, on terrace quarried into a rocky knoll.
34875	SN75357823	Danyllan; Lan Fawr	Enclosure	Post Med	Paddock or garden associated with Danyllan farm.

34876	SN75357823	Danyllan; Lan Fawr	Sheepfold	Post Med	A large, rectilinear enclosure c.17m x 20m west of the dwelling at Danyllan. Marked <i>sheepfold</i> on early OS maps.
34877	SN75357823	Danyllan; Lan Fawr	Building?	Post Med?	Rectangular earthwork feature appended to sheepfold PRN34877; possibly an earlier dwelling or an ancillary building of Danyllan farm complex.
34878	SN74837713	Coed Ty'n Llwyn	Charcoal Burning Platforms	Post Med	Four sub-circular platforms, each on average 4-5m in diameter.
34879	SN74907712	Coed Ty'n Llwyn	Charcoal Burning Platforms	Post Med	Two sub-circular platforms, the largest c. 6m in diameter.
34880	SN74837880	Ty Coch	Cottage	Post Med	Abandoned dwelling and garden enclosure - almost no trace of house above ground.
34881	SN75147795; SN75137813	Nant Ty'n Llwyn	Boundary Bank	Med? Post Med?	Single boundary defining western side of a natural terrace on which DRS PRN34882 is located.
34882	SN75167810	Nant Ty'n Llwyn	DRS; Lluest	Med? Post Med?	Small rectilinear dwelling set on a artificially levelled platform above a terrace at the foot of a steep hill. Sheltered site with a earth bank defining one side of the terrace.
34883	SN75237808	Nant Ty'n Llwyn	Ridge & Furrow	Med? Post Med?	Small area of cultivation some 40m to east of DRS PRN34882.
34884	SN75387750	Bryn Ty'n Llwyn	DRS? Hafod? Lluest?	Med? Post Med?	Group of platforms and scoops on exposed hillside on upper portion of Ty'n Llwyn farm. Includes 3 longhuts (PRNs 34886-8) and a possible associated boundary bank (PRN34885). Huts face south and are simple scoops into slope.

34885	SN75387750	Bryn Ty'n Llwyn	Boundary Bank	Med? Post Med?	Bank passes through cluster of hut platforms and runs northwards to a small bog. It then turns eastwards and runs along the southern edge of the bog. Possibly and enclosure associated with DRS PRN34884.
34886	SN75387750	Bryn Ty'n Llwyn	Platform	Med? Post Med?	9m x 3.5m. Cuts across contour.
34887	SN75387750	Bryn Ty'n Llwyn	Platform	Med? Post Med?	6m x 3.5m. Cross contour.
34888	SN75387750	Bryn Ty'n Llwyn	Hut platform?	Med? Post Med?	12m x 6m. Parallel to contour.
34889	SN75387750	Bryn Ty'n Llwyn	Spring	General	Some 50m downslope to east of hut group.
34890	SN75387750	Bryn Ty'n Llwyn	Platform	Med? Post Med?	Small scoop 4m x 2m.
34891	SN78778159	Nant Rhys	Platform	Med? Post Med	Small platform measuring 6m x 3m, near DRS PRN34900.
34892	SN74927651	Bodcoll Factory; Ty'n Llwyn Mill	Corn Mill; Woollen Mill	Post Med.	Ruinous site comprising remains of cottage and mill buildings, but poorly preserved. Wheelpit (for an overshot wheel) and mill race survive and also a subterranean tailrace passage from the wheelpit back to the river.
34893	SN78568168	Lluest yr Ochr	Platform; Potato clamp?	Post Med?	Narrow scoop in slope, 7m x 3m. Part of PRN9422, DRS at Lluest yr Ochr.
34894	SN78548168	Lluest yr Ochr	Enclosure	Post Med	Area c.30m x 20m enclosed around main dwelling at Lluest yr Ochr (PRN9422) by a earth bank. Partly damaged by a modern trackway.
34895	SN78568167	Lluest yr Ochr	Platform	Post Med?	Small platform 6m x 3m, some 30m SE of dwelling PRN9422.
34896	SN78557166	Lluest yr Ochr	Platform	Post Med?	Platform measures 5m+ x 3.5m and is located 30m S. of dwelling PRN9422.
34897	SN78588167	Lluest yr Ochr	Platform	Post Med?	Platform measures 6m x 3m and is c.80m E. of dwelling PRN9422.
34898	SN78568170	Lluest yr Ochr	Enclosure	Post Med?	A large enclosure lies just E. of the main cluster of features around dwelling PRN9422, but its relationship is unknown.

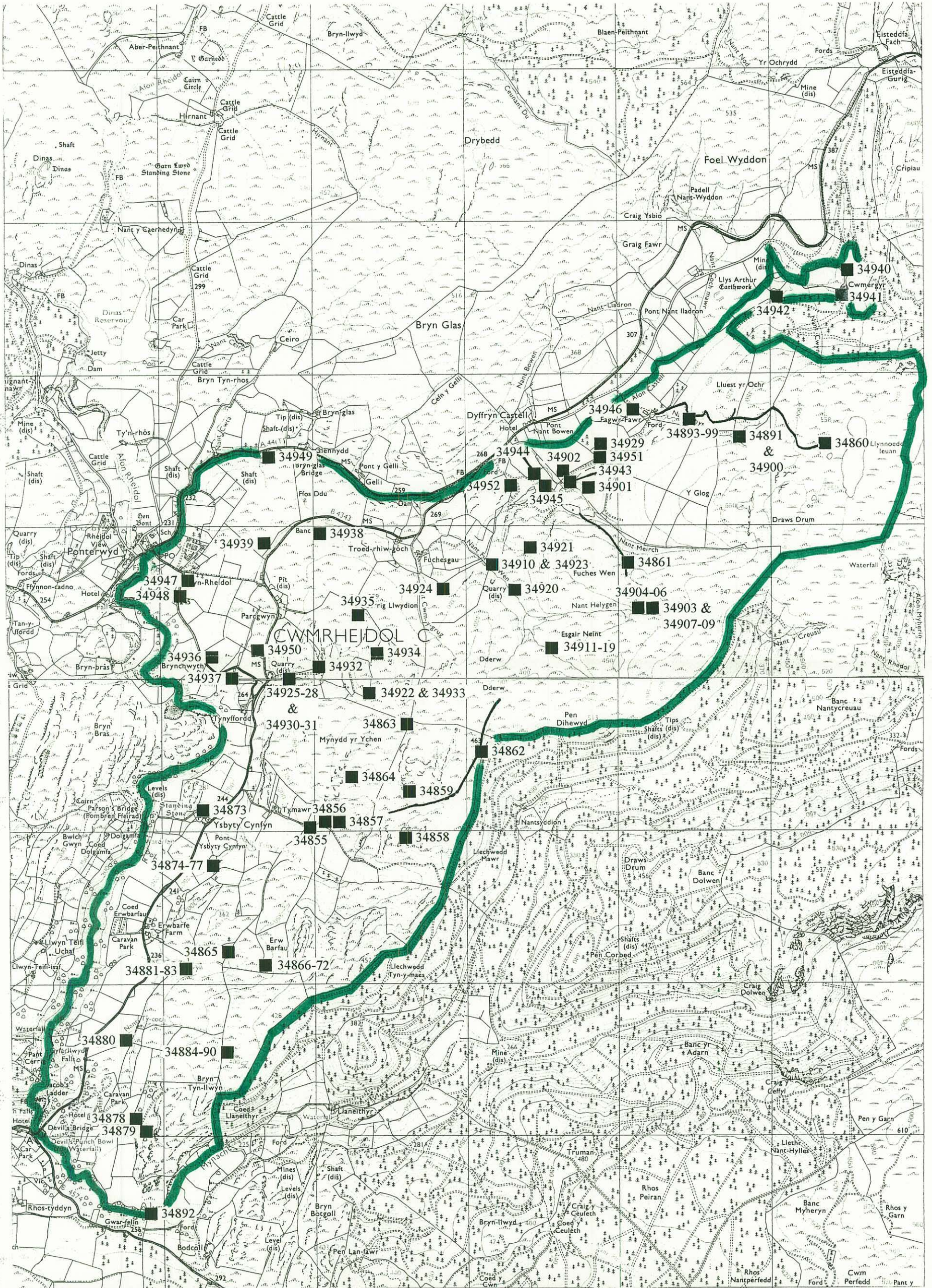
34899	SN78608167	Llest yr Ochr	Platform	Post Med?	c.50m E. of PRN34897 is another small platform measuring 6m x 3m.
34900	SN78758159	Nant Rhys	DRS; Dwelling	Med?;Post Med?	Earthwork remains of a two cell DRS measuring c.7.5m x 3.5m. On terrace above stream. A small platform PRN34891 lies s short distance to E.
34901	SN77808122	Nant Meirch	Cottage	Post Med	Ruined stone cottage built on cross-contour platform and associated with a small garden and an unusual feature which appears to be a cart loading bay.
34902	SN776814	Ty'n y Cwm	Building	Post Med	Ruins of a rectangular building, lime mortared. Unknown purpose - presumably associated with Castell Mine.
34903	SN78248043	Nant yr Helygen	DRS?	Med?;Post Med?	Group of platforms (PRNs 34907-9).
34904	SN78058050	Nant yr Helygen	Platform	Med?;Post Med?	Small platform, 6m x 3m, probably associated with DRS PRN9423.
34905	SN78118052	Nant yr Helygen	Platform	Med?;Post Med?	Small platform, 6m x 4m, probably associated with DRS PRN9423.
34906	SN78138058	Nant yr Helygen	Enclosure	Med?;Post Med?	Enclosure adjacent to DRS PRN9423. Divided into two portions - 18 x 16m & 14 x 12m.
34907	SN78208043	Nant yr Helygen	Platform	Med?;Post Med?	Shallow wide platform, 7m x 5m defined on W. side by an wide earth bank.
34908	SN78228043	Nant yr Helygen	Platform	Med?;Post Med?	Narrow platform between two earth banks, 10m x 8.5m overall, but banks are 3.5m wide, leaving a 1.5m wide platform.
34909	SN78248043	Nant yr Helygen	Platform	Med?;Post Med?	Sub-circular cut into slope, defined by slight earth banks either side with entrance facing downslope. 8m x 7m.

34910	SN77148076	Nant Fucheswen	Platform	Post Med	Rectilinear platform 6m x 5m, alongside a larger sheepfold (PRN34923). Possibly a small dwelling.
34911	SN775802	Neint	Enclosure; Cultivation ridges	Med?;Post Med	Large enclosure associated with Lluest Neint; ridge and furrow across flat area.
34912	SN77518018	Neint	Platform	Med?;Post Med	Small platform measuring 5m x 4m.
34913	SN77538016	Neint	Platform	Med?;Post Med	Long narrow cut, measuring 8m x 5m, abuts S. side of PRN34914.
34914	SN77648015	Neint	Platform	Med?;Post Med	Sub-circular platform, 6m x 5m.
34915	SN77618008	Neint	Platform	Med?;Post Med	Sub-circular platform, 6m diameter.
34916	SN77598012	Neint	Platform	Med?;Post Med	Rectilinear platform at stream edge, 10m x 4m overall.
34917	SN77688011	Neint	Platform	Med?;Post Med	Sub-circular platform, 5m x 4m.
34918	SN77698010	Neint	Platform	Med?;Post Med	Rectangular platform, 7m x 6m.
34919	SN77608015	Neint	Platform	Med?;Post Med	Apparent platform, 7m in length, but W. side destroyed by bank of enclosure PRN34911.
34920	SN77298059	Nant Fucheswen	Dam; Reservoir	Post Med	Now breached dam which once held back water for a reservoir supplying Castell mine.
34921	SN77408084	Fucheswen	Hut Platform	Med?;Post Med?	Possible hut platform; 5m x 4m.
34922	SN76357987	Llain Las	DRS?	Med?;Post Med?	Earthwork remains of a two cell rectilinear structure, 11m x 7m. Alongside stone cottage PRN34933.
34923	SN77138076	Fucheswen	Sheepfold	Post Med.	Defined by earth banks on three sides, but open of the side facing stream; 10.5 x 8.5m. Platform PRN34910 is located alongside.

34924	SN76848058	Fuchsgau	Unknown	Post Med	Two scoops in hillside, one above the other, overall dimensions 13m x 6m; internal measurements of scoops is 3 x 1.5m and 7.5 x 1.5m. Possibly potato clamps, but may be mining features.
34925	SN75827999	Nant Cwm-Bar	Reservoir?	Post Med	Two ponds created by damming the Nant Cwm-bar with earth & stone dams. Possibly associated with the old Crown Mine.
34926	SN75838003	Crown Mine	Building	Post Med	Mine building? Now very ruinous, gables collapsed. & 4m x 5.3m.
34927	SN75827993	Crown Mine	Mine building	Post Med	Pumping Wheel Pit & Balance bob-pit of Crown mine. Wheelpit infilled, balance bob pit ruinous.
34928	SN75837993	Crown Mine	Mine shaft	Post Med	Engine shaft of Crown mine.
34929	SN77858142	Ty Wil	Mine Building; Dwelling	Post Med	Castell Mine office building converted into a dwelling during 20th century. Now roofless and derelict
34930	SN75848013	Cwm-Bar	Sheep shelter	Post Med	One of several small stone built walls along the northern side of the valley which oral testimony explains as sheep shelters built by a previous owner of Tynant.
34931	SN75928003	Nant Cwm-Bar	Pond; Reservoir	Post Med	Another pond created by damming the stream for an unknown purpose - possibly associated with the Crown mine. c. 30m in diameter.
34932	SN76028006	Nant Cwm-Bar	Mining features?	Post Med	3 trenches approx. 1m deep and up to 10m long x 3m wide with excavated spoil dumped alongside. Probably prospecting trenches associated with one of the neighbouring metal mines.

34933	SN76357988	Llain Las	Dwelling	Post Med	Small stone built cottage in ruinous condition; occupied until 20th century. Alongside are the earthwork remains of a rectangular, two cell structure which may be an earlier dwelling (PRN34922).
34934	SN764801	Cerrig Llwydion	Mining features?	Post Med	4 trenches scattered across hill, up to 15m x 5m in size. Probably prospecting trenches.
34935	SN762804	Cerrig Llwydion	Mining features?	Post Med	4 trenches 30 - 35 m apart in N - S progression. Probably prospecting trenches.
34936	SN753801	Brynychwyth	Mining features?	Post Med	Three scoops in hillside, c.12m x 6m, which may be hut platforms but seem more likely to be associated with quarrying or mining.
34937	SN754800	Brynychwyth	Drainage Adit	Post Med	A small opening in the bank of the Nant Cwm-Bar below the B4343 road appears to be a drainage adit, perhaps from the Crown Mine - it certainly is a water outfall.
34938	SN760809	Banc Brynychwyth	Cairnfield?	Bronze Age?	Approx. 9-10 small earth & stone mounds were observed in this area, on average measuring 4m x 3m and c.0.2 - 0.3m in height. Ground does not otherwise appear disturbed by mining or peat cutting activity.
34939	SN787808	Banc Brynychwyth	Sheep shelter; Folly	Post Med	Small stone building, now roofless, with buff brick detail around door and window openings. Oral sources indicate that a previous owner of the land built this as an elaborate sheep shelter in the early 20th century. Another, complete, example exists nearby (PRN 19878).

34940	SN794826	Cwmergyr Chapel	Chapel	Post Med	Disused Methodist chapel, now being converted into a private dwelling. Open from 1883-1986.
34941	SN79448250	Cwmergyr	Sheep Dip	Post Med	Sheep dip complex which includes a damaged stone dam, a small enclosure and trackways leading into and out of the stream. Used within living memory.
34942	SN79018249	Ty'n Ochr	Dwelling; Cottage	Post Med	House site now on edge of forestry. Little remaining evidence of dwelling and any associated features.
34943	SN77658129	Nant Meirch	Potato Clamps	Post Med	Four small clamps on natural terrace. Average size 3m x 2m.
34944	SN77478132	Tynewydd	Cottage	Post Med	Ruinous stone cottage
34945	SN77528127	Ty'nycwm	Cottage	Post Med	Ruinous stone cottage
34946	SN78158171	Glanyrafon	Cottage	Post Med.	Cottage now destroyed.
34947	SN75208065	Ffosddu	Mining features	Post Med.	Mine workings.
34948	SN75138053	Ponterwyd	Chapel	Post Med	Small chapel of ease? With bellcote. Now converted into a dwelling. 20th century.
34949	SN75718123	Bryn Glas Mine	Wheelpit	Post Med	Ruinous remains of a stone built wheel pit associated with the old Brynglas Lead Mine; no other evidence survives and the main part of the mine site (on the opposite bank of the Castell) has been levelled.
34950	SN75628017	Parcgwyn	Unknown; Sheepfold?	Post Med?	Small semi-circular or sub-circular enclosure, c.15m in diameter. Possibly interrupted by or appended to another boundary bank - the southern portion may have been destroyed by land improvement.
34951	SN77858147	Castell Mine	Wheelpit	Post Med	Substantial and well preserved structure, although it has lost its associated buildings.
34952	SN77308127	Castell Mine	Crusher House	Post Med	Partly demolished, but retains a wheel pit.



4. APPENDIX I

Select details from the 1841 and 1881 Census Returns for properties in the study area. Note the change in the nature of the community from an agricultural to a semi-industrial one during the intervening years. NB: This

district was recorded as being part of Llanbadarn y Creuddyn Uchaf township in the census returns, indeed, it is also shown as being part of that township on the Llanbadarn Parish Tithe Map. It has been known as part of Cwmrheidol parish since the late 19th century.

1841	1881
BRYNCHWYTH John Jones - Farmer Jane Jones - Wife Mary Jones Rachel Jones Ruth Jones Jane Jones Daniel Jones Ann Jones James Davies - Male servant Margaret Thomas	BRYNCHWYTH 1 Lewis Williams - Farmer of 380 acres John Williams - Son Lewis Williams - Son Elinor Williams - Daughter Isaac Williams - Son BRYNCHWYTH 2 John Evans - Lead Miner Jane Evans - Wife Thomas Owen - Scholar
CWMERGYR John Morgans - Farmer Ann Morgans ? Deborah Morgans William Morgans Margaret Morgans Mary Morgans Daniel Morgans Evan Howell - Male servant Rees Jones - Male servant Dorothy Williams - Female servant	CWMERGYR John Howells - Farmer of 1900 acres Eleanor Howells - Wife Eliza Howells John Howells Catherine Howells Thomas Howells Mary Ball - General Domestic Servant
	DANYRALLT Elizabeth Rowlands - Pauper
DOL Y FAGWR FAWR Griffith Howells - Farmer Rachel Howells - Wife Benjamin Howells Abraham Howells - Apprentice Smith Ann Howells John Howells	FAGWR FAWR Margaret Jones - Farmer David Jones - Lead Miner William Jones - Lead Miner Isaac Jones - Lead Miner
ERWBARFE Daniel Rowlands - Farmer Elisabeth Rowlands - Wife Ann Rowlands Frances Rowlands Margaretta Rowlands Rowland Rowlands - Male servant John Lewis - Male servant Ebeneser Evans - Male servant Ann Jones - Female servant	ERWBARFE David Jones - Farmer of 416 acres Margaret Jones - Wife Mary Jones - Daughter John Jones - Scholar Margaret Jones - Scholar Evan Morris - Farm servant (indoors) Eliza Daniel - Domestic

ESGAIRWYNION Abraham Hughes - Labourer Elisabeth Hughes - Wife Ann Thomas Sophiah Thomas - Female servant	ESGAIRWYNION John Wood - Lead Miner Sarah Wood - Wife Elizabeth A. Oliver - Adopted daughter
FUCHESGAU David Jones - Farmer Elizabeth Jones - Wife Daniel Jones Evan Roberts - Male servant James Davies - Male servant Elizabeth Jones - Female servant	Not listed
FFOSDDU Jane Griffith - Pauper Mary Jones - Independent means	FFOSDDU 1 William Hancock - Lead Miner Eleanor Hancock - Wife FFOSDDU 2 Dinah Edwards - Widow Elisabeth Edwards - Servant John Edwards - Lead Miner Jane Edwards - Scholar Margaret Edwards - Scholar
GLANYRAFON David Jones - Cooper Elisabeth Jones - Widow Jane Jones Jane Edwards Susannah Edwards	GLANYRAFON Thomas Rees - Lead Miner Jane Rees - Wife John Rees - Lead Miner Thomas Rees - Lead Miner Edward Rees - Scholar Mary A. Rees - Scholar
GWARFYCHES (Cefnfuches) Morgan Morgans - Miner Catherine Morgans - Mother Ann Evans Mary Davies Reuben Jones	CEFNFUCHES Morgan Morgans - Shepherd Eliza Morgans - Wife William Morgans - Lead Miner Joseph Morgans - Lead Miner David Morgans - Lead Miner
	GREEN VILLA John Evans - Stone Mason Jane Evans - Wife Thomas Evans
LANFAWR Thomas Evans - Labourer Elizabeth Evans - Wife Evan Evans James Evans David Evans Elizabeth Griffiths - Female servant	Not listed

NANTMEIRCH David Morgans - Farmer David Jones - Male servant Mary Morgans - Female servant	Not listed
	NANTYMAES Uninhabited
TROEDRHIWGOCH William Mason - Farmer Ann Mason - Wife Mary Mason David Griffiths - Male servant	TROEDRHIWGOCH Evan Howells - Farmer of 98 acres Mary Howells - Wife
TYCOCH Uninhabited	TYCOCH James Parry - Lead Miner Margaret Parry - Wife John Parry - Scholar Thomas Parry Mary Parry - Scholar Margretta Parry - Scholar Annie Parry - Scholar
TYMAWR James James - Farmer Jane James - Wife Elisabeth James John James Margaret James John Jones - Male servant Ann Howells - Female servant Elisabeth Powell - Female servant	TYMAWR Stephen Blackwell - Farmer 351 acres Elizabeth Davies - Domestic John Jenkins - Farm servant (indoors)
TYNEWYDD John Jones - Labourer Margaret Jones - Wife Mary Jones David Jones Dinah Jones	TYNEWYDD Mary Evans - Farmer Anne Evans - Dressmaker Margretta Evans - Scholar
TY'N LLWYN David Jones - Farmer Catherine Jones Daniel Jones Mary Jones Naomi Jones Ruth Jones John Jones David Jones Catherine Jones Daniel Jones - Male servant	TY'N LLWYN David Jones - Farmer of 383 acres John Jones - Brother David Oliver - Farm servant (indoor) Catherine Jones - Domestic Jane Evans - Domestic Jonathan Davies - Shepherd

<p>TY'N LLWYN MILL (Bodcoll Mill) John Davies - Carpenter Mary Davies - Wife Jane Jones William Evans - Miller</p>	<p>BODCOLL MILL John Davies - Wool manufacturer Jane Davies - Wife</p>
<p>TY'N Y CWM David Owens - Labourer Elinor Jones - Wife Ann Jones</p>	<p>TY'N Y CWM Rees Morgans - Lead Miner Margaret - Wife Elizabeth A. Morgans Bertha I. Morgans Morgan Morgans Samuel E. Morgans</p>
	<p>TY'N YR OCHR Thomas Rees - Lead Miner Ruth Rees - Wife John Rees Samuel Rees</p>
<p>TY'N Y FFORDD Thomas Morgans - Farmer Jane Morgans (Mother) Elizabeth Morgans David Jones - Male servant</p>	<p>TY'N Y FFORDD Thomas Morgan - Farmer 250 acres Jane Morgan - Wife Thomas Morgan Elizabeth D. Morgan</p>
<p>WENALLT Richard Williams - Labourer Margaret Williams - Wife Elisabeth Williams Mary Williams Richard Williams Ann Williams</p>	<p>WENALLT Evan Jenkins - Lead Miner Mary A. Jenkins - Wife John Jenkins - Scholar Thomas Jenkins - Scholar Mary Jenkins Sarah Jenkins</p>
<p>YSBYTTY GATE Elisabeth Morgan - Widow Ann Morgan Hugh Morgan</p>	<p>YSBYTTY GATE Edward Jones - Lead Miner Sarah Jones - Wife Anne Evans - Visitor (Sailor's wife)</p>

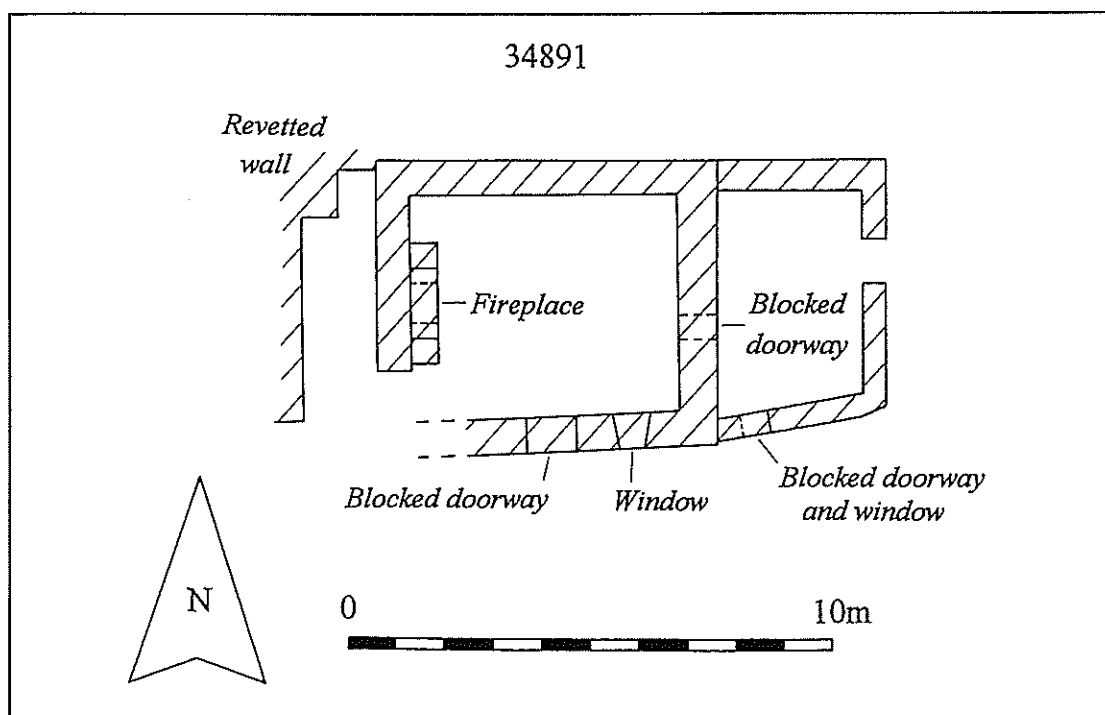


Fig.7; Plan of Wenallt Cottage (PRN34891)

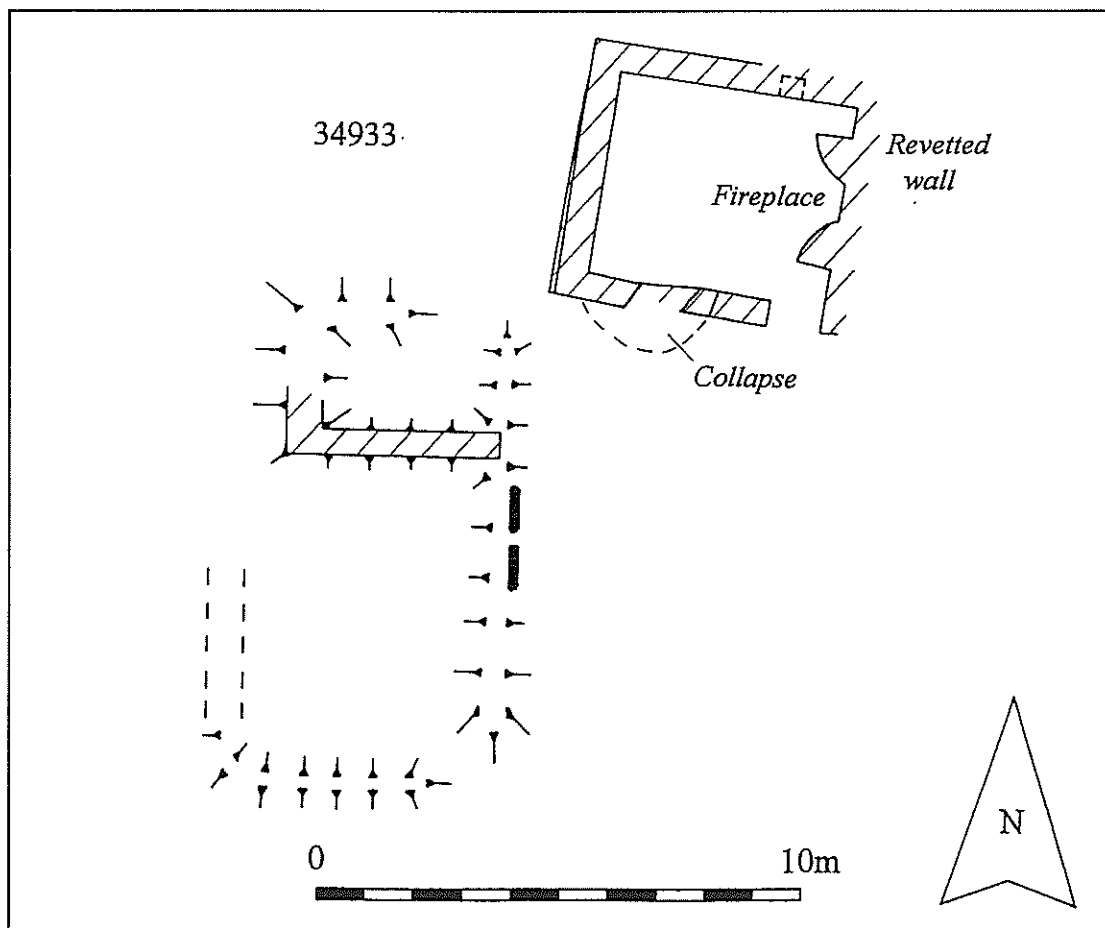


Fig.8; Plan of stone cottage and possible earlier dwelling or ancillary building at Llain Las (PRN34933)

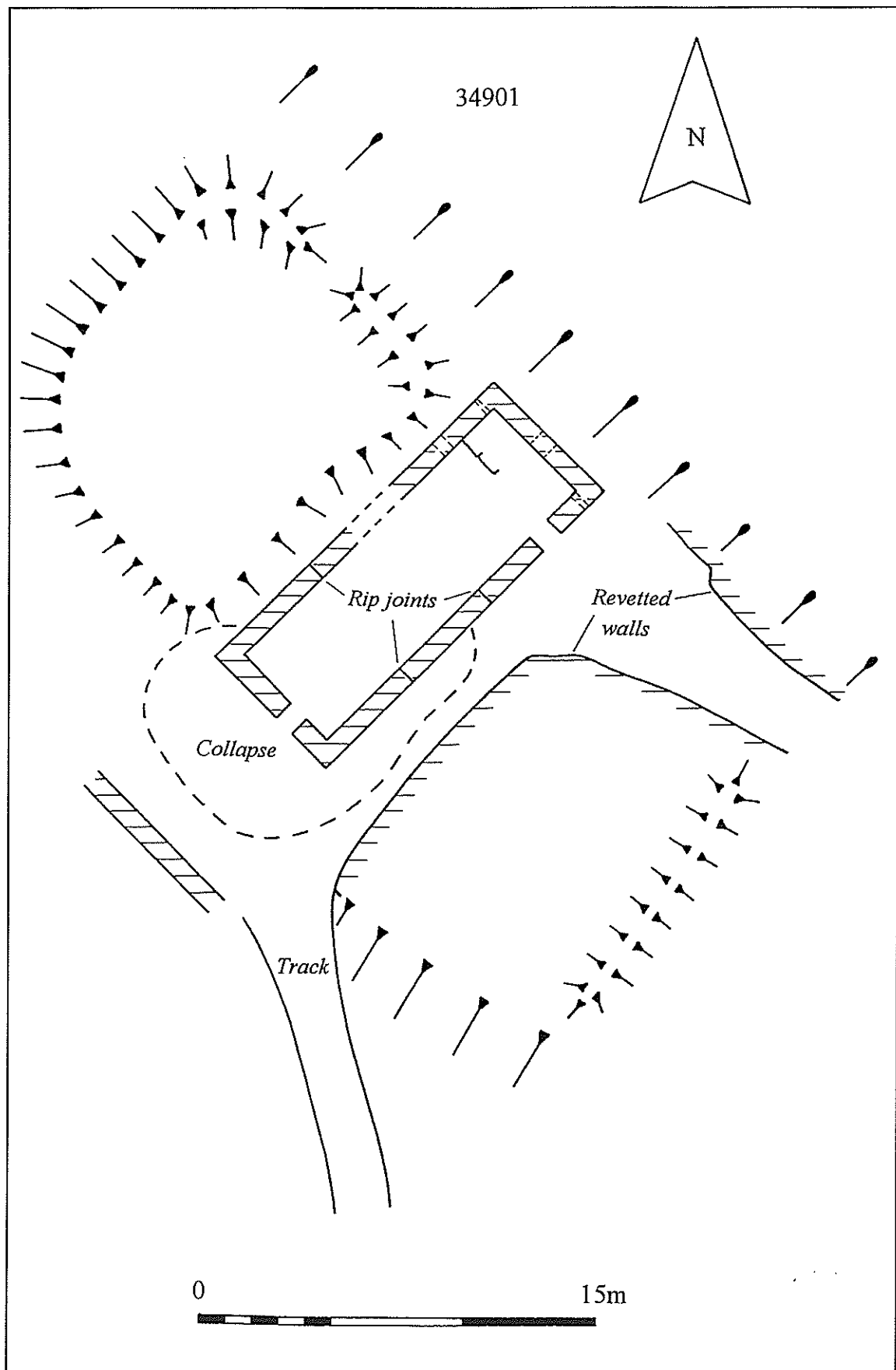


Fig. 9; Plan of Nant Meirch cottage (PRN34901) and immediate environs.

4. APPENDIX II

In 1804, the Rev. J. Evans, London, travelled through South Wales. His journal was subsequently published and includes a classic description of a peasant's cottage in the Ceredigion uplands. The example described was located near Ystrad Meurig, but it is undoubtedly typical of many dwellings on marginal land in Ceredigion during the 18th and 19th century, and represents a type of dwelling which may have much older antecedents as the abode of the impoverished peasantry of the mid-Wales upland district. It is likely that some of the deserted upland settlements recorded during this field survey were comparable in form, function and date. The following passage is taken from Evans' journal (1804, 349), and refers to the home of a peat cutter's family of two adults and three children.

"It was partly formed by an excavation in the slate rock, and partly by walls of mud mixed with chopped rushes, covered with segs, and having a wattled or basket work chimney. The entrance was in the gable end, facing the south east, which was defended during the night, or in very cold weather, by a wattled hurdle, clothed with rushes. A wall of turfs for fuel served as a partition for the bed-room, furnished with a bed of heath and dried rushes in one corner. The furniture was such as necessity dictated: some loose stones formed the grate; two large ones, with a plank across, supplied the place of chairs; a kettle, with a back stone for baking oaten cakes, answered every culinary purpose; and two coarse earthen pitchers stood by for the preserving or carrying water and dodgriafel, the usual beverage of the family..."

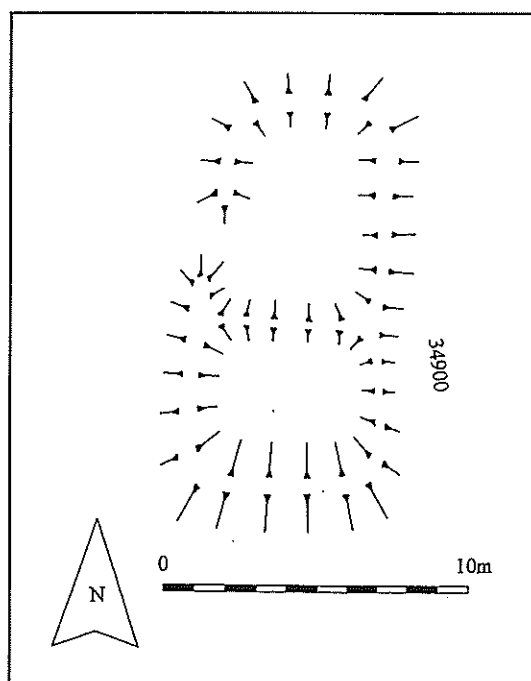


Fig. 10; Plan of deserted dwelling at Nant Rhys (PRN 34900).

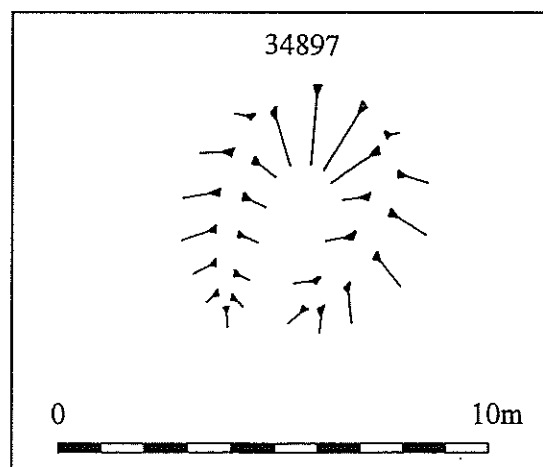


Fig. 11; PRN34897, Small platform at Llust yr Ochr. Such features are frequently found in association with deserted llustau and possibly represent structures associated with storage or the penning of animals or fowl.

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