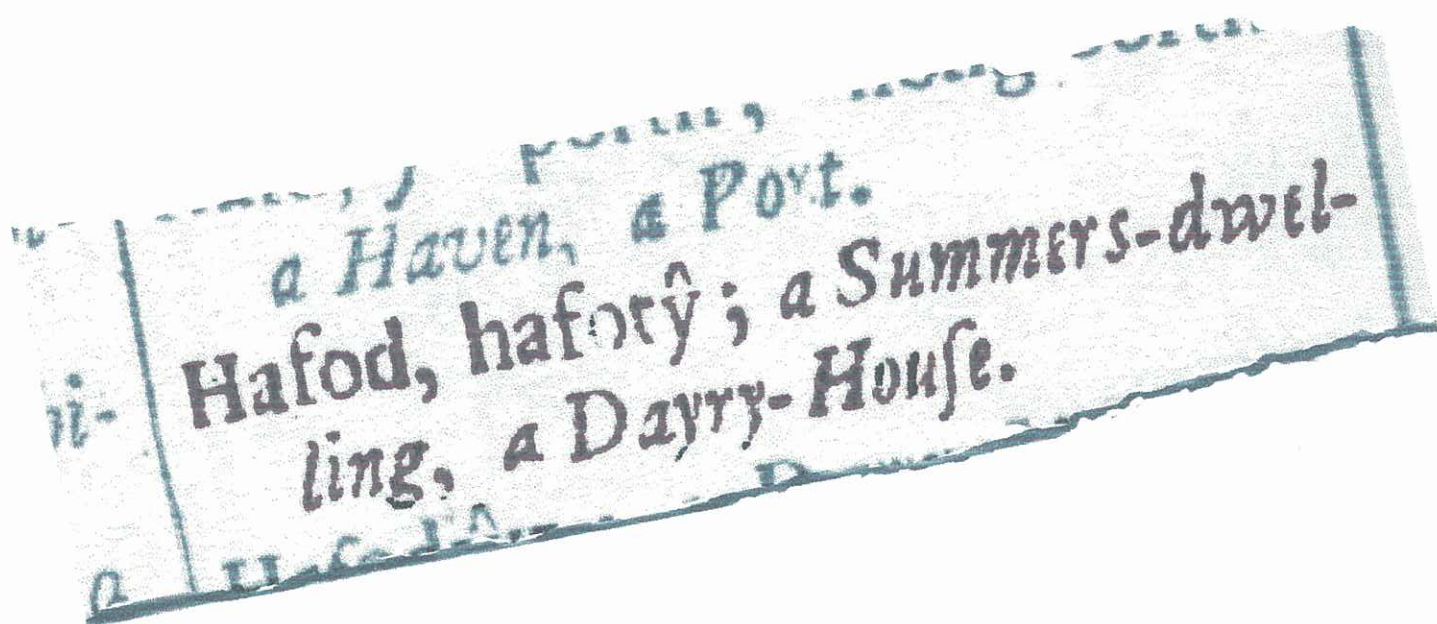


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- 1998-1999 Survey -



Report prepared for **Cadw**

By: Paul Sambrook and Richard Ramsey

ACA Report No. PRN 35966

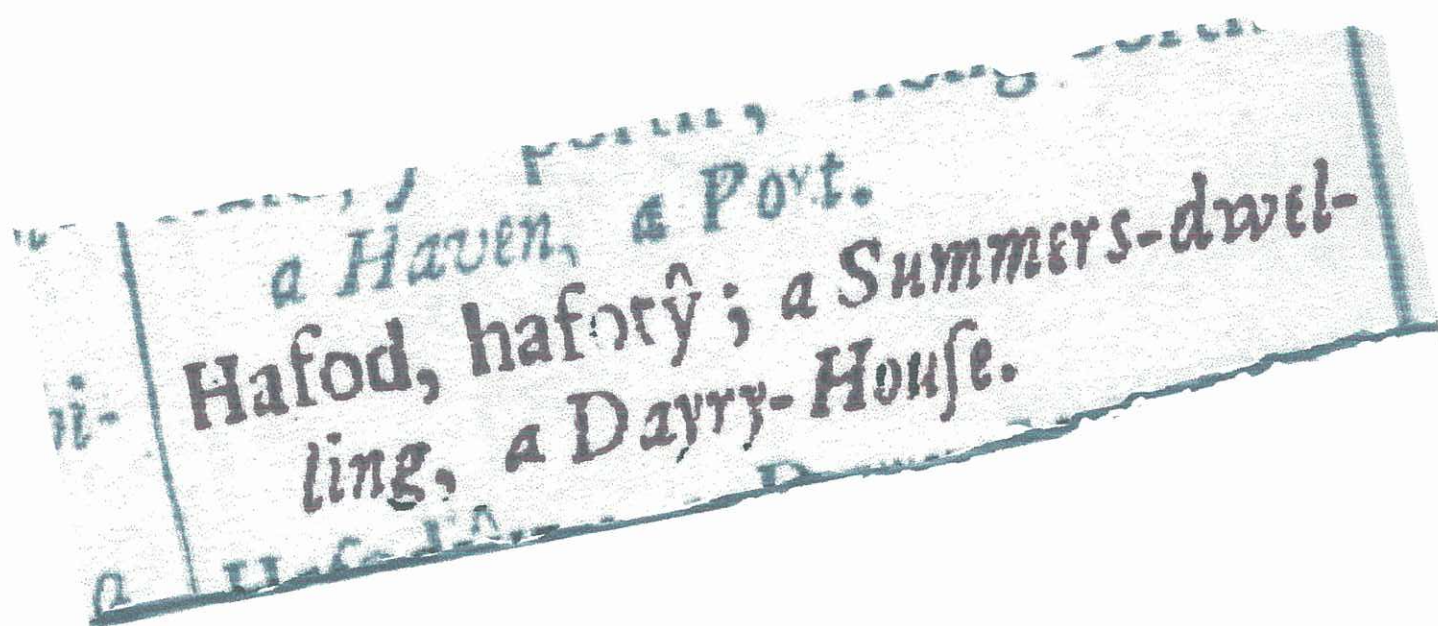
March 1999



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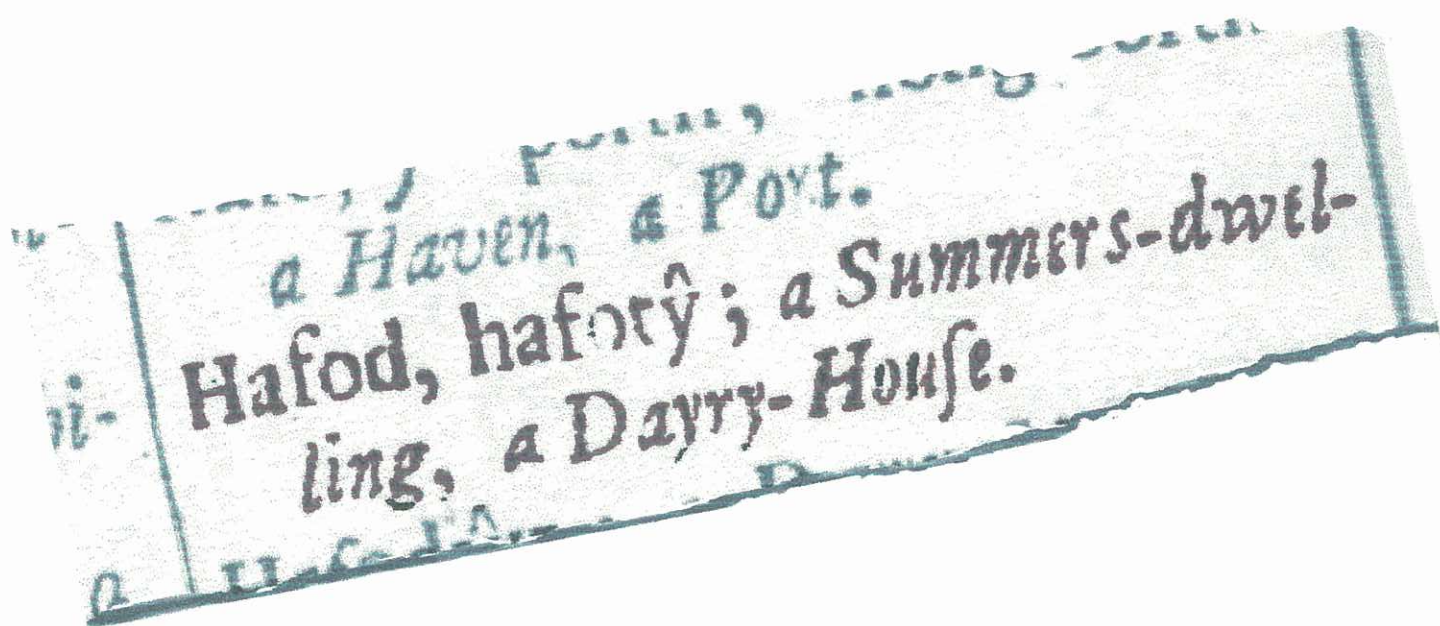
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**SECTION A:  
AN OVERVIEW OF  
THREE YEARS' SURVEY**



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

This Cadw funded project is the third year of a study of the archaeological evidence for mediaeval or later deserted rural settlement in the three counties of south-west Wales, namely Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, complementing similar projects elsewhere in Wales under the auspices of the Gwynedd and Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trusts (GAT and CPAT).

The project is being carried out by Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology (ACA) and has mostly looked at evidence of deserted settlement sites in the region's uplands. It began with a pilot study of the existing evidence in selected areas during 1996-7, followed by further work in six new study areas during 1997-8. The programme of fieldwork and desktop research was extended to a further six areas in 1998-9 and this report presents both an overview of the three years survey work and the findings of the 1998-9 project.

## 1.1. THE PHYSICAL BACKGROUND.

The counties of Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire occupy the broad peninsula which lies to the west of the Cambrian Mountain range (see Fig. 1). The Cambrian Mountains and some of their outlying fragments form the physical background to the ACA study areas.

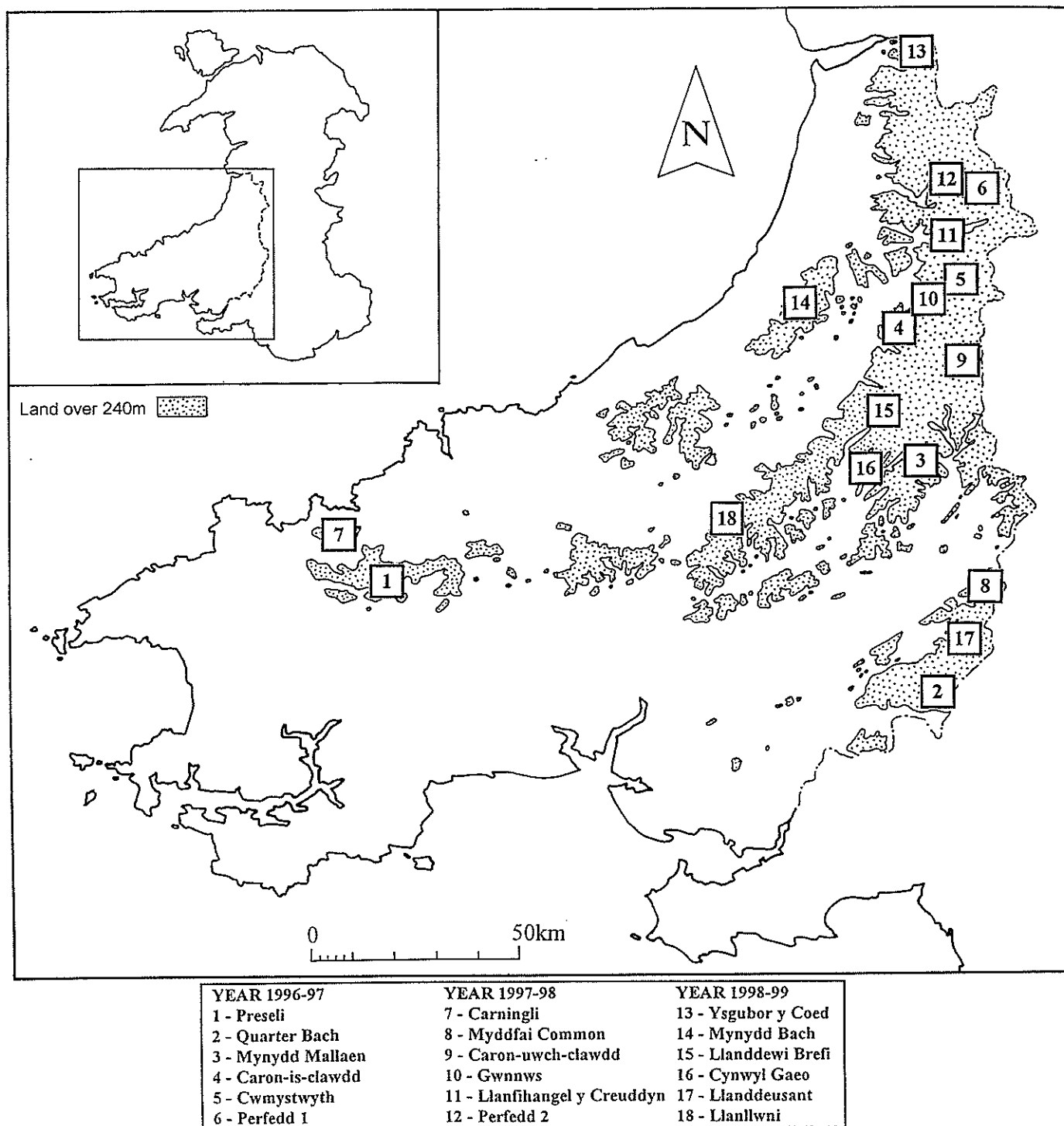
The uplands of the region are not contained in a single mass, but are divided into blocks by river valleys, and there are also several outlying blocks in mid and south Ceredigion. The Preseli Mountains, in northern Pembrokeshire, form an isolated upland block in the south west of the region. There exist considerable physical differences between some of these upland areas, particularly between the Black Mountain and Preseli Mountains, which are typified by rounded hills and open moorland, and the main Cambrian Mountain range in Ceredigion, which is much more craggy in nature and are also generally of higher altitude - Pumlumon, in the north of Ceredigion is the region's highest peak at 752m.

The upland climate is in general relatively mild and wet, and the fact that the solid geology of most of these mountains is overlain by glacial deposits means that conditions are conducive to waterlogging across large areas.

The physical character of these uplands has meant that for most of the historic period they have been valued as pasturelands for cattle and sheep, with very little attempt at large scale land improvement before the 19th century. This form of exploitation has meant that seasonal settlement of the hill pastures has occurred since time immemorial, and the archaeological traces of this activity are widely spread across the moors and valleys of the region.

However, shepherds have not been the sole occupants of the mountain pastures during historic times. Other activities have also left their mark - from mediaeval farmers seeking to enclose and plough mountain pastures, to more recent squatters, metal miners and lime-burners. The tenant farmers who occupied newly enclosed ground following the mid-19th century enclosure movement have also left their mark, with a subsequent retreat of settlement from many areas leaving numerous abandoned dwellings dotted over the regions mountain slopes. This long and complex history of upland activity has inevitably complicated the archaeological record and makes the study of deserted rural settlements a particularly challenging field of research.

# **LOCATION OF DRS STUDY AREAS IN MID & WEST WALES 1996-99**



*Fig.1: Location of DRS study areas in Mid & West Wales 1996-99 (see Table 1 also)*

## 1.2 PROJECT AIMS.

Before the inception of the Cadw funded, pan-Wales study of deserted rural settlements (DRSs), they were a largely under-appreciated *genre* of archaeological monuments in the region and across Wales as a whole, despite some very worthwhile localised studies (e.g. Muckle & Williams in the Tregaron area of Ceredigion<sup>1</sup>; Dr Anthony Ward in the Black Mountain area of Carmarthenshire<sup>2</sup>).

Prior to 1996, only very a small number of DRS sites had been excavated or part-excavated in the region, and there were fewer than a dozen scheduled sites belonging to the *genre* in West Wales. This project has gone some way towards rectifying some of the attendant problems which arise. Through the continued analysis of both archaeological and historical sources and a programme of fieldwork in selected areas, ACA is now better placed to assess the nature of the resource in terms of quantity, distribution and characteristic site types. It is hoped that that this process will lead to the creation, in future, of;

- valid conservation and management strategies for DRS sites.
- an greater appreciation of the archaeological and historical value of DRS sites in Wales (both at an academic and popular, public level)

## 1.3 METHODOLOGY

### 1.3.1 Areas surveyed (see Fig.1)

During the period 1996-99, 18 study areas were examined by the project. They were chosen in order to provide as wide a possible sample of landscapes and site types across the three counties of West Wales, from the Preseli Hills to Pumlumon and beyond.

Most of the areas examined were defined by parish boundaries, although some were chosen for reasons as varied as being the common lands of ancient commotes or areas where sites recorded by previous archaeological fieldwork was felt to be in need of re-evaluation.

As the selection of sites for study within each area was, in the first instance, effectively dependent on the regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), there is a strong upland bias in the work. The study of DRS sites has historically been closely linked to 'long hut' studies and most recorded sites of this *genre* are in marginal or upland environments. There has been relatively little study and recording of lowland settlement in the region and this imbalance will undoubtedly be addressed by future projects (at the time of writing ACA have submitted proposals to Cadw for an assessment of the deserted rural settlements in several lowland area of West Wales.)

### 1.3.2 The Field Survey

It was never intended that any of the selected areas would be completely surveyed, but that a combination of methods would be employed in the field, according to the physical character of each study area and the quality of the existing record of DRS sites within its area.

The work was largely SMR led in the sense that, within each defined study area, sites already recorded on the SMR were identified with a view to visiting and reassessing a representative sample in the field. Access to these sites was possible;

- through permission of landowners where no means of public access to the site were available
- through studying unenclosed common land (both within and outside the region's two National Parks), where access to a wider landscape was possible

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<sup>1</sup> Williams, G & Muckle, I, 1992, *An Archaeological Survey of the Groes Fawr Valley, Caron-is-clawdd, Cardiganshire*. DAT, Carmarthen

<sup>2</sup> Ward, AH, 1991, 'Transhumant or Permanent Settlement: Linear House Foundations along the Afon Clydach on the Black Mountain', in H. James ed., *Sir Gâr: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, 1-22. Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society.



- by following public rights of way (footpaths, bridleways or roads) which crossed or bypassed known sites

Where permission was granted to investigate farm holdings, it was usually possible to;

- carry out a wider survey of the farm holding
- re-assess groups of previously recorded sites
- prospect for new sites.

This was also true of work carried out on common lands and to a lesser extent along public footpaths and roads where new sites might also be encountered.

As most of the work was carried out in upland or marginal environments, safety considerations required that fieldwork was undertaken by a two man team of a project manager and a project assistant. 5 days were allocated for fieldwork in each area, therefore the fieldwork necessarily took on the form of a rapid survey, with as much information as possible being recorded as quickly as possible on each site;

- measured sketch plans were taken where appropriate
- photographs were taken where appropriate
- written descriptions were taken in all cases
- site locations were marked on OS maps purchased specifically for the project

A combination of recording techniques were used;

- During the first two year's survey a project specific record form was employed
- During the third year's survey this gave way to the use of conventional SMR record sheets. By this time it had become clear to project staff that the main requirement of the recording process was to generate information which could be easily integrated into the SMR.

### 1.3.3 Desktop Survey

#### *The Regional SMR*

The regional SMR was in many respects the starting and finishing point for each phase of the project. Its role in defining the resource to be studied was crucial. It also became increasingly obvious that its role as the repository for the information collated by the project was, indeed is, crucial for our future understanding of DRS sites (a point which will be expanded upon below).

#### *Other sources*

Drawing up a list of known sites derived from the SMR was only the starting point of survey work in each study area. Other sources were also consulted to enhance chances of discovering or recording sites which did not appear in the SMR. Attempting to place DRS sites in a historical context was a fundamental objective of the approach adopted by ACA to the question and this increased the importance of undertaking detailed historical research. The main sources consulted were:

- historic maps (tithe surveys, early OS maps, OS Surveyors drawings and estate maps)
- aerial photographs
- published documentary sources, such as parish histories

- unpublished documentary sources, including the indexes of collections deposited at the National Library of Wales and original documents held within such collections (browsing the index volumes of the main collections held in the Manuscripts Department of the NLW has proved a swift and effective method of uncovering relevant information)
- the oral testimony of some landowners who were knowledgeable of the location and, sometimes, history of unrecorded features

Added to these sources must be listed the professional judgement of the fieldworkers involved. It is not unreasonable to say that the experience gained over three phases of DRS fieldwork developed an ability to sense where DRS sites were most likely to be found and prove invaluable in the field.

#### 1.3.4 Reporting and archiving

The findings and observations of the survey have been reported in three successive reports presented to Cadw (Sambrook, 1997; Sambrook & Ramsey, 1998; Sambrook & Ramsey, 1999 - see bibliography). Material ranging from published works to ground photographs, sketch plans and field notes relating to the project have been deposited as an archive collection in the regional SMR.

### 1.4 RESULTS

From the outset, a conscious effort was made not to equate the DRS question with the field of Mediaeval settlement studies. It was perceived that there was a great body of evidence pertaining to Post-Mediaeval settlement which required attention and which might reasonably be expected to inform the wider settlement history debate.

For this reason, documentary and cartographic sources were heavily relied upon in attempting to draw new lessons about the form, function and chronology of DRS sites. This approach can be said to have succeed in several important respects;

- It has been shown that a high percentage of the DRS sites surviving in West Wales were occupied into the Post-Mediaeval period - often well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- The historical value of Post-Mediaeval DRSs has been highlighted, both in terms of their place in the economic and social history of Wales
- A substantial number of new DRS sites have been entered into the regional SMR database
- The number of Scheduled DRS sites will have doubled by the time this project is concluded, but more importantly, the foundations have been laid to enable more subjective assessments to be made of the importance of specific DRS sites in the future
- An opportunity has arisen to correct extant records of DRS sites held within the regional DRS database in accordance with the more standardised descriptive terminology used by the DRS survey. Site descriptions have also been updated
- The addition of new material and the enhancement of old records combine to make the record of DRS sites in the regional SMR much more accessible and meaningful. The experience gained both by fieldworkers and SMR staff in recording and inputting data related to DRS sites will make a permanent difference to the quality of the information held in the regional SMR
- The efforts made to devise a new terminology for describing and recording DRS sites will have implications for future work in the field of DRS studies. It is hoped that the approach adopted by ACA towards the DRS issue will prove to have made a positive and informative contribution to this often under-valued field of study.

#### 1.4.1 Number and Types of Sites visited

The following table shows how many previously recorded sites were re-evaluated and how many new sites and their ancillary features were recorded in each area over the three years of the project. It is important to stress that ancillary components of settlements are included in these figures. It remains difficult to identify the total number of DRS sites recorded on the regional SMR (this problem is discussed below).

Table 1.

<b>1996-97 PILOT PROJECT</b>	<b>Previously recorded</b>	<b>New sites</b>
PRESELI	19	5
MYNYDD DU	30	3
MYNYDD MALLAEN	23	6
CARON IS CLAWDD	16	3
CWMYSTWYTH	13	-
PERFEDD	3	10
<b>1996-97 Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>1997-98</b>	<b>OLD</b>	<b>NEW</b>
PRESELI	4	13
MYDDFAI	17	6
CARON	11	35
CARON II	12	1
GWNNWS	19	20
LLANBADARN Y CREUDDYN	42	-
PERFEDD	1	21
<b>1997-98 Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>1998-99</b>	<b>OLD</b>	<b>NEW</b>
LLANDDEUSANT	63	39
LLANLLWNI	6	2
CYNWYL GAEO	15	33
LLANDDEWI BREFI	4	49
MYNYDD BACH	22	16
YSGUBOR Y COED	-	11
<b>1998-99 Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>273</b>

## 2. DISCUSSION

Three years experience of analysing hundreds of DRS sites has left this author with a clear impression of those types of site which should qualify to be included in the definition Deserted Rural Settlement. The points raised in this discussion are intended to inform and encourage debate on a number of issues.

### 2.1 Observations on defining a DRS.

The term *Deserted Rural Settlement* itself provides the definition with which ACA staff, including the SMR Officer, are comfortable - to be classified as a DRS a site must simply be *Deserted*, in a *Rural* context and can be said to be reasonably likely to be a *Settlement* site.

A DRS will include a range of sites of differing complexity, from

- single structures in the landscape (which can be complex in their detail - as exemplified by some of the long huts recorded in Llanddewi Brefi during 1998) to
- presumed or known dwellings with a range of ancillary features (which may vary considerably in number and complexity, from single shelters to combinations of features such as ancillary buildings, field systems, folds, root vegetable clamps or peat stacking platforms)
- discrete groups or nucleations of presumably contemporary structures (including presumed dwellings) in the landscape (exemplified by the clusters of long huts found along the mountain streams on the commons of Llanddeusant parish, Carmarthenshire).

(The use of the terms 'presumed' or 'presumably' is unavoidable. So little factual evidence exists to chronologically link even structures in close proximity, it is necessary to acknowledge that we are usually only using reasonable presumption in making such links.)

To label a site as a DRS should not imply any function other than settlement, nor any chronology. This author believes that it is unnecessarily misleading to talk in terms of Mediaeval Deserted Rural Settlement or Post-mediaeval Deserted Rural Settlement when analysing DRSs. There are sources available to any researcher to show that individual DRS sites may be of either, or both, periods. The question as to whether the term DRS should apply only to Mediaeval or later sites remains. How we deal with early mediaeval or earlier sites is a related topic, which will be touched on below.

### 2.2 Distribution of DRSs

The observations made when reporting the findings of the 1996-97 pilot project have proven to be generally true of the findings of subsequent work. There is a clear tendency for the DRSs of West Wales to be located in sheltered locations, particularly in stream and river valleys. Away from the valleys, other favoured spots have been observed to include hillocks, rocky outcrops, escarpments and cliffs, but it seems rare for DRSs to be situated far from a water supply.

One of the most interesting observations of the pilot survey was that particular types of DRS are more likely to be found in particular types of landscape context i.e.;

- that rectilinear drystone structures (whether long huts, longhouses or the classic lluest dwellings) are most likely to be found close to water courses and in the shelter of valley slopes
- that the classic platform type structures are found on upper valley slopes, away from the streams and rivers.

Both of these observation have been reinforced during the past two years survey work, although it should be pointed out that rectilinear drystone structures are common in and outside valley locations; the observation that they tend to focus on valley locations is more evident in true upland situations where there is limited choice of sheltered locations for settlement. On lower marginal land, areas of late



enclosure and at squatter settlement/*tai unnos* the appearance of dwellings on open ground is commonly observed. The 19th century enclosure and settlement of Mynydd Bach is demonstrative of this fact.

Again in 1998-99, it was seen that bare platforms are found on higher ground, well above the valley floor. The platform at Hafod y Garreg (PRN36014) in Cynwyl Gaeo and those at Ty'n Cornel (PRNs 36062-64) are examples recorded in 1998-99 which conform to this observation.

During 1998-99, it became apparent that there may be a chronological and functional lesson to be learnt from observing the spatial distribution and topographical location of DRS sites. At the simplest level it can be observed that;

- the *llost* of the Cambrian Mountains is a definable DRS type and *llostau* will almost invariably occur as single dwellings (with or without ancillaries) set on the lands of the sheepwalk or which the resident shepherd was responsible. This is typical of small upland farmsteads across the region.
- groups of longhuts or platforms on an upland common must represent a type and function of settlement radically different from that of the solitary *llost*. This is best represented by the clusters of long huts and longhouses observed in the stream valleys of the Llanddeusant commons in Carmarthenshire, which could credibly be suggested to represent a more communal form of settlement. Such groups may be good candidates for interpretation as mediaeval *hafotai*, but such an interpretation is of course not necessarily correct).

### 2.3 Form

The description of the dwelling component of a DRS almost always refers to a structure, usually rectilinear in plan, of drystone, stone and earth or earthwork build. The most common forms are;

- a platform with no trace of a structure present, potentially signifying that a timber structure once occupied the now bare platform
- a long hut type structure, it is only the wall bases of the dwelling which survive for description. Timber or turf partitions are unlikely to show up on the surface.
- more substantial drystone structures which may have walls which are rubble built or well coursed and surviving up to a metre or more in height.

DRS dwellings may of course be multi-celled although, predominantly, single or two-roomed structures are found. The probability that timber or peat was used to create internal divisions within some dwellings makes the classification of dwellings on the basis of the number of compartments or cells present an unsatisfactory exercise when surface remains alone are the basis of the classification. Excavation may produce a far more complex ground plan.

### 2.4 Building materials

Both form and location may be influenced by the type of building material available. There is ample evidence to show that a great number of DRS sites were constructed using materials available within the immediate vicinity of the settlement. The typical range of building materials and styles encountered were;

- timber (presumed to be the chief building material at sites which are now represented only by empty platforms)
- mud or clom walling (which may be represented in sites which have little or no stone component visible in their surviving wall bases and are now effectively seen to be denuded earth banks)
- earth-bonded or drystone walling which was often reasonably well or very well coursed. Even in the case of known 19<sup>th</sup> century abandoned dwellings examined in the field, lime mortar was extremely uncommon in each study area.

- unbound rubble drystone walling, usually poorly coursed (often, but not always, encountered in sites where the stonework of a ruinous dwelling had been roughly rebuilt to form a later fold)

It was striking that the DRS sites of the Mynydd Mallaen commons visited in 1996-7 had little stone in their surface remains - explained by the scarcity of outcropping rock over large parts of the common.

Predominantly, however, DRS sites are of drystone construction - either of coursed walling or rubble build. Most stream valley sites are able to draw on exposed bedrock or rock and boulder debris washed down by the streams. The roughly built structures of the Nant Garw valley in Quarter Bach, Carmarthenshire, seen in 1996-97, stand at the opposite end of the scale from the Mynydd Mallaen sites, being examples of utilising abundant supplies of loose boulders and stone washed down by the stream.

However, even sites described as having 'earth and stone' wall bases are suspected to have a more substantial stone component beneath the surface. These are often found alongside stream courses on flatter, boggy moorland, where bedrock is less likely to be exposed (such as Mynydd Mallaen) or within enclosed and de-stoned areas of farmland. One partly excavated site (PRN 6228) in Cynwyl Gaeo, visited during 1998 provided an interesting insight into this possibility. The unexcavated parts of the site appeared to be defined by grassy earth wall bases. But those parts of the site where the turf had been stripped during excavation over 20 years previously remained exposed and showed that beneath the turf lay well coursed drystone wall bases.

Table 2  
Percentages of structures of various build encountered 1996-99

Type	1996-7	1997-8	1998-9	Total	%
No structure (bare platform)	13	46	26	85	14.0
Mostly earth	14	6	7	27	4.0
Earth & stone	45	53	90	188	31.0
Coursed drystone	34	80	95	209	35.0
Rubble build	12	6	22	40	7.0
Uncertain	14	19	20	53	9.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>100%</b>

The figures in Table 2 show clearly that a large majority of DRS structures and ancillaries are of either coursed drystone build or defined earth and stone wall bases which probably represent the remains of structures which were either once of more substantial drystone build or the foundations of former timber or mud-walled buildings.

It is evident that ephemeral features and roughly constructed buildings are in a small minority, reflecting the fact that most DRS structures were built with care and purpose by those who intended either to dwell within them or make use of them.

## 2.6 Condition and Dating

There is a clear tendency amongst workers in the settlement history field to prioritise their studies to the search for early or mediaeval settlement. However, 500 years of expanding and retreating settlement in the Welsh countryside since 1500AD also have to be accounted for.

Indeed, if there is any credence in the idea forwarded by CB Crompton<sup>3</sup> that the increase in dairying in Wales and trade with England which arose from the Act of Union of 1536 led directly to an increase in the number of 'hafotai' on the Welsh hills and mountains, the importance of post-mediaeval economic

<sup>3</sup> Crompton CB, 1968, "Hafotai platforms on the North front of Carmarthen Fan" *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 1968, p.121-7.

and settlement studies is further enhanced. The Post-Mediaeval period clearly cannot be bypassed in theory or in practice in the study of DRSs.

It can also be argued that a better understanding of post-mediaeval settlement history may provide valuable pointers towards understanding the extent and limitations of earlier settlement.

There has in the past, perhaps, been an underlying belief that very ruinous or earthwork structures are probably 'ancient' and standing structures 'recent' - providing a crude chronology based on the degree of degradation of a site. It has been practice not to include complete or substantially complete dwellings in the DRS survey, but this has proved to be a rule which was both difficult to maintain in the field and increasingly harder to defend intellectually. Some of the most interesting settlement complexes viewed by ACA in the field are well preserved ruins, often with walls and gables intact. These may in fact be earlier or contemporary with sites which survive in much poorer condition but which by default qualify for attention from DRS surveys. This point is particularly well illustrated in relation to two sites visited in the Mynydd Bach study area during 1998 - Bryn-yr-ychain 'farmstead' and Hafod Gou 'long hut' - the former being at least early 19th century in date, the latter being demonstrably late 19th century in origin, but physically in a much poorer condition (see the Mynydd Bach chapter in Section B of this report for further discussion).

It seems difficult to justify not including an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century miners cottage or farm labourers cottage in a DRS survey. The presence of such structures tell us as much about the settlement history of Wales as any other DRS and they must be historically and archaeologically equally important. Indeed a cluster of probable 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings believed to be associated with lime burning was visited in the Black Mountain, Carmarthenshire during 1998-9 - their advanced state of ruination allowing their classification as long huts.

Including the poorly preserved ruin and excluding the well preserved structure from DRS studies seems a rather perverse denial of the importance of dwellings which form a significant element of the archaeological resource in some parts of West Wales and are integral to our understanding of the settlement, social and economic history of Wales.

It is strongly contended by this author that our approach to settlement history is in need of revision and rethinking. A holistic appraisal of settlement history may well prove much more informative and communicable in an age where public education and the popularisation of archaeology seem to be both desirable and achievable.

### 3. CONSERVING AND MANAGING DRS SITES

#### 3.1 Importance of DRSs within the overall archaeological resource

It is worth re-emphasising the, potentially, immense importance of DRS sites to our comprehension of the archaeology and history of Wales. DRSs are the foci of past human activity and as such are worthy of study and, where appropriate, protection for that fact alone.

It is evident that in many upland and marginal landscapes, DRSs form a significant element of the surviving archaeological resource. It is often evident that even the remotest upland valleys have usually been settled for some reason at some time in our history. With the withdrawal of permanent human settlement from such environments, the DRS sites are the only reminder to contemporary society of the fact that even remote corners of the land have been settled, farmed and managed in the past.

#### 3.2 Appreciating settlement history

It is time for Welsh archaeologists to accept the importance of DRS sites of any and all periods as being important elements in the local, regional and national history of the Welsh nation. A 19<sup>th</sup> century lead miners cottage on the Ceredigion hills has potentially as much to tell us as a 9<sup>th</sup> century shepherds hut on the Preseli commons (if such a thing actually exists!). True, they will tell us different things about different historical periods and different lifestyles, but there can be no hierarchy of relative importance; they are human settlement sites and deserve the equal respect of archaeologists. Moreover, in terms of public education and the interpretation of the heritage of Wales they have an equally important and informative role.

It is possible that in future DRS sites should be seen against the wider background of settlement history. ACA has maintained from the outset that it is within their context (social and economic as well as physically in the landscape) that DRS sites should ideally be considered.

#### 3.3 The interpretation of DRS sites

The majority of DRS sites in the region are currently unsuitable for public interpretation for several reasons;

- condition - as generally minor, ruinous or earthwork sites relatively few DRSs would be of interest to anyone other than archaeologists or settlement historians
- fragility - unmanaged access by even modest numbers of visitors could lead to the degradation of DRS sites, which often have ephemeral features
- right of access - most DRSs are found on privately owned land, away from public rights of way and therefore are not conducive to interpretation as historical features in the landscape

However, there are factors which make the interpretation of DRSs both possible and necessary;

- right to roam - the probability (at the time of writing) that the general public will be granted free access to all non-intensive grazing land, common land and moorland pasture presents a threat to DRS sites as much as other field monuments. The necessity of highlighting the importance of DRSs as archaeological field monuments in order to increase public awareness and appreciation is clear
- the popularity of country walks, interpreted through either information panels or guide leaflets means that there is already a receptive audience which can be reached
- there are some sites at accessible locations to which attention could be drawn, the Glan Nant Melyn site mentioned above is an example of such a site



- the requirements of the National Curriculum which encourage school groups to visit archaeological sites and study local history. Appropriate dwelling sites of the former inhabitants of any locality can be integrated into cross-curricular field study and further enhance public awareness of the importance of DRS sites.

The interpretation of select DRS sites either by publication, leaflet or panel could achieve a great deal to enhance awareness of such sites, but in view of the variety of site types and fundamental importance of the *genre* to our understanding of the history of any district it may also be suggested that the reconstruction of specific DRS types, such as long huts, *lluestau* or peasant's cottages may be possible. Whereas as the St Fagans Museum of Welsh Folk Life has a great range of dwelling types, an experimental reconstruction of a long hut type dwelling might prove an interesting and worthwhile exercise, providing an valuable insight into the lives of a much under appreciated aspect of Welsh history.

### 3.4 Threats to DRS sites

The main threats to DRS sites were listed in 1996-97 and, although the range of threats present has not changed, there are grounds for briefly reconsidering the threats posed by forestry and agriculture in view of developments over the past two years;

**Forestry:** In the case of the threat posed by afforestation, recent field surveys of afforested areas carried out by ACA and other Welsh Archaeological Trusts have shown quite clearly that a great number of archaeological sites survive within Welsh forest plantations. Of particular relevance to West Wales is a project carried out by ACA in the Cwmystwyth area of Ceredigion<sup>4</sup> known as The Mynydd y Ffynnon Project. Prospecting work in afforested areas succeeded in identifying a significant number of DRS sites, mostly of the *lluest* type. Some were of remarkable quality, and evidence for even fragile features such as cultivation ridges had survived at some locations. A factor in site survival was the typical stream-side location of many DRSs in the area. Planting and preparatory ploughing of the ground had usually not extended right up to stream edges; streams often acted as open rides or riparian zones. This meant that DRS structures built on natural terraces along stream valleys often escaped undisturbed or less disturbed than would otherwise have been the case. The lesson learnt in Mynydd y Ffynnon was certainly that afforested land should not be viewed as 'lost ground' to Welsh archaeology.

**Farming:** It is evident that the drive towards introducing agri-environmental management schemes on Welsh farmland is creating a greater awareness in some areas of the value of preserving archaeological features such as DRS sites. It is merely observed here that this trend increases the opportunity and necessity of highlighting the value of DRS sites of all types and reducing the threat from agricultural development.

It should be noted that there is a possibility that there will in future be an increased threat to archaeological features in marginal or upland contexts with the anticipated progress of the present government's 'Right to Roam' bill. The issues surrounding public access to farmland are complex, but are relevant to archaeology due to the damage that visitor erosion can cause to fragile features. Where an effective right to roam already exists in National Park area, it is not unknown to find DRS sites utilised as temporary campsites or barbecue sites. This was observed in 1998 at the dwelling of Glan Nant Melyn (PRN35983) in Llanddeusant, where parts of the drystone wall bases have recently been robbed to build a rough hearth.

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<sup>4</sup> The Mynydd y Ffynnon Project was carried out for Forest Enterprise and ADAS and reported through six reports jointly produced by ACA and the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. The sixth included management recommendations for all sites within the survey area and is most relevant to this discussion: Sambrook, P, 1999, *The Mynydd y Ffynnon Project: Phase V - Site Management Report*, ACA, Llandeilo

## 4. THE TERMINOLOGY OF DESERTED RURAL SETTLEMENTS AND THEIR ANCILLARY FEATURES.

The conclusion of the ACA staff involved in this survey is that there are forceful arguments against prioritising the construction of a typology of DRSs. It is contended that, at this stage, the problem facing the recording and describing of DRS sites is one of TERMINOLOGY not TYPOLOGY. From the outset, this author took on board the simple but profound observation made by E. Davies in 1980 that the chief characteristics of any DRS may be explained by the requirements of those who occupied the site and nature of the surrounding environment;

“...there are no standard types of *hafod*, *hafoty* or *lluest*. This variety is partly the product of local history, sometimes probably of family and even personal history, and partly the form of the land and the natural conditions prevailing in the locality - conditions such as soil, slope, aspect, shelter and drainage.”<sup>5</sup>

No typology can overcome and encompass the often unique nature of individual DRS sites. Indeed so numerous are the variations of site type (whether by form, function or chronology) that the very task of creating a typology has been shown to become rapidly confusing.

Whilst any individual project is capable of designing a working typology to suit the immediate needs of the project staff, any typology devised will essentially cease to be a useful typology upon the cessation of that project and will be unlikely to be applied by subsequent workers, who will have their own subjective views on DRS typology.

There may well be scope to ultimately arrive at a partial typology based on the identification and recording of definable site types e.g.;

- a longhouse is more than a structure with a length:width ratio greater than 2:1 - the term defines a distinctive type of building with unmistakable characteristics, whether ruined or standing.

But many DRSs are not so easily defined and the basis for a valid and consistent typology is presently hard to envisage. It must be accepted that the builders and occupiers of these settlements tailored their homes (whether permanent or temporary) according to;

- their personal or family requirements - DRS sites are places of human habitation, and are subject to all the idiosyncrasies that invariably arise from human decision making.
- the nature and availability of building materials
- the nature of the landscape in terms of selecting a site convenient for water and shelter and/or proximity to their place of labour (i.e. cultivated land, pasture land, turbary, industrial working such as a metal mine, coal mine or quarry).

But this line of argument is not an admission of failure. It merely serves to draw attention to a fundamental issue facing those studying, identifying, recording and interpreting DRS sites, namely the overriding need for a standardised terminology (in both English and Welsh) to be devised and;

- applied as a matter of SMR policy across the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts
- applied at the level of the RCAHMW's National Monuments Record.
- applied by the partners of the Extended National Database in Wales
- used consistently in publications and academic works within Wales

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<sup>5</sup> Davies, E, 1980, 'Hafod, Hafoty and Lluest' *Ceredigion* 9, p.16-17.

Cadw must have a key role in co-ordinating such an approach until agreement is possible, helping ensure that the approved terminology is used across the board as a matter of good practice. It is only with the realisation that it is a matter of professional discipline that objective and meaningful terms are used to describe DRS sites that our approach to the settlement history of Wales will move from being almost a dark art to being a clear and open subject, digestible to both the academic and lay-person alike.

#### 4.1 Existing Terms Applied To DRS Sites In West Wales

There are recognized historical problems within the existing regional SMRs, which are currently being addressed, which have arisen because of a lack of consistency in the use of terminology by archaeologists for many decades.

This problem affects DRS studies more profoundly in many respects and the way that DRS sites have been (and are being) entered into the record makes the retrieval and analysis of information difficult, greatly hindering DRS studies. It is therefore all the more important that current DRS studies take heed of and feed into the ongoing efforts to standardise terminology.

As DRSs are often complex sites, particular problems arise in the record because of the uncoordinated recording of sites in the past;

- features such as platforms and long huts, usually only components of a DRS, will have often been recorded without being linked in the record to associated structures and ancillary features, making it impossible to judge the true character of the DRS
- associated structures or ancillary features will have often been overlooked and left unrecorded by a tendency to focus on the presumed dwelling component of a DRS, therefore giving an incomplete description of the DRS
- when recorded, associated structures or ancillary features are often treated as unrelated archaeological features and not seen as potentially integral elements in a DRS complex
- the overall DRS generic type has been applied only recently to relatively few sites and it is simply not possible to retrieve DRS complexes from the SMR unless an overall PRN has been awarded and each element linked in the database.

One of the key problems remains the use of subjective and misleading terms as generic types<sup>6</sup> in the record. For example, the term *hafod* has been used to describe many sites in the record which makes their true character difficult to ascertain without re-evaluation in the field. Such terms are often applied to sites or the constituent elements of sites of similar characteristics. One field worker may have recorded a DRS as a *hafod*, whilst another may have recorded a similar site as a *long hut*, *platform house* or *longhouse*.

This has proved a hindrance to the progress of DRS studies in West Wales and devalues the regional SMR in relation to this field of study. Table 3 (below) lists terms used in the regional SMR and the frequency of their use. It was originally drawn up by ACA's DRS pilot study of 1996-7 and exemplifies the problem that still exists in the present SMR record. It has been updated for this report, but the updated column does not include those sites added or amended during 1998-99 which had not been integrated into the body of the SMR at the time of writing.

Any analysis based on the distribution of recorded DRS sites based on the terms shown in Table 3 would be patently meaningless and would probably only give a reflection of the preferences of whichever project or fieldworker had worked in any particular area, saying little about the characteristics of the archaeological resource.

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<sup>6</sup> A generic type is the descriptive term entered into the regional SMR database by which a site is identified

ACA's 1996-7 DRS Pilot Study and the following 1997-8 study attempted to rationalise the use of these terms, but made the error of persevering in their use. It became apparent that their continued use was not only unhelpful, it was perpetuating the confusion in the SMR record. To make matters worse new terms, such as *DRS* and *luest*, were also creeping into use as generic types, further confusing the issue.

Table 3

GENERIC TYPE	NUMBER RECORDED IN SMR IN 1996-97	NUMBER RECORDED IN SMR IN 1997-98
Hafod	12	12
Hafod?	226	227
Long Hut	87	133
Long Hut?	52	71
Longhouse	84	87
Longhouse?	39	39
Platform	13	77
Platform?	2	5
Platform House	9	8
Platform House?	9	9
Building Platform	10	8
Building Platform?	12	1

The list in Table 3 does not include the widely used terms *cottage*, *dwelling* and *building* which have, evidently, frequently been applied to DRS sites. Tabulating this information helps put the numerical significance of settlement related sites within the overall SMR record into context. There are over 6,100 (18%) such sites out of a total of some 33,600 at the time of writing. Identifiable DRS sites account for only a little over 12% of the former figure at present, but the scope for a substantial increase in the latter percentage through both the re-evaluation and redefinition of the existing record and future fieldwork is undeniable.

Table 4: Other relevant generic types (as of March 1999)

Cottage	1518
Cottage?	526
Building	309
Building?	38
Dwelling	2041
Dwelling?	111
Farmstead	877
Farmstead?	47
DRS (added after 1997)	68
DRS? (added after 1997)	12

## 4.2 A Terminology Of Deserted Rural Settlements

This section simply outlines the standardized approach used by ACA fieldworkers in the recording of deserted settlement sites during 1998. The terms used have been selected on the basis of consultation with ACA's SMR officer and are mostly compatible with the RCAHM's Thesaurus.

Further discussion amongst ACA staff and with the representatives of Cadw, the RCAHMS and the other Welsh archaeological trusts will hopefully fine tune the list of terms and their definitions. The list presented here is believed that it provides the basic terminology framework which ACA and the regional SMR Officer will develop for the future recording of DRS sites in the region.



These terms have been used during 1998 on the basis that they are simple and generally consistent in their meaning. There remain some grey areas of application and interpretation, but it is strongly felt that the essential simplicity and objectivity of these terms must be retained for future DRS recording.

#### 4.2.1 Terms Used During The 1998 Study

It was strongly felt within ACA that a completely new direction of approach was required to the issue of terminology before beginning the 1998-99 DRS survey. A valuable discussion with Bob Silvester (CPAT) and Mike Yates (Cadw) was held during the early summer of 1998 and further advice was sought from ACA's SMR officer Jenny Hall. This was followed by a discussion of site characteristics between Paul Sambrook, Jenny Hall and Kate Roberts (Cadw) during a field visit in the Strata Florida area in Ceredigion. Each of these strands contributed to the formulation of a fresh list of suitable terms for application by the ACA DRS survey during July and August 1998.

The imperative was felt to be the adoption of terms which could be applied consistently by the 1998-99 fieldwork team, but which would also be appropriate for use by all ACA fieldworkers in future and also, most importantly, which would be appropriate for use in the regional SMR.

It was anticipated that it would be possible, with time, to revise all relevant recorded sites in the SMR by replacing their existing generic types with the appropriate term. Indeed, this process has begun during 1998 by the drawing up of a provisional list of amendments to the records of all identifiable DRS sites and features presently recorded in the SMR. This will theoretically allow a *hafod* described as being a bare platform to be reclassified as a *platform*, or for an earthwork site described as a *cottage* to be renamed as a *long hut*. Such a revision will be difficult to complete, but would make the SMR a much more useful database when enquiring of the location and numbers of DRS sites in the region, whether in a localised study or across the region. It is hoped that further work in this direction will be possible with the co-operation of the SMR officer during 1999/2000.

The intention to revise the terms already used in the regional SMR does not imply the complete abandonment of all existing terms. For instance;

- *hafod* would be retained as a term appropriate to record a *hafod* place-name, but not a deserted settlement site unless documentary evidence existed for the use of the site as a *hafod*.

The terms which were agreed upon in-house and used by ACA for the 1998-99 field survey are listed on the following pages, with their definitions.

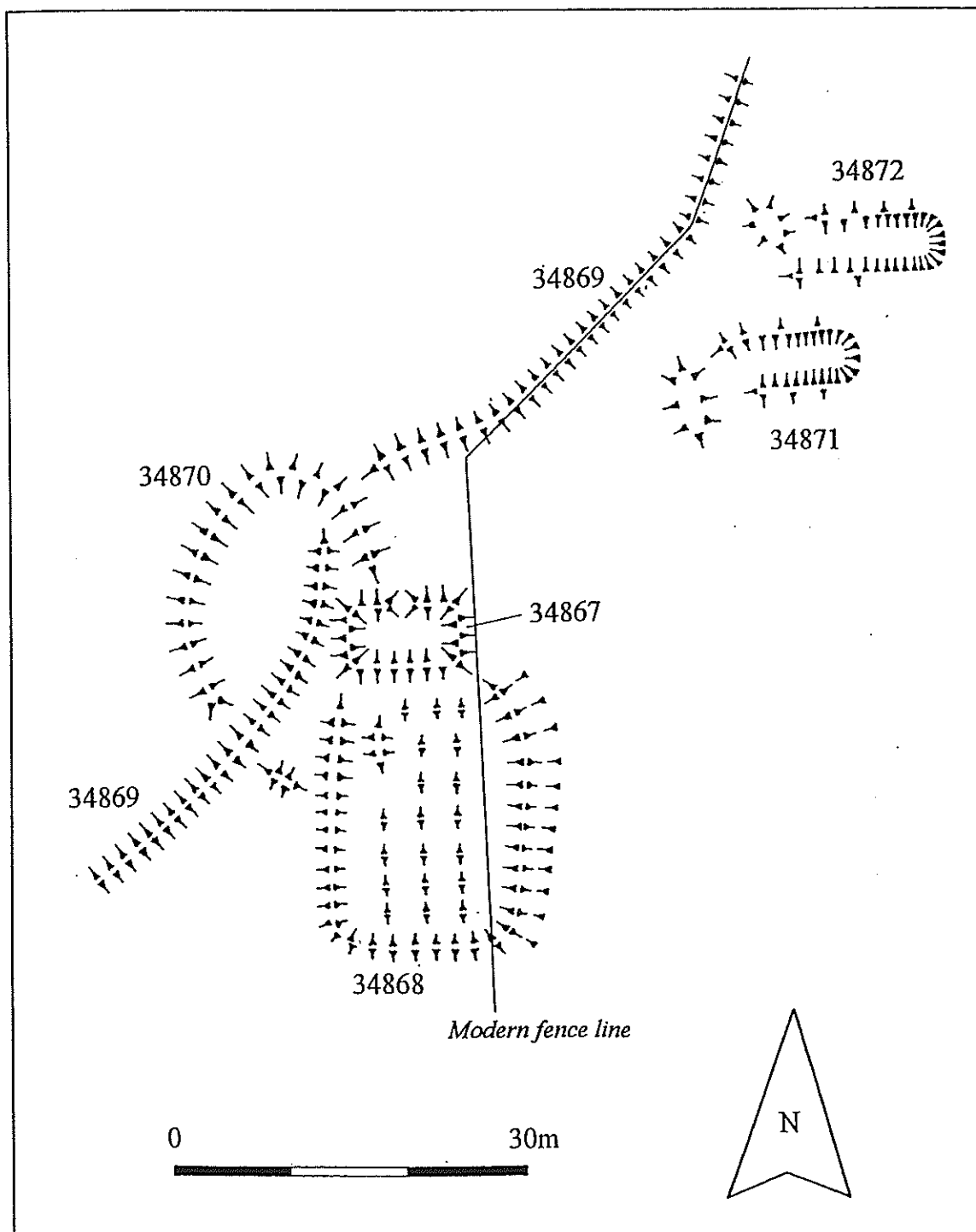
#### 4.2.1 Welsh terminology.

The Welsh term Anheddau Gwledig Angyfanedd is proposed as a suitable translation of Deserted Rural Settlements<sup>7</sup>. Further discussion of an appropriate Welsh terminology for the archaeology of DRS site is needed and may be possible between some individual staff members of the Welsh Archaeological Trusts.

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<sup>7</sup> Suggested by Dr. Dyfed Elis-Gruffydd, Gwasg Gomer, Llandysul.

**DRS (Deserted Rural Settlement):** Used as an overall description of a group of settlement related features i.e. a dwelling or dwellings with ancillary structures or features.



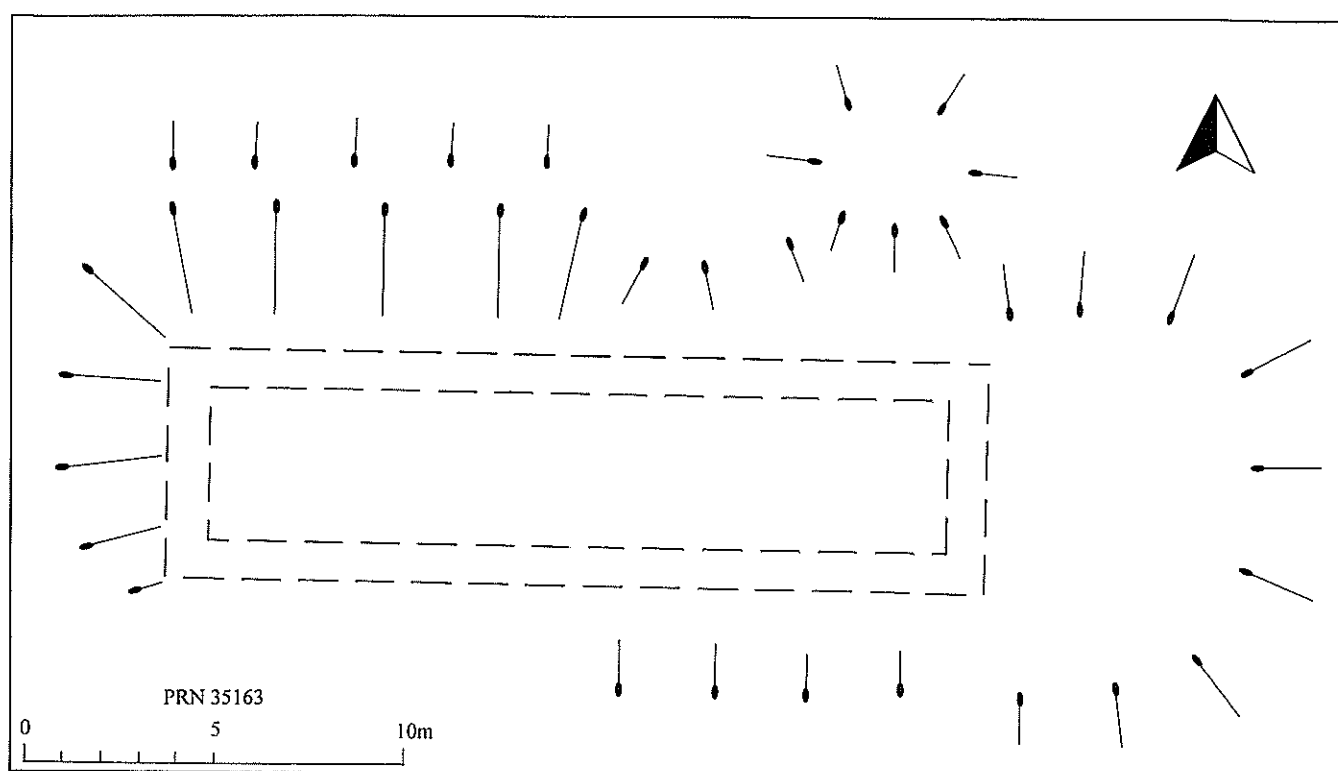
**Banc Erw Barfe, Ysbyty Cynfyn, Ceredigion (PRN34866)**

*A typical Ceredigion lluest. A DRS with at least 7 component features, including the dwelling*

**Platform:** Refers to any bare platform, regardless of relationship to slope (cross-contour or parallel to contour) and also to size.

There is an unresolved debate as to whether a platform on which a structure stands, such as a long hut, warrants two PRNs, one for the platform and another for the structure. In practice, the 1998-99 survey did not give two PRNs for such sites, but would record the long hut and note in the site description that it stood on a platform.

This may have been an error of judgement and it is conceded now that where an obvious terraced platform underlies a long hut that they should indeed be attributed a separate PRNs. There is a possibility that more than one phase of occupation of the site is represented by the platform and the long hut. However, the need to give a PRN to the more ephemeral building platforms which underlie the vast majority of long huts is less certain and needs further consideration.



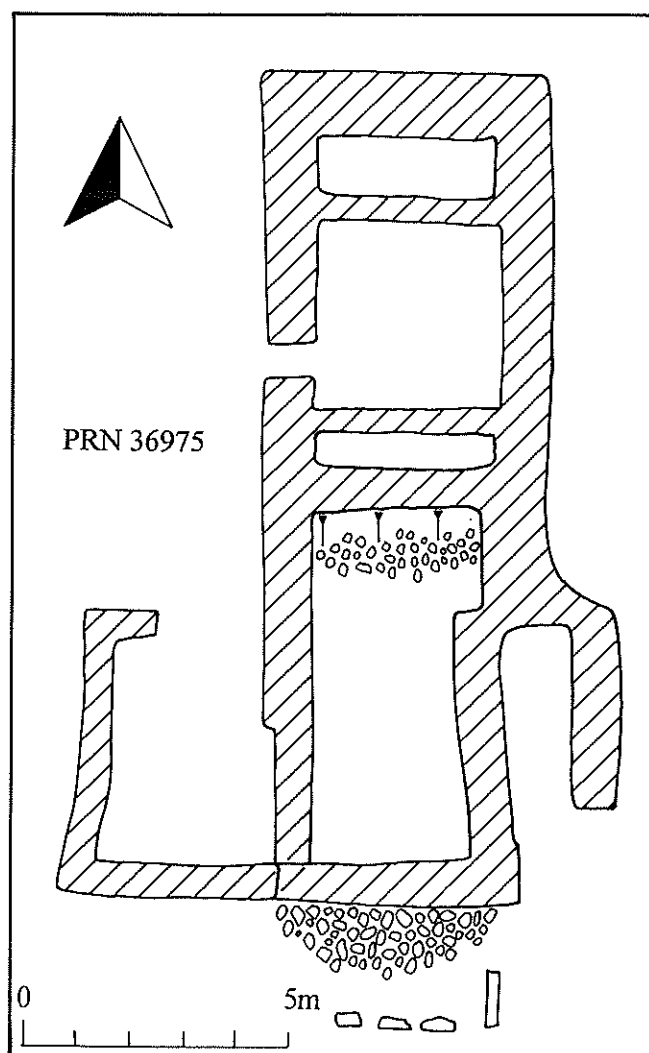
### Yr Allt, Cwmystwyth, Ceredigion (PRN35163)

The largest of a pair of platforms at the upper end of Cwmystwyth.  
The faint outline of a rectilinear building is seen on the platform.

**Longhouse:** It seems appropriate to retain Iorwerth Peate's description of the Welsh longhouse<sup>8</sup> and apply the term as a generic type only when a site bears the main characteristics he describes;

*"the long house is a single, long, low, oblong building which houses both the family and its cattle. The dwelling is always at one end, generally called the upper end (pen uchaf) though this depends on the situation of the house - in some cases the dwelling is at the lower end (pen isaf). The other end (generally pen isaf, occasionally pen uchaf) is the cow-house. Between the two is the door. In most cases this opens into a passage called penllawr (literally, the head of the floor) or bing, with another door at its further end. This passage dividing the house into its two parts, dwelling house and cow house, generally serves as a feeding walk. There are however many instances (a) where the feeding walk does not exist and (b) where it has been modified by the insertion, between cow-house and dwelling, of a dairy, store room or calf-box... The upper end, without exception, was always paved, the paving terminating in the passage, the cow house floor being of earth.*

The differentiation between a longhouse and a long hut is not always an easy one to make, especially based on the observation of surface evidence alone. It certainly should not be made merely according to the length : width ratio of a structure or by the number of compartments present. Peate examined standing structures in the main, and therefore had a relatively easy task in identifying the component features described above. When dealing with the surface remains of very ruinous, archaeological sites this will necessarily be an imperfect science. However, the two-fold division of many DRS dwellings, with a characteristic step down from an upper room to a lower room and evidence for a dividing passage or storage compartment between the two main compartments, suggests that it is possible to identify structures which are firmly in the Welsh longhouse tradition.

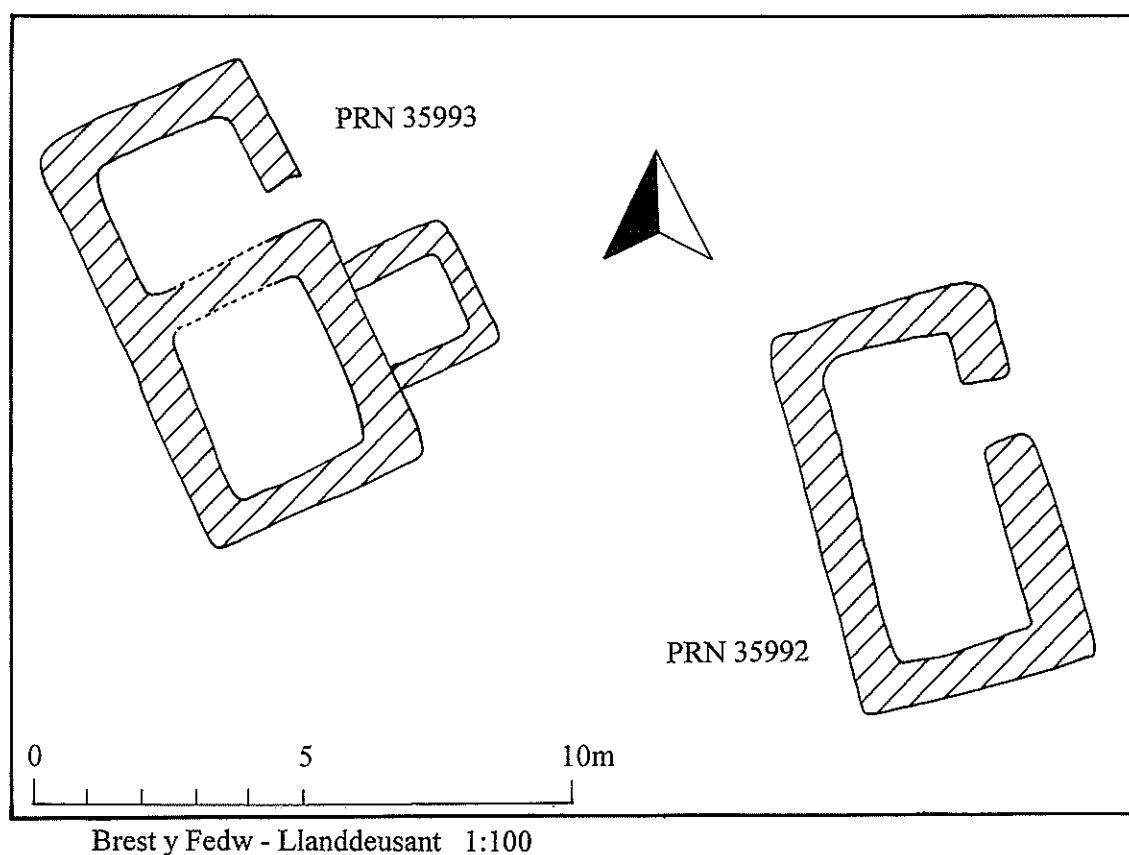


*A longhouse recorded in Llanddewi Brefi in 1998.*

<sup>8</sup> Peate, I, 1946, *The Welsh House: A study in folk culture*, Chapter IV "The Rectangular House: The Long-House", pp 51-84. Brythton Press, Liverpool.

**Long Hut:** A long hut is defined as a rectilinear structure (stone built or earthwork) which may have one or more compartments.

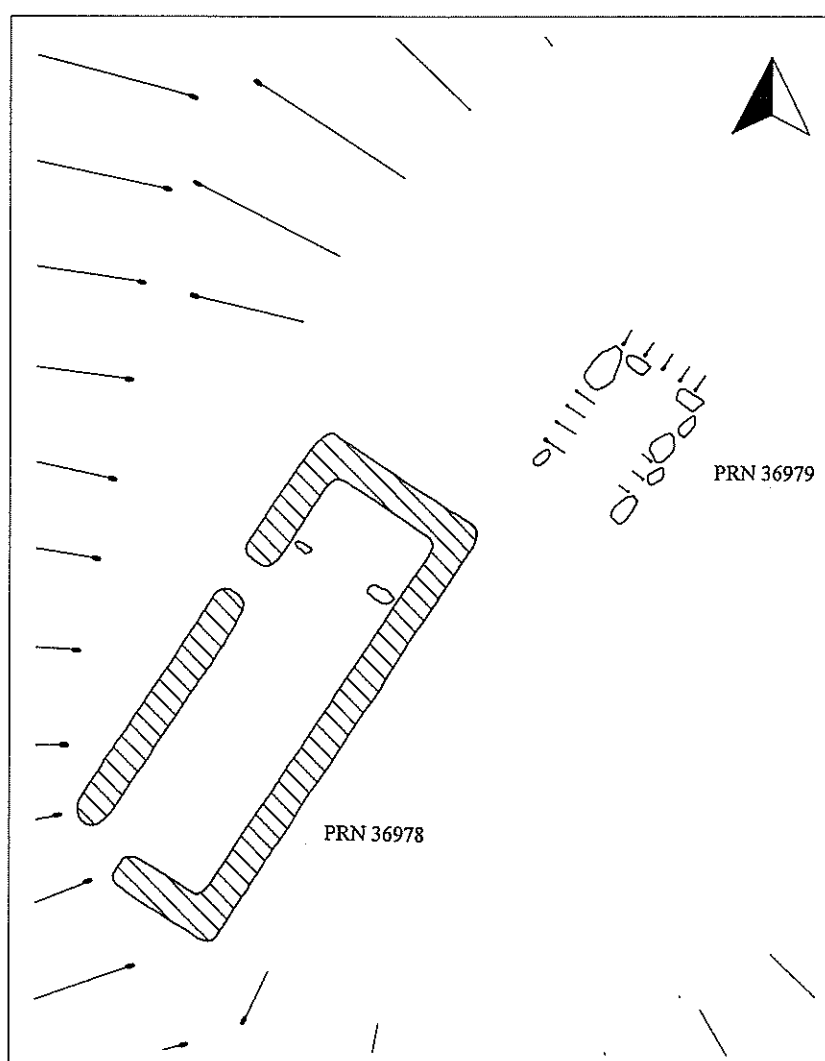
It is not necessarily the case that a long hut means the same thing as a dwelling. Complexes where two or more rectilinear structures are present may well represent a dwelling and ancillary buildings, but all would be recorded as long huts - we can rarely be sure in such instances which of a group of long huts were in fact dwelling and which were put to some other function.



*A pair of long huts recorded in Llanddeusant in 1998*

**Shelter:** Refers to a minor structure, either rectilinear or sub-circular in form, which occurs either as a solitary feature or in association with other structures. They can survive as drystone ruins or earthwork sites. There is no implication of function beyond that of the simple RCAHME Thesaurus definition of a shelter as *“A structure which protects an area of ground from the weather”*.

There is a presumption that such a structure would have been roofed. The term would of course include structures with different functions, from minor human shelters to animal/fowl pens and storage shelters. But the examination of surface evidence or even excavation is unlikely to allow for a proper interpretation of the use of individual minor structures of this kind.



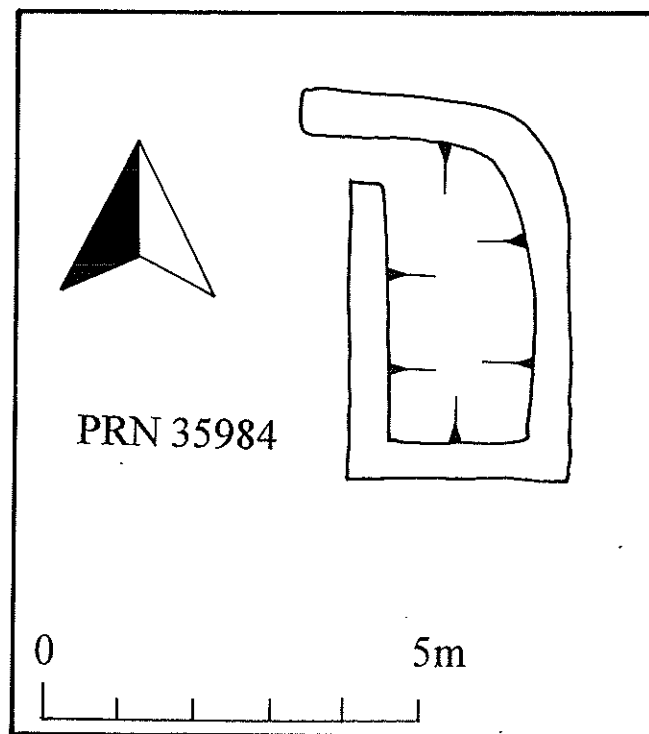
**Nant Cribinau, Llanddewi Brefi, Ceredigion PRN36977**

*A long hut with its ancillary shelter, an arrangement commonly found in association with DRS sites in West Wales*

**Sunken Shelter:** This is a new term applied to a type of ancillary structure encountered in many locations. The typical sunken shelter is an elongated and narrow cut into a slope, often with drystone revetment along the sides of the cut.

Internally, these structures may be as little as 1m wide and as much as 8m long, or more. They tend to occur singly or in pairs and in close proximity to deserted settlements. One interpretation which may be put upon them is that they were intended as storage places for perishable foodstuffs such as milk, butter and cheese (an important consideration in any pastoral settlement and one which should be expected to be represented in the archaeological resource).

These structures are sufficiently different to other minor structures to warrant identification as a separate monument class. They are not to be confused with root vegetable storage clamps, which are usually similar elongated earthwork cuts into the ground. Clamps rarely have a drystone component and do not have entrances, as the goods stored in a clamp are buried for a period of time before being dug up for retrieval. A sunken shelter will often be open at its downslope end or have an entrance in either side, indicating that the ability to place materials within - and remove materials from - the shelter was an essential part of their function.

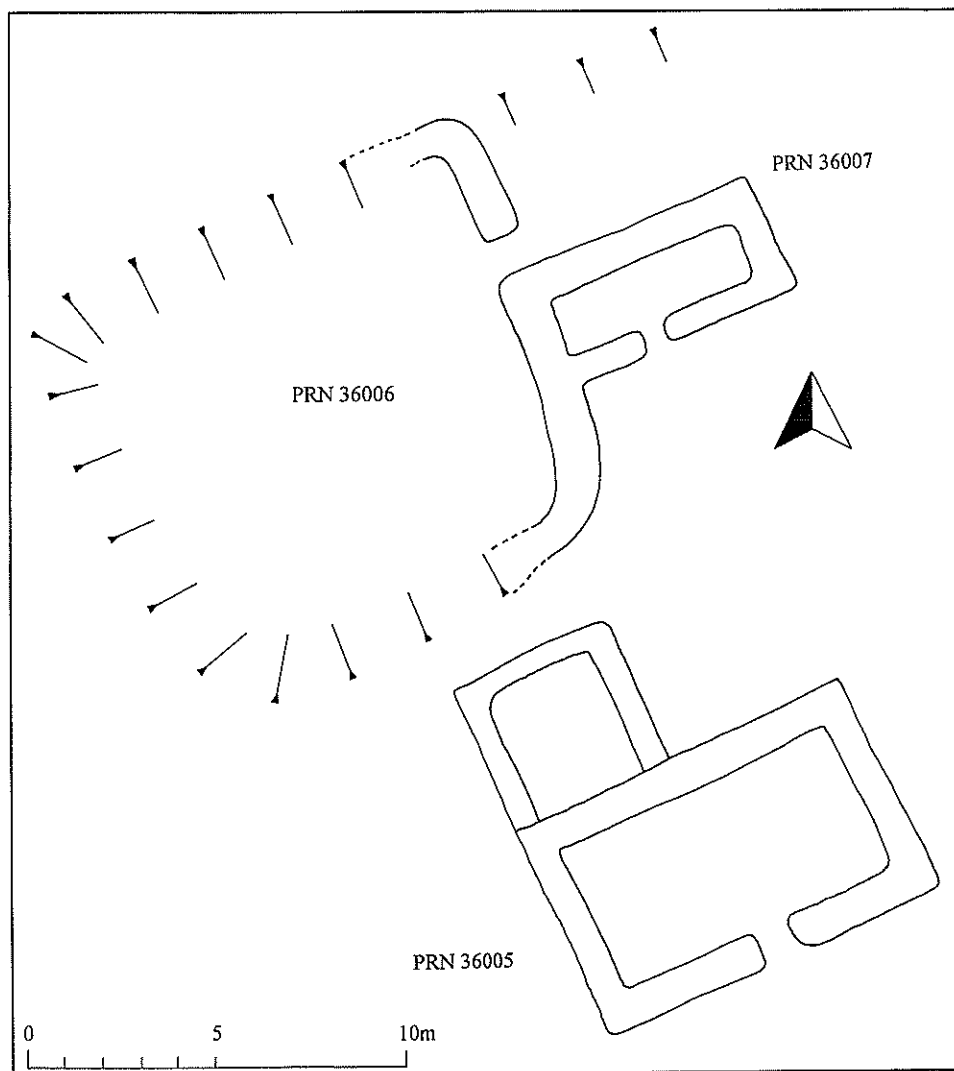


Glan Nant Melyn - Llanddeusant

*A sunken shelter from Llanddeusant. The offset entrance may be significant, possibly intended to keep light out of the sunken compartment*

**Fold:** Unlike a shelter, a fold is an unroofed structure. Folds can vary in size and complexity from small single cell structures to large multi-cell arrangements associated with sorting animals returning from mountain pasture.

Folds have long been used for the penning of animals for specific reasons - most commonly in the uplands of mid-west Wales for the shearing, washing and milking of sheep. It is not always possible to distinguish a fold from an abandoned shepherd's hut; indeed there are many examples of old dwellings being rebuilt and reused as folds.



### Llest Cors Cothi, Llanddewi Brefi, Ceredigion (PRN36008)

This site includes the dwelling PRN36005 and several ancillaries, including a sunken fold PRN36006



## **5. SUMMARY**

Since 1996, ACA have been jointly engaged in a survey of Deserted Rural Settlements with CPAT and GAT. During this three year period, 18 survey areas across Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion have been the focus of field and desktop work intended to better our understanding of DRS sites and improve the conservation and management of such sites. During this period some 600 sites and associated features have been either re-evaluated or recorded for the first time by ACA in West and Mid-Wales, contributing to considerable enhancement of the regional SMR.

Due to the historical approach adopted by ACA to the question of DRS analysis, the project has succeeded in producing worthwhile results which should have long term implications for our understanding and interpretation of DRS sites of all types. A significant number of new sites have been recorded by the project and it has been shown that there is scope for much more work to be done on the subject of settlement history in the region - probably the most significant result of the desktop research carried out by ACA was the recognition of and emphasis put upon the wealth of post-mediaeval settlement evidence in the West Wales landscape and the survival of a considerable body of historical evidence pertaining to the date and function of such sites. Effort has also been made by ACA and the other Welsh Archaeological Trusts to develop an objective and consistent terminology of DRSs which will be applicable across Wales.

SECTION B:  
1998-99 STUDY AREAS

## 6. THE 1998-99 SURVEY

### 6.1 METHODOLOGY.

#### 6.1.1 Fieldwork

The fieldwork element of this third year's study was carried out during the summer and autumn of 1998, staffed by a project manager and project assistant.

In keeping with the example of the previous two year's work, year 3 involved considerable desktop research and a series of rapid field visits to previously recorded sites within six select pilot study areas. New features were either recorded where encountered or identified through more detailed survey work in select areas. within some of the study areas. As previously, the project was designed to follow an historical approach to the question of deserted rural settlement and concentrated on historical research of landscape areas which were known historic units of administration, such as townships or parishes.

However, unlike previous years work, when fieldwork was carried out during the winter months, field visits were made during the summer and autumn months of 1998, followed by desktop research during the winter and spring of 1998-99. This meant that several new factors influenced the fieldwork element, most notably the problem presented by bracken growth in some areas. Although bracken was by no means a severe problem, it proved a hindrance to progress in several locations, particularly Llanllwni (see below). Unfortunately, the change to summer fieldwork proved to be of little benefit in terms of weather - West Wales experienced one of its wettest ever summers during 1998.

The study areas visited were;

- **Ceredigion**
  - 13. Ysgubor y Coed**  
*The northernmost parish in the county of Ceredigion.*
  - 14. Mynydd Bach**  
*An area of upland in Central Ceredigion, detached from the Cambrian Mountain range and mostly enclosed during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries*
  - 15. Llanddewi Brefi**  
*The historical parish of Llanddewi Brefi, once an estate of the Bishop of St Davids*
- **Carmarthenshire**
  - 16. Cynwyl Gaeo**  
*Including a combination of common and enclosed farmland.*
  - 17. Llanddeusant**  
*Focused on the parish commons*
  - 18. Llanllwni & Llanfihangel Rhos y Corn**  
*Adjacent parishes of Llanllwni & Llanfihangel Rhos y Corn parishes*

Each of the six pilot study areas was selected on the basis that there exists some documented evidence for mediaeval or post-mediaeval settlement and that a record of DRS sites already existed in the regional Sites and Monuments Record. which is maintained by ACA.

## 6.2 RESULTS

### 6.2.1 Number of Sites Visited

A selection of sites which were recorded on the SMR and located within the six pilot study areas were chosen for rapid field visits and re-evaluation, one week being spent in the field in each parish. Unfortunately, poor weather during the summer of 1998 reduced the effectiveness of the field team in most areas. In all some 260 sites and features have been visited, evaluated and are included in this report. 150 of these were recorded for the first time.

Table 5

1998-99	OLD	NEW
LLANDDEUSANT	63	39
LLANLLWNI	6	2
CYNWYL GAEO	15	33
LLANDDEWI BREFI	4	49
MYNYDD BACH	22	16
YSGUBOR Y COED	-	11
<b>1998-99 Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>150</b>

### 6.2.2 Terminology

As outlined in Section A of this report, it had been decided prior to beginning the field survey that one of the primary aims of the survey was to arrive at a satisfactory terminology for use when recording DRS sites and that the terminology should be based on terminology already used by the regional SMR or found in the RCAHM Thesaurus. In keeping with this decision, the existing SMR proforma record sheets were used to record all sites visited in the field. This data was subsequently input into the SMR database, enhancing existing records and creating new site record entries.

The consistent application of a set of terms agreed with the SMR officer proved helpful in the field and undoubtedly brings greater clarity to the record produced, especially when ongoing input from the regional SMR officer is available. The task of refining this terminology and spreading its use within ACA is seen as an important 'next step' in the project.

### 6.2.3 Tyddyn & Lluest

In previous DRS reports, observations have been made on the meaning and occurrence of a wide range of settlement related terms and place-names. In keeping with this, a brief note must be entered here about the significance of the terms *tyddyn* and *lluest* in the post-mediaeval settlement history of Ceredigion (which probably has relevance to large areas of northern Carmarthenshire also).

The relationship between the *tyddyn* and the *lluest* is clearly outlined in many deeds and documents kept at the National Library of Wales; the *tyddyn* being the parent farm, the *lluest* being its upland component (probably usually detached from the parent farm). Unfortunately the terms are more usually preserved in deeds and documents, not in modern placenames, and can therefore be easily missed in the field.

The role of the *lluest* was undoubtedly to manage the upland grazing lands of the parent farm, perhaps on a seasonal basis initially, but certainly as a permanently occupied shepherding station by the 18<sup>th</sup> century (the observation by Lewis Morris in 1744<sup>1</sup> that the *lluestau* of Pumlumon were permanent dwellings in his day but had once been only lived in during the summer months is indicative of this).

Examples of the relationship between the *tyddyn* and the *lluest* are discussed in relation to Ysgubor y Coed and Llanddewi Brefi parishes below.

<sup>1</sup> See Vaughan, C, 1966 "Lluestau Blaenrheidol", *Ceredigion* 5.

### 6.2.3 The Longhouse

In almost all of the 1998-99 study areas, examples of sites which are believed to fall within the longhouse *genre* were observed. As outlined in Section A, the classic definition of a longhouse is provided by Iorwerth Peate as “*a single, long, low, oblong building which houses both the family and its cattle. The dwelling is always at one end... the other end... is the cow-house. Between the two is the door. In most cases this opens into a passage called penllawr... dividing the house into its two parts... There are however many instances (a) where the feeding walk does not exist and (b) where it has been modified by the insertion, between cow-house and dwelling, of a dairy, store room or calf-box...*”

The identification of a longhouse on the observation of surface evidence alone is not always easy, but it is suggested that probably the most obvious indicators which should be visible are;

- in a structure with two or more compartments, there may be a step down of 0.5m - 1m from the uppermost compartment into the lower compartment. This served to stop animal muck in the byre crossing over into the dwelling part of the longhouse.
- the presence of a narrow compartment between the two main compartments probably signifies the presence of either a cross-passage or dairy, store room or calf box as described by Peate
- occasionally the presence of a flagstone floor in the upper compartment may be discerned. Peate observes that the byre was usually earth floored. It is more likely that excavation would elucidate this sort of detail however and it is interesting to note that the main structure excavated by ACA at Tro'r Derlwyn in 1998 showed signs both of a step down from one compartment to the other and also of flagstone flooring in the upper compartment.<sup>2</sup>

The longhouse is a definite TYPE of dwelling with a definable function i.e. to house man and animal in separate rooms under the same roof. It is one of the few examples of DRS (i.e. the classic *lluest* and the classic terraced platform which clearly invites inclusion in a DRS typology based on form alone.

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<sup>2</sup> Crane, P & Benson, D, 1999, *Tro'r Derlwyn Upland Farmstead, near Brynamman, Carmarthenshire, 1998: Excavation and Survey Archive Report*. ACA, Llandeilo

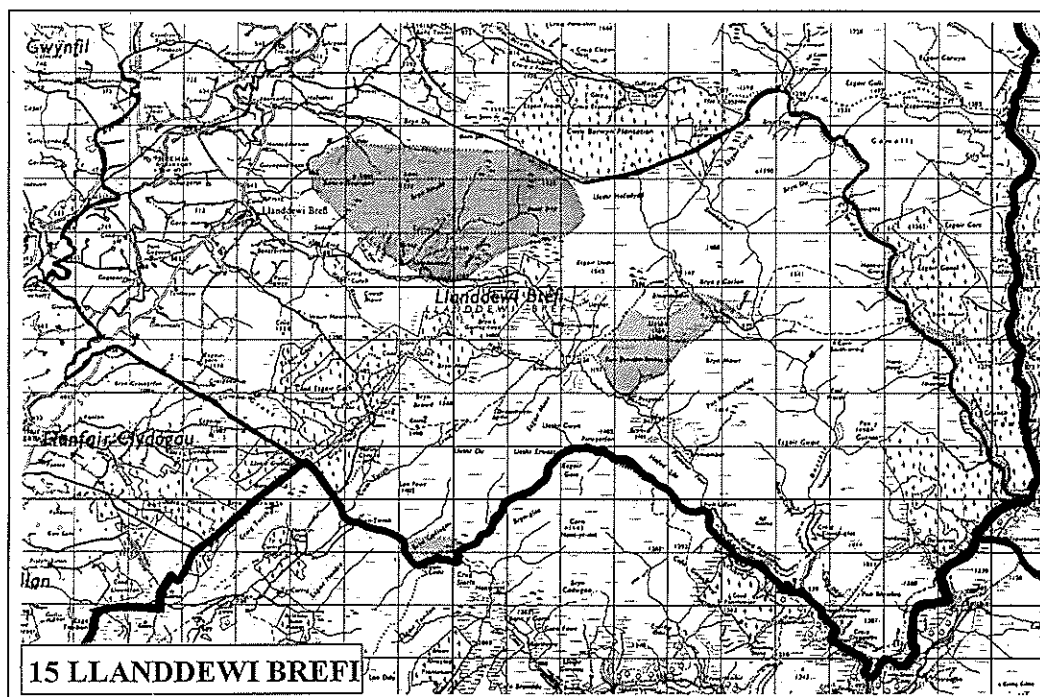
#### 6.2.4 Sites Recommended for Scheduling

The following DRS sites are suggested to be worthy of consideration for SAM status by virtue either of their excellent state of preservation, range of features surviving or rarity. Details of their condition and appraisals of their importance will be submitted to Cadw's SAM Officer separately to this report.

- i) Penprys Long Hut, Ysgubor y Coed (PRN37005)*
- ii) Hafod Ithel Settlement, Mynydd Bach (PRN36048)*
- iii) Cors Blaen Cothi Settlement, Llanddewi Brefi (PRN7872)*
- iv) Cyrnau Long Hut, Llanddewi Brefi (PRN36059)*
- v) Llethr Bryn y Gorlan Platform, Llanddewi Brefi (PRN36060)*
- vi) Nant Gwyddel Settlement, Llanddewi Brefi (PRN36061)*
- vii) Blaen Brefi Longhouse, Llanddewi Brefi (PRN36975)*
- viii) Blaen Brefi Longhouse, Llanddewi Brefi (PRN36980)*
- ix) Bryn Rhudd Long Hut, Llanddewi Brefi (PRN36981)*
- x) Esgair Lewis Settlement, Llanddewi Brefi (PRN36995)*
- xi) Lluest Blaen Cothi, Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 36009)*
- xii) Esgair Gaeo, Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 36015)*
- xiii) Blaen y Cylchau Settlement, Llanddeusant (PRN13266)*
- xiv) Twyn yr Esgair Settlement, Llanddeusant (PRN35987)*

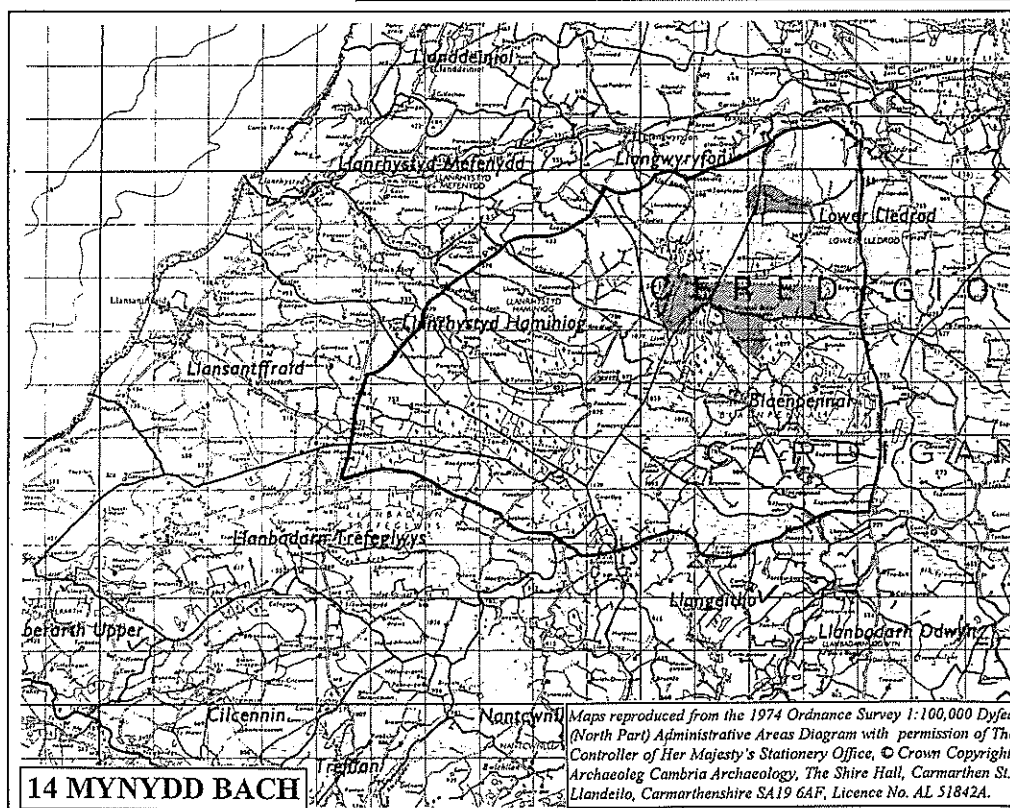
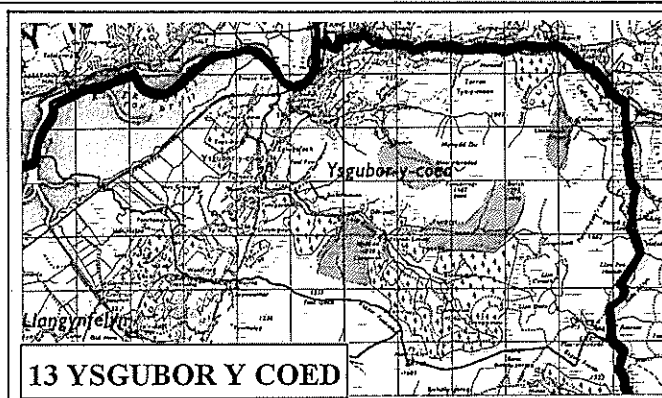
#### 6.2.5 Acknowledgments

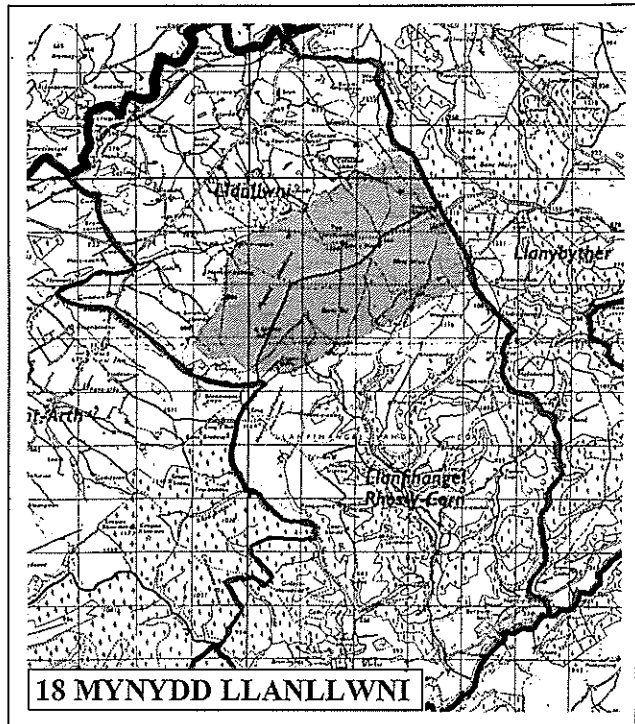
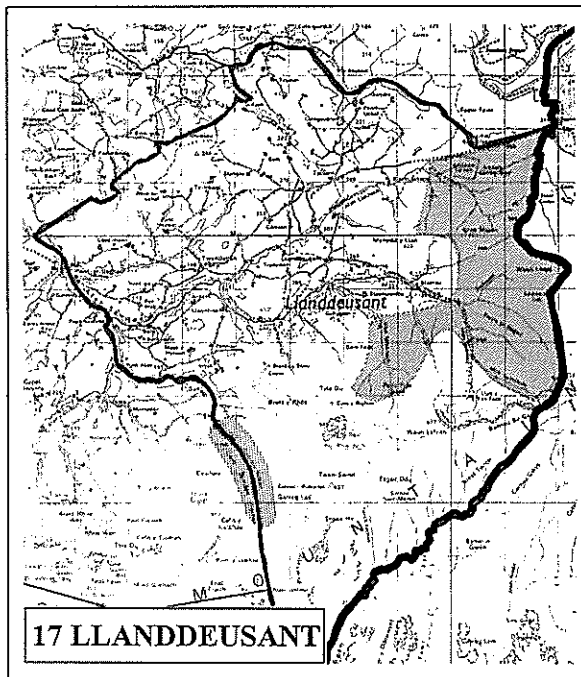
The author wishes to acknowledge the invaluable assistance provided by the following; the landowners of those farms surveyed during the course of the project; ACA's SMR officer Jenny Hall for considerable input into the discussion of terminology throughout 1998-99; Kate Roberts of Cadw, who also provided invaluable observations during field visits in West Wales; Hubert Wilson of ACA for the illustrations and Chris Sharp for his voluntary contribution to the fieldwork.



## ACA Deserted Rural Settlements Project: 1998 Study Areas in Ceredigion

## AREAS OF FIELD SURVEY



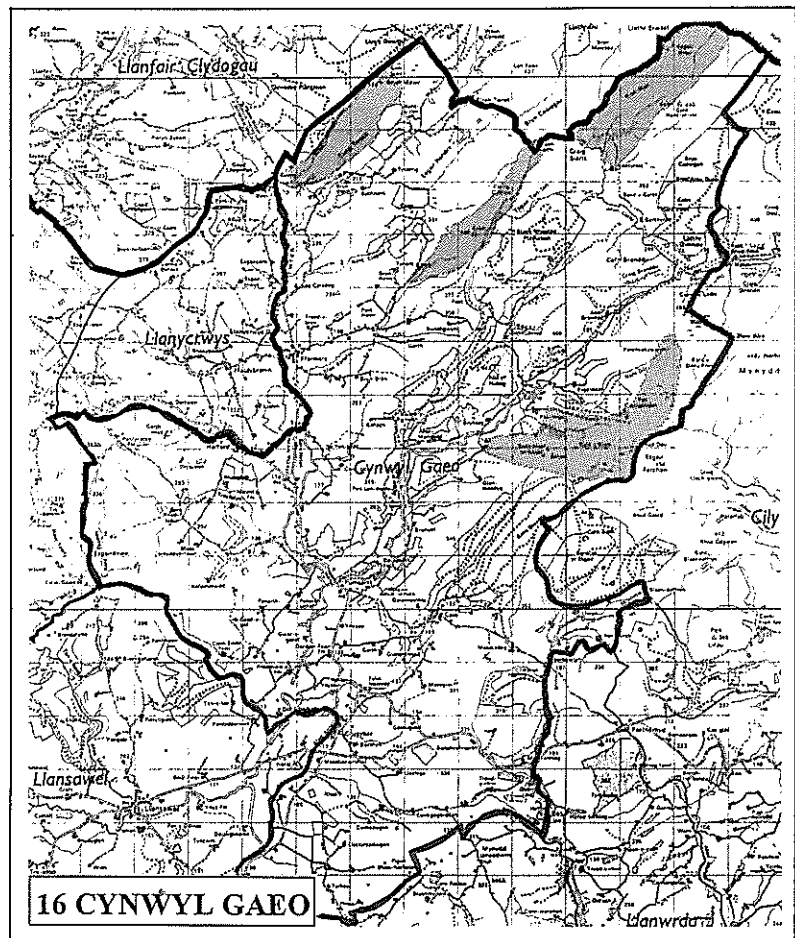


# **ACA Deserted Rural Settlements Project: 1998 Study Areas in Carmarthenshire**

AREAS OF FIELD SURVEY



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## 7. STUDY AREA 13 - YSGUBOR Y COED

### 7.1 The archaeological and historical evidence for deserted rural settlement in Ysgubor y Coed.

The parish of Ysgubor y Coed is the northernmost parish in Ceredigion. Within its boundaries are encompassed a remarkable range of landscapes, from the low-lying coastal bog of Cors Fochno to the rugged and steep mountain slopes of the eastern half of the parish. Historically, Ysgubor y Coed was a township within the parish of Llanfihangel Geneu'r Glyn and in mediaeval times fell within the commote of Geneu'r Glyn and the cantref of Uwch Aeron. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, most of the uplands of Ysgubor y Coed were, according to William Rees<sup>3</sup>, designated as 'forest'.

Fieldwork was carried out at four locations in this mountainous half of the parish and met with mixed success. Relatively few new sites were found, apart from on the lands of one farm holding, namely that of Penprys, which was focused on a comparatively broad and hospitable east-west running valley. It was considered that in many parts of the parish the ground is either too remote, too rough or too steep to have been settled. Settlement has largely been focused on the narrow band of habitable land found between the broad and often boggy coastal strip and the foot of the mountain block, as well as along the mostly narrow and steep sided valleys which dissect the upland portion of the parish.

An examination of documents and deeds relating to the parish held at the National Library of Wales provided few insights into the settlement history of Ysgubor y Coed. However, the existence of 17th and 18th century deeds which refer to some of the *lluestau* of the parish indicated that there are definite parallels with other parts of Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire.

Most significantly, the description of *lluestau* as dairies or cottages compares with the evidence from other areas. As early as 1615, we have deeds which indicate that lowland and valley floor farmsteads or *tyddynod* were in possession of *lluestau* on the parish uplands. In that year we have a reference<sup>4</sup> to *tythyn ucha ymlaen Eignion* (probably the present dwelling of Blaeneinion - SN) which held the dairy or summer-house called *llyest ymlaen Eignion*. The latter is unidentified and probably hidden in the extensive forest block of the south-eastern corner of the parish (a structure shown on modern OS maps at SN73519274) may be a candidate as it is located further upstream on the Afon Einion, the same river on which Blaeneinion stands. From 1703 we have reference to the unlocated *Tythyn Pwll Idris issa* and its *lluest* of *Llyest y fyches wen*<sup>5</sup> and in 1722 *Llyest y Garthen* and *Llyest y Cae Glaes*<sup>6</sup> - two more summer or dairy houses in the parish are named.

Approximately one half of the upland portion of the parish is now afforested and managed by either Forest Enterprise or private forest companies. Desktop evaluations of the archaeology of the Forest Enterprise owned plantations did not include field survey but did plot a large number of settlement sites now hidden in the forests. None of these were visited by the survey, but experience suggests that many will survive in reasonable condition and as mentioned above, a number are shown on modern OS maps.

### 7.2 Characteristic site types.

#### 7.2.1 Simple, dispersed sites.

Of the relatively few new sites recorded, solitary structures included both of the large long huts and the smaller long hut on Penprys land (PRNs 37005;37007;37129). PRN 37129 may have been an ancillary of the farmhouse at Penprys, as it is located relatively close to the dwelling (itself now abandoned as a dwelling, although still used as an agricultural building), although on the opposite side of the river. The badly ruined structure PRN37004 was apparently built onto or in association with a long

<sup>3</sup> Rees, W, 1932, South Wales and the Border in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, NW sheet. OS.

<sup>4</sup> NLW Harold Hughes Deeds, No.27

<sup>5</sup> NLW Cymerau Deeds, No. 10

<sup>6</sup> NLW Cwrtmawr Deeds & Documents, No.951

drystone field boundary wall and it was thought possible that it was a fold or temporary shelter rather than a dwelling site.

#### **7.2.2 Complex dispersed sites.**

Sites of this category include the deserted farmstead complex of Caemardin (PRN37142) and the more ephemeral group of features on Penprys land (PRN37008-10). An insufficient number of DRS sites of this category were seen to draw many conclusions, but it can be observed that the surviving farmsteads of the parish are found either on the coastal plain or in the more accessible sheltered valleys. There has been an obvious and widespread abandonment of dwellings and farmsteads on the valley slopes and higher moorlands, with a number of deserted farmsteads visible clinging to the valleys sides along both the Einion and Penprys valleys.

#### **7.2.3 Nucleations.**

No sites of this category were observed.

## Sites in the study area of Ysgubor-y-Coed

PRN 37004 NGR SN71569542 ALTITUDE 280 PART OF  
 NAME DYNYN TYPE SHELTER?;FOLD?  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Small drystone structure possibly built onto a boundary wall. Disturbed by trackway. Was built of large slabs and blocks but now very ruinous. SE corner stands to 1.5m high and is now precarious. Character and function uncertain. Probably c.7m square. Possibly a fold.

---

PRN 37005 NGR SN72489410 ALTITUDE 240 PART OF  
 NAME PENPRYS TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Defined by stone & earth wall bases. Overall measurements 12m long EW x 6.5m wide. Hint of a central partition wall base. The W gable end stands to nearly 1m high, but E of the gable the wall bases are only 0.2m high, rising to up to 0.5m at E end.

---

PRN 37006 NGR SN72539405 ALTITUDE 260 PART OF  
 NAME CWM PEMPRYS TYPE SHEEP DIP  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A small drystone fold and sheep wash.

---

PRN 37007 NGR SN73039414 ALTITUDE 300 PART OF  
 NAME CWM PEMPRYS TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Long hut measures 7m NS x 3.25 EW. The northernmost 5m is a rough stone structure, with some large stone blocks incorporated. A rough line of uncoursed stone forms N end. Some stone collapsed into interior.

---

PRN 37008 NGR SN72219401 ALTITUDE 235 PART OF  
 NAME CWM PEMPRYS TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 At the terminal of an old boundary bank; banks runs off an ovoid structure defined by three large stone boulders, possibly a shelter.

---

PRN 37009 NGR SN72159403 ALTITUDE 233 PART OF

NAME CWM PEMPRYS TYPE PLATFORM

PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Earthwork

ASSOCIATED WITH

CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Platform, 10m E-W x 5m N-S. At its E end is a U-shaped bank which defines the E half of the site, possibly a drainage hood which has eroded to 0.3m high x 1.5m wide.

PRN 37010 NGR SN72139401 ALTITUDE 238 PART OF

NAME CWM PEMPRYS TYPE PLATFORM?

PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Earthwork

ASSOCIATED WITH

CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

30m upslope to the N of platform PRN37009, there is a possible platform parallel to the contour. This is 4m E-W x 3.5 N-S. Possibly natural.

PRN 37129 NGR SN71539408 ALTITUDE 220 PART OF

NAME PEMPRYS TYPE LONG HUT

PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH

CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Large rectangular earth & stone structure, 16m E-W x 6m N-S. No visible internal features or entrances. Probably been disturbed by agricultural activity. At E end of longhut it is cut into slope and there is a hint of a positive platform at W end, extending 6m beyond structure.

PRN 37130 NGR SN74119540 ALTITUDE 240 PART OF

NAME LLECHWEDD EINION TYPE FOLD?

PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM O.Struct

ASSOCIATED WITH 37131

CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Sunk 0.75m below the trackway which runs alongside it. Measures 25m N-S x 5m wide E-W. At its NW corner there is a defining bank up to 1m high. Unlikely as a dwelling site.

PRN 37131 NGR SN74159543 ALTITUDE 240 PART OF

NAME LECHWEDD EINION TYPE FOLD

PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM O.Struct

ASSOCIATED WITH 37132

CONSISTS OF

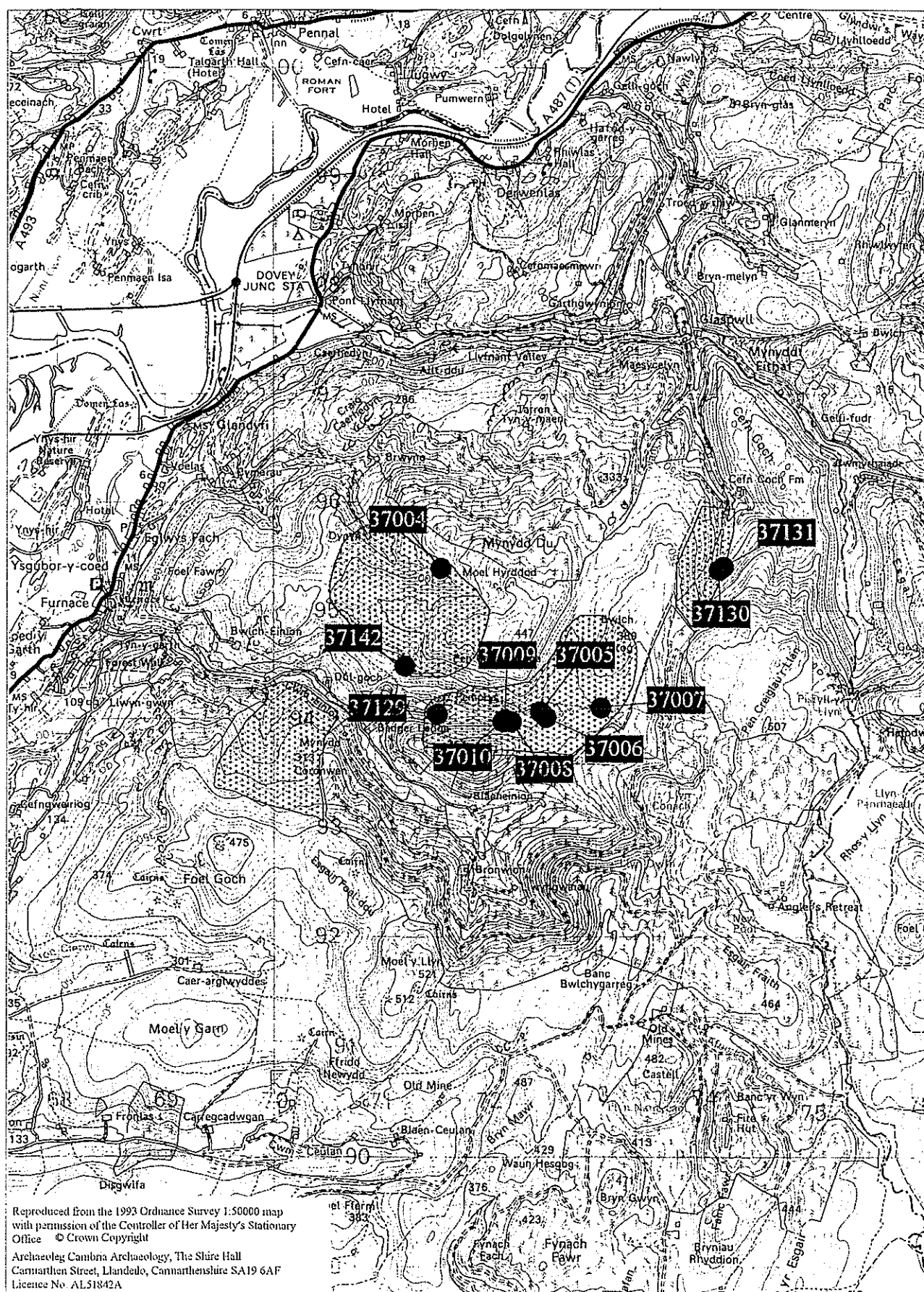
DESCRIPTION

Defined by 2 parallel earth banks on an E-W axis, possibly truncated by a modern track on W side. Banks between 0.5 and 1m high, enclosing an area now measuring 7m x 10m.

*PRN* 37142 *NGR* SN71239452 *ALTITUDE* 310 *PART OF*  
*NAME* CAEMARDIN *TYPE* FARMSTEAD  
*PERIOD* Post Med *FORM* Building  
*ASSOCIATED WITH*  
*CONSISTS OF*  
*DESCRIPTION*  
Ruined, roofless farmstead complex. Range of drystone buildings including dwelling and outbuildings.

---

# Study area 13 Ysgubor-y-Coed



## 8. STUDY AREA 14 - MYNYDD BACH

### 8.1 The archaeological and historical evidence for deserted rural settlement in Mynydd Bach.

The Mynydd Bach area is a dissected upland block in Central Ceredigion, detached from the main Cambrian Mountain range. The study area has been defined by the main roads which skirt this upland block, enclosing an area of c.53km<sup>2</sup>. Only relatively small areas of surviving common land and some accessible farmland were visited by the field survey (less than 3km<sup>2</sup>) although a number of dwellings dispersed across the area outside the areas of field survey were also visited. One of the chief reasons for investigating DRS sites in the district was the fact that a large number of DRSs were recorded some 20 years ago in the area and entered into the regional SMR under the confusing generic type description "COTTAGE?;HAFOD?." It was felt that it would be useful to visit a sample of these sites to assess the true nature of such sites and amend the SMR accordingly.

Historically, the uplands of the district served as the unenclosed commons and wastes of several parishes. The monks of Strata Florida maintained upland granges within the area, such as the Trefaes grange, recorded as a grange and mediaeval settlement by William Rees<sup>7</sup> (PRN10938 & 12843). The occurrence of a number of *hafod* placenames in the district may well reflect this and serve as reminders of an unrecorded history of seasonal exploitation of the hills as the summer grazing grounds of the herds and flocks wintered on lowland pastures nearer the coast and in the Teifi valley. There are also numerous *lluest* placenames dotted around the district which are probably indicative of the later use of the upland wastes as sheepwalks for lowland farms.

The archaeological evidence for mediaeval settlement is limited and difficult to define on present information. Some long hut and long house structures recorded in the area may be of mediaeval date and sites such as the unusual complex of enclosures at Banc Pwllrainllwyn (PRN35541; SAM Cd 151) may also represent early activity associated with the exploitation of the once extensive open commons of the district. However, the picture has been complicated by the enclosure of most of the former commons during the 18th and 19th centuries, partly by piecemeal enclosure or through the establishment of *tai-unnos* and also through the purchase and enclosure of a large area of Crown Estate Land (almost 840 acres according to contemporary deeds) across the centre of the area in 1816 by one Augustus Brackenbury<sup>8</sup>. The enclosure of this large estate and Brackenbury's efforts to divide the lands and establish new farmsteads led to social disturbances due to the loss of traditional grazing lands - some of Brackenbury's cottages were burned during these episodes. Nevertheless, the enclosure of this part of Mynydd Bach has produced a large area of improved and farmed land very different from the fragments of moorland which survive. The population of peasant labourers and farmers who occupied this 19th century landscape were however to be forced to leave the district in substantial numbers during the latter half of the 19th century, many for America, as agricultural practices changed and fewer people were required on the land. Today, the whole of the Mynydd Bach area is dotted with deserted cottages and farmsteads, marking the high-water mark of human settlement in the district.

The illustrated examples of the farmstead of Bryn-yr-ychain (PRN6863), Mynydd Bach, Ceredigion and its nearest neighbour, the 'long hut' of Hafod Gou (PRN36051) provide a remarkable example of both how difficult it is to assess settlement history by observing surface remains of DRSs and how fundamental the use of historic sources is to DRS studies. The former is recorded as a farmstead and the latter as a long hut, largely by virtue of the fact that the walls of Bryn-yr-ychain are mostly complete, whilst Hafod Gou - which lies next to a road - has been reduced to its wall bases. The relevance of this point becomes more apparent when one considers the fact that the 'long hut' of Hafod Gou was built after the survey of the 1891 OS 1:10560 map series and appears as an occupied cottage only on the 1906 2nd edition version of the map (OS 1:10560 Sheet No. Cardiganshire XX.NW). Bryn-yr-ychain, on the other hand, appears on the earliest map consulted, namely the OS Original Surveyors Drawings (Sheet No.314 - surveyed 1820-21).

<sup>7</sup> Rees, W, 1932, Map of South Wales and the Borders in the 14th century. OS, London.

<sup>8</sup> Phillips, R, 1971, "Amgau Tir ar Fynydd Bach", *Ceredigion*, Vol 6 No.4, p.350-364

## 8.2 Characteristic site types.

### 8.2.1 Simple, dispersed sites.

Of the sites seen in the field, few were single, isolated structures. This did however include a probable platform on the western side of Hafod Ithel (PRN36047) which may be associated with a minor quarry. There were also two long huts which appeared to have no ancillary structures (PRN36053-54). Neither of these long huts appear on any known cartographic source and they may predate the 19th century field systems within which they are located.

### 8.2.2 Complex dispersed sites.

Most of the DRS sites of the area fall into this category, including long house type remains on Hafod Ithel common and more recent farmstead complexes which post-date the enclosure and improvement of the Mynydd Bach hills in the 19th century.

It is significant that the only structures of the long house tradition observed were on the eastern flank of Hafod Ithel on land which remains open common. The group of features which make up DRS PRN 36048 included a long house, sunken shelter and other minor ancillaries. They are located in the lee of the hill, sheltered from prevailing winds, but are nevertheless on open ground and well away from any identifiable water source. No enclosure or cultivation was recorded in their vicinity.

The interpretation of such a site as being of pastoral function and of probable pre-19th century date is quite reasonable, but it requires a greater leap of faith to make suggest that these remains are the archaeological evidence for the focus of a mediaeval *hafod* on Hafod Ithel common. This DRS seems to be a single dwelling and there are apparently no close neighbouring sites on the common, tending to suggest that the site is not associated with a communal depasturing of stock animals on the common, but rather with the management of a single flock or herd. The site is very different in terms of its form compared with the scheduled long hut and enclosures of Banc Pwllrainllwyn (PRN PRN35541), which are described as being of mediaeval date. Whatever their chronology, it is clear that their form points to a very different function for both of these DRS sites.

As touched on above, the investigation of a number of sites recorded as "COTTAGE?;HAFOD?" by earlier fieldworkers has thrown some new light on the issues surrounding the true character of such sites, but also presented some new difficulties. It is however clear that these sites are generally the remains of smallholdings or small farmsteads and that they are complex sites. As demonstrated above, the reduction of even recent dwellings and ancillary buildings to their wall bases (by robbing presumably) makes the accurate identification of sites such as Hafod Gou or Moelfryn as 19th century cottages difficult without giving proper attention to historic research. It is nevertheless clear that the identification of drystone ruins, in the context of the Mynydd Bach uplands, as *hafotai* is mistaken and the removal of the term from the regional SMR is necessary.

The new problem which is presented is how to properly describe the many ruined smallholdings which dot the area. The term *cottage* probably does as little justice as the term *hafod*, for these were often the dwellings of the minor farmers and agricultural labourers who made up the bulk of the population of rural Wales during the 18th and 19th centuries. This a discussion that will undoubtedly recur in future DRS work in lowland contexts.

### 8.2.3 Nucleations.

No sites of this category were encountered.



## Sites in the study area of Mynydd Bach

PRN 6126 NGR SN60676550 ALTITUDE 305 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD-GOU TYPE HAFOD?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Place-name  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36051;36052  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 One of many Hafod placenames in the area of the former common and wastes of the Mynydd Bach district.

---

PRN 6131 NGR SN61396730 ALTITUDE 320 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD ITHEL TYPE HAFOD?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Place-name  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 One of the many hafod placenames of the Mynydd Bach area, the hill known as Hafod Ithel remains a parcel of unenclosed common and rough pasture. There is evidence of deserted settlement on this common, but whether this in any way explains the archaeological evidence - which includes platforms and longhuts - is debatable.

---

PRN 6135 NGR SN60336837 ALTITUDE 274 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD NEWYDD TYPE HAFOD?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Place-name  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 One of many hafod placenames in the Mynydd Bach area, the significance of the 'Newydd' element is difficult to ascertain.

---

PRN 6137 NGR SN60236920 ALTITUDE 221 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD GLAS UCHAF TYPE HAFOD?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Place-name  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 One of many hafod placenames in the Mynydd Bach area.

---

PRN 6862 NGR SN63146884 ALTITUDE 290 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD-UCHAF TYPE LONGHOUSE  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Occupied farmstead, the farmhouse being in the longhouse tradition.

---

PRN 6863 NGR SN61046547 ALTITUDE 297 PART OF  
 NAME BRYN YR YCHAIN TYPE DWELLING;FARMSTEAD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

A substantial three-roomed drystone building measuring 6m x 20m on an E-W axis with the W gable end largely intact up to about 4m in height. Other walls stand up to 2m-3m high but are collapsed in several places. Grassy pasture surrounds the whole site and there is a cluster of planted deciduous trees affording shelter.

PRN 9216 NGR SN58176286 ALTITUDE 295 PART OF  
 NAME MOELFRYN-BACH TYPE COTTAGE;HAFOD?  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Lies in the lee of a hill, just below the top of slope and well sheltered. Located in the corner of the field and observed as consisting of only the low, ruinous walls of a post-mediaeval cottage.

PRN 9234 NGR SN62146952 ALTITUDE 305 PART OF  
 NAME BLAEN-WYRE-UCHAF TYPE COTTAGE;HAFOD?  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

A deserted farmstead which is substantially intact. Walls stand to original wallplate and gable height.

PRN 9251 NGR SN60886730 ALTITUDE 310 PART OF  
 NAME TAN-Y-BWLCH TYPE HAFOD?;COTTAGE  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

A two celled building at the roadside next to a gate onto the common. Only drystone wall bases survive. The E side of the building has been obscured by road widening.

PRN 9414 NGR SN61826777 ALTITUDE 345 PART OF 36048  
 NAME HAFOD ITHEL TYPE LONGHOUSE?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval; Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

This PRN comprises possibly three components, the interpretation is uncertain. The features may be a single longhouse or three adjacent structures. The site stands on a NE facing slope with a procession of features running downslope SW-NE. At the SW or upper end is a small platform terraced into the slope. At the NE end of this platform there is a step down of 1m onto another platform upon which stands a long hut. At the NE end of the long hut there is a step down of 0.5m to either another compartment or possibly a separate structure defined by grassy wall bases.

PRN 9415 NGR SN61836775 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF 36048  
 NAME HAFOD ITHEL TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

A rectilinear structure 8m x 4m with long axis NW-SE. Built on a slope rather than on a true terraced platform and sheltered from prevailing winds by Hafod Ithel hill.

PRN 9416 NGR SN62856783 ALTITUDE 320 PART OF  
 NAME BRON-FYNWENT TYPE LONG HUT?  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

A 6m x 5m single cell structure on a N-S axis, with low earth wall bases up to c.0.3m high. The building is obscured by reed growth on its E side.

PRN 10938 NGR SN56256405 ALTITUDE 236 PART OF  
 NAME TREFAES;TREFAES-UCHAF TYPE SETTLEMENT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval FORM Documents  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Working farmstead observed from road. Recorded as a mediaeval settlement by William Rees (1932).

PRN 18657 NGR SN545644 ALTITUDE 205 PART OF  
 NAME HENDRE-NEWYDD TYPE HENDRE?  
 PERIOD Post Med? FORM Place-name  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

One of several hendre place names in the district.

PRN 19117 NGR SN62036423 ALTITUDE 259 PART OF  
 NAME CEFN-HENDRE TYPE HENDRE?  
 PERIOD Post Med? FORM Place-name  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

One of several hendre place names in the district.

PRN 19118 NGR SN62726428 ALTITUDE 205 PART OF  
 NAME HENDRE TYPE HENDRE?  
 PERIOD Post Med? FORM Place-name  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

One of several hendre place names in the district.

PRN 19206 NGR SN55666600 ALTITUDE 205 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD-WYNOG-ISAF TYPE HAFOD?  
 PERIOD Post Med? FORM Place-name  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 One of several hafod place names in the district.

---

PRN 19208 NGR SN55736555 ALTITUDE 221 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD-WYNOG-UCHAF TYPE HAFOD?  
 PERIOD Post Med? FORM Place-name  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 One of several hafod place names in the district.

---

PRN 19209 NGR SN55556517 ALTITUDE 221 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD NEWYDD TYPE HAFOD?  
 PERIOD Post Med? FORM Place-name  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 One of several hafod place names in the district.

---

PRN 25541 NGR SN61826955 ALTITUDE 330 PART OF  
 NAME BANC PWLLDRAINLLWYN TYPE LONGHOUSE  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 12101;12128;12139;12196  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Long hut located between two field enclosures (PRN's 12139 and 12128). Part of SAM Cd 151/b.

---

PRN 28209 NGR SN62126912 ALTITUDE 320 PART OF  
 NAME LLUEST-LAS TYPE FARMSTEAD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 37136;37137;37138  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Post-mediaeval farmstead or smallholding complex comprising a dwelling and two outbuildings (PRNs 37136-38).

---

PRN 28210 NGR SN62276918 ALTITUDE 310 PART OF  
 NAME BLAEN-WYRE-ISAF TYPE FARMSTEAD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 37139;37140  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Ruinous post-mediaeval farmstead or smallholding.

---

PRN 36045 NGR SN600671 ALTITUDE 250 PART OF  
 NAME UNKNOWN TYPE COTTAGE  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Ruined cottage. Three rooms, measuring 20m NE-SW overall x 5m wide. Wall stand up to a maximum of 2.5m high but are generally less than 1m in height. Stands on a terraced area 2m above and parallel to a minor road. Central room is largest at 8m long. Built of well coursed drystone walls. Some deciduous trees now growing within structure. The site of a small ancillary building may be just to SW of cottage at road level where only a length of walling is now visible revetting the roadside bank.

PRN 36046 NGR SN607678 ALTITUDE 320 PART OF  
 NAME NANT Y GWAIR TYPE SHELTER?;FOLD?  
 PERIOD Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Probably a fold. Rectangular earthwork measuring 5m E-W x 4.5m. Defined by low, denuded earth banks up to 0.3m high and 2m wide. Entrance in NE corner, facing N.

PRN 36047 NGR SN60426762 ALTITUDE 280 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD ITHEL TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36050  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

At W end of Hafod Ithel hill. In an area of small scale quarrying is a platform measuring 5m NE-SW x 3.5m.

PRN 36048 NGR SN618677 ALTITUDE 350 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD ITHEL TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 9414;9415;36049;36050;37147  
 DESCRIPTION

Deserted rural settlement which includes several components; Long huts PRNs 9414-15, Sunken shelter PRN36049 and platform PRN36050.

PRN 36049 NGR SN618677 ALTITUDE 350 PART OF 36048  
 NAME HAFOD ITHEL TYPE SUNKEN SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 9414;9415;36050;37147  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Downslope to NNE of 9414. Narrow cut, cut into the slope to a depth of up to 1m, measuring 8m NE-SW x c.3m. Internally only 1m wide with some traces of stone revetting on NW side of cut. The SW end is 1m wide but it does widen to almost 2.5m wide at NE end. It may have an entrance at SE corner.

PRN 36050 NGR SN618677 ALTITUDE 350 PART OF 36048  
 NAME HAFOD ITHEL TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 9414;9415;36047;36049;37147  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Platform measures approximately 7m NW-SE x 3m. No trace of structure on platform. Level area measures c.4m x 2m,

PRN 36051 NGR SN60676548 ALTITUDE 301 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD GOU TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 6126;36052  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Ruinous, rectilinear, drystone building, probably a post-mediaeval cottage. Walls stand up to 1m high.

PRN 36052 NGR SN60686548 ALTITUDE 301 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD GOU TYPE SHELTER?;FOLD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 6126;36051  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Small drystone ancillary structure alongside long hut PRN36051. Original character unknown but certainly modified for use as a sheep fold at some time.

PRN 36053 NGR SN633677 ALTITUDE 278 PART OF  
 NAME UWCH CWAREL TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Long hut located in corner of well improved pasture field. Survives as a shallow depression with some evidence of drystone wall bases. However, stones from land clearance have been thrown into the hollow over a period of time and obscure internal detail.

PRN 36054 NGR SN62726914 ALTITUDE 300 PART OF  
 NAME BLAEN WYRE HUT TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Low, earthwork wall bases of a rectilinear long hut. Slightly terraced into slope on a cross-contour axis.

PRN 37136 NGR SN62116918 ALTITUDE 310 PART OF 28209  
 NAME LLUEST LAS TYPE FARMHOUSE  
 PERIOD Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 37137;37138  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Probably the dwelling house of Lluest Las. Now very ruinous. The building had a central door and two windows in the E facing wall, with a door in the S. end of the W wall which led through to a narrow llaethdy or coolhouse to the rear at the W.

PRN 37137 NGR SN62136918 ALTITUDE 310 PART OF 28209  
 NAME LLUEST LAS TYPE BUILDING  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 37136;37138  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Drystone ruin, roofless. In the shelter of a stand of mature beech trees. Most of stonework remains intact and is of good quality. E-W axis. Internally there are surviving patches of cobbled flooring to the E end and some flagstones centrally and a low raised platform at the W end. The flagstones appear to form the floor to a former passage between opposed entrances in the centre of the N and S walls.

PRN 37138 NGR SN62136918 ALTITUDE 310 PART OF 28209  
 NAME LLUEST LAS TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 37136;37137  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

A few metres NW of building PRN37137 is a small shelter, presumably a pigsty. This survives as a small drystone structure, now roofless, with a small pen or yard on its E side.

PRN 37139 NGR SN62276918 ALTITUDE 300 PART OF 28210  
 NAME BLAEN WYRE ISAF TYPE FARMHOUSE  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 37140  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

A large multi-roomed building which may be single dwelling with attached outbuildings, or a row of two or more dwellings. There are certainly 6 rooms arranged on a N-S axis the northernmost of which appears to have been used as a dwelling.

PRN 37140 NGR SN62286914 ALTITUDE 300 PART OF 28210  
 NAME BLAEN WYRE ISAF TYPE COTTAGE?  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 37139  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

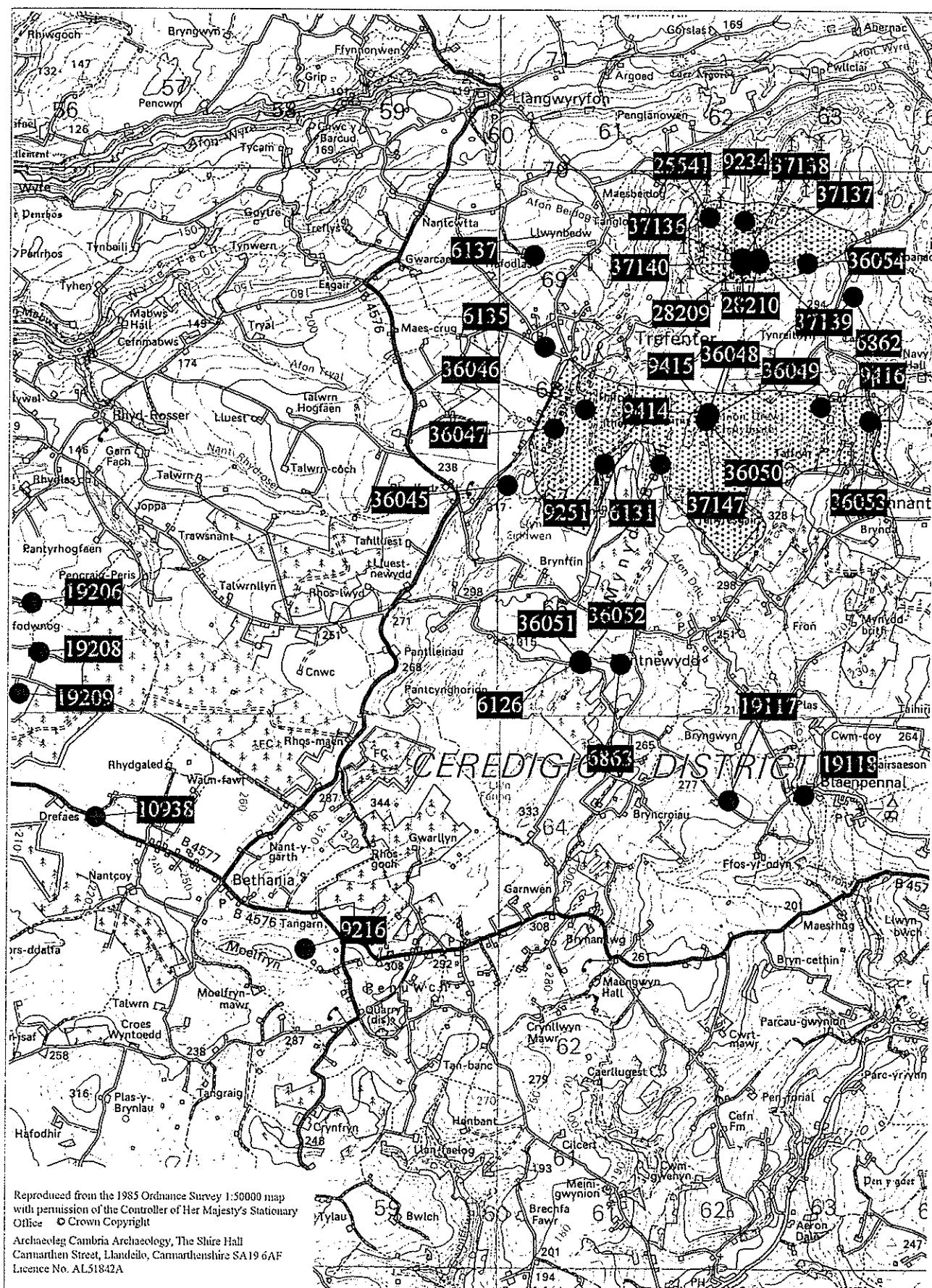
20m SE of PRN 37139 and presumably associated with it is a single building which appears to be a cottage. Survives as a drystone ruin but largely intact up to gable and wallplate height. Now roofless.

*PRN* 37147 *NGR* SN618677 *ALTITUDE* 350 *PART OF* 36048  
*NAME* HAFOD ITHEL *TYPE* PLATFORM  
*PERIOD* Mediaeval?;Post Med? *FORM* Earthwork  
*ASSOCIATED WITH* 9414;9415;36049;36050  
*CONSISTS OF*  
*DESCRIPTION*  
 Possible platform, c. 8m x 4m NE-SW axis. May be a natural feature.

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## Study area 14 Mynydd Bach



## 9. STUDY AREA 15 - LLANDDEWI BREFI

The parish of Llanddewi Brefi is found in south-eastern Ceredigion, situated on the Carmarthenshire border. It is an extensive parish which was in mediaeval times a grange in the ownership of the Lordship of St. David's. The grange was known as the *Four Forests of Tryminits of ye Bishoppes Forrest* in pre-19<sup>th</sup> century deeds.

The village of Llanddewi Brefi stands at the western margin of the parish and was the focus of the grange where annual markets and fairs were held. The eastern parish boundary is formed by the Afon Camddwr, which is also the route of historical communications routes between Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire, the Abergwesyn road leading into eastern Wales and England begins at Ffrwd ar Gamddwr, in the extreme north-eastern corner of the parish. A large portion of the parish is upland and most of the land area lies above the 300m contour, with several of the highest mountains reaching over 480m OD.

Fieldwork was focused on two areas of the parish uplands in particular;

- a block of land c.10km<sup>2</sup> around Bryn Rhudd (SN611559), largely in the ownership of the neighbouring farms of Gwyngod-fach and Aberdauddwr.
- a block of land c.4km<sup>2</sup> between the Afon Pysgotwr and the Afon Doethie, to the west of Ty'n y Cornel youth hostel.

### 9.1 The archaeological and historical evidence for deserted rural settlement in Llanddewi Brefi.

Llanddewi Brefi is rich in both archaeological and historical evidence for deserted settlement, a fact which largely arises because of the remote and unspoiled nature of the district, combined with an economic and settlement history closely associated with the exploitation of the parish uplands for pastoral purposes. Place names such as Llethr Hafodydd (The Slope of the Hafods - SN7355) may give clues to a past transhumant exploitation of the former parish commons (this particular example is now in an extensive area of coniferous forest and was not investigated).

There has been a retreat of settlement from the upland valleys and hills since the 18<sup>th</sup> century and by modern times, the settlement pattern of most the parish area has been reduced to a thin sprinkling of remote upland farms. As is often the case in the Ceredigion uplands, modern settlement is focused on the floors and sides of the more accessible valleys, with remoter upland valleys and the mountain slopes the location of a great number of deserted settlement sites. The only significant concentration of settlement is now confined to the village of Llanddewi Brefi and its environs and the slopes which form the eastern side of the broad Teifi valley.

The association with the Lordship of St. David's means that there are good historical sources which can be consulted for this parish. Their deeds and documents held in various collections at the National Library of Wales are far too numerous to appreciate here, beyond noting that they mostly post-date 1540 and continue up until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, naming settlements, owners and occupants.

A particularly interesting series of boundary deeds in the Welsh language survive for upland shepherding holdings in the parish<sup>9</sup>. One in particular deserves attention, namely a deed dated October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1631, pertaining to the area of common land belonging to *Tythyn Nant y Gwyddyl, late in the tenure of David ap Ieuan Llewelin, deceased*.<sup>10</sup> Tyddyn Nant y Gwyddil must refer to the unnamed DRS site observed alongside Nant Gwyddel (PRN36061). The 17<sup>th</sup> century boundaries of the holding appear to

<sup>9</sup> NLW Neuadd Fawr Collection

<sup>10</sup> NLW Neuadd Fawr Deeds & Documents index p.6, No.473.

have included land both sides of the Doethie, but cannot be accurately traced from OS map evidence alone. The mention of water courses, marker stones, placenames and natural features as boundary markers suggest that the ground was not denoted by boundary walls or banks, other than a reference to the unlocated *dau gae ar ben y cripelle* (two fields on top of *y cripelle*). The use of the term *tythin* for this settlement is interesting as its upland location might otherwise suggest it to be a *lluest*.

Another significant series of deeds observed relates to the history of two settlements known as *Tythyn John David Vain* and *llyest John David Vain yn nhalken y bryn rhydd* from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century and through the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The location of the Tyddyn of John David Vain is unknown, but that of his *lluest* is specified in its very name - *yn nhalken y bryn rhydd* - at the end of Bryn Rhudd. Although it is not possible to be certain of the location of the *lluest*, it is worth noting that only one long hut was recorded by the field survey at either end of Bryn Rhudd, namely PRN36981 and this is a strong candidate for the site.

The relationship of the tyddyn and the *lluest* is likely to have been one of the tyddyn being a farmstead off the parish commons, whilst the *lluest* served as a permanent shepherding station on the common where sheep could be grazed. Of several deeds relating to these holdings held at the national Library of Wales, the most significant is one dated October 26<sup>th</sup> 1616, which is a bond for the *peaceful possession* of “one cottage or turf house called *Llyest John David Vain yn nhalken y bryn Rhydd*”. This gives a rare insight into the structure of the dwelling at the *lluest* and would concur with the physical evidence of the long hut of PRN36981 which has only drystone wall bases, the rest of the structure must reasonably be expected to have been of clom or turf construction. It also tells us that the owner of both the tyddyn and the *lluest* during the early 17<sup>th</sup> century was one Thomas John David Vain of Llanddeusant, Carmarthenshire, the son of the original owner (and founder?) of both the tyddyn and the *lluest*.

It is worth reminding ourselves that evidence such as this provides clear indications of the activity on the upland pastures in post-mediaeval times. There is also a genuine parallel with the theoretical *hafod/hendre* model of transhumant practice in the relationship between the *tyddyn* and the *lluest* in the Ceredigion uplands (and certainly also in the upland districts of adjacent counties). It can be observed from a great number of deeds from the 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> centuries that the *lluest* was an integral element to the *tyddynod* of the region.

## 9.2 Characteristic site types.

### 9.2.1 Simple, dispersed sites.

Very few solitary sites were recorded. They include a well preserved long hut on Cynau (PRN36059) which has no recorded ancillary features. However, as has been postulated elsewhere in this report, it is suspected that such structures were complex in themselves and might have had all the necessary animal penning and storage space required by their occupants contained almost literally within four walls (the presence of a number of complex long houses in the area are dealt with below). This is evident in the example of the aforementioned long hut on Bryn Rhudd (PRN36981), which is also a solitary structure without detached ancillary structures, but does possess a small extension to its southern end. It would make perfect sense to suggest that solitary long huts of the size and quality of these examples fit well in the tyddyn/*lluest* arrangement, for as the dwellings of shepherds they would be expected to stand alone on the land of their associated sheepwalk.

It is less clear as to why some *lluestau* might stand alone on their sheepwalks whilst others accrued ancillary features such as shelters, folds and cultivation plots. However, the explanation for this may simply come down to the length of occupation, the circumstances of the occupants and the land management ambitions of the tenant or owner.

### 9.2.2 Complex dispersed sites.

The range of settlement types observed in Llanddewi Brefi was probably more varied than in most other study areas considered between 1996-98. This is particularly evident in the context of those sites which fall into this category, for they include DRSs ranging from typical, well developed *lluest* or upland farmstead complexes, complete with enclosures and ancillary buildings (such as Nant Gwyddel PRN36061 and Nant Coli PRN36056), to a pair of platforms on Banc y Gwyngoed (PRNs 36984-5).

Probably the most complete of these complexes were those of Cors Blaen Cothi (PRN7872) and Nant Gwyddel (PRN36061). The importance of the latter is of course enhanced by the survival of deeds pertaining to its occupation and function.

A potentially significant DRS is that occupying the valley below Esgair Lewis (PRN36994). Here a substantial long house appears to be associated with two ancillary shelters and a field system which encloses the valley bottom. Bracken cover at the time of the field visit made it difficult to assess the character and extent of the field enclosures and also to establish whether any further structures might be present.

More recent encroachments onto the parish uplands are evidenced with deserted farmsteads such as PRN14257 near Bryn Rhudd, which is located on the former parish commons, with its complex of rectilinear fields forming a compact block of improved land around the dwelling (the site was observed in the field but not included in gazetteer).

### 9.2.3 Nucleations.

As suggested above, it is becoming increasingly evident that some solitary or dispersed sites are complex rather than simple in their character. This is particularly evident in the case of several structures in the Blaen Brefi area (SN7155). This south-west facing *cwm* is the source of the Afon Brefi and the location of a group of long huts and long houses of particular interest. Their proximity (within 500m of each other) would suggest that a loose nucleation of settlement existed here - although there is no way of knowing at present if the dwellings are all contemporary.

A fascinating aspect of the Blaen Brefi sites is that they are located above a second group of deserted settlements at Cwm Brefi. The Cwm Brefi sites are however not long huts, but rather more recently abandoned farmsteads. The abandonment of settlements in the valley could be described as being staged;

- a general abandonment of the long huts and long houses of the upper tributary valleys of the river at an unknown time (certainly pre-19<sup>th</sup> century);
- an abandonment of the farmsteads on the valley floor which has occurred since the time of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century OS surveys

It should not be thought that this process of retreat finished at Cwm Brefi. Aberdaudwr farm is now the only occupied and functioning holding in the valley, having taken in the lands of Carnau farm (the dwelling of which was empty at the time of survey). What must have been a well populated valley 100 and 200 years ago is now farmed by a single family from a farmstead at the bottom end of the valley.

A second nucleation of settlement of a very different character was observed in the immediate vicinity of Ty'n y Cornel Youth Hostel. A number of loosely clustered earthwork platforms were found along the trackway leading to the youth hostel and within the fields around the house there (PRN36060 & 36062-4). They are spread out along the trackway over a distance of some 500m, with two actually situated in a small field below the house (PRN36063-4). This arrangement of a large platform and an accompanying small platform is a common pattern and is indeed repeated elsewhere in Llanddewi Brefi (PRN36984-5). The significance of the group is uncertain, whether they genuinely represent contemporary and associated settlement sites cannot be known on present evidence.

# Sites in the study area of Llanddewi Brefi

PRN 7872 NGR SN70014897 ALTITUDE 313 PART OF  
 NAME CORS BLAEN COTHI TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 36005;36006;36007  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Deserted rural settlement which includes a dwelling and several ancillary features including a scooped enclosure (or fold) a second building and a field system.

PRN 9108 NGR SN76155755 ALTITUDE 371 PART OF  
 NAME FFRWD-AR-GAMDDWR TYPE FARMSTEAD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 29850  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Post mediaeval farmstead and probable droving station. A collection of buildings and folds survive as drystone ruins. Located at the crossing point of two important droving routes - the north-south route between Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire along the Camddwr valley, and the east-west Ceredigion-Powys route through Abergwesyn pass.

PRN 9116 NGR SN75435312 ALTITUDE 290 PART OF  
 NAME MAES-Y-BETWS TYPE FARMSTEAD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 The very ruinous remains of the dwelling and at least one outbuilding are clearly identifiable, although both are defined only by low wall bases. Associated folds and field boundaries also noted.

PRN 10943 NGR SN69725502 ALTITUDE 302 PART OF  
 NAME CARNAU TYPE SETTLEMENT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval FORM Documents  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Carnau is now part of neighbouring Aberdauddwr farm and the present dwelling was empty at time of visit, but in good condition. There are no obvious features of antiquity or architectural importance visible externally. Recorded as a mediaeval settlement by William Rees (1932).

PRN 36005 NGR SN70024898 ALTITUDE 320 PART OF 7872  
 NAME CORS BLAENCOTHI TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36006;36007  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Long hut 10.5 E-W x 6m. Defined by earth & stone wall bases, rather denuded, standing to a max. of 0.5m high x about 1m wide. An entrance is seen in centre of S side. Appended to the W end on the N side of the long hut is a square cell or extension measuring 4.5m E-W x 4m N-S. To the S of the long hut is the shadow of a rectangular enclosure or yard - extends c.8m to the S and is approximately the same length as the long hut E-W.

PRN 36006 NGR SN70014899 ALTITUDE 320 PART OF 7872  
 NAME CORS BLAENCOTHI FOLD TYPE FOLD  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36005;36007  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

2m to the north of long hut PRN36005 is a sunken fold with revetting in S and E sides. Measures 11m N-S x 12.5m E-W. Reed filled depression. Access from E via a trackway into gap in NE corner.

PRN 36007 NGR SN70024899 ALTITUDE 320 PART OF 7872  
 NAME CORS BLAENCOTHI TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36005;36006  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

On the E side of fold PRN36006 is another small rectilinear structure, 7.1m long x 3.2m wide. Simple rectangular earthwork appended to the edge of the fold with a possible entrance in the centre of the S wall. A bank runs off the N wall and disappears into the boggy area to the E.

PRN 36056 NGR SN74425305 ALTITUDE 365 PART OF 9287  
 NAME NANT COLI TYPE FARMHOUSE  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 37148  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Abandoned upland farmstead in upper reaches of Nant Coli valley. Comprises a substantial ruinous drystone building, standing up to 3m at wallplate, 4m at W. gable. Associated field system, carved out of the moorland encloses a large portion of the natural basin enclosed by the hills defining the valley.

PRN 36057 NGR SN72915243 ALTITUDE 380 PART OF  
 NAME BRYN GWYDDEL TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36058  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Foundations of a long hut, 6m x 3m along a E-W axis. Defined by some stone slabs protruding through turf.

PRN 36058 NGR SN72895247 ALTITUDE 375 PART OF  
 NAME BRYN GWYDDEL TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Squarish platform (possibly sub-circular) 6m x 6m. Grassy platform facing W. May be associated with long hut 36057 which is 50m to E.

PRN 36059 NGR SN73205313 ALTITUDE 410 PART OF  
 NAME CYRNAU TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Well preserved long hut. Drystone building. Measures 10m N-S x 5m. Wall bases up to 0.5m high. No internal division, but there appear to be opposed entrances halfway along S half of building. Cross contour on a slight building platform. Erosion a long term threat.

---

PRN 36060 NGR SN74655376 ALTITUDE 330 PART OF  
 NAME LLETHR BRYN Y GORLAN TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Classic platform. Axis NE-SW. Hood 3m, long levelled platform 11m long, fan 5m long. Maximum width of 9m. No drainage hood noted. No evidence of structure on platform.

---

PRN 36061 NGR SN75105297 ALTITUDE 320 PART OF  
 NAME NANT GWYDDEL TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Deserted rural settlement complex in remote upland tributary valley. Viewed from opposite side of valley but not visited. Seen to be well preserved grassy/earthwork site including a rectilinear dwelling standing within an oval enclosure sub-divided into two fields.

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PRN 36062 NGR SN75255337 ALTITUDE 322 PART OF  
 NAME TY'N CORNEL TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Probable platform. Cross-contour, facing SW. Hood 4m, platform 7m, fan 5m long x max. 8m wide.

---

PRN 36063 NGR SN74845353 ALTITUDE 310 PART OF  
 NAME TY'N CORNEL TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork

ASSOCIATED WITH 36064  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

5m S of 36064. Cross contour platform on a SW-NE axis. Hood 8m long, platform 20m, fan indeterminable blending into natural slope. Possibly 10m wide.

PRN 36064 NGR SN75235359 ALTITUDE 310 PART OF  
 NAME TY'N CORNEL TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36063  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 5m north of 36063. Cross contour platform. Fan 6m long, platform 12m, long, fan indeterminable - blending into natural slope.

---

PRN 36065 NGR SN69825593 ALTITUDE 435 PART OF  
 NAME BRYN RHUDD TYPE FOLD?;HUT CIRCLE?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Wall base of a small drystone fold or possible hut circle.

---

PRN 36066 NGR SN68175580 ALTITUDE 435 PART OF  
 NAME BANC Y GWYNGOED TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Drystone wall bases of rectilinear structure, 6m NEE-SWW x 3m. Walls 0.8m wide x 0.3 high. May also have been an internal division creating two equal compartments.

---

PRN 36067 NGR SN67955515 ALTITUDE 370 PART OF  
 NAME BRYN POETH TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Single cell long hut on NWW-SEE axis, measuring 11m long overall x 5m, with an appended structure at NWW end accounting for 3m of the overall length, 6m wide. Walls are stone and earth with some edge set slabs visible internally. Wall bases up to 1m high.

---

PRN 36068 NGR SN71005502 ALTITUDE 375 PART OF  
 NAME LLETHR MAWR BLAEN BREFI TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36069;36969  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Only a few stones protrude through the turf, picking out the rectangular outline of the building, with some internal stones suggesting an internal division. Measures 7.5m NW-SE x 3m. Compartment to SE is largest at c.5m long. The NW cell is 0.5m higher than that at SE.

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PRN 36069 NGR SN70985501 ALTITUDE 325 PART OF  
 NAME LLETHR MAWR BLAEN BREFI TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36068  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

On a natural terrace at the foot of this steep slope there are the remains of a shelter 3m N-S x 2m, probably associated with a longhut 20m to E.

PRN 36070 NGR SN71125514 ALTITUDE 325 PART OF  
 NAME LLETHR MAWR BLAEN BREFI TYPE LONG HUT;SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36071  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Drystone build, now a grassy site with some reed growth around. At foot of Llethr Mawr in rocky patch of ground. Measures 6m NW - SE x 3m. Walls very low with some evidence of coursing.

PRN 36071 NGR SN71135515 ALTITUDE 325 PART OF  
 NAME LLETHR MAWR BLAEN BREFI TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36070  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Shelter or fold, sub-circular, 3m in diameter; open to face the W. Built of large stones with rough coursing. Just outside its E side is a mound of stones which may be tumble or a cairn. Also on its E side is a possible rough fold defined by a wall base enclosing an area of c.9m square.

PRN 36072 NGR SN71135521 ALTITUDE 320 PART OF  
 NAME LLETHR MAWR BLAEN BREFI TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36073  
 CONSISTS OF 36074  
 DESCRIPTION

Two compartments. There is slight cut around the NE or upper end of the structure, as if to create a drainage channel. The structure is 10m NE-SW x c. 5m wide on average. The NE compartment is 4m long partitioned from the lower compartment by a 1m wide drystone wall; this lower cell is a fold 5m long. The upper compartment has low very ruinous drystone wall bases, some scattered stone across site. There is a step down of 0.5m down to the lower cell which is a relatively well preserved drystone fold, walls up to 1m high, roughly coursed.

PRN 36073 NGR SN71125521 ALTITUDE 320 PART OF  
 NAME LLETHR MAWR BLAEN BREFI TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36072  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

10m NW of PRN36072. Has 2 compartments. A third compartment has been added to the SW of the building.

PRN 36074 NGR SN71135521 ALTITUDE 320 PART OF 36072  
 NAME LLETHR MAWR BLAEN BREFI TYPE FOLD  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct

## ASSOCIATED WITH

## CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Drystone fold built at SW end of longhut PRN36072. May be contemporary with the longhut or built from stone robbed from the hut after abandonment.

PRN 36975 NGR SN70965532 ALTITUDE 380 PART OF  
 NAME BLAENBREFI TYPE LONG HOUSE  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building

## ASSOCIATED WITH

## CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Long house defined by low drystone wall bases. The structure is 16m long x 5.5m wide overall, divided fairly equally into two main cells. There is a step down of c.0.5m from the N cell to the S cell with a narrow compartment, 2m wide, dividing the two main cells. An integral, ancillary cell is built onto the S end of the W wall, open to the S. Springing off the S end of the E wall are the wall bases of a rectangular fold or ancillary shelter apparently added after the construction of the main building.

PRN 36977 NGR SN70295581 ALTITUDE 390 PART OF  
 NAME NANT CRIBINAU TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building

## ASSOCIATED WITH

## CONSISTS OF 36978;36979

## DESCRIPTION

Deserted rural settlement on a valley side terrace, atop of very steep slope overlooking the Nant Cribinau. Includes a long hut and shelter.

PRN 36978 NGR SN70295581 ALTITUDE 390 PART OF 36977  
 NAME NANT CRIBINAU TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building

## ASSOCIATED WITH 36979

## CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Long hut 13m x 5, no evidence of internal division. Defined by low, drystone wall bases.

PRN 36979 NGR SN70295582 ALTITUDE 390 PART OF 36977  
 NAME NANT CRIBINAU TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct

## ASSOCIATED WITH 36978

## CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Small roughly built shelter, 4m x 3m, associated with long hut 36978.

PRN 36980 NGR SN71195561 ALTITUDE 400 PART OF  
 NAME BLAEN BREFI TYPE LONG HOUSE  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Long house, measuring overall 15m x 5.5m. On a N-S axis, with a three-fold division. The N cell is 6.5m long, from which is a shallow step down into a narrow central cell, less than 3m long. The S cell is actually a drystone fold and is at a level about 1m below the central cell. The drystone fold wall stand over 1m high, but the rest of the structure is defined by low, drystone wall bases.

PRN 36981 NGR SN69385621 ALTITUDE 430 PART OF  
 NAME BRYN RUDD TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Possibly the 'turf house or cottage' described as being built by John David Fain 'yn nhalcen Bryn Rhudd' in a lease dated to 1580. Survives as a single cell long hut, defined by low, drystone wall bases, measuring 7.5m x 4.5m, with a small extension built against the NW end of the structure.

PRN 36982 NGR SN70095613 ALTITUDE 440 PART OF  
 NAME NANT RHOS Y GLO TYPE FOLD  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

A stone spread with a fold like structure built into it. Possibly a cairn which has been robbed and rebuilt as a fold or shelter.

PRN 36984 NGR SN68105665 ALTITUDE 305 PART OF  
 NAME BANC Y GWYNGOED TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36985  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Largest of two adjacent platforms. Possibly traces of structure survive, with some stones visible through grass cover. Both platforms face NW.

PRN 36985 NGR SN68095666 ALTITUDE 305 PART OF  
 NAME BANC Y GWYNGOED TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36984  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Smallest of two adjacent platforms. No trace of structure on platform.

PRN 36992 NGR SN68185579 ALTITUDE 435 PART OF  
 NAME BANC Y GWYNGOED TYPE PEAT STAND?;SHELTER?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 On a small terrace is an 8m length of drystone wall base with some large stones protruding through grass. Up to 0.8m wide x 0.3m high. Suggestions that more stones are beneath surface and there may be a structure here measuring 8 x 2.5m, internally 1m wide.

PRN 36993 NGR SN67905515 ALTITUDE 350 PART OF  
 NAME PENYGRAIG TYPE ENCLOSURE  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 8374  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Drystone fold dwelling PRN8374 attached in a field defined by a drystone wall. SN683550. This area is shown as being enclosed and named as Penygraig on NLW36 map 57 (1791). No occupied structure is shown on the map, just the enclosure. The name must be associated with Graig farm downslope to east.

PRN 36994 NGR SN681550 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF 36995;3699  
 NAME ESGAIR LEWIS TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 36995;36996;36997;36998  
 DESCRIPTION  
 DRS which includes longhouse 36995, shelters 36996-7 and field system 36998.

PRN 36995 NGR SN68165500 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF 36994  
 NAME ESGAIR LEWIS TYPE LONGHOUSE  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36996;36997;36998  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A splendid example of a longhouse. Axis NNW-SSE; 15m long x 6m wide. One room at upper end measuring 3m long internally (walls 1m wide either end) then the second room at SSE end is 8m long with a further 1m wide wall at gable end. Slopes with gradient, with a slight platform cut into slope at NNW end and a slight positive platform at SSE end. There is an enclosure around the SSE end of the structure.

PRN 36996 NGR SN68175505 ALTITUDE 350 PART OF 36994  
 NAME ESGAIR LEWIS TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36995;36997;36998  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 This structure is little more than a stone heap, although its outline is visible and it measures 6m x 3m. Walls 1m wide. On a NNW -SSE axis. No obvious entrance.

PRN 36997 NGR SN68185504 ALTITUDE 350 PART OF 36994  
 NAME ESGAIR LEWIS TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36995;36996;36998  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

20m downslope to the SSE of 36996 is another structure in a similar condition, sitting on the line of one of the boundary banks, measuring 5.5m NNW-SSE x 5m x walls, 1 m wide. No obvious entrance.

PRN 36998 NGR SN681550 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF 36994  
 NAME ESGAIR LEWIS TYPE FIELD SYSTEM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36995;36996;36997  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Field system associated with structures PRN36995-7. A number of boundary walls visible crossing this valley towards PRN8374. The boundary walls are up to 3m wide x 0.5m high and made of stone and earth.

PRN 36999 NGR SN67675549 ALTITUDE 380 PART OF  
 NAME BRYN LANWENITH TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 37000;37001;37002;37003  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Shelter or longhut. 6m x 3m only 1.25m wide. Drystone wall base protrudes through grass cover.

PRN 37000 NGR SN67645547 ALTITUDE 380 PART OF  
 NAME BRYN LANWENITH TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36999;37001;37002;37003  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

30m to S of PRN36999. 7m long on a N-S axis. Northern end left open. 4m wide maximum. Walls 1m wide. Some coursing of drystone wall base, no more than 0.4m high. Very ruinous.

PRN 37002 NGR SN67615547 ALTITUDE 375 PART OF  
 NAME BRYN LANWENITH TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36999;37000;37001;37003  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

50m downslope of PRN37001 and at the edge of a track crossing the slope. 5m long NS x 3m wide.

PRN 37003 NGR SN67585553 ALTITUDE 360 PART OF  
 NAME BRYN LANWENITH TYPE SHELTER?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

10m square feature, not a long hut. Fairly level area, slight hollow towards centre. At the N and S ends there are low drystone wall base, with a shallow 1m wide trench outside these. No E or W wall bases. Purpose unknown.

PRN 37132 NGR SN68485545 ALTITUDE 380 PART OF 37143  
 NAME BREST NANT CRIBINAU TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 37133;37134;37135  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

A cross contour platform on a steep slope, level area measures c.10m N-s x 4.5m E-W. Some buried stone present on platform, but no structure evident.

PRN 37133 NGR SN68495545 ALTITUDE 380 PART OF 37143  
 NAME BREST NANT CRIBINAU TYPE FOLD?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 37132;37134;37135  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Alongside the E side of PRN37132 is a broader platform or terrace, 10m square, with stone randomly scattered around in some quantity, possibly as a result of clearance or maybe after a demolished structure.

PRN 37134 NGR SN68505544 ALTITUDE 375 PART OF 37143  
 NAME BREST NANT CRIBINAU TYPE ENCLOSURE  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 37132;37133;37135  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

10m to the east of PRN37133 is the earthwork shadow of an enclosure on a more moderate slope, measuring 16m N-S x 19m E-W. The banks are 0.2m high x 2m wide having been ploughed out.

PRN 37135 NGR SN70585547 ALTITUDE 385 PART OF 37143  
 NAME BREST NANT CRIBINAU TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 37132;37133;37134  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

A platform in the NE corner of the same field as and possibly associated with PRN's 37132-4, 20m to the NE of the fold PRN37134. Measures 8m N-S x 4m E-W. Ephemeral.

PRN 37141 NGR SN70405540 ALTITUDE 380 PART OF  
 NAME BREST NANT CRIBINAU TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 37132;37133;37134;37135  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

DRS in field of improved pasture near Nant Cribinau, including two platforms and an enclosure.

PRN 37144 NGR SN69414871 ALTITUDE 315 PART OF  
 NAME BLAEN COTHI TYPE FARMSTEAD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

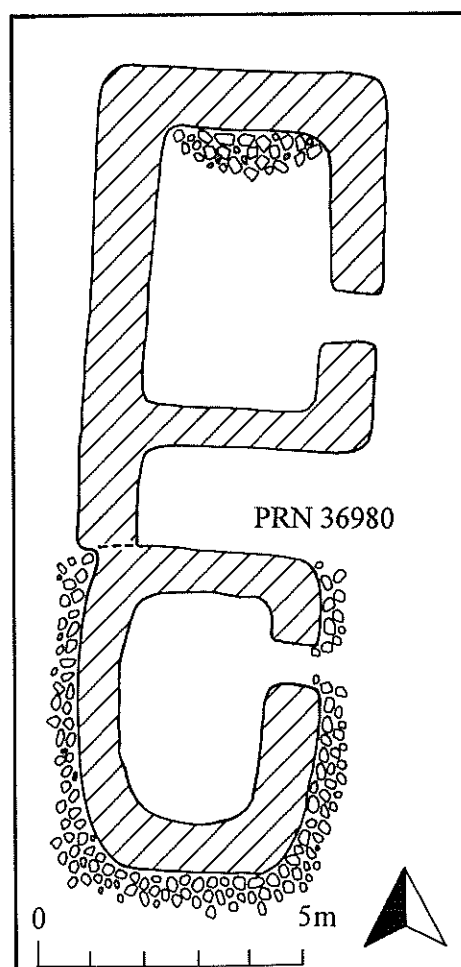
## DESCRIPTION

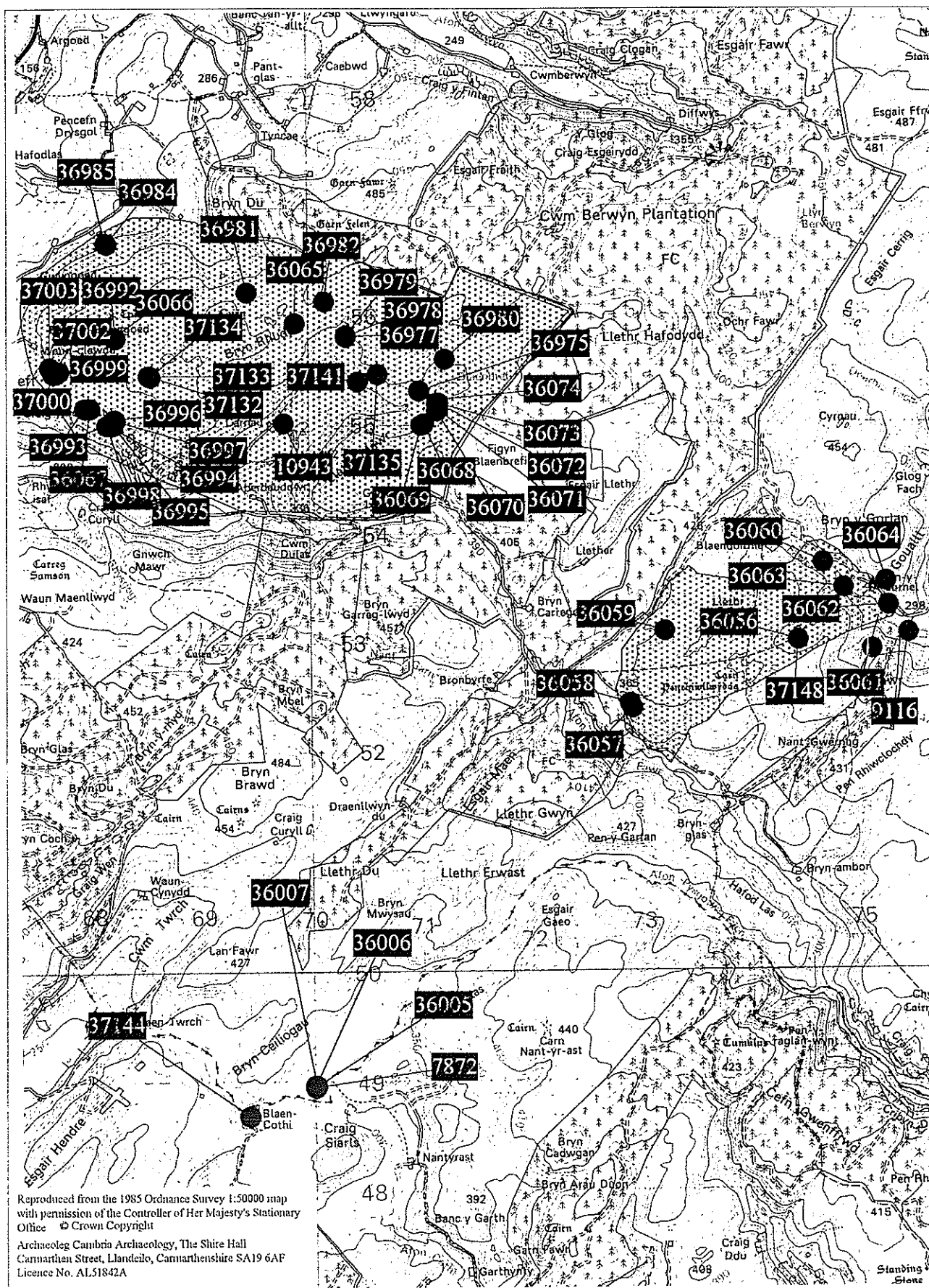
Remote upland farm in sheltered valley location. Still standing and roofed, but derelict and unlikely to survive much longer.

PRN 37148 NGR SN74425305 ALTITUDE 365 PART OF 9287  
 NAME NANT COLI TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36056  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Small drystone ruin, 3m square. Probably an animal or fowl pen.

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**Longhouse at Blaen Brefi, Llanddewi Brefi.** The southern compartment is a drystone fold and its floor of the lies approximately 0.5m lower than that of the central cell and upper compartment. It is almost certainly contemporary with the rest of the structure. There are several sites with this arrangement of dwelling and fold in the Blaen Brefi area, but comparable examples were also seen in other areas (such as Hafod Ithel, Mynydd Bach PRN 9414; Blaen Fanafas, Cynwyl Gaeo PRN36002; Waun Fforest, Llanddeusant PRN32394).







## 10. STUDY AREA 16 - CYNWYL GAEO

The parish of Cynwyl Gaeo is located in northern Carmarthenshire, situated on the Ceredigion border. In mediaeval times, Caeo was one of the seven constituent commotes of Cantref Mawr. During the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries it was retained as a possession of the rulers of Deheubarth and often proved to be a safe refuge for them during times of conflict. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, it was administered by commotal courts held at Dryslwyn Castle in the Tywi valley, but after the fall of Rhys ap Iaredudd in 1291, was integrated into the English County of Carmarthen. The extensive commote of Caeo was itself sub-divided into 9 *gwestfa* units and in modern terms would have also extended to include the areas of neighbouring Llansawel and Talley communities. The parish or community of Cynwyl Gaeo, therefore, accounts for little over half of the area of the mediaeval commote.

There are three substantial areas of upland common land left in the parish area on which fieldwork was concentrated;

- Craig Twrch, which includes a little under 2km<sup>2</sup> in area
- Esgair Tan Lan/Esgair Gaeo, approximately 6.5km<sup>2</sup> in area
- Western Mynydd Mallaen, c. 3.52km<sup>2</sup> in area

Some privately owned farmland on the fringes of these areas of common were also investigated and a small number of settlement sites dispersed across the rest of the parish were also visited.

### 10.1 The archaeological and historical evidence for deserted rural settlement in Cynwyl Gaeo.

A remarkable range of archaeological evidence for deserted settlement sites was encountered in Cynwyl Gaeo, ranging from simple long huts and *lluest* type complexes to deserted farmsteads. Although many of the sites were undoubtedly occupied during post-mediaeval times, some into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there remain a significant number of sites observed during 1998 which cannot be ascribed to any period and which have a form and context which may be suggestive of mediaeval occupation.

Probably the most significant historical evidence found in relation to settlement in the parish is in relation to early post-mediaeval settlement on Craig Twrch in the north-west of the parish. Coincidentally, it is here that some of the most varied and most interesting archaeological evidence for settlement was recorded. Linking the history and the archaeology of these sites proves a fascinating challenge.

One particular reference<sup>11</sup> relating to a *lluest* on the ridge of Craig Twrch is potentially of significance to our understanding of the function and date of many DRS sites in the Cambrian Mountain uplands. This refers to *llyest morgan griffith ar kraig twrche* defined in the document as a *domus lactearius* or cottage, part of a tenement of Tir Erw Willim or Tir Owayn, Cynwil Gaeo. This simple statement carries several important messages;

- the definition of a *lluest* as a *domus lactearius* or dairy house is consistent with oral traditions in the Cambrian Mountain area to the effect that the *lluestau* of the uplands were places associated with milking sheep - it must be remembered that dairying in this context is almost certainly related to sheep rearing (another tradition in the Ceredigion uplands is that a man raised on sheep milk is twice the man of one raised on cows milk)
- the definition of a *lluest* as a cottage, confirming it to be a dwelling
- the fact that the *lluest* was part of a tenement or larger holding; it may be surmised that the tenement was a lowland farm for which the *lluest* represented the (possibly detached) upland pasture for some at least of its stock animals.

<sup>11</sup> NLW Index to Edwinstford Deeds & Documents I, p.141 No.879

There is a concentration of DRS sites along the Craig Twrch ridge and it is therefore not possible to deduce which of these might have been *llest Morgan Griffith*.

One further fascinating historical reference pertaining to Cynwyl Gaeo is associated with the farm of Nantyrast, in the north of the parish. A deed dated to 1592<sup>12</sup> notes that "*the country is so bare and destitute of wood*" that the tenant of Nantyrast had to quarry stone for the repair of his house and hedges. Whether this implies that wood had always been scarce or that it had become scarce through over-exploitation is, unfortunately, not clear.

It must again be observed that in the context of Cynwyl Gaeo, the occurrence of the term *hafod* as a place name element is not usually found in upland contexts. Two recorded *hafod* place names in the SMR which were observed are lowland farms, both well away from the mountains of the north of the parish and below the 200m contour (PRNs 18901 & 18930). In contrast, the site of Hafod y Garreg (PRN 7874) is at 300m OD; the discovery of a large, cross-contour platform (PRN36014) close to the site of the ruinous post-mediaeval farmhouse may indicate that there was indeed earlier settlement at Hafod y Garreg, but judgment as to the significance of the placename must be reserved.

If any sites appear to fit the description of what one might expect to find at an ideal mediaeval *hafod* site, it is the clusters of small long huts and their associated ancillary structures and enclosures which shelter from the prevailing winds in the lee of Craig Twrch (PRN36036-42 & PRN34673).

## 10.2 Characteristic site types.

### 10.2.1 Simple, dispersed sites.

Several sites fall into this category. The solitary long hut of Blaen Nant Dâr (PRN36055) is comparable in its form and location (in a sheltered valley) to other structures on the Mynydd Mallaen upland block, but unlike most DRSs on the mountain has no recorded ancillary structure. It is not alone, however, as the partly excavated long hut site at Cefn y Bryn (PRN6228) likewise has no observable ancillaries.

The occurrence of single long huts of this kind is not infrequent, but it is difficult to assess the significance of the absence of ancillary features at these sites simply on the basis of observing surviving surface evidence.

A third solitary site, PRN7888, is a denuded platform found on enclosed pasture land below Cefn y Bryn, off the Mynydd Mallaen common. It has been observed in the previous ACA DRS reports that there appears to be a tendency for platforms to be associated with cultivation and the location of this example seems to follow that pattern.

### 10.2.2 Complex dispersed sites.

This category includes the *llest* type sites such as Llest Blaen Cothi (PRN36009) and Craig y Frân (PRN36043). (The latter is a good candidate for the location of the 16<sup>th</sup> century *llest morgan griffith* referred to above). Several DRSs of this type survive in good condition with a range of ancillary structures which make them excellent examples of the *genre*. This includes the unusual site at Esgair Gaeo (PRN36015), reputedly the site of an old drover's inn<sup>13</sup>. The presence of a large field enclosure and associated boundary banks associated with the dwelling here make this a credible explanation of the site's function.

This category also includes upland farmsteads such as Blaen Cothi (PRN36004) and Bryn Ffynnon (PRN30180) which survive as standing buildings. However, the examples included in the gazetteer are of varying origins, ranging from Blaen Nant (PRN21807) which has mediaeval documentation as a settlement, to Bryn Ffynnon, which has a datestone of 1885 putting its construction firmly in recent times. The common denominator of these abandoned farmsteads is that they represent a

<sup>12</sup> NLW Index to Edwinstford Deeds & Documents II, p.884 No.1235

<sup>13</sup> This was the account of the present landowner, Nantyrast farm, Cynwyl Gaeo.

retreat of settlement from the uplands during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries - a significant phenomenon in regional settlement history.

A site which is represented by a single structure, but which might be more properly described as a complex rather than a simple structure is the long house of Blaen Fanafas (PRN36002). The identification and definition of long houses has been discussed in the introduction to this report, and this site would appear to fit into that definition. It has four cells, with the two north-eastern cells circa 1.5m higher than those at the south-western end. The south-western cell is actually a drystone sheepfold, whilst the other three cells are defined only by low earth and stone wall bases. The step down from the dwelling component to the animal byre is a classic feature of the long house and it is believed that this is the case at this site. It is comparable with a number of sites recorded in the Llanddewi Brefi and Mynydd Bach study areas during 1998.

### **10.2.3 Nucleations.**

Only one example of a nucleated settlement was observed, namely the settlement sheltered by the rocky outcrop along the ridge of Craig Twrch (PRN36036-42). At the north-eastern end of the ridge is a loose cluster of seven structures which include a platform and three drystone long huts. At the south-western end are a further three long huts. These structures are all very ruinous and relatively small. Between the two clusters is the long hut PRN36044 on Craig y Frân which appears to be of different construction and was not thought to be contemporary on this basis.

## Sites in the study area of Cynwyl Gaeo

PRN 6228 NGR SN70704262 ALTITUDE 388 PART OF  
 NAME CEFN Y BRYN TYPE DWELLING?;LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

### DESCRIPTION

It has been alleged that this structure is a Roman watch- house or tower but it is typical long hut. It survives as a grassed over rectilinear feature, defined by low all bases, and stands on a spur overlooking a minor upland stream to the S.

PRN 6934 NGR SN65003892 ALTITUDE 120 PART OF  
 NAME YNYSAU-GATE TYPE COTTAGE  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

### DESCRIPTION

Old toll house, still maintained as a dwelling.

PRN 6938 NGR SN67353980 ALTITUDE 183 PART OF  
 NAME RHIW'R CYRPH TYPE COTTAGE  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

### DESCRIPTION

Survives in a very ruinous state in a wooded parcel of land.

PRN 6963 NGR SN64974233 ALTITUDE 160 PART OF  
 NAME OLD ROYAL OAK TYPE COTTAGE  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

### DESCRIPTION

Renovated and occupied dwelling in small hamlet near the Royal Oak Inn just off the Lampeter-Pumsaint road.

PRN 7874 NGR SN704488 ALTITUDE 305 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD Y GARREG TYPE FARMSTEAD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

### DESCRIPTION

Little survives of the buildings, damage seems to have been incurred by the use and maintenance of a trackway through the site.

PRN 7888 NGR SN701434 ALTITUDE 274 PART OF  
 NAME CEFN Y BRYN TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

A rectilinear platform measuring 19m SSW-NNE x 12m and facing the valley below to the SSW. The platform is featureless but contains within it a level area measuring 11m x 6m.

PRN 18901 NGR SN66454097 ALTITUDE 191 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD-LAS TYPE HAFOD?  
 PERIOD Post Med? FORM Place-name

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

One of many hafod place names in the district.

PRN 18930 NGR SN63374054 ALTITUDE 183 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD Y MAIDD TYPE HAFOD?  
 PERIOD Post Med? FORM Place-name

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

One of many hafod place names in the district.

PRN 21803 NGR SN65964944 ALTITUDE 420 PART OF  
 NAME PLAS-NEWYDD TYPE COTTAGE;FARMSTEAD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Documents

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

A ruined farmstead in a recently felled forest compartment. Viewed from outside the forest boundary fence. The structure is of drystone construction with more than one phase of building evident. The dimensions of the building are estimated as being 30m long x 10m wide maximum.

PRN 21807 NGR SN68684784 ALTITUDE 380 PART OF  
 NAME BLAEN-NANT TYPE FARMSTEAD  
 PERIOD Mediaeval;Post Med FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

An old farmstead in a forest compartment ride, damaged by fallen trees. The farmhouse may be in the longhouse tradition; it measures c. 20m long x 5m wide, with walls standing up to 2.5m high. Genealogical records point to the use of the site in the mediaeval period.

PRN 30180 NGR SN68674711 ALTITUDE 400 PART OF  
 NAME BRYN-FFYNNON TYPE FARMSTEAD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Documents  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 18882  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 19th century upland farmstead, now abandoned and becoming ruinous. A date stone reading 1885 is set into the SE wall of the house.

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PRN 34672 NGR SN651479 ALTITUDE 350 PART OF  
 NAME MAENPRENFOEL TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 The site includes a building platform cut into the hillslope on which stands the ruins of a small, rectangular drystone building.

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PRN 34673 NGR SN653480 ALTITUDE 350 PART OF  
 NAME CRAIG TWRCH TYPE DRS;SETTLEMENT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 This site includes the ruins of three drystone structures, one of which is a probable dwelling - a rectangular building 7.5m x 4m, divided into two cells. The other two structures are smaller and were probably animal or fowl pens. There is also evidence that an earth and stone bank enclosed a part of the terrace around the settlement.

---

PRN 34674 NGR SN652481 ALTITUDE 360 PART OF  
 NAME CRAIG TWRCH TYPE SHELTER?  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A rectilinear feature 7m x 3m in the form of lines of drystone set into the ground to form the rectangle.

---

PRN 34680 NGR SN64704785 ALTITUDE 355 PART OF  
 NAME PANTYBLAWD TYPE FARMSTEAD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A small cottage, the ruins of which stand up to wallplate height. The remains include the drystone walls of a series of small enclosures and small fields associated with the dwelling.

---

PRN 36002 NGR SN68254649 ALTITUDE 310 PART OF  
 NAME BLAEN FANAFAS TYPE LONG HOUSE  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Four compartments to this structure. The two at the SW end are approx. 1.5m lower than those at NE end. Some revetting evident on the step up from one level to the next, with the NE end on a built up building platform. At the NE end there appears to be a drainage gully around the upper end of the long hut, surviving in the form of a shallow, reed filled depression. The SW compartment is a drystone fold, with walls standing up to 1.5m high at most - the fold may have been built from stone robbed from rest of structure.

PRN 36004 NGR SN693486 ALTITUDE 315 PART OF  
 NAME BLAENCOTHI TYPE FARMSTEAD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Remote upland farm in sheltered valley location. Still standing and roofed, but derelict.

PRN 36009 NGR SN703486 ALTITUDE 295 PART OF 7872  
 NAME LLEST BLAEN COTHI TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 36010;36011;36012;36013  
 DESCRIPTION

Deserted rural settlement site comprising a long hut, enclosure, shelter and sheepwash (PRNs 36010-13).

PRN 36010 NGR SN703486 ALTITUDE 295 PART OF 36009  
 NAME LLEST BLAEN COTHI TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36011;36012;36013  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Long hut. Axis ESE-WNW. 13m long - possibly 17m if indistinct features at E end actually are a continuation of the structure. Up to 6m wide. Very low, denuded wall bases, with stone component, some scattered stone around. Two, possibly three cells. 6m to E is the classic llest enclosure.

PRN 36011 NGR SN703486 ALTITUDE 295 PART OF 36009  
 NAME LLEST BLAEN COTHI TYPE ENCLOSURE  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36010;36012;36013  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

May be some widely spaced or denuded cultivation ridges within the enclosure, on a N-S axis. Enclosure 27m E-W x 14m N-S. At E end there are definite narrowly spaced cultivation ridges. Enclosure bounded by an earth bank with some revetting - 2m wide, very denuded, 0.3m high at most.

PRN 36012 NGR SN703486 ALTITUDE 295 PART OF 36009  
 NAME LLUEST BLAEN COTHI TYPE SUNKEN SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36010;36011;36013  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Sheepfold/Sheepwash. May be associated with either Lluest Blaencothi or Hafod y Garreg which is also nearby. A N end of natural gorge. Sub-circular fold on a N-S axis with an entrance on its NW side. On S side is a gap in the wall from where sheep were pushed into the river, a deep pool exists in the stream at this point with a small ford just downstream. A drystone ramp appears to exist on the opposite bank where sheep must have climbed out of the water. Measures 15m x 10 with well preserved walls up to 1.5m high.

PRN 36013 NGR SN703486 ALTITUDE 300 PART OF 36009  
 NAME LLUEST BLAEN COTHI TYPE FOLD;SHEEP DIP  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36010;36011;36012  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Shelter?; Sunken Shelter. 25m NW of the longhut. Within 10m of stream to W. Narrow, defined by three large boulders on its E side and a large slab on its W side. Some more stones peep through grass. Damp hollow measuring 5m N-S x 1.45m E-W internally (2.25m externally). Grassy site. Built against crag to S side of natural gorge.

PRN 36014 NGR SN70504892 ALTITUDE 320 PART OF  
 NAME HAFOD Y GARREG TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 7874  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

50m NE of Hafod y Garreg cottage is this classic cross-contour platform. Dips slightly to S - fall of about 1m across platform. Measures 12m N-S x 8m E-W. Overall, including fan and hood, it is 24m long. No trace of structure on platform or of ancillary structures.

PRN 36015 NGR SN724505 ALTITUDE 365 PART OF  
 NAME ESGAIR GAEO TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 36016;36017;36018;36019

## DESCRIPTION

DRS which is a complex of structures and field enclosures, once an old drover's inn according to landowner.

PRN 36016 NGR SN724505 ALTITUDE 365 PART OF 36015  
 NAME TAFARN ESGAIR GAEO TYPE LONG HUT;INN  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36018;36017;36019  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

The dwelling of Esgair Gaeo Inn. Situated at the foot of a E facing slope. Survives as a rectilinear drystone ruin. No detailed features survive.



PRN 36017 NGR SN724505 ALTITUDE 360 PART OF 36015  
 NAME ESGAIR GAEO TYPE ENCLOSURE  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36016;36018;36019  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Enclosure 30m E-W x 45m N-S which actually encloses the dwelling which stands tucked into its SE corner. Occupies lower portion of valley slop facing E. Banks are denuded c.2m wide with a slight ditch to the outside.

PRN 36018 NGR SN724505 ALTITUDE 365 PART OF 36015  
 NAME ESGAIR GAEO TYPE ENCLOSURE  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36016;36017;36019  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

A second enclosure to the S of the Esgair Gaeo dwelling, outside the main enclosure. On a E-W axis running N-S off its W end is a single earth bank 51m long averaging 0.4m high. Peters out after 50 metres and function unclear.

PRN 36019 NGR SN724505 ALTITUDE 265 PART OF 36015  
 NAME ESGAIR GAEO TYPE FOLD?;SUNKEN SHELTER  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36016;36017;36018  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Sunken fold or shelter. To the NW side of the dwelling at Esgair Gaeo PRN36016 and probably entered via a trackway which passes beside the dwelling. This feature has been dug out of the foot of the slope and is now reed-filled rectilinear cut. A spoil heap lies above.

PRN 36020 NGR SN65604870 ALTITUDE 390 PART OF 36023  
 NAME BANC TY HEN TYPE BOUNDARY WALL  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36021;36022  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Drystone wall associated with DRS PRN36023. The wall cuts off a gap between two hillocks.

PRN 36021 NGR SN65654872 ALTITUDE 400 PART OF 36023  
 NAME FFALD BANC TY HEN TYPE FOLD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36020;36022  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

15m to the W side of wall PRN36020 is a small drystone structure. This is an irregular semi-circular wall base springing out of the bottom of the SW facing side of a hillock. Ruinous condition, walls 0.5m wide, diameter 5.5m.

PRN 36022 NGR SN65634872 ALTITUDE 415 PART OF 36023  
 NAME BANC TY HEN TYPE LONG HUT?  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36020;36021  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

10m to W of PRN36021 is a possible long hut. Aligned E-W the N wall protrudes through the pasture, possibly some edge set stones. At the E end are more stones protruding which may be an E wall. 3m to the W of the E end are a mound of stones which may represent a partition wall, some of these seem to have been placed. Nothing really to define a S or W wall. Estimated at 9m E-W x 4m.

PRN 36023 NGR SN65604870 ALTITUDE 400 PART OF  
 NAME BANC TY HEN TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 36020;36021;36022

## DESCRIPTION

DRS Site includes PRNs 36020-22.

PRN 36024 NGR SN65934935 ALTITUDE 412 PART OF 36027  
 NAME BRYN MAWR TYPE SHELTER;FOLD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36025;36026  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Drystone shelter, sub-rectilinear. Built against a large flat rock outcrop, walls up to 1.5m high in good condition. Entrance 1m wide in S side. On E-W axis is 5.5m long x 3m.

PRN 36025 NGR SN65894947 ALTITUDE 412 PART OF 36027  
 NAME BRYN MAWR TYPE FOLD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36024;36026  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Good example of a drystone rectilinear sheepfold. In recently deforested area. Largely intact. Viewed from adjacent common land.

PRN 36026 NGR SN65974946 ALTITUDE 410 PART OF 36027  
 NAME BRYN MAWR TYPE FARMHOUSE  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36024;36025  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Ruined farmstead close to forest boundary fence. Described from other side of fence. Drystone dwelling, more than one phase of building evident - it is evident that the S cell has good quoin-stones and the E half has been abutted to it and not of such good construction. Fold at N end with a wide entrance in W side. 'Garden plot' appended to N of fold defined by drystone walling. Very ruinous. Wall up to max. of c.2m high probably wallplate level. Estimated up to 30m long max. overall x 10m max. wide.

PRN 36027 NGR SN65904940 ALTITUDE 410 PART OF  
 NAME BRYN MAWR TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 36024;36025;36026  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Deserted rural settlement includes dwelling, sheepfold and a second fold.

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PRN 36036 NGR SN66344878 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF  
 NAME CRAIG TWRCH TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36037;36038;36039;36040;36041;36042;36043  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Platform. Faces SE. 7m SE-NW x 4m. Clearly defined negative cut at NW end and a line of stones at SW end, with some stones protruding around platform edge.

---

PRN 36037 NGR SN66254872 ALTITUDE 350 PART OF  
 NAME CRAIG TWRCH TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36036;36038;36039;36040;36041;36042;36043  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Low drystone rectilinear structure, high up on steep slope in shelter of stone outcrop. Terraced into slope with slight revetment around positive end of underlying platform. Wall bases only up to 0.3m.

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PRN 36038 NGR SN66244871 ALTITUDE 345 PART OF  
 NAME CRAIG TWRCH TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36036;36037;36039;36040;36041;36042;36043  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 7m downslope to E of 36037. Measures 8m N-S, x 3.5m. Entrance probably at N end. Wall bases of large slabs stand up to 0.5m high.

---

PRN 36039 NGR SN66194868 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF  
 NAME CRAIG TWRCH TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36036;36037;36038;36040;36041;36042;36043  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 20m SEE of 36038 is a square shelter. E, S & N sides survive. E side is best preserved and is a drystone wall base 0.6m wide x 0.3m high. The W side is terraced slightly into slope. Overall 3.5m square.

---

PRN 36040 NGR SN66184872 ALTITUDE 360 PART OF  
 NAME CRAIG TWRCH TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36036;36037;36038;36039;36041;36042;36043  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Drystone ruin measuring 8m x 3.5m. Similar to 36038. Entrance faces NE. High up on slope in shelter of rock outcrop.

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PRN 36041 NGR SN66094862 ALTITUDE 365 PART OF  
 NAME CRAIG TWRCH TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36036;36037;36038;36039;36040;36042;36043  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Small drystone shelter, 4m NE-SW x 3m.

---

PRN 36042 NGR SN66124864 ALTITUDE 365 PART OF  
 NAME CRAIG TWRCH TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36036;36037;36038;36039;36040;36041;36043  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Drystone shelter, 5m x 3m. NE of 36041.

---

PRN 36043 NGR SN65484817 ALTITUDE 380 PART OF  
 NAME CRAIG Y FRAN TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 36036;36037;36038;36039;36040;36041;36042  
 CONSISTS OF 36044;37146  
 DESCRIPTION  
 On Craig y Fran above Tynewydd. A large long hut and a smaller ancillary structure. Above rock outcrop of Craig Twrch escarpment, close to the cliff. To the W is a wide boggy area.

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PRN 36044 NGR SN65484817 ALTITUDE 380 PART OF 36043  
 NAME CRAIG Y FRAN TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 37146  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Well preserved earth and stone wall bases. Measures 12m NE-SW x 4m at SW end and 7m wide at NE end. The NE end is wider due to a small compartment added to the E side which gives the structure a reverse L-shaped plan. This extra compartment measures 4m along the length of the long axis of the long hut and 2m wide. There appears to be an entrance in the centre of the SE wall.

---

PRN 36055 NGR SN718448 ALTITUDE 400 PART OF  
 NAME BLAEN NANT DAR TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Long hut. 7m NE-SW x 4m wide. At foot of valley slope on NW side of stream. Small amount of stone scattered about the site. Some edge set slabs remain in situ to mark the inner and outer faces of the NE end of the structure.

---

*PRN* 37145 *NGR* SN68364656 *ALTITUDE* 380 *PART OF*  
*NAME* GWAR Y RHEDYN *TYPE* COTTAGE  
*PERIOD* Post Med *FORM* Building  
*ASSOCIATED WITH*  
*CONSISTS OF*  
*DESCRIPTION*

Ruined drystone structure - long house or cottage. Not examined closely but from track above. Measurements are estimations. Wall ruinous below 1m high. 1 cell structures 4m wide x 8m long.

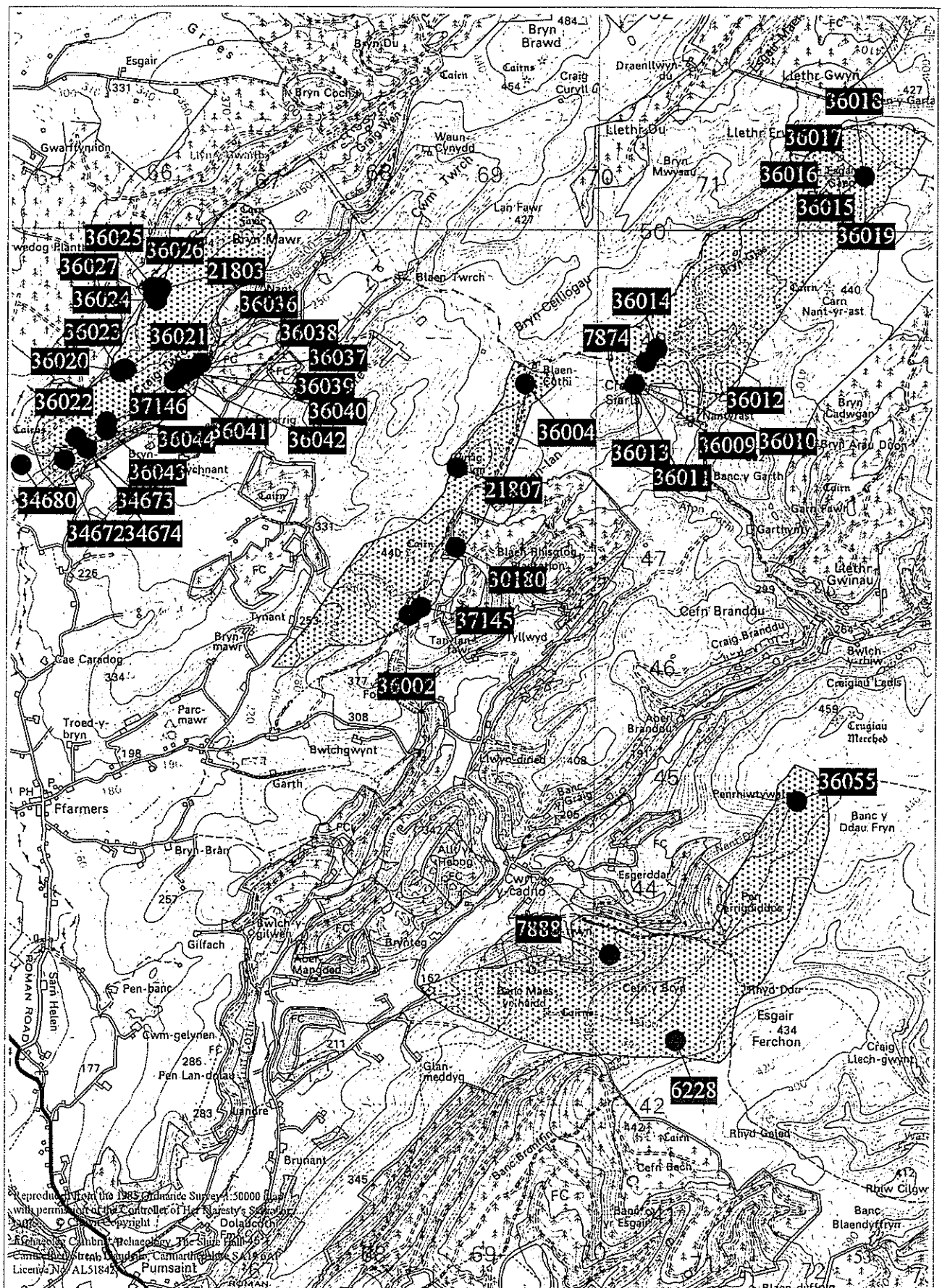
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*PRN* 37146 *NGR* SN65484824 *ALTITUDE* 380 *PART OF* 36043  
*NAME* CRAIG *TYPE* SHELTER  
*PERIOD* Mediaeval?;Post Med? *FORM* O.Struct  
*ASSOCIATED WITH* 36044  
*CONSISTS OF*  
*DESCRIPTION*

4m SW of 36044 is a small shelter, 4m square, standing on a low rise. There appears to be an entrance in its SE wall.

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### Study area 16 Cynwyl Gaeo



## 11. STUDY AREA 17 - LLANDDEUSANT

The parish of Llanddeusant is located on the eastern Carmarthen border with Breconshire. The parish includes approximately 30km<sup>2</sup> of open common land, forming part of the Mynydd Du or Black Mountain upland block. This common lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park and is an area of outstanding natural beauty as well as of high environmental and archaeological importance. Fieldwork was concentrated on the area of the parish commons which are dominated by the impressive twin peaks of Picws Du and Fan Brycheiniog, which rise to 800m. Below Picws Du, on its northern side, is the renowned lake of Llyn y Fan Fach, associated with the ancient legend of the Lady of Llyn y Fan Fach and the Physicians of Myddfai.

In mediaeval times the *maenor* of Llanddeusant (which was co-terminous with the parish and modern community area) formed part of the commote of Perfedd, an ancient Welsh unit of administration which was retained within the Norman Lordship of Llandovery from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards. It is recorded that Maenor Llanddeusant had c.50 free tenants during the 14<sup>th</sup> century according to Welsh law<sup>14</sup>.

Historically, the parish commons were managed by the parish Court Leet which had its own byelaws and customs. It would appear that the historical record is largely mute regarding the settlement history of the Llanddeusant commons. No documentary references were found to refer to any site or aspect of settlement history on the present commons. Our basis for discussing the settlements of the common are therefore purely based on field observations of the form and distribution of sites visited during July 1998.

### 11.1 The archaeological and historical evidence for deserted rural settlement in Llanddeusant.

It should not be assumed that the lack of historical material implies that the deserted settlement sites of the common are all necessarily ancient - it is worth noting that the postulated lime burners settlement of Blaen y Cylchau (PRN13266), on the parish boundary, includes a group of long huts and ancillary structures perfectly comparable in form and condition of survival with large numbers of other deserted settlements on the commons of the Mynydd Du uplands. The likelihood of the Blaen y Cylchau settlement being post-mediaeval in date seems high, on the basis of its apparent association with limestone quarrying and lime burning, which is traditionally thought of as a largely post-mediaeval phenomenon in the region (although this relationship is admittedly postulated, rather than proven).

The similarity of form and location of many DRS structures in the Llanddeusant study area compared with those of neighbouring parishes must be noted also. The partial excavation of a longhouse at Tro'r Derlwyn in the Nant Garw valley in neighbouring Quarter Bach parish has provided only post-mediaeval radiocarbon dates<sup>15</sup>. This too has implications for our understanding and interpretation of DRSs in the district, although the fact that Tro'r Derlwyn remains only partly excavated opens the possibility that evidence of earlier occupation may remain to be discovered.

Two particularly interesting aspects of the DRS sites in this study area must be highlighted;

- a) the distribution of discrete clusters of sites in sheltered valley locations across the parish commons (see below).
- b) the concentration of DRS sites along the Sawdde Fechan and Wysg valleys, which respectively form the western and eastern parish boundaries, the latter also a county boundary, formerly a commotal and

<sup>14</sup> Lloyd, JE, 1939, *History of Carmarthenshire*, p.235.

<sup>15</sup> Crane, P, 1999, *Excavations at Tro'r Derlwyn, Brynaman*. ACA Llandeilo.

cantref boundary. It has previously been observed by Anthony Ward<sup>16</sup> that there is a tendency for settlement and activity to concentrate on political boundaries and frontiers. A combination of other factors may also be at work, such as;

- these examples are two of the broadest and most accessible valleys on the parish uplands and therefore offered more room for more settlement than any other valley
- the Sawdde Fechan valley offers relatively easy access to the limestone quarries above the head of the valley. The industrial activity on the limestone belt may in part explain the concentration of activity at the upper end of the valley.

## 11.2 Characteristic site types.

### 11.2.1 Simple, dispersed sites.

A site which is considered to fall into this category was encountered, the long hut at Blaen Dunant Wysg (PRN35972). It is not untypical of the long huts in this part of the study area, but is unusual in that there were no observable ancillaries or associated structures. It is located some 600m west of the nearest recorded settlement sites.

A second site may also be a solitary long hut, but the structure PRN32402 stands on the bank of the Afon Wysg and has been badly eroded by the river, only two walls now survive. It may have been associated with other structures lost to the river.

One other solitary structure was encountered, PRN35978, which is a very ruinous long hut built on an exposed south facing slope. No associated structures were noted.

It is worth noting that each of these structures are long hut type structures and not simple shelters, a type of site which in other areas would usually fall into this category.

### 11.2.2 Complex dispersed sites.

It was observed that the evidence for settlement on the Llanddeusant common was markedly one of discrete clusters of structures, which included long huts, ancillary structures and sometimes field enclosures. It is debatable as to whether these clusters represent single dwellings with ancillaries or groups of two or more dwellings. In some instances it is possible that the latter is true and that genuine nucleations of settlement are present (see below).

The component structures of any of these groups are generally not tightly nucleated, but strung out along the valley course, usually within sight of their nearest neighbour. The following DRS clusters of this kind were visited;

PRN	NAME	No. of structures
-----	CWM SAWDDE FECHAN	24
32356	CWM AFON MIHARTACH	4
32394	WAUN FFOREST	6
35969	NANT TY BACH	7
35971	GLAN AFON WYSG	7
35976	CWM DUNANT	8
35987	TWYN YR ESGAIR	6
35991	CWM SYCHLWCH	7
35995	BREST Y FEDW	5
36000	NANT YR YSGWYDD	4

Sites of this category range from single long huts with one ancillary (e.g. Cwm Othlwn long hut PRN25547 and its single ancillary shelter PRN35977) to the more complex DRS of Twyn yr Esgair

<sup>16</sup> Ward, A, 1991, 'Transhumant or Permanent Settlement: Linear House Foundations along the Afon Clydach in the Black Mountain', in H. James ed., *Sir Gâr: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*. Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society.



(PRN35987) in the upper Cwm Sawdde valley. This latter site includes a dwelling and five probable ancillaries or associated features; a sunken shelter, two circular shelters, a drystone fold and a large field enclosure. This range of ancillaries with a single dwelling is reminiscent of *llost* type sites or even small upland farmsteads in other areas

The impression given by their distribution and their landscape context is that they might have been set in defined grazing areas (similar to the sheepwalks associated with upland farmstead and *llostau* in northern Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion). Possible interpretations of this phenomenon are;

- that it relates to a transhumant form of exploitation of the upland pastures, with each DRS providing the focus of a *hafod* and that each part of the mountain was traditionally allocated to lowland communities or farms.
- that transhumance might not be an element in the history of any of these sites and that they may represent the permanent homesteads of shepherds or cowherds who managed the grazing grounds associated with their dwellings. There are examples elsewhere in Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion for this model also.

The evidence of the *llostau* recorded by Lewis Morris in the Pumlumon area of Ceredigion in 1744<sup>17</sup> provides a third possibility, namely;

- that, like the Pumlumon DRSs, the sites on the Llanddeusant commons originated as mediaeval *hafodydd* but as agricultural practices and economic conditions changed, they became permanently occupied.

There is a counter-argument against the latter two scenarios, namely that there is absolutely no recorded evidence for cultivation at any of the sites visited during 1998, nor apparently at any other DRS site on the Llanddeusant commons<sup>18</sup>. The permanently occupied *llostau* of Ceredigion are often associated with cultivation, where their occupants endeavoured to grow potatoes and other root vegetables in garden plots or small crops of oats. This absence of cultivation implies a purely pastoral function for the Llanddeusant DRSs and may be indicative of a relatively early date and/or a seasonal occupation.

The long association of the hills of the study area with shepherding is evidenced in the presence of at least 7 drystone sheepfold complexes shown on modern OS maps at various access points to the parish commons along its northern boundary.

### 11.2.3 Nucleations.

One example of a genuine nucleated settlement was encountered on the parish boundary at Blaen y Cylchau (PRN13266 - which actually lies within Llangadog parish). This site is believed to have been associated with the post-mediaeval exploitation of local limestone quarries and may be a quarry workers or lime burners settlement (given the nature of lime burning, carried out during the spring and early summer, it is likely that the settlement was occupied only seasonally)

<sup>17</sup> Vaughan, C, 1966, 'Llostau Blaenrheidol' *Ceredigion* 5.

<sup>18</sup> Pers comm. Terry James, RCAHMS

## Sites in the study area of Llanddeusant

PRN	4990	NGR	SN76282106	ALTITUDE	300	PART OF	
NAME	UNKNOWN					TYPE	SETTLEMENT
PERIOD	Post Med					FORM	Earthwork
ASSOCIATED WITH							
CONSISTS OF							
DESCRIPTION							
A small post mediaeval settlement with embanked field enclosures and buildings on the W. side of Cwm Sawdde Fechan. Partly depicted on OS large scale maps.							
PRN	13266	NGR	SN762188;SN763	ALTITUDE	480	PART OF	
NAME	BLAEN Y CYLCHAU					TYPE	DRS
PERIOD	Mediaeval?;Post Med?					FORM	Building
ASSOCIATED WITH							
CONSISTS OF	13409;13410;13412;13413;13414;13415						
DESCRIPTION							
Complex of rectangular buildings sheltered at the base of a vertical slope at the upper end of Cwm Sawdde Fechan. This group of structures probably represents a settlement associated with limestone working complexes above and S of Blaen y Cylchau.							
PRN	13271	NGR	SN76411982	ALTITUDE	355	PART OF	
NAME	CWM SAWDDE FECHAN					TYPE	LONG HUT?; SHELTER?
PERIOD	Mediaeval?;Post Med?					FORM	Building
ASSOCIATED WITH							
CONSISTS OF							
DESCRIPTION							
Single chambered, rectangular building, 6.1 x 4m, at sheltered, level location adjacent to river. Walls, of massive stones, are 0.9m wide.							
PRN	13272	NGR	SN76421980	ALTITUDE	355	PART OF	
NAME	CWM SAWDDE FECHAN					TYPE	LONG HUT
PERIOD	Mediaeval?;Post Med?					FORM	Building
ASSOCIATED WITH							
CONSISTS OF							
DESCRIPTION							
Rectilinear building measuring 12.2 x 4.6m. Partitioned into two approx. equal cells. Of rubble slab and boulder construction. The walls stand up to 0.5m high.							
PRN	13273	NGR	SN76371938	ALTITUDE	395	PART OF	
NAME	CWM SAWDDE FECHAN					TYPE	LONG HUT
PERIOD	Mediaeval?;Post Med?					FORM	Building
ASSOCIATED WITH							
CONSISTS OF							
DESCRIPTION							
Single chambered, rectilinear building, 4.6m x 3.5m, on level ground to W of stream.							

PRN 13274 NGR SN76361933 ALTITUDE 400 PART OF  
 NAME CWM SAWDDE FECHAN TYPE DWELLING?;FOLD?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Two adjoining buildings forming an L-shaped structure. One is rectangular, measuring 4.9 x 4m. The other is square, of side 4.6m.

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PRN 13275 NGR SN76451934 ALTITUDE 390 PART OF  
 NAME CWM SAWDDE FECHAN TYPE HUT CIRCLE;SHELTER  
 PERIOD Prehistoric;Mediaeval; Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Oval, single chambered building, 3.7 x 2.9m, adjacent to stream.

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PRN 13276 NGR SN76451933 ALTITUDE 390 PART OF  
 NAME CWM SAWDDE FECHAN TYPE LONGHOUSE; LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Single chambered rectilinear building, 7 x 4m, on level ground adjacent to stream. Entrance in W wall. The structure is sub-divided into two unequal cells which measure 2.5m and 2m long internally.

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PRN 13277 NGR SN76451930 ALTITUDE 390 PART OF  
 NAME CWM SAWDDE FECHAN TYPE FOLD  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A sheepfold at the confluence of the Sawdde & Sawrwg. The fold is irregular and sub-circular in shape. It runs parallel to the stream on a N-S axis and measures 11m x 8m. There is a rectangular compartment at the N end with an entrance in the W side. Rectangular compartment is 8m long E-W with another ruined cell abutting its N side extending for another 5m and being 4m wide.

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PRN 13401 NGR SN76332060 ALTITUDE 325 PART OF  
 NAME CWM SAWDDE FECHAN TYPE CLEARANCE CAIRN?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A rectilinear configuration of stones. A likely clearance cairn but possibly a long hut, although this was felt to be unlikely.

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PRN	13402	NGR	SN76352060	ALTITUDE	320	PART OF	
NAME	CWM SAWDDE FECHAN					TYPE	CLEARANCE CAIRN?
PERIOD	Unknown					FORM	Building
ASSOCIATED WITH							
CONSISTS OF							
DESCRIPTION	A stone spread representing either a natural feature or a clearance cairn. There is a field system in the vicinity but no obvious settlement.						
PRN	13403	NGR	SN76582059	ALTITUDE	355	PART OF	
NAME	CWM SAWDDE FECHAN					TYPE	LONGHOUSE; FOLD
PERIOD	Mediaeval?; Post Med?					FORM	Building
ASSOCIATED WITH							
CONSISTS OF							
DESCRIPTION	On steeply ascending slope to S, are remains of D-shaped enclosure, 29.3m x 25.8m. Walls are 1.2m wide. Interpreted as a drystone fold complex.						
PRN	13404	NGR	SN76392041	ALTITUDE	320	PART OF	
NAME	CWM SAWDDE FECHAN					TYPE	ENCLOSURE
PERIOD	Prehistoric?					FORM	Earthwork
ASSOCIATED WITH							
CONSISTS OF							
DESCRIPTION	Circular enclosure, diameter 8.2m on level area to E of river. Walls 0.9m wide. Adjacent to its NW side is sub-square building of side 4.3m. Walls 0.75m wide.						
PRN	13405	NGR	SN76412038	ALTITUDE	330	PART OF	
NAME	CWM SAWDDE FECHAN					TYPE	ENCLOSURE; SETTLEMENT?
PERIOD	Prehistoric?; Mediaeval; Post Med					FORM	Earthwork
ASSOCIATED WITH							
CONSISTS OF							
DESCRIPTION	This site is aligned ESE-WNW. At the ESE end there is a sub-circular yard or enclosure which is cut into the slope and measures 10m x 4m the long axis being orientated ESE-WNW. The diameter of the yard is about 6m. At the WNW end is a small 4m square rectilinear hut or shelter. The structure is defined by a low stone wall base and is set in rough pasture with some reed growth present.						
PRN	13406	NGR	SN76492015	ALTITUDE	345	PART OF	32336
NAME	CWM SAWDDE FECHAN					TYPE	LONGHOUSE
PERIOD	Mediaeval?; Post Med?					FORM	Building
ASSOCIATED WITH							
CONSISTS OF							
DESCRIPTION	Rectangular building, 7.3m x 4.6m, situated on platform on steep gradient to E of stream. There are no discernible entrances but definite indications of two cells with the more W of the two being on a lower level.						

PRN 13407 NGR SN76462016 ALTITUDE 345 PART OF 32336  
 NAME CWM SAWDDE FECHAN TYPE LONGHOUSE;LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Rectangular building, 7.0m x 4.7m, below PRN 13406. Long axis perpendicular to contours of slope. Partitioned by cross-wall in ratio of 3:2. Smaller, lower compartment appears partially eroded. The nearby track to this rectangular building is probably a limeburners track leading to the complex of quarries and kilns S on Blaen Cylchau.

PRN 13409 NGR SN76381890 ALTITUDE 475 PART OF 13266  
 NAME BLAEN Y CYLCHAU TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Long hut, 2 celled. 9.5m long NE-SW x 4m. Wall bases, less than 1m high, interior partition wall bases is a grassy bank over 1m wide but the rest of the structure is of ruinous drystone. On a natural spur between a dry stream bed on E side and a minor stream on W side.

PRN 13410 NGR SN76381887 ALTITUDE 475 PART OF 13266  
 NAME BLAEN Y CYLCHAU TYPE SHELTER;SUNKEN SHELTER?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

U-shaped shelter, sunk into slope. Ruinous wall bases, up to 0.4m high, seem to define a structure c.4m long x 2m wide, interior is only 3m x 1m, levelled area.

PRN 13411 NGR SN76381885 ALTITUDE 480 PART OF  
 NAME BLAEN Y CYLCHAU TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

10m NE of 13410. Cross contour axis. No real platform beneath structure. 6m long x 3.5m wide. Covered in tumbled stone, just the NW wall shows the outer face of the wall base. Stones obscure detail of structure.

PRN 13412 NGR SN76371884 ALTITUDE 480 PART OF 13266  
 NAME BLAEN Y CYLCHAU TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Long hut, 2 cells. Overall measurement of structure is 7m long x 3.5m wide, although some stone is spread further outside the line of the walls. The surviving wall bases stand up to 0.8m. Lot of tumbled stone across site. Good quoin stones in place at SW corner.

PRN 13413 NGR SN76321882 ALTITUDE 485 PART OF 13266  
 NAME BLAEN Y CYLCHAU TYPE WORKERS BARRACKS?  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

A single, multi-celled building at foot of scree covered slope beneath limestone crag and therefore well sheltered. 4m wide x 24m long on its E-W axis. There are 5 compartments or rooms. E compartment is largest with walls standing up to 1.5m high the N wall showing good coursing in the drystone wall. There may be a sixth compartment, 4m square appended to E end but the identification of this was uncertain due to tumbled stone and vegetation. There may possibly be a small yard on S side at E end. This may be a temporary dwelling for workers seasonally employed at the limestone quarries and limekilns on Blaen Cylchau. (see also PRN 13414).

PRN 13414 NGR SN76341882 ALTITUDE 485 PART OF 13266  
 NAME BLAEN Y CYLCHAU TYPE WORKERS BARRACKS?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

(See PRN 13413 - this is a single structure formerly recorded as two structures).

PRN 13415 NGR SN76271880 ALTITUDE 490 PART OF 13266  
 NAME BLAEN Y CYLCHAU TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Ruined rectilinear structure. The structure was interpreted as being a single cell building measuring 5m long on NW-SE axis x 4m.

PRN 13591 NGR SN80462558 ALTITUDE 360 PART OF 35969  
 NAME CWM NANT TY BACH TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

An 8m x 3.5m rectangular structure orientated N-S and built upon a slight platform and situated 3m from a stream. There is slight evidence at the southern, upper, end of the hut for a drainage gulley.

PRN 13592 NGR SN80462561 ALTITUDE 360 PART OF 35969  
 NAME CWM NANT TY BACH TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval? FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Ill-defined long hut, measuring 7m x 4m on an E-W axis, at the confluence of two streams. The structure may have two cells but this is not certain.

PRN 13593 NGR SN80432550 ALTITUDE 370 PART OF 35969  
 NAME CWM NANT TY BACH TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Long hut 7m x 3.5m built upon a slight platform. Walls stand 0.2m-0.3m high and include some large stones.

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PRN 13594 NGR SN80432550 ALTITUDE 370 PART OF 35969  
 NAME CWM NANT TY BACH TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?; Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A 3m x 3m stone structure at N end of long hut 13593 and within 3m of the stream edge.

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PRN 13595 NGR SN80402544 ALTITUDE 380 PART OF 35969  
 NAME CWM NANT TY BACH TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Rectilinear structure 7m x 3m N-S. On the W side lies a small, possibly sub-circular, structure 3m x 2m which may be part of the larger building but the relationship is unclear. Stone wall foundations show through grass cover.

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PRN 13596 NGR SN80402544 ALTITUDE 380 PART OF 35969  
 NAME CWM NANT TY BACH TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A small pen or shelter built onto the N end of long hut PRN13595, some 2m from the stream.

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PRN 13597 NGR SN80342538 ALTITUDE 380 PART OF 35969  
 NAME CWM NANT TY BACH TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A rectangular structure 9m x 5m built on a slope, with no platform. The stone wall bases stand up to 0.2m high and two cells are apparent.

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PRN 14136 NGR SN79662594 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF 35976  
 NAME CWM NANT DUNANT TYPE HUT CIRCLE?; SHELTER?  
 PERIOD Prehistoric?; Mediaeval?; Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A circular scoop 3m in diameter.

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PRN 14137 NGR SN79662594 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF 35976  
 NAME CWM NANT DUNANT TYPE HUT CIRCLE?; SHELTER?  
 PERIOD Prehistoric?; Mediaeval; Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A circular scoop, measuring 4m in diameter.

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PRN 14138 NGR SN79652594 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF 35976  
 NAME CWM NANT DUNANT TYPE FOLD  
 PERIOD Mediaeval; Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A sub-circular fold, defined by a stone and earth bank.

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PRN 14139 NGR SN79632564 ALTITUDE 360 PART OF 35976  
 NAME CWM NANT DUNANT TYPE SHELTER?; LONG HUT?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A platform or hollow cut into the slope, slightly sunken (0.5m at most). Its E-W axis is 5m long with an overall width of 4m which includes a 2m wide platform with 1m wide low earth banks on either side.

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PRN 14140 NGR SN79642553 ALTITUDE 370 PART OF 35976  
 NAME CWM NANT DUNANT TYPE LONG HUT?; SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Originally described as a long hut but could be a shelter. It is nearly square, c. 4m x 4m. Some wall bases are defined by edge-set slabs and stand up to 0.3m high. There is an entrance in the NW corner of the N wall and a large stone in the centre of the building.

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PRN 25547 NGR SN80752480 ALTITUDE 400 PART OF  
 NAME CWM-OTHLWN TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval; Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A two celled, rectilinear structure 15m x 4m. The wall bases are defined in part by edge set slabs and boulders giving them a width of 1m and a height up to 0.5m at most. A scatter of stone outside the N end may be another cell measuring 3m x 3m but this is not conclusive.

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PRN 31782 NGR SN76451960 ALTITUDE 370 PART OF  
 NAME CWM SAWDDE FECHAN TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A rectilinear long hut measuring 7m x 4m on a NE-SW axis.

PRN 32336 NGR SN76402010 ALTITUDE 330 PART OF  
 NAME CWM SAWDDE FECHAN TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 13406;13407  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Consists of two structures PRNs13406-07.

PRN 32350 NGR SN78332225 ALTITUDE 470 PART OF 36000  
 NAME NANT YR YSGWYDD TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 32351;32352  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Deserted rural settlement which consists of two structures, long house PRN32351 and long hut 32352.

PRN 32351 NGR SN78332223 ALTITUDE 470 PART OF 32350  
 NAME NANT YR YSGWYDD TYPE LONGHOUSE  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32352  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A rectangular building measuring approx. 19m x 5m and divided into three cells. Walls stand up to 0.7m max.

PRN 32352 NGR SN78342228 ALTITUDE 460 PART OF 32350  
 NAME NANT YR YSGWYDD TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Unknown FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32351  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Two celled building, measuring 6.5m x 3.2m. On the N side of this structure is the outline of a stone wall base which suggests the complete structure measured 6.5m x 6.5m.

PRN 32353 NGR SN78482245 ALTITUDE 400 PART OF  
 NAME NANT YR YSGWYDD TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Unknown FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 32354;32355  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A deserted rural settlement consisting of PRNs 32354 & 32355.

PRN 32354 NGR SN78482245 ALTITUDE 450 PART OF 32353  
 NAME NANT YR YSGWYDD TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32355  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Longhut measures 6.9 x 4.9m. Wall bases are of rubble build and are grassed over and stand up to 0.5m high. Entrance seems to be on S side. A probable sheep shelter has been built at the E end of the structure.

PRN 32355 NGR SN78512248 ALTITUDE 450 PART OF 32353  
 NAME NANT YR YSGWYDD TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32354  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Long hut measuring 6m SW-NE x 4.4m. Rubble wall bases up to 0.3m high. Entrance in NE side. Possible yard area abuts on NE side on a slightly lower level.

PRN 32356 NGR SN78802253 ALTITUDE 365 PART OF 35999  
 NAME CWM AFON MIHARTACH TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Unknown FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 32357;32358

## DESCRIPTION

Deserted rural settlement comprising a longhut and an associated enclosure.

PRN 32357 NGR SN78782256 ALTITUDE 365 PART OF 32356  
 NAME CWM AFON MIHARTACH TYPE ENCLOSURE?;FOLD?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32358  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Sub-circular enclosure or sheepfold. Measures 6m long E-W and is widest at its W end, at 5.6m, narrowing to c.4m at E end. Walls survive to almost 1m high and are generally just under 1m wide.

PRN 32358 NGR SN78822225 ALTITUDE 380 PART OF 32356  
 NAME CWM AFON MIHARTACH TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 32357

## DESCRIPTION

Long hut sits on a narrow, probably natural spur on the edge of the Afon Mihartach valley floor. The spur seems to have been partly revetted in places. The long hut measures 11.3m SE-NW x 4.2m and appears to have been divided into two equal compartments. The SE compartment has been rebuilt as a drystone sheepfold (PRN35997) the walls of which stand up to 1m high. The original SE gable wall base is visible within this sheepfold and indicates that the long hut must have been disused before the fold was constructed.

PRN 32373 NGR SN81562592 ALTITUDE 350 PART OF 35971  
 NAME GLAN AFON WYSG TYPE BUILDING?;LONG HUT?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32374;32375;32377;32380;35970  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Appears to be a natural deposit, represented by a pile of stones at the edge of the stream. A shadow of what may be a rectilinear structure, 10m x 4m, lies just to the north. The interpretation of this site as a settlement seems dubious.

PRN 32374 NGR SN81582584 ALTITUDE 350 PART OF 35971  
 NAME GLAN AFON WYSG TYPE BUILDING; LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?; Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32373;32375;32377;32380;35970  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

A poorly preserved long hut with little of the structure apparent above ground. The structure measures circa 7m x 4m and is most obvious at its N end. There are possibly two cells, the northern cell being 4m wide by 3m long. A stream runs 20m to the east.

PRN 32375 NGR SN81562579 ALTITUDE 350 PART OF 35971  
 NAME GLAN AFON WYSG TYPE BUILDING;LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32373;32374;32377;32380;35970  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

A 5m x 3m structure orientated N-S and parallel to Afon Wysg which is some 15m distant. Stone wall bases stand up to 0.2m high. The long hut lies at the S end of a long narrow terrace upon which also stand PRNs 32373, 32374 and 32380.

PRN 32377 NGR SN81492553 ALTITUDE 360 PART OF  
 NAME GLAN AFON WYSG TYPE BUILDING;LONGHOUSE  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32373;32374;32375;32380;35970  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Large long house, measuring 14m x 4m with two, possibly three cells. The stone walls protrude through the grass to a height of less than 0.3m. There is much stone tumble over the whole site and no architectural details discernible.

PRN 32380 NGR SN81592614 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF 35971  
 NAME GLAN AFON WYSG TYPE BUILDING;LONGHOUSE  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32373;32374;32375;32377;35970  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Very well preserved long house. It has two cells, measuring overall 12m x 4m, with a small cell added to the N end measuring some 3m in length by 2m wide. The entrance appears to be on the W side.

PRN 32384 NGR SN80582249 ALTITUDE 440 PART OF 35991  
 NAME CWM AFON SYCHLWCH TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

A rectilinear two celled structure, measuring 9m x 5m. The average height of the walls is 0.4m and they are approx. 1m wide. An entrance is present in the W wall of the S cell close to the internal partition wall. There is a possibility that the tumble in the SW corner of the larger cell represents another room.

PRN 32385 NGR SN80562253 ALTITUDE 440 PART OF 35991  
 NAME CWM AFON SYCHLWCH TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

A two celled structure 10m E-W x 4m N-S constructed on a partially man-made platform.

PRN 32386 NGR SN80532254 ALTITUDE 440 PART OF 35991  
 NAME CWM AFON SYCHLWCH TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Long hut measuring 8.4m NW-SE x 4m. Two compartments, that to the SE being largest and having well preserved drystone walls up to 0.5m high. The NW compartment is only defined by low wall bases.

PRN 32387 NGR SN80492257 ALTITUDE 440 PART OF 35991  
 NAME CWM AFON SYCHLWCH TYPE LONGHOUSE;LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35990  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

A rectangular structure measuring approximately 8m x 4m with the long axis N-S. This building is partially overbuilt by fold PRN35990.

PRN 32394 NGR SN81402480 ALTITUDE 405 PART OF  
 NAME WAUN FFOREST TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 32395;32396;32397;32398;32399

## DESCRIPTION

Deserted rural settlement which comprises structures PRNs 32395-99.

PRN 32395 NGR SN81412484 ALTITUDE 405 PART OF 32394  
 NAME WAUN FFOREST TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Measures 6m NW-SE x 4m. Wall bases survive up to 0.7m maximum height in N corner and are generally 0.8m wide.

PRN 32396 NGR SN81412482 ALTITUDE 405 PART OF 32394  
 NAME WAUN FFOREST TYPE LONGHOUSE  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32398  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Three celled structure. Overall measurement is 15.7m N-S x 4.5m. Wall bases are low, generally less than 0.5m and 0.8m wide. At N end is a 3m square extension appended to the larger central compartment. This central cell is 6.5m long x 4.5m wide. The S cell is lower than the central cell and measures c.6m x 4m. A low stone wall runs 7.5m to link with PRN32398.

PRN 32397 NGR SN81402482 ALTITUDE 405 PART OF 32394  
 NAME WAUN FFOREST TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Very ruinous drystone shelter, little more than a stone heap.

PRN 32398 NGR SN81412480 ALTITUDE 405 PART OF 32394  
 NAME WAUN FFOREST TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32396  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Long hut measuring 7.1m N-S x 4.5m. Wall bases up to 1m wide x 0.5m high. Partition wall divided structure into two equal cells. Entrance in E wall of N cell. A low stone bank runs c.7.5m to link with PRN32396.

PRN 32399 NGR SN81422479 ALTITUDE 405 PART OF 32394  
 NAME WAUN FFOREST TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval;Post Med FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Sub-circular shelter defined by a low drystone wall base. 4.5m diameter.

PRN 32402 NGR SN81832460 ALTITUDE 435 PART OF  
 NAME WAUN FFOREST TYPE LONG HUT?  
 PERIOD Unknown FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

The remains of a probable long hut, now mostly eroded by the river. The surviving wall bases are L-shaped and suggest a structure measuring over 5m NW-SE x 3.5m.

PRN 35967 NGR SN80052596 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF  
 NAME AROSFA'R GARREG LWYD TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

Ephemeral long hut or shelter. Appears to have 2 narrow cells. SE cell is 2m wide x 4m long, NE cell is 2m x 5m. 6m NE of the structure is a 15m long bank which cuts across the valley suggesting that some effort at stock control was made here.

PRN 35968 NGR SN80402563 ALTITUDE 360 PART OF 35969  
 NAME GLAN LLECHACH TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 13592  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

10m north of PRN13592. Platform cut into slope on E-W axis. 5m wide x c.7m long. Some reed growth obscures detail. There are slight broad earth banks 1.5 or 2m wide running parallel either side of the platform.

PRN 35969 NGR SN8025 ALTITUDE 360 PART OF  
 NAME NANT TY BACH TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 13591;13592;13593;13594;13595;13596;13597;35968

DESCRIPTION

DRS which includes all long huts and associated structures along the Nant Ty Bach valley.

PRN 35970 NGR SN81482556 ALTITUDE 368 PART OF 35971  
 NAME MAWN BWLL LLOI TYPE SHELTER?;FOLD?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32377  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION

An ancillary structure 15m NW of the N end of longhouse PRN32377. A rough, squarish enclosure, 5m square marked out by large slabs.

PRN 35971 NGR SN8125;SN8126 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF  
 NAME GLAN AFON WYSG TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 32373;32374;32375;32377;32380;35970  
 DESCRIPTION  
 DRS which consists of several long huts and ancillary structures.

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PRN 35972 NGR SN81072631 ALTITUDE 345 PART OF  
 NAME BLAEN DUNANT WYSG TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Long hut 8m x 4.5m on a NE-SW axis. On a prominent terrace at the confluence of two streams. Substantial stone wall bases.

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PRN 35973 NGR SN79622595 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF 35976  
 NAME GLAN DUNANT TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35974;35975  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A rectilinear platform c.10m E-W x 5m N-S. Not well preserved. On a small terrace at a bow in the Dunant stream which runs along the E side of the terrace.

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PRN 35974 NGR SN79622595 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF 35976  
 NAME GLAN DUNANT TYPE SHELTER?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35973;35975  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 6m to W of 35973 is a small circular structure, 3m diameter. Ephemeral. Identification not certain.

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PRN 35975 NGR SN79622595 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF 35976  
 NAME GLAN DUNANT TYPE SHELTER?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35973;35974  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Possibly a small sub-circular structure built against the outcrop at the W edge of the terrace. 3m wide N-S x 4m E-W.

---

PRN 35976 NGR SN7925;SN7926 ALTITUDE 330 PART OF  
 NAME CWM DUNANT TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 35973;35974;35975  
 DESCRIPTION  
 DRS on a sheltered terrace on the W side of the Dunant stream.

---

PRN 35977 NGR SN80782481 ALTITUDE 416 PART OF  
 NAME BLAEN CWM-OTHLWN TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 25547  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

15m to S of long house PRN25547 is a sub-circular ancillary structure, facing SE and overlooking the dwelling. It is 3.5m in diameter. Its form, size, and relationship to the long house is reminiscent of ancillary structures in other areas of the Mynydd Du uplands.

PRN 35978 NGR SN80482411 ALTITUDE 410 PART OF  
 NAME FOEL TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

On steep slope overlooking the Sychnant stream. Structure measures 8.5m x 5m on a NE-SW axis. Very ruinous, almost a stone scatter but outline of a rectilinear structure is evident. On slight platform, parallel to the contour. May have had 2 compartments but this is uncertain - the SW half of the structure is wholly obscured by stone. Wall bases are mostly less than 0.3m high.

PRN 35979 NGR SN80022370 ALTITUDE 285 PART OF 35995  
 NAME FFALD GLAN SAWDDE TYPE FOLD  
 PERIOD Post Med FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35980;35994  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Drystone sheepfold with 4 compartments. Overall size 14m x 12m on a NW-SE axis. Longest compartment is on the W side, 3m wide x 10m long. Stands on the edge of the eroding bank of the Sawdde - some loss is occurring at the NE corner of the fold. Walls stand up to 1m high and are mostly well preserved. Nothing to indicate any settlement associated with this structure.

PRN 35980 NGR SN80012370 ALTITUDE 285 PART OF 35995  
 NAME FFALD GLAN SAWDDE PLATFORM TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35979;35992;35993;35994  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

10m W of PRN35979. A bare platform, 12m long on a NNW-SSE axis x 5m wide. Small amount of stone present but not obviously structural. Possibly associated with the fold. Springing off the SW corner of the platform is a 2m wide bank which defines Brest y Fedw enclosure PRN35994.

PRN 35981 NGR SN80122376 ALTITUDE 295 PART OF 35987  
 NAME ABER NANT MELYN TYPE HUT CIRCLE?;FOLD?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35982;35983;35984;35985;35986;  
 CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Circular structure standing on a promontory strip of land above the confluence of the Nant Melyn and the Sawdde. Measures 6m in diameter. Formed by a circle of boulders and stones up to a height of 0.5m. PRN35982 is a short distance to the SE. The western boundary bank of the Twyn yr Esgair field system PRN 35986 springs off this structure, running SSE for 100m or more.



PRN 35982 NGR SN80142373 ALTITUDE 296 PART OF 35987  
 NAME ABER NANT MELYN TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35981;35983;35984;35985;35986  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Similar to PRN35981, but only 3m in diameter. Entrance faces to the W. On the S side of this structure there is an area 6m N-S x 5m, which appears to have been deliberately levelled off. A trackway cuts down the steep slope to the floodplain of the Nant Melyn where more structures are located.

PRN 35983 NGR SN80272371 ALTITUDE 290 PART OF 35987  
 NAME GLAN NANT MELYN TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35981;35982;35984;35985;35986  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Long hut on terrace on W side of the Nant Melyn floodplain. Measures 7m x 4.1m. On a levelled terrace cut into the foot of the valley slope. Low wall bases - less than 0.5m generally, some edge set slabs present - on 3 sides (N W SE and NE side). SW wall is actually cut into slope up to 1m deep as a negative platform. No internal division but a lot of tumbled stone lies inside the structure. Some erosion is occurring on NE side where the terrace edge is collapsing. Stream is about 10m away. At the NW end is a small extension, 2m square, central to the NW-SE axis line.

PRN 35984 NGR SN80272370 ALTITUDE 290 PART OF 35987  
 NAME GLAN NANT MELYN TYPE SUNKEN SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35981;35982;35983;35985;35986  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

6m SE of PRN35983. Cut to depth of 0.5m into the foot of slope. Measures 4m x 3m, some stone structure evident. Axis is N-S, entrance is in W side of N end. A bank springs off the S end running up to top of steep valley slope.

PRN 35985 NGR SN80242373 ALTITUDE 300 PART OF 35987  
 NAME GLAN NANT MELYN TYPE FOLD  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35981;35982;35983;35984;35986  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Small drystone fold, situated on the edge of a natural terrace.

PRN 35986 NGR SN8023 ALTITUDE 300 PART OF 35987  
 NAME TWYN YR ESGAIR TYPE FIELD SYSTEM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Topog  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35981;35982;35983;35984;35985  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Field enclosure, defined by a broad stone and earth bank, which takes in a large area of the slopes of Twyn yr Esgair above the Glan nant Melyn DRS.

PRN 35987 NGR SN8023 ALTITUDE 295 PART OF  
 NAME TWYN YR ESGAIR TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 35981;35982;35983;35984;35985;35986  
 DESCRIPTION  
 DRS which includes a single dwelling, several ancillary structures and a field enclosure. No evidence of cultivation observed.

---

PRN 35988 NGR SN80562251 ALTITUDE 442 PART OF 35991  
 NAME DWYRAIN CWM SYCHLWCH TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32385;35989;35990;35991  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 A small ancillary shelter to PRN32385, 20m to the S of that site in a reedy area. A rough boulder construction with a large natural boulder forming its E side. 4m N-S x 3m E-W.

---

PRN 35989 NGR SN80562254 ALTITUDE 440 PART OF 35991  
 NAME CWM AFON SYCHLWCH TYPE PLATFORM  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32385;35988;35990;35991  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Platform to N side of 32385. Measures 6m E-W x 4m N-S. Levelled area. Some stone revetting at the NW corner defining the positive edge of the platform.

---

PRN 35990 NGR SN80492256 ALTITUDE 430 PART OF 35991  
 NAME CWM AFON SYCHLWCH TYPE FOLD  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32385;35988;35989;35991  
 CONSISTS OF  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Drystone sheepfold 7m x 4m x 1.5m high. Rubble/boulder construction. Partly overlies longhouse PRN32387. Entrance unclear. Rough stony bank runs off to SE and uses natural boulders and moraine deposits to create a rough enclosure or yard area.

---

PRN 35991 NGR SN8022 ALTITUDE 430 PART OF  
 NAME CWM SYCHLWCH TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 35988;35989;35990  
 DESCRIPTION  
 Describes all recorded settlement features in the Cwm Sychlwch valley.

---

PRN 35992 NGR SN79822371 ALTITUDE 275 PART OF 35995  
 NAME BREST Y FEDW TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35993;35980;35994  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

One of a pair of long huts at the base of Brest y Fedw. Measures 7m x 4m with boulder construction up to 1m high. N - S long axis, with entrance in its E. wall. Single cell. Slight building platform visible at N. end. 10m E of 35993 and both enclosed by field 35994.

PRN 35993 NGR SN79812372 ALTITUDE 275 PART OF 35995  
 NAME BREST Y FEDW TYPE LONG HUT  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35992;35980;35994  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

One of a pair of longhuts being 10m W of 35992. 2-cell structure of boulder construction with wall bases up to 1m high. NNE-SSW axis 8m x 4m. On a slight platform cut into slope at S. end entrance in E. side. Divided to make the S cell larger internally; the N. cell measures 2.25m long with a 0.8m wide stone division before a 3m long S. cell. Attached to the E. side springing off the wall of the S. cell is squarish structure abutting the long hut - less substantial than the long hut construction. Possibly a small pen 2.5m x 2.5m.

PRN 35994 NGR SN79802370 ALTITUDE 270 PART OF 35995  
 NAME BREST Y FEDW ENCLOSURE TYPE ENCLOSURE  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 35979;35980;35992;35993  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Encloses both long huts PRNs 35992-3 as well as a long strip eastwards along the base of Brest y Fedw towards the Glansawdde Fold and platform PRNs 35979-80. The relationship between the field enclosure and the various structures enclosed by it is unknown.

PRN 35995 NGR SN7923;SN8023 ALTITUDE 270 PART OF  
 NAME BREST Y FEDW SETTLEMENT TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 35979;35980;35992;35993;35994

## DESCRIPTION

Deserted rural settlement comprising PRNs 35992;35993;35994;35979;35980. It is not known what the relationship of any of these structures is with each other or the enclosure.

PRN 35997 NGR SN78822251 ALTITUDE 370 PART OF 35999  
 NAME ABER TRAWSNANT TYPE FOLD  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32356;32357;32358;35998;35999  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Drystone sheepfold which overlies an earlier long hut (PRN32358).,

PRN 35998 NGR SN78802250 ALTITUDE 370 PART OF 35999  
 NAME ABER TRAWSNANT TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM O.Struct  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 32356;32357;32358;35997;35999  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Measures c.3.2m x 2.1m (N-S long axis). 20m south of PRN35997. W. side collapsing inwards, not well defined. E and S. end well defined. S. end up to 1m high. Constructed of large boulders, fairly rough build but still quite coherent, with straight wall lines surviving internally. Entrance at N end seems to turn to face NW. Threatened by stream erosion.,

PRN 35999 NGR SN7822 ALTITUDE 370 PART OF  
 NAME MIHARTACH UCHAF TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 32356;32357;32358;35997;35998

## DESCRIPTION

Includes all the recorded settlement features in the Mihartach valley. This part of the valley is generally rock strewn with patches of grass and reed growth.,

PRN 36000 NGR SN7822 ALTITUDE 400 PART OF  
 NAME NANT YR YSGWYDD TYPE DRS  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Complex  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF 32350;32351;32352;32353;32354;32355

## DESCRIPTION

Includes all settlement features recorded in the Nant yr Ysgwydd valley.

PRN 36986 NGR SN81582600 ALTITUDE 345 PART OF  
 NAME GLAN WYSG TYPE SUNKEN SHELTER?  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Earthwork  
 ASSOCIATED WITH  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

5m N-S x 6m E-W x 1.5m deep. Unlike the other sites in the valley, this site is sunken into the ground. Faces stream which is 3m to E, cut into edge of natural terrace. Perhaps a sunken shelter. Material derived from quarrying out the hollow is just dumped on N and S sides.

PRN 36987 NGR SN76592058 ALTITUDE 355 PART OF  
 NAME CWM SAWDDE FECHAN TYPE SHELTER  
 PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med? FORM Building  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 13403;36988;36989  
 CONSISTS OF

## DESCRIPTION

Cell on W side of drystone fold PRN13403. Entered from main fold through a sheep door, measuring 6m x 4m. Appended to the E side of this is a drystone fold walls of which stand up to 1.5m high.

PRN 36988 NGR SN76592058 ALTITUDE 455 PART OF

NAME CWM SAWDDE FECHAN

TYPE SHELTER

PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med?

FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH 13403;36987;36989

CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

An antennae wall runs off of drystone fold PRN13403 to SW and reaches a large boulder on the NW side of which is a small shelter, 3m x 2.5m.

PRN 36989 NGR SN76592058 ALTITUDE 455 PART OF

NAME CWM SAWDDE FECHAN

TYPE SHELTER

PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med?

FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH 13403;36987;36988

CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Another small shelter 3 x 2.5m lies west and downslope of the previously described shelter also built against a large boulder.

PRN 36990 NGR SN76492058 ALTITUDE 435 PART OF

NAME CWM SAWDDE FECHAN

TYPE SHELTER?;LONG HUT?

PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med?

FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH 13403

CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Possibly a small long hut or shelter 4.5m x 2m just above trackway downstream (to W) of fold PRN13403.

PRN 37143 NGR SN79622595 ALTITUDE 340 PART OF

NAME GLAN DUNANT

TYPE DRS

PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med?

FORM Earthwork

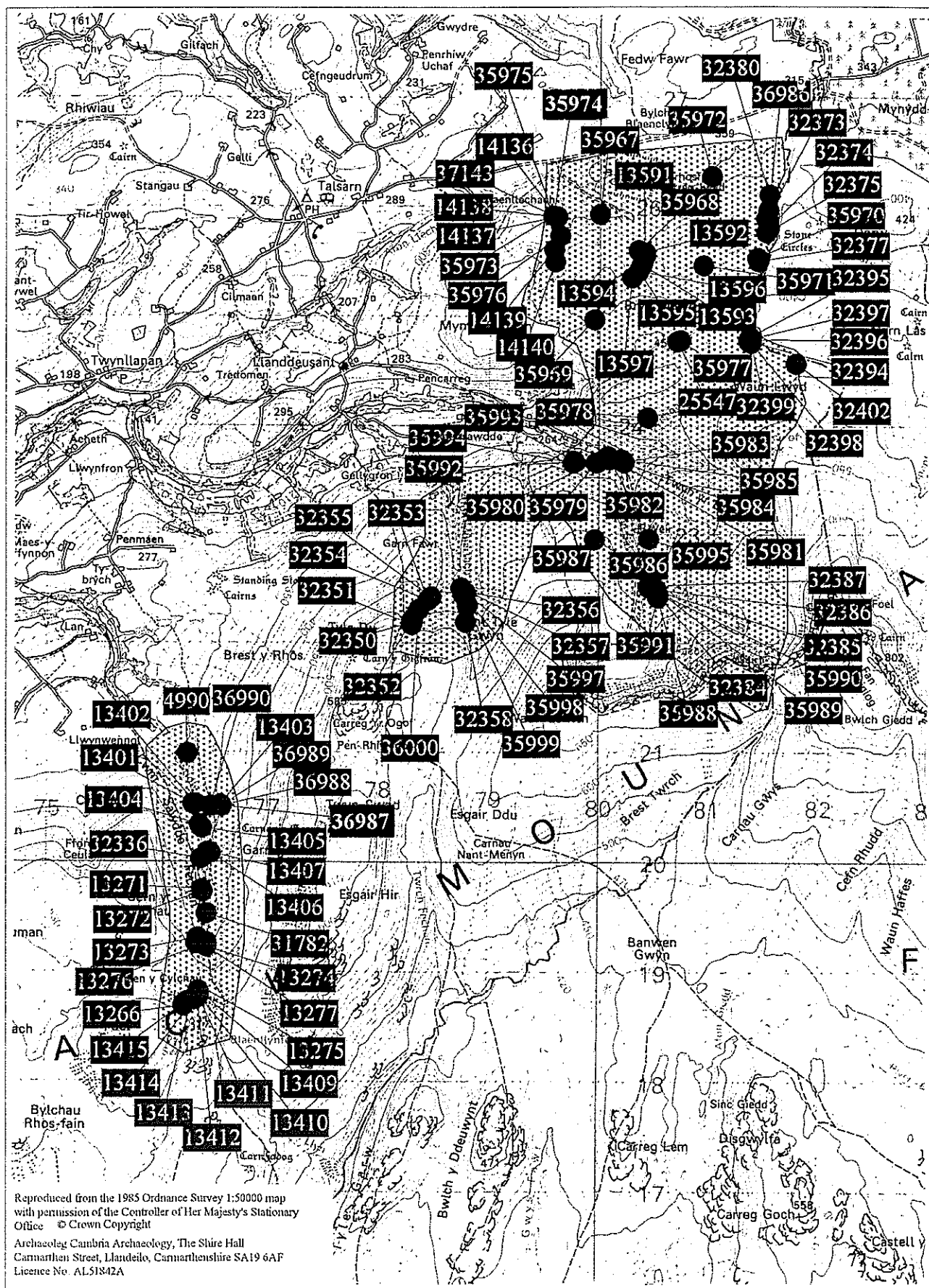
ASSOCIATED WITH 14136;14137;14138

CONSISTS OF 35973;35974;35975

DESCRIPTION

Group of poorly preserved earthwork features, includes a platform and two possible shelters on a narrow sheltered terrace on the W side of the Nant Dunant.

Study area 17 Llanddeusant



## 12. STUDY AREA 18 - LLANLLWNI

This study area is located in central Carmarthenshire. During mediaeval times the district fell into the commote of Mabudrud, one of the seven commotes of Cantref Mawr, later incorporated into the English county of Carmarthen. The abbey of Talley was in possession of an extensive grange which extended from Gwyddgrug, to the west of the study area, to Brechfa to the east. The grange included therefore part of the study area, namely the Mynydd Llanfihangel Rhos y Corn portion.

Today the district is mostly a well farmed and settled landscape, with some 13km<sup>2</sup> of open common land remaining across the adjacent parish commons of Llanllwni and Llanfihangel Rhos y Corn, at an altitude of between c.250 - 400m. This latter area was the focus of the field survey. Some improved pasture has been created by piecemeal enclosure of portions of the common, including a narrow band of improved land separating Mynydd Llanllwni and Mynydd Llanfihangel Rhos y Corn.

### 12.1 The archaeological and historical evidence for deserted rural settlement in Llanllwni.

This study area proved to be immensely challenging, yet disappointing, to the field team with four days fieldwork on the commons succeeding in identifying only one long hut and one sheepfold. The absence of settlement in an area of unenclosed upland, which outwardly is little different to any other upland area in Carmarthenshire, is difficult to explain, but is nevertheless interesting in itself.

One aspect of the local topography which may be a determining factor in both the former extent and location of settlement and also to the survival of archaeological features is the rapid and severe erosion which appears to occur on at least some parts of Mynydd Llanllwni and Mynydd Llanfihangel Rhos y Corn. Here it is clear that even minor drainage ditches can become channels for water which quickly erodes the boulder clay surface to depths of as much as 2m. This surface instability may have been a factor in preventing settlement or land improvement on some parts of the mountain. A propensity for land slippage and erosion was likewise seen in the upper reaches of the Afon Blotweth (SN5338). However, the survival of albeit very few archaeological sites indicates that erosion is not a problem everywhere and cannot by itself explain the almost complete absence of DRS sites and associated features from the common.

It must be stressed that the failure to discover new long huts does not wholly equate with an absence of evidence for settlement on these commons. It is evident that cottages and surviving farmsteads on and around the common, along with their associated field systems, are significant indicators of the enclosure and improvement of areas of former common;

- a number of dwellings still stand in the south facing valleys which cut into the southern side of Mynydd Llanllwni (e.g. SN5237;5337). Such sheltered valleys are exactly the sort of context in which one would expect to find evidence of deserted rural settlements in other areas
- it is notable that occupied farmsteads and cottages form a chain around the margins of the common, some standing within a few metres of the common boundary
- it is notable that the field patterns along the western and northern flanks of the common are characteristically rectilinear and may well represent post-mediaeval enclosure of former areas of common, taking in earlier settlement sites which may have continued in use. The enclosure of portions of the common on its southern and eastern sides is more evident, where farmsteads remain in occupation above the 300m contour (e.g. Ffynnon-las at SN507346 and Bryn Llywelyn at SN514367).

However, if such encroachment and enclosure took place as envisaged, it certainly predated the 1840's, for the relevant parish tithe maps show that the common boundary and indeed the settlement pattern on

and around the common has changed but little since then. Indeed, there is some ground to believe that at least some of the settlements around the common margins have long histories of occupation;

- Some hendre and hafod placenames occur around the common boundary (e.g. Nant yr Hendre PRN 16611; Hendre Einon PRN5866; Hafod Tridrws PRN17084; ). From the point of view of comment on the *hafod/hendre* issue it should be observed that the idea that the *header* is a lowland phenomenon and the *hafod* belongs to the upland is belied in this district as all three of the above sites are found above 250m, although Hafod Tridrws is the highest of the three.
- Although little documented evidence of use was uncovered, it is worth noting that one deed of 1679<sup>19</sup> refers to the land of *Tyr Cwm Gwengwffrwd* alias *Tyr Cwm y Mynydd* (located just off the common at the north-western edge of the Llanllwni commons). Almost a century later in 1773<sup>20</sup>, another deed refers to the *messuage of Cwmgwengwffrwd*. Whether it can be inferred that the settlement of Cwmgwengwffrwd post-dated the first deed cannot be certain, but the use of the term *Tyr* (land) rather than *messuage* (holding) may be of significance.
- Indications that settlement might have extended up onto the slopes of Mynydd Llanllwni and Mynydd Llanfihangel Rhos y Corn even in the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> centuries might be provided by the presence of two mediaeval notes approximately 1km to the west of the common boundary, at Castell Nonni (SN494398) and Castell (SN477356). The latter lies within the Gwyddgrug monastic grange and may have been close to its focus at Gwyddgrug.

The only conclusions that can be reached in view of the evidence available is that;

- the surviving area of common land lies outside the area of historic settlement. The fact that the district remains populous and well farmed means that the sort of rural depopulation and abandonment of settlement which is documented elsewhere in rural Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion has not occurred and therefore deserted rural settlements simply do not exist as a major element in the local archaeological resource
- the instability of areas of the common and their susceptibility to erosion have either led to the loss of evidence of human activity on the common or have deterred settlement on the affected areas of common.

## 12.2 Characteristic site types.

### 12.2.1 Simple, dispersed sites.

It must simply be noted that a solitary longhut was discovered in a sheltered stream valley on the western margin of Mynydd Llanllwni (PRN 36001). No ancillary structures were noted, but bracken proved a hindrance on this part of the mountain. However, the fact that the site, which was under bracken, was discovered indicates that bracken did not make field survey impossible. The presence of relatively extensive patches of cultivation ridges both north and south of this site is worth noting, but no obvious connection with the long hut could be discerned.

### 12.2.2 Complex dispersed sites.

It is suggested that the surviving settlements in the sheltered valleys which cut into the commons of Mynydd Llanllwni and Mynydd Llanfihangel Rhos y Corn would in other circumstances perhaps be seen as DRS sites but, as they remain occupied and intact, fall outside the scope of this survey.

### 12.2.3 Nucleations.

No sites of this category were observed.

<sup>19</sup> NLW British Record Association 1935 index, Parcel 898, p.72.

<sup>20</sup> NLW British Record Association 1935 index, Parcel 898, p.30.



## Sites in the study area of Llanllwni

PRN 5866 NGR SN53333556 ALTITUDE 245 PART OF

NAME HENDRE-EINON

TYPE HENDRE?

PERIOD Mediaeval?;Post Med?

FORM Place-name

ASSOCIATED WITH

CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Working farmstead. Despite the hendre placename, the settlement is at an altitude of nearly 250m, on a spur overlooking the valley of the Afon Nenog.

PRN 6787 NGR SN54733450 ALTITUDE 243 PART OF

NAME PANT-Y-BETTWS

TYPE LONGHOUSE

PERIOD Post Med

FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH

CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Occupied farmstead, the farmhouse being in the longhouse tradition.

PRN 6791 NGR SN52503410 ALTITUDE 160 PART OF

NAME CAE-DWGAN

TYPE LONGHOUSE

PERIOD Post Med

FORM Building

ASSOCIATED WITH

CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

Occupied farmstead, the farmhouse being in the longhouse tradition.

PRN 13020 NGR SN524359 ALTITUDE 270 PART OF

NAME PENGARREG

TYPE DRS?;SETTLEMENT?

PERIOD Unknown

FORM Earthwork

ASSOCIATED WITH

CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

The foundations of rectilinear structures and field boundaries survive in pasture fields near Penygareg farm. The is not enough visible evidence to be sure of their precise character.

PRN 16611 NGR SN49193821 ALTITUDE 236 PART OF

NAME NANT YR HENDRE

TYPE HENDRE?

PERIOD Post Med

FORM Place-name

ASSOCIATED WITH

CONSISTS OF

DESCRIPTION

One of several hendre place names in the district. Occupied dwelling.

*PRN* 17084 *NGR* SN51443458 *ALTITUDE* 290 *PART OF*  
*NAME* HAFOD TRIDRWS *TYPE* HAFOD?  
*PERIOD* Post Med *FORM* Place-name  
*ASSOCIATED WITH*  
*CONSISTS OF*  
*DESCRIPTION*  
 One of several hafod place names in the district. Presently a working farm.

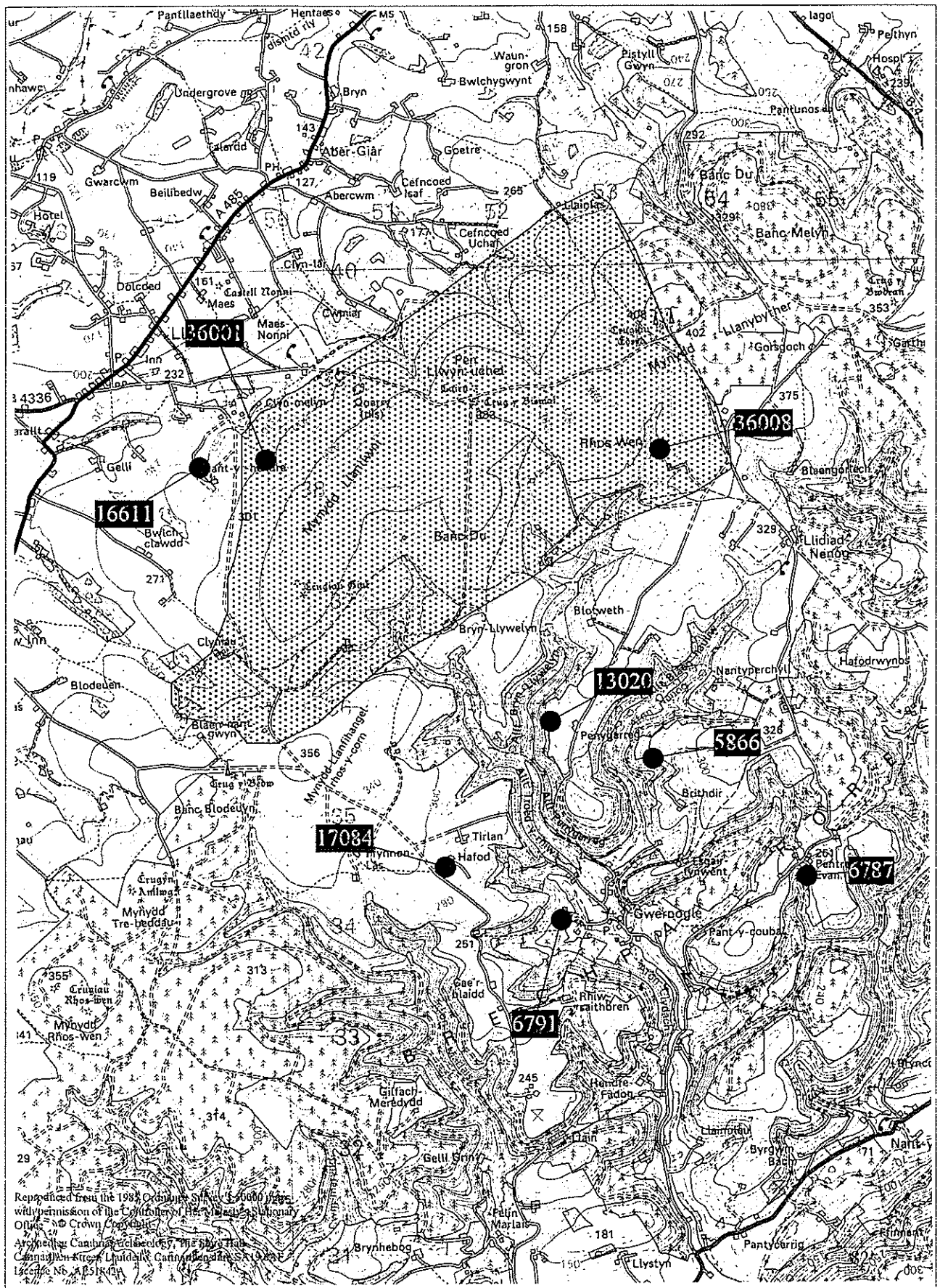
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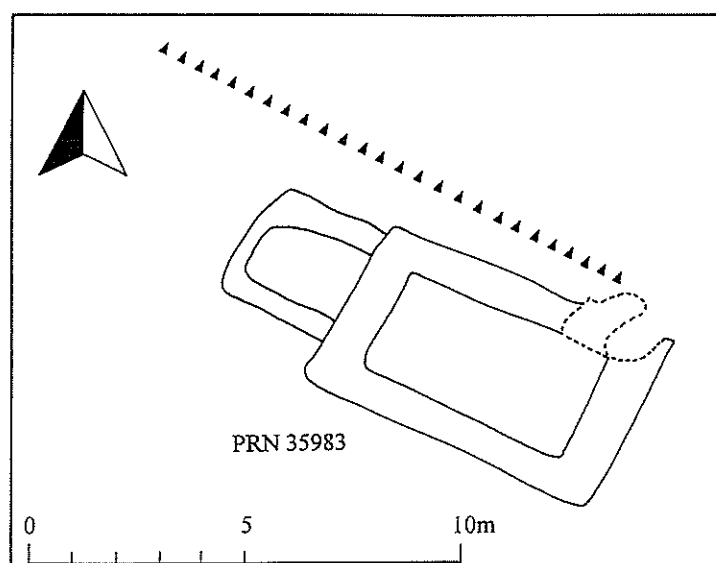
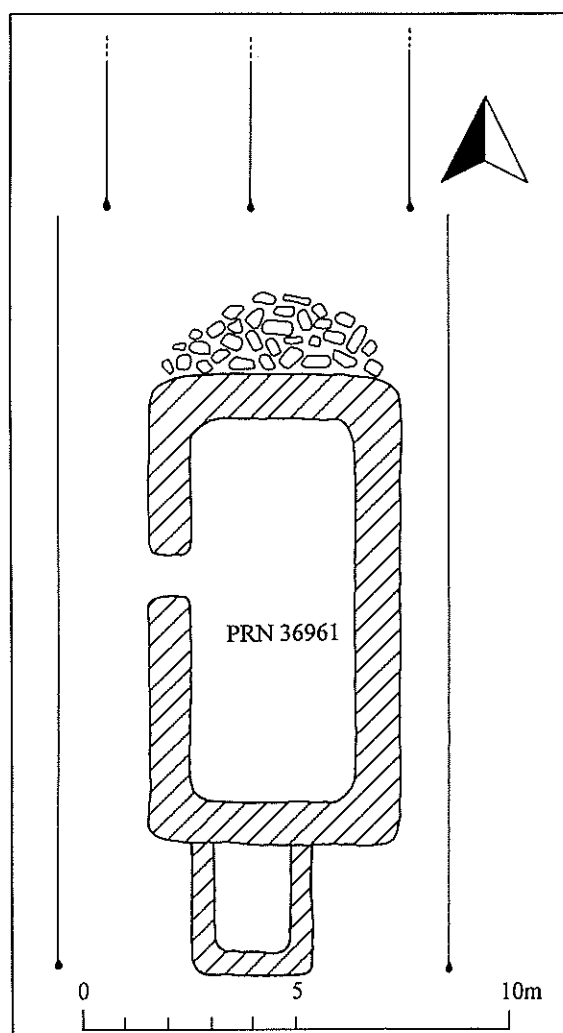
*PRN* 36001 *NGR* SN49793930 *ALTITUDE* 260 *PART OF*  
*NAME* CWM HENGAE *TYPE* LONG HUT  
*PERIOD* Mediaeval?;Post Med? *FORM* Earthwork  
*ASSOCIATED WITH*  
*CONSISTS OF*  
*DESCRIPTION*  
 Long hut measures 6m long on E-W axis x 4m wide. At E end the structure is cut into slope and there seems to be a crescentic drainage hood, 2m wide 1m to E of end of structure. The long hut is not well defined, but at the E and W end are low earth banks 0.3m high. Centre of site eroded slightly by sheep track. Line of N and S wall bases evident.

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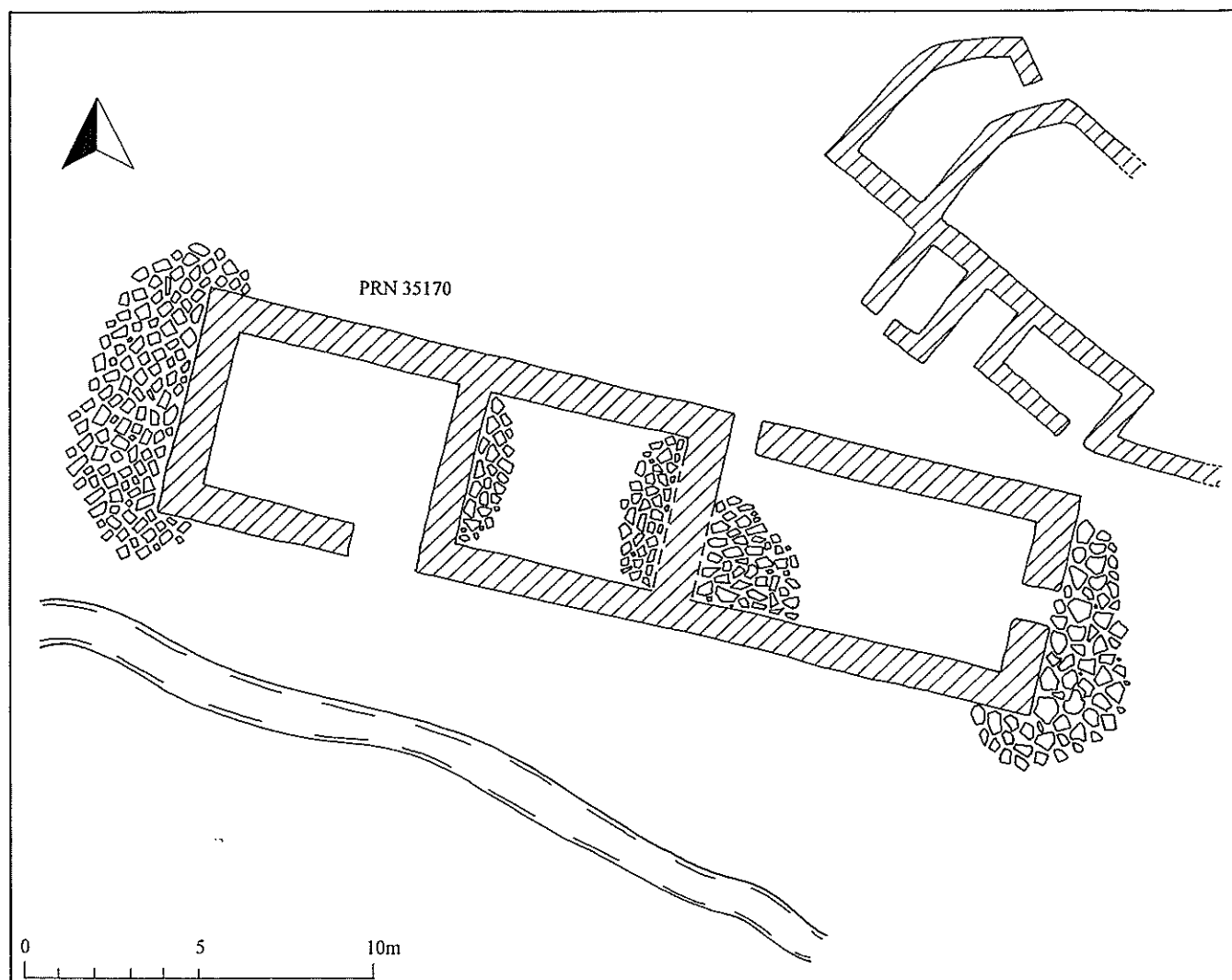
*PRN* 36008 *NGR* SN53393838 *ALTITUDE* 310 *PART OF*  
*NAME* BLAEN NANT RHYS *TYPE* SHEEP DIP;POND?  
*PERIOD* Mediaeval?;Post Med? *FORM* Earthwork  
*ASSOCIATED WITH*  
*CONSISTS OF*  
*DESCRIPTION*  
 Irregular, sub-circular earth & stone fold on edge of upper Nant Rhys on Llanllwni common. Measures 12m x 9m and is cut into the foot of the valley slope. Defined by earth and stone banks 1.5m wide x 1m high.

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Two longhuts of similar character but from different areas. Top is a longhut on Bryn Rhudd, Llanddewi Brefi which is suspected to be the *turf house* known as *Llust John David Vain yn nhalken bryn y Rhydd* recorded in 16th and 17th century deeds. Below is the long hut of Glan Nant Melyn, Llanddeusant. The compartment added to the end of the main compartment is a feature seen at many long hut sites, presumably used for storage.



A site included in the 1996-97 survey, Nantygafod Farmstead, Cwmystwyth. Attested to have been an upland holding of Strata Florida Abbey in the early 16th century, the farm continued in occupation into the late 19th century. Farmstead complexes are in many ways at the top of the rural settlement hierarchy and it remains to be seen if it is only in an upland or marginal context that such complex sites are to be found preserved relatively undisturbed.

## 12. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Although all sources relevant to the 1998-99 survey are referred to in footnotes within the body of the report, this is a complimentary list of sources used during the three years of the DRS project

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*Bryn-yr-ychain (PRN6863)*



*Hafod Gou (PRN36051)*



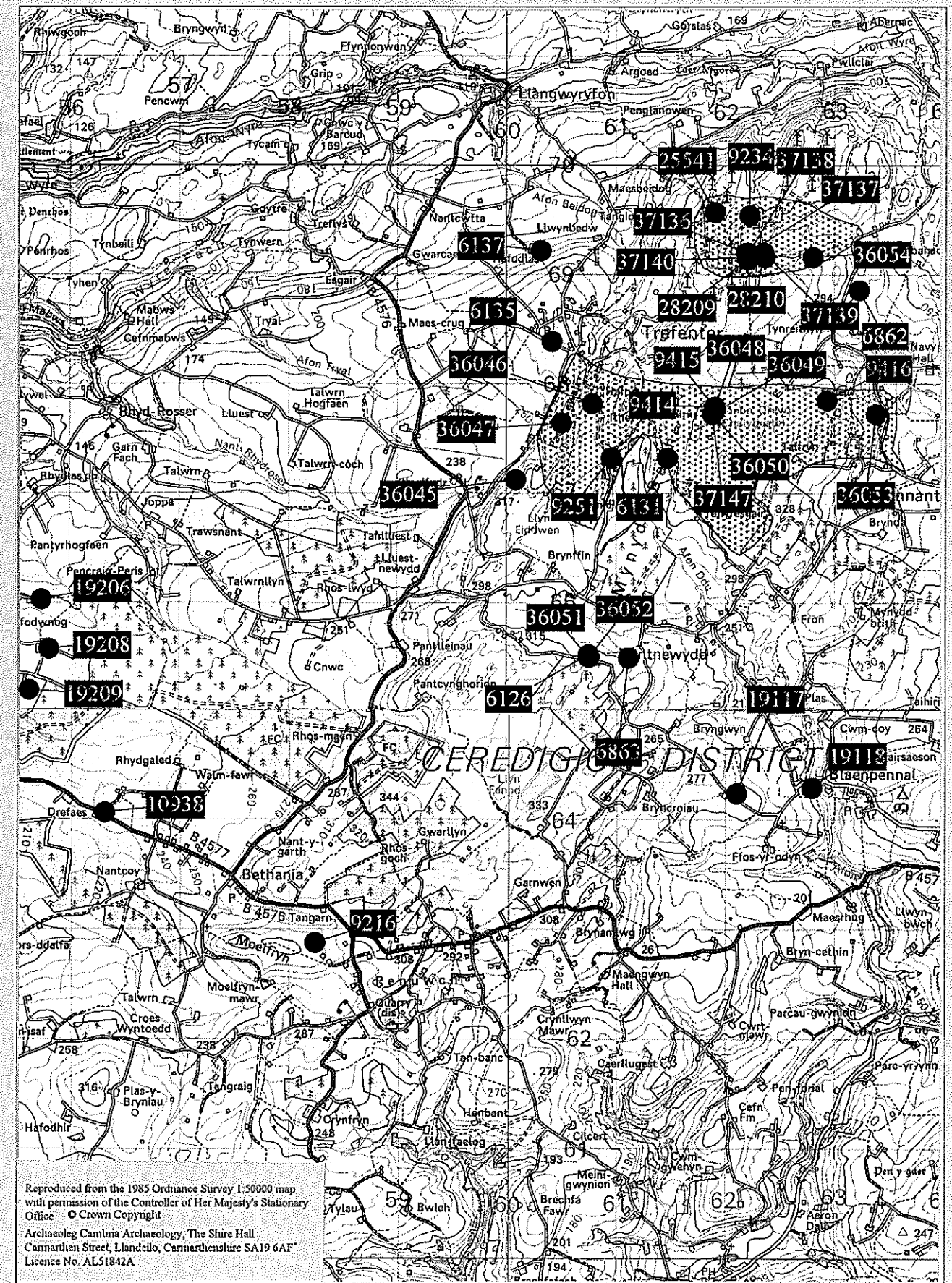


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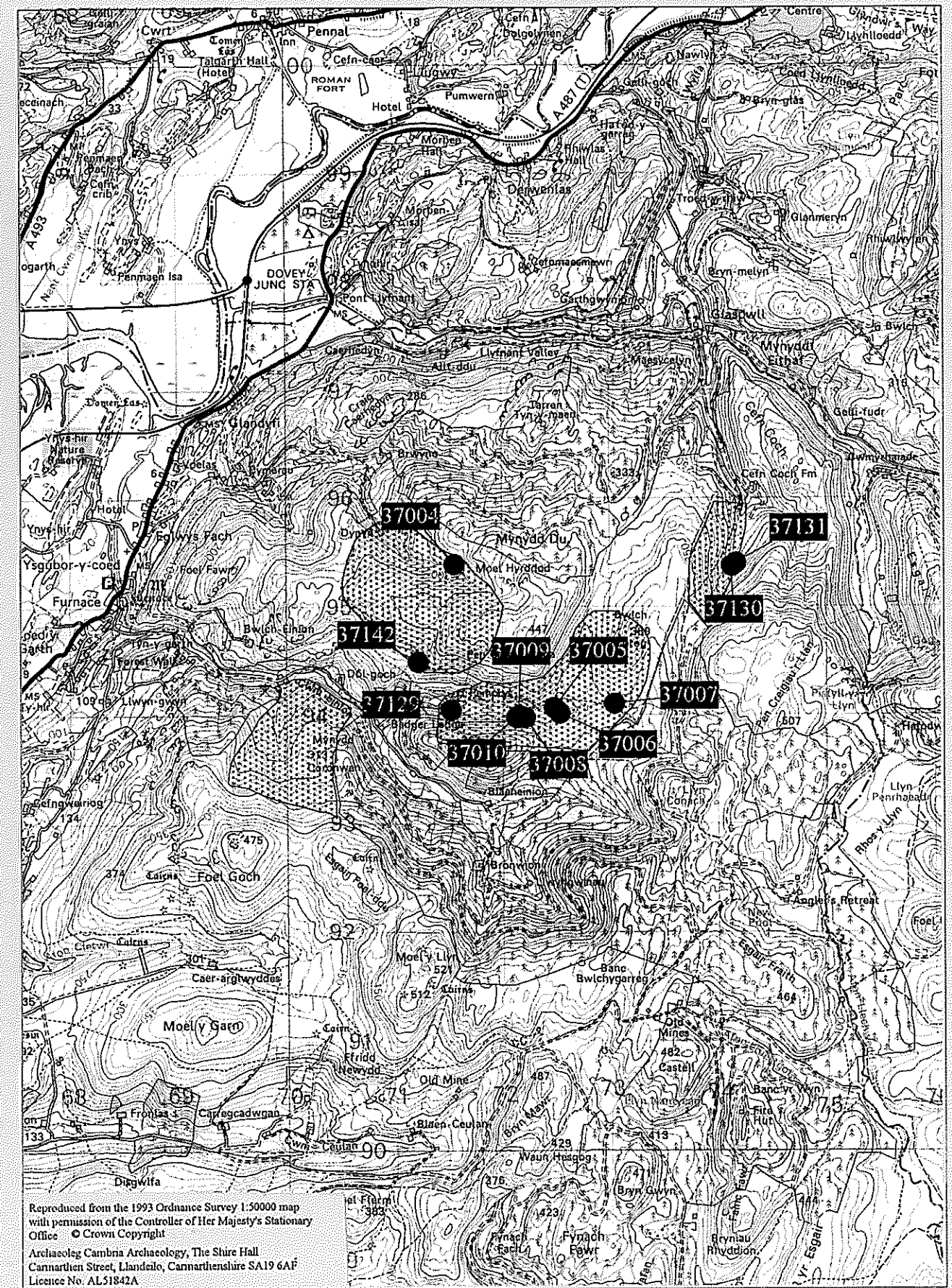
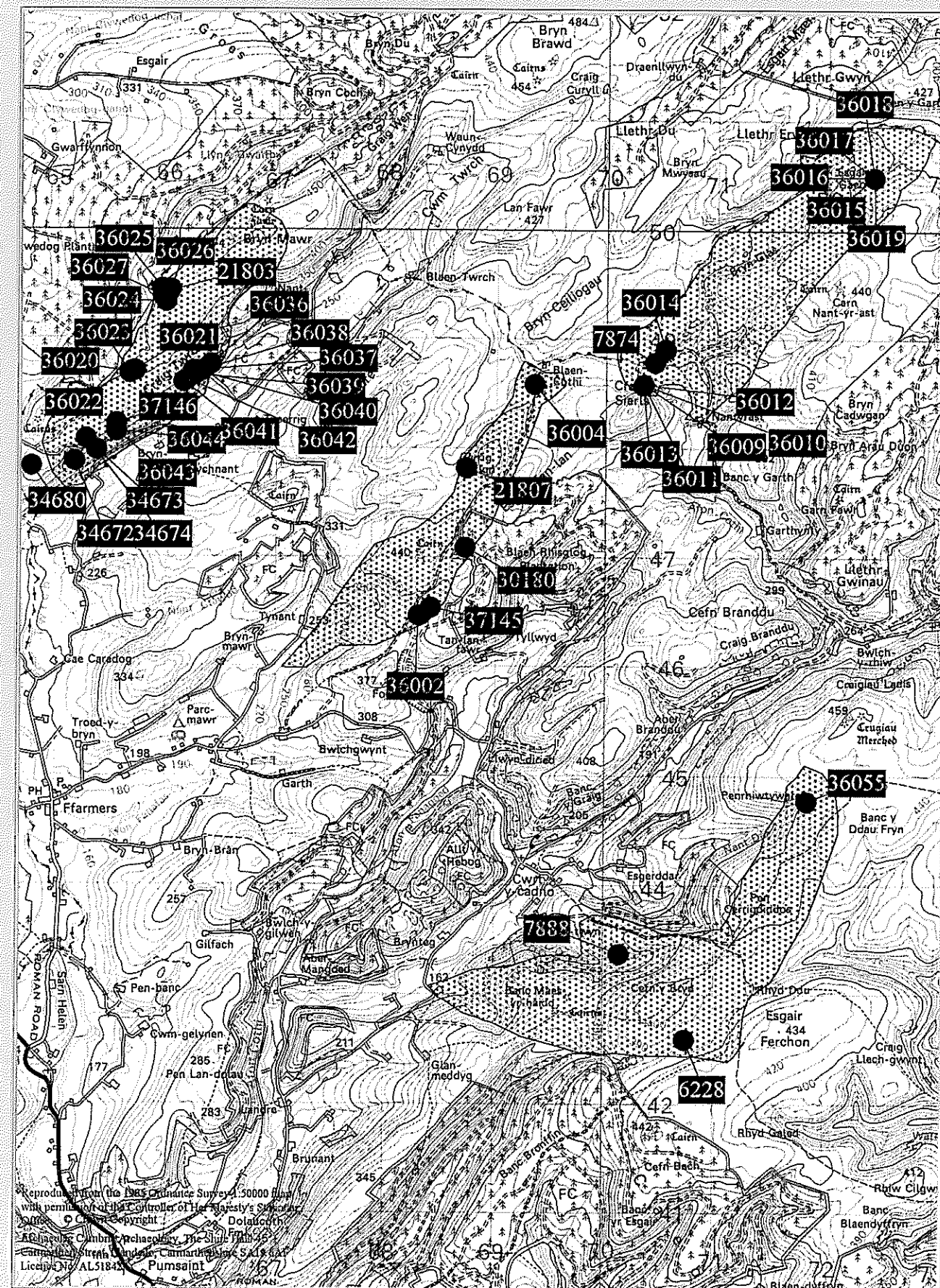


*Hafod Gou (PRN36051)*

### Study area 14 Mynydd Bach

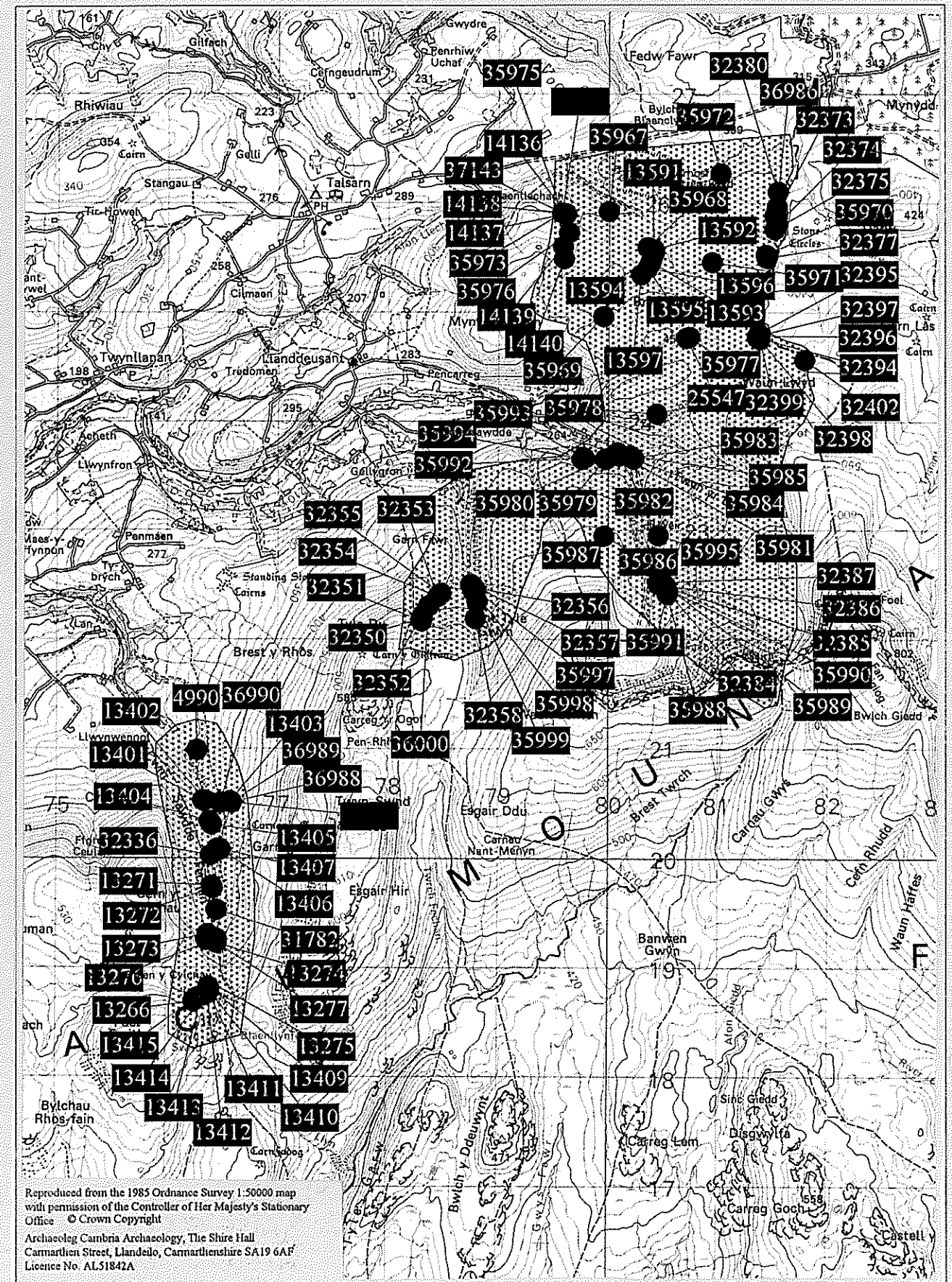




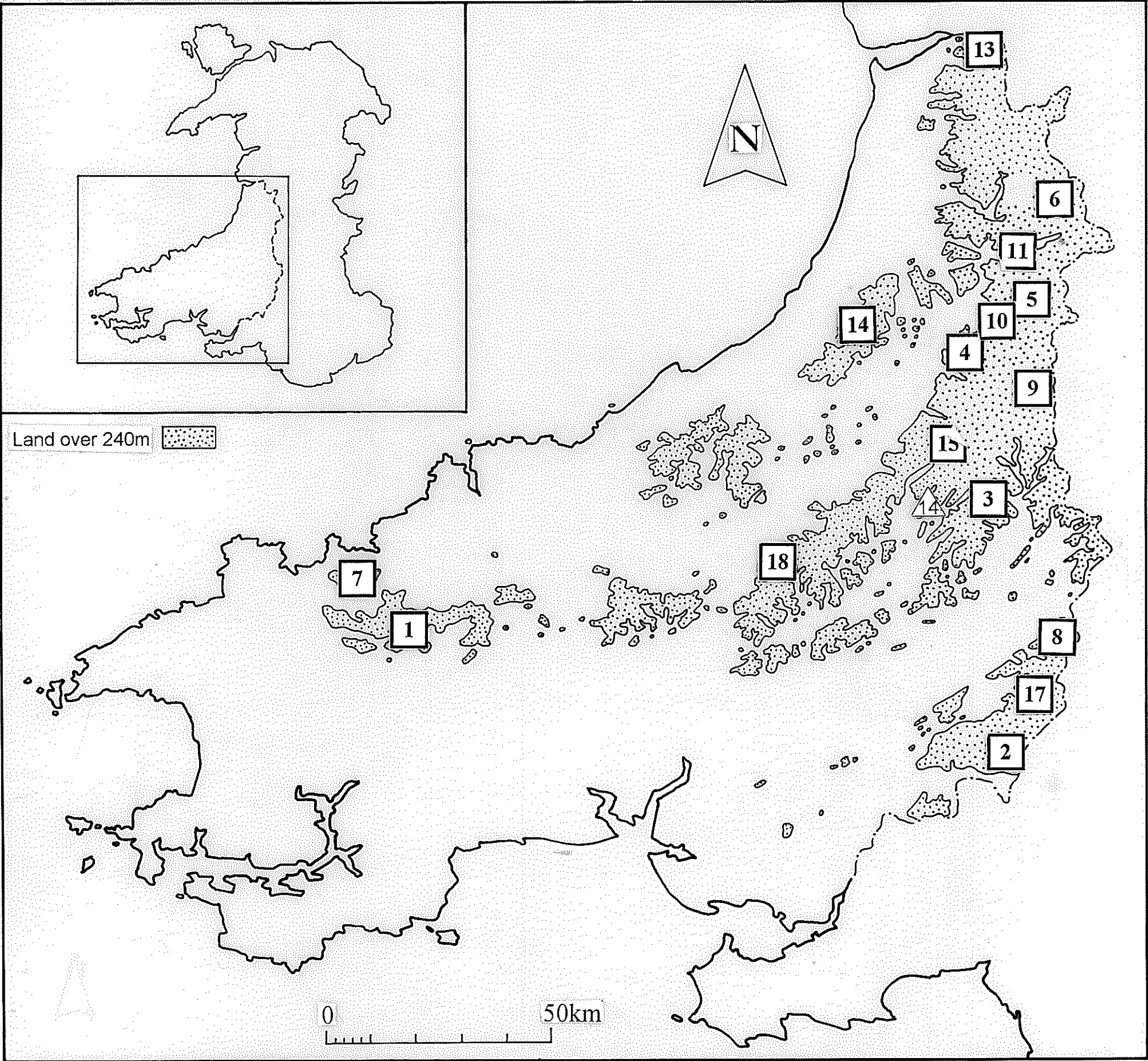




### Study area 17 Llanddeusant



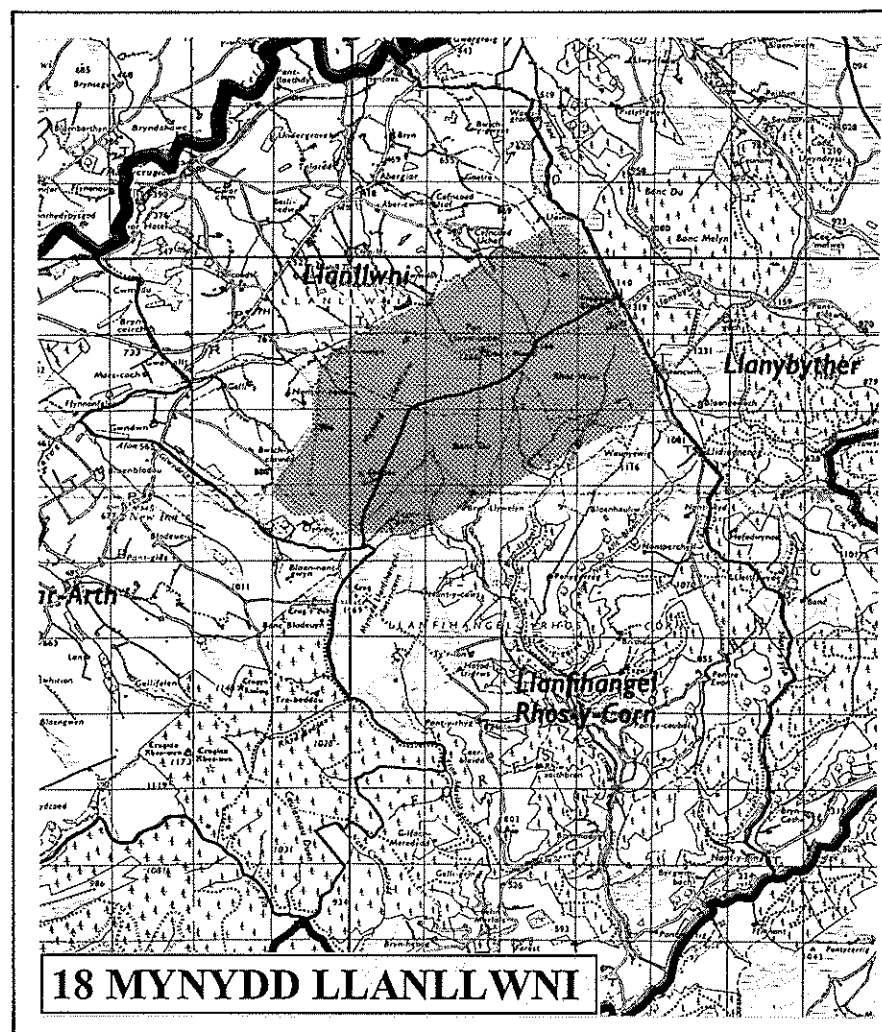
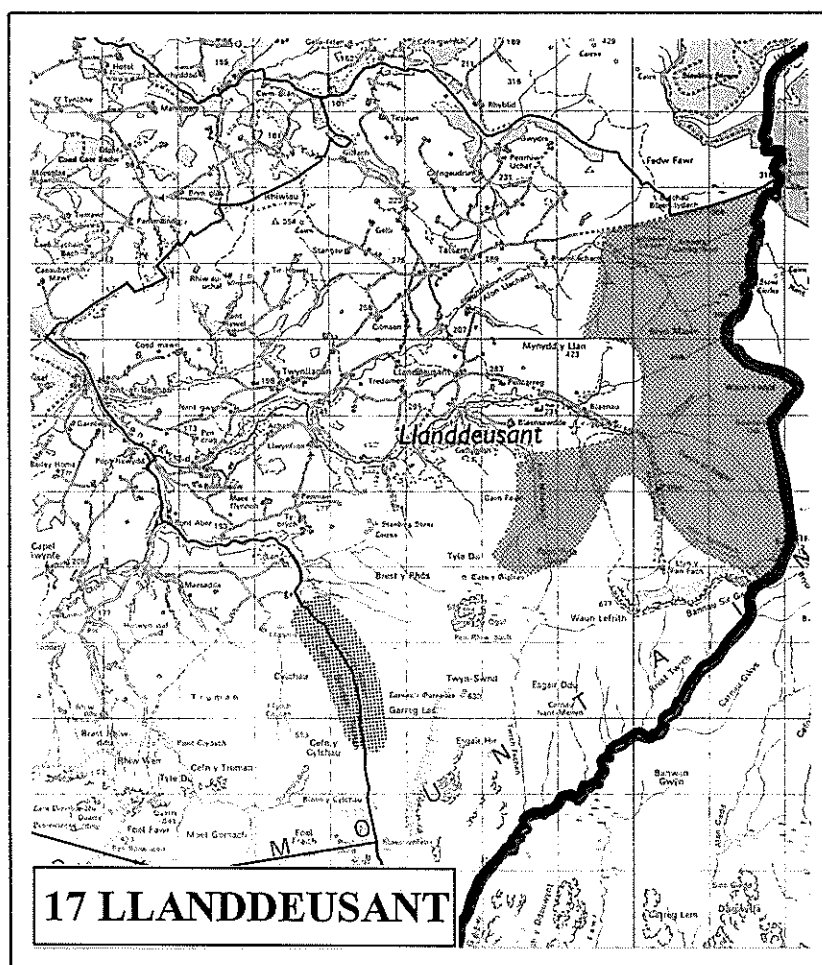
# LOCATION OF DRS STUDY AREAS IN MID & WEST WALES 1996-99



YEAR 1996-97	YEAR 1997-98	YEAR 1998-99
1 - Preseli	7 - Carningli	13 - Ysgubor y Coed
2 - Quarter Bach	8 - Myddfai Common	14 - Mynydd Bach
3 - Mynydd Mallaen	9 - Caron-uwch-clawdd	15 - Llanddewi Brefi
4 - Caron-is-clawdd	10 - Gwnnws	16 - Cynwyl Gaeo
5 - Cwmystwyth	11 - Llanfihangel y Creuddyn	17 - Llanddeusant
6 - Perfedd 1	12 - Perfedd 2	18 - Llanllwni







## ACA Deserted Rural Settlements Project: 1998 Study Areas in Carmarthenshire

AREAS OF FIELD SURVEY



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