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# UP L A N D C E R E D I G I O N HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION



ant aided by

dw: Welsh Historic Monuments

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A R C H A E O L O G

CAMBRIA

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## PREFACE

Natural forces and human activity acting together over the last six thousand years have contrived to produce a landscape of great beauty and variety in Wales, a national asset that is essential both to our national identity and to our individual "sense of place" and well-being. The diversity and imprint of human activity on the landscape is everywhere to be seen, from the enigmatic stone monuments of the prehistoric period and the magnificent castles and abbeys of the medieval period, to quite commonplace and typical features like field boundaries that can often be of great age. But the landscape is more than just attractive scenery or a record of the past; it also provides a place for us to live, work and sustain ourselves, through farming, forestry, tourism and so on, processes that all shape, and will continue to shape, the landscape.

Recognising and raising awareness of the importance and wealth of the historic fabric of the landscape has been the central theme and message of the non-statutory, *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*, the first part of which, covering thirty-six "outstanding" landscapes, was published in January 1998. This is being compiled as a joint initiative between Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), working in collaboration with the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and the Welsh unitary authorities.

The *Historic Landscapes Register* provides a first step, national overview of the historic content of the Welsh landscape. The next step, so essential to the process of informing the way in which aspects of the historic landscape may be managed, is to make available more detailed information about the character of this landscape at a more local level. This is achieved through a process known as historic landscape characterisation which has been developed in Wales jointly by Cadw, the CCW and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts. This involves the identification of geographically definable and mappable areas of historic character, as determined by the range and distribution of surviving archaeological and historic features and the main types of historical land use patterns or historic "themes" that have shaped the area. The key historic characteristics of the area are then identified along with recommendations for their positive management.

This report is one in a series of landscape characterisation exercises being undertaken by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts with grant-aid from Cadw. These studies will initially concentrate on those areas identified on the *Historic Landscapes Register*, although it is accepted that the whole of the Welsh landscape can be said to be, in one way or another, historic. Information is being prepared in a form which is compatible to the CCW's landscape assessment and decision making methodology, known as *LANDMAP*. It will be made available to a wide range of organisations and will feed into various initiatives to protect and manage the Welsh countryside,

most notably the *Tir Gofal* agri-environment scheme. It is also seen as making a particularly important contribution to raising awareness and heightening a feeling of local distinctiveness.

The *Historic Landscapes Register* and these characterisation exercises fully acknowledge the dynamic and evolving nature of the landscape. They promote the view that protecting the legacy of the past in the landscape is not to be achieved by preventing change or fossilising the landscape but rather by informing the process of change, creating tomorrow's landscapes without necessarily sacrificing the best of yesterday's.

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Population 1750-2000

Medieval and modern settlement

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## UPLAND CEREDIGION HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

### INTRODUCTION

This report is a historic landscape characterisation of Upland Ceredigion which for the purposes of this study has been divided into 132 historic landscape character areas. Upland Ceredigion in the *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales* (Cadw 1998) comprises approximately 468 sq kms, but in order to accommodate those parts of historic landscape character areas that lie across and outside the boundary of the Register's, the total area included in this study is 912 sq kms (Fig. 1).

The report has been broken down into sections. The first section comprises: a general introduction, a statement on the purpose of the report, the Upland Ceredigion entry from the *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales*, methodology, an explanation of the GIS proforma, a description of the historic events which have helped shape the landscape and a final part on managing historic character. The second section consists of a description of each historic landscape character area together with a map for each area. Section three consists of a selection of ground photographs, and section four a selection of aerial photographs. Section 5, in a separate volume, deals with management priorities and section 6, also in a separate volume, contains the historic landscape character GIS proforma.

Historical landscape characteristics are the tangible evidence of the activities and habits of the people who occupied, developed, used and shaped the land to serve human needs in the past. They reflect the beliefs, attitudes, traditions and values of these people. They include the physical remains of all aspects of man's activities and exploitation in the past (above and below ground, known and potential), and our understanding, interpretation and even perception of those remains. They may reflect a variety of activities occurring at one time, or evolving functions in different periods of time. The various characteristics of a landscape interrelate and may, in some cases, overlap.

Countryside Commission states that as managers we should be concerned with the historic character of the present landscape, and not with the study of the past for its own sake. It places the idea of 'historic landscape character' at the centre of its thinking. The aims of this project were to identify the characteristics of the present landscape of Upland Ceredigion, which bear witness to the historical processes which have created them, to provide a basic commentary on the categories of information used, to relate these to existing landscape types and to define the scope for creative action within a number of initiatives (including LANDMAP) to guide the continuing evolution of the landscape, and thereby sustaining or even enhancing elements considered essential to the historic character of the areas.

The term 'historic character' has been preferred to 'historic landscape', as it is now accepted that all landscape is historic in that it reflects, to a greater or lesser degree, the processes which have occurred in history and which have formed its present appearance. It is the variety, not necessarily of the processes but of their physical manifestations, which is important and which gives the present day landscape its many and varied historical characters. Landscapes can be described (and often defined) by their different 'characters', and historical character (or time-depth dimension) is one strand of this.

Characterisation is defined as the process of identifying and defining the particular characteristics which make each area distinctive, and is rapidly emerging as the basis for a unified approach to describing and understanding the environment (Countryside Commission et al, 1997, 4).

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**THE STUDY AREA - EXTRACT FROM THE REGISTER OF LANDSCAPES OF  
OUTSTANDING HISTORIC INTEREST IN WALES**

L/

## UCHELDIR CEREDIGION UPLAND CEREDIGION



*Cwm Ystwyth.*  
*Cwm Ystwyth.*

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### Disgrifiad o'r tirwedd

Mae'r rhan helaeth hon o Geredigion yn gyfres o lwyfandiroedd tir uchel rhwng tua 200 a 400m uwchben SO, gyda Mynyddoedd Cambria, asgwrn cefn canolog Cymru, yn ei ffinio i'r dwyrain, a gyda Pumlumon Fawr yn fwyaf amlwg, yn 752m uwchben SO yn y gogledd. Mae'r llwyfandiroedd wedi'u dyrannu'n ddwfn gan gymoedd Afonydd Rheidol ac Ystwyth a'u hisafonydd, sydd â'u gwaelodion islaw 50m uwchben SO ar ymylon y llwyfandiroedd ar ochr orllewinol yr ardal. Mae Cors Caron, cors uchel ym masn hen lyn ar ben uchaf Afon Teifi, ar yr ochr dde orllewinol. Mae'r ardal gyfan yn llawn tystiolaeth amrywiol, a dramatig yn aml, o ddefnydd tir ac ecsbloetio adnoddau naturiol, o'r cyfnod cynhanesyddol hyd at y presennol, ac y mae hefyd yn cynnwys llawer safle bwysig gyda chysylltiadau artistig sydd o bwys hanesyddol.

Yn y cymoedd y mae'r ddau brif lwybr dros y mynyddoedd o'r dwyrain i'r gorllewin; yr un fwyaf gogleddol yw'r un o Gwm Rheidol heibio Pontarfynach i estynfeydd uchaf dyffryn yr Afon Gwy islaw Eisteddfa Gurig, ac y mae'r llwybr arall o Bontarfynach yn dilyn Cwm Ystwyth fwy neu

### Landscape description

This extensive area of Ceredigion comprises a series of up plateaux between about 200 and 400m above OD, bounded to the east by the Cambrian Mountains, the central spine of Wales, and dominated by Pumlumon Fawr at 752m above OD in the north. The plateaux are deeply dissected by the valleys of the Rivers Rheidol, Ystwyth and their tributaries, the lower reaches of which are below 50m above OD at the plateau margins along the west side of the area. Cors Caron, a raised mire occupying the basin of a former lake on the upper reaches of the River Teifi, is included on the south west side. The whole area is rich in diverse and often visually dramatic evidence of land use and the exploitation of natural resources from the prehistoric period to the present, and it also includes several sites with important historic artistic associations.

The valleys provide two major cross-mountain, east-west routes, the northernmost from the Rheidol valley via Devil's Bridge to the upper reaches of the Wye valley below Eisteddfa Gurig, and the other route from Devil's Bridge follows the Ystwyth valley virtually to its source and thence to the

ti i'w darddiad ac oddi yno at flaenddyfroedd Afon Elan. Y'r llwybrau hyn y gellid gweld y golygfeydd o fynyddoedd, tostiroedd uchel agored a'r afonydd a'r rhacadrau a ddaeth ron yn ystrydeb yn nisgrifiadau a golygfeydd teithwyr ac rllunwyr o'r 18fed ganrif, yn enwedig os byddent yn bwrw mlaen i ymweld â thirwedd cynlluniedig ac ysbrydoledig Thomas Johnes yn Hafod yng Ngwm Ystwyth.

Daeth yr ardal yn fwy hygyrch gyda dyfodiad y rheilffyrdd niwedd y 19edd ganrif, ond cafwyd llawer rhwystr ng nghynlluniau cychwynnol Rheilffordd Manceinion a filffwrdd i osod lein ar draws yr ardal. Erbyn i lein fach Cwm Rheidol o Aberystwyth i Bontarfynach gael ei chwblhau m 1902, daethai'r gweithfeydd plwm y bwriadwyd y lein w gwasanaethu i ben. O'r dechreuad, felly, rheilffordd i mwelwyr oedd o dref glan-môr Aberystwyth, i fyny Cwm Rheidol ar raddiant syfrdanol o 1 mewn 50, i gyrchfan deniadol Pontarfynach.

Mae dau newid mawr yn nefnydd y tir yn gwahanu rwydd canfyddedig ac artistig yr ymwelwyr yn niwedd y 8fed a'r 19edd ganrifoedd a'r tirwedd yn niwedd yr 20fed anrif. Yn y 1920au, dechreuwyd coedwigo eangderau o'r cheldir a llethrau'r dyffrynnoedd, ac erbyn hyn, mae'r plannu redi cyrraedd ei uchafbwynt. Fel mewn llawer rhan arall o ymru, creodd hyn ei dirwedd nodedig ei hun; gellid dadlau ldo ddod yn gymaint rhan o barhâd hanesyddol ecsbloetio dnodau naturiol yn yr ardal ag unrhyw weithgaredd arall.

Yr ail brif ddiwydiant yn yr ardal hon yw mwyngloddio m arian a phlwm; y cyfnod prysuraf ar gyfer hyn oedd iwed y 19edd a dechrau'r 20fed ganrifoedd. Y prif ifleoedd sydd â gweddillion ar ôl yw Esgair-mwyn, Cwmystwyth, Frongoch, Ystumtuen, Llywernog, Ponterwyd, ioginan, y Darren Fawr, Cwmsymlog a Bryndyfi. Mae'r rwyafrif o'r adeiladau ar yr wyneb a'r dystiolaeth am drin y rwyn yn dyddio o'r 19edd ganrif, ond fe geir olion cynharach 'r 17ail a'r 18fed ganrifoedd, cyfnod y Mwynau Brenhinol 'r Anturiaethwyr Mwyngloddio. Ym 1637, rhoes Siarl I aniatâd i Thomas Bushell sefydlu cangen o'r Bathdy renhinol yng Nghastell Aberystwyth, a arferai ddefnyddio rian o fwyn plwm pump o weithfeydd Ceredigion. Mwy rwyddocaol fyth, efallai, yw'r dystiolaeth ddiweddar ac rgyhoeddiadol, trwy gloddio ac arolwg, am fwyngloddio rhanesyddol am gopr yn Oes yr Efydd o safleoedd megis ryn Copa ger Cwmystwyth.

Er mai yn niwedd y 19edd ganrif yr oeddent ar eu hanterth, oedd diwydiannau cloddio a thrin plwm Ceredigion yn bynnu bron yn gyfangwbl ar bŵer dŵr. Mae modd olrhain illtiroedd lawer o ffosydd yn yr ucheldir hyd heddiw, ac anodd ellach yw dweud y gwahaniaeth rhwng y cronfeydd dŵr wchlaw'r gweithfeydd a phyllau naturiol. Mae pŵer dŵr yn al yn bwysig i'r ardal, a chodwyd argaeau ar Afon Rheidol a'i safonydd islaw Pumlumon, yn Nant-y-moch, safle'r cynllun ydan-dŵr mwyaf yng Nghymru a Lloegr, a gwblhawyd ym 1962.

Erys tai'r mwyngloddwyr mewn mannau anghysbell ac ewn aneddiadau megis Ffair Rhos a Phontrhydfendigaid. fodd y pentrefi hyn yn y cyfnod ôl-ganoloesol yn bennaf ierwydd y diwydiant mwyngloddio a'r chwareli, ac yr ddent yn ddyledus hefyd i'r fasnach gludo da byw am illteroedd, a drefnid gan y Porthmyn. Arferai'r Porthmyn idio i Gwmystwyth a Ffair Rhos, cyn dilyn llwybrau'r ynydd tua'r dwyrain. Y fasnach mewn da byw oedd amlycaf i ffeiriau Ffair Rhos a Phontrhydfendigaid.

headwaters of the River Elan. These were a spectacle of mountain scenery, open upland moors and rivers and waterfalls that became almost the stock-in-trade descriptions and views of the 18th century travellers and artists, particularly if they continued on to visit Thomas Johnes's inspired, designed landscape of Hafod in the Ystwyth valley.

The area became more accessible to the traveller with the coming of the railways in the late 19th century, but there were many false starts in the Manchester and Milford Railway's plans for lines across it. By the time the narrow gauge Vale of Rheidol line from Aberystwyth to Devil's Bridge was completed in 1902, the lead mines it was intended to serve had ceased production. From the first, as now, it was a tourist line from the seaside resort of Aberystwyth, up the Rheidol valley by a spectacular 1 in 50 gradient, to the beauty spot of Devil's Bridge.

Two major changes in land use separate the perceived, artistic and tourist landscape of the late 18th and 19th centuries from that of the late 20th century. The most recent, the afforestation of large areas of upland and valley sides, began in the 1920s and is now at its maximum planned extent. As in many other parts of Wales, it has created its own distinctive landscape which has arguably become as much part of the historical continuum of the exploitation of resources in the area as any other activity.

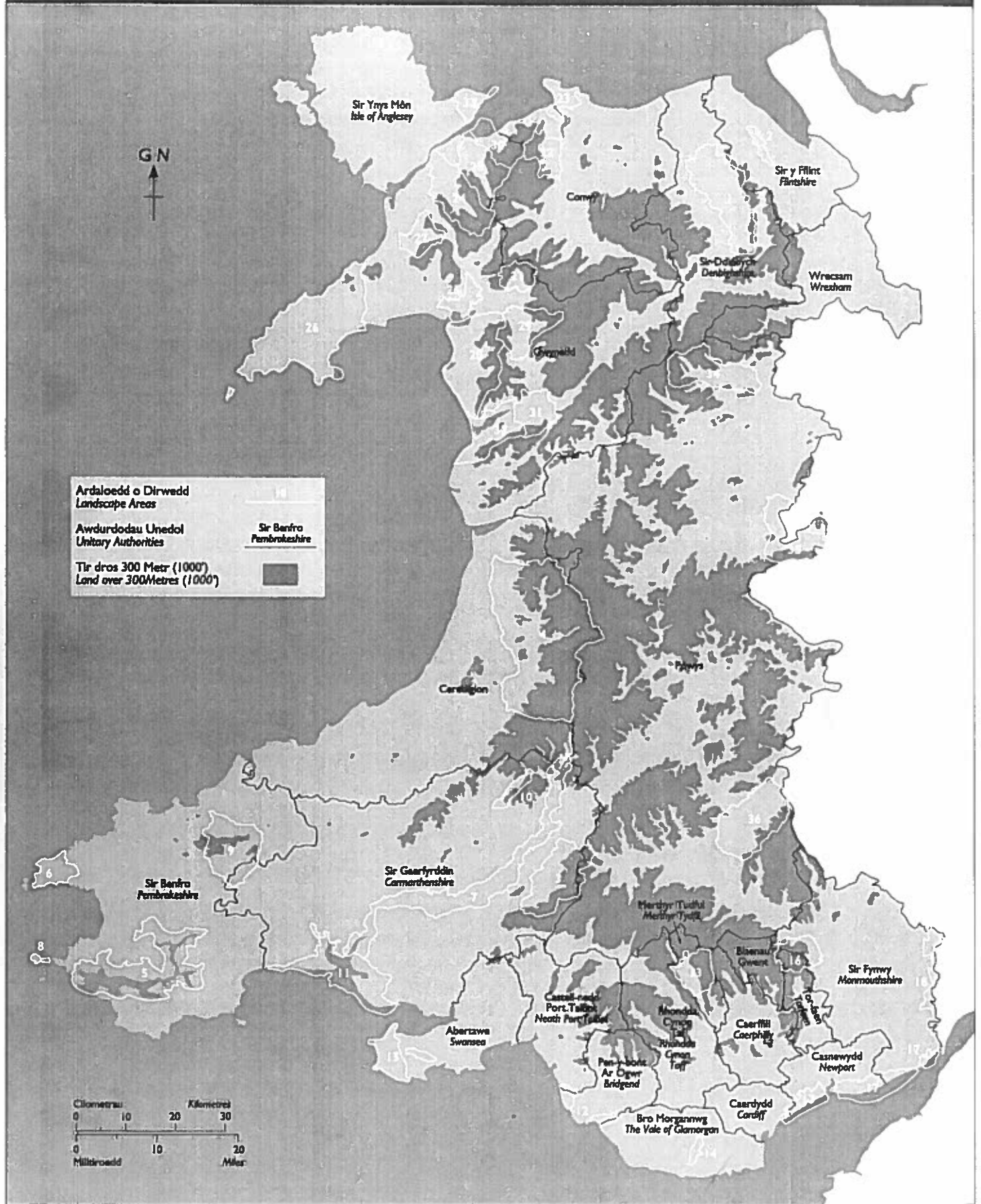
The second major industry represented in this area is the silver and lead mine industry whose period of most intense operation spans the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The principal sites with extant remains are Esgair-mwyn, Cwmystwyth, Frongoch, Ystumtuen, Llywernog, Pontewryd, Goginan, Great Darren, Cwmsymlog and Bryndyfi. Most surface buildings and processing evidence is 19th century in date, but there are earlier traces from the 17th and 18th centuries era of the Mines Royal and Mines Adventurers. In 1637, Charles I gave Thomas Bushell permission to set up a branch of the Royal Mint in Aberystwyth Castle, which used silver from the lead ores of five Ceredigion mines. Of even greater significance perhaps is the recent and convincing demonstration through excavation and survey of prehistoric, Bronze Age copper mining from such sites as Copa Hill near Cwmystwyth.

Despite their late 19th century period of operation, the Ceredigion lead mining and processing industry relied almost wholly on water power. Many miles of upland leats can still be traced and the storage reservoirs above the mines are now difficult to distinguish from natural pools. Water power is still important in the area and the River Rheidol and its tributaries are dammed below Pumlumon, at Nant-y-moch, the site of the largest hydro-electric scheme in England and Wales, completed in 1962.

Miners' housing survives both in isolated areas and in settlements like Ffair Rhos and Pontrhydfendigaid. The post-medieval growth of these villages was mainly due to the mining and quarrying industry and to the long distance livestock trade organised by the Drovers. Drovers converged on Cwmystwyth and Ffair Rhos, before taking the open mountain routes to the east. Fairs at Ffair Rhos and Pontrhydfendigaid were dominated by the livestock trade.

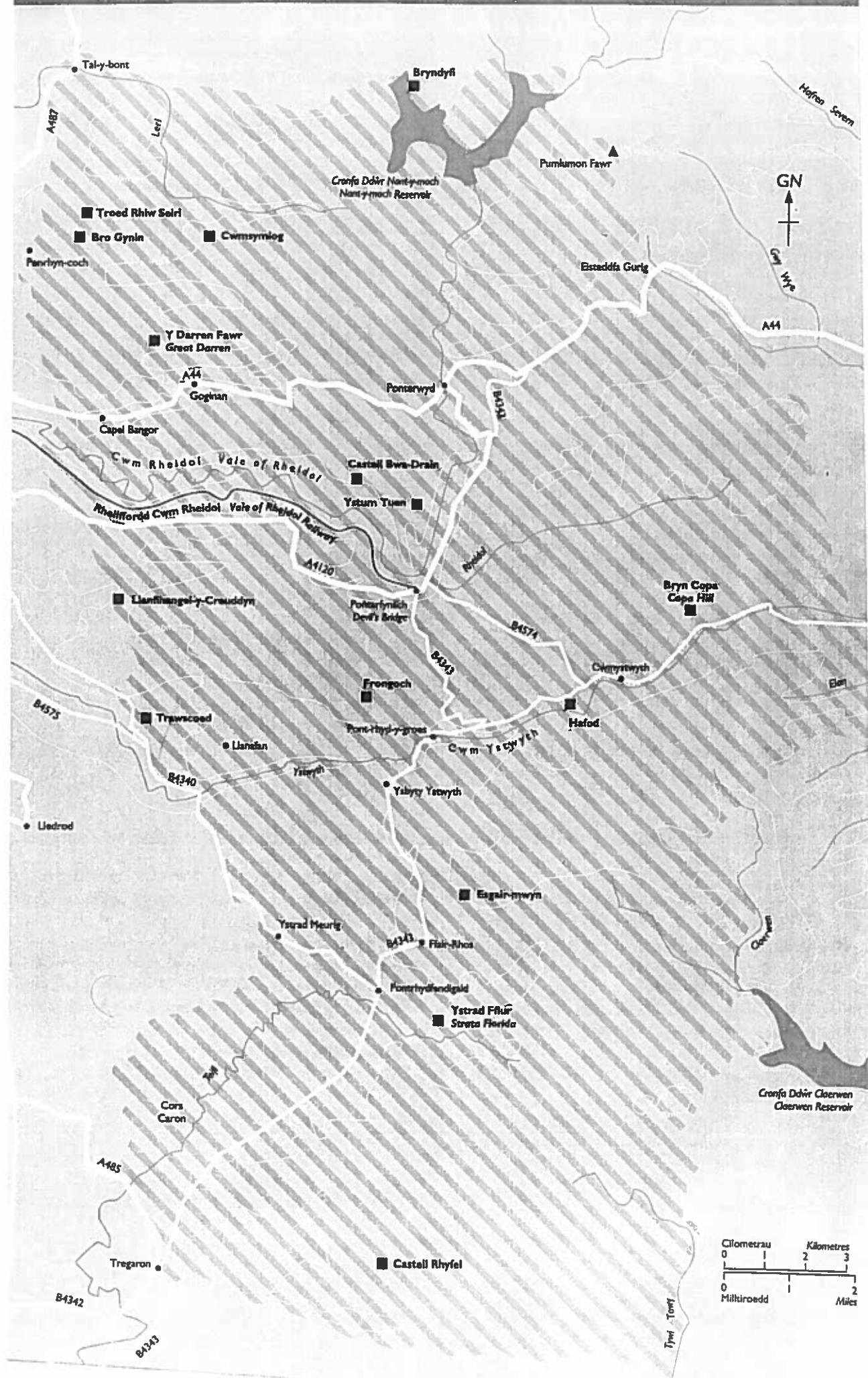
Livestock (cattle and sheep) production and the ability to supplement agricultural income by mining work enriched this area of Mid-Wales in the 18th and 19th centuries. Decline in these industries caused massive depopulation and many emigrated to America and Canada. The vegetational and land

YR ARDALOEDD O DIRWEDD AC AWDURDODAU UNEDOL  
THE LANDSCAPE AREAS AND UNITARY AUTHORITIES





UCHELDIR CĒREDIGION  
UPLAND CEREDIGION



*Abaty Ystrad Fflur.  
Strata Florida Abbey.*

Cyfoethogwyd y rhan hon o ganolbarth Cymru yn yn 18fed a'r 19edd ganrifoedd trwy gynhyrchu da byw (gwartheg a defaid) a'r gallu i ategu incwm amaethu â gwaith mwyngloddio. Pan ddirywiodd y diwydiannau hyn, achoswyd diboblogi enfawr, a mudodd llawer i'r Amerig ac i Ganada. Mae'r newidiadau mewn llystyfiant a defnydd tir yn yr 20fed ganrif, a fwrriadwyd i wneud iawn am y dirywiad mewn ffermio mynydd a chwmp y diwydiannau mwyngloddio gwledig, yn arbennig o nodedig yn yr ardal hon; nid coedwigaeth yw'r unig arwydd. Mae'r ardal yn bwysig oherwydd y gwaith arbrofol mewn gwella glaswelltir sy'n gysylltiedig â Syr George Stapledon (a'i olynwyr) a fu'n Athro Botaneg Amaethyddol yng Ngholeg y Brifysgol Aberystwyth (1919–1942), a fagodd bwysigrwydd byd-eang. Mae'n briodol fod Plas Gogerddan, un o blasdai'r uchelwyr gynt, a ffarm y plas gynt yn Nhrawscoed ymhlith Gorsafoedd Maes y Coleg. Mewn cyfnod cynharach, uchelwyr y 18fed a'r 19edd ganrifoedd oedd yn gyfrifol am welliannau amaethyddol, ac mae yn yr ardal hon floc cyfan o amgacadau'r Deddfau Cau Tir, ger Ffair Rhos, y gellir ei chysylltu â'r syrfêwr John Mathews.

Cyfoethogwyd prif deuluoedd bonedd Ceredigion trwy iddynt gymryd stadau'r hen fynachlogydd, yn fwyaf nodedig, Tŷ Sistersaidd Ystrad Fflur. Fe'i hail-sefydlwyd ar ei safle presennol ym 1184, a daeth yr Abaty dan nawdd yr Arglwydd Rhys, tywysog Deheubarth, a'i ddisgynyddion, a chladdwyd llawer ohonynt yma. Bu gan yr Abaty nifer o abadau Cymreig, a gellir mesur ei ddylanwad diwylliannol pwysig yng Nghymru'r Canol Oesoedd o'r ffaith mai yno y cyfansoddwyd rhan o'r cronicl Cymreig, *Brut y Tywysogion*.

Mae safle'r Abaty, yn ogystal â holl dir maenol eang ucheldir Cwmystwyth, y tu mewn i ffiniau'r ardal. Lleihawyd y coetir gan waith smeltio plwm yng Ngwmystwyth, ond prif gynhaliath economi'r faenol oedd pori defaid ar yr ucheldir. Mae gweddill olion y tirwedd a chynlluniau stad da o'r 18fed ganrif, yn fwyaf nodedig o Stad Gogerddan, wedi peri bod modd cael syniad llawn o fel yr arferent fod. Rhoes gwaith ar golofn o baill o Gors Caron amlinellad cadarn o hanes llystyfiant rhan o'r ardal, yn enwedig yr effaith gafodd dull amaethu'r Sistersiaid. Yn ddiamau, trefnwyd y gyfundrefn da byw ganoloesol o ran gwartheg a defaid trwy bori tymhorol ar yr ucheldir neu drawstrefa. Mae astudiaethau o aneddiadau a enwyd yn hafod neu lluest wedi dangos sut y gallai daliadau tymhorol ddatblygu'n fân-ddaliadau parhaol o'r Canol Oesoedd diweddar ymlaen. Ceir llawer o enghreifftiau, gyda dogfennaeth helaeth, yn yr ardal dirwedd hon.

Mae cofadeiliau o Oes yr Efydd yn hysbys ar yr ucheldir yn ogystal â'r llwyfandir i'r gorllewin o Fynyddoedd Cambria. Yn ychwanegol at ymchwiliadau hynafiaethol a larganfyddiadau crochenwaith a gwaith metel, cloddiwyd grwpiau o garneddi yn Nant-y-moch, a beddrod yn Nhroed Rhiv Seiri. Erys changderau o rostir gwyllt a phellennig, bron



Hawlfraint Skyscan, i Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.  
Copyright Skyscan, for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

use changes of the 20th century, intended to compensate for the decline in hill farming and collapse of rural extractive industries, are particularly marked in this area not just by afforestation. The area is important for the experimental work in grassland improvement associated with Sir George Stapledon (and his successors) while Professor of Agricultural Botany at University College Aberystwyth (1919–1942), which was of world importance. It is appropriate that Plas Gogerddan, a former gentry mansion, and the former home farm at Trawscoed (or Crosswood) mansion are among the College's Field Stations. In an earlier period, the 18th and 19th centuries gentry were agricultural improvers and this area contains an intact bloc of Parliamentary Enclosures, near Ffair Rhos, which can be linked to the surveyor John Mathews.

The fortunes of the leading Ceredigion gentry families were enhanced by appropriation of the estates of former monastic houses, most notably of the Cistercian House of Strata Florida. Re-established at its present site in 1184, the Abbey came under the patronage of the Lord Rhys, prince of Deheubarth, and his descendants, many of whom were buried there. It had a number of Welsh abbots, and its important cultural influence in medieval Wales can be gauged from the fact that the Welsh Chronicle *Brut y Tywysogion* was partly compiled there.

The area encloses the Abbey site and the whole of the large upland grange of Cwmystwyth. Lead smelting at Cwmystwyth reduced the areas of woodland, but the mainstay of the grange's economy was its upland sheep walks. Surviving landscape traces and good 18th century estate plans, notably of the Gogerddan Estate, make reconstruction of their full extent feasible. Work on pollen cores from Cors Caron has provided a firm outline of the vegetational history of part of the area, particularly on the impact made by Cistercian farming. The medieval livestock régime of both cattle and sheep was undoubtedly organised through seasonal grazing of the uplands or transhumance. Settlement studies of hafod and lluest named settlements have demonstrated how seasonally occupied holdings could evolve into permanent small holdings from the later Middle Ages onwards. There are many well-documented examples within this landscape area.

Bronze Age monuments are known from the high uplands as well as the plateaux west of the Cambrian Mountains. In addition to antiquarian explorations and finds of pottery and metalwork, groups of cairns have been excavated at

na chyffyrddwyd mohono, er enghraifft, i'r de a'r dwyrain o Gwmystwyth, lle na chafwyd arolygon systematig ac mae iddynt gryn adnoddau cudd archeolegol. Arweiniodd newid yn nefnydd yr ucheldiroedd yn ystod hanner cyntaf y mileniwm cyntaf cyn Crist, a achoswyd yn bennaf gan ddirywiad yn yr hinsawdd, at newidiadau ym mhatrymau aneddiadau. Ceir llawer gwahanol math o safle amddiffynnol o Oes yr Haearn i'r gorllewin ac i'r de o'r ardal, ond mae tystiolaeth o aneddiadau o Oes yr Haearn mewn safleoedd megis bryngaer Castell Rhyfel, Caron Is-Clawdd, ac amddifynfa gryf Castell Bwa-Drain ymhell uwchben Cwm Rheidiol.

Mae terfynau gorllewinol yr ardal yn rhannol yn amgáu coridor llwybr Rhufeinig Sarn Helen, y brif ffordd rhwng de a gogledd Cymru, gyda chaer ategol yn Nhrawsgoed, mewn safle strategol i ddiogelu'r ffordd ar draws dyffrynnoedd dwfn y Rheidiol a'r Ystwyth. Hefyd o fewn y terfynau gorllewinol, mae aneddiadau Cymreig canoloesol, cymydau megis Ystrad Meurig neu Lanfihangel-y-Creuddyn, a gipiwyd gan y Normaniaid yn yr 11fed a'r 12fed ganrifodd ac a wnaed yn ganolfannau eu harglwyddiaethau newydd. Mae'r ardal yn enwog hefyd am ei chysylltiadau â'r bardd a'r cywyddwr o'r 14edd ganrif, Dafydd ap Gwilym, a aned ym Mro Gynin ger Penrhyn-coch ac a gladdwyd yn Ystrad Fflur. Dichon iddo fod wedi aros ar deithiau clera yn y llysoedd hyn yn ystod ei yrfa.

Nant-y-moch and a barrow at Troed Rhiw Seiri. There are large areas of wild, remote, almost untouched moorland, for example, south and east of Cwmystwyth, which have not been systematically surveyed and have great archaeological potential. Changing use of the uplands during the first half of the first millennium BC, mainly brought about by climatic deterioration, led to changes in settlement patterns. A proliferation of different kinds of Iron Age defended sites occurs west and south of the area, but Iron Age settlement is attested by such sites as Castell Rhyfel hillfort, Caron-Is-Clawdd, and the strongly defended Castell Bwa-Drain high above Cwm Rheidiol.

The western limits of the area partly enclose the Roman route corridor of Sarn Helen, the principal north-south route through Wales, with an auxiliary fort at Trawsgoed, strategically sited to safeguard the route across the deep valleys of the Rheidiol and the Ystwyth. Also included within the western limits are medieval Welsh settlements, commotal centres like Ystrad Meurig or Lanfihangel-y-Creuddyn, which were seized by the Normans in the 11th and 12th centuries and made the centres of their new lordships. The area is also esteemed for its associations with the 14th century Welsh bard and lyricist, Dafydd ap Gwilym, who was born at Bro Gynin near Penrhyn-coch and buried at Strata Florida, and who may well have stayed and recited at these courts during his career.

#### CRYNODEB

<i>Rhif cyf</i>	HLW (D) 2
<i>Rhif map mynegai</i>	4
<i>Map AO</i>	Landranger 135, 146, 147
<i>Sir flaenorol</i>	Dyfed (Powys)
<i>Awdurdod unedol</i>	Ceredigion (Powys)
<i>Prif ddynodiadau helaeth</i>	Mae hanner dwyreiniol yr ardal yn Ardal Amgylchedd Arbennig Mynyddoedd Cambria. Mae'r ardal yn cynnwys: Gwarchodfa Natur Genedlaethol Cors Caron a rhannau o Safleoedd o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig Llynnoedd Ieuan a Phumlumon; Safle Gwarchodaeth Abaty Ystrad Fflur; gwaith plwm Bryn Copa, Cwm Ystwyth, sy'n Heneb Cofrestredig; Ardal Gadwraeth Tregaron.
<i>Meini prawf</i>	1, 2, 3, 5
<i>Cynnwys ac arwyddocâd</i>	Ardal helaeth o lwyfandir dyranedig tir uchel ar ochr orllewinol Mynyddoedd Cambria yng Ngheredigion, sydd â thystiolaeth gyfoethog ac amrywiol o ddefnydd tir o'r cyfnod cynhanesyddol tan y gorffennol diweddar. Mae'r ardal yn cynnwys: olion ac aneddiadau mwynloddio o'r cyfnod cynhanesyddol hyd y ddiweddar; ffordd Rhufeinig Sarn Helen; aneddiadau canoloesol; Abaty a thiroedd Ystrad Fflur; llwybrau'r porthmyn; amgacadau'r Deddfau Cau Tir; cysylltiadau llenyddol a chelfyddydol hanesyddol a lleoliad Hafod Thomas Jones; newidiadau modern mewn defnydd tir, wedi'u nodweddau gan blanhigfeydd coedwigaeith a chynllun trydan-diŵr Nant-y-moch.

#### SUMMARY

<i>Ref number</i>	HLW (D) 2
<i>Index map no.</i>	4
<i>OS map</i>	Landranger 135, 146, 147
<i>Former county</i>	Dyfed (Powys)
<i>Unitary authority</i>	Ceredigion (Powys)
<i>Principal area designations</i>	The eastern half of the area is within the Cambrian Mountains Environmentally Sensitive Area. The area includes: Cors Caron National Nature Reserve and parts of Elenydd, Llynnoedd Ieuan and Pumlumon Sites of Special Scientific Interest; Strata Florida Abbey Guardianship Site; Copa Hill, Cwmystwyth, lead mine Scheduled Ancient Monument; Tregaron Conservation Area.
<i>Criteria</i>	1, 2, 3, 5
<i>Contents and significance</i>	An extensive area of dissected upland plateaux situated on the west side of the Cambrian Mountains in Ceredigion, containing rich and diverse evidence of land use from the prehistoric period to the recent past. The area includes: prehistoric to recent mining remains and settlements; Sarn Helen Roman road; medieval settlements; Strata Florida Abbey and lands; Drovers' routes; Parliamentary Enclosures; historic literary and artistic associations and the setting for Thomas Jones's Hafod; modern changes in land use typified by forestry plantations and the Nant-y-moch hydro-electric scheme.

## Ffynonellau detholedig / Selected sources

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- D. Williams, *Atlas of Cistercian Lands in Wales* (University of Wales Press: Cardiff 1990).



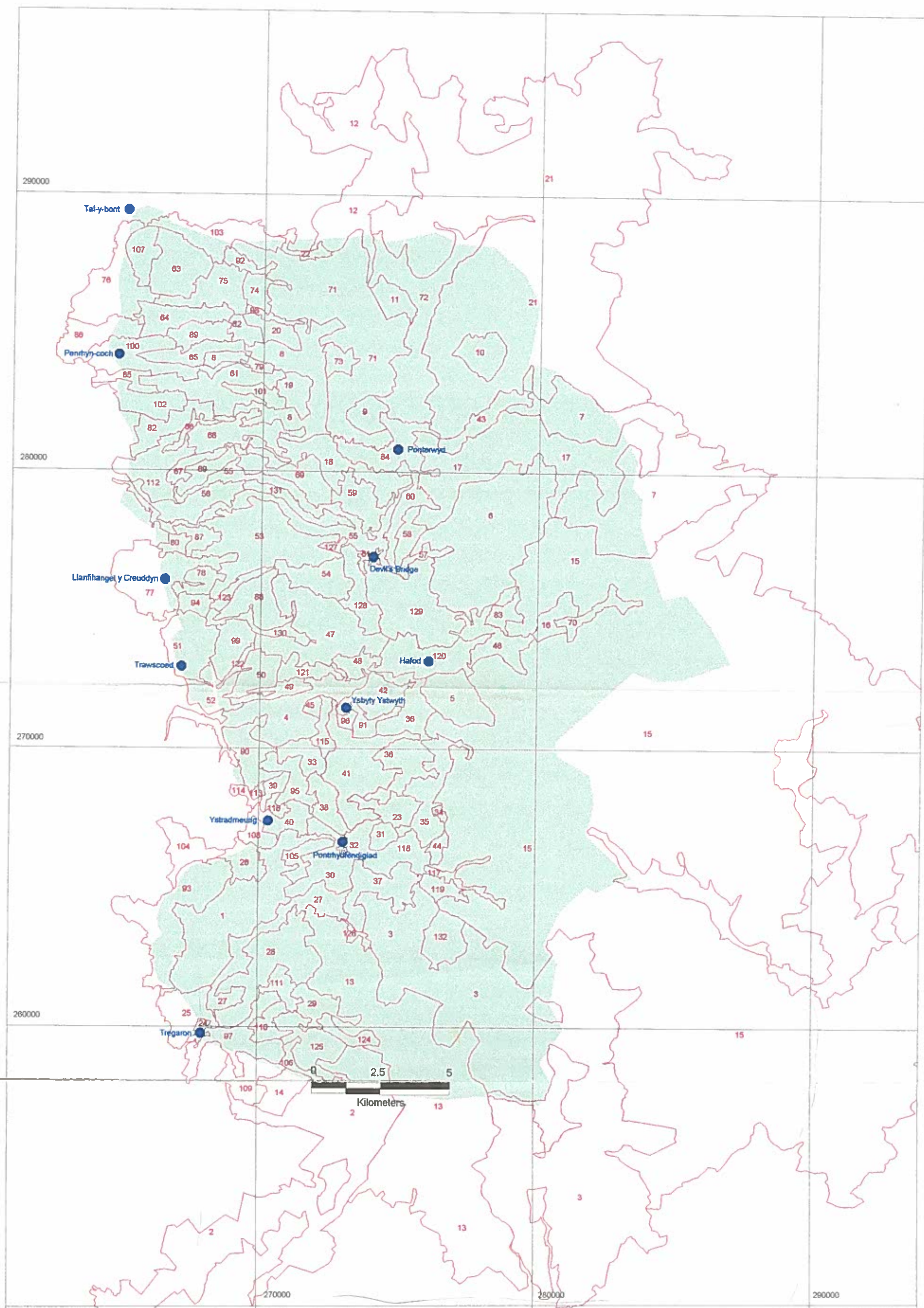


Figure 1. Location of historic landscape character areas in relation to the Ceredigion Historic Landscape Area



Ceredigion Historic Landscape Area



## **PURPOSE OF REPORT - AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

(section by D Thompson and D Gwyn (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust))

This project and report was intended as a contribution towards the overall historic landscape initiative currently being funded by Cadw, Welsh Historic Monuments, Countryside Council for Wales and ICOMOS UK. Its principal aim is to provide information to aid the management of the historic landscape. The following uses for historic landscape characterisation were identified by Cadw.

Planning, including large-scale intrusions such as:

- roads
- wind-farms
- mineral extraction
- large-scale landfill/waste disposal
- reclamation
- water schemes
- major settlement
- major industrial development

Management of land by:

- large corporate landowners
- farmers
- industrial companies
- water or electricity companies
- forestry industry
- National Trust

Advice to conservation agencies including:

- Cadw
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Environment Agency
- local authorities
- national parks

Developing local landscape frameworks for MAs by means of:

- Tir Gofal (Tir Cymen, ESAs)
- Cadw
- Countryside Council for Wales
- local authorities
- national parks

Providing information

- Contributing to academic understanding of landscape
- Stimulating further research
- Raising public perception of the landscape
- Preparation of policy statements by public bodies

## **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS**

(section by D Thompson and D Gwyn (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust)

The Countryside Commission (in its document *Views from the Past*, 1996) states that as managers we should be concerned with the historic character of the present landscape, and not with the study of the past for its own sake. It places the idea of 'historic landscape character' at the centre of these ideas.

Characterisation is defined as the process of identifying and defining the particular characteristics which make each area distinctive, and is rapidly emerging as the basis for a unified approach to describing and understanding the environment (Countryside Commission et al, 1997, 4). Ultimately, in order to be of any practical use, this has to be translated into the management of physical things.

At present there is no standard, accepted methodology for establishing the historical characterisation of landscape, although previous work on Llyn has suggested a practical approach based on the concept of 'character areas'. However, comparable current studies in England, such as the Cotswold AONB Historic Landscape Type Characterisation, are based on the principal of the predominant form of the present landscape [which] is identified principally by the existing patterns of enclosures within areas of landscape. Rippon's study of the Gwent Levels (Rippon, 1996) shows a different way forward and was the first published study in Wales. Unfortunately, the approach adopted here is relevant to only a limited number of parts of Wales.

For the purposes of this study, Upland Ceredigion has been divided into 132 historic landscape areas. These are described in section 2. Their location in relation to each other is shown on Figure 1.



## EVOLVING HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION METHODOLOGY

(section by D Thompson and D Gwyn (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust))

'Characterisation' is a contribution towards the overall historic landscape initiative currently being funded by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, Countryside Council for Wales and ICOMOS UK. Its principal aim is to provide information to aid the management of the historic environment.

Historical landscape characteristics are the tangible evidence of the activities and habits of the people who occupied, developed, used and shaped the land to serve human needs in the past; they reflect the beliefs, attitudes, traditions and values of these people. They include the physical remains of all aspects of human activities and exploitation in the past (above and below ground, known and potential), and our understanding, interpretation and even perception of those remains. They may reflect a variety of activities occurring at one time, or evolving functions in different periods of time.

The Countryside Commission (in its document *Views from the Past*, 1996) states that as managers we should be concerned with the historic character of the present landscape, and not with the study of the past for its own sake. It places the idea of 'historic landscape character' at the centre of these ideas. Characterisation is defined as *the process of identifying and defining the particular characteristics which make each area distinctive*, and is rapidly emerging as the basis for describing and understanding the environment. Historic landscape characterisation is one dimension of this approach: it sets out to identify the principal historic components within the current landscape. It is the great depth of human activity which underpins much of that which we feel is important and helps give an area its local distinctiveness.

The term 'historic character' is generally preferred to 'historic landscape', as it is now accepted that all landscape is historic in that it reflects, to a greater or lesser degree, the processes which have occurred in history and which have formed its present appearance.

At present there is no standard, accepted methodology for establishing the historical characterisation of landscape, but recent work on Llyn and elsewhere in Wales has suggested a practical approach based on considering the evidence as a series of themes which may provide an answer. At a landscape level, what is significant in historical terms includes field boundary patterns (whether they are irregular or regular, their size, date *etc.*), settlement patterns (whether scattered or nucleated, date of origin *etc.*); the relict remains of earlier periods which are to be found in upland or marginal landscapes; the effect of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century estates on the landscape; the impact of industry, military installations and so on.

The dominant historic themes or patterns in a locality help define local historic character. The combination of these characteristics give an area its local distinctiveness, and it is the definition of areas of local distinctiveness which leads to character areas.

The concept of 'character areas' differs somewhat from comparable current studies in England, such as the Cotswold AONB, which are based on Historic Landscape Types where *the predominant form of the present landscape [which] is identified principally by the existing patterns of enclosures within areas of landscape*.

The process of characterisation can be briefly summarised as -

(one or several) components	→	dominant patterns
(one or more) dominant patterns	→	coherent character
coherent character (with definable limits)	→	character area
(several) character areas	→	local landscape

Characterisation is a practical tool intended to aid management in its broadest forms. In order to be of any practical use, this has to be translated into the management of 'landscape tangibles' (*i.e.* the evidence for historical processes and periods in the present landscape). It is essential, therefore, that the key historic landscape characteristics are features and/or patterns to which can be applied management prescriptions whose success or otherwise can be measured for monitoring purposes.

The reports emanating from this work contain a number of elements: the description of each character area is split into three parts – (a) historical background, (b) key historic landscape characteristics and (c)

conservation priorities – accompanied by a map of the area and an illustration. Part (a) is a straightforward description of the archaeological and historical development of the area; part (b) lists the principal characteristics which make that area distinctive and which future management should therefore concentrate on; and part (c) begins to define the scope for creative action within a number of initiatives (including *LANDMAP*, UDPs, Tir Gofal *etc.*) which can sustain or even enhance elements considered essential to the historic character of the areas.

## **GIS PROFORMAE**

(section by D Thompson and D Gwyn (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust))

This section contains instructions on filling in the GIS-linked recording forms created as part of the project. The form consists mainly of 'tick boxes' compatible with a table to be created (for example) in MapInfo, and has now been standardised across Wales. It is intended to be linked to GIS tables used by LANDMAP, and the form contains a number of fields which are intended to cross-reference to any subsequent LANDMAP exercises.

The form is loosely divided into four parts - the first identifies the area by name, number, project and location; the second is a list of historic landscape 'themes' which is intended to act both as a check-list and to ensure systematic recording of all character areas (which can be transferred to database) to a certain level; the third list other relevant and management information; while the fourth is the principal link to LANDMAP.

The completed forms are included in Section 6 which has been bound separately.

### **PROJECT NO**

This simply records the individual project number each Trust assigns to the particular project (e.g. G1527).

### **AREA**

This is the name of the area as used in the project: this will usually be based on a geographical, historical or cultural association.

### **HLCA NO.**

The historic landscape character area number will be assigned according to the system outlined in previous correspondence. It has been agreed that there should be a unique (Wales, rather than regional) reference number for each character area (especially as some will inevitably cross Trust boundaries) for ease of reference. This number doesn't need to contain any information in itself (e.g. county identifier), so the simple idea of numbering from 1 upwards has been adopted. Based on previous experience, it is unlikely that each Trust will end up with more than a thousand areas, so the following allocation of HLCA (historic landscape characterisation areas) reference numbers will be used

DAT 1- 999

CPAT 1000 -1 999

GAT 2,000 - 2,999

GGAT 3,000 - 3,999

### **HLCA NAME**

As above, a historic, cultural or simple geographic name is preferred (e.g. Creuddyn), otherwise a more general topographical description (e.g. rolling meadow) might be more appropriate.

### **LOCATION**

A six figure central grid reference should be sufficient.

### **SUMMARY OF CHARACTER**

This should be succinct, preferably fewer than c. twenty words. This summary should help justify the decision on 'evaluation' made below (e.g. for Llandudno Outstanding example of planned 19th century seaside resort).

### **THEMES**

For each theme, all those descriptions which apply to the area should be ticked. Boxes should be ticked where significant evidence at a landscape scale exists within an area. The ticked boxes will form the basis of the free-text description below: this description should refer to all the ticked boxes and supply supporting information. It is inevitable that more than one box (i.e. theme type) will be ticked for each area.

#### **BOUNDARIES**

This should record briefly how the boundary of an area has been defined, and whether the boundary is definite or indicative only.

#### **OTHER STATUS**

This simply lists the existing designations which apply to the area.

#### **MANAGEMENT/CONSERVATION PRIORITIES**

This summarises the key historic landscape components which underlie (and are essential to) the character of the area and therefore need to be managed if the historic character of the area is to be maintained. This can be a summary of the relevant part of the main area entry.

#### **PRINCIPAL CURRENT LAND USES**

This field summarises the broad principal land uses within the area in an attempt to try to identify which future management mechanisms (e.g. AWAES for agriculture, UDPs for residential/urban areas) might be relevant to managing the area.

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH**

Suggestions for what further work is either desirable or necessary both to carry the characterisation work forward, and to place the area within national/regional academic frameworks.

#### **PRINCIPAL REFERENCES**

Simply a list of which sources in the bibliography are most relevant to this area. (It is envisaged that the HLC projects will produce a cumulative bibliography, which could be stored on database.)

#### **RECORDED BY / DATE**

Name and date of compiler following standard practice.

## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA (HLCA) FORM

PROJECT NO. DAT 55

AREA UPLAND CEREDIGION

HLCA NO.

HLCA NAME

LOCATION

ORGANISATION ACA (DAT)

LANDMAP REF.

### SUMMARY OF CHARACTER

THEMES (tick where significant evidence exists)

#### AGRICULTURE (Field pattern)

Unenclosed/open ☐ Evolved/irregular ☐ Regular (small) ☐ Regular (medium) ☐ Regular (large) ☐  
Large enclosures ☐ Med. strips ☐ R+F ☐ Varied ☐ Degraded ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### AGRICULTURE (Field boundary)

Dry-stone wall ☐ Stone-faced bank ☐ Stone-faced bank with hedge ☐ Hedge ☐ Distinctive hedgerow trees ☐  
Earth bank ☐ Dyke ☐ Ditches ☐ Mortared walls ☐ Slate pillars ☐ Pale ☐ Sheepfolds ☐ Post+wire fence ☐ Other ☐  
Not present/Unknown ☐

#### FORESTRY

Ancient woodland ☐ Other broadleaved woodland ☐ Plantation ☐ C20 Forestry ☐ Scrub/unmanaged ☐ Coppice ☐  
Charcoal burning ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### COASTAL/MARITIME

Sea defences ☐ Intertidal features ☐ Harbour/fishing ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### RELICT ARCHAEOLOGY

Prehistoric settlement/fields ☐ Medieval settlement/fields ☐ Prehistoric ritual ☐ Post-medieval settlement/fields ☐  
Other ☐ Scattered ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### SETTLEMENT PATTERN

Loosely dispersed scatter ☐ Dense scatter ☐ Clustered ☐ Ribbon ☐ Nucleated - planned ☐ Nucleated - organic ☐  
Business/commercial ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### BUILDING TYPE

Farmhouse ☐ Cottage ☐ Terraced housing ☐ Shops ☐ Place of worship ☐ Processing ☐ Distinctive vernacular style (specify in character summary) ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### PRINCIPAL BUILDING MATERIAL

Stone - random ☐ Stone - coursed ☐ Clay/earth ☐ Wood ☐ Brick ☐ Concrete ☐ Other ☐

#### PRINCIPAL ROOFING MATERIAL

Slate ☐ Tile ☐ Thatch ☐ Stone tile ☐ Concrete tile ☐ Metal ☐ Other ☐

#### INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Quarrying ☐ Mining ☐ Manufacturing ☐ Mill ☐ Brewery ☐ Metal processing ☐ Other processing ☐  
Craft/cottage ☐ Rural industry ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### COMMUNICATION

Footpaths ☐ Tracks ☐ Lanes-winding ☐ Lanes-straight ☐ Major road ☐ Ports/docks ☐ Airfields ☐ Bridges ☐  
Communications towers ☐ Public rail ☐ Industrial rail ☐ Other rail ☐ Canal ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### MILITARY

Prehistoric ☐ Roman ☐ Early medieval ☐ Anglo-Norman ☐ Edwardian ☐ Welsh ☐ Tudor ☐ Civil War ☐  
C19th ☐ WWI ☐ WWII ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

## **EVENTS AND PROCESSES THAT HAVE HELPED SHAPE THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE OF UPLAND CEREDIGION**

Below are described several of the themes which have been identified in the course of this study as having shaped, influenced or otherwise moulded parts of the historic landscape of Upland Ceredigion. The subject list is not exhaustive, but all the major themes are described.

### **Palaeoenvironmental**

Pollen and other plant remains locked and stratified in peat deposits provide a means of analysing and describing past climate and vegetational change, and by inference man's impact and influence on the landscape. The process by which peat forms and the methodology of extracting the required palaeoenvironmental data from it are well known and documented, and it is not intended to repeat them here. Upland Ceredigion contains some of the premier sites in Britain for the study of palaeoenvironments, including the well-known site of Cors Caron/Tregaron Bog (for a list of pollen analytical sites see Caseldine 1990, Figure 11 and p. 127). Caseldine (1990) describes the results from all palaeoenvironmental work from Wales on a period by period basis. It is sufficient to state here that almost every historic landscape character area in the study contains natural or semi-natural deposits the study of which would assist in our understanding of the human impact on the environment over the past 10,000 years.

### **Bronze Age ritual, funerary and settlement sites**

Evidence for the pre Iron-Age settlement of the study area is limited to knowledge obtained through the examination of palaeoenvironmental remains (see above) and from Bronze Age ritual and funerary monuments. These monuments - which mostly consist of round barrows/burial cairns and standing stones - are common elements in the landscape, but have a marked concentration on high ground and on the fringes of high ground (for instance areas 13, 15, 17, 71, 72). This distribution is at least in part the result of post Bronze Age, and in particular modern, agricultural practice; almost certainly there was once a more even distribution of these monuments across the study area. The presence of large numbers of these monuments, often in what is now considered to be quite remote areas, indicates a settled population in the uplands. However, evidence for settlements is scarce, with the best evidence provided by burnt mounds or hearths. Clearance cairns may also indicate settlement and agriculture of Bronze Age date, for instance in areas 124 and 125. In some of the upland areas the historic landscape is almost entirely defined by Bronze Age ritual and funerary monuments (areas 13, 15, 71, 124). For a full discussion of the Bronze Age in Ceredigion see Briggs (1994).

### **Iron Age/Romano-British settlement 800BC - AD400 (by H James)**

The distinctive monument of the Iron Age is the hillfort, and these are more sparsely distributed in the inland and upland areas of the study than further west and south. There are none of the rectangular enclosures, now surviving as cropmarks that are densely distributed in southern Ceredigion. Castell Rhyfel (area 13) and Dinas (area 71) are located in open, unenclosed upland, others tend towards the high ridges of north Ceredigion (areas 61, 62, 63, 65, 121) on land enclosed in the early modern or post-Medieval period. However, it is worth noting that another, previously unknown hillfort, was discovered during aerial photography undertaken for this study in area 37. Possibly the hillforts were in predominantly pastoral areas and we should not expect to find any survivals, due to later use, of trackways radiating from them through field enclosures. No obvious patterns of coincidence between hillforts and later territorial units of *cwmtydau*/commotes can be discerned.

The Roman impact on the county was primarily military, with the creation of a north-south aligned route corridor from the gold mines at Dolaucothi, via the fort of Llanio on the Teifi to Trawscoed and thence north to a crossing of the Dyfi south of Pennal. The study area was thus by-passed. Whilst civilian settlements grew up outside the gates of forts (i.e the *vicus* at Trawscoed, area 51) and the demands of the military garrisons for supplies and tribute may have quickened economic exchange, they did not survive the withdrawal of garrisons in the third century. Impact on Iron Age patterns of life was therefore minimal, but a viable north-south route corridor was created which survived into the post-Roman period as the traditional name of *Sarn Helen* attests (albeit generally to the west of the study area). This picture could change if more evidence is forthcoming for Roman exploitation of Ceredigion lead mines - the lead in two objects from excavations of the Roman fort at Trawscoed appears to have



been of mid Wales origin (samples subjected to gamma-ray spectrometry). For a full discussion of the Iron Age and Romano British periods in Ceredigion see Davies (1994) and Davies and Hogg (1994).

#### **Early Medieval AD 400 - 1100 (by H James)**

This long period of time between the end of Roman rule in Britain and the beginnings of the Norman conquest of land in Wales is important in terms of the cultural heritage and in the foundations laid for later medieval settlement and land-use. But very little evidence for this period can be localised and seen within the present landscape. Archaeology has to date produced evidence of early Christian burial sites and monuments, but little of settlements at any social level. Research into the period is urgently needed and is only likely to extend our knowledge through detailed landscape analysis; consequently the historic landscape characterisation process has thrown up as many questions as answers.

In terms of the historic landscape characterisation of this area of inland and upland Ceredigion, three major themes need to be appreciated in order to have an in-depth understanding of how the present landscape evolved during this period. These are:

- the introduction and spread of Christianity, its influence on settlement through cult centres and burial grounds.
- the emergence of Welsh and the likelihood that many of the place-names that define and distinguish the landscape for its inhabitants and visitors are of early medieval origin.
- the creation of territorial and administrative units that were to remain powerful influences on subsequent social organisation.

Distribution of place-names with the personal name elements of the early saints indicates the spread - or contraction - of their cults over several centuries, not the wanderings of 5th/6th century 'missionaries'. Some centres developed into 'mother churches' and medieval parish churches, others did not. At Trisant (area 54), three 9th century cross inscribed stones from the churchyard suggests its origin as an early Christian burial ground, but it became simply a hamlet within the larger parish of Llanfihangel y Creuddyn where the archangel Michael place-name element indicates Anglo-Norman reorganisation. Significantly, though a 'llan' or enclosure of three saints, their names have been lost. But at the other end of the scale, the important nucleated settlement of Tregaron (area 24) seems to have been a pre-Norman focus of power both ecclesiastical as a Class I ECM (early Christian monument), and a place name combining *tref* (farm, township) and a saint's name Caron, probably to be equated with Carannog - perhaps the ancestral deity or saint of the 5th- to 6th- century Irish settlers of Ceredigion.

An important component and influence on the medieval landscape of this study area was the Cistercian monastery of Strata Florida, founded as a daughter house of Whitland in 1164, but generously endowed and supported by the Lord Rhys, prince of Deheubarth. Although developed in different ways, it is likely that the large territorial endowments made by the Lord Rhys around the Abbey which combine both upland and lowland were existing pre-Norman estates and land units.

Finally, in terms of territories and boundaries, and peoples' perceptions of where they belonged, it is worth quoting Professor Ieuan Gwynedd Jones (1998, 480) in his study of the patterns of nonconformist belief in 18th- and 19th-century Ceredigion, its conservative nature and his discussion of the strengths of Calvinistic Methodism in the inland, upland areas :

There existed therefore, deep-set feelings of belonging to ecclesiastical and civil structures which were of great antiquity, that the world people inhabited was the world that their ancestors had known, and one that was not likely to change

#### **Medieval political - conquest, co-existence and change**

The early territorial divisions of ancient Ceredigion are succinctly summarised by Dodgshon (1994). Ceredigion was composed of a *gwlad*, which was subdivided into two *cantrefi* (literal meaning, a hundred settlements or *trefi*). *Cantrefi* were further subdivided into two *cymydau* or commotes, each *cwmwd* divided into four *maenorau*. Of the four *maenor* in each *cwmwd*, three were in the hands of freemen, the fourth in the hands of bondmen. Free *maenorau* contained 13 townships, bond *maenorau* seven. To the 46 townships in the *maenorau* should be added two held in demesne by king, one in the

hands of the reeve and one in the hands of the chancellor, to bring the total in a *cwmwd* to 50, or half a *cantref*.

It is not proposed to enlarge on this discussion of earlier territorial divisions here as their impact on the historic landscape is not currently known apart from one possible exception. This exception comprises the large tracts of land granted to Strata Florida Abbey by Rhys ap Gruffudd. The details of this grant, which was to form the foundation for the abbey's granges, has not been researched, but its boundaries must have borne some relation to pre-existing territorial divisions. Arrangement and organisation of the granges by the abbey, and in the post-Medieval period by estates, has affected the historic landscape in a manner that is still detectable, as can be seen in the descriptions of the historic landscape character areas.

By the end of the 13th century these old territorial divisions had broken down, and Ceredigion was organised on county lines - the forerunner of the modern county. This transition is described by Jones Pierce (1959). It is, however, unclear how the former territorial divisions were translated into the forerunners of the administrative units that now exists, if indeed they were.

### **Population 1750 - 2000**

Prior to 1801 there are no reliable sources for assessing the population of Ceredigion. Howells (1974/75) estimates that by the mid 16th-century numbers may have recovered from the late Medieval low to stand as high as 17,000, and may have reached 27,000 by the early years of the 18th century. Population changes in Ceredigion for 1750-2000 have been the subject of a recent study by Aitchison and Carter (1998); this section summarises parts of their work. Ceredigion experienced a rapid increase in population from at least the mid 18th-century when it has been estimated that 32,000 people lived in the county, until a maximum 73,441 in 1871. The reasons for this were the rising demand in agricultural produce and rise in farm prices following the Napoleonic War, and an increase in output from industries, in particular lead mining. This increase in population has left its mark on the historic landscape: new settlements, especially on the fringes of marginal land were created; moorland and common land was enclosed and brought into cultivation, new lead mines were opened and production from older mines increased. A fall in lead production, and agricultural depression coupled with greater mechanisation on farms, led to a steady decline in population from the 1871 high point. Deserted farmsteads and cottages, and abandoned lead mines are the most tangible evidence of this decline. The greater reliance on farm mechanisation did not however lead to a large-scale withdrawal of agriculture from the highlands, though fields and paddocks associated with deserted cottages were abandoned. Since 1961 there has been a slow recovery of population numbers. This overall pattern of increase followed by decline from the late 19th-century was exaggerated in upland parishes of the study area, where most of the reserves of lead are to be found and where in the 18th century acreages of unenclosed land far out-numbered those of enclosed farmland. In one parish, Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn, population rose from 800 in 1801 to 1800 in 1861, only to fall to below 500 by 1961.

### **Medieval and modern settlement**

#### *Deserted settlements in the Ceredigion uplands* (by P Sambrook)

The deserted rural settlement sites of upland Ceredigion are both numerous and of great significance to the archaeology and history of the county. They represent the homes of farmers, agricultural labourers, shepherds, peat cutters and lead miners. It is evident that there are very few corners of the county which have not been settled at some time; even on the highest reaches of Pumlumon (area 21) the ruined huts of 18th- and 19th-century shepherds can still be found.

Although there has been a tendency to discuss deserted rural settlements in a medieval context, most deserted settlements in the Ceredigion landscape are demonstrably post-medieval in date (i.e. 16th century or later). Some specific sites are identifiable in early documentary sources, which enable us to confirm that they were occupied in the 16th- or 17th- century. Many more sites appear on estate maps, tithe maps or Ordnance Survey maps from the mid 18th-century onwards. Through these sources, we can chart their latter stages of occupation and, sometimes, their period of abandonment - we know little of their origins.

Deserted settlement sites survive in the landscape mostly as much ruined and eroded dry-stone or earthwork structures. They are characteristically rectilinear in shape, many being single compartment structures, but often they are sub-divided into two or three compartments and may have any number or

form of extensions added to the original structure. It is usual for the dwelling to be associated with ancillary buildings and garden enclosures or field systems of varying size and complexity. Some deserted settlements now consist of empty building platforms cut into the hill-slope, probably the foundations for timber structures.

A common type of deserted settlement of the Ceredigion uplands are the *lluestau*, once occupied by shepherds who stayed on the commons throughout the year with their flocks. The *lluestau* are mostly situated on level, natural terraces, close to the streams of the sheltered valleys which run off the mountains. A typical *lluest* consists of the dry-stone or earthwork wall-bases of the dwelling, to which is appended a small enclosure, defined by an earthwork bank and often showing signs of cultivation. This small-scale cultivation made the *lluestau* into oases of green in the otherwise drab upland landscape. Ancillary structures can often be found around the dwelling, probably representing animal or fowl pens, or storage structures.

Farmsteads are in many respects comparable with the *lluestau* in terms of physical remains, but on a larger scale with their field systems making a more substantial impact on the landscape. Like the *lluestau*, upland farmsteads can often be found in remote and isolated locations, with enclosed pasture and arable lands being carved out of the extensive mountain wastes. Claerddu Farm, north of Llynnoedd Teifi is an example of such a holding (area 15). With a true upland farmstead, the amount of enclosed land might appear relatively small, but the true extent of the farm would be measured in its sheepwalk, which would often be between 500 and 1,000 acres of unenclosed moorland on which the farm enjoyed sole grazing rights. Although originally unenclosed, the 19th- and 20th-century have seen these extensive grazing areas defined and sub-divided by wire-fencing.

It is evident that many of the platform sites of the district are located on higher, often more exposed, ground. A group of three such platforms on the southern slopes of Disgwylfa Fach (area 71) to the west of Nant-y-moch reservoir, are found on an exposed south-western facing slope. The significance of this observation is unclear, but it is possible that there are both chronological and functional differences between the settlements of the sheltered valleys and the platforms found on the higher ground. It is tempting to think of the platforms as representing the sites of medieval *hafotai* or dairying-stations, only occupied during the summer months and therefore not so dependent on shelter from the prevailing winds.

#### *Notes on the place-names hafod, lluest and magwyr*

There are a number of place-name elements which can act as pointers to the location and possible function of deserted settlement sites in the Ceredigion uplands. Occasionally, terms such as *tai hirion* (long houses) or *hen dy* (old house) will be encountered. But the most commonly encountered terms are *Hafod*, *Lluest* and *Magwyr*, place-name elements which are important to our understanding of the landscape and its development and worthy of further explanation.

*Hafod* (plural *hafodydd*) is an ancient term, used in medieval law texts, which refers to upland summer pastures on the commons and wastes. It literally means 'summer-place' and was traditionally associated with the summer grazing of dairy cattle, but its application has broadened during recent centuries with the decline of dairying in the upland areas of Wales. The dwelling was known as the *hafoty* (plural *hafotai*). The term *cadw hafod* (keeping a hafod) has been used up to present times and refers to any form of transhumant activity which involved human settlement in an upland environment. Hafod is a relatively uncommon place-name element in the Ceredigion uplands, although examples where the name applies to potentially early deserted settlements are found at Hafod Frith and Hafod Eidos, east of Strata Florida (areas 15, 117). Both sites may have been associated with the abbey of Strata Florida during medieval times. Another use of the term in relation to the properties of the abbey comes from the former monastic grange of Cwmystwyth, which was divided into four *hafodydd* in medieval times.

*Lluest* (plural *lluestau*) is also an ancient term used in medieval Welsh lawbooks. It originally referred to a temporary camp or settlement, not necessarily associated with agriculture or animal husbandry. *Lluest* is a very common place-name element in Ceredigion, although by the end of the 19th century the term had often been dropped in speech in many place-names, only being recalled in documentary and cartographic sources. In the Ceredigion dialect, *lluest* means much more than a 'camp'. It can be applied either to a dwelling or to the land associated with the dwelling - particularly with reference to the old shepherding cottages of the uplands and their associated sleep-walks. Documentary research has

shown that before the 19th century, the *lluest* was not necessarily only associated with shepherding. There are examples of Ceredigion *lluestau* being described by the Latin term *domus lactarius* (translated as 'dairy') in 16th- and 17th-century sources at the National Library of Wales, although whether it was sheep or cows that were milked at such places is not known. It seems that the *lluest* in Ceredigion was either a regional variation of the *hafod* system or perhaps a development of it. It is evident that the *lluestau* on the more remote hills were being abandoned in large numbers during the latter half of the 18th century (Vaughan, 1966). By the 19th century, the *lluest* was most certainly characterised by the cottages where shepherding families eked out a rather precarious existence on the mountain pastures.

*Magwr*, *Magwrn* (plural *Magwyr*) is a frequently encountered placename in documentary and cartographic sources and a term very much alive in the Ceredigion dialect. Its root is the verb *magu* (to raise, nurture), probably indicative of efforts to improve and nurture a piece of land, but the modern meaning of the word in an upland context applies to ruinous stone buildings or walls, usually an abandoned dwelling. The occurrence of the element *magwyr* in upland place-names is a fairly reliable indicator of human activity and settlement.

### **The role of the post-Medieval estate in shaping the landscape**

The large tracts of land granted to Strata Florida and divided into granges or estates had initially been worked by lay brothers and administered directly by the abbey, but by as early as perhaps the 13th century financial and economic pressure compelled the abbey to lease out of the land in return for cash rents. Each grange was divided into a number of separate farms which were leased out on a commercial and individual basis. It is likely that some of the farms pre-date the granting of land to the abbey, but others would have been established during monastic tenure. At the Dissolution, monastic land was covetously viewed by the embryonic land-owning classes. Strata Florida's land was granted to the Earl of Essex as receiver-general. In 1547, his son obtained a lease on most of the abbey's former lands. However, other families staked a claim to the bounty. For instance, within Cwmystwyth Grange the Herbert family had been busily acquiring leases of farms let out by the abbey for 99 years (Morgan 1991), providing them with a strong claim to the land, and at Strata Florida itself John Stedman acquired the abbey buildings and demesne land. Herbert acquisitions formed the basis of what was later to become the Hafod estate. John Stedman built a mansion adjacent to the abbey; this was to form the nucleus of a small estate until it was absorbed into the Nanteos estate on the death of Richard Stedman in 1746. Crosswood became the largest estate in the study area mainly due to the purchase of the Earl of Essex's holdings of Strata Florida Granges in 1630 (Cadw 1992, 21).

In conjunction with the opportunities afforded for the large-scale acquisition of land by the Dissolution of the monasteries, the acceptance of the concept of privately held land from the late Medieval period profoundly affected tenurial systems, with concomitant knock-on effects on economic structures and farming practice. It is now impossible to judge what elements of entrepreneurial flair, business and political acumen or sheer good fortune allowed just a few of the many small estates which were carved out of the Medieval tenurial systems to expand and develop into successful units. Once they had achieved a certain size, estates were able to expand by purchase of other holdings, exchanges of land, and, most commonly, judicious marriage. Thus it was that in the study area by the 19th century almost all land lay within the estates of Crosswood, Nanteos, Gogerddan and Hafod. The families of these estates dominated political, cultural and, most importantly for this study, economic life. For a good description of the methods by which the gentry accumulated land see Moore-Colyer (1998, 54-56). Metal mining, with its obvious effect on the historic landscape (see below), was controlled by the estates. The pace and extent of enclosure was often also governed by estates (below). Apart from the vast visionary schemes of Thomas Johnes at Hafod - the creation of a picturesque landscape, upland afforestation, and the creation of new farms - other estate influences on the historic landscape were slight. Agricultural improvement was slow, and no examples of large-scale estate housing are known.

With agricultural depression, and the cessation of metal mining, the 20th century has witnessed the collapse of the estate system. The core areas of Crosswood, Gogerddan and Hafod are all now part of government agricultural or forestry institutions.

### **Encroachment and enclosure**

Enclosure of the commons, wastes and moors has had a most dramatic effect on the landscape of upland Ceredigion over the past two to two-and-a-half centuries. A detailed examination of enclosure

leads one to conclude that it was not the result of a concerted action by a group of landowners or one process, such as Parliamentary Acts, but the result of many actions and processes undertaken by many individuals and organisations fuelled by rising populations in the late 18th-century and the first three quarters of the 19th century. The changing pattern of enclosure can, in part, be gleaned from an analysis of the landscape itself. Extra information is available through the study of documentary and cartographic sources. There are no good published accounts of changing enclosure patterns in Ceredigion, and therefore primary sources were consulted. The most useful sources are late 18th-century and early 19th-century estate maps and tithe maps of the 1840s. These maps capture an image of the landscape as it was undergoing dramatic transformation: from a mostly unenclosed landscape to a largely enclosed landscape. Prior to the late 18th-century, apart from landscape analysis, manuscript documentary sources provide the only evidence for the changing pattern and pace of enclosure, but the examination of these is beyond the scope of the present study.

This drive to enclose wastes common and moor should be set against the general economic and agricultural background of the late 18th-century and early 19th-century. During the Napoleonic Wars Parliament recognised the need for food security. Moore-Colyer (1998, 20) states that public concern became so great that the conquest of waste became almost synonymous with the conquest of France. Coupled with this desire for increased food production was a steady rise in population in most parishes in Ceredigion throughout the 19th century. These two factors were instrumental in encouraging the enclosure of land, and resulted in the creation of a vastly different landscape at the end of the 19th century from that that had existed at the beginning.

Below are listed some of these processes and actions that influenced the pattern and pace of enclosure in upland Ceredigion.

#### *Parliamentary Enclosure*

Enclosure by Act of Parliament did not have a profound or lasting effect upon the landscape of upland Ceredigion. By these acts landowners could gain possession of common land, enclose it, and bring it within the control of their estates. The only major areas to be enclosed were blocks of high common and waste in Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn parish to the north and south of the upper Ystwyth valley (Chapman, 1992, 53). This Enclosure Act was awarded in 1866; its area is shown on a map in the National Library of Wales (Card CC Deposit 6). Almost all of the land included in this award has been assigned to Landscape Area 15 - unenclosed upland, though occasional wire fences now subdivide it - or Area 5 - post World War 2 forestry plantation. An exception to this is a small area to the north of Cwmystwyth (area 83). Here dwellings within and surrounded by small fields were defined and shown on the map. These were illegal settlements and encroachments on the common. Those settlers that could demonstrate that their dwellings had been established over 20 years were granted ownership. Others had the opportunity to purchase their houses, or abandon them.

A second upland area that seems to have been earmarked for Parliamentary Enclosure was Mynydd Ffair Rhos (areas 15, 23, 35, 36, 41). A map was surveyed in 1815 (NLW Crosswood 347) in preparation for the Act or Award, but nothing further appears to have been carried out. As with the Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn Award, areas of illegal encroachment were noted; these were concentrated around the village of Ffair Rhos (area 23). Although not enclosed by Act of Parliament, lower-lying portions of this area as depicted on tithe maps of the 1840s and later Ordnance Survey maps, show that they were formed into large fields in the 19th century by the tenants and landowners of adjoining farms - higher ground to the east (area 15) was not, and has not been, enclosed.

#### *Enclosure by estates*

Within upland Ceredigion large estates such as Crosswood, Hafod, Nanteos and Gogerddan, were the main driving force behind much of the reclaiming and enclosing of common and waste land. Most unenclosed land was considered the property of the Crown - in the early 19th-century two-thirds of land in Ceredigion nominally belonged to the Crown - a right that many landowners refused or were unwilling to recognise. As formal boundaries on unenclosed land were non-existent, and Crown agents few and far between, enclosure and land claims were made by the simple expedient of pushing back boundary fences onto moor or common. Concern was expressed in a report of 1809 that the Crown was being deprived, but expressed caution at legislation for fear of 'exciting great dissatisfaction' among landowners (Moore-Colyer 1998, 56). Moore-Colyer states that the Crown pursued one of two

solutions: either it sold its rights by auction or accepted the encroachments on payment of a peppercorn rent.

This large scale appropriation and enclosure of Crown lands is evidenced right across the study area and is elegantly attested by the clear differences between unenclosed land shown on late 18th-century estate maps, and unenclosed land depicted on tithe maps of 1840. Clearly areas most susceptible to enclosure were those on the fringes of moor and waste, including areas: 35, 36, 47, 53, 61, 63 64, 88.

It was unusual for new farms to be carved out of the waste as part of this process of enclosure, but not unknown. For instance in the early 19th-century, Thomas Johnes of Hafod, a notorious and rapacious appropriator of Crown land, established an experimental farm known as New Farm, now Gelmast, on Crown land north of the Ystwyth. The farm is now surrounded by forestry (area 6). The farm was intended to exploit the vast sheep-walks surrounding it, but it was also designed for dairying, and land was drained and enclosed with this latter aim in mind. Woodland was also planted. After Johnes' death the Crown surveyor estimated the encroachments and plantations amounted to 467 acres (Suggett 1998-99). A second example is Darren (area 61), within the Gogerddan estate. A 1788 estate map (NLW R.M. 108) is annotated by a later hand showing a formerly unenclosed ridge divided into fields with two new farms founded. Lewis (1955, 66-67) describes the landscape development of Darren from 1788 to 1943.

#### *Enclosure by individual farmers*

In tandem with estates rapaciously grabbing and enclosing common, moor and waste, small farmers were active in both extending the bounds of their land and improving what they had by enclosure and drainage. Unless documented, it is impossible, and, for the purpose of this study, unnecessary, to differentiate between common waste and moor enclosed under the aegis of a large estate and that carried out by a farmer.

Owing to the availability of estate maps it is often possible to identify where small-scale improvements and enclosure have taken place within the bounds of farms. This was a common practice in the late 18th- and 19th-century and there were few farms which border, or were close to, unenclosed land where it did not occur. Most farms that bordered unenclosed common or moor had sheep-walks attached to them. The bounds of these sheep-walks were usually shown on estate maps with a high degree of accuracy, though they rarely seem to have had a formal built boundary such as a hedge, bank or fence. Farmers would chase away neighbouring sheep which strayed onto their sheep-walks. From this it is clearly only one step in the process to ring-fence the sheep-walks to separate them from neighbouring properties and common. A 1764/65 estate map of Bwlchcrwys Farm (NLW Nanteos 312) shows a property at this stage of the enclosure process (area 53). A house is shown, the boundary of the farm seems to be delineated by a bank, hedge or other physical boundary, but farmland is marked 'Clear Open Ground' and 'Turbary'. By the tithe survey the 'Clear Open Ground' has been subdivided into fields. It would be tedious to list more examples, but this pattern, usually not as dramatic as the case above, can be paralleled on many other farms for which estate maps exist, and reflects the methods by which farmers gradually improved their properties.

#### *Tai-unos - squatter settlements*

By far the most well-known, written about and discussed form of enclosure are small-scale encroachments and settlements on unenclosed land - so-called *tai-unos* or squatter settlements - even though the amount of land concerned is minute compared with Crown land illegally appropriated by large estates. The reason for this notoriety was the animosity they generated from farmers who complained that their rights to common were threatened, from Crown agents who functioned to protect and guard the Crown's rights over unenclosed land, and from large estates and their agents who perceived squatters as general ne'er-do-wells who occupied land outside the estate tenurial system.

Against a rising population and an inflexible estate system which was unwilling or unable to create new farms - the new farms created by the Hafod estate and the Gogerddan estate cited above are matched by farms abandoned in the same period - it is hardly surprising that the disenfranchised poor sought to settle on marginal land, either as a temporary measure until a larger farm became available, or on a permanent basis practising subsistence agriculture supplemented by farm labour and craft employment (Knowles 1998, 81).



Squatting has been described by several writers (Lewis 1955, 65; Knowles 1995, 79-82; Moore-Coyler 1995, 21-23), but it is a description of the 1790s by a London lawyer quoted by Morgan (1997, 210) that best summarises the activity:

The Party Incroaching assembles his relations & Friends to his Assistance & they run up a Structure & inclose a small Quantity of Ground between sunset & sunrising the next morning. In this Structure without any Alteration they must reside a year & if in that time he has met with no interruption he claims such ground & Structure as his freehold property, pulls down the first rude Edifice & constructs another of more permanence & encroaches gradually on his Enclosures.

A squatter settlement at Cnwch Coch (area 94) aroused the indignation of the Vaughans of Trawscoed; one of the complaints was 'being miserable looking Huts, to be seen from the Windows in front of the house'. Morgan (1997, 209-213) describes the unsuccessful attempts to evict these squatters. Cnwch Coch consisted of a small nucleation of cottages and houses located in a landscape of enclosed pasture fields and scattered woods on the side of a moderately low hill was in many ways an atypical squatter settlement. The typical squatter settlement comprised cottages and houses dispersed at irregular intervals of 50m to 200m across poor quality, often rush-covered or peaty ground of high altitude at or beyond the margins of cultivation. Rhos y Gell (area 128), Brynafan (121), part of Ystbyty Ystwyth (42), Ffair Rhos (23), parts of Ystumtuen (59) and Tai Unnos (126) are all examples of such settlements. Houses in all except the last example are all still occupied. In the late 20th-century these areas have become desirable places to live either as permanent residences or as second homes, offering a degree of remoteness in, to modern sensibilities, attractive settings, without the burden of being attached to large tracts of farmland. Many of these former squatter dwellings have been recently modernised or rebuilt or are currently undergoing such treatment, a trend reflected in the population increase seen within parishes of upland Ceredigion.

While these loosely dispersed squatter settlements are readily identifiable in the field and from maps, the recognition of single or one-or-two *tai unos* is more difficult, if not impossible without considerable cartographic and documentary research; this is beyond the scope of the present study. On occasions it has been possible to tentatively identify a single squatters cottage from maps; this was the case in area 109, but it is likely that many, if not all, of this type of settlement were established and abandoned before they could be surveyed and mapped. In these instances the archaeological record is the only evidence.

#### *Enclosure of sub-divided fields*

There has been no comprehensive study of the character, form, date, extent and distribution of sub-divided field systems in Ceredigion. That they existed in the lowlands, particularly along the coastal strip is not in doubt, and is attested to by the still partially extant system at Llan-non (Davies 1973, 526-27, Jones 1985, 165-67). Outside the lowlands, sub-divided, intermixed and dispersed holdings have been described by Davies (1973, 522-24) at Llandewibrefi, but how typical the field system of this collegiate centre of the Bishop of St David's was across the uplands is uncertain, though other examples have been identified during the course of this study.

An estate map of 1781 (NLW Crosswood Deeds 5, Ser IV, Vol 1) titled 'Map of Sputty Intermixed Lands' shows a small sub-divided field. This field (area 96) which lies immediately to the south of the village of Ysbyty Ystwyth at the relatively high altitude of 220-250m must surely have been an element of a once much larger system, a system that had by the late 18th-century been consolidated into one or more holdings and enclosed. Landscape area 91 to the east was probably once part of this sub-divided system, as was that part of area 42 to the west of the village of Ysbyty Ystwyth. By the tithe survey of 1848 all traces of the sub-divided system had been removed. The modern landscape is one of small fields of rough grazing, small forestry plantations and improved pasture; and morphology provides no clue to whether the modern field patterning has evolved from a sub-divided field system or not.

A sub-divided field is recorded on manuscript maps of 1791 and 1819 (NLW Vol 45, 70; Vol 36, 151) on gentle northwest and southwest facing slopes between 200m and 320m to the east of Tregaron (area 110). As with the system at Ysbyty Ystwyth, this sub-divided field was once probably part of a much more extensive area of intermixed strips that was, by the advent of large-scale estate mapping, consolidated and enclosed. It may be possible to at least partially reconstruct the extent of this former sub-divided system by careful analysis of estate maps and the tithe map, but this is beyond the remit of

the current study. The estate maps of 1791 and 1819, and the tithe map of 1845 record the system in decline. By 1845 only a few strips remained. The present-day landscape of regular fields provides no indication of the former strips.

In addition to the unequivocal map evidence described above, there are certain morphological features of the built landscape which imply the former presence of sub-divided field systems, but which cannot be substantiated without documentary research. Surrounding the village of Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn (area 77) is a landscape comprising enclosed pasture, a landscape that has changed little since it was first mapped at a large scale during the tithe survey 1847. Enclosed long narrow fields may indicate that they evolved from a strip or sub-divided system. Similar evolved landscapes can be postulated for area 112, Capel Bangor, and area 25, to the west of Tregaron.

#### **Agricultural change and development**

The changing pattern and pace of enclosure has been described above. It is not intended here to describe the changing pattern of agricultural practice during the 18th-20th centuries, as this task has been undertaken by other writers (in particular see Moore-Colyer 1988). The effect of changing agricultural practice on the historic landscape was and is less dramatic than that of the changing pattern of enclosure. However, there is one 20th century agricultural scheme that deserves special attention as its effects on the upland landscape of not just Ceredigion, but the whole of upland Britain have been profound. This is the Cahn Hill Improvement Scheme, devised by R G Stapledon of the Welsh Plant Breeding Station in the 1930s (Colyer 1982, 100-104).

Stapledon's plan was to transform unproductive upland into high quality pasture. With this in view he obtained a gift of £3000 a year from Sir Julian Cahn. In 1933, the Welsh Plant Breeding Station took over 2200 acres of waste on the Hafod estate near Devil's Bridge and a further 2700 acres of higher sheep-walk, and set about transforming it. The results were spectacular - a five-fold increase in edible dry matter. The continuing transformation of upland moor and wastes into productive grassland is a direct result of Stapledon's work. Apart from forestry, there is no one single process that has done more to alter the historic upland landscape than improvements based on Stapledon's research. The results can be seen right across the uplands, for example see areas 13, 15, 20, 21, 62, 74, 71, 88, 99.

#### **Domestic and farm architecture**

Smith (1998, 235) states that very few dwellings earlier than the 18th century of the labouring poor and smallholders survive in Ceredigion; most were swept away during rebuilding of the 18th- and 19th-century. This pattern is even more pronounced in upland Ceredigion, where domestic buildings of all classes pre-dating the 19th century are a great rarity. Historically, domestic architecture was constructed of mass walls of earth or clom under a roof of thatch. Thatch has now entirely disappeared, and earth has in the main been replaced by stone, though examples of the latter have been recorded. Some archaic features do survive in the study area such as scarfed crucks and wickerwork firehoods. The latter perhaps of no great antiquity as oral tradition records their construction in the 20th century. However, the vast majority of older dwellings in the study area comprises 19th- or 20th century one-and-a-half or two storey local-stone structures, on occasions with brick detailing, under mass-produced slate roofs. Stone is usually exposed, though it may on occasions be whitewashed or concrete rendered. Farms usually have stone-built outbuildings, but in many cases these are beginning to fall into disuse as most have been replaced with steel-frame or other modern types of outbuilding. Interspersed with older dwellings are bungalows and houses built within the past two-to-three decades. These are generally of concrete block construction, rendered and colour-washed, under slate or concrete tile roofs. Modern dwellings and modern farm buildings constitute prominent landscape elements.

#### **Communications**

Routeways in the study area are determined by topography. A main route corridor runs from north to south following the Teifi valley south and the Rheidol valley in the north. To the west of this route-way the landscape is characterised by relatively low-lying enclosed ground comprising villages and dispersed farms linked by a complex network of roads, lanes and tracks. To the east lies high, sparsely populated, unenclosed land. Crossing this mountainous area from west to east are several roads linking the coastal lowlands of Ceredigion with central and eastern Wales and England. Major settlements have developed at the junctions of the mountain roads and the north - south route-way. From south to north these are Tregaron, Pontrhydfendigad, Ffair Rhos, Ysbyty Ystwyth/Pontrhydygroes, Devil's Bridge and

Ponterwyd. Decline in road transport with the coming of the railways in the mid 19th-century led to a gradual stripping away of the market and other functions of the major settlements in the study.

#### *Pre-turnpike roads*

The major north-south route-way, followed by the present B4343, has lost much of its former importance, but its past influence is clear as is its antiquity. On its course lies: the Medieval town and important pre-Norman ecclesiastical centre of Tregaron (area 24); Pontrhydyndigiad village and the nearby Strata Florida Abbey (areas 32, 118); Ffair Rhos location of Medieval and later fairs (area 23); Ysbyty Ystwyth church and village, and associated mining settlement of Pontrhydygroes (area 42); the tourist settlement that developed at Devil's Bridge from the late 18th-century (area 81); the medieval chapel and prehistoric site at Ysbyty Cynfyn (area 60); and the post-medieval village of Ponterwyd (area 84). To the north of Ponterwyd the natural routeway is not well-defined, but the road once continued across mountainous land to Machynlleth, passing through areas 12, 71, 73.

The antiquity of the mountainous west - east routes is also not in doubt as most follow natural route corridors; first running in deep, steep-sided valleys before climbing the mountain ridge which lies to the east (areas 15, 17, 21). By the Medieval Period several of these route-ways would have been employed by Strata Florida Abbey for access to the abbey's vast upland estates, but their most celebrated use was by drovers for moving cattle and other livestock from collecting centres such as at Tregaron and Ffair Rhos to markets in England. Close proximity to a mountain road was an essential element in the settlement and exploitation of unenclosed upland for all periods. Decline in the importance of these roads in the 20th century has accompanied a recession in settlement of the high uplands - there are only a handful of high mountain farms now occupied.

#### *Turnpike roads*

Turnpike construction in the late 18th-century had a profound affect on settlement and commerce. New villages were established on the routes of turnpikes; those distanced from these new roads suffered absolute or relative decline. In 1770, a turnpike was constructed from Aberystwyth to Devil's Bridge (through areas 80, 87, 53, 128, 81), through to Cwmystwyth (areas 129, 46, 16, 70) and over the mountains to Rhayader (Colyer 1984, 176-182; Lewis 1955, 42-45), with a spur from Devil's Bridge through to Dyffryn Castell and over to the northeast (areas 60, 17, 43). These turnpikes were superseded by a new road built in 1812 from Aberystwyth to Ponterwyd and beyond (areas 76, 68, 18, 84, 43). The effects of these new roads on the landscape was dramatic; hotels constructed at Ponterwyd (area 84) to serve the traveller were instrumental in the development and expansion of the village, similarly at Goginan (area 68), and all along the new roads new settlements were founded and old ones expanded.

#### *Railways and tramways*

The importance of the north - south route corridor was emphasised in 1867 when the Manchester and Milford Railway open its line from Lampeter to Aberystwyth, passing through areas 24, 27, 1, 40, 114, 90, 4. The most important effect on the landscape was the development spur it provided to Tregaron (area 24), but this has to be offset against the adverse effect on the town's cattle trading and droving industry. In 1893, the opening of a mineral line in the north of the study area permitted the greater development of several mines which were served by it (areas 63, 75, 71), but this was a short-lived venture. A second mineral line opened in 1902 whose primary purpose was to serve mines in the Rheidol valley (areas 55, 56, 132) and had a secondary function as a tourist route in the summer months. It still runs as a tourist railway, a function that has helped Devil's Bridge (area 81), to the eastern terminus, to develop into its present form.

### **Industry**

#### *Metal mining*

It is probably correct to state that no aspect of Ceredigion has been more studied, investigated and recorded than the metal mining industry. There is a vast amount of published literature on the subject ranging from papers concerned with the archaeological investigation of single sites, to general histories and photographic records - for instance: Lewis (1998); Bick (1974, 1983, 1988); Hughes (1988) and Carr and Schöne (1993). It is not the purpose of this study to provide a potted history of lead mining in Ceredigion, nor is it intended as a guide to the industrial archaeological remains. The purpose of this short thematic section is to provide a brief introduction on how the metal mining industry has affected and influenced the historic landscape.

Archaeological investigations at Copa Hill, Cwmystwyth (area 16), have demonstrated the Bronze Age origin of this mine (Timberlake 1995). Roman workings have also been postulated at Cwmystwyth and the mine was worked in Medieval Period. It was not until 1690 when the Mines Royal Society monopoly on mining argentiferous ore was broken that private investment flooded into the industry, creating new opportunities, new mines and new jobs (Lewis 1998, 160). Booms in the industry were just as common as slumps, mining conditions were arduous and transport always a problem in such a remote area, but despite these difficulties mines continued to operate until the 1930s.

Apart from some sites in the extreme north of the county, all north Ceredigion metal mines lie within the study area. The impact of these mines on the historic landscape is considerable: there are very few historic landscape areas that do not contain some physical evidence of mining, and many possess considerable remains. Spoil heaps are the most common, and in many instances the most obvious and dramatic, remains associated with lead mines, but other structures are also often present: engine houses, processing plants, crusher houses, wheel pits, dressing floors, shafts and levels, and inclines and tramways. Because of the industry's extraordinary reliance on water power, leats, dams and reservoirs are ever-present in Ceredigion's upland landscape. An account of mining remains are provided in each of the relevant historic landscape area descriptions.

The success or not of the metal mining industry had a direct affect upon population levels and a concomitant effects on settlement pattern, transport infrastructure and limits of cultivation and enclosure in this upland area of Ceredigion. Aitchison and Carter (1998, 8) have noted that in three parishes in north Ceredigion, a rapid rise in population in the second half of the 19th century, followed by an equally rapid fall, can be directly attributed to an increased production of lead ore and subsequent exhaustion of veins and mine closure. A graph of 19th century lead ore production from Ceredigion mirrors that of population. Abandoned cottages, houses and a retreat of cultivation from marginal areas are some of the effects of the changing fortunes of the lead mining industry that have embedded themselves in the historic landscape.

Owing to high levels of toxicity many spoil heaps and associated remains have been, and will be, subjected to environmental improvement works. Substantial engineering can be involved in decontamination, detoxification and reclamation programmes; usually resulting in the removal or landscaping of spoil heaps. The effect is to render mining remains less visible in the landscape, though care is taken to ensure that important archaeological remains are not damaged. Goginan (area 68), Cwmsymlog (area 79), Cwmerfyn (area 101) and Cwmbwrwyno (area 18) are mines that have experienced environmental improvement in recent years.

#### *Peat cutting* (by P Sambrook)

Peat provided an important source of fuel for the inhabitants of Ceredigion until the early 20th century, when it was eventually displaced as a domestic fuel by coal. A large proportion of the county's land surface is still covered by peat, the largest single peat bog being Cors Caron (area 1) at c.1067 ha. But across much of the Ceredigion uplands and in isolated pockets away from the higher ground, substantial areas of peat remain.

The peats of the Ceredigion uplands have been accumulating since the end of the last glaciation. Analysis of these peat deposits can tell us a great deal about the environmental history of the region over the past 12,000 years. They are immensely important to the archaeologist as they preserve organic matter such as pollen, plant remains and wood, as well as animal and even human remains (a human body was discovered buried in peat, approximately 2 feet below the surface, in Gwnnws in 1811 and buried at Ystrad Meurig parish church).

The rise of peat as a domestic fuel may be closely linked with the decline of the availability of wood during medieval times. By the 17th century, peat was certainly the main fuel source in many upland districts, and 18th century estate maps show that 'turbaries' (areas where peat was cut for fuel) were common in Ceredigion. Indeed, the right of turbarry was considered as important to the common people as the right of pasture on the extensive common lands of the Cambrian Mountains (Owen 1990).

Turbaries were not enclosed parcels of land, but rather areas of mountainous ground (usually on common land) where either by tradition or by permission of the manorial lord it was allowed to cut peat

for fuel. Turbaries are readily identifiable in the upland landscape even today. The most telling sign that peat has been cut is usually a crescentic scar across the landscape, as much as 40-50m across, creating a step approximately 1m high across that portion of ground. Many cuts and depressions can be seen in the area of a turbarry, often extending over a large area. The trackways along which the heavy loads of peat were dragged on sleds across the commons and down to the farms and villages were often well built and can still be followed in many upland areas. An obvious upland turbarry which is shown on mid-18th century Nanteos estate maps is that of Y Dderw, near Ponterwyd (area 17 - 1.5km south of Dyffryn Castell). Several trackways can be followed from farms along the Rheidol Valley up onto the turbarry, which apparently served the inhabitants of the valley between Ponterwyd and Devil's Bridge. Not all turbaries were on the upland commons. Areas of peat on lower ground was also cut for fuel. Cors Caron (area 1), which fills a substantial portion of the Teifi valley bottom is the most impressive example of this. However, most lowland bogs were relatively small and improvements in land management meant that they were increasingly drained and turned into more valuable farmland during the late 18th- and 19th-century.

### **Woodland and Forestry**

#### *Woodland and estate management*

Many hills therabout (Strata Florida) hath bene well woddid, as evidently by old rotes apperith, but now in them is almost no woode. The causes be these; first the wood cut down was never copisid, and this hath bene a great cause of destruction of wood thorough Wales. Secondly, after cutting down of woodys the gottys hath so bytten the young spring that it never grew but lyke shrubbes. Thirddely men for the nonys destroyed the great woddis that thei shuld not harborow theves ... a hille side Clothmoyn, wher hath bene great digging for leade, the melting whereof hath destroyed the woddies that sumtime grew plentifully therabout

So wrote John Leland in his celebrated itinerary of the 1530s (Toulmin-Smith 1964, III, 118).

Woodland which is shown on late 18th-century estate maps on the steep valley sides of the Rheidol (area 55), and on the lower slopes of the Teifi valley close to Strata Florida Abbey (areas 118, 37) can be attributed to estate management. Parts of the Rheidol valley lay within the Crosswood estate, records for which record woodland management from the early 18th-century (Edlin 1959, 19), while land at Strata Florida came into the hands of the Stedmans, and later became part of the Nanteos estate. Much of this woodland is still in existence today. Thomas Johnes of Hafod was the great pioneer of upland afforestation. Linnard (1970) has described the planting techniques, fencing and species of the hundreds of thousands of trees that Johnes planted in the final decades of the 18th century and the first years of the 19th century. Remnants of his planting are still evident at Hafod (area 120), but his great areas of upland afforestation have not survived. Much was neglected by later owners of the estate, though a large portion survived on high land to the north of Gelmaest farm (area 6) into the 20th century, but was cut down during World War I and has now been replanted by the Forestry Commission (Edlin 1959, 12).

#### *20th century afforestation*

In the 20th century, no other single process has had such a dramatic effect upon the historic landscape of upland Ceredigion than afforestation. Steep valley sides have been cloaked in woodland and vast tracts of unenclosed moorland transformed into upland forests. The ethos, methods and techniques behind this afforestation is set out in a Forestry Commission book of 1959 (Edlin). Early post-World War II and pre-World War II afforestation concentrated on relatively lower-lying ground and steep valley sides, and often involved replanting of old estate woodlands and filling in the gaps between old established deciduous woods. The steep valley sides of the Rheidol (area 55), Brwyno and Arian (areas 8, 66, 67), and Ystwyth (areas 4, 50) are examples of such planting. Some higher level planting was undertaken, such as that begun in 1929 at Tarenig (area 7). Later, 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, planting concentrated on high unenclosed moorland, including: valley sides as well as high ground of the Hafod estate which was acquired by the Forestry Commission in the early 1950s (areas 120, 5, 6); further planting of Tarenig (area 7), isolated blocks in the upper Rheidol valley (areas 9, 10, 11, 12) and the massive area known as Tywi Forest (area 3).

## MANAGING HISTORIC CHARACTER

by D Thompson and D Gwyn (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust)

### Rural land-use change

There have been many pressures on the rural environment and the countryside over the last 50 years as a result of changes in land use and shifting priorities for agriculture (the principal rural land use). Agricultural intensification and the maximisation of productivity were the priorities up until the mid-1980s, and as a consequence the character of rural landscapes changed dramatically during this period as hedgerows and trees were removed to create more efficient farming systems. Reclamation of the hills and marginal land led to the removal of significant upstanding archaeological sites and palimpsest landscapes.

Currently, due to agricultural over-production and a general greater awareness of and concern for the quality and protection of the rural environment, the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy provides a number of incentives to farmers and landowners to manage their land in an environmentally sensitive manner. The range of such agri-environment schemes (such as Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Tir Cymen) include provision for the conservation of certain habitats as well as for the protection and enhancement of stone walls and boundaries, although the protection of archaeological sites *strictu sensu* is less of a priority for the schemes. It is expected that this aspect of rural management will be enhanced by the new Tir Gofal scheme.

However, the present schemes do not cover the whole country (as the Tir Gofal scheme is intended to), and even where they do apply not all farmers take them up for various reasons, and so many important archaeological sites and landscape features continue to be lost. The challenge therefore is to identify historic landscape priorities for conservation, protection, enhancement or even restoration. The next step will be to ensure delivery of sound historical landscape management via a number of management initiatives and strategies.

Two of the principal advantages of an approach using character areas are that (a) it is able to identify and map both local distinctiveness and national importance; and (b) by identifying physical features which can be managed it can feed directly into land management and development planning strategies. It can assist in management plans by setting priorities for management and enhancement, highlighting intrinsic values, and encouraging links to multi-purpose management.

Characterisation is about management: if we are going to manage effectively, we must know what is there, what is important and what we want to do with it. Character areas can tell us what is distinctive (*i.e.* important both locally and nationally) about a particular area, and therefore what needs to be managed in order to retain that area's distinctiveness (character).

### General considerations

Positive management should be aimed at halting and, if necessary, reversing any trends that can be shown to be causing unacceptable damage to the historic landscape resource. If at the same time management can actually enhance the historic landscape, then that is even better. It is essential that such management is continuous, and contains provisions for monitoring and review.

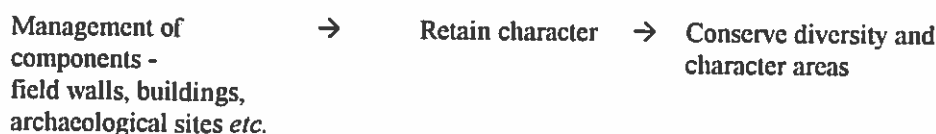
One of the basic tenets underpinning management is that we should be aiming to continue (rather than halt) the past evolution of the landscape: to do this we must first identify what is important and significant in historic landscape terms. It is the overall historic character of the present landscape (as evidenced in important and significant groupings and patterns) which we should aim to retain, but in order to do this we must concentrate management actions at the level of individual components. We must identify, conserve and enhance the local and regional historic diversity of our landscapes.

Agri-environment and other rural initiatives offer the opportunity to integrate the needs of the historic environment with modern land-use requirements to produce a workable, effective management system. More importantly, they should result in a working, viable landscape, which should provide ways and means for the various human activities in an area to be integrated with each other

and with conservation, at the same time providing opportunities for study, research, education, interpretation and quiet enjoyment.

This means that sites and features of historic landscape interest are positively managed for their own sake, rather than just left unimproved. It is important that the management of such features is integral to the management of the farm, or the scheme, as a whole, rather than an isolated, unrelated activity.

By working at the most basic level, management can be used to retain the general historic character of the area -



A management plan should specify conservation objectives for a site/area and how they will be monitored: it should identify points at which some response will be made if monitoring shows that a feature is changing: it should establish what activities/processes will be the subject of monitoring: it should establish what management of on-going activities is required; and identify the types of development or activities which might adversely affect the site.

Not all the sites and features which comprise the historic environment require the same detailed level of management: some sites can be adequately managed by the application of simple, general strategies, while more complex sites merit more detailed, site-specific, problem-led responses.

#### **Mechanisms - general**

It is envisaged that characterisation has many potential applications to management including -

- assisting in developing landscape conservation and enhancement projects, by identifying elements and patterns of the historic environment which are considered either typical of a local area (provide local distinctiveness) or are of particular importance (rare at a national level);
- targeting resources within grant-aid by government and other organisations towards conserving elements and patterns of the historic environment in the same way;
- developing policies for unitary development plans;
- assisting in determining planning applications, especially large-scale developments such as roads, wind-farms, mineral extraction, large-scale landfill, waste disposal, reclamation, water schemes, major settlement and major industrial development;
- aiding the management of land by farmers, and large corporate landowners such as industrial companies, water or electricity companies, the forestry industry and the National Trust;
- providing baseline information for local areas against which future change can be monitored, for example as part of the new Tir Gofal scheme;
- providing general information not already on the SMR which can be used to inform advice given as part of a number of rural initiatives such as Tir Gofal, Woodland Grant Schemes *etc.*;
- providing advice in a rural framework to conservation agencies including Cadw, Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency, local authorities, national parks and others;

- providing information to a number of wider initiatives, including contributing to our academic understanding of landscape, stimulating further research, raising public perception of the landscape, and the preparation of policy statements by public bodies.

#### **Mechanisms - specific**

*Tir Gofal*, which has recently been launched, will be open to applications from farmers throughout Wales. Within the scheme, payments will be made to farmers for observing 'codes of good environmental practice', one of which is care and enhancement of the historic environment. As the scheme is a 'whole farm' scheme, it will allow archaeological management strategies sensitive to the character of the landscape as a whole to be integrated with farming practices. Characterisation is useful for monitoring purposes, as it sets out the wider historic environment framework within which individual farm plans will sit. It can also help prioritise management within a broader landscape context.

*Unitary Development Plans* address 'land use' issues. They may take into account LANDMAP initiatives which involve a certain level of historic characterisation.

*Countryside strategies* are the responsibility of local authorities (together with others), which have a general duty under section 1 of the Countryside Act, 1981, to have regard to the desirability of conserving the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside in the exercise of their functions relating to land. Countryside strategies principally address management of the countryside in areas outside settlement limits, but they are also a mechanism, at least in part, of implementing development plan policies. In Wales, such strategies are supported by CCW.

*Local authorities* have a number of powers which have implications for the management of the historic environment including the power to establish Country Parks (section 7 of the Countryside Act 1968); the ability to declare Local Nature Reserves (section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949); the ability to enter into access agreements with landowners (section 64 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949); the ability to buy derelict land (often of industrial archaeological interest) for reclamation purposes (section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949); the duty to make Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate (section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990); and the duty to apply The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 which controls the removal of certain important hedgerows (from section 97 of the Environment Act 1995). Other powers are treated separately below.

Some local authorities have a countryside warden service which would benefit from characterisation information.

*Local Agenda 21 programme* At Rio, governments committed themselves to setting up national targets for safeguarding and improving the environment. Local Agenda 21 and Local Biodiversity Action Plans provide the means of meeting these targets, and of promoting the principles of sustainable development, at a local level. Both initiatives are about embracing a conscientious vision of the long-term future by identifying what matters locally and paying serious attention to the global costs of maintaining local lifestyles.

This has implications for archaeology and the historic environment? At a local level, sense of place is a fundamental aspect of quality of life. The present day landscape underpins our sense of the place in which we live. Much of its character and distinctiveness is derived from the historic environment (archaeology and the built heritage in all its forms). The historic environment is of course both fragile and non-renewable. We have a responsibility to maintain it so that future generations can also appreciate and benefit from it in the same way that we do. However, the landscape is not static. Just as today's landscape is a product of the changing relationships between people and their environment through time, so it must be allowed to continue to change.

The point of sustainability is that it promotes change which meets the needs of the future whilst retaining the integrity of the historic environment. In order to do so decisions have to be made about the relative importance of different elements. Traditionally, evaluation has been based on individual



sites, with particular examples being selected out for special protection (known as scheduling). However, it is the sum total of archaeological features not individual sites which give landscape its grain and it is often the more ordinary features that create 'local distinctiveness'. In order to ensure that decisions about the future of the historic environment are made on a secure basis, sound information needs to be gathered. Historic landscape characterisation work of the kind being carried out by the Trusts provides historic environment audits, from which decisions of this kind can be made.

*Biodiversity Action Plans* LBAPs are a means by which Local Government Authorities can implement the biodiversity recommendations established after the Rio Summit. They achieve this by building up local partnerships and taking account of both national and local biodiversity priorities to develop strategies for the conservation of species and habitats of local significance. As we are still at the early stages of our involvement, more information will be forthcoming at a later date, but it is already obvious that the type of general information coming from characterisation projects will be able to feed into such plans.

At a general level, archaeology is of relevance to LBAPs because it raises awareness of the historical origins of the contemporary environment. There are no purely 'natural' environments in Britain; the landscape is the product of millennia of human activity. Our knowledge of the changing relationship between people and their environment through history allows us to understand the land-use activities which have led to the creation of contemporary landscapes, and comment from an informed historical perspective on those practices which could be encouraged in order to protect and conserve particular landscapes and ecosystems.

*Access* is a key issue in the countryside, if we are to enjoy the landscape and all its inherent interests and in turn engender understanding and respect for the countryside and the way it works. In addition to the rights of way network, the government has recently announced proposals to provide greater access to open areas of the countryside and issued a Framework for Action. As many of the best-preserved and most fragile palimpsest archaeological sites and landscapes lie within these areas, this has potential implications for archaeological management.

Historic landscape characterisation can identify these areas (i.e. where there are well-preserved yet fragile archaeological remains) and thus highlight the potential management problems if the areas are 'opened up' to public access. It may even be that such areas could be excluded from unfettered access under new legislation, either permanently or on a temporary basis.

Characterisation also has the potential to inform leaflets, trails and other interpretative material.

*Tourism* The Wales Tourist Board (WTB) has the strategic responsibility for encouraging people to visit Wales and for the provision of tourist facilities. In recent years tourism has become one of the most important growth sectors of the economy. Unitary authorities all have a tourism strategy of some description, and historic characterisation has a part to play in sustainable 'green tourism' in that it can help identify local distinctiveness which can be used both to attract visitors (by way of advertising), create atmosphere and to inform quality initiatives such as local walks, guides and other recreational activities. It can also direct visitors to areas with a robust historic environment, and away from those which are particularly fragile.

*Management agreements* In addition, local authorities have the ability (under section 39 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981) to enter into management agreements with landowners. This is an area which could be explored further from the historic environment perspective, as such agreements could cover not only individual monuments but also historic landscape characteristics (such as boundary types).

*Other local authority programmes* Local authorities have programmes for economic development, highways maintenance, environmental education and coastal protection. These would all benefit from the information which is being compiled through the characterisation projects, and, in the other direction, the safeguarding of the historic environment would benefit from those drawing up these programmes having direct access to historic landscape characterisation data. In fact, information at this broad level would probably be more useful than detailed, site-specific SMR data.

*Forestry Commission* Information from characterisation projects will be invaluable in contributing to new national and regional indicative forestry strategies, indicating where new proposals for planting are likely to be acceptable (or unacceptable) from an historic environment perspective. On a day to day basis, it can provide information at a landscape level which can inform proposals for new planting. It will be particularly useful when considering proposals under any of the challenge schemes.

*Environment Agency* is responsible for producing Local Environment Action Plans (LEAPs) and Catchment Management Plans (CMPs). The historic environment does not have a high profile in either of these, and both could therefore benefit from information which characterisation can provide.

*Other bodies* Historic landscape characterisation information can be used to educate and inform a wide range of organisations and individuals including statutory agencies, voluntary bodies (RSPB, Woodland Trust, North Wales Wildlife Trust, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, National Trust) town councils, community councils, farming unions and others. It is our experience that often it is easier to explain the importance of, and inherent interest of, the historic environment by using historic characterisation, than by the more traditional means of individual archaeological sites and excavations.

Local distinctiveness and a sense of place, which are of undoubted interest to people, can all be conveyed by such means, and the potential importance of this aspect of characterisation cannot be emphasised too strongly.

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NLW Crosswood 345 (late 18th-century)

NLW Crosswood 346 (late 18th-century)

NLW Crosswood 347 (1815)

NLW Gogerddan 35 (1764)

NLW Gogerddan 36 (1835)

NLW Gogerddan 54 (1806)

NLW Gogerddan 55 (late 18th-century)

NLW Gogerddan 67 (c. 1840)

NLW Gogerddan 68 (early 19th-century)

NLW Gogerddan 70 (early 19th-century)

NLW Gogerddan 71 (1784)

NLW Gogerddan 72 (1879)

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NLW Nanteos 312 (1764/5)

NLW Nanteos 348 (1764/5)

NLW Nanteos 349 (1764/5)

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*Aerial photographs (lodged with RCAHMW)*  
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CPE/UK/2509 (1948)

106G/UK/1457 (1946)

106G/UK/1407 (1947)

541/34 (1948)



## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

### **Historic Landscape Characterisation**

## **SECTION 2**

### **Historic Landscape Area Descriptions and Maps**

## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 1 CORS CARON/TREGARON BOG**

---

**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 696640

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 1067

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#### **Historical background**

In the Medieval Period the area of Cors Caron was divided between Strata Florida's granges of Penardd, Blaenaeron and Mefenydd. Its history following the dissolution is uncertain, but its unenclosed character probably ensured that it was claimed by the Crown. In all periods, Cors Caron has been a source of peat, and provided opportunities for wild-fowling, summer pasture and gathering hay. Peat cutting has been concentrated where the bog runs close to Tregaron. In the years following WW1 mechanical peat cutting was undertaken, but this was short-lived (Countryside Council for Wales 1995). The Milford and Manchester Railway, opened in 1866 and closed in 1964, crosses the bog from south to north. The bog has never been enclosed. Its importance for the historic landscape lies in its record of vegetational history and climate change contained within the peat deposits (see Turner 1964). It is now designated a Nature Reserve.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

An area of open raised bog covering over 1000 hectares at approximately 165m. The River Teifi runs down the centre of the area from north to south. There are several open pools of water on the bog; some of these are artificially maintained. There is surface evidence for past peat cutting, particularly at the southern end close to Tregaron. Some old boundaries are evident on the southern and northern boundaries of the bog, and there is some encroachment of woodland on the northeast side. Apart from these, the entire area is bog.

Recorded archaeology includes the post-Medieval bridge of Pont Einon and a possible Medieval trackway and an Iron Age bog burial, the exact location of which is unknown.

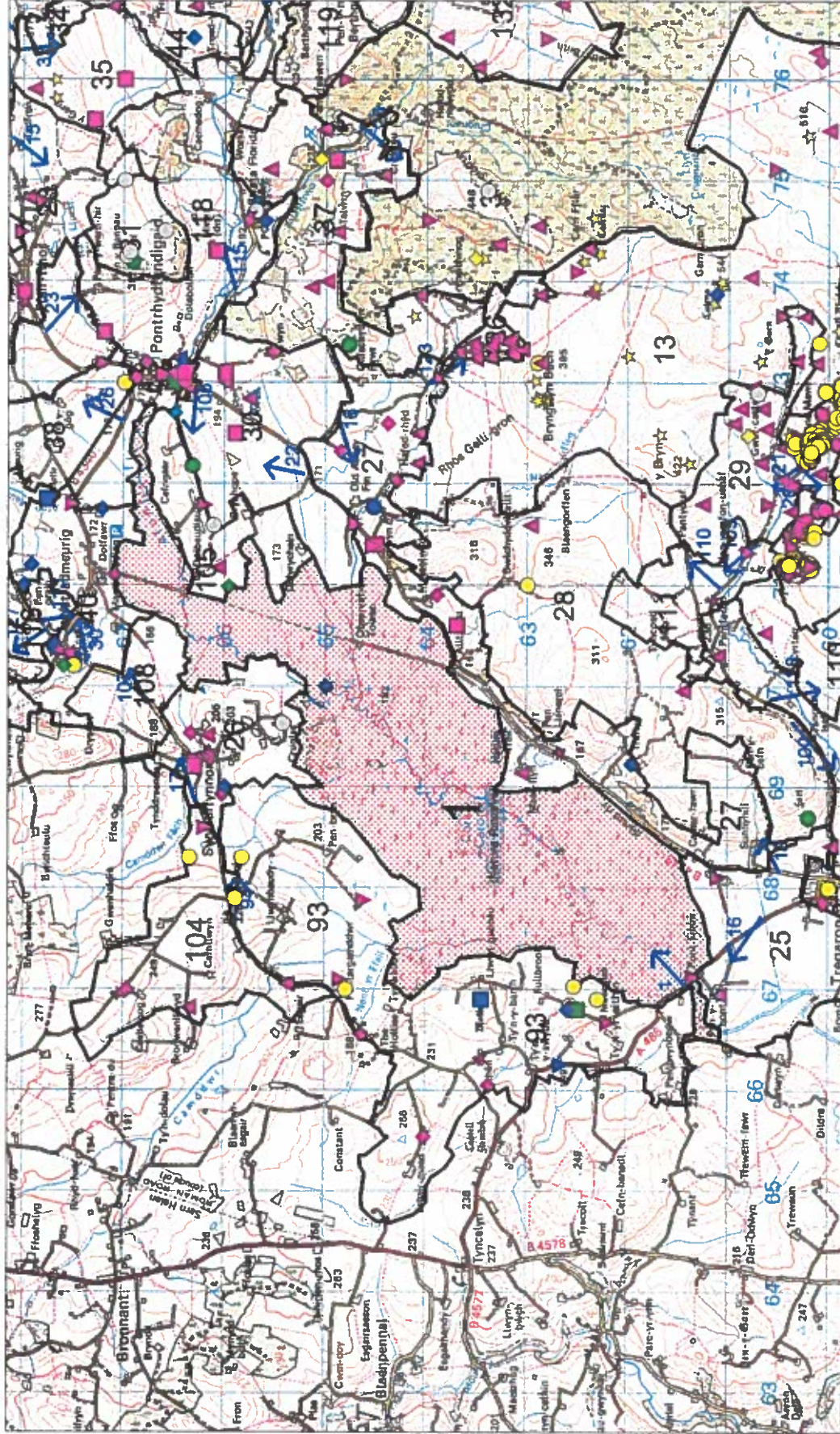
Cors Caron is well defined on all boundaries, but particularly so on the western and eastern sides where the ground rises steeply onto improved pasture.

**Ground photographs:** 1, 18, 94

**Aerial Photographs:** 1, 2, 4, 5, 8



## UPLAND CEREDIGION AREA 1



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ◆ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 2 CWM BERWYN FORESTRY PLANTATION

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 696539

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 3177

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#### **Historic Background**

This area lay within Cwmwd Penardd. A large portion of it lay within the Bishop of St David's Llanddewi Breifi estate, with the remainder probably Crown land. Place-name evidence - Llethr Hafodydd - suggests transhumance was practised in the past. It straddles a trans-mountain route-way, providing communication with Tregaron and lands to the west, with the upper Tywi valley, and the east. This was an important line of communication in the past, but is now used mainly by tourists. Apart from the extreme southern tip which was partially enclosed prior to afforestation, the whole of this historic landscape area comprised unenclosed moorland and sheep-walk. In the 1960s the whole area was afforested by the Forestry Commission.

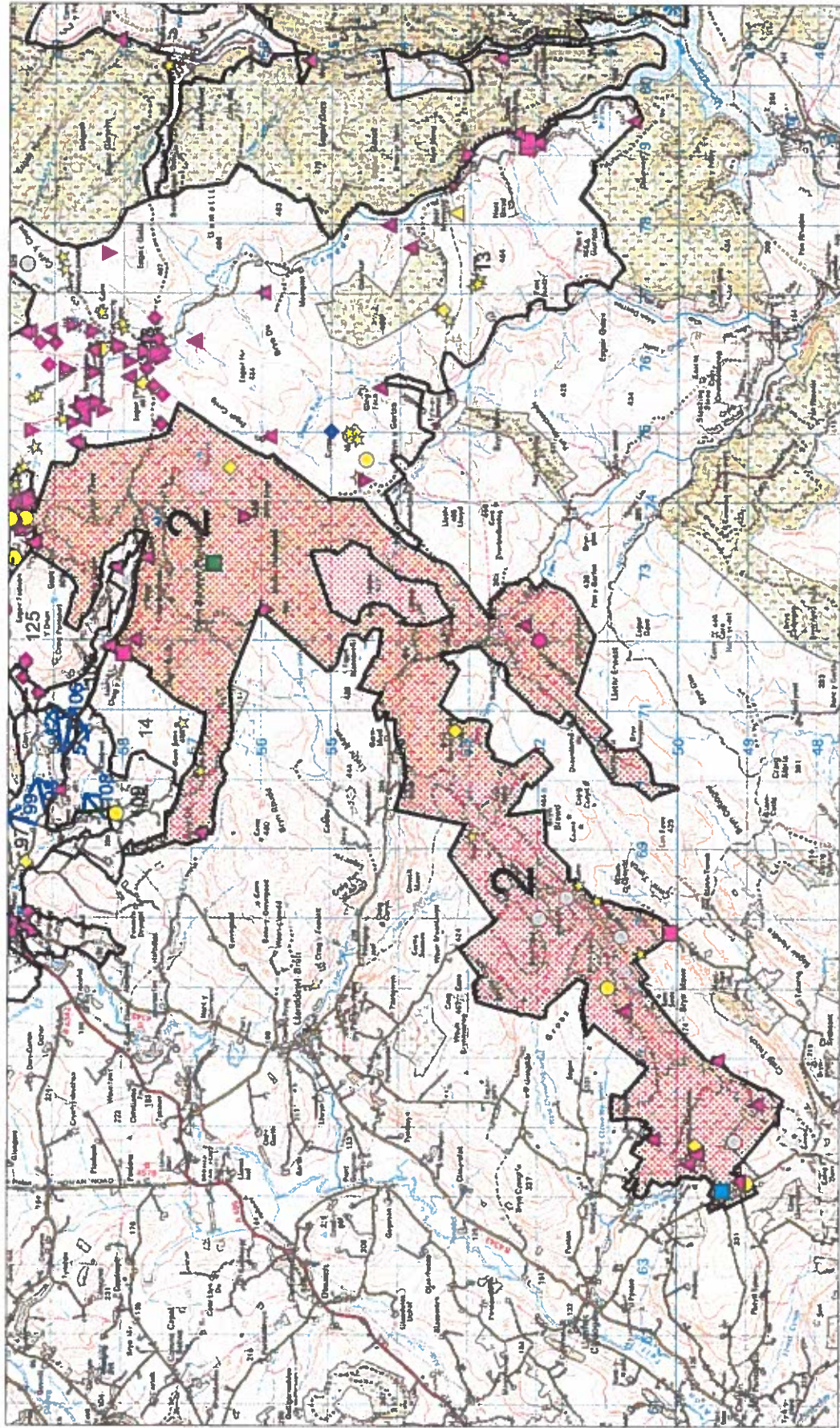
#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This is a vast tract of hard-edged forestry lying across former open land. It achieves a maximum height of over 480m, is on average between 400-450m high, and runs down to approximately 300m at its southern end. Apart from enclosures at the southern end, this area was entirely unenclosed moorland prior to afforestation in the 1960s. The plantations, tracks and other features of afforestation now form the major landscape components of this area.

Recorded archaeology in this area is rich and varied. Mostly it consists of abandoned cottages and farmsteads of post-Medieval date, and other agricultural pre-afforestation features such as boundary markers. However, a time-depth component is lent to the landscape by three Bronze Age round barrows and two putative similar sites, a Bronze Age standing stone, and two possible stones of the same date, and a Roman marching camp.

This area is clearly defined by the surrounding open land (areas 13, 14, 125).





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 3 TYWI FOREST

---

**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 792575

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 6879

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period most of this very large tract of upland lay within the Bishop of St David's Llanddewi Breifi estate or within Strata Florida Abbey's Pennardd Grange. In more recent times, low-lying fringes of the area came within the control of secular estates - Crosswood owned some land to the north - though most was probably considered Crown land because of its unenclosed character. Late 18th-century estate maps ( NLW Crosswood Vol 2, 2, 7; NLW Vol 45, 64, 67) show limited enclosure and settlement on the northern fringes of this area around Crofftau and Hafod-newydd, but all the remainder was unenclosed moorland. The area remained open moorland until the blanket afforestation in the 1960s.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This is a vast tract of hard-edged forestry lying across (mostly) former open land. It achieves a maximum height of over 500m, but is on average between 400-450m high. Apart from enclosures on the fringes, this area was entirely unenclosed moorland prior to afforestation in the 1960s. The plantations, tracks and other features of afforestation now form the major landscape components of this area. Included in this area is the cottage/farmstead of Hafod-newydd - this has not been examined in the field.

Recorded archaeology in this area consists mainly of post-Medieval settlements and Bronze Age ritual and funerary sites. Deserted buildings of post-Medieval date testify to a once populated, albeit sparsely, landscape and Bronze Age round barrows/burial cairns, a ring-barrow and two possible standing stones add a time-depth dimension to the landscape.

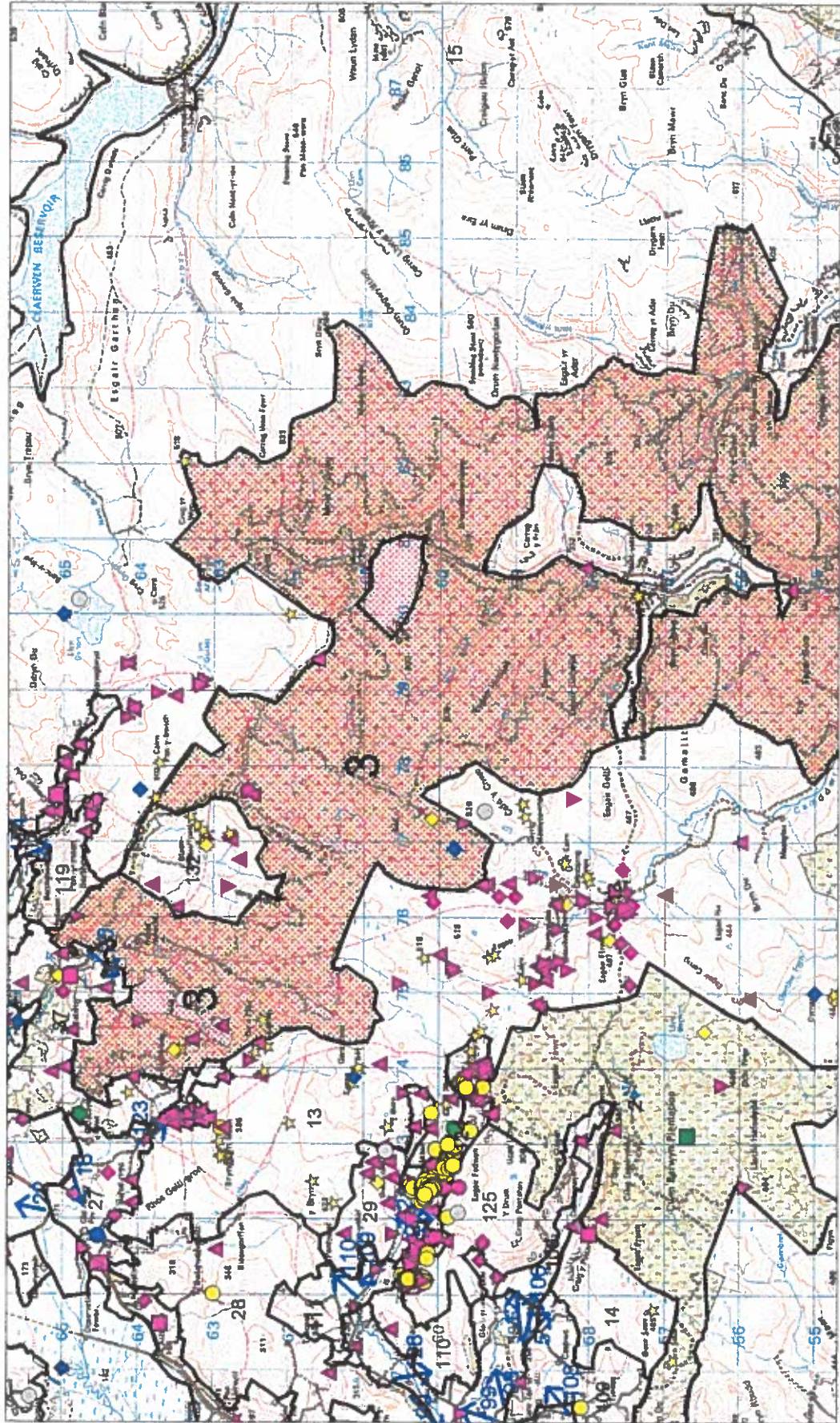
This area is clearly defined by the surrounding open land (areas 13, 15), and enclosed lower-lying land to the north (area 37).

This is a vast area, a large proportion of which lies outside the bounds of the 1999/99 study, and therefore needs to be examined in greater detail.

**Ground photograph:** 25



## UPLAND CEREDIGION AREA 3 (northern area only)



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 4 MYNYDD BACH - YSTWYTH VALLEY FORESTRY**

---

**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 696712

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 656.9

---

#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period most of this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Mefenydd Grange (Williams 1990, 57). In 1630, much of the former granges of Strata Florida were purchased by the Crosswood estate (Morgan 1987, 41), including, it would seem, part of this area from Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex. From at least the late 18th-century the steep valley sides of this area were heavily wooded (see estate maps NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 49, 55, 60 and the 1847 tithe map of Gwnnws parish), although the area known as Mynydd Bach was unenclosed sheep-walk or moorland up to the tithe survey, and therefore probably historically Crown land. Mynydd Bach was divided into a series of large enclosures in the second half of the 19th century. The whole area has now been subjected to afforestation. Planting began on the steep valley sides on land purchased from the Crosswood estate in the 1930s (Edlin 1959, 13), and later the higher ground of Mynydd Bach. The Milford Manchester railway, opened in 1866 and closed in the 1960s, passes through this area.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This landscape area encompasses the craggy hills of Mynydd Bach which achieve a height of 370m, and the steep valley sides of the Ystwyth which fall to the river at 80m. The whole area is under woodland. At the extreme eastern end of the area close to Pontrhydygroes, and in the southwest near Tynygraig, small stands of deciduous trees survive, but elsewhere conifer forests have either replaced the hardwoods or have been planted on former open land. Prior to afforestation, the steep slopes were cloaked with deciduous woods, and the high ground was rough grazing. Field boundaries from late 19th century enclosure lie within the forestry on Mynydd Bach, but were not examined for this survey. Remains of the lead mining industry lie on the northern fringes of this area, but the main components of the industry lie within area 49, and are therefore described elsewhere. Old railway embankments and cuttings are other industrial components of the landscape. Plantations, tracks, roads and other forestry features are the most common and prominent historic landscape components.

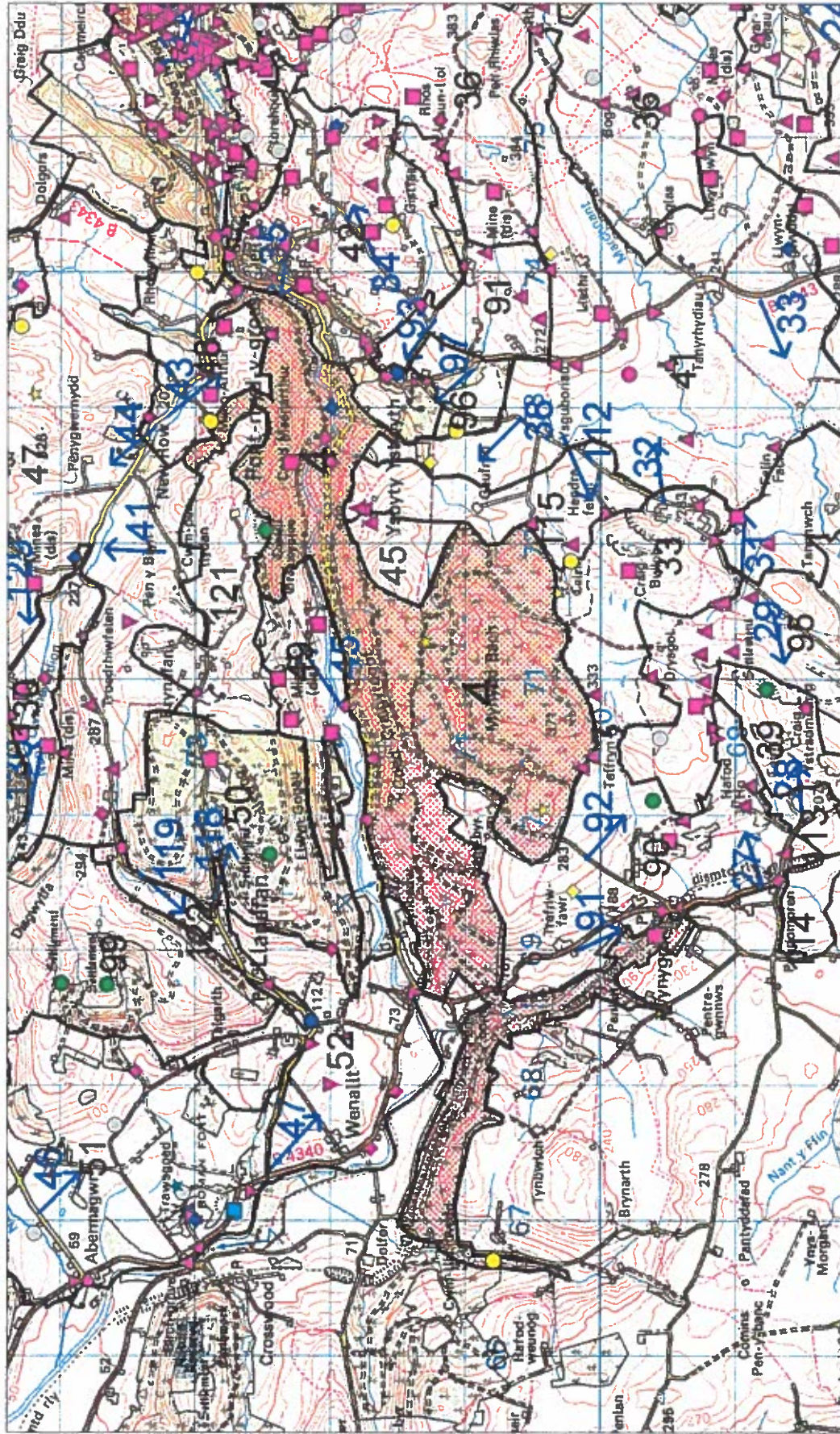
In addition to the industrial components of the landscape mentioned above, recorded archaeology in the form of two Bronze Age round barrows provides time-depth to the landscape.

This is a very well-defined landscape area with the forestry bounded either by semi-open moorland and improved grazing (areas 33, 45), by valley bottom (area 49) or settled, enclosed farmland (areas 42, 48, 90, 115, 121).

**Ground photographs:** 35, 43, 93, 97

**Aerial Photographs:** 29, 30, 35, 36, 37, 52, 53, 57, 64





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 5 COED BWLCHGWALLTER

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 771718

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 337.6

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#### **Historic Background**

This area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's grange of Cwmystwyth in the Medieval Period. On the Dissolution it was probably acquired by the Herbert family of Powis Castle along with many other holdings of the former monastery, although the unenclosed portions would have remained Crown land. At the dissolution, and probably many decades beforehand, the abbey granges had been divided into farms and leased out on a commercial basis. One farm in this area, Bwlchgwaller, was recorded as such in 1545-50 (Morgan 1991). The Herbert holdings in Cwmystwyth formed the core of Thomas Johnes's Hafod estate of the late 18th- and early 19th-century. By 1834 it is clear that the unenclosed Crown land which forms the bulk of this area had been acquired or appropriated by the estate, as it is shown on an estate map. In 1866, unenclosed land was subjected to an Enclosure Act (Chapman 1992, 53; NLW Card CC Deposit 6), which, although awarded, seems to have little effect on the physical landscape. In the early 1950s the Hafod estate was purchased by the Forestry Commission and a large scale programme of afforestation initiated. The boundaries of this forestry and the landscape area to the east, south and west follow the extent of the Hafod estate as shown on the 1834 estate map. Bwlchgwaller farmhouse survives in a pocket of un-afforested land.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

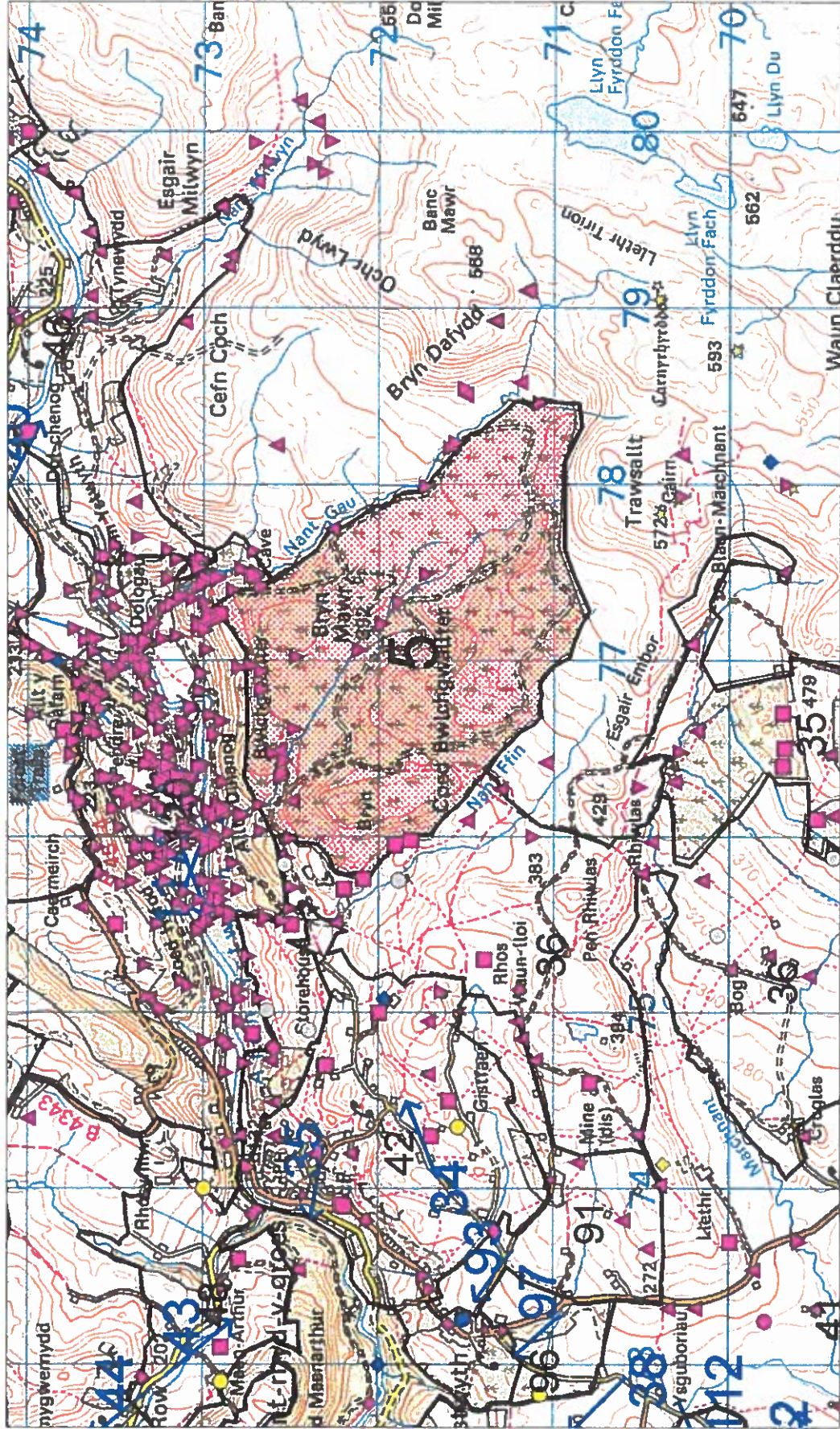
This is a large tract of high undulating land, ranging from 300m to 470m, which is entirely under conifer plantations. Prior to afforestation the vast bulk of this area was unenclosed moorland and sheep-walk. Some boundaries were present, especially close to Bwlchgwaller house, where the land was divided into fields by earth banks, earth and stone banks and occasional dry-stone walls. The latter probably being the work of Thomas Johnes in the late 18th-century. These are all now redundant and under forestry. Bwlchgwaller house, a much modernised dwelling, survives. Plantations, tracks, roads and other forestry features are the most common and prominent historic landscape components.

Apart from a grotto, the recorded archaeology is comprised of minor post-Medieval agricultural components.

This landscape area is very well-defined with open moorland (area 15) lying to the east and south, open ground with large enclosures to the west (area 36) and the core of the Hafod estate in the Ystwyth valley to the north (area 120).

**Ground photograph:** 39

**Aerial Photographs:** 38, 39



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ● Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 6 MYNYDD Y FFYNNON

---

**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 779776

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 1641

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#### **Historic Background**

During the Medieval Period, this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's grange of Cwmystwyth. On the Dissolution it was probably acquired by the Herbert family of Powis Castle along with many other holdings of the former monastery, although the unenclosed portions would have remained Crown land. Herbert land in Cwmystwyth formed the basis of the later Hafod estate, of which Thomas Johnes was the most famous owner. Johnes was a voracious appropriator of Crown land, either for the purpose of establishing forestry or enclosing for agricultural use. He planted large tracts of forestry in this area, the locations of which are shown on an 1834 estate map (NLW R.M. A64) and on the tithe map of 1847. Johnes's plantings that survived down to the 20th century were cut down during World War 1 (Edlin 1959, 13). In 1800, Johnes also founded an experimental farm, originally called New Farm, now Gelmast (Suggett, 1998-99). This was a sheep-rearing and dairy farm, and effectively rolled back the frontier of unenclosed waste to higher levels, bringing uncultivated land into cultivation for perhaps the first time. Drainage schemes were initiated and farmhouse and farm buildings constructed. Buildings still survive. In 1866, parts of this area were subjected to an Enclosure Act (Chapman, 1992, 53; NLW Card CC Deposit 6), which although awarded, had little physical effect on the landscape. Several small metal mines dating from the 18th- and 19th-century lie on the edge of this area in the Mynach valley. The main workings period of these mines was in the 1850s to 1870s (Bick 1983, 30). At the extreme northern edge of the area lay Nantycria mine, famed for its blende. It worked from the 18th century, closing towards the end of the 19th century (Bick 1983, 29). In the 1950s, the Forestry Commission purchased most of the Hafod estate lands and began a large-scale programme of upland afforestation. Virtually the whole of this area was planted, the only notable exception being land close to Gelmast.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area consists of a very large tract of undulating, sometimes craggy, upland. It achieves a maximum height of over 530m, but generally lies between 300 and 450m. Apart from a few pockets, the whole area is under conifer plantations. Prior to afforestation most of this area was unenclosed moorland, though some earth bank, earth and stone bank and dry-stone wall boundaries were present, particularly at lower levels. A farm and some associated fields established in 1800 survive at Gelmast. Of particular note are the fine range of farm buildings (recently spot listed) and the drainage/boundary ditches. At Nantycria mining remains consist of tips, small reservoirs and leats. Remains of metal mining in the Mynach valley were mostly obliterated by forestry operations. Indeed, plantations, tracks, roads and other forestry features are the most common and prominent historic landscape components in this area.

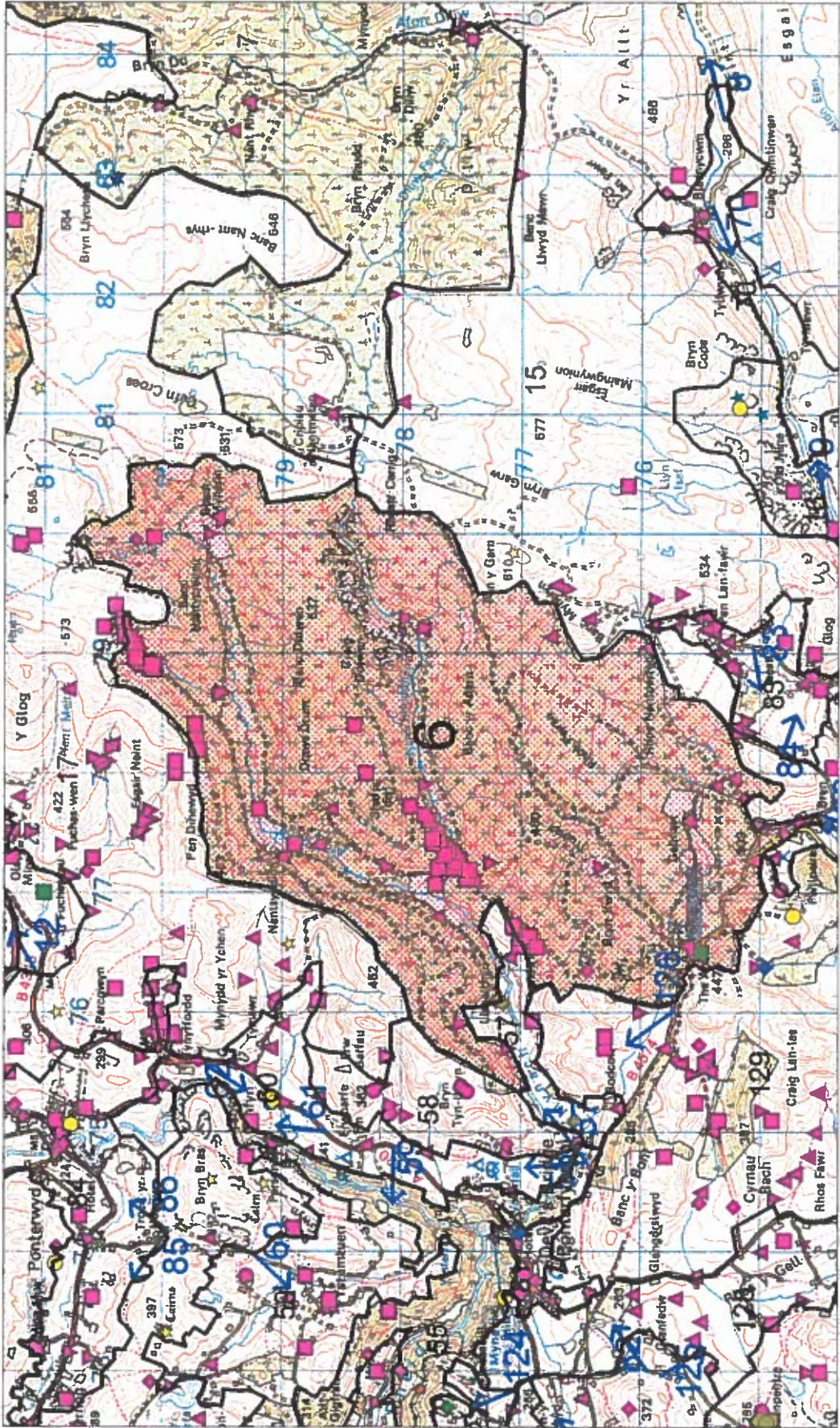
In addition to the vast numbers of metal mining remains in the archaeological record, several abandoned cottages, farmsteads and other dwellings testify that prior to the 19th century this area was populated, albeit sparsely. The Arch, an early 19th-century folly, provides a touch of drama in this wooded landscape, and finds of Mesolithic date provide some time-depth.

This is a well-defined area with unenclosed land (areas 15, 17, 129) lying on all sides except on a small portion of the western boundary and to the south. Here low-lying enclosed land is present (areas 46, 57).

**Ground photograph:** 57

**Aerial Photograph:** 47





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 7 PERAIDD FYNDD FORESTRY PLANTATION**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 876803

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 2366

---

#### **Historic Background**

This large block of upland forestry straddles the border between Ceredigion and Powys, with most of the area lying within Powys. On the Ceredigion side of the border this area lay within Gwestfa Dyffryn Rheidol in Cwmwd Perfedd. In more recent times, as it was unenclosed, it was probably Crown land. In the 1950s and 1960s this area was acquired by the Forestry Commission and planted with conifers.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

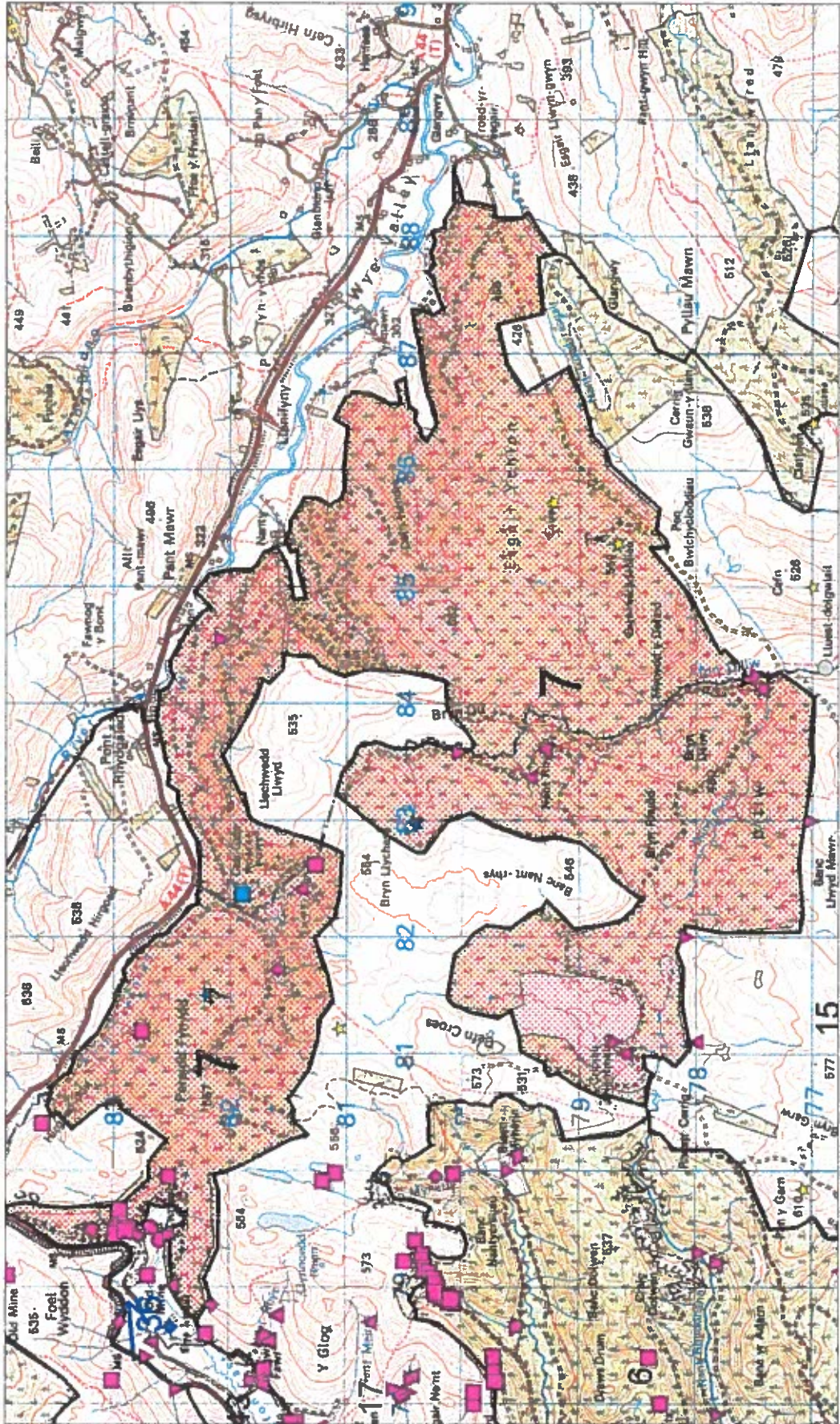
An area of high, craggy upland ranging in height from about 300m on its eastern fringes to over 500m at its highest point. It is now entirely covered with hard-edged forestry plantations. Prior to afforestation all the land on the Ceredigion side of the county boundary comprised unenclosed moorland. That on the Powys side consisted of unenclosed land at higher levels, but may have included some former enclosed land at lower levels, though this section of the area has not been examined in detail. Plantations, tracks, roads and other forestry features are the most common and prominent historic landscape components.

A small roman fort - Cae Gaer - lies in deep forestry on the Powys side of the county boundary. Other recorded archaeology mostly comprises remains of the metal mining industry, though deserted settlements and cottages indicate that this upland was at least sparsely populated up to the 19th century. Several Bronze Age round barrows lend a time-depth element to the landscape.

The hard edge of the forestry defines this area. On almost every side lies unenclosed moorland (areas 15, 17, 21).

**Ground photograph:** 36





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

■ Prehistoric site	● Iron Age hillfort	◆ Other Roman site	■ Medieval castle	★ Post-Medieval chapel/church	★ Modern site
★ Bronze Age barrow	◆ Other Iron Age site	● Dark Age memorial stone	◆ Other Medieval site	● Post-Medieval platform house	● Other archaeological site
◆ Bronze Age standing stone	■ Roman fort	◆ Other Dark Age site	■ Post-Medieval metal mine	▼ Other Post-Medieval site	
● Other Bronze Age site	★ Roman finds	● Medieval church/chapel	◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site	▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling	



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 8 MYNYDD MARCH FORESTRY PLANTATION

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 719832

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 741.4

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period, the southern part of this area lay within Nantyrarian Grange of Cwm-hir Abbey, while part of northern extent lay within Strata Florida's Y Dywarchen Grange (Williams 1990, 41, 57). Following the dissolution the granges seem to have been divided between several incipient estates, with most land within this area acquired by the Gogerddan estate. The upland, unenclosed character of much of this area however, probably ensured that it was claimed by the Crown, until appropriated by the estate in the 18th- or 19th-century. Estate maps dating to the late 18th-century (NLW Gogerddan 68, 70; Vol 37, 37, 57, 60, 64, 66) show this area as unenclosed moorland or sheep-walk. Two isolated cottages - Lluest Trefle - were however shown to the north of Cwmsymlog and two further isolated cottages to the west. The status of these settlements is unclear; the lluest name may indicate ancient but perhaps originally seasonal occupation; though all may well be 18th century squatter cottages. In the 19th century parts of the lower-lying western fringes of this area were subjected to enclosure and divided into very large fields, but the overall unenclosed character was probably maintained. Some old deciduous woodland was recorded on steep slopes above Nantyrarian in the 19th century. Metal mining, though mainly concentrated in the valleys below, occurred here. Level Newydd was a small operation worked in the mid 19th-century, and facilities connected with Bwlch Cwmerfyn mine lie within this area (Bick 1983, 44). Reservoirs were also constructed to serve mines at lower levels. The whole area has been acquired by the Forestry Commission and planted with conifers. The earliest plantings were within the older woodland blocks and on steep slopes in the northern part of the area. 1960s planting took place on higher ground.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area is entirely covered by forestry plantations. It comprises undulating, on occasions craggy, upland which achieves a maximum height of over 390m, but at its western end, on the lower sides of valleys, runs down to less than 250m. The average height is between 300 and 400m. Prior to afforestation almost all of this area consisted of unenclosed moorland, but map sources indicate that several cottages were present, sometimes with one or two adjacent small fields. It is unknown whether these were occupied immediately prior to afforestation; their current condition is unknown. Tips and shafts, the remains of metal mining, occur in the southern part of this area, to the south of Cwmerfyn. Two reservoirs constructed to serve the metal mining industry - Llyn Pendam and Llyn Blaenmelindwr - are dramatic components of the historic landscape within this wooded environment. Further metal mining remains lie close to these reservoirs. However, it is the plantations, tracks, roads and other forestry features that are the most common and prominent historic landscape components in this area.

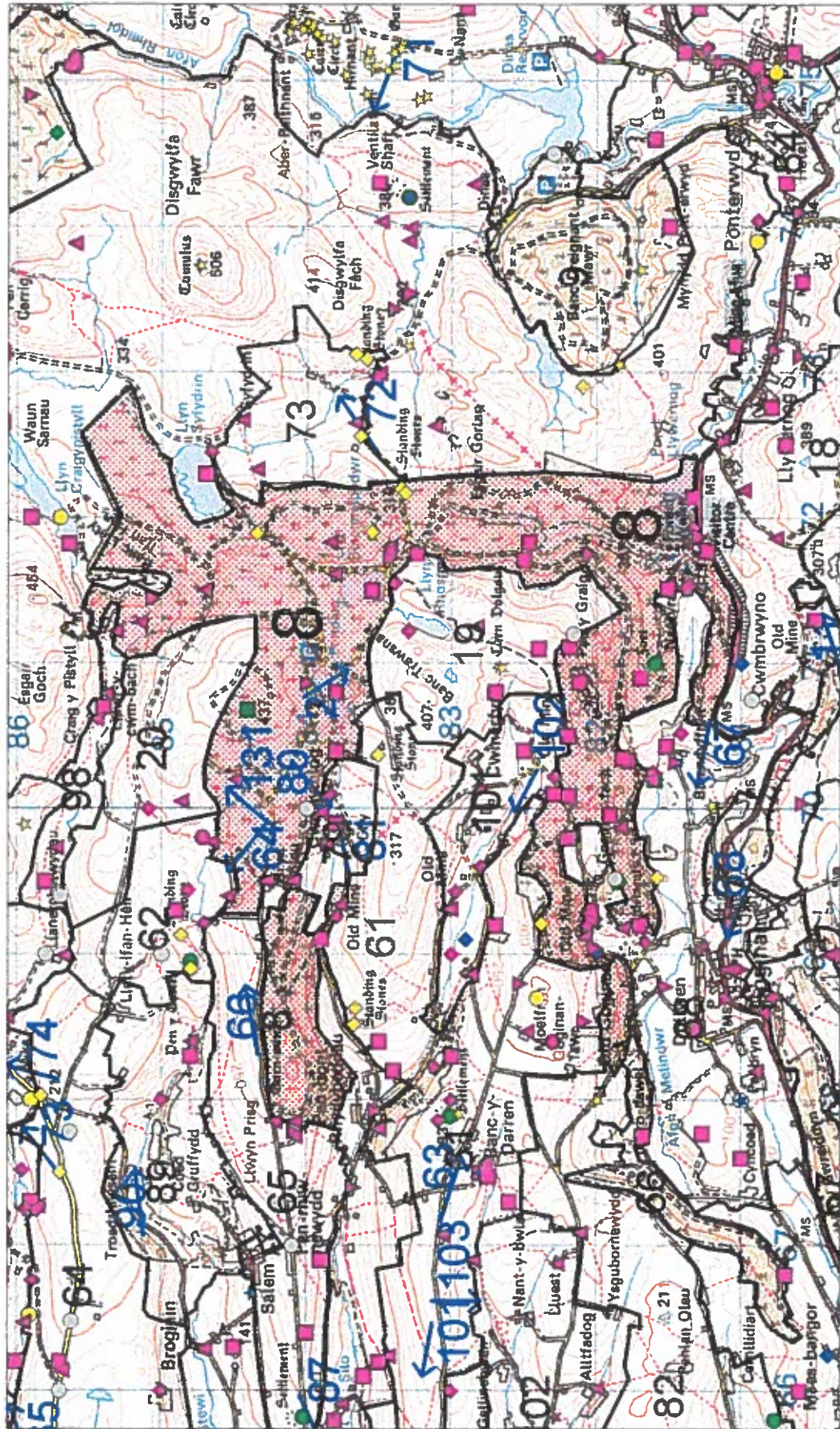
In addition to the large numbers of mining remains in the archaeological record, deserted settlements indicate a moderately populated area until the 19th century. Time depth to the landscape is provided by an Iron Age fort and several Bronze Age standing stones, including a stone pair.

This forested area is well-defined. To the east, north, south and part of the western side lies high unenclosed moorland (areas 18, 19, 20, 62, 71), with some improved land bordering part of the eastern side (area 73). On much of the western boundary lies lower-lying enclosed and settled land (areas 61, 65, 68, 79, 100, 101).

**Ground photographs:** 2, 66, 67, 80, 81, 131, 134

**Aerial Photographs:** 72, 77, 89, 92, 103, 104





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                        |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort    | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other: Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort           | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds          | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 9 BANC CREIGNANT MAWR PLANTATION**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 737802

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 140.2

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period this area formed part of Cwm-hir Abbey's Nantyrarian Grange (Williams 1990, 40). Following the Dissolution, its upland character probably ensured that it was claimed by the Crown, but by the late 18th-century it had been appropriated, or otherwise acquired, by the Gogerddan estate. A late 18th-century estate map shows it unenclosed (NLW Vol 37, 51) with no settlements, and this was how it remained until purchased by the Forestry Commission and planted with conifers in the 1960s. Small-scale mining took place in this area - Bog metal mine was opened in 1830 and was worked through to 1882, though it was never a greatly successful operation.

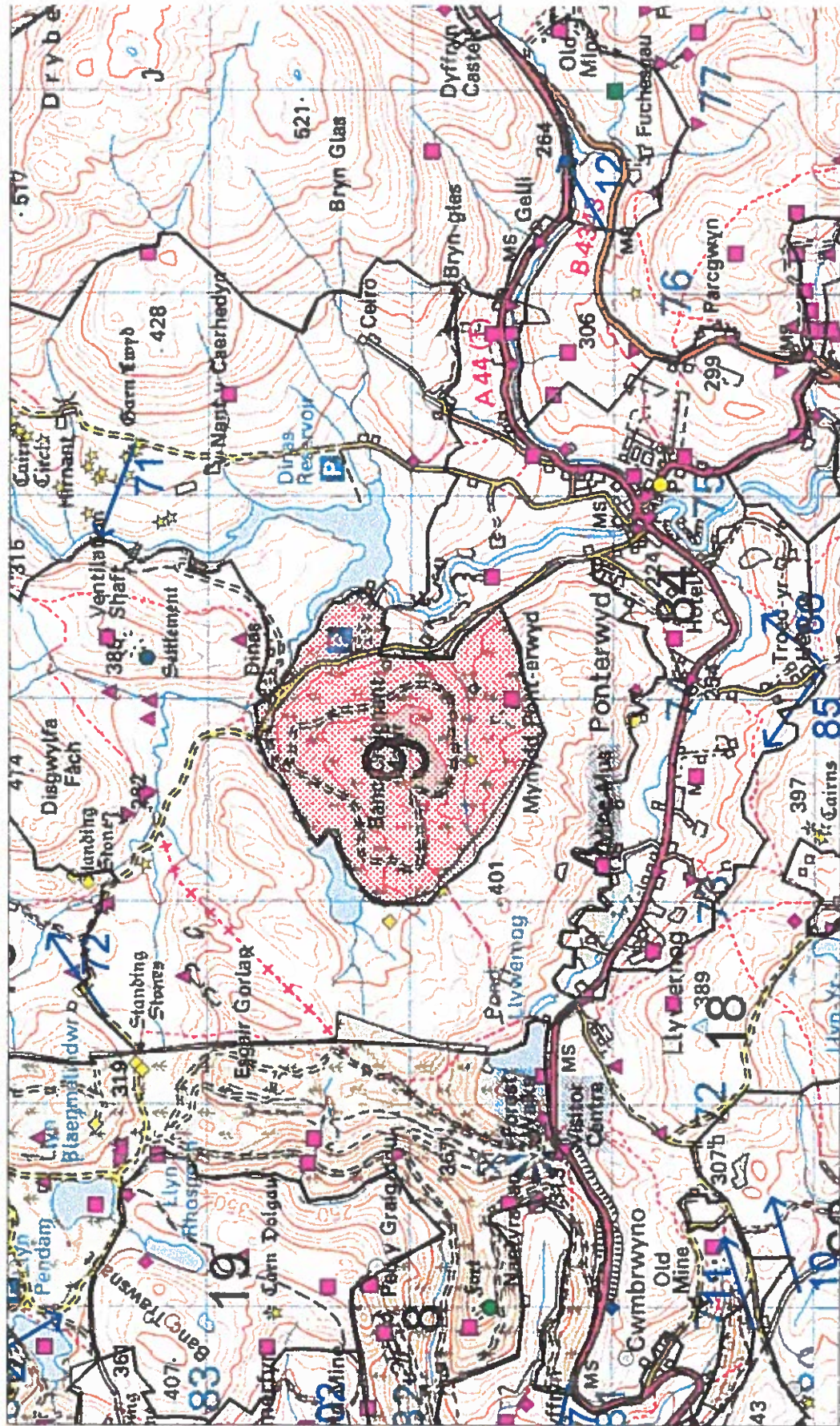
#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area is completely covered by a hard-edged forestry plantation and comprises craggy upland, with a height range of 300 to 380m. Metal mining remains within the forestry consist of tips, shafts, building remains and leats. However, it is the plantations, tracks, roads and other forestry features that are the most common and prominent historic landscape components in this area.

In addition to the metal mining remains, recorded archaeology includes two possible Bronze Age round barrows.

This is a well-defined forestry block with unenclosed upland to the north, west and south (area 71), and lower-lying enclosed, semi-enclosed and settled land to the east (areas 72, 84).





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |  |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                  | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                 | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                     |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottages/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 10 BLAEN PEITHNANT PLANTATION

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 775841

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 212.3

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#### **Historic Background**

This block of high upland within Gwestfa Cwm Rheidol in Cwmwd Perfedd was probably considered Crown land until relatively recently. It has never been enclosed, and until planted with conifers in the 1960s, was open moorland.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

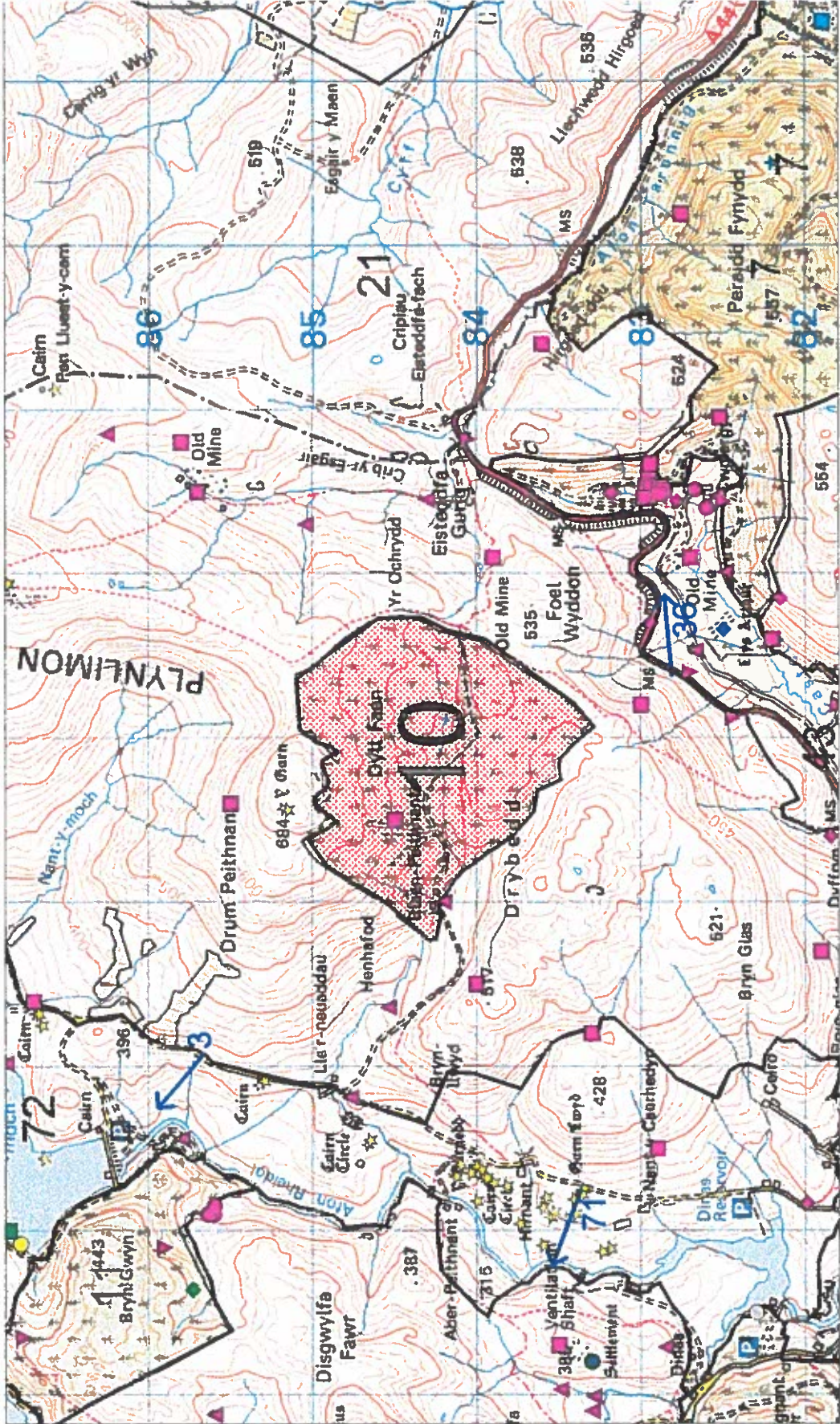
This craggy upland area which achieves a height of over 560m is defined by a hard-edged conifer plantation. Prior to planting it was unenclosed moorland; now it is the plantations, tracks, roads and other forestry features that are the most common and prominent historic landscape components in this area.

The only recorded archaeology in the area is a small metal mine.

This forestry area is surrounded by unenclosed moorland (area 21).



UPLAND CEREDIGION AREA 10



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |  |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                  | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                 | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                     |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottages/farms/cad/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 11 BRYN GWYN PLANTATION**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 746862

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 148.2

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#### **Historic Background**

This block of high upland within Gwestfa Trefmeurig in Cwmwd Perfedd was probably considered Crown land although part of it was appropriated or otherwise acquired by the Gogerddan estate by the late 18th-century. A late 18th-century estate map shows a dwelling - Fagwyr Isaf - in the southeast corner of this area situated in a large tract of open land. The dwelling has now gone. The unenclosed character of the land was maintained until it was acquired by the Forestry Commission and planted with conifers in the 1960s.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This craggy upland area which achieves a height of over 440m is defined by a hard-edged conifer plantation. Prior to planting it was unenclosed moorland; now it is the plantations, tracks, roads and other forestry features that are the most common and prominent historic landscape components in this area.

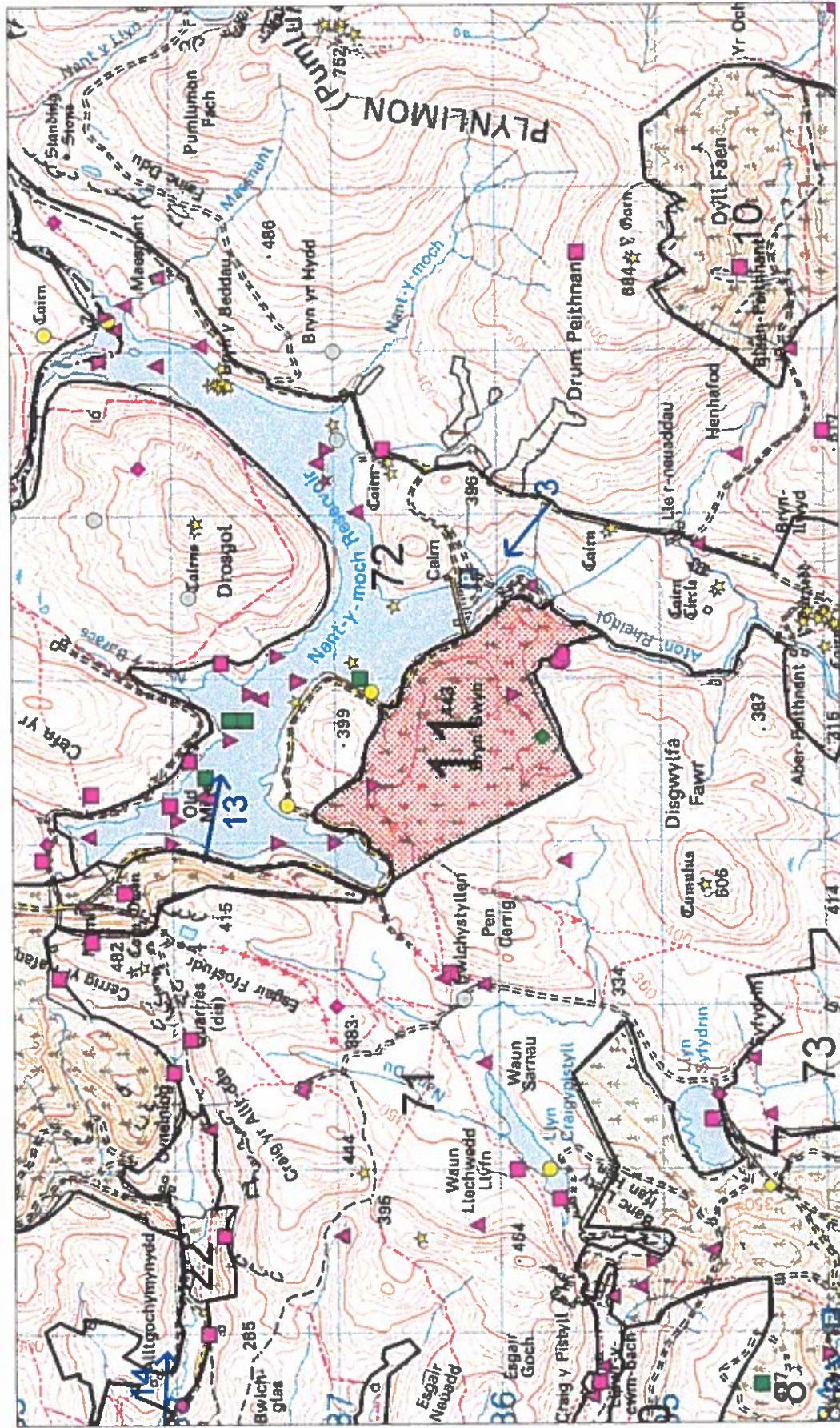
Recorded archaeology in this area includes an Iron Age hut circle, and three post-Medieval long huts on its southern fringe.

This area is well-defined by the forestry edges. To the west lies unenclosed moorland (area 71) and on all other sides unenclosed land and the reservoir of area 72.

**Ground photograph:** 3

**Aerial Photographs:** 14, 86





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

27 →

location, direction and number of ground photographs

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 12 ESGAIR FRAITH PLANTATION

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 755908

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 1540

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#### **Historic Background**

This very large block of former unenclosed upland lay within Cwmwd Gene u'r glyn, with most of the area probably considered Crown land until fairly recently. Map evidence indicates that almost all the area was unenclosed, though some settlements were recorded. Within or close to the boundaries of this area were several important metal mines: Henfwlch, Camdwrbach, Eaglebrook, Esgair Hir and Esgair Fraith (Bick 1988). The last two are of considerable antiquity and richness, known as the Welsh Potosi (Palmer 1983). It was at Esgair Hir that Sir Carberry Pryse in 1689 challenged the Crown monopoly on mining silver and gold. His victory opened up the mining industry to new capital, resulting in the opening of new mines and encouraging the development of existing workings. Working of these mainly lead and copper mines continued from the 17th century through to the early 19th-century. Aside from metal mining, this area remained remote and under-used until the acquisition of the land by the Forestry Commission and the planting of conifer plantations in the 1960s.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

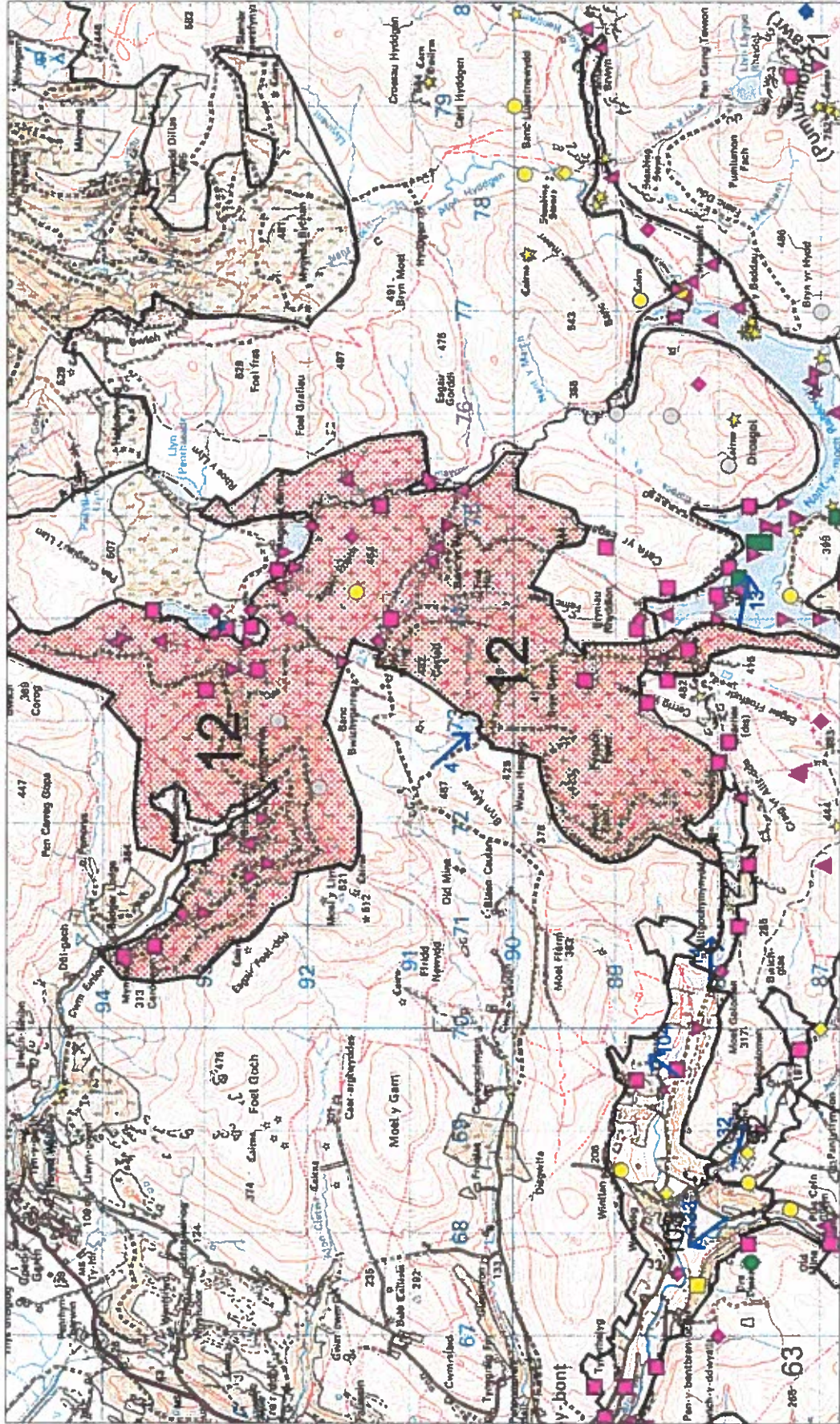
This craggy upland area which achieves a height of over 490m is defined by a hard-edged conifer plantation. Most lies outside the present study, and has therefore not been examined in detail. Within the forestry are the scattered remains of the metal mining industry including tips, shafts and wheel pits and buildings, though most of the important structures of the two main mines, Esgair Hir and Esgair Fraith, lie outside the forestry. Prior to planting most of this area was unenclosed moorland; now it is the plantations, tracks, roads and other forestry features that are the most common and prominent historic landscape components in this area.

Apart from numerous metal mining remains, the recorded archaeology consists of several abandoned long huts and other settlements. These indicate an inhabited area, albeit sparsely populated, prior to the 19th century. Agricultural remains - folds etc - of the post-Medieval Period are also present. A Bronze Age round barrow gives a certain time-depth to the landscape.

Historic landscape areas which border this unit have largely yet to be defined and described. However, open moorland bounds this area to the east (area 21) and Nant-y-moch reservoir to the southeast (area 72).

**Ground photograph:** 4





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 13 BRYNGWYN BACH

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 757574

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 3916

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#### **Historic Background**

This extremely large historic landscape area crosses from Ceredigion into Carmarthenshire. It is entirely upland and included within it are parts of the Bishop of St David's Llanddewi Breifi estate and Strata Florida Abbey's Penardd Grange. It is likely that by the late Medieval Period both these holdings would have been divided into farms which were leased out and farmed on a commercial basis. The antiquity, however, of the upland farms contained within this area is uncertain, but it is likely that some originated in the Medieval Period, in the manner indicated above, while others may well have started as squatter settlements in the 18th- or early 19th-century. The 20th century has witnessed an abandonment of these farms, and only a handful are now occupied. The surviving chapel at Soar y Mynydd testifies to the once more populated nature of this area. The farms are clearly an important element in the landscape, but the vast majority of the land in this area is, and has been for a least the last few centuries, unenclosed, and would have been claimed by the Crown. Crossing the area are important trans-mountain natural route-ways linking the farming communities of Ceredigion with lands and towns to the east. These trans-mountain route-ways are celebrated for their use by drovers in the historical period, but they are likely to be of great antiquity, and not only provided communication across the Cambrian mountain chain, but allowed access onto the high moorland for the establishment of permanent or seasonal settlement, for the grazing of animals and for peat cutting.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This is a very large tract of unenclosed upland with an uneven and widely dispersed settlement pattern of upland farms. At the northern end unenclosed land runs down to as low as 200m, with heights of over 500m achieved in the central area. On average the height range is between 300 and 450m. The landscape is rarely craggy; wide stretches of undulating moor with blanket bog on higher levels and peaty hollows is the norm. There is abundant evidence of deserted settlements across this area, particularly along the route-ways. Occupied farms, of note is Nantymaen, are traditionally stone built, surrounded by a collection of modern farm buildings, and situated within a system of just a few fields. Older boundaries of these fields consist of earth banks, but wire fences now provide the stock-proof barriers. These fields now comprise improved pasture, and there are further blocks of unenclosed improved pasture close to the farms. Apart from a block of recent forestry, this is a treeless landscape.

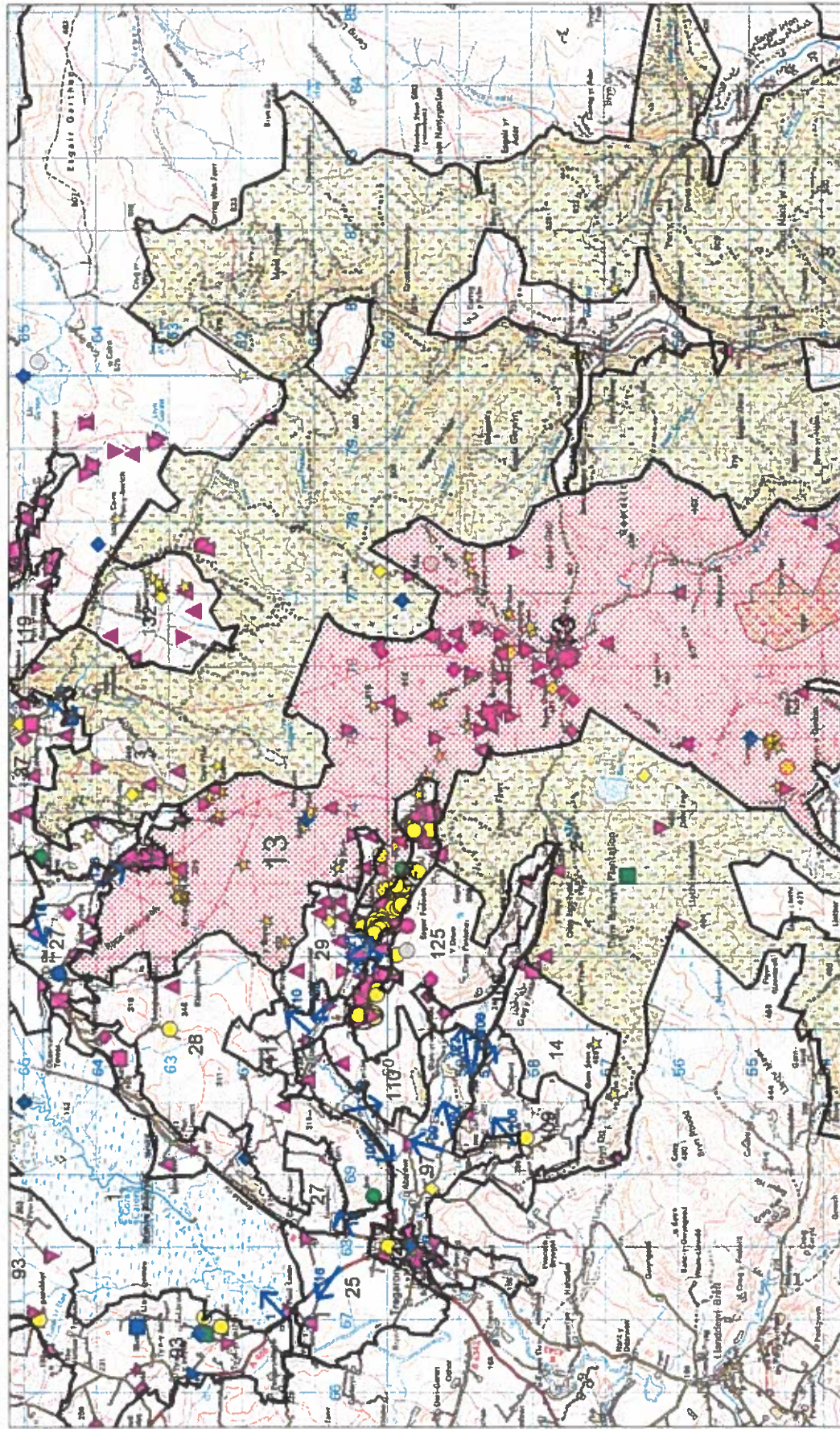
The recorded archaeology of this area is rich and varied. Considerable time-depth to the landscape is provided by the numerous Bronze Age monuments that include single or groups of round barrows and cairns, standing stones and stone circle. No occupation sites of this date are known, but the density of these ritual and funerary monuments surely indicates a settled landscape. Castell Rhyfel is an Iron Age site towards the border of the area, and Gwys-yr-Ychen Bannog a defensive or administrative linear earthwork. Numerous abandoned cottage and other settlement sites indicate a greater level of population across this area up to the 19th century. Agricultural features and evidence of peat cutting testify to this former occupation.

This is a very well-defined area, to the east and west lie very extensive forestry plantations (areas 2, 3). The north and northwestern boundary is mainly composed of lower-lying enclosed and settled land (areas 27, 28, 29, 126).

**Aerial Photographs:** 14, 15, 16



## UPLAND CEREDIGION AREA 13 (northern portion only)



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ★ Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

---

### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 14 CRAIG-Y-FINTAN UNENCLOSED LAND**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 709576

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 182.9

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#### **Historic Background**

This block of upland is now separated from unenclosed moorland further east and south by a forestry plantation. The history of this area is unknown, but it is likely to have been considered unenclosed Crown land for much of the recent past. It is still essentially unenclosed, though division into large enclosures has occurred. There are no settlements.

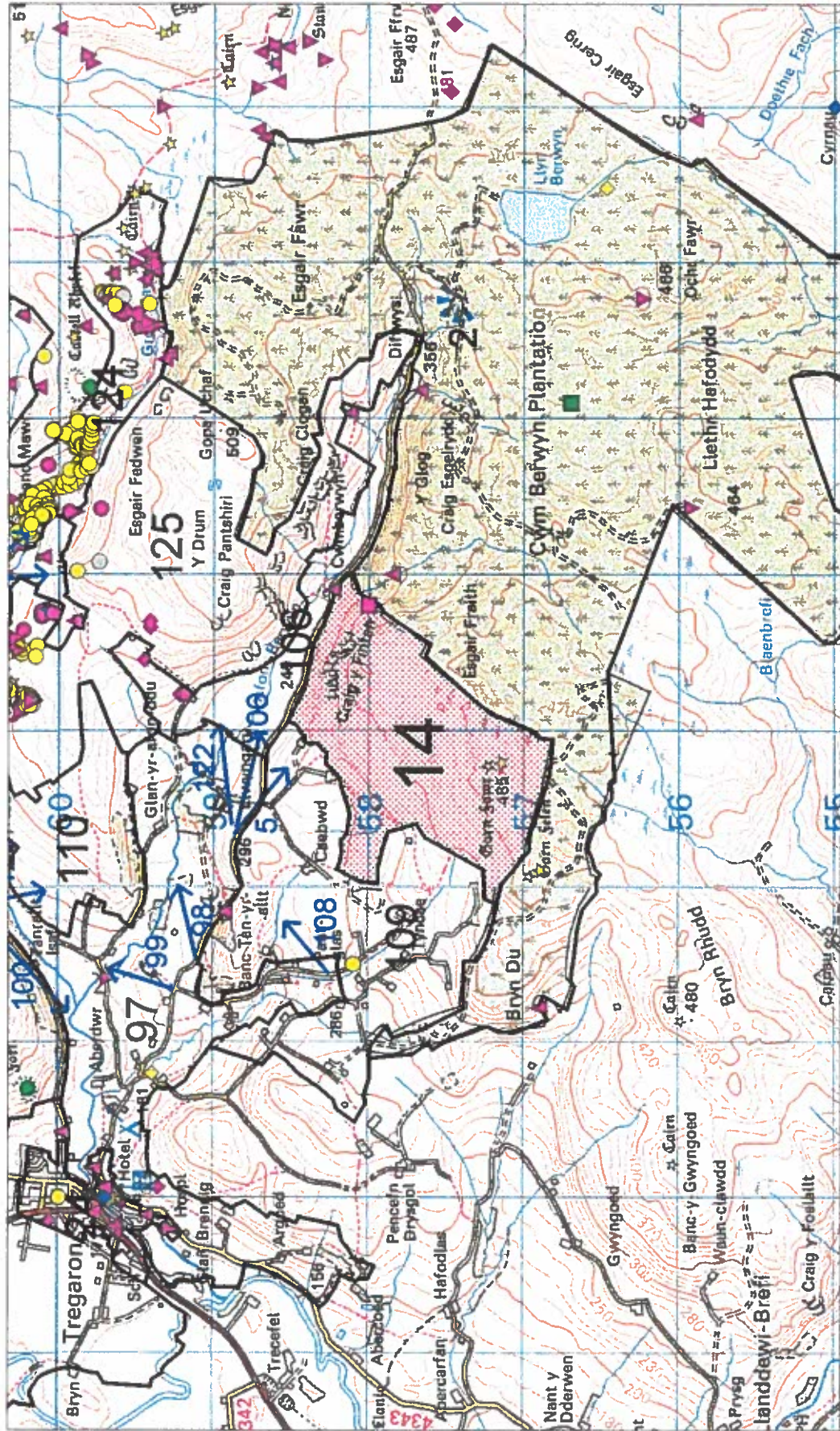
#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

A rectangular block of moorland rising from 246m on its northern edge to a maximum of 485m. Its northern edge is characterised by a steep, north-facing craggy valley side, which rises to an undulating plateau of rough grazing, moor and peaty deposits. This block of moorland formerly formed part of a wide expanse of unenclosed land, but is now separated from it by the forestry plantation and has consequently lost some of its coherence and integrity. Formerly, and today, the area functioned as a sheep-walk. There are some dry-stone walls dividing the area, but these are now mostly derelict and are supplemented by wire fences. The walls seems originally to have separated the unenclosed land from the enclosed land to the west, and divided the area into very large enclosures.

Recorded archaeology consists of a small metal mine and a Bronze Age round barrow.

The area is well defined by a valley bottom to the north (area 106), forestry plantation (area 2) to the east and south, and enclosed land (area 109) to the west.

**Ground photographs:** 5, 106



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ★ Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 15 CAMBRIAN MOUNTAINS

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 879665

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 298840

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#### **Historic Background**

This very large area of high upland straddles the Ceredigion-Powys county boundary. The largest proportion lies within Powys, and, as this is outside the study area, has not been examined in detail. Historically the largest part of this area lay within Strata Florida's granges of Pennardd, Mefenydd, Cwmteuddwr and Cwmystwyth (Williams 1990, 56-57). By the end of the Medieval Period, and perhaps earlier, the granges had been separated into farms, leased out and farmed on a commercial basis. It is uncertain how the upland sections of the granges would have functioned. Parts of the upland fringes undoubtedly comprised farms - a document of 1545-50 (Morgan 1991, 5-7) names farms now abandoned in an upland situation - but presumably most upland served as rough pasture, perhaps used on a seasonal basis. Williams (1990, 59) cites a document that indicates transhumance in Mefenydd Grange. Other monastic uses included peat cutting and a fishery in the Teifi Pools. It is likely that on the dissolution the Crown would have claimed unenclosed land, with farmed land first leased and later purchased by incipient estates, notable in this area were Crosswood and Powis Castle estates. Land acquired by the latter in and around Cwmystwyth eventually formed the Hafod estate. These estates were eager to increase the extent of their holdings, and engaged in the illegal enclosure of unenclosed Crown land, a process that was at its most active in the late 18th- and early 19th-centuries. Legal means were also employed. Enclosure Acts were sponsored. The two within this area, Gwnnws of 1815 and Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn of 1866 (Chapman 1992, 50, 53), included vast tracts of upland, as did an 1815 proposed act for the area of Teifi Pools (NLW Crosswood 347), but their physical effect on the landscape was minimal. In the 20th century, land improvement hand in hand with enclosure has nibbled away at waste and moorland. It was by these legal and illegal means that the limits of unenclosed land were rolled back to their present extensive, but in historic terms relatively modest, extents. Crossing the area are several important trans-mountain natural route-ways linking farming communities and the markets of Ceredigion with lands and towns to the east. These trans-mountain route-ways are most celebrated for their use by drovers in the historical period, but they are likely to be of great antiquity. They not only provided communication across the Cambrian mountain chain, but allowed access onto the high moorland for the establishment of permanent or seasonal settlement, for the grazing of animals and for peat cutting. The route-way from Cwmystwyth to the east to Rhayader and beyond was converted to a turnpike in 1770 (Colyer 1984, 176-82), but was superseded by the opening of a new turnpike (the current A44) to the north in 1812.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This is a very large upland area. It achieves peaks of over 500m, is on average approximately 400m high and rarely falls below 300m. Craggy outcrops on some of the higher summits and around Llyn Teifi provide much needed drama in an otherwise drab and monotonous landscape. Unimproved very rough grazing dominates with blanket bog at higher levels and peaty deposits in most hollows and valleys. There is some improved grazing, mostly on lower slopes where occasional wire fences divide the area. There are a few widely dispersed farms, in particular on the Powys side of the border. These are traditionally stone built, surrounded by a collection of modern farm buildings, and situated within a system of a few fields whose boundaries consisted of earth banks, but where wire fences now provide the stock-proof barriers. The fields attached to these farms now comprise improved pasture, and there are further blocks of unenclosed improved pasture close by. This is a treeless landscape. Overall this is a landscape of unenclosed moorland.

Recorded archaeology is only described here and shown on the accompanying maps for the Ceredigion portion of this area. Archaeology adds greater time-depth to the landscape. Numerous Bronze Age round barrows and a standing stone suggest occupation within this area even at high levels, though no settlement sites are known. However, post-Medieval settlement sites and other sites of the period such

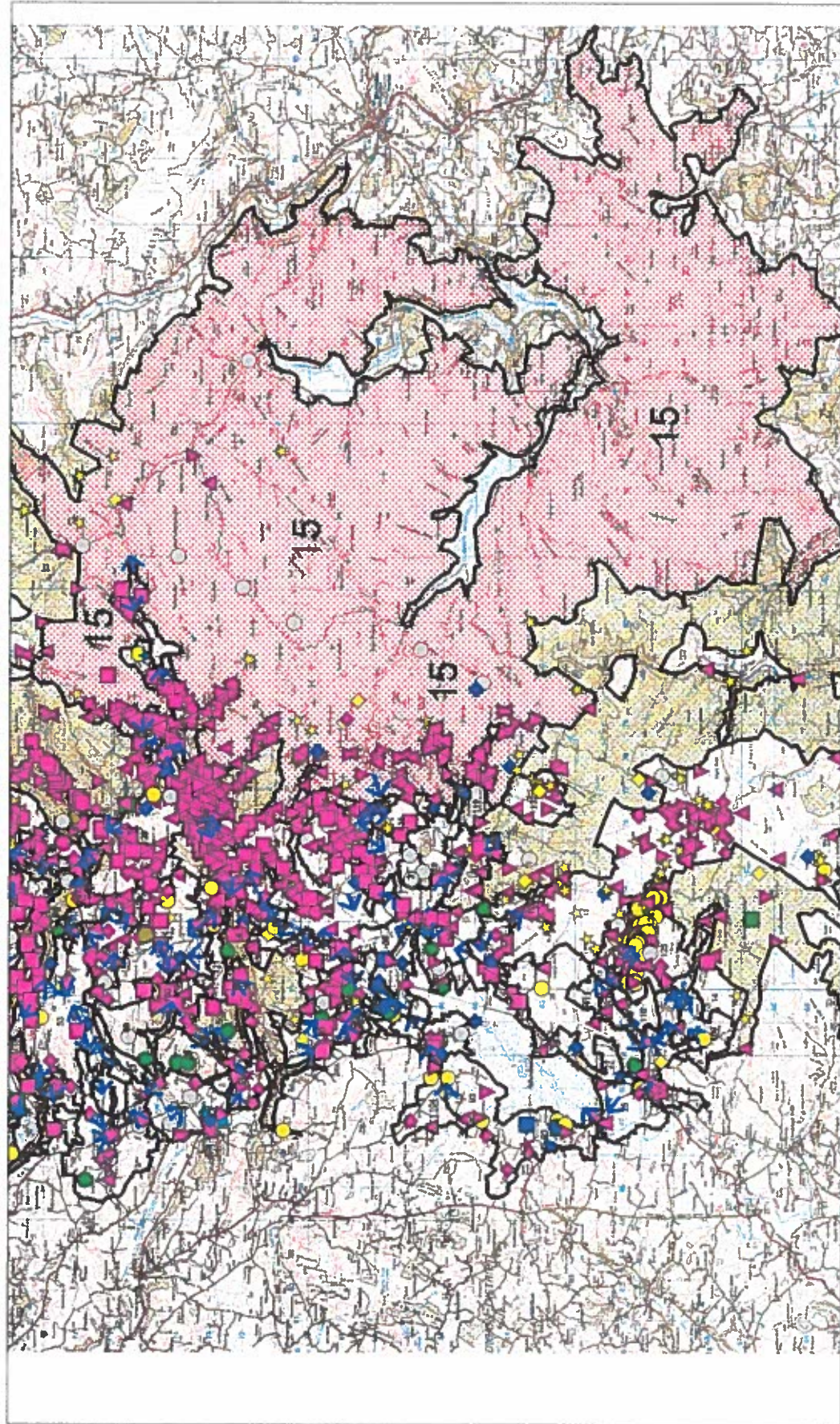


as folds, enclosures, shelters and field systems indicate that the lower-lying fringes of this area were occupied, through to the 19th century. Metal mining remains are also present.

This is a very well-defined area and is either bordered by large blocks of upland forestry (areas 3, 5, 6, 7), or by lower-lying enclosed and settled land (for example areas 17, 34, 44, 70, 83).

**Ground photographs:** 6, 7, 8, 9, 24, 37, 40, 70, 84, 125

**Aerial Photographs:** 12, 15, 20, 21, 23, 25, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 16 CWMYSTWYTH METAL MINES**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 806748

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 137.6

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#### **Historic Background**

This is a mining landscape; the historic landscape area is defined by the industrial archaeology. Archaeological excavations have demonstrated that open-cast copper mining was undertaken here in the Bronze Age (Timberlake 1995), and lead has been mined here since at least Roman times (Bick 1974, 19-23; Hughes 1981). Metal was probably worked under the control of Strata Florida Abbey in the Middle Ages as this area lay within Cwmystwyth Grange. In the 18th century prospecting for lodes by scouring the surface of the ground by a sudden rush of water - hushing - was practised; the channels and reservoirs of this process can still be seen. Metal mining in the 18th- and 19th-century have bequeathed a bewildering array of remains, an industrial archaeologist's paradise, including: tips, shafts, tramways, inclines, open-casts, crusher houses and other buildings. In the late 19th-century the search for blende resulted in the construction of a large crusher house - the rusting remains of which have only recently been swept away - and other installations. Work finally ceased at Cwmystwyth in 1921.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

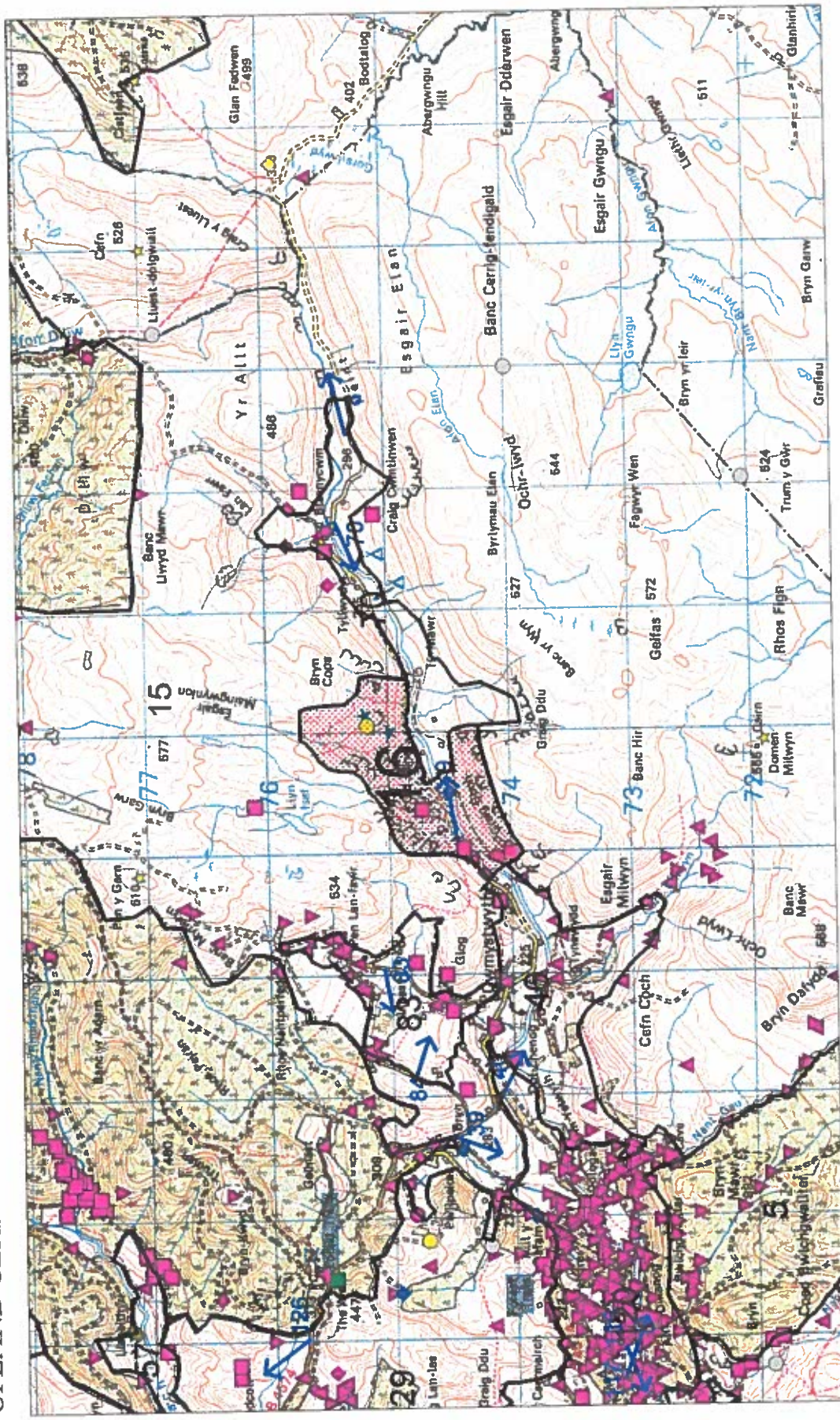
This area which is entirely defined by industrial archaeology lies across both valley sides and the valley floor of the Ystwyth. The valley here has a deep U-shaped profile, with the floor at 300m and the sides rising to over 500m. The sides are craggy, even cliff-like on the northern side; the many scree slopes are more likely to be the result of mining than natural processes. Mining remains are everywhere. These are varied and most are of a robust character. However, the surviving remains of buildings are in a perilous condition.

Recorded archaeology comprises remains directly associated with the metal mining industry, including finds of Roman date, or remains indirectly associated with the industry such as abandoned cottages.

This is a well-defined area comprising industrial archaeology of the metal mining industry. To the north and south is high, unenclosed moorland (area 15), and the enclosed and settled valley floor of the Ystwyth to the east and west (areas 70, 83).

#### **Ground photographs 9**

**Aerial Photographs:** 41, 42



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- Prehistoric site
- ★ Bronze Age barrow
- ◆ Bronze Age standing stone
- Other Bronze Age site
- Iron Age hillfort
- ◆ Other Iron Age site
- Roman fort
- ★ Roman finds
- ◆ Other Roman site
- Dark Age memorial stone
- ◆ Other Dark Age site
- Medieval church/chapel

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

- Medieval castle
- ◆ Other Medieval site
- Post-Medieval metal mine
- ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site
- ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church
- Post-Medieval platform house
- ◆ Other Post-Medieval site
- ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling
- ★ Modern site
- Other archaeological site

## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 17 FUCHES WEN**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 836799

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 1585

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#### **Historic Background**

For most of the historical period, the unenclosed character of this area probably ensured that it was considered Crown land. The only pre-tithe map of the area, dated to 1819, shows Fuches Wen as unenclosed sheep-walk. The tithe map shows a similar pattern; a pattern that has in general persisted to the present day.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This is a large block of undulating upland, mostly consisting of north- and northwest-facing slopes with a height range of 300m at its northern edge to over 500m at its high points. Craggy outcrops occur on the summits. Traditionally it consists of unenclosed moorland, with blanket bog at higher levels and peaty deposits in hollows and valleys. Earth boundary banks are present on the northern lower slopes close to Dyffryn Castell, but the enclosures formed by these are now largely redundant, and wire fences divide the area into very large enclosures. Large-scale land improvement over the past few decades has resulted in the transformation of much of the lower slopes, and some high level plateaux, into grassland grazing.

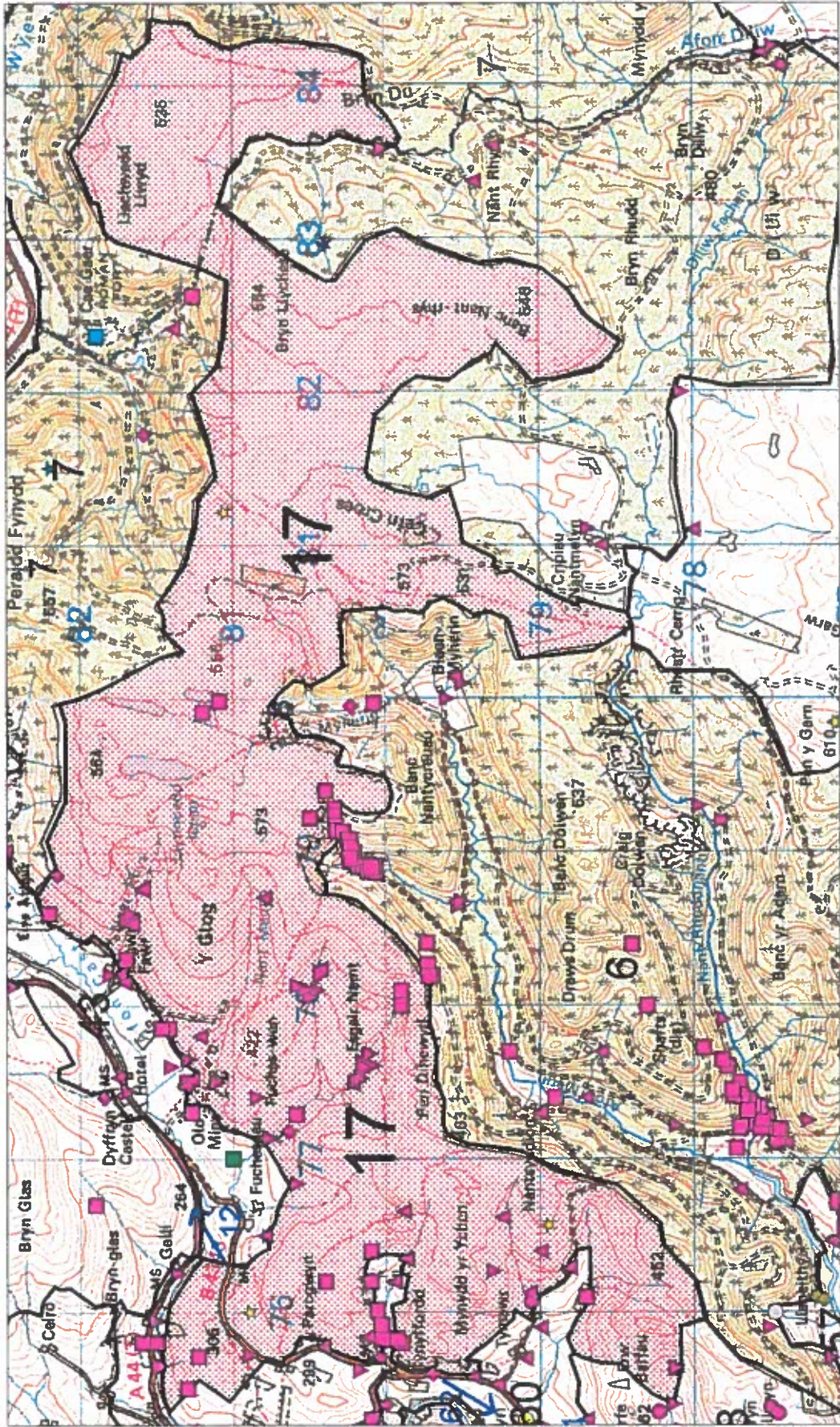
Recorded archaeology of this area consists mainly of post-Medieval sites. The greater proportion of these comprise deserted settlements and associated agricultural features such as folds, enclosures, pens and tracks, indicating a populated, albeit sparsely, upland area through to the 19th century. Metal mine remains are also present. A greater time-depth element to the landscape is provided by Bronze Age round barrows.

This is a well-defined area. To the northeast and east is the lower-lying enclosed settled land of Dyffryn Castell and Ponterwyd (areas 43, 60, 84), while to the south and east are extensive tracts of upland forestry.

**Ground photographs:** 52, 58, 82

**Aerial Photographs:** 48, 83





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ★ Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 18 BANC BWA-DRAIN

---

**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 723799

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 451.4

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#### **Historic Background**

At least part of this area of high unenclosed land lay within Cwm-hir Abbey's Nantyrarian Grange, an important pastoral property in 1291 (Williams 1990, 40). By the 18th century, and probably earlier, most of the land in this area was the property of Nanteos estate or Gogerddan estate. Late 18th- and early 19th-century estate maps (NLW Vol 45, 21-22, 35; Vol 37, 57, 60) show it as unenclosed sheep-walk - it is unlikely that it has ever been anything other than marginal land and moorland - with what appear to be two or three squatter houses surrounded by small enclosures. These have now gone. Although lead ore was recorded by Lewis Morris in the mid 18th-century, no attempt at mining seems to have been undertaken at Cwmbrwyno until 1849. Reservoirs and leats were constructed and adits sunk. Production ceased in 1888 (Bick 1983, 19-20). A communications tower, wind-farm and electricity transforming plant have all been constructed in this area in recent years.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

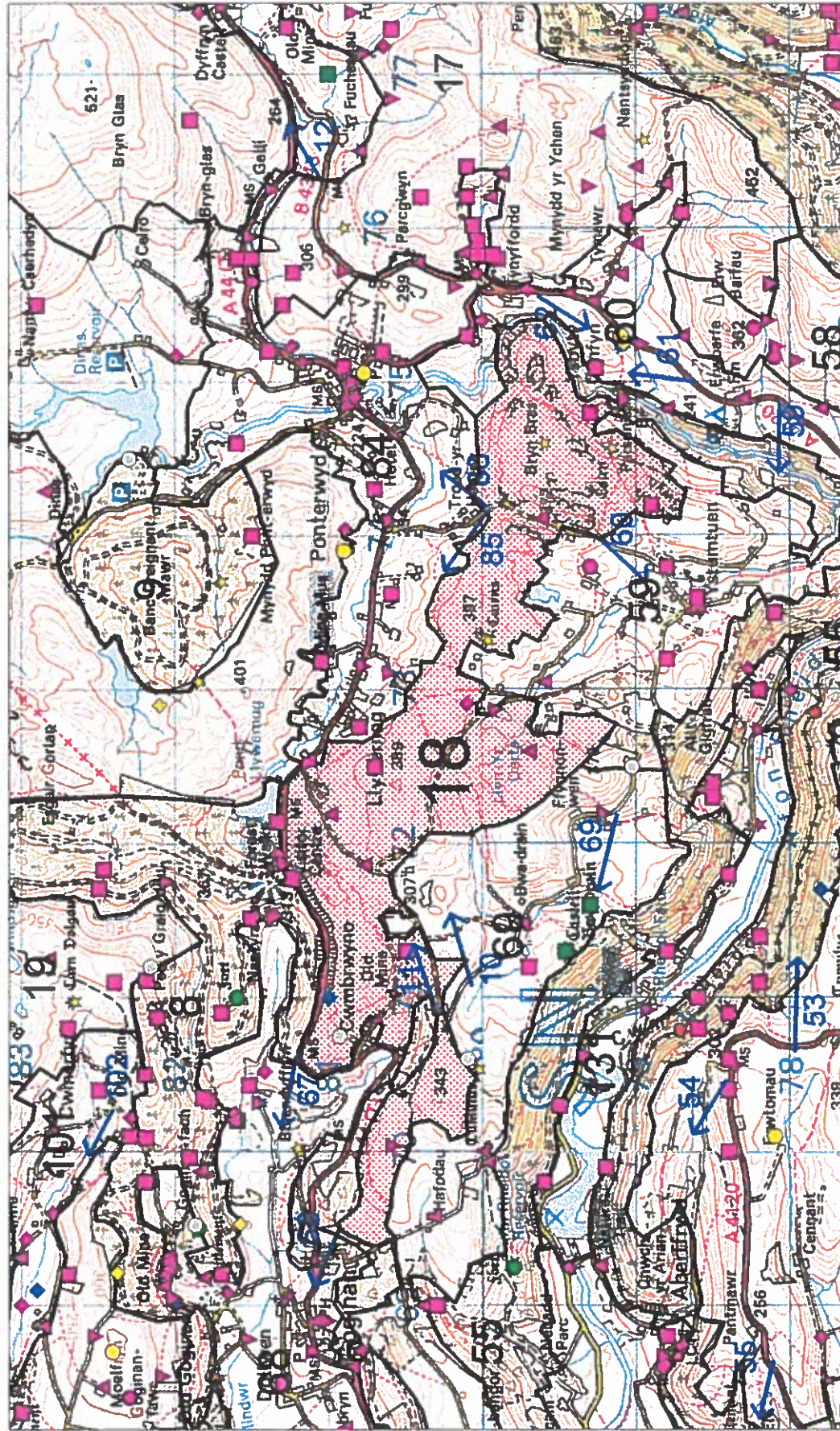
A high, craggy west-east aligned ridge which achieves a maximum height of 389m. It is essentially unenclosed moorland with peaty hollows, although large enclosures formed by wire fences and some disused earth-bank boundaries of unknown date lie at the western end of the area where the ridge summit descends to c. 340m. Here there are pockets of improved grazing. The sites of abandoned cottages on the ridge summit at the western end and on the fringes of the area are inconspicuous, but are important elements of the historic landscape. The remains of lead mining at Cwmbrwyno are obvious historic landscape features. In 1999, a programme of environmental improvements was undertaken at Cwmbrwyno. The buildings and reservoirs at the site will remain following these works as testimony to this once important industry. At the eastern end of the area, peat-filled hollows may be evidence of further reservoirs constructed to serve lead mines to the south in area 59. Much of the former remote feel to this area has been destroyed by the construction of a wind-farm and power-lines, a communications tower and transforming station.

In addition to metal mine remains, the recorded archaeology consists of abandoned settlement, probably of pre 19th-century date and Bronze Age round barrows. The latter provide time-depth to this landscape.

This block of high, unenclosed land is well-defined; lower-lying enclosed land (areas 59 and 69) lie to the south, and areas 68 and 84 to the north.

**Ground photographs:** 10, 11

**Aerial Photographs:** 49, 50, 78, 79, 82



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

27 →

location, direction and number of ground photographs

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 19 BANC TRAWSNANT

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 710827

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 139.6

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#### **Historic Background**

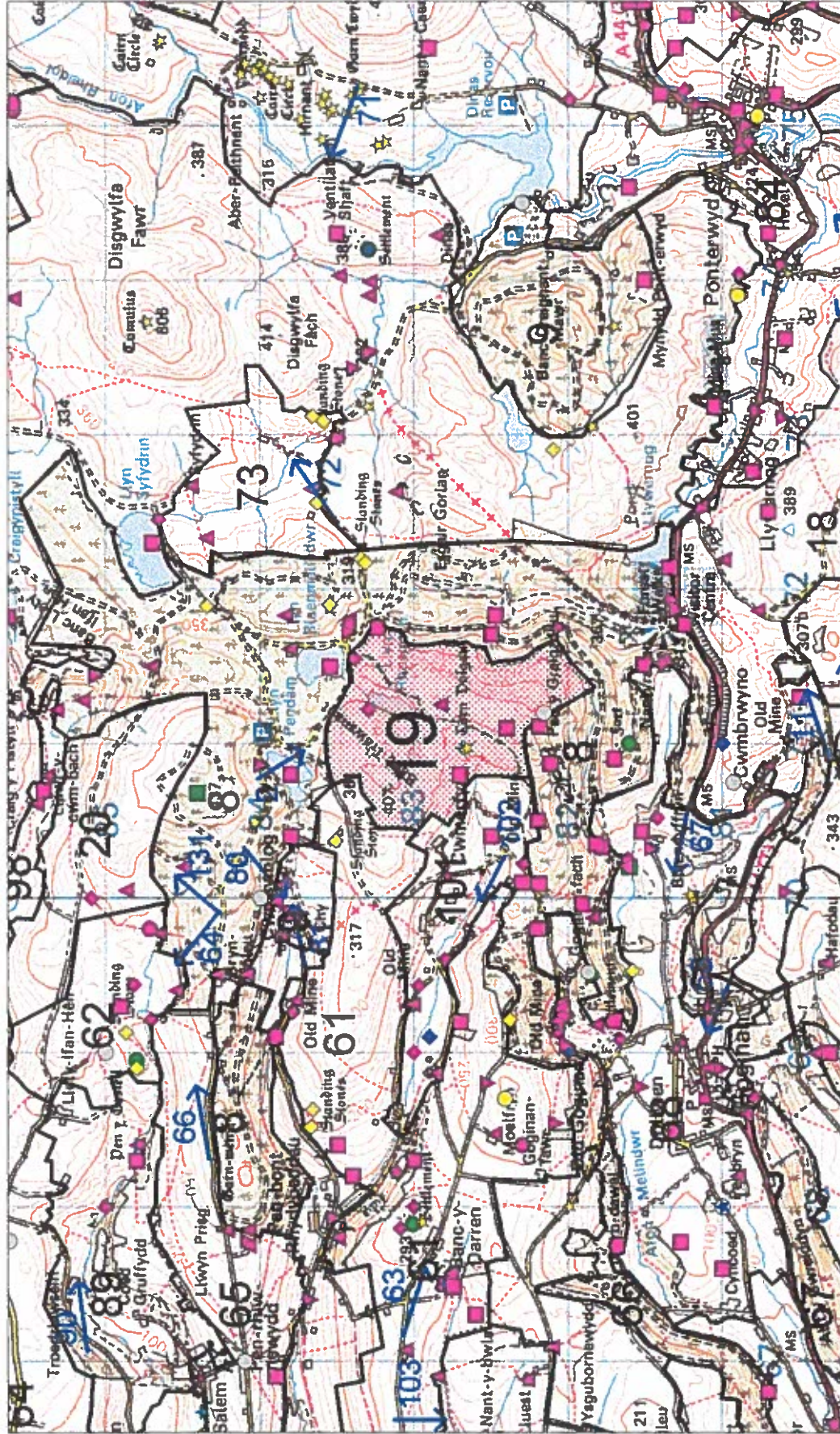
This small extent of upland lay within Gwestfa Cwm Rheidol in Cwmwd Perfedd. Its unenclosed character probably means that it was considered Crown land; it was used as sheep-walk and seasonal grazing, a function that has largely persisted to the present day. Metal ore deposits close to the southeast boundary of the area were exploited from the 18th century. Workings from Pwllrhenaidd mine encroached into this area from Cwmerfyn valley, while Ceunant mine lay wholly within it. Ceunant mine's best days were in the 18th century, but working continued into the 19th century (Bick 1983, 39-43)

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This small block of upland is now separated from more extensive tracts by a large conifer plantation. It consists of undulating, sometimes craggy, moorland ranging in height from 250m on the lower slopes to over 400m on the peaks. It is a treeless landscape of rough grazing and peaty hollows. Wire fences divide it into large enclosures, but these do not detract from its essentially unenclosed character. There are no settlements on it. Of note in this otherwise rather drab landscape are the remains of Ceunant metal mine, and the leats which run from reservoirs to the north, cross high ground, and serving mines located to the west.

Recorded archaeology consists of remains associated with the metal mining industry or quarrying, a deserted pre 19th-century settlement and a Bronze Age round barrow.

Upland forestry (area 8) defines this area to the north, east and south. To the west lies the valley mining community of Cwmerfyn (area 101), or a lower-lying enclosed ridge (area 61).



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 20 BANC LLECHWEDD-DDU**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 702850

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 131.7

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#### **Historic Background**

This area was part of Strata Florida's grange of Y Dywarchen. At the dissolution it became Crown land, eventually passing into the Gogerddan estate. It is presently unenclosed, and in historical times has always been unenclosed moorland. There are no settlements on it.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

A high craggy ridge which achieves a maximum height of 430m and runs down to 200m on the northern flanks. It consists of rough grazing with a few pockets of improved pasture. Modern field clearance cairns are present in recently improved land. Historically it is unenclosed, though wire fences divide the area into very large enclosures. There are no settlements. A series of leats, serving metal mines, run across the northern flanks of this area (Tucker 1976).

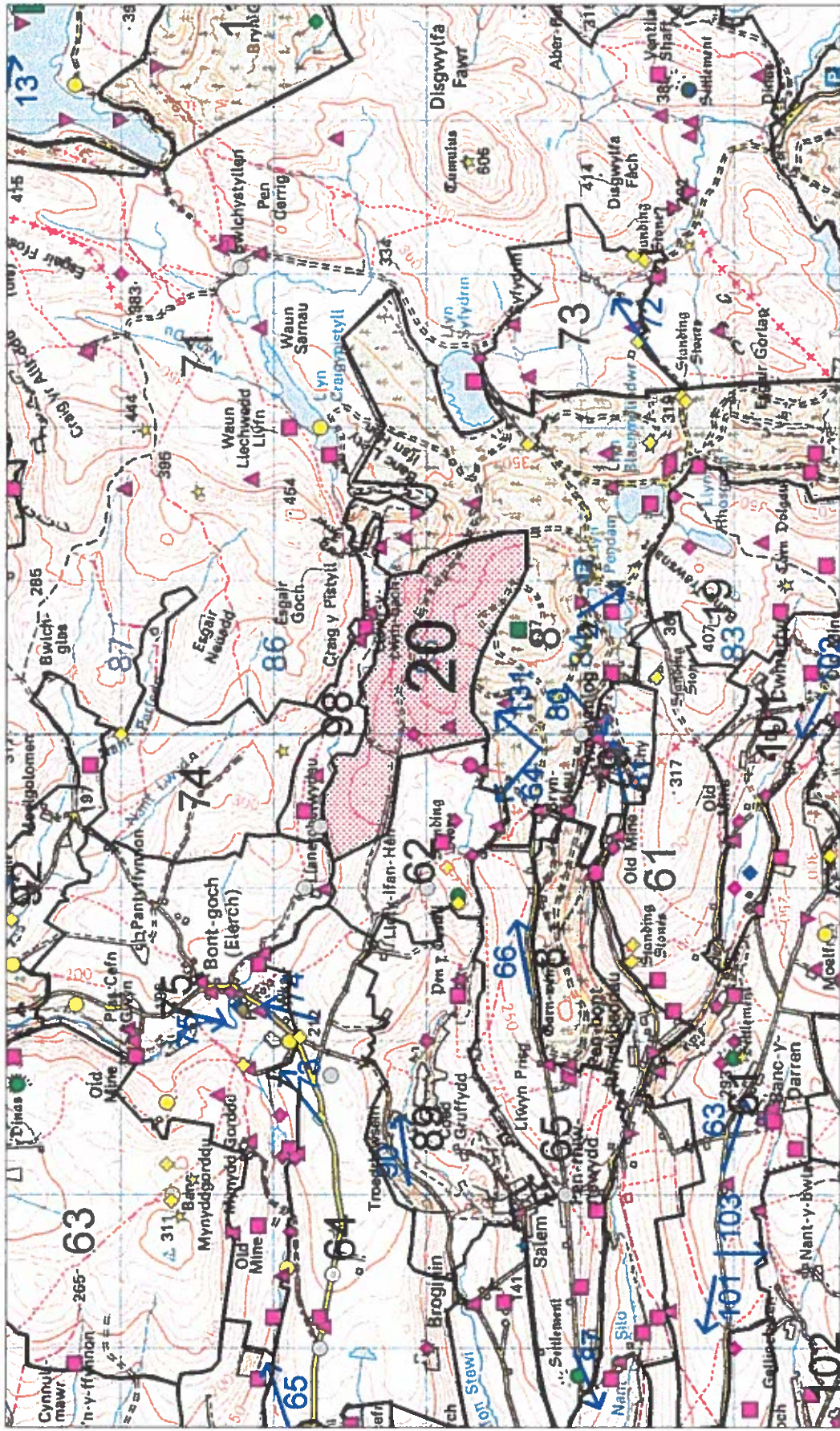
Apart from the leats mentioned above, recorded archaeology in this area comprises a deserted settlement of post-Medieval date.

This is a well defined area with forestry to the east and south (area 8), lower and formerly enclosed land to the west (area 62), and the valley of Llawer-y-cwm-bach to the north.

**Ground photographs:** 66, 131, 134

**Aerial Photographs:** 89, 90, 91, 92

## UPLAND CEREDIGION AREA 20



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

location, direction and number of ground photographs

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- | Prehistoric site          | Iron Age hillfort   | Other Roman site        | Medieval castle                     | Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | Modern site               |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Prehistoric site          | Iron Age hillfort   | Other Roman site        | Medieval castle                     | Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | Modern site               |
| Bronze Age barrow         | Other Iron Age site | Dark Age memorial stone | Other Medieval site                 | Post-Medieval platform house                                | Other archaeological site |
| Bronze Age standing stone | Roman fort          | Other Dark Age site     | Post-Medieval metal mine            | Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                           |
| Other Bronze Age site     | Roman finds         | Medieval church/chapel  | Other Post-Medieval industrial site | Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                           |



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 21 PURLIMON

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 805884

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 8986

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#### **Historic Background**

This very extensive area, which includes the summit of Purlimon, lies across the county boundary separating Ceredigion from Powys. The Powys side of the boundary has not been examined in detail, and revision of the area may be required if further research is carried out. Included in this area was part of Cwm-hir Abbey's Cwmbuga Grange. The unenclosed character of most of this land probably means that it was claimed by the Crown. It included the Crown Manor of Perfedd. Records of Cwmbuga Grange indicate considerable sheep-walks and summer pasture - a function that has generally survived across the whole area to the present day. Though there are now no occupied settlements in the area, historical sources indicate that in the 18th century a pattern of dispersed settlement existed. Many of these settlements were referred to as *lluest* (Vaughan 1966), which may indicate that their origins lay within a system of transhumance. In 1744, Lewis Morris, the Deputy Steward of the Crown Manor of Perfedd, described them as 'small cottages which were originally summer houses for shepherds and have an inclosure of a few acres of ground annexed to them.' (Vaughan 1966, 257). Morris seems to have described a system in decline as some of the settlements he lists were deserted. By the end of the 18th century they had declined dramatically in numbers and by the mid 19th-century had all but gone leaving a deserted landscape. Purlimon lead mine commenced production in this remote area in 1866 and continued until 1891 (Bick 1983, 6-8).

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

An extensive and remote area which includes steep-sided valleys down to 250m and the craggy summit of Purlimon at 752m. Almost the whole of this area consists of moorland and rough grazing with blanket bog at higher levels and peaty deposits in high valleys and hollows. Old earth bank boundaries formerly divided small portions of the lower slopes into large fields, but these enclosures are now largely redundant, and widely spaced wire fences provide stock-proof boundaries. Large-scale land improvement over the past few decades has resulted in the transformation of much of the lower slopes, and some high level plateaux, into grassland grazing. This is a treeless landscape with no habitations. Spoil tips, shafts, tramways and wheel pits at the old Purlimon and other metal mines are among the most obvious components of the historic landscape in this area.

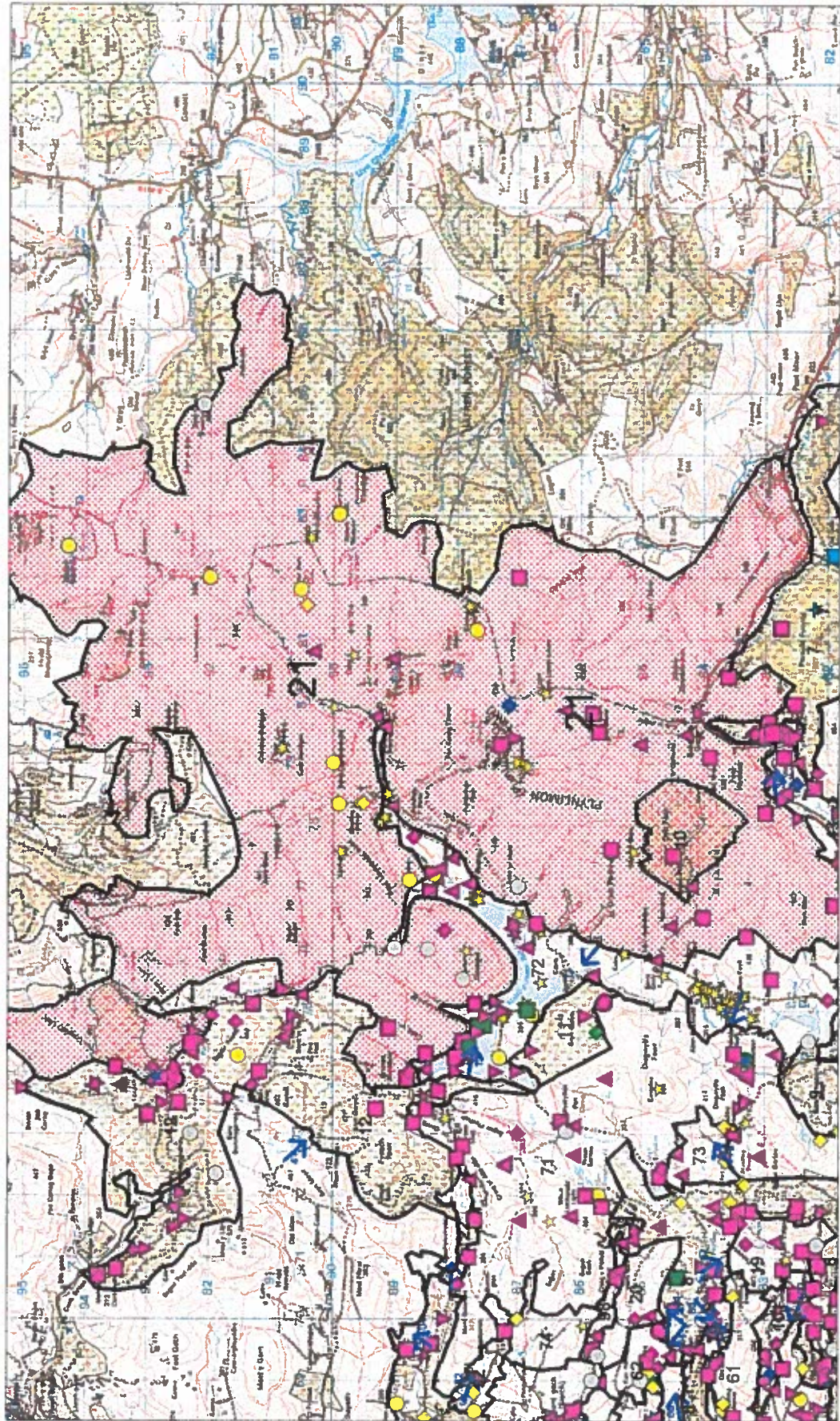
Apart from the metal mines mentioned above, recorded archaeology consists of Bronze Age round barrows/cairns and find spots, and post-Medieval settlement sites and associated remains. The round barrows/cairns located on summits, such as the group on Purlimon are dramatic elements of the landscape. Post-Medieval settlements which are concentrated on the lower slopes indicate a populated landscape until the 19th century.

To the north and east the exact boundaries of this area have yet to be defined. To the west lies upland forestry (area 12) and the Rheidol valley, including Nant y Moch reservoir (area 72). The definition between this area and 72 is not particularly good, and should be considered a merging boundary rather than a hard line. To the south the low-lying, enclosed and settled Dyffryn Castell (area 43) lies in sharp contrast with this upland block.

**Ground photographs:** 12, 13, 73

**Aerial Photographs:** 83, 86





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

27

location, direction and number of ground photographs

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |



## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 22 CYNEINIOG**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 719881

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 70.1

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#### **Historic Background**

The history of this area has not been researched, and is therefore unknown. The only settlement in the area is Cyneiniog Farm with its associated field system. This farm was in existence by the early 19th-century, and is perhaps likely to be of some antiquity. It is now separated from the lower Cyneiniog valley by forestry planted in the 1960s. Part of the plantation is included in this area. A short-lived railway/tramroad built in 1897 to serve the mines on high ground to the east passes through this area.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

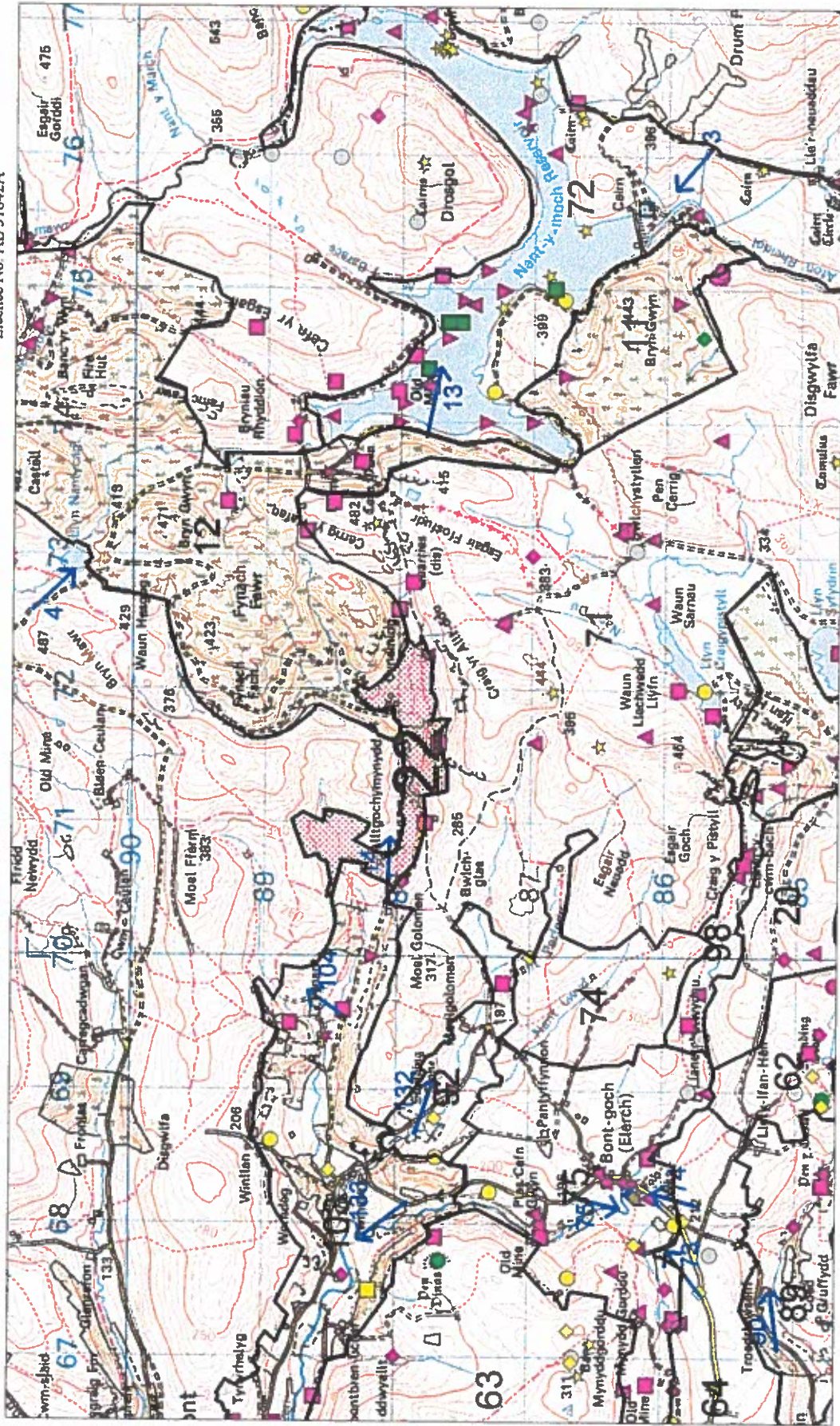
The upper Cyneiniog valley is steep sided and narrow. The valley floor is at 180m, the valley sides rise to over 400m. Only the valley floor and gentle lower slopes are included in this area. Cutting across, but included in this area, and separating the valley to the east from that to the west, is a tract of 1960s conifer plantation. To the west of the forestry the valley floor has been divided into small fields by boundary banks and walls. Some of these fields are overgrown and beginning to revert to rough pasture and moorland, though others are still used as hay meadows. Deciduous woodland of a very open nature which has established itself on the lower slopes lends a distinctive character to this area. The area to the east of the plantation, including Cyneiniog Farm, has not been examined on the ground. An embankment and other features of a railway/tramroad are obvious components of the historic landscape. Buildings include the listed stone-built, two-storey house of Alltgochymynydd and its ruined out-buildings at each end.

Recorded archaeology comprises minor metal mines and a deserted post-Medieval settlement. All are located on the southern boundary of this area.

The boundary between this area and the Cyneiniog valley to the west is not at all well-defined, and should be regarded as a broad zone rather than a hard line. A steep valley side of open moorland provides a clear limit of demarcation to the south (area 71). Included in this area is modern forestry, of which the greater proportion has been assigned its own area (12).

**Ground photograph:** 14

**Aerial Photographs:** 87, 95



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ◆ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 23 FFAIR RHOS

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 745678

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 165.5

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#### **Historic Background**

Ffair Rhos lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Mefenydd Grange. It was granted a fair by the Abbey. Post-Dissolution, Ffair Rhos's fairs were the greatest in Ceredigion. Fair days were 25 July, 15 August and 14 September, and in James I's time were said to attract 5000-6000 people (Howells 1974/75, 270). Jones (1974, 17) states that one fair was still held in 1974. One of the attractions of the fairs was the transport links; Ffair Rhos is located at the junction of a major north-south route and an east-west route that passes over the mountains giving access to the towns of east Wales and England. The settlement pattern and land-use in the Medieval period is unknown. At the Dissolution of the Abbey its former lands were granted to the Earl of Essex, and in 1630 most were purchased by the Crosswood estate. A map drawn up for the Crosswood estate in 1815 (NLW Crosswood 347), which seems to have been for an enclosure act that was never awarded, shows a scatter of smallholdings across Ffair Rhos. No schedule accompanies the map, but it would seem that these were squatter settlements on common land, with perhaps some difference shown between those that had been established for 20 years or more, and so were to be granted legal title to the land, and those of less than 20 years. In the absence of an enclosure award, squatter settlement and small-scale enclosure seems to have continued apace in the first half of the 19th century, as the tithe map of 1847 (Gwynnws Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1847) records more cottages and smallholdings. Settlement reached its peak in the mid 19th-century. A chapel was constructed here in 1905 (Percival 1998, 523). It is now redundant. Many of the 19th century dwellings have been recently modernised, or are undergoing modernisation.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

An upland valley or hollow between 240m to 400m centred on the hamlet of Ffair Rhos. Ffair Rhos is a small linear settlement on either side of a minor road. Dispersed over the landscape are numerous farmsteads, cottages and small-holdings. Land-use is rough pasture, tending towards ungrazed moor. Peaty deposits are common. Some improved pasture is present on lower ground towards the east end of the area. There are no significant stands of trees. The whole area has been parcelled up into an irregular field system. The boundaries to this system comprise earth banks or earth and stone banks. Hedges are not generally present except on the lower ground close to Ffair Rhos hamlet, but even here they are derelict and no longer stockproof. Wire fences now top most of the older bank boundaries, and some new wire boundaries have been created. Many of the older enclosures on the higher slopes no longer function and have been merged into larger units. Older buildings are of stone with slate roof; modern buildings are of rendered concrete with slate or concrete tiles. Williams (1990, 59) records a Medieval perimeter boundary to Ffair Rhos, but this has not been seen by the present author.

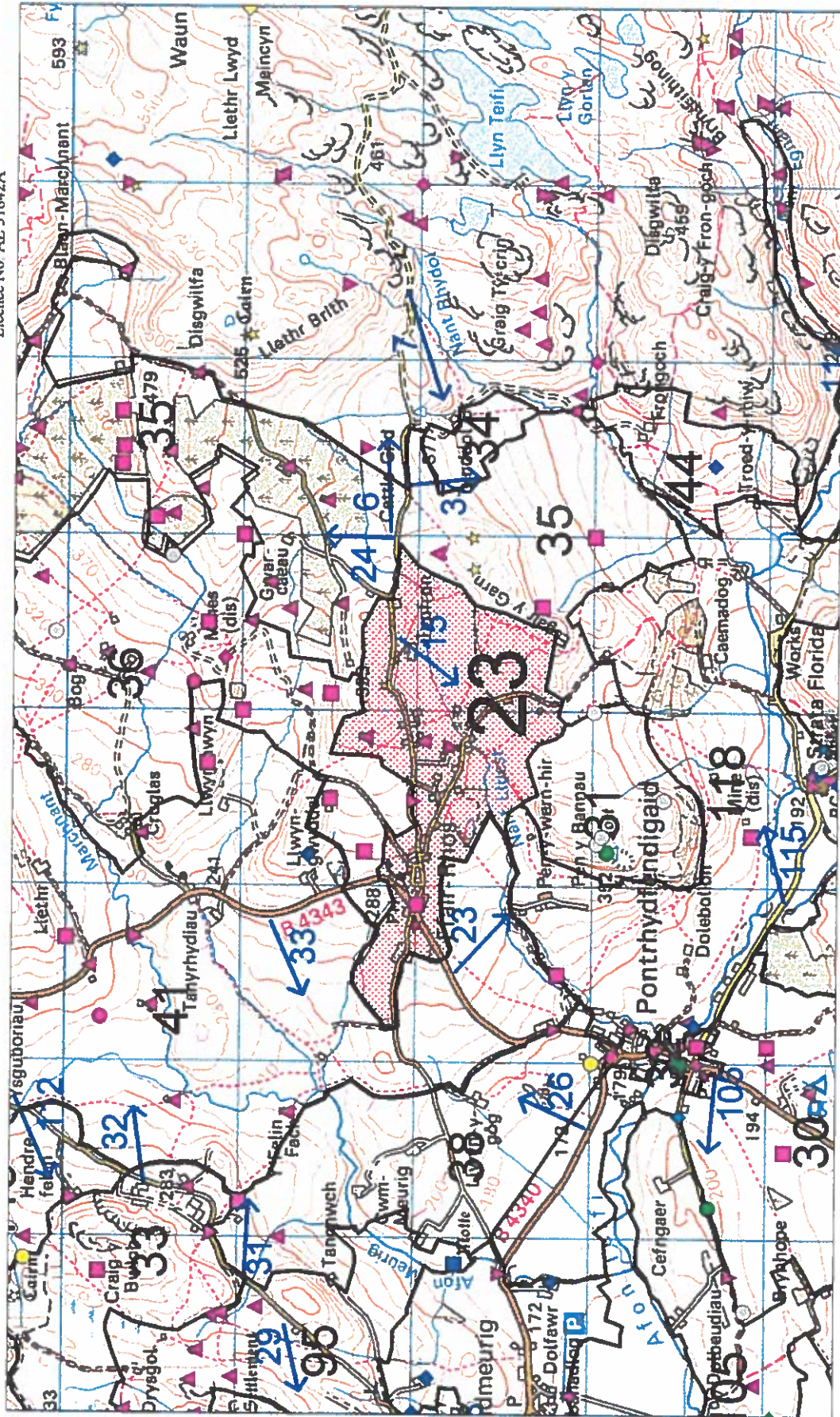
Apart from a minor metal mine and a redundant chapel, recorded archaeology comprises several deserted cottages.

The boundaries of this landscape area are not particularly well defined. To the north, east and west it fades into unenclosed moorland or land that has now mostly reverted to moor. To the west lies area 41;; land consisting of large enclosures of improved and unimproved ground.

**Ground photographs:** 15

**Aerial Photographs:** 10, 22, 23, 24, 27

## UPLAND CEREDIGION AREA 23



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

---

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 24 TREGARON

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 679597

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 37.1

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#### **Historic Background**

The dedication of the church to Caron, the presence of three early Christian monuments and a circular churchyard indicate an early foundation for Tregaron Church (Ludlow 1998). The church may have encouraged the development of a small settlement in the pre Anglo-Norman period. In 1290, Edward I granted to Geoffrey Clement the privileges of holding a weekly market and two annual fairs at Tregaron (Soulsby, 1983, 255). The town developed from this. A considerable boost was given to the town by the drovers' trade; Soulsby (1983, 256) records the period 1820-40 as one of considerable growth. Further growth was promoted by the opening of the Milford and Manchester Railway in 1866. The town has not developed greatly outside its historic core during the 20th century

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

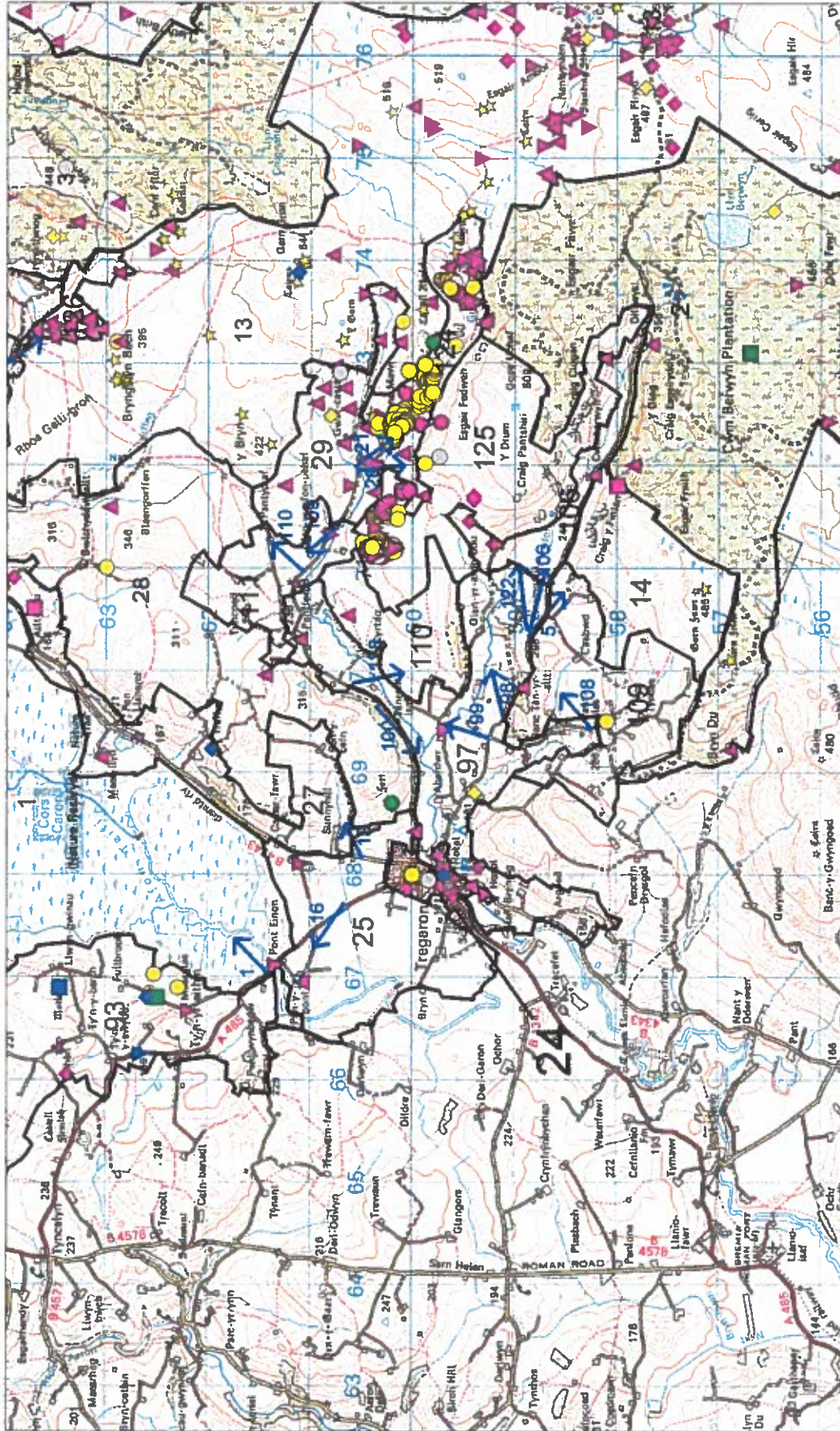
The small town of Tregaron. The historic core is centred on a market square where the fine Talbot Hotel is sited, and the church, with secondary development found on the west bank of the Brennig towards the former railway station. Older buildings are of local stone with non-local slate roofs. Some are cement rendered. The town is still a compact, nucleated settlement, with very little ribbon development on its fringes. Modern buildings are mostly limited to the periphery of the town and consist of residential development, schools, a hospital and light industrial units. There has been little in the way of modern redevelopment in the historic centre. A variety of materials are represented in the modern buildings: including concrete, brick and steel.

Apart from buildings and monuments the only other recorded archaeology in this area comprises finds of Bronze Age date.

Urban development of Tregaron is very well-defined - there is no over-spill into the surrounding agricultural historic landscape areas (areas 25, 27, 97).

**Aerial Photographs:** 4, 59, 60





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 ➔ location, direction and number of ground photographs

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 25 YSTRAD CARON

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 674603  
**AREA IN HECTARES:** 273.4

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#### **Historic Background**

This area of river terrace to the west of Tregaron probably comprised lands granted to the town of Tregaron that functioned either as a sub-divided field or common, though as no research has been undertaken to substantiate this. By the late 18th-century the land had been divided between several large estates: Nanteos, Crosswood and Thomas Johnes's Llanfair Clydogau estate. For the sake of clarity it is easier to break down the description of this area into sub-areas based broadly on farm boundaries:

An 1819 estate map (NLW Vol 45; 54) shows the farmhouse of Ystrad Caron with one small close set in a sea of unenclosed land labelled 'Ystrad', with some small enclosures shown belonging to several different holdings close to the river to the south of Ystrad Caron.

East of Tregaron the land in 1819 is shown parcelled up into the system of regular enclosures that now exist. A further map of 1819 (NLW Vol 45; 56) demonstrates that the system of regular fields to the north of the town had been laid out by then; subsequent further subdivision of these large enclosures took place in the 19th century. This pattern of enclosure had been firmly established by 1808 (NLW Nanteos 216), with some additional enclosure, now gone and or derelict, on the fringes of Cors Caron to the north. A estate map of 1791 (NLW Vol 36; 147) indicates that a boundary on the fringes of Cors Caron had been newly laid out - though it is however difficult to reconcile this boundary with the modern landscape.

The same map (NLW Vol 36; 147) shows Pen-y-bont farm surrounded by small, irregular enclosures with the current pattern of regular, larger fields further out.

By 1845 (Caron Tithe Map and Apportionment) the field system now in existence across the whole of this landscape area had been finalised.

Pen-y-bont farm is a substantial farm - the building at least of 18th century date - that was originally part of the Herbert estate (the Herberts of Powis Castle were rapaciously acquiring properties in Ceredigion in the 16th century). It passed into the hands of Thomas Johnes and was the home of John Jones, Thomas Johnes's Hafod agent in the 18th century (Rees 1936, 54).

Estate map evidence and the pattern of a regular system of medium-sized fields suggests that this area was largely unenclosed until the 18th century, and was only fully enclosed during the early- to mid 19th-century. The presence of a relatively large block of unenclosed, rich, level farmland on the outskirts of Tregaron at least down to 1819 is not easy to explain. It may have been common that had been acquired by the Nanteos estate and subsequently enclosed, or possibly a former subdivided field system that had been engrossed into a few holdings, but not enclosed until the 18th century. Pen-y-bont farm is clearly of greater antiquity, the present building dates to the first half of the 17th century (Lloyd-Johnes 1952-55, 170), but whether it originated in the 16th century under the Herbert family, or is older is not known.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

A block of regular, medium-sized enclosures on a terrace of the Afon Caron and Afon Teifi, to the east and north of Tregaron at a height of 160 to 170m. Improved pasture dominates, with virtually no unimproved land or rough grazing. The fields are divided by earth banks topped by hedges. On the western side of the area the hedges are in good condition and well maintained. Towards the northeastern edge the hedges are in poorer condition and some have become derelict; wire fences have replaced the hedges. Here also the earth banks are less substantial than to the west. The farm of Pen-y-bont is substantial and stone built, and, though not examined in detail, dates to the first half of the 17th century.

The farm has many modern buildings annexed to it. An old railway line - the Milford Manchester Railway of 1866 - runs across the western side of this area from north to south.

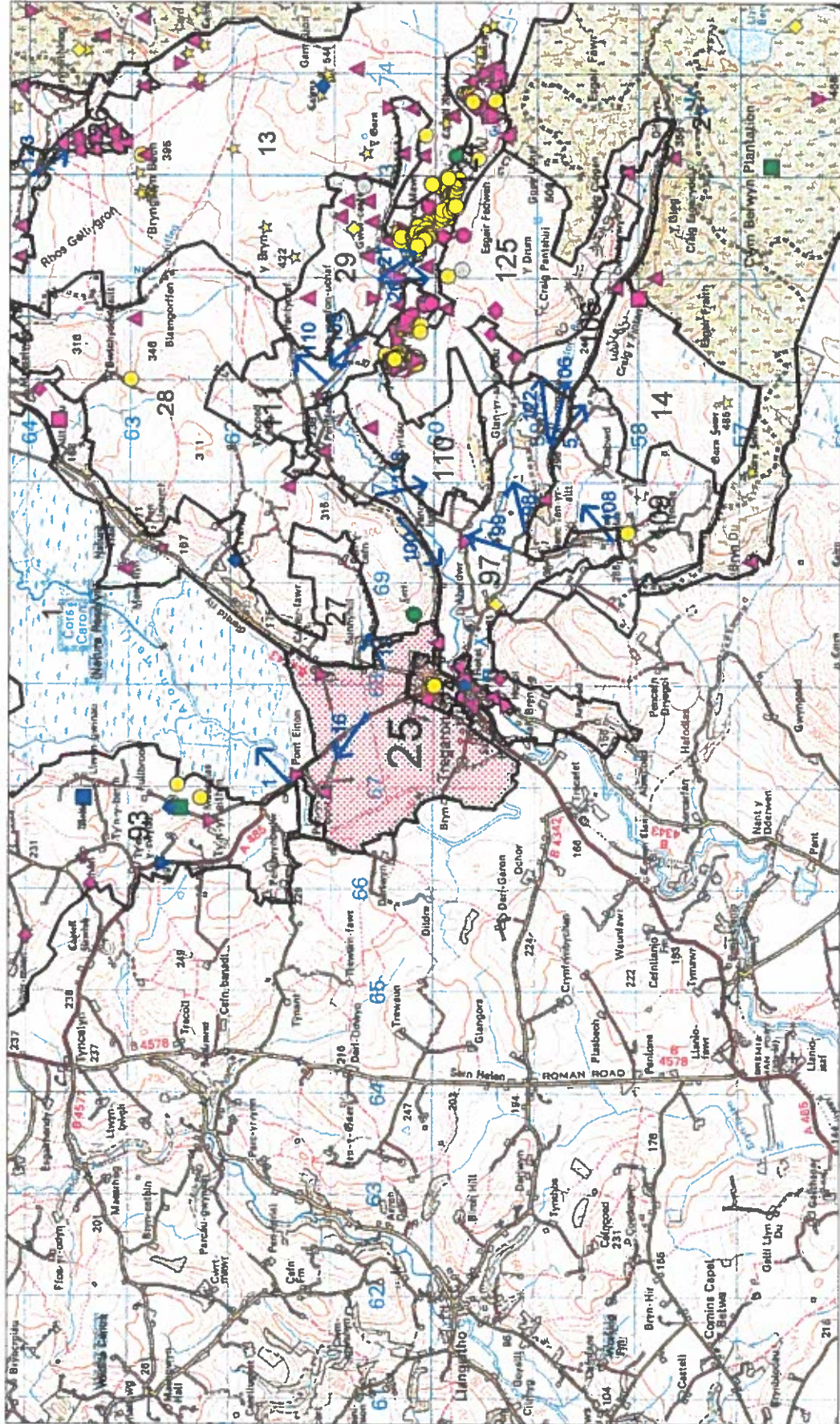
Recorded archaeology comprises two standing buildings and a bridge - all of post-Medieval date.

This landscape area is delineated by clear boundaries except to the northwest: to the north is Cors Caron/Tregaron Bog (area 1). Tregaron town lies to the southwest, and the Afon Teifi to the west. On the northwest side this area gradually fades into area 93.

**Ground photograph: 16**

**Aerial Photographs: 4, 59, 60**





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 ➔ location, direction and number of ground photographs

## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 26 SWYDDFFYNNON**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 693659

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 159.5

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Mefenydd Grange. A water mill was recorded here (Williams 1990, 57). The place-name Swyddffynnon may indicate residence of an official of the grange. At the dissolution all Strata Florida's holdings were granted to the Earl of Essex. Soon after, the land around Swyddffynnon seems to have been purchased by the Lloyds of Ffosybleiddiaid and later acquired by the Vaughans of Crosswood. Historic maps including the tithe map of 1844 (Lledrod Tithe Map and Apportionment) and late 18th-century estate maps (NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 62; NLW Crosswood Vol 2, 18) show the area very much as it is today - scattered farms and small enclosures - with no indication of the processes involved in its evolution, though it is likely that most of the farms date to the later Medieval Period, if not earlier. However, aerial photographs taken in 1999 for this project seem to indicate strip divisions in some fields, suggesting a former sub-divided or common field system. The origin of the hamlet of Swyddffynnon is uncertain although it was sufficiently populous in 1743 for a chapel to be built (Percival 1998, 523).

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

Undulating ground ranging from 160m to 205m on the north east side of Cors Caron (area 1) centred on the hamlet of Swyddffynnon. The landscape is one of scattered farms and small enclosures with small stands of deciduous and conifer woodland. Boundaries are of earth banks or stone and earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are in fair to good condition; some have been replaced or supported with wire fences. Improved pasture is the predominate land-use, though some patches of rougher grazing are evident. Houses are mostly stone-built with slate roofs. Farms have modern buildings attached to them. The hamlet of Swyddffynnon comprises a nucleated settlement, including a small school, and is a mixture of older stone-built dwellings and modern buildings of rendered concrete.

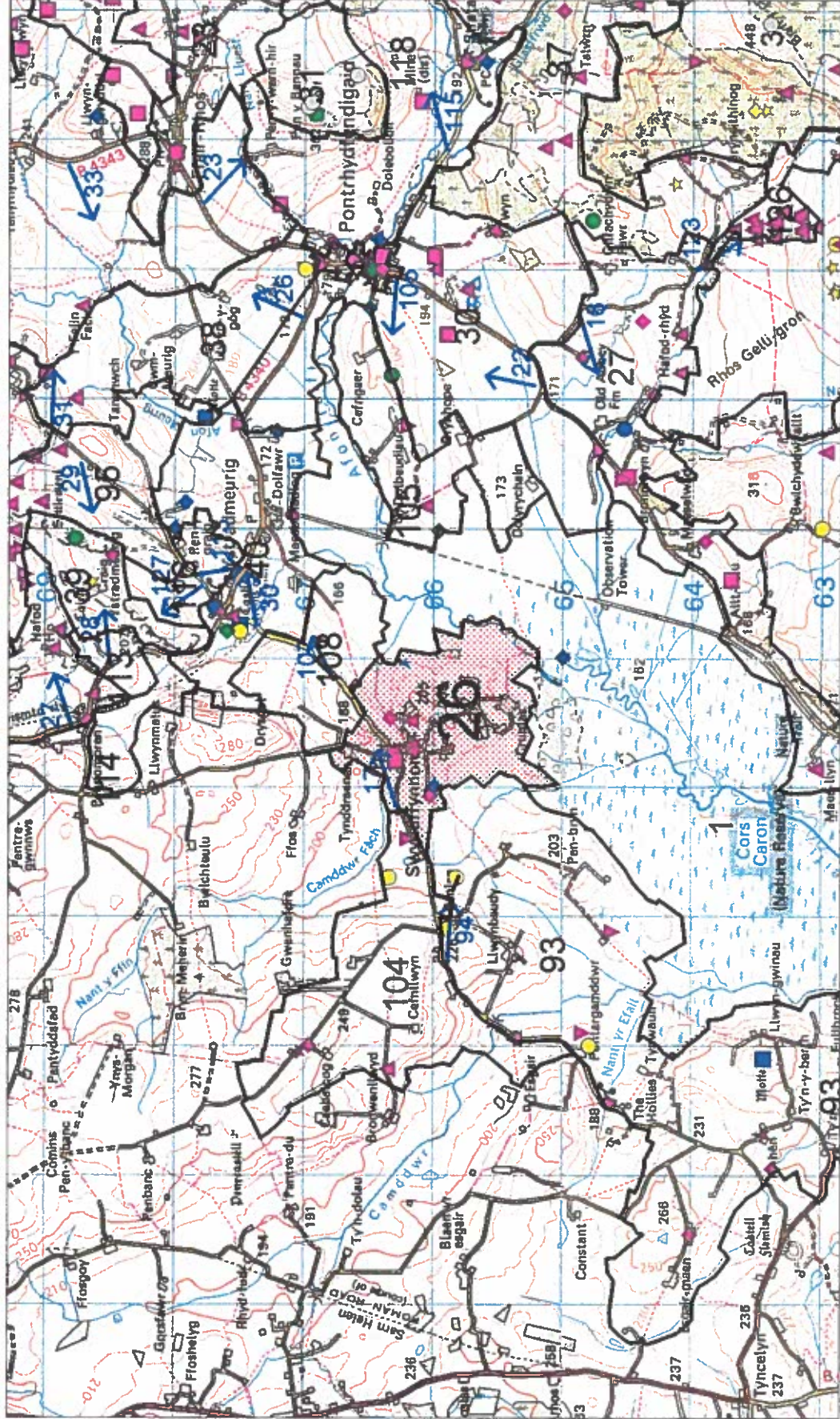
The recorded archaeology of this area consists mostly of post-Medieval sites. These are, however, varied, and as well as including domestic and ecclesiastic standing structures, a mill, woollen factory, gin, metal mine and smithy are also recorded. Time depth to the landscape is provided by place-names indicating the site of a Medieval holy well and a Bronze Age round barrow.

This area is very well defined to the south and east where it runs down to Cors Caron (area 1). To the north it fades into an area of larger enclosures (area 108). To the west is enclosed land and rough grazing (area 93).

**Ground photographs:** 17, 94

**Aerial Photographs:** 1, 3





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 27 SUNNYHILL AND OLD ABBEY FARM

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 692628

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 425.4

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period, the largest part of this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Pennardd Grange (Williams 1990, 56). There is a tradition that the original abbey site lay within this area at Yr Hen Fynachlog Farm (Radford 1971); substantial foundations were uncovered here in the 19th century (Williams 1889). As with most of Strata Florida's other granges it is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, Pennardd was probably divided into many farms which were leased out and farmed on a commercial basis. Therefore the settlement pattern of this area may be quite ancient. At the dissolution, Strata Florida's lands were granted to the Earl of Essex, with the demesne land acquired by John Stedman. In 1630, the Vaughan family of Crosswood purchased much of the former grange land. In 1746, Stedman lands passed into the Nanteos estate. Sunnyhill in the 18th century was the residence of the Powell family of Nanteos for several decades (Rees 1936, 61), and a former garden here is included on the Welsh Historic Gardens Database for Cardiganshire (RCAHMS, Welsh Historic Gardens Database). The layout of the garden is shown on a 1819 estate map. A water mill was recorded at Maes-llyn in 1682 (Rees 1936, 60). Historic map evidence (Caron Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1845; NLW Crosswood Vol, 1 8, 12, 14, 16, 20; NLW Crosswood Vol 2, 3; NLW Vol 45, 54; NLW Vol 36, 147) of the late 18th- and early 19th-century demonstrate that the modern landscape of this landscape area had by then already been established. The settlement pattern, field systems and woodland areas have hardly changed since the compilation of these maps.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area comprises a strip of flat ground on the east side of Cors Caron and the lower, northwest-facing valley sides. It lies between 165m and 200m. Agricultural land is now mostly improved pasture, though there are patches of rougher grazing and rushy ground in hollows close to Cors Caron. The overall characteristic is of small, irregular fields and dispersed farms with deciduous woodland on the steeper valley sides. Boundaries consist of earth banks with hedges. Hedges are generally in good condition and are stock-proof, though in the southern part of the area and on the higher slopes they are becoming derelict and have been replaced with wire fences. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farms. Older traditional buildings are stone built with slate roofs. Modern buildings are rendered concrete with slate or concrete tile. Most farms are surrounded by a suite of modern farm buildings. Included in this area is the listed 19th century farmhouse of Maes-llyn. This area is within a route corridor. A disused railway runs through the area from south to north. The present B4363 follows the eastern side of Cors Caron linking the medieval settlements and fairs of Pontryhdfendigaid, Ffair Rhos, Ystbyty Ystwyth and Machynlleth to the north with those of Tregaron, Llanddewi Breifi and Lampeter to the south.

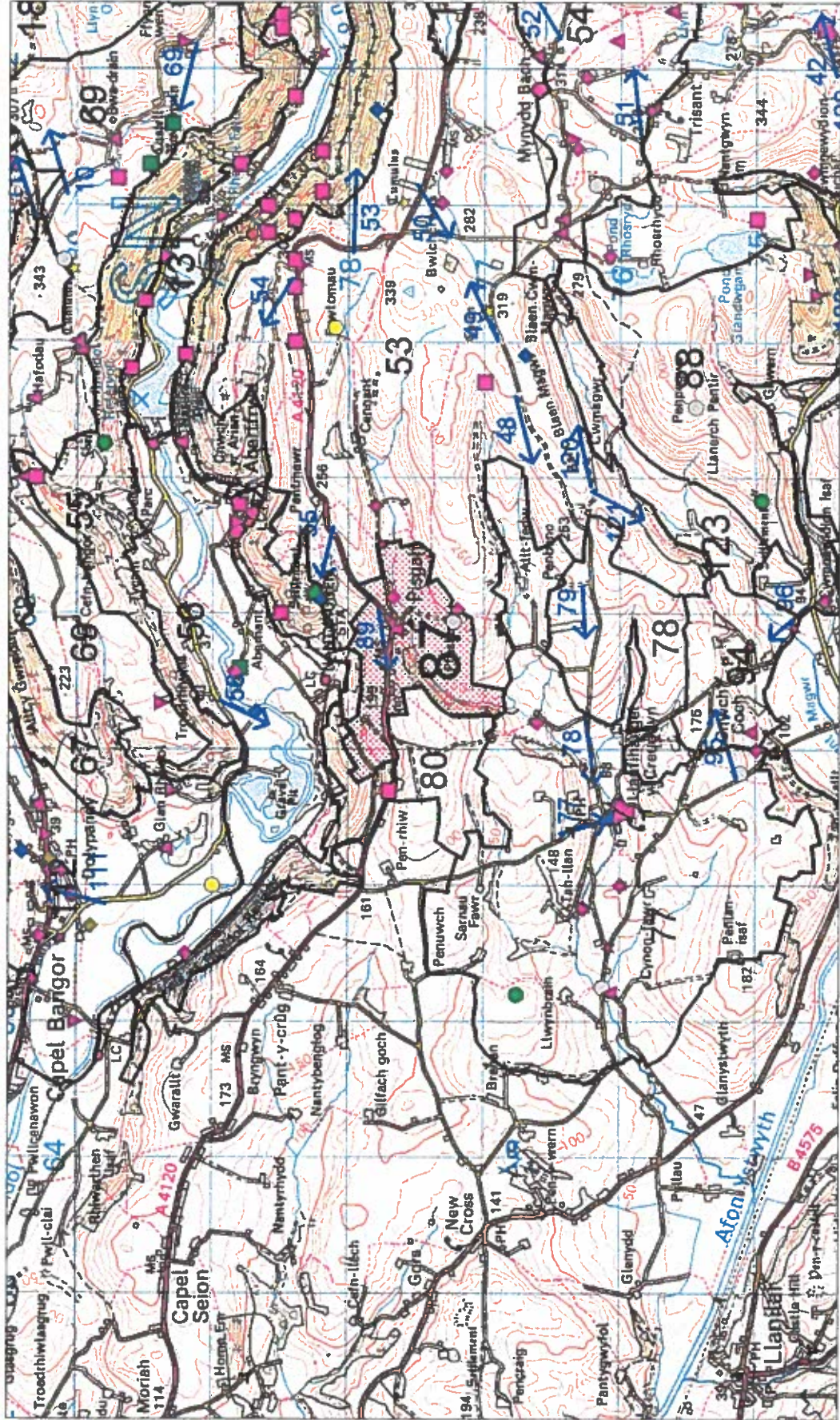
Recorded archaeology mostly comprises sites of post-Medieval date and includes a chapel and Sunday school as well as several dwellings and two minor metal mines. The possible former site of Strata Florida Abbey is included on the record as well as a documentary source to a Medieval settlement at Treflyn.

Boundaries of this area are well defined. Cors Caron (area 1) lies to the west and the larger enclosures on higher ground of area 28 to the east, with unenclosed land (area 13) in the northeast corner. Regular enclosures of area 28 lie to the north. Only on the southern boundary at the junction of area 25 is there uncertainty where the exact boundary should be drawn.

**Ground photographs:** 18, 19, 86

**Aerial Photographs:** 1





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

location, direction and number of ground photographs

27 →

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 88 RHOS RHYDD

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 697753

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 281.3

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#### **Historic Background**

The early history of this small block of upland pasture has not been researched, but by the 18th century it was divided between the Crosswood and Nanteos estates. Late 18th- and early 19th-century estate maps (NLW Crosswood Deeds No.5, Ser IV, Vol 1, 16; NLW Vol 45, 41 and 42; NLW Nanteos 348 and 349) show this area as unenclosed sheep-walk with isolated, minor enclosures on the fringes. By the tithe survey of 1847 (Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn parish) the area had been sub-divided into a few very large enclosures, but aerial photographs of the 1940s record it as having reverted back to unenclosed sheep-walk.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This landscape area is located at the western end of a rounded ridge which achieves a maximum height of 310m. To the west, north and south the land falls away steeply down to c. 100m into the valleys of the Newidion and Magwr. Included in this area is the ridge crest and sides. There are no occupied settlements. Most of the land is now improved grazing, though pockets of rough pasture and patches of bracken are present on steep slopes. The area has been divided by wire fences. Some of these fences follow the lines of old, low earth banks - these can be equated with those recorded on the tithe map - though others are on new lines. Medium-sized conifer plantations have been established on steep south-facing slopes; these are interspersed with stands of old established hardwoods.

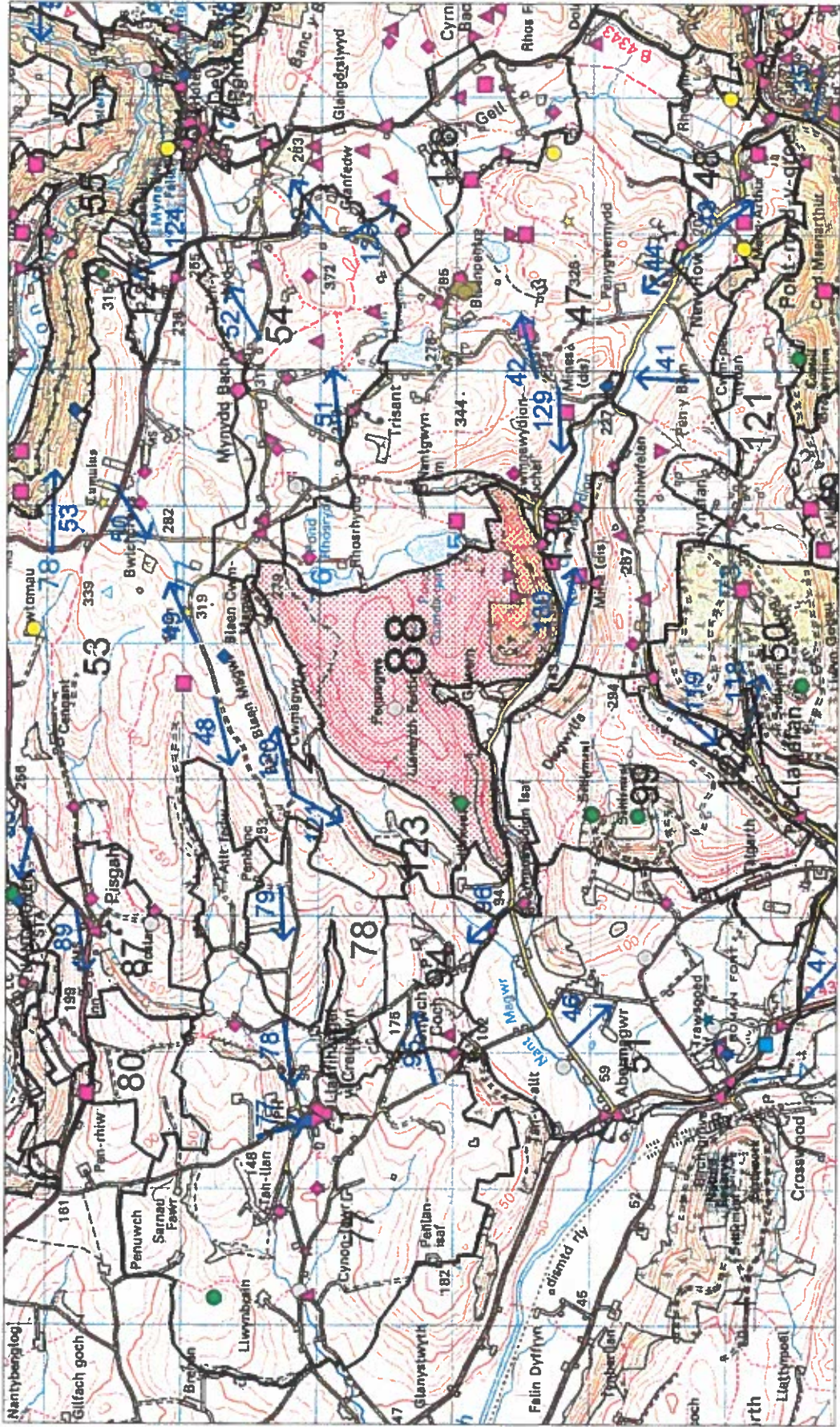
Recorded archaeology includes the major site of Castell Gareg-wen Iron Age hillfort, and a small earthwork enclosure of unknown date. Other sites are minor: a sheep-fold and cultivation ridges; the latter indicating arable farming across this area in the Medieval or post-Medieval period.

To the north, west and south this area is well defined by enclosed and settled valley land (areas 94, 123, 130). To the east definition is less obvious, and this area tends to merge with area 47.

**Ground photographs:** 95, 129

**Aerial photographs:** 67, 68





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

location, direction and number of ground photographs

27 ➔



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 89 COED GRUFFYDD

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 676848

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 161.4

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Y Dywarchen Grange. As with most of the granges of Strata Florida, it is likely that by the end of the Middle Ages, if not earlier, Y Dywarchen had been divided into farms that were leased out and farmed on a commercial basis. The settlement pattern probably dates from this time. On the Dissolution of the abbey, granges were granted to the Earl of Essex, who in 1630 sold them to the Crosswood estate. It would seem, however, that other estates had leased or otherwise purchased land prior to the grant to the Earl of Essex, as by the 18th century, Goggerddan and Court Grange estates had interests in the area as well as Crosswood. Estate maps of the late 18th-century (NLW Crosswood 345/46; NLW Vol 38, 10, 14) show a landscape not dissimilar to that of today - scattered farms, woodland, and small, irregular enclosures on the valley floor and lower valley sides. The landscape has changed little since then.

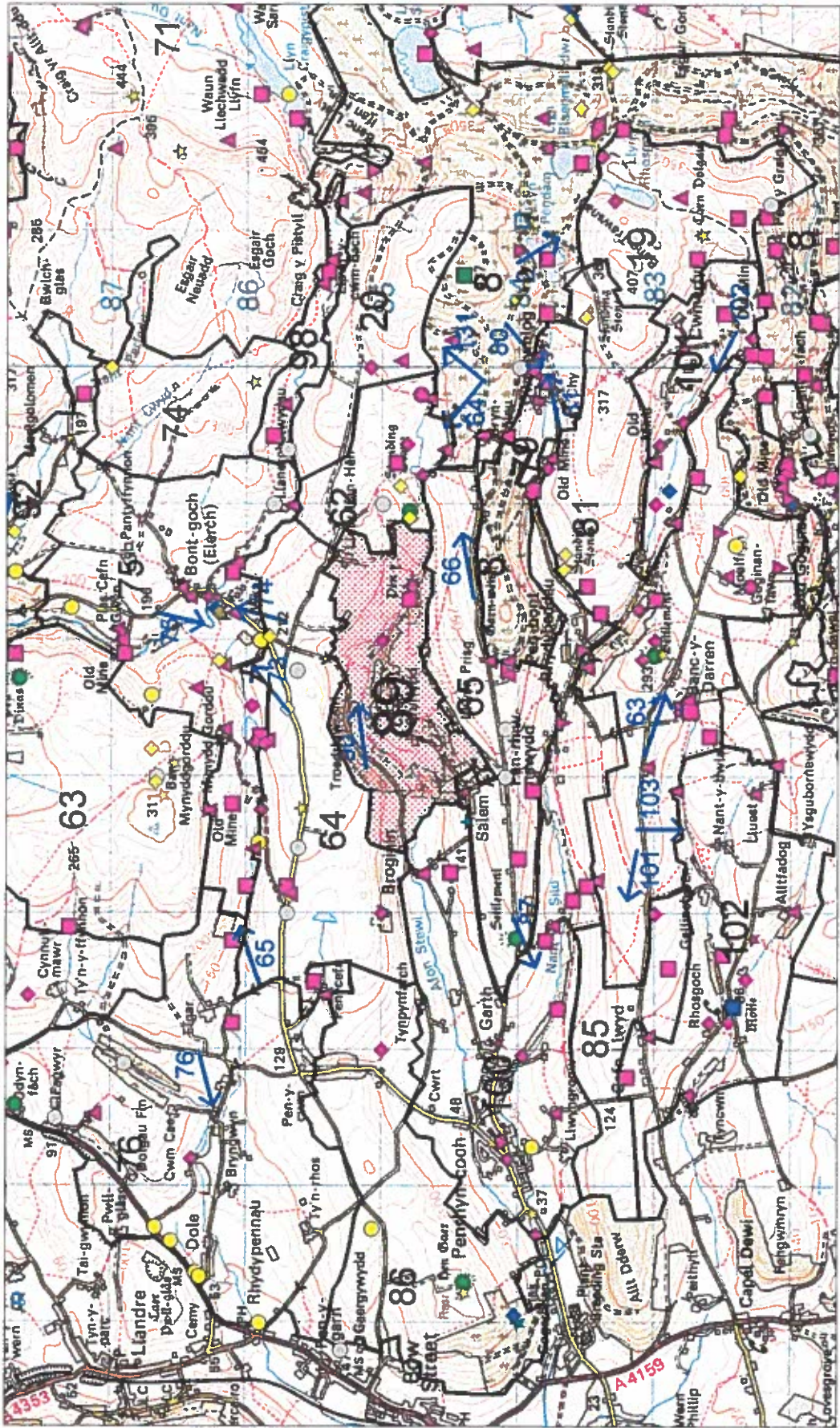
#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area comprises the floor and lower slopes of the upper valley of the Afon Stewi, lying between 100m and 250m. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farms. Farmhouses are stone-built with slate roofs. Most farms have steel-frame or other modern buildings attached to them. Farms are located in a field system of small irregular enclosures. These enclosures are formed from earth- or stony banks topped with hedges. Hedges are now either derelict or overgrown and neglected. Some have entirely disappeared. Many of the hedges have distinctive trees in them. Wire fences now provide stock-proof barriers. Stands of broadleaf woodland and conifer plantations together with the distinctive hedgerow trees lend a highly wooded aspect to the landscape. Farmland consists of a mixture of improved grazing with rougher grazing on some steep slopes, and rushy and peaty ground on the valley bottom. There are some minor remains of the metal mining industry - mostly tips - on the southern valley side.

Recorded archaeology provides no time-depth to this landscape, and consists of just a deserted post-Medieval settlement and remains of the metal mining industry.

This is a highly distinctive and well-contained area. To the north, south and east higher, formerly unenclosed, sparsely settled and treeless upland stands in sharp contrast (areas 62, 64, 65). To the west this area merges with the more open and intensively settled land of the lower valley (area 100).

**Ground photographs:** 90



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 90 TYNGRAIG

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 697697

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 257.5

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Mefenydd Grange. At the Dissolution the abbey's granges were granted to the Earl of Essex who sold them to the Crosswood estate in 1630. Most of the land in this area seems to have remained in the Crosswood estate through to the 20th century. In common with other granges, it is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, Mefenydd had been divided into farms which were leased out and farmed on a commercial basis. Hafod place-names - Hafod-y-gofiant - suggest that these farms may have originated out of a system of transhumance. By the mid 19th-century, at the time of the tithe survey (Gwynnws Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1847) the landscape had achieved much of its present-day appearance; the field system had been laid out and the settlement pattern established. Earlier maps of the late 18th-century (NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 55, 58) indicate that landscape development was then taking place. Nant-byr isaf and Nant-byr uchaf farms are shown encroaching onto unenclosed land to the north. It is possible that both these farms were squatter settlements. On lower ground, Trgfriw-fawr farm's enclosure pattern was established by the late 18th-century, though further subdivision of larger fields occurred in the 19th century. The hamlet of Tyngraig developed in the 19th century, given impetus no-doubt by the opening of the Milford-Manchester railway through this area in 1866. A chapel was built here in 1869.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

Centred on the upper, open valley of the north-flowing Sychnant, this area rises from 150m in the valley bottom to 350m on the eastern valley sides. Valley sides are mostly gently sloping, but some steeper slopes are present in the north. Included in this area is the hamlet of Tyngraig, but generally the settlement pattern is of scattered farms set in field systems of small, irregular enclosures. Boundaries comprise dry-stone walls, stony banks topped with hedges or stone-faced banks with hedges. On the lower levels hedges are generally in fair to good condition and are stock-proof. The higher up the valley side they are, the more derelict they become. Wire fences have replaced hedges at the highest levels, and even at low levels wire fences are present along some of the hedges and walls. Land-use is predominantly improved grazing, though a few fields of arable are present. There are some moderately large stands of broadleaf trees and some small conifer plantations. An unenclosed peat bog lies in the valley bottom towards the upper reaches of the Sychnant. Older buildings are of stone with slate roofs and included Rhydgaled, a listed example of a mid 19th-century two-storey cottage. Modern structures are of rendered concrete with slate or concrete tile roofs.

Recorded archaeology in this area mostly comprises post-Medieval sites. These include a small metal mine, extant buildings such as a chapel and cottages, deserted cottages on higher ground and a smithy. A time-depth element to the landscape is provided by an earthwork which may be an Iron Age enclosure, and a possible Bronze Age standing stone.

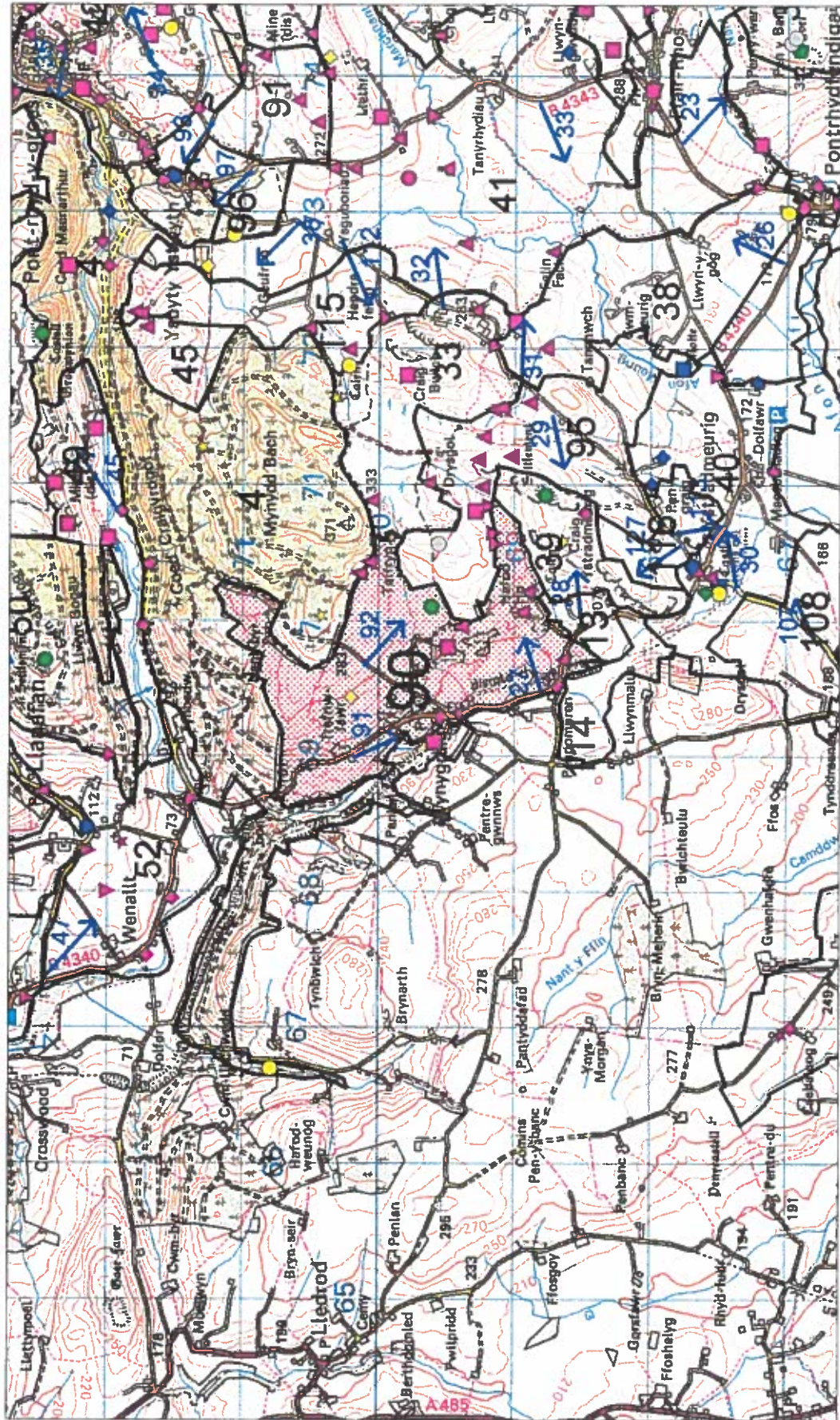
To the north this area is defined by a 20th century forestry plantation (area 4) and to the east by unenclosed and semi-enclosed higher ground (areas 33, 39 and 95). Small but characteristically distinct areas of enclosures lie to the south. Landscape character areas have yet to be defined to the west.

**Ground photographs:** 27, 91, 92

**Aerial photographs:** 30, 31, 32, 33, 63



UPLAND CEREDIGION AREA 90



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ◆ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 91 CAPEL HELAETH

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 741710

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 92.0

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#### **Historic Background**

The history of this area in the Medieval Period is uncertain. The dedication of Ystbyty Ystwyth Church to St John the Baptist has been taken as an indication that the parish was in the possession of the Knights Hospitaller, but it is perhaps more likely that it belonged to Strata Florida Abbey, perhaps in one of the abbey's granges (Ludlow 1998). The first large-scale map, the tithe map (Sputty Ystwyth Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1848), which includes this area, shows a landscape very similar to that of today. However, the presence of a sub-divided field system immediately to the west of this area in the 18th century (area 96), provides an indication of how area 91 may have evolved. Given the proximity of Ysbyty Ystwyth village, it is possible that this area also originally comprised a sub-divided field system that was consolidated and enclosed prior to the survey for the first large-scale maps.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

A strip of land that rises from 240m at its western end close to the village of Ysbyty Ystwyth to 350m at its eastern end. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farms and cottages set within small irregular fields. Boundaries are of low earth banks giving way to stone-faced banks at higher levels towards the east. Only a few derelict hedges are present on the banks. Wire fences run along all boundaries. Most of this area is under improved grazing, but some rougher ground is present. Peaty deposits lie in a valley along the northern edge of the area. Buildings are of stone with slate roofs, including a converted chapel. At the eastern end a ruined deserted farmstead/cottage lies in a pasture field.

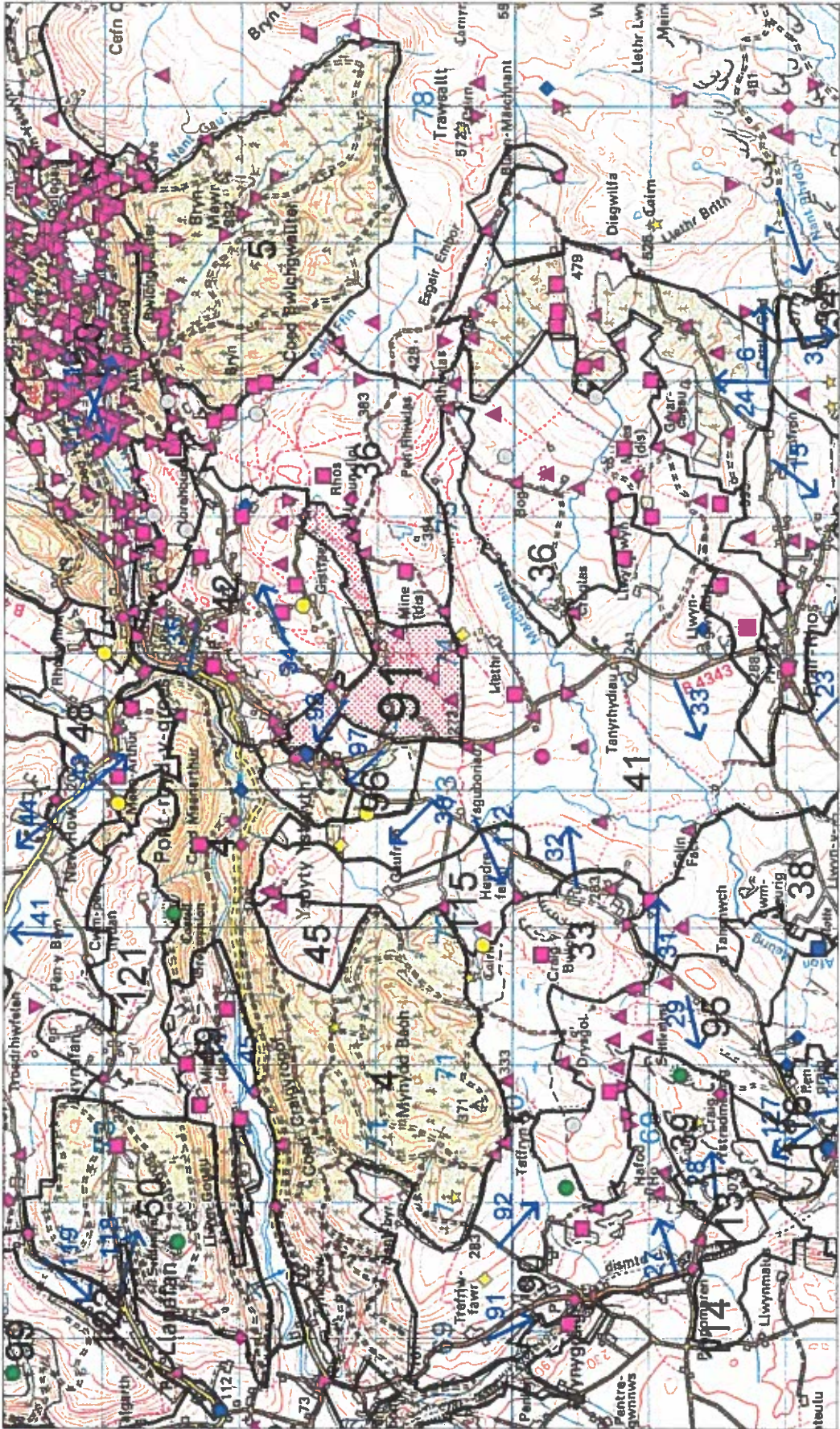
Recorded archaeology provides no indication of time-depth in this landscape, and consists entirely of extant or deserted post-Medieval dwellings and an old chapel.

The borders of this area are not distinct, and in all directions it merges with surrounding areas. To the east and southeast lies higher, rougher ground with large enclosures (area 36). Lower lying rougher ground with large enclosures lies to the south and southwest (area 41). Area 42 to the north is quite different, but there is no clear division between it and this area, similarly with area 96 to the west.

**Ground photograph:** 93

**Aerial photographs:** 35, 37





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

location, direction and number of ground photographs





## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 92 MOELGOLOMEN

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 694875

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 76.2

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#### **Historic Background**

The history of this small historic landscape area has not been researched. It is likely that the settlement in this valley is long established. The earliest large-scale map of the area, the tithe map of 1845 (Llanbadarnfawr parish), shows a landscape of small farms and cottages set in a field system of small, irregular enclosures. This map illustrates the high density of settlement reached during this period, a density that has since decreased. A small metal mine was worked here from 1850 for several decades, but does not seem to have been particularly successful (Bick 1988, 34).

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

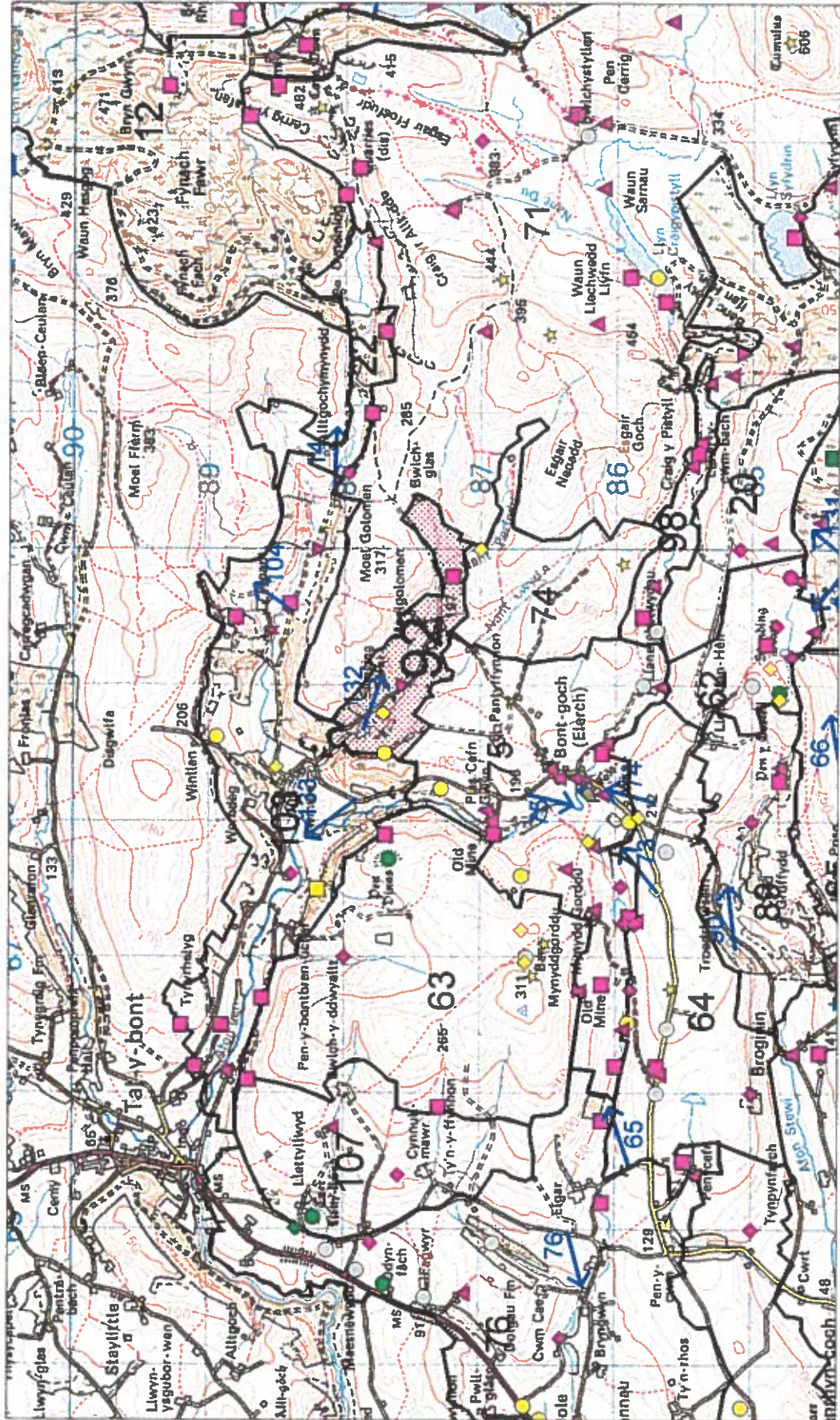
This is a small but nevertheless distinct and varied historic character area. It is centred on the farm of Meolgolomen - a stone-built structure with modern out-buildings. Several deserted, ruined farms and cottages testify to the once more populous character of this area. Field patterning is of small irregular enclosures. Boundaries to these comprise earth or earth and stony banks topped with hedges. Hedges are in fair condition close to the farm, but overgrown and neglected elsewhere. Wire fences supplement all boundaries. Some hedgerows possess distinctive trees, and these, together with small stands of deciduous woods and forestry plantations, lend a wooded appearance to the landscape. Farmland is of improved grazing with rushy and peaty hollows, and rougher ground and bracken on some steep slopes. Spoil tips and other remains to the eastern end mark the location of a small metal mine. Leats, presumably serving mines at lower levels in neighbouring areas cross this landscape.

Recorded archaeology consists of the remains of metal mines and other post-Medieval elements of the landscape. A time-depth component is provided by two Bronze Age standing stones and by finds of Bronze Age date.

It is difficult to define the exact boundary between this area and those to the south and west (areas 74, 75, 103), as they share many similar characteristics, though overall they are quite different. There is no such problem to the north and east, where unenclosed upland bounds area 92.

**Ground photograph:** 132

**Aerial photograph:** 94



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 93 FULLBROOK

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 668636

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 725.7

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Mefenydd Grange. A fulling mill was recorded here (Williams 1990, 59). At the dissolution all Strata Florida's holdings were granted to the Earl of Essex. Soon after, the land in and around this area seems to have been purchased by the Lloyds of Ffosybleiddiaid and later acquired by the Vaughans of Crosswood. At the time of the tithe survey (Lledrod Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1844; Caron Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1845) the present settlement pattern and field systems had been established. Earlier estate maps provide little evidence as to how the landscape had evolved. Fullbrook farm in 1819 (NLW Vol 45, 58) was surrounded by small enclosures with slightly larger, but still small, fields further out - a pattern detectable on modern maps. A late 18th-century map (NLW Crosswood Vol 2, 10) covering the farms of Ty-y-swydd, Ty-hen and Tynbwllch shows a landscape similar to that recorded by the tithe surveyors except for sub-divided strips in multiple ownership in one field. This may be an indication that at least part of the modern enclosure pattern evolved out of a sub-divided field system, but at present place-names such as Maes-glas is the only other evidence to support this. At Ynys-y-bont the tithe map shows the farm surrounded by enclosures with the marshy, lower-lying area subdivided (presumably by drainage ditches) into larger, more regular enclosures. A late 18th-century map (NLW Crosswood Vol 2, 19) however, shows the marshy area as undivided common land. Map evidence demonstrates that apart from Ynys-y-Bont farm this area was originally common land, probably an extension of Cors Caron. In the late 18th-century or early 19th-century it was taken into private ownership and attempts made to drain it. Given the modern appearance of the land it is likely that this drainage was never particularly successful and the land soon reverted to marsh. Ynys-y-bont, as the name indicates, was and is a settlement on an island within a sea of marsh. In the 19th century a small dispersed settlement developed close to Berth chapel (constructed 1840) at Ty'n yr eithen.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

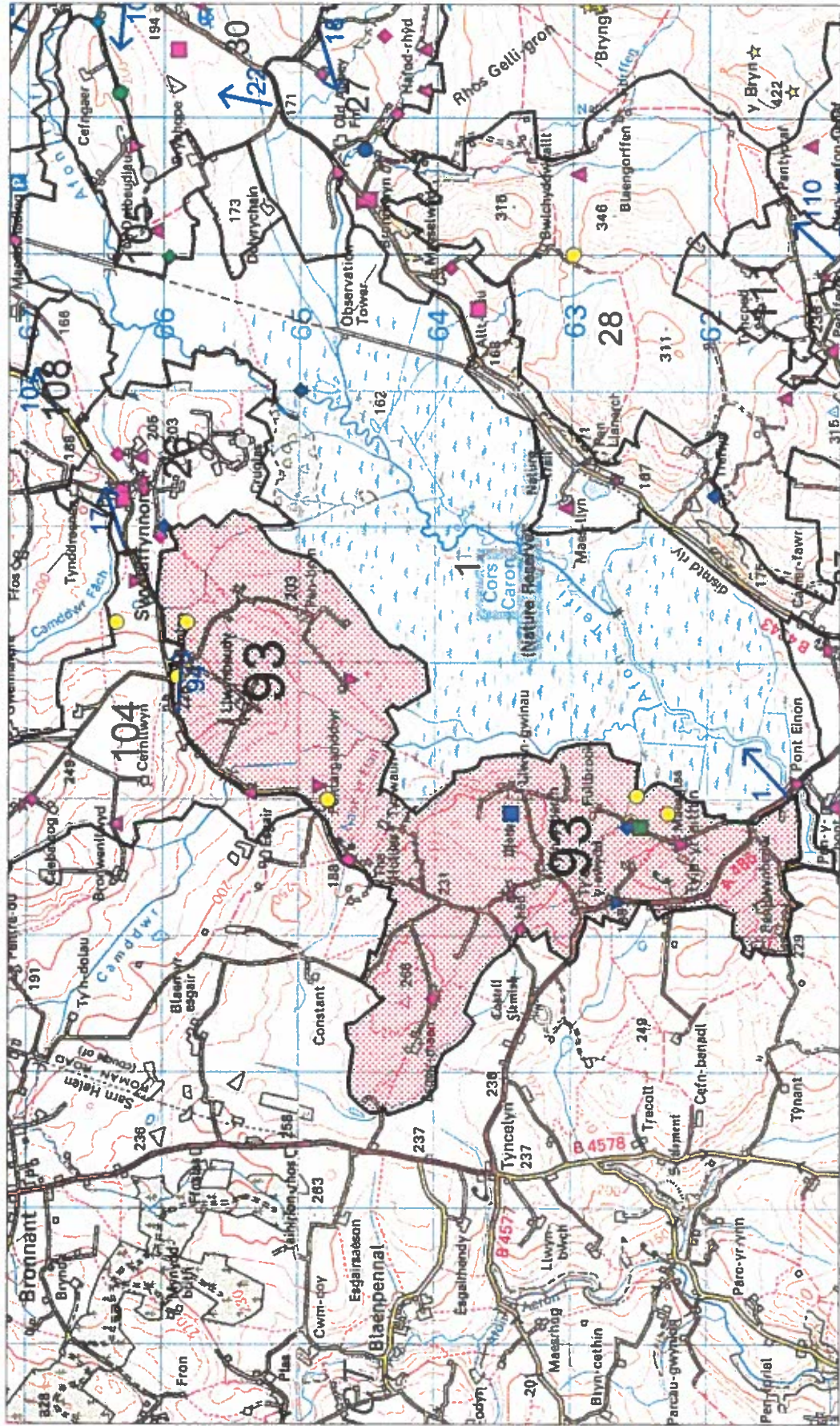
An area of undulating land to the west of Cors Caron. It ranges in height from 160m at the boundary with Cors Caron, to *circa* 230m on several rounded summits. This is a landscape of scattered farms and small, irregular fields. Earth banks with hedges form the boundaries to the fields. Hedges are generally in good condition and stock-proof, though in the southern part of the area they are overgrown. Only on the higher ground are hedges becoming derelict and require supplementing with wire. Included in this area is a marshy area lying approximately at 160m on the west side of Cors Caron, but surrounding a island of higher ground at 170m on which the Ynys-y-bont Farm is situated. The area is characterised by rush covered ground and peat deposits. This ground is divided by drainage ditches and wire fences. Most of the fields are under improved grazing. There are patches of poorer quality ground - rough pasture and rushes - close to Cors Caron, and peaty deposits in some hollows. There are many small stands of broadleaf trees, and these in combination with the overgrown hedges provide a moderately wooded aspect to the landscape in the southern part of the area. Older buildings are of stone or brick with slate roofs. Located in this area is a distinctive blue-brick chapel. Modern buildings are of rendered concrete with slate or concrete tile roofs.

Recorded archaeology of this area is rich and varied, but dominated by post-Medieval sites such as a mill, bridges, dwellings, a chapel and a smithy. Sites of earlier periods provide time-depth to this landscape and include a Medieval motte, Castell Llwyn-gwinau, a Medieval mill site, and finds of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman date. Of particular note is a group of Bronze Age burnt mounds or hearths - possible settlement sites.

To the east this area is particularly well defined by Cors Caron (area 1). Elsewhere definition is not good, as it merges with an area of similar character (area 104).

**Ground photograph: 94**

**Aerial photograph: 2**



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ★ Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 94 CNWCH COCH

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN677751

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 79.4

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#### **Historic Background**

At least part of this area, if not all, was originally common land, with rights attached to properties belonging to the Crosswood, Cwmnewidion, Abertrinant and Nanteos Estates (Morgan 1997, 209-13). By the late 18th-century the land was divided in half by the properties of the adjoining estates - half to Crosswood and half to Nanteos and Abertrinant. An estate map of 1781 (NLW Crosswood Deeds No 5, Ser IV Vol 1, 16) shows a mixed landscape: part open ground, part enclosed, part woodland and brushwood. In May of 1797 a cottage was illegally erected at Cnwch Coch, but no land enclosed. By 1814 more squatter settlements had appeared, and the occupants had divided the common between them. Colonel Vaughan ordered the cottages to be taken down - one of his main objections being that the 'miserable looking Huts' could be seen from the windows of Trawscoed Mansion (Morgan 1997, 211). The squatters requested that they should be allowed to pay rent. The squatters were eventually successful in their claim to the land, as the tithe survey of 1847 (Llanfihangel y Creiddyn) records that they were freeholders. The tithe map shows a pattern of enclosure similar to today's. Two chapels were built here in the 19th century, one in 1842 and one in 1865, and later a school. It is still an active community.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This small character area lies on a steep south-facing valley side rising to undulating higher ground to the north. There is a height range of 90m to 260m. The landscape is now one of small, irregular fields of improved grazing, with stands of deciduous woodland and modern forestry plantations. This pattern seems to have emerged with the founding of Cnwch Coch squatter settlement in the late 18th-century. Prior to this date the steep slopes and/or relatively high ground would seem to have excluded intensive agricultural use in the historic period; hence the reference to common in the historical sources. The fields carved out in the 18th- and 19th-century were formed with earth banks topped by hedges. The condition of these boundaries is good, and many of the hedges are stock-proof, though some particularly on higher ground are becoming derelict, and are supplemented or replaced by wire fences.

The nucleated character of Cnwch Coch is unusual for a Ceredigion squatter settlement - a pattern of dispersed cottages is the norm. Buildings are mostly of stone with slate roofs, though modern rendered concrete constructions are also present. Included in the settlement is a good example of a 19th century end-chimney, lobby-entrance cottage (Smith 1998, Fig. 94).

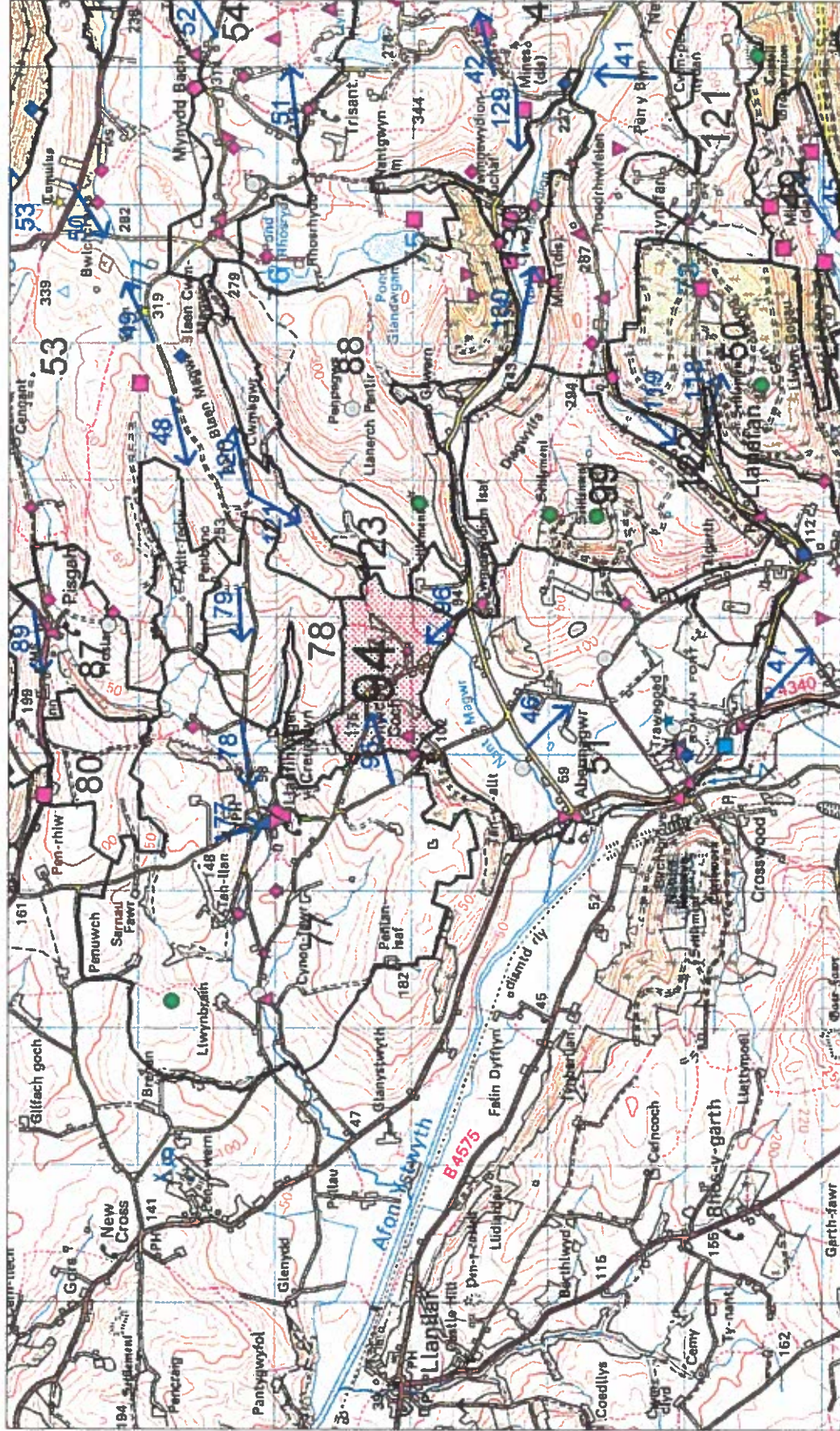
Recorded archaeology consists of two extant buildings: a chapel and a cottage.

The bounds of this landscape area are not distinct. To the south, west and east are the lower lying and more intensively farmed enclosed land of areas 51, 77, 123 and 130; these are superficially similar to area 94. Area 78 to the north was formerly unenclosed land, but now resembles this area.

**Ground photographs:** 95, 96

**Aerial photograph:** 67





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ● Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 95 BLAEN SYCHNANT

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 710687

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 181.3

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period, this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Mefenydd Grange. At the Dissolution of the abbey the granges were granted to the Earl of Essex, who subsequently in 1630 sold them to the Crosswood estate. It is likely that this relatively high area was unenclosed and therefore claimed by the Crown, but Crosswood did possess part of this area as indicated by an estate map of 1781 (NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 66). This shows land to the north of Mynachdy as either unenclosed or enclosed into large fields. It is likely that the Crosswood estate had designs on the Crown land and wished to enclose it. Squatters or cottagers, however, established themselves on the land, much to the chagrin of the estate, which tried unsuccessfully to expel them (Morgan 1997, 211). By the mid 19th-century a pattern of squatter cottages with small enclosures and large more regular estate enclosures had been established across the whole area (tithe survey of 1843). The 20th century has witnessed an abandonment of the settlements and a break down of the enclosure pattern.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape characteristics**

This is an area of undulating sometimes craggy, upland, ranging in height between 200m and 300m. There is a collection of abandoned cottages dispersed across the landscape, and at least one inhabited dwelling - a stone built cottage. These are early 19th-century squatters cottages. Surrounding the abandoned cottages are relict field systems of small fields and paddocks with larger fields further out. Boundaries comprise earth and stony banks and dry-stone walls - these are redundant and wire fences now provide divisors between enclosures. Grazing of improved pasture, sometimes running over old boundary banks, dominates the area, but patches of rougher grazing are present. It is essentially a treeless landscape.

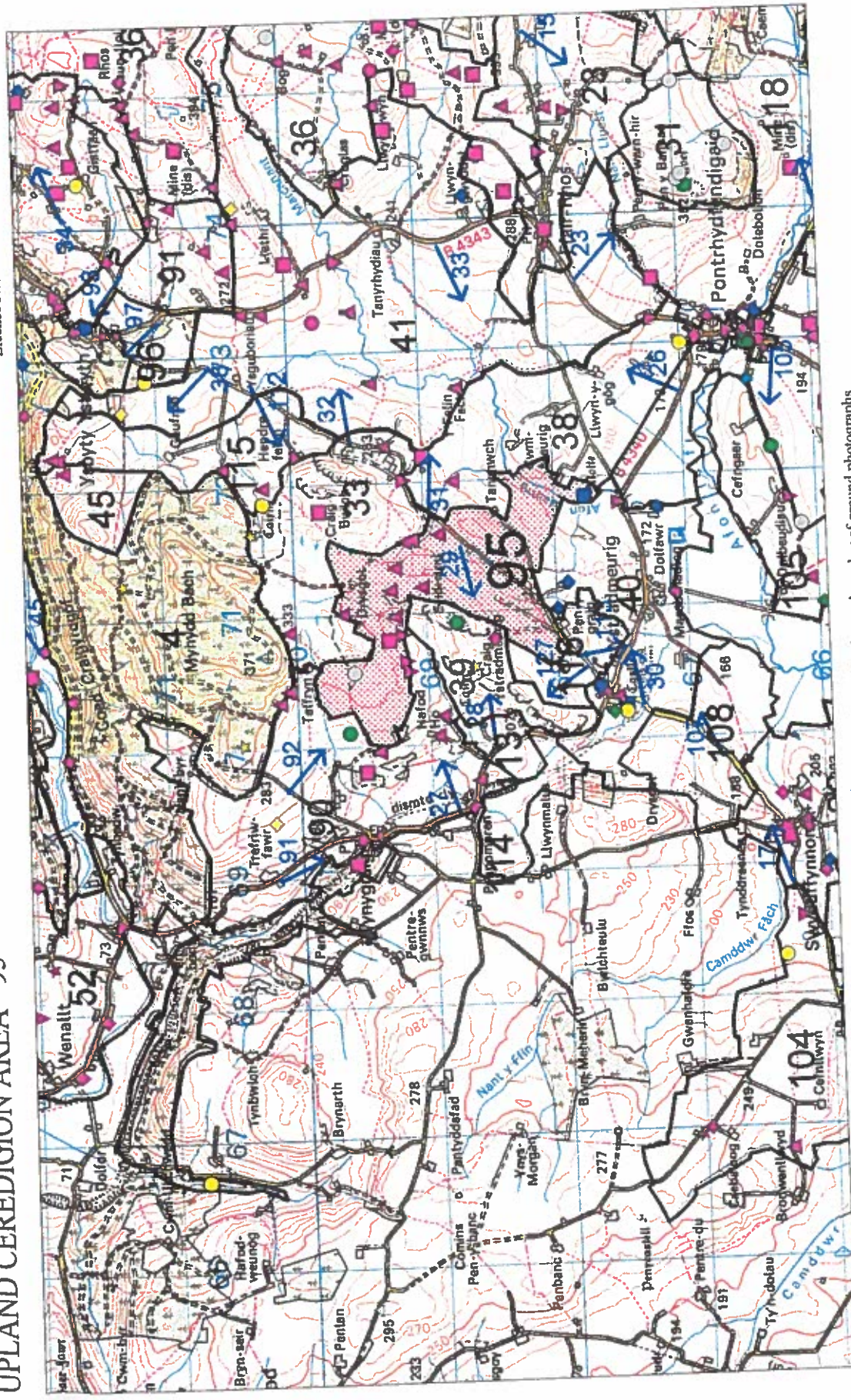
Recorded archaeology in this area consists mostly of deserted cottages and associated remains. There is, however, a metal mine on record, and a Medieval motte - Cwm Meurig Isaf - provides an element of time-depth to the landscape.

To the north and southwest unenclosed and semi-enclosed upland (areas 33, 39) merge with this area. Elsewhere there is better definition between this area and its neighbours, as the land falls away to lower-lying, settled, enclosed pasture (areas 38, 40, 90, 116).

**Ground photographs:** 29, 30, 33, 92

**Aerial photographs:** 29, 30, 31, 32, 33





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

# KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                           |                     |                         |                                     |   |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Prehistoric site          | Iron Age hillfort   | Other Roman site        | Medieval castle                     | Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | Modern site               |
| Bronze Age barrow         | Other Iron Age site | Dark Age memorial stone | Other Medieval site                 | Post-Medieval platform house                                | Other archaeological site |
| Bronze Age standing stone | Roman fort          | Other Dark Age site     | Post-Medieval metal mine            | Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                           |
| Other Bronze Age site     | Roman finds         | Medieval church/chapel  | Other Post-Medieval industrial site | Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                           |

location, direction and number of ground photographs

27 →

## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 96 YSBYTY YSTWYTH SUB-DIVIDED FIELD SYSTEM**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 731710

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 34.8

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#### **Historic Background**

The history of this area in the Medieval Period is uncertain. The dedication of Ystbyty Ystwyth Church to St John the Baptist has been taken as an indication that the parish was in the possession of the Knights Hospitaller, but it is perhaps more likely that it belonged to Strata Florida Abbey, perhaps in one of the abbey's granges (Ludlow 1998). However, nothing certain is known of this area until the late 18th-century when an estate map (NLW Crosswood Vol 1) - 'Map of Sputty Intermixed Lands' - shows the whole of the area as a sub-divided or strip field, with no obvious internal boundaries. This is the only unequivocal evidence for a sub-divided arable field system within the study area of upland Ceredigion. It is assumed that it was the remaining field or part field of a much larger system that had gone out of use by the late 18th-century, and had been then consolidated and enclosed. By the tithe survey (Sputty Ystwyth Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1848) area 96 had been consolidated and enclosed into the form that exists today. There is no surviving surface evidence to indicate the former presence of a sub-divided field system, and the tithe map gives no indication of its former existence.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This small block of undulating land between 210m and 250m, to the south of Ysbyty Ystwyth village has been characterised on the evidence of historic maps. The area is divided into small irregular fields separated by earth banks or stone and earth banks topped with hedges. Some hedges have been removed and others are derelict. Most are supplemented by wire fences. Conifer plantations now cover a large portion of the area. Elsewhere there is rough grazing and rush covered ground with a little improved pasture.

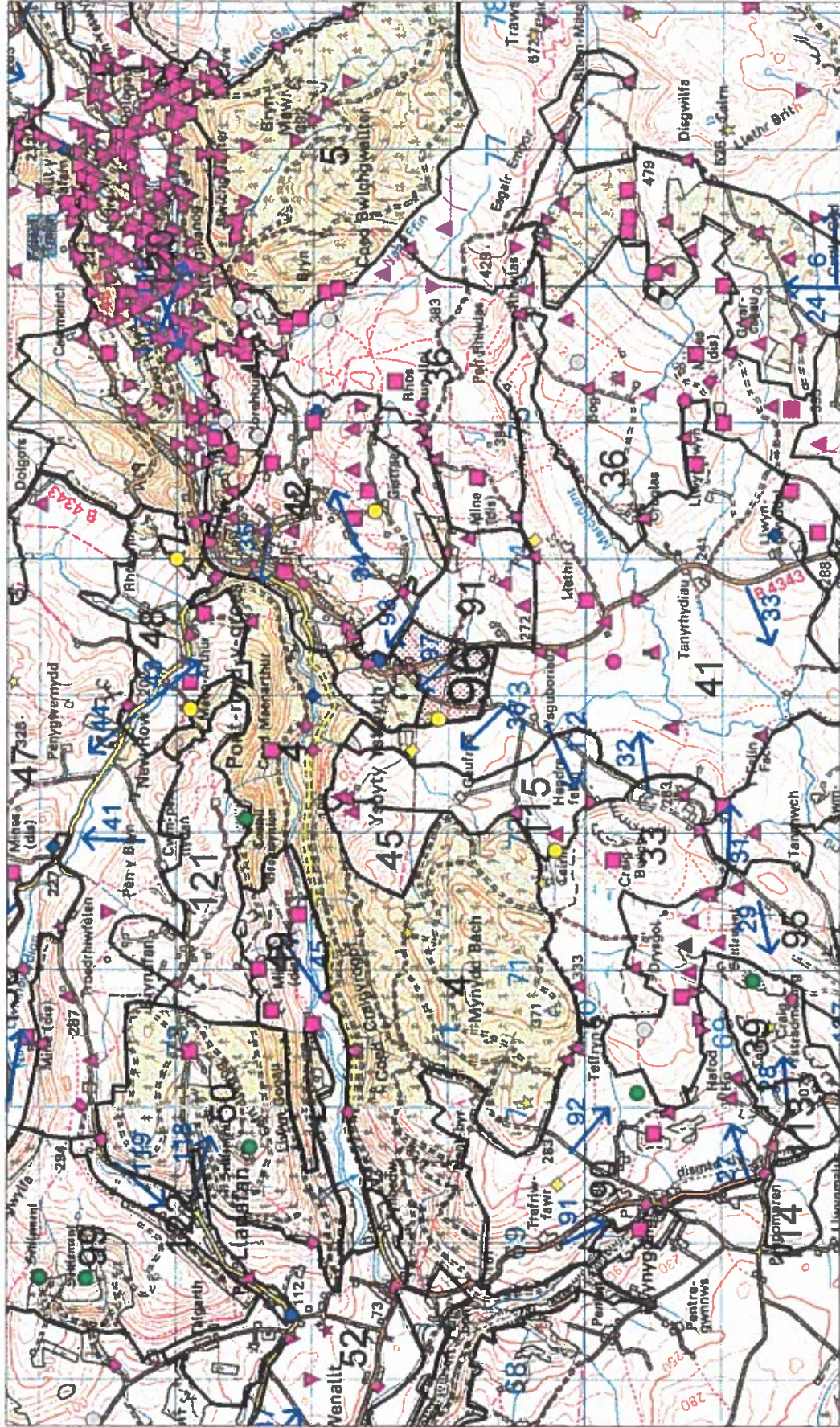
The only recorded archaeology in this area is a Bronze Age burnt mound.

The bounds of this area not well defined on the ground, and it merges with enclosed land on all sides (areas 41, 42 and 91). Historically, this area is very well defined.

**Ground photographs:** 97

**Aerial Photographs:** 35





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ◆ Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 97 AFON GROES VALLEY FLOOR

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 692596

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 375.6

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#### **Historic Background**

The early history of this area is unclear. It may have formed part of one of the granges of Strata Florida Abbey, or alternatively part of the demesne of the abbey. The granges were granted to the Earl of Essex on the Dissolution, who sold them to the Crosswood estate in 1630. In the late 18th-century some of this area was in the possession of Crosswood, and may have been obtained by this route. Abbey demesne was acquired by John Stedman in 1567. However, Richard Stedman died intestate in 1746 and the estate passed to the Powells of Nanteos. Nanteos had considerable holdings here in the 19th century. It is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, abbey granges and demesne were divided into farms which were leased out on a commercial basis. This may have been the origin of the settlement pattern we see today. The Caron Tithe Map of 1845 shows the landscape area very much as today. Earlier maps - late 18th century and early 19th century estate maps (NLW Crosswood Deeds Vol 1, 20 and Vol 2, 1; NLW Vol 45, 54, 55, 69; NLW Crosswood 332) - shed some light on landscape development. 1819 maps of the area to the east of Tregaron and around Aberdwr show some interspersed, enclosed fields, and small strip-like enclosures around Penffordd. This intermixing of holdings and enclosed strips suggests that the landscape of small irregular fields evolved out of a subdivided field system, and the 1819 estate maps captured the very end of this process of evolution.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area lies across the valley floors and partly up the lower valley sides of the Afon Groes, Afon Brennig, Afon Berwyn and Nant Fleinog between 175m and 200m. It comprises scattered farms set in a matrix of small irregularly-shaped fields. Boundaries consist of earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are generally in good condition, though a few are no longer stock-proof and are reinforced with wire fences. There are many distinctive trees on the boundaries; these together with the scattering of small woods across the area give an impression of a moderately wooded landscape. Farmland is mainly improved pasture, though there is some unimproved pasture, rough grazing and rushy - brwyn - ground. The older traditional buildings of stone with slate roofs are now interspersed with rendered concrete houses with slate and/or concrete tile roofs.

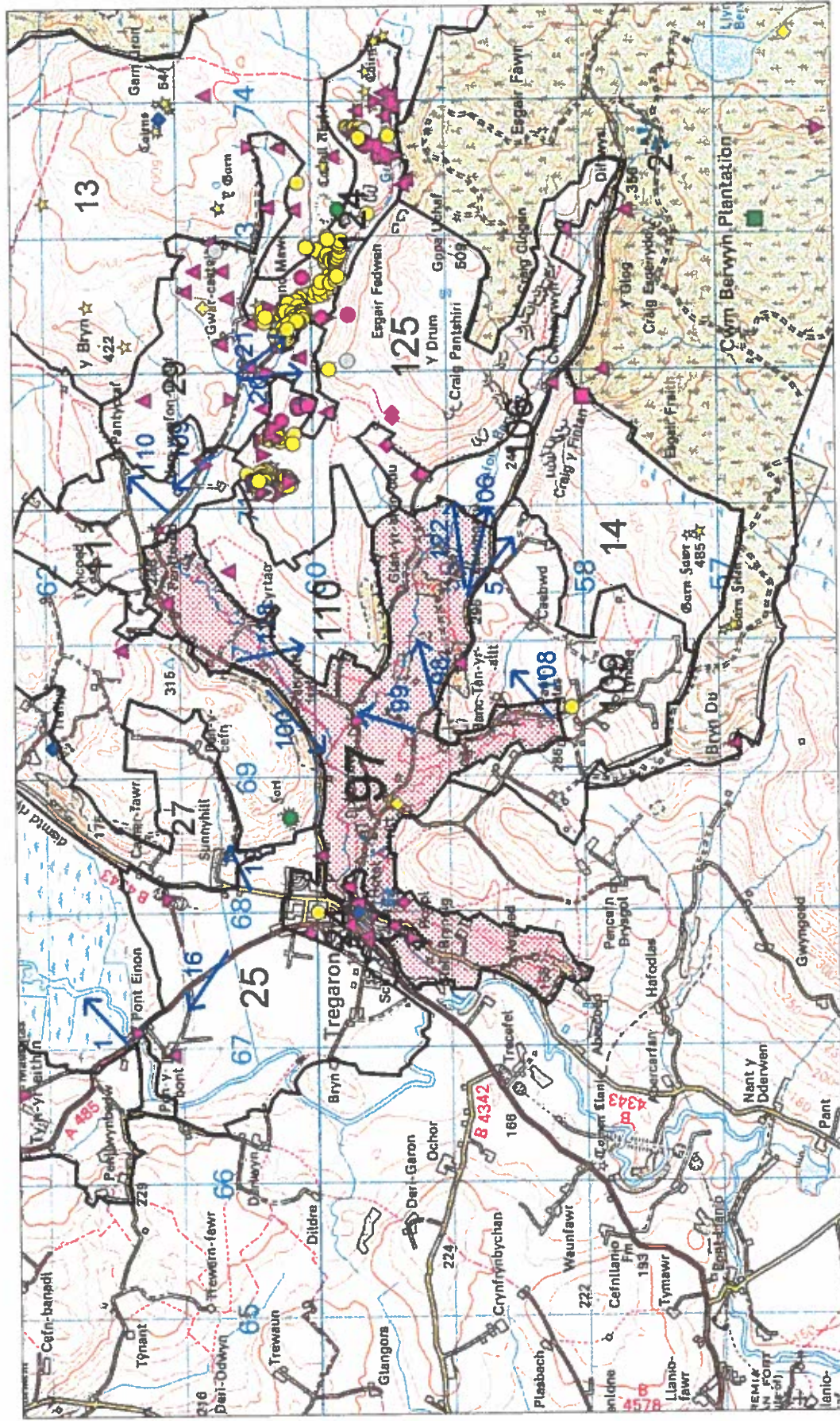
Recorded archaeology consists of just a few sites, and these are mainly post-Medieval extant dwellings, and other minor landscape components of similar date. A possible standing stone of Bronze Age date provides the only time-depth element to the area.

The boundaries of this area are not generally sharp. There is a slow merging between this area and areas 106, 109, 110 and 111. To the west the town of Tregaron (area 24) provides a clear break, and to the north the steep valley side demarcating area 28 is also distinct.

**Ground photographs:** 98, 99, 100, 128

**Aerial photographs:** 4, 5, 6, 7, 59





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ★ Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ◆ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 98 LLAWR-Y-CWM-BACH

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 702856

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 43.6

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#### **Historic Background**

The history of this area has not been researched. Until two centuries ago much of the land was unenclosed and was therefore probably claimed by the Crown. By at least the late 18th-century part of the area lay within the Court Grange estate, as an estate map (NLW Vol 38, 16) shows Llawr-y-cwm farm on the south side of the valley as an isolated holding of four fields set in a sea of unenclosed land or sheep-walk. The tithe map (Llanbadarnfawr 1845) shows Llawr-y-cwm, Llawr-y-cwm-bach and Ty-hen farms with small enclosures along the valley floor, and very large enclosures on the valley sides. There has been an abandonment of settlement since then, with just Llawr-y-cwm-bach surviving. Llawr-y-cwm-bach metal mine does not seem to have been of any significance until 1845 (Bick 1988, 32), though workings through the second half of the 19th century appear to have been considerable.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

The valley floor and lower valley sides of the upper Afon Leri, located at between 240m and 300m. To the north, south and east the valley sides rise steeply to over 400m. Only a single farm now survives, a stone-built structure with stone out-buildings. The deserted remains of another farm and long abandoned cottages testify to the formerly more populated nature of the area, and are obvious components of the historic landscape. Field patterning consists of small- to medium-sized irregular enclosures on the valley floor and lower slopes, with larger enclosures above. Boundaries are composed of earth or earth and stone banks - there are no hedges. However, this field patterning is now largely redundant and wire fences provide the few boundaries across a landscape of improved grazing. Though improved grazing dominates, there are rushy and peaty hollows on the valley floor and rougher grazing on some of the steeper slopes. Towards the head of the valley spoil heaps testify to the once active metal mining industry. Other remains comprise an engine house, ore slide, buddle circle and leat. Apart from trees close to the farm and mine, this is essentially a treeless landscape.

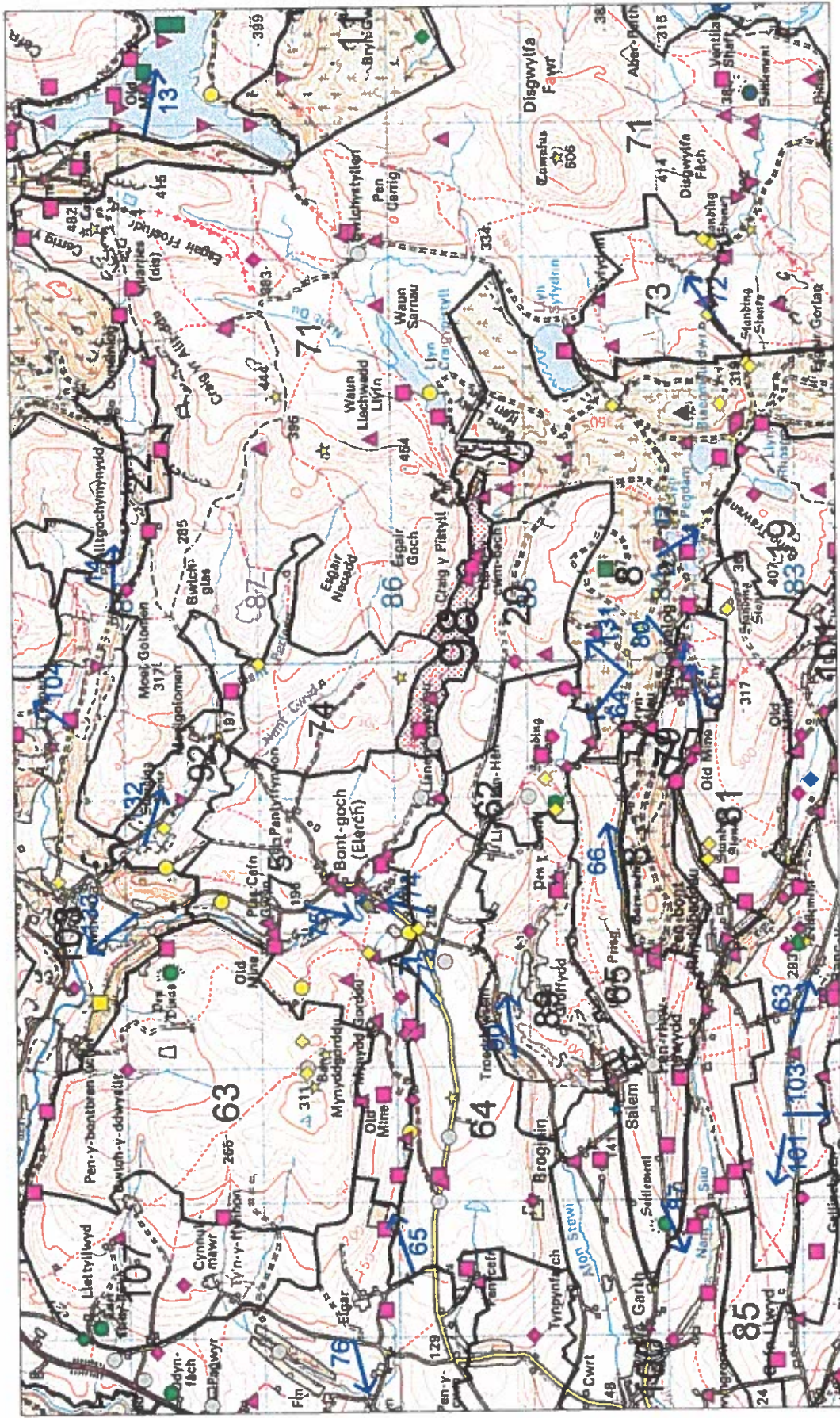
Recorded archaeology consists of the deserted settlements mentioned above and the remains of the metal mining industry.

This area is well-defined to the north, south and east where unenclosed and semi-enclosed land rises steeply from the valley floor (areas 20, 71, 74). To the west the boundary between this area and that of area 75 is less clear and not clearly defined.

**Ground photograph:** 134

**Aerial photographs:** 89, 90, 91, 92





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ◆ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 99 TAL Y FAN**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 689735

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 212.1

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#### **Historic Background**

Though this area was included in the Crosswood estate from at least the mid 18th-century, it is likely that prior to this its unenclosed nature ensured that it was claimed by the Crown. The earliest map of the area (NLW Map 7188), of 1756, shows at least part of this area in the Crosswood demesne. The Llanafan tithe map of 1845 shows the steep west- and south-facing slopes of this area clothed in woodland, though the high plateau-like summit was unenclosed. The woodland had gone by 1906. The area has now been divided into large enclosures by wire fences. There are no inhabited settlements in the area.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape characteristics**

This is the western terminal of an east-west aligned rounded ridge. The ridge summit achieves a height of almost 300m. The north, south and west flanks descend steeply down to about 100m. There are no inhabited settlements in the area. Improved grazing dominates, with very little rough ground even on the steepest slopes. Wire fences now divide the grazing into large enclosures. Occasional redundant earth banks on the flanks indicate that this area was once divided up using a different method. Small conifer plantations have been established on some of the steep slopes, and deciduous woodland is present on the north flank.

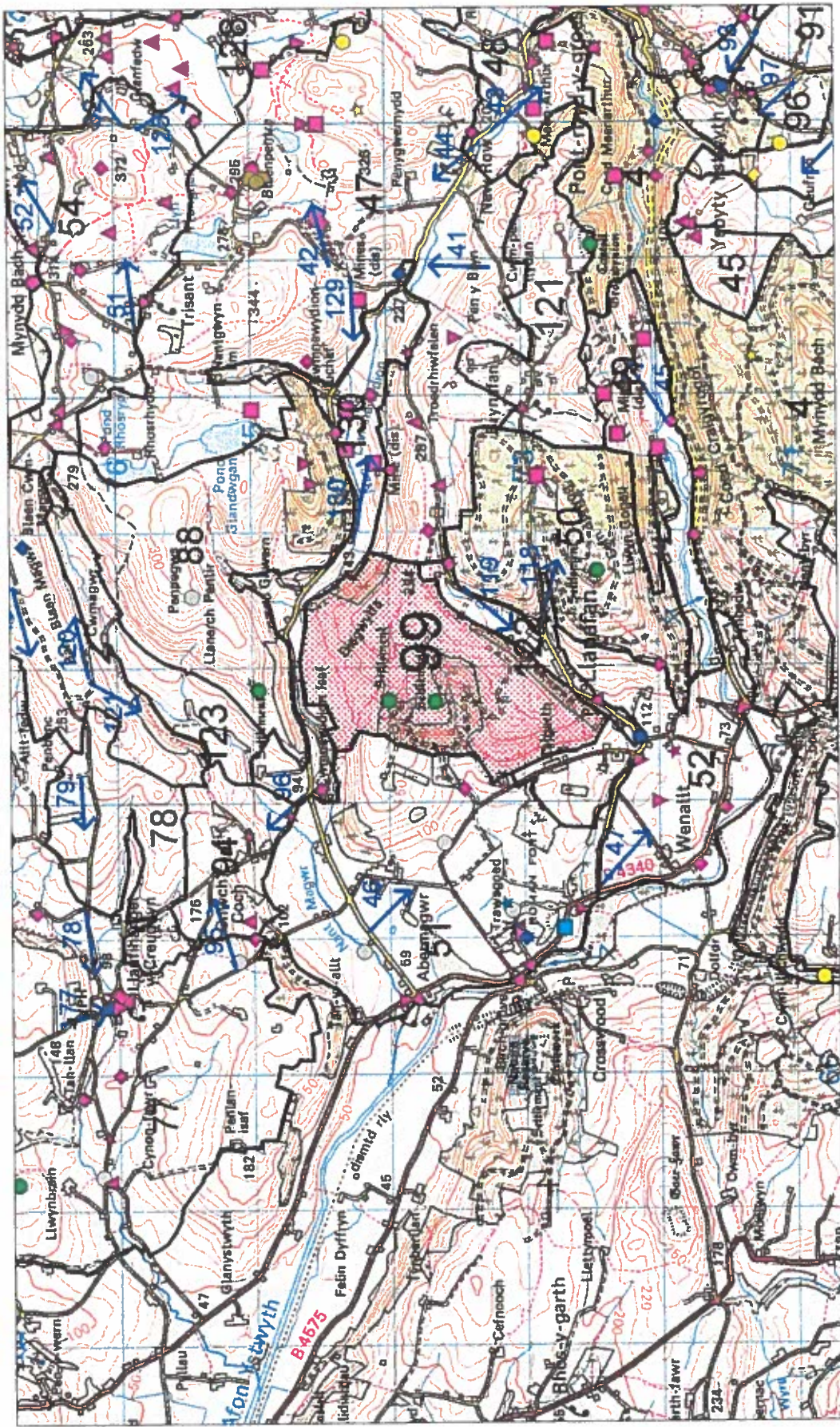
Recorded archaeology in this area consists of just two sites, but these are important and prominent monuments: Cnwc-y-bugail and Castell Disgwylfa Iron Age hillforts.

To the south, west and north this area is well-defined by lower-lying, enclosed and settled land (areas 51, 52, 122, 130). Only to the east is the boundary between this area and its neighbour (area 47) unclear, though areas 99 and 47 are clearly of different character.

**Ground photographs:** 95, 129

**Aerial photographs:** 51, 53, 66





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |  |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                  | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                 | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                     |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottages/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 100 PENRHYN-COCH AND PEN-BONT RHYDYBEDDAU

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 646840

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 381.3

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#### **Historic Background**

The northern part of this area lay within Strata Florida's Y Dywarchen Grange in the Medieval Period. Traditionally the administrative centre of the grange was at Cwrt, which lies within this area. Williams (1990, 57) records a water mill and ancient barn here with gallows on the hill above. Following the Dissolution, a small independent estate - Court Farm - seems to have been carved out of the monastic lands, before being incorporated into the Gogerddan estate. The history of the small nucleated village of Penrhyn-coch is un-researched and therefore not known. It is likely that it is a late development; morphology and map evidence indicate a small settlement here until the late 19th-century. A church was not constructed until 1881 (Jones 1998, 499). It is a similar story for the smaller hamlet of Pen-bont Rhydybeddau, although this settlement seems to have been established in the 18th- and 19th-centuries to serve the metal mines in this area, and those of Cwm Daren and Twll y Mwyn located in area 61. Dispersed farmsteads represent the ancient settlement pattern of the area. These farms are likely to be of some antiquity; they certainly date to the late 18th-century, and in all probability have their origins in the Medieval Period. By the late 18th-century properties formed part of the holdings of the Gogerddan, Crosswood or Court Farm estates. Estate maps (NLW Gogerddan 67; Crosswood 345, 346; R.M. C22; Scott Archer 20; Vol 38, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14) depict several of the farms in a landscape of small, irregular fields and regular strip-like fields - essentially a landscape similar to today. Some of the fields depicted on the estate maps seem to be enclosed strips, indicating the former presence of a sub-divided field system out of which the present landscape has evolved. The 20th century has witnessed a rapid expansion in the village of Penrhyn-coch, with new housing estate, a sports field and other developments. Metal mining in this area was concentrated at Bronfloyd. This was worked in the 17th century, with its richest period in the 19th century. Production finally ceased in 1892 (Bick 1988, 26-28). The garden at Pen-y-berth Farm is recorded on the Welsh Historic Garden Database.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area is centred on the valleys of the Afon Stewi and Nant Silo, and includes the valley floors and lower slopes. There is a height range of 50m to 110m. The western end of this area is dominated by the village of Penrhyn-coch, which sprawls across the valley floors, and includes many new concrete and brick houses, some established in small estates. Away from the village, older historic components of the landscape are much in evidence. Field patterning of small irregular enclosures and regular strip-enclosures has survived intact for at least two centuries. This includes a long, distinctive boundary between enclosed strips and former unenclosed land on the north side of the Stewi valley. Field boundaries comprise earth banks topped with hedges. Close to Penrhyn-coch and on the valley floors hedges are in fair to good condition, but on the higher valley sides and towards the eastern end of the area they are becoming overgrown and derelict. Wire fences supplement most hedges. At the eastern end close to Broginin dry-stone walls form some of the boundaries. Farmland is now almost entirely improved grazing. There are small stands of deciduous trees, especially on the valley floors, and a small conifer plantation. Buildings of the dispersed farmsteads are traditionally stone-built with slate roofs, though a scatter of modern rendered concrete dwellings is superimposed on this. Most farms include modern steel-frame farm buildings. The hamlet of Pen-bont Rhydybeddau consists essentially of early 19th-century stone-built houses, several of which are listed for their group value. The remains of Bronfloyd lead mine, including buildings, processing floors and tips are important components of the historic landscape.

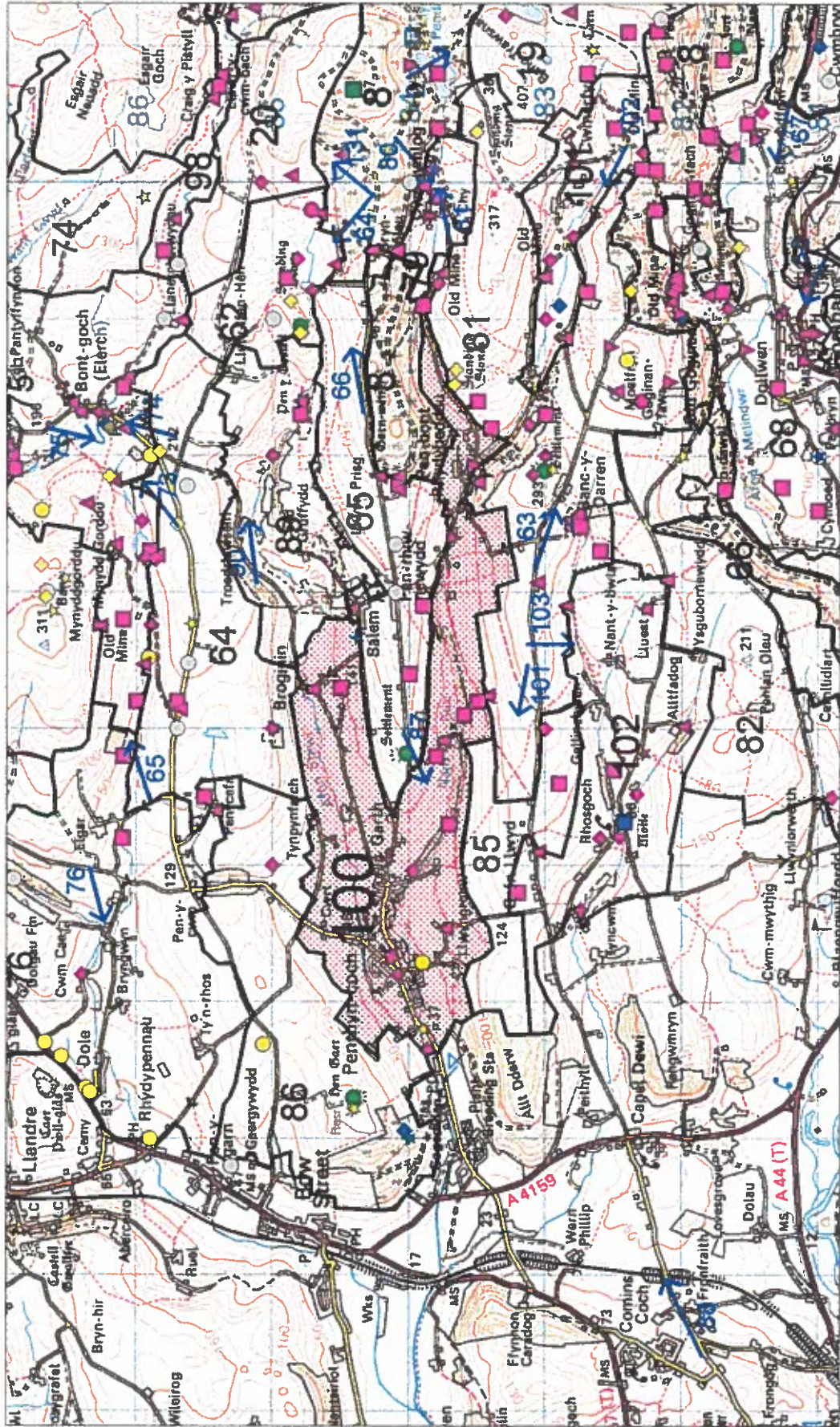
Recorded archaeology in this area mainly comprises post-Medieval extant secular and ecclesiastical buildings and metal mine remains. However, a time-depth element to the landscape is provided by a Roman coin hoard, a Bronze Age round barrow and a Bronze Age burnt mound or hearth.



To the south and north former unenclosed land (areas 61 64, 65, 85, 86) clearly defines this landscape area. The landscape area to the west has not yet been defined, while to the east woodland and small fields of the upper valley of the Afon Stewi represent a substantially different character area.

**Ground photograph:** 101

**Aerial photographs:** 101, 102, 105



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 101 CWMERFYN

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 692827

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 96.8

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#### **Historic Background**

The history of this area has not been researched. It is likely that the pattern of dispersed farms and small irregular fields is of some antiquity. Superimposed over this agricultural landscape is evidence of the metal mining industry. Cwmerfyn was an ancient mine, and dates to well before the workings of Myddelton and Bushell of the first half of the 17th century. It lay idle from 1795 to 1810, but was greatly developed in the 1840s and 1850s by Matthew Francis. It finally closed in 1877 (Bick 1988, 6-8). Bwlch or Bwlch Cwmerfin mine also lies within this area. This is less ancient than Cwmerfyn, but is recorded as working in the first decade of the 18th century. In the 19th century it was worked with Pwllrhenaid mine by the Bwlch United Company, but output was disappointing and the mine finally closed in 1884 (Bick 1983, 38-42). A small settlement developed to serve the mines, cottages were constructed, as were two chapels in 1866 and 1868 (Percival 1988, 517). Since the mines closed there has been a slow retreat of settlement.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape characteristics**

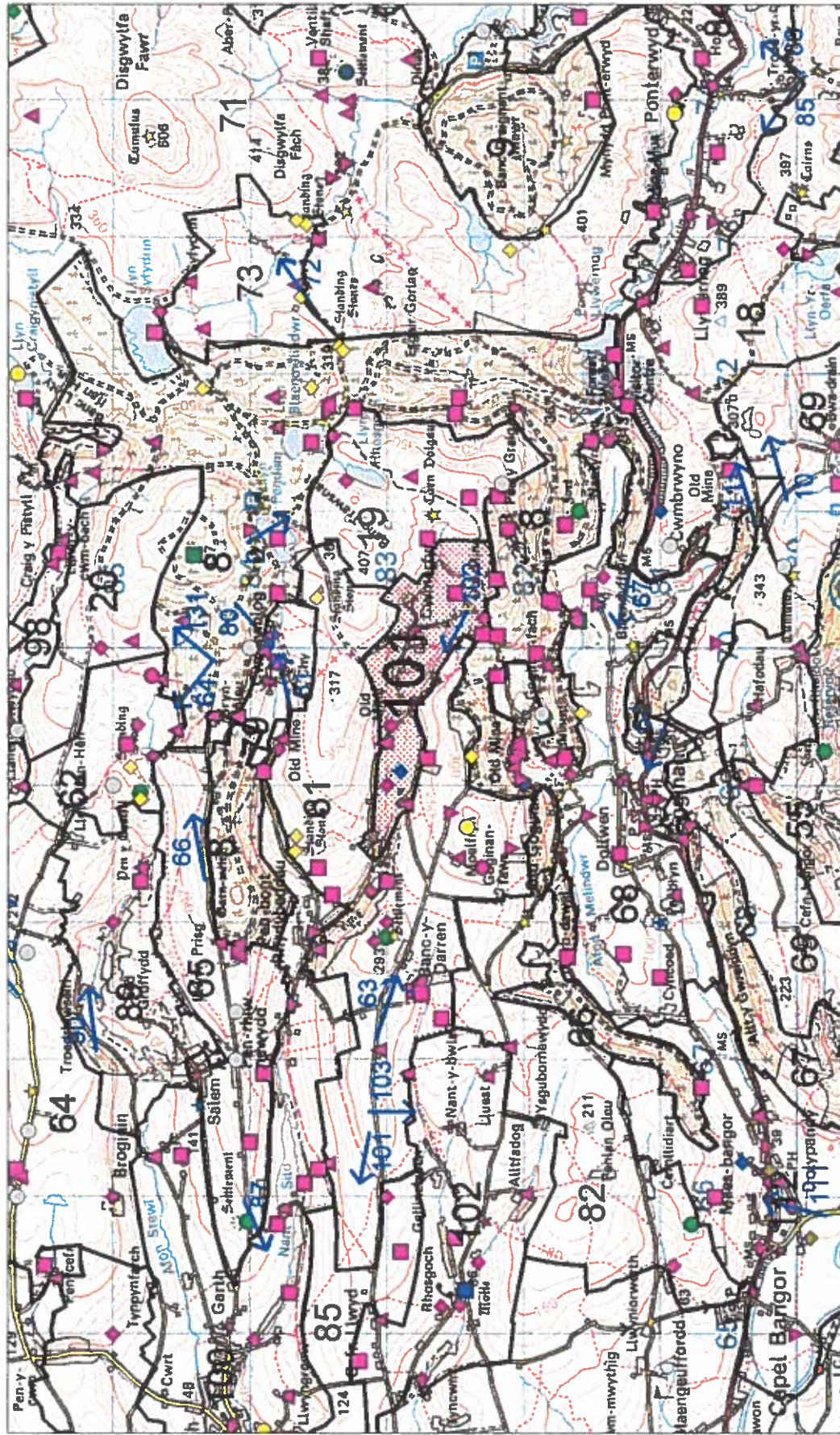
This complex landscape area occupies the floor and lower slopes of the upper valley of a tributary of the Nant Silo at between 200m and 300m. To the north, south and east the valley sides rise steeply to over 400m. This is a landscape of dispersed farms - stone-built with slate roofs, most with modern farm buildings attached - and small irregular enclosures. Enclosures are bounded by earth banks topped with hedges and occasional dry-stone walls. Hedges are derelict at higher levels and generally overgrown, and no longer stock-proof at lower levels. Dry-stone walls are in a poor state of repair. Wire fences supplement all boundaries. Farmland is mostly improved grazing, though there are rushy patches on the valley floor, and bracken and rough grazing on some steep slopes. Some small stands of deciduous woodland are present. Dominating this agricultural landscape are the remains of the metal mining industry and associated settlements. 19th century stone-built terraced cottages and two chapels are obvious components of the historic landscape. Abandoned cottages and farmsteads testify to the decline of population. The metal mines have been subjected to a programme of environmental improvements. Despite this, industrial remains are the single most dominant element of the landscape. These include tips, shafts, open-casts, a tramway and various buildings.

Recorded archaeology comprises almost exclusively 19th century standing buildings and the remains of the metal mining industry. However, limited time-depth to the landscape is provided by a documentary reference to a Medieval or early modern pillow mound or rabbit warren.

This is a very distinctive and well defined area. On all sides land rises steeply onto unenclosed or semi-enclosed land (areas 19, 61), or onto forestry (area 8).

**Ground photograph:** 102

**Aerial photograph:** 103



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ◆ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

location, direction and number of ground photographs

27 →



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 102 RHOSGOCH

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 654824

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 233.8

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#### **Historic Background**

This historic landscape area lies on the edge of the current study area and has not been fully defined. No research on its history has been undertaken. The only estate map of the area (NLW Scott Archer 20) dates to 1788, and shows a landscape of scattered farms and a field system of small irregular enclosures. This pattern had not changed by the tithe survey. Indeed it is only in recent decades that major alterations to the landscape have occurred; with modern linear development at Cefn Llwyd. Although there is no evidence to support the suggestion, it is possible that the settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads, and field system, date to at least the late Medieval Period.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

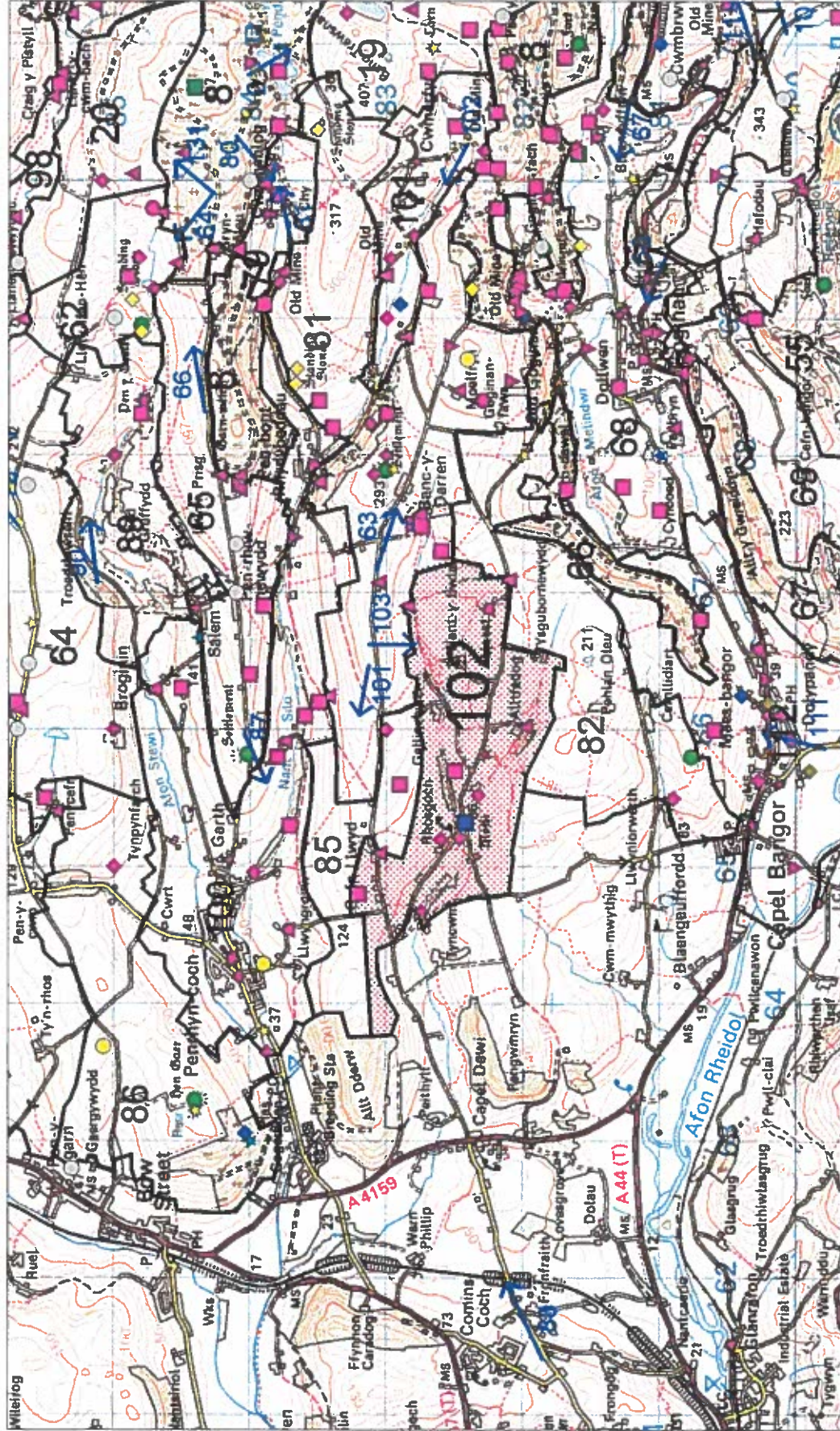
This area comprises the upper valley of the Afon Peithyll; an east-west flowing stream. The valley floor lies at about 90m; the rounded valley sides and slopes rise to over 200m. Stands of deciduous woodland, particularly on the lower valley sides and valley bottom, together with occasional distinctive hedgerow trees lend a wooded aspect to the landscape. Improved grazing dominates with very little rough ground present. Field patterning consists of small irregular enclosures divided by earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are in fair to good condition at lower levels, poorer on the higher slopes where some are becoming derelict. All are supplemented by wire fences. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farms. Traditional buildings are stone-built with slate roofs. Most farms have steel-frame or other modern structures attached to them. Modern linear development comprising concrete- and brick-built dwellings is currently under construction at Cefn Llwyd.

Recorded archaeology consists mainly of post-Medieval sites. These include three mills, or the sites of three mills, extant cottages and farmhouses and metal mines. The only time depth to the landscape is provided by a small Medieval motte - Ystrad Peithyll. This small English castle was destroyed in 1113.

To the north, east and south this area is quite well-defined by ridges of 18th and 19th-century enclosure and few settlements (areas 61, 82, 85). Historic landscape areas to the west have yet to be defined.

**Ground photographs:** 88, 103

**Aerial photographs:** 74, 76



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ★ Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 103 AFON LERI

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 682883

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 354.0

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#### **Historic Background**

The history of this area has not been researched. Unlike many similar valley-floor historic landscape areas to the south, the Leri valley did not lie within one of the many granges of Strata Florida or Cwm-hir Abbey. In the post-Medieval Period no one large estate dominated, as happened in most of upland Ceredigion, and therefore there are no collections of large-scale 18th century maps with which evaluate the development of the historic landscape. The tenurial system is likely to have been one of small owner-occupiers and small private estates, with a settlement pattern of dispersed farms. It is likely that the settlement pattern dates to at least the later Middle Ages, and may be earlier. The associated field system may be of a similar date. Superimposed over the agricultural landscape is one of metal mining. These mines were small-scale operations, but nevertheless had sufficient impact on population levels for a school room to be built in 1845 and a chapel in 1850 (Percival 1998, 512). The tithe map of 1845 shows a landscape essentially the same as today's.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

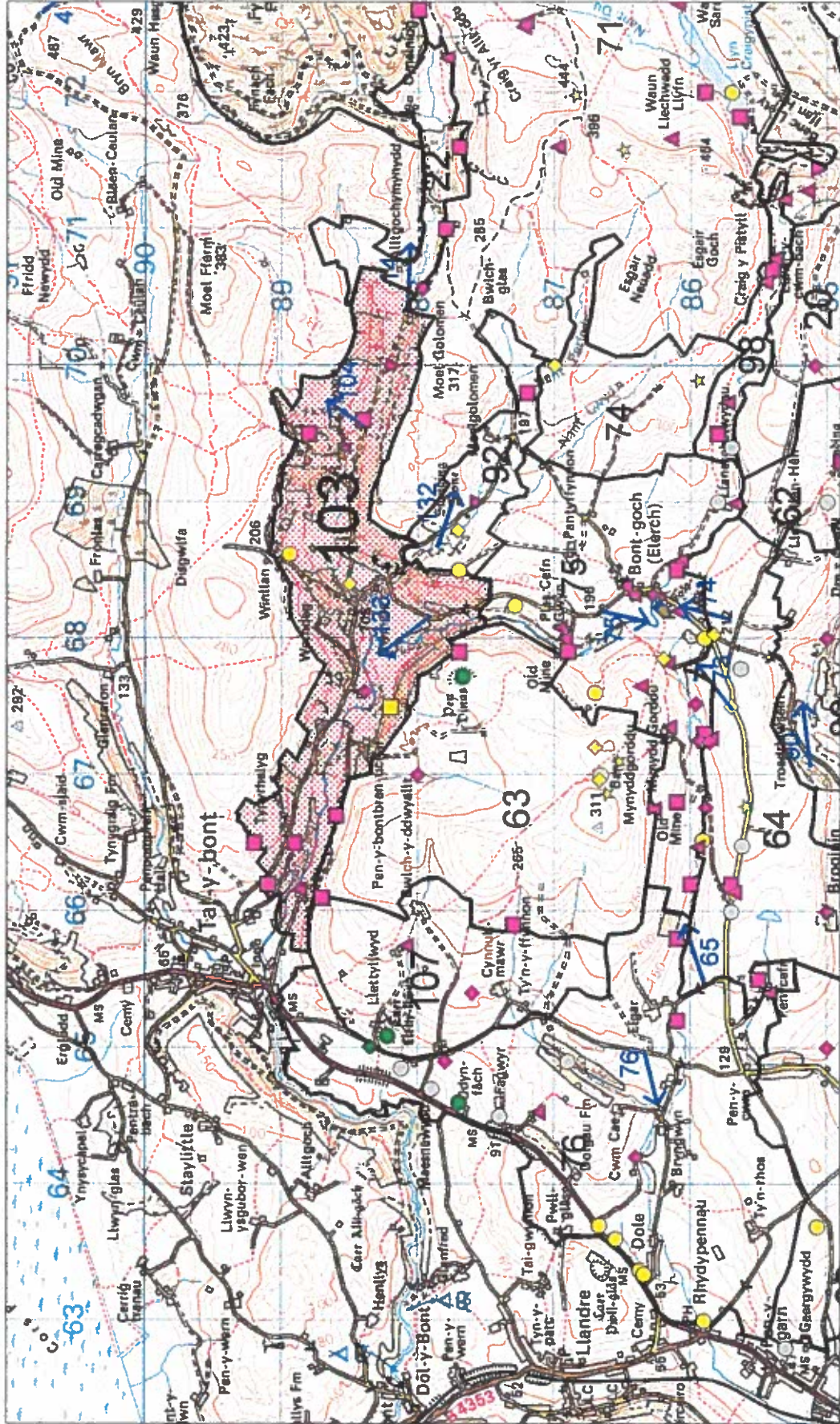
This area which encompasses the floor and lower slopes of the Leri is both varied and complex. The Leri runs rapidly through this area, falling from 170m in the east to less than 90m in the west. Valley sides included in the study area rise steeply to over 200m, and beyond the study area they continue to rise across unenclosed land to over 300m. The settlement pattern of dispersed farms is set in a field system of small- and medium-sized irregular enclosures. These enclosures are bounded by earth or earth, and stone banks topped with hedges, or by dry-stone walls. Dry-stone walls are in varying degrees of repair. Hedges are on the whole overgrown and no longer stock-proof; many contain distinctive trees. These trees together with the numerous stands of deciduous woods and conifer plantations lend a highly wooded appearance to the landscape. Farmland is of improved grazing with some rougher ground on steep slopes, and rushy patches in hollows. Buildings are in a variety of styles and materials; older structures are stone-built with slate roofs, modern buildings are of concrete. Most farms have steel-frame buildings or other structures attached to them. The tips and workings of several metal mines are a distinctive feature of the landscape. The course of the short-lived Plynlimon and Hafan tramway which served some of these mines passes through this area. Dams and leats at the western end of the Leri were built to serve the flannel industry in Tal-y-bont.

Recorded archaeology mostly comprises the remains of metal mines. A mill and an extant chapel are also on the record. A limited time-depth element to the landscape is provided by a possible site of a Bronze Age standing stone, and by a Bronze Age burnt mound or hearth.

This is a well-defined and distinct area. To the north high, unenclosed land has yet to be described. To the south, high unenclosed land (areas 63, 71) forms a clear border to this area. Between this area and areas 22, 75, 92 and 107 the border is less distinct as all these areas share many similar landscape components.

**Ground photographs:** 104, 133

**Aerial photographs:** 95, 97, 98



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ★ Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ◆ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 104 BERTHDDU

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 675662  
**AREA IN HECTARES:** 216.5

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#### **Historic Background**

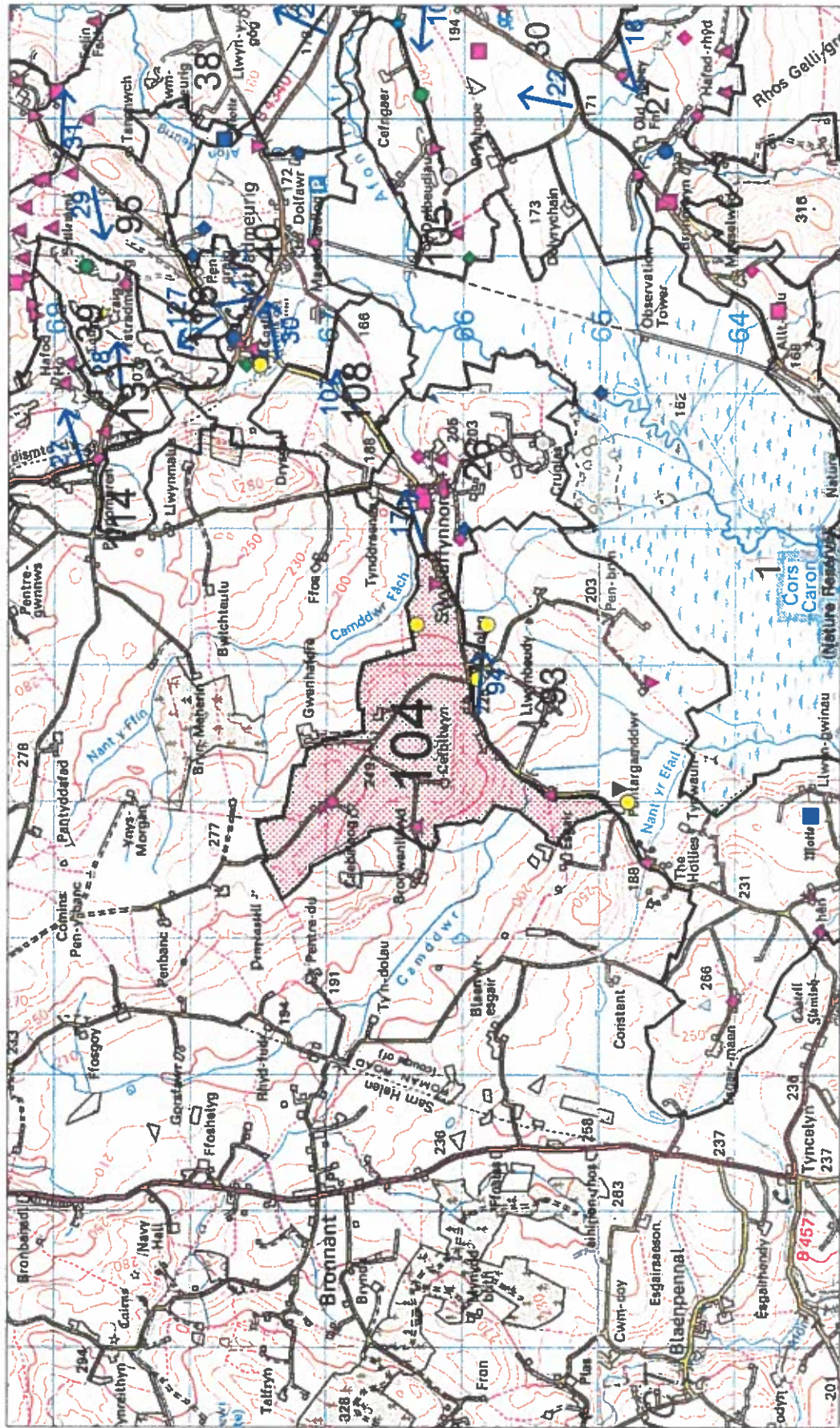
In the Medieval Period part of this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Mefenydd Grange. At the dissolution all Strata Florida's holdings were granted to the Earl of Essex. Soon after, the land in and around this area seems to have been purchased by the Lloyds of Ffosybleiddiaid, and may later have been acquired by the Vaughans of Crosswood. The origin of this landscape is not known. The regular field system suggests enclosure in a single or few episodes, rather than irregular encroachment. The date of enclosure is unknown, but it and the settlement pattern had been established by the tithe survey (Lledrod Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1844). A chapel was constructed in this area in the 19th century.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

A southeast to northwest aligned ridge which achieves a maximum height of 270m. Its northeastern and southwestern flanks fall away rapidly to a low of 170m. This is an area of scattered farms and small- to medium-sized fairly regular enclosures; the larger enclosures generally located on the higher ground. The regularity of the enclosures is in contrast with the irregular field systems of areas 26, 93 and 103 to the east. Field boundaries consist of earth banks topped with hedges on the lower slopes, and stone-faced banks with mostly derelict hedges on the higher ground and ridge crest. Wire fences supplement many of the old boundaries. This is an open landscape with very few trees. Improved grazing is universal. Buildings are of stone with slate roofs.

Recorded archaeology is not particularly varied, and consists mostly of post-Medieval extant or abandoned buildings, with the only time-depth element to the landscape provided by a Bronze Age burnt mound or hearth.

Landscape character areas to the north, east and west have yet to be defined. To the south and southeast are the irregular enclosures of areas 26, 93 and 103, though there is no clear division between these and area 104.



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ◆ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 105 DOLBEUDIAU - DOLYRYCHAIN

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 712659

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 124.7

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Penardd Grange. As with other granges of the abbey it is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, Penardd had been divided into farms which were leased out on a commercial basis. On the dissolution of the abbey its lands were granted to the Earl of Essex, who subsequently in 1630 sold them to the Crosswood estate. Crosswood estate maps are the earliest large scale cartographic representation of the area. These maps of 1781 (NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 6 and 8) show a landscape under change. The farms of Dolbeudiau, Brynhope and Dolyrychain were all in existence, with each farm surrounded by a few small fields separated by open, unenclosed ground. By the tithe survey (Caron parish 1845) the field system of today had been established - small- to medium-sized enclosures covering the whole area. Although it would require further research to substantiate, it is possible that the farms of this area were established on unenclosed land on the fringes of Cors Caron in the late Medieval- or early modern period in order to exploit the grazing and hay of the bog.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape characteristics**

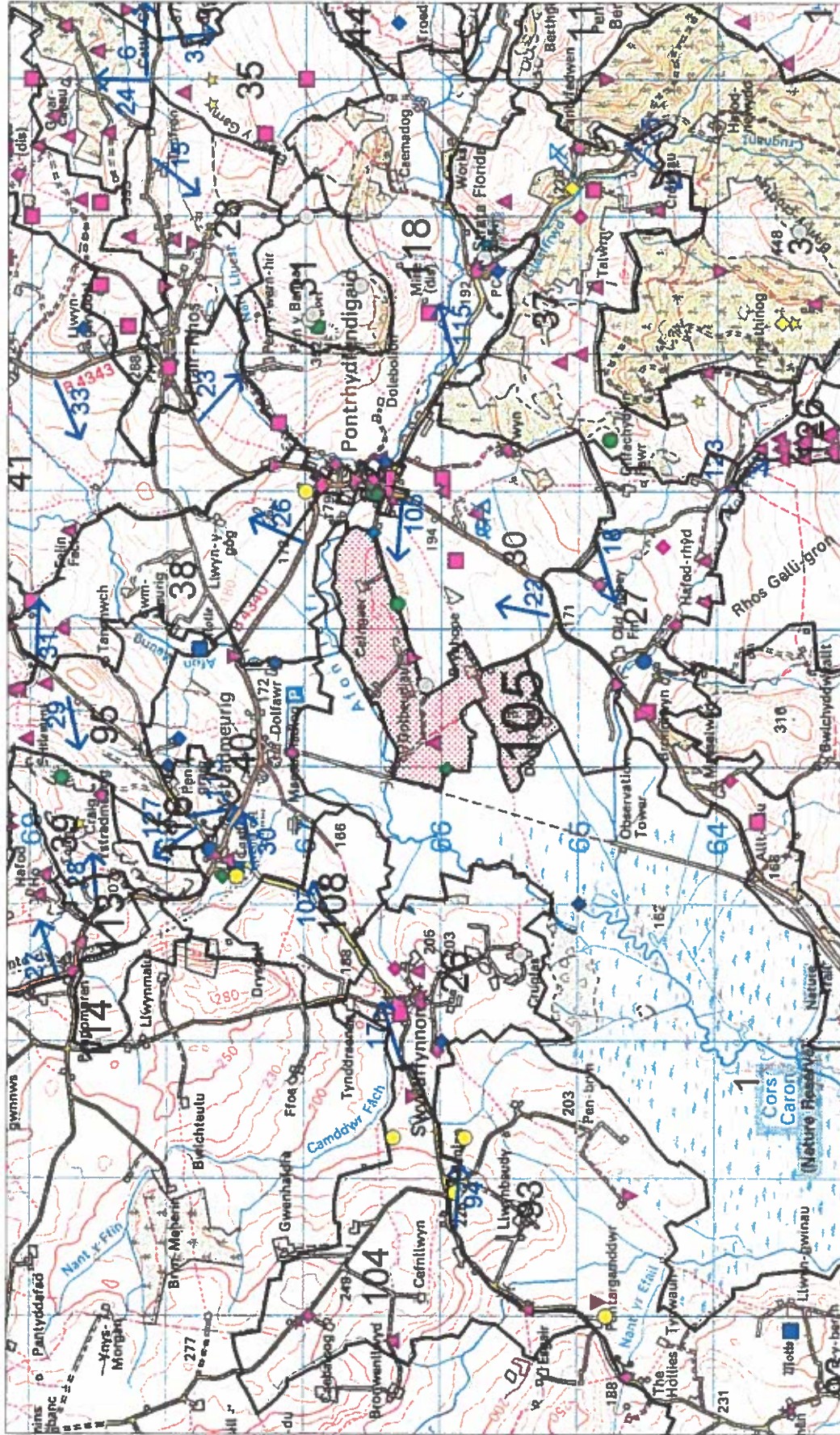
This area comprises a low undulating ridge between 160m and 210m bordering the western side of Cors Caron. To the west and north the land falls away rapidly to the bog, to the south and east more gentle slopes fade into lower-lying farmland. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farmsteads. Farms are stone-built with slate roofs. Attached to the farmsteads are steel-frame or other modern buildings. Field patterning comprises small, irregular enclosures close to the farms with more regular, medium-sized enclosures further out, and, on the slope overlooking Cors Caron, large fields. Boundaries are of banks of earth or stone-faced earth topped with hedges. Hedges are in fair condition on the lower eastern slopes, but elsewhere they are overgrown, neglected or derelict. Wire fences now provide the main stock-proof barriers. Improved pasture dominates, with patches of rougher, rushy ground in hollows. Apart from a small conifer plantation, there are few trees.

The only recorded archaeology in this area consists of a post-Medieval cottage.

This area is very well-defined to the west and north by Cors Caron (area 1). Elsewhere, this area tends to merge with the late enclosed land of area 30 - there is no definite boundary between the two.

**Ground photographs:** 22, 105

**Aerial photographs:** 1, 8



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ■ Medieval castle         | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ◆ Dark Age memorial stone | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 106 BERWYN VALLEY**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 711587

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 87.8

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#### **Historic Background**

The history of this area is not known. All that is certain is that the current settlement pattern and field system were established by the tithe survey of 1845 (Caron parish).

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

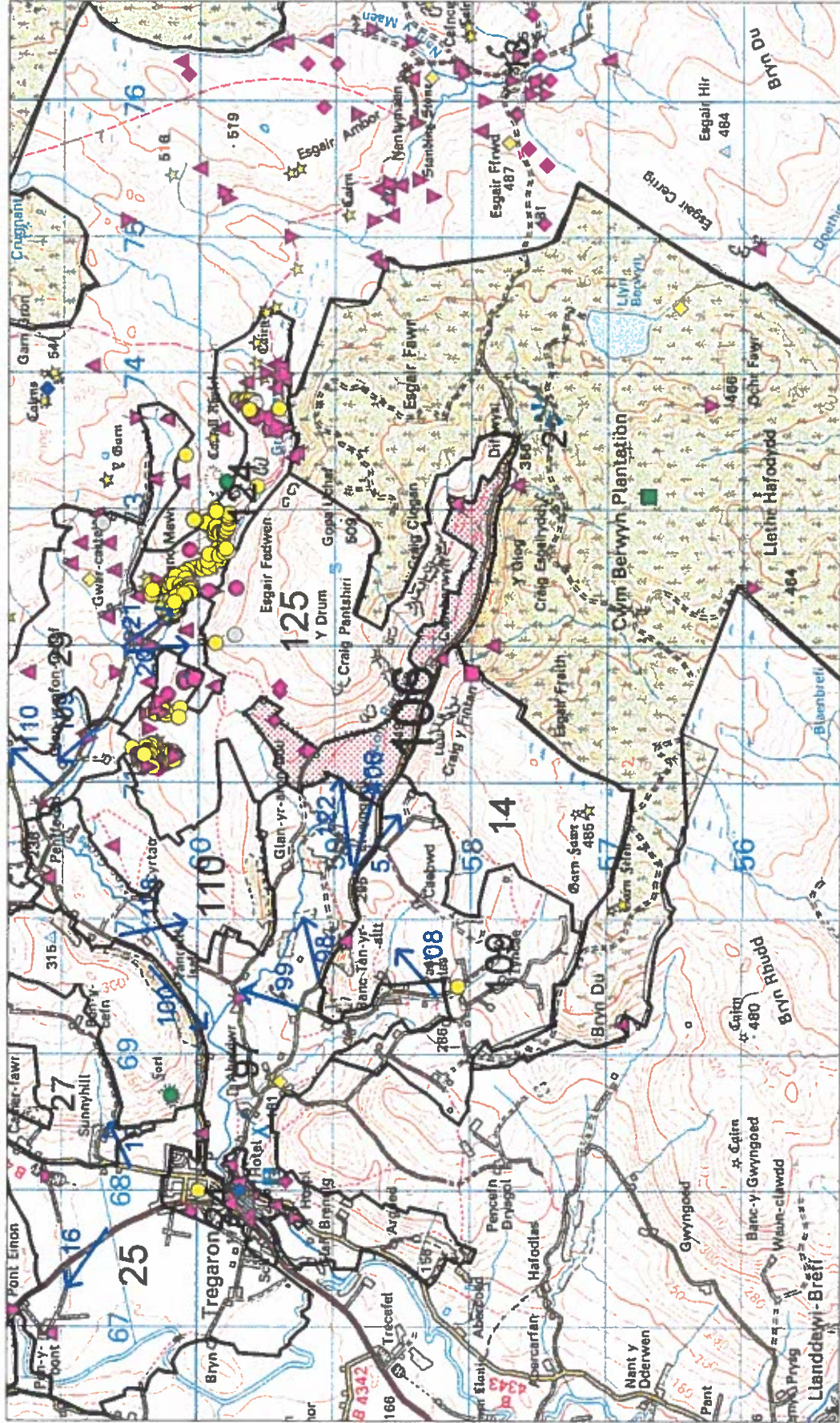
A narrow area confined to the valley floor and part of a south-facing valley side of the Afon Berwyn, between 250m and 350m. It comprises two farmsteads and a field system of irregular enclosures. The field boundaries consist of stone-faced banks topped with hedges, and dry-stone walls. Hedges are not generally stock-proof and are becoming derelict. They are supported by wire fences. Some distinctive trees are contained in the hedgerows. Improved pasture is common in the area, though there is much rushy ground and possibly some peat deposits on the valley floor. Buildings are of stone with slate roofs.

The presence of deserted settlements in the archaeological record indicates a more populous area through to the 19th- and 20th-century. There is no recorded archaeology other than post-Medieval sites.

To the north, south and east the boundaries of this area are very well defined by steep valley sides and/or forestry plantations (areas 2, 14, 125). To the west the area fades gradually into area 97.

**Ground photograph:** 106

**Aerial photograph:** 7



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

location, direction and number of ground photographs

27 ➔



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 107 CYNNULL

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 655877

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 178.2

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#### **Historic Background**

The history of this area has not been researched. It would seem, however, that the two farms of Cynull Mawr and Argoed Fach are important settlements of some antiquity, perhaps based on pre Anglo-Norman tribal land-holding, as in 1764 the demesnes of Cynnull Mawr and Argoed Fach were recorded on an estate map (NLW Gogerddan 35). It seems likely that this estate was carved out from a pre-existing tenurial system in the late Medieval or early modern period when the concept of private ownership was gaining acceptance. The 1764 estate map shows each of the two farms (plus a deserted farm), associated with a few small irregular fields, and open ground or large enclosures of arable and pasture further out. On the western boundary of the area, on lower slopes, a system of irregular fields is shown. By the mid 19th-century all of this area had been enclosed, though on higher ground larger enclosures are evident from cartographic sources. The area has changed little since the mid 19th-century.

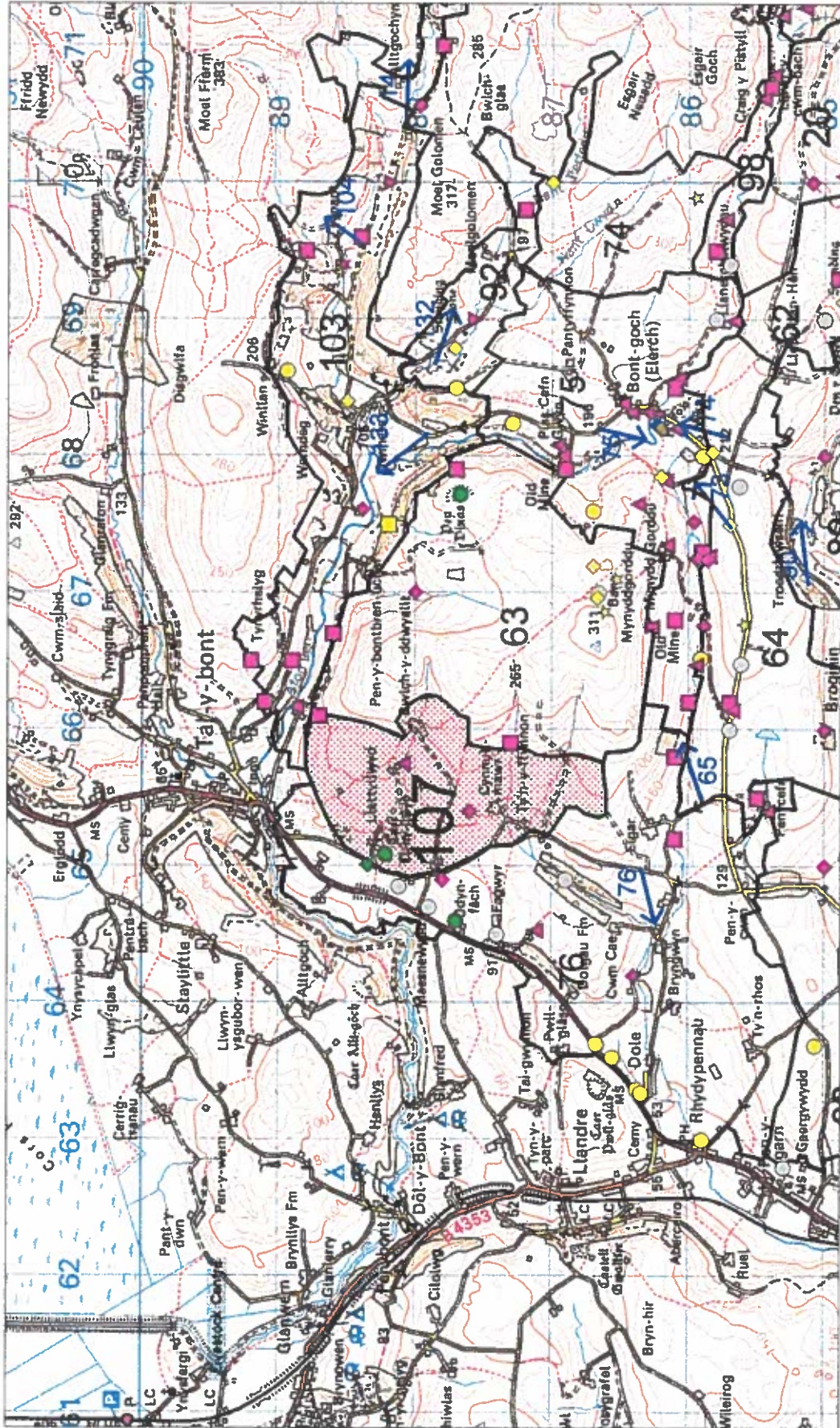
#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area is essentially a buffer zone between the more populated and enclosed lower-lying land to the west, and unenclosed upland to the east. It consists of the western flanks of a hill, with the lower slopes running down to below 100m, and the summit at over 250m. It is a landscape of dispersed farms set in a system of irregular fields. Farms are stone-built with slate roofs and generally are associated with modern steel-frame or other out-buildings. Boundaries to the fields are varied. Mostly they consist of earth, or earth and stone banks topped with hedges, though more substantial stone-built banks with occasional orthostats are present close to Cynnull Mawr. Occasional collapsing dry-stone walls are also present. Hedges are generally in good condition alongside public roads, in fair condition on the lower slopes, but overgrown and/or derelict elsewhere. Wire fences supplement most boundaries. Improved grazing dominates, with rougher land on some steep slopes. There are some small stands of deciduous woodland and a conifer plantation.

Recorded archaeology is dominated by a substantial Iron Age fort - Caer Lletty Llwyd - and associated features. Post-medieval mining and quarrying has also been recorded.

To the east this area is defined by former unenclosed moorland (area 63). On other sides, definition is less good, and this area tends to merge with lower-lying enclosed land (areas 76, 103).

**Aerial photographs:** 97, 98



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 108 TYN-Y-BANADL

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 699669

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 92.9

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Mefenydd Grange. At the dissolution all Strata Florida's holdings were granted to the Earl of Essex. Soon after, the land around Swyddffynnon seems to have been purchased by the Lloyds of Ffosybleiddiaid, and later acquired by the Vaughans of Crosswood. The history of this particular area has not been researched, but it seems likely that it was unenclosed land for much of the post-Medieval Period, and perhaps enclosed in one episode. The tithe map (Lledrod Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1844) and a late 18th-century estate map (NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 62) show this area very much as it is today.

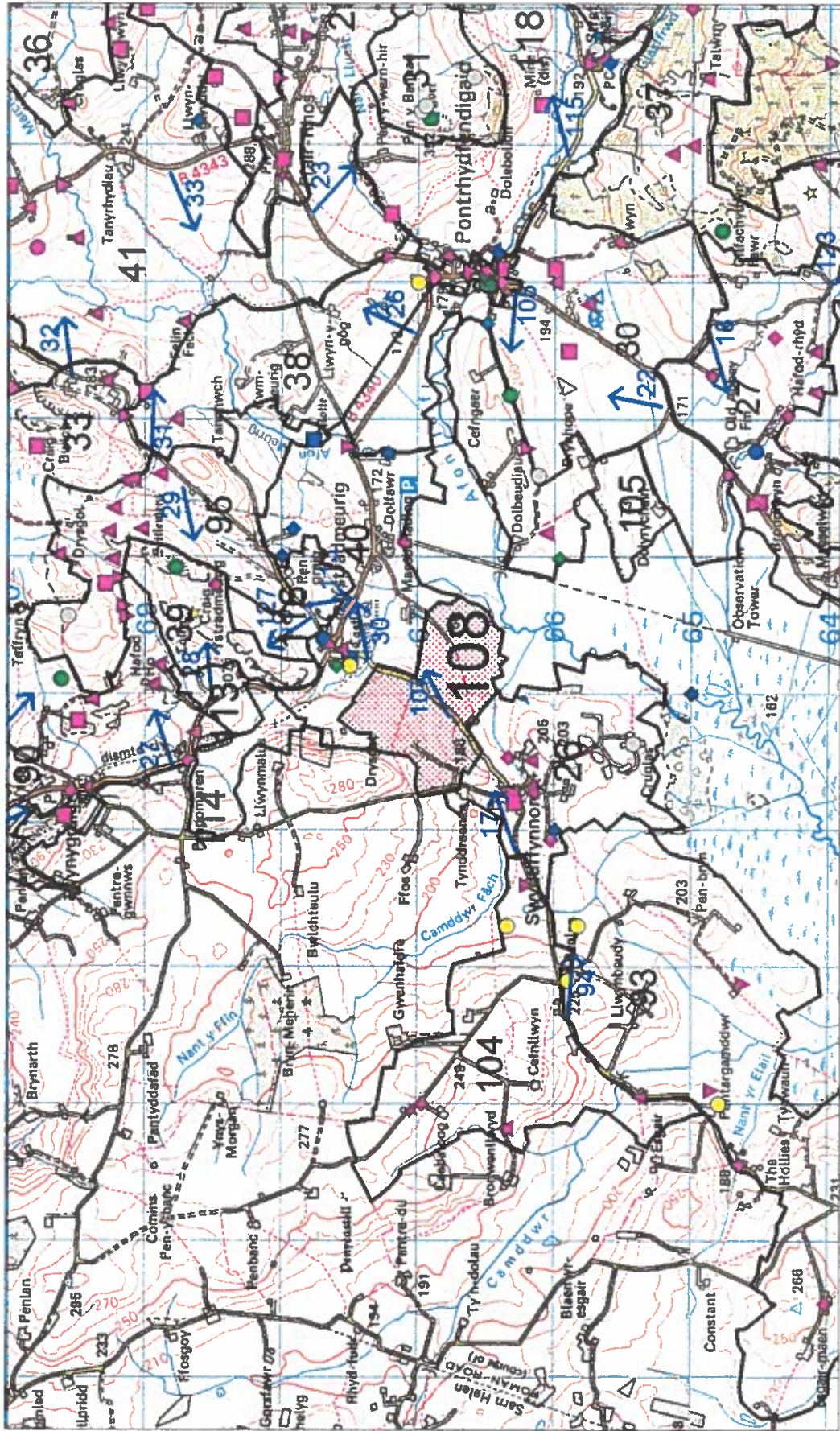
#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

An area that rises from 170m at its eastern boundary with Cors Caron (area 1), to 230m at its western edge. There are no buildings within this landscape area, though the farms of Tyn-y-banadl and Maesbanadlog lie close to the boundaries. A system of medium-sized regular fields predominates. This has the appearance of having been laid-out, rather than having organically evolved. Boundaries consist of earth banks topped with hedges. The hedges are in fair to good condition on the lower slopes to the east, but there is a deterioration in quality with altitude, and on the highest levels hedges have all but disappeared and have been replaced by wire fences. Improved pasture covers virtually the whole of this area.

This area is well-defined to the east where it meets Cors Caron (area 1). To the northwest is a hill - Drysgol - of unenclosed land, and to the north and south areas 26 and 40 comprise systems of small irregular fields.

**Ground photograph:** 107

**Aerial photograph:** 1



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 109 NANT COU AND NANT OCHRGARREG VALLEYS

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GRID REFERENCE: SN 697581

AREA IN HECTARES: 233.3

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#### Historic background

The history of this area has not been researched. It is likely that in the early post-Medieval Period much of this area was unenclosed and therefore claimed by the Crown, and has been only colonised and enclosed over the past few centuries. The tithe map of 1845 (Caron Tithe Map and Apportionment) shows a landscape very different from that of today. Ochrgarreg, Caebwd, Troed-y-Rhiw and Cefn-y-Esgair Fawr and Fach farms were then in existence, each surrounded by a few small fields set within unenclosed ground. Glangors seems to have been a squatter settlement. Other farmsteads - Pant-Glas, Bryn-wernen, Tyncae - had not been founded. By 1887 when the Ordnance Survey (Ordnance Survey, 1891, 6" to 1 mile, *Cardiganshire XXVII.NW*) carried out their large-scale survey, the present settlement pattern and field system, apart from further subdivision of large enclosures, had been established. Thus, in common with many other similar areas of upland Ceredigion, the physical effects of early 19th-century population growth is embedded in the landscape.

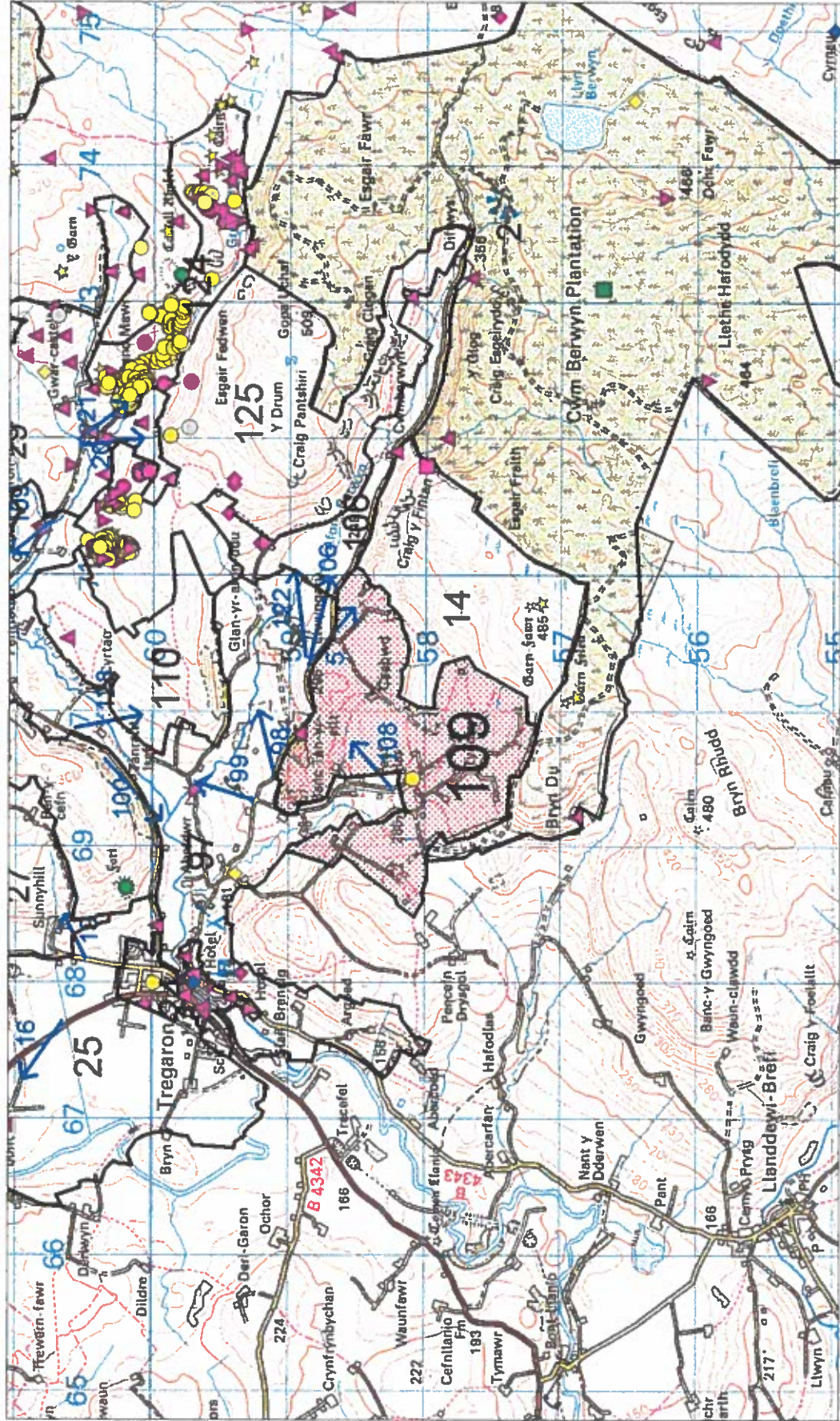
#### Description and essential historic landscape components

An area centred on the upper Nant Cou and Nant Ochrgarreg valleys between 290m and 400m. The topography is of undulating uplands with steep valley sides bounding landscape area 97 to the north. Settlements are dispersed and set in a system of small, irregular fields. On the higher margins of the area these small fields give way to larger, more regular-shaped fields. Deciduous woodland is present on the steeper valley sides. Boundaries are of stone-faced banks topped with hedges, with occasional dry-stone walls. On the lower levels hedges are in fair condition; at higher levels they are derelict. Most boundaries are now reinforced with wire fences. Boundaries on lower levels contain distinctive hedgerow trees. Agricultural land consists of improved pasture, with rough grazing and bracken on steep slopes and rushy ground with peaty deposits in hollows. There are considerable stands of deciduous woodland on valley sides. These together with the hedgerow trees give a moderately wooded aspect to the landscape. Older buildings are of stone with slate roofs, modern dwellings are of rendered concrete with slate or concrete tile roofs.

The only recorded archaeological site in this area - finds of Bronze Age date - provides a limited time-depth element to the landscape.

To the north this area merges with area 97 - there is no distinct boundary. To the west the landscape area has yet to be defined, though it is unenclosed land. Forestry plantation (area2) forms a clear boundary to the south, and the eastern edge is clearly demarcated at the junction with unenclosed land (area 14).

**Ground photograph: 108**



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ★ Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ◆ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 110 CYRTAU AND BRYN-HOWNANT

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 705601

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 117.8

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#### **Historic Background**

The early history of this area is unclear. It may have formed part of one of the granges of Strata Florida Abbey, or part of the demesne of the abbey. The granges were granted to the Earl of Essex on the Dissolution, who sold them to the Crosswood estate in 1630. In the late 18th-century some land in this area was in the possession of Crosswood, and may have been obtained by this route. Abbey demesne was acquired by John Stedman in 1567. However, Richard Stedman died intestate in 1746 and the estate passed to the Powells of Nanteos. Nanteos had considerable holdings here in the 19th century. It is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, abbey granges and demesne were divided into farms which were leased out on a commercial basis. This may have been the origin of the settlement pattern we see today. However, by the 18th century, some holdings in this area were in the possession of Thomas Johnes's Llanfair Clydogau estate; these may have come to him through the purchase of part of the Bishop of St David's Llanddewibrefi estate. Whatever the tenurial system, this landscape has changed considerably over the past 200 years. An 1819 estate map (NLW Vol 45, 70) shows the area around the later established Waun-Gota farm (Waun-Gota farm was not established to after 1845) as unenclosed with intermixed strips, but to the east of Cyrtau as medium-sized fields. An earlier map of 1791 (NLW Vol 36, 151) depicts the hillside to the east of Bryn-Hownant as dispersed, strip enclosures. By the tithe survey of 1845 (Caron Tithe Map and Apportionment) only a few strips close to Waun-Gota were recorded; the remainder having been enclosed. From these historical map sources it would seem that this block of regular, medium-sized enclosures has evolved from a subdivided field system, that was still partly operational down to the early-mid 19th century. On modern maps the area of former strip enclosures in the vicinity of Waun-Gota farm is depicted as a series of rectangular enclosures aligned northwest to southeast. The holding known as Waun-Gota has been created out of the earlier strip system. As in other areas demographic pressures and changes underlie this 19th century pattern: extreme pressure on marginal land in the first half of the century, emigration, depopulation and the combining of holdings in the latter.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

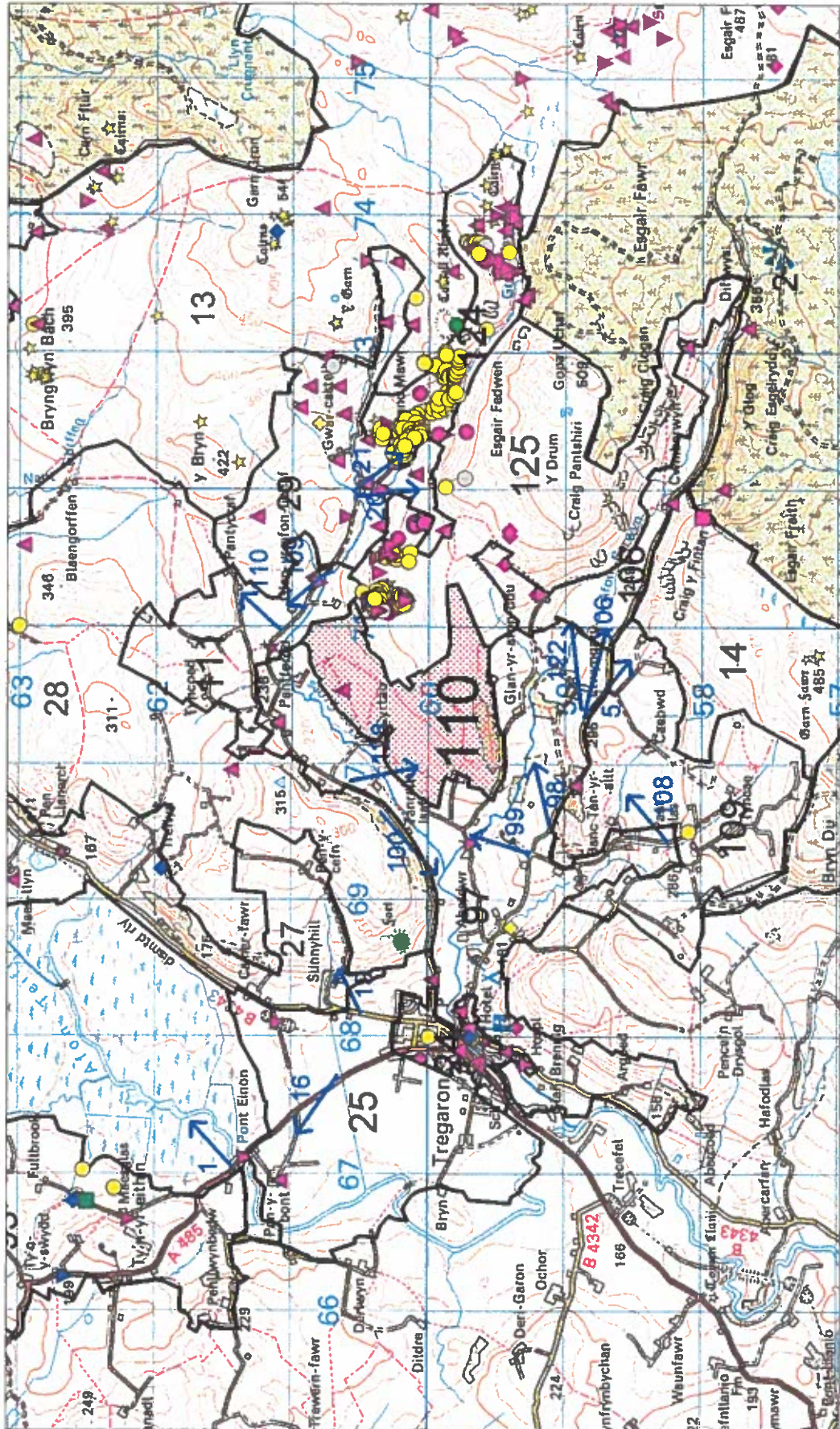
An area of regular, medium-sized enclosures on gentle northwest and southwest facing slopes of the Afon Groes between 200m and 320m. The enclosures are formed by earth banks topped with hedges. On the lower slopes the hedges are in fair condition, higher up the slopes they are derelict, and on the highest levels they have been replaced with wire fences. Even where they are in fair condition hedges are supported by wire fences. Improved pasture dominates the area, though at the northeast end near to Waun-Gota there is a considerable tract of poor quality grazing and rushy ground.

The only recorded archaeology consists of a post-Medieval cottage.

Between area 97 and this area the boundaries are not well defined. On the higher ground there is good definition between area 110 and the unenclosed ground of area 125.

**Ground photograph:** 128

**Aerial photographs:** 6



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 111 BLAENAU CARON

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 708613

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 113.2

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#### **Historic Background**

The early history of this area is unclear. It may have formed part of one of the granges of Strata Florida Abbey, or part of the demesne of the abbey. The granges were granted to the Earl of Essex on the Dissolution, who sold them to the Crosswood estate in 1630. In the late 18th-century some land in this area was in the possession of Crosswood, and may have been obtained by this route. Abbey demesne was acquired by John Stedman in 1567. However, Richard Stedman died intestate in 1746 and the estate passed to the Powells of Nanteos. Nanteos had considerable holdings here in the 19th century. It is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, abbey granges and demesne were divided into farms which were leased out on a commercial basis. This may have been the origin of the settlement pattern we see today. The Caron Tithe map of 1845 shows this area as it is today (Caron Tithe Map and Apportionment). 1819 estate maps (NLW Nanteos 180, 186; NLW Vol 45, 68) of the Blaenau Caron area, however, show higher farms to the northeast, such as Pantycraf and Fron-Felen, as isolated settlements set in a cluster of small irregular enclosures amongst open sheep-walk. Clearly, there was considerable enclosure between 1819 and 1845. In 1819, farms on lower levels such as Glanyrafon had been consolidated and enclosed, and appeared then much as they do today. This pattern of enclosure in the 19th century can be matched in other marginal areas of Ceredigion and is related to population increase. By the late 19th-century population had achieved a level sufficient to build a chapel (Percival 1998, 520).

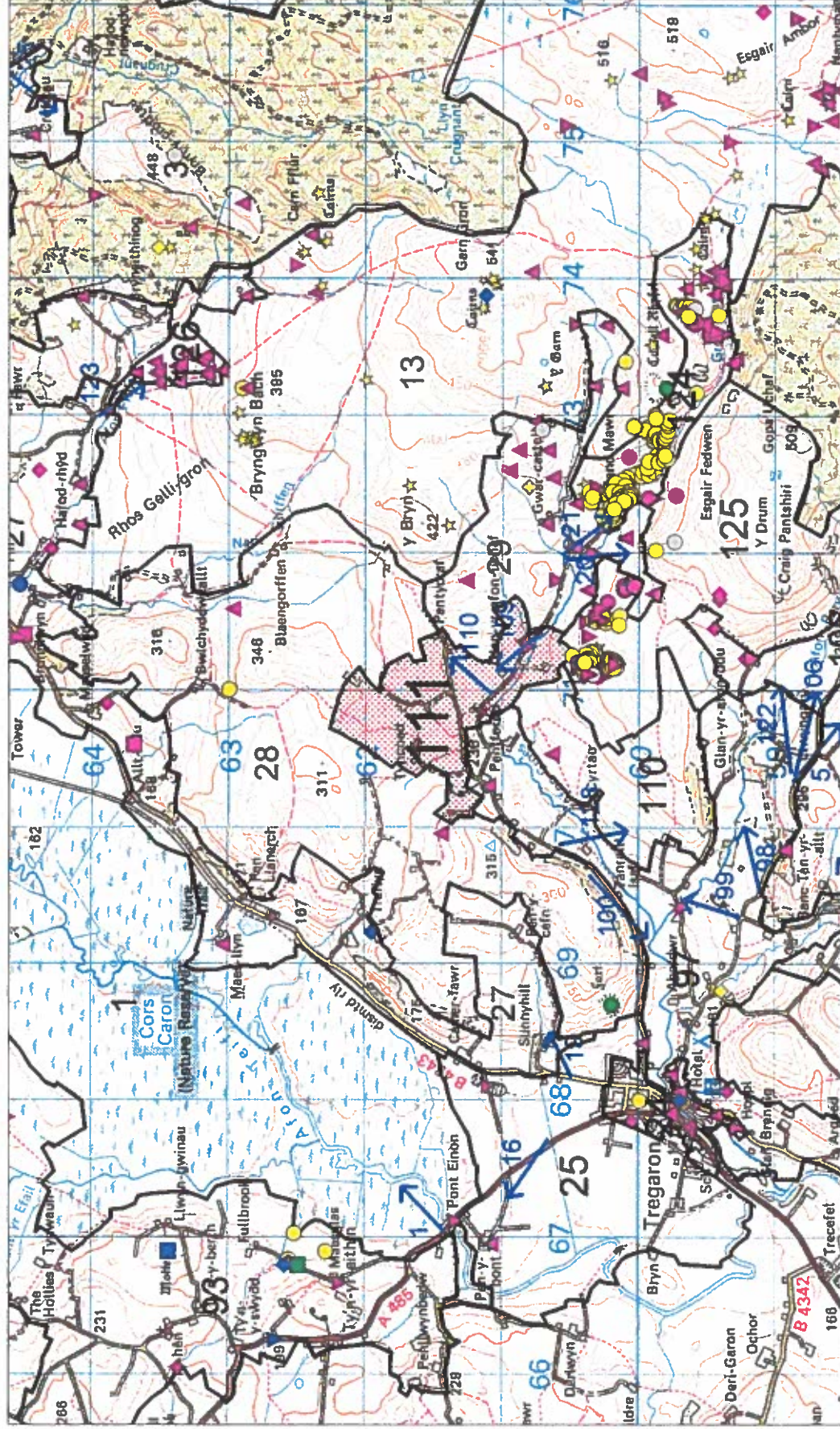
#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

A landscape of small- to medium-sized irregular enclosures and dispersed farms between 240m and 300m on the valley floor, and lower valley sides of the Afon Groes and tributary streams. At lower levels at the western end of the area field boundaries consist of earth banks and hedges, with some stone-faced banks and hedges. The earth banks generally give way to stone-faced banks and occasional dry-stone walls, to the east and on higher ground. Hedges are in fair to good condition on lower ground, but are in poor condition and becoming derelict at higher levels, and in some instances they have been replaced with wire fences. Improved pasture predominates in the area, with patches of unimproved ground and rough grazing. Older traditional buildings are stone built with slate roofs. Modern rendered concrete buildings with concrete tiles are also present.

Recorded archeology comprises two standing buildings: a chapel and a school.

To the southwest and southeast this area gradually merges with areas 29, 97 and 111. To the north there is a fairly distinct boundary with the an area of large enclosures/unenclosed land (area 28).

**Ground photographs:** 109, 110



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ■ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ★ Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 112 CAPEL BANGOR

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 660800  
**AREA IN HECTARES:** 330.8

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#### **Historic Background**

The history of this area has not been researched. The place-name 'Bangor' is presumed to refer to a pre Anglo-Norman ecclesiastical establishment. There is no other evidence to support this. The maes element of Maes Bangor may indicate the former presence of an open- or sub-divided field system, though there is no other documentary evidence for this. However, the present pattern of small irregular fields and dispersed farmsteads may have evolved from such a system in the later Medieval Period or early modern period. It is clear that by the time of the first large-scale mapping of the area, the tithe map of 1845 (Llanbadarnfawr parish), the current settlement pattern of dispersed farms and small fields had been established. Superimposed onto this agricultural landscape is that of rural industry and crafts. Capel Bangor village in 1845 consisted of five or six dwellings at 'Pandy', presumably indicating a fulling mill, and a smithy, with a 'Factory' located upstream. A chapel was constructed here in 1790 (Percival 1998, 517), and later a church and another chapel. The village continued to develop throughout the second half of the 19th century and the 20th century. A by-pass has been constructed to avoid the core of the old village.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area encompasses a terrace of the Afon Rheidol at about 30m-50m OD and the lower valley sides up to about 170m. Agricultural land is almost entirely composed of improved pasture, with hardly any rougher ground and no arable. The underlying settlement pattern is of dispersed farms. These are generally stone-built with slate roofs, and have steel-frame and other modern farm buildings associated with them. Included in the area is the early 19th-century listed mansion of Glan Rheidol and its historic garden (Welsh Historic Gardens Database). Superimposed over this pattern is the 19th- and 20th-century village of Capel Bangor. This consists of a core of 19th century stone-built terraced cottages, interspersed with which are more substantial 19th century houses and 20th century development of brick and concrete. A church, chapel and school are present. The core has now been by-passed. Petrol stations and other services have developed alongside the new road and a small caravan park lies close to the village centre. Field patterning comprises small irregular enclosures. Boundaries of these fields are of earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are generally well maintained on the river terrace with only a small percentage neglected. On higher ground they are less well managed and a larger proportion are becoming derelict. Wire fences supplement most hedges. Deciduous woodland and individual trees of park-land close to Glan Rheidol lend a wooded appearance to this part of the area. Remains of small metal mines lie close to the northern boundary..

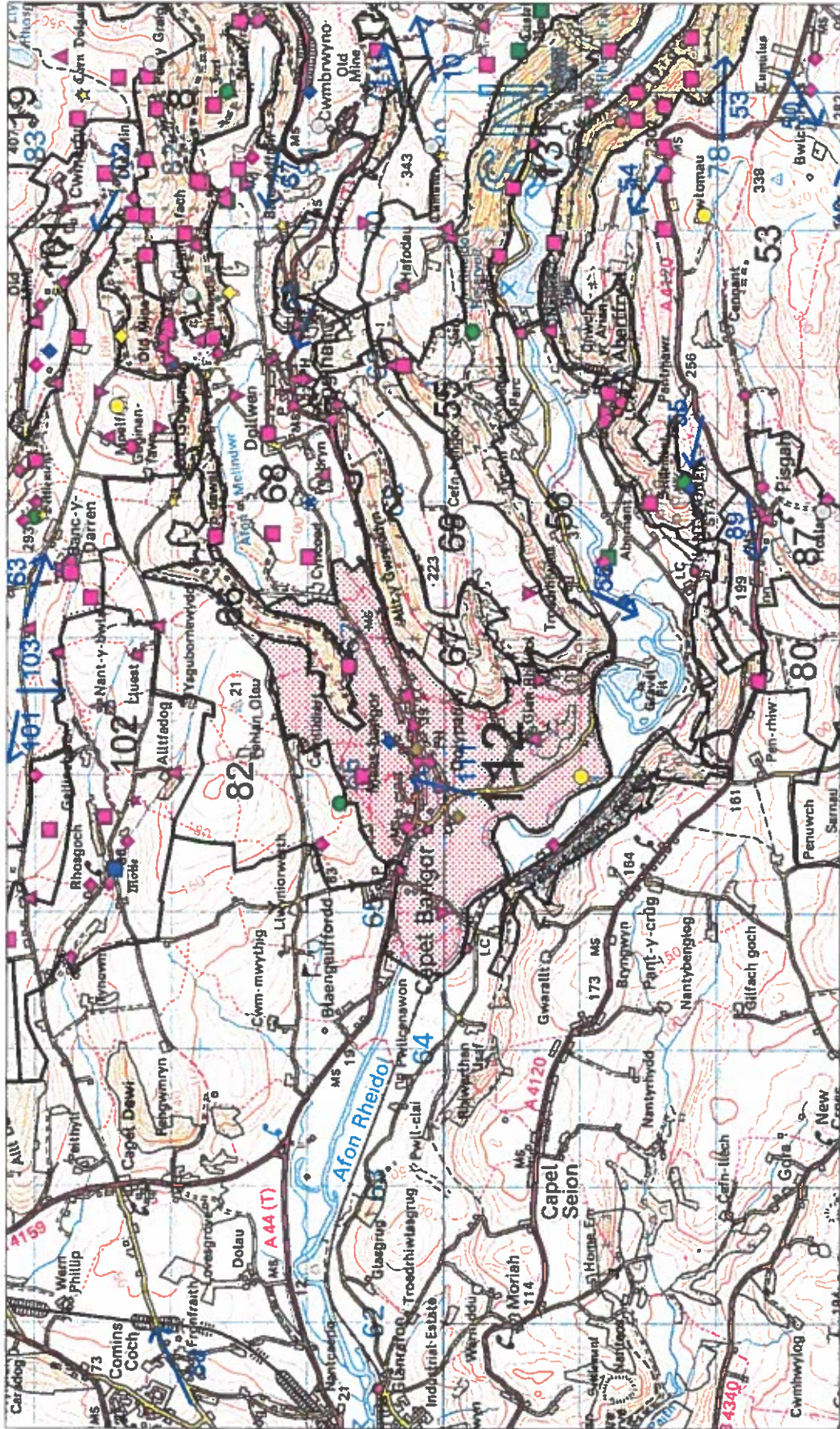
Recorded archaeology of this area consists mainly of post-Medieval domestic and industrial buildings and the remains described above. Bronze Age finds are the only indication of pre Dark Age occupation in this area.

This is a particularly difficult area to define as many of the neighbouring areas contain similar historic landscape characteristics. To the east areas 56 and 68 are different, though an exact boundary cannot be drawn. Higher ground (areas 68, 69, 82) of larger enclosures and less settled land provides better boundary definition, but again no exact boundary can be drawn. The historic landscape area to the west has yet to be described.

**Ground photograph:** 111

**Aerial photographs:** 73, 75





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 113 TANYGRAIG

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 699684  
**AREA IN HECTARES:** 20.0

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#### **Historic Background**

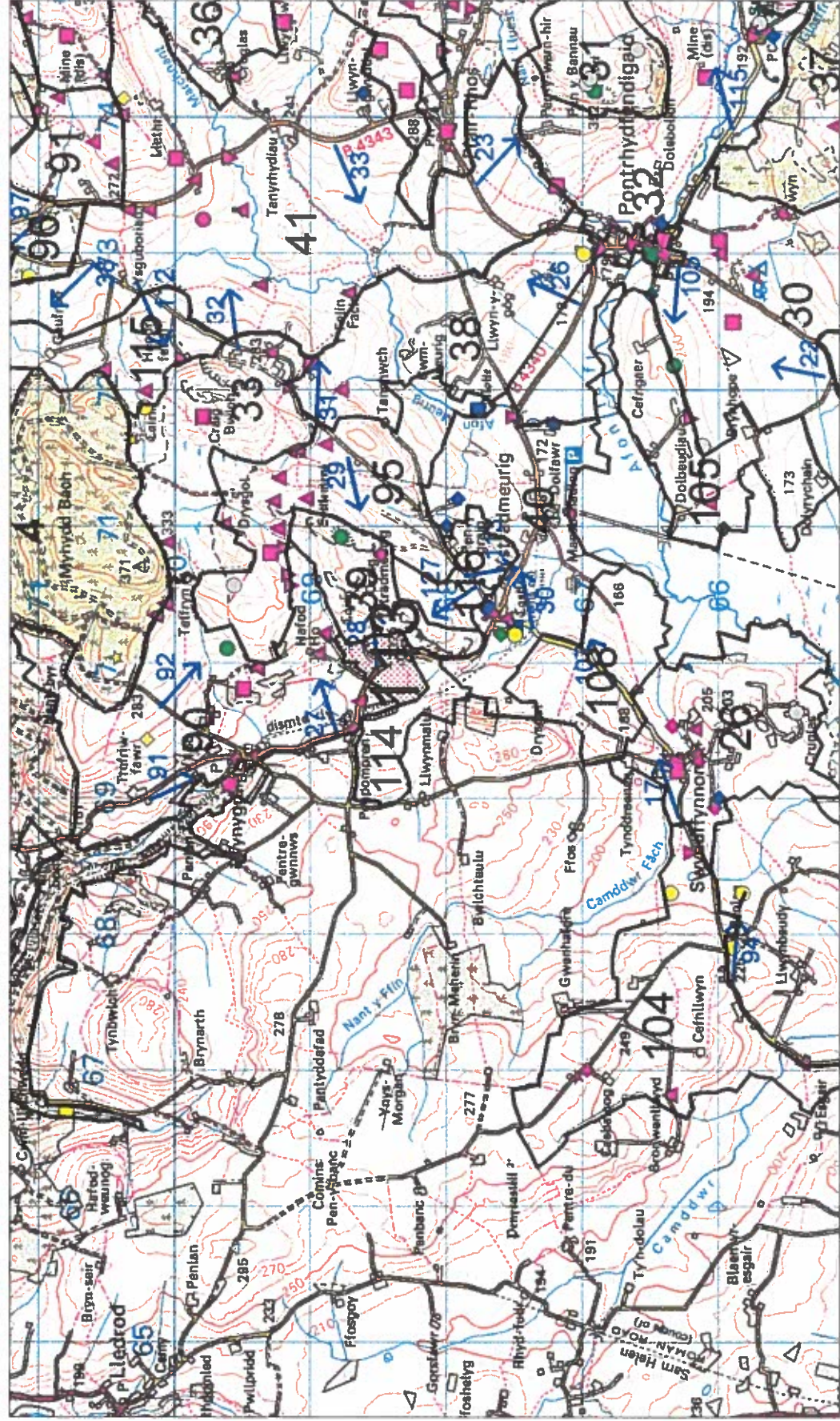
In the Medieval Period this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Mefenydd Grange. At the Dissolution the abbey's granges were granted to the Earl of Essex who sold them to the Crosswood estate in 1630. Most of the land in this area seems to have remained in the Crosswood estate through to the 20th century. In common with other granges, it is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, Mefenydd had been divided into farms which were leased out and farmed on a commercial basis. No sources have been researched to investigate how this area may have developed. Cartographic sources are scarce. The only large-scale map, the tithe map (Spytty Ystrad Meurig Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1843) indicates that the present settlement pattern and field system had been established by 1843.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This small but characteristically distinct area lies in a saddle of land, the watershed between the south-flowing Teifi and the west-flowing Ystwyth. Its elevation is *circa* 220m. Dry-stone wall boundaries are the defining characteristic of this area. These walls are in fair to good condition - most are stock-proof - and parcel the land into a system of small, regular fields. Improved grazing dominates the area, with virtually no rough ground. There are few trees. The settlement pattern is one of dispersed farms. Traditional older buildings in this area are stone-built with slate roofs. Modern structures are of rendered concrete. This area lies within a natural route corridor, providing the easiest access from the upper Teifi valley to lands to the northwest in the Ystwyth valley. Currently, the B4340 crosses the area, connecting Pontrhydfendigiad and Tregaron with Aberystwyth. An old railway line follows the approximate line of the B4340.

Borders of this landscape area are fairly well defined. To the east lies the open craggy land of Craig Ystradmeurig (area 39). Lower lying enclosed land lies to the north and south (areas 40, 90) and wetter enclosed land to the west (area 114).

**Ground photograph:** 28



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 114 LLWYNMALUS

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 696682  
**AREA IN HECTARES:** 37.4

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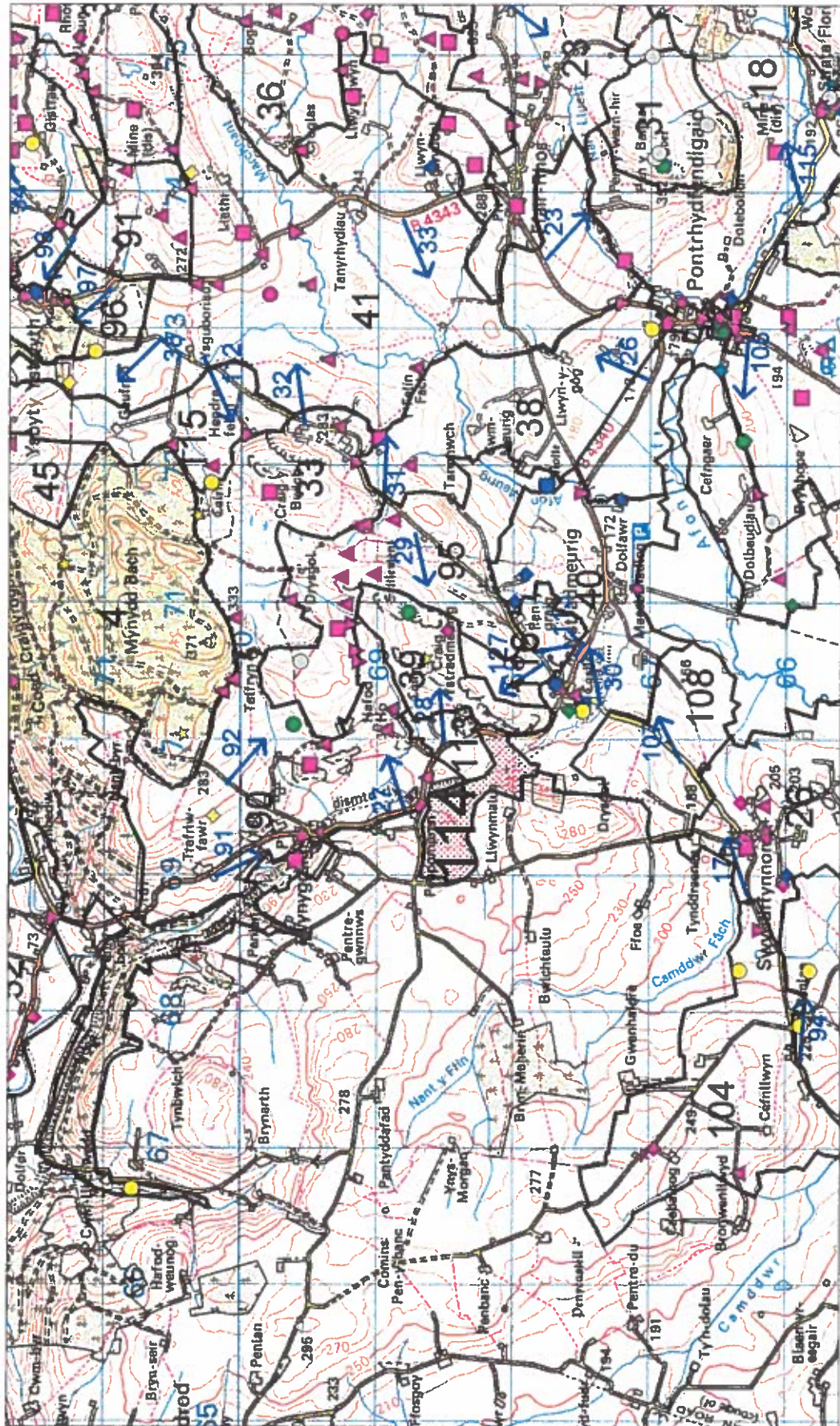
#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Mefenydd Grange. At the Dissolution the abbey's granges were granted to the Earl of Essex who sold them to the Crosswood estate in 1630. Most of the land in this area seems to have remained in the Crosswood estate through to the 20th century. In common with other granges, it is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, Mefenydd had been divided into farms which were leased out and farmed on a commercial basis. No sources have been researched to investigate how this area may have developed. The only large-scale historic manuscript maps of this area are the tithe maps (Lledrod Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1844; Spytty Ystrad Meurig Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1843). These show that by the 1840s the present-day field system had been established.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This is a small area and at *circa* 200m is low-lying in relation to the surrounding land. It is divided into a system of small- to medium-sized fields. These are divided by earth banks with hedges or drainage ditches. The hedges are not in good condition and are supplemented by wire fences. There are no settlements in this area. It is a wet area. Improved grazing is present, but there are tracts of rough grazing, rushes, peaty deposits and even pools of standing water.

The borders to this area are not particularly well defined. To the east lies the better quality enclosed land of areas 40, 90 and 113. Landscape character areas to the north, south and east have yet to be defined.



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 115 GEUFRON/HENDRE-FELEN

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 722707

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 96.4

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Mefenydd Grange. At the Dissolution the abbey's granges were granted to the Earl of Essex who sold them to the Crosswood estate in 1630. Most of the land in this area seems to have remained in the Crosswood estate through to the 20th century. In common with other granges, it is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, Mefenydd had been divided into farms which were leased out and farmed on a commercial basis. Hendre-felen place-name suggests a long established farmstead, perhaps originating in the Medieval Period. Tithe maps (Gwynnws Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1847; Spytty Ystwyth Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1848) demonstrate that by the 1840s the current settlement pattern and field systems had been established, though there has been some loss of farmsteads and cottages since then. An earlier, late 18th-century, estate map (NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 60) shows a similar picture to the tithe, but with some subtle differences. Small enclosures are shown surrounding the farmsteads, with larger enclosures further out, and some unenclosed land on the margins of the area. Some small stands of woodland are located to the south of Cilmeddu Farm. By the tithe surveys the larger enclosures had been subdivided. Clearly the map evidence indicates a developing landscape in the late 18th- and early 19th-century. The scale of development of settlements and field systems appears to have peaked by the time of the tithe survey, since when it has been in decline.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

An area of gentle east-facing slope ranging in height from 180m to 260m. This slope is sheltered from the prevailing winds by higher ground to the west, and lies above poor quality, wetter ground to the east. Three widely dispersed farms are separated by a field system or systems of small irregular fields. The fields are divided by earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are generally in good condition, though some are becoming derelict and are supplemented by wire fences. Land-use is predominantly improved grazing, though there are pockets of rougher ground and on lower slopes where drainage is impeded. Small stands of trees and the overgrown nature of some of the hedges lend a wooded aspect to this area. Older buildings are of stone with slate roofs, modern structures are of rendered concrete block with concrete tiles.

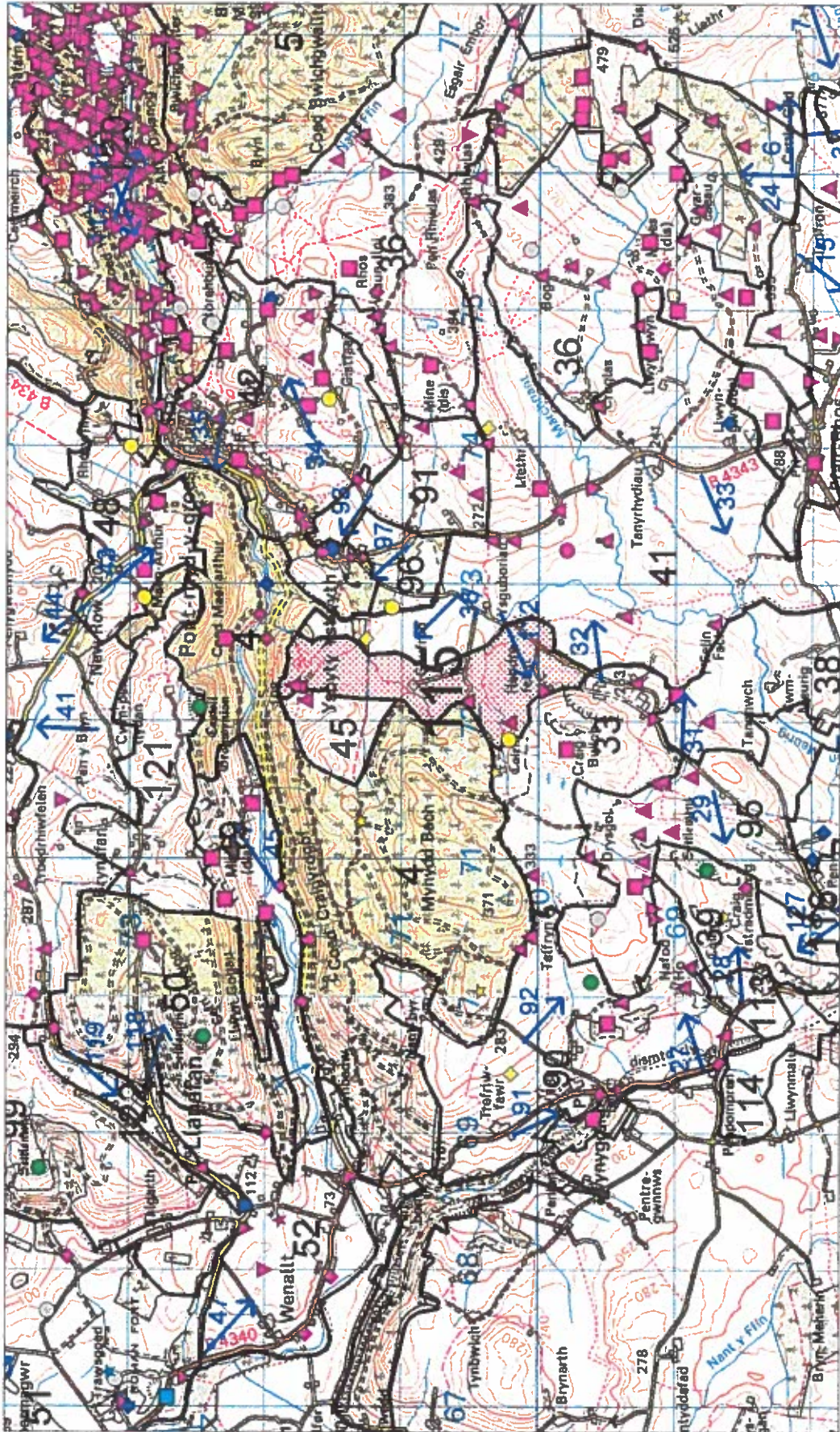
There is nothing in the archaeological record to indicate a time-depth element to this landscape. All the recorded archaeology consists of post-Medieval sites, mostly deserted settlements.

This landscape character area is well defined. To the north, south and west lies either a conifer plantation (area 4), planted on former unenclosed land, or unenclosed land (areas 33, 45). Lower lying, rough grazing lies to the east (area 41).

**Ground photographs:** 38, 112

**Aerial Photographs:**





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |



## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 116 PEN-Y-GRAIG**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 708679

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 39.4

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#### **Historic Background**

The early history of this area has not been researched. The church of St John the Baptist at Ystrad Meurig was granted to the Knights Hospitaller in 1158 (Ludlow 1998). There is also a possible hospice site at Mynachdy, perhaps indicating that land was also included in the grant. However, this place-name may refer to the use of the site by the monks of Strata Florida Abbey - this part of the area may have lain within the grange of Mefenydd. Later tenurial systems and landscape developments are unknown until the 19th century. The tithe map (Spytty Ystrad Meurig Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1843) shows the modern settlement pattern and field system was established by 1843. Some sub-division of the larger fields has occurred since then, but nothing on a scale to alter the established pattern.

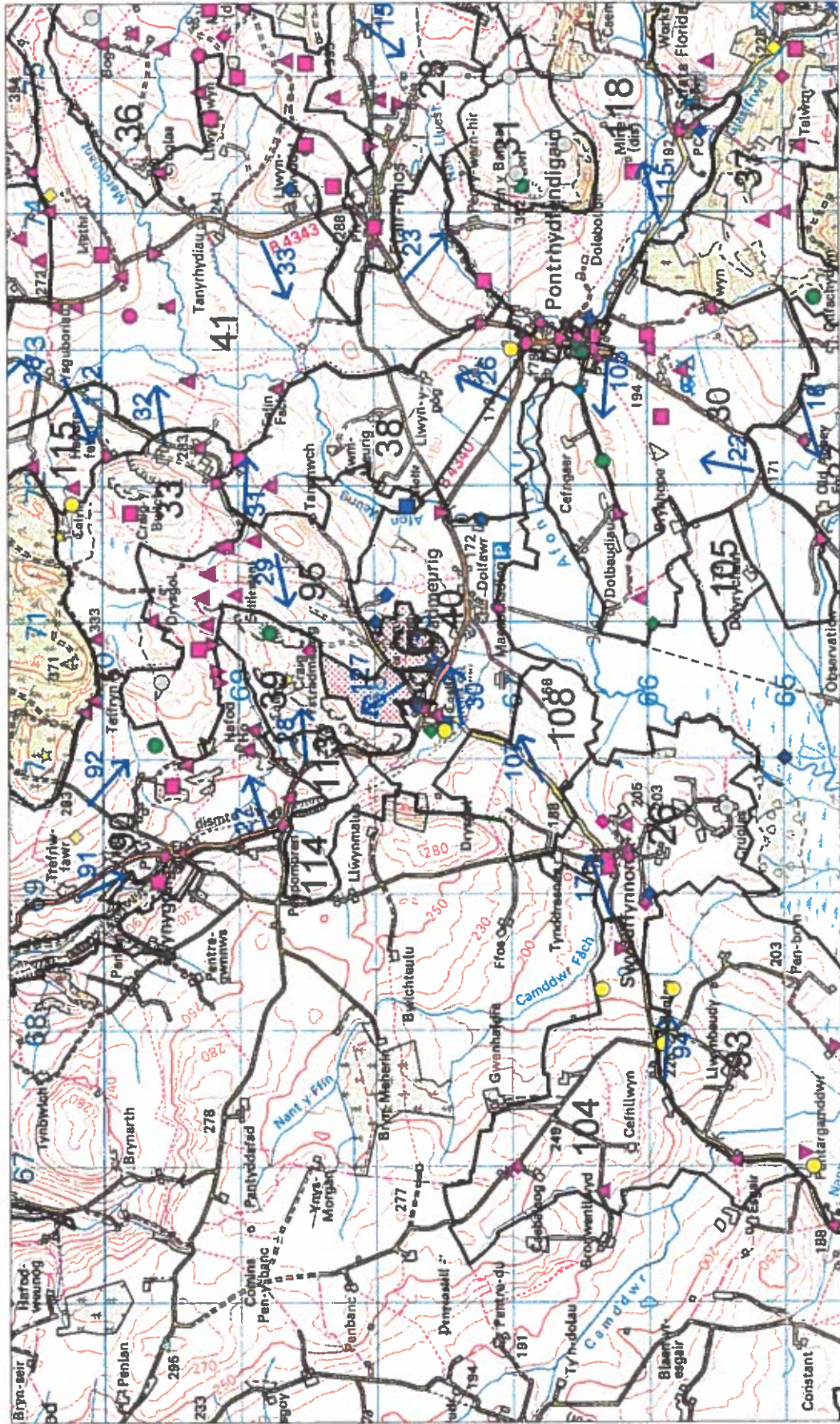
#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This small landscape area lies on gently sloping, south-west facing ground above and to the east of Ystradmeurig village. It ranges in height from 190m in the south to 230m in the northeast. Though a small area it is distinct from the surrounding areas and is characterised by small enclosures separated by dry-stone walls and other boundary types. The majority of boundaries are dry-stone walls, which are generally in good condition, but are falling into disuse and decay in the northern part of the area. Earth banks topped with hedges and wire fences are the other types of boundary. Improved grazing dominates this area. Older buildings are stone-built with slate roofs. Modern buildings are of concrete and brick.

Bounded by high unenclosed land or large enclosures (areas 39, 95), this area is well defined to the north. On the southern side it merges with area 40, an area of small enclosures separated by earth banks and hedges.

**Ground photographs:** 113, 127

**Aerial Photographs:** 31, 34



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                           |                     |                         |                                     |   |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Prehistoric site          | Iron Age hillfort   | Other Roman site        | Medieval castle                     | Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | Modern site               |
| Bronze Age barrow         | Other Iron Age site | Dark Age memorial stone | Other Medieval site                 | Post-Medieval platform house                                | Other archaeological site |
| Bronze Age standing stone | Roman fort          | Other Dark Age site     | Post-Medieval metal mine            | Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                           |
| Other Bronze Age site     | Roman finds         | Medieval church/chapel  | Other Post-Medieval industrial site | Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                           |

location, direction and number of ground photographs





## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 122 LLANAFAN VILLAGE

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 691729

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 35.7

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#### **Historic Background**

This area includes St Afan's Church. The dedication indicates a pre Anglo-Norman foundation, though this was not a parish church during the Medieval Period, but a chapelry of Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn parish. It was created a parish in 1833. The church was completely rebuilt in 1833 (Ludlow 1998). At least part of this area lay within the demesne of Crosswood, and it is likely that the history of Llanafan village is intimately linked to that of the Crosswood estate, and therefore of post-Medieval origin. The history of the village, however, has not been researched, but on estate maps of the mid and late 18th-century (NLW 7188, NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 43) it consists of several dwellings spaced along a road set in a landscape of small, regular fields. A similar picture is shown on the tithe map of 1845. The overall pattern of the village at this period is of a squatter settlement which had developed during the late 18th and early 19th-century, but without further research this cannot be substantiated. The second half of the 19th century and the 20th century have witnessed further development, with most of the gaps between the widely-spaced dwellings of 18th- and 19th-century date filled by single houses or small-scale developments.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

The village of Llanafan lies in the steep-sided, narrow valley of Nant Pant-y-haidd at approximately 100m. It is a linear village, divorced from the church by 100-200m, with a loose cluster of houses at its southwest end. Dwellings are mixed in style and date. Older dwellings are stone-built with slate roofs, mostly date to the 18th- and 19th-century, and include a lobby entry house (Smith 1998, 285). At least one deserted stone-built cottage is present. Recent buildings are in a variety of materials: brick and concrete, with slate- and shingle-tiles. A small housing development is present. To the eastern, higher valley, end of the area the village fades into an agricultural landscape of scattered farms set in a field system of small, fairly regular-shaped fields. Boundaries are of earth banks topped with hedges, though hedges are now either gone or derelict. Wire fences provide stock-proof boundaries. Farmland is improved pasture or rough grazing.

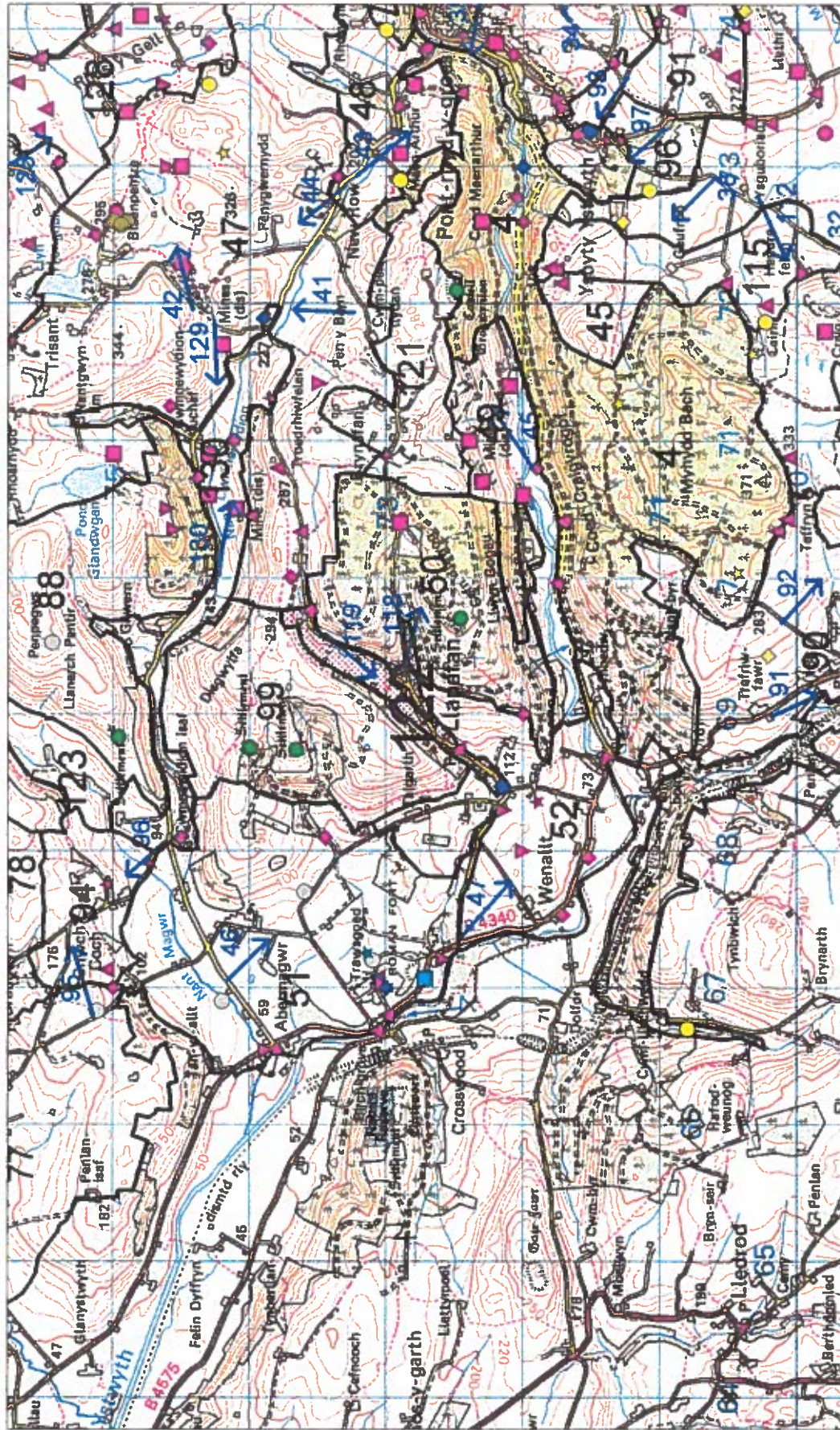
Recorded archaeology consists of St Afan's Church, a post-Medieval dwelling and a post-Medieval quarry.

To the southeast and northwest this area is very well-defined by forestry or unenclosed land (areas 50, 99), but to the south this area is less well-defined and tends to merge with the enclosed farmland of area 52.

**Ground photographs:** 118, 119

**Aerial photographs:** 51, 53, 58





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 123 CWM-MAGOR

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 689757

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 76.7

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#### **Historic Background**

The settlement history of this narrow, blind, very steep-sided and isolated valley before the mid 18th-century has not been researched. Cwm-magor was a tenanted farm in the Nanteos estate, and is shown on a 1764-5 estate map (NLW Nanteos 349) as a holding very similar in character to that of today - an isolated farmstead with small fields on the valley floor, and unenclosed land starting on the lower slopes and continuing up the valley sides on to higher ground. By 1819 Blaen cwm-magor and Cwm-magor had been acquired by the Crosswood estate. Estate maps of this date (NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 16 and 41) show Blaen cwm-magor farmstead as today with small enclosures on the valley floor. Interestingly the Cwm-magor map shows plots of unenclosed arable land on some of the lower slopes. Owing to the topography it is likely that the fertile valley floor has been subjected to more intensive agriculture and enclosure from at least the Medieval Period, than the little used, rough ground of the steep valley sides.

The garden at Llanerch-pentir is recorded on the Welsh Historic Gardens Database.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

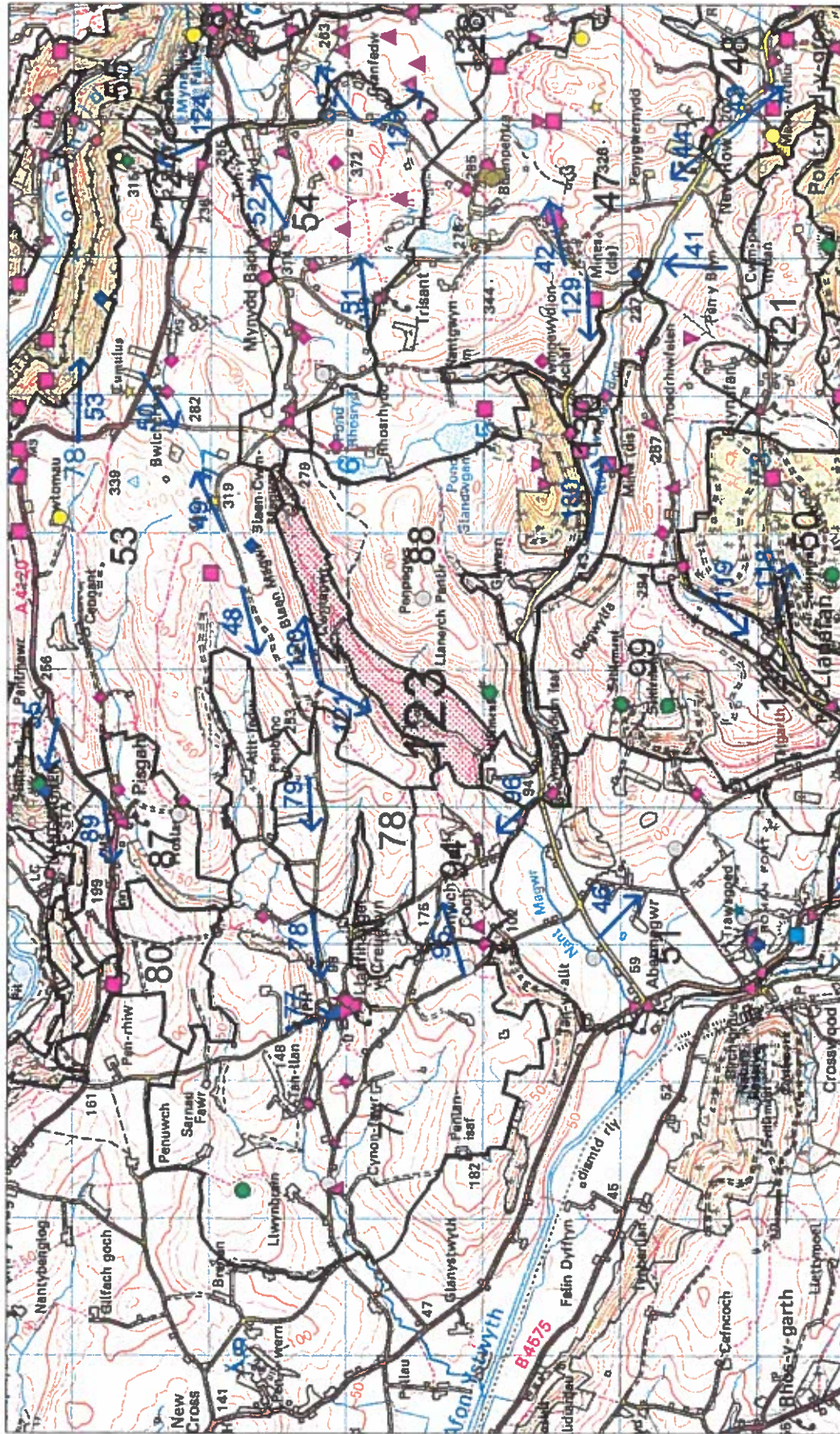
Traditionally access into this blind, narrow valley has only been from the open, southwestern end, but in more recent times track-ways have been cut into the northern side and northeastern end. However, it is still a relatively isolated valley. The valley floor is at approximately 120m; the sides rise up to over 300m. Three farmsteads are distributed along the valley. On the valley floor and lower slopes, close to each farmstead, are small, irregular fields. Still on the valley floor and lower slopes but further away from the dwellings, slightly larger and more regular fields indicate a later episode or episodes of enclosure. Boundaries to the fields are formed from earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are in fair to good condition, but are neglected and, in a few instances, becoming overgrown. Some hedges have been replaced with wire fences. Towards the southwestern end, on the banks of the Nant Magor are some small stands of deciduous woodland. Virtually every field is improved pasture. Buildings are stone built with slate roofs.

The bounds of this landscape character area are very well defined. Unenclosed land on steep-sided valley sides lies to the north, east and west (53, 54 and 88). Access between these areas and area 123 was very difficult. To the southwest this area merges with the enclosed land of visually similar character (areas 94, 130).

**Ground photographs:** 120, 121

**Aerial photographs:** 67, 68





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

location, direction and number of ground photographs

27 →



## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 124 LLETHR LLWYD**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 741598

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 95.3

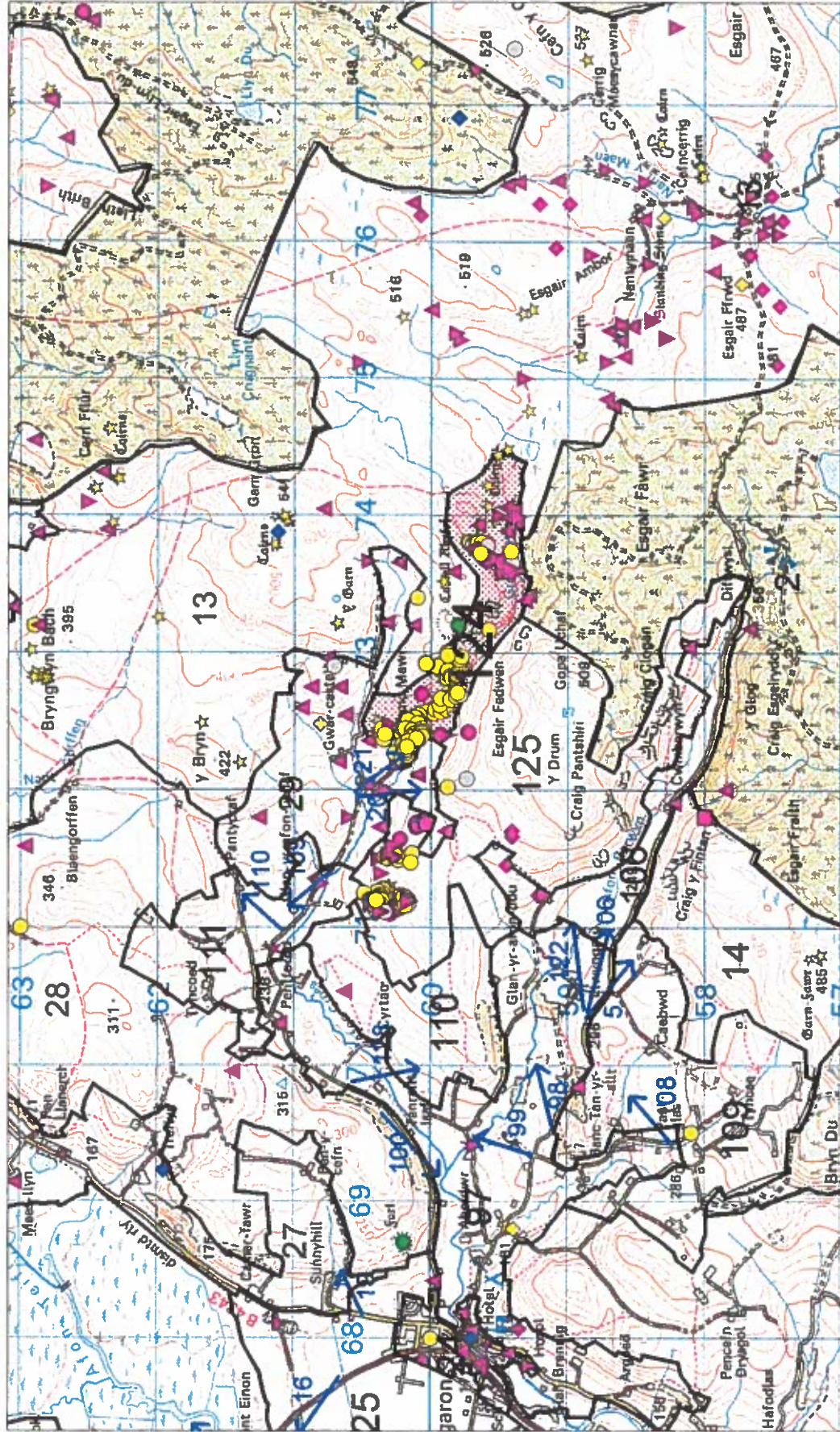
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#### **Historic Background**

This area is entirely characterised by archaeology. In the historic period its unenclosed nature probably ensured that it was claimed by the Crown. Settlements of historic character are noted in the archaeological record, but these seem to have been abandoned by the mid 19th-century, if not earlier. The prime use of the area in the historic period has been sheep-walk.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area of unenclosed rough grazing lies on the steep and occasionally craggy south-facing slopes of the Groes Fawr valley at between 320 and 500m. It is entirely characterised by the archaeology which comprises two main periods: Bronze Age and post-Medieval. Bronze Age archaeology consists of several round barrows or burial cairns, a possible standing stone and numerous clearance cairns and possible house sites. The clearance cairns are only tentatively assigned to the Bronze Age; it is possible that they are associated with the later settlement across the area. This later settlement comprises numerous long huts and other settlement sites. Some of these may be entirely of Medieval date, or have their origins in the Medieval Period, but it is more likely that they were occupied in the post-Medieval period. Some of the recorded settlements are clearly of post-Medieval date, as are the upstanding walls of the cottages/farm, cultivation ridges and other traces of agriculture.



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- Prehistoric site
- ★ Bronze Age barrow
- ◆ Bronze Age standing stone
- Other Bronze Age site
- Iron Age hillfort
- ◆ Other Iron Age site
- Roman fort
- ★ Roman finds
- Medieval castle
- ◆ Other Medieval site
- ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church
- ◆ Post-Medieval platform house
- Other Post-Medieval site
- ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling
- ★ Modern site
- Other archaeological site

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 125 Y DRUM

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 720591

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 327.8

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#### **Historic Background**

In the historic period its unenclosed nature probably ensured that this area was claimed by the Crown. Settlements of historic character are noted in the archaeological record, but these seem to have been abandoned by the 19th-century, if not earlier. The prime use of the area in the historic period has been sheep-walk.

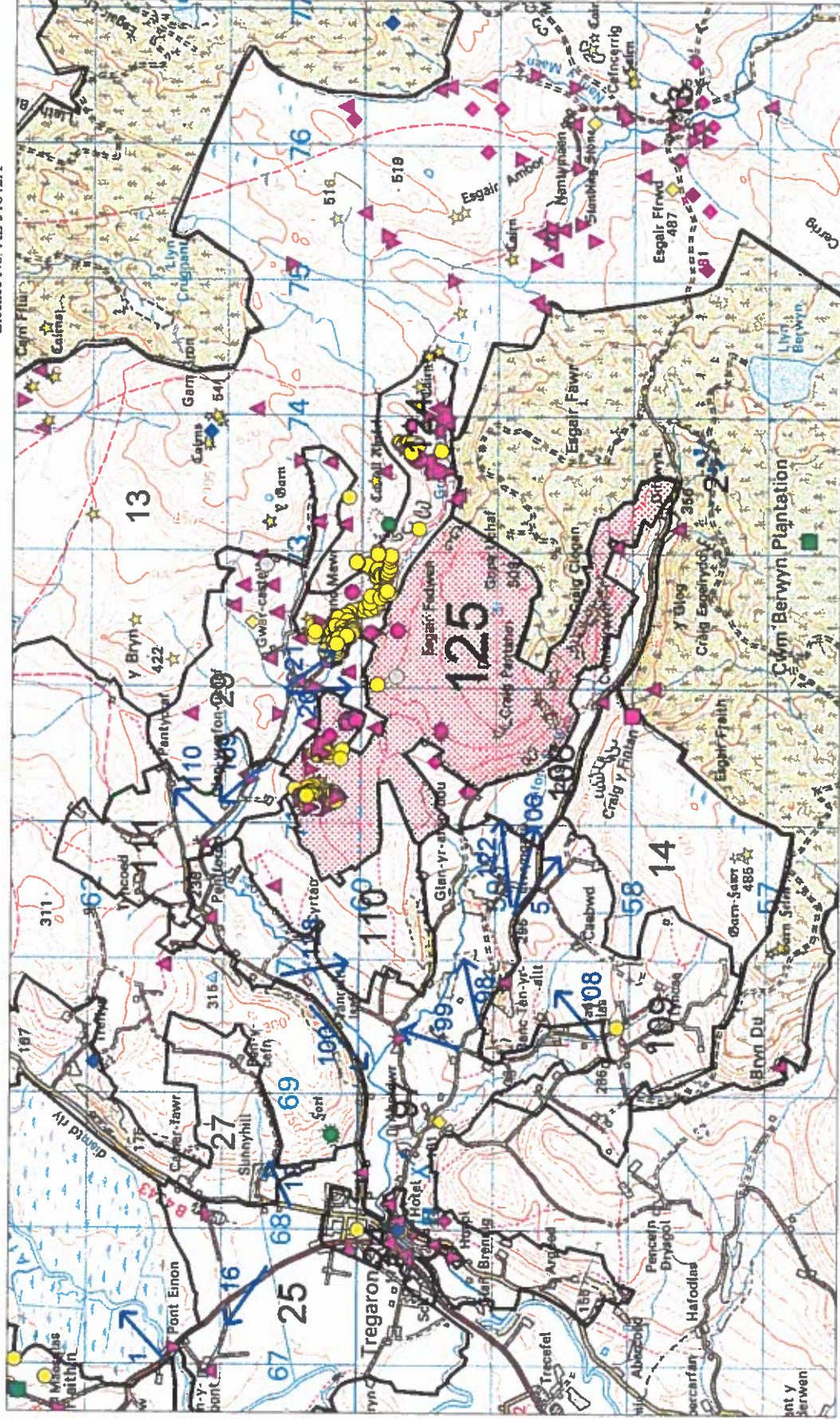
#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area of unenclosed upland rises to over 500m, its lower slopes run down to below 250m. The steep slopes, particularly those on the southern flanks are craggy, while the summit areas tend to be rounded with peaty hollows. Occasional wire fences divide the area, but essentially it comprises unenclosed sheep-walk of rough grazing, with some improved pasture at lower levels. Archaeological sites provide the main historic components of the area. These consist of long huts and hut platforms of probable post-Medieval date, but may have originated in the Medieval Period, and occasional relict boundaries of a similar date. A number of clearance cairns have been assigned to the Bronze Age, but are more likely to be associated with the post-Medieval/Medieval settlement of the area. Other sites include quarries, an area of peat cutting and a fold.

This relatively small block of upland is well-defined as it is now divorced from the major tract of mountain to the east by a forestry plantation (area 2). To the south and northwest are enclosed and settled valleys (areas 29, 97, 106, 111), and to the west the upland is less elevated has been enclosed and settled. Only to the northeast is there doubt as to where the boundary between this area and its neighbour (area 124) should be drawn, as their characteristics are broadly similar.

**Ground photographs:** 20, 21, 106, 122

**Aerial photograph:** 7



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ★ Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 126 TAI-UNNOS**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 735634

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 36.1

---

#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period this area lay with Strata Florida Abbey's Penardd Grange. As with other granges of the abbey it is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, Penardd had been divided into farms which were leased out on a commercial basis. On the dissolution of the abbey its lands were granted to the Earl of Essex, who subsequently, in 1630, sold them to the Crosswood estate. However, it is likely that this area was unenclosed and therefore claimed by the Crown. The first settlements seem to have been squatter or tai-unnos cottages carved out of Rhos Gelli-gron common, perhaps in the late 18th-century. There is no documentation for this, though the tithe map of 1845 (Caron parish) shows a well-developed settlement of cottages sitting in a system of small irregular fields. A Sunday school/chapel was built in 1886 to serve the community, and a second one in 1906 (Percival 1998, 520). Oral testimony indicates that the inhabitants worked in the metal mines to the north of Strata Florida. The decline in the mining industry was accompanied by a decline in this settlement; population fell from the early decades of the 20th century, though it was not until after World War Two that the final inhabited dwelling was abandoned.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

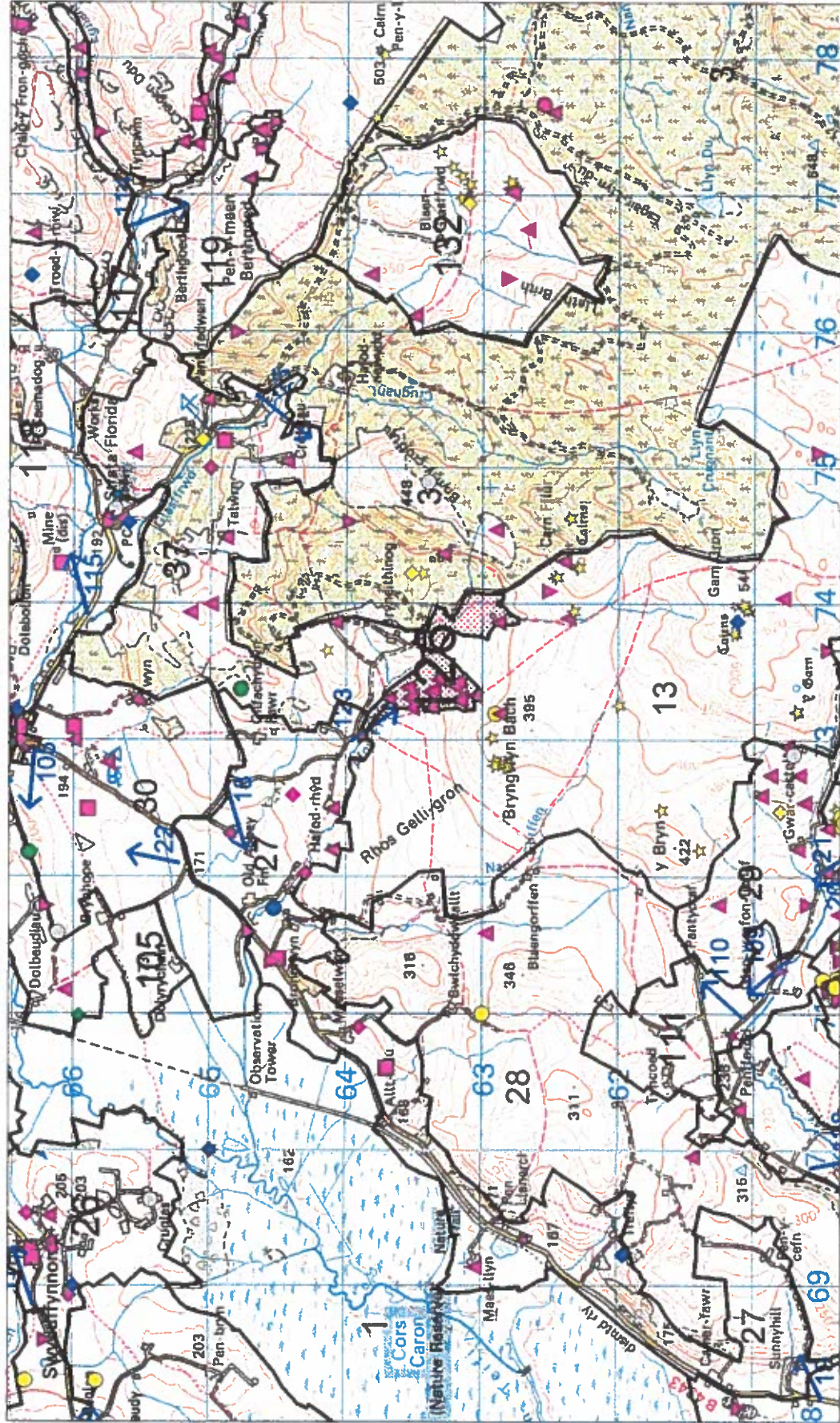
This derelict landscape of late 18th- and 19th-century cottages and houses lies on the fringe of Rhos Gelli-gron common at between 250m and 320m. Abandoned cottages and houses are dotted across the landscape. These vary from very ruinous, small dwellings to more recently abandoned and more intact substantial stone-built houses. A redundant and a demolished chapel are present. Field patterning comprises small irregular enclosures and paddocks. These are divided by earth banks originally topped with hedges. Hedges, however, are either now gone or derelict, and the landscape is essentially one large unit of rough grazing fenced off from surrounding land.

Recorded archaeology consists entirely of deserted settlements as described above.

This is a distinct and well-defined area. To the south and west is unenclosed moorland (area 13). Forestry lies to the east (area 3), and enclosed settled land (areas 27, 37) to the north.

**Ground photograph:** 123

**Aerial photographs:** 13, 61



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ◆ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ◆ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 127 TY'N-Y-CASTELL**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 725773

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 26.6

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#### **Historic Background**

As with surrounding landscape areas the early history of this area has not been researched. By the 18th century it had come into possession of the Nanteos estate. An estate map of 1819 (NLW Vol 45, 31), showing Tn'n-y-castell and Faen Grach, depicts a landscape of small fields with some intermixing lands. This latter piece of evidence is of interest and suggests that the landscape may have evolved from a sub-divided, or open, field system, a system which was in the final stages of consolidation and enclosure in the early 19th-century. Apart from consolidation of intermixed lands, this landscape has not changed dramatically since the surveying of the estate map.

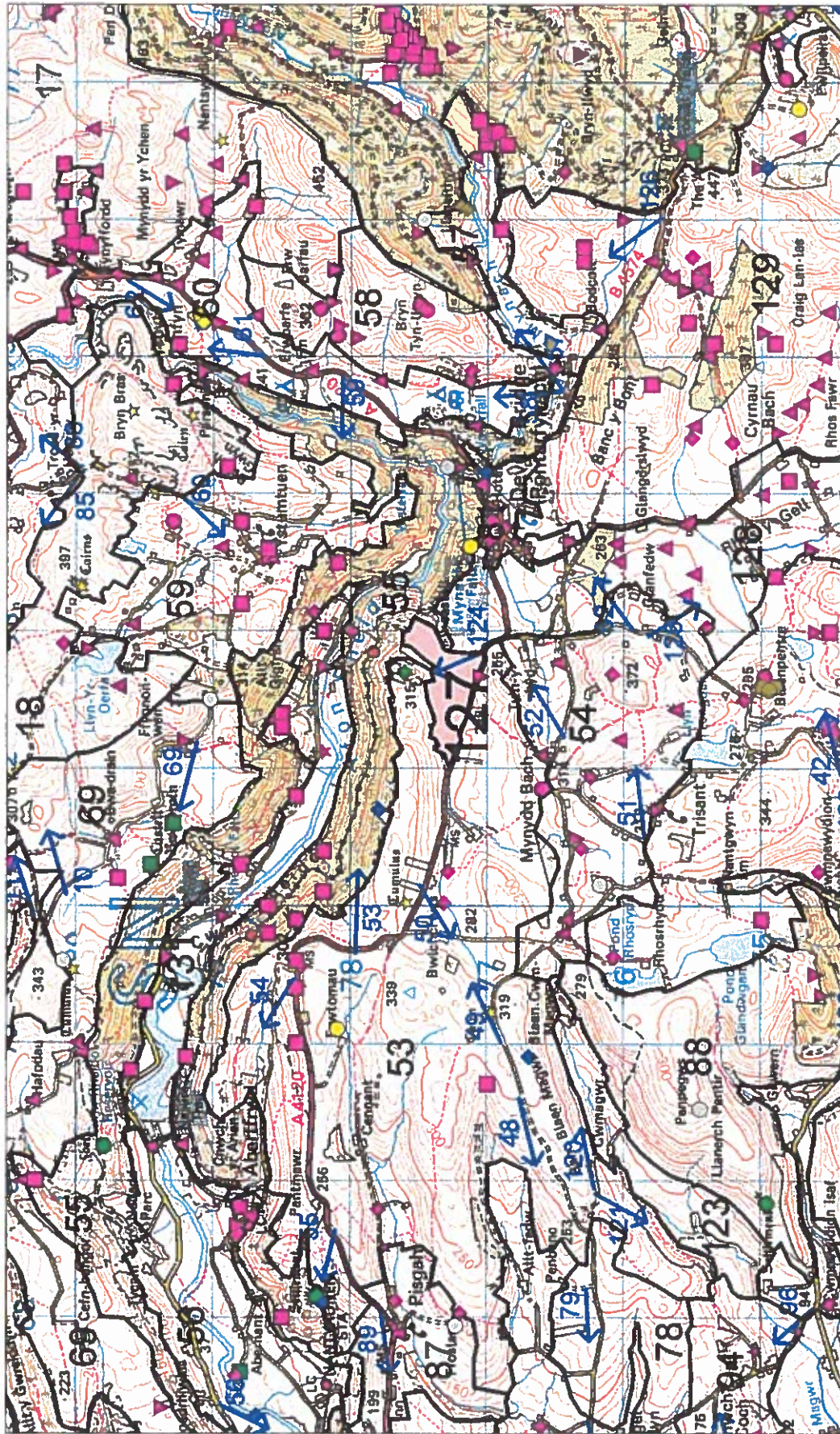
#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This small landscape area lies in a sheltered hollow on the edge of a plateau at c. 250m above the valley of the Afon Rheidol. It is characterised by a system of small irregular fields of improved pasture which are divided by earth banks and hedges. Unlike neighbouring landscape areas the hedges in this area are intact, and though they are overgrown are still stock-proof when supported by wire fences. The hedges, together with occasional hedgerow trees and small stands of deciduous woodland, lend a wooded appearance to the landscape which is in contrast with areas 53 and 54 to the south. The settlement pattern is of dispersed stone-built, slate-roofed farms. A disused stone quarry is present.

This is a distinct historic landscape area, and is in sharp contrast with areas 53, 54 and 128 to the south which are generally treeless and bereft of hedges. To the north lies the steep and heavily wooded valley side of the Rheidol (area 55).

**Ground photographs:** 124

**Aerial Photographs:**



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 128 RHOS-Y-GELL**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 735757

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 221.6

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#### **Historic Background**

Historically, at least the eastern part of this area, if not all of it, lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Cwmystwyth grange. The granges of Strata Florida were purchased by the Crosswood estate in 1630. In the late 18th-century the former grange lands in this area became part of the Hafod estate through exchange. The very poor quality of the land in this area ensured that it remained unenclosed until the relatively modern period. The tithe survey of 1847 (Llanfihangel-y-creuddyn) shows the area settled with a scatter of cottages and small enclosures. A Hafod estate map of 1834 shows cottages along the eastern limits of this area. Morgan (1997, 213) states these were squatters cottages and there is no reason to doubt this. They were probably built and the land enclosed in the late 18th- and early 19th-century. A school-room was built here in 1852 and chapel was constructed 1872.

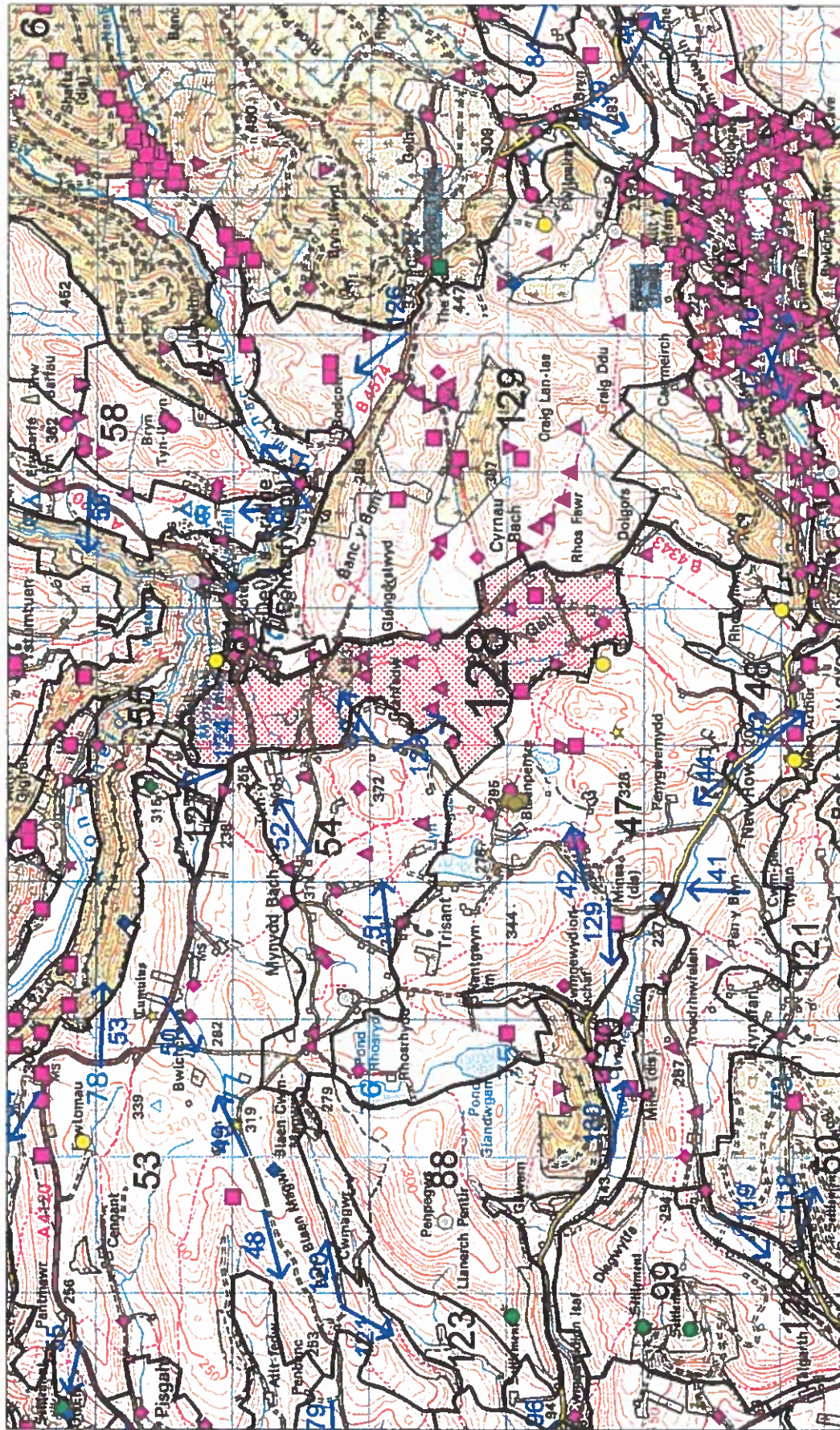
#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This wide, open valley - a wind gap between the deeply incised Ystwyth and Rheidol valleys - lying between 230 and 270m is characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern and poor quality grazing land. It is an area distinct from the surrounding areas of improved grazing, and consists of a field system of small, irregular enclosures containing either rough grazing, peaty hollows and rushy ground with a few scattered patches of improved pasture. The field system is now becoming redundant; old field boundaries of low banks are now almost entirely derelict. Hedges are overgrown and derelict. Wire fences now form the main divisor; these usually follow historic boundaries. Beech tree wind breaks have been planted, and small conifer plantations are present. The settlement pattern is of dispersed cottages - 100-200m apart. Occupied dwellings have been modernised and/or rebuilt. Traditionally buildings are of stone with slate roofs. Many have been rendered and white colour-washed; this contrasts sharply with the dark colour of the surrounding land. Several deserted settlements lie across the landscape.

Recorded archaeology mostly comprises abandoned cottages, but a metal mine and mill are also present, with time-depth to the landscape provided by a possible Bronze Age round barrow.

The bounds of this area are well-defined. To the west and south lie areas (area 47, 54) of old, dispersed farms set in improved grazing with the remains of lead mining. Unenclosed land lies to the east (area 129), and Devil's Bridge (area 81) to the northeast. The steep-sided, wooded valley of the Rheidol is to the north (area 55).

**Ground photographs:** 52, 82, 125



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

27 →

location, direction and number of ground photographs

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 129 BRIGNANT

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 755752

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 708.6

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#### **Historic Background**

Part of Strata Florida Abbey's upland grange of Cwmystwyth in the Medieval Period, this area was not acquired by the Crosswood estate in 1630 along with the majority of the other granges, but was purchased by the Herberts (Morgan 1991), and possibly other individuals. A document of 1545-50 cited by Morgan (1991) drawn up at the dissolution of Strata Florida suggests that the grange was then divided into farms which were leased out and farmed on an individual and commercial basis. Prignant and Pantycraf are two farms in this area listed in the 1545-50 document. By the early 19th-century all of the land in this area fell into the Hafod estate. Thomas Johnes of Hafod had either inherited the land originally purchased by the Herberts, or had recently purchased or acquired it through exchange. An 1834 estate map of Hafod shows all properties, including lands then just gained by the Hafod estate. The map records several farms across the area, some of which such as Prignant are at high altitudes, but clearly shows that apart from on or two small enclosures close to farmsteads the land was either unenclosed or divided into very large enclosures. The 19th- and 20th-century have witnessed a gradual retreat of settlement and enclosure. Small conifer plantations are now established in the area. Lead mining - Bodcoll mine - was established in the mid 18th-century, and was active throughout the 19th century (Bick 1983, 30).

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

An area of mostly unenclosed and craggy upland with a height range of 270m - 450m. On the lower slopes improved grazing prevails, giving way to rough grazing and bracken on higher ground. Peaty and rushy hollows are common. Earth bank boundaries exist, and still act as dividers where supplemented by wire fences, on some of the lower slopes. Some derelict hedges are also present here. On higher slopes the ground is essentially unenclosed in character, though divided by wire fences. Apart from 20th century forestry this is essentially a treeless landscape. Evidence of mining consists of spoil heaps, levels and shafts, mostly to the extreme east of the area.

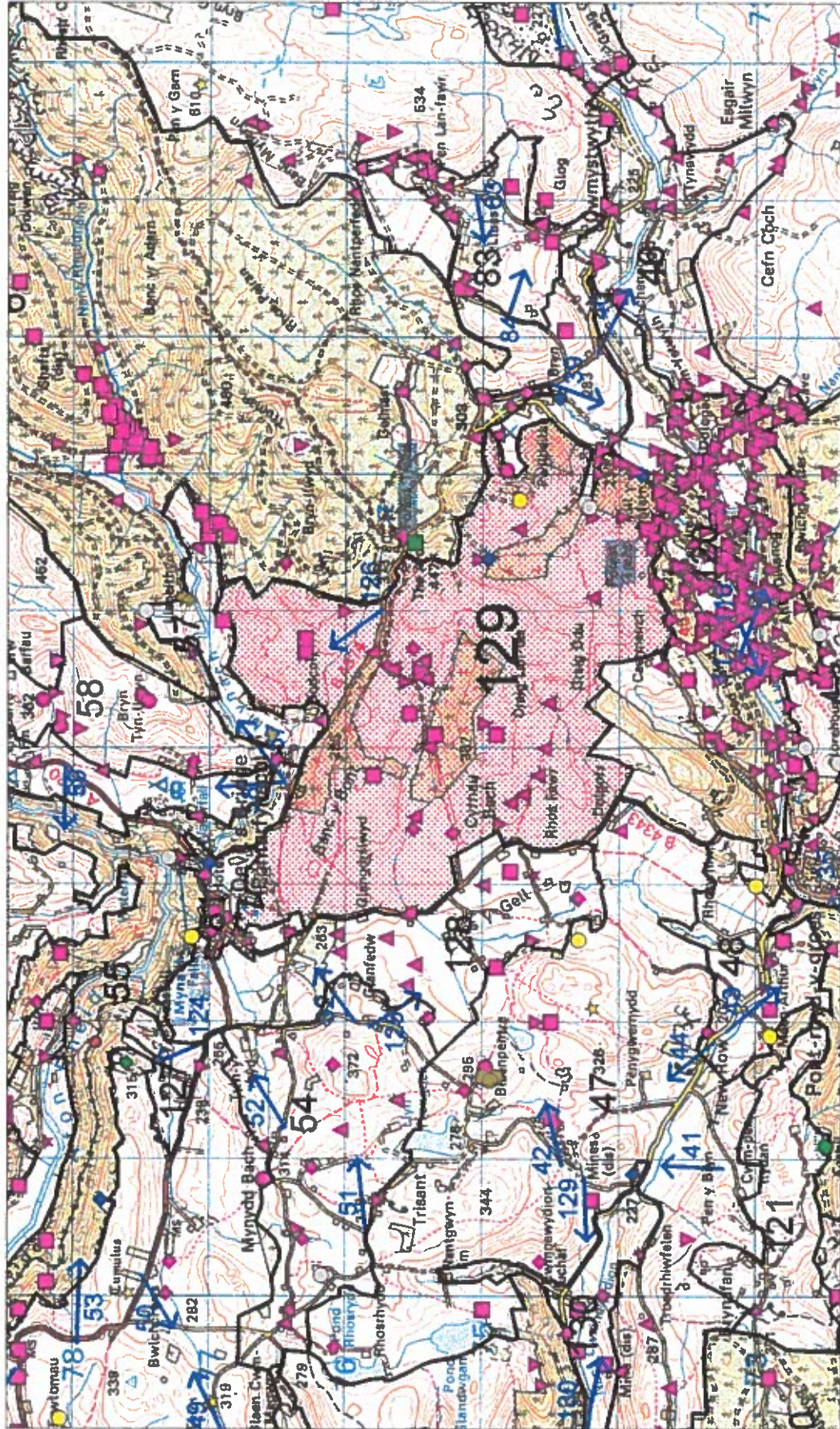
The recorded archaeology of this area comprises mostly post-Medieval sites. Metal mines and quarries are common features of the landscape, but it is deserted settlements that are the most common site. The distribution of these indicates a populated (albeit somewhat sparsely) area through to the 19th century. Time-depth to the landscape is provided by a possible monastic establishment - Bwlch-yr-Oerfa - and a possible Bronze Age standing stone.

This is a well-defined area. To the south lies the Ystwyth valley and the much afforested area of the Hafod estate (area 120). Modern forestry (area 6) borders the area to the east. To the north is the village of Devil's Bridge (area 81), and the lower-lying squatter settlement of Rhos-y-gell (area 128) lies to the west.

**Ground photographs:** 125, 126

**Aerial photographs:** 38, 39, 46, 47





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ★ Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 130 CWMNEWIDION

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 710745

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 128.0

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#### **Historic Background**

By the early 17th-century Cwmnewidion was a small independent estate owned by Hugh Vaughan (no relation to the Vaughans of nearby Crosswood), and comprised within this landscape character area Cwmnewidion Isaf and mill, Gilwern, and two Rhos-rhudd farms (Morgan 1997). As Morgan states (p23), the origins of wealth and status of the families of these small estates are lost. The Vaughans of Cwmnewidion were, however, sufficiently wealthy to have acquired ex-Strata Florida grange lands in Cwmystwyth. In the 1780s Cwmnewidion estate was purchased by the Crosswood estate (Morgan 1997, 196). Late 18th-century estate maps indicate that a similar field patterning to today's was then present (NLW Crosswood Deeds 5, Ser IV, Vol 1; 18 & 42). The map of Cwmnewidion shows enclosed land on the valley floor, heavily wooded valley sides with unenclosed land above. A similar pattern is shown on the Llanerchpentir map. From the mid 19th-century lead mining became an important element in the economy of the area. Several mines, Red Rock, West Frongoch, Wemyss and Graiggoch worked the western limits of the Frongoch lode (Bick 1974, 16-17). Wemyss at the eastern end of Cwmnewidion worked from 1861 to 1899 and Craiggoch from 1841 to 1889, though here evidence of earlier workings was noted in 1840. A chapel was constructed here in the 19th century.

#### **Description and essential landscape components**

Cwmnewidion is a narrow, steep-sided valley. The floor of the valley rises from 100m at the western end to over 200m at the east. The valley sides rise to over 300m. The landscape area includes the valley bottom and the lower slopes of the valley sides, but not the higher slopes. A minor road, but nevertheless important local route-way, runs along the northern side of the valley floor linking the fertile lands of the lower Ystwyth valley with Pontrhydygroes and Cwmystwyth. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farmsteads located at the foot of the steep valley sides with enclosed land spread across the valley floor. Enclosures are small and irregular and are formed by low earth banks. Banks were formerly topped with hedges, but apart from in the extreme western part of the area these hedges have gone and are now replaced by wire. Improved grazing predominates on the valley floor, giving way to poorer quality land on the lower slopes. Land here is enclosed into larger divisions, but the earth bank boundaries are redundant and replaced by wire. There are stands of deciduous woodland and 20th century forestry at the western end of the area. Farmsteads are stone built with slate roofs.

Remains of lead mines are an important and distinctive element in this landscape area. These are concentrated towards the eastern end of the valley and comprise dominant spoil heaps and mine buildings. The buildings of local stone are roofless, but stand in some instances to their full height. Included in the buildings is a generating station of Frongoch mine supplied by a pipeline from a reservoir to the north in area 47.

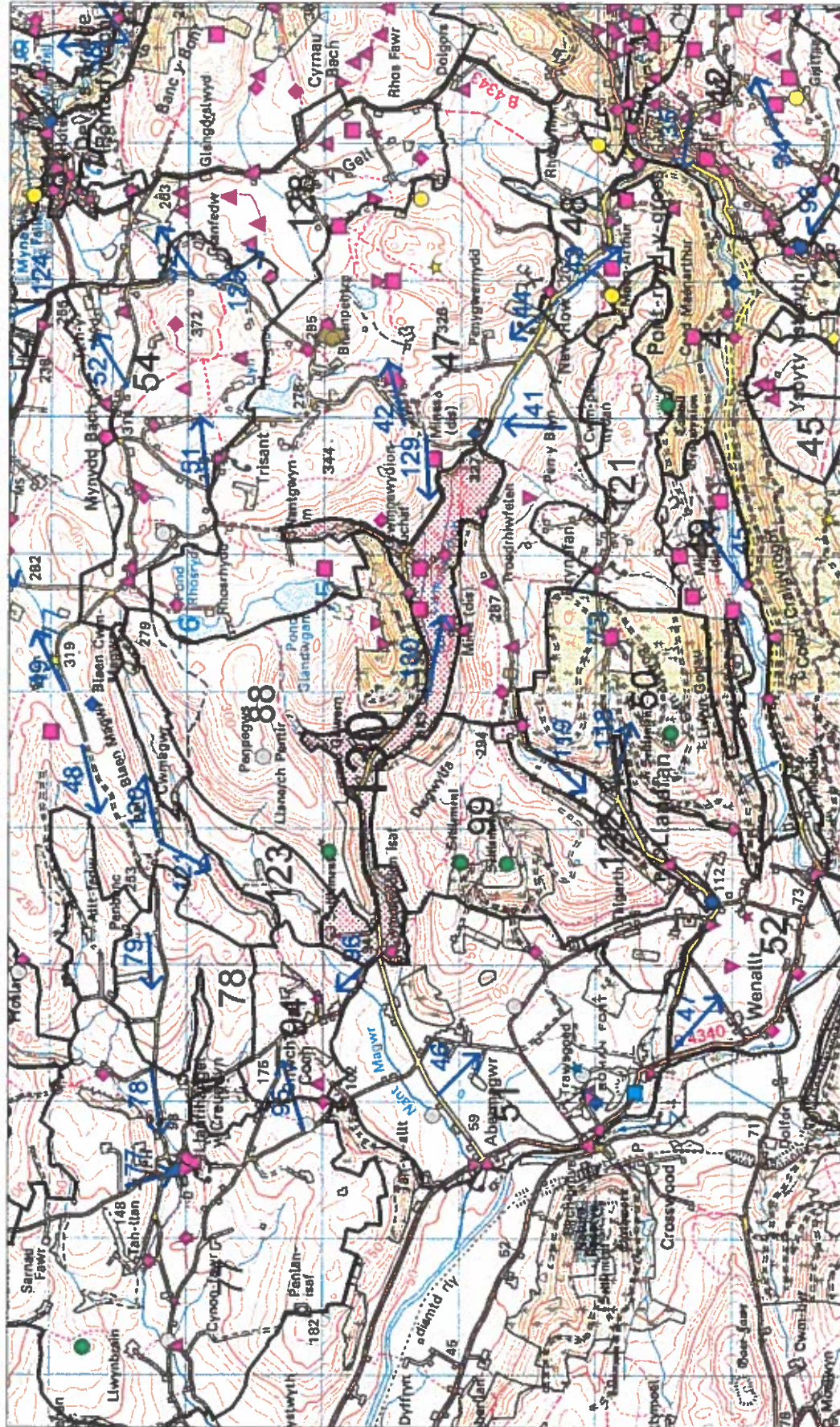
Other than metal mine remains, recorded archaeology consists of a mill site and a chapel.

The borders of this area are well-defined with steep valley sides to the north, west and east leading up to areas 47, 88 and 99. At the open western end of the valley this landscape area forms no clear boundary with the enclosed land of areas 51, 94 and 123.

**Ground photographs:** 95, 129, 130

**Aerial photograph:** 66





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

## KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ▼ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ▲ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 131 RHEIDOL VALLEY

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 711788

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 145.3

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#### **Historic Background**

The early history of this area has not been researched. It is assumed that the pattern of dispersed farms and small irregular enclosures on the valley floor is of some antiquity - it was well-established by the tithe survey. Lead mining is considered to be of some antiquity in the valley. On the south side of the valley four mines operated up to 1855 when they were consolidated into the Rheidol United Mines (Prichard 1985, 5-7). Ownership changed and new companies formed and mining continued throughout the 19th century and into the 20th century, finally closing in 1933. On the north side of the valley Caegynon mine was developed in the 1850s, and Cwm Rheidol worked for blende (Zinc Sulphide) from 1900 to 1912 (Bick 1983, 22, 33; Carr and Schöne 1993, 56-62). The latter was powered by a turbine and was linked to the Vale of Rheidol Railway, constructed in 1902, via an aerial rope-way. In the 1950s and early 1960s, the Rheidol hydro-electric scheme, which was completed in 1964, resulted in the construction of a turbine house, ancillary buildings and a dam creating a small reservoir (Walker 1998, 31). A chapel was built in the valley in 1872, and a Sunday school in 1905.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

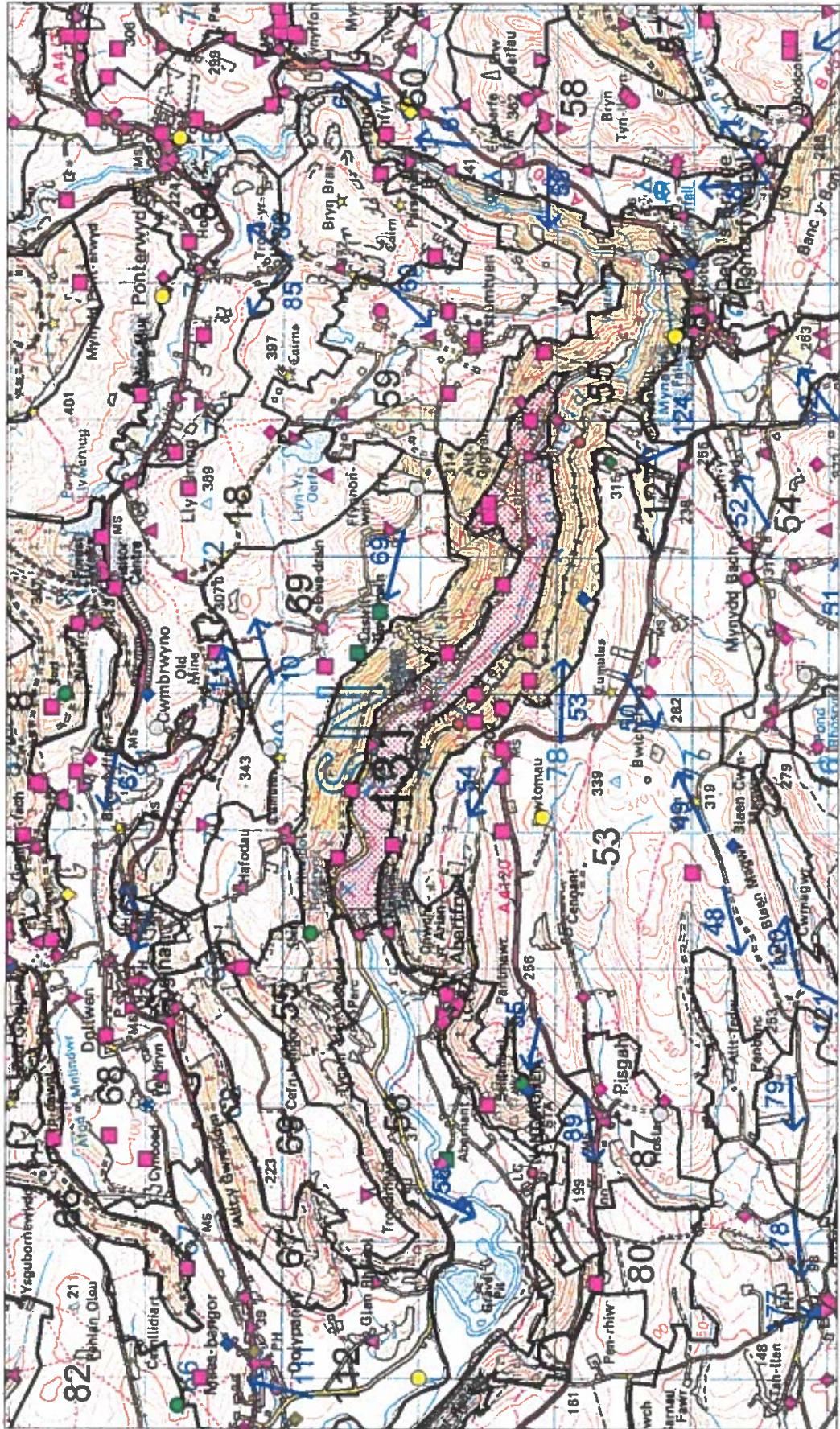
This area is essentially the valley floor of the Rheidol which lies at between 50m and 60m, but includes valley sides up to 150m where they include mining activities. Apart from the western end of the valley, this area is enclosed by the steep, wooded valley sides of landscape area 55. Though quite a small area, it contains complex industrial remains superimposed onto an agricultural landscape. The agricultural landscape consists of a settlement pattern of dispersed farms - stone-built dwellings with slate roofs - and a chapel. Fields are enclosed by earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are in poor condition: derelict, overgrown or non-existent. Stock-proof boundaries are formed by wire fences. Industrial remains form prominent and important components of the historic landscape. The most obvious remains of the metal mining industry are spoil heaps and tips. These spill down the valley sides and onto the valley floor. Metal mining buildings tend to be concentrated on the valley floor and comprise mostly ruinous stone-built structures, but corrugated iron sheds are present at Caegynon. At Cwm Rheidol, apart from the turbine house, most buildings were located on the valley side. Up to a few years ago the impressive remains of an early 19th-century dressing plant was located here; this has now been demolished, but some earlier stone structures including a crusher house remain. The reservoir, dam and modern buildings of the Rheidol hydro-electric scheme at the western end of this landscape area constitute prominent and important, if relatively recent, components of the historic industrial landscape.

Recorded archaeology consists entirely of post-Medieval sites, and these are dominated by the remains of the metal mining industry. No time-depth to the landscape is provided by the archaeology.

This is a very well-defined historic landscape area. To the west lies the more open, less industrialised section of the Rheidol valley (area 56). On all other sides steep wooded slopes (area 55) tower over the valley floor.

**Ground photograph:** 53





Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ☆ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ◆ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |



## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 132 BLAEN-GLASFFRWD**

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 767631

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 230.9

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Pennardd Grange. On the dissolution, the granges were granted to the Earl of Essex, who sold them to the Crosswood Estate in 1630. It is likely that Pennardd in common with the other granges, was divided into farms and leased out on a commercial basis by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier. The farms in this area may have originated in this system. The tithe map of 1845 (Caron parish) is the earliest large-scale survey of the area. This shows the farms of Blaen-Glasffrwd, Hafod Newydd and Tynygarreg, plus two un-named cottages having small fields nearby and larger fields further out, set in a sea of unenclosed sheep-walk. Since the tithe survey there has been a retreat of settlement, and enclosures tend to be farmed as very large units. The hafod place-name suggests that the farm containing that name originated out of a system of transhumance.

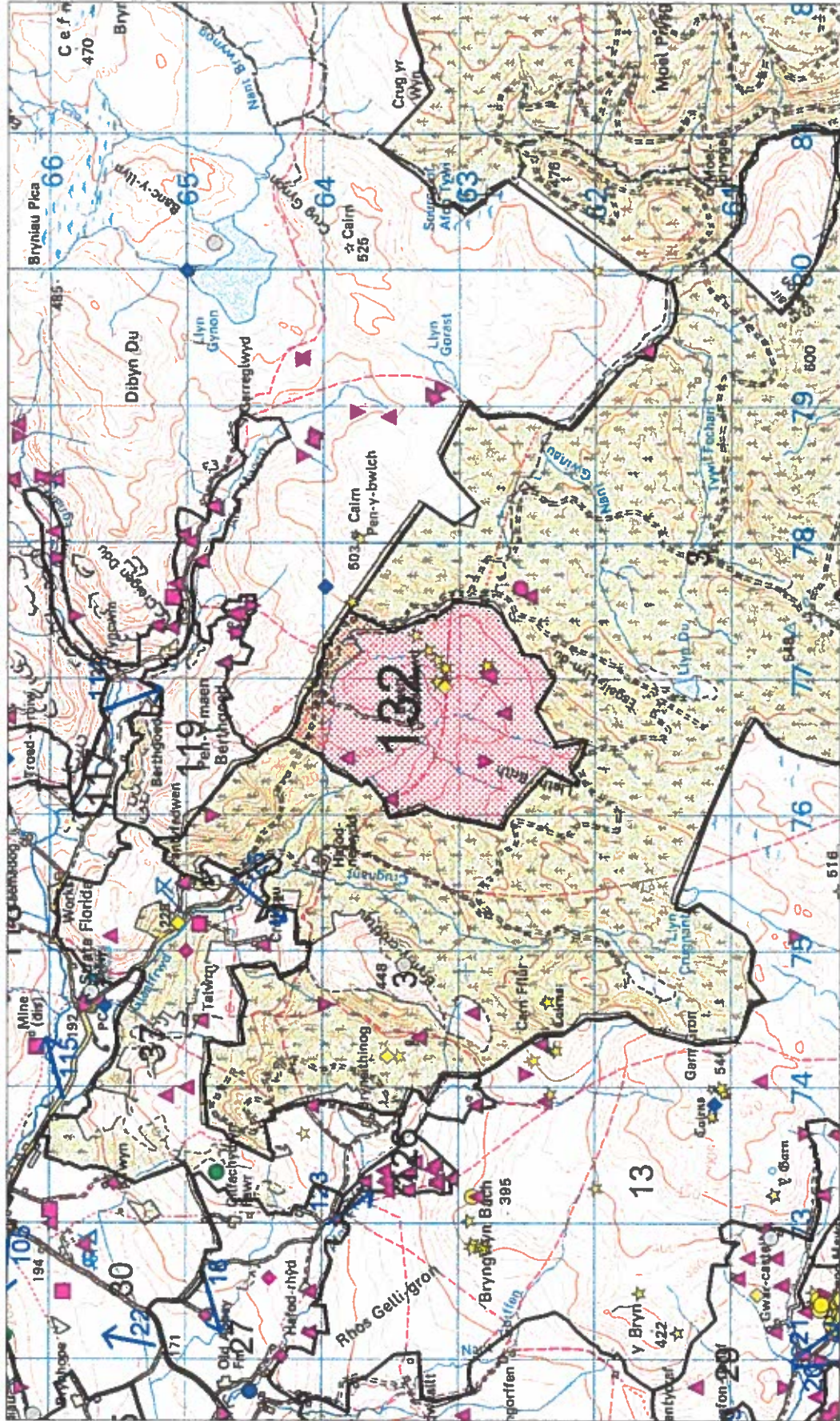
#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area, which is now surrounded by forestry, lies in an open upland valley between 400m and 500m. One farm is now occupied. This sits in a landscape of improved pasture with peaty and rushy hollows, and rough grazing on some of the steeper slopes. Boundary banks which formerly divided the area into fields are now generally redundant, and wire fences now form the main stock-proof boundary. These divide the area into a series of large units. It is a treeless landscape.

Deserted post-Medieval settlements in the archaeological record testify to a far more populated landscape than now. Several Bronze Age round barrows or cairns and a possible standing stone add time-depth to the landscape.

This area is clearly defined by the forestry plantation (area 3).

**Aerial photograph:** 17



Scale - grid lines on map at one kilometre intervals

### KEY TO THE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGY

- |                             |                       |                           |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ■ Prehistoric site          | ● Iron Age hillfort   | ◆ Other Roman site        | ■ Medieval castle                     | ★ Post-Medieval chapel/church                                 | ★ Modern site               |
| ★ Bronze Age barrow         | ◆ Other Iron Age site | ● Dark Age memorial stone | ◆ Other Medieval site                 | ● Post-Medieval platform house                                | ● Other archaeological site |
| ◆ Bronze Age standing stone | ■ Roman fort          | ◆ Other Dark Age site     | ■ Post-Medieval metal mine            | ◆ Other Post-Medieval site                                    |                             |
| ● Other Bronze Age site     | ★ Roman finds         | ● Medieval church/chapel  | ◆ Other Post-Medieval industrial site | ◆ Post-Medieval deserted or extant cottage/farmstead/dwelling |                             |

27 → location, direction and number of ground photographs

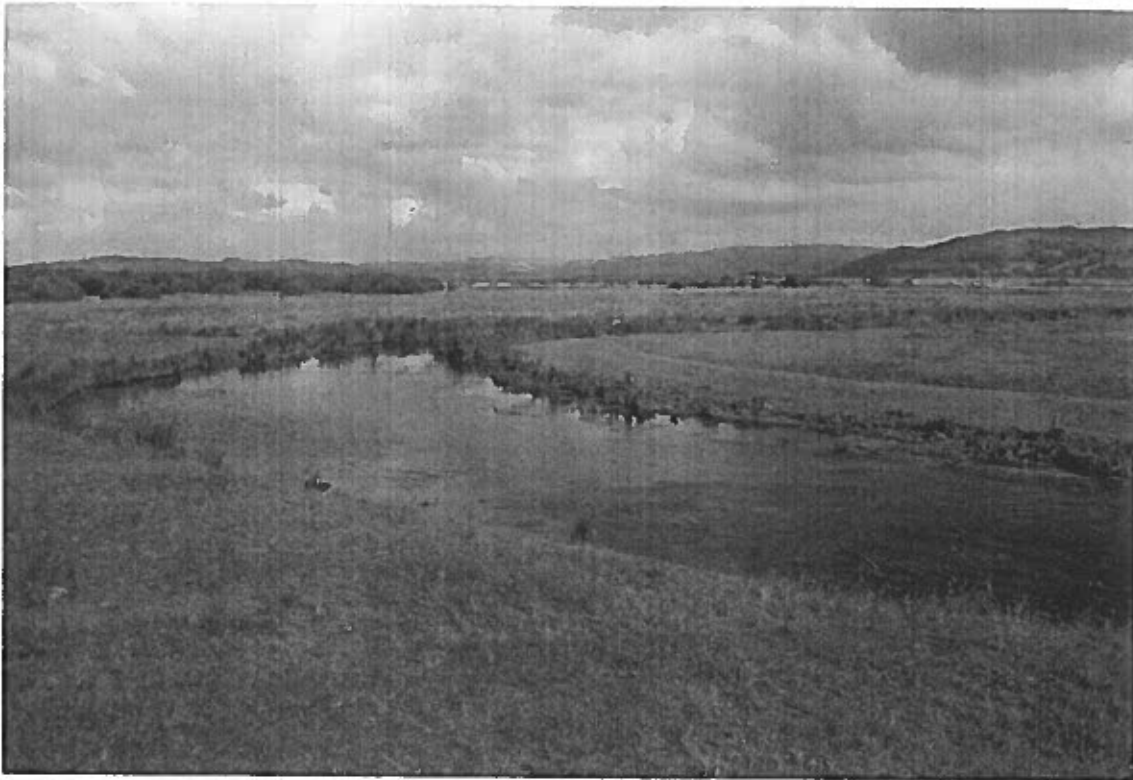


## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

### **Historic Landscape Characterisation**

## **SECTION 3**

### **Selection of Ground Photographs**



*Photo 1. Area 1, Cors Caron.*

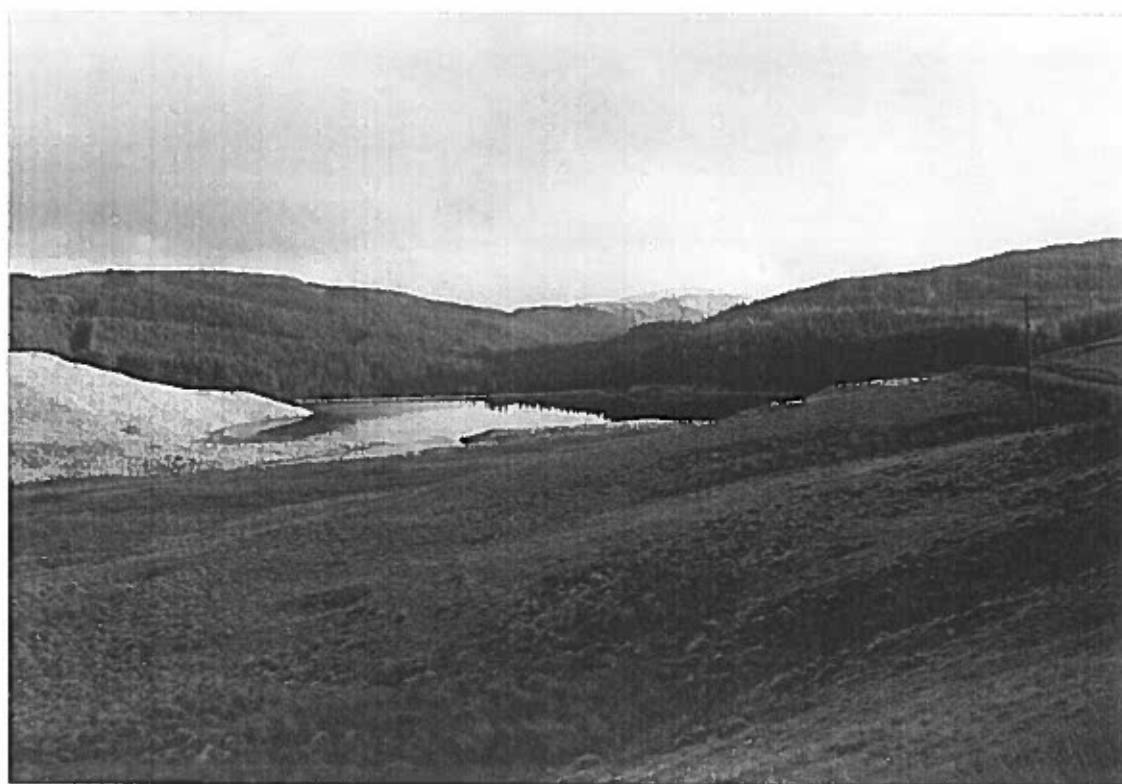


*Photo 2. Area 8, showing reservoir and forestry.*





*Photo 3. Area 11, forestry, and area 72 showing Nant-y-Moch dam.*



*Photo 4. Area 12, forestry.*



*Photo 5. The western flank of area 14.*

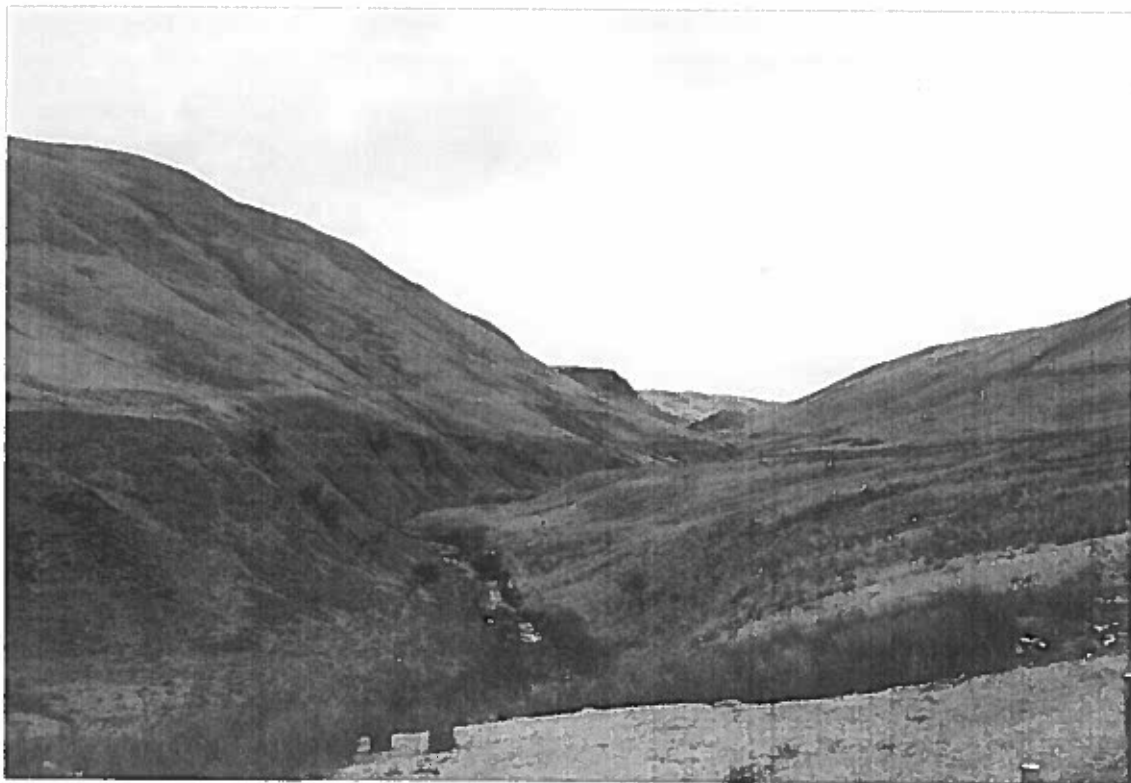


*Photo 6. Part of area 15 from area 35.*





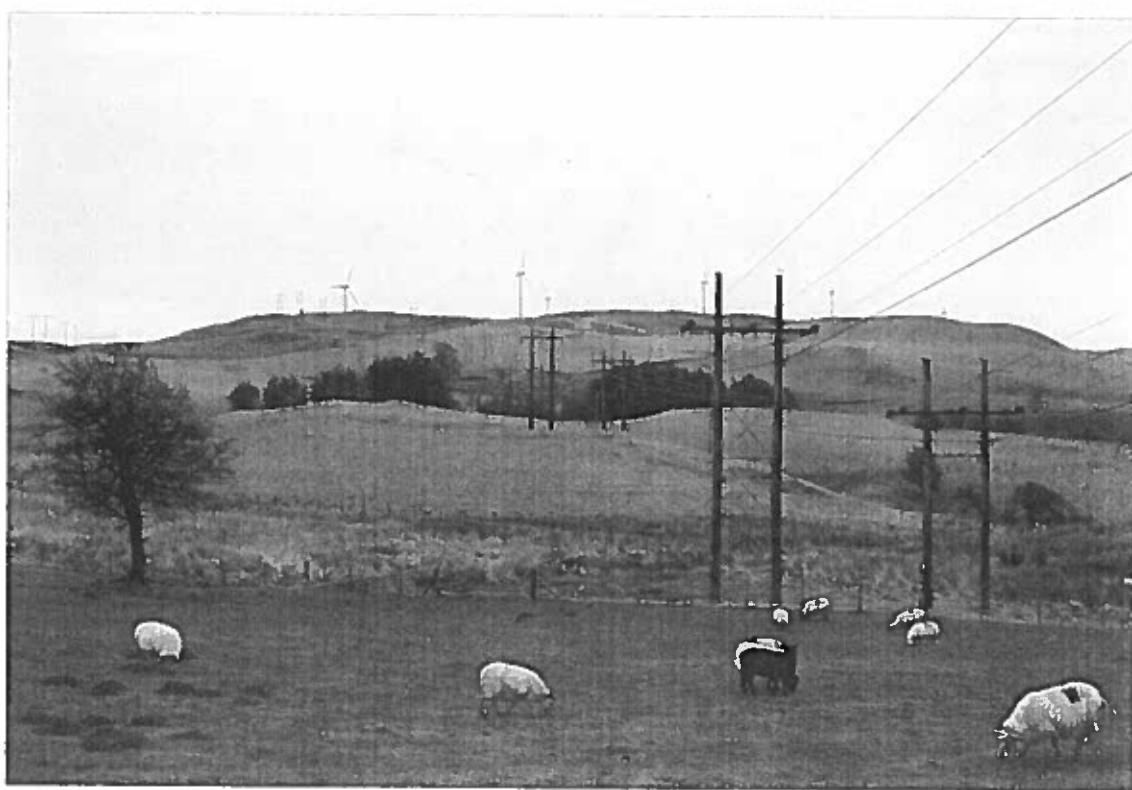
*Photo 7. Looking down from area 15, across areas 34 (with farm) and 35.*



*Photo 8. Part of area 15, from area 70.*



*Photo 9. Area 16, with 70 and 15 in background.*

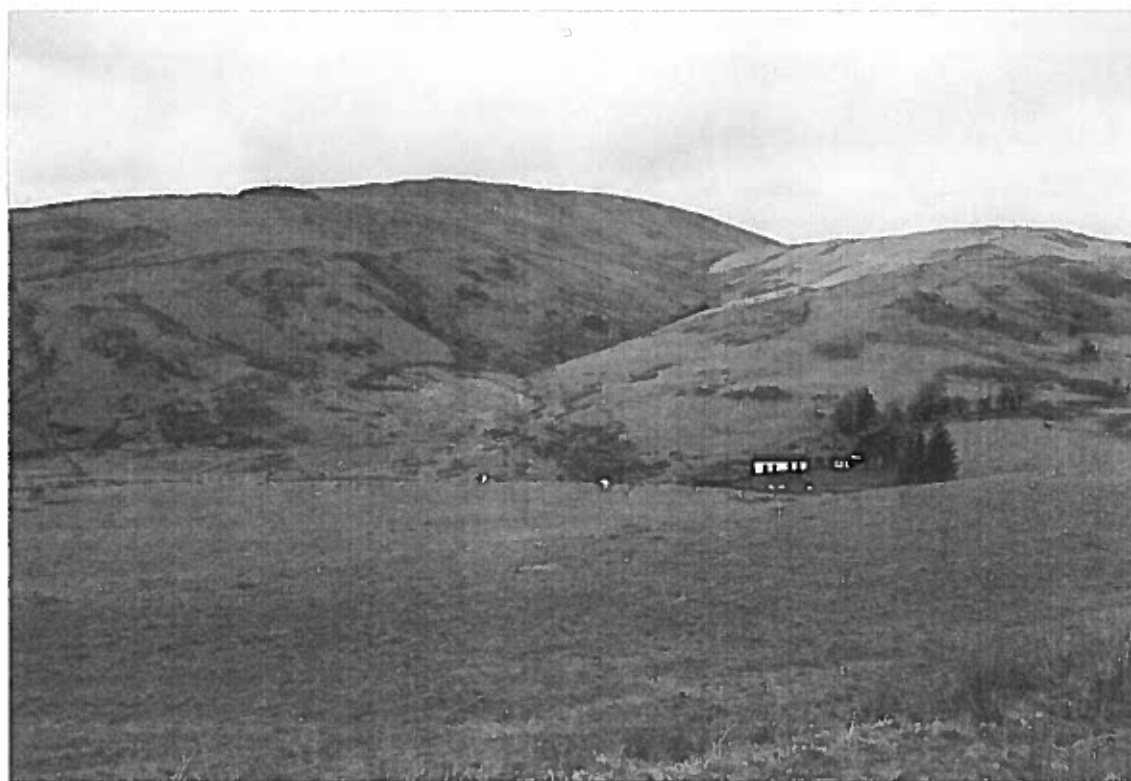


*Photo 10. Area 18 showing wind-farm and power-lines from area 69.*





*Photo 11. Area 18 with part of Cwmbwyno lead mine, area 68, in valley.*



*Photo 12. Area 21 with part of area 43 (the dwelling) in the valley.*



*Photo 13. Area 21 viewed from across Nant-y-Moch reservoir of area 72.*



*Photo 14. The western end of area 22.*





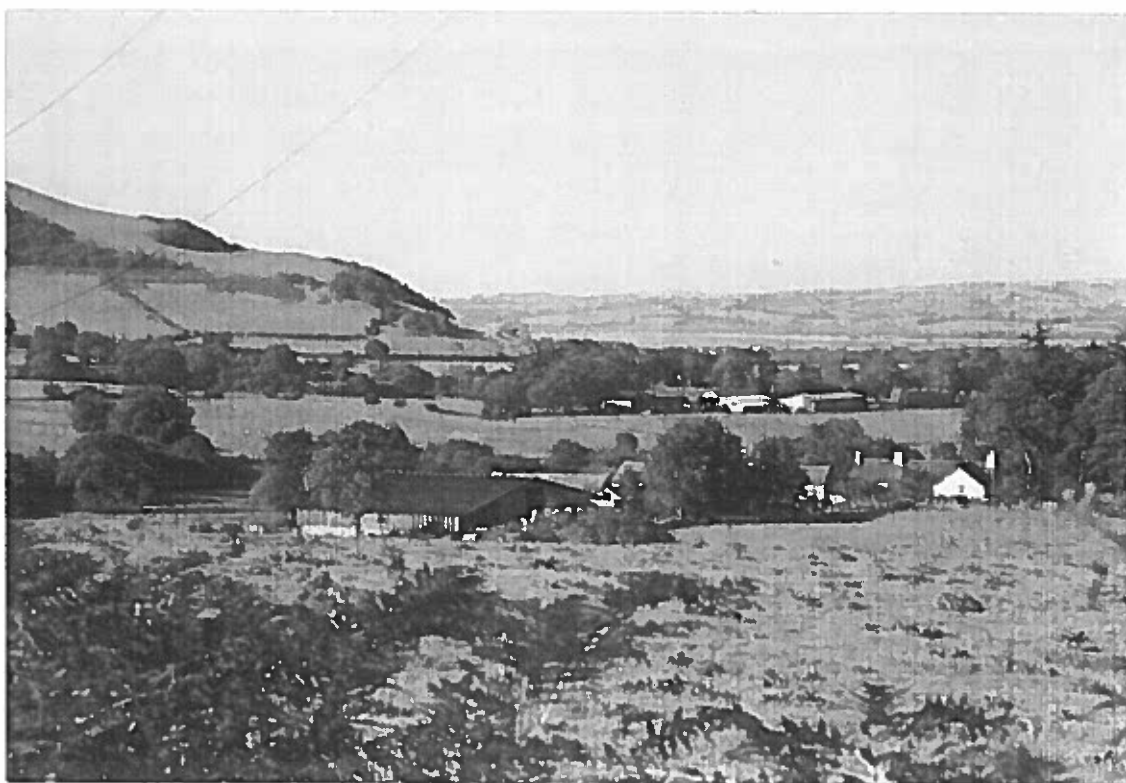
*Photo 15. Looking across area 23 towards the unenclosed hill of area 31.*



*Photo 16. Part of area 25.*



*Photo 17. Area 26, with the village of Swyddfynnon to the left of the shot.*



*Photo 18. Looking across area 27, with the hills of area 28 to the left and Cors Caron (area 1) in the middle distance.*





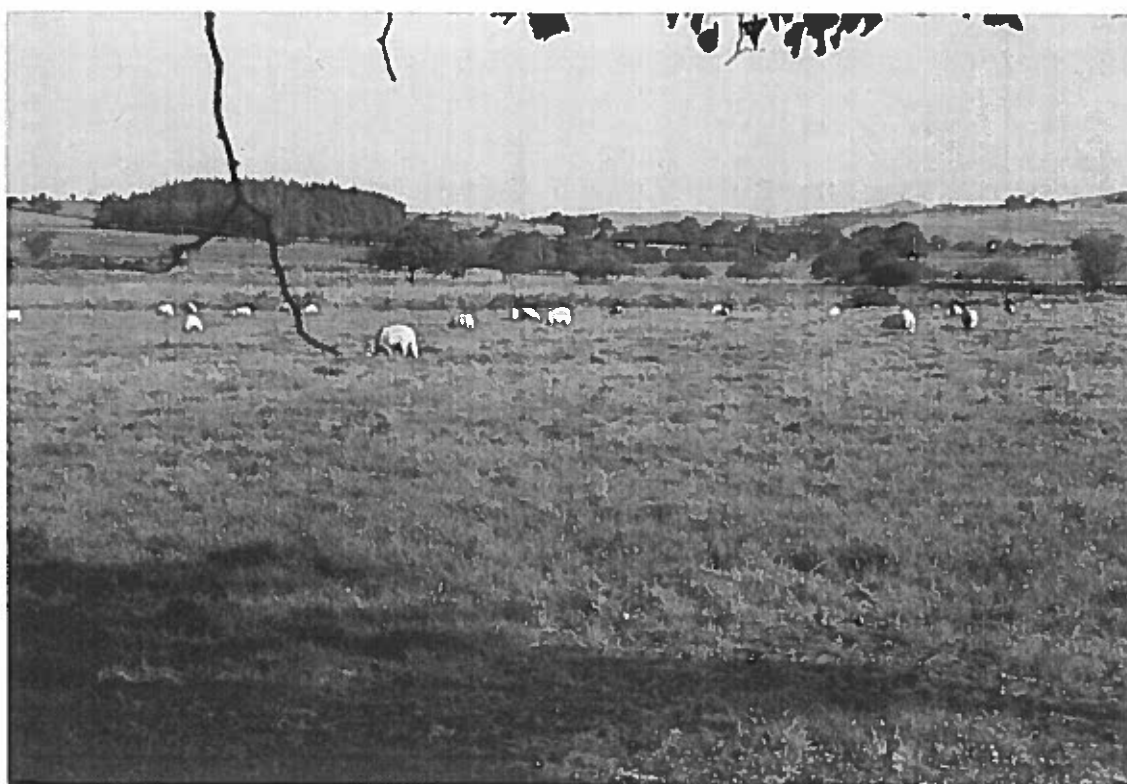
*Photo 19. Looking towards Sunnyhill in area 27.*



**Photo 20. Looking across to a ruined farmstead in area 29, with the unenclosed hills of 125 in the background.**



*Photo 21. Area 29 with the hills of 125 in the background.*



*Photo 22. Looking across area 30 towards area 105.*





*Photo 23. The unenclosed hill of area 31, viewed across area 118 from area 41.*



*Photo 24. Area 35 with the high ground of area 15 to the right.*



*Photo 25. Area 37 looking towards Croftau Farm, with the forestry of area 3 in the background.*



**Photo 26. Area 38.**

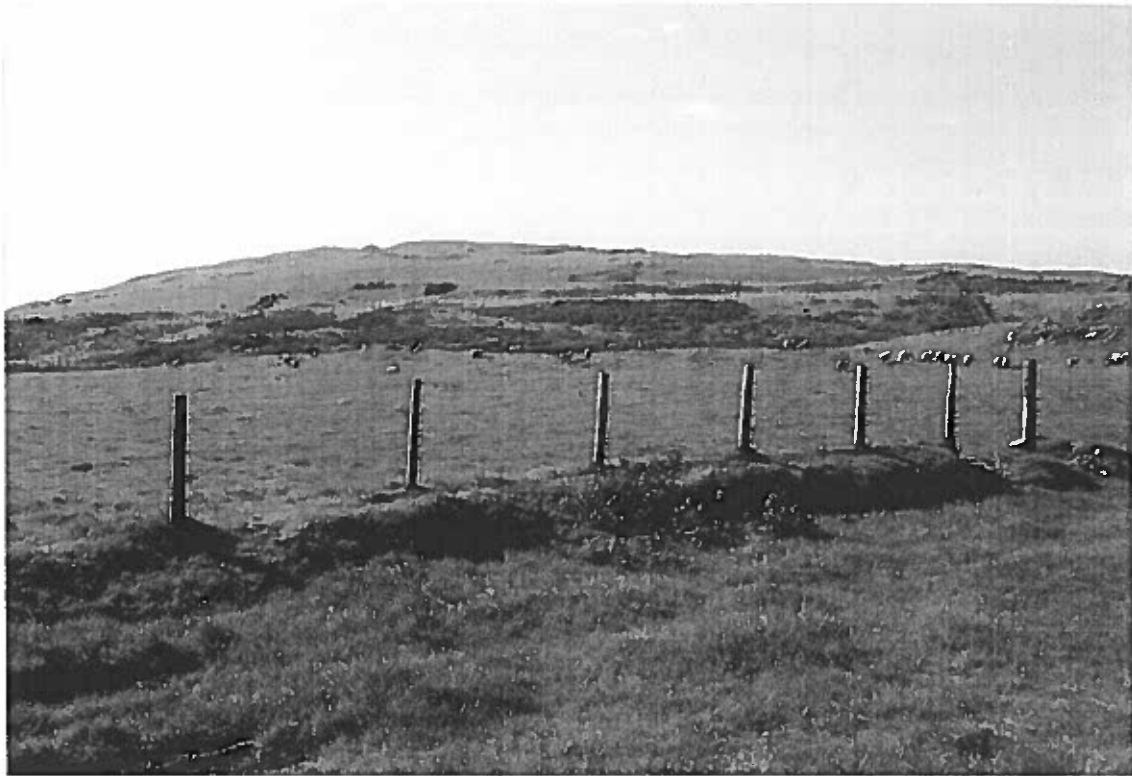




*Photo 27. Looking towards the unenclosed mountain of area 39 viewed from the enclosed land of area 90.*



*Photo. 28. Looking towards the unenclosed mountain of area 39 viewed from the enclosed land of area 113.*



*Photo 29. Looking towards the unenclosed high ground of 39, with area 95 in the foreground.*

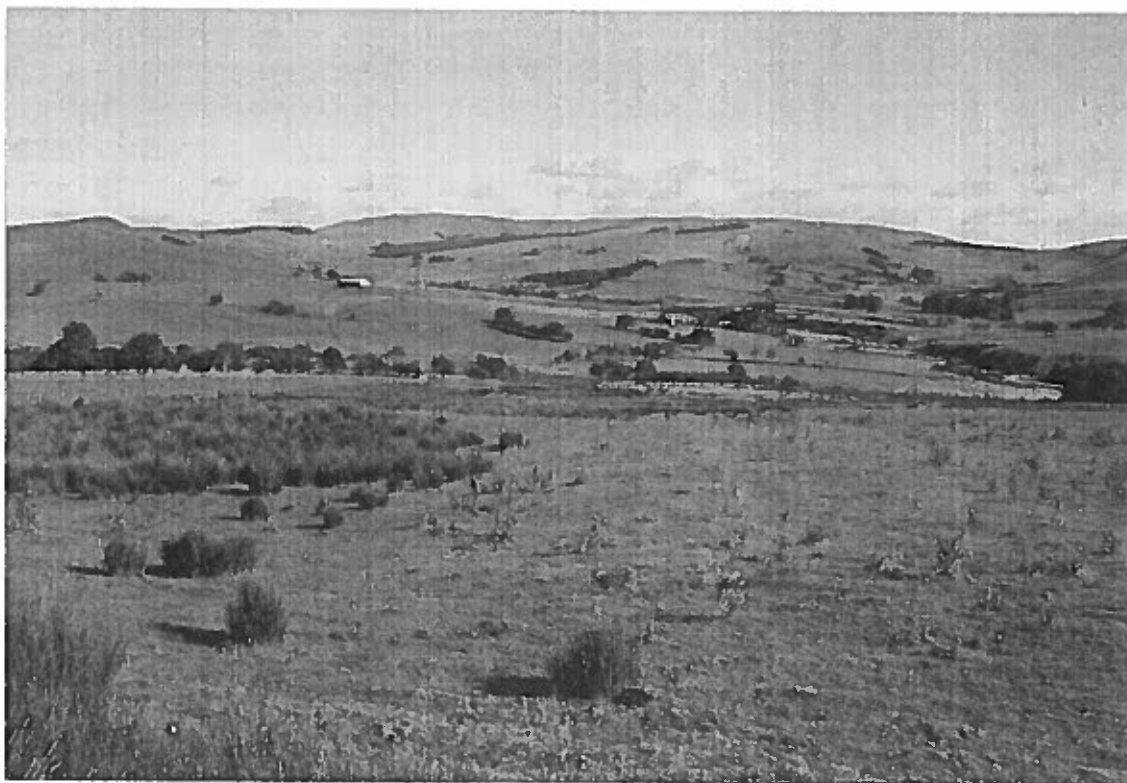


*Photo 30. Looking across area 40, with the high ground of area 95 to the left.*





*Photo 31. Area 38 in the foreground with area 41 in the middle distance.*



*Area 32. Looking across area 41 towards the higher ground of areas 35-36 in the far background.*



*Photo 33. Looking across area 41 with the high ground of areas 33, 39, 95 to the left and the lower-lying land of area 38 to the left.*



*Photo 34. Remains of a lead mine in area 42.*





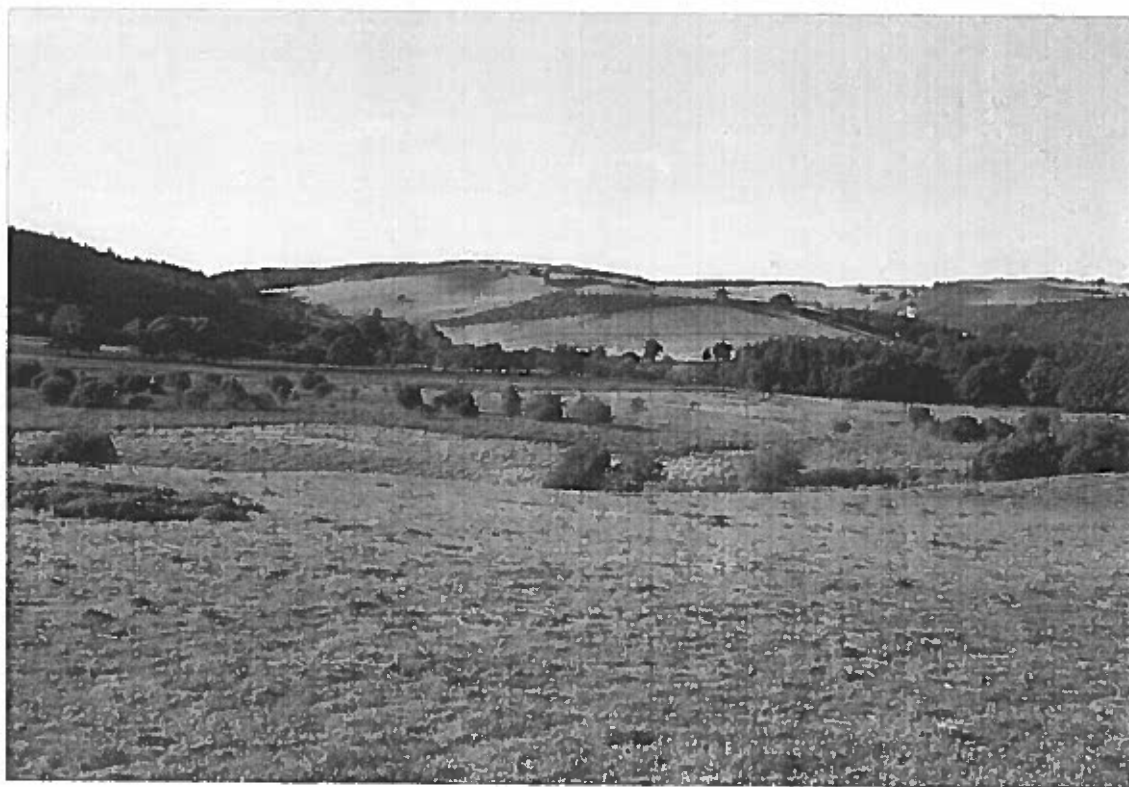
*Photo 35. Part of area 42, with the wooded valley side of area 4 in the background.*



*Photo 36. Looking across the valley of area 43, with the forestry of area 7 in the background.*



*Photo 37. The upland farm of area 44 in them middle distance viewed from area 35, with the high ground of areas 15, 119 in the background.*

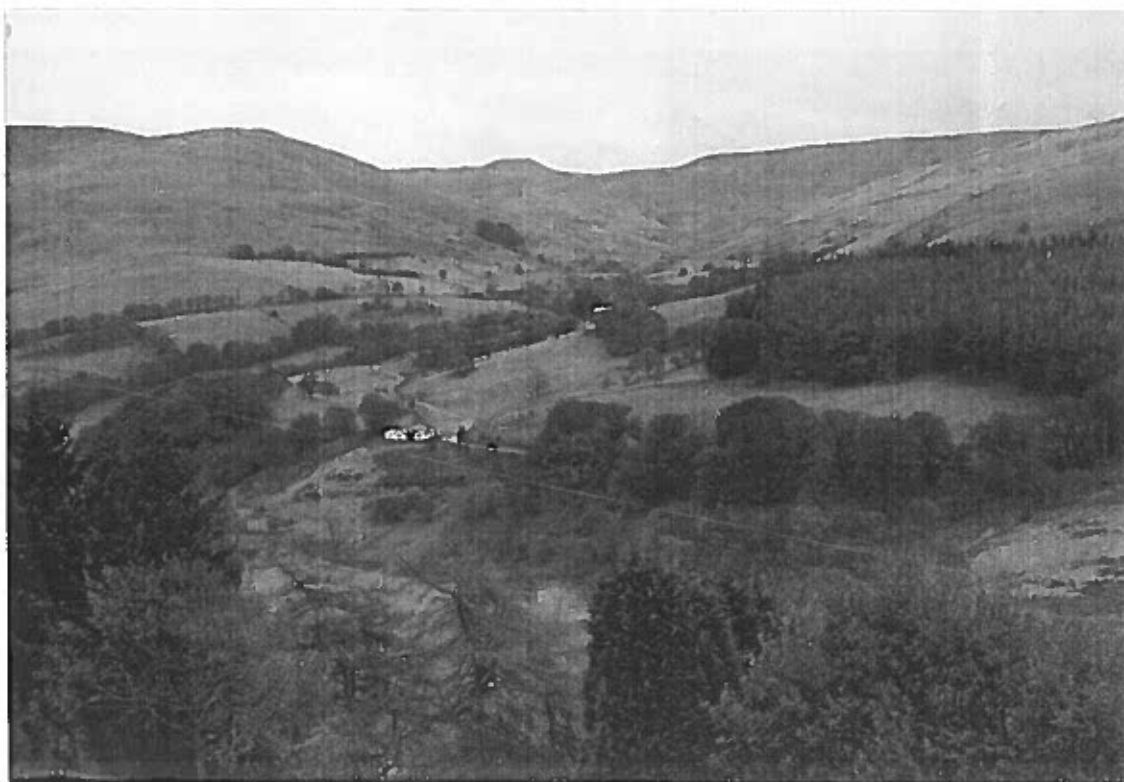


*Photo 38. Looking towards the unenclosed hill of area 45 across area 115, taken from area 41.*





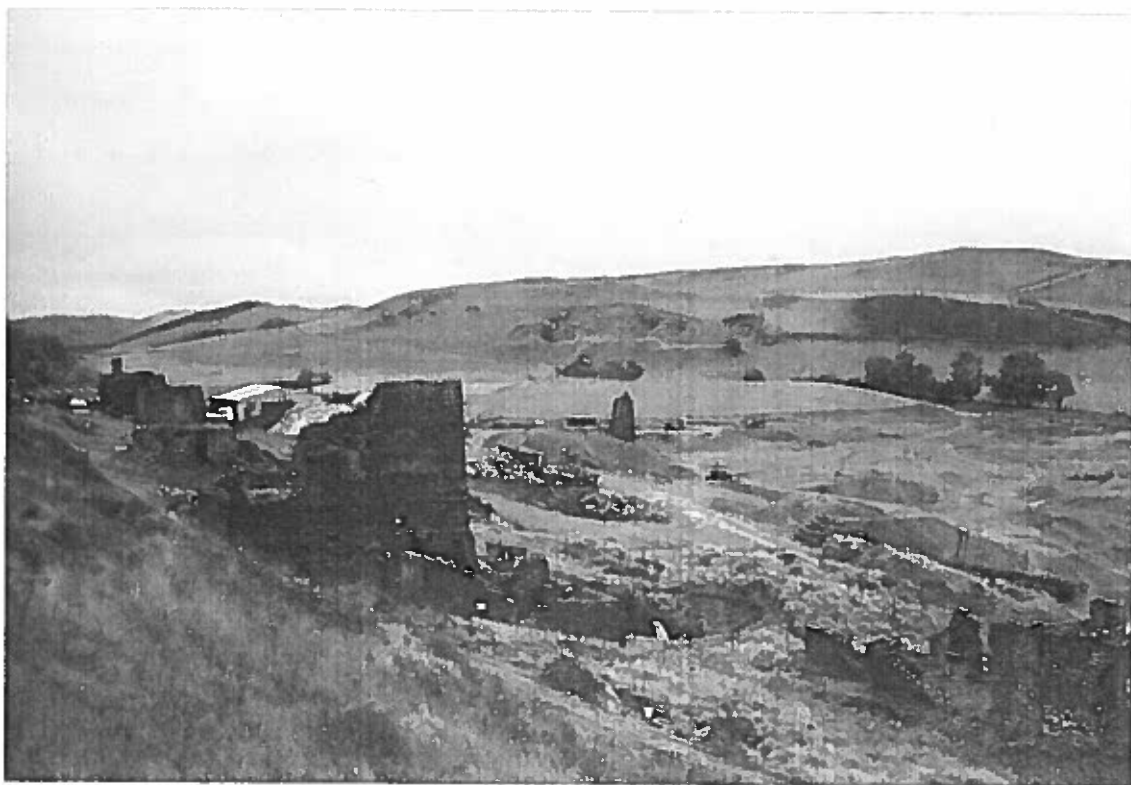
*Photo 39. Looking across area 46, with the forestry of areas 5 and 120 in the background.*



*Photo 40. Looking across area 46, with the high unenclosed land of area 15 in the background.*



*Photo 41. Looking across area 47.*



*Photo 42. Frongoch mine in area 47.*





*Photo 43. Area 48, with the foresty of area 4 to the right.*



*Photo 44. Area 48, looking towards New Row.*



*Photo 45. Area 49.*



*Photo 46. Area 51, looking at Trawscoed Experimental Husbandry Farm, with the hill of area 99 in the background.*





*Photo 47. Area 52.*



*Photo 48. Looking across area 53 towards the west.*



*Photo 49. Area 53.*



*Photo 50. Area 53.*





*Photo 51. Area 54.*



*Photo 52. Looking across area 54, with area 128 in the middle distance and the hills of areas 17 and 58 in the distance.*



*Photo 53. The heavily wooded valley sides of the Afon Rheidol (area 55) and the valley floor (area 131).*



*Photo 54. From area 53, looking towards the wooded valley side of the Rheidol (area 55).*





*Photo 55. Area 56, the valley floor of the Rheidol, and area 55, wooded valley sides, from area 53.*



*Photo 56. Looking across area 56, with the wooded valley side of the Rheidol (area 55) in the background.*



*Photo 57. Area 57, with the forestry area 6 to the left and in the background.*



*Photo 58. Area 58, with area 60 to the left and the high ground of area 17 to the right.*





*Photo 59. Looking at area 59 from area 60.*



*Photo 60. Area 59.*



*Photo 61. Area 60.*



*Photo 62. Area 60.*

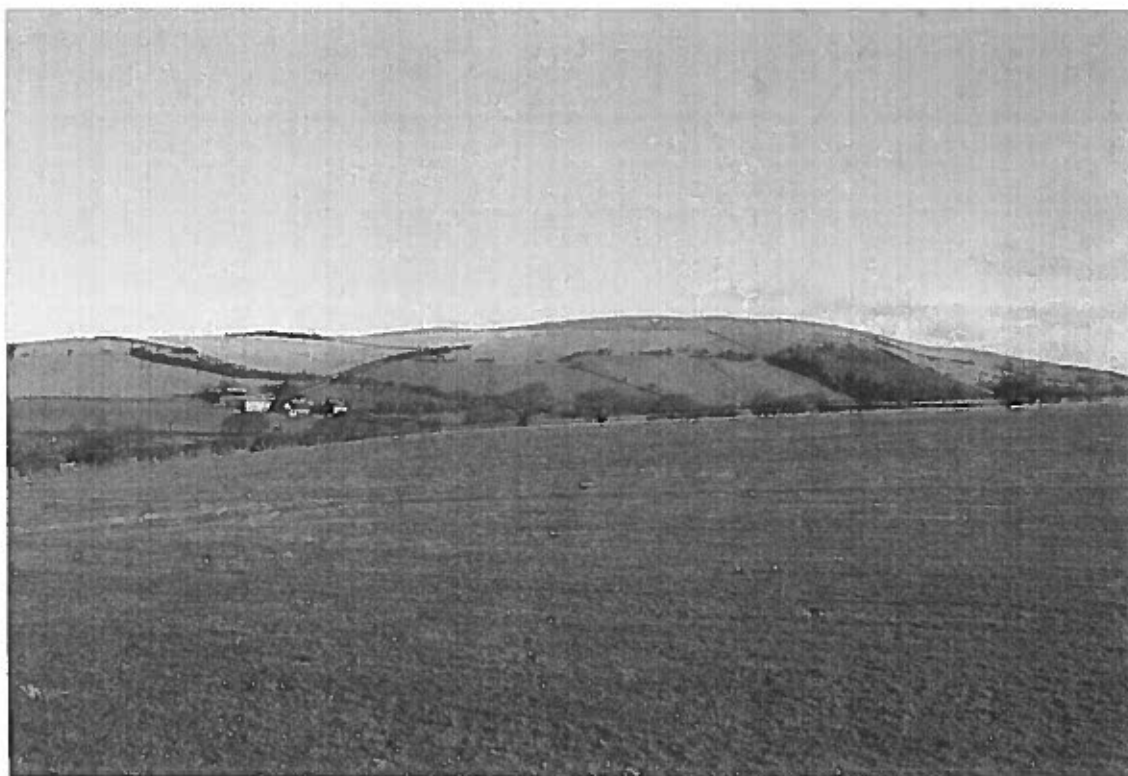




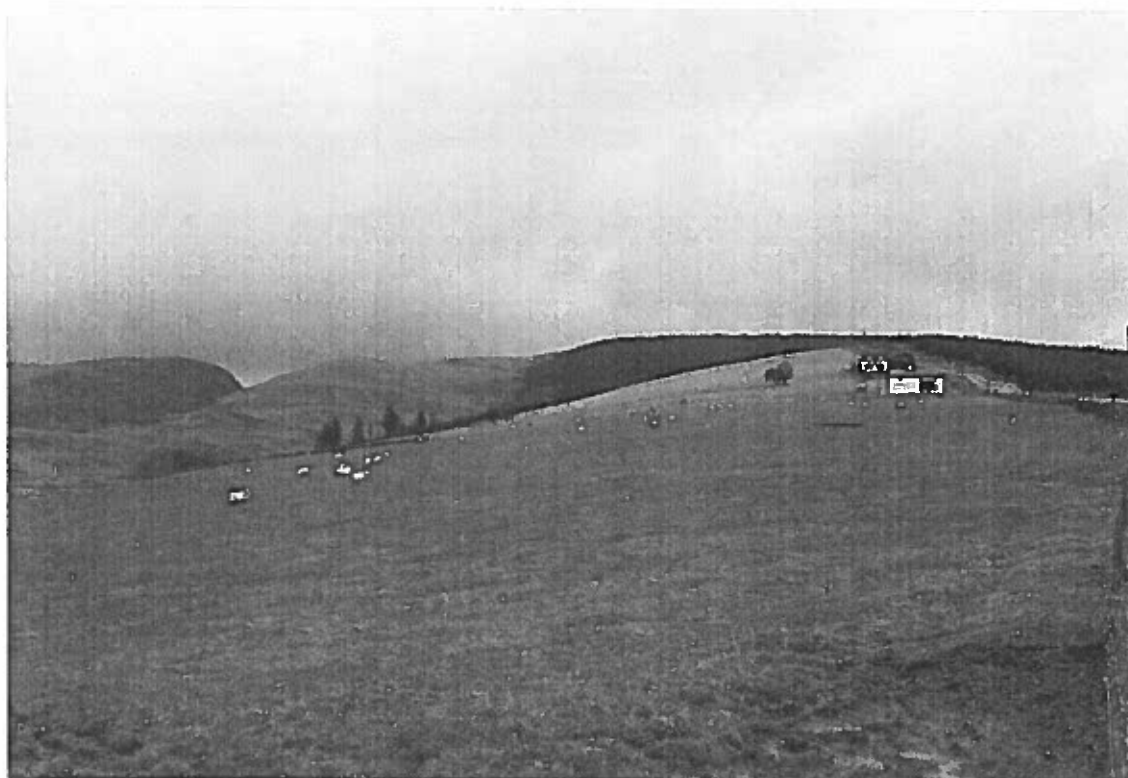
*Photo 63. Area 61.*



*Photo 64. In the middle distance - the ridge of areas 62 and 64.*



*Photo 65. Looking at area 63, with areas 75 and 76 in the valley, taken from area 64.*



*Photo 66. Looking across area 65, with forestry (area 8) in the background and open ground (area 20) to the left.*

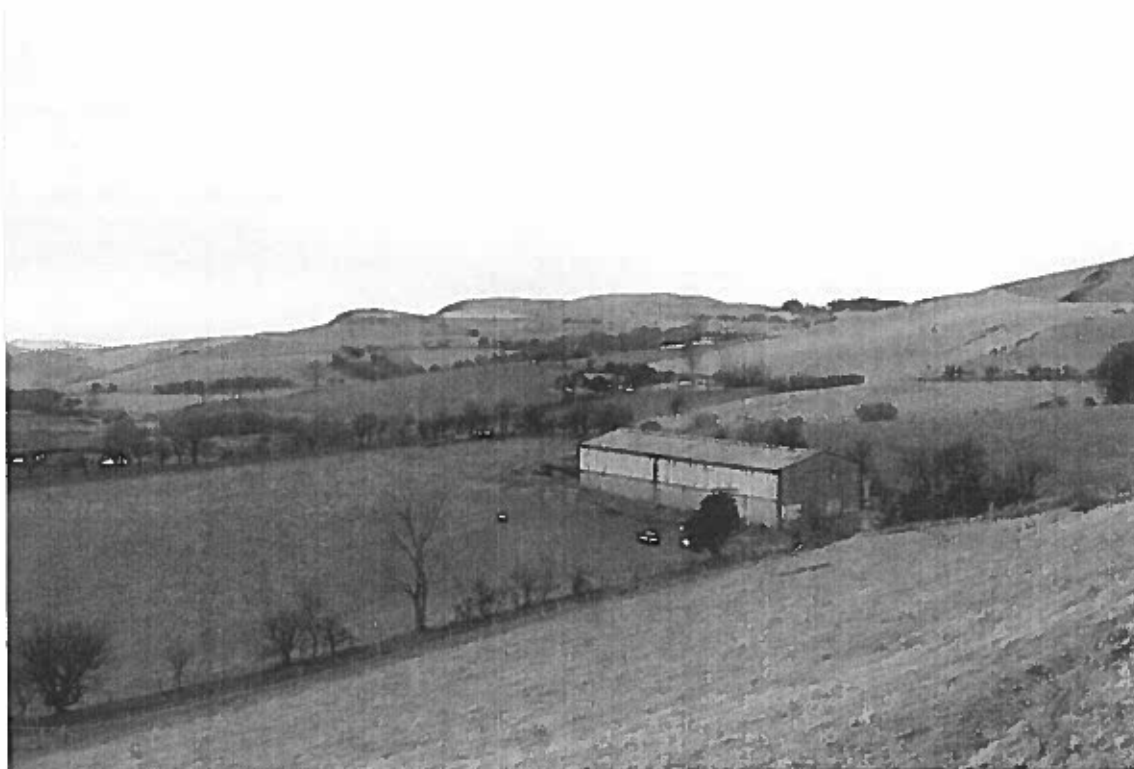




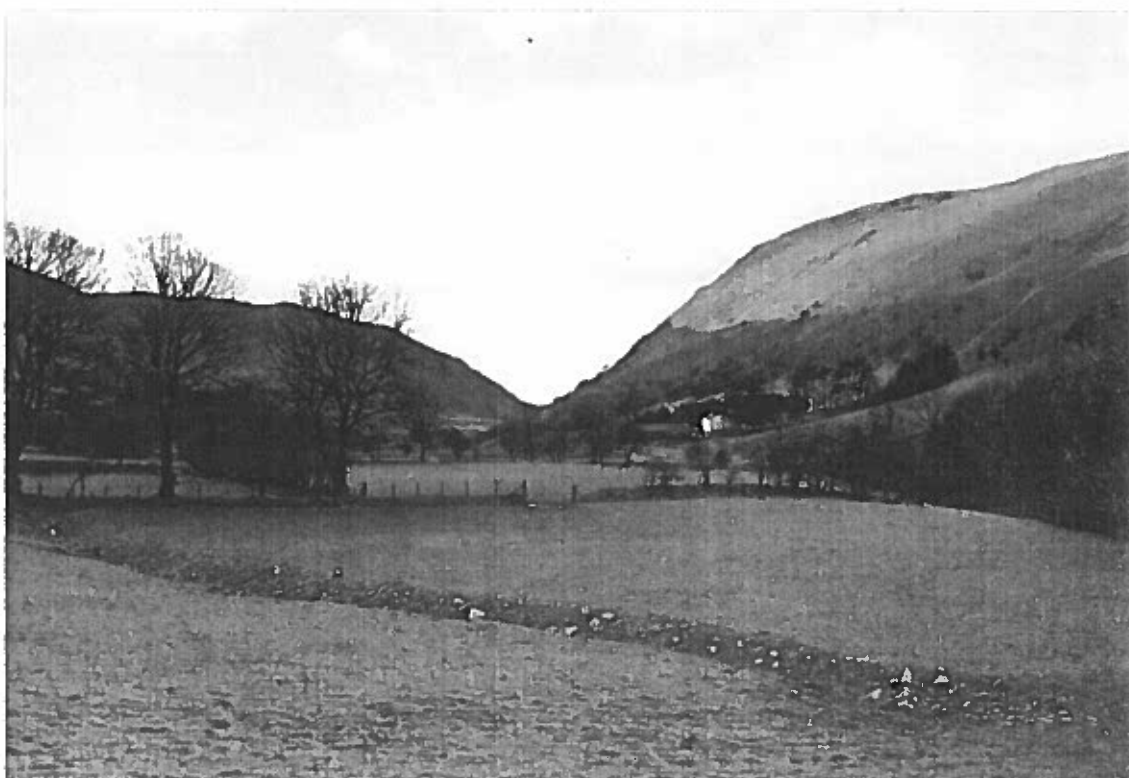
*Photo 67. Area 68, with the wooded valley sides areas 8, 66 and 67.*



*Photo 68. Area 68 and woodland 66.*



*Photo 69. Area 69.*



*Photo 70. Area 70 surrounded by high, unenclosed land of area 15.*

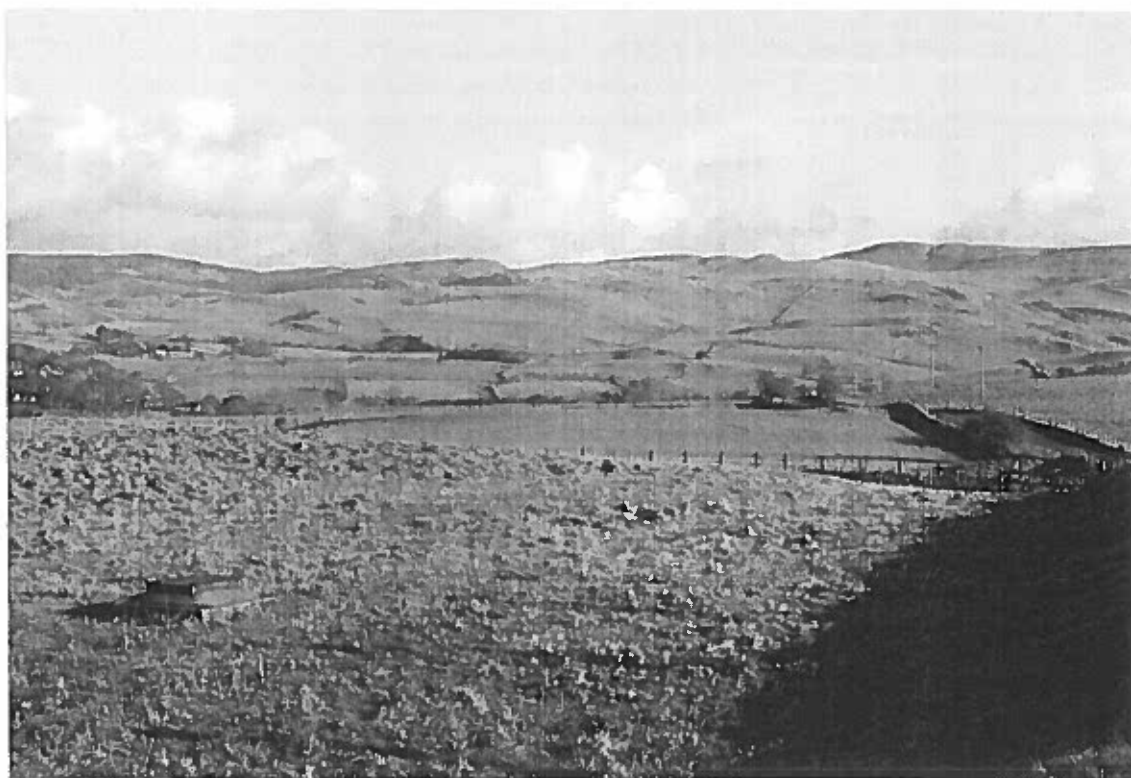




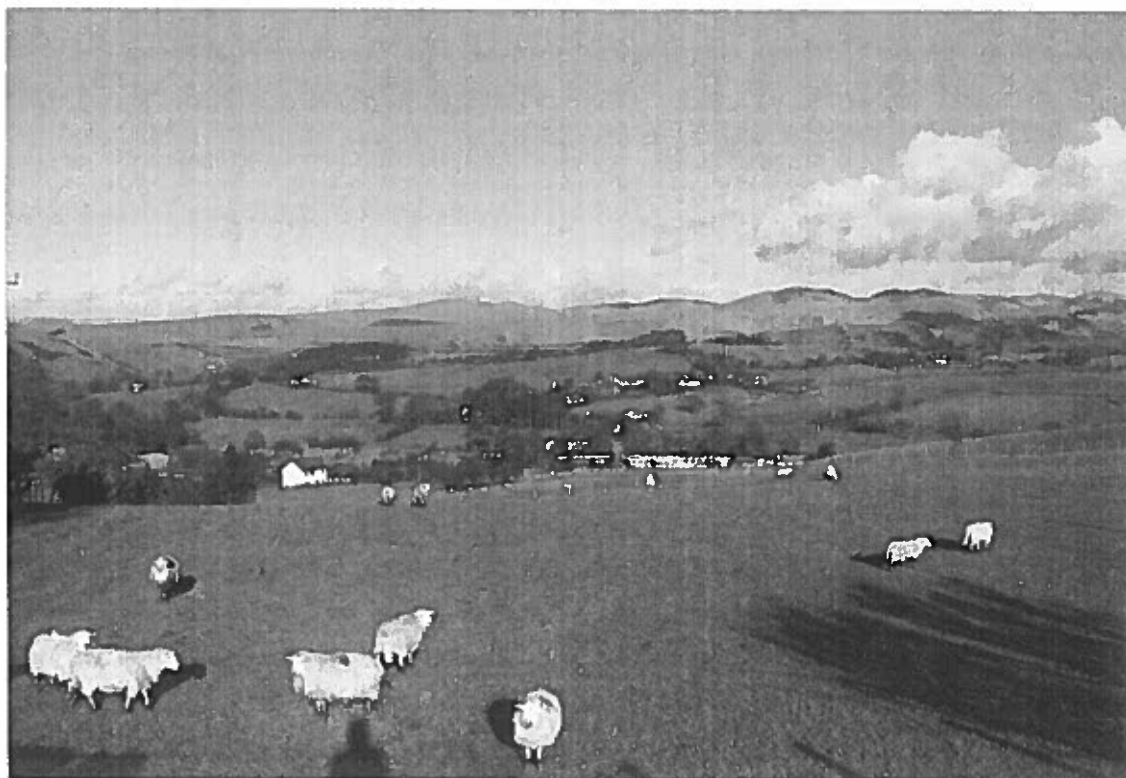
*Photo 71. Looking across area 72 towards the high land of area 71.*



*Photo 72. Looking across area 73 to the high unenclosed land of area 71.*



*Photo 73. Looking towards area 74 in the middle distance taken from area 64. High ground of areas 21 and 71 is in the background.*

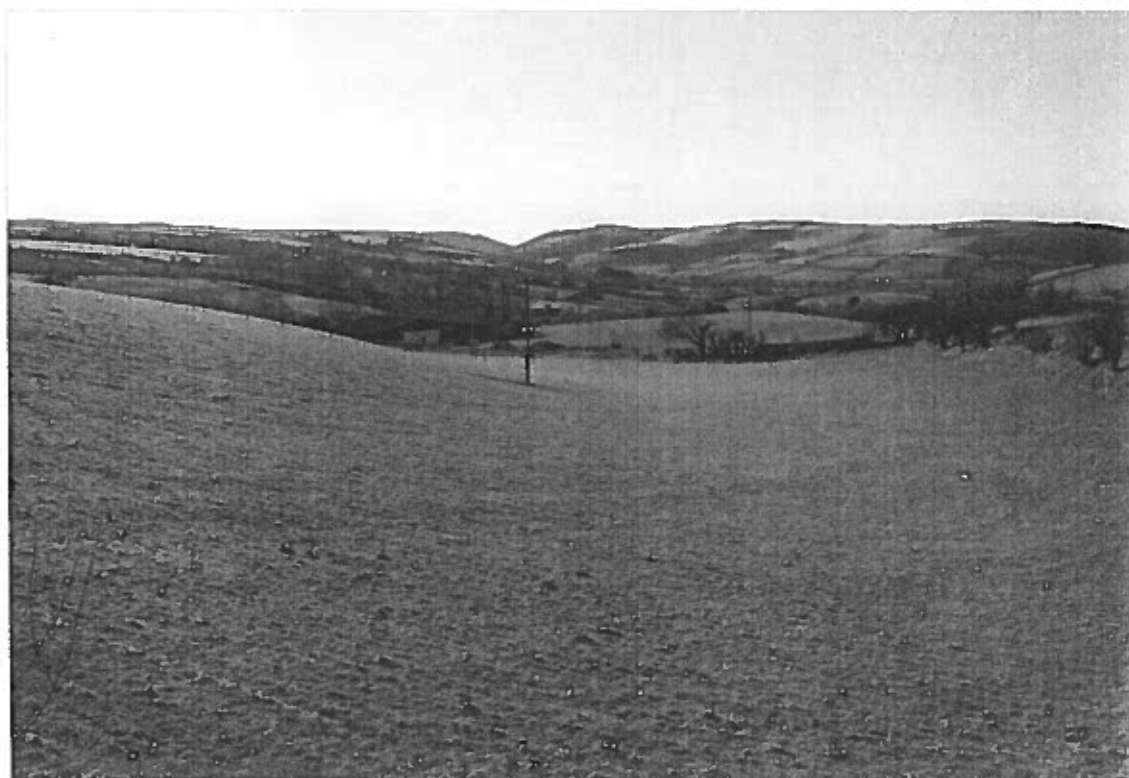


*Photo 74. Looking across area 75 in the middle distance, from area 64.*





*Photo 75. Area 75, the higher ridge of area 64 in the background.*



*Photo 76. Area 76.*



*Photo 77. Area 77.*

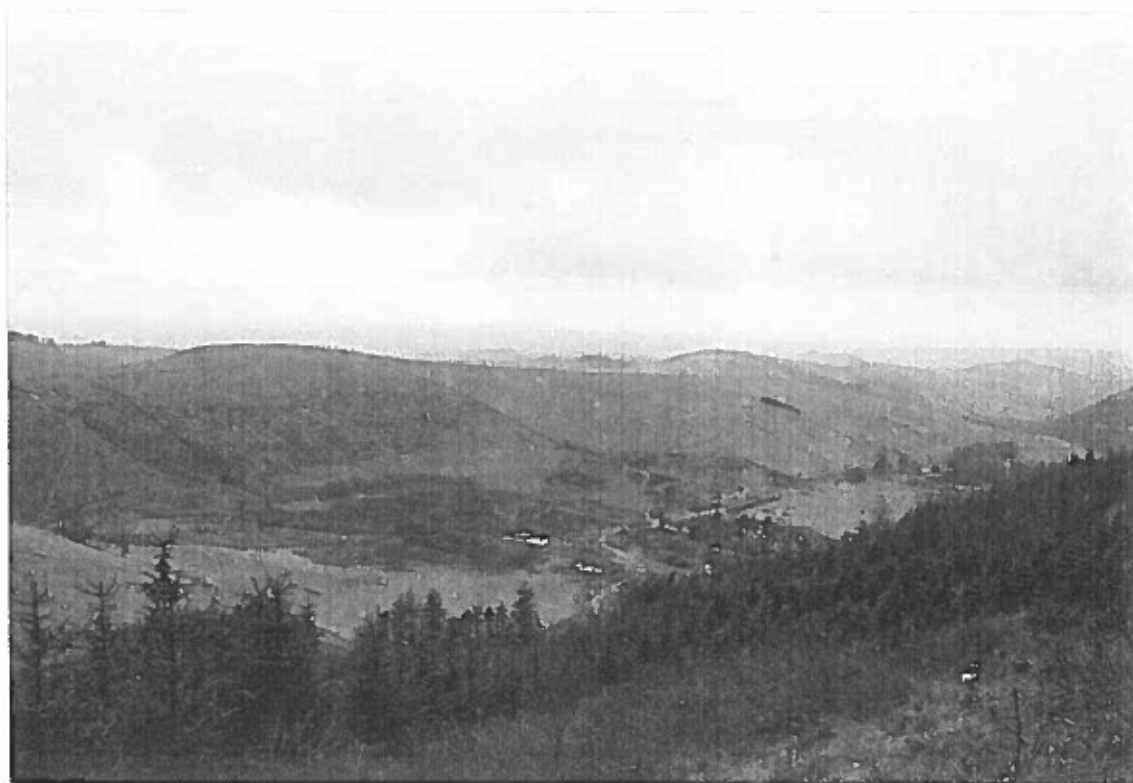


*Photo 78. Area 77. Note enclosed strip fields to left.*





*Photo 79. Area 78.*



*Photo 80. Area 79 lies in the valley. Above is the ridge of area 61. Taken from area 8.*



*Photo 81. Area 79, with forestry (area 8) in the background.*



*Photo 82. Devil's Bridge (area 81) lies in the middle distance. Seen looking across area 128, with the high land of areas 17 and 58 in the background.*





*Photo 83. Looking across area 83, with part of area 46 in the background.*



*Photo 84. Looking across area 83, with area 15 in the background.*



*Photo 85. Looking across area 84, with unenclosed upland (area 71) in the background.*



*Photo 86. Looking across area 84, with upland (area 21) in the background.*





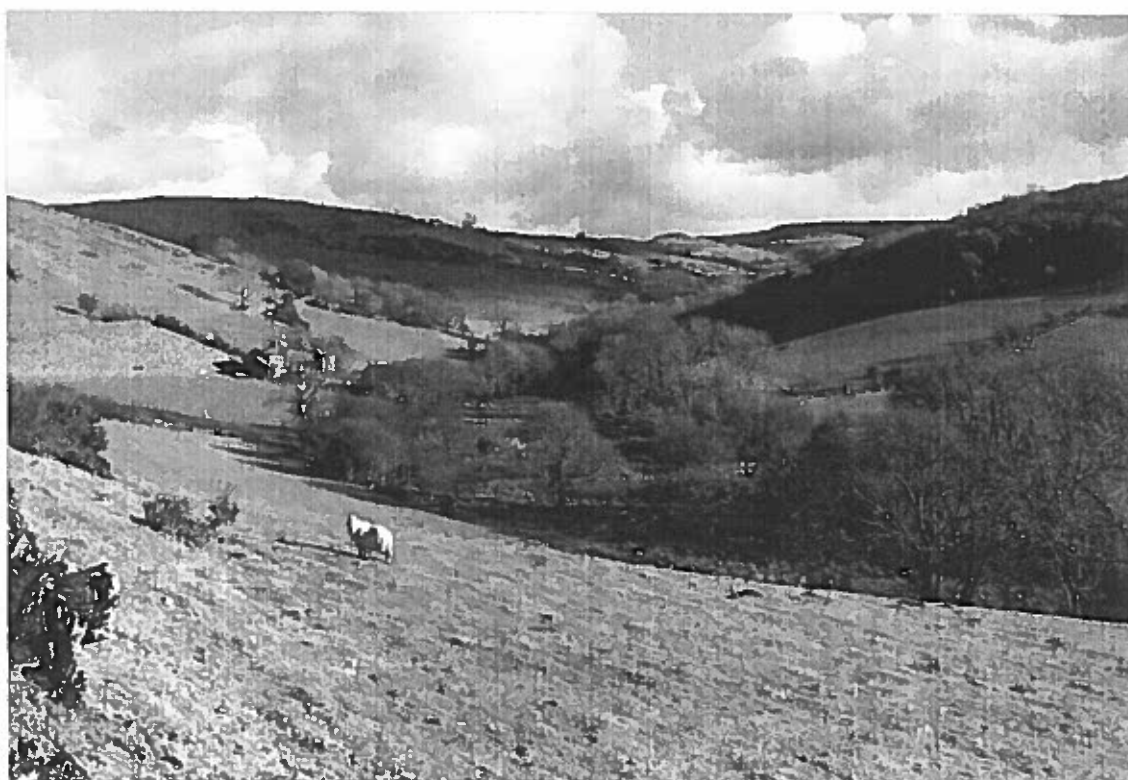
*Photo 87. Looking at area 85 from area 65.*



*Photo 88. The ridge of areas 61, 85 and 102 seen from a distance. Woodland of area 86 lies at the extreme left.*



*Photo 89. Area 87 with area 80 in background.*



*Photo 90. Area 89 with area 62 in background.*





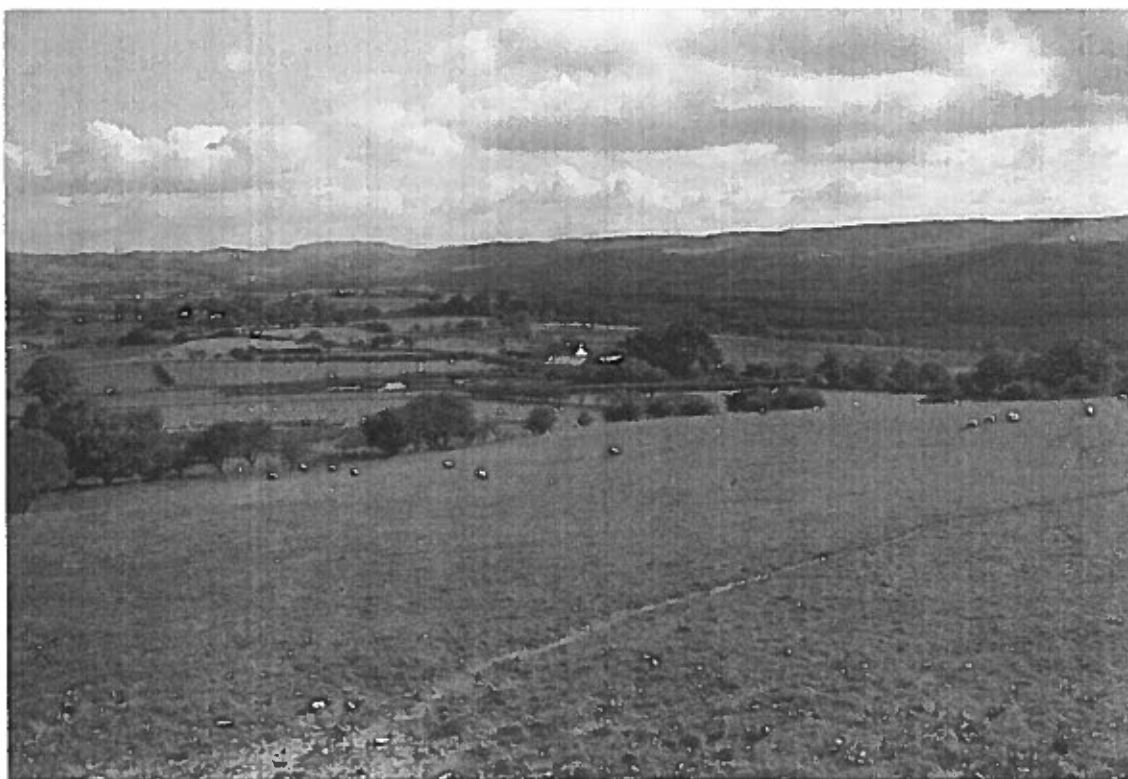
*Photo 91. Area 90.*



*Photo 92. Looking across area 90, with area 95 in the background.*



*Photo 93. Looking across area 91, with the forestry of area 4 in the background.*



*Photo 94. Looking across area 93, with Swyddffynnon (area 26) on the left middle distance and area 1 right middle distance.*

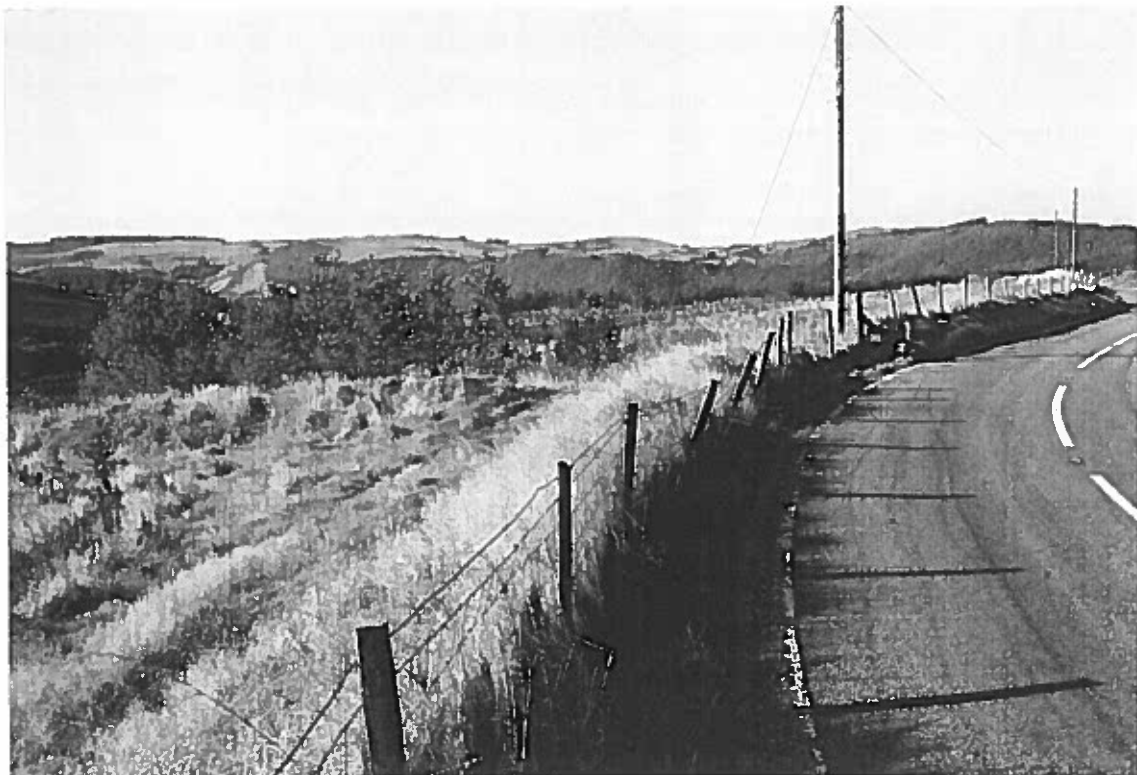




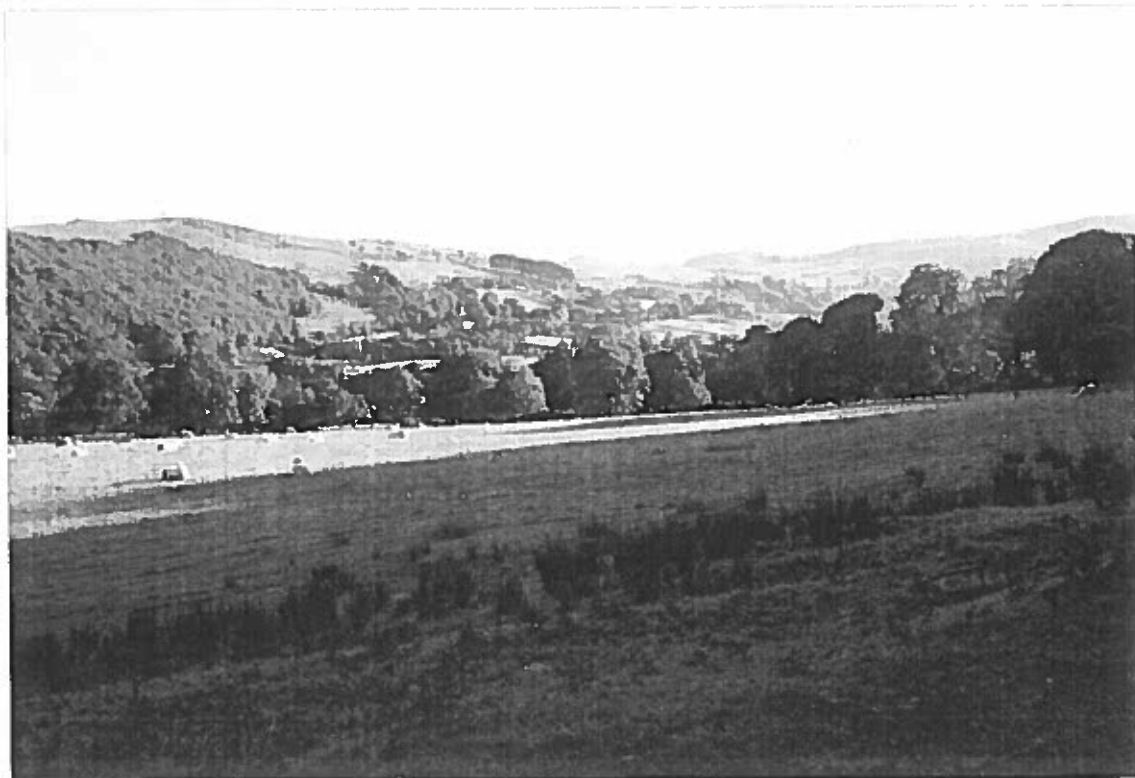
*Photo 95. Looking across area 94, with areas 88 and 99 in background and the valley floor area 130 to the right.*



*Photo 96. Area 94, seen from area 51.*



*Photo 97. Looking across area 96 with the forestry of area 4 in background.*



*Photo 98. Looking across area 97, with area 28 in background.*





*Photo 99. Looking across area 97, with area 28 in background.*



*Photo 100. Looking across area 97.*



*Photo 101. Looking towards the village of Penrhyn-coch (area 100), with area 85 to the left and area 86 to the right.*



*Photo 102. Looking across area 101, with the high ground of area 61 in the background.*





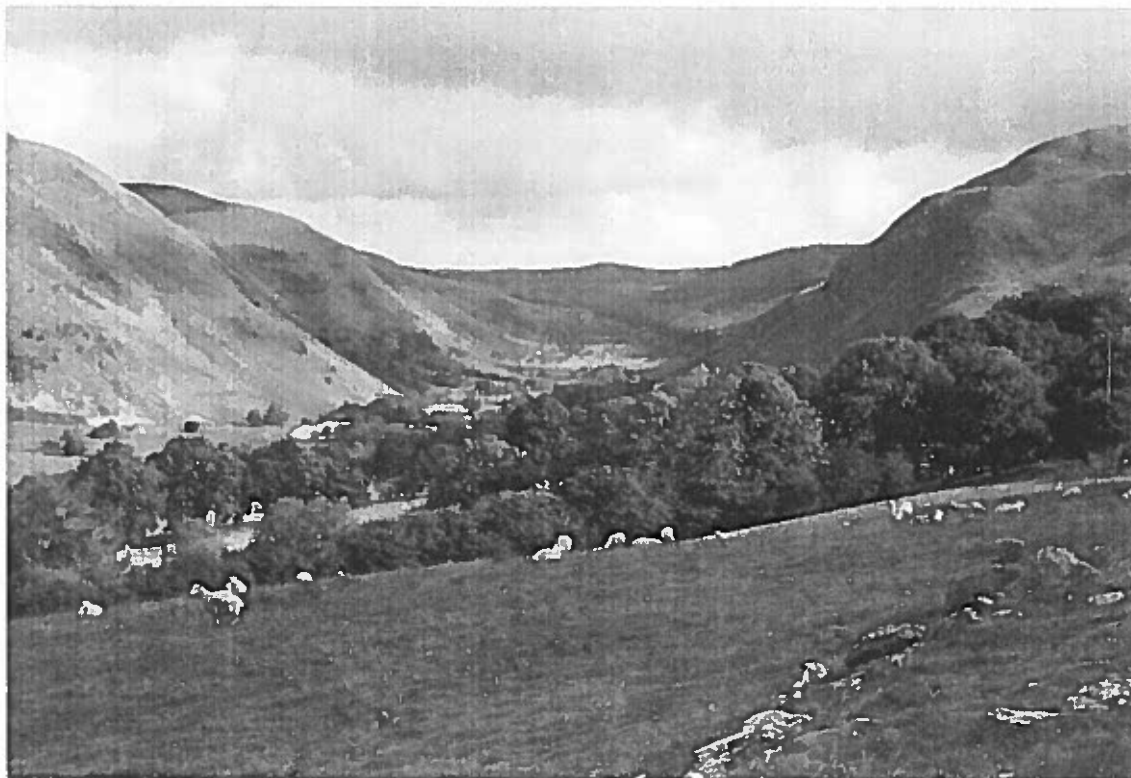
*Photo 103. Area 102 seen from area 61.*



*Photo 104. Area 103.*



*Photo 105. Area 105.*

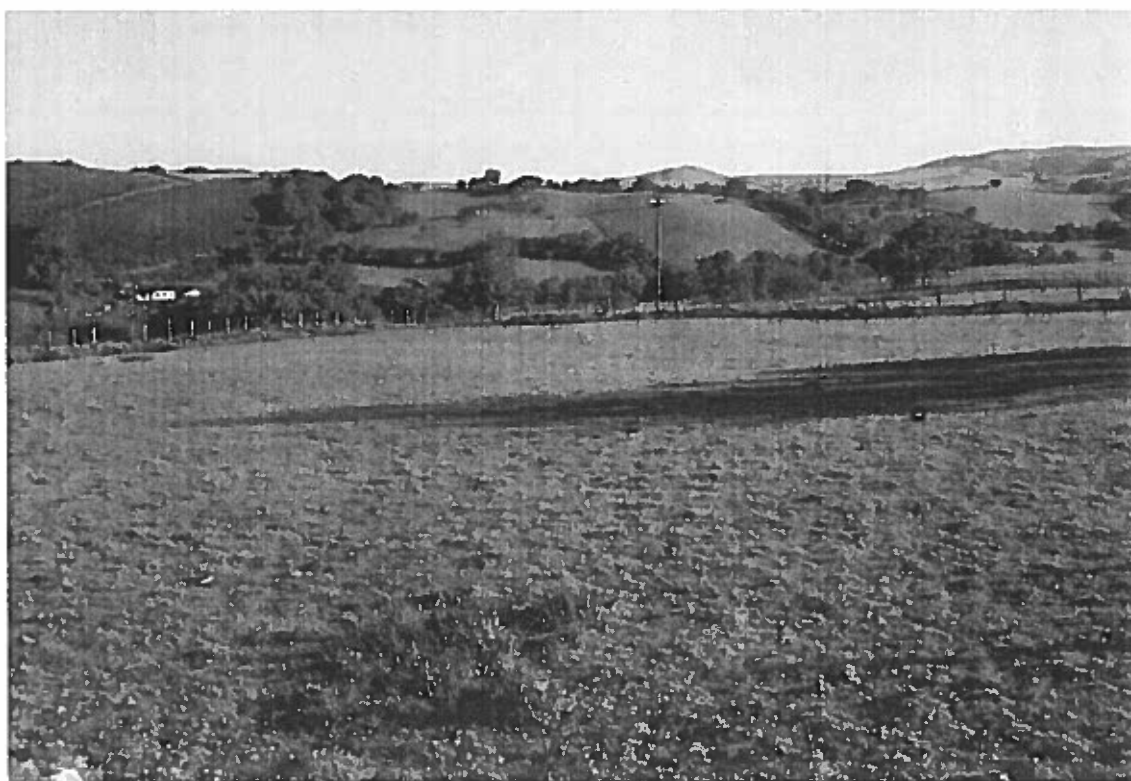


*Photo 106. The valley floor of area 106, with the high unenclosed areas 14 and 125 to the sides.*





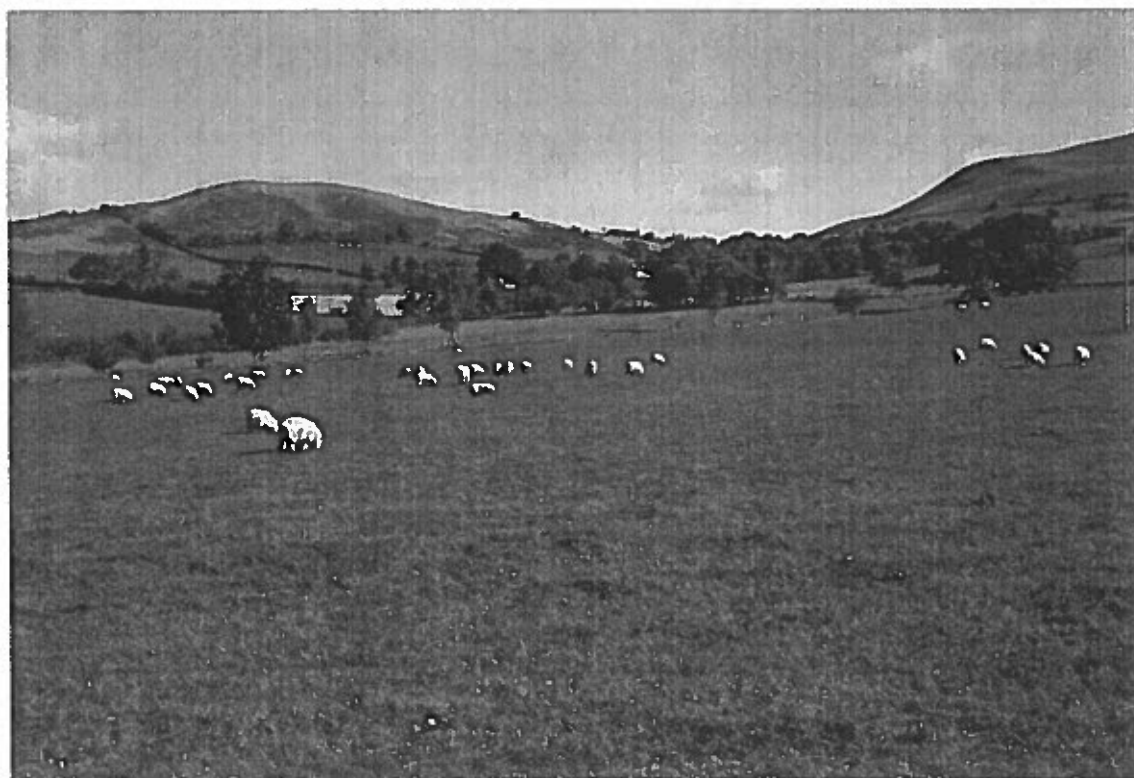
*Photo 107. Area 108*



*Photo 108. Area 109.*



*Photo 109. Looking across area 111, with area 28 in the background.*



*Photo 110. Looking across area 111, with area 28 in the background.*





*Photo 111. Area 112.*



*Photo 112. Looking across area 115, with area 33 in the background.*



*Photo 113. Looking across areas 116 and 40, with area 28 in background.*



*Photo 114. Looking across area 117 to area 119.*





*Photo 115. Area 118.*



*Photo 116. Area 120.*

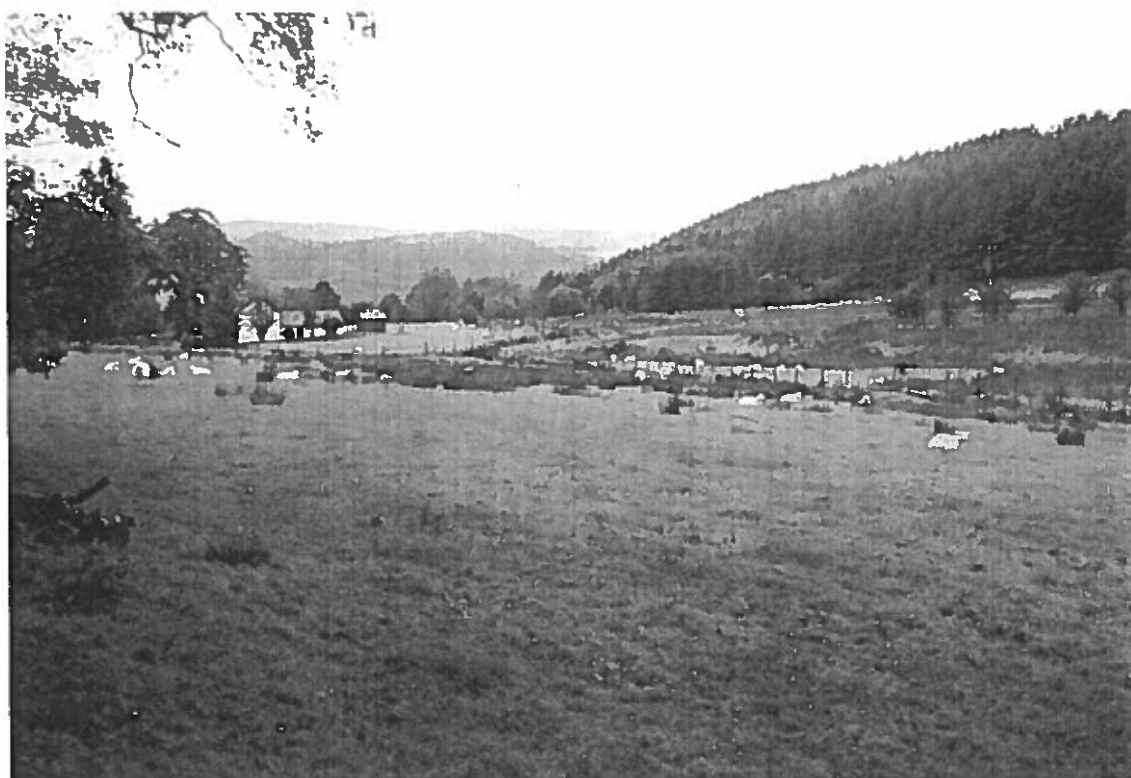


*Photo 117. Area 120.*



*Photo 118. Part of area 122.*





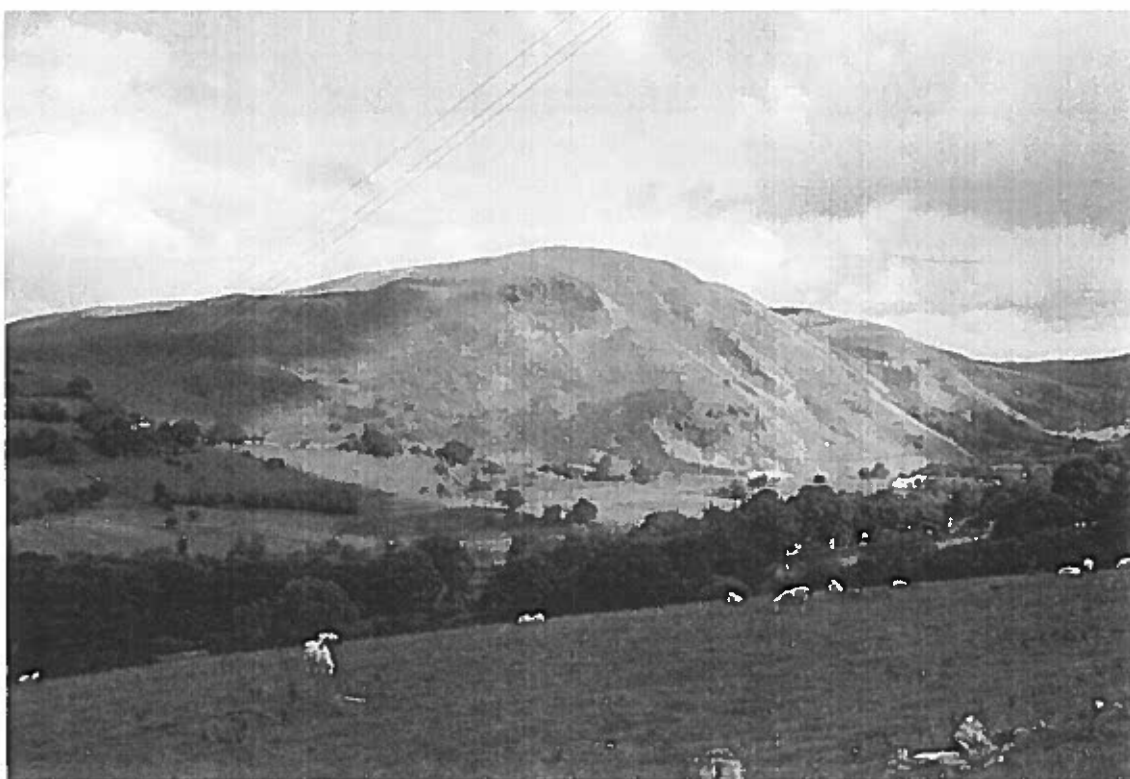
*Photo 119. Part of area 122.*



*Photo 120. Area 123, with the higher ground of area 88 above.*

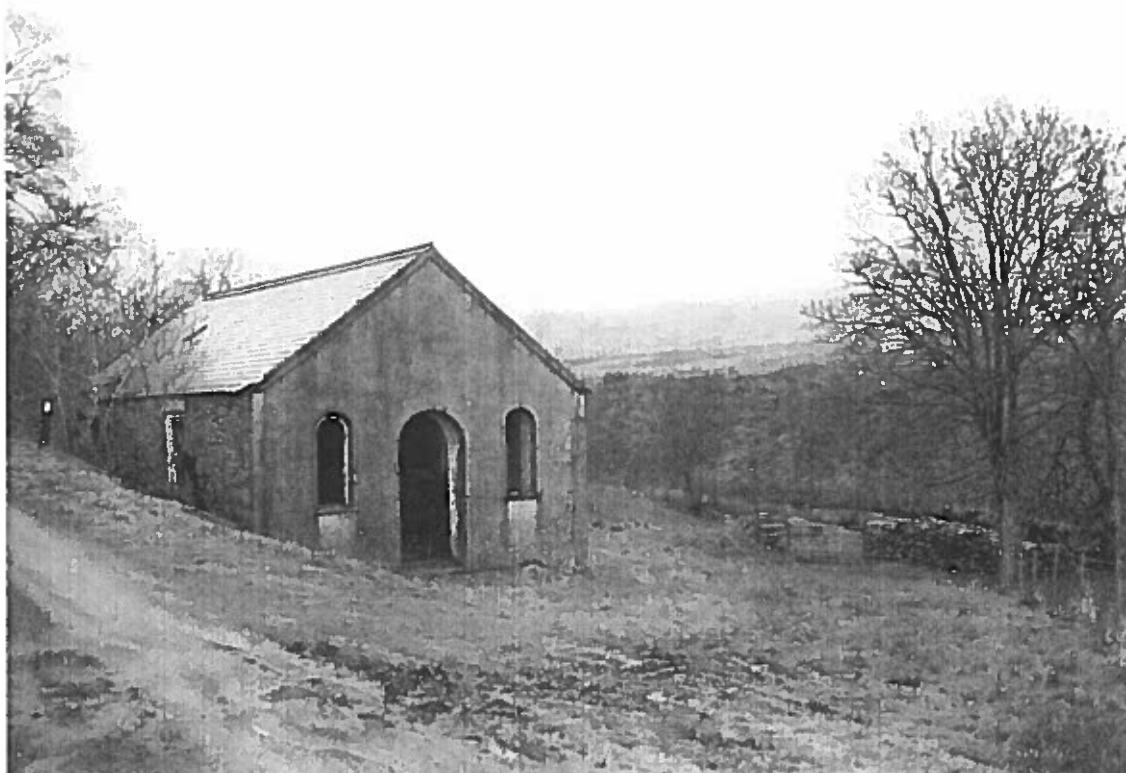


*Photo 121. Area 123, with the higher ground of 88 above, taken from area 53.*



*Photo 122. The southern flank of unenclosed land area 125.*





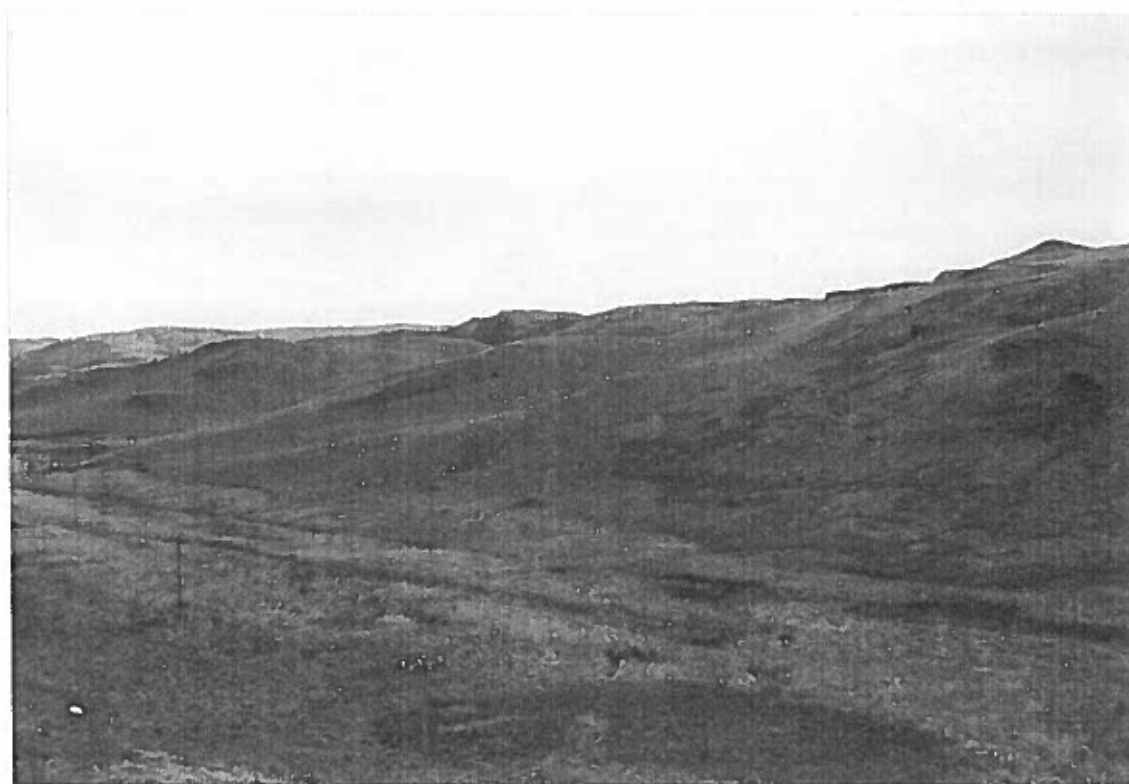
*Photo 123. Redundant chapel in area 126.*



*Photo 124. Looking across area 127, with areas 55 and 69 in the background.*



*Photo 125. Looking across area 128, with the higher ground of 129 to the left, and area 15 in the far distance.*

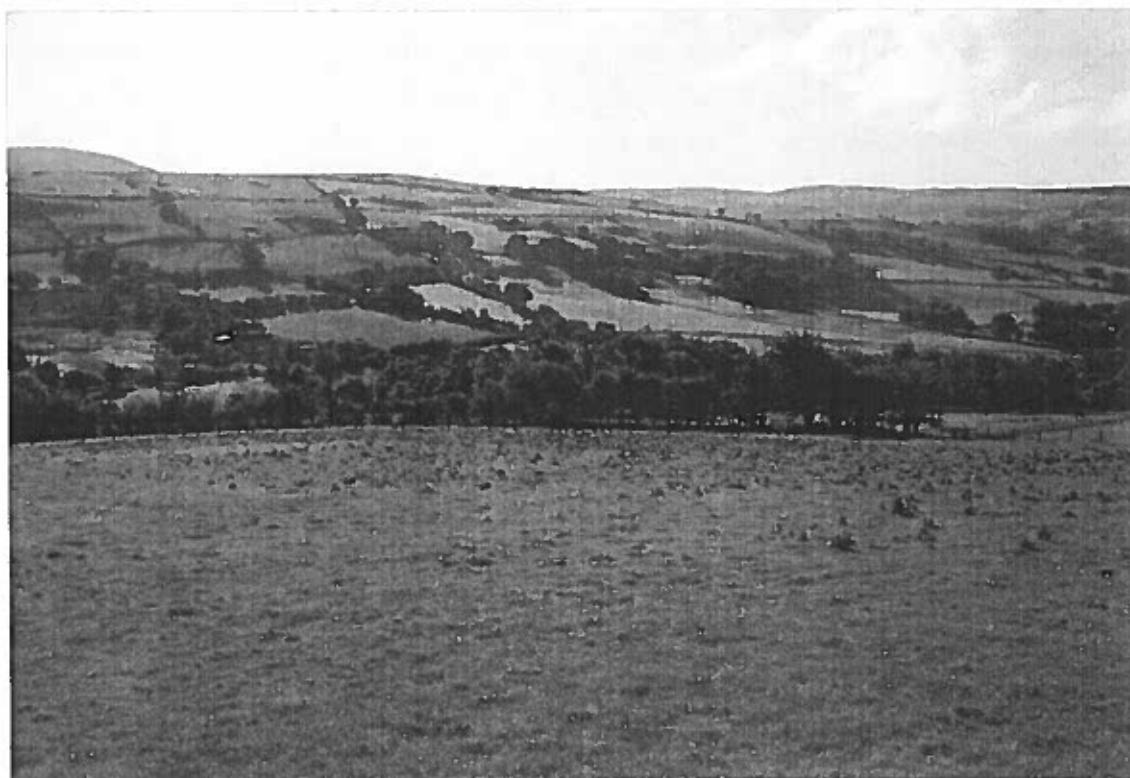


*Photo 126. Area 129.*





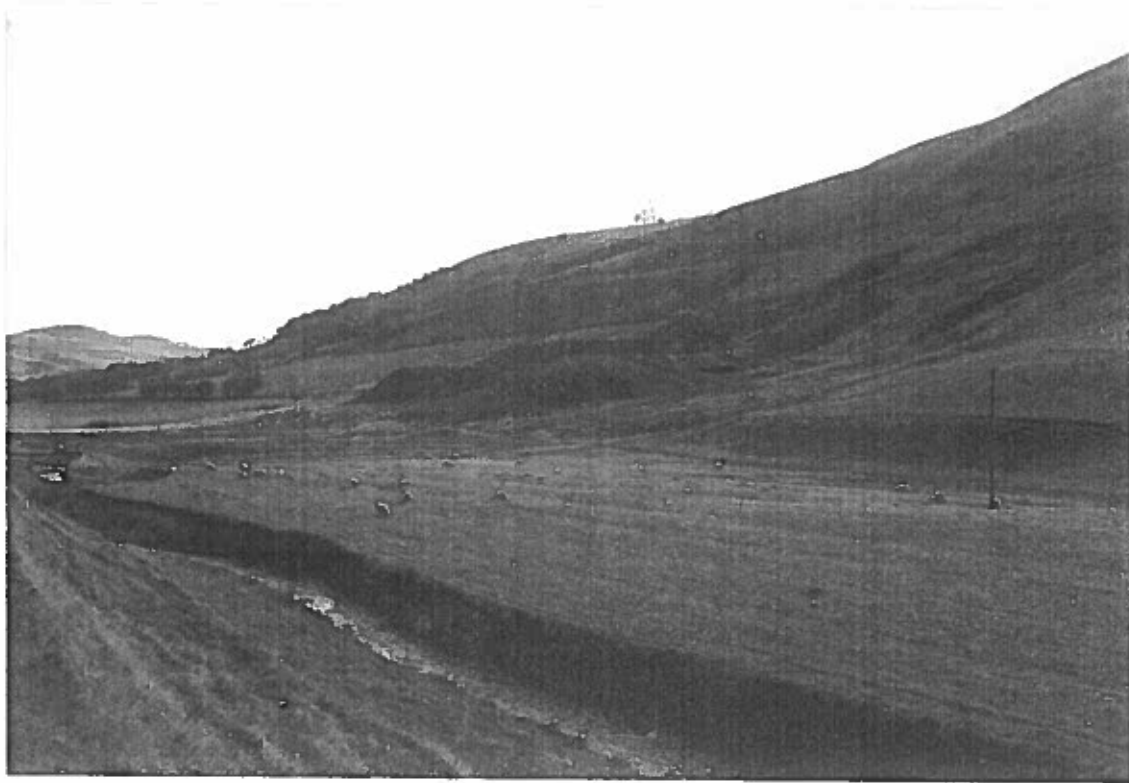
*Photo 127. Looking across area 116 to area 39.*



*Photo 128. Looking towards area 110, from area 97.*



*Photo 129. Looking down over area 130, with areas 47 and 99 to the left and area 88 to the right.*



*Photo 130. Area 130, with area 47 above.*



*Photo 131. Area 20 from area 8.*

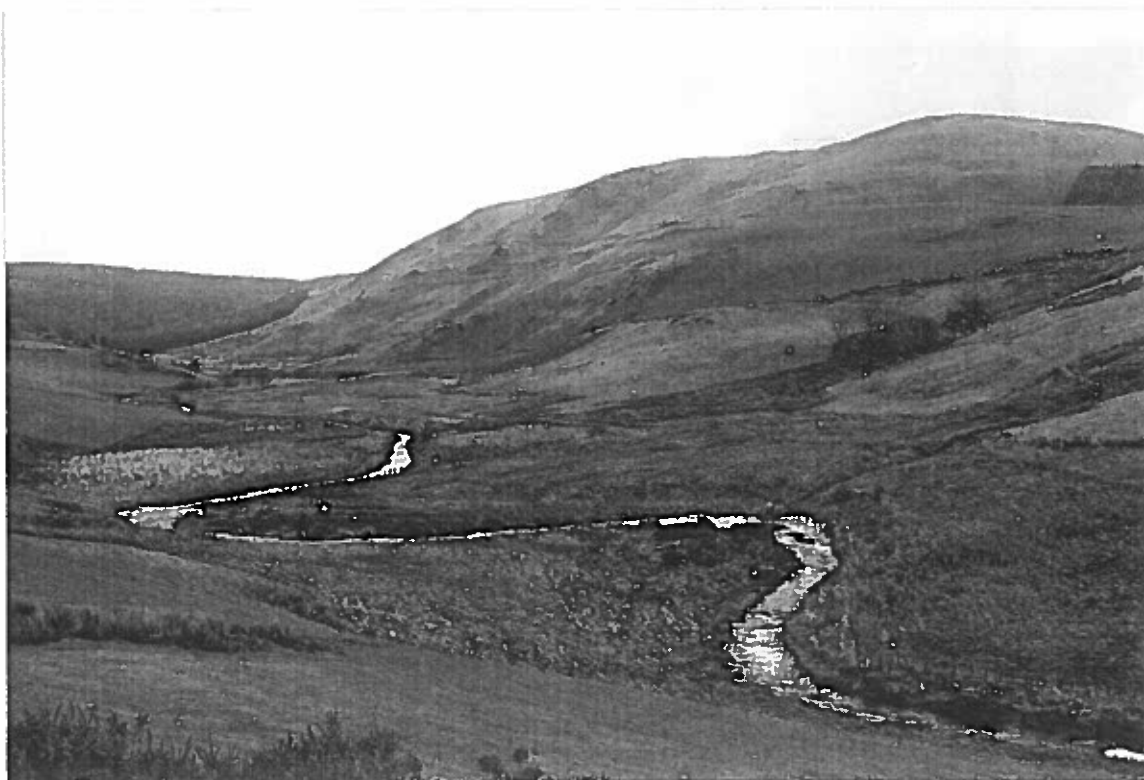


*Photo 132. Area 92.*





*Photo 133. Area 103.*



*Photo 134. Looking east up the valley of area 98, with forestry (area 8) to the left and high unenclosed land (area 20) to the right.*

## **UPLAND CEREDIGION**

### **Historic Landscape Characterisation**

## **SECTION 4**

### **Selection of Aerial Photographs**



*Aerial photograph 1. Looking northeast across the northern end of Cors Caron (area 1), with areas 26 and 108 to the left, area 40 to the end of Cors Caron and areas 27, 30, 105 to the right.*



*Aerial photograph 2. Looking north, showing part of the southern section of area 93, with Cors Caron (area 1) to the right.*





*Aerial photograph 3. Looking southeast across area 26, with the village of Swyddffynnon in the bottom left of the shot.*



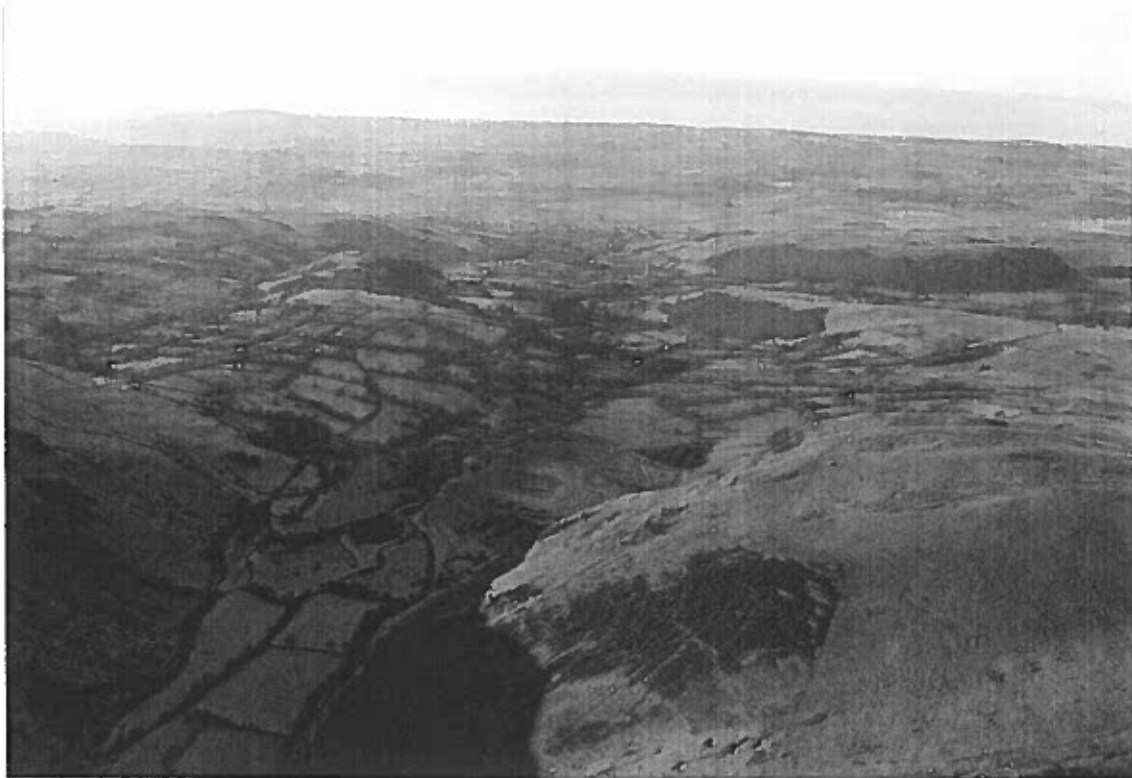
*Aerial photograph 4. Looking north with Cors Caron (area 1) in the centre left. Centre right is area 28, with area 25 bottom left and area 97 bottom right. The northern edge of Tregaron (area 24) lies in the extreme bottom left of the shot.*



*Aerial photograph 5. Looking northwest with the hill of area 28 in the centre. Enclosed land of area 97 is in the foreground and Cors Caron (area 1) in the middle distance.*



*Aerial photograph 6. Looking northeast across the enclosed valleys of area 97. The woods and unenclosed ridge of area 110 in the centre and area 28 on the extreme left..*



*Aerial photograph 7. Looking west down the enclosed valley of area 97, with the unenclosed upland of area 125 bottom right and the valley floor of area 106 bottom left.*

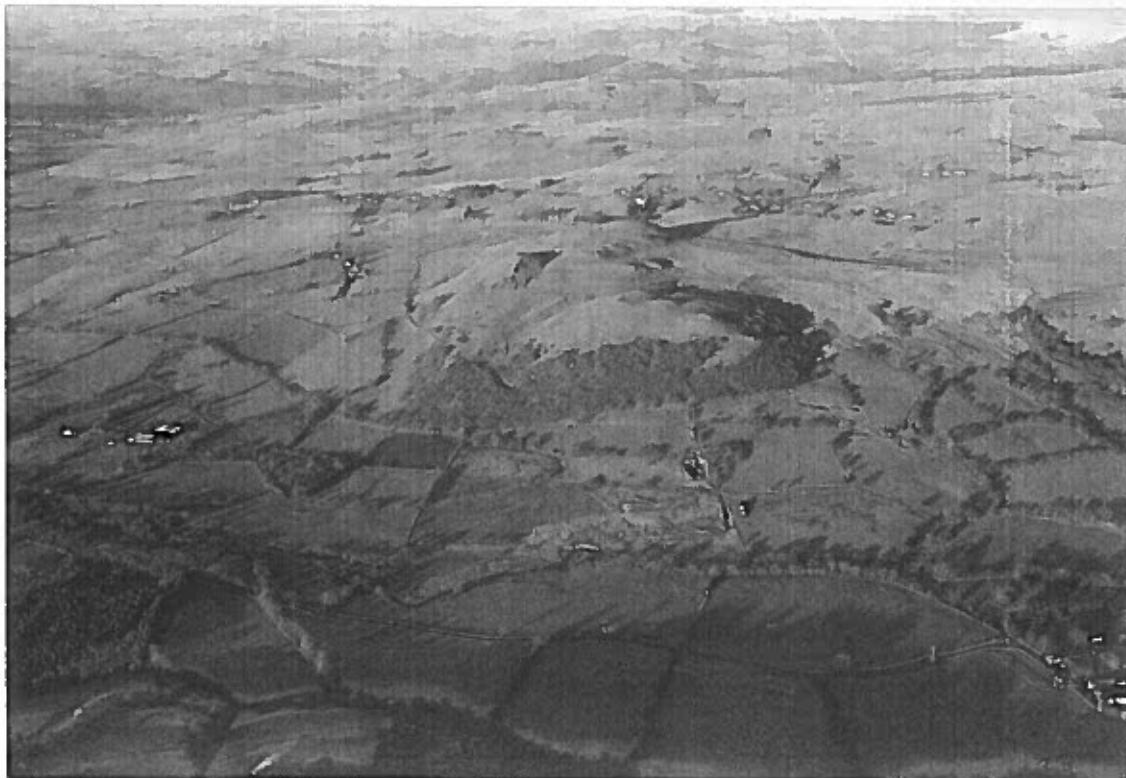


*Aerial photograph 8. Looking west across the regular field system of area 30 towards area 105. Middle distance left is Cors Caron (area 1).*

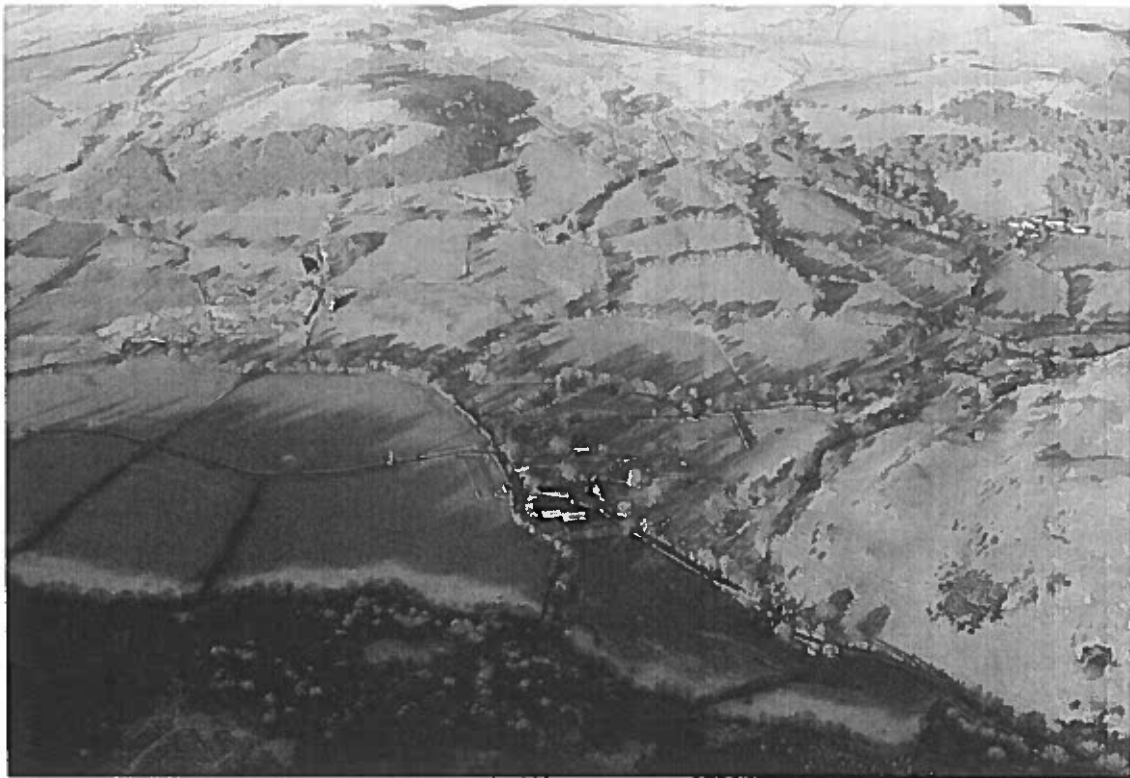




*Aerial photograph 9. Pontrhydfendigaid (area 32), looking northeast. Area 30 lies to the bottom and left, area 118 to the right and areas 31 and 41 to the top.*



*Aerial photograph 10. Looking north across the enclosed land of area 118 towards the hill of area 31, centre. Area 23 lies beyond.*



*Aerial photograph 11. Looking north over enclosed land surrounding Strata Florida Abbey (area 118). Area 37 is to the bottom right, area 31 top left and area 35 top right.*



*Aerial photograph 12. Looking east up the valley of the Afon Mwyro (areas 117, 118). Unenclosed land in the right foreground comprises part of area 37. In the background lie the mountains of area 15.*



*Aerial photograph 13. Looking southeast over the extreme southwestern portion of area 37. To the right lies the abandoned settlements of area 126. Top left is part of a vast tract of forestry (area 3).*

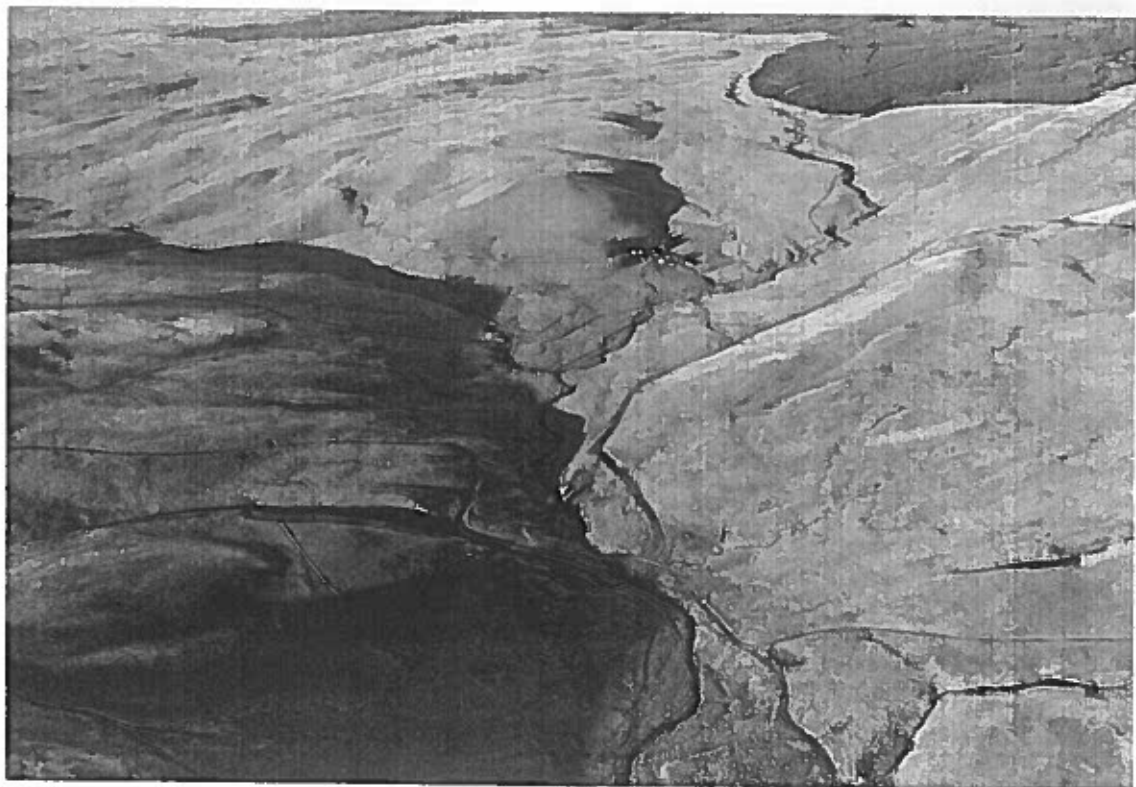


*Aerial photograph 14. Looking north across the northern portion of area 13. Area 111 lies to the bottom and area 28 to the extreme left.*





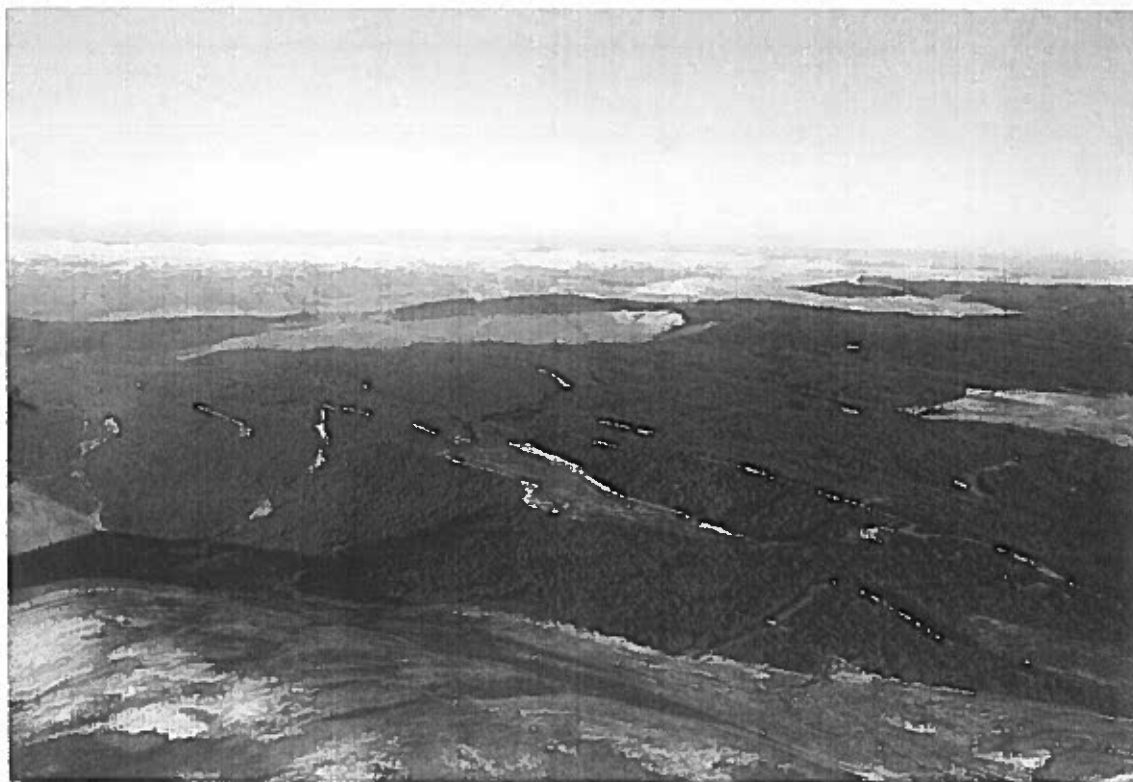
*Aerial photograph 15. Looking northeast across the upland area 13 towards forestry (area 3). The mountains of area 15 area in the far distance.*



*Aerial photograph 16. Detail of area 13. Looking north over Nantymaen upland farm, with forestry (area 3) to the top.*



*Aerial photograph 17. Looking east across area 132, showing it surrounded by forestry (area 3).*



*Aerial photograph 18. Typical upland forestry plantation. Looking north over area 3.*



*Aerial photograph 19. Part of area 29, showing several deserted settlements.*



*Aerial photograph 20. Looking west over Frongoch Farm (area 44) and its fields, centre. Top right is area 35 and top left area 118. Unenclosed upland (area 15) is to the bottom.*

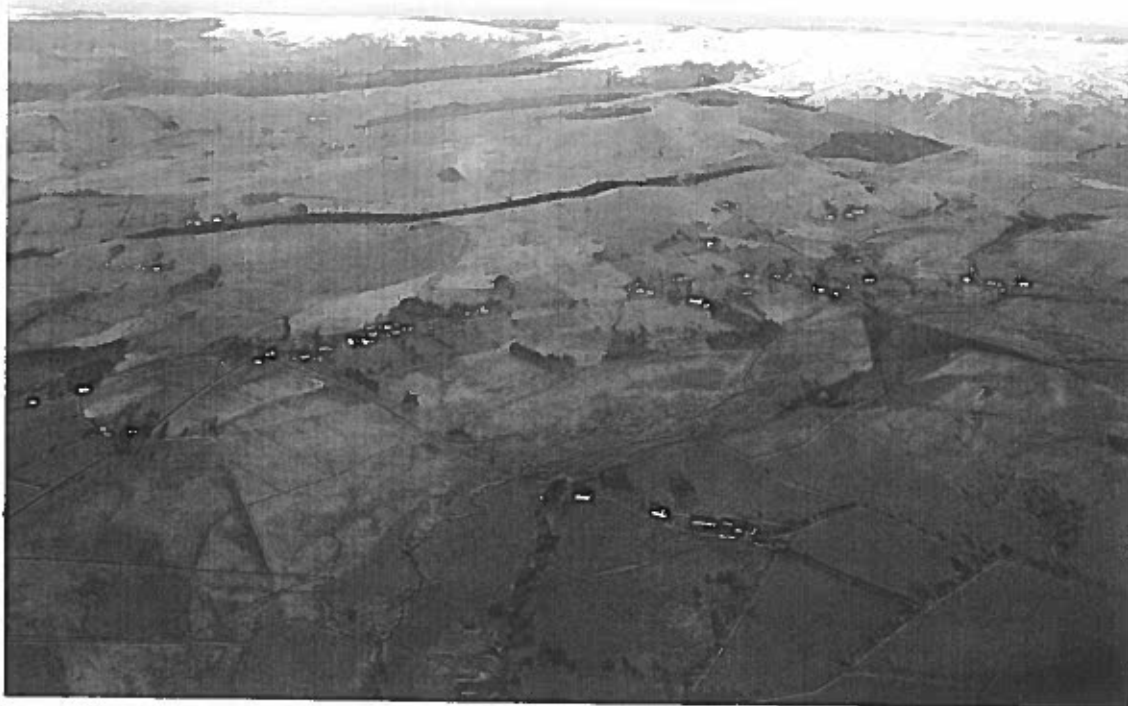




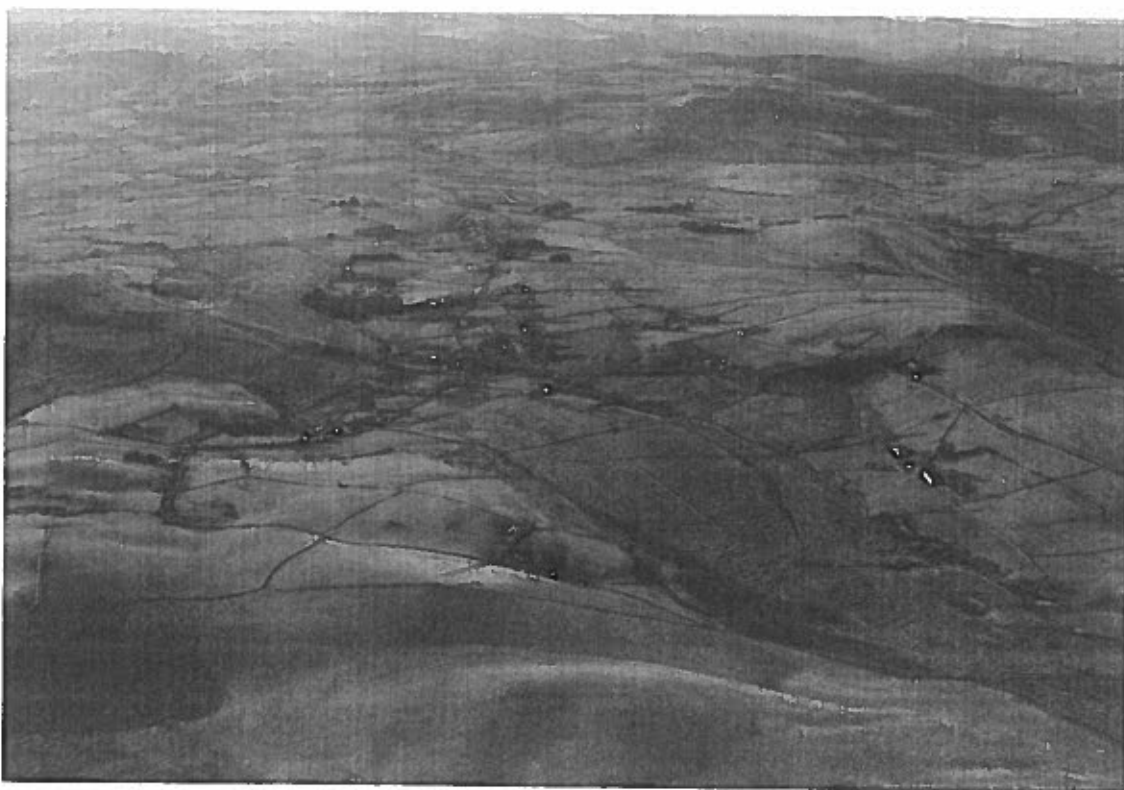
*Aerial photograph 21. Looking northwest with Tyddol Farm (area 34) centre right. Area 35 is to the left and unenclosed upland (area 15) to the right.*



*Aerial photograph 22. Part of Ffair Rhos (area 23), looking north.*



*Aerial photograph 23. Looking northeast across area 23, with area 36 in centre middle distance and area 35 right middle distance. The mountains of area 15 are in the background.*



*Aerial photograph 24. Looking west across area 23.*

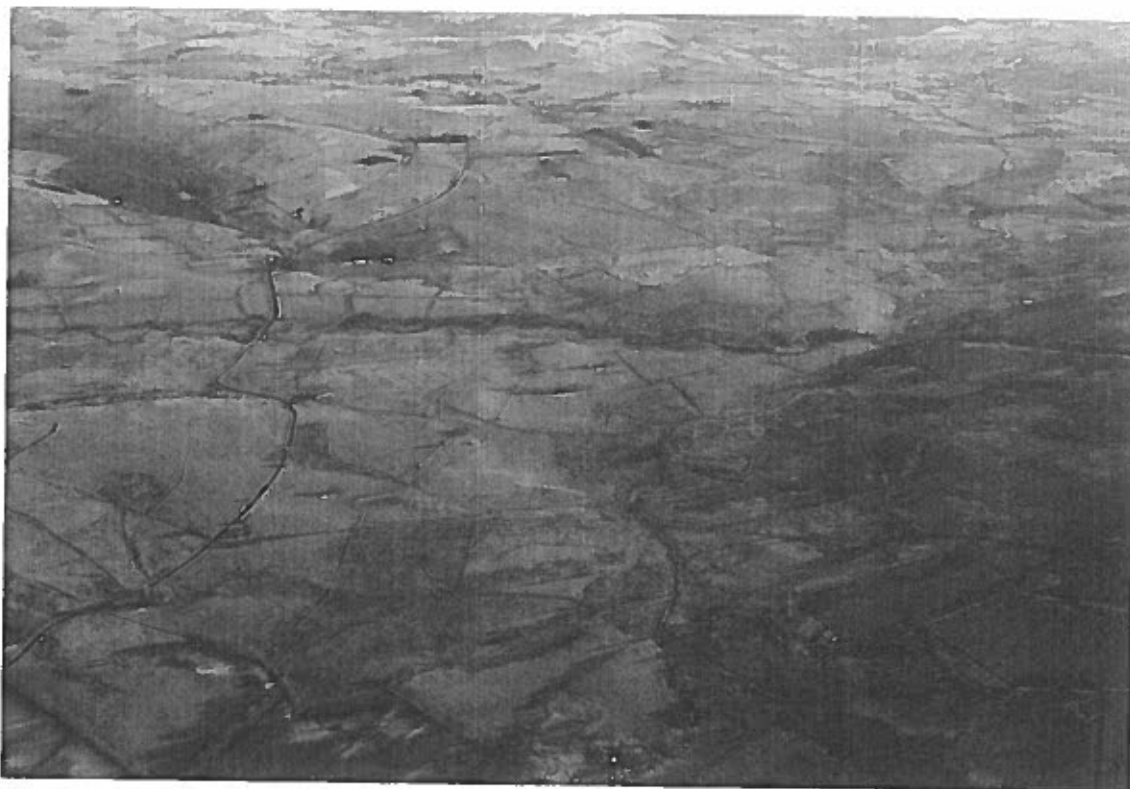


*Aerial photograph 25. Looking north with area 36 to the left and area 35 to the right. Note the deserted settlements. Unenclosed upland (area 15) is to the top right.*

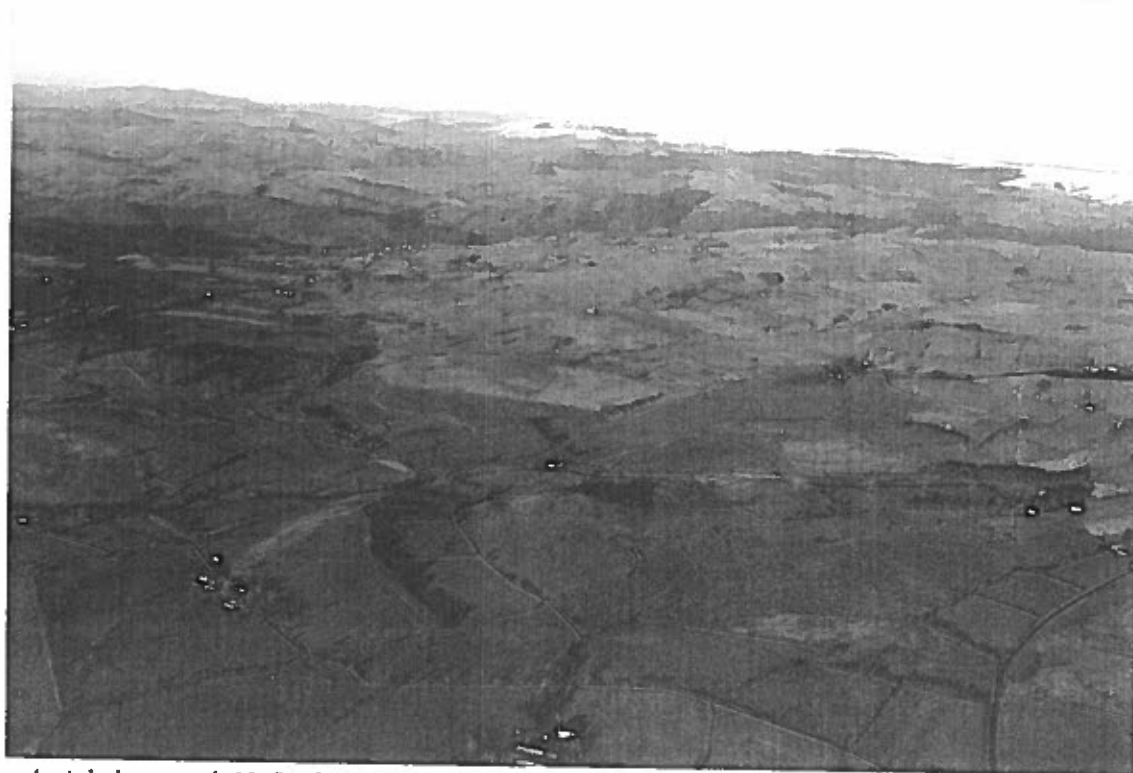


*Aerial photograph 26. Part of recently felled forestry in area 35 showing abandoned settlements.*





*Aerial photograph 27. Looking southeast across area 41, with area 23 in centre distance and Ponrhydfendigaid (area 32) right distance.*



*Aerial photograph 28. Looking north across area 41, with area 38 to the left and bottom.*



*Aerial photograph 29. Looking northeast, with abandoned settlements of area 95 at the bottom, area 33 in the centre, and area 41 beyond. Forestry (area 4) is on the left centre.*



*Aerial photograph 30. Looking east with the enclosed land of area 90 to the bottom left, Craig Ystradmeurig (area 39) to the bottom right and area 95 centre and centre left. Forestry (area 4) is to the left.*



*Aerial photograph 31. Looking northeast, with area 39 in the bottom centre and areas 95 and 33 beyond. Area 90 is in the bottom left and area 116 bottom right.*



*Aerial photograph 32. Looking northwest with area 95 to the bottom. Area 90 is the improved, enclosed pasture centre right.*





*Aerial photograph 33. Looking southeast across area 90, with area 95 towards the top right.*



*Aerial photograph 34. Looking southeast across area 40, with area 116 to the bottom left, area 38 to the centre top and area 41 beyond.*



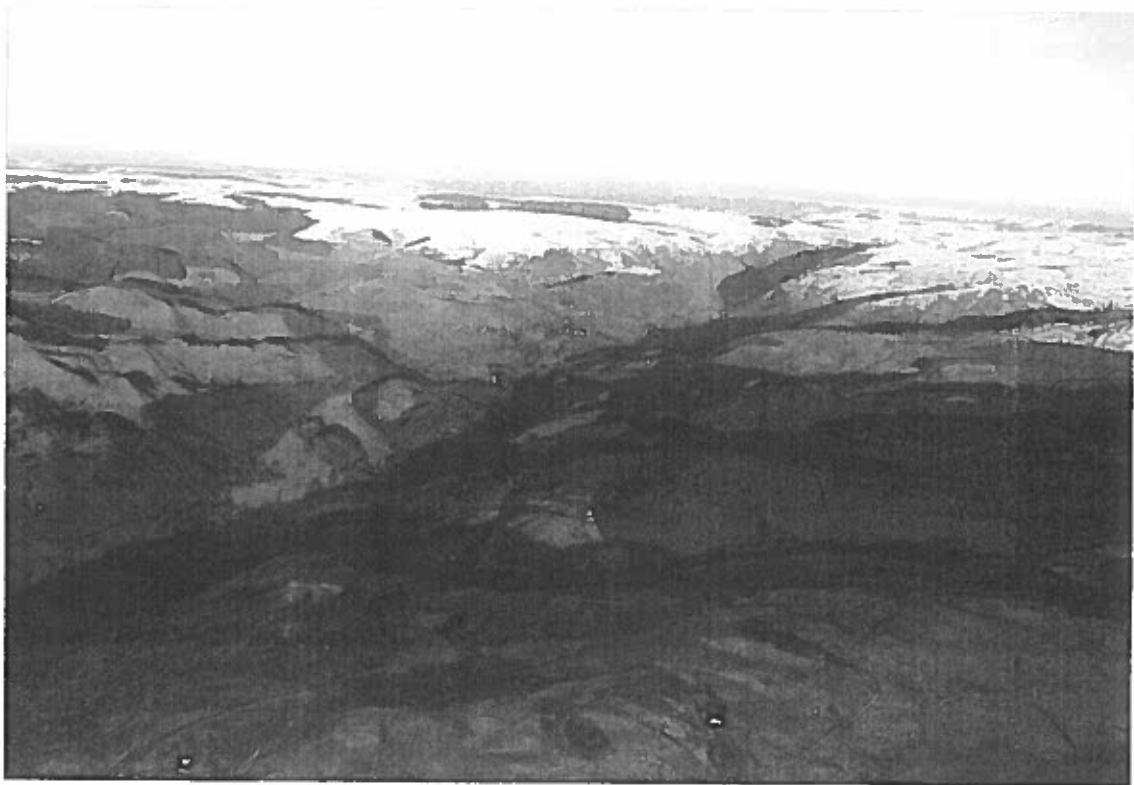
*Aerial photograph 35. Looking west across area 91 with the village of Ysbyty Ystwyth (area 42) in the centre. To the left of the village is area 96. Forestry of area 4 lies beyond.*



*Aerial photograph 36. Part of area 42, with forestry (area 4) to the bottom.*



*Aerial photograph 37. Looking west across area 91, with area 42 to the right and area 4 in the background.*



*Aerial photograph 38. Looking northeast up the Ystwyth valley with area 120 in the centre. Bottom is area 42, upland forestry (area 5) is centre right and area 129 centre left.*





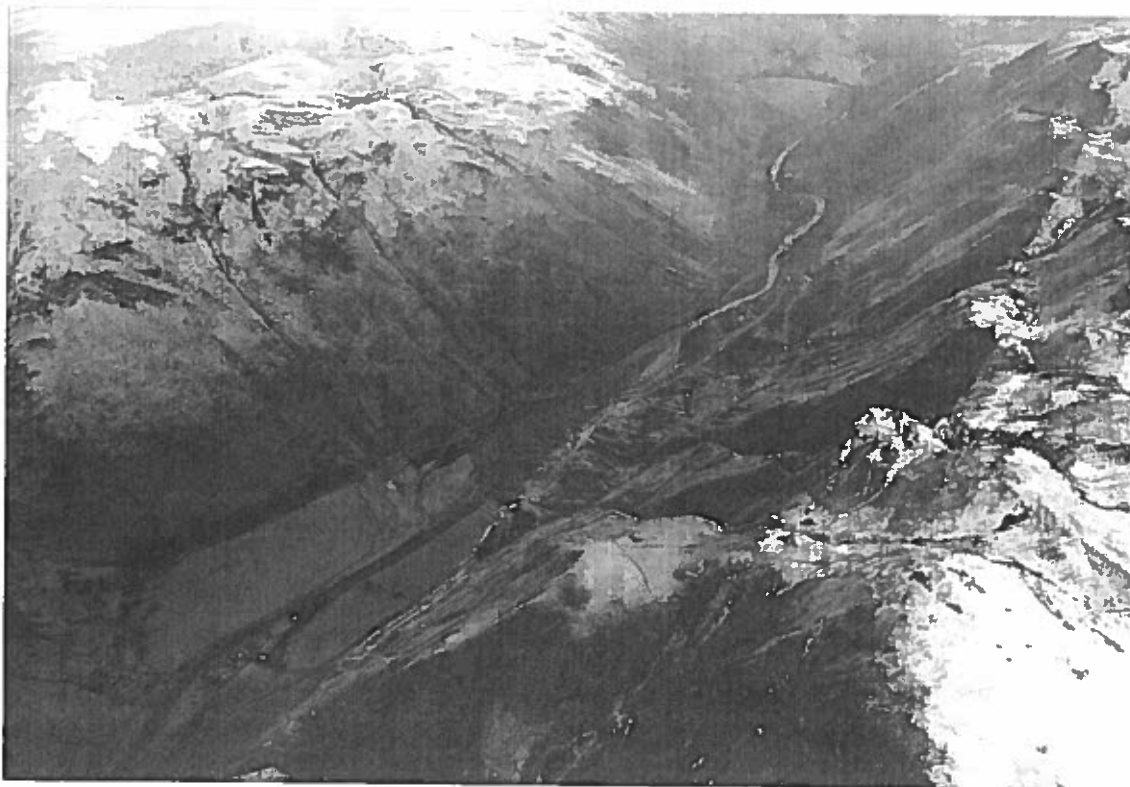
*Aerial photograph 39. Looking northwest with area 120 in the centre. Forestry (area 5) is to the bottom and area 129 to the top.*



*Aerial photograph 40. Area 120.*



*Aerial photograph 41. Area 16, Cwmystwyth lead mines, looking west, with the high ground of area 15 on both sides.*



*Aerial photograph 42. Looking southwest over Cwmystwyth lead mines (area 16), with area 46 further down the valley, and the high ground of area 15 on both sides.*

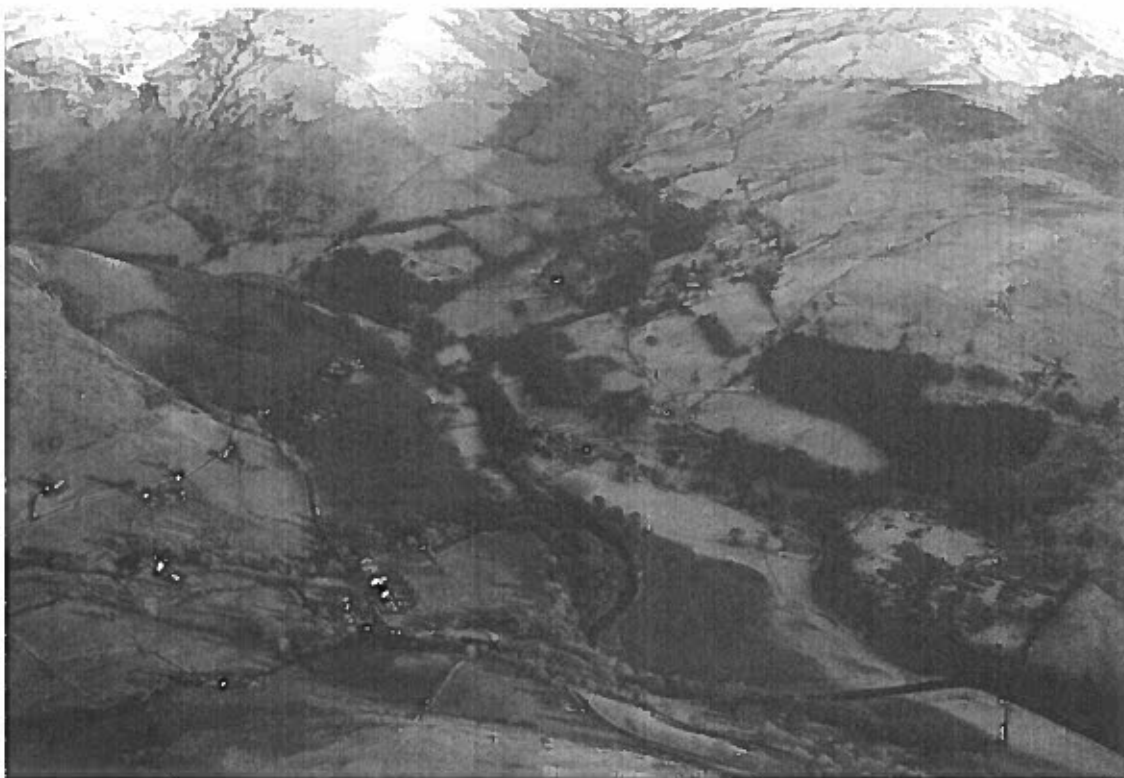


*Aerial photograph 43. Looking east up the Ystwyth valley (area 70), with the upland of area 15 on both sides.*



*Aerial photograph 44. Looking southeast across area 83, with area 46 to the top right and area 15 top left.*





*Aerial photograph 45. Looking southeast across area 46, with area 15 top right and top left.*



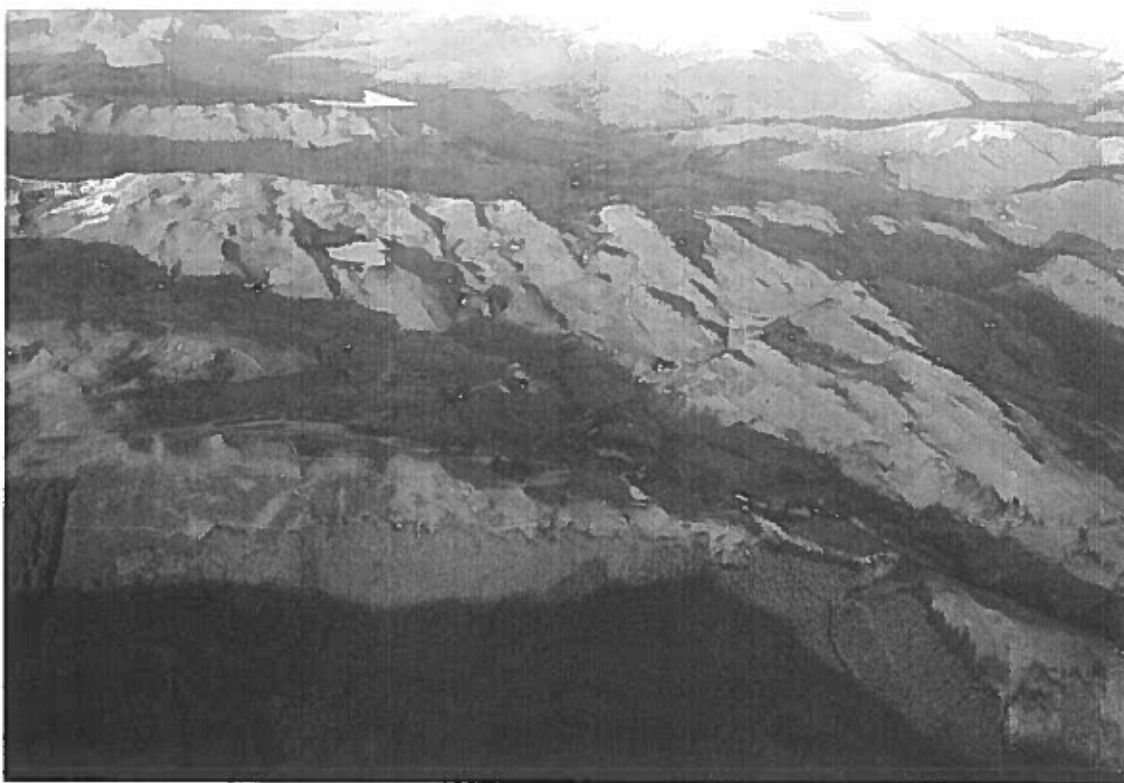
*Aerial photograph 46. Looking northeast across area 129.*



*Aerial photograph 47. Looking east up the Mynach valley (area 57), with area 129 centre right and areas 60 and 58 to the left. Forestry (area 6) is in the background.*



*Aerial photograph 48. Looking northeast with area 60 in the centre of the photograph. To the left is part of area 59, with the woodland (area 55) running from bottom right to top left. Area 58 is to the right and area 17 in the background.*



*Aerial photograph 49. Looking north with area 59 (mostly in shadow) in the centre. Above is the ridge of area 18. At the bottom is the wooded area 55.*

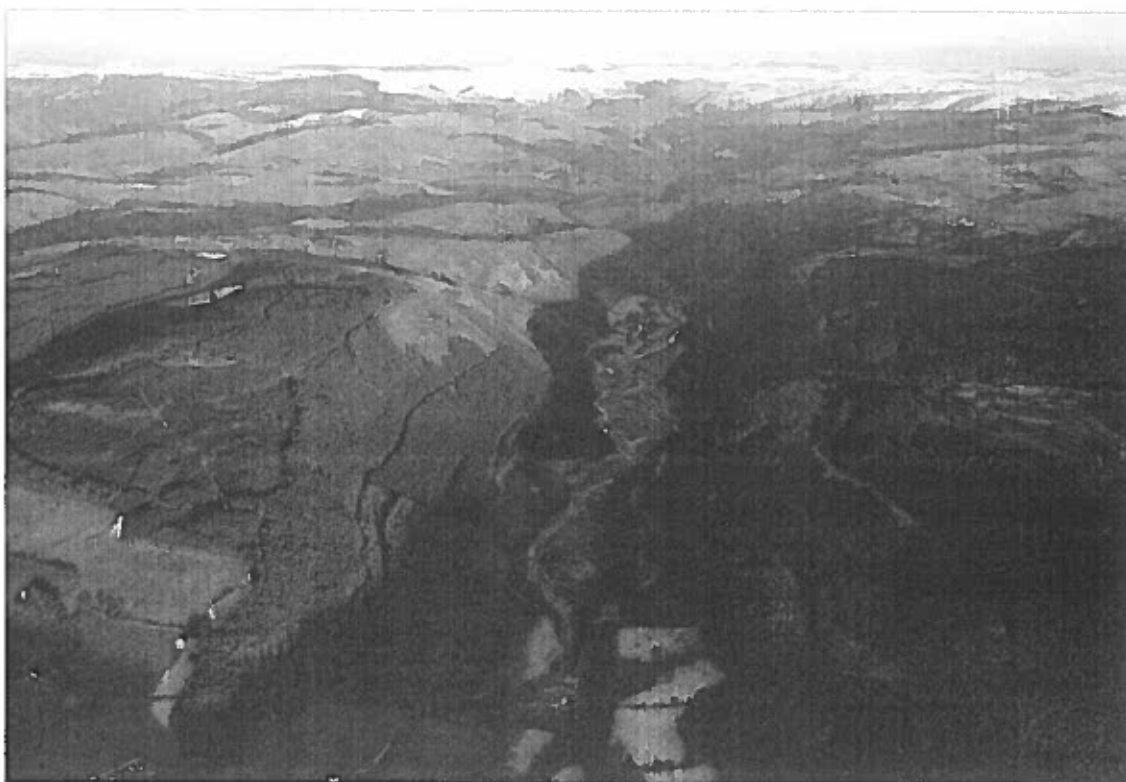


*Aerial photograph 50. Looking north with area 69 in the centre, and area 18 (including wind-farm) above. At the bottom is the wooded area 55.*





*Aerial photograph 51. Looking notheast, with area 122 running diagonally from bottom right to top left. Area 99 is to the left and forestry (area 50) to the right. Area 52 is to the bottom.*



*Aerial photograph 52. Looking east up the Ystwyth valley (area 49). Forestry (area 4) is to the right and forestry (area 50) to the left.*



*Aerial photograph 53. Looking southeast across the hill of area 99, with area 122 in the valley beyond. Forestry (areas 4 and 50) lie in the background.*



*Aerial photograph 54. Looking southeast, with area 47 to the right and area 54 to the left.*



*Aerial photograph 55. Looking northwest across area 47, with area 54 to the right and the ridge of area 53 in the centre background.*



*Aerial photograph 56. Looking north with area 121 in the lower centre, beyond are areas 47 and 54.*





*Aerial photograph 57. Looking north with area 121 in the centre, and area 47 in the background. At the bottom are parts of areas 4 and 49.*



*Aerial photograph 58. Looking west down the Ystwyth valley over areas 51 and 52 (52 centre right, 51 centre left). The valley of area 122 runs off to the right. Forestry of area 50 is to the bottom right.*



*Aerial photograph 59. Tregaron (area 24) looking west, with area 25 to the top and area 97 at the bottom.*



*Aerial photograph 60. Looking W across area 25, with Tregaron (area 24) bottom left.*



*Aerial photograph 61. Looking south at area 126. Abandoned fields and farms are visible in the rough ground.*



*Aerial photograph 62. Looking south with the village of Ystradmeurig (area 40) centre right. Area 108 lies above the village.*





*Aerial photograph 63. The village of Tyngraig (area 90) looking southwest.*



*Aerial photograph 64. Looking east up the Ystwyth valley (area 49), with forestry (areas 4 and 50) to the left and right.*



*Aerial photograph 65. Looking northeast across Trawscoed mansion, garden and landscape (area 51).*



*Aerial photograph 66. Looking east up the valley of area 130, with unenclosed land (area 99) to the right.*



*Aerial photograph 67. Looking east with the hamlet of Cnwch Coch left of centre (area 94). In the background are areas 53, 123, 88.*



*Aerial photograph 68. Looking northeast up Cwm Magor (area 123), with the unenclosed land of area 88 to the right and the plateau of area 53 to the left.*





*Aerial photograph 69. Looking northeast over area 87, with area 53 towards the top.*



*Aerial photograph 70. Looking west over area 77, with the village of Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn in the centre.*



*Aerial photograph 71. Looking east up the Rheidol valley (area 56), with area 53 to the right, area 69 to the left and the woodlands of area 55 on the steep valley sides.*



*Aerial photograph 72. Looking east up Nantyrarian (area 68), with the woodland of area 66 to the left and forestry (area 8) in the distance. Far left are areas 61, 82.*



*Aerial photograph 73. Looking southwest across area 112, with Capel Bangor village centre right and area 56 top left.*



*Aerial photograph 74. Looking northeast with area 82 at the bottom, area 102 in the centre and area 61 beyond.*





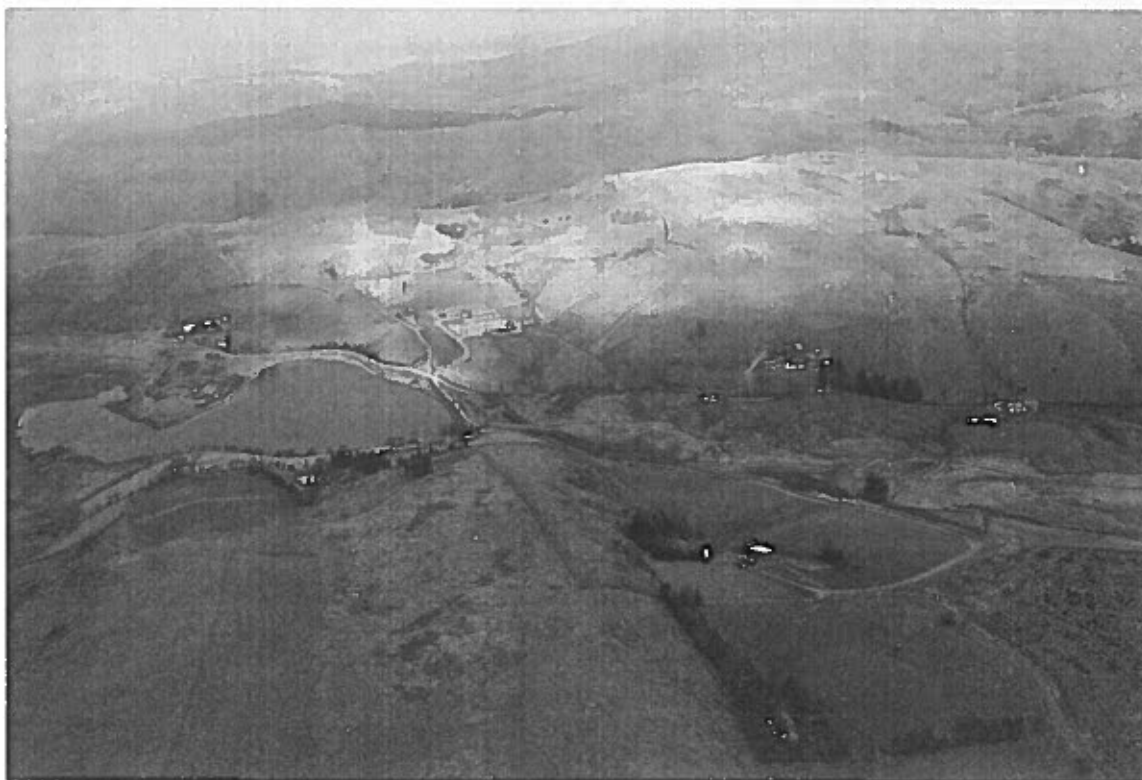
*Aerial photograph 75. Looking west down the valley of area 68, with woodland (area 66) to the right, woodland (area 67) to the left and area 112 middle distance.*



*Aerial photograph 76. Looking southwest with area 82 bottom centre, left and left centre, area 61 bottom right and area 102 centre and centre right.*



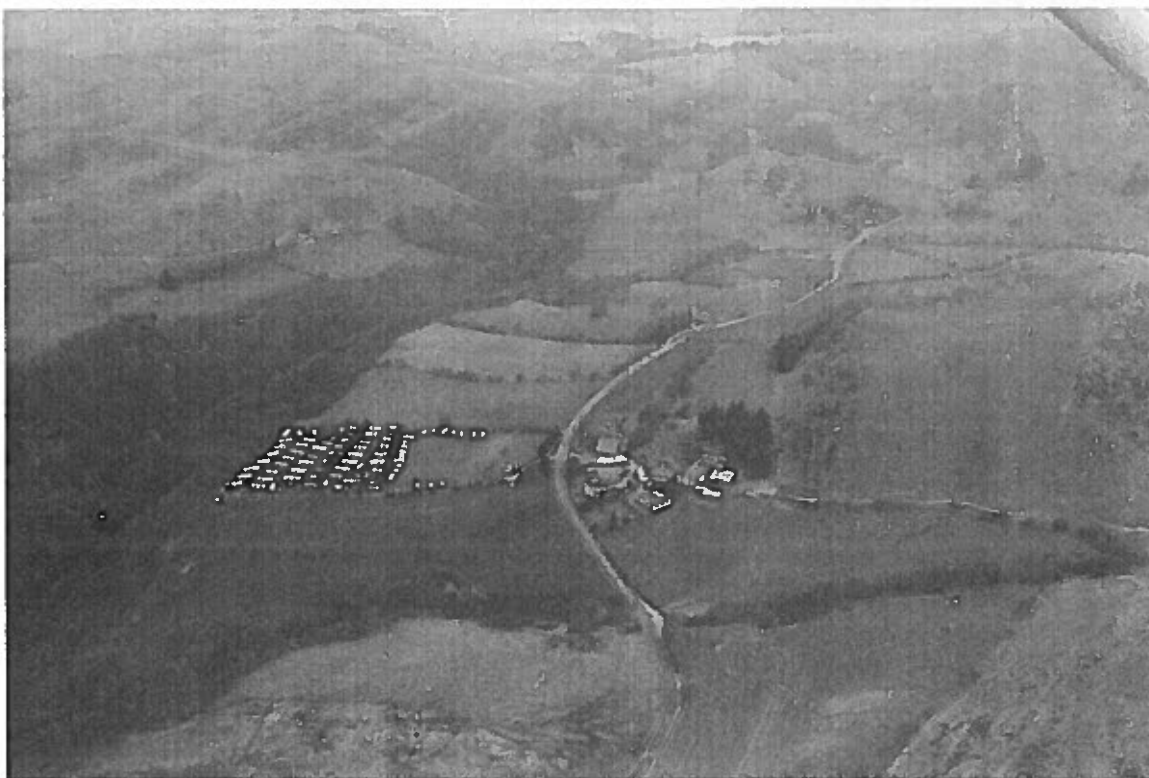
*Aerial photograph 77. Looking northeast across the two ridges of area area 61. Centre left is Daren settlement, hillfort and lead mine. Extreme right centre is part of area 101. Forestry is area 8.*



*Aerial photograph 78. Looking north with area 59 bottom right, area 69 bottom left and area 18 across the centre.*



*Aerial photograph 79. Ystumtuen (area 59) looking north, with area 18 to the top.*



*Aerial photograph 80. Looking north across area 60, with the woodland of area 55 to the left.*





*Aerial photograph 81. Looking south with Pontarfynach/Devil's Bridge (area 81) in the centre, woodland (area 55) to the right, area 60 centre bottom and area 58 bottom left.*



*Aerial photograph 82. Looking southwest with Ystumtuen (area 59) in the centre, area 18 to the bottom, the woodland (area 55) running across the top of the shot and area 69 to the right.*



*Aerial photograph 83. Looking east across Ponterwyd (area 84), with area 43 back centre, area 17 to the right and area 21 to the left.*



*Aerial photograph 84. Looking northwest across the upland of area 71, with the upper Rheidol valley (area 72) to the right.*



*Aerial photograph 85. Looking north over the improved pasture of area 73 and the surrounding upland (area 71).*



*Aerial photograph 86. Nant-y-moch dam (area 72), with forestry (area 11) to the left, and unenclosed upland (area 21) in the distance.*

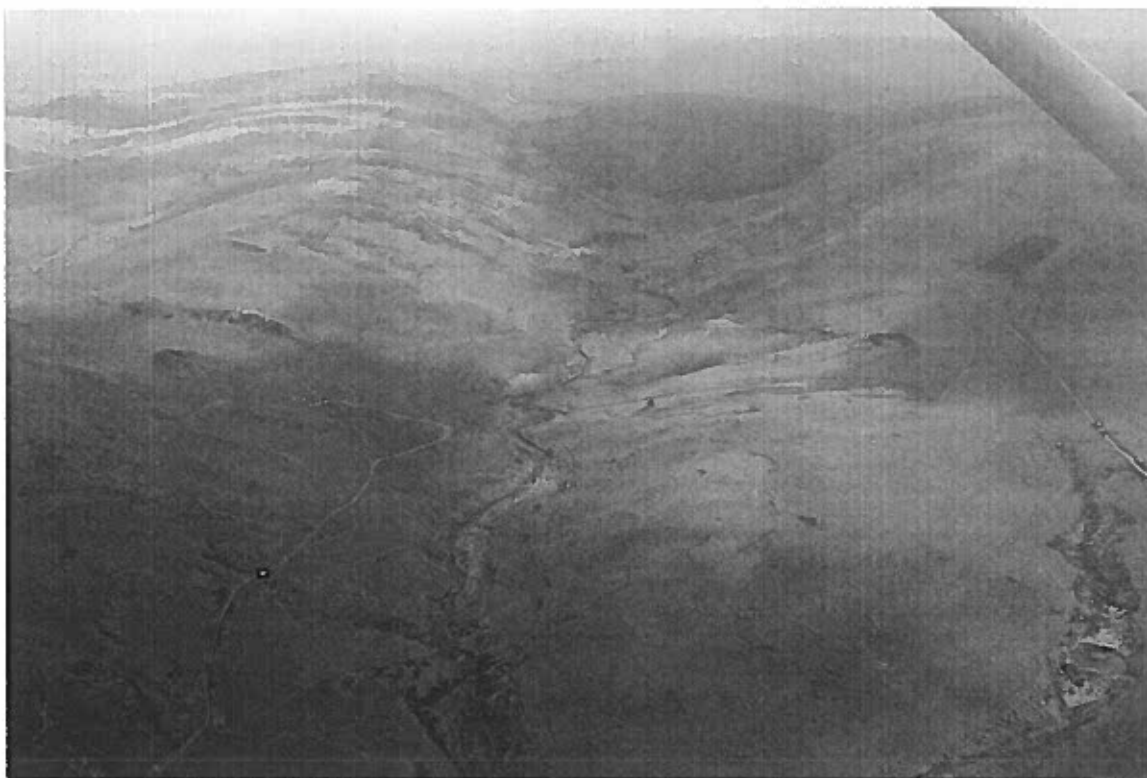




*Aerial photograph 87. Looking east with the Cyneiniog valley (area 22) in the foreground, and area 71 to the right and centre.*



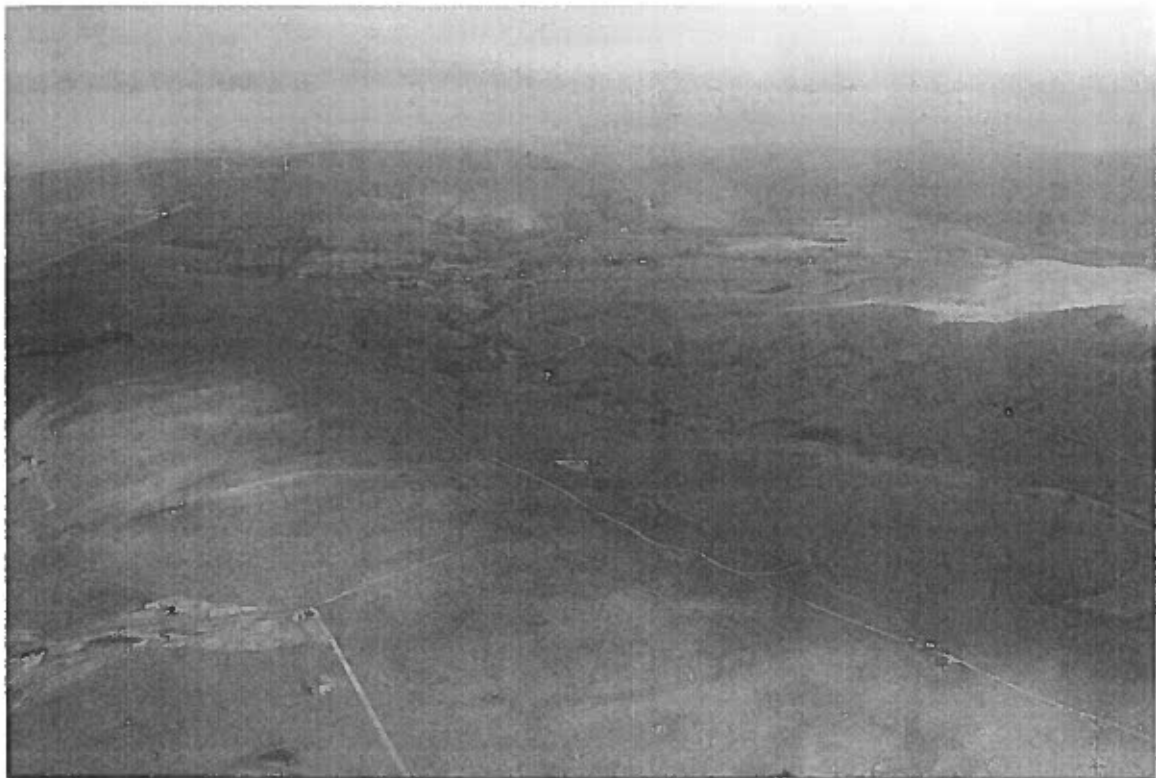
*Aerial photograph 88. Looking east with the extreme eastern end of area 74 to the bottom and area 71 beyond.*



*Aerial photograph 89. Llawer-y-cwm-bach (area 98) looking east, with area 71 to the left of the valley, area 20 to the right and forestry (area 8) in the distance.*



*Aerial photograph 90. Looking east over area 20, with area 98 to the left and forestry (area 8) left and right centre.*



*Aerial photograph 91. Looking northwest, with area 20 to the bottom, area 98 to the right and areas 75 and 63 top centre.*



*Aerial photograph 92. Looking west down the valley of Llawer-y-cwm-bach (area 98), with area 20 to the left, area 71 to the right and forestry (area 8) to the bottom.*

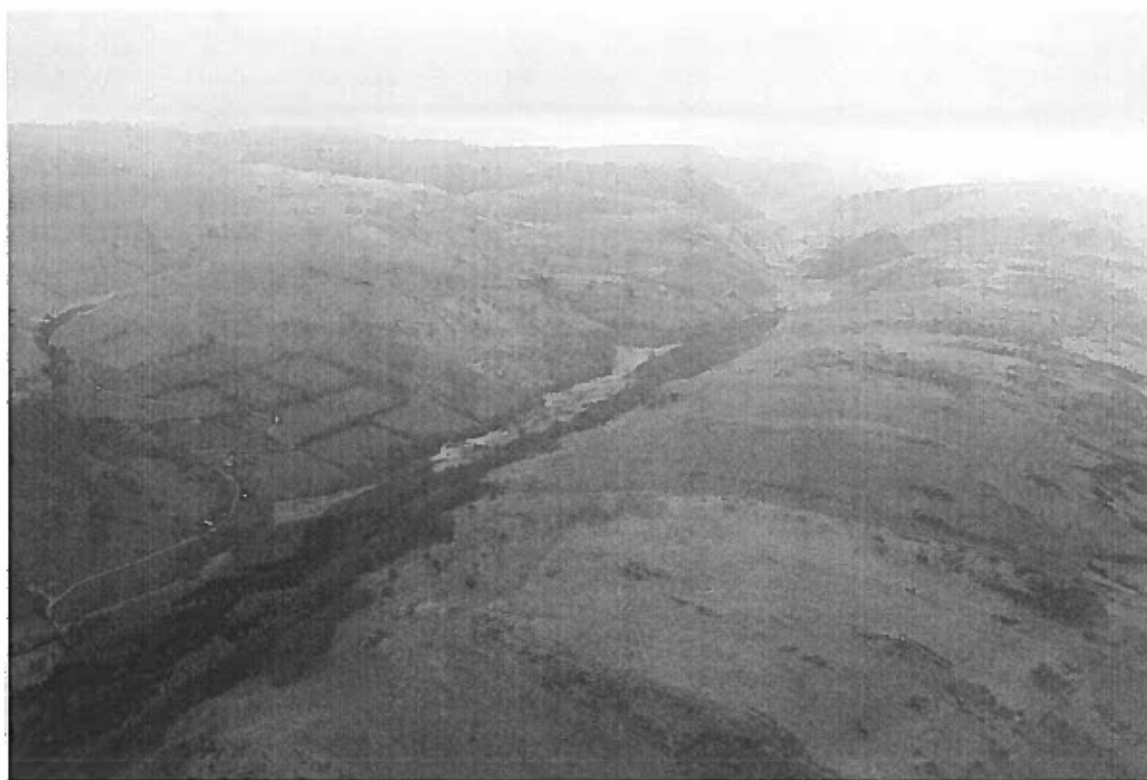




*Aerial photograph 93. View over Bont-goch (area 75) looking southwest, with area 63 (wind-farm) top right and area 64 centre left.*



*Aerial photograph 94. Looking east over the east end of area 92, with area 71 to the top and left.*



*Aerial photograph 95. Looking northeast up the Cyneiniog valley, with area 103 bottom left and area 22 centre. Area 71, unenclosed upland, is to the right.*



*Aerial photograph 96. Looking south over area 63, note wind-farm..*



*Aerial photograph 97. Looking south with area 107 in the centre. At the bottom is area 103 and towards the top area 76.*



*Aerial photograph 98. Looking east up the Leri valley (area 103), with Tal-y-bont village at the bottom, area 107 bottom right and area 63 centre.*





*Aerial photograph 99. Looking southeast across area 76.*



*Aerial photograph 100. Looking east with area 76 centre left and area 86 centre right. Bow Street village is lower centre right.*



*Aerial photograph 101. Looking east across area 86, with area 76 to the extreme left and area 100 to the right.*



*Aerial photograph 102. Looking east over Penrhyn-coch (area 100).*



*Aerial photograph 103. Looking west down Cwmerfyn (area 101), with area 61 to the left and far right. Forestry (area 8) lies to the extreme left.*



*Aerial photograph 104. Cwmsymlog (area 79), looking southwest, with area 61 upper centre and left, and forestry (area 8) bottom right.*





*Aerial photograph 105. Looking southwest down the ridge of area 65, with the valleys of 100 above and bottom right. Area 61 is to the top left.*