

# A Survey of Garn Fawr Hillfort, Pembrokeshire



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
For: The National Trust and  
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park  
Authority



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# A survey of Garn Fawr Hillfort, Pembrokeshire

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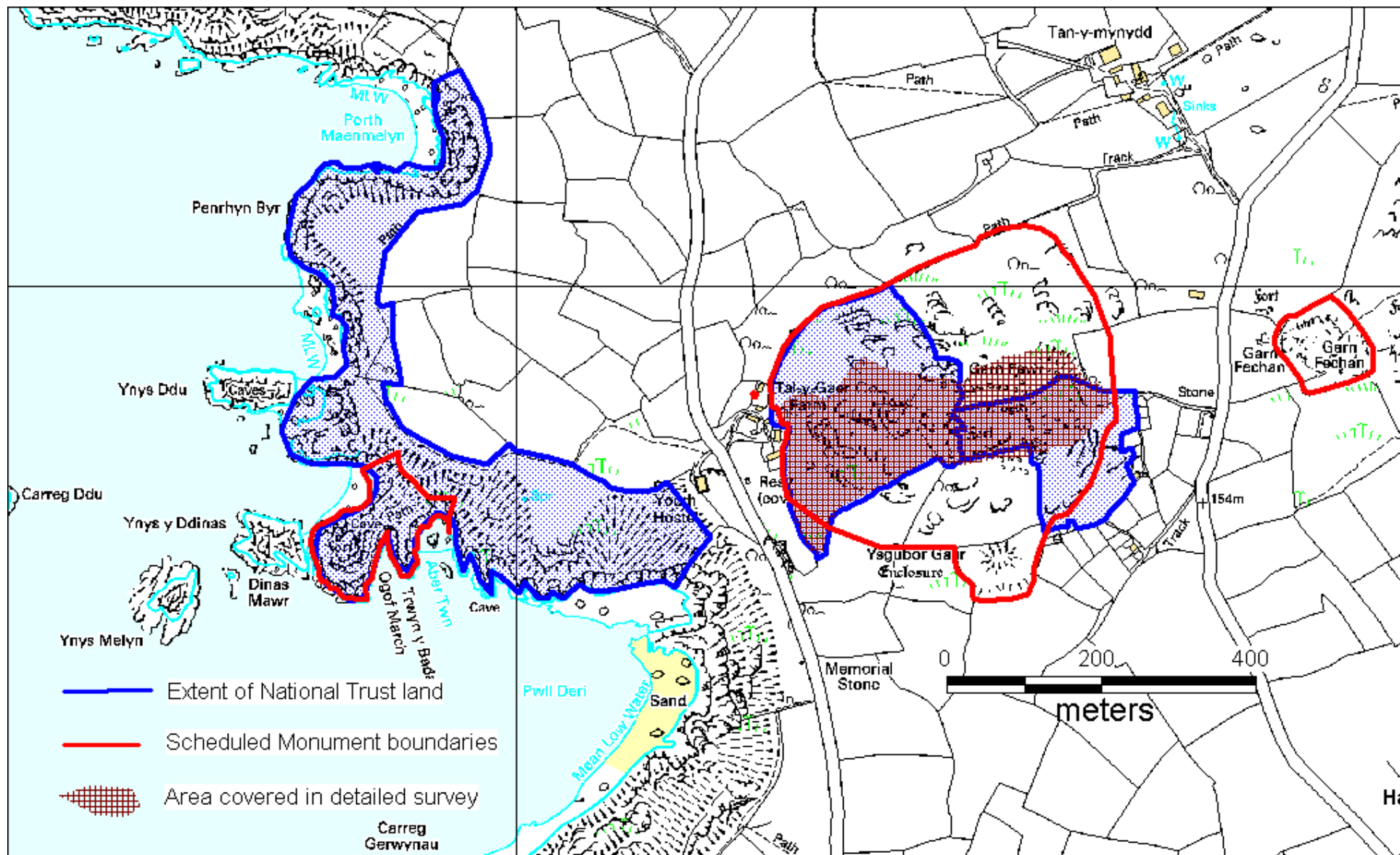
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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Located at SM895388, in Pencaer community, the rocky outcrop of Garn Fawr dominates the surrounding landscape. Rising to 213m at its highest point, Garn Fawr is an uneven crag hosting a stone-built hillfort which the Pembrokeshire Inventory described as “one of the most striking of the stone forts of the United Kingdom” (RCAHMW 1925; 187). The hillfort at Garn Fawr is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Pe065), much of which is now in the ownership of the National Trust.

This survey was undertaken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust at the request of the National Trust and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority. Previous systematic archaeological work at Garn Fawr has been limited and consists, in the main, of two principal pieces of work: a survey carried out by A.H.A. Hogg in 1973 (Hogg 1973; 69 – 84) and a sketch and description by Edward Lhuyd carried out in around 1700.

### **1.1 Project aims**

The aims of this survey were two-fold: firstly, to record archaeological features and areas of high archaeological potential; and, secondly, to inform the National Trust's management plan for this site. To this end, the survey was conducted over 5 days and features recorded using an electronic distance measurer (EDM) and digital photographs. An attempt has also been made to examine land-use history and chronology of features within the confines of the available resources for the project. Management recommendations have been made, where appropriate.

### **1.2 Structure of the report**

This report is divided into two main sections: the first consists of the survey drawings and a discussion of the implications and interpretation of the recorded archaeology; the second consists of a feature-by-feature record of all noted archaeology, including a brief description, a note on condition and any specific management recommendations. Features have either been recorded using their pre-existing PRN (Primary Record Number, as used in the Historic Environment Record held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust) or, where they are newly recorded features, they have been allocated new PRNs. National Trust SMR (Sites and Monuments Record) numbers have also been allocated.

A previous National Trust survey (Taylor, S, 2000) identified features which are located outside the detailed survey area. That report should also be referred to when making management decisions about the property at Garn Fawr.

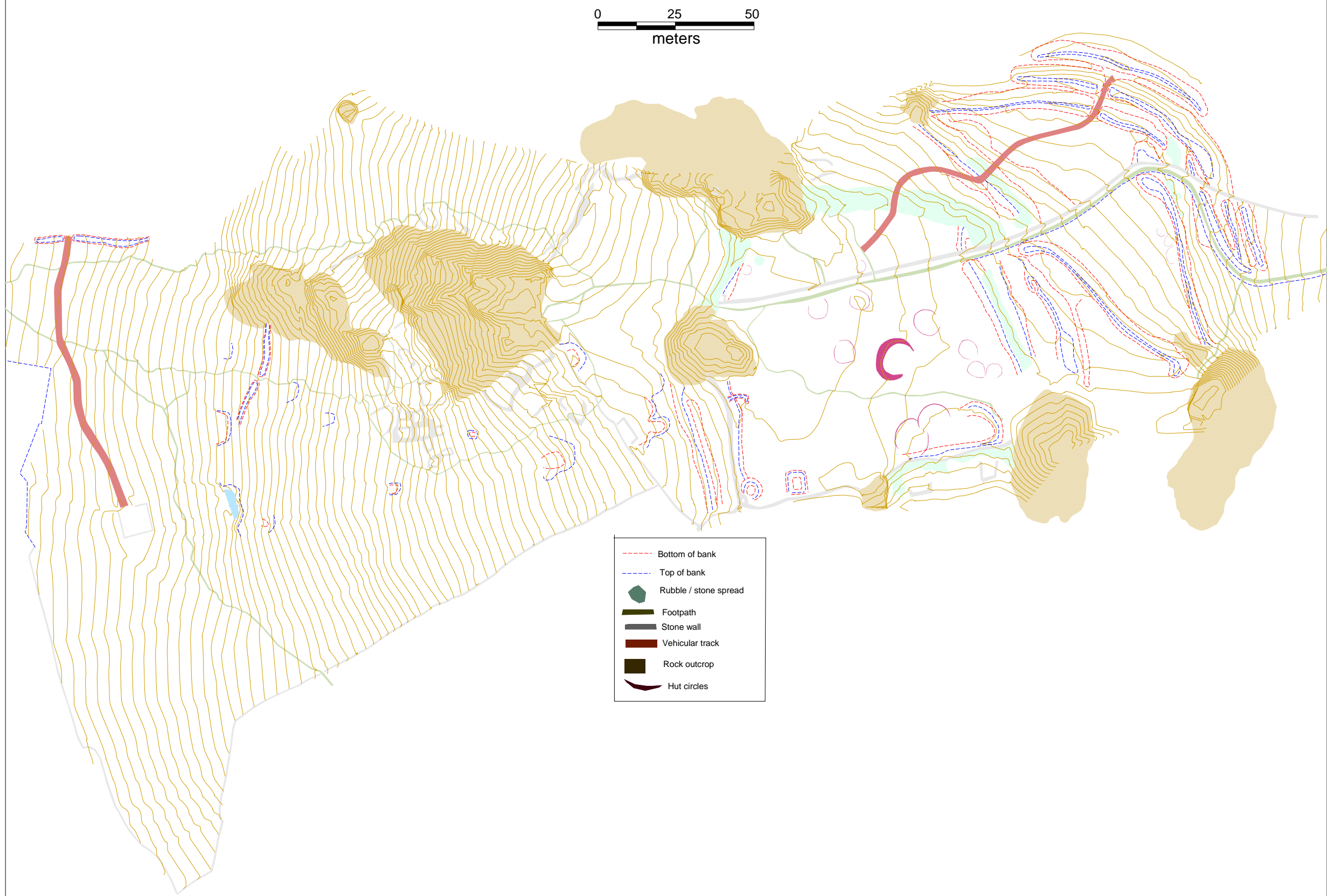
## **2. SURVEY DRAWINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The hillfort of Garn Fawr is, at first sight, a complex and rather confusing site. For ease, the main survey has first been reproduced in its entirety and subsequently been divided into several sections (A - C). Each section, and the features within it, are then described separately.

A CD has also been supplied, which contains the digital data for the survey in the form of MapInfo geographical information system (GIS) tables.



Figure 1: Topographic survey of  
Garn Fawr hillfort





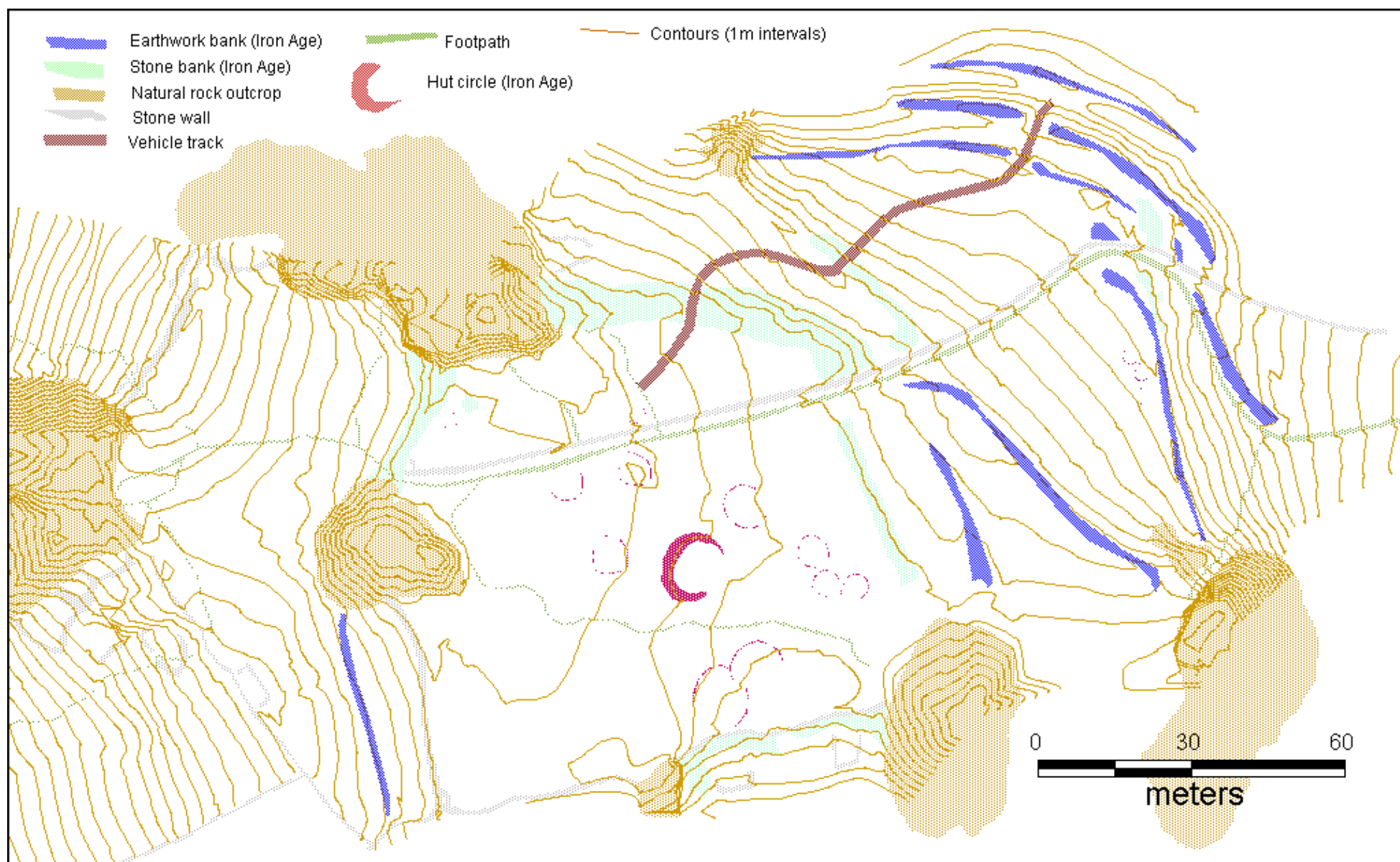
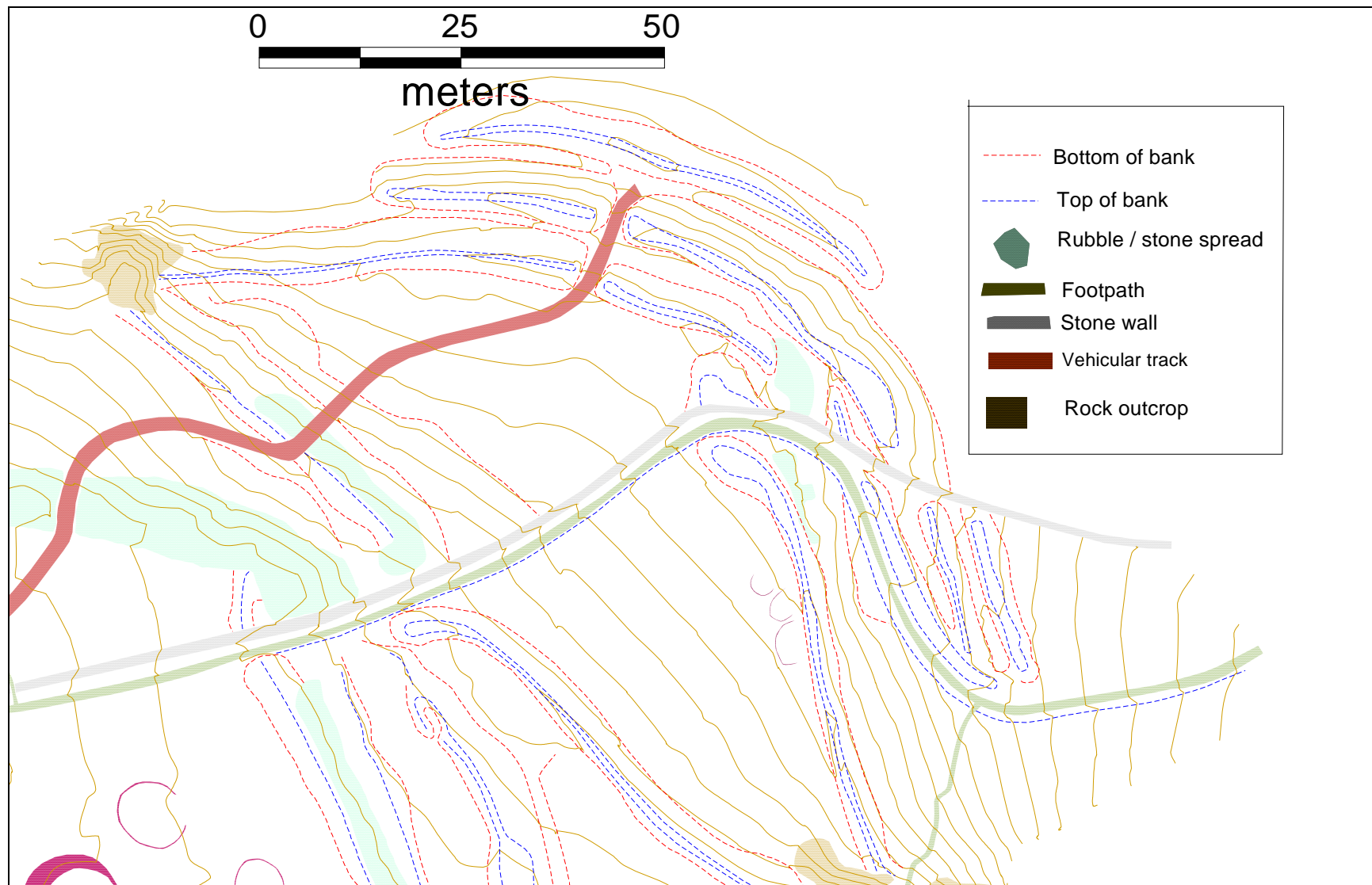


Figure 2: Simplified plan of the main elements of the interior of Garn Fawr hillfort

Figure 3: Section A, the eastern part of the survey area of Garn Fawr hillfort.



## 2.1 Section A

### Entrance

The hillfort is normally approached from the east, along a distinct path which cuts across a sequence of earth banks with some rubble spreads, and then through or across a number of clear stone ramparts. A series of stone field walls also run across the eastern and southern parts of the site.

Hogg (1973) believes the original entrance to the hillfort is located on this side of the slope. He writes that:

*"The only certain entrance is on the east, on the line followed by the modern path, which has obscured and damaged details... All the walls are too ruined to show whether guard-houses existed..."* (1973: 73).

This survey generally agrees with Hogg in considering the east side to be the original entranceway, as illustrated in figure 4, below. Although the modern pathway has indeed caused damage to the ramparts, the shape of rampart A, in particular, suggests an original entrance. Where most of the ramparts have clearly been truncated by the path and the stone field walls, rampart A appears to still have an original form, curving inwards (westwards) and being matched in shape on the opposite side of the path by the remains of a stone (or stone-faced?) rampart (labeled B, see figure 4). This impression is strengthened if Edward Lhuyd's sketch is also considered (see figure 5), which appears to show a clear entrance on the east side.

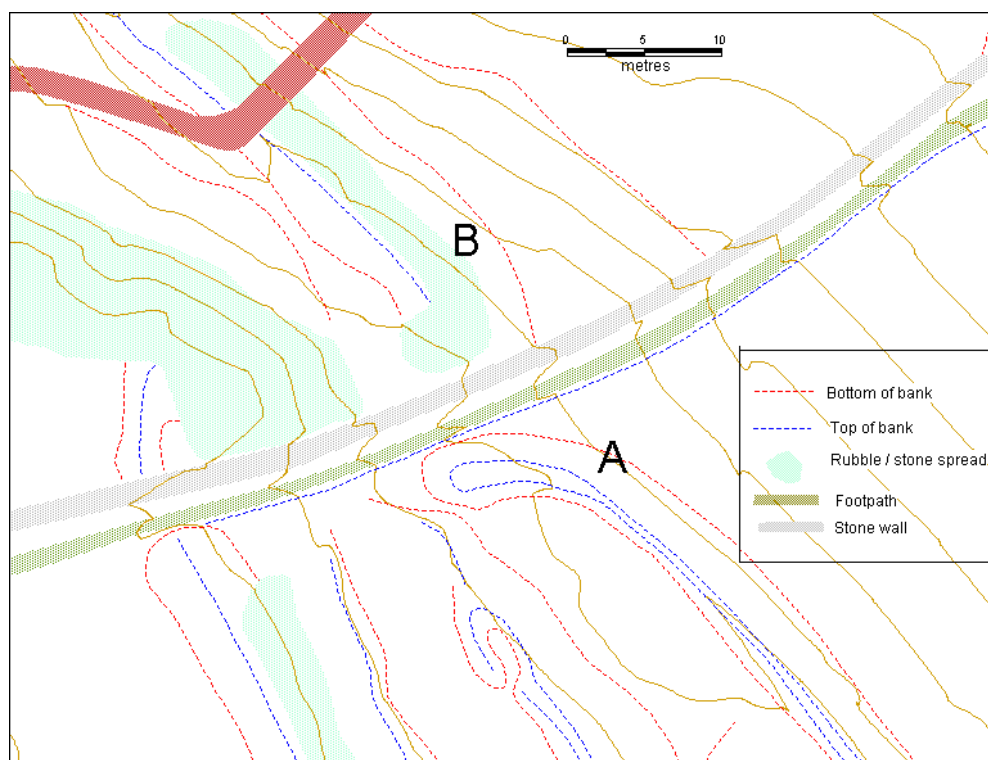


Figure 4: extract from the survey showing the shapes of ramparts A and B, probably parts of the original entrance into the hillfort.

However, immediately to the west, the path breaks through a rampart formed largely by a stone spread, (visible on fig 4, above) and here the path and the wall clearly truncate the rubble spread. It is not clear exactly what the relationship is between the path / wall and the earth bank at this point, but it is worth noting that the stone spread appears to overlie, and therefore post-date, the earth bank. This may indicate that the substantial stone defences at this site are, in fact, a re-modeling of earlier earth banks.

This section of the survey may also suggest that the original entrance consisted of a complex path through the ramparts, of which only part survives.

There are currently no clear indications of any forms of guard chambers or ornate entrances, but it is not clear whether this is by design, or simply as a result of the substantial disturbance which has taken place by the construction of the path and the various stone fieldwalls which divide the site.

The vehicle track, which can just be seen at the top of Fig. 4 is, presumably, later in date than 1973 as Hogg's detailed descriptions make no mention of it. The way in which this modern track breaks through the earthworks provides a useful comparison for other areas where paths and tracks cross the earthworks, note in Fig. 3 the "clean" nature of the track's passage through the northern parts of the earthworks, the banks are clearly and squarely truncated. This is in contrast to the pathway which runs between ramparts A and B, further giving the impression that this pathway in fact utilized an original entrance.

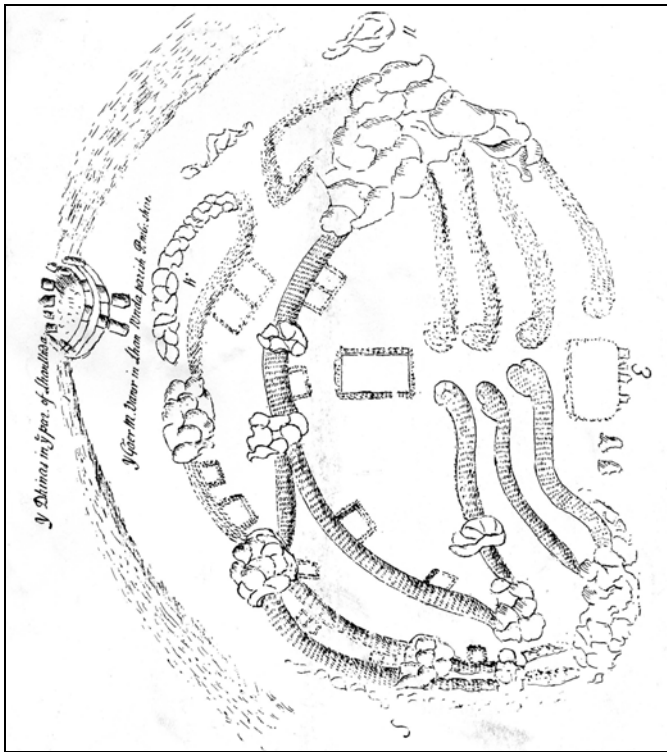
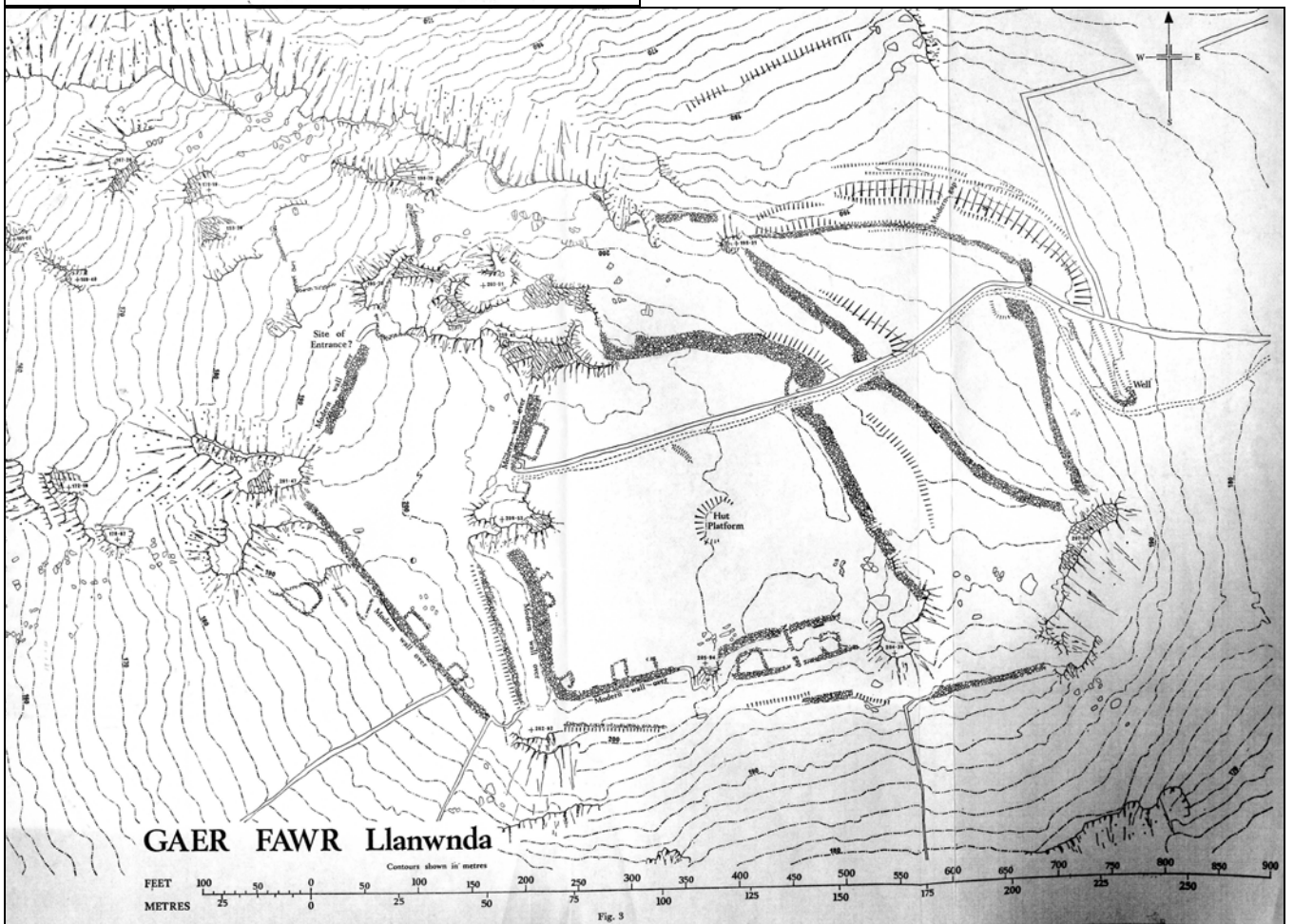


Figure 5: Comparison of two historic surveys of Garn Fawr  
Left: Lhuyd's survey of c. 1700





### ***Hut circles***

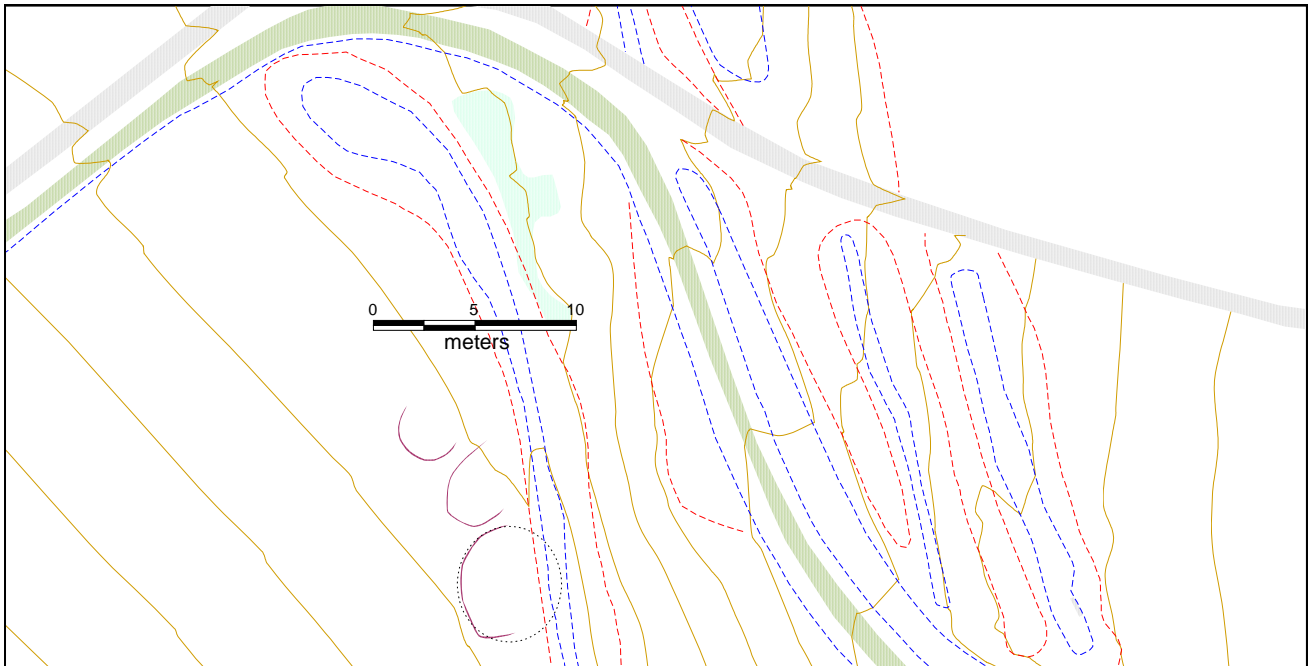


Figure 6: extract from survey section A showing three partial hut-circles which survive close to the eastern ramparts. The lowest of the three has been “completed”, using a broken line to complete the circle and show how the hut circle may underlie the earth bank.

Of particular note in section A are three probable hut circles lying tucked against one of the eastern ramparts. These were the only hut circles which this survey identified outside the main interior of the fort. They are similar in dimensions to the other hut circles, but their positioning is interesting. Although unclear on the ground, the survey suggests that if the largest of them (now an incomplete survival) were to be completed in a roughly circular form it would, in fact, lie underneath the earth bank of the outer defences (see figure 6). It is possible, therefore, that these hut circles represent an earlier phase of use, abandoned as the defences were remodelled.

If the hut circle underlies the earth and stone ramparts which, in turn, may be earlier than the rubble stone ramparts (see above) then there are, potentially, three phases of activity associated with the building of the hillfort represented in this area of the survey.

### ***Terracing***

On the far eastern side of the survey area, where the main path comes up to the hillfort, is an area of what appears to be terraces cut into the hillside and interrupted by both the path itself and the stone wall. However, it is unclear what these are – whether they represent agricultural activity (at any date) or whether they are, in fact, part of an earlier phase of earthen defences.

## 2.2 Section B

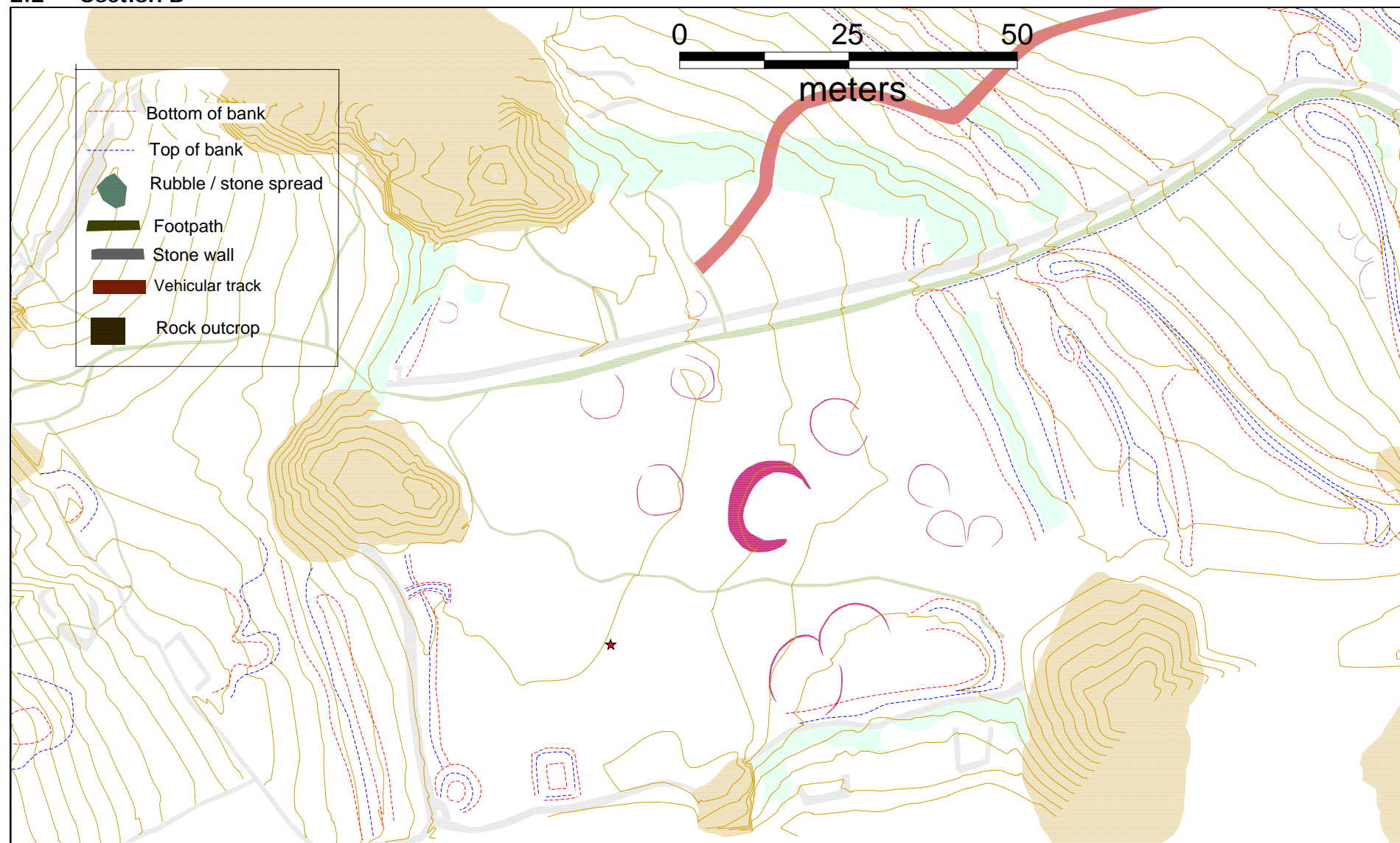


Figure 7: Section B, the interior of the hillfort of Garn Fawr



### **Hut circles**

This, the 'inner' section of the hillfort, contains abundant evidence for hut platforms as well as for later agricultural use. This survey identified at least 11 probable hut circles as well as a central circular feature. This feature is a very pronounced depression, terraced into the slope on its western side and commanding what appears, on the ground, to be a central location (though, as the survey shows, it is not truly central). Lhuyd's drawing (see fig 5) shows this as a rectangular building standing on its own. Hogg also subscribed to the idea of this feature being an isolated hut platform and described it as follows:

*"Almost centrally in the inner enclosure is a large leveled platform ... the floor being about 12m in diameter; the vertical height of the scarp on the upper side is well over 1m. Hemp (1942) records this platform specifically and states that it forms part of a group of large round huts. The writer [Hogg] feels sure that there is a possibility that the other huts were really natural irregularities of the ground, for on visiting the site some years ago, when it was clear of vegetation, the apparent isolation of this house platform was noted as a striking contrast to some Caernarvonshire sites ... so the question of whether there were other free-standing buildings must remain open."* (Hogg 1973:74)

This survey identified the other hut circles with a reasonable degree of confidence, and would agree with Hemp that it is one of a number of buildings. However, the question of why it is so much more substantial in its remains than all the others remains an intriguing one, and the positioning of it in such a commanding spot makes it tempting to consider it as having especial significance. However, no further conclusions can be drawn at present.

The hut circles are generally only preserved as earthworks, showing up as more-or-less clear circular depressions with raised 'ridges' around the edges. However in some cases there appear to be traces of surviving stonework, particularly noticeable in the case of the largest, central feature which has a few individual stones protruding out above the grass cover. The hut circles vary in diameter from approx 3m to approx 10m. Unlike the three hut circles to the east (see section A of the survey and Fig. 6), none of the hut circles in this section of the hillfort appear to be overlain by either earth or stone banks.

### **'Cabans' and field walls**

As well as the hut circles, this area of the hillfort also contains a number of small shelters which Hogg refers to as 'cabans' and Lhuyd portrays on his drawing as very clear rectangular structures attached to the stone banks. Lhuyd, in fact, depicts more of these 'cabans' than can now be identified on the ground within the main area of the hillfort. Presumably some have since been either destroyed or become so overgrown that they now cannot be located.

These structures vary in shape, from rectangular through to circular, but all are fairly small (less than 9m across). They are all substantially built, though now ruined and, in many cases, turf or vegetation covered. No defined entrances could be identified on these surviving examples, and their date and function is currently unknown. However, some clue is given by the relationship between the stone-wall, the 'cabans' and the rubble stone ramparts on the south side of this area.

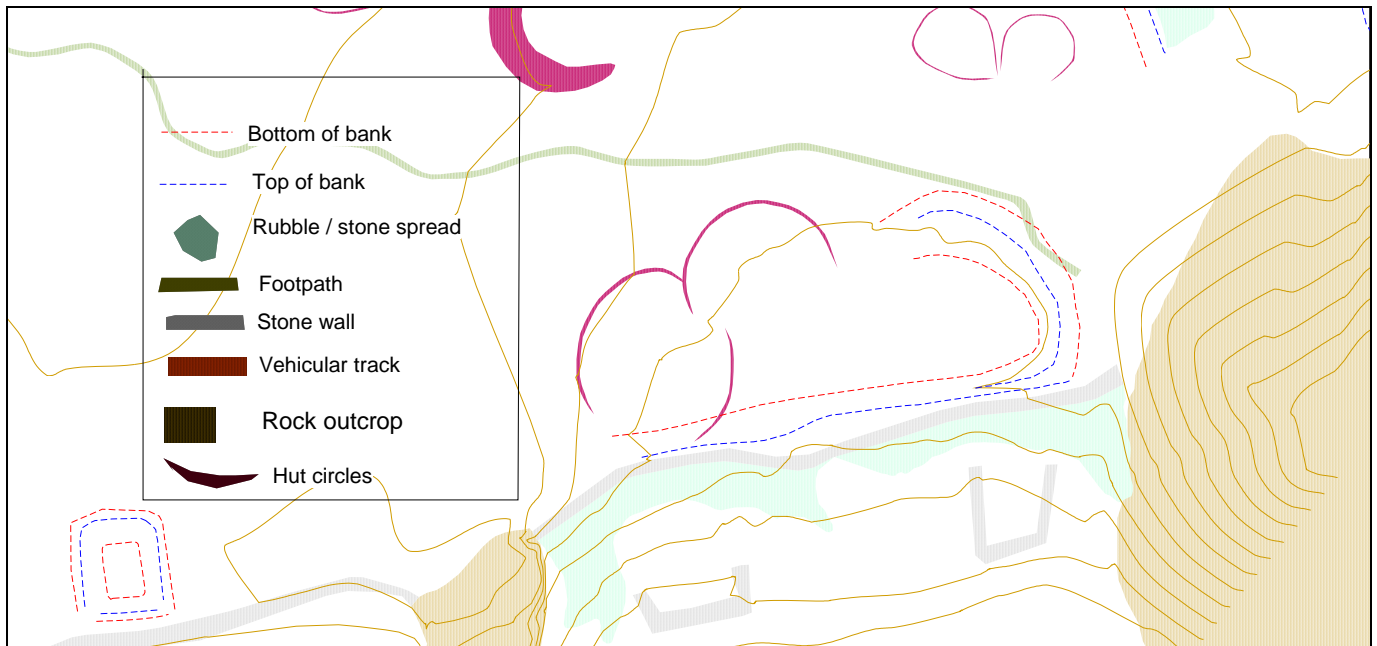


Figure 8: showing 'cabans' on south side of the interior of the fort

It can be seen in Fig. 8 that the rubble spread is probably part of the original ramparts of the fort, running between two natural rock outcrops. At a later date, a stone wall has been constructed along the top of the rampart, using the stones from this rampart. Similarities in construction and states of preservation between the 'cabans' to the south of the wall, and the wall itself, suggest that the two may be roughly contemporary. The stones for the construction of the shelters are also likely to have come from the ramparts. The stone wall then continues to the west, linking up two further rock outcrops (see section B of the survey drawings) and running along the line of what may have been original defences, now showing as a bank and ditch exaggerating a natural scarp.

If this is the case, and the shelters and walls are all of roughly contemporary dates, then it suggests relatively intensive use of Garn Fawr for agriculture at some point prior to 1700, when Lhuyd made his sketch, a fact which may be backed up by the number of farms in a small area which were recorded to have been occupied during the French invasion of 1797.

### ***World War I***

An interesting feature of Garn Fawr is sited on the rock outcrop on the northern side of this survey area. A small concrete and stone building, approached by a flight of concrete steps, is what remains of a World War I lookout. An inscription on a concrete slab reads: "Builders J.J. Thomas and Pritchard" and a date-stone in the lookout itself gives a 1917 date for construction.

## 2.3 Section C

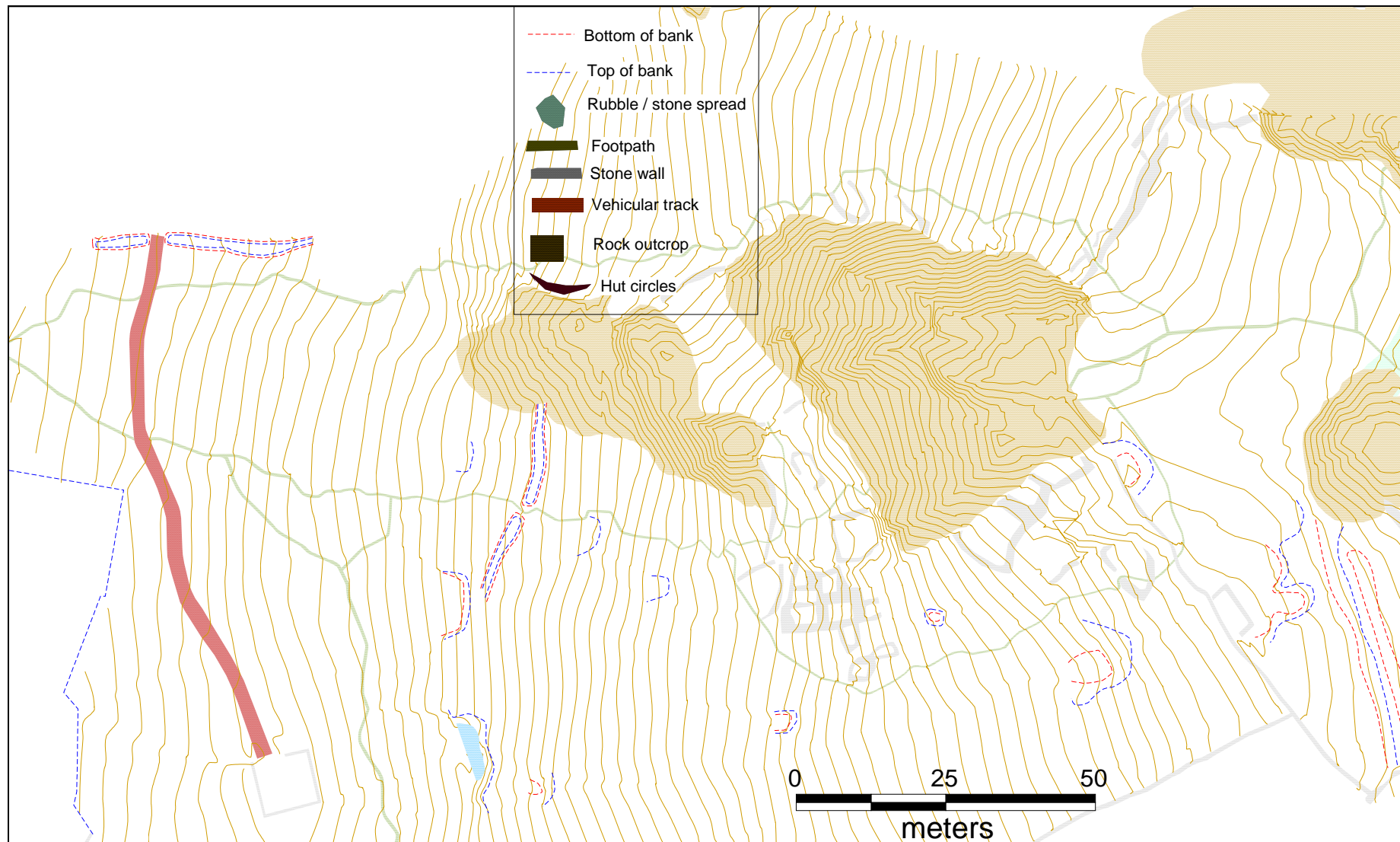


Figure 9: section C, the western section of the hillfort of Garn Fawr

### ***Stone structures***

The western side of Garn Fawr is, perhaps, the most enigmatic and difficult to interpret. The main features consist of the remains of small roughly rectangular stone-built features, many of which are interlinked. One interpretation of these is as animal pens, possibly contemporary with the 'cabans', but there is little strong evidence to build this chronological theory on, save for the similarities in structure between the 'cabans', the stone walls running along the top of the ramparts, and these stone structures.

Further west, another feature of interest is traces of an earth bank, now cut by a footpath. The bank could be the outermost defences of the prehistoric hillfort running, as it does, from a natural rock outcrop on the northern side. However, the feature disappears after about 30m.

Caution should be exercised in interpreting the plans from this part of the survey. Even in the winter, with vegetation at its lowest, the dense ground cover made it hard to identify archaeological features with any confidence. However, the main features in this area appear to relate to the use of Garn Fawr for agriculture. Hogg's survey does not identify any features of interest within this area, and Lhuyd's drawing does not extend this far down the slope to the west of the main hillfort.

### 3. SUMMARY

From this survey, and from reviewing previous works, it is possible to suggest that Garn Fawr has been occupied and re-modelled over several phases. The original construction may have been in earth, and consisted of the inner banks with hut circles both within these defences and also slightly outside them. Later, the fort may have been re-modelled with stone ramparts either added, or substantially modified from the original lines of defence.

The next clear phase of use for this fort comes with its use for agricultural activities, the dates of which are unknown, but are clearly earlier than Lhuyd's drawing of c. 1700. It is possible that, at this stage, stone from the ramparts was robbed for use in building animal pens, and also that the ramparts were once again altered, with substantial stone field-walls being built along the lines of the original ramparts.

The significance of this site is clearly reflected in its designation as a SAM, but it should be considered also within the context of other sites in the immediate area (see section 2.6, below, for recommendations for specific future work). The site is complex and long-lasting, and should be considered one of the premier hillforts of Pembrokeshire. Consideration should be given to its having been a centre of long-lived power; in a 2000 study of the hillforts of northern Ceredigion (much of which is also applicable to north Pembrokeshire), Toby Driver writes that:

"The hillfort architecture throughout the region [Ceredigion] is highly variable ... One of the few certainties is that any prevailing social systems would have been subject to change through time. This diachronic complexity is indicated by the very different appearances of close hillfort neighbours, the proliferation of settlements in the landscape, and evidence of phasing and development at some hillforts...*those with evidence for complex phasing may demonstrate longevity of power, whether continuous or intermittent, in certain prime positions in the landscape...*" (Driver,T, 2000, 499; my emphasis)

The defensive and strategic importance of this site is highlighted by its use during WW1 for the construction of a lookout point.

## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **4.1 Headline recommendations**

The principal threat to the archaeology on this site is vegetation encroachment, causing both physical damage to buried archaeological layers and obscuring the understanding of the site. Future management should include a regime of cutting / grazing to control the vegetation on the interior of the fort where the archaeology is particularly sensitive.

The site represents an ideal opportunity for interpretation as few visitors will be aware of the complexity and importance of the archaeological remains. The options for interpretation (either on or off site) should be explored.

More detailed general recommendations, and recommendations for individual sites are given below.

### **4.2 General Management Recommendations**

Overall, the general condition of the archaeological remains on this site is considered to be good. Visiting the site in both the winter and the summer reveals a distinct difference in the vegetative cover of the site, showing that, although the dense summer growth does obscure the archaeological features, this is seasonal rather than permanent.

Individual recommendations are made for specific features where appropriate. However, the following recommendations are considered to be generic concerns, to be taken into account whenever work on this site is considered.

1. Whilst vegetation growth is currently seasonal only, consideration must be given to the fact that, in the mid to long-term future, patterns of vegetation growth may alter. Milder winters could result in less “knock-back” of scrub in the winter, and to more growth of vegetation like blackthorn and bracken which is currently regulated naturally. It is recommended that fixed-point photographic monitoring be undertaken annually to establish whether this is the case. If scrub encroachment does become a problem, then a programme of cutting, or an extended grazing season, may be necessary to maintain access to, and visibility of, the archaeological remains.

2. The vehicle tracks which cross the site have the potential to damage buried archaeology. Soil cover on a site such as this is unlikely to be deep, and any underlying archaeological remains will be present at a shallow depth directly below the turf and topsoil. Ideally, the use of motor vehicles on Garn Fawr should not be continued. However, if this is not practical, then care should be taken that the tracks are not allowed to expand or become braided and the tracks should only be used when the ground surface is dry. This may involve negotiating with other adjacent landowners to ensure that they are not using the tracks.

3. The western side of the fort must be considered to have substantial, although unquantified, archaeological potential. In this area the vegetation growth was thick enough to make survey difficult. Any new footpaths, or management of footpaths entering the site from this side, should take into account the potential for damage to archaeology. Currently, the volume of foot-traffic on this side appears to be small, and is causing no damage. However, this situation may need periodic monitoring in order to ensure that no new paths are opening up. If vegetation clearance is necessary in the future, cutting should be carried out by hand if possible (for example, using a hand strimmer rather than a tractor-mounted flail). This will avoid vehicular damage to as yet unrecorded stone structures. If new footpaths are required,

an archaeologist should be present whilst paths are being cut, and paths should only be formed by cutting vegetation, not dug into the ground surface.

4. The interior of the fort (section B of the survey) contains a number of hut circles, and has substantial archaeological potential. Currently there are no particular management issues which were noted during this survey, however, it is clear that any dramatic increase in foot-traffic to this site has the potential to increase erosion across the whole area.

5. Consideration should be given to the provision of some form of interpretation about this site. Given the landscape sensitivity of this site, this may be most appropriately done by a combination of basic information in the car-park (discretely sited to avoid adverse landscape impact) and more detailed off-site interpretative materials, perhaps web-based. An alternative approach may be to consider the provision of information in the Strumble Head observatory, which is nearby, and is owned and managed by the National Park Authority. The observatory is normally used by bird-watchers and already contains some information about wildlife and the military history of the region. It may be an opportunity to provide general information about the archaeology of North Pembrokeshire.

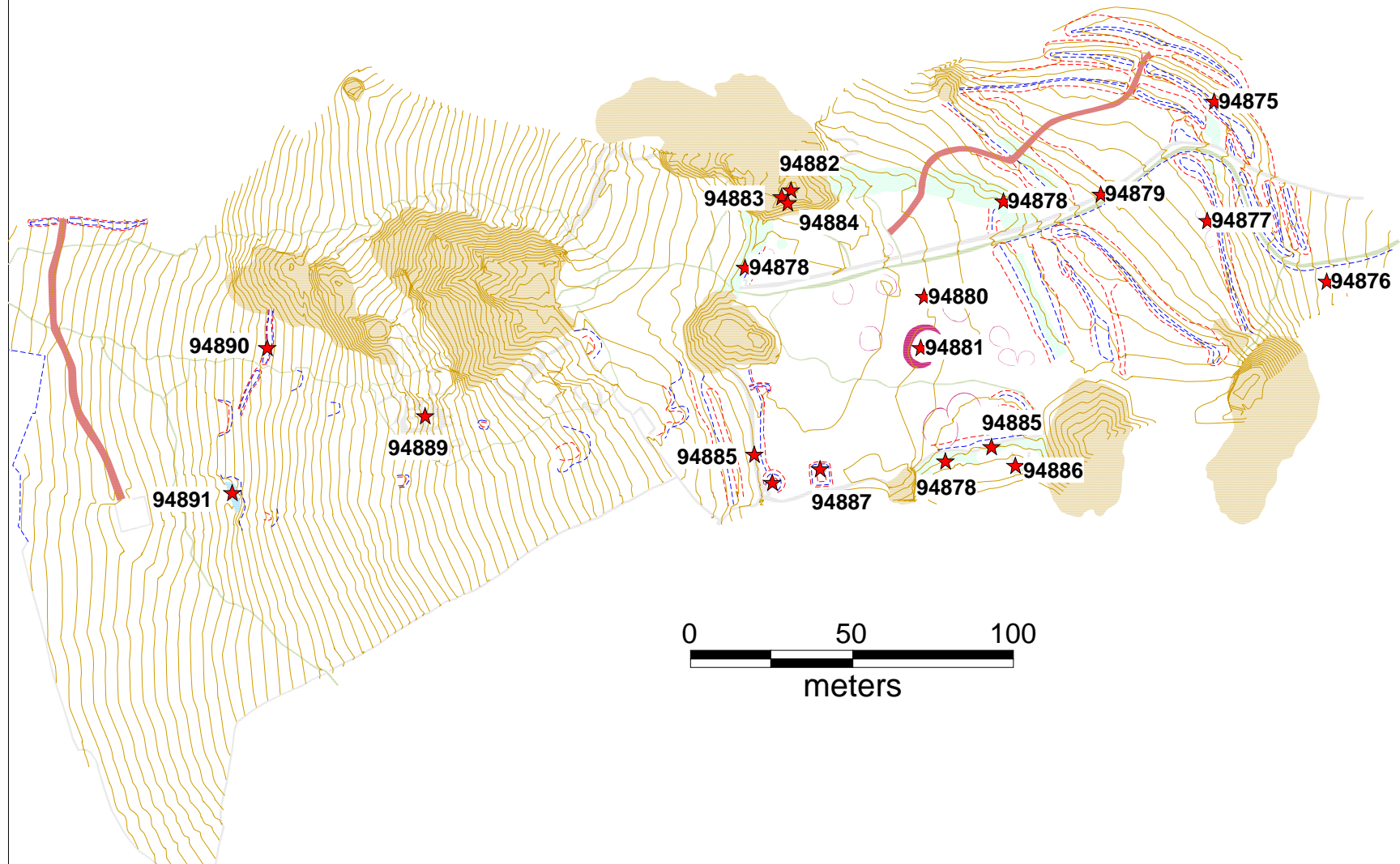
#### **4.3 Recommendations for future work**

1. This survey has concentrated on those sections of Garn Fawr which are owned by the National Trust. However, parts of the monument are in private ownership, and consideration should be given to expand this topographic survey to cover all parts of Garn Fawr.

2. Similarly, the condition of outlying features (such as Ysgubor Gaer enclosure, to the south, and the Tal-Y-Gaer corbelled hut, to the west) has not been assessed and the relationships between the defended sites of Garn Fawr, Ysgubor Gaer and Garn Fechan have not been explored. It is clear that the presence of several defended sites in such a small area is not coincidence, but currently no dating evidence has been recovered from the sites to provide a comparative chronology. If the opportunity arises, consideration should be given to a programme of further survey, and, possibly, dating of these nearby sites in order to securely establish the landscape context and possible longevity of this important Pembrokeshire hillfort.



Figure 10:  
Survey drawing of Garn Fawr showing Dyfed Archaeological Trust's PRNs  
referred to in the gazetteer



## 5. GAZETTEER

### 5.1 Gazetteer of sites recorded as part of Garn Fawr

*All entries within the gazetteer are features recorded as part of the survey of Garn Fawr hillfort, and all are protected as part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Pe065, Garn Fawr hillfort). The first two records are not illustrated on Fig. 9.*

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Occupation site?	Roman		7567	SM896388
<b>Description</b>				
A single sherd of Roman pottery has been interpreted as evidence that Garn Fawr Iron-Age hillfort was occupied in the Romano-British period.				
<b>Condition</b>				
N/A				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
N/A				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Hillfort	Iron Age	81809	2830	SM896388
<b>Description</b>				
General PRN for the Scheduled Iron Age hillfort of Garn Fawr. The hillfort consists of a series of earth and stone banks running between natural rock outcrops, and the main area of the fort encompasses around 3 hectares. Hut circles are visible in the interior, along with later stone-built features which are thought to relate to the agricultural use of this landscape.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Generally good, although some damage from vehicle tracks.				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
See generic management recommendations in section 2.5				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Earthwork	Iron Age	81840	94875	SM8971338895
<b>Description</b>				
Earth banks and ditches on the eastern side of Garn Fawr hillfort. The banks and ditches vary in height and form, but appear to be part of the original outer ramparts. The banks stand, in places, more than 2m high and are roughly flat-topped and steep sided. At least three sets of banks and ditches form the outermost ramparts, cut through by a modern path and field wall (PRN 94879). Survey suggests that the path follows at least part of the line of the original entranceway into this eastern side of the fort. These outer banks run between rock outcrops, linking them up and enclosing, between the outer and inner ramparts (PRN 94878), an area of around 0.4 hectares. Whilst some stone is visible in these outer ramparts, they differ clearly from the inner rampart which appears to be largely of stone construction				
<b>Condition</b>				
Generally in good condition, however the northern parts of the earthworks are affected by a vehicle track which has cut through them.				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
See generic management recommendations in section 2.5				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Terrace	Unknown	81841	94876	SM8974738840
<b>Description</b>				
A series of earthen terraces on the eastern side of Garn Fawr hillfort. The terraces roughly follow the contours of the land, and do not quite align with the ramparts (PRN 94875)				
<b>Condition</b>				
Generally good, although overgrown in summer				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
Ensure that path across this area does not braid or spread out.				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Hut circle	Iron Age	81842	94877	
<b>Description</b>				
The faint impressions of three small hut-circles, tucked close into the outer rampart (PRN 94875) and sited within the space between the outer and inner ramparts. It is possible that at least one of these hut circles actually underlies the outer rampart, suggesting a period of re-modelling of the fort. The hut circles are all small, around 5m in diameter, and consist only of shallow depressions. No stonework is visible.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Stable, overgrown in summer				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
Monitor vegetation growth. If growth is excessive and/or prolonged, some consideration should be given to excavation of these features as they are likely to be lost under thick vegetation. The effect of bracken rhizomes on any stratified archaeological layers should also be borne in mind, ensuring that vegetation monitoring takes this into account.				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Earthwork	Iron Age	81843	94878	SM8964838864; SM8963038793; SM8956838844
<b>Description</b>				
Substantial stone and rubble banks, running between natural rock outcrops and forming the inner ramparts at Garn Fawr hillfort. The stone banks are wide – up to 8m – and show signs of both having tumbled and, in sections, been re-built (though the date of such re-building is unknown). The stone / rubble banks appear, at one location, to overlie the earth rampart (PRN 94875) and therefore may well post-date the outer ramparts. To the south side of the fort, stone field-walls (PRN 94885) have been built along the top of the stone banks and, presumably, using the stone from the prehistoric defences.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Generally very good.				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
See generic management recommendations in section 2.5				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Wall	Post-Medieval?	81844	94879	SM8967938869
<b>Description</b>				
Substantial stone wall, running alongside the public footpath which is now the main entranceway to Garn Fawr hillfort. The wall stands, in places, up to 1.5m high, though in other areas it is much lower. It is constructed of large stone blocks, many of which seem to have been taken from the stone banks which form the inner ramparts of this site (PRN 94878)				
<b>Condition</b>				
Generally good – although some parts of the wall have fallen, none of these falls appear to be very recent. The wall may play host to different species of mosses and lichens.				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
Consideration should be given to identifying whether any of the botanical interest on this wall is significant, in order to ensure that future re-building works can be carried out (if necessary) without detriment to the natural environment.				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Hut circle	Iron Age	81845	94880	SM8962438835
<b>Description</b>				
A collection of hut circles in the interior of Garn Fawr hillfort. They vary in size, but none (save the central one, PRN 94881, are greater than around 10m in diameter. The circles generally survive as shallow depressions, though some appear to have stones marking parts of their circumference. None were observed to have clear doorways or entrances.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Stable – overgrown in summer but clearer in winter.				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
See generic management recommendations in section 2.5				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Hut circle	Iron Age	81846	94881	SM8962338819
<b>Description</b>				
Large, pronounced central hut circle, terraced into the ground on the western side and opening out to the east. At its deepest, the depression is almost 1m below ground surface. Stones which may be interpreted as door-jams mark either side of the entranceway.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Good				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
See generic management recommendations in section 2.5				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Trig Point	Post Medieval	81847	94882	SM8958238868
<b>Description</b>				
Concrete Ordnance Survey trig point, standing at the highest point of Garn Fawr.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Good				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
See generic management recommendations in section 2.5				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Lookout	Modern	81848	94883	SM8957938844
<b>Description</b>				
Small concrete and stone building constructed during WW1 as a lookout shelter. The building carries a date-stone of 1917, and a flat slab declares the makers to be "J.J. Thomas and Pritchard". The lookout is now roofless, approached by a small flight of steps (PRN 94884) and with a small window in the western wall looking out to sea.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Relatively stable, but (presumably) deteriorating over time.				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
A decision needs to be taken as to whether to conserve this lookout or leave it to decay naturally. If conservation is desirable, then a new concrete 'skim' could be applied to the walls to fill in the gaps where the existing concrete is peeling off. Some sections of the walls may require minor re-building.				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Steps	Modern	81849	94884	SM8957938844
<b>Description</b>				
A small flight of steps leading to the WW1 lookout (PRN 94883). The upper part of the flight of steps is rock-cut, the lower steps are made of concrete.				
<b>Condition</b>				
The concrete steps are crumbling, but the rate of decay is currently unknown.				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
The rate of decay of these steps should be monitored. As the lower steps continue to decline in condition, a decision will have to be made as to whether to conserve them or leave them to decay naturally. If conservation is desirable, then the lower steps should be re-cast in concrete. If non-intervention is decided upon, then the steps may need to be fenced out in the interests of public safety.				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Wall	Medieval?; Post Medieval?	81850	94885	SM8964438789; SM8957138787
<b>Description</b>				
A stone-built wall running along the lines of the inner ramparts (PRN 94878), particularly on the south and west sides of the hillfort at Garn Fawr. The stone wall is, presumably, built out of stones from the ramparts, and is actually constructed on the prehistoric defences.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Generally good, although the wall has collapsed in some places				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
Since the wall is no longer required as a stock-proof boundary, no specific management recommendations are considered necessary. See generic recommendations in section 2.5				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Field Shelter	Medieval?; Post Medieval?	81851	94886	SM8965238783
<b>Description</b>				
Two small, roughly rectangular structures built in the shelter of a wall (PRN 94885) on the south side of Garn Fawr. They were, presumably, animal pens or shelters. Hogg (1973) refers to them as 'cabans'. These examples are around 5m long and only survive partially. Other examples survive on the slopes to the west (PRN 94889). These structures are shown on Lhuyd's sketch of around 1700.				
<b>Condition</b>				
The structures are partially collapsed, and stand to only around 0.75m in height at their highest points. They are also partially overgrown.				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
See generic management recommendations in section 2.5				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Field Shelter	Medieval?; Post Medieval?	81852	94887	SM8959238793
<b>Description</b>				
A small rectangular structure built within the area enclosed by the inner ramparts (PRN 94878). It is similar to other stone structures nearby (PRN 94886) which have been interpreted as animal shelters. However, this one is completely overgrown, and it is difficult to make out any stonework. The general dimensions and plan, though, are very similar, so it is hard to construct an argument for the increased vegetation cover being indicative of a substantially earlier date.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Overgrown, but stable.				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
See generic management recommendations in section 2.5				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Field Shelter	Medieval?; Post Medieval	81853	94888	SM8957738779
<b>Description</b>				
Small circular structure in the southwest corner of the area enclosed by the inner ramparts (PRN 94878). The structure is completely overgrown, but appears to have some stonework contained within it. It may be similar to the animal pens (PRN 94886) found nearby.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Overgrown, but stable				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
See generic management recommendations in section 2.5				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Sheepfold	Medieval?; Post Medieval	81854	94889	SM8946938799
<b>Description</b>				
A multi-celled, stone-built rectangular structure on the western slopes of Garn Fawr. It is unclear whether this structure originated as a single multi-celled pen (probably a sheep-fold) or whether a number of individual structures have become 'joined up' as they have partially collapsed and tumbled. The individual cells vary between around 2m and 4m in length, the whole covering an area of around 15m x 15m. There are also 'outlying' small pens clustered underneath natural rock outcrops to the north and east.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Generally stable, but all pens have partially collapsed, and some of the stone walls are very tumbled and spread.				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
Any new footpaths should be routed away from this structure, and care should be taken that the existing path, which runs along the western and southern edge, is discouraged from braiding.				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Earthwork	Iron Age?	81855	94890	SM8942038820
<b>Description</b>				
A short length of earth bank, around 1.5m across and 30m long with a break in the middle. Running due south from a natural rock outcrop this bank may be part of the Iron Age defences of Garn Fawr.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Very overgrown, indistinct at south end				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
Ensure that current footpath does not braid but remains within the existing break in the bank.				



Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Spring / Pond	Unknown	81856	94891	SM8941038774
<b>Description</b>				
A small spring and pond on the western slopes of Garn Fawr. Slightly terraced into the hillside on its east side, this pool does not have clearly artificial edges on its west side. It may have been created for watering stock, and thus be of comparable age to the sheep folds (PRN 94889). However, the possibility for a spring or pool this close to a hillfort to have considerable archaeological potential must be borne in mind.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Partly overgrown.				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
No disturbance should be permitted in this area without archaeological supervision.				



## 5.2. Gazetteer of sites on the coastal strip

*The following gazetteer entries are located on the area of coastal property in front of, but separate to, Garn Fawr hillfort. Dinas Mawr hillfort is also protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Pe075 – Dinas Mawr hillfort), but the remaining sites lie outside this area of designation.*



*The coastline in front of Garn Fawr hillfort consists of steep shale cliffs with broken promontories interspersed with rocky coves. The cliffs are topped by a grass and gorse covered coastal strip along which runs the coastal path, fronting an area of medium-large irregular fields bounded by dry stone walls.*

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Hillfort	Iron Age	81857	2828	SM888387
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <p><i>View SSE of the promontory</i></p> <p><i>View NE of the eroding coastal cliffs and damage it is causing to the inner defences</i></p> </div>				
<p><b>Description</b></p> <p>DINAS MAWR</p> <p>An Iron Age hillfort occupying a rocky promontory on the coastline in front of the larger Garn Fawr hillfort. A narrow neck of land is defended by two banks with external ditches. The outer defences currently consist of a low bank on sloping ground, c.0.6m high, c.4m wide and running for c.11m but fading to the east. The outer ditch is c.0.6m deep, greater on its northern side due to the sloping hillside and c.2m wide. A footpath goes through a gap c.2m wide just west of centre.</p> <p>Another 17m to the south lie the more prominent inner defences, consisting of a bank c.5m wide and c.1.5m high (4m high from the base of the ditch). This runs for c.18m up to the footpath, beyond which (to the east) it soon becomes very indistinct. The bank is fronted by an impressive ditch c.7.8m wide, 2m deep, running for c.50m but getting shallower to the east and infilled centrally for the footpath, which itself may follow the route of the original entranceway.</p> <p>According to the RCAHMW (Driver 2007) these banks were originally stone revetted with slabs lining the entranceway through the inner bank.</p> <p>Internally there is relatively level area c.20-25m north-south by c.29m east-west, within which lies one possible hut circle (Driver 2007) before the promontory rises dramatically onto a rocky pinnacle. A ledge up to 3m wide runs around the eastern side of the pinnacle, the western side is inaccessible. The summit of the pinnacle is accessible from the northeast and presents a rocky but roughly level area c.23m by 33m.</p>				


Due to the small area defended and the dramatic appearance of the pinnacle it has been suggested that the fort may have a ritual or ceremonial use (Driver 2007), however it is clear that large sections of this fort have also been lost to the sea.
<b>Condition</b>
The footpath is causing some minor erosion to the outer defences and some burrowing is visible but does not appear extensive. The inner defences and interior of the fort are grass covered and stable. The major threat to this site is the natural eroding sea cliffs. A large proportion of the outer defences and lower ground around the main pinnacle is likely to already have been lost to the sea and this process is continuing. The site itself is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PE075).
<b>Management Recommendations</b>
The footpath is currently causing little erosion but this should be monitored, especially in the busier summer months to ensure damage is not occurring to the defences. The natural cliff-erosion should also be monitored, if the current condition of the defences and interior of the fort become threatened then a more detailed archaeological survey of the site may be beneficial to record features in detail prior to future erosion.
<b>Sources</b>
CADW (Avent,JR) Pembrokeshire SAM file (PE 075) Crane,P 1994 Dyfed Coastal Promontory Fort Assessment 1993-94 Driver, T. 2007. 'Pembrokeshire, Historic Landscapes from the Air', RCAHMW, p102, Fig153 Meridian Airmaps 1955 Aerial photographs 180-230 10150-51 Murphy,K 2004 Assessment of Prehistoric Defended Enclosures 2004-5, Report No 2004-100 Murphy,K & Allen,B 1997 Coastal Survey 1996-7 - Strumble Head to Ginst Point Nash-Williams,VE 1933 Archaeologia Cambrensis RAF 1946 Aerial photographs 106G-UK-1631 5022-3

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Findspot	Prehistoric	81858	7352	SM889388
<b>Description</b>				
A flint borer and a flint flake recovered from close to the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. Other flints were found somewhere in this area at a later date by R A Kennedy (Pembrokeshire County Museums Card Index F431).				
<b>Condition</b>				
N/A				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
N/A				
<b>Sources</b>				
Dunn,CJ 1973 Archaeology in Wales No.13,p.29,No.29 Page,N 2004 Prehistoric Undefined Settlements Project, Southwest Wales: A Review of the Lithic Evidence from the Regional SMR				


Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Clearance Cairn	Post Medieval; Modern	81859	32660	SM88793900
<b>Description</b>				
PENRHYN BYR				
Clearance cairn truncated by the coastal path, consequently semi-circular in shape, situated outside of present agricultural boundary. Approximately 9m in diameter with some stone exposed on the surface.				
Recorded during a coastal survey undertaken in 1996 (Murphy 1996) but at the time of visit (March 2009) was no longer visible, possibly hidden amongst the gorse or destroyed.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Unknown				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
Any vegetation/scrub clearance in this area should be undertaken with care to avoid damage to the cairn if it is indeed hidden amongst the gorse.				
<b>Sources</b>				
Murphy,K      1996    Pembrokeshire Coastal Survey				

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Trackway	Unknown	81860	32659	SM88883928
 <p><i>Left; View southeast looking down the stairs and track cut through the rock.</i></p> <p><i>Right; View northeast looking back up through the cleft</i></p> 				
<b>Description</b>				
PORTH MAENMELYN				
Cleft cut through rock for access to the small cove below. The cleft is c.1m wide and 5m deep with rock cut steps. Lower down this path has been eroded away. Some of the steps have been reinforced with concrete and remnants of a metal-wire handrail run down the seaward side of the path.				

The path is shown on the 1:2500 1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 but no longer shown on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map of 1907. At the top of cleft lies a hollow measuring roughly 6m by 6m, retaining waterlogged ground, and a dry-stone wall runs along the cliff top at this point but the main purpose of the trackway remains unclear. Presumably it gave access to the cove to allow goods and materials to be brought in by boat and may be associated with local later post-medieval industrial activity.	
<b>Condition</b>	
Generally in good condition although the shale rock is naturally eroding resulting in loose shale covering much of the upper path. The lower portion has been eroded by the sea and could not be examined closely, the upper portion remains protected in its cleft.	
<b>Management Recommendations</b>	
The rate of decay of these steps should be monitored. The erosion of the lower portion meant a detailed examination of its condition could not be undertaken and they may subsequently be beyond preservation, but considerations should be given whether to conserve them or leave them to decay. If non-intervention is decided upon, then the lower steps may need to be fenced out in the interests of public safety.	
<b>Sources</b>	
Murphy K      1996      Pembrokeshire Coastal Survey	

Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Field Boundary	Post Medieval	81861		SM88823888
 <p><i>View ESE along the remains of the field wall. Scale 1x1m.</i></p>				
<b>Description</b>				
The remains of a dry-stone wall extending into the coastal area. The wall is a continuation of field boundaries to the north but has been disused for some time. Built of large angular natural boulders, 1.3m wide at the base, tapering to 0.5m wide at the top and at most 1.3m high. It runs for c.21.5m before being cut by the coastal path and fading out beyond.				
<b>Condition</b>				
Grass covered, it appears fairly stable.				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
No specific recommendations				



Site Type	Period	N.T. SMR no.	D.A.T. HER no.	Grid reference
Cave	Unknown	81862		SM88833868
 <p><i>View NE looking at the mouth of Ogof March, taken from the interior of Dinas Mawr hillfort</i></p>				
<b>Description</b>				
OGOF MARCH				
A large sea cave called Ogof March in the cliffs below Dinas Mawr hillfort, and extending under the promontory. The cave is inaccessible and sea-washed making it unlikely to hold any archaeological remains but this has not been examined closely.				
<b>Condition</b>				
The cave was not examined in any detail, but lies in an area of gradually eroding sea cliffs.				
<b>Management Recommendations</b>				
No specific recommendations				

## 6. REFERENCES

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# A Survey of Garn Fawr Hillfort, Pembrokeshire

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER :**

**2009/34**

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Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd  
gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

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