

COMMENT

MARROS MOUNTAIN, Eglwys Cummin

Further survey work took place on Marros Mountain early in 1986. An area almost 2km by 1km was surveyed and the information gained from it supplemented by features plotted from aerial photographs. In conjunction with the 1985 survey and aerial photography evidence it can be demonstrated that after WW II strip field systems covered most of an area c 5km x 1km. Only c 40% of this area now remains unimproved agricultural land.

1946 RAF vertical aerial photographs provided the best evidence for strip fields, in an area unfortunately now covered with a Forestry Commission's plantation. Here the strips were 10-20m wide, defined by low rubble and earth banks, and up to 300m long. A later farmstead, Merriman's Gate, had been carved out of part of these strip fields, though continuing to employ the strip boundaries in a system of agriculture employing ridge and furrow. Merriman's Gate was deserted by 1907. Elsewhere the land survey revealed a similar pattern to that planned in 1985 (AW, 25, p.36); numerous clearance cairns scattered amongst discontinuous strip boundaries.

K MURPHY, for DAT