

**Scheduled Ancient Monument Management Plan
October 2015**

CAIRNS ON PEN PLYNLIMON-ARWYSTLI (CD035)



Figure 1. Vertical aerial photograph (Crown Copyright 2012)

Customer Reference Number (CRN): A0003061

Farm name: Pantglas



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

This management advice has been produced within the Historic Environment Branch of Cadw to inform management of the Scheduled Ancient Monument included in the Advanced Element of the Glastir land management scheme.

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SAM name and reference number	Cairns on Pen Plynlimon-Arwystli, CD035
Grid reference	Cairn A: SN 81494 87754 Cairn B: SN 81521 87779 Cairn C: SN 81562 87818
Current Cadw funded schemes (MA /AM Grant)	None
Cadw FMW and contact details	Helen Burnham Field Monument Warden Cadw Welsh Government Tel: 01570 422075 Mobile: 07968 609833 E-mail: helen.burnham@wales.gsi.gov.uk

I. Site Description

The following provides a general description of the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

- The monument comprises the remains of three burial cairns, probably dating to the Bronze Age (c. 2300 - 800 BC). The southernmost cairn is c.18m in diameter, c.62m in circumference and c.2m high, with a depression in the top. The central cairn, which lies c.20m to its north-east, is c.22m in diameter, c.70m in circumference and c.1.5m high. It is intact and has been used as beacon. The north-eastern cairn lies c.35m further to the north-east, is c.20m in diameter with an outer ring of loose stones around a turf-covered interior. The centre is of stone and has a large shelter constructed within it. The cairn stands 0.5 to 1.5m above its surroundings.
- The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual practices. The monument is an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape and retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of both intact burial or ritual deposits, together with environmental and structural evidence. Cairns may be part of a larger cluster of monuments and their importance can be further enhanced by their group value.
- The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.

2. Note on Land Boundaries

The area in which the cairns stand is now open upland grazing, with a boundary fence running along the contour c.100m to their south-east. This fence now marks the county and parliamentary boundary. Historically, however, the boundary ran along the top of the ridge, through the cairns, and this historic line is maintained in the boundaries of the local landholdings, so that the applicant's holding strictly speaking impinges only partially on the site, as shown in the map at Section 6.2 below. However, in the absence of anything to stop them, it would appear that the applicant's stock would be free to graze the entire area of the site.

3. Current Condition

The cairns were in generally good condition when last seen.

Management Issues

- Cairns A and B remain as substantial piles of loose stone. Cairn A has a shelter hollow in its centre, as does Cairn B, which also has a small shelter on the south-east. Cairn C is lower and turf-covered, though loose stones have been formed into a shelter in its centre.
- The site lies on open access land and the main threat is further rearrangement of the material by visitors.

4. Management Advice

The following works are recommended to improve the condition of the scheduled ancient monument. Cadw Field Monument Wardens are available to provide help and advice, and can be contacted via details shown on page 4.

Prioritised list of management works:

- No immediate management works are required

4.1. Long-term management recommendations / best practice

- Encourage and maintain a permanent grass cover around the cairns within the scheduled area.
- Do not disturb the ground surface around the cairns or the stones on them.
- Control stock at a level which will prevent the breakdown of grass cover if the scheduled area is periodically grazed.
- Monitor the remains for any visitor damage: should this occur, seek advice from Cadw.
- Note should also be taken of the general requirements given in Section 7 below.

5. Photographs



Figure 2. Cairns A and B from SW (Cadw 2013)



Figure 3. Cairn B from SE showing shelter (Cadw 2013)



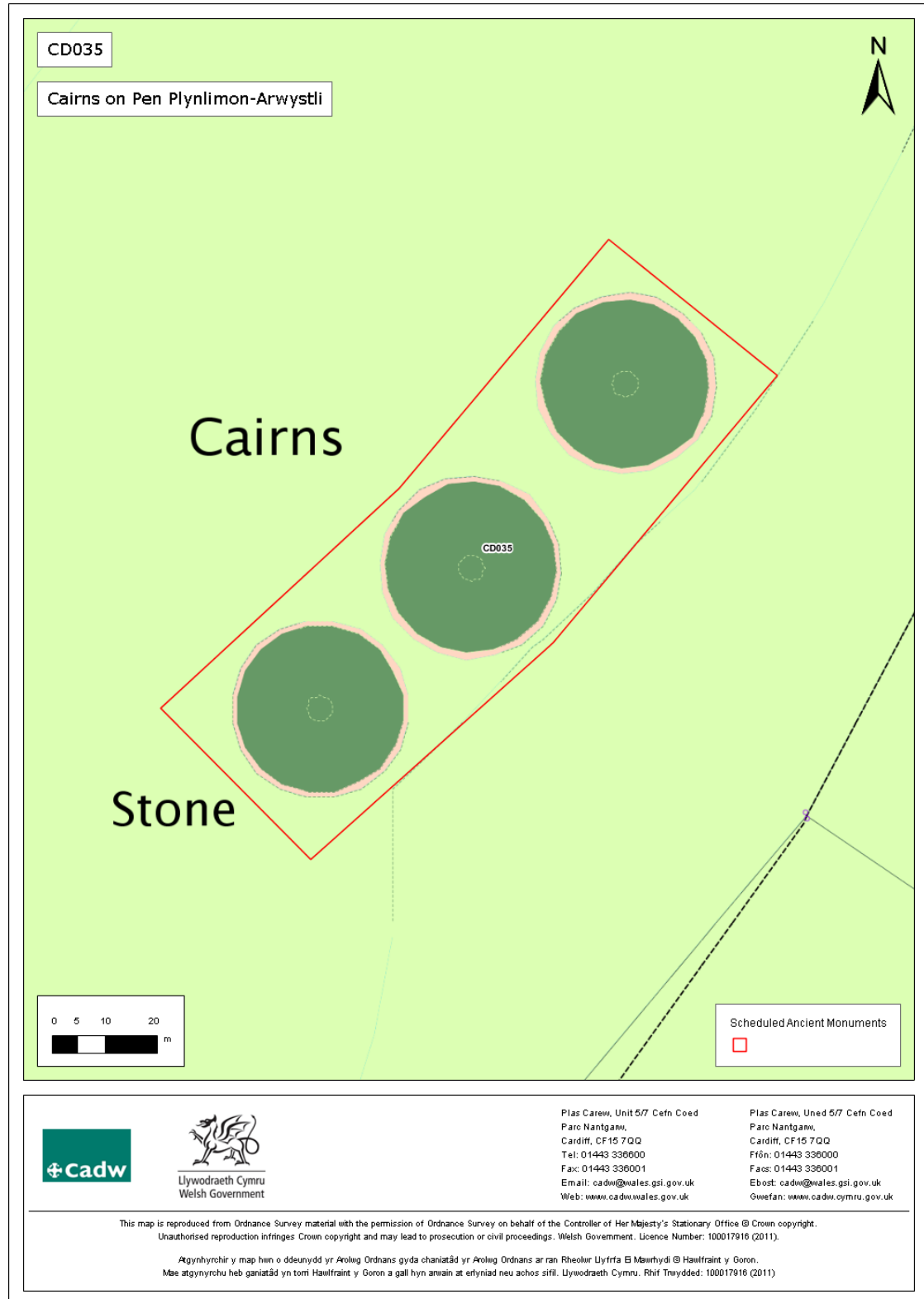
Figure 4. Cairn C from S (Cadw 2013)



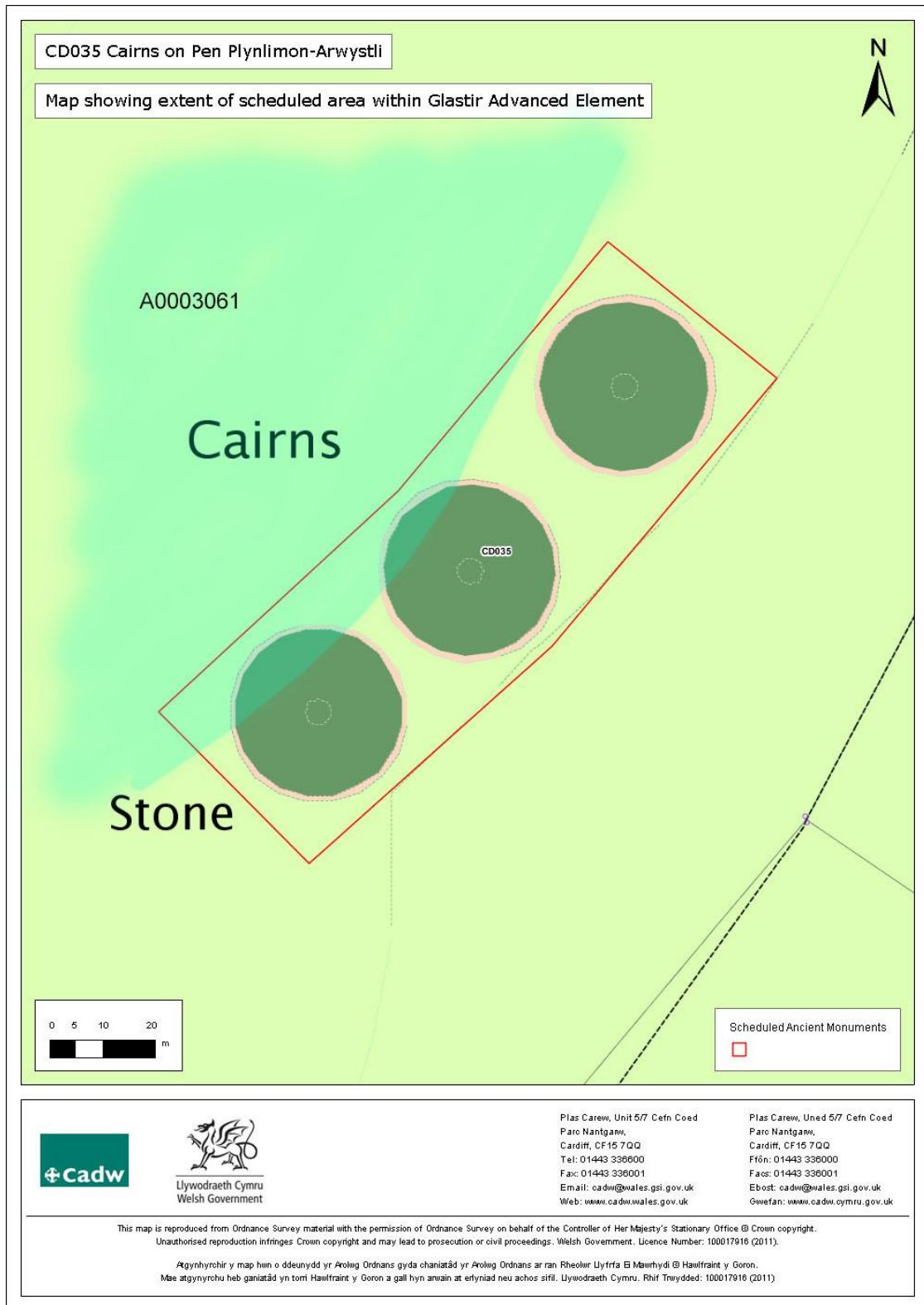
Figure 5. Shelter in Cairn C from ESE (Cadw 2013)

6. Maps

6.1. Indicative Map of the Scheduled Area



6.2. Map showing Extent of Scheduled Area within Glastir Advanced Element



7. Requirements

7.1. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979

Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) are monuments deemed to be of national importance and as such are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979. It is an offence under the legislation to cause damage or disturbance to a SAM.

Damage or disturbance would include – any unauthorised works that involve ground disturbance (including fencing), but also importing material into the scheduled area, metal detecting, rewetting, burning etc.

Any operations involving ground disturbance, the importation of material or rewetting require Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) to have been approved by Cadw prior to the works being undertaken

7.2. Cross Compliance

Scheduled Ancient Monuments are afforded further protection under Cross - Compliance GAEC 7 Landscape Features.

GAEC 7 States:

- No work to a Scheduled Ancient Monument may be carried out without formal consent from Cadw e.g. ploughing, fencing, drainage, track upgrades etc
- Comply with all consent requirements in full
- Do not destroy or damage a Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Do not damage scheduled historic features through activities which cause or encourage soil erosion or ground disturbance on ancient monuments, e.g.:
 - overgrazing
 - growth of invasive scrub or vegetation

- trampling and poaching
- vehicle tracking, particularly on steep slopes or when ground conditions are wet
- supplementary feeding
- cultivation encroachment
- storage of equipment, materials and rubbish

7.3. Glastir - Whole Farm Code

The Glastir Whole Farm Code states:

You must not damage any historic feature identified on your agreement map

Definitions of damage to a historic feature include ANY of the following:

- Ground disturbance or excavation especially extending beneath topsoil
- Dumping or storage of material, including temporary storage
- Removal of any material, including stones, soil or subsoil
- Visible signs of active erosion (loss and disturbance of topsoil) caused by livestock and vehicles or other agricultural practice
- Planting trees
- Allowing scrub to develop
- Ploughing or reseeding
- Displacing individual stone features