

PE544 CARN BRIW ROUND CAIRN SCHEDULED MONUMENT:
RECONSOLIDATION WORK OF CAIRN



Prepared on behalf of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Authority by Tomos Jones, Community Archaeologist.

03 October 2022

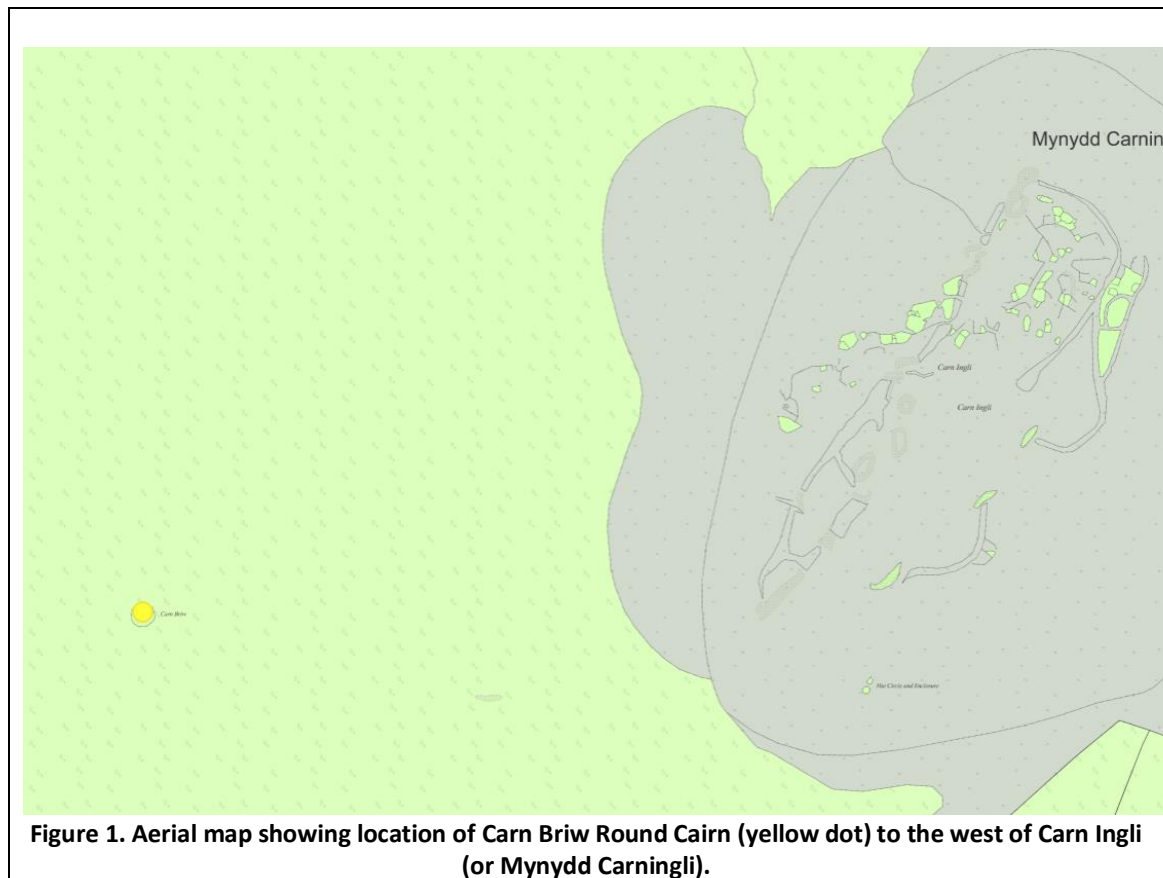


Crynodeb / Summary

Mae'r adroddiad canlynol yn darparu manylion gan gynnwys lluniau ynglŷn â gwaith atgyweirio cafodd ei chwblhau ar yr heneb gofrestedig gan Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro ar yr 7fed o Ebrill 2022. Yn benodol, lleihau brig y garnedd wedi cael ei chreu gan ymwelwyr yn ail-drefnu lleoliad cerrig o fewn y garnedd. Hefyd, lleihau rhimyn a phant ar ochr de'r garnedd oedd wedi cael ei chreu gan ymwelwyr.

The following report provides details, including photographs regarding repair work carried out at the scheduled monument by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority on the 7th of April 2022. Specifically, reducing the peak of the cairn created by visitors redistributing stones. Also, reducing a rim and depression on the southern side of the cairn created by visitors.

1. Background



The redistribution of stones within cairns by visitors is a longstanding issue that the National Park Authority continues to monitor and carry out work from time to time. The scheduled monument known as PE544 Carn Briw Round Cairn (see map in figure 1 for location), is one of the sites affected by this activity. In the case of this monument, visitors have been redistributing stones within the cairn to increase the height of the peak at the centre of the monument (see section 3). In addition, a rim and depression on the southern side of the monument appears to be increasing over time (see section 3). Again, likely to be the result of visitor disturbance. The ongoing issue at this site and others have been reported to the police so that they are aware that it is an issue. However, the National Park Authority felt it was time to carry out some reconsolidation work to redefine the shape of the cairn, so that the cairn appears less disturbed, hopefully reducing the degree and likelihood of further visitor disturbance or at the very least reducing the number of occurrences. Reconsolidation work is also important from an ecological perspective as it ensures that lichen growing on the monument are facing the correct direction. This means the work is beneficial for the historic and natural environment.

On the 20th of January, the National Park Authority community archaeologist made a request to Cadw to carry out reconsolidation work at PE544 Carn Briw Round Cairn. The

regional inspector advised that the work could go ahead as per a simplified process and in line with the proposal sent in January. Official consent was granted on 08 April 2022; however, the work was carried on 07 April 2022 as per discussion and agreement with Cadw.

The proposed work for reconsolidation was as follows:

- Rearrange the stones that have been placed recently, indicated by the lack of lichen and re-place them within the cairn where it is evident that stones have been removed (i.e. indicated by the absence of stones with lichen).
- A drone survey would be completed prior to carrying out the work, so that we have detailed photogrammetric photos of the cairns prior to carrying out reconsolidation work.
- Carry out a drone survey following completion of reconsolidation work.
- The work would be carried out by the Community Archaeologist, area Ranger and volunteers.
- A short report on approach at the site would be submitted to Cadw following completion of the work.
- Thereafter carry out a drone survey on an annual basis to monitor the cairn for further disturbance.
- As part of the consolidation work run a publicity campaign to highlight the importance of leaving cairns as they are found as re-arrangement distorts these monuments.

2. Reconsolidation work

Prior to the reconsolidation work, a drone survey was carried out on 25 March 2022 to provide a detailed 3D model of the site prior to the work. This model is available to view at <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/carnedd-carn-briw-cairn-25032022-ed84f5f801aa4bbc896c6fa065442660>.

The proposed work was carried out on behalf of the National Park Authority by the community archaeologist with the help of an area ranger and also a group of volunteers on 07 April 2022. The following approach was undertaken:

- In relation to the peak of the cairn (see section 3), stones were carefully removed to reduce the height of the peak. It is likely that disturbance had been ongoing for a significant amount of time in this area, as such only a degree of reduction took place. Once the height had been reduced, stones with lichen were placed at the surface facing upwards. This meant the cairn looked less disturbed, this will hopefully discourage or at the very least limit future disturbance. Stones removed from the peak were redistributed across the cairn with lichen side of stones facing upwards.

- In relation to the rim and depression on the southern side of the cairn (see section 3), stones composing the rim were carefully removed. The stones were then placed in the depression. Stones with lichen on their surface were placed on top. This meant the surface looked less disturbed, hopefully discouraging or at the very least limiting future disturbance.
- A general walk over the cairn surface took place to identify stones that had been disturbed, indicated by the absence of lichen on the surface of stones. Any identified disturbed stones were turned over, so that lichens were facing towards the sky (see example in figures 14 and 15).
- Photographs showing before and after are provided in section 3.

Following the reconsolidation work, a drone survey was carried out on 08 April 2022 to ascertain a 3D model to provide a baseline model for future monitoring, to identify disturbance and if so, the extent. The model is available to view at <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/carnedd-carn-briw-cairn-08042022-9c05d4a51f794526bf8d293d0e5f6ca9>

In August 2022, the issue of disturbance was highlighted via posts on the Heritage Watch Facebook and Twitter accounts to discourage further disturbance, raise awareness and encourage the public to report issues of this type.

3. Photographs

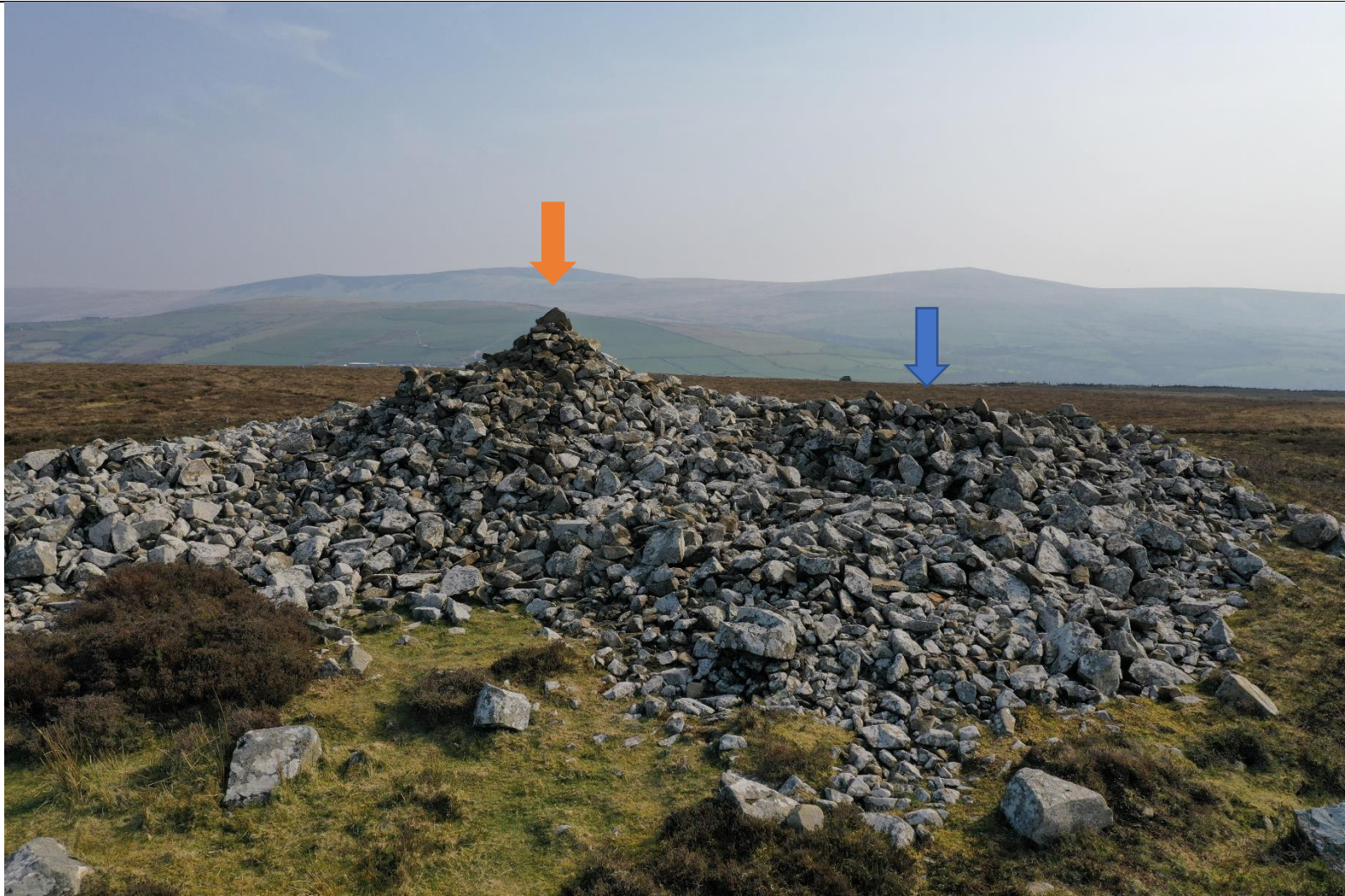


Figure 2. Monument towards south prior to reconsolidation work. Peak indicated by orange arrow and location of rim and depression indicated by blue arrow.



Figure 3. Monument towards south after reconsolidation work.

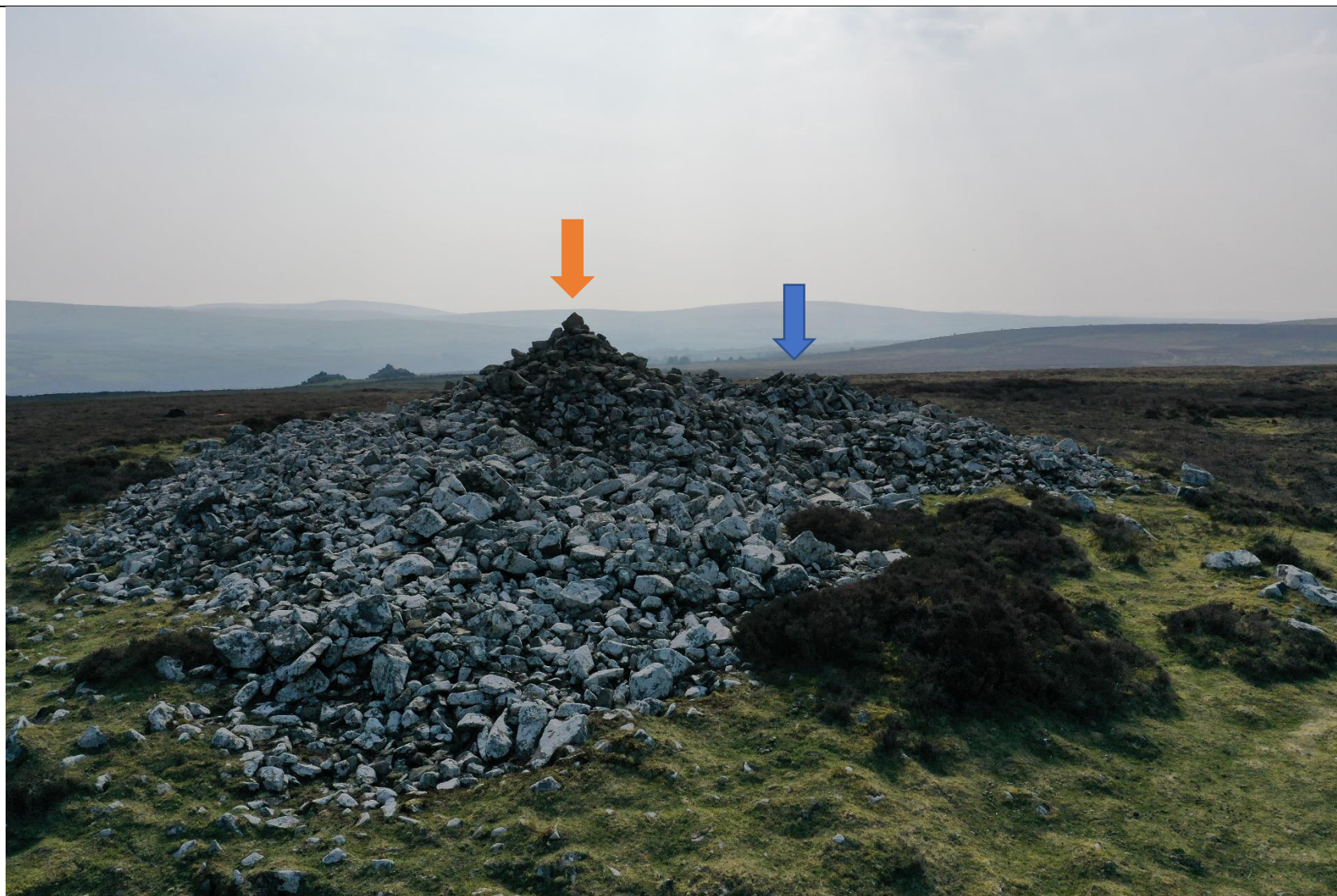


Figure 4. Monument towards west prior to reconsolidation work. Peak indicated by orange arrow and location of rim and depression indicated by blue arrow.



Figure 5. Monument towards west after reconsolidation work.



Figure 6. Monument towards north prior to reconsolidation work. Peak indicated by orange arrow and location of rim and depression indicated by blue arrow.



Figure 7. Monument towards north after reconsolidation work.



Figure 8. Monument towards east prior to reconsolidation work. Peak indicated by orange arrow and location of rim and depression indicated by blue arrow.



Figure 9. Monument towards north after reconsolidation work.



Figure 10. Aerial view of peak prior to reconsolidation work.



Figure 11. Aerial view of peak after reconsolidation work.



Figure 12. Aerial view of rim and depression prior to reconsolidation work.



Figure 13. Aerial view of rim and depression after reconsolidation work.



Figure 14. Photo showing example of disturbed stone with lichen facing downwards.



Figure 15. Photo of same disturbed stone in figure 14 turned over so that lichen is correctly facing the sky.



Figure 16. Photo showing the community archaeologist with group of volunteers rearranging stones to minimise the impact of disturbance.