

Garn Goch
Archaeological Survey 1994/5

carried out under the Upland Initiative and overseen and
funded by RCAHMW



BRECON BEACONS
NATIONAL PARK

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The Area (Fig. 1)

The area selected for survey in 1994/5 was the NP owned common Garn Goch, which is situated at the western end of the park (fig. 1). The common is best known for the impressive pair of stone ramparted Iron Age Hillforts, Gaer Fawr and Gaer Fach. Other known sites include two cairns, an enclosure system, three rectangular building foundations and a pound.

The common is intended to be managed positively for historical, ecological and landscape conservation by the use of a proactive management plan, a revised plan for this common is due to be written within the current year (1995). The survey was intended to identify, locate and briefly describe all sites within the area. The opportunity was also taken to make outline management recommendations for each site, these were very simple and took the form of, for example, monitor - survey - further research - evaluation etc. The results will provide a data set from which to make informed management decisions. This data set will also be available for interpretative and educational use.

The Methodology

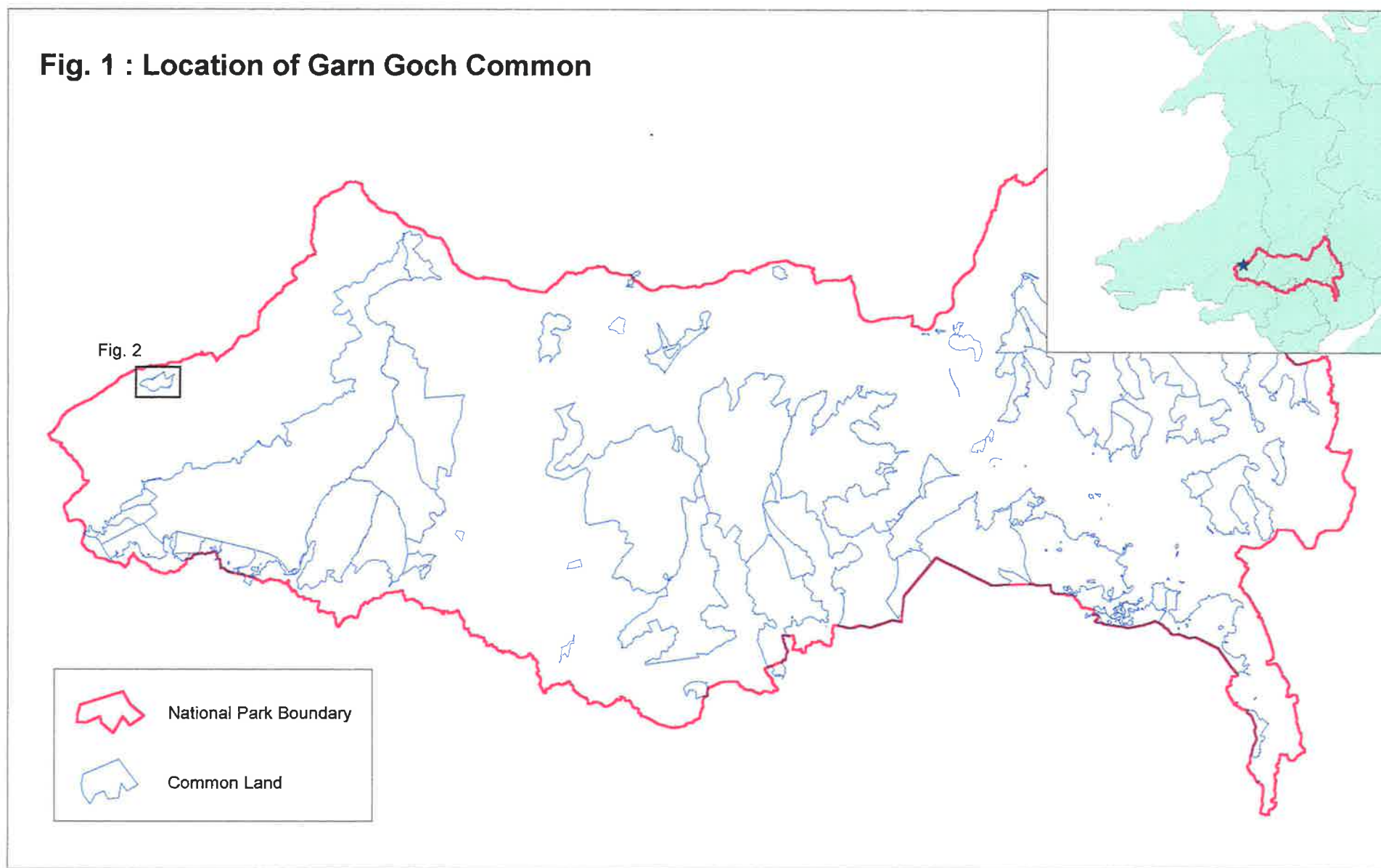
Prior to field work the NP aerial photographic cover for the area was examined. This consists of vertical colour prints at 1:7000 and stereo pairs of the flight at 1:20000. The 1:10000 map cover was also searched for features. In the field the common was systematically searched by walking on compass bearings at intervals of between 30 to 50 metres depending on vegetation and topography. Each site was recorded on a NP site visit proforma. Where appropriate sites were sketch planned and/or photographed. All sites were located onto enlarged 1:10000 maps in the field and entered as points, lines or areas on the NP GIS. A brief amount of data was entered on the GIS. A more detailed record for each site has been entered into a Microsoft access data base, within this are memo fields for description of site, management history and management recommendations.

The Results (Fig. 2, tables 1 and 2)

Twenty-five new sites were recorded during the survey these are presented in map and tabular form as the main part of this report.

For the main part these are typical of the types of site which have been ignored as historic features in the past for instance post medieval features such as quarries, trackways and enclosures. Two sites which were not previously recorded on the National Park record are enclosure complexes (4726 and 4731/8) which may be of greater antiquity, possibly prehistoric. Evaluation work however would be required to elucidate this.

Fig. 1 : Location of Garn Goch Common



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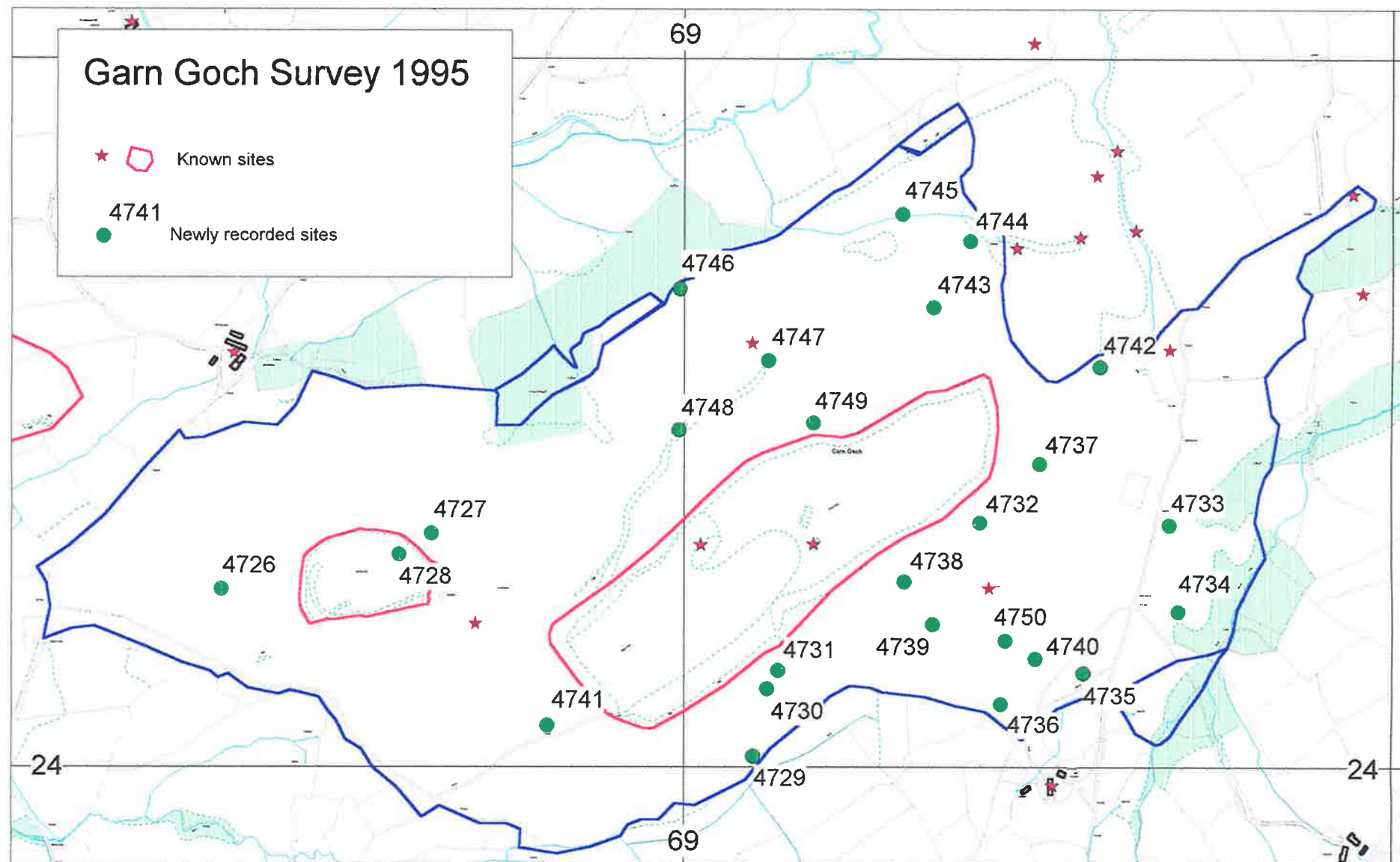
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Date: 24/04/95

NPR	Type	Source	Period	management	eastings	northings
4726	Enclosure complex	survey	Prehistoric	Detailed Survey/Evaluat	268345	224252
4727	Stone structure	survey	Post-Med.		268642	224330
4728	Stone ring	survey	Modern		268597	224301
4729	Trackway	survey	Post-Med		269097	224016
4730	Structure	survey	Med/Post-Med.	Detailed Survey	269117	224111
4731	Enclosure system	survey	?Prehist/Med	Evaluate	269133	224136
4732	Hollow	survey	Post-Med		269418	224346
4733	Track/hollow way	survey	Med/Post med		269687	224342
4734	Area of dumping	survey	modern		269698	224220
4735	Structure	survey	Post-Med		269565	224133
4736	Quarry	survey	Post-Med		269447	224089
4750	Linear/natural feature	survey			269454	224179
4737	Hollow	survey	?Modern		269503	224428
4738	Bank/lynchet	survey	?Prehistoric ?		269311	224262
4739	Linear/natural feature	survey			269351	224201
4740	Bank	survey	Med/Post-Med		269497	224153
4741	Natural feature	survey			268806	224060
4742	Quarry	survey	Post- Med		269588	224566
4743	Trackway	survey	Post-Med		269352	224649
4744	Trackway	survey	Post-Med		269403	224743
4745	Causeway	survey	Post-Med		269308	224781
4746	Enclosure	survey	Post-Med		268994	224675
4747	Quarry	survey	Post-Med		269119	224575
4748	Track	survey	Post-Med		268992	224476
4749	Mound	survey	Uncertain		269182	224486

PRN	DESC	MAN RECS	Condition..	Site Form.
4726	Field system/enclosure situated on level area to west of Gaer Fach. Site consists of two low stony grass grown banks running n-s and a single bank connecting these running e-w. Westerly bank takes the form of a low broad lynchet. A sub-rectangular building foundation (10.3m x 9.2m ext, 8.0m x 6.0m int.) lies within the enclosure formed by the above banks.	Detailed survey required	Damaged	Earthwork
4727	Small stone structure at the base of slope NE of Gaer Fach. It appears as a pile of stone within boulder scree. It could be a much ruined round house but more probably a sheepshelter. Diameter-6.6m		Substantial destruction	Structure
4728	A ring of thirty one small stones (6.0m Diameter). Many are loose and do not penetrate the surface by more than 3-4cm. Probably a modern feature, though possibly a few decades old. It is found within Gaer Fach at eastern end.		Intact	Structure
4729	Trackway bordered by stone clearance banks on either side. These banks become more prominent at its eastern end.		Damaged	Earthwork
4730	Rectangular stone foundations of a presumed Hafod site (11.5 x 5.6m ext. and 10.0 x 3.0m int.) The structure is cut into N slope with poss. entrance to the S. A stone partition is evident within. The structure is situated S. of Gaer Fawr under the cliff and very near the W. corner of enclosure system 4731.	Worth a detailed plan	Substantial destruction	Structure
4731	Enclosure system to the south-east of Gaer Fawr. Planned by Hogg and thought by him to be later. It is possible that they are associated with the hillfort. See also 4738. (offprint in NP library, 320.2.21, plan also held by Park Management.)	Trial work is needed to elucidate date and function of these features.	Damaged	Earthwork
4732	Small hollow with spoil on western side.		Substantially intact	Earthwork

PRN	DESC	MAN RECS	Condition.	Site Form.
4733	Trackway defined by stone edging and by trees growing along edge.		Damaged	Earthwork
4734	Area of modern dumping and disturbance.		Substantially intact	Earthwork
4735	Rectangular structure defined by a low mound (9.0mL x 6.8mW max). The site is ill defined and very overgrown.		Substantial destruction	Structure
4736	Shallow oval hollow (6.0m x 4.0m), two large stones at base, spoil surrounding.		Damaged	Earthwork
4737	Rectangular hollow (5.8mL x 4.0mW x 1.5mD) spoil on north side.		Damaged	Earthwork
4738	Bank/lynchet to south-east of Gaer Fawr. Probably part of enclosure complex 4731 to west. Planned by Hogg and suggested by him to be later than hillfort. (Published plan in offprint in NP library 320.2.21. Plan also held by Park Management)	Trial work is needed to elucidate date and function of this feature.	Damaged	Earthwork
4739	Stone filled linear hollow, a natural feature.		Damaged	Landform

PRN	DESC	MAN RECS	Condition..	Site Form.
4740	Stone bank on south-east of Gaer Fawr, runs parallel to modern pathway.		Damaged	Earthwork
4741	Mounds outcrops and large stones. Natural features.		Substantially intact	Landform
4742	Area of outcropping bedrock (20mL), approximately 15m from dry-stone hill wall to north. Rock face (0.50mH) and spoil between wall and outcrop suggests quarrying.		Damaged	Earthwork
4743	Terraced trackway (1.0mW) defined on north/downslope side by low stoney bank (1.0mW x 0.30mH). A number of larger stones are apparrent along the lenght of the bank including an orthostat (0.75mH x 0.5m x 0.4m at base tapering towards the top). Track can be traced from within 10m of the drystone wall at the east end of the common, running upslope for some 40m before fading out. Stretches can be made out further upslope running up to and over the top of the scarp by the possible area of quarrying 4747. The track 4744 is presumably the lower leg of the same feature. It is probable that the track is associated with the quarrying 4747 and possible quarrying of the ramparts of Gaer Fawr.		Damaged	Earthwork
4744	Terraced trackway running downslope from dry-stone wall at east end of common, fades out at boggy area at base of low crags. Likely to be a continuation of 4743.		Damaged	Earthwork
4745	Well built stone causeway/revetted trackway (22.0mL x 1.5mW) constructed across a gulley at the base of north slope of common. Large stones at edge form revetment, smaller stone filling in behind form surface. May be part of 4743/4 though connecting section of track is not apparrent.		Substantially intact	Structure
4746	Large bank (c5.0mW) forming rectangular enclosure to the south end of which extends onto the common (30m x 20m max). Forms part of larger enclosure/field system on enclosed land. Large oak growing on west bank testifies to its antiquity.		Damaged	Earthwork

PRN	DESC	MAN RECS	Condition.	Site Form.
4747	Outcrop/scree slope with obvious areas of quarrying. Situated at east end of north annex rampart of Gaer Fawr. Trackway 4743/4 may be associated.		Damaged	Earthwork
4748	Constructed trackway (25mL x 2mW) running downslope from break in annex rampart and fading out after 25m. Coincides with steeper scarp slope and availability of stone from rampart.		Damaged	Earthwork
4749	Distinct oval mound (5.0mL x 3.50mW x 0.80mH) about 10m to north of northern rampart of Gaer Fawr. Hint of ditch around the base. Mound contains some stone which can be felt through the grass/bracken cover.		Substantially intact	Earthwork
4750	Long stone filled gulley probably a natural feature.		Damaged	Landform