

FINAL REPORT

Esgair Wen Earthworks

SN8097265719

SN8095465746

APRIL 2024

Contents

1. Introduction and summary of the archaeological survey	2
1. Cyflwyniad a chrynodeb o'r arolwg archeolegol	3
2. Location of Esgair Wen earthworks	4
3. Objectives of the Project design	6
4. Nature of the Archaeological Resource	6
5. General and specific research aims of the project	7
6. Methodology	8
7. Recording: survey and post-survey.	9
8. Results	10
9. Interpretation	21
10. Discussion/Conclusion	25
11. Index to Photographic Archive	27
12. Illustrations	30
13. Bibliography and Sources	37
14. Project identification	37
15. Appendix	38

1. Introduction and summary of the archaeological survey

1.1 Elan Valley Trust, through the HLF-funded Elan Links scheme, required archaeological intervention on a number of sites identified from previous surveys as heritage at risk. Timescape Archaeology provided a design brief for an archaeological survey at Esgair Wen earthworks (SN8097265719 and SN8095465746).

Two sites (NPRN522724 and NPRN522725) with banks and earthworks required undergrowth clearance in order to undertake the archaeological survey and improve mapping and subsequent interpretation of the site.

1.2 This work was part of Elan Links 4a: Safeguarding Elan's Historic Environment strand of the HLF project, which sought to ensure that key built heritage and ancient heritage sites are protected and to safeguard and maintain their condition into the future. It is also part of its commitment to community engagement and volunteering. As part of the HLF submission by Elan Valley Trust, a Heritage at Risk survey was undertaken by Trysor of over 3000 sites to assess what historic and archaeological sites were previously recorded in the Elan Links project area and what level of risk there was to each in order to inform a program of work in the HLF bid.

The Heritage at Risk Survey identified specific sites where a threat to the integrity of the monument was perceived to be at a significant level and that they required active management or archaeological intervention. These sites had also been previously examined as part of the 2009 Uplands Survey produced for the Royal Commission, with the recommendation of Trysor Archaeological Services, which undertook the survey to record them fully.

This is one piece of work from a contract that relates to the overseeing of remedial land management action to be taken at 7 archaeological sites, with addition, small-scale archaeological excavations to be undertaken at 3 archaeological sites, where the threat to the site is thought likely to lead to a loss of archaeological evidence within the short to medium term and a more urgent intervention is required. This is a piece of work that had not been delivered

during the main phase of the scheme, although the HLF funding had been approved and was in place. It was devised as a task-and-finish project to ensure there was not a significant underspend on Project 4a and that its planned outcomes had been met in the first quarter of 2024.

1. Cyflwyniad a chrynodeb o'r arolwg archeolegol

1.1 Roedd Ymddiriedolaeth Cwm Elan, trwy gynllun Elan Links a ariannwyd gan CDL, yn gofyn am ymyrraeth archeolegol ar nifer o safleoedd a nodwyd o arolygon blaenorol fel treftadaeth mewn perygl.

Darparodd Timescape Archaeology friff dylunio ar gyfer arolwg archeolegol ar gloddwaith Esgair Wen (SN8097265719 a SN8095465746).

Roedd angen clirio isdyfiant ar ddau safle (NPRN522724 ac NPRN522725) gyda chloddiau a chloddiau er mwyn cynnal yr arolwg archeolegol a gwella'r mapio a dehongli'r safle wedi hynny.

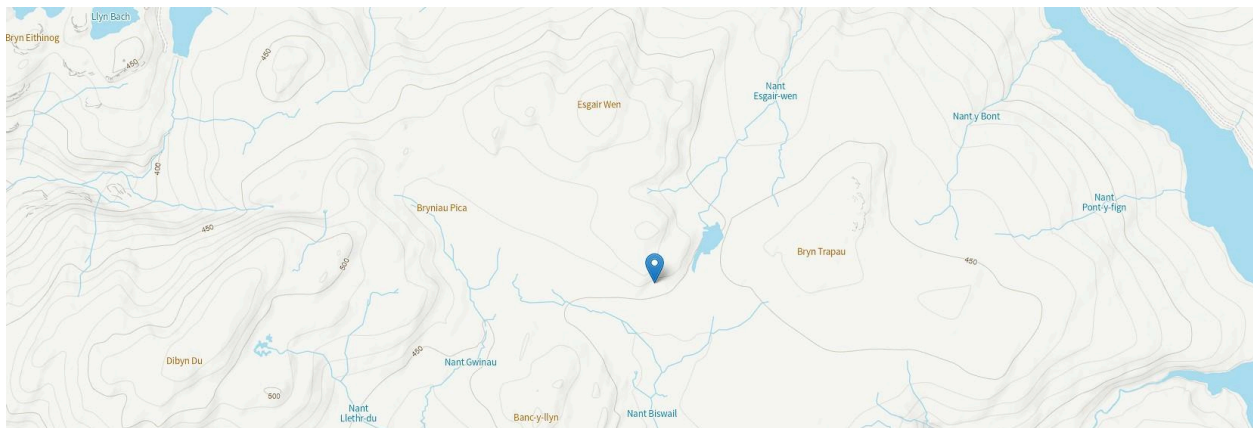
1.2 Roedd y gwaith hwn yn rhan o Elfen Elan Links 4a: Diogelu Amgylchedd Hanesyddol Elan o brosiect CDL, a oedd yn ceisio sicrhau bod safleoedd treftadaeth adeiledig allweddol a threftadaeth hynafol yn cael eu hamddiffyn ac i ddiogelu a chynnal eu cyflwr yn y dyfodol. Mae hefyd yn rhan o'i hymrwymiad i ymgysylltu â'r gymuned a gwirfoddoli. Fel rhan o gyflwyniad Cronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri gan Ymddiriedolaeth Cwm Elan, ymgwymerwyd ag arolwg Treftadaeth mewn Perygl gan Trysor o dros 3000 o safleoedd i asesu pa safleoedd hanesyddol ac archeolegol a gofnodwyd yn flaenorol yn ardal prosiect Elan Links a pha lefel o risg oedd i bob un o'r rhain. er mwyn llywio rhaglen waith yn y cais CDL.

Nododd yr Arolwg Treftadaeth mewn Perygl safleoedd penodol lle canfuwyd bod bygythiad i gyfanrwydd yr heneb ar lefel sylweddol a bod angen rheolaeth weithredol neu ymyrraeth archeolegol arnynt. Roedd y safleoedd hyn hefyd wedi cael eu harchwilio'n flaenorol fel rhan o Arolwg Ucheldir 2009 a gynhyrchwyd ar gyfer y Comisiwn Brenhinol, gydag argymhelliad Gwasanaethau Archaeolegol Trysor, a gynhaliodd yr arolwg i'w cofnodi'n llawn.

Mae hwn yn un darn o waith o contract sy'n ymwneud â goruchwyllo camau rheoli tir adferol i'w cymryd mewn 7 safle archeolegol, ynghyd â gwaith cloddio archeolegol ar raddfa fach i'w wneud mewn 3 safle archeolegol, lle mae'r bygythiad i'r safle. yn debygol o arwain at golli tystiolaeth archeolegol yn y tymor byr i ganolig ac mae angen ymyriad mwy brys. Mae hwn yn ddarn o waith nad oedd wedi'i gyflawni yn ystod prif gam y cynllun, er bod cyllid CDL wedi'i gymeradwyo a'i fod yn ei le. Fe'i dyfeisiwyd fel prosiect gorchwyl a gorffen i sicrhau nad oedd tanwariant sylweddol ar Brosiect 4a a bod ei ddeilliannau arfaethedig wedi'u cyflawni yn chwarter cyntaf 2024.

2. Location of Esgair Wen earthworks

The site lies at around 448 metres above sea level, some 2.4 km west of Claerwen reservoir, approximately 1.25km south of Monks Trod (NPRN 23712) on a southern hillside slope of Esgair Wen.



Map 1. Location of Esgair Wen earthworks

The site lies within the Elenydd Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), an extensive SSSI covering 22,770 hectares. This SSSI is described in its citation as “the most important areas of

hill land in Wales for nature conservation.¹ It is of outstanding interest for its range of breeding birds in upland and woodland. Much of the hill vegetation is also of special interest.” (NRW, accessed 12/03/2024). It also lies within the Elenydd Mallaen Special Protection Area, which is described as an “extensive site that includes heath and blanket mire-dominated uplands (rising to about 460 m) and is intersected by valleys containing woodlands and grasslands. It is one of the most important areas of hill land for nature conservation in Wales. Craggs are frequent throughout the site. The site is especially important for a number of breeding raptors, some are residents throughout the year. The diversity and quality of upland habitats provide an abundance of suitable feeding and nesting sites.”²

The site lies on the Rhuddnant Grits Formation - Sandstone and mudstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 438.5 and 433.4 million years ago during the Silurian period.³ There are also superficial deposits of peat. Sedimentary superficial deposits formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

The soil is very acidic, loamy upland soil with a wet peaty surface. (Soilscape 16) with a habitat of Grass moor and heather moor with flush and bog communities in wetter parts, Gipping or overgrazing, particularly in winter, can lead to accelerated erosion.⁴

¹ <https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0012928>

² <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/SPA-N2K/UK9014111.pdf>

³ https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/?_ga=2.70655632.1232372619.1671106225-1747359675.1671106225

⁴ <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/>



Figure1 Aerial image of the area, looking north. The site is located in the centre of the image.

3. Objectives of the Project design

The objective of the archaeological survey work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA, 2014b) and was used to formulate the design.

These were produced in response to the requirements of the Elan Valley Trust's contract to undertake work to manage vegetation and survey a number of sites deemed at risk in their Heritage at Risk Register.

4. Nature of the Archaeological Resource

The site consists of an earthwork feature (1) consisting of a curved bank forming its southwestern side and a cut into the slope forming its northeast side. Its internal detail is hidden by the thick reed cover.

The second earthwork feature (2) at this location, possibly an enclosure, is obscured by thick reed growth when viewed on the ground. On aerial photographs, it appears to be an irregular pentagon in shape, measuring up to 33 metres north-northeast to south-southwest by 28 metres wide. It is defined by an earth bank.

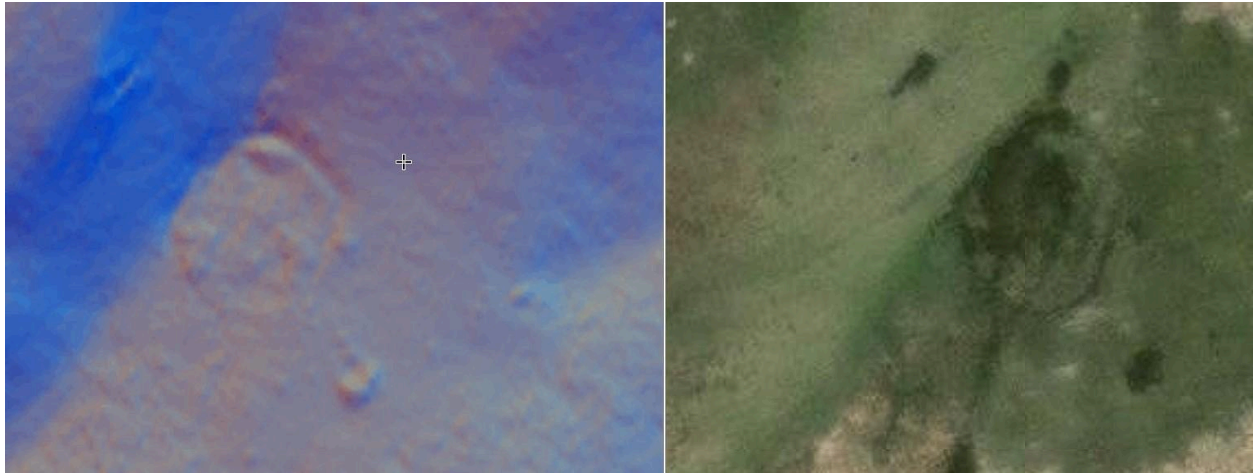


Figure 3: 1m Lidar (left) and aerial photography (right) can help identify potential features.

5. General and specific research aims of the project

The work aligns with the Welsh Assembly Government's ambition for the new Sustainable Farming Scheme to include active management as part of the universal tier. We believe that basic maintenance of historic features is something that a landowner or farmer can do as part of their responsibilities for the universal baseline payment, and with EVT carrying out this work, they are establishing a precedent that could support future applications for SFS.

There is a research agenda on deserted rural settlements, and this site may have useful data for future interpretation to answer the research framework's questions. For example, What was the economy of mediaeval and post-medieval farms in the uplands, and to what extent did climatic and other environmental changes contribute to farm abandonment and changes in agricultural regime? ⁵

Such sites have previously been part of a Cadw grant-aided scoping study of mediaeval and post-medieval sites and landscapes⁶, part of a pan-Wales project (undertaken by all four Welsh

⁵ <https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/pdf/review2017/palaeoenvreview2017.pdf>

⁶ Davis, O., 2010, Medieval and Post-Medieval Sites and Landscapes: Scoping Report, unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Report no. 2011/52

Archaeological Trusts). The aim of this study was to identify all mediaeval and post-medieval sites recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) that have not been the subject of a previous threat-related assessment and to categorise them by site type.

The Research Framework for Wales⁷ (currently under review) identifies upland settlements and house platforms as a 'gap'. This work could address the following research questions:

- The nature of the functioning agricultural landscape
- The nature and development of structures
- Location and development of granges, in particular the buildings, but also the nature of field systems and agricultural development
- Rural industries, particularly those on dispersed farmsteads or estates

6. Methodology

Bracken and other invasive species cover parts of the area. Bracken roots can damage archaeological features. The area is hidden in rushes to a considerable extent, and the archaeological record is confused.

- Targeted removal of bracken and rushes from archaeological features.
- Resurvey.

All of the undergrowth was cut across earthwork 1 and selective cutting on an area of bank and across the ditch was made on earthwork 2 with a 1 m strip across the interior.

⁷ <https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/pdf/review2017/medreview2017.pdf>

Vegetation management

- A management specification was agreed upon with the relevant parties, including recording the condition of the site prior to work commencing. This includes a record of the vegetation cover.
- Ensure a walk-over survey of all sites to ensure that they are clear of nesting birds as per National Resources Wales protocol (previous training provided as part of Elanlinks staff team building 2023).
- Deliver the vegetation clearance work on site with (2) hand-held petrol strimmers with fixed blades and running with bio-oil as part of the fuel mix.
- Complete this element of the work before the end of April 2024.
- All access will be on foot
- Only hand tools will be used after April 1st.
- All tools must be cleaned before accessing site
- If there are any signs of birds nesting or rising on site, all work at that site will cease
- If any stones or turf are removed and replaced, then these should be carefully set aside and then re-laid as lifted.

Similar to the requirements from the Sustainable Farming Scheme, providing geo-tagged digital photographs should be enough to allow Elan Valley Trust and specialists to assess quickly whether activities such as scrub clearance have been undertaken satisfactorily and respond to any concerns.⁸

7. Recording: survey and post-survey.

Initial recording will be a rapid capture using a digital camera atop a camera pole at 2m, 5 m, and 7 m heights, with top-down plan shots recorded of all features. These are georeferenced and used to produce the site plans. Therefore, they will include scale rules and geolocation markers to allow a photo-geometric model to be produced for the post-survey.

⁸<https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIIfA%20response%20to%20consultation%20on%20the%20Sustainable%20Farming%20Scheme.pdf>

Colour digital photographs will be taken, as appropriate, using a 14-megapixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken. Appropriate photographic scales will be used. The photographs will be archived with a full catalogue showing the location of the photographs and the direction taken. Photographs will be archived in TIF format.

8. Results

Online mapping was used to establish the context of the site's location, which included topographical data and 1m Lidar imaging.⁹

The earthworks were covered in an area of *Juncus effusus* (common rush),¹⁰ *Juncus effusus* is an obligate wetland species. The species grows in a wide range of freshwater wetland habitats, including marshes, swamps, wet pastures, and ditches, primarily where water stands for only part of the year.¹¹ Its presence in ditches is of particular interest, as they do delineate some of the ditching across the earthwork features. It can grow to elevations of up to 2500 m. Physical control of *J. effusus* is difficult. Repeated mowing has been used effectively in the UK. If mowing is conducted twice a year, then biomass can be reduced by 98%.¹²

⁹

https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=18.7&lat=52.27672&lon=-3.74737&layers=LIDAR_DTM_1m&right=ESRIWorld

¹⁰ <https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/full/10.1079/cabicompendium.29068#REF-DDB-172842>

¹¹ Adamson RS, 1935. A revision of the South African species of *Juncus*. Journal of the Linnean Society of London, Botany, 50(333):1-38.

¹² Rana N, Sellers BA, 2009. Soft rush *Juncus effusus* control in Florida pastures. Weed Technology, 23(2):321-323.

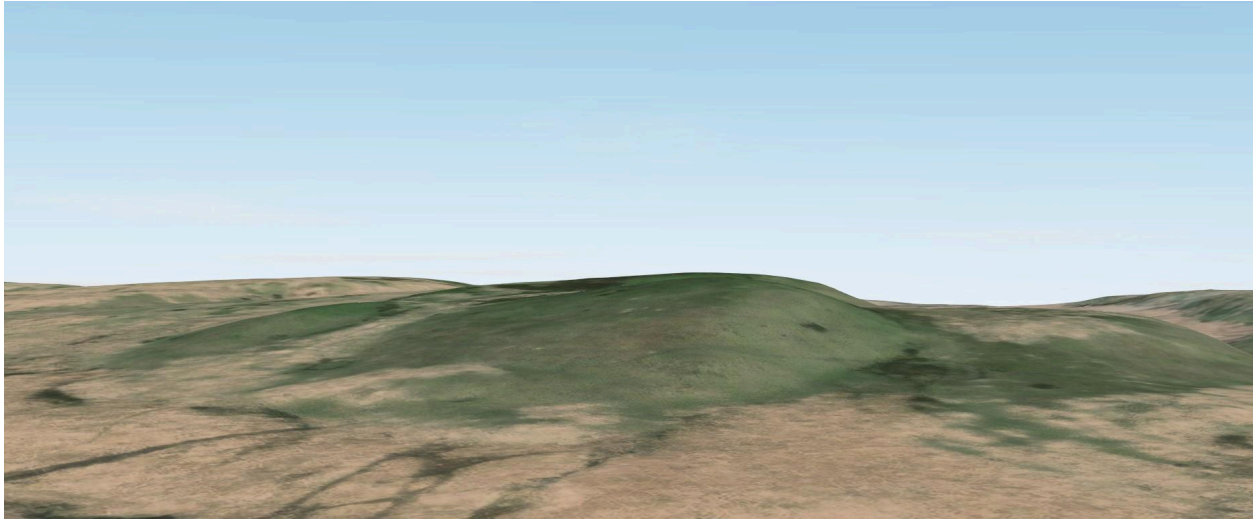


Figure 4: Two 3D isometric views of the landscape (viewed from the south) show the hillslope that shelters the site on its northern and western sides.





Figure 5, taken from the lower slopes of the hillside to the northwest of the earthworks, shows the distribution of the rushes across the site.

Also present are large encroaching areas of *Molinia caerulea*, known by the common name purple moorgrass. ¹³This moist, often tussocky (long and thick) grassland is found on flat or gently sloping land on peaty mineral soils in areas with higher rainfall. Its tussocks make it difficult to discern earthwork features and can even be misinterpreted as such via Lidar imaging. As they attract mosses to grow in these clumps, the 'solid' masses give a false positive in Lidar.

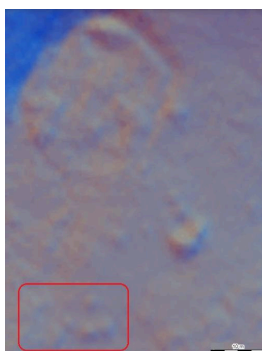


Figure 6: Vegetation Growth of Molinia-Producing Lidar Features. (highlighted in red)

¹³ Cope, Tom; Gray, Alan (2009). *Grasses of the British Isles*. London: Botanical Society of the British Isles.



Figure 7 the molinia and mosses that produced the lidar response.



Figure 8: Rushes and purple moor grass make the site impossible to interpret during the summer, when the growth completely submerges the faint earthworks beneath.

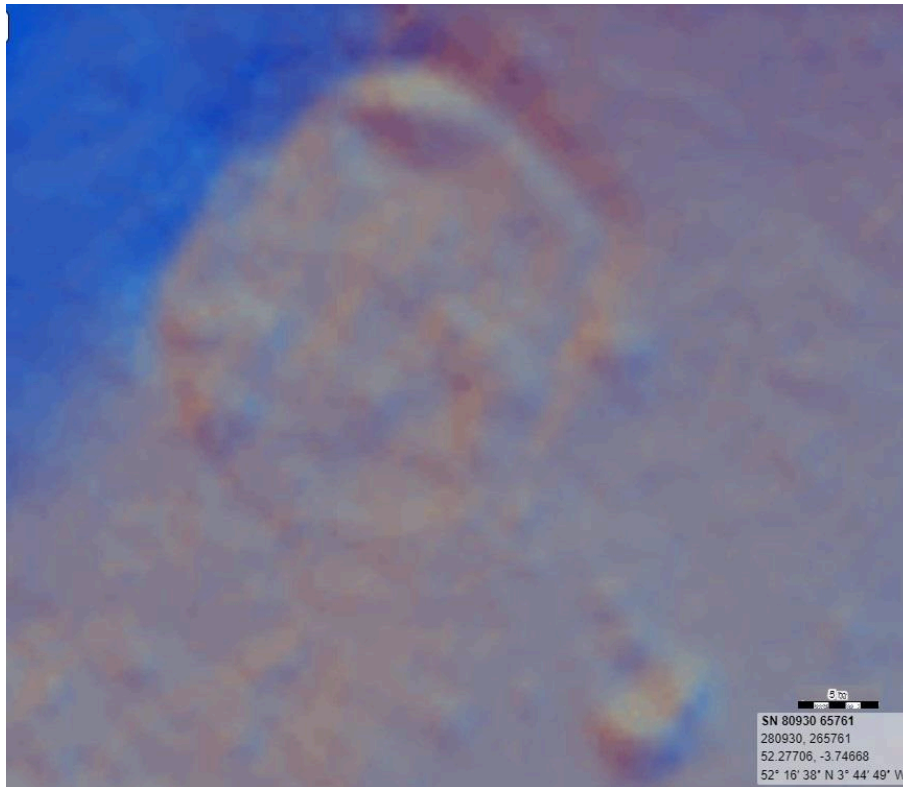


Figure 9 Lidar image at 1 m resolution clearly defines the ditches and banks

Earthwork 1 (TSAEVT03.24)



Figure 10: Earthwork 1 was defined by the rushes that obscured any earthworks, seen here before cutting (above) and after (below)



The middle part of this circular feature was particularly wet and retained water within a hollow, there was no discernible solid ground surface beneath as the ranging rods measured at least 40cm of soil.



Figure 11: viewed from the east, the circular depression of earthwork 1 with slight banks to the north and south.

The depression was 3.5 meters in diameter, and the southern earthwork measured 6.6 metres across and 2.7 metres wide.

See Section 12, Plan 1, for details.

Earthwork 2 TSAEVT03.24.1



Figure 12: earthwork 2 looking to the south west

The irregular earthwork measured up to 33 metres north-northeast to south-southwest by 28 metres wide; see Plan 2 for details of areas trimmed.



Figure 13: eastern ditch section after strimming



*Figure 14: section of strimmed vegetation across the earthworks from southeast to northwest.
(also see plan 2)*



Figure 15: platforms looking from the south west



Figure 16 Internal earth bank within the boundary bank and ditch from the south west.

There are two platforms on the eastern side of the enclosure, which in turn is divided by two parallel ditches that run south west to north east along its longest axis.

A small internal earth bank also protrudes across the south western end of the enclosure.

9. Interpretation

Earthwork1

This circular depression could be associated with the enclosure (earthwork 2) and would serve as a watering point for livestock if it held water. Excavation would be required to ascertain if there was any form of clay lining to allow it to function as such.

There is a suggestion that this feature could be the result of artillery training carried out during military exercises during the early twentieth century; however, the associated earth bank around its edge appears to be in two parts, and an explosion would be more uniform.

Such pits have also been recorded as below ground vegetable stores or 'potatoe clamps' and would date the site as post medieval.

If the enclosure was designed to pen livestock, then some way to water them would be required close by.

Comparable to this site, there is one in the north that shares the same name and has a similar arrangement of banks and external ditches, with added linear earthwork. Notably, it also has pits outside the enclosure, described as possible springs.

NPRN: 408448¹⁴ **Map Reference:** SN86NW

Community Ystrad Fflur

Type Of Site RURAL SETTLEMENT

Period: Post-Medieval

Description

Earthworks of an unusual pair of enclosures, surviving on a knoll of higher ground just to the south of the line of the Monk's Trod (NPRN 23712). The earthworks comprise two squared embanked enclosures, c.20m apart, linked by a curving line of bank. Nearby to the east and north are two circular depressions, possibly springs or pits. The whole measures c.53m east-west by 17m north-south. It probably represents an upland settlement or a pair of enclosures for stock management. Discovered during RCAHMW aerial reconnaissance on 20th December 2007.¹⁵

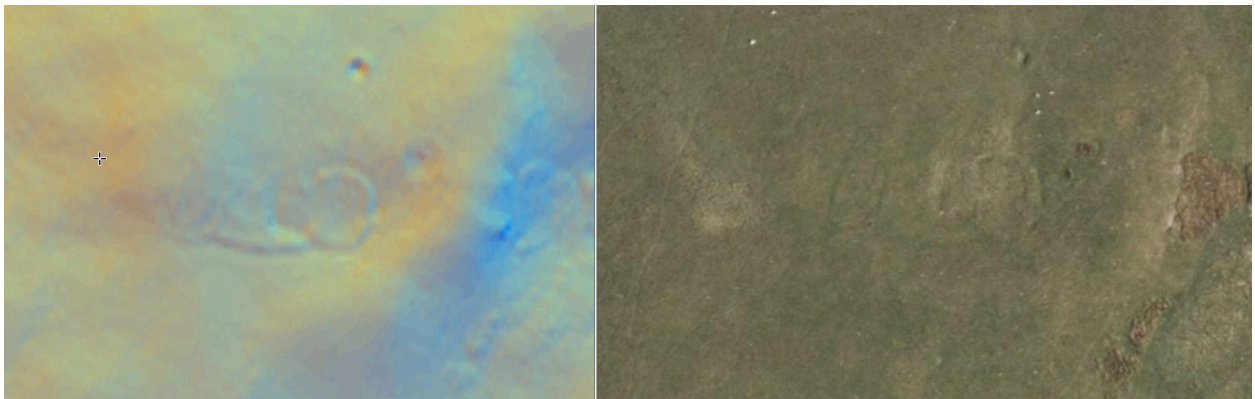


Figure 17: Lidar and aerial imaging of a nearby and similar site NPRN 408448

¹⁴ <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/408448>

¹⁵ T. Driver, RCAHMW, 7th November 2008.

Earthwork 2

It would appear as a ditched enclosure with an earthbank and two platforms that could be used to support a building or stack yard. The internal ditches suggest that the site was wet during its use and the interior of the enclosure required draining or that it shed water away from the platforms, although the latter do not appear to be ditched. There is a division within the enclosure formed by a short section of bank on the south-western edge of the bank, approximately 4m long.

A circular or sub-circular platform is more likely to be prehistoric, probably Bronze Age or Iron Age, or perhaps even later, and to have formed the base for a hutcircle. Long known within hillforts, these are increasingly being recognised in unenclosed locations in the hills throughout Wales. Allied to these circular platforms are scoops of sub-circular and semicircular form.

It is tempting to place this site in the landscape of the granges of the nearby Strata Florida Cistercian abbey, which has a medieval origin.

Although some earthwork enclosures are supported by platforms, many long huts have different types of locations compared to the grassy platforms, often on level ground and close to streams in sheltered valleys. These have been linked to the practice of transhumance, or the seasonal movement of stock from the home farm (*hendre*) to the upland station (*hafod*), a function that some of the platforms may also have served. Stock was sent to the upland pasture between May-day and Michaelmas to keep them away from growing crops. Here they were tended to, milked and dairy products made in the *hafodydd* (summer house) and *lluestau* (huts).

Indeed, 13th-century references in the Welsh Laws imply that the *hafod* was then of light construction.¹⁶ A rectangular platform set at right angles to the contour and with material built up at the front almost certainly formed the stance for a house or farm building of medieval or early post-medieval date.

¹⁶ THE WELSH HOUSE: A Study in Folk Culture. By Iorwerth C. Peate. London 1940

From the late seventeenth century through the nineteenth century, increasing numbers of the rural poor attempted to generate a living for themselves by moving on to the commons and wastes. Building small, flimsy structures, known as tai unnos, or one-night houses, they enclosed small plots of land around them. Thus, a post-medieval date could also be assumed.

135 metres to the west is another earthwork that has been recorded (NPRN 522723) as a sheep fold. Between the 2 sites, there appears to be another similar earthwork that is only visible on Lidar

NPRN 522723¹⁷ **Map Reference:** SN86NW **Grid Reference:** SN8082265756

Unitary (Local) Authority Ceredigion **Community** Ystrad Fflur

Type Of Site: SHEEP FOLD

Period Post Medieval

Description

An earthwork sheep fold, which measures about 13 metres square and is terraced into the slope on three sides, has a low, broad bank along its south-southwestern side, measuring 2 metres wide by 0.20 metres high. A deep drainage gully, 0.75 metres deep by 2 metres wide, runs across its north-northeastern end. (J.J. Hall, Trysor, 7 March 2012)

¹⁷ <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/522723>

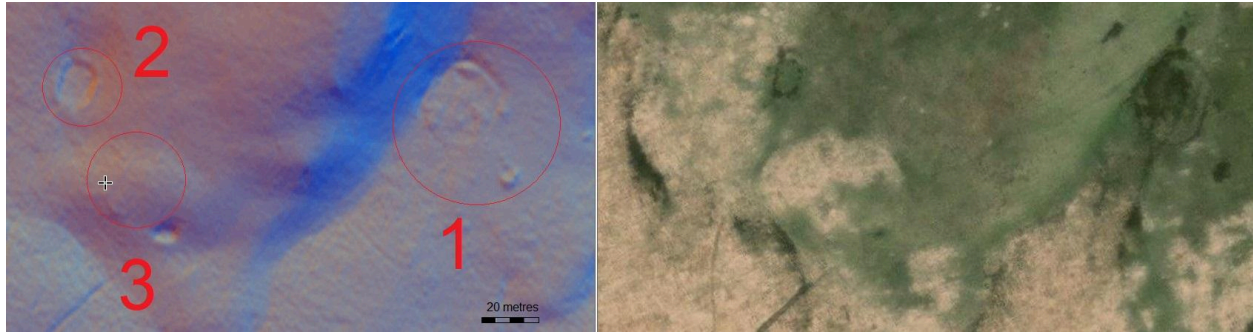


Figure 18: 1 Esgair wen earthworks, 2 sheep folds, and 3 unrecorded earthworks are only visible on Lidar.

10. Discussion/Conclusion

Therefore, considering its interpretation, it can be seen that the topographical description of the form of the earthworks at Esgair Wen could sit between prehistoric, iron age, and early medieval/medieval periods through to the post-medieval.

Excavation of datable material could answer this question, although it is a difficult task at these often materially poor or even sterile upland settlement sites where there is often a complete absence of finds.

Modelling the site in 3D has led to a suggested internal layout that would enable the handling of livestock, particularly sheep, utilising the parallel internal ditches to form a “sheep race.”

The Cistercian Abbey of Strata Florida, created across Cwmystwyth large monastic Grange's, established in 1164 by the Lord Rhys, included common grazing rights over the whole highland area of the country, with a strong focus on pastoral farming. In 1212, the abbey was granted a special license to export wool by King John, emphasising the importance of sheep to the abbey's estates.

Undoubtedly, the Cwmystwyth Grange specialised in sheep rearing, an agricultural practice that has been carried on uninterruptedly to this day.

A well-known proverb in the agricultural community is that "*a man raised on sheep's milk is twice the man as one raised on cows' milk.*"

This serves as a reminder that historically, dairying in these hills involved both milking sheep and cows.

The site sits in a remote wetland location adjacent to an area of blanket bog. It would appear to have few, if any, threats (other than the encroachment of the *Molinia* grasses and the rushes) from current agricultural practice and is away from known off-road vehicle routes. Peat restoration is the only possible landscape change that could impact the site, although its recording should now mitigate this in future planning of such projects.

The site should be monitored, and vegetation should continue to be cut, although it could be viewed as part of a group of other similar sites for context when making such decisions.

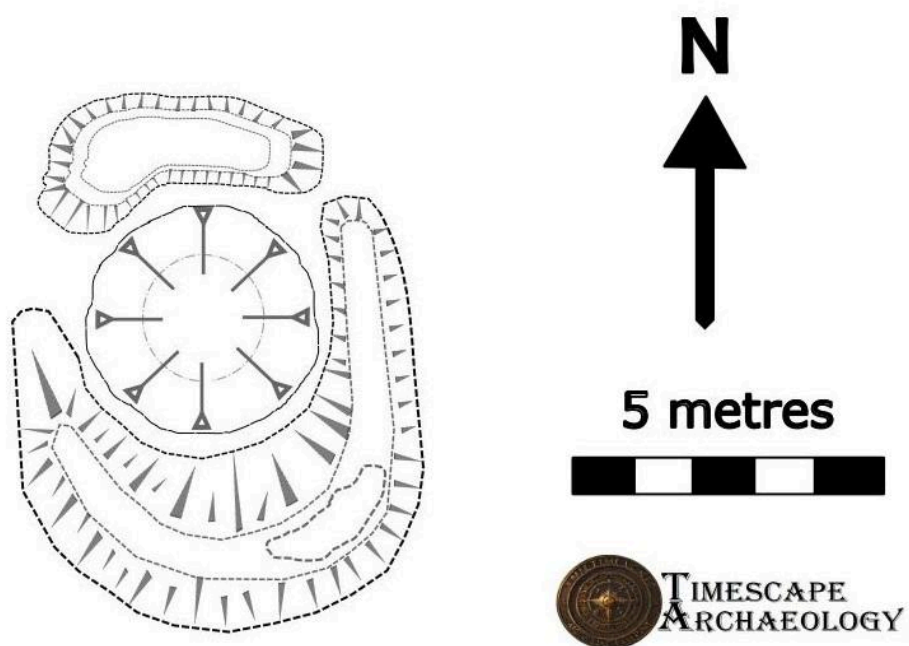
11. Index to Photographic Archive

SITE NAME	ESGAIR WEN EARTHWORKS 1			
TSA	TSAEVT03.24			
NPR	522725			
ELHAR ID NUMBER	1449			
NGR	SN8095465746			
PHOTO ID NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DATE OF IMAGE	FORMAT	TAKEN BY
DSC_0014	general landscape view looking from the north	18/03/2024	RAW	GB
DSC_0041	earthworks 1 taken from NW showing rushes obscuring the earthworks	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0035	area of rushes after strimming showed no discernible earthworks or features	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0046	clearing the rushes with a strimmer	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0049	earthworks 1 taken from NW after strimming	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0053	earthworks 1 taken from the S	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0058	earthworks 1 taken from the N	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB

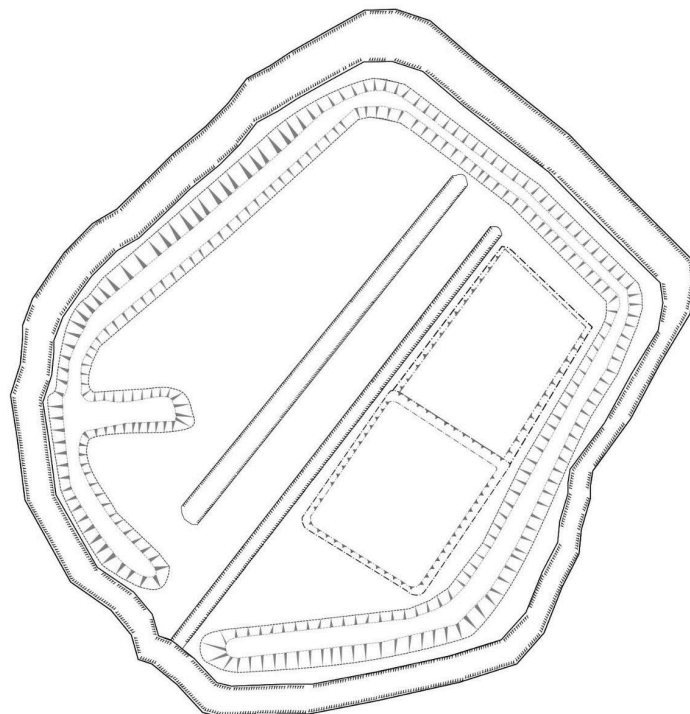
SITE NAME	ESGAIR WEN EARTHWORKS 2			
TSA	TSAEVT03.24.1			
NPR	522724			
ELHAR ID NUMBER	1475			
NGR	SN8097265719			
PHOTO ID NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DATE OF IMAGE	FORMA T	TAKEN BY
DSC_0018	general view of earthworks 2 taken from the NW hillside	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0022	NW hillside exposed bedrock	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0023	view to the SE of southern area of rushes outside of earthworks 2	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0032	moraine grass forming tussocks across the site	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0062	SE external ditch of earthworks 2	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0054	view from SE edge of eathworks towards the interior after strimming	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0063	section of external ditch on south eastern edge of earthworks	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0066	looking along the strimmed section from the north west edge of the enclosure	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0067	north west edge of enclosure with section of external ditch	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0069	looking north east along the two platforms inside the enclosure (south eastern edge)	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB

DSC_0071	viewed from south west end of enclosure, internal ditches	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0078	internal bank running north west to south east	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB
DSC_0081	closeup of internal earth bank taken from the south west	18/03/2024	JPG and RAW	GB

12. Illustrations



Plan 1:: Earthwork 1

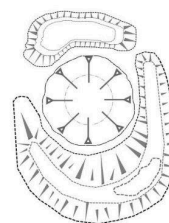


5 metres

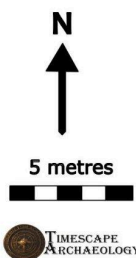
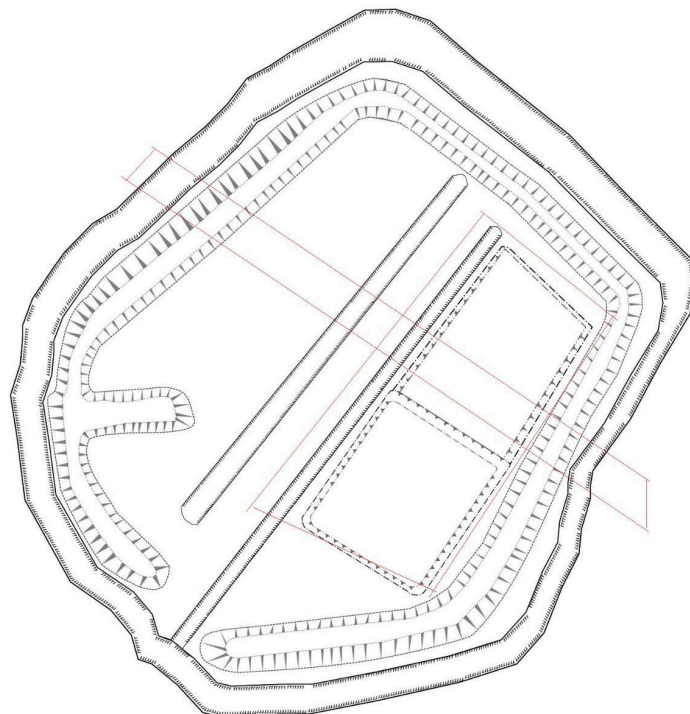


ESGAIR WEN EARTHWORKS

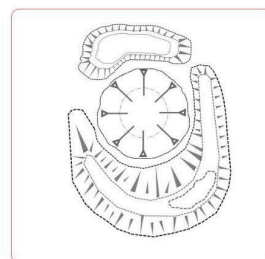
TSAEVT3.24



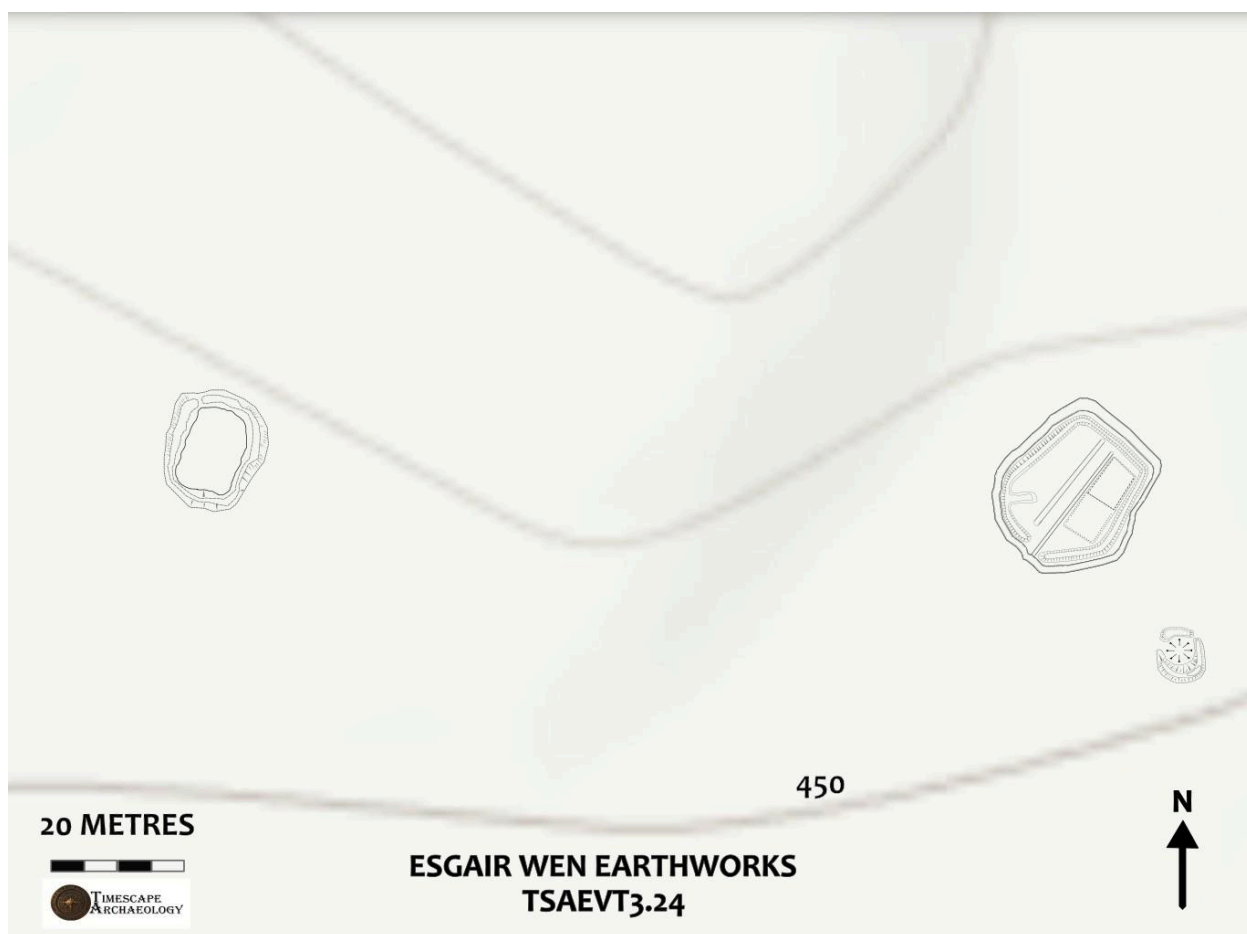
Plan 2: Earthwork 2



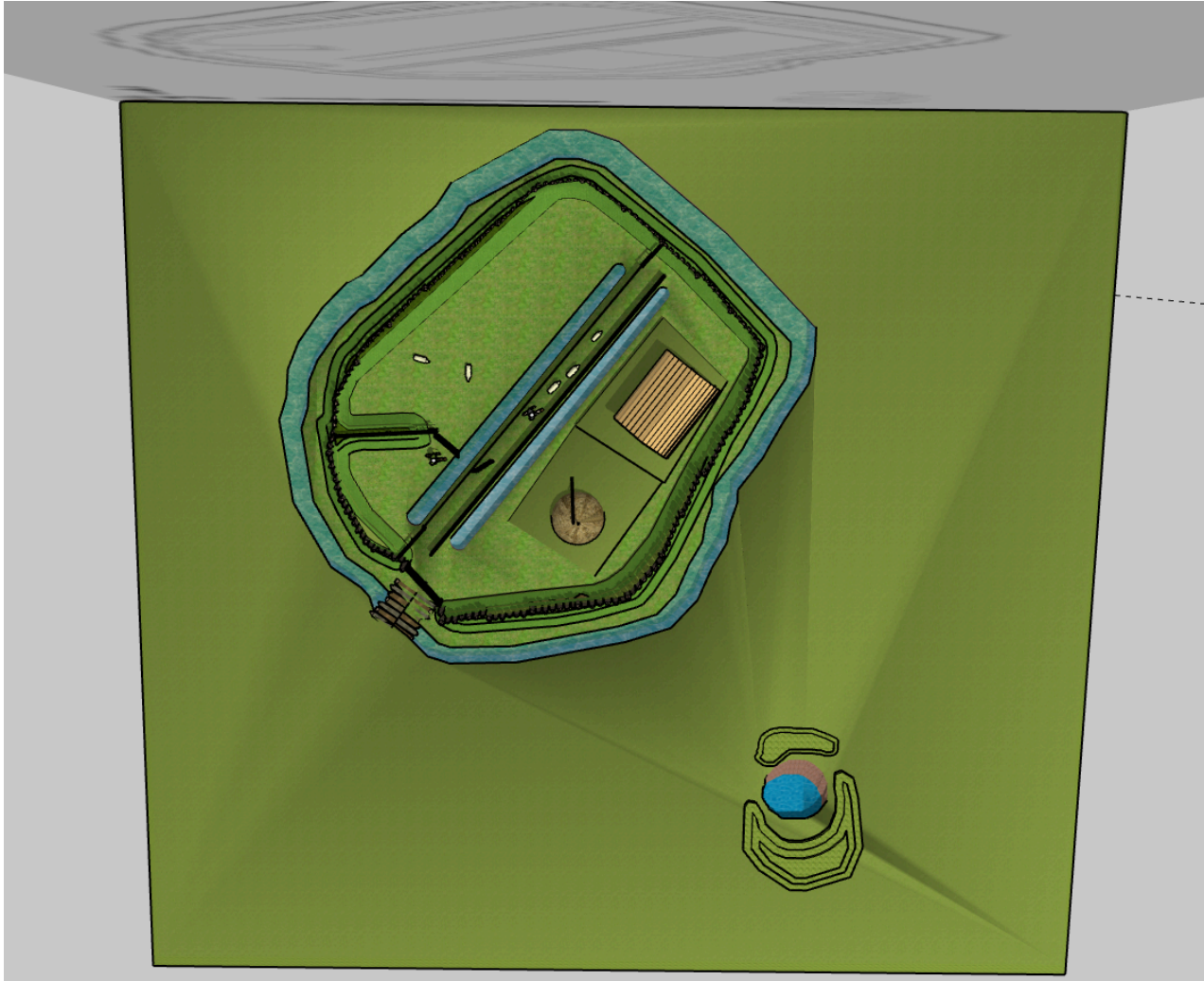
ESGAIR WEN EARTHWORKS
TSAEVT3.24



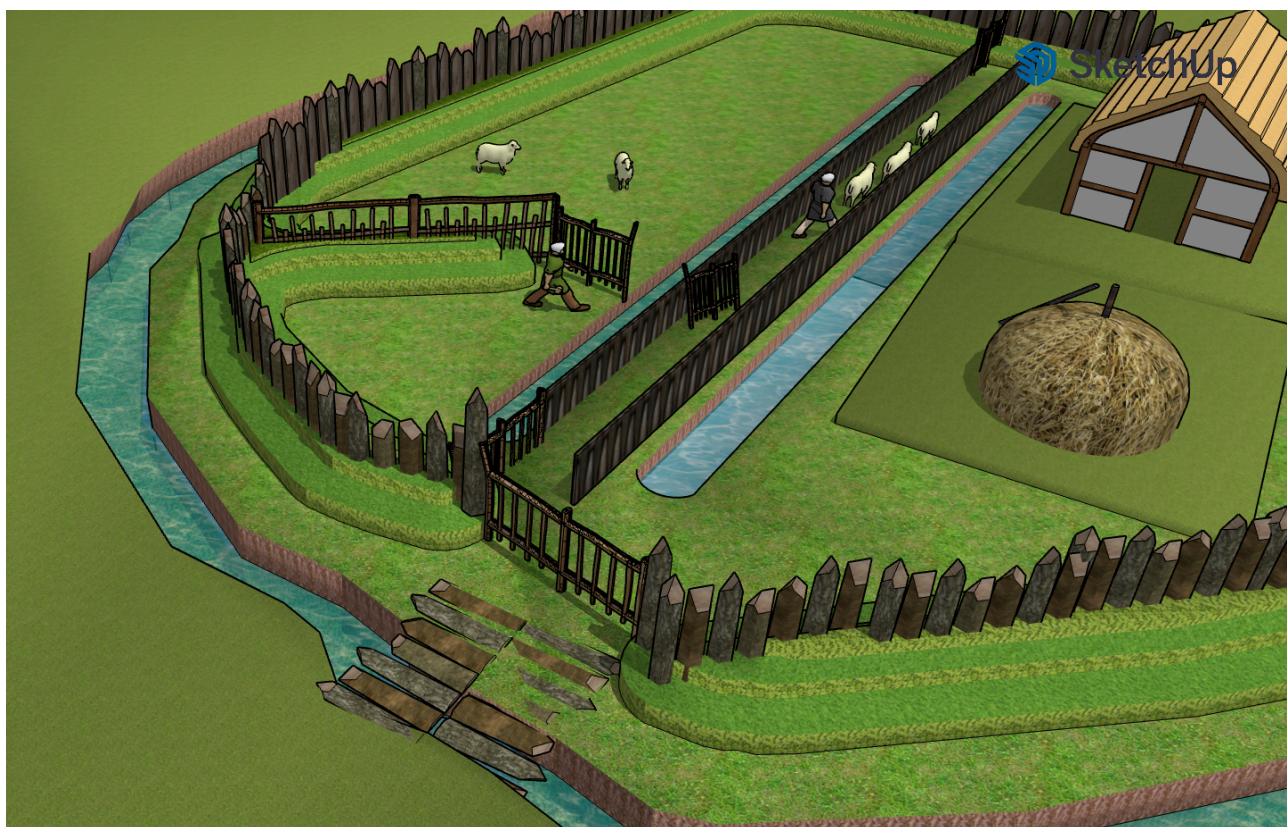
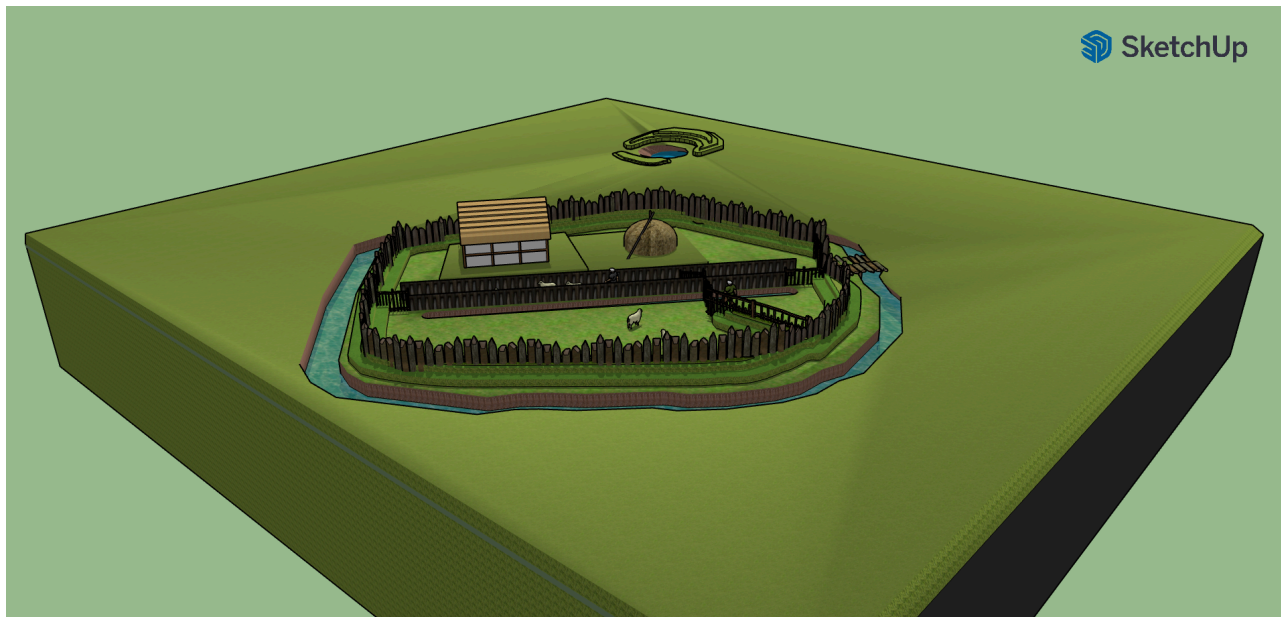
Plan 3: Areas of vegetation cut

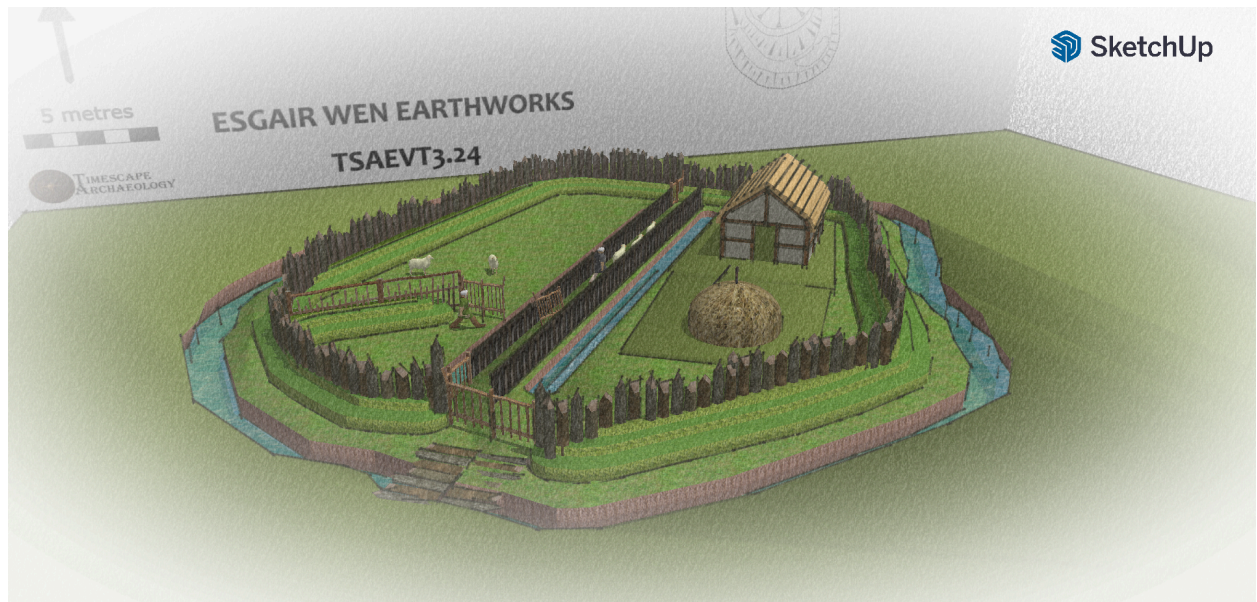


Plan 4: relationship to adjacent earthworks (NPRN 522723)



Illustrations : 3D sketch-up model of earthworks 2 for interpretation and discussion





13. Bibliography and Sources

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Austin, David, 2022, STRATA FLORIDA:THE HISTORY AND LANDSCAPE OF A WELSH MONASTERY, Strata Florida Books Vol. 2, Strata Florida Trust.

14. Project identification

The project has been designated as TSAEVT03.24 (PRN 115748)

and TSAEVT03.24.1 (PRN 116273) to reflect the 2 separate features as previously recorded on the HER and in Colfein.

15. Appendix

Esgair Wen I

Primary Reference Number (PRN) : 116273

Trust : Dyfed

Community : Ystrad Fflur

Unitary authority : Ceredigion

NGR : SN8097265719

Site Type (preferred type first) : UNKNOWN EARTHWORK

Summary :

An earthwork feature consisting of a curved bank forming its southwestern side, and a cut into the slope forming its northeast side. Its internal detail is hidden by thick reed cover. JS from Trysor 2018

Esgair Wen II

Primary Reference Number (PRN) : 115748

Trust : Dyfed

Community : Ystrad Fflur

Unitary authority : Ceredigion

NGR : SN8095465746

Site Type (preferred type first) : UNKNOWN EARTHWORK

Summary :

There appears to be an earthwork feature at this location, possibly an enclosure, but it is obscured by thick reed growth when viewed on the ground. On aerial photographs, it appears to be an irregular pentagon in shape, measuring up to 33 metres north-northeast to south-southwest by 28 metres wide. It is defined by an earth bank. It may be a medieval fold. JS from Trysor 2018

ELAN LINKS - HERITAGE AT RISK ASSESSMENT

ELHAR ID Number: 1475

ESGAIR WEN, EARTHWORK I

Unknown

EARTHWORK

NGR: SN8097265719 - Feature Centred

Community: Ystrad Fflur

NPRN: 522724

PRN:

Site Status: No Site Status

Description:

An earthwork feature consisting of a curved bank forming its southwestern side, and a cut into the slope forming its northeast side. It internal detail is hidden by thick reed cover.

Form of Evidence: Earthwork

Condition: Near Intact

Current land use: Rough Pasture

Confidence in Record?: High

Verified in the field.

Evidential Value: Earthwork

Group Value: Associated with earthworks NPRN 522725 and 522723.

Historical Value: None

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: None

Setting: Situated at the base of two rounded hillocks, to the west and northeast, which provide some shelter, but facing southwards across a large expanse of flat, boggy ground.

Accessibility: Remote area

Rarity: Not Common

Significance: Unknown

Known Threat?: Yes

Level of Threat: Moderate

Type of Threat: Vegetation

Thick reed growth is obscuring and damaging this earthwork feature.

Management Recommendation:

Remove reeds.

ELAN LINKS - HERITAGE AT RISK ASSESSMENT

ELHAR ID Number: 1449

ESGAIR WEN, EARTHWORK II

Unknown

EARTHWORK

NGR: SN8095465746 - Feature Centred

Community: Ystrad Fflur

NPRN: 522725

PRN:

Site Status: No Site Status

Description:

There appears to be an earthwork feature at this location, possible an enclosure, but it is obscured by thick reed growth when viewed on the ground. On aerial photographs, it appears to be an irregular pentagon in shape, measuring up to 33 metres north-northeast to south-southwest by 28 metres wide. It is defined by an earth bank. It may be a medieval fold.

Form of Evidence: Earthwork

Condition: Near Intact

Current land use: Rough Pasture

Confidence in Record?: High

Verified in the field.

Evidential Value: Earthwork

Group Value: Associated with earthworks NPRN 522724 and 522723.

Historical Value: None

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: None

Setting: Situated at the base of two rounded hillocks, to the west and northeast, which provide some shelter, but facing southwards across a large expanse of flat, boggy ground.

Accessibility: Fairly remote area

Rarity: Not Common

Significance: Unknown

Known Threat?: Yes

Level of Threat: Moderate

Type of Threat: Vegetation

Thick reed growth is obscuring and damaging this earthwork feature.

Management Recommendation:

Remove reeds.