

Setting of Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments Penybanc, Pembrokeshire



Report by: Trysor

For: Ynni Ltd

June 2014



Setting of Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Penybanc, Pembrokeshire

By

Jenny Hall, MIfA & Paul Sambrook, MIfA
Trysor

Trysor Project No. 2014/376

For: Ynni Ltd

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38, New Road
Gwaun-cae-Gurwen
Ammanford
Carmarthenshire
SA18 1UN
www.trysor.net
enquiries@trysor.net



trysor



Cover photograph: The Clyn-Ffwrn stone, PE132, looking east.

Setting of Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments at Penybanc, Pembrokeshire Historic Environment Appraisal

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD - REPORT NUMBER: Trysor 2014/376

DYDDIAD 9^{fed} Mehefin 2014

DATE 9th June 2014

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan bartneriad Trysor. Mae wedi ei gael yn gywir ac yn derbyn ein sêl bendith.

This report was prepared by the Trysor partners. It has been checked and received our approval.

JENNY HALL MifA

Jenny Hall

PAUL SAMBROOK MifA

Paul Sambrook

Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.

We welcome any comments on the content or structure of this report.

38, New Road,
Gwaun-cae-Gurwen
Ammanford
Carmarthenshire
SA18 1UN
01269 826397

Treclyn
Eglwyswrw
Crymych
Pembrokeshire
SA41 3SU
01239 891470

www.trysor.net

enquiries@trysor.net

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Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MIfA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs prior to becoming the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust for 10 years. She has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desk-based appraisals and assessments, and watching briefs.

Paul Sambrook (BA Joint Hons., Archaeology and Welsh, MIfA, PGCE) has extensive experience as a fieldworker in Wales. He was involved with Cadw's pan-Wales Deserted Rural Settlements Project for 7 years. He also undertook Tir Gofal field survey work and watching briefs. He has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work including upland survey, desk-based appraisals/assessments, and watching briefs.

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1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared by Trysor at the request of Jon Watson-Miller of Penybanc, Castle Morris, Letterston, Pembrokeshire.

1.2 Separate applications for planning permission were submitted for two wind turbines at Penybanc and both were refused by Pembrokeshire County Council, planning applications 12/1100/PA and 12/1096/PA.

1.3 Amongst the reasons for refusal of both planning applications was the possible impact on the setting of two Scheduled Ancient Monuments near Penybanc, namely the Penlan Mabws Uchaf Chambered Tomb (PE131) and the Clyn-ffwrn Chambered Tomb (PE132). The term “burial chamber” is used in preference to “Chambered Tomb” in the body of this report as it is the term used by Cadw for scheduling purposes.

1.4 The purpose of this report is to explore the question of the setting of two Scheduled Ancient Monuments and possible impacts upon their settings from the proposed wind turbines. There is no direct impact, or indirect physical impact, on the monuments.

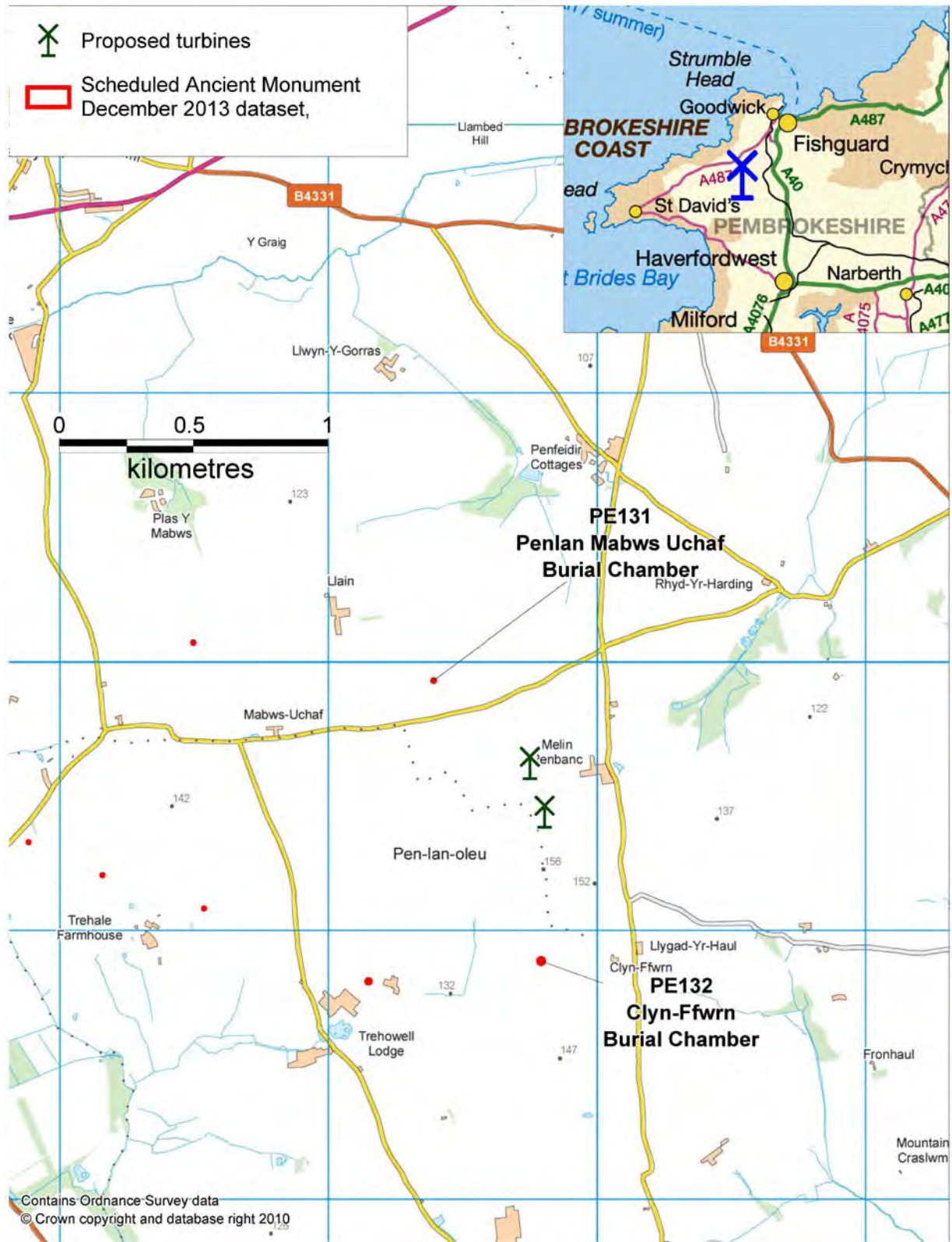


Figure 1: Location of Penybank within Pembrokeshire shown in the inset and the location of the proposed turbines and the two Scheduled Ancient Monuments to be reviewed on the main map.

2. Background

2.1 An archaeological appraisal was undertaken by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust in November 2011 (Poucher, 2011) in relation to the original planning application (12/1096/PA) for two wind turbines at Penybanc. This report examined available sources of information such as maps, published works and aerial photographs in order to “identify the extent and character of the known and potential archaeological resource” as well as “assess the likely and potential impacts of the scheme on that resource.” Amongst the conclusions of the appraisal was an observation that “Further work on the impacts of the turbines on the settings of the surrounding Scheduled Ancient Monuments will also be needed” (Poucher, P, 2011, p.1).

2.2 Pembrokeshire County Council, the Local Planning Authority, invited Cadw to comment on planning application 12/1096/PA in March 2013. An initial response from Cadw, dated 22nd April, 2013, raised concerns about possible visual impacts from the turbines on three Scheduled Ancient Monuments, PE063 (Trehywel Burial Chamber), PE131 (Penlan Mabws Burial Chamber) and PE 132 (Clyn Ffwrn Burial Chamber) (Cadw, 2014a).

2.3 A site visit was undertaken by Polly Groom, Cadw’s Assistant Inspector of Monuments on 24th April, 2013. Cadw provided a revised written comment, this time commenting on both applications, on 29th April, 2013 (Cadw 2014b). Their observations were hampered by the fact that the field visit was undertaken during foggy conditions when visibility was severely restricted. Nevertheless, this visit excluded PE063 as a site of concern, due to the poor condition of the monument and its current setting. Specific areas of concern remained for PE131 and PE132. These were expressed in the letter as;

- *PE131 and PE132 fall inside Cadw’s rough “10x” guide* (i.e. an area of potential impact on the setting of a monument defined

as being within a circle 10 x the radius of the height of the turbine to its upright tip).

- *“There was insufficient evidence provided about impact on scheduled ancient monument settings.” Cadw 2014b*

Cadw concluded that there were two options open to the local planning authority;

- a) Hold the application in abeyance until the landowner prepared further supporting evidence on the impact on monument settings or*
- b) Determine the application on a worst-case scenario*

Cadw, 2014b

2.4 Pembrokeshire County Council followed option b) and determined the applications. Both were refused, in part on the grounds of historic environment concerns, including the impact on the setting of the above named Scheduled Ancient Monuments, amongst the reasons for refusal.

“The proposed development would have a detrimental impact on the historic landscape and the setting of Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the vicinity. It would not protect or enhance the character and integrity of this landscape of historic and archaeological importance and as such would be contrary to the requirements of Policy GN.8 (Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity) of the Local Development Plan for Pembrokeshire (adopted February 2013).”

12/1100/PA dated 02/10/2013

12/1096/PA dated 02/10/2013

3. Basis of Opinion

3.1 For the purpose of this report Trysor have consulted historic map sources, particularly Ordnance Survey maps, dating from the period 1809 to 1908. These include an early estate map of Penyfeidr farm, surveyed for the Lord Bishop of St David's in 1815.

3.2 A number of published antiquarian and archaeological descriptions have also been consulted, ranging from the early 19th century up until 2013. The earliest include the works of antiquarians such as Richard Fenton (Fenton, 1811) and Sir John Gardner-Wilkinson (Gardner-Wilkinson, 1871).

3.3 The records of the Historic Environment Record held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust have been consulted, including the site descriptions produced by the Cadw-funded Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites survey in 2004 (Cook, 2004).

3.4 The archives of the National Monuments Record for Wales, held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales in Aberystwyth, have been studied. This included reviewing the paper archive which extends back to the original scheduling of the sites in 1938 on the advice of the Ancient Monuments Board and subsequent field assessments carried out by Cadw monument wardens since the 1980s.

3.5 Also the most recent letters and reports regarding the monuments, produced by the Local Planning Authority, Dyfed Archaeological Trust and Cadw, have been reviewed. These include an archaeological appraisal report prepared by DAT in 2011 in relation to the planning application (Poucher, 2011), as well as relevant correspondence between the Cadw and the Local Planning Authority.

3.6 Trysor undertook a site visit on to both monuments on February 26th 2014. This visit was undertaken in excellent weather under conditions of good light and visibility.

3.7 Trysor subsequently undertook an assessment of the settings and significance of the two sites. Notes on the settings of both sites are found in Appendices 1 – 4 at the end of this report.

4. Current status of the monuments

4.1 Scheduled Ancient Monument status is intended to protect the most important ancient monuments in Wales, those judged to be of national importance. Under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*, the National Assembly for Wales is required to compile and maintain a schedule of ancient monuments of national importance, (Cadw, 2002).

4.2 Both the Penlan Mabws Uchaf and Clyn-ffwrn Chambered Tombs were granted scheduled status on the advice of the Ancient Monuments Board in 1938. They are now registered as Scheduled Ancient Monuments PE131 (Penlan Mabws Uchaf) and PE132 (Clyn-ffwrn).

4.3 The Dyfed Archaeological Trust has recorded the two sites as Neolithic Chambered Tombs, under the Primary Reference Numbers (PRNs) 4286 and 4291 respectively.

4.4 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) has recorded Penlan Mabws Uchaf (NPRN 305310) as a Prehistoric Standing Stone or Chambered Tomb. They record Clyn-ffwrn (NPRN 305308) as a Neolithic Standing Stone or Burial Chamber.

4.5 Although these bodies have compiled brief records of the sites, none have attempted to critically review the totality of the evidence to assess the nature and significance of the sites.

5. History of the monuments: Penlan Mabws Uchaf

5.1 This site is not mentioned by the antiquarian Richard Fenton, who travelled widely in the district and wrote a copious account of his *Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire* which was published in 1811.

5.2 The site is also absent from the Fishguard map sheet of the Ordnance Survey's Original Surveyors Drawings, surveyed in 1809, and the subsequent First Series One Inch to One Mile Scale Ordnance Survey map, published in 1819.

5.3 An estate map of Penyfeidr farm, surveyed for the Lord Bishop of St. David's in 1815 and held at the National Library of Wales does not show any archaeological monument on the holding. The field in which the Scheduled Ancient Monument is located is named as *Wein Redwyn*, with the field immediately to the north named as *Grumlach*.

5.4 Samuel Lewis in his *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* makes no reference to the site in the 1833 (First Edition) or 1849 (Second Edition) of his work (Lewis, S, 1833, Lewis, 1849).

5.5 The tithe map for the parish of Mathry was surveyed in 1842. The accompanying apportionment names the field parcel in which the Scheduled site is found as *Waun Edway*, comparable with the *Wein Redwyn* of the 1815 estate map. The field immediately to the north is named as *Grumlach*, as it was in 1815. The field name, which some have taken to indicate a "Cromlech", does not apply to the field where the Scheduled site is located.

5.6 The first published record that can be identified which shows a Burial Chamber at Penlan Mabws Uchaf is found on the Second Version of the One Inch to One Mile scale Ordnance Survey map (Sheet XL), which

dates to c.1856 and represents a revision of the First Series Ordnance Survey map of 1819. This map marks the site of Penlan Mabws Uchaf as a "Cromlech" and there appears to be the representation of a single upright stone to mark its location. No evidence has been identified to show who was responsible for identifying this site as a Burial Chamber or Cromlech for inclusion on this edition of the Ordnance Survey map or the basis of this identification. There is no known reference in maps or publications pre-dating this map.

5.7 In 1871, Sir John Gardner-Wilkinson published "Cromlechs and Other Remains in Pembrokeshire." in *Collectanea Archaeologica*. This is a key source of information and Gardner-Wilkinson appears to be the first antiquarian to have searched for and described the Burial Chamber at Penlan Mabws Uchaf. Gardner-Wilkinson was guided by Sheet XL of the Second Version of the One Inch to One Mile scale Ordnance Survey map. He notes "I could not find the Cromlech marked on the Ordnance Survey at *Penybank*" (Gardner-Wilkinson, I, 1871, p.232). He uses the name *Penybank* presumably due to the fact that it appears close to the word "Cromlech" on the Ordnance Survey map.

5.8 The next description of the site was provided by Edward Laws & Henry Owen in their *Pembrokeshire Archaeological Survey*, published in 1908. The observations of the PAS, made by Mr H.W. Williams, F.G.S, are rather cursory. For *Penlan* it is merely recorded that there were "Remains of a cromlech. A few stones and a tradition is all that remains" (Laws & Owen, 1908, p.37).

5.9 The Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments visited the site in 1921 and published their description in the Pembrokeshire Inventory in 1925. According to the RCAHM, the adjoining field was known as *Y gromlech* on the parish tithe map (field parcel No.75). This is not strictly

true as the name is given as *Grumlach* on the tithe apportionment. The Royal Commission found only a single monolith, "50 inches high and 70 inches wide" [1.27metres high and 1.78 metres wide] and noted that "tradition" asserted that a Cromlech had stood here. They also note that there was an "absence of all traces of the foundation of the mound", speculating that cultivation had removed any evidence.

5.10 The Scheduled Monument files are held in the archives of the National Monuments Record for Wales in Aberystwyth. Amongst the archived documents are a number of letters and notes of relevance to the history of the monument. A note written in 1948 for the Ordnance Survey by the archaeologist Professor W.F. Grimes requests that they "*delete 'Cromlech' substitute 'Stone'*" on their maps.

5.11 In 1950, Glyn Daniel published *The Prehistoric Chamber Tombs of England and Wales*. This work lists Penlan Mabws as a 'doubtful site' (Daniel, 1950, p.204 No.34).

5.12 Also included in the NMR archive are the Ordnance Survey cards of the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey, 1947-1982, which were a national non-intensive record of archaeological sites. The card for the Penlan Mabws Burial Chamber includes a comment dating to 1966 that the site was to be considered as a;

"Doubtful standing stone since it is composed of a friable conglomerate of which there is a large block some 80 metres to the west."

5.13 In 1992, Christopher Thompson Barker published *The Chambered Tombs of South-West Wales* (Barker CT, 1992). This work lists the Penlan Mabws site in the category of "Standing Stones traditionally described as Burial Chamber remnants." Barker notes on page 61 that;

"Where a 'tradition' relies upon the vivid imagination of a single field worker it is easier to dismiss the identification as spurious."

5.14 In 2003, Penlan Mabws Uchaf was visited by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust as part of the Cadw-funded Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Monuments project. The site was described as a single stone, 1.8 metres long by 1.3 metres high and 1.1 metres thick. Smaller stones were observed around the stone, as well as cracking caused by weathering and possible damage by farm machinery. According to the DAT description, a second stone slab was also noted, 2 metres to the northwest and measuring 1 metre long, by 0.7 metres by 0.4 metres. No other source mentions a second stone here and it was not seen in the recent visits by Cadw or Trysor. The description erroneously refers to Richard Fenton as an early source for the site: there is no mention of this stone in Fenton's *Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire* and the exact details of the source are not given in the bibliography accompanying the record. It is possible that this description has been transferred from another site record in error as no-one else has seen the second stone and Fenton does not mention it.

5.15 When Trysor visited the site in 2014, it was largely as described by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 2003, see Plate 2. There was no specific evidence of damage to the stone resulting from agricultural activity. The stone itself can best be described as a rough boulder of an unidentified conglomerate, which has a whitish appearance. Light grey occlusions are bound by a quartz matrix. A much larger block of the same conglomerate lies 75 metres to the west, see Plate 1, in the same

field and at least two smaller pieces of the same material were noted in the hedgebank at the eastern side of the field. This stone is not local bedrock and the blocks found here have all the appearance of being glacial erratics. This is particularly true of the largest block to the west, but also of the Scheduled stone, the dimensions of which (1.8 metres x 1.3 metres x 1.1 metres) are suggestive of this being a natural boulder deposited as a glacial erratic, rather than a stone selected to support a capstone as part of a cromlech or even as a standing stone. The second stone reported by DAT as lying 2 metres to the northwest was not seen. Some smaller stones were evident loosely positioned around the base of the stone, but these may be stones that have been thrown to the base of the stone after ploughing.

5.16 Some weight has been given to a “cromlech” field name in association with Penlan Mabws Uchaf. This field name seems likely to be the reason that the tradition arose in the first place. However, if we accept that the field name of *Grumlach* means ‘cromlech’ it should be remembered that it would not necessarily refer to a burial chamber. The word simply signifies a “hump-backed stone” (Welsh *crom* + *llech*). The large erratic boulder 70 metres west of the scheduled stone at Penlan Mabws Uchaf could easily have given rise to such a name, although it would be difficult to understand why the name would be attributed to a field parcel other than that in which the stone was situated.

5.17 Scheduled Ancient Monument status is intended to protect nationally important sites. Given the limited evidence for the antiquity and significance of this site it is not clear whether this protection is appropriate. Our conclusion is that a misunderstanding of the latter field name has given rise to the late 19th century tradition that a Cromlech or Burial Chamber once existed here.

Table 1: Summary of sources relating to Penlan Mabws Uchaf. Ordnance Survey mapping shown in brown

Year	Recorder	Site	Field to north
1809	Ordnance Survey	Not shown	
1811	Richard Fenton	Not mentioned	
1815	Estate map	Not shown, in Wein Redwyn field	Called Grumlach
1819	Ordnance Survey	Not shown	
1833	Samuel Lewis	Not mentioned	
1842	Parish tithe map	Not shown, in Wain Edway field	Called Grumlach
1849	Samuel Lewis	Not mentioned	
1856	Ordnance Survey	"Cromlech"	
1871	Gardner-Wilkinson	"could not find Cromlech"	
1889	Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1 st edition	"Cromlech (Remains of)", shown built into a field boundary, possibly a wire fence rather than an earthwork bank	
1907	Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2 nd edition	Cromlech	
1908	Laws & Owen	"remains of a cromlech. A few stones and a tradition is all that remains"	
1921	RCAM	Remains of cromlech	
1938	Ancient Monuments Board	Scheduled the site	
1948	Note by Grimes for Ancient Monuments Board	Delete "Cromlech", substitute "stone"	
1950	Glyn Daniel	"Doubtful site"	
1953	Ordnance Survey 1:10560	"Burial Chamber"	
1964	Ordnance Survey 1:10560	"Burial Chamber"	
1966	Ordnance Survey card	"Doubtful standing stone..."	
1973-75	Ordnance Survey 1:2500	"Stone" (not indicated as an antiquity)	
1992	Christopher T Barker	"Standing stone" possibly	
2003	DAT	Two stones	
2014	Trysor	Single stone	



Plate 1: The large glacial erratic at Penlan Mabws Uchaf, 70 metres from the scheduled stone



Plate 2: A view of the Penlan Mabws Uchaf stone from the northwest shows it to have the appearance of a glacial erratic boulder rather than a standing stone.

6. History of the monuments: Clyn-ffwrn

6.1 This site is not mentioned by the antiquarian Richard Fenton, who travelled widely in the district and wrote a copious account of his *Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire* which was published in 1811, (Fenton, 1811).

6.2 The site is also absent from the Fishguard map sheet of the Ordnance Survey's Original Surveyors Drawings, surveyed in 1809, and the subsequent First Series One Inch to One Mile Scale Ordnance Survey map, published in 1819.

6.3 Samuel Lewis in his *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* makes no reference to the site in the St Edrin's Parish section of the 1833 (First Edition) or 1849 (Second Edition) of his work (Lewis, S, 1833, Lewis, S, 1849).

6.4 The tithe map for the parish of St Edrin's was surveyed in 1844. The tithe schedule names the field in which the monument is found (field parcel 83) as *Parc Llanged* (possibly a misspelling of *Llangoed* – which is the name of a nearby field). The name bears no obvious connection to the stone that stands in the field and does not reflect any tradition of a Cromlech having been located here.

6.5 The first published record that can be identified which shows a Burial Chamber at Clyn-ffwrn is found on the Second Version of the One Inch to One Mile scale Ordnance Survey map (Sheet XL), which dates to c.1856 and represents a revision of the First Series map. This map marks the site as a "Cromlech" and there appears to be the representation of a group of perhaps three stones at the site. No evidence has been identified to show who was responsible for identifying the site as a Burial

Chamber or Cromlech for inclusion on this edition of the Ordnance Survey map.

6.6 In 1871, Sir John Gardner-Wilkinson published "Cromlechs and Other Remains in Pembrokeshire." This is a key source of information and Gardner-Wilkinson appears to be the first antiquarian to have searched for and described the Burial Chamber at Clyn-ffwrn. Gardner-Wilkinson was guided by Sheet XL of the Second Version of the One Inch to One Mile scale Ordnance Survey map. He was able to describe the site he called *Trehowel* thus;

"The remains... at Trehowel consist of one of its pillars, measuring 4'6" [1.37m] in height, and the fragments of its capstone, having been taken down about 12 years ago, when some of the stones were broken up and used in building the church of St Edren's" (Gardner-Wilkinson, I, 1871, p.232).

It would seem that the site has changed very little since this description was penned. According to the Historic Environment Record, St. Edren's parish church was rebuilt in 1846, 25 years before Gardner-Wilkinson's publication of his visit.

6.7 The next description of the site was provided by Edward Laws & Henry Owen in their *Pembrokeshire Archaeological Survey*, published in 1908. The observations of the PAS, recorded by Mr H.W. Williams, F.G.S, are rather cursory. For Clyn-ffwrn it is simply recorded that "A stone at this place is pointed out as one of the legs of a Cromlech" (Laws & Owen, 1908, p.37).

6.8 The Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments visited the site in 1921 and published their description in the Pembrokeshire Inventory in 1925. According to the RCAHM, a Mr Morse of Trehywel farm testified that he could remember a complete circle of stones around the stone at Clyn-ffwrn “bearing every appearance of being the remains of a large cairn”. This description does not accord with the record made by Gardner-Wilkinson in 1871, which referred only to a single monolith and fragments of a “capstone”. It seems unlikely that an antiquarian of Gardner-Wilkinson’s repute would miss evidence of a stone cairn around the monolith. The said Mr Morse lived at Trehywel and was said to have been born there also. Census returns show there were three sons of the Morse family living with their widowed mother at Trehywel in 1901. The eldest son living at the farm was Arthur Morse, born in St Edren’s parish in 1874, three years after Gardner-Wilkinson visited Clyn-ffwrn. Earlier census returns show that he had an elder half-brother, Thomas Morse, who was born in 1850 at Hayscastle, but who did not live at Trehywel. It would therefore appear that there was no male member of the Morse family alive at Trehywel in 1921 who could have remembered the “Cromlech” site prior to Gardner-Wilkinson’s visit. This rules out the possibility that a ‘circle of stones’ had once existed but had been cleared by 1871 and therefore the accuracy of the evidence given to the RCAHM must be considered to be questionable.

6.9 In 1950, Glyn Daniel published *The Prehistoric Chamber Tombs of England and Wales*. This work lists Clyn-ffwrn as a “doubtful site” (Daniel, G, 1950, p.204 No.35).

6.10 The Scheduled Monument files are held in the archives of the National Monuments Record for Wales in Aberystwyth. Also included in the NMR archive are the Ordnance Survey cards of the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey, 1947-1982 which were a national non-

intensive record of archaeological sites. The card for the Clyn-ffwrn Burial Chamber (OS Card 14) includes a comment dating to 1964 which casts some doubt on the description of the site as a burial chamber;

"Grimes (archaeologist, Professor W.F. Grimes) considers this site would be better described as a 'supposed burial chamber.'"

6.11 In 1992, Christopher Thompson Barker published *The Chambered Tombs of South-West Wales*. This work list the Clyn-ffwrn site in the category of "Standing Stones traditionally described as Burial Chamber remnants." Barker notes elsewhere that;

"Where a 'tradition' relies upon the vivid imagination of a single field worker it is easier to dismiss the identification as spurious."

6.12 In 2003, Clyn-ffwrn was visited by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust as part of the Cadw-funded Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Monuments project. The site was described as a single, upright stone standing 1.45 metres high, leaning slightly to the south and measuring 0.9 x 0.6 metres at its base. Small and medium sized stones were noted around the base of the stone with one larger stone laid against the base of the monolith on its southern side. This description conforms with the observations made by Trysor in 2014. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust description also mentions the tradition that a cromlech once stood here, as recorded by the RCAHM in 1921.

6.13 When Trysor visited the site, it was largely as described by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 2003, see Plate 4. It was noted by Trysor that the stone was only partially earthfast. The base of the stone did not appear to be deeply set into the surface. It seemed to have little support but its base appears to be relatively broad and a large stone leaning against its southern side appears to be keeping it stable.

6.14 Scheduled Ancient Monument status is intended to protect nationally important sites. Given the limited evidence for the antiquity and significance of this site it is not clear whether this protection is appropriate.

Table 1: Summary of sources relating to Clyn-ffwrn

Year	Recorder	Site
1809	Ordnance Survey	Not shown
1811	Richard Fenton	Not mentioned
1819	Ordnance Survey	Not shown
1833	Samuel Lewis	Not mentioned
1842	Parish tithe map	Not shown, in a field called Llinged
1849	Samuel Lewis	Not mentioned
1856	Ordnance Survey	"Cromlech"
1871	Gardner-Wilkinson	"one of its pillars, measuring 4'6" [1.37m] in height, and the fragments of its capstone, having been taken down about 12 years ago, when some of the stones were broken up and used in building the church of St Edren's"
1889	Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1 st edition	"Cromlech (Remains of)"
1907	Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2 nd edition	"Cromlech"
1908	Laws & Owen	"A stone at this place is pointed out as one of the legs of a Cromlech"
1921	RCAM	One erect stone, height 5ft above the soil, tradition of a cromlech. Local farmer remembered a large circle of stones around the monolith having a diameter of 30 feet.
1938	Ancient Monuments Board	Scheduled the site
1950	Glyn Daniel	"Doubtful site"
1953	Ordnance Survey 1:10560	"Burial Chamber"
1964	Ordnance Survey 1:10560	"Burial Chamber"
1964	Ordnance Survey card	"supposed burial chamber..."
1975	Ordnance Survey 1:2500	"Standing Stone"
1992	Christopher T Barker	"Standing stone"
2003	DAT	"Single upright stone with stones at base"
2014	Trysor	Single stone



Plate 3: Glacial erratics are found at a number of locations within the fields between the two Scheduled Ancient Monuments.



Plate 4: Clyn-ffwrn showing the slight mound it stands upon and some of the stones deposited around the stone as the result of agricultural clearance.

7. Monument Settings in Wales: General Principles

7.1 The importance of giving consideration to the setting of historic assets is outlined in several key documents produced by Cadw in recent years.

7.2 A useful statement on the importance of setting to an historic asset in Wales is included in the Technical Annex of *A Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process* (revised, 2nd edition) (Cadw & CCW 2007, p.20). This includes revisions to the assessment process (ASIDOHL2). This states that;

"The importance of 'setting' is a well-established criterion in the assessment of the significance of impact of development on Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings... There is no statutory definition of setting, but it could be considered as having two principal dimensions. Firstly, there is the immediate or essential setting which, in the case of a building, would be the ancillary land used with it or the curtilage. Secondly, there is the wider setting that, in the case of a building, may or may not be legally attached to it, may or may not be used with it, and is often part of the built environment or part of the countryside. Settings may not be as easily defined for field monuments, but it may be possible to make reasonable inferences based on archaeological, or historical, information. Setting should not be interpreted too narrowly, and for the purposes of this process, impacts on settings will be categorized as 'indirect' impacts."

7.3 Cadw, in their *Conservation Principles* (2011, 38), define setting as follows;

“The surroundings in which an historic asset is experienced, its local context, embracing present and past relationships to the adjacent landscape.”

7.4 Cadw also include setting as an component in any assessment of the significance of historic assets. Significance consists of four ‘values’; Evidential Value, Historical Value, Aesthetic Value and Communal Value. Aesthetic Value may include “the form of an historic asset, its external appearance and how it lies within its setting.”

7.5 In ‘Conserving the Historic Environment’, Chapter 6 of *Planning Policy Wales* (Welsh Government, 2014), the importance of setting is highlighted;

“The desirability of preserving an ancient monument and its setting is a material consideration in determining a planning application, whether a monument is scheduled or unscheduled.”

8. Settings of Penlan Mabws Uchaf and Clyn-ffwrn monuments

8.1 The review of documented evidence for both the Penlan Mabws Uchaf and Clyn-ffwrn Scheduled Ancient Monuments raises doubt about the accuracy of their interpretation as Neolithic burial chambers or cromlechs. The absence of sound, consistent archaeological evidence is problematic.

8.2 Any assessment about their settings is hindered by the uncertainty regarding the date and function of the stones at both sites, as well as doubts as to whether they are genuinely features of antiquity.

8.3 Despite the poor condition, in terms of surface remains and historical proofs, of both the Penlan Mabws Uchaf and Clyn-ffwrn Scheduled Ancient Monuments, this section will endeavour to examine the settings of both sites, on the assumption that both are burial chambers, the site type under which they have been scheduled. Thus it assesses the maximum possible effect of the turbine developments.

8.4 If both sites are accepted as burial chambers, there is no surface evidence at either location, or any recorded account, which can guide us as to the original form of either monument. It is necessary, therefore, to make certain assumptions about both sites to give some basis to assess setting.

8.4.1 Burial chambers were generally not located in prominent landscape positions. They were not erected with a view to be highly visible in the landscape (Grimes, 1936, 114).

8.4.2 It is accepted in the archaeological community that Neolithic burial chambers tend to have been constructed favouring views towards the sea or towards mountains (Lynch, 2011, 5). Lynch draws upon the work of Cummings & Whittle (2004), who point out that the “closed” views from burial chambers are those towards adjacent high ground. A study of the nearby Strumble Head group of burial chambers by George Nash (2008) found that all 11 monuments on the peninsula did indeed face the sea. Lynch’s point is of relevance to both Penlan Mabws and Clyn-ffwrn.

8.5 The setting of the Penlan Mabws Uchaf monument is affected by the local topography and post-medieval changes to the landscape (see Appendices 1 & 2).

8.5.1 This large stone block now stands in a relatively level, arable field. The land here has been enclosed and farmed for at least 200 years. We cannot be certain of the land history before the start of the 19th century, but the field name *Waun Redwyn*, recorded on an estate map in 1815, does suggest that the land was grassland before it was enclosed, probably damp moorland. The Welsh *Waun*, from *Gwaun*, means a moor or a meadow.

8.5.2 The Penlan Mabws Uchaf stone is a small feature in a field parcel. It is located well below the hilltop and cannot be considered to be a dominant feature or highly visible in the wider landscape. It is visible from the public highway, a minor road which passes as close as 125 metres to the south, but would not be visible from any great distance.

8.5.3 If the stone here is a burial chamber, then its original setting has been compromised by the conversion of the land several centuries ago into an enclosed field for arable or pasture use.

8.5.4 Appendix 1 of this report tabulates observations made relating to views from the Penlan Mabws Uchaf monument. It records that the visual impact of the proposed turbines would be felt in views upslope to the southeast and south. The visual impact to the southeast would be High, as the turbine would be in direct line of sight. The importance of this view to the site, as a burial chamber, would however be considered to be Low as this is the “closed” view as described by Cummings & Whittle (2004). The land rises and blocks views in that direction and it would not have been a key view from the monument. The view to the south has been assessed as having a Low visual impact, and a Low archaeological impact for the same reason as described above. The proposed turbines would have no impact on views in any other direction, including northwards towards the coastline and the high ground on Strumble Head, which would be considered as the key view from a burial chamber at this location.

8.5.5 Appendix 2 records observations relating to views towards the Penlan Mabws Uchaf monument. These are largely only short-range views as the nature of the slope, falling away to the north, means that medium-range views are only possible from the high ground to the south. This is the optimum view in the modern landscape, but the proposed turbines would not interfere with this view. Both turbines would be visible on the hill behind the monument when viewed from the northeast, creating a High visual impact. However, this is not considered to be an important view in archaeological terms. The turbines would also be in sight when

viewed from the north, with a Moderate visual impact, and from the east, with a Low, peripheral, visual impact.

8.6 The setting of the Clyn-ffwrn monument is affected by the local topography and post-medieval changes to the landscape (see Appendices 3 & 4).

8.6.1 This stone now stands in a gently-sloping, pasture field. The land here has been enclosed and farmed for at least 200 years. We cannot be certain of the land history before the start of the 19th century.

8.6.2 The Clyn-ffwrn stone is a small feature within its field parcel. It is located well below the hilltop and cannot be considered to be a dominant feature or highly visible in the wider landscape. It is not visible from the public highway, apart from a long-range, fleeting view from a minor road some 550 metres to the southeast.

8.6.3 If the stone here is a burial chamber, then its original setting has been compromised by the conversion of the land several centuries ago into an enclosed field for arable or pasture use.

8.6.4 Appendix 3 of this report tabulates observations made relating to views from the Clyn-ffwrn monument. The land around the stone falls away gently to the east and west, rising gently to the south and moderately to the north, in the direction of the proposed turbine. The best views, and the only open view in the modern landscape, are generally easterly; to the southeast in the direction of the Western Cleddau valley around Treffgarne and to the northeast towards the Preseli hills, in the far distance. This general view would be considered to be the important view from a burial

chamber at this location, as defined Cummings & Whittle (2004). The turbines would stand up the slope to the north, which would be the “closed” or least important view as described by Cummings & Whittle.

8.6.5 Appendix 4 records observations relating to views towards the Clynn-ffwrn monument. This shows that both proposed turbines would be visible on the hill behind the monument when viewed from the south, creating a High visual impact. This is only a short-range view in the modern landscape and the monument would not be visible from beyond the field boundary to the south. The turbines would have a Moderate, peripheral, visual impact on views from the southwest and southeast, but again only at short-range as the land falls away in both directions.

9. Towards a Statement of Significance

9.1 Cadw recognise that changing knowledge of a monument can affect perceptions of its significance. Cadw's *Conservation Principles* (p.18) outlines the need to produce a Statement of Significance for each historic asset, defined as "a succinct assessment of the historical asset/s under consideration and its values." They also state that "A statement of significance will change with time as new evidence emerges, or perceptions of the historical contexts, within which the asset falls, change."

9.2 This document is intended to contribute to a Statement of Significance for the two Scheduled Ancient Monuments based on a review of the available evidence.

9.2.1 Penlan Mabws Uchaf is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and therefore of national significance. Our review of the evidence suggests that it is a natural feature and is not of national significance.

9.2.2 Clyn Ffwrn is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and therefore of national significance. Our review of the evidence suggests that its identification as a burial chamber cannot be substantiated. It may be a prehistoric funerary or ritual monument of some sort, but its condition is too degraded to establish its true character from historical accounts or surface evidence. Its significance cannot be established without further archaeological evaluation to establish whether it should continue to be considered as a site of national significance.

10. Conclusions

10.1 There is no convincing evidence that there was ever a burial chamber at Penlan Mabws Uchaf. Archaeologists had already cast doubt on the identification of the stone here as the remains of a burial chamber by the mid-20th century, and it has not been accepted as a burial chamber in academic works since the 1950s.

10.2 It should be noted that no source has ever described a burial chamber at Penlan Mabws Uchaf. We only have 19th century allusions to an ill-defined tradition that there was one in this area.

10.3 In terms of setting, if the stone here is taken as the site of a destroyed burial chamber, its essential setting is most likely to be related to views towards the sea or Strumble Head, to the north. The proposed turbine would not interfere with those views.

10.4 Trysor believe that the stone at Penlan Mabws Uchaf is more likely to be a glacial erratic, not an antiquity.

10.5 There is more substance to the tradition that there may have been a monument at Clyn-ffwrn, although the early 20th century description of its original appearance, recorded by the RCAM, is more suggestive of a Bronze Age cairn or standing stone, or perhaps a Neolithic chambered cairn, rather than a Neolithic burial chamber.

10.6 In terms of the Clyn-ffwrn stone, if the stone here is taken as the site of a destroyed burial chamber, the essential setting would appear to be related to the view of the landscape to the east or southeast, away from the proposed turbines, which would stand to the north.

10.7 The absence of any antiquarian description of a burial chamber or cromlech at either site is significant. Antiquarians from the 17th century onwards found burial chambers or cromlechs fascinating topics of study. They are usually well-documented monuments, recorded through descriptions and sketches. Both sites have also been dismissed as burial chambers by 20th century archaeologists, and the lack of excavated archaeological evidence at either site means that there has to be a significant degree of doubt as to whether either stone is a burial chamber. The Penlan Mabws Uchaf stone could simply be a glacial erratic and the Clyn-ffwrn stone could be another type of archaeological monument.

10.8 The impact of the turbine proposal on the setting on the two Scheduled Ancient Monuments is not considered to be significant as the turbines would not interfere with key views to or from either site.

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Trysor

38, New Road, Gwaun-cae-Gurwen

Ammanford, Carmarthenshire SA18 1UN

www.trysor.net

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11.3 Correspondence

Cadw, 2014a, Letter dated 22 April 2014 to Ceri Jones, Pembrokeshire County Council

Cadw, 2014b, Letter dated 29 April 2014 to Ceri Jones, Pembrokeshire County Council, following visit to Penybanc by Polly Groom on 24th April

11.4 Cartographic Sources

National Library of Wales, "Penyvoider" in the mapbook of the Estate of the Lord Bishop of St Davids, 1815

APPENDIX 1:
PENLAN MABWS UCHAF SETTING
VIEWS FROM THE MONUMENT

Setting of Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments at Penybanc, Pembrokeshire

PENLAN MABWS					
Direction of view from monument	What is visible?	Impact of Development	Level of Impact	Importance of view	Comments
North <i>Plate 5 & 6</i>	Pencaer and the high ground of Garn Fawr. Coastline view to north-northwest.	None	None	High in landscape terms. Important in archaeological terms.	The views are to the landscape in the long and medium distance, no short-range views possible beyond the field boundary. Burial chambers were located to favour views towards mountains or the sea (Cummings & Whittle, 2004).
Northeast <i>Plate 7</i>	High ground around Jordanston. 2 wind turbines north of Jordanston.	None	None	Moderate in landscape terms. Not important in archaeological terms.	Long and medium range views with hills north of Jordanston forming the horizon. No view to coast at Fishguard. Partial view of upper Goodwick c.10km away.
East <i>Plate 8</i>	Preseli Hills and high ground east of Letterston	None	None	Moderate in landscape terms. Low in archaeological terms.	Although the Preselis are in sight here, the view in this direction is thought to be less significant than that of the coastline to the northwest or Strumble Head to the north.
Southeast <i>Plate 9</i>	Both wind turbines visible upslope	Both turbine visible	High	Low in landscape terms. Not important in archaeological terms.	The land rises to the southeast, creating a "closed" view. This would not have been a key view from the monument.
South	Adjacent hillslope	Turbines may be in peripheral view	Low	Low in landscape terms. Not important in archaeological terms.	The land rises over 20m to the hilltop, creating a "closed" view. There is no view beyond c.400m. Not a key view from the monument.

Setting of Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments at Penybanc, Pembrokeshire

PENLAN MABWS					
Direction of view from monument	What is visible?	Impact of Development	Level of Impact	Importance of view	Comments
Southwest	Adjacent hillslope	None	None	Low in landscape terms. Not important in archaeological terms.	This is also a "closed" view. The land rises slightly and there is no view beyond c.300m. Not a key view from the monument.
West <i>Plate 10</i>	The western field boundary. Very long range view (15km) of Carn Llidi near St. David's	None	None	Very low in landscape terms. Not important in archaeological terms	The gentle slope and the field boundaries give only short-range views in this direction. This is also a "closed" view and not a key view from the monument.
Northwest Plate 5	An adjacent farmstead and Mathry village beyond. Coastline view to north-northwest.	None	None	High in landscape terms. Important in archaeological terms	This is a long range view to the coast nearly 9km away. In terms of a burial chamber, this is likely to be a key view from this location and conforms with the seaward views experienced from burial chambers located on Strumble Head. Burial chambers were located to favour views towards mountains or the sea (Cummings & Whittle, 2004).



Plate 5: A view of Penlan Mabws Uchaf showing the view of the landscape and coastline to the north-northwest, which includes Strumble Head. This would potentially be a key view from a Neolithic burial chamber at this location, but would not be affected by the proposed turbines.



Plate 6: A view northwards towards Garn Fawr and Pencaer. This would also be considered a key view from a Neolithic burial chamber at this location and would not be affected by the turbines.



Plate 7: A view northeast from the field boundary to the north of the monument shows how the landscape falls away to the north and northeast, which blocks short-range views to and from the monument,



Plate 8: Looking east from Penlan Mabws, the Preseli Hills appear in the far distance.



Plate 9: A view of Penlan Mabws Uchaf to the southeast, the turbines would stand to the left of the rocky pile (a quarry site) on the horizon above the stone.



Plate 10: The view westwards from monument shows how rising ground to the west limits the view in that direction.

APPENDIX 2:
PENLAN MABWS UCHAF SETTING
VIEWS TO THE MONUMENT

Setting of Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments at Penybanc, Pembrokeshire

PENLAN MABWS					
Views to the monument from the;	What is visible?	Impact of Development on setting	Level of Impact	Importance of view	Comments
South <i>Plate 11</i>	Strumble Head, Garn Fawr, coastline at Traeth Mawr, Mathry village behind.	None	None	High in landscape terms. Visual amenity. Not important in archaeological terms.	This view looks away from the turbines which would be higher up the slope to the southeast. The public road to the south of the monument is one of few angles from where it becomes a visual amenity, but the turbines would not interfere with this view. There is no public access to the hill above.
Southwest	The high ground above Jordanston. Upper Goodwick in the distance.	None	None	Moderate in landscape terms. Not important in archaeological terms.	Short-range views are limited to the field in which the stone stands due to the ground falling to the bottom of the field to the northeast. The turbines would not interfere with this view. There is no public access to the hill above.
West	The Preseli hills in the far distance. Short-range views of the monument only as land falls away to the west and field boundaries will block views.	None	None	Moderate in landscape terms. Low in archaeological terms.	The turbines would not intrude in eastward views as the monument cannot be seen from even the adjacent field to the west, due to the slope falling away in that direction. There is no public access to the land immediately to the west.
Northwest	The turbines on the hill which rises to the southeast	Both turbines visible	High	Low in landscape terms. Not important in archaeological terms.	The stone does not stand out on the horizon and the larger erratic boulder to the west of it is more prominent. This view is not a visual amenity as there is no public access from this direction.
North	The hill rising beyond the monument and the road	Moderate	Moderate	Low in landscape terms. Not important in archaeological terms.	Views from the north would be short-range, limited by the ground falling northwards, which means the stone would not be visible from the adjacent field. The turbines would be in peripheral vision to the eastern side of the hill. This view is not a visual amenity as there is no public access from this direction.

Setting of Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments at Penybanc, Pembrokeshire

PENLAN MABWS					
Views to the monument from the;	What is visible?	Impact of Development on setting	Level of Impact	Importance of view	Comments
Northeast <i>Plate 13</i>	The monument against the skyline	None	None	Low in landscape terms. Low importance in archaeological terms.	The monument and nearby larger glacial erratic would appear on the skyline, but would disappear if viewed from further down the slope to the northeast. From this direction, in short-range views, the monument becomes prominent on the skyline. Medium to long-range views are not possible due to the slope falling away to the northeast. Views of the monument are only possible from within the same field. The turbines would not impact on this view.
East	Limited to the western field boundary with some distant trees Very long range view (15km) of Carn Llidi near St. David's	Low	Low	Very low in landscape terms. Not important in archaeological terms	The monument is only visible from within the same field from this direction as the land falls away to the east beyond the field boundary, The turbines may be in peripheral vision to the southeast on the hillslope.
Southeast <i>Plate 12</i>	The monument against the backdrop of a farmstead with Mathry village on the horizon	None	None	Very low in landscape terms. Not important in archaeological terms	This view is not a visual amenity as there is no public access from this direction. The monument is less noticeable than the larger glacial erratic in the field.



Plate 11: Viewed from the south with Strumble Head in the distance



Plate 12: Viewed from the southeast, Mathry village to the right hand side of the photograph



Plate 13: Viewed from the northeast from this position alone, at short-range, the monument (to the left) appears to be a feature on the horizon

APPENDIX 3:
CLYN-FFWRN SETTING
VIEWS FROM THE MONUMENT

Setting of Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments at Penybanc, Pembrokeshire

CLYN-FFWRN					
Direction of view from monument	What is visible?	Impact of Development	Level of Impact	Importance of view	Comments
North <i>Plate 15</i>	Rising ground to the northern boundary of the field parcel.	Both turbines would be visible in this direction	High	Low in landscape terms. Low in archaeological terms.	The view to the north is not significant in terms of understanding this monument. It would be the "closed" view from a burial chamber.
Northeast <i>Plate 16</i>	Rising ground to the north-eastern boundary of the field parcel.	Turbine may be in peripheral vision in this direction	Moderate	Low in landscape terms. Low in archaeological terms.	The view to the northeast is not significant in terms of understanding this monument. It would be the "closed" view from a burial chamber.
East <i>Plate 14</i>	Rising ground to the edge of the field, the cottage at the boundary and the Preseli hills in the far distance (c.20km).	None	None	Moderate in landscape terms due to long-range view of Preselis Potentially important in archaeological terms.	Due to the rising slope to the east, there are no medium-range views from here, only very short-range and very long range-views. The Preseli hills are in view, which may make this a significant view from a burial chamber.
Southeast <i>Plate 17</i>	Ground descends in this direction, with long-range views to the Western Cleddau valley and Treffgarne rocks. Some higher ground visible to south-southeast in medium-range view also.	None	None	High in landscape terms due to long-range views. Potentially important in archaeological terms.	This view would be potentially significant if this stone is accepted as a burial chamber. The Treffgarne rocks are in view, which may make this a significant view from a burial chamber.

Setting of Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments at Penybanc, Pembrokeshire

CLYN-FFWRN					
Direction of view from monument	What is visible?	Impact of Development	Level of Impact	Importance of view	Comments
South	Ground rises in this direction to the horizon on an adjacent hill.	None	None	Low in landscape terms. Low in archaeological terms	The hill to the south is now rather featureless pastureland. No other prehistoric funerary or ritual sites are recorded on the adjacent land.
Southwest <i>Plate 18</i>	Little visible beyond the field boundary in this direction, but the former St. Edren's parish church is visible above the hedgeline.	None	None	Low in landscape terms Low in archaeological terms	The church at St Edren's has been converted into a dwelling.
West <i>Plate 19</i>	Short-range view to the field boundary bank. Carn Llidi, St. David's is visible 15km away in the far distance, above the hedgeline	None	None	Low in landscape terms Low in archaeological terms	The Trehywel burial chamber is found c.650m to the south-southwest but is not visible from this location, and seems unlikely to have ever been intervisible, given the nature of the intervening slope.
Northwest <i>Plate 20</i>	Short-range view to field boundary bank. The ruined cottage of Penlanoleu is visible higher up the slope, above the hedgeline.	None	None	Low in landscape terms Low in archaeological terms	Penlanoleu sits on the horizon when viewed from the monument.



Plate 14: East, with the Preseli hills in the far distance. This may be considered a key view from a Neolithic burial chamber.



Plate 15: View to the north. The turbines would stand on the skyline, but this is the “closed” view from a Neolithic burial chamber.



Plate 16: View to the northeast



Plate 17: View to the southeast, with the Western Cleddau valley, and rock outcrops at Treffgarne, in the distance. This may be considered a key view from a Neolithic burial chamber.



Plate 18: View to the southwest, with St Edren's church tower in the distance



Plate 19: View to the west, with Carn Llidi in the far distance



Plate 20: View to the northwest with Penlanoleu on the horizon at centre image

APPENDIX 4:
CLYN-FFWRN SETTING
VIEWS TO THE MONUMENT

Setting of Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments at Penybanc, Pembrokeshire

CLYN-FFWRN					
Views to the monument from the;	What is visible?	Impact of Development on setting	Level of Impact	Importance of view	Comments
South	The monument visible with the land rising behind to the north, with both turbines visible at the hilltop. Short to medium-range views only (within 325m)	Both turbines visible on hilltop	High	Low in landscape terms. Low in archaeological terms.	The stone is only visible from within the same field or the adjacent field in this direction. There is no visual amenity as there is no public access here.
Southwest	Views would be restricted to short-range here (within 150m) as the ground slopes away.	Turbines visible in peripheral view	Moderate	Low in landscape terms. Low in archaeological terms.	The ground falls away to the southwest and the stone is only visible from within the field parcel now. Before the field boundary was built it is unlikely that the view would have been much longer in range.
West	Views would be restricted to short-range here (within 150m) as the ground slopes away.	None	None	Low in landscape terms. Low in archaeological terms.	The ground falls away to the west and the stone is only visible from within the field parcel now. Before the field boundary was built it is unlikely that the view would have been much longer in range.
Northwest <i>Plate 21</i>	Short-range views are possible but the field boundary screens any views of the stone from higher up the slope. This angle offers views down to the Western Cleddau.	None	None	High in landscape terms. Low in archaeological terms.	Before the field system was laid down it is likely that the stone or a monument here would have been visible from the higher parts of the hill, perhaps as far up as Penlanoleu cottage, 550m away.

Setting of Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments at Penybanc, Pembrokeshire

CLYN- FFWRN					
Views to the monument from the;	What is visible?	Impact of Development on setting	Level of Impact	Importance of view	Comments
North <i>Plate 21</i>	The view is limited by the boundary bank at the northern end of the field and the stone is not visible from points further up the slope.	None	None	Moderate in landscape terms. Low in archaeological terms.	A view across the distant hills at Plumstone Mountain is just possible.
Northeast	Short-range views of the stone in its setting within a pasture field. St Edren's church in the middle distance.	None	None	Low in landscape terms. Low in archaeological terms	There is a public footpath, 380m in this direction, but the stone would not be visible from it. No visual amenity is gained therefore.
East	Short-range views of the stone in its setting within a pasture field.	None	None	Low in landscape terms. Low in archaeological terms.	There is currently no view of the stone from the public road to the east as the slope and post medieval field boundaries block the view.
Southeast	The stone would be visible from short-range within the field, with some medium-range views possible from an adjacent rise in the ground level c.600m away.	Turbine visible in peripheral view	Moderate	Low in landscape terms. Low in archaeological terms.	The ground falls away after c.600m making views impossible from beyond that distance.



Plate 21: Stone viewed from the north-northwest showing that its position in the landscape limits views of it to short-range views from immediately adjacent land, but this is now limited by the post-mediaeval field boundaries that surround it.