



Above: the geophysical survey results showing the burial mound at Pen Dinas, Aberystwyth

Left: Mary Rendell of Goginan and William Richards of Penparcau with Jon Dollery of the Royal Commission, showing an animation of Blaenafon at the event

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History of settlement may date back extra 1,000 years

PEN DINAS might have been inhabited as far back as 3,200 years ago, a scientific survey has found.

The Aberystwyth hillfort, which was previously understood to date back to the Iron Age, has in fact been found to date back to the Bronze Age after a 'burial mound' discovered during its first-ever geophysical survey indicated it would have been inhabited between 1200 and 700 BC.

Karina Shaw, of Penparcau History and Heritage Group, which is a part of Penparcau Community Forum, heralded a "very exciting, significant, historical find" after more than 100 people turned up to a meeting where the findings were unveiled last Saturday.

The survey, which was carried out on Wednesday and Thursday, 5 and 6 April, was conducted by a team of archaeologists from Archaeology Wales, archaeological consultants Trysor, and locals who were able to survey the top of the hill.

Dr Alan Chamberlain, a Penparcau resident who has been heavily involved in the project, told the *Cambrian News* last month that the survey could "rewrite the history of Aberystwyth".

In his analysis of the survey's findings, archaeologist Mark Walters reports: "Bronze Age Burial Mound - The earliest monument on the site dating back to between 1200 and 700 BC."

"It is now represented by a low mound of earth and stone."

"The recent geophysics survey

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confirmed a circular mound with an outer ditch

"A cremation burial probably underlies the centre of the mound."

Mrs Shaw said: "Thank you to all who attended the Pen Dinas event today. Around a 100 people came through the doors."

"It was great to see such a huge interest in Pen Dinas and the geophysical scan findings."

"For those of you who do not know the findings of the survey - a Bronze Age Burial Mound (Barrow) was found."

"Several other interesting formations were highlighted that includes what looks like another series of roundhouses and some other very interesting areas for investigation."

"This is a very exciting, significant, historical find. It also changes the way we now see Pen Dinas."

"We now must place it as the home of a community not only in the Iron Age, but also in the Bronze Age."

"Not a bad find for our little history group. Once again thank you to everyone who joined us and has supported us with this project, there are some very, very exciting Pen Dinas projects in the pipeline."

To view the survey results, which can also be seen in virtual reality, visit: www.sketchfab.com/models/8592f645cbe94f4f9448292c841bba50



Above: At the unveiling of the results of the first geophysical scan of Pen Dinas, Dr Gillian McFadyen and Neil Waghorn are seen chatting to Vic Pardeo and David James with their Phantom 3 and 4 drones

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Left: A Bronze Age burial mound like this one in Penycloddiau, Llangwyfan, Denbighshire, was uncovered at Pen Dinas
Photo: Jeff Buck