

PILOT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC
LANDSCAPE RESOURCE ASSESSMENT OF FARMS IN
THE TIR CYMEN SCHEME - MEIRIONNYDD



Report No. 250

G1443

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

**PILOT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC
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THE TIR CYMEN SCHEME - MEIRIONNYDD (G1443)**

prepared for The Countryside Council for Wales

March 1997

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Report No. 250

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PILOT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPE RESOURCE ASSESSMENT OF FARMS IN THE TIR CYMEN SCHEME (MEIRIONNYDD)

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A pilot assessment of the archaeological and historic landscape resource was carried out on ten farms in the Tir Cymen Scheme. The assessment was undertaken by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, contracted by CCW, during January 1997. Seven of the ten farms were already in the scheme and three were considering application, representing a cross-section of farms, farming regimes and landscape types in the Meirionnydd area.

The assessment involved a desktop study of readily available sources, including cartographic and aerial photographic sources and records held by the regional Sites and Monuments Record, followed by a field visit to each farm. A large number of previously unrecorded sites were found during the assessment, including settlement remains, religious and funerary monuments and traces of earlier agricultural practices of all periods from prehistoric to post medieval and modern.

The results of the pilot assessment were presented as individual dossiers on each farm, comprising a map of the farm, a gazetteer of the features identified and recommendations and suggested management guidelines. It was intended that the dossiers would be suitable for use by the Tir Cymen Officer in the preparation of farm plans.

The results of the pilot project demonstrated the need for systematic assessment of farms in the Tir Cymen scheme, if sufficient provision for the management of the archaeological and historic landscape resource is to be made. A number of recommendations were made, including the extension of the assessment to cover all farms in the Tir Cymen scheme.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Tir Cymen is an experimental scheme introduced by the Countryside Council for Wales to provide for countryside conservation in Wales, offering farmers annual payments in return for positive management of their land for the benefit of wildlife, landscape, archaeology and geology.

Following consultation with archaeological bodies in Wales, a pilot scheme was established by the Countryside Council for Wales to determine the methodology and best practice for assessing the archaeological and historic landscape resource of farms already in and entering the Tir Cymen scheme. The scheme examined ten farms in two of the pilot areas of Dinefwr and Meirionnydd with the aim of assessing the significance of the archaeological resource in relation to management needs as well as the effectiveness of any existing management agreements. For the Meirionnydd area, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was contracted to carry out the pilot assessment in accordance with a brief provided by the Countryside Council for Wales. (See Appendix 1).

The aim of the pilot assessment was to establish a methodology for assessing the archaeological and historic landscape resource of the farms in the Tir Cymen scheme in the light of concerns expressed by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, amongst others, that sufficient archaeological provision was not being made. The intention was to review the existing arrangements and provide an accurate indication of the significance of the resource on the farms in the scheme, enabling the level of management information required for individual farms to be identified

The following report describes the methodology used and the results gained and includes the individual farm reports and gazetteers. It attempts to draw conclusions from the pilot assessment and make recommendations for the future assessment and management of the archaeological and historic landscape resource on farms within the Tir Cymen scheme.

3.0 BACKGROUND

The Tir Cymen pilot area of Meirionnydd covers the whole of the pre-1996 district, now part of Cyngor Gwynedd Unitary Authority. The majority of the area is within the Snowdonia National Park who act as the agents of the Countryside Council for Wales for the administration of the scheme.

Archaeology, along with field boundaries and traditional buildings are covered by general guidelines in the Tir Cymen Code for the whole farm which requires farmers to follow a code of environmental good practice. This includes:-

- i. not removing or quarrying existing walls, hedges, earth banks and slate fences,*
- ii. safeguarding scheduled and unscheduled archaeological and historic features from damage by stock, farming or other operations including tree planting, and*
- iii. maintaining traditional farm buildings and other traditional stone features using traditional materials.*

Currently, the procedure for identifying the archaeological resource on farms coming into the scheme is as follows. The farm plans are checked against the Snowdonia National Park Sites and Monuments Record and known sites of archaeological/historical interest marked on them. The plans are returned to the farmers via the Tir Cymen Officer with the sites identified, enabling the farmer to comply with the archaeological provision in the whole farm code. However, many of the farms coming into the scheme are in areas not previously surveyed and in most cases an accurate and up to date assessment of the resource is not available.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

For the purposes of the pilot assessment, ten farms within the Meirionnydd area were chosen in consultation with the Tir Cymen Officer and the Snowdonia National Park Archaeologist. Seven of these were already in the Tir Cymen scheme and three were considering application. The farms chosen represented a variety of landscapes and terrain, including farms with little or no known archaeology and those with a number of previously recorded sites. The assessment was carried out in accordance with the IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments and the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (1994). The locations of the farms are shown on fig.1.

4.1 Desk-top

The project involved an initial desk top assessment of readily available sources, including the regional Sites and Monuments Record, early edition O.S. maps, relevant estate and tithe maps and aerial photographic sources available at the Snowdonia National Park and the Countryside Council for Wales.

An initial visit to the Tir Cymen Office in the Snowdonia National Park was made at the beginning of the project to discuss the historic landscape character and land-use regime of each farm with the relevant Tir Cymen Officer in order to obtain as detailed a description of the farm as possible prior to the site visit. Areas of interest noted by the Tir Cymen Officers, or by the farmers themselves, were marked onto the farm plans and a brief description of the farm given.

The Snowdonia National Park aerial photographic collection was also checked for relevant photographs. These were studied and features of archaeological interest noted on the aerial photographs were plotted onto copies of the O.S. 1:10000 scale map. Different vegetation types were also noted and areas of potential interest identified.

The farms were checked against the regional Sites and Monuments Record and sites of archaeological interest marked onto the maps. A brief appraisal of the O.S. 1:2500 scale maps held in the Gwynedd Archive Service, Dolgellau Record Office identified a small number of features, mainly buildings, which were also added to the maps.

4.2 Fieldwork

Field visits were carried out over a period of three weeks during January 1997, one day having been allocated per farm in the project design. Weather conditions were ideal for most of the period with only one day of fog and one of light snow. Each visit began with a brief, informal discussion with the farmer, the purpose of which was to explain the nature of the project and to gain any relevant information about the farm. Where possible the farms were systematically walked enclosure by enclosure, starting on the highest ground and working back towards the farmhouse. On the larger farms, where it was impossible to cover the area in a single day, areas of potential interest identified from the aerial photographs were targeted. Sites and areas of archaeological interest were marked onto 1:2500 scale copies of the OS map and accompanied by a written description. Due to the limitations of time, sketch plans and photographs were only taken where necessary to the interpretation of the site.

4.3 Post fieldwork

Once the visit was completed, new sites were marked onto clean copies of the OS 1:10000 scale maps and entered onto a computer database compatible with that used by the regional Sites and Monuments Record and with the Extended National Database being developed by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments (Wales) and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts. Both new and existing sites were assessed and allocated to the categories listed below. These are intended to give an idea of the importance of the site and the criteria used are based on those used by Cadw on behalf of the Secretary of State when considering ancient monuments for scheduling.

4.4 Categories

The following categories were used to define the importance of the archaeological resource.

Category A - Sites of national importance.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Grade I and II* Listed Buildings and sites of similar quality, i.e. those which would meet the requirements for scheduling (ancient monuments) or listing (buildings) or both. There is a presumption in favour of preservation of such sites and their settings should they come under threat.

Category B - Sites of regional or county importance.

Sites which would fulfil the criteria for listing Grade II but not for scheduling. Nevertheless they are of particular importance within a regional context and, if threatened, should be preserved although complete excavation or recording may be an acceptable alternative.

Category C - Sites of district or local importance.

Sites which are not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened, but which hold an interest at local level and would require excavation or recording

Category D - Minor and damaged sites.

Sites which are of minor importance or have been so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category.

Category E - Sites needing further investigation.

Sites whose importance is as yet undetermined and which will require further work before they can be allocated to categories A - D.

5.0 RESULTS

Ten farms were visited over a period of three weeks days and 147 sites of archaeological/historical interest were recorded. Of these, 36 were already recorded on the regional Sites and Monuments Record or in other sources. The known sites included eight Scheduled Ancient Monuments and two Grade II Listed Buildings. Of the new sites, 78 fell into category C as outlined above, sites of district or local importance. These were mainly agricultural features including sheepfolds, early field boundaries, enclosures and lynchets and, although not of major importance themselves, contributed to the landscape character of the farms on which they were found.

In addition to the eight Scheduled Ancient Monuments, three new sites and three existing PRNs were considered to be of national importance. These included the medieval settlement at Craig y Garn, (p.7-8); the hut circles at Gwemcaemyddion, (p.20-21); and the round cairns at Tal y Waun, (p.11-12). Twenty five sites, most of which were domestic remains of various periods, were allocated to Category B; there were thirty one minor or damaged sites and five requiring further investigation before they could be allocated. The following table summarises the results of the fieldwork, showing the numbers of recorded sites in each category before and after the assessment.

CATEGORY	BEFORE	AFTER
A	12	15
B	08	29
C	04	78
D	06	30
E	04	08

The following section describes the results of the assessment in detail. Individual farm reports are presented with maps showing the location of the sites of archaeological interest within the farm boundary and are accompanied by gazetteers of the sites recorded. The reports are intended to be suitable for use by the Tir Cymen Officer in the preparation of the farm plan. On the maps, sites of archaeological interest are either identified by PRN, for previously recorded sites, or by the site number allocated during the project, for new sites.

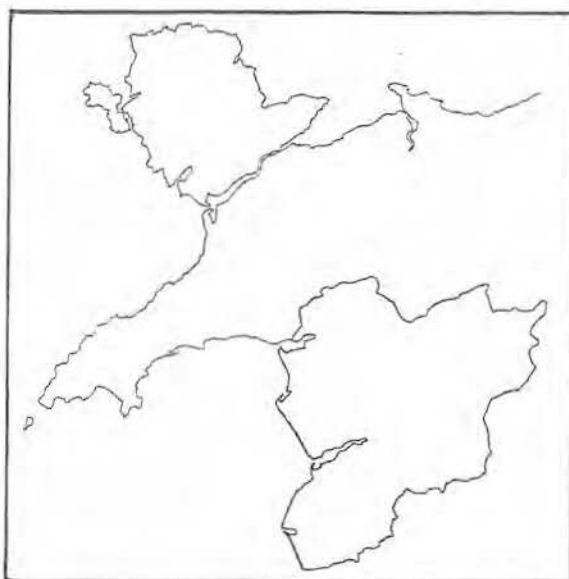


fig.1a Location of the former district of Meirionnydd

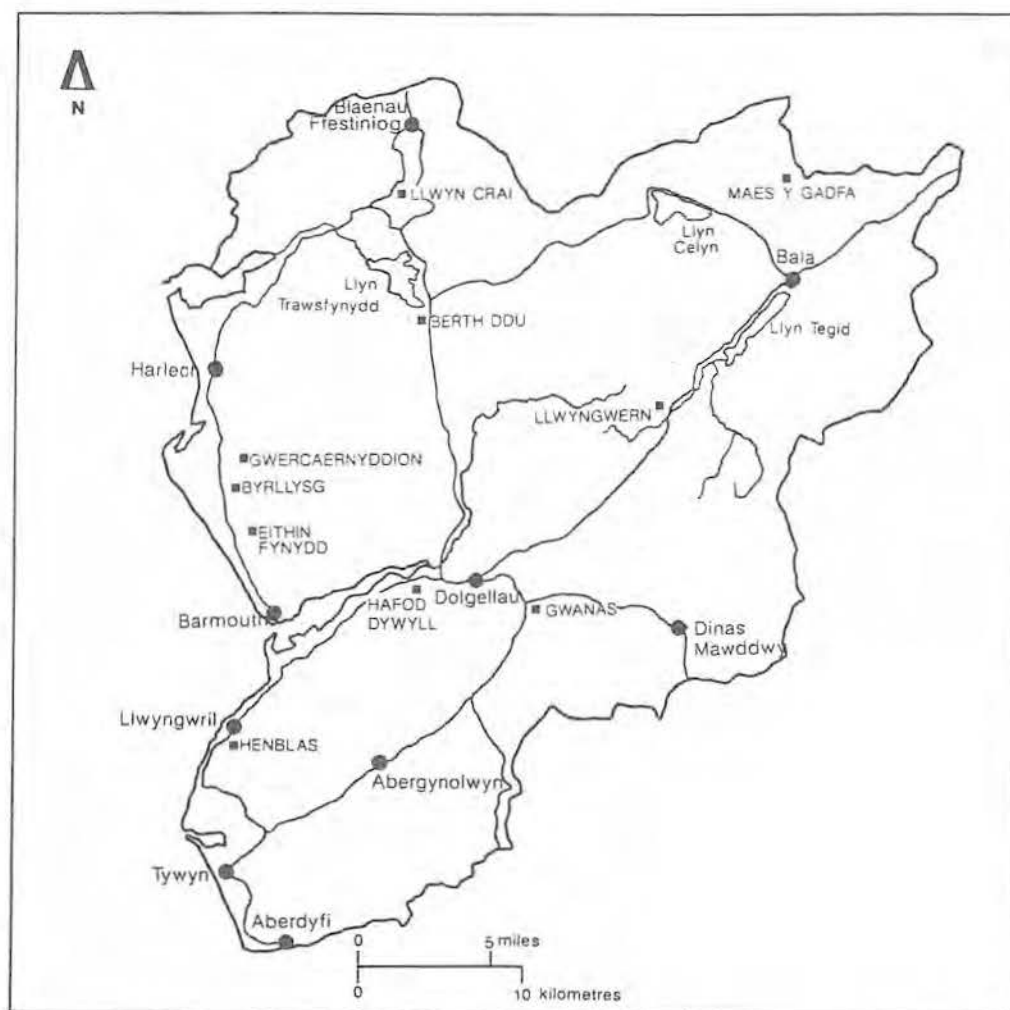


fig.1b Location of farms

5.1 TC/54/13 Gwanas, Brithdir SH7816

Landscape

Gwanas is a large farm of three holdings, covering an area of 473 ha and farming sheep and beef cattle. The chief holding is that of Gwanas itself, the two other units are Ty Glas, Brithdir and Tanybwllch, Maentwrog. Only the main unit was visited during the pilot study. The farm is located on the north side of the Aran ridge and consists of a variety of landscapes including improved lowland fields divided by stone walls, partially wooded *ffridd* and on the mountain, a mixture of bracken and upland grassland. The *ffridd* lies between the 200m and 270m contours and the mountain rises to 600m OD.

Historic landscape

The character of the landscape has been altered over the years by activities such as agricultural improvement, small scale pine plantation and, on the mountain, peat extraction and slate quarrying. The field boundaries are mainly stone walls of relatively modern date although traces of earlier boundaries are evident in places. Despite the medieval associations with the hospice of the Order of St John, the majority of features recorded on the farm are of post medieval or undetermined date.

Recorded archaeology

Although the area has not been recently surveyed, four sites of archaeological interest were already recorded on the regional Sites and Monuments Record.

PRN 4135

Gwanas is known to have been the site of a chapel, hospice and grange of the Order of St. John, mentioned in 1248 as 'Hospitalis de villa de Wona' and 'Hospitalis de Wannas'. The exact location of the site is unknown but the site of the hospice may be reflected in the placename Dol-Ysbytty. (RCAHM 1921)

PRN 5758

Pont Gwanas carried the 18th century turnpike road and its precursor from Dolgellau to Dinas Mawddwy and appears on Ogilby's map of 1675 and in documents of 1679 and 1688, (GAT Report No.87)

PRN 20395

The remains of the small slate quarry of Cloddfa Gwanas including a sawmill, an office/forge and a dwelling and the incline formation to the west, to the east some dressing shelters and a collapsed tunnel to the working at a lower level and to the north a small barracks. The slate was taken away from the quarry by means of a short incline to a cart road which was later extended right into the quarry. The road was probably preceded by one, or possibly two, pack animal tracks and remains the most spectacular feature of the site, (Richards, A.J. 1991).

PRN 4137

Rectangular and circular features noted on aerial photographs to the west of Ty'n Twll were visited by the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division in 1977 and were recorded as field clearance heaps and the remains of a rectilinear paddock.

Fieldwork

The farm was visited on the 20th of January 1997. It was not possible to walk the entire area in the time allowed so it was decided to concentrate on areas of potential interest identified from the aerial photographs. A number of features had been identified from the aerial photographs, most of which were in fact field clearance remains. In addition to these, an area of enclosures and foundations had been identified centred on SH78901715. When visited these were found to be mainly sheepfolds and enclosures, probably of post medieval date, but with the possibility

of some earlier foundations. In total, seven new sites were recorded, three of which were ruined houses of post medieval date. The remainder were all traces of the past agricultural use of the land.

Conclusions

Despite improvement, the lowland part of the farm still had traces of earlier fields and enclosures, and evidence of previous clearance. On the *ffridd*, three ruined buildings reflected earlier settlement patterns in the area and industrial activity was identified on the mountain at the quarry Cloddfa Gwanas and in the form of evidence of small scale peat extraction. The sheepfolds and enclosures on the mountain may have had earlier foundations and if so, may represent earlier settlement on the higher ground. In fact, the mountain area of the holding had been highlighted as an area likely to produce surviving archaeological remains and the small number of new sites recorded may not be representative of the entire area.

Recommendations

With the exception of the two rectangular enclosures, the sites recorded at Gwanas were ruined buildings, probably of post medieval date. Although they no longer fulfil any function as buildings they reflect earlier patterns of settlement and agriculture in the area and as such are an important record of domestic and agricultural practices. They also contribute to the landscape character of the farm and, where in a stable condition, should not be disturbed. The enclosures recorded survive as low, grassed over stone walls and have been used in more recent times as dumps for field clearance. Although of no great significance themselves, the enclosures represent the remains of earlier field systems. They are unlikely to be damaged as they are protected by the later field clearance. It is recommended that current practices which are not causing damage be continued.

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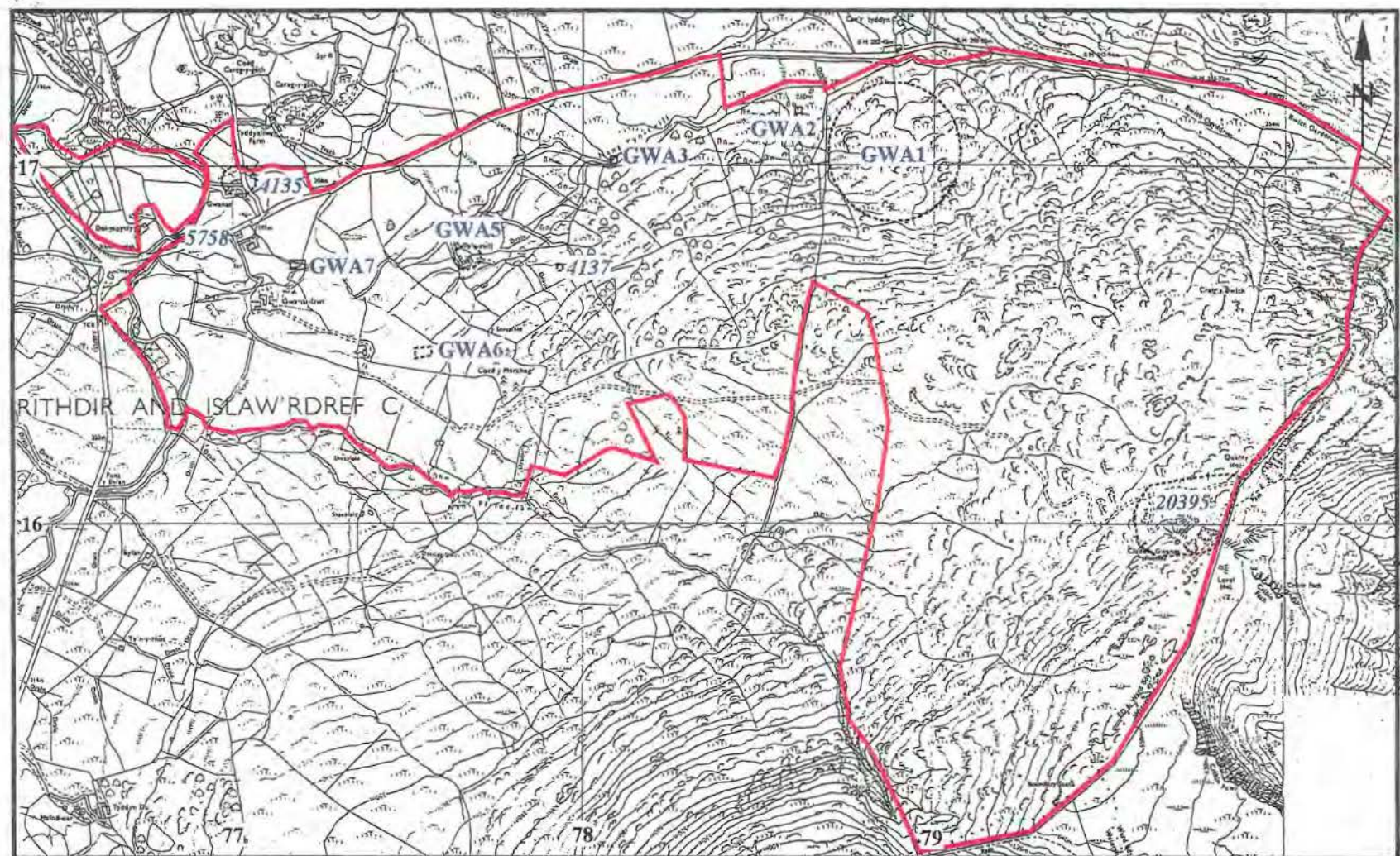
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Richards, A.J. 1991 *A Gazetteer of the Welsh Slate Industry*

The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, 1921 *Inventory of Merioneth*

Gwanas, Brithdir (SH7716)



KEY

- Farm boundary
- 4135 Existing PRN
- GWA1 New site

fig.2

Maps Office
 Countryside Council for Wales
 Plas Penrhos, Penrhos Road
 Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2LQ
 Tel. (0248) 370444

<u>TC NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
GWA	4135	GWANAS - SITE OF CHAPEL HOSPICE AND GRANGE	SH76751683A	MEDIEVAL	N/A	
GWA	4137	RECTANGULAR & CIRCULAR FEATURES, NR TY'N TWLL A RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE DEFINED BY GRASSED OVER STONE WALLS. POSSIBLY 2 SUB-CIRCULAR ENCLOSURES TO THE SOUTH AND A SEMI-CIRCULAR FEATURE TO THE WEST.<1>	SH77921670	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
GWA	5758	PONT GWANAS BRIDGE NOT VISITED DURING ASSESSMENT AS RECENTLY DESCRIBED IN GAT REPORT 87.<1>	SH75821679	POST MEDIEVAL	GOOD	B
GWA01		BUILDINGS AND ENCLOSURES, GWANAS AN AREA OF SHEEPFOLDS, ENCLOSURES AND RUINED BUILDINGS NOTED FROM APs. MOST APPEAR TO BE POST MEDIEVAL BUT POSSIBILITY OF EARLIER FOUNDATIONS.<1>	SH78901715	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
GWA02		RUINED HOUSE, GWANAS RUINED HOUSE, GABLES STILL SURVIVING. DIMENSIONS, C.6M X 4M INTERNALLY, NO TRACES OF FIREPLACE. NEATLY BUILT, LOWER COURSES OF LARGE STONE BLOCKS, REGULAR BUT UNRESSED. FURTHER UP THE GABLES, RUBBLE CONSTRUCTION. ALIGNED E-W, ENTRANCE GAP IN N WALL.<1>	SH78611713	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C
GWA03		RUINED HOUSE, GWANAS RUINED HOUSE, GABLES STILL SURVIVING. BUILT PARALLEL TO SLOPE BUT CUT INTO IT SO THAT EXTERNALLY, THE S WALL APPEARS AS ONE COURSE OF STONEWORK ABOVE TURF, BUT INTERNALLY SURVIVES TO A HEIGHT OF 0.5M - 1.0M. ENTRANCE IN N WALL, ALIGNED E-W. SMALLER STRUCTURE ADJOINING TO THE REAR. BOTH STRUCTURES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED WITHIN AN EXISTING ENCLOSURE.<1>	SH78071700	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C
GWA04		RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE, GWANAS RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE DEFINED BY GRASSED OVER STONE WALLS. POSSIBLY 2 SUB-CIRCULAR ENCLOSURES TO THE S AND 1 TO THE W. VISIBLE ON APs.<1>	SH77971670	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
GWA05		TY'N TWLL HOUSE, GWANAS TY'N TWLL, MARKED ON OS 1:10000. 3 RUINED BUILDINGS, 2 WITH SURVIVING GABLES. THE BUILDING TO THE W IS SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER, POSSIBLY A HOUSE AND TWO OUTBUILDINGS. SET WITHIN AN ENCLOSURE WITH A FORD NEARBY TO THE N.<1>	SH77991675	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C
GWA06		POSS. RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE AREA OF FIELD CLEARANCE WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DUMPED OVER AN EARLIER RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE. APPEARS ON APs.<1>	SH77551648S	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D

<u>TC NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
GWA07		DERELICT BUILDINGS, GWANAS	SH77181673	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C
2 DERELICT BUILDINGS IN RECENT USE AS COWSH. ONE IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN AN OLD CHURCH BUT THERE IS NO VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF THIS,<1>						

Records printed: 10

5.2 TC/63/2 Maes y Gadfa, Cwmtirmynach SH9091

Landscape

Located to the east of the Afon Hesgyn on the uplands of eastern Arenig, Maes y Gadfa is a small farm of 165.8 ha farming both beef cattle and sheep. The pasture lies between 300m and 350m OD, rising to a maximum of 450m OD on Craig y Gam. The holding includes enclosed mountain heather, upland grassland, rocky outcrops and wetland. The lower land has been partially improved and drained..

Historic landscape

The farm has a number of traditional buildings and agricultural features including sheepfolds and shelters, mostly built within the last century. The fields are mostly divided by hedges or post and wire fences. The improved and drained fields on the eastern part of the farm form a mainly post medieval landscape belied by the medieval survivals on the edge of the *ffridd*, to the north and west.

Recorded archaeology

This area between the Afon Hesgyn and Cwmtirmynach has never been surveyed and Maes y Gadfa was the only farm in the Meirionnydd pilot project with no previously recorded sites of archaeological interest. Despite the lack of known archaeology, the farmer had pointed out a number of sites of interest to the Tir Cymen Officer, including an area of cultivation terraces on the *ffridd* and a number of small circles of stone on the mountain area of Craig y Gam.

Fieldwork

The farm was visited on the 30th January 1997. The improved fields directly surrounding the farm yard and those to the south and east were largely devoid of archaeological features and indeed, the one feature in this area noted from the aerial photographs was a field clearance cairn. A large part of the *ffridd* could not be walked as it was too wet but was observed from the higher ground on Craig y Gam and, again, no sites of archaeological interest could be seen.

The sites mentioned by the Tir Cymen Officer were visited in the company of the farmer who was able to point out a number of features of interest, including a group of four platforms and the remains of medieval platform hut settlement, to the south east of Craig y Gam. Other remains included circular features and enclosures amongst the crags on Craig y Gam, defined by low stone walls. To the north of Craig y Gam, cut by the wall separating mountain from *ffridd* was a second area of medieval settlement including the remains of a substantial platform hut, two further rectangular structures and a corn drying kiln. The settlement was associated with the cultivation terraces pointed out by the farmer and there were other remains in the area that were not recorded due to a lack of time. The summit cairn of Craig y Gam itself was also recorded, the name of the rock possibly suggesting an early origin.

Conclusions

Six sites of archaeological interest were recorded on the farm, including two areas of medieval settlement. All the sites were located on the edges of the *ffridd* or on the mountain where agricultural improvement had been slight or non-existent. There is a potential for palaeo-environmental information from the wetland areas of the *ffridd* which may provide evidence for earlier patterns of land use in the area. As expected, there were no sites of archaeological interest on the improved fields.

Recommendations

Craig y Gam is an area of upland grassland and rock outcrops where little disturbance has taken place to date and as there is no reason for this to change in the foreseeable future, there appears to be little threat to the enclosures

and features located in this area. The two areas of medieval settlement are located on the edge of the mountain and *ffridd* and have been extensively robbed of stone in the past, in both cases probably for the construction of the *ffridd* wall which cuts through them. According to the farmer, the settlement to the north has survived due to the difficulty of access; the area of wetland between the *ffridd* and the farm has prevented the use of machinery in the north and west part of the *ffridd*. It is therefore important for the survival of the site that this part of the *ffridd* remains unimproved. The potential for environmental evidence would also be removed if the wetland was drained. The settlement to the south lies on a trackway which is used as a public footpath. Although the two northerly platform can still clearly be seen, the two to the south are less well defined and may be eroded by walkers using the footpath. There was no evidence that the track had been used recently by vehicles; if it were used in this way, the threat to the platforms would be significantly increased.

Two sites were allocated to Category B or above for which more specific recommendations may be appropriate. For management guidelines, see p.30.

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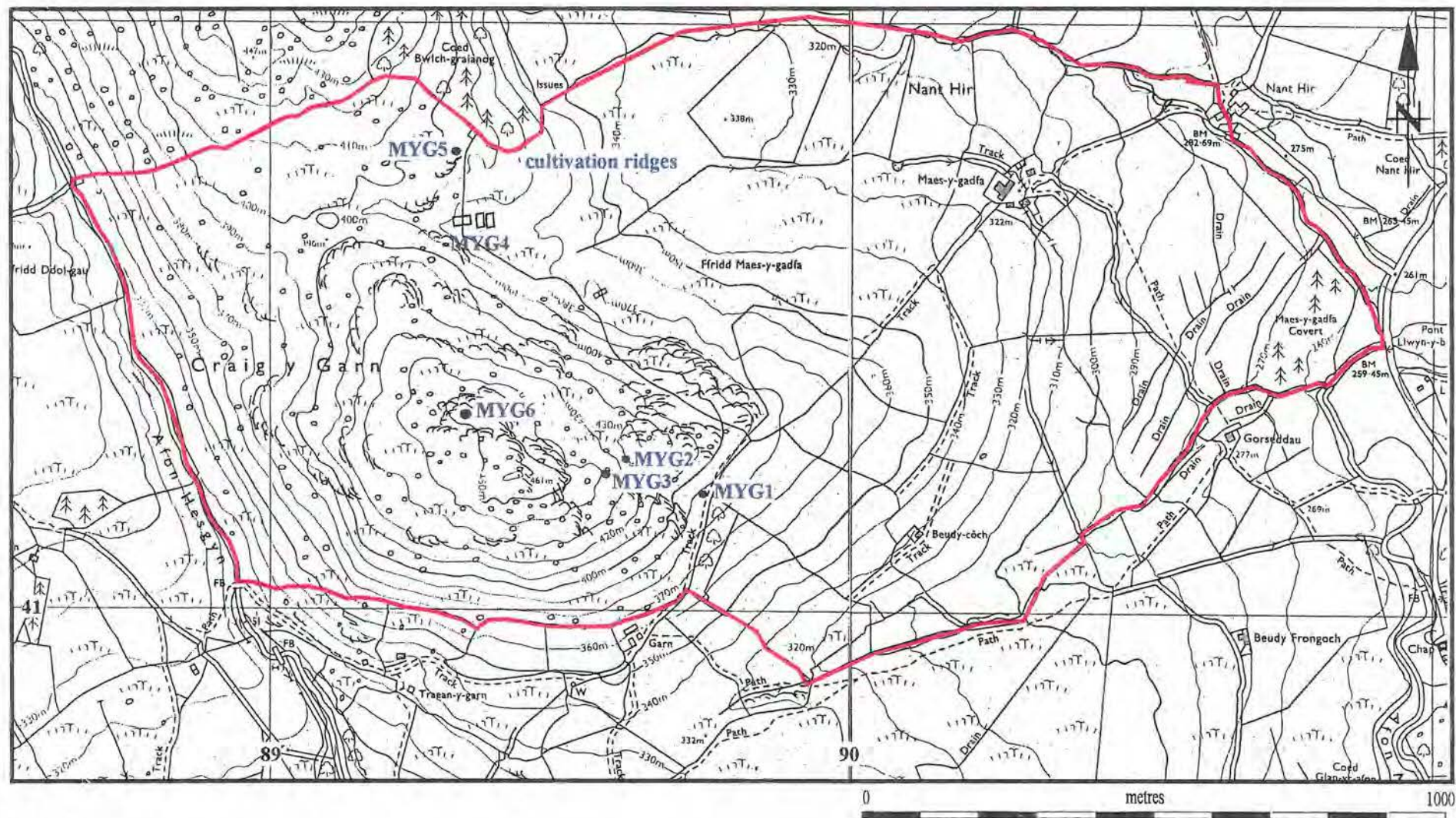
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O.S. 1:2500 scale map 1888 - 1918

Snowdonia National Park aerial photographs 1986 No.56-86-204

Maes y Gadfa, Cwmtirmynach (SH8941)



KEY

— Farm boundary
MYG1 New sites

fig.3

Maps Office
Countryside Council for Wales
Plas Penrhos, Penrhos Road
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2LQ
Tel. (0248) 370444

<u>TC NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
MYG01		PLATFORMS, S OF FFRIDD MAES Y GADFA A GROUP OF 4-5 PLATFORMS SITUATED IN A ROW ALONG, AND IN 2 CASES CUT BY, THE FFRIDD WALL. THE FIRST 2 PLATFORMS ARE IN BETTER CONDITION, THE ONES TO THE S ARE LESS VISIBLE. ALL ARE ALIGNED NNW-SSE AND CUT INTO THE SLOPE AT THE NNW. INT. DIMENSIONS OF THE 2 MAJOR PLATFORMS ARE 12M X 4M. A STEEP TRACKWAY LEADS FROM THE PLATFORMS UP THE MOUNTAIN.<1>	SH89754130	MEDIEVAL	POOR	B/C
MYG02		CIRCULAR FEATURE, CRAIG Y GARN CIRCULAR FEATURE DEFINED BY A LOW DRY STONE RING OF STONE. C.2M INTERNAL DIAMETER, SITUATED ON FAIRLY LEVEL GROUND. NO OBVIOUS ENTRANCE OR FACING STONES.<1>	SH89614125	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
MYG03		ENCLOSURE, CRAIG Y GARN SUB-CIRCULAR ENCLOSURE DEFINED BY A LOW DRY STONE WALL, PARTLY USING THE CRAGS TO THE NW. WALLS STAND C.2 COURSES HIGH, MOSTLY HIGHLY COLLAPSED. MAY BE CONTEMPORARY WITH THE CIRCULAR FEATURES.<1>	SH89574123	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
MYG04		SETTLEMENT, CRAIG Y GARN A MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT SITE COMPRISING 1 SUBSTANTIAL PLATFORM HOUSE, CUT BY THE FFRIDD WALL, 2 SMALLER HUTS AND A CORN DRYING KILN. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER FEATURES IN THE VICINITY. TO THE NORTH EAST IS AN AREA OF CULTIVATION RIDGES.<1>	SH89344167	MEDIEVAL	FAIR	A/B
MYG05		STONE FEATURE, CRAIG Y GARN STONE FEATURE. TO THE NW, APPEARS TO BE NATURAL - BROKEN UP ROCK OUTCROP BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE THERE ARE TRACES OF A DITCH WITH ORTHOSTATS SET IN THE SIDE.<1>	SH89334177	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
MYG06		SUMMIT CAIRN, CRAIG Y GARN SUMMIT CAIRN ON CRAIG Y GARN, LOOKS TO HAVE BEEN BUILT UP AS A WALKERS CAIRN BUT NAME CARIN Y GARN MAY INDICATE AN EARLIER ORIGIN.<1>	SH89274146	UNDETERMINED	GOOD	C

5.3 TC/71/1 Llwyngwern, Llanuwchllyn SH8528

Landscape

Llwyngwern consists of two blocks of land, the main unit around Llwyngwern farmhouse and an upland area at Dduallt to the west, in total an area of 264.52ha. During the pilot assessment, only the main unit at Llwyngwern was visited. The farm lies mainly to the north and west of the Afon Dyfrdwy on steeply sloping land. It has a variety of landscapes rising from 210m OD in the east to a maximum of 400m OD to the west and including mountain heather, upland grassland, broad-leaved woodland and marshy grassland. The improved fields are to the north and east of the farm, to the north and west, the farm is bordered by conifer plantations. To the south east, the land is crossed by line of the Ruabon to Barmouth railway, disused since the 1960's.

Historic landscape

There are a number of traditional stone buildings on the farm. The fields to the north east have been improved in relatively recent times and are separated by hedges. The area to the south and west is an upland unimproved landscape with a range of archaeological sites from early prehistoric cairns and later prehistoric settlement to medieval settlement and post medieval agricultural features.

Recorded archaeology

The area around the farm has not been recently surveyed and only two sites of archaeological interest had previously been recorded, both of which are scheduled ancient monuments

PRN 1787

Scheduled Ancient Monument No. M081. A cairn 8m in diameter and just over 1m high. Consists of turf covered stone with a number of kerb stones visible. A hole in the centre suggests it has been dug into.

PRN 1788

Scheduled Ancient Monument No.M082. Three squarish enclosures conjoined to form an L, just below 900ft contour on ground falling gently to the Afon Dyfrdwy. The western enclosure contains 2 huts 27ft in diameter. There is a single hut in the southern enclosure, 21ft in diameter. a belt of irregular enclosed fields lies to the west.

Fieldwork.

The farm was visited on the 27th January 1997 and a further eleven sites of archaeological interest were recorded. Of these, perhaps the most significant were the settlement remains in the fields to the east of Moel Caws and the long huts to the north and west of PRN 1788. Close by the long hut remains to the west of PRN 1788 were the foundations of a square structure, similar in character to the long hut and known locally as an old church. Also in the south west part of the holding were the remains of a water mill, located close to the stream, Nant Derlwyn. This was a structure of two compartment and a wheel pit. The walls were of dry stone construction with between one and two courses surviving. Other features recorded included agricultural features, sheepfolds and shelters and a small, brick lined railway bridge carrying the disused railway line over a drain into the Afon Dyfrdwy.

The entire farm could not be walked during the visit, due to a combination of lack of time and difficulty of terrain. The aerial photographic sources indicated that the improved fields to the north east were unlikely to have surviving archaeological features and these were not visited. The summit of Moel Caws had a dense coverage of heather that limited movement and visibility and the area to the west known as Creigiau Llwyngwern was too steep to investigate.

Conclusions

As expected, the areas of archaeological interest on the farm were all located on the *ffridd* and mountain to the south and west. Linear features had been noted from the aerial photographs in two of the improved fields but were not visible on the ground and may have been geological. The area of enclosures and walls in the fields to the east of Moel Caws appears to be potentially the most interesting, considering its proximity to the prehistoric settlement of PRN 1788 but would need surveying before it could be adequately interpreted.

Recommendations

The level of archaeological survival on the *ffridd* and mountain is a direct result of its use as rough pasture and that survival would be detrimentally affected if the area was ever cleared and improved. The trackway running through the settlement PRN 1788 is potentially damaging and efforts should be made to ensure that the trackway is not widened. The site was the subject of a management agreement with Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments but this is no longer in place. In cases such as these, it would be preferable for the specific management recommendations outlined in the agreement with Cadw to be incorporated into the Tir Cymen scheme, where the original management agreement has been superseded by Tir Cymen. The possible settlement area to the east of Moel Caws lies in a partially wooded steeply sloping field and could be damaged by regeneration and falling trees. Any plans for regeneration in this area would need to be closely monitored.

Two sites were allocated to Category A, both Scheduled Ancient Monuments, legally protected under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. A further two sites were categorised as B/C for which the first five management guidelines on p.30 are relevant

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Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. *List of Scheduled Ancient Monuments*

fig.4

TC NO	PRN	SITENAME	NGR	PERIOD	CONDITION	CATEGORY
LLG	1787	CAIRN, S OF MOEL CAWS A SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT. DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DISTURBED SINCE LAST DESCRIBED.<1>	SH84602736	PREHISTORIC	FAIR	A
LLG	1788	HUT GROUP & ENCLOSURE, MOEL CAWS A GROUP OF HUTS AND ENCLOSURES CUT BY A FARM TRACK. IT IS QUITE DIFFICULT TO MAKE OUT THE PLAN OF THE SITE. THE TRACK DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ENCROACHING ONTO THE SITE AT PRESENT.<1>	SH84502745	PREHISTORIC	POOR	A
LLG01		WATER MILL (REMS. OF), MOEL CAWS WATER MILL (REMS. OF) SQUARE BUILDING WITH 2 COMPARTMENTS AND WHEEL PIT. DRY STONE CONSTRUCTION, THE WALLS SURVIVE TO 1-2 COURSES HIGH. C.6M X 6M.<1>	SH84002746	UNDETERMINED	POOR	B/C
LLG02		SQUARE FOUNDATIONS, MOEL CAWS SQUARE FOUNDATIONS CUT INTO SLOPE. DRY STONE MASONRY 2-3 COURSES HIGH. POSS. DRAINAGE HOOD ON THE UP SLOPE SIDE. KNOWN LOCALLY AS AN OLD CHURCH.<1>	SH84772736	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
LLG03		LONG HUT, MOEL CAWS FURTHER UP THE SLOPE FROM THE SQUARE FOUNDATIONS, A VERY DENUDED LONG HUT WITH 2 COMPARTMENTS.<1>	SH84752735	MEDIEVAL	POOR	C
LLG04		CAIRN, S OF MOEL CAWS A SMALL CAIRN ON TOP OF A HILLOCK, SMALLER THAN PRN 1787 BUT OF SIMILAR CONSTRUCTION.<1>	SH84662733	PREHISTORIC	FAIR	C
LLG05		SHELTER, MOEL CAWS DRY STONE HUT, C.2.5M SQUARE, INTERNALLY. FIREPLACE IN N WALL. REMAINS OF BRICK CHIMNEY INSIDE. WALLS OF RUBBLE, 5 COURSES HIGH.<1>	SH84382772	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C
LLG06		LONG HUTS, MOEL CAWS POSSIBLE REMAINS OF A LONG HUT SETTLEMENT, CONVERTED INTO SHEEPFOLDS. 1ST HUT/FOLD IS 90 DEGREES TO THE SLOPE AND CUT INTO IT AT THE NW END WITH TRACES OF A DRAINAGE HOOD. ALIGNED NW-SE, SIDE WALLS ARE BUILT UP TO FORM A SHEEPFOLD. THE 2ND HUT/FOLD LIES ADJACENT TO IT, AT AN ANGLE OF 45 DEGREES, ALIGNED E-W. A WALL LEAS FROM THE SE END OF THE 1ST HUT TO A 3RD RECTANGULAR STRUCTURE, POSSIBLE A 3RD HUT.<1>	SH84552757	MEDIEVAL	POOR	B/C
LLG07		SHEEPFOLD, MOEL CAWS FROM ABOVE THIS APPEARED AS THOUGH IT MAY BE RELATED TO LLG6. HOWEVER IT IS BUILT ON STEEPLY SLOPING GROUND AND IS PROBABLY A SHEEPFOLD.<1>	SH84512756	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C

<u>TC NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
LLG08		RECTANGULAR STRUCTURE, W OF MOEL CAWS RECTANGULAR STRUCTURE LOCATED IN DENSE BRACKEN BELOW LYNCHET.<1>	SH84912783	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
LLG09		ENCLOSURES/WALLS, W OF MOEL CAWS SERIES OF SMALL DRY STONE ENCLOSURES, MOSTLY SUB-RECTANGULAR BUT SOME CIRCULAR AND SOME WANDERING WALLS. MAY BE ANOTHER AREA OF SETTLEMENT BUT WOULD NEED PROPER SURVEY TO MAKE ANY SENSE OUT OF IT.<1>	SH84872785C	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
LLG10		RECTANGULAR BUILDING,S OF LLWYNGWERN SMALL RECTANGULAR BUILDING, DRY STONE WALLS C.0.5M HIGH WITH AN ENCLOSING Paddock.<1>	SH84872804	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C
LLG11		RAILWAY BRIDGE, S OF LLWYNGWERN SMALL BRICK LINED BRIDGE CARRYING THE RAILWAY LINE OVER A SMALL STREAM.<1>	SH85152809	POST MEDIEVAL	VERY GOOD	C

Records printed: 13

5.4 TC52/5 Hafod Dywyll, Islawdref SH6815

Landscape

Hafod Dywyll is a farm of 109 ha located to the east of Afon Gwynant and to the north of Cadair Idris. It comprises a small number of improved fields around the farm itself. The *ffridd* is partially wooded and the mountain a combination of moorland and heathland. The lowland part of the farm lies between 100m and 140m OD, rising to 240m to 250m OD on the mountain. The highest part of the farm, the crags that form the south-eastern boundary of the farm, reach 320m OD.

Historic landscape

The majority of the farm consists of craggy, open moorland and, with the exception of the fields around the farmhouse, remains unimproved. The fields are divided by stone walls as is the mountain from the *ffridd*. The landscape is multi-period with prehistoric cairns on the moorland to the east and post medieval, agricultural features to the west. Both areas are associated with the trackway which appears to be of prehistoric origin, later used as a drovers' road.

Recorded archaeology

The area occupied by the farm has been reasonably well surveyed in the past and eight sites of archaeological interest were recorded on the regional Sites and Monuments Record. The house of Hafod Dywyll is a listed building and the farm is crossed by a walled trackway, used as a drovers' road but probably of prehistoric origin.

PRN 808 & 809

Two cairns which lie on the bleak uplands about two thirds of a mile north-west of Llyn Gwernan. The larger of these is set at the edge of level marshy ground, just where it begins to rise up to form a low hillock. It measures 52 yards by 4 feet, and has a continuous ring of kerbstones exposed all round it, of which the largest are on the east side...The second cairn is 70 yards north, in a little valley; it measures 30 yards by 2 feet. (Bowen & Gresham, 1967 p.94-5)

PRN 811 & 4158

Both PRNs refer to the same site which has variously been described as a hut circle and a cairn rim

PRN 4151

Prehistoric field clearance heaps - at least 30 prehistoric field clearance heaps exist in an area of moorland pasture. They stand irregularly scattered across a south-east sloping shelf to either side of a low round knoll above a marshy saddle amongst low hills. (O.S. 1973 NAR card)

PRN 4153

A large round cairn situated upon a woodland saddle between low hills. It has a diameter of 17m and a maximum height of 1.8m. (O.S. 1973 NAR card)

PRN 4154

A 3ft high boulder apparently bearing the impression of a foot, (O.S. 1973 NAR card)

PRN 4156

Another cairn, 9m in diameter and 0.6m high, located in an area of more recent field clearance.

Y Ffordd Ddu

A walled drovers road spans the whole length of the mountain and continues as a well defined path beyond the farm boundary. It is part of the Ffordd Ddu, a well used mountain trackway running north east from the coast in the direction of Dolgellau. Known locally as a Roman Road, the numerous cairns along the route provide evidence for an early origin, (Bowen & Gresham, 1967 p.61-3).

Hafod Dywyll house and barn

The house of Hafod Dywyll and a barn 50m north west of the farmhouse are both Grade II listed buildings. The house is c.1600 and is listed as 'an important vernacular upland sub-Medieval farmhouse retaining many original internal features'. The barn also dates to c.1600 and is listed for group value with the house.

Fieldwork.

Twelve new sites were recorded when the farm was visited on the 22nd January 1997. The section of Y Ffordd Ddu that crosses the farm was also recorded as this was not on the regional Sites and Monuments Record. The majority of the new sites were of agricultural origin; two large dry-stone walled cattle enclosures, presumably associated with the use of the trackway as a droveway, two areas of ridge and furrow one of which was noted during the visit, the other reported by the farmer and a number of small enclosures and sheepfolds or pens. The greatly damaged remains of a possible hut circle were located to the north of the trackway, on the boundary of the *ffridd* and mountain.

The improved fields around the farmhouse itself were mainly devoid of archaeological features, with the exception of the remains of a revetted trackway to the north of Pont Kings. To the north east of the farm, the existence of a curiously shaped enclosure connected to the rest of the holding by a narrow corridor of land was explained by the farmer. The fields to the north of Hafod Dywyll farmhouse and east of the Afon Gwynant were formerly owned by Kings, now a Youth Hostel, and were known as Caeau Kings. A former owner of Kings, in order to secure himself a view of the Mawddach estuary, purchased the land and the access corridor to it. Caeau Kings were purchased by Hafod Dywyll at the time of the current owner's grandfather.

Conclusions

Apart from the cairns and field clearance already recorded in the area, a number of sites of archaeological interest on the farm were noted. These were mainly the remains of past farming activity and, along with the prehistoric remains, contribute to the impression of an upland landscape that has been occupied and cultivated for a considerable length of time, despite its present marginal appearance.

Recommendations

Apart from the fields directly surrounding the farmhouse, the majority of the land at Hafod Dywyll has not been improved in recent times. The field boundaries of dry stone walling appear to be of post medieval and modern date and should be retained. The *ffridd* is a steeply sloping wooded area with some agricultural features surviving to the east of the house. On the mountain, the lack of improvement has resulted in a high level of archaeological survival. There is very little threat in this area from agricultural activity and this should be maintained. However, it was pointed out that the trackway, which is apparently still classed as a public road, is popular with people using four wheel drive vehicles 'off-road' for recreational purposes. Not only does this constitute a considerable threat to the trackway itself, but the farmer reports that, where the trackway is too narrow for some vehicles, the fields to either side are used. The proximity of a number of archaeological features, including the round cairns, to the trackway makes this a cause for concern. The farmer is aware of the problem and is keen to find a solution, however the status of the trackway is a matter for the Highways Department of Gwynedd Council. It is recommended that the condition of the trackway and its immediate environs be monitored until a solution can be found.

Five sites were allocated to Category B or above. With the exception of the walled trackway (HD011), all the management guidelines on p.30 are appropriate. The threat to the trackway is considered above. Its management poses more of a problem and would have to be achieved in consultation with a number of different bodies, including the Highways Department and relevant special interest groups.

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Hafod Dywyll, Islawrdref (SH6916)

KEY

- Farm boundary
- 808 Existing PRNs
- HD001 New sites

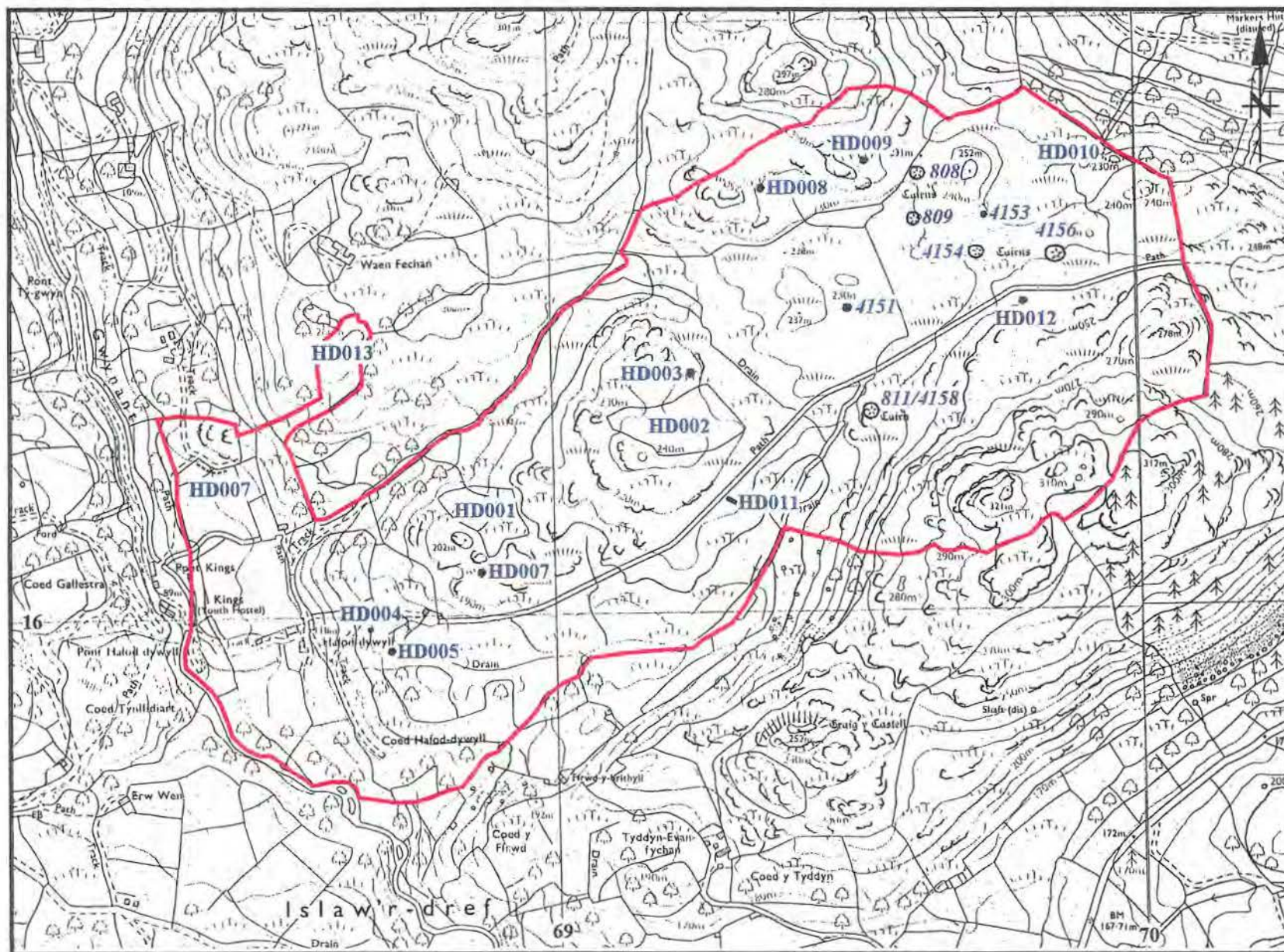
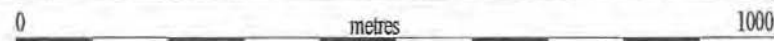


fig.5



<u>TC NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
HD	808	TAL Y WAUN - ROUND CAIRN VERY SIMILAR IN NATURE TO PRN 808, THIS CAIRN ALSO DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DISTURBED IN RECENT TIMES.<1>	SH69631673	PREHISTORIC	GOOD	A/B
HD	809	KERB CAIRN, TAL Y WAUN 1 THE CAIRN IS IN REASONABLY GOOD CONDITION AND DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DISTURBED SINCE ITS DESCRIPTION BY BOWEN AND GRESHAM.<1>	SH69601667	PREHISTORIC	GOOD	A/B
HD	811	HUT CIRCLE, NNE OF CRAIG Y CASTELL PRNS 811 AND 4158 REFER TO THE SAME SITE. THE SITE BEARS LITTLE RESEMBALNCE TO THE OTHER CAIRNS IN THE VICINITY, SO MAY IN FACT BE A HUT CIRCLE. LOCATED IN A VERY PROMINENT POSITION.<1>	SH69561630	PREHISTORIC	FAIR	B/C
HD	4151	FIELD CLEARANCE HEAPS LOCATED IN AN AREA OF FIELD CLEARANCE, THESE CAIRNS ARE SMALLER THAN THE MODERN HEAPS AND MORE OVERGROWN.<1>	SH69481651	?PREHISTORIC	FAIR	C
HD	4153	LARGE ROUND CAIRN PART OF THE SAME GROUP AS 808 AND 809, AND IN SIMILAR CONDITION.<1>	SH69731660	PREHISTORIC	GOOD	B
HD	4154	BOULDER, HAFOD DYWYLL UNLOCATED.<1>	SH69741659	PREHISTORIC	N/A	D
HD	4156	PROBABLE CAIRN - LATE FIELD CLEARANCE, HAOFD DYWYL LOCATED IN AN AREA OF FIELD CLEARANCE, PROBABLY NOT A FUNERARY CAIRN.<1>	SH59861659	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	E
HD	4158	CAIRN RIM, NE OF CRAIG Y CASTELL SEE PRN 811.<1>	SH69561630	PREHISTORIC	FAIR	B/C
HD001		ENCLOSURES, HAFOD DYWYLL TWO STONE WALLED ENCLOSURES ON FAIRLY LEVEL GROUND BETWEEN TWO CRAGS. STILL REASONABLY STOCK PROOF. THE HEIGHT OF THE WALLS AND THE PRESENCE OF SHEEP CREEPS INDICATE USE FOR CATTLE.<1>	SH68901616C	POST MEDIEVAL	GOOD	C
HD002		ENCLOSURE, HAFOD DYWYLL ANOTHER CLEARED ENCLOSURE, SAME CONSTRUCTION AS HD1, AGAIN FOR CATTLE.<1>	SH69201630C	POST MEDIEVAL	GOOD	C

<u>TC_NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
HD003		STRUCTURE/ENCLOSURE, HAFOD DYWYLL POSSIBLE REMAINS OF A STRUCTURE OR ENCLOSURE. LOCATED IN DENSE BRACKEN AND IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE PLAN.<1>	SH69241640	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
HD004		RIDGE AND FURROW, HAFOD DYWYLL SMALL AREA OF RIDGE AND FURROW TO THE E OF THE FARM HOUSE, LOCATED IN AN AREA OF WOODED SMALL FIELDS AND ENCLOSURE.<1>	SH68591598	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C
HD005		D-SHAPED ENCLOSURE, HAFOD DYWYLL SMALL D-SHAPED ENCLOSURE, DEFINED BY EARTH AND STONE BANK ON THREE SIDES AND THE HILLSLOPE ITSELF ON THE 4TH. PLANTED WITH TREES, NO TRACES OF ANY STRUCTURES INSIDE.<1>	SH68731595	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	D
HD006		REVETTED TRACKWAY, HAFOD DYWYLL TRACES OF REVETTED TRACKWAY FOLLOWING CURVE OF FIELD WALL. CAN BE SEEN AGAIN WHERE THE PATH CURVES ROUND OUTSIDE THE FARN BOUNDARY AND HEADS TOWARDS PONT KINGS.<1>	SH68411625	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C
HD007		?HUT CIRCLE, HAFOD DYWYLL A POSSIBLE HUT CIRCLE, DEFINED BY A CIRCULAR RING OF STONE C.2M IN DIAMETER INTERNALLY, OVERGROWN WITH MOSS AND BRACKEN.<1>	SH68881608	PREHISTORIC	POOR	D
HD008		SHEEPFOLD, HAFOD DYWYLL RECTANGULAR SHEEPFOLD BUILT BELOW CRAGS. A COURSE OF STONES EXTENDS SW BEYOND THE CURRENT STRUCTURE, POSSIBLY INDICATING EARLIER FOUNDATIONS.<1>	SH69361670	UNDETERMINED	GOOD	C
HD009		OVAL STONE SPREAD, HAFOD DYWYLL OVAL SPREAD OF STONE, POSSIBLE THE REMAINS OF A RECTANGULAR STRUCTURE OR A DEMOLISHED CAIRN.<1>	SH69551676	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
HD010		SEMI CIRCULAR FEATURE, HAFOD DYWYLL SEMI CIRCULAR FEATURE DEFINED BY A LOW GRASSED PVER BANK UP AGAINST, OR POSSIBLY BISECTED BY, FARM BOUNDARY WALL.<1>	SH69971676	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
HD011		WALLED TRACKWAY, HAFOD DYWYLL WALLED TRACKWAY, C.3M WIDE. POSSIBLE A DROVEWAY TO DOLGELLAU, ASSOCIATED WITH THE WALLED ENCLOSURES? KNOWN AS A ROMAN ROAD, PROXIMITY TO CAIRNS MAY INDICATE AN OLDER ROUTE. CONTINUES AS A WELL DEFINED PATH BEYOND FARM BOUNDARY.<1>	SH69--16--C	UNDETERMINED	FAIR/GOOD	B
HD012		RIDGE AND FURROW, HAFOD DYWYLL MR ELLIS MENTIONED THAT RIDGE AND FURROW HAD BEEN REPORTED IN THIS AREA. NOT OBSERVED ON VISIT BUT THIS MAY BE DUE TO LOW CLOUD. HOWEVER, THE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN DRAINED AND THIS MAY BE WHAT WAS SEEN.<1>	SH69801650C	UNDETERMINED	UNKNOWN	C

<u>TC NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
HD013		ENCLOSURE, HAFOD DYWYLL	SH68621643C	POST MEDIEVAL	N/A	C
SMALL AREA OF LAND APPARENTLY PURCHASED BY A FORMER OWNER OF KINGS C.100 YEARS AGO IN ORDER TO SECURE A VIEW OF THE MAWDDACH ESTUARY. THE FIELDS BELOW THE ENCLOSURE USED TO BELONG TO KINS AND WERE KNOWN LOCALLY AS CAEAU KINGS. PURCHASED BY HAFOD DYWYLL AT THE TIME OF THE PRESENT FARMER'S GRANDFATHER.<1>						

Records printed: 21

5.5 TC/69/1 Henblas, Llwyngwrl SH5809

Landscape

The holding consists of two main units, Henblas in Llwyngwrl and Buchesydd in Rhydymain, a total area of 328 ha. Only Henblas itself was visited during the pilot study. The farm is situated to the south of the village of Llwyngwrl, on land stretching east from the coast to the lower slopes of Allt Llwyd, between the Mawddach and the Dysynni valleys. It has an open, north- westerly aspect and is crossed by both the A493 and the Barmouth to Tywyn railway line. The farmhouse itself is located on the 20m contour and the land rises from sea level in the west to 190m OD in the east. The level fields between the road and the sea have been improved. The *ffridd* is more steeply sloping and has also been cleared. There is a small separate block of mountain land to the east but this was not visited.

Historic landscape

The fields at Henblas are enclosed by well-maintained stone walls and reflect the characteristic field pattern of the area. Evidence for activity in this area ranges from the prehistoric promontory fort of Castell y Gaer to the late medieval corn drying kiln and the sub medieval house of Cam Gadell Uchaf. The landscape is multi-period and is characterised by extensive remnants of earlier field systems represented as lynchets possibly of medieval date, and by the modern improvements to the land in the form of field clearance cairns.

Recorded archaeology

Although the area has not recently been surveyed, six sites of archaeological interest were already recorded on the regional Sites and Monuments Record. Two of these are scheduled ancient monuments and two had been brought to the attention of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust by visitors to Cam Gadell Uchaf, a holiday home in the south west of the farm.

PRN 3563

Scheduled Ancient Monument No. M116. A corn drying kiln set into the slope of the hill, facing west and measuring c.9m x c. 8m.

PRN 4919

Scheduled Ancient Monument No. M053. 'Castell y Gaer promontory fort - the defences consist of both stone and earth, but the whole fort appears to be of a single design...The main inner defence was a stone wall surrounding the almost flat top of the spur, and enclosing an irregularly shaped area, which measures some 160 feet from north to south and from 80 feet, at the narrow end, to 150 feet wide from east to west', (Bowen & Gresham, 1967 p.153-5).

PRN 4054

Reported to the Trust by Mrs. B. Greene, a visitor to Cam Gadell Uchaf as a possible carved stone.

PRN 4089

Again reported by Mrs. Greene, a circular structure in the field below Cam Gadell Uchaf.

PRN 4923

A cruck framed barn in the farmyard at Henblas

PRN 20500

A disused level to the north east of Cam Gadell Uchaf

Not recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record but marked on the OS 1:10000 is the firing range to the west of Henblas farmhouse, which dates from the First World War. Carn Gadell Uchaf house is of late 16th century date and is a type A Sub medieval farmhouse with its chimney on the gable wall and a winding stone stair by the hall fireplace, (Smith, P. 1988 p.157-8)

Fieldwork.

The farm was visited on the 28th January 1997. The area between the railway and the sea was not walked as this had already been assessed as part of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Aberdaron to Aberdyfi Coastal Erosion Survey, (GAT 1996). Four new sites of archaeological interest were recorded and the two sites reported by Mrs B. Greene were also visited. The new sites included a possible burnt mound located near a small stream to the south east of Carn Gadell Uchaf, and a platform to the south of Castell y Gaer fort which may have been the site of a medieval platform hut. The site was located in a field with numerous lynchets and traces of earlier field systems. The aerial photographs studied had indicated the presence of lynchets over most of the area of the farm and traces of earlier agricultural activity accounted for the other two new sites recorded. The circular structure noted by Mrs Greene appeared to be the remains of a hut circle, used latterly as a dump for field clearance with an enclosure nearby. The carved stone, despite its unusual appearance, was probably a natural feature.

Also worthy of note are the numerous field clearance cairns on the farm, particularly in the fields to the south west of Castell y Gaer. These were the result of clearance by father of the current owner, Mrs Pugh, and are exceptionally fine examples. They are all oval in shape, having well constructed bases with the stone built, as opposed to piled, on top. Stone has been taken from some for use elsewhere, but the majority of the cairns are still in very good condition.

Conclusions

Henblas has two major sites of archaeological interest, the fort of Castell y Gaer and the corn drying kiln at Carn Gadell Uchaf, both of which are scheduled as monuments of national importance. The remaining sites recorded on the farm are mainly remnants of previous agricultural practices, with the exception of the possible burnt mound and the hut circle. The farm reflects the characteristic field pattern of the area and the visual impression is enhanced by the clearance cairns mentioned above.

Recommendations

Despite being, in part, quite steeply sloping, the land around the main unit of Henblas has been considerably improved over the years, particularly after the Second World War when farmers were encouraged to plough all available land for cultivation. Despite this, traces of earlier agricultural exploitation of the area have survived in the form of lynchets and enclosures. The majority of the farm is now used for pasture and it is unlikely that further damage to sites of archaeological interest will occur unless a change in land use is made. It is recommended that current, non-damaging practices continue and that the characteristic dry stone walls and clearance cairns are retained. The condition of the two scheduled sites is monitored by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and both appear to be in reasonably good condition.

Three sites were considered to be in Category B or above, two of which were Scheduled Ancient Monuments, protected under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. The third site was a cruck-framed barn, still in use and considered to be adequately protected by the current Tir Cymen agreement.

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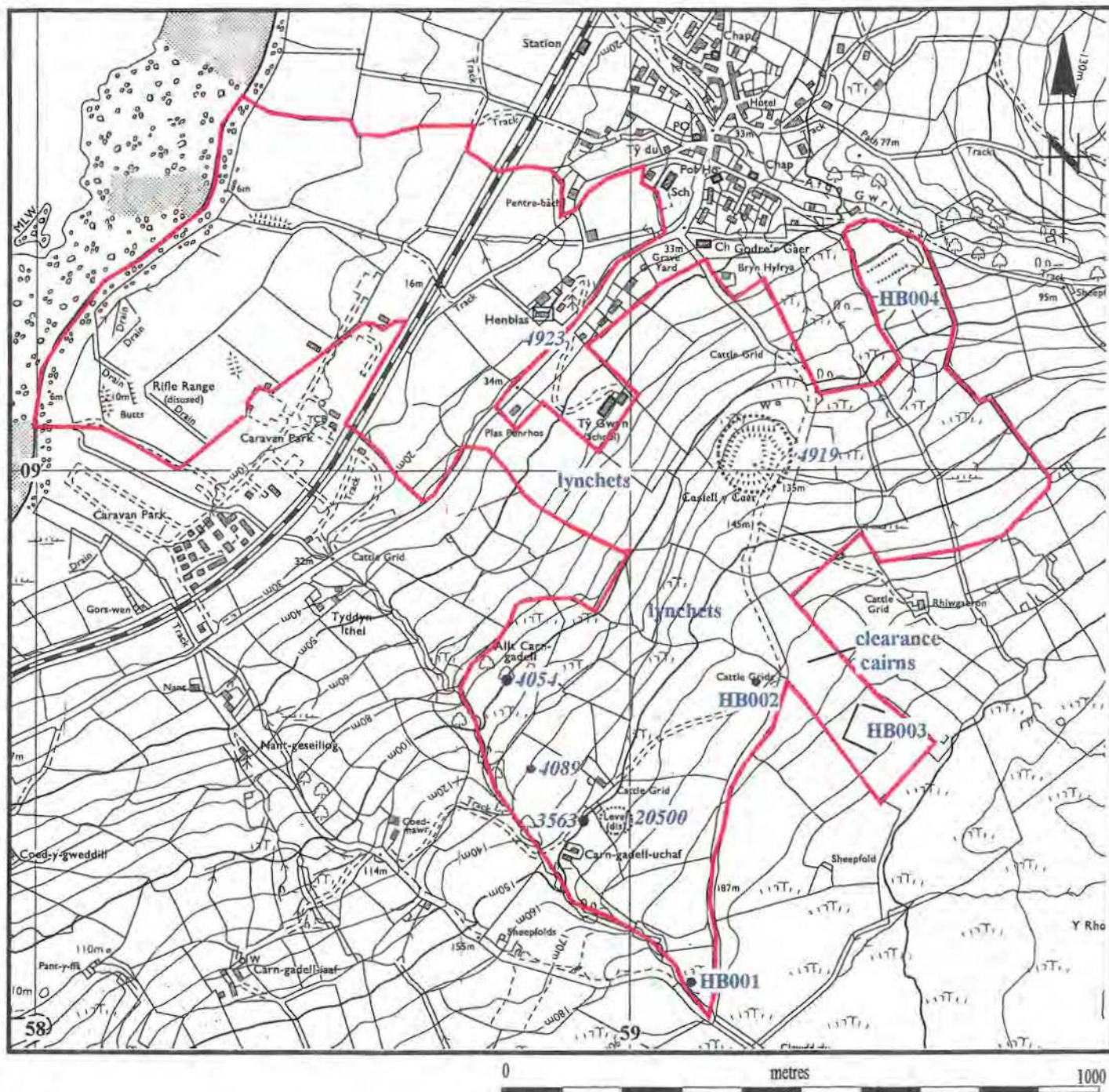
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Henblas, Llwyngwril (SH5809)



KEY

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| | Farm boundary |
| 4054 | Existing PRN |
| HB001 | New site |

Maps Office
Countryside Council for Wales
Plas Penrhos, Penrhos Road
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2LQ
Tel. (0248) 370444

fig. 6

<u>TC NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
HB	3563	CORN DRYING KILN, CARN GADELL UCHAF A SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT MONITORED BY CADW. THE KILN IS WELL PRESERVED, DEBRIS HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO COLLECT IN THE TOP TO BLOCK THE FLUE AND PREVENT INVESTIGATION BY PASSERS BY.<1>	SH58920841	EARLY MEDIEVAL	GOOD	A
HB	4054	MARKED STONE, ALLT CARN GADELL PROBABLY A NATURAL FEATURE.<1>	SH58800860	UNDETERMINED	GOOD	D
HB	4089	CIRCULAR STRUCTURE, CARN GADELL UCHAF APPEARS TO BE THE REMAINS OF A HUT CIRCLE, A RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE EXISTS NEARBY.<1>	SH58750845	PREHISTORIC	POOR	C
HB	4919	PROMONTORY FORT, CASTELL Y GAER SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT MONITORED BY CADW. THE EARTHEN DEFENCES OF THE FORT SUFFER FROM EROSION BY BADGERS PERIODICALLY.<1>	SH59200900	ROMANO BRITISH	FAIR	A
HB	4923	CRUCK FRAMED BARN, HENBLAS IN USE IN THE FARMYARD AND IN GOOD CONDITION.<1>	SH58850925	MEDIEVAL	GOOD	B
HB	20500	LEVEL, CARN GADELL UCHAF UNLOCATED.<1>	SH589-084-	POST MEDIEVAL	N/A	D
HB001		BURNT MOUND, CARN GADELL POSSIBLE BURNT MOUND - LOW KIDNEY SHAPED MOUND ON E BANK OF SMALL STREAM. NO BURNT STONE VISIBLE BUT MOUND COMPLETELY GRASSED OVER. MAY BE A NATURAL FEATURE BUT THE SHAPE AND PROXIMITY TO THE STREAM SUGGEST BURNT MOUND.<1>	SH59110813	PREHISTORIC	POOR	D
HB002		POSS. PLATFORM HOUSE, CARN GADELL A LEVEL PLATFORM LOCATED IN A FIELD WITH NUMEROUS LYNCHETS AND TRACES OF EARLIER FIELD SYSTEMS. THE PLATFORM IS DEFINED BY A SERIES OF LOW EARTH BANKS WHICH MAY BE THE REMAINS OF A ROBBED OUT PLATFORM HOUSE.<1>	SH59210865	MEDIEVAL	POOR	C
HB003		ENCLOSURE, CARN GADELL REMAINS OF EARLIER FIELD WALLS FORMING 3 SIDES OF AN ENCLOSURE WITHIN THE EXISTING FIELD. BOTH THIS FIELD AND THE ONE BELOW IT HAVE BEEN CLEARED AND HAVE LARGE, NEATLY BUILT FIELD CLEARANCE CAIRNS DATING TO THE TIME OF MRS PUGH'S FATHER.<1>	SH59400856	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C

<u>TC NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
HB004		LYNCHETS, LLWYNGWRIL	SH59430935C	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C
		LYNCHATS, PART OF ONE OF WHICH HAS AN EXPOSED AREA OF STONWORK IN GOOD CONDITION. AREA OF RIDGE AND FURROW ABOVE.<1>				

Records printed: 10

5.6 TC/58/7 Eithin Fynydd, Talybont SH6021

Landscape

Eithinfynydd is a substantial farm of 234.1 ha split into two holdings; Eithinfynydd itself, located above Talybont village and extending to the foot of Mynydd y Llawlech and Werngron which lies to the north of the Afon Artro. During the pilot study, only Eithinfynydd was visited. The farm includes a variety of landscapes with small, irregular fields around the farmhouse itself: the *ffridd* is largely, but not entirely, cleared and the mountain, which rises to a maximum height of 430m, is mainly open, upland grassland. Part of the mountain, about 19 ha. in all is secured from improvement under a separate management agreement with the Snowdonia National Park and will not be included in the Tir Cymen Scheme.

Historic landscape

The historic landscape of Eithinfynydd is typical of the Ardudwy area and is characterised by small, irregular fields, divided by dry stone walls. It is a multi-period landscape with archaeological features ranging from early prehistoric to post medieval date and shows a considerable continuity of use. The sometimes massive lynchets in the western area of the farm provide striking visual evidence for the past agricultural use of the land.

Recorded archaeology

The area around Eithinfynydd has been reasonably well surveyed in the past and eleven sites of archaeological interest were recorded on the regional Sites and Monuments Record, including the scheduled stone circles at Hengwm.

PRN 868

An area of clearance cairns and field boundaries noted by R. Kelly in 1979.

PRN 1097

The cairn is now a low, grass-grown mound with a number of kerbstones visible in it, and its circumference is about 57 yards, with a height of 3 feet. In the centre are the remains of a cist formed of two stones on edge, (Bowen & Gresham, 1967 p.90).

PRN 1085

Alleged long barrow/natural mound - a long, tapering mound initially thought to be a long barrow by O.G.S.Crawford, but eventually dismissed as natural.

PRN 1087 & 1088

Two stone circles, diameters about 172 and 120 feet, described by Pennant in the late 18th century. Most of the stones were removed when the mountainside around them was enclosed. Partly excavated by O.G.S.Crawford in 1919, (Bowen & Gresham, 1967 p.35-7).

PRN 2937 & 2929

Both numbers appear to refer to the same site. Two rectangular structures. The first is 15m x 2.5m with slight walls and a possible drain running diagonally under the structure. The second, on a lower shelf, is 11m x 3m with a distinct raised bench 1.5m wide running along the full length of the structure, leaving a narrow passage on the downhill side, (Crew, P. 1979 p.43).

PRN 1071

The site is a small projecting tongue of land at a height of 400 feet on the fairly steep hill-side which rises from the coast; it is almost level and has been fortified by the construction of a stone wall, enclosing an oval area, 125 feet by 100 feet, (Bowen & Gresham, 1967 p.156-8).

PRN 5857

A small rectangular feature located to the south east of a large rectangular dry-stone enclosure. The feature is visible on aerial photographs as a series of low earthen banks, (GAT 1995 Report No.181).

PRN 5852

Noted from aerial photographs as being a possible settlement site, comprising a D-shaped and a rectangular enclosure of dry-stone construction, (GAT 1995 Report No.181)

PRN 3866

A trackway from Pont Fadog to Bwlch y Rhiwgyr crosses the farm and follows the southern boundary for a short distance just below Bwlch y Rhiwgyr. It is believed to be older than the Pont Scethin trackway as the pass of Bwlch y Rhiwgyr is too narrow for wheeled traffic.

Fieldwork.

The farm visit took place over two days between the 14th and 15th of January 1997 and 36 new sites of archaeological interest were recorded. Of these, 14 were medieval or later agricultural traces; enclosures, lynchets, sheepfolds, etc. A rectangular structure, probably a long hut, was located c.20m to the south of the recorded medieval settlement. To the north west of the Hengwm stone circles, an area of wandering walls and circular features was recorded in a small field which remained uncleared. Also of particular interest was a long hut and adjoining paddock, initially identified from aerial photographs, located just to the south of a trackway leading from the farmhouse up to the top of the *ffridd*. The post medieval remains recorded included three ruined domestic structures and a shepherds shelter built into the corner of a sheepfold. The latter was a particularly fine example of its type, and in very good condition. It was neatly built of regular stone blocks and had a fireplace and a lintelled doorway. Internally, it measured c.1.65m x 1.55m and the maximum height of the pitched roof was 1.90m.

Conclusions

As might be expected in this part of Ardudwy, a significant number of archaeological sites were recorded at Eithinfynydd. Traces of earlier agricultural practice made up the majority of the sites recorded but assigning them to a particular period is difficult. Across the farm as a whole, there is evidence for activity of some kind from the early prehistoric period onwards. Up on the mountain, the surviving remains are mainly medieval and later. The wandering walls and circular features mentioned above are located in an area close to other prehistoric remains and may be contemporary, although this is entirely circumstantial.

Recommendations

Eithinfynydd has been traditionally farmed over the years and this is reflected in the survival of archaeological features on the farm which, even in the cleared fields to the west, is good. Clearance and drainage in this area has lead to a certain amount of damage, particularly the removal of stone, and has resulted in the survival of enclosures and field walls as low earth banks. The characteristic field walls in this area should be retained. On the *ffridd*, the fields to the north east appear to be relatively undisturbed and this should remain the case. The wandering walls and features centred in SH61212150 in particular would suffer if the area was cleared. The condition of the scheduled stone circles is monitored by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. A trackway runs between the circles but the farmer is aware of the limits of the monuments and takes care not to encroach onto them.

Up on the mountain, the land is used as rough pasture and there is little to disturb the archaeology. It would seem likely that the boundary wall was initially built from stone taken from the medieval settlement. This is currently well-maintained but stone should not be taken from the site when repairs are necessary.

Eight of the sites were placed in Category B or above, two of which were protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. EF22, a post medieval ruined house and paddock, is not threatened by agricultural activity but stone should not be taken from the site and it should remain undisturbed unless it becomes dangerously unstable. For the other five sites, PRN2929/2937, EF1, EF2, EF21, the management guidelines on p.30 are all appropriate.

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2929	Farm boundary
EF001	Existing PRN
	New site

fig.7

<u>TC_NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
EF	1071	DEFENDED SETTLEMENT, EITHIN FYNDD NOT VISITED DURING THE ASSESSMENT AS THE SITE HAS RECENTLY BEEN DESCRIBED THUS IN THE CEILWART TO BARMOUTH MAINS REFURBISHMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT (GAT REPORT 181).	SH59922150	ROMANO BRITISH	FAIR	A
		THE DISTURBED REMAINS OF AN ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT SITUATED ON A SMALL PROMONTORY. AN IMPRESSIVE FEATURE OF THE SITE IS THE MASSIVE DRY-STONE BUILT ENCLOSURE WALL. THE SITE IS THOUGHT TO DATE FROM THE IRON AGE.				
EF	1085	ALLEGED LONG BARROW/NATURAL MOUND, EITHINFYNDD NO VISIBLE EVIDENCE FOR MAN MADE CONSTRUCTION.<1>	SH61122148	UNDETERMINED	N/A	D
EF	1087	STONE CIRCLE, HENGWM LOCATED IN ROUGH PASTURE, THE FIELD HAS BEEN DRAINED TO THE SW. THE FARMER IS AWARE OF THE LIMITS OF THE CIRCLES.<1>	SH61622135	PREHISTORIC	POOR	A
EF	1088	STONE CIRCLES: HENGWM SEE PRN 1087.<1>	SH61642128	PREHISTORIC	POOR	A
EF	2929	SETTLEMENT SITE - MEDIEVAL SEE PRN 2937. BOTH NUMBERS APPEAT TO REFER TO THE SAME SITE.<1>	SH62482114	MEDIEVAL	FAIR	B
EF	2937	MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT,EITHIN FYNDD PRN 2937/2929: SINGLE LONG HUT/PLATFORM HOUSE BUILT INTO SLOPE BELOW BOULDER SCREE. TRACES OF HOOD AND TERRACE/REVTMENT. ALIGNED ROUGHLY E-W WITH WESTERN ASPECT. CONVERTED INTO A SHEEPFOLD. SECOND RECTNAGULAR ENCLOSURE TO THE W COULD BE THE REMAINS OF A LONG HUT CONVERTED INTO AN ENCLOSURE OR PEAT STACK. TRACES OF THE OTHER STRUCTURES/WALLS AMONGST THE BOULDERS.<1>	SH62462114	MEDIEVAL	POOR	B
EF	3866	TRACKWAY: PONT FADOG - BWLCH Y RHIWGYR STILL VISIBLE AS A WELL DEFINED TRACKWAY WITH SHEEPRUNS ALONGSIDE. DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE USED BY VEHICLES.<1>	SH	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	B
EF	5852	POSS. HOMESTEAD, HENDRE-FECHAN RECORDED IN GAT REPORT 181 AS A POSSIBLE HOMESTEAD. A NUMBER OF 'WANDERING WALLS' WERE NOTED IN THE AREA BUT NO EVIDENCE OF HUTS. HOWEVER THE SITE WAS OBSCURED BY BRACKEN.<1>	SH59842120	UNDETERMINED	POOR	E

<u>TC NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
EF	5857	RECTANGULAR FEATURE, EITHIN FYNDD DESCRIBED IN GAT REPORT 181: A SMALL RECTANGULAR FEATURE LOCATED TO THE SE OF A LARGE RECTANGULAR DRY-STONE ENCLOSURE. THE FEATURE IS VISIBLE ON AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AS A SERIES OF LOW EARTHEN BANKS. THE SITE WAS DIFFICULT TO EXAMINE DURING THE FIELD SEARCH BECAUSE OF DENSE BRACKEN COVER.	SH59902143	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
EF001		SHEEPFOLD COMPLEX, EITHIN FYNDD SUB-CIRCULAR SHEEPFOLD LOCATED ON SLOPE BELOW BOUNDARY WALL, MARKED ON OS 1:10000. 2 SMALLER ENCLOSURES ON SE SIDE, 1ST IRREGULAR SHAPED PEN. 2ND APPEARS TO BE A VERY SMALL, WELL CONSTRUCTED SHEPHERDS SHELTER. IN CONTRAST TO THE FOLD, IT IS NEATLY BUILT OF REGULAR STONE BLOCKS, SOME OF WHICH APPEAR TO BE DRESSED. FIREPLACE IN N CORNER, LINTELLED DOORWAY IN SE WALL. HEIGHT AT S CORNER 1.10M. DOORWAY 1.20M HIGH AND 0.70M WIDE. FIREPLACE 0.63M HIGH, 0.92M WIDE AND 0.75M DEEP. SMALL SHELF OR CUBBY HOLE ON S SIDE OF FIREPLACE. HIGHEST POINT OF ROOF (INTERNALLY) 1.90M.<1>	SH62472088C	POST MEDIEVAL	GOOD	B/C
EF002		LONG HUT, EITHIN FYNDD RECTANGULAR STRUCTURE C.11M X 5M, ALIGNED N-S AND BUILT PARALLEL TO SLOPE ON LEVEL GROUND. ENTRANCE MID WAY ALONG W WALL, POSS. SUB-DIVISION TO THE S. N WALL SLIGHTLY CURVED, GIVING BOWED APPEARANCE. WALLS STAND 3-4 COURSES HIGH. N SECTION OF W WALL HAS LARGE ORTHOSTATIC FACING STONES.<1>	SH62392099	MEDIEVAL	FAIR	B
EF003		RECTANGULAR BUILDING, EITHIN FYNDD RECTANGULAR BUILDING, PROBABLY A HAFOD STANDING ON REMAINS OF EARLIER PLATFORM HUT. GABLE WALL SURVIVES TO THE W. TRACES OF HOOD AT E END. WALLS STAND TO A HEIGHT OF 0.50M - 1.00M. ENTRANCE IN N WALL.<1>	SH62472094	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C
EF004		SHEEPFOLD OBSERVED FROM EF2, NOT VISITED.<1>	SH62342106	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C
EF005		POSS. STANDING STONE FLAT STONE SLAB, SET UPRIGHT WITH PACKING STONES AT BASE. HEIGHT - C.0.70M ABOVE TURF. EASILY SEEN FROM TRACKWAY PRN 3866.<1>	SH62272094	UNDETERMINED	GOOD	D
EF006		PEAT MOUND, EITHIN FYNDD	SH61582118	POST MEDIEVAL	POOR	D
EF007		SUB-CIRCULAR FEATURE, EITHIN FYNDD SUB-CIRCULAR FEATURE, NOTED BY FARMER OTHER SIDE OF WALL FROM STONE CIRCLES. V. SLIGHT RAISED BANK C.12M IN DIAMETER. IMPOSSIBLE TO DEFINE INNER EDGES OF BANK.<1>	SH61692125C	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
EF008		SUB-CIRCULAR FEATURE, EITHIN FYNDD SMALL SUB-CIRCULAR FEATURE OF GRASSED OVER STONE BANK, C.2M INTERNAL DIAMETER. SOME LOOSE STONES IN CENTRE: POSS. ROBBED OUT CAIRN?<1>	SH61222148	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D

<u>TC NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
EF009		WANDERING WALL, EITHIN FYNYYDD REMAINS OF GRASSED OVER STONE WALL, 1 COURSE HIGH.<1>	SH61212150C	?PREHISTORIC	POOR	C
EF010		WANDERING WALL, EITHIN FYNYYDD SECTION OF CURVED (SEMI-CIRCULAR?) WALLING SIMILAR TO EF9. PROBABLY MORE WANDERING WALLS BUT POSSIBLE PART OF A SEMI DESTROYED HUT CIRCLE.<1>	SH61172154	?PREHISTORIC	POOR	C
EF011		WANDERING WALL, EITHIN FYNYYDD ANOTHER WALL, THIS TIME TERMINATING WITH 3 STONE SLABS SET TO FORM 3 SIDES OF A SQUARE. SOME PACKING STONES VISIBLE. ?CIST.<1>	SH61202155C	?PREHISTORIC	POOR	C
EF012		CIRCULAR FEATURE, EITHIN FYNYYDD SMALL CIRCULAR FEATURE WITH GRASSED OVER STONE BANK. TOTAL DIAMETER C.7M. SLIGHT DITCH AROUND OUTER EDGE. A POSSIBLE 2ND CIRCLE IMMEDIATELY TO THE S. INTERPRETED AS A CAIRN RATHER THAN A HUT CIRCLE.<1>	SH61262153	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
EF013		WANDERING WALL, EITHIN FYNYYDD WALL, SIMILAR TO EF9 AND EF10.<1>	SH61282157	?PREHISTORIC	POOR	C
EF014		SUB-OVAL FEATURE, EITHIN FYNYYDD SUB-OVAL FEATURE, SIMILAR TO EF12 EXCEPT FOR SHAPE.<1>	SH61212159	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
EF015		EARLY FIELD WALL, EITHIN FYNYYDD REMAINS OF STONE WALL, SOME ORTHOSTATIC FACING STONES. PART OF AN EARLIER FIELD SYSTEM.<1>	SH61202162	?PREHISTORIC	POOR	C
EF016		EARLY FIELD WALL, EITHIN FYNYYDD STONE WALL, AS EF15 AND PROBABLY PART OF THE SAME FIELD SYSTEM.<1>	SH61102168	?PREHISTORIC	POOR	C
EF017		RUINED HOUSE, EITHIN FYNYYDD SUBSTANTIAL STONE DWELLING, E GABLE STILL SURVIVING. OPPOSING ENTRANCES IN N AND S WALLS. W END SOMEWHAT COLLAPSED. WINDOW IN E END OF N WALL. FIREPLACE LATER ADDITION BUILT INTO SE CORNER. SURROUNDED BY REMAINS OF MUCH EARLIER FIELDS.<1>	SH61012167	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C
EF018		SHEEPFOLD, EITHIN FYNYYDD SUBSTANTIALLY WALLED ENCLOSURE, CURRENTLY IN USE AS A SHEEPFOLD. PROBABLY CONTEMPORARY WITH EF17. APPEARS TO OVERLY MUCH EARLIER FIELD SYSTEM.<1>	SH61002164	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C
EF019		SUB-CIRCULAR FEATURE, EITHIN FYNYYDD SUB-CIRCULAR FEATURE SIMILAR TO EF12 AND EF14. APPEARS TO HAVE A KERB ON THE N SIDE WITH SOME FACING STONES VISIBLE.<1>	SH61172144	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C

<u>TC NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
EF020		CIRCULAR FEATURE, EITHIN FYNYYDD CIRCULAR FEATURE 5M IN DIAMETER. WALLS ARE RAISED EARTH AND STONE BAMKS. NO OBVIOUS ENTRANCE.<1>	SH60902139	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
EF021		LONG HUT AND PADDOCK, EITHIN FYNYYDD LONG HUT WITH PADDOCK ADJOINING ON W SIDE. ALOGNEED SW-NE WITH TRACES OF HOOD AT NE END. INNER FACINGS VISIBLE ON NW WALL. C.6-7M X C 3M INTERNALLY. POSSIBLY HAS OPPOSING ENTRANCES. A CATTLE FEEDER IS PLACED NEAR THE PADDOCK BUT NOT DIRECTLY ON IT. LYNCHETS AND EARLY FIELD WALLS TO THE E.<1>	SH64472145	MEDIEVAL	FAIR	A/B
EF022		RUINED HOUSE AND ENCLOSURE, EITHIN FYNYYDD	SH60452156	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	B
EF023		LYNCHET, EITHIN FYNYYDD	SH60402157	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C
EF024		LYNCHET, EITHIN FYNYYDD	SH60302158	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C
EF025		LYNCHET, EITHIN FYNYYDD	SH60202153	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C
EF026		LYNCHET, EITHIN FYNYYDD	SH60142157	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C
EF027		LYNCHET, EITHIN FYNYYDD	SH60092135	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C
EF028		ENCLOSURE, EITHIN FYNYYDD ENCLOSURE DEFINED BY 3 LOW EARTH BANKS AGAINST MODERN FIELD WALL. LYNCHETS IN FIELD TO THE N.<1>	SH60122122	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
EF029		CIRCULAR ENCLOSURE, EITHIN FYNYYDD REMAINS OF A STONE WALLED CIRCULAR ENCLOSURE, CONSIDERABLY ROBBED OF STONE. NUMEROUS FIELD CLEARANCE CAIRNS IN VICINITY.<1>	SH60182130C	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
EF030		LYNCHETS, EITHIN FYNYYDD	SH60342135	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C
EF031		PLATFORM, EITHIN FYNYYDD REMAINS OF A STONE REVETTED PLATFORM WITH SHEEPFOLD BUILT OVER IT. POSS. SITE OF PLATFORM HUT?<1>	SH60262129	?MEDIEVAL	POOR	C
EF032		LYNCHET, EITHIN FYNYYDD	SH60332128	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C
EF033		RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE, EITHIN FYNYYDD REMAINS OF RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE, DEFINED BY GRASSED OVER STONE WALLS.<1>	SH60292122	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
EF034		POSSIBLE ENCLOSURE, EITHIN FYNYYDD A KINK IN THE FIELD WALL MAY REPRESENT THE SITE OF A FORMER CIRCULAR ENCLOSURE.<1>	SH60212147	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C

<u>TC NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
EF035		POSS. HUT CIRCLE, EITHIN FYNYDD CIRCULAR SUNKEN AREA WITH POSSIBLE REMAINS OF HUT CIRCLE. FENCED OFF SO IMPOSSIBLE TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER.<1>	SH60252143	PREHISTORIC	POOR	C
EF036		RECTANGULAR BUILDING, EITHIN FYNYDD SUBSTANTIAL STONE BUILT RECTANGULAR BUILDING ON POSSIBLY EARLIER PLATFORM, CUT INTO SLOPE BELOW MASSIVE LYNCHET/STONE TERRACING.<1>	SH59902122	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C

Records printed: 45

5.7 TC/58/5 Gwerncaernyddion, Llanbedr SH5925

Landscape

Gwerncaernyddion consists of four separate units; Meini Hirion in Llanbedr village and three other units between the village and the foot of Moelfre; Pen y Bryn, Gwerncaernyddion itself and the mountain land to the east. The four holdings were located reasonably close to each other, so it was possible to visit all four. Meini Hirion, Pen y Bryn and Gwerncaernyddion are mostly improved land, the mountain has a variety of landscapes including heathland and moorland, upland grassland, marshy grassland and woodland. The holdings of Pen y Bryn and Gwerncaernyddion vary between 50m and 150m OD with the mountain land rising to a maximum of 190m OD.

Historic Landscape

The characteristic field pattern of this area of Ardudwy is reflected by the small stone walled fields at Gwerncaernyddion. At Pen y Bryn and Gwerncaernyddion, the fields have been improved in recent times but retain a number of earlier features including field walls, no longer in use. On the mountain, land use as unimproved pasture has resulted in a greater level of archaeological survival with two late prehistoric hut groups providing evidence for an earlier landscape.

Recorded archaeology

Four sites of archaeological interest were known to exist on the farm and were recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record. One of these, the standing stones at Meini Hirion in Llanbedr village, is scheduled as a monument of national importance.

PRN 1059

Scheduled Ancient Monument No. M056 - Two standing stones on level ground. One is a rectangular column and the other a thin slab.

PRN 1058

The remains of a burial chamber, now almost completely destroyed.

PRN 6172

Cultivation ridges noted at Pen y Bryn by P. Crew.

PRN 6181

An unenclosed hut group situated on a level shelf on open mountainside with wandering walls forming paddocks around the huts, (Bowen & Gresham, 1967 p.186)

Fieldwork.

The four holdings were visited over a period of three days, on the 13th, 15th and 17th of January 1997 and 22 new sites were recorded. These were mostly agricultural features on Gwerncaernyddion, lynchets and traces of earlier field systems, etc., but included two ruined houses, one with a paddock forming one wall. At Pen y Bryn, sites included a possible long hut and enclosure as well as earlier field walls and lynchets. The mountain area proved quite difficult to walk, due to a combination of foggy weather conditions and marshy ground, but five new sites were found including a standing stone noted by the Tir Cymen officer and potentially the most interesting, a hut group c.500m west of PRN 6181.

Conclusions

The four holdings that make up Gwerncaernyddion farm include a variety of terrain and habitats and this is reflected in the surviving archaeology. On the improved fields of Gwerncaernyddion and Pen y Bryn, traces of

medieval and later agriculture are evident whereas on the mountain the main sites of interest are the standing stone and the hut group. Down on the lowland pasture at Meini Hirion where the land has been drained and considerably improved, the scheduled standing stones are the only archaeological features surviving above ground.

Recommendations

At Pen y Bryn and Gwerncaermyddion in particular, the survival of stone walls and other stone built features such as the ruined houses and enclosure, contribute to the character of the landscape even where they no longer fulfil a useful function and should be retained. Up on the mountain, the lack of agricultural improvement has resulted in a fairly high level of archaeological survival and as far as can be perceived, there is no obvious threat here. The hut group is located next to a trackway that is in use by the farmer and care should be taken that it does not encroach on the settlement. The condition of the standing stones at Meini Hirion is monitored by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

Five sites were allocated to Category B or above, including the scheduled standing stones mentioned above. For PRN 6181, GCN20 and GCN22, the management guidelines on p.30 are all relevant.

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KEY

1058

GCN1

Farm boundary

Existing PRNs

New sites

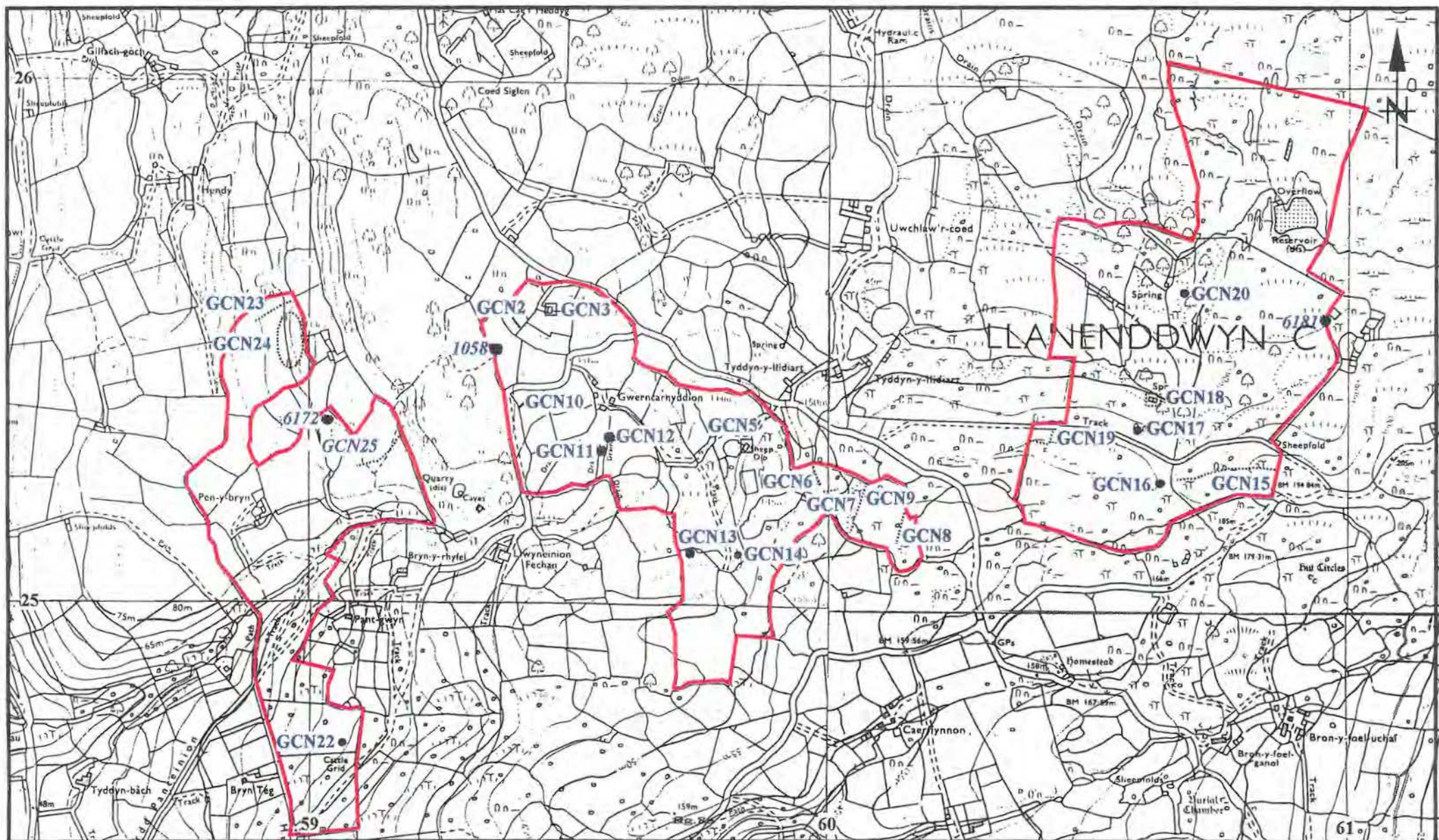
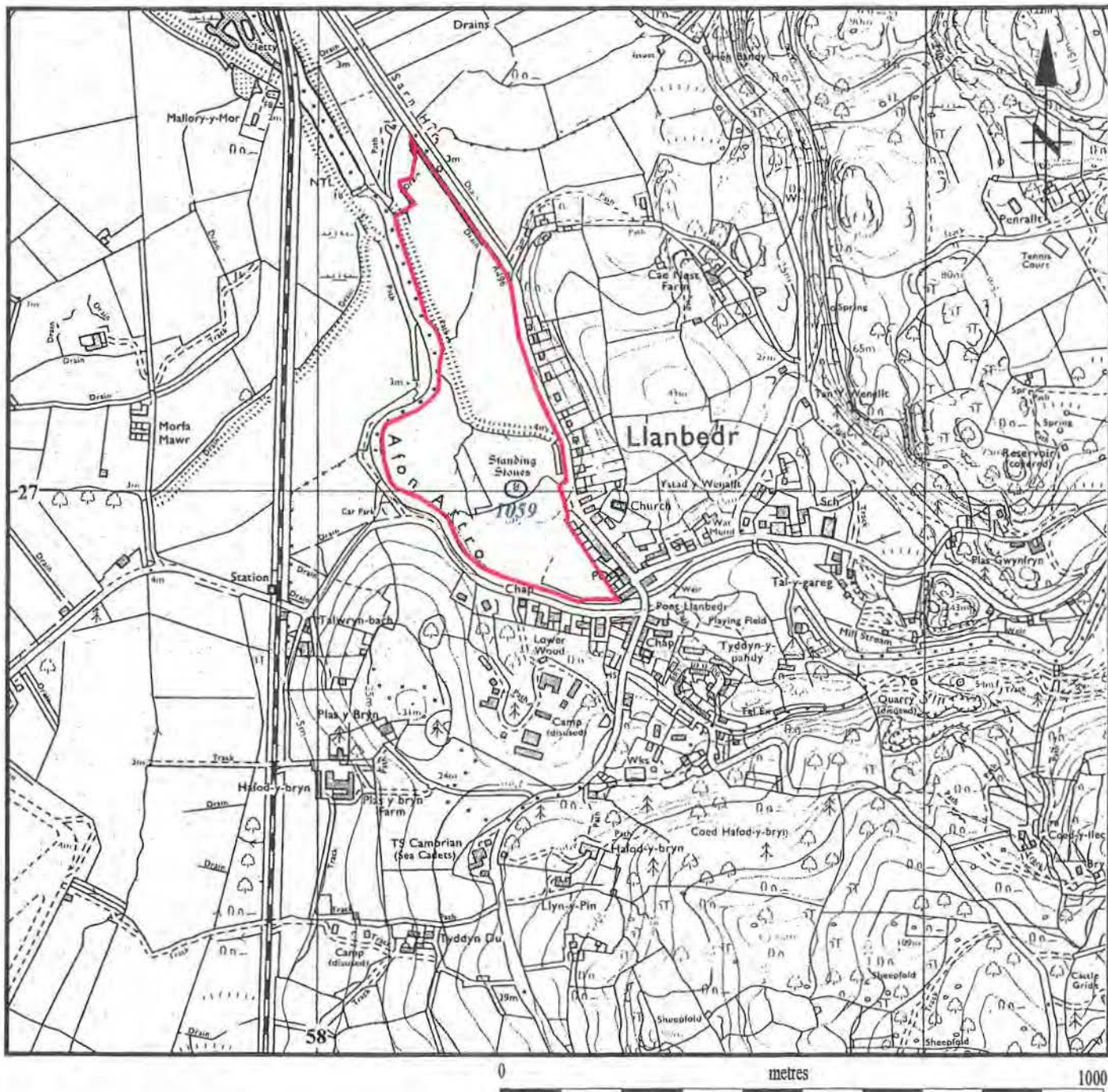


fig.8a

Gwerncaernyddion, Llanbedr (SH5827)



KEY

1059

Farm boundary

Existing PRNs

Maps Office

Countryside Council for Wales

Plas Penrhos, Penrhos Road

Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2LQ

Tel. (0248) 370444

fig.8b

<u>TC NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
GCN	1058	CROMLECH-REMAINS OF, GWERNCAERNYDDION COLLAPSED BURIAL CHAMBER. PARTS OF THE CAPSTONE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN BLASTED AWAY. SOME PACKING STONES STILL VISIBLE UNDERNEATH THE UPRIGHTS, WHICH ARE PARTLY OVERLAIN BY THE FIELD WALL.<1>	SH59352549	PREHISTORIC	POOR	D
GCN	1059	LLANBEDR STANDING STONES SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS MONITORED BY CADW. ENCLOSED BY TYPICAL MINISTRY OF WORKS IRON FENCE.<1>	SH58332700	PREHISTORIC	GOOD	A
GCN	6172	CULTIVATION RIDGES, PEN Y BRYN UNLOCATED.<1>	SH58872520	UNDETERMINED		E
GCN	6181	HUT GROUP (UNENCLOSED) UWCHLAW'R COED NOT VISITED DURING ASSESSMENT DUE TO FOG.<1>	SH60952555	PREHISTORIC		E
GCN02		FIELD WALL, GWERNCAERNYDDION FIELD WALL NO LONGER IN USE. EARTH AND STONE CONSTRUCTION, SOME ORTHOSTATIC FACING STONES. MAX HEIGHT 0.5M, WIDTH 0.30M.<1>	SH59402551	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
GCN03		STONE BUILDING, GWERNCAERNYDDION STONE BUILDING, PARTLY MORTARED. ALIGNED N-S, FIREPLACE IN S WALL, LATER ADDITION. ENTRANCE IN W WALL, MID WAY ALONG. WALLS C.0.80M THICK. ADJOINED BY 2ND BUILDING, AT RIGHT ANGLES. ENTRANCE IN S WALL, NO FIREPLACE.<1>	SH59452557	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C
GCN05		HOUSE AND Paddock, GWERNCAERNYDDION Paddock, STILL STOCKPROOF WITH RUINED HOUSE ADJOINING TO THE SE. CHIMNEY IN SE WALL, GABLES STILL SURVIVING WITH RIDGE TILES VISIBLE ON NW GABLE. NE WALL FORMS PART OF Paddock. 2 SMALL ENCLOSURES TO THE E.<1>	SH59822530	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C
GCN06		REMAINS OF FIELD BOUNDARY, GWERNCAERNYDDION POSSIBLE REMAINS OF EARLIER FIELD WALL, SINCE USED FOR FIELD CLEARANCE.<1>	SH59992520	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
GCN07		LOW EARTH BANK, GWERNCAERNYDDION VERY FLATTENED REMAINS OF EARLIER FIELD WALL.<1>	SH60052520C	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
GCN08		LOW EARTH BANK, GWERNCAERNYDDION AS GCN6	SH60112520C	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D

<u>TC_NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
GCN09		DISUSED STONE BANK (CLAWDD) GWERNCAERNYDDION	SH59402535	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	D
GCN10		POSS. BURNT MOUND, GWERNCAERNYDDION POSS. BURNT MOUND, ONLY 0.5M HIGH, 12 - 15M IN DIAMETER, ROUGHLY CIRCULAR/KIDNEY SHAPE.<1>	SH59562530	PREHISTORIC	FAIR	E
GCN11		WELL, GWERNCAERNYDDION SQUARE WELL FILLED WITH WATER AND LINED WITH VERTICAL SLATE SLABS. 0.6M SQUARE.<1>	SH59582531	UNDETERMINED	GOOD	C
GCN12		EARTHWORK, GWERNCAERNYDDION SUBSTANTIAL SUB-CIRCULAR EARTHWORK IN MARSHY GROUND, C.10M IN DIAMETER. SIMILAR TO A LARGE BURNT MOUND, MAX HEIGHT 1.2M. HAS KIDNEY SHAPE WITH A FURTHER MOUND OPPOSITE GIVING CIRCULAR APPEARANCE.<1>	SH59722509	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C
GCN13		STONE PILE, GWERNCAERNYDDION LARGE PILE OF STONES, ROUGHLY 5M IN DIAMETER NEAR EDGE OF FIELD. STONES VISIBLE ON TOP IMPLY USED RECENTLY AS FIELD CLEARANCE CAIRN, BUT THESE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN PLACED ON A GRASS COVERED MOUND OF STONE.<1>	SH59822510	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	E
GCN14		LYNCHETS, GWERNCAERNYDDION	SH59752490	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C
GCN15		WALL, GWERNCAERNYDDION ROUGH WALL OF LARGE BOULDERS, ONE COURSE HIGH.<1>	SH60752525C	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
GCN16		CIRCULAR FEATURE, GWERNCAERNYDDION A CIRCULAR RING OF STONE, NOW GRASSED OVER BUT WITH SOME ORTHOSTATS SHOWING.<1>	SH60622524	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
GCN17		STANDING STONE, GWERNCAERNYDDION STANDING STONE 0.6M X 0.25M X 1.50M HIGH.<1>	SH60592536	PREHISTORIC	GOOD	B
GCN18		FIELD BARN, GWERNCAERNYDDION FIELD BARN BUILT INTO THE SLOPE WITH ADJOINING Paddock.<1>	SH60622540	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C
GCN19		BANK, GWERNCAERNYDDION LOW EARTH BANK FORMING 2 SIDES OF A SQUARE WITH THE FIELD WALL. DITCHED ABOVE AND TO THE E. LOCATED ON STEEPLY SLOPING GROUND.<1>	SH60402533	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
GCN20		HUT CIRCLES, GWERNCAERNYDDION TWO HUT CIRCLES, THE FIRST HAS AN INTERNAL DIAMETER OF C.7M, WITH WALLS OF PARTIALLY GRASSED OVER STONES, MAX. 2-3 COURSES HIGH AND CONSIDERABLY SPREAD. ENTRANCE TO THE W. THE SECOND HUT IS 2M TO THE NORTH, SMALLER IN SIZE WITH A DIAMETER OF C.4M. SOME INNER FACING STONES VISIBLE. LOCATED IN BRACKEN, TRACES OF ROBBED OUT WALLS IN VICINITY.<1>	SH60702560	PREHISTORIC	POOR	B

<u>TC_NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
GCN22		LONG HUT, PEN Y BRYN PROBABLE LONG HUT AND PADDOCK, GREATLY OBSCURED BY BRACKEDN COVERAGE AND FIELD CLEARANCE.<I>	SH59052470	MEDIEVAL	POOR	B/C
GCN23		FIELD WALL, PEN Y BRYN GRASSED OVER FIELD WALL SURVIVING AS A LOW EARTH BANK.<I>	SH58952555C	UNDETERMINED	POOR	C
GCN24		QUARRY, PEN Y BRYN SMALL SCALE QUARRYING/TRIAL. SHALEY/SLATEY SLABS NEARBY.<I>	SH58972550C	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C
GCN25		LYNCHETS, PEN Y BRYN	SH59152528C	UNDETERMINED	FAIR	C

Records printed: 26

5.8 Berth Ddu, Trawsfynydd SH7033

Landscape

Berth Ddu is a small farm located with land on either side of the A487 just to the south of Trawsfynydd village on open moorland to the west of the Rhinogydd. The land lies at a height of between 200m and 220m OD and consists of a small number of stone-walled improved fields to the south west of the farmhouse and the *ffridd* which is mainly rough pasture and wetland grassland. The fields immediately to the south of Llyn Trawsfynydd are particularly boggy.

Historic landscape

The landscape of the farm is one of fairly recent improvement. The field boundaries are of stone and there are faint traces of earlier field systems to the north. To the south of the farm are a number of small fields and enclosures of possibly post medieval date.

Recorded archaeology

The area around the farm has been reasonably well surveyed in the past and one site of archaeological interest was already recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record.

PRN 1807

'A semi-circular earthwork enclosure...It consists of a central rectangular house-platform, the north east end of which is clearly defined and contains an entrance-way while details of the south west end are obscured, possibly by later activity, surrounded by a number of paddock type enclosures which are defined by a slight bank and ditch', (GAT 1993 p.15).

Fieldwork.

Berth Ddu was visited on the 13th of January 1997 and a further five sites of archaeological interest were recorded, mostly the remains of earlier agricultural practices. A possible standing stone, broken off at a height of 0.50m, was located to the west of the farmhouse.

Conclusions

The habitation site, PRN 1807 occupies the only area of dry, level ground on the farm and it was not expected that many other sites of archaeological interest would be found. In addition to the barns and earlier field walls recorded, areas of small scale peat extraction were noted to the north west of the farm.

Recommendations

With the exception of the small fields to the south west of Berth Ddu farmhouse, most of the farm consists of wet, unimproved land. The stone walls that divided the fields are characteristic of the area and should be retained. The condition of PRN 1807 does not appear to have deteriorated significantly since its discovery in 1986, despite being located on the only dry, level area in the field. Berth Ddu farms both sheep and cattle and the latter could pose a threat to the site, especially during very wet weather. This does not appear to have been a problem over the last ten years, however it is recommended that animal feeders are not placed directly on the site.

One site was allocated to Category B or above, PRN 1807 - the habitation site, for which the management guidelines on p.30 may be applied. Two field barns were recorded as B/C. As standing buildings, still in use they are adequately protected under the Tir Cymen Code.

Bibliography

Unpublished Sources

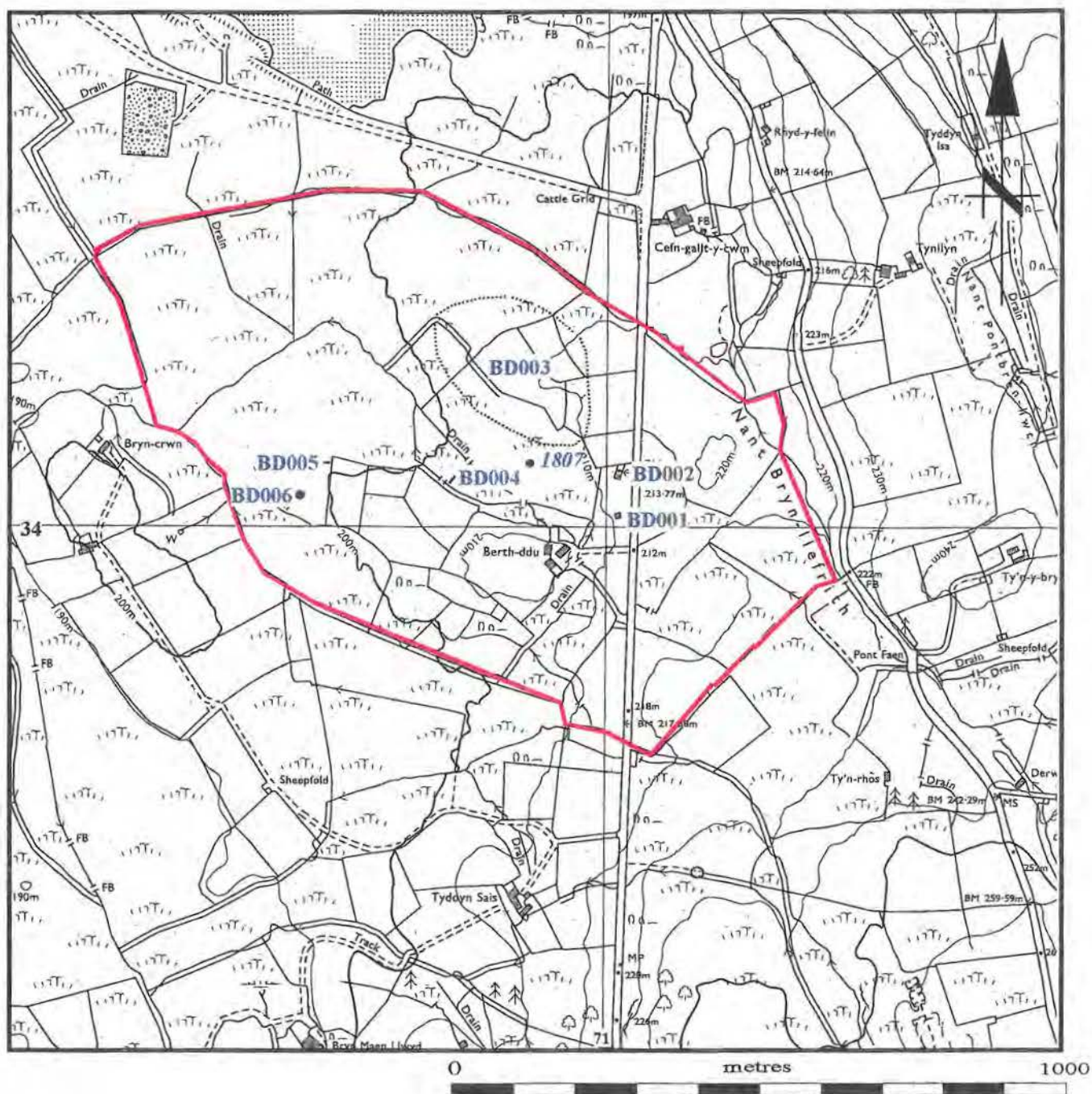
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Sites and Monuments Record

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust 1986 *The Uplands Survey Project*

O.S. 1:2500 scale maps 1888 - 1918

Snowdonia National Park Aerial Photographs 1986 No.58-86-127

Berth Ddu, Trawsfynydd (SH7034)



KEY

- Farm Boundary
- 1807 Existing PRNs
- BD001 New Sites

Maps Office
 Countryside Council for Wales
 Plas Penrhos, Penrhos Road
 Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2LQ
 Tel. (0248) 370444

fig.9

TC_NO	PRN	SITENAME	NGR	PERIOD	CONDITION	CATEGORY
BD	1807	HABITATION SITES, BERTH DDU THE SITE APPEARS TO BE STABLE AND SHOWS LITTLE SIGN OF DETERIORATION SINCE THE ORIGINAL SURVEY.<1>	SH70893410	EARLY MEDIEVAL	FAIR	A/B
BD001		FIELD BARN, BERTH DDU FIELD BARN WITH SLATE ROOF AND MORTARED INTERIOR. SLATE FEED TROUGHS INSIDE AND STONE FLOOR.<1>	SH71023402	POST MEDIEVAL	GOOD	B
BD002		HAY BARN, BERTH DDU OPEN SIDED HAY BARN WITH SLATE PILLARS SUPPORTING ROOF.<1>	SH71023410	POST MEDIEVAL	GOOD	B
BD003		POSS. EARLIER FIELD SYSTEM, BERTH DDU AREA OF EARLIER FIELD WALLS AND POSS. RIDGE AND FURROW.<1>	SH70903420C	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
BD004		CLAWDD, BERTH DDU CLAWDD, NO LONGER IN USE - REPLACED BY A FENCE SET ON A DIFFERENT LINE. FACED WITH MID - LARGE UNRESSED STONE.<1>	SH70753407C	POST MEDIEVAL	POOR	D
BD005		REMS. OF FIELD WALL, BERTH DDU REMAINS OF WALL, NO LONGER IN USE. SURVIVES TO A HEIGHT OF ONE COURSE ONLY. INNER AND OUTER FACING STONES VISIBLE, MOST OF RUBBLE FILL GONE. C.1M WIDE.<1>	SH70543410C	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
BD006		STONE PILLAR, BERTH DDU STONE PILLAR, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN BROKEN, ALTHOUGH BROKEN FACE IS WELL WAETHERED AND LICHENED. O.60M X C.0.20M X 0.50M HIGH.<1>	SH70503406	UNDETERMINED	GOOD	E

5.9 Llwyn Crai, Ffestiniog SH7043

Landscape

Llwyn Crai farm consists of two units, the main unit around Llwyn Crai farmhouse, to the south east of Blaenau Ffestiniog and the mountain land to the north of Llyn y Manod. Only the main unit was visited during the pilot study. This consisted of a small number of level, improved fields around the farmhouse itself and the mainly wooded *ffridd*. The latter included four rocky eminences, Coed y Cribau, Cribau, Clogwyn y Wylfa and Clogwyn Rhôs. Most of the land lay between the 140m and 180m contours, rising to between 220m and 230m on the cliffs.

Historic landscape

The fields at Llwyn Crai are enclosed by a mixture of stone walls and post and wire fences and most have been improved. With the exception of the hut circle, PRN 1486, the majority of the features are of post medieval date. The cliffs that make up almost half the area of the farm are unsuitable for anything other than rough pasture and the pockets of improved land appear to have been cleared relatively recently.

Recorded archaeology

The area has not been recently surveyed but has been extensively explored by the late Robert Roberts of Ffestiniog, a local amateur archaeologist and Steffan ap Owain, now with the Caernarfon Record Office. One site of archaeological interest was recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record.

PRN 1486

A prehistoric enclosed homestead, partly excavated by the late Mr Roberts.

Fieldwork.

In addition, five new sites were recorded when the farm was visited on the 21st January 1997. These included two post medieval buildings, a ruined house and a field barn. A walled trackway, known locally as a Roman Road ran in a south westerly direction from Llwyn Crai farmhouse, turning west after c.30m and crossing the modern road to continue for another 25m before petering out. According to the farmer, metal working debris had been found along the length of the track, but this has not been confirmed. A hut circle noted by Mr Roberts to the west of Coed y Cribau could not be located on the ground but may have been obscured by the dense bracken coverage.

Conclusions

Despite being largely unimproved, only a small number of new sites were located during the visit and this is probably as a result of the terrain, partly wooded and partly rocky cliffs. Traces of field clearance and earlier field walls were noted in the fields to the south west.

Recommendations

With the exception of the small pockets of improved fields, the wooded and rocky nature of most of the farm make it unsuitable for clearance. The stone walls that divide these pockets should be retained, especially as they have been replaced with post and wire fences in places. The hut group PRN 1486 is located in one of these pockets but appears not to have been disturbed and this should be maintained. The walled trackway to the south west of the farm, although undated, is of considerable landscape interest. As a public footpath, it is unlikely to be closed or blocked but the walls on either side should not be disturbed, especially in the light of the reported metal working debris from the area.

PRN 1486 was the only site to be allocated to Category B or above and, of the management guidelines on p.30, nos. i, ii, iii, iv, v, vii and xi` are appropriate.

Bibliography

Unpublished Sources

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Sites and Monuments Record

O.S. 1:2500 scale maps 1888 - 1918

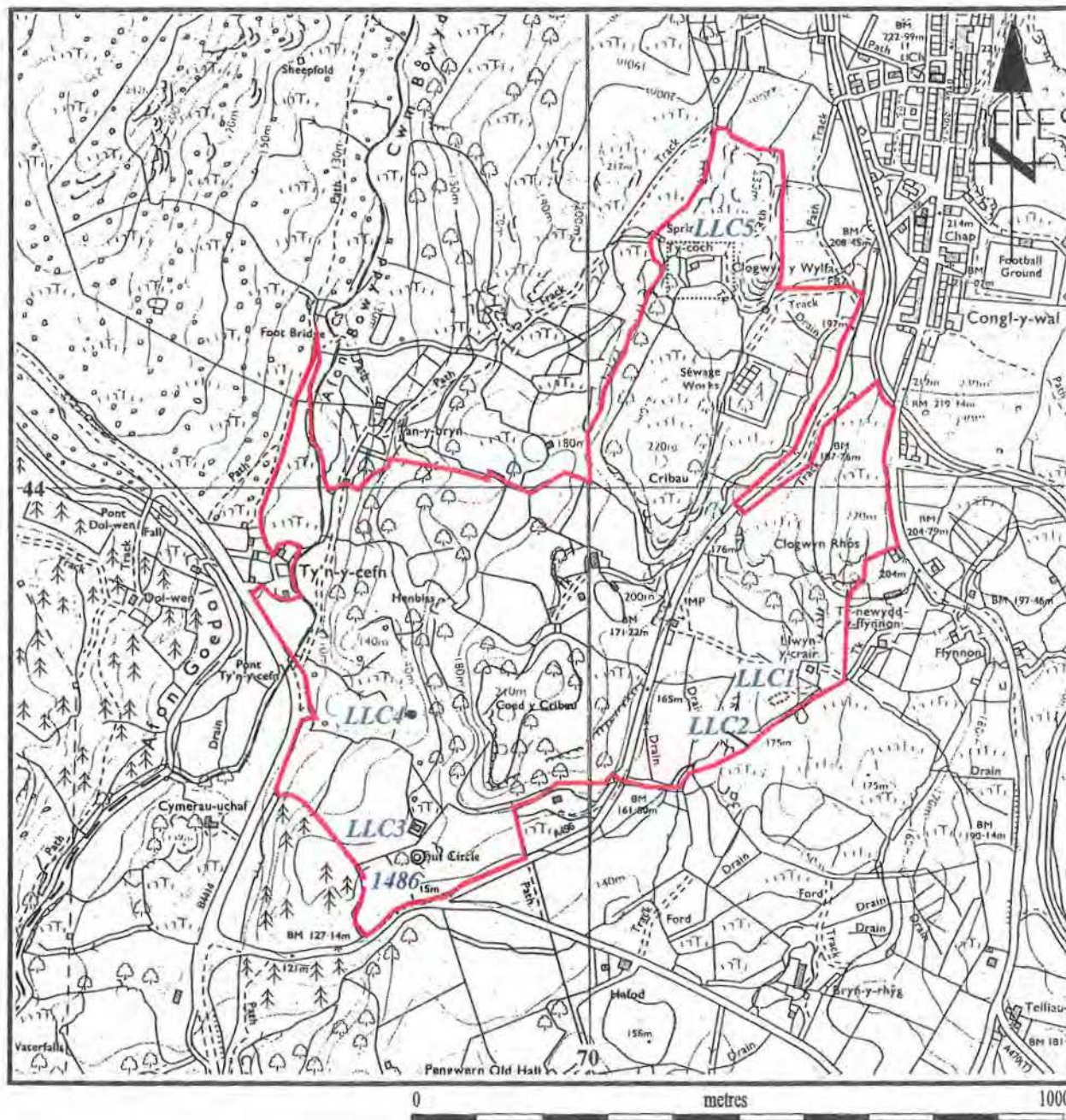
ap Owain, S. 1986 The Archaeology of the Parish of Ffestiniog

Snowdonia National Park Aerial Photographs 1986 No. 58-86-138

Published Sources

Bowen, E.G. & Gresham, C.A. 1967 *History of Merioneth*

Llwyn Crai, Ffestiniog (SH6943)



KEY

- Farm boundary
- 1486 Existing PRNs
- LLC1 New sites

fig.10

Maps Office
 Countryside Council for Wales
 Plas Penrhos, Penrhos Road
 Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2LQ
 Tel. (0248) 370444

<u>TC NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
LLC	1486	ENCLOSED HOMESTEAD, LLWYN CRAI TWO HUTS, ONE LARGE AND IN FAIRLY GOOD CONDITION DESPITE DISTURBANCE BY TREE ROOTS AND EXCAVATION BY THE LATE BOB ROBERTS. THE SECOND HUT IS MUCH SMALLER. FAINT TRACES OF AN ENCLOSURE STILL VISIBLE.<1>	SH69754342	PREHISTORIC	FAIR	B
LLC01		PLATFORM, LLWYN CRAI LARGE RECTANGULAR PLATFORM ON THE EDGE OF A CLEARED FIELD, DUMPED WITH FIELD CLEARANCE MATERIAL.<1>	SH70284366	UNDETERMINED	POOR	D
LLC02		WALLED TRACKWAY, LLWYN CRAI WALLED TRACKWAY, KNOWN LOCALLY AS A ROMAN ROAD. METAL WORKING DEBRIS HAS BEEN REPORTED FROM ALONG ITS LENGTH BY STEFFAN AP OWAIN AND BOB ROBERTS.<1>	SH70204360C	UNDETERMINED	GOOD	B/C
LLC03		FIELD BARN, LLWYN CRAI RUINED FIELD BARN OF DRY STONE CONSTRUCTION WITH SMALL MORTARED SHED TACKED ON TO THE END. TRACES OF EARLIER FIELD WALLS IN VICINITY.<1>	SH69554347	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	C
LLC04		HUT CIRCLE, COED Y CRIBAU HUT CIRCLE NOTED BY BOB ROBERTS AND STEFFAN AP OWAIN BUT NOT OBSERVED DURING FARM VISIT.<1>	SH69754366A	PREHISTORIC	UNKNOWN	E
LLC05		RUINED HOUSE, TY COCH TY COCH RUINED HOUSE. DIMENSIONS C.6M X 4M INTERNALLY WITH WALLS OF FLAT MORTARED SLABS. SEVERAL PENS AND AN ENCLOSURE NEARBY. MR JONES AT LLWYN CRAI HAS A DRAWING OF THE HOUSE WHEN IT WAS OCCUPIED FROM THE EARLY 1800'S.<1>	SH70154445	POST MEDIEVAL	POOR	B/C

5.10 TC/58/18 Byrllysg, Dyffryn Ardudwy SH5924

Landscape

A small farm of 36.4 ha., located to the north east of Dyffryn Ardudwy village. Byrllysg lies between 50m and 150m OD and has been traditionally farmed over the years resulting in a wide variety of habitats, including unimproved upland grassland, pastures, marshy grassland and broadleaved woodland.

Historic landscape

The fields at Byrllysg are characteristic of the area, consisting of small enclosures separated by dry stone walls. With the exception of the hillfort, the features identified were all of post medieval date.

Recorded archaeology

The area around Byrllysg has been reasonably well surveyed in the past and one site of archaeological interest was recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record.

PRN 1070

Scheduled Ancient Monument No. M064. 'Byrllysg hillfort - a small circular fortified site which appears transitional between the true hillforts and the terraced circular enclosures... The area enclosed by the defences is almost circular and not quite 200 feet in diameter; it is now a perfectly smooth grass field with a very gentle slope from east to west. Round the north, west and south sides, where the ground falls steeply away, the defence consists of a scarped bank about 10 feet high...The built-up defences are on the east side where a curved bank and outer ditch are drawn across the neck of the spur on which the site lies', (Bowen & Gresham, 1967, p.155).

According to research carried out by the owners, Byrllysg farmhouse itself dates to 1508.

The site was visited on the 17th January 1997 in the company of Mr. Jones, the farmer. Two sites of historic interest were noted. One, a substantial post medieval field barn, was located within the area occupied by the hillfort. The other was a group of field barns, built into the slope to the south west of the farmhouse. The building to the west of the group was a water mill and the water wheel is still visible, albeit deteriorating. Traces of the feed from the nearby stream were also still visible.

Conclusions

Byrllysg farm is located in an area rich in sites of archaeological interest. It has seen relatively little agricultural improvement in recent times, although many of the fields were ploughed for cultivation just after the Second World War. Despite this, the only new sites located were post medieval, agricultural buildings.

Recommendations

The post medieval buildings recorded during the visit to the farm no longer fulfil any useful purpose. Having said that, they do contribute to the character of the landscape and where in a stable condition, should not be disturbed. The small fields to the south west of the farm are of unusual, irregular shape possibly reflecting an earlier field system and should be retained.

Two sites were allocated to Category A, the scheduled Byrllysg hillfort and the field barn which despite being of post medieval date, is within the scheduled area. Both are protected under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* and are monitored by Cadw:Welsh Historic Monuments..

Bibliography

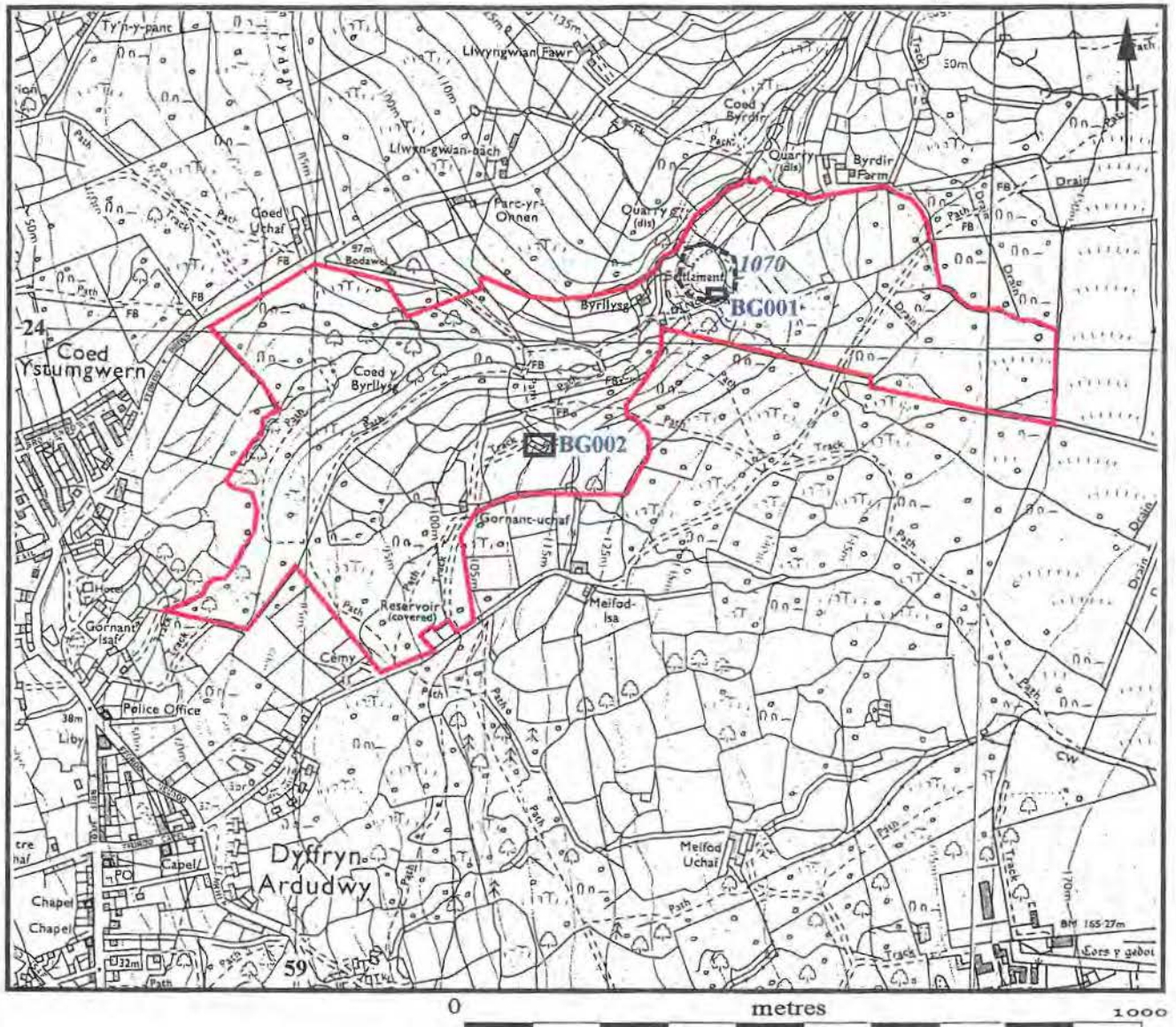
Unpublished Sources

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Sites and Monuments Record
O.S. 1:2500 scale maps 1888 - 1918

Published Sources

Bowen, E G. & Gresham, C.A. 1967 *History of Merioneth*
Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments *List of Scheduled Ancient Monuments*

Byrillysg, Dyffryn Ardudwy (SH5924)



KEY

- Farm Boundary
- 1070 Existing PRNs
- BG001 New Sites

Maps Office
 Countryside Council for Wales
 Plas Penrhos, Penrhos Road
 Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2LQ
 Tel. (0248) 370444

fig.11

<u>TC_NO</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>SITENAME</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
BG	1070	HILLFORT, BYRLLYSG AS A SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT, THE SITE IS MONITORED BY CADW FIELD MONUMENT WARDENS. IT IS IN RELATIVELY GOOD CONDITION AND HAS NOT BEEN DISTURBED IN RECENT TIMES.<1>	SH59602410	ROMANO BRITISH	FAIR	A
BG001		BARN, BYRLLYSG A FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL POST MEDIEVAL FIELD BARN, LOCATED IN THE SE PART OF PRN 1070. POSSIBLE TRACES OF AN EARLIER PLATFORM ARE VISIBLE TO THE E.<1>	SH59586460	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	A
BG002		BARNS AND WATER MILL, BYRLLYSG GROUP OF FIELD BARNS, BUILT INTO SLOPE. THE BUILDING TO THE W HAS A WATER WHEEL STILL VISIBLE ALTHOUGH DETERIORATING. IT IS STILL POSSIBLE TO SEE TRACES OF THE FEED FROM THE NEARBY STREAM.<1>	SH59346385	POST MEDIEVAL	FAIR	B

Records printed: 3

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 General.

The aims of the pilot assessment of farms in the Tir Cymen Scheme were threefold: to establish the methodology and best practice for assessing the resource on farms in the scheme; to provide an accurate indication of the significance of the resource and to identify the level of management information required for individual farms.

The principal conclusion to arise from the pilot project was that the assessment of the archaeological resource of an area based entirely on previously recorded sites is unreliable. Even in areas such as Ardudwy which have been subjected to extensive survey and fieldwork in the past, the number of sites of archaeological interest was significantly increased during the fieldwork stage of the assessment. At Eithinfynydd near Talybont, for example, the number of recorded sites was more than tripled. Even on farms where no new sites of major significance (Category B or above) were found, as at Byrllysg, Dyffryn Ardudwy, and Berth Ddu, Trawsfynydd, the features recorded reflected past patterns of agricultural use and contributed to the overall landscape character of the farm.

The results from the ten farms in the pilot project demonstrated the need for the systematic archaeological assessment of farms within the Tir Cymen scheme. Any extension to the pilot project would need to take the following points into consideration.

1 - It is essential that sufficient time and resources be allocated to provide an accurate assessment of the archaeological and historic landscape resource on farms within the scheme, taking into account different historic landscape types and the amount of surviving archaeological evidence.

This would include adequate time for desk top appraisal, a field visit and the production of a report which are seen as the minimum requirement for the above to be achieved, but would also take into account archiving and incorporating new information into the regional Sites and Monuments Record.

2 - The presentation and interpretation of landscape data, such as has been generated by the pilot assessment would be considerably enhanced by access to OS digital data.

Information gained from the project could be used in conjunction with other landscape and environmental data held by the Countryside Council for Wales and others to produce wider countryside management strategies for use within the Tir Cymen Scheme and beyond.

3 - The assessment of the farms would benefit by being carried out in the context of a landscape assessment of the whole area, such as that currently under consideration by the Countryside Council for Wales, (CCW 1996 The Welsh Landscape: our inheritance and its future protection and enhancement CCC116).

This would allow a more accurate assessment of the farm in its historic landscape context and would be a more effective use of funds than carrying out individual landscape assessments for each farm.

4 - Aerial photographic sources form an essential part of the farm assessment, both in mapping new sites and targeting areas for fieldwork.

The assessment of farms would benefit from the adoption of systematic aerial mapping as part of the desk top appraisal stage.

6.2 Methodology.

During the course of the project, especially during the desk-top stage, the methodology was adapted to fit the amount of time allowed in the project design. It was decided in the initial stages to concentrate on the aerial photographic sources as these were considered to be of more practical use, not only in identifying new sites but also in targeting areas of potential interest and in noting vegetation types in preparation for the fieldwork stage.

The brief for the assessment required sufficient cartographic sources to be examined for the farm to be placed in its historic landscape context. These were to include tithe maps and apportionments and any relevant estate maps, as well as the early edition O.S. maps. However the information this would have provided, changes in farm boundaries and land use, for example, did not appear to merit the amount of time that would be needed and in practice, this had to be reduced to an appraisal of the OS 1:2500 scale maps, 1888 - 1918 editions.

Information available on standing buildings was restricted to Listed Building information held by the regional Sites and Monuments Record and the information provided by the Tir Cymen Officers on traditional buildings. Access to the National Monument Record, Aberystwyth would have been helpful but the time was not available to check for buildings records for each farm.

It was apparent from the outset of the project that systematic field walking of the entire farm would not be practicable on some of the larger holdings. In practice, it was possible to cover between 100 and 150 ha. per day, depending on the nature of the terrain and the level of archaeological survival on the farm. A number of the farms included two or more separate holdings often some distance apart; for example, Eithinfynydd farm has holdings above Talybont and to the north of the Afon Artro, and Henblas has holdings in Llwyngwril and Rhydymain. Where time allowed only one holding to be visited, the main unit was examined. In any future work, the timescale would need to be adapted to allow for separate units such as these. Because of the need to fit in with the farmer's schedule, it was often not possible to start the work until late morning. However, the discussions with the farmer often produced valuable information about the area and any sites of archaeological interest and were considered to be an important component of the field visit.

The pilot project demonstrated the need to allocate sufficient resources to fulfil the various stages of the assessment from desk top appraisal to the final report. The importance of ensuring adequate provision for the protection and management of the archaeological and historic landscape resource justified the use of the additional resources required to complete the project to an appropriate standard.

6.3 Management.

The second part of the project was to review the existing arrangements and identify the level of management information appropriate for individual farms. The current provision for archaeology and the historic landscape within the Tir Cymen Scheme is outlined above in section 2.0 and need not be repeated here.

For the majority of sites identified during the assessment, i.e. those in Category C or below, the level of protection afforded by the Tir Cymen Code for the whole farm is sufficient. Short sections deal specifically with archaeology, field boundaries and traditional buildings and sites of archaeological interest are also indirectly protected by other sections of the code. For example, farmers are not permitted to clear any previously unimproved areas, thereby removing the single most significant threat to archaeological sites located on agricultural land.

For sites whose importance is assessed as Category B or above, however, more detailed management prescriptions may be appropriate, based on an assessment of the significance of the individual site and of the nature of the perceived threat. It may also be appropriate to consider the historic landscape resource in this way, where sites which are not of major significance individually, are considered together to make an important contribution to the

historic landscape character of a farm. The following guidelines are intended to be applied to sites assessed as Category B or above as appropriate.

6.3.1 General guidelines.

- i. *Existing grass cover should be maintained.*
- ii. *Grazing, where practical, is normally a desirable means of conserving archaeological sites.*
- iii. *Grazing should be maintained at a level which keeps undesirable vegetation under control but not such as to cause erosion. Fencing may be necessary to protect part of the site while allowing grazing elsewhere, in which case care is required when positioning fence posts.*
- iv. *Artificial feed points and licking blocks should not be placed on archaeological sites.*
- v. *Care should be taken with any machinery in the area.*
- vi. *If permanent fencing is to be erected, care should be taken that it does not cut across areas of archaeological significance.*
- vii. *Areas of archaeological significance should not be ploughed without prior consultation*
- viii. *Areas of archaeological significance should not be cleared and improved without prior consultation.*
- ix. *Changes in land use in areas of archaeological significance should not occur without prior consultation.*
- x. *Existing erosion scars affecting sites of archaeological interest should be repaired and subsequently monitored and maintained.*
- xi. *Rabbit populations (and those of other burrowing animals) should be kept under control,*
- xii. *Archaeological sites should not be used as a source of stone, turf or other materials.*
- xiii. *Materials (including stone, topsoil etc.) should not be stored or dumped in archaeologically sensitive areas.*
- xiv. *No new tree planting should occur within 20m of archaeological sites. No tree planting should take place without prior consultation.*
- xv. *No tree should be removed from an archaeological site without consultation.*
- xvi. *No new drainage should be carried out without prior consultation*
- xvii. *No heavy machinery should be moved across archaeologically sensitive areas without prior consultation.*

It may be useful to incorporate these guidelines, along with general advice about the identification and management of archaeological and historical sites into a booklet for use by Tir Cymen Officers and others concerned with the conservation and management of the environment.

6.3.2 Standing Buildings

Traditional buildings contribute to the historic landscape character of the farm and provide valuable information about past agricultural practices. Where still in use, they should be maintained using traditional materials as outlined in the Tir Cymen Code. Disused building, where in a stable condition, should not be disturbed. Standing buildings allocated to Category B or above may require more detailed management guidelines based on an evaluation of the importance of the site and the nature of any threat to it.

6.3.3 The Historic Landscape

The results of the pilot assessment have been presented as a series of maps, marked with archaeological features and accompanied by gazetteers. It must be stressed, however, that these sites form part of a wider historic landscape and this is the context in which they should be viewed. The historic landscape of an area may be characterised by a predominance of one type of site or period, or may be multi-period, demonstrating continuity of land use in an area through time. The historic landscape is also visual, hence the emphasis on retaining traditional field boundaries and field clearance cairns, as at Henblas, Llwyngwrl, (p.14-15). Field boundaries in particular represent an important, and visual, record of past land use. Whilst the protection of individual sites is obviously important, their historic landscape context must not be ignored.

6.3.4 Buried Archaeology

Although upstanding archaeological and historical remains form the majority of sites recorded during the assessment, recent discoveries at Llanfor near Bala have demonstrated the potential for buried archaeological features, especially on low lying farms. Systematic aerial mapping of farms should identify sites which survive only as cropmarks or parchmarks and these should be included in the farm gazetteers. The fragility of buried archaeological features means that extreme care should be taken to avoid further damage to them and that ground disturbance, especially, should be avoided.

6.3.5 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Scheduled Ancient Monuments are designated as being of national importance and are protected under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological areas Act 1979*. It would seem appropriate that, where such monument are the subject of management agreements with Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, any specific management prescriptions for the site should be incorporated into the Tir Cymen agreement.

As the Tir Cymen scheme is a landscape based initiative, it is felt that any management recommendations for the protection of the archaeological resource should be adopted as part of a wider strategy, taking into account the historic landscape as well as environmental and agricultural considerations. Management recommendations incorporated into the Tir Cymen agreement and supported by the whole farm Code are, therefore, seen as the most effective and appropriate method by which the protection and positive management of the archaeological and historic landscape resource can be achieved.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the conclusions described above, the following recommendations are made:

1. That the pilot assessment is extended to cover all farms within the Tir Cymen Scheme with provision for systematic assessment of farms entering the scheme in the future.
2. That a programme of field visits is incorporated into CCW's monitoring and review procedures for Tir Cymen, to monitor and review archaeological and historic landscape management guidelines, possibly on a three year rolling basis.
3. That historic landscape assessments such as those currently being developed by the Countryside Council for Wales and the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust form the framework for future assessment.
4. That provision is made for the use of OS digital data for the presentation and interpretation of information from future assessments.
5. That consideration be given to the adoption of both systematic aerial mapping during the desk top stage of the assessment and the aerial monitoring of farms as part of the programme outlined in No.2 above.
6. That specific management recommendations made for sites allocated to Category B or above be incorporated into the Tir Cymen agreement.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust would like to thank the owners of the ten farms in the assessment for allowing access to their land and for the assistance and refreshments that were forthcoming throughout the project. We would also like to thank Peter Crew, the Snowdonia National Park Archaeologist, and the staff of the Tir Cymen Office for their advice and co-operation.

The pilot assessment was carried out by Kate Geary of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

APPENDIX 1. - CCW Brief

BRIEF FOR A PILOT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPE RESOURCE
ASSESSMENT OF FARMS IN THE TIR CYMEN SCHEME.

Introduction

Tir Cymen is an experimental, voluntary scheme sponsored by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) to provide for countryside conservation in Wales. The scheme was launched in 1992 and offers farmers annual payments in return for the positive management of their land for the benefit of wildlife, landscape, archaeology and geology, and for providing new opportunities for quiet enjoyment of the countryside. The scheme operates on a whole farm basis in three pilot areas comprising the former district authorities of Dinefwr, Meirionnydd and Swansea.

This brief has been prepared for the pilot assessment of the archaeological and historic landscape resource of ten farms in each of the pilot areas. The pilots are intended to establish the methodology and best practice for assessing the archaeological and historic landscape resource of farms in the Tir Cymen scheme; assessing the significance of that resource in relation to management needs; the extent to which existing agreements have identified and made provision for the interpretation of that resource, and to produce an overall appraisal of the results from each area.

The selection of the ten farms in each area will comprise three farms entering the scheme and seven farms already in the scheme. Consistent with the different characteristics of the three pilot areas, the ten pilot farms in each area will represent a cross-section of farm "s and farming regimes, including examples with, and without, known archaeological content. The selection of farms will be arranged with the relevant CCW Tir Cymen Officers.

Specification

1 Scope and Objectives

- 1.1 The appraisals should elucidate the character, distribution, extent and significance of the known and potential archaeological remains which exist on each farm. The appraisal should place equal weight on looking beyond the purely archaeological dimension, to looking at the historic landscape context of how elements of the present landscape have evolved and their relative importance and significance on each farm.
- 1.2 The appraisal report should provide sufficiently detailed information to allow informed decisions by CCW, on the most appropriate means by which the archaeological and historic landscape resource can be fully understood and taken on board in farm management plans and schedules, including, where appropriate, the provision of new opportunities for interpretation. The appraisal report should comment specifically on the appropriateness of the methodology.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 The appraisal will consist of a survey of relevant map evidence, aerial photographs and a visual inspection of each farm, with, where relevant, reference to existing Tir Cymen management plans.

3. Map Evidence

- 3.1 Sufficient map evidence should be scrutinised so that the farm can be assessed within its historic landscape context, including: Sites and Monument Record (SMR); Ordnance Survey (early and later editions); estate maps and surveys; tithe maps and apportionments; and any other readily available, relevant map or documentary source. Each farm appraisal should note which sources have been consulted and their value to the appraisal,

4. Aerial Photography

- 4.1 All readily available aerial photographic sources, including material held by CCW, should be consulted; relevant features sketch plotted and noted and a summary given of the usefulness or otherwise of this medium in each appraisal.

5. Field Visit

- 5.1 All areas of the farm, consistent with accessibility and safety requirements at the time of the visit, will be examined and a brief written record and sketch plot onto a 1: 2500 map made of the location and extent of any features noted, including: earthworks; ruins and standing buildings; crop or soil marks, artefact scatters and exposures revealed in quarry pits, riverbanks etc.; and field boundary types. Particular reference will be made to any information supplied by the farmer, and to the condition of features.
- 5.2 Field visits will result in the production of report comprising a written description of the methodology employed, the features identified and an importance of their significance, both in their own right and as elements of the historic landscape, and in relation to the management needs outlined in section 1.2.

6. The Report

- 6.1 The report should be fully representative of the information gained in sections 3, 4 and 5 above, even if there should be a lack of, or negative, evidence, and should contain sufficient primary data to allow the validity of the conclusions to be assessed. The report should be structured on the basis of individual dossiers or citations for each farm, accompanied by additional material on the overall appropriateness of the methodology, management requirements, and the broad conclusions reached.
- 6.2 Recommendations as to the necessity and nature of further work are not specifically sought, but where recommendations are made, CCW will not be bound to undertake any such further work.
- 6.3 Once completed, the contractor will provide one unbound copy of an interim report by 11/2/97 and three unbound copies of the final report plus one on 3.5" 1.44 Mb disc in either WordPerfect 5.2 or later format, or ASCII format, by 11/3/97. A further copy of the final report should also be simultaneously be deposited with the relevant County SMR. If necessary, a note on any conditions of confidentiality that a farmer may wish to impose should be attached.
- 6.4 The final report should contain an executive summary suitable for publication by CCW.
- 6.5 Before work commences, arrangements should be made with an appropriate organisation, such as the SMR, for the deposition of the assessment archive. The report should contain details of archive arrangements, and wherever it is deposited, the place of deposition should be relayed to the SMR.
- 6.6 Although there may be a period during which confidentiality should be maintained, the report and archive should be deposited in the appropriate repository not later than six months after the completion of the work.

7. Archaeological Contractors

- 7.1 The work will be undertaken by the staff of a competent and professionally recognised archaeological body (the archaeological contractor).
- 7.2 The archaeological contractor will have suitable and relevant experience in compiling archaeological appraisals and assessments, and will observe the Institute of Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and the Code of Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
- 7.3 The personnel undertaking the assessment should preferably be corporate members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and shall be identified to CCW in advance, with, where requested, details of their qualifications and experience. Arrangements for the maintenance of professional standards should also be stated.
- 7.4 Access for field visits will be arranged by the relevant CCW Tir Cymen Office, but the archaeological contractor is required to notify the farmer in advance of the date of a field visit.
- 7.5 Archaeological contractors are expected to comply with all Health and Safety legislation current at the time of field visits. Archaeological contractors are also expected to have their own insurance cover. CCW will not be liable for any personal injury, damage or loss of property, or any third party claims arising from field visits.

APPENDIX 2. - GAT Project Design

**Pilot Archaeological and Historic Landscape Resource Assessment
of farms in the Tir Cymen scheme (Meirionnydd)**

PROJECT DESIGN (G1443)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Tir Cymen is an experimental, voluntary scheme sponsored by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) to provide for countryside conservation in Wales. The scheme was launched in 1992 and offers farmers annual payments in return for the positive management of their land for the benefit of wildlife, landscape, archaeology and geology.
- 1.2 Following consultation with archaeological bodies in Wales, CCW is establishing a pilot scheme to establish the methodology and best practice for assessing the archaeological and historic landscape resource of farms entering the Tir Cymen scheme by examining ten farms in each of the pilot areas (*i.e.* Dinefwr, Meirionnydd and Swansea) and analysing the results.
- 1.3 The pilot scheme will also assess the significance of the archaeological/ historical resource on each farm in relation to management needs as well as the extent to which existing agreements have identified and made provision for the interpretation of that resource; ways of improving on existing arrangements will be recommended. An overall appraisal of the results from each Tir Cymen pilot area will also be produced.

2 PROJECT METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 This tender is for work associated with the assessment of ten farms in the district of Meirionnydd.
- 2.2 The project's aim is to elucidate the character, extent and significance of the known and potential historical environment of ten farms (to be decided) in the Tir Cymen pilot area. The methodology will follow that outlined in the brief, namely

Stage 1 Desk-based examination of readily-available sources including the regional Sites and Monuments Record, early edition O.S. maps, any relevant estate maps and surveys; tithe maps and apportionments; readily-available aerial photographs; and any other readily available published and unpublished material, including existing Tir Cymen management plans.

Stage 2 Field visit to each property to map, record and describe features of archaeological and historical interest, and to discuss the proposal informally with the landowner. The Trust will co-operate fully with landowners over the dates of field visits. Liaison with the Snowdonia National Park's archaeologist will be maintained as appropriate.

Stage 3 The compilation of a report in three sections -

(a) Section 1 - a general overview of the project comprising a written description of the methodology employed and a review of its effectiveness, a review of existing arrangements, a critique of relevant management requirements and techniques, a general appraisal of the results from the Meirionnydd Tir Cymen area, and a bibliography of sources consulted.

(b) Section 2 - an individual dossier on each property to include

- (i) a description and interpretation of the resource identified, both as a gazetteer of sites and as a historic landscape, with an assessment of the resource in terms of its importance and its management requirements;

(ii) a map showing the location of features identified by the study, and other illustrative material if appropriate.

(c) Section 3 - an executive summary.

- 2.3 To assess the importance of sites and to allow the appropriate management action to be proposed for each, the use of a framework of categories will be considered whereby each site is graded according to its relative importance, following the standard categorisation currently used by the Trust in evaluation and other fieldwork projects. Consideration will also be given to the development and use of management categories as used by the Trust in various management plans (for Forest Enterprise, and Aberconwy Borough Council) and subsequently by CPAT in a report for Forest Enterprise.

3 ARCHIVE

- 3.1 A full archive including written material, fieldwork notes and plans, photographs, and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled and cross-referenced, and lodged in an appropriate place (probably the regional Sites and Monuments Record) within six months of the completion of the project.

4 MONITORING

- 4.1 Allowance has been made for the following monitoring meetings:
- a) a preliminary meeting at the start of the work;
 - b) a progress meeting during the fieldwork stage; and
 - c) a meeting to discuss the draft interim report before final submission.
- 4.2 A final meeting to discuss the results of the project may also be useful.

5 STAFF

- 5.1 The project will be supervised by the Trust's Principal Curatorial Officer, David Thompson, who has worked in various aspects of foreign and British archaeology for more than 16 years since graduating from university. Other work will be carried out by Kate Geary, currently GAT SMR Officer, who is a Practitioner of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Full *curricula vitae* of both members of staff can be supplied if required.
- 5.2 All Trust projects conform to standards laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists and observe the IFA's Code of Conduct and Code of Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.

6 TIMING

- 6.1 It is intended that the project will commence in November; an interim report will be available by the beginning of February and the final reports by the beginning of March.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 7.1 The Trust subscribes to the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) Health and Safety Policy as defined in **Health and Safety in Field Archaeology** (1991; 1993 supplement).

8 INSURANCE

- 8.1 The Trust holds public liability insurance with an indemnity limit of £2,500,000 through Russell, Scanlon Limited Insurance Brokers, Wellington Circus, Nottingham NG1 5AJ (policy 01 1017386 COM), and Professional Indemnity Insurance for £250,000 per claim (policy No. 59A/SA11818791).

9 OTHER

- 9.1 This project design was compiled by David Thompson, Principal Archaeological Officer. Any queries concerning the above or the accompanying costs should be directed to him at the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, *Craig Beuno*, Garth Road, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2RT. Telephone: (01248) 352535. Fax: (01248) 370925.

10 COSTS

- 10.1 The costings are included on a separate sheet.

10 COSTS

Stage 1 - Desktop Study

Staff time - 5 man days @ £115	575	
Materials	5	
Travel	60	
Sub-total		£640

Stage 2 - Site visits

Staff time - 10 man days @ £115	1150	
Materials (incl. film)	75	
Travel	330	
Sub-total		£1555

Stage 3 - Report

Staff time - 7 man days @ £115 (include. revisions)	805	
Materials	40	
Sub-total		£845

Stage 4 - Monitoring

Staff time - 1 man days @ £115	115	
Travel	10	
Sub-total		£125

Stage 5 - Archive

Staff time - 1 man day @ £115	115	
Materials	10	
Sub-total		£125

TOTAL		£3290
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N.B. Labour charge of £115/day includes all administration and overhead costs.

YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL *GWYNEDD* ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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