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**A SURVEY OF PREHISTORIC DEFENDED  
ENCLOSURES IN NORTH-WEST WALES, 2004-5:  
WEST CONWY, GWYNEDD (ARFON) AND  
ANGLESEY**

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**Report No. 580**

**Part 1: Survey Report**



Prepared for  
Cadw

April 2005  
Revised June 2005

By  
G.H. Smith



**Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd**  
**Gwynedd Archaeological Trust**

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## **PART 1: SURVEY REPORT**

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## 1 SUMMARY

This is a desk-top study and field assessment of prehistoric defended enclosures in the Conwy (West), Gwynedd (Arfon) and Anglesey regions of north-west Wales, comprising hillforts, defended settlements and coastal promontory forts, some of the monuments surviving only as crop-marks identified from aerial photographs. 144 relevant sites were identified in these areas from desk-top study of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER) of which 64 are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Field visits assessed condition and threats, identified monuments of particular value and added information about new features and interpretation to the HER.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

A scoping project was carried out for Cadw in Gwynedd in 2003-4, which surveyed the current knowledge about prehistoric defended settlements in Wales in relation to research agenda for the period proposed for Britain (Haselgrove *et al* 2001) and Wales (Gwilt 2001). It looked at the distribution of defended sites, the existing level of recording and the level of statutory protection. It set out and tested a methodology for a project covering the whole of Wales. The methodology was modified and improved after discussion between the WATs and Dr Kate Roberts, supervising the project for Cadw. The agreed project was to include two stages, first desk-top research and secondly field assessment. In Gwynedd it was agreed that all non-scheduled sites would be visited but only one in four of scheduled sites since the latter are already well-known and visited on a regular basis by the Cadw field monument warden. The work was designed to take place over two years with the first year including desktop work on the whole area and field visits to sites in West Conwy, the Arfon area of Gwynedd and all of Anglesey. The second year will be devoted to field visits to the Arfon and Meirionnydd areas of Gwynedd. This report describes the desktop and field assessment results from the first areas. The desktop work for the second areas although completed this year will be included with the report on those areas in the following year. The project design also included small scale trial geophysics work on two sites to assess the potential for such work here, because it has proved valuable elsewhere (Murphy *et al* 2004).

The scoping report showed that more than half of all known prehistoric defended settlements in Wales lack statutory protection. Those that are protected are mainly the largest and most visible examples of hillforts. Many of the remaining defended settlements are smaller and not visibly impressive but they may be equally as valuable for research, often for a different range of periods or social structure than the hillforts themselves. Excavation of defended settlements has been rare in recent years and understanding of the first millennium BC has made little progress. In much of Wales, lack of artefacts, particularly ceramics, for settlements of this period often makes excavation unproductive and unattractive despite the need for it. Several excavated hillforts show origins in the Late Bronze Age as undefended hilltop sites or lightly defended palisaded enclosures and such features may exist at other hillfort sites, masked by later features. Similar early enclosures have also been identified in the lowland and more may yet be identified, some amongst the body of aerial photographic information that already exists, some by new photography. Geophysics provides further potential for the identification of early defensive features within known hillforts and patterns of settlement within defended sites generally, including those at present known only as crop marks.

Data summarising the existing SMR information relevant to defended settlement was collected as part of the audit for production of the IFA Archaeological Research Agenda for Wales (Gwilt 2001). An overview of the Iron Age in Britain has also been produced (Haselgrove *et al* 2001) and this identified areas in Wales ‘...where site types are still ill-defined or unknown, and which have seen relatively little modern research beyond the site specific.’ (*ibid* 24). These areas comprised Wrexham and Conwy in north Wales, Central and southern Powys in mid-Wales, the Welsh Valleys, Neath-Port Talbot and Bridgend, central and northern Monmouthshire in South Wales and Cardiganshire and eastern Carmarthenshire in south-west Wales. North-west Wales generally is fortunate in a good record in terms of plans of known defended settlements as a result of the coverage of RCAHMW surveys and that of Gresham in Meirionnydd. However, some of these are in need of improvement and there are other sites still needing survey. There has been very little excavation, most of it not recent and there is a clear need for a new general assessment. For instance, the basic topographic distribution of hillforts has not been considered, nor the relationship between hillforts and open settlement. The IFA Research Agenda for Wales pointed out that Welsh hillforts need to be reassessed in the light of fresh ideas about

their function generally, which has now changed from the Wessex type 'central place' theory that predominated at the time that Hogg produced his syntheses. The observable regional diversity of hillfort types in Wales is significant and might be made more of in interpretation. The general scarcity of chronological and artefactual evidence for the first millennium BC was also noted. It was also suggested that although sparse there was a need for a proper Pan-Wales database of artefactual data.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks go to all the landowners who allowed access to monuments on their land. Particular thanks go to John Latham, Senior Archaeologist for the National Trust and to Keith Jones, Head Warden for the National Trust Llyn Peninsula for permission to carry out the geophysical survey at Dinas Dinlle hillfort and to Hughes Bros. of Glan Gors, Llanbabo for permission carry out the geophysical survey at Y Werthyr, Llantrisant. Thanks also go to Ken Murphy, Nigel Jones, David Longley, Frances Lynch, John Griffith Roberts and Terry Williams for helpful discussions and to Toby Driver for help with aerial photographs. Useful information on methodology and objectives was also gained by participation in the Denbighshire 'Heather and Hillforts' Project focus group led by Fiona Gale and Helen Mrovec.

### **3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The proposed project results from the scoping study already carried out and from the subsequent discussions with members of the other WATs. The scoping study suggested that to be of lasting value the project should provide a balance between collection of management data, such as condition and threats, and furtherance of interpretation and understanding. Greatest emphasis should be placed on desktop study, collating the existing documentary and mapped records as well as aerial photographs. Field visits would not involve new primary recording such as measured survey so should be relatively rapid and not repeat earlier descriptions.

The main objectives were:

- To collate existing documentary evidence about prehistoric defended enclosures
- To identify and assess aerial photographic evidence for known and possible new sites and to produce plots where required
- To carry out a field assessment of the value of all sites without statutory protection to identify those that may be of national value
- To assess the condition of and threats to all sites without statutory protection
- To identify and describe new features on visited sites
- To incorporate all the above information into a commonly agreed Pan-Wales database and use this to enhance the HER
- To produce an overview of the regional distribution and interpretation of these sites
- To suggest future directions for management strategies in terms of sustainability, enhancement of the record and education.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

The desktop study has involved checking the HER and existing bibliographic references, aerial photographs, and records of excavation and associated artefacts. Maps or larger scale surveys have been copied for cross-checking in the field and use in the report.

The fieldwork has involved assessment visits to all the non-scheduled sites. These include a number of sites of uncertain nature or period known from historical records or more recent notes, as well as crop-mark sites known only from aerial photographs.

Only a sample, of about 1 in 4 of Scheduled Ancient Monuments have been visited as it was agreed that the existing records of these were generally good and their condition already monitored by the Cadw field monument wardens. The sample visited would allow comparison of assessments of value with that of the non-scheduled sites and would provide some indication of the potential for identification of new features or interpretation of such sites.

Two draft recording forms were designed as part of the scoping study, one for descriptive recording, and the other for the management assessment of condition, threats and monument value. These were subsequently modified and refined after discussion. A form was also produced for assessment of areas recommended for extension of SAMs, but this was not used. Examples of the agreed forms are included as Appendix 3.

The trial geophysical survey of two sites has selected one well-preserved and scheduled earthwork site where there are few visible remains of interior features and one site surviving only as crop-mark features. Other trial work has shown the potential of geophysics for hillfort interiors (Payne 1996) and to identify vitrification of ramparts (P. Crewe, *pers. com.*). The areas surveyed are sample areas to give an idea of the potential such that such work might have in Gwynedd.

Field visits have also identified sites where measured survey is lacking, where more detailed assessment such as trial excavation would be useful to assess plough damage or where conservation measures are needed.

## **5 DESKTOP STUDY**

The initial desktop study was mainly oriented towards producing information for the field visits and this has been incorporated in the individual site assessment results below.

The search of the HER was simplified by the work that has recently gone in to improving the site categorisation as part of the Endex programme.

**CLASS:** The majority of sites are easily selected as of Class: Defence, of Prehistoric or Romano-British Period, with a few of uncertain defensive nature classed as Domestic/Defence. However there are a number of sites that are less easily categorised, being enclosures of unknown period or class but are still worthy of consideration. Some of these are listed as Class Agriculture or Unassigned, but being hilltop sites could be defensive.

**PERIOD:** A few defensive sites are listed as of Period Medieval or Early Medieval without actual proof of date or of Unknown or Undetermined period.

**SITE TYPE:** The majority are now described under the Endex categories HILLFORT, DEFENDED SETTLEMENT or PROMONTORY FORT. However, a few sites of possible defended type were identified that were listed as FORT, ENCLOSURE, SETTLEMENT, HUT CIRCLE SETTLEMENT, ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT, EARTHWORK and NATURAL FEATURE.

The original scoping study identified 119 sites in the whole of the GAT area of which 61 (51%) were scheduled ancient monuments. After the desktop work this was increased to 144 of which 63 (44%) are SAMs. The lower proportion of SAMs in the final total was because the additional sites were mainly those of an uncertain type, such as crop mark enclosures and therefore unlikely to have been identified as of high value.

The sites selected for the desk-top database are summarised in Table 1, their distribution illustrated in Fig. 1 and listed in Tables 2 – 4.

**Table 1 Number of sites of defended or possible defended type in the GAT HER by Authority and District**

<i>ENDEX site type</i>	<i>Conwy, West</i>	<i>Gwynedd, Arfon</i>	<i>Gwynedd, Dwyfor</i>	<i>Gwynedd, Meirionnydd</i>	<i>Ynys Mon</i>	<i>Total</i>
Defended Enclosure	-	-	-	1	-	1
Defended Settlement	1	-	-	6	2	9
Earthwork	-	-	-	-	1	1
Enclosed Settlement	-	1	-	-	-	1
Enclosure	3	8	4	1	3	19
Fort	1	-	1	1	-	3
Hillfort	10	14	26	20	12	82
Hut Circle Settlement	-	2	-	-	-	2
Natural Feature	-	-	1	-	1	2
Promontory Fort	-	1	4	2	14	21
Settlement	-	1	1	-	-	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>143</i>
<i>No. of SAMs</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>% of SAMs</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>44</i>

## 6 SITE ASSESSMENT

### 6.1 Introduction

The defended enclosures visited are described below, together with description of their location and notes arising from the visits. In some cases there are good existing descriptions and these are not repeated, with the text kept for description of new features or interpretative comments. The most noteworthy sites are illustrated (Figs 3-24). The descriptions are ordered by Unitary Authority, OS 1:10k map square and PRN (See Appendix 1).

Tables 2-4 provide a summary index to the known sites in each Unitary Authority area in PRN order, together with their NGR, recorded site type, monument evaluation score and the status rank indicated by the monument evaluation. The monument evaluation used four discrimination criteria: Survival (Defences), Survival (Interior), Group Value and Potential. These were scored 1 to 3, Low to High, with no Nil score. This gives a possible evaluation score of between 4 to 12. Those sites with scores between 10 to 12 were ranked as A: National importance. All but one of the SAMs visited scored in this category, giving some reassurance that the system is valid. The one SAM that scored only 7 Those sites with scores between 7 to 9 were ranked as B: Regional importance. Those sites with scores between 4 to 6 were ranked as of Local or Minor importance. Some sites of uncertain attribution, such as ploughed down or crop mark sites were evaluated but recorded as E: In need of further investigation, e.g. by geophysics.

**Table 2 Summary list of defended enclosures in Gwynedd (Arfon) with their recorded site type and evaluation rank in PRN order**

<i>PRN</i>	<i>OS Map</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Project Site Type</i>	<i>Rank Value</i>	<i>Indicated Rank</i>
5	SH56NW	SH54976530	Dinas Dinorwig Hillfort	Hillfort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
26	SH56NE	SH59736960	Siambra Gwynion	Non-site – natural feature.	-	Visited: Non-site
50	SH56NE	SH59306730	Hillfort, Ty'n Y Caeau (Caer Penraig)	Defended enclosure	-	AA: SAM Not visited

52	SH56NE	SH59506770 A	Enclosure ("Camp"), SE of Moel-Y-Ci	Other – Enclosed hut circle settlement, site of	-	Visited: Other site type
53	SH56NE	SH59506810 A	Enclosure ("Camp") – Penarth Gron	Other - Enclosed hut circle settlement, site of	-	Visited: Other site type
223	SH66NW	SH61006805	Pendinas Hillfort, Llandegai	Hillfort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
230	SH67SE	SH66327251	Maes Y Gaer Hillfort, Above Aber	Hillfort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
261	SH66NW	SH62826725	Pen Y Gaer Hillfort, Cilfodan, Bethesda	Defended enclosure	10	A: National importance
293	SH66NW	SH62836790	Rachub	Defended enclosure	12	AAA: SAM Visited
577	SH45SE	SH47705260C	Caer Engan Hillfort, Talysarn	Defended enclosure	-	AA: SAM Not visited
584	SH45NE	SH47135737	Hen Gastell	Defended enclosure	12	A: National importance
585	SH45NE	SH48055798C	Enclosure (Fortified), Gadlys, Llanwnda	Defended enclosure	8	B: Regional importance
593	SH45NE	SH46345776C	Dinas Y Prif Defensive Enclosure	Defended enclosure	12	AAA: SAM visited
1312	SH45SW	SH44805200C	Craig Y Dinas Hillfort, Pontllyfni	Hillfort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
1570	SH45NW	SH43705635	Dinas Dinlle Hillfort, Llandwrog	Hillfort	10	AAA: SAM visited
2299	SH57SE	SH58087285	Pier Camp Hillfort, Garth, Bangor	Hillfort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
2415	SH56SE	SH55356350	Hillfort, Dinas Mawr, Llanddeiniolen	Non-site - natural feature.	-	Visited: Non-site
2418	SH56SE	SH55956340	Cae Coch	Other - Enclosed hut circle settlement	-	Visited: Other site type
2781	SH55SW	SH52595356	Hillfort, E of Gelli Ffrydiau, Nantlle	Hillfort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
3091	SH46SE	SH48306306	Defensive Enclosure, Twthill, Caernarfon	Defended enclosure	8	B: Regional importance
3682	SH56NW	SH51906710	Dinas Promontory Fort, Y Felinheli	Coastal promontory fort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
3686	SH56SW	SH54776440	Caer (Pen Y Gaer) Hillfort, Llanddeiniolen	Hillfort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
3688	SH56SW	SH54756270	Caer Carreg Y Fran Hillfort, Above Cwm Y Glo	Hillfort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
3693	SH56SW	SH50706480	Caerlan Tibot	Defended enclosure	11	A: National importance
3706	SH56SW	SH52406156	Castell Gron	Defended enclosure	9	E: In need of further investigation
4034	SH55NE	SH56665986C	Dinas Ty-Du Hillfort, N of Maen-Llwyd	Hillfort	11	A: National importance
5531	SH45NE	SH47705920C	Dinas Dinoethwy Earthwork, Llanwnda	Defended enclosure?	6	E: In need of further investigation
18357	SH56NW	SH54446587	Defended Enclosure, Tyn-Llan-Uchaf, Llanddeiniolen (Crop mark)	Defended enclosure	7	E: In need of further investigation

**Table 3 Summary list of defended enclosures in Conwy (West) with their recorded site type and evaluation rank in PRN order**

<i>PRN</i>	<i>OSMAP</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Project Site Type</i>	<i>Rank Value</i>	<i>Indicated Rank</i>
392	SH77SW	SH70027379	Dinas Camp Hillfort	Hillfort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
563	SH77SW	SH74437297	Caer Bach Hillfort	Hillfort	10	AAA: SAM Visited
637	SH78SE	SH77908295	Pen Y Dinas Hillfort, Great Orme	Hillfort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
652	SH77SE	SH75427395	Cerrig Y Dinas Hillfort, Llangelynin	Hillfort	9	A: National importance
663	SH76NE	SH75006934	Pen Y Gaer Hillfort, Llanbedr Y Cennin	Hillfort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
686	SH76NE	SH79306660	Pen Y Castell (Caer Oleu) Hillfort, Maenan	Hillfort	10	AAA: SAM Visited
712	SH77NW	SH70107530	Braich Y Dinas Hillfort (Destroyed), Penmaenmawr	Hillfort	-	Not visited: Destroyed site
713	SH77NW	SH74557733	Dinas Allt Wen Hillfort, Above Dwygyfylchi	Hillfort	11	A: National importance
979	SH65SE	SH69485144	?Defended Enclosure, Coed Mawr	Other site type - Long hut?	-	Visited: Not applicable
2646	SH86SW	SH83506450C	Hillfort, N of Cefn Coch	Hillfort	6	B: Regional importance
2816	SH77NE	SH76047784	Castell Caer Lleion (Hillfort), Conwy Mtn.	Hillfort	12	AAA: SAM Visited
2891	SH87SW	SH81877325C	Camp, Erw Goch	Defended enclosure	10	A: National importance
4301	SH75NW	SH73605970	Crimpiau - Possible Defended Enclosure	Other - Hut circle	-	Visited: Not applicable
4313	SH65NE	SH69905890 A	Nant Y Fors - Fort, Old Road, Old Milestone	Other - Long hut and enclosure	-	Visited: Not applicable
4666	SH75NE	SH78645822	Castell, Coed Mawr	Other - Medieval house site	-	Visited: Not applicable

**Table 4 Summary list of defended enclosures in Ynys Mon with their recorded site type and evaluation rank in PRN order**

<i>PRN</i>	<i>OS Map</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Project Site Type</i>	<i>Rank Value</i>	<i>Indicated Rank</i>
1	SH28NE	SH29108590	Castell Promontory Fort, Near Trefadog	Other - Medieval fort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
404	SH57NW	SH53777849	Hillfort, Mynydd Llwydiarth	Hillfort	9	B: Regional importance
807	SH27NW	SH22277941	Dinas Promontory Fort	Defended enclosure	8	AAA: SAM Visited
1561	SH46NE	SH49456797	Hillfort, Caer Idris	Hillfort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
1562	SH57SE	SH55207340	Dinas Cadnant	Defended enclosure	-	AA: SAM Not visited
1639	SH57NW	SH50457695	Hillfort - Possible, Tan-Y-Graig, Llanffinan	Defended enclosure?	7	E: In need of further investigation
1760	SH28SW	SH21808300C	Caer Y Twr Hillfort, Holyhead Mountain	Hillfort	11	AAA: SAM Visited

2013	SH27NE	SH27987726	Natural Outcrop (Probable), Dinas Mawr	Non-site - natural feature	-	Visited: Not applicable
2077	SH38SE	SH36338431	Y Werthyr Hillfort	Hillfort	10	A/B: National or Regional importance
2110	SH47NW	SH40727750C	Enclosure, Cors Bodwrog	Defended enclosure	7	B: Regional importance
2168	SH56NW	SH50896798	Fortified Settlement - Site Of, Porthamel	Defended enclosure	-	Visited: Not applicable
2192	SH48SE	SH48708120	Poss. Hillfort Remains, Rhuddlan Fawr	Non-site - natural feature	-	Visited: Not applicable
2203	SH48SE	SH49458467	Parciau Hillfort	Hillfort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
2509	SH28SE	SH26308150	"Danish Fort" - Site Of, Penrhos	Non-site - natural feature	-	Visited: Not applicable
2517	SH37NW	SH32617808	Caer Helen	Defended enclosure	7	E: In need of further investigation
2556	SH68SW	SH63908120 A	Promontory Fort (Poss.) - Site Of, Penmon Point	Non-site/uncertain site	-	Visited: Not applicable
2595	SH58SE	SH58638146	Din Sylwy (Bwrdd Arthur) Hillfort, Llanddona	Hillfort	11	AAA: SAM Visited
2700	SH57SW	SH52807270 A	Castell Faban, Place Name, Penmynydd	Non-site/uncertain site	-	Not visited: Not applicable
2704	SH57SW	SH53447158	Craig Y Dinas Hillfort - Site Of, Llanfairpwll	Defended enclosure	7	E: In need of further investigation
3007	SH36NE	SH37706535	Dinas Llwyd Promontory Fort (Possible), Bodorgan	Non-site - natural feature	-	Visited: Not applicable
3019	SH36NE	SH35906567	Promontory Fort (Alleged), Dinas Bach	Non-site - natural feature	-	Visited: Not applicable
3024	SH36SE	SH36816492C	Twyn Y Parc Promontory Fort	Defended enclosure	10	AAA: SAM Visited
3037	SH37SW	SH33247059	Promontory Fort – Site Of, Porth Treicastell	Coastal promontory fort?	5	E: In need of further investigation
3067	SH39SE	SH39069507	Dinas Gynfor Promontory Fort	Coastal promontory fort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
3140	SH46NE	SH46496706	Castell Bryn Gwyn	Defended enclosure	-	AA: SAM Not visited
3144	SH39SE	SH35059145C	Hill-Top Enclosure, W of Bwlch	Defended enclosure?	6	E: In need of further investigation
3505	SH37NE	SH37457820C	Y Werthyr Hillfort, Bryngwran	Hillfort	-	AA: SAM Not visited
3515	SH39NW	SH33199083	Castell Crwn	Defended enclosure	-	AA: SAM Not visited
3532	SH39SW	SH32969358 A	Promontory Fort (Alleged) - Site Of, Cemlyn Bay	Non-site/uncertain site	-	Visited: Not applicable
3536	SH39SW	SH33709321 A	Promontory Fort (Alleged) - Site Of, Cemlyn Bay	Non-site/uncertain site	-	Visited: Not applicable
3600	SH58SW	SH51748445	Promontory Fort, Dinas, Traeth Bychan	Other - Unenclosed hut circle settlement	-	Visited: Not applicable
4361	SH29SE	SH29189175	Promontory Fort (Poss.), Ynys Y Fydlyn	Coastal promontory fort	8	B: Regional importance
4397	SH38SW	SH32708210C	Hillfort –Possible, Llanllibio Fawr	Defended enclosure?	6	C: Local importance

## **6.2 Assessment Results**

Descriptions and comments for visited sites in PRN order.

### **GWYNEDD, ARFON**

#### **Siambra Gwynion, possible defended enclosure, Llandygai, PRN 26**

##### **Location**

The eastern, lower side of a broad low hill overlooking the northern coastal plain.

##### **Short description**

Non-site – natural feature.

##### **Site visit notes**

It seems the Ordnance Survey assessment is correct - i.e. that there are only natural features. These are 2 approximately parallel spurs that project out from the hilltop and much too large to be artificial features. At the south-west, uphill there is a negative lynchet that cuts into the slope, from ploughing this lynchet continues under the northward curvilinear extension of the woodland and so predates it. There are a few slight ridges in the field that suggest it may have been the result of amalgamating several earlier smaller fields. The woodland outline was already as now in 1891 so these earlier fields also predate 1891. One of these fields may have occupied the area between the 2 natural ridges and the supposed rectangular enclosure.

#### **Moelyci, possible defended enclosure, Llandygai, PRN 52**

##### **Location**

A small hillock north of Moelyci farmhouse. One of several in the area.

##### **Short description**

Marked as a 'camp' on Rev. Elias Owen's map of 1866 (Owen 1866, 228) and shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2560 map of 1890. A small hillock, the top of which has been artificially terraced probably for a small enclosed IA/RB settlement rather than a defended enclosure.

##### **Site visit notes**

The field wall that crosses the hilltop has a curving change in its line suggesting that it follows one edge of a former enclosure wall or roundhouse. However, it has been obscured by subsequent clearance stone dumping.

#### **Penarth Gron possible defended enclosure, Llandygai, PRN 53**

##### **Location**

A low but locally prominent hilltop

##### **Short description**

A small circular area of terraced hilltop, probably a small enclosed IA/RB settlement rather than defended site, cleared during reorganisation of the field as part of the Penrhyn Estate.

##### **Site visit notes**

An approximately circular area of hilltop about 25m dia. It has been artificially levelled. It was shown as a separate small circular field on an 18<sup>th</sup> century estate map (Penrhyn 1768) before the fields were reorganised as part of agricultural improvements. It was probably the site of a destroyed IA/RB settlement. The owner says metal detecting over it has not produced anything but would like to machine a trench across it to find out what it is. He says there is a local tradition that it was once used

as the site for a village fair, possibly this tradition is related to that of the two sites called Werthyr 'market' in Anglesey.

### **Pen y Gaer hillfort, Bethesda, PRN 261 (Fig. 3)**

#### **Location**

A small but locally prominent hilltop with commanding views over the Ogwen valley.

#### **Short description**

A small sub-circular walled hilltop enclosure. The wall is not large and is not fronted by a ditch. However, the setting would clearly be inconvenient unless it was meant to be defensive or to give the impression of being defensive.

#### **Site visit notes**

The enclosure wall has been rebuilt as a normal field wall and the interior has been completely cleared for agriculture. The modern entrance probably re-uses the original one and has some orthostats. Aerial photography or geophysics could identify internal structures.

### **Rachub defended enclosure, Llanllechid, PRN 293, SAM CN 211**

#### **Location**

A small steep-sided promontory on the lower slopes of a hill, Moel Faban.

#### **Short description**

A small enclosure containing six round huts on a steep-sided promontory. The enclosure is defended by a bank that is larger in size across the neck of the promontory and reinforced there by a ditch.

#### **Site visit notes**

A nucleated hut group with quite considerable enclosing banks. There seems to have been a genuine attempt to make this site defensible as opposed to just enclosed. It also differs from most enclosed hut groups in the number of huts present and in the absence of features other than huts i.e. no minor features and no rectilinear elements.

### **Hen Gastell defended enclosure, Llanwnda, PRN 584 (Fig. 4)**

#### **Location**

The site lies on the edge of the Afon Carrog and consists of a promontory that is a slight knoll somewhat higher than the surrounding fairly level land on the north and cut into by a terrace for farm buildings on the south.

#### **Short description**

A small embanked enclosure on a river promontory. It has an inner area on a knoll edged by a slight narrow bank. It also has an additional large external bank on the north side, possibly a natural glacial or fluvial feature that has been utilised. More likely to be an enclosed IA/RB settlement (a quern has been found on the site, type unknown) than a defended enclosure as the outer bank is not convincingly artificial.

#### **Site visit notes**

The previous description by the RCHAMW is correct except that there is no evidence that the entrance was on the west unless it was the same as the gap used by the post-medieval farm track through the outer bank. There is a low bank around the inner area but this is certainly not defensive. The outer bank however lies outside the ditch and so doesn't seem to be defensive either - could it be a fragmentary henge? It seems a possibility that this was an IA/RB settlement re-using an earlier feature a henge or a natural feature although neither seems to be acceptable unless the 'ditch' is a natural feature - a relict meander of the river of which the isolated promontory has been used for the settlement.

### **Gadlys defended enclosure, Llanwnda, PRN 585 (Fig. 5)**

#### **Location**

A low, rounded but locally prominent hilltop with extensive views over the surrounding lowland.

#### **Short description**

A roughly circular lowland hilltop enclosure, about 75m dia., probably of IA/RB date. The interior is completely filled with the farmhouse, farm buildings and yards. It is enclosed by a bank about 2m high where still preserved and probably an external ditch. There are two gaps through the bank at the west and north-east, either or both of which could be an original entrance. The enclosure bank is a larger and more prominently sited than most non-defended enclosed settlements, so a defensive function seems likely.

#### **Site visit notes**

The owner would not allow access so the visit was confined to what could be seen from the public path that runs through the farmyard. At the west there is an artificial terrace built up over the rampart for a barn. The western trackway approaches steeply and there is a suggestion it runs over the line of a former rampart - i.e. there was not an entrance here originally. At the NE there is a good exposed section of rampart showing it to be of earth and small stones about 1.8m high. There is a facing of stones that could be partly original, now forming part of the field edge. The land is used for cattle and horses and all is very heavily trampled with much of the rampart face exposed and being degraded - the same is probably true all around the perimeter. A management agreement would be very desirable. Most of the interior is built over with post medieval or modern buildings and yards. The farmers' wife, probably the daughter of the original owner stated that there have never been any interesting finds and that the internal yard and floors have been raised up over the years.

### **Dinas y Prif defended enclosure, Llanwnda, PRN 593, SAM CN30 (Fig. 6)**

#### **Location**

A gentle lowland slope with prospect to NW over the entrance to the Menai Straits and Newborough.

#### **Short description**

A lowland rectangular enclosure with single bank about 2m high, an external ditch and a single entrance at the west. It has similarities with some IA/RB enclosed sites but this is larger in area and has the unusual feature of mounds at each corner, possibly the bases for some sort of defensive towers. Pennant mentions foundations of stone buildings but the interior is level now. It has been suggested to be an Early Medieval fortified dwelling but perhaps more likely to be RB period.

#### **Site visit notes**

The site is open to the adjoining field at the west so gets trampled by cattle. However the interior is gradually becoming hidden by brambles. The tree plantation of beech, oak and Scots pine is neglected. The pines are dying and several have fallen, one larger one has pulled up a layer of stones that could be an artificial cobbled yard surface. Parts of the NW ends of the ramparts are exposed by trampling and weathering. There are hints that the internal 'walkway' around the bank had a stone revetted edge as it still has quite a sharp line in places. The entrance area is now hidden by brambles. The site, according to the RCAHMW, is traditionally the residence of Gibor, a Goidel, but this is likely to be just a folk tale. The presence of the adjoining roundhouses suggests it is a RB period settlement but the lack of roundhouses actually inside it and the presence of the corner 'towers' is problematic and it very much demands further study, such as geophysical survey.

### **Dinas Dinlle hillfort, Llandwrog, PRN 1570, SAM CN 48 (Fig. 7)**

#### **Location**

A natural hill at the coast edge, which is now eroded but the cliffs of which probably always provided part of the defences.

#### **Short description**

A roughly oval very strongly defended bivallate hill fort with a single simple entrance at the south-east. The western side has been eroded by the sea and was similarly eroded on Lewis Morris' map in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Traces of two sub-rectangular enclosures and four roundhouses were planned by the RCAHMW. There is also a large, robbed mound in the interior, possibly a Bronze Age barrow. There have been no recorded excavations but finds include a ring with an intaglio of Victory, coins of mid-late third century AD and a fragment of black pottery of late 3rd to mid 4th century AD.

#### **Site visit notes**

A well-known and massively defended site which, however has not until recently been surveyed in detail or studied by excavation or geophysics. It lies on a glacial knoll of sand and gravel that would have been relatively easy to excavate and dump. The difference between the bottom of the inner ditch and the top of the inner rampart is great but much of it is due to the natural slope. There are several internal features probably indicating settlement around the inside of the inner rampart. The outer rampart appears to terminate towards the cliffs on the N. side, where it lies on a probably natural terrace but where the reason for the termination is otherwise unexplained unless the defences of the western sides were always partly just natural cliffs. The site has recently been acquired by the National Trust, which has carried out a detailed topographic survey (Fig. 27a). Some features within and around the site derive from the construction of a golf course around 1900 but these are recorded on a contemporary plan of the site (GAT HER). A geophysical survey of the interior as part of the present project has identified new features within the interior, including a roundhouse behind the southern rampart and a possible rectangular building in the central space. It also observed that much of the interior, particularly the western part, close to the cliff edge is masked by up to a metre of blown sand. This means that features and even an original land surface in these areas might be well preserved but at the same time would not be detectable by geophysical survey (see 7. below).

### **Cae Coch possible defended enclosure, Llanddeiniolen, PRN 2418**

#### **Location**

A small hillock with a natural rocky scarp on the west where it overlooks a broad marshy area.

#### **Short description**

A slight bank forms a small enclosure on top of a low hillock and there are traces of one possible roundhouse within. The west side of the hillock has a steep natural scarp edge giving the site a defensive appearance but on the north and east there is no attempt at defence and the site should be classified as an enclosed IA/RB settlement.

#### **Site visit notes**

Although the site has quite high steep scarp on one side the rest was clearly never defensive and the site is just an enclosed settlement.

### **Twthill possible defended enclosure, Caernarfon, PRN 3091**

#### **Location**

A fairly small, very steep sided rocky promontory with commanding views over the Menai Strait.

#### **Short description**

A probable defended promontory in a key position overlooking the mouth of the Afon Cadnant and the Menai Strait, but of uncertain period and function. A well-preserved bank about 2m high cuts across the neck of a substantial inland promontory. The bank is too large to be simply agricultural or a boundary. There are no known structures or finds from within the enclosed area to help with interpretation. It has previously been thought to be a possible early castle site.

**Site visit notes**

The primary school that occupies part of the site has been extended since the 1962 OS survey and much of the bank is now within a grassed play area. Part of the top of the bank is being eroded by feet and the S. end has been cut away by the terrace for the new building, revealing bedrock at its lowest level. A tarmac playground has been built at the west of the enclosed area and in terracing into the slope has removed a considerable area of any features or layers that might have survived and has cut a little into the bank at the SE corner. The bank is of a considerable size, larger than previously described - at least 1.6m high and ??m wide. Although there is no visible ditch there seems no explanation for it other than as some kind/period of defensive work.

**Caerlan Tibot defended enclosure, Caernarfon, PRN 3693 (Fig. 8)****Location**

On level ground on a low ridge but not prominent in any way.

**Short description**

A small enclosure of irregular outline with a substantial bank but in a non-defensive topographic position. Reported former traces of a rectangular building within suggest that it was an early medieval fortified dwelling but it could be a re-used enclosed IA/RB settlement.

**Site visit notes**

The site is as described previously although for the last 2 years or so it has been used for horses and so has been subjected to continuous and fairly intensive grazing and trampling. The ground cover vegetation is almost gone over the earthworks and these are starting to erode. The banks of the enclosure are quite sizeable and considering their spread width must have been at least 2m high originally so it seems best to describe it as a defended enclosure rather than just an enclosed settlement. Close to Crug, where there was an unusually large burial mound that may have been a focal point. Tibot may be a personal name. Caerlan may derive from 'corlan' - sheepfold rather than 'Caer' and 'Llan' or Cae yr Llan (T. Williams, pers. com.).

**Castell Gron defended enclosure, Llanrug, PRN 3706****Location**

The enclosure occupies one end of and the highest part of a low hill with good local prospects - including Dinas Dinorwic

**Short description**

An almost circular small hilltop enclosure with remains of a once substantial boulder-faced wall, re-used as the base for a field wall. The interior has been completely cleared for agriculture and there is no trace of an original entrance or of any internal buildings. Traditionally the stronghold of a local medieval chieftain but probably originally an IA/RB defended settlement.

**Site visit notes**

The previous site description is about all that can be said. The interior is distinctly almost level so seems to have been artificially levelled when the drop to the exterior level is seen. The modern wall looks to have been built on top of an earlier wall or facing of much larger boulders. These do seem to be more than just a foundation, there is such a clear distinction between the two bits of stonework. If this is true then the enclosure was clearly not within the surviving stone perimeter.

**Dinas Ty-du hillfort, Llanberis, PRN 4034 (Fig. 9)****Location**

A local, small summit forming a promontory between two hanging valleys high up above the main valley.

### **Short description**

A very small, lightly defended single-walled hillfort with a very prominent position. There is no evidence of internal buildings or artefacts but there are several round huts and a possible long-hut close by. The evidence suggests it was a temporary refuge of a short life, perhaps immediately preceding the Roman incursion. Roman paterae found about 1km to SE.

### **Site visit notes**

The shape of the hill determines the shape of the fort. The enclosure wall is now a stone bank but traces of outer facing survive at the north as a line of large blocks set with a slight backwards batter. There is no trace of any inner facing. The NE side has a natural scarp and was not walled. At the SE side there is a scree slope that may be natural or be an eroded rampart. The rampart construction is similar to that at Caer Oleu, Maenan. The one narrow entrance is not certainly original but the line of the wall seems to be offset at this point. The interior of the hilltop is slightly domed and higher than the remains of the ramparts with no trace of any kind of structure or even platforms. Possibly this was an unfinished fort or of very short term use. This would make sense if the fort belonged to the various round huts close by, suggesting it is of the IA/RB period.

### **Dinas Dinoethwy possible hillfort, Llanwnda, PRN 5531**

#### **Location**

A large inland promontory, unusually regular in shape with an almost level top and with prominent views over the lowland around Aber Menai.

#### **Short description**

An uncertain site. A large inland promontory, by tradition since at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century as an ancient fortified site but with no obvious defensive features although it is the site of a large country house and the grounds have been landscaped (RCAHMW 1960, 222-3). The house was lived in by the antiquarian Richard Farrington in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century (*ibid*, 219) and he could be expected to have noted any archaeological features. There was an old find of Roman coins here but these were not identified although said to have gone to the British Museum and their whereabouts now is not known. The present site visit has identified possible remains of a defensive bank on the north side beyond the landscaped gardens but this needs to be confirmed by further work.

#### **Site visit notes**

The promontory has very steep sides on the south, west and north and there is a slight dip at the east where the main defences would have to be. The main house, which originates in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, sits on this area at the east and the ground in front has been landscaped. The Roman coin hoard was found about 1850 'while digging before the house' (Anon. 1920) and most probably refers to this landscaped garden area or to work on extensions to the house in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Most of the remainder of the promontory has also been landscaped except for an area at the north-west, which is still a field. Here there is a definite wide but very low ridge along the edge of the promontory, which seems artificial and not an agricultural feature. This could be the remains of a defensive bank and the ground dips behind it from where material would have been quarried. The whole promontory top also seems too level to be entirely natural.

### **Tyn-lan-uchaf possible defended enclosure, Llanddeiniolen, PRN 18357**

#### **Location**

The W. end of a low but prominent ridge. St. Deiniolen's church lies on the E. end of the promontory slightly below the summit. The churchyard has been extended to the W. to a further field boundary. 30m beyond this and approximately parallel to the field boundary. 30m beyond this and approx. parallel to the field boundary is a natural scarp over 2m high which has been cut into somewhat by ploughing.

#### **Short description**

A small hillock mostly occupied by the church and cemetery of St. Deiniolen. At the west edge of the hillock, beyond the cemetery, recent aerial photographs by Toby Driver have identified two parallel narrow ditches suggesting the presence of a rectilinear enclosure with rounded angles (Driver 2003,

72). The narrowness of the ditches and the shape of the probable enclosure indicate it is not prehistoric but possibly a Roman fortlet or signal station associated with the nearby Caerhun to Segontium road or even an early ecclesiastical enclosure.

#### **Site visit notes**

The field boundary at the West could have been built on a pre-existing bank, c. 1m high but this could be just an apparent earthwork created by ploughing. The E. churchyard boundary could also be a scarp at least but possibly made to appear so by the way the interior of the churchyard has been built up and levelled out. The small size of the area apparently enclosed and the size and type of the 2 probable enclosing ditches suggests this is something other than a defended settlement.

### **Pen-y-gaer defended enclosure, site of, Bettws Garmon, PRN 19170**

#### **Location**

Uncertain. The description says 'on a small hill near a place called Cerrig y Rhyd'. This is probably the small promontory north-west of the present Pen-y-gaer house.

#### **Short description**

An uncertain site, probably a settlement on a prominent point rather than a defended settlement.

#### **Site visit notes**

Not located. The description from 1883 suggests the site was an enclosed settlement. The location is not certain but presuming it was close to the present Pen-y-gaer house it must have been on the rocky promontory close by, as there are no other small hills. This has steep slopes or cliffs on the north, east and south and a field wall runs along the edge of the cliff on the north but there is no sign of there having been an earlier wall beneath it. At the south there is a rampart-like ridge, very overgrown but this is likely to be a natural outcrop but needs further investigation. The description of clearing the site to make 'a small garden or small field' would also fit with this location. Needs another further investigation to meet the landowner as one or more of the querns mentioned in the early description could still be lying around (Pen-y-gaer owner not in when visited, possibly a holiday home).

## **CONWY WEST**

### **Caer Bach defended enclosure, PRN 563, SAM CN 125**

#### **Location**

The site occupies a small knoll so is not a naturally good defensive site and is overlooked by higher land to W and E.

#### **Short description**

A small, strongly defended bivallate sub-circular enclosure on a small hillock forming a hillside promontory. The inner defence is a strong, faced stone wall with a simple entrance. The outer enclosure is concentric to and closely spaced from the first and is quite different, being a rampart and ditch. The latter appears to have been added in a second phase, at the same time making the approach to the entrance more circuitous. Inside is one certain round house and there may have been others but there have been no excavations and no chance finds to suggest date. The site is not far from Cerrig y Dinas and could have replaced its function. It lies alongside an important trackway and there are two long huts just outside it suggesting it may have some kind of continuity.

#### **Site visit notes**

The inner and outer ramparts are very different both in character and preservation. The latter may be partly due to the character - the outer bank is of earth and stone and so has developed vegetation which has held it together - the inner bank is entirely of small stone with outer facing and so has easily been trampled flat. The stone make up is so small as to have needed baskets to collect it - many pieces of 0.10 - 0.20m length. The difference between the ramparts suggests they are of different phases and clearly the outer has been added to the inner, however, as the outer is only a partial circuit both must

have been in use together. The original defence - a quite small well (up to 2m wide) without a ditch was more of a defended settlement while the addition of the rampart and ditch made it truly defensive.

### **Cerrig y Dinas hillfort, Henryd, PRN 652 (Fig. 10)**

#### **Location**

The fort lies on a small but prominent rocky hilltop that has commanding views over the Conwy Valley and estuary including intervisibility with several other forts including Bryn Euryn, Caer Oleu and Pen-y-Gaer.

#### **Short description**

A small hillfort on a rocky summit and defined partly by natural crags and partly by a substantial stone wall. There was second outer wall and in one place, where the natural defences were slighter, by a third wall. There is no evidence of internal buildings and the whole hilltop has been cleared for agriculture. However, there is a well-preserved small settlement enclosure of the usual IA/RB type with round huts just below the fort to the north so the fort may have been just a refuge or an earlier site altogether.

#### **Site visit notes**

The area is difficult to interpret because of the very dissected nature of the hill with many natural outcrops and terraces and because of the modern walls which are very circuitous and make access problematic. This was not helped by bad weather conditions. However, the features identified by the RCAHMW are all identifiable. A larger scale plan is really needed, which also plots the natural outcrops and terraces. The rampart walls are all extremely low presumably due to trampling but none of them contained a great deal of material and there are no hints of major facing stones. The banks would never have been of great defensive value, which make the presence of multiple ramparts slightly puzzling. An early date - perhaps in the 2nd millennium seems likely - and this is emphasised by the contrast with these banks and the more substantial size of the IA/RB enclosed hut group to the N (PRN 653) and the hut circles in the vicinity. The easily visible and well-preserved nature of these also points out even more so the lack of similar hut features within the fort itself.

### **Pen y Castell (Caer Oleu) hillfort, Maenan, PRN 686, SAM CN 41 (Fig. 11)**

#### **Location**

Lies on narrow, steep sided promontory overlooking the Conwy Valley.

#### **Short description**

An inland promontory fort on a narrow triangular rocky ridge with steep cliffs on two sides. The cliffs are supplemented by stone wall in more accessible places. There is an entrance with possible flanking guard chambers on the west side. The third side on the neck of the promontory is defended by a substantial ditch, where there is also a secondary small enclosure formed by quite a slight wall. Within this enclosure are traces of a possible structure, described as possibly a circular wooden tower by the RCAHMW but alternatively possibly a platform for a rectangular timber building. The site has been suggested to be an early medieval stronghold but possibly one that re-used a prehistoric fort.

#### **Site visit notes**

Several features were noted in addition to the previous descriptions:

1. Drystone wall built on top of natural crag to increase its height. Wall face inclined slightly. Quarried stone neatly laid in random fashion - doesn't look prehistoric.
2. Circular platform of about 3.5m dia., 0.5m deep/high in the rubble of a length of drystone wall crossing the point where there is a deep natural break in the crags.
3. Guard chamber-like shelter c.3mx2m internally partly using natural rock outcrop and partly dry-stone wall. Wall up to 0.7h.
4. Narrow winding path possibly deliberately terraced into slope, enters a natural gap across which the rampart facing has been built up to a considerable height. The gap seems to be original as the rampart facing is staggered at this point. E. Just to the SW of the SW corner of the D-shaped enclosure is a small sub-rectangular isolated structure faced on W downhill side and walled up to 0.7 high. Original internal shape uncertain but there are hints of straight bits of wall. F. Trampled gap in enclosure wall could be remains of entrance particularly as it leads towards 4.

5. Interior 'ditch' not certainly curvilinear - could as well be a platform for a rectangular building - There is an area free of rubble at the S. side of the enclosure and grassed over, suggesting some different subsoil. This is fringed by large stones.
6. To the N. of this and part of the ditch recorded by the RCAHMW is a rock-bordered deep hollow - possibly a well or pool. The S. straight part of the D-shaped enclosure is neatly drystone faced unlike the remainder which is more curving and more like a faced rampart. The S. wall also meets the latter at a sharp angle, suggesting a later addition.

### **Braich y Dinas destroyed hillfort, Penmaenmawr, PRN 712 (Fig. 12)**

#### **Location**

Formerly a large and prominent, steep-sided hill with very extensive views in all directions.

#### **Short description**

A very large and prominent hillfort, destroyed by quarrying in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Four stone walls formed a series of enclosures on the summit and on the east side of the hill. It contained over 90, possibly as many as 150 round houses, none of which were in the innermost, hilltop enclosure. Excavation showed occupation during the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD and may well have been extended during this period after starting life as a smaller IA hillfort.

### **Dinas Allt Wen hillfort, Penmaenmawr, PRN 713 (Fig. 13)**

#### **Location**

A prominent isolated high summit with extensive views in all directions.

#### **Short description**

A small hillfort on a prominent hill, adjoining the hill with the larger fort of Caer Seion. Defended by a single substantial stone bank reinforced by a ditch on the north side. A single simple entrance approached via a winding track from a small valley on the north-east (coastal) side. A remote and seemingly impractical site with traces of only one round hut within.

#### **Site visit notes**

The ramparts are relatively small but neatly made and better preserved over much of the circuit than previous descriptions record. The ditch is also well preserved and considerably outside the rampart because of the steep slope. The interior is largely intact because visitors walk on and around the ramparts. However, despite the interior being easily visible with an even cover of heather there are no signs of hut platforms. The one hut platform described by the RCHM at the N is still visible but it may be just a chance terrace where there is a natural ridge of rock. There are several areas of trample damage (issues 1-7).

### **Cefn Coch hillfort, Llanddoged and Maenan, PRN 2646 (Fig. 14)**

#### **Location**

On a gently sloping hilltop ridge S of Cefn Coch Covert.

#### **Short description**

A large oval bivallate hillfort most of which is ploughed down and survives only as a crop-mark except in a strip of woodland across the centre of the site. Here some upstanding banks survive but there are no traces of internal buildings. The defences must have been simple dump ramparts and ditches and these were later overlaid by another substantial linear bank oriented north-south, perhaps part of a much longer major land boundary, possibly of Early Medieval date.

#### **Site visit notes**

Known only from a non-archaeological survey aerial photograph. Not yet plotted. The site appears to consist of a neatly oval bivallate earthwork. The central part of this had just been planted with conifers when the AP was taken (1972). These are now semi-mature trees. There are only very slight vestiges of a rampart visible in the fields to the E and W, which presumably have been well ploughed.

However, slightly more of the S rampart is visible. The northern rampart followed the line of the forest boundary. There is also a large and more prominent grass-ridge bank c. 5m wide and 0.8m high, which runs along the west side of the forestry. This clearly seems to post-date the hillfort where it crosses the hillfort bank at the N and S. In the hillfort inside, are distinct hollows, possibly as a result of quarrying for the bank, which might be of some antiquity.

### **Castell Caer Seion, Conwy, PRN 2816, SAM CN 12 (Fig. 15)**

#### **Location**

A high and very prominent steep-sided hilltop close to the coast edge.

#### **Short description**

A large and prominent hillfort with natural defences on all sides. Defended by a single stone wall with a simple entrance. Within are the over 50 round houses. In a second phase the fort was modified or replaced by a smaller more heavily defended area containing only six round houses, separated from the area of the original enclosure by a bank and ditch as well as a wall and with a new entrance defended by an outwork. Excavation suggests that both phases belong to the pre-Roman period and that the fort was not subsequently occupied or re-occupied.

#### **Site visit notes**

A large hillfort of an original single-walled enclosure within which were over 50 round houses varying from 3m to 10m dia. A small, rather more heavily defended smaller enclosure was later created at the west end within the original enclosure. The approach to this across the ridge was protected by a large dump rampart so the smaller fort was not accessible from the original enclosure but through a separate entrance, which was protected by an outwork whereas, the original entrance had no outwork. Excavations in 1951 produced no Roman period material from either enclosure suggesting that both phases were of IA date and that it was not occupied or re-occupied in the Roman period unlike most other hillforts in the region.

### **Erw Goch defended enclosure, Eglwys Bach, PRN 2891 (Fig. 16)**

#### **Location**

On a small prominent promontory high up overlooking the mouth of the Conwy estuary.

#### **Short description**

A small ovoid enclosure on a ridge with wide views but not a very naturally defensive position. The defences are a single substantial bank and ditch except on the east where the defence is just the steep scarp side of an adjoining valley. The interior and areas around have long been cleared and ploughed in the past and there are no signs of any internal buildings but geophysics could be productive. There are no chance finds but the site lies close to the suggested line of the Roman road from Canovium to Varis. Generally the site is very similar to the Late Iron Age raths of south-west Wales.

#### **Site visit notes**

A substantially embanked small ovoid enclosure. There is no bank at the E side where the defence was formed by the steep slope of a small valley. The E ends of the enclosure bank have been well ploughed and are now rounded grassy banks about 1m high, with no obvious ditch. At the west, however the bank was retained as a field boundary and is high and steep with an external ditch about 1m deep and the bank itself up to 3m high, now both are covered in trees, protecting them except in one place at the SW where animal erosion has exposed shaley layered bank material. The farm track follows the line of the ditch on that side. The farmer says it was last ploughed during WWII and nothing was found at that time, or since.

### **Crimpiau possible defended enclosure, Conwy, PRN 4301**

#### **Location**

Steep sloping, east-facing valley side below crags at the west end of the Crafnant valley.

**Short description**

A single unenclosed, stone-walled round hut. Not a defended enclosure.

**Site visit notes**

A single hut circle lies on a slight promontory forming a natural platform at the foot of a cliff with good views over the valley. Sub-circular, c.4m diameter internally, wall 1m wide with some internal and external facing surviving, best at S. No clear entrance but presumably at downhill side not a classic IA/RB hut circle - Sub-Roman or E. Med.? Generally good condition, the best bit of wall about 1m high. Difficult of access. Although there is a well dug in the floor of the valley below it seems most likely to be a seasonally occupied shepherd's hut but very substantially built.

**Nant y Fors possible defended enclosure, Capel Curig, PRN 4313****Location**

Upland hillslopes on the north-facing lower valley sides just above the floor of Nant y Benglog.

**Short description**

A well-preserved platform hut with an associated orthostatic field wall. Not a defended enclosure.

**Site visit notes**

Platform hut and enclosure. There are other features in the area, which deserves further study, see sketch plans. They lie close to the line of the original, pre-Telford road that skirted around the contour just below here.

**Castell, Coed Mawr, possible defended enclosure, Bettws y Coed, PRN 4666****Location**

A small rocky hillock, one of several in this area of upland, high up above Bettws y Coed.

**Short description**

Not a defended enclosure.

**Site visit notes**

The drystone 'rampart' is no more than a normal drystone field wall although there is a blocked gateway narrow and a hollow track leading up the hill to it. The wall does shut off the only bit of hill that doesn't have sheer cliff edges. On the N side are two small artificial levelled enclosures - the lowest of which is the most level and almost rectangular, c.14m x 5m internally, cut into the hillslope on the S with a slight wall running up the hillside (the trackway) and with walling on the N. which is clearly of different character and earlier than the field wall that crosses the edge of it, apparently re-using some of the earlier wall as its foundations. This seems very likely to be the platform for a timber building but of course it could have just been a field rather than Howel's house.

**ANGLESEY (YNYS MON)****Mynydd Llwydiarth hillfort, Pentraeth, PRN 404****Location**

A rocky spur on the west end of Mynydd Llwydiarth with high, near vertical rock faces on the N, W & S and with wide views over the landscape to the west.

**Short description**

A small inland promontory fort on a narrow spur with a single substantially built stone wall protecting the eastern access across the neck of the promontory. The entrance there is defended by a deep in-turn of the wall. No evidence of internal buildings and no excavations or chance finds to suggest a date.

### **Site visit notes**

The features recorded by the RCHM are identifiable despite not being found by the OS. The wall at the 'entrance' is built of large limestone slabs up to 1m long set on edge facing a wall about 1.8m wide, quite similar to the wall around Din Silwy (Bwrdd Arthur). Where the wall turns to join the edge of steep natural slopes at NW & SE there is a bank rather than a wall. The wall and bank are identifiable to the W, although not being found by the OS. In one place there are 2 or 3 slabs set on edge suggesting that this bank too was faced. The banks at both W & E fade out as they run towards the main rocky spur at the SW where a post medieval field wall runs across the lower neck of the spur. There is no proof therefore that the wall of 404 ever continued to enclose or meet the main rock outcrop.

### **Dinas promontory fort, Trearddur, PRN 807, SAM AN 121 (Fig. 17)**

#### **Location**

Large grass-covered rock stack with an approximately flat top, separated from the mainland by a deep chasm, which contains a low connecting causeway of rubble, very difficult of access.

#### **Short description**

A small cliff promontory, isolated by erosion. It is edged with a bank on the two sides that are more accessible. There are some slight terraces inside that might be round hut platforms and there is a small but deep circular pond. There have been several metal detectorist finds of 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD date.

#### **Site visit notes**

The promontory slopes gently from west down to east, where the slope and the rampart come quite close to high tide level. The only possible settlement features are 3 or 4 slight possible circular platforms on the mid-slope on the east side - the only part of the promontory that has any kind of shelter from the westerly wind. Just above these is a small circular, artificially made pool in an embanked area. The bottom of the pool could not be bottomed at about 1m deep which itself is about 1m below the crest of the bank. Not previously recorded. On the outside of the landward side of the rampart and attached to it is a small circular embanked enclosure, function uncertain. If there was an entrance it could have been a guard chamber.

### **Tan-y-Graig possible hillfort, Pentraeth, PRN 1639 (Fig. 18)**

#### **Location**

A small isolated hill on a low ridge between two shallow marshy valleys. The owner claims the farm has never been known as Tan-y-graig and is called Gwynnan Farm after Gwyn & Ann 2 previous owners!

#### **Short description**

An uncertain site. A small isolated rocky hillock with cliffs around three sides. The fourth side has a relatively narrow, low perimeter bank, no bigger than a normal field bank. There are several curvilinear scoops and platforms within that could be the sites of round huts and one sub-rectangular platform. It is likely to be a small IA/RB settlement in a prominent location rather than a defended enclosure but there are no certain early features and no excavations or chance finds to indicate a date.

#### **Site visit notes**

The hill has a number of surface features. These include 5 curvilinear platforms between 6 and 10m diameter, a sub-rectangular platform about 9m x 5m and a slight bank around the north-east and most prominently the south. However, it is not possible to say confidently that any of these are artificial features belonging to a settlement or fortification, as they might be natural platforms or the result of minor quarrying. The summit area has also been interfered with by machine to place and heap up soil around a large water tank. However the platforms do look potentially genuine, as does the bank at the south. However, there seems to be a complete absence of a bank at the NW. If it could be proved to be a genuine site it would merit statutory protection.

### **Caer y Twr hillfort, Trearddur, PRN 1760, SAM AN 19**

#### **Location**

A prominent rocky hilltop close to the coast edge and with very wide prominent views over land and sea.

#### **Short description**

A large hillfort defended by natural cliffs on two sides and by a substantial faced stone wall on the rest. There is a single entrance at the north-east where the enclosure wall is in-turned to create a passageway. There is no evidence that there were ever any internal buildings despite the large area enclosed. The only finds have been a small hoard of late Roman coins but these are associated with a watch tower/signal station on the summit. There is also an extensive settlement of Roman-period roundhouses at Ty Mawr to the south-west of the fort.

#### **Site visit notes**

The hilltop was burnt off in 2004 removing the dense cover of gorse and heather. This has made nearly all the interior of the fort completely visible. However, despite the walkover and new aerial photographs by Toby Driver no new features such as enclosures or round huts have been identified. The previous descriptions by the RCAHMW and F.M. Lynch still stand.

### **Dinas Mawr possible hillfort, Rhoscolyn, PRN 2013**

#### **Location**

An isolated rock stack about 20m high at the south side of a sea inlet.

#### **Short description**

Non-site, natural feature.

#### **Site visit notes**

An isolated rock stack, sheer on all sides except the south-west where it is easily climbable. Approximately flat on top with no evidence of defences or human activity. It would be a very typical location for mesolithic or neolithic flint-working or camp site as it is lowland close a sea inlet but with very prominent views over the local landscape.

### **Y Werthyr hillfort, Tref Alaw, PRN 2077 (Fig. 19)**

#### **Location**

A low rounded hill about 60m in height, part of a longer ridge but with extensive views over lower land to the west.

#### **Short description**

A small, sub-circular bivallate hillfort now largely ploughed down and best visible as a crop-mark. It had a wide, apparently simple entrance at the north-east and there are traces of a partial third line of defences at the south but this may be an approach track-way. The eastern part of the inner enclosure forms a distinct scoop-like terrace, just below the actual summit and geophysical survey as part of the project suggests this terrace was occupied by several buildings while the remainder of the enclosure was open (see Geophysics trials, below). There have been no chance finds to indicate a date but it has been compared to the LBA/EIA site of Castell Odo (Alcock 1960, Lynch 1991, 268).

#### **Site visit notes**

The earthworks are very low and difficult to trace on the ground. The most obvious features are the large scoop or terrace at the north side of the summit and a long linear feature at the south side of the site, possibly an outer defence or hollow trackway.

### **Cors Bodwrog possible defended enclosure, Bodffordd, PRN 2110 (Fig. 20)**

#### **Location**

One side of a low promontory raised above the level marsh adjoining.

#### **Short description**

A site of uncertain attribution. A small sub-circular enclosure on a low inland promontory overlooking a marshy valley and identified from aerial survey by C. Musson. Slight earthworks of three wide ploughed-down banks are visible on the ground north-east of the summit of the promontory. The outermost is clearest and has an external ditch. However, none create any understandable kind of defence as the rest of the promontory is not enclosed and has no natural defences. Possibly an unfinished site or of some other function or period.

#### **Site visit notes**

The earthworks are quite clear at the north side with a low, very broadly spread bank and an external ditch, this runs up and down a gentle slope and appears to curve around before meeting with the adjoining, slightly higher summit knoll which it did not seem to include. The suggestion is therefore that it is an enclosed settlement rather than a defended site. There is also a very broad low internal ridge that is not easy to understand unless there was some internal ditching as well. Whatever, there are no signs of any hut platforms. There are some slight localised terraces to the south-west that could be associated features.

### **Porthamel defended enclosure, Llanddaniel Fab, PRN 2168**

#### **Location**

Within fertile lowland close to the edge of the Menai Straits. Formerly a low hillock with natural scarps on the north side and overlooking a small valley with a stream.

#### **Short description**

Formerly a compact defended settlement comprising over 15 roundhouses set within partly bivallate banks. Now mostly quarried away for limestone although fragments of peripheral features could survive.

#### **Site visit notes**

The quarry has been used for rubbish landfill and dedicated as a nature reserve (North Wales Wildlife Trust) is now masked by very dense tree and scrub growth.

### **Rhuddlan Fawr possible hillfort, Llanddyfyan, PRN 2192**

#### **Location**

A low but locally prominent hill with a stepped profile due to the bedded nature of the limestone.

#### **Short description**

Non-site – natural feature.

#### **Site visit notes**

There are several odd-looking scarps and hollows but these are all natural weathering features of the limestone. The hilltop is well grazed short turf so has good visibility and there are no traces of any kind of walling or defences, on the summit or lower terrace to the south.

### **Penrhos possible defended enclosure, Trearddur, PRN 2509**

#### **Location**

Uncertain, possibly the same as a small coastal promontory with low cliff edges.

**Short description**

Not a defensive site. If the site recorded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century is the coastal promontory of Bryn Glas it is a small area with low cliff edges that have a small perimeter bank but not across the neck of the promontory.

**Site visit notes**

If Stanley's record were correct the site would have been destroyed by the improvements to the A5 or have been buried by the landscaping for the bank bordering the Anglesey Aluminium site. However, the nearby coastal promontory of Bryn Glas could be what he was referring to. It is not high but does have cliffs around most of its perimeter. There are slight banks in places around the edge of the promontory, best preserved on the east side and there are possible trampled remnants around the north and west. However, these banks look just like field banks so this is unlikely to be a defended site. A small mound was noted on the summit of the promontory, possibly a burial mound, recorded separately for the HER.

**Caer Helen possible hillfort, Bodedern, PRN 2517****Location**

A low rounded hill not very impressive but locally prominent.

**Short description**

A possibly rectangular univallate enclosure on a low hilltop. Now entirely ploughed-out but has produced chance finds of a stone axe and a decorated spindle-whorl.

**Site visit notes**

A slight hollow in the hilltop in the field at the E side is all that can now be seen. The Roman attribution is probably just fanciful. The spindle whorl suggests an IA origin but the earlier finds show there may be even earlier origins. The east side is being repeatedly ploughed down. The west side is now stable although construction of the radio station must have caused considerable disturbance. Any new development - such as new aerials, cabling or buildings should be subject to full monitoring and prior evaluation. Geophysics of the E side and aerial photography might be productive. Any new construction or refurbishment of the radio station needs to have an archaeological input.

**Penmon Point possible promontory fort, Llangoed, PRN 2556****Location**

A limestone promontory with commanding views over the passage between Ynys Seiriol and the mainland.

**Short description**

Non-site or possibly site of more recent period.

**Site visit notes**

The previous record that there is no evidence for the existence of this site is confirmed. The location shown on Morris's map is quite precise so there seems no other possible location. However there are two locally prominent small hillocks just to the south of the Coastguard station but both are overgrown with gorse, bramble and bracken so it was not possible to check them. If Morris was correct in identifying a 'fort' here perhaps it was a post-medieval look-out or artillery point.

**Din Silwy hillfort, Llanddona, PRN 2595, SAM AN 24****Location**

A flat-topped hill of limestone, which rises above most of the land around, giving very widespread views across Anglesey and over the mainland coast and mountains. Naturally steeply scarped on all sides.

**Short description**

A very large hillfort on a flat-topped hill surrounded by natural scarps also defended by a substantially-built stone wall faced externally and internally and with two simple entrances. No certain internal buildings have been identified although there are numerous, probably natural low terraces. The site is now becoming overgrown with scrub so aerial photography or geophysics is unlikely to be productive. There have been no excavations but there are casual finds of a coin hoard and pottery indicating occupation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD and metal detectorist finds of ironwork indicating occupation as early as the 3<sup>rd</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC (Lynch 1991, 260-1).

**Site visit notes**

The natural scarp provides the main defence as there are no ditches, and the enclosure wall is only c. 2.5m wide and can never have been of any great height. The entrances are likewise simple. The site as a whole therefore is more like a large defended enclosure than a true hillfort and perhaps an oppidum. The absence of houses identifiable as such is odd because settlement remains in the limestone areas are usually substantial and easily identifiable but they may have been cleared for agriculture.

**Craig y Dinas hillfort, site of, Llanfairpwll, PRN 2704****Location**

A small inland rocky promontory with high cliffs around three sides and with prominent views over the Menai Straits and the mainland.

**Short description**

A site of uncertain identification. The RCAHMW (1937, 74) description of ‘...traces of a semi-circular defensive bank and ditch across the most accessible line of approach’ are not visible, perhaps levelled or obscured by vegetation and yard and garden construction and there are no excavations or finds to indicate a date.

**Site visit notes**

There is a house and garden on the 4th, north-east side, where any defensive bank would be. Such a bank could therefore have been levelled. Without some genuine remains of earthworks e.g. by chance observation, the site must remain uncertain of uncertain identification.

**Dinas Llwyd possible promontory fort, Rhosyr, PRN 3007****Location**

An isolated rocky hillock about 30m high, close to the shore at the north side of the estuary of the Afon Ceint.

**Short description**

Non-site, natural feature.

**Site visit notes**

There are old field boundaries and an artificial drain in the valley between the mainland and the promontory but no evidence of defensive structures.

**Tywyn y Parc promontory fort, Bodorgan, PRN 3024, SAM AN 49 (Fig. 21)****Location**

A large cliff promontory between a tidal estuary on one side and a deep narrow rocky inlet on the other. High cliffs on 2 sides and rocky slopes on the other with a narrow grassed over neck.

**Short description**

A promontory with sheer cliffs on three sides. The approach to it from the mainland is defended by large bivallate dump ramparts and ditches. At the north-east, where the cliffs are less sheer and there is a small inlet, an orthostat-faced wall was added along the edge of the cliff slope. There are no identifiable internal buildings but only one area could have been occupied, a natural terrace close

behind the eastern ramparts. Here any hut platforms could have been masked by blown sand and random exploratory excavation by the landowner has produced an iron spearhead and pottery of the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

#### **Site visit notes**

The outer rampart is relatively small and low providing simply an obstruction to attack. The inner rampart however is much larger and extremely well preserved at c. 2.5m high and still very steep suggesting that beneath the grass it might also suggest that it was refurbished during sub-Roman occupation. It is surprising that there is no trace of internal settlement features. Possibly the area was subject to sand blow in the 14thC (when Newborough was affected). Certainly the area to the east, inland is covered in sand, so there could be well-preserved features. Possibly geophysics could be tried. The finds made by Sir George Meyrick in 1938-39 should be located and published.

### **Porth Trecastell possible promontory fort, Aberffraw, PRN 3037**

#### **Location**

A triangular-shaped, flat-topped cliff promontory with high sheer cliffs around three sides, lying at the south side of a west-facing sandy cove - Porth Trecastell.

#### **Short description**

A site of uncertain nature as since first described it has been greatly modified by the construction of a telegraph station in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and by coastal erosion. There is one length of relatively slight bank and ditch protecting an approach from the beach at the south but there is no evidence of the larger bank that was recorded as protecting the main access to the promontory and there have been no chance finds to indicate early occupation.

#### **Site visit notes**

The 'ditch' at the east seems to be mainly just a naturally eroded cleft and there are no signs there was ever an accompanying large bank as recorded in 1869. As described by the RCAHMW this bank was destroyed when the signal station was built, i.e. before 1937, but there seems no reason why it should have been entirely removed. The signal station remains are a rectangular platform in the centre of the promontory, about 10m SW-NE and 8m NW-SE of a former building shown on the OS 1900 1:2500. There is a circular platform about 4m dia. just to the west and a small mound to the north which that has a sawn-off post butt, perhaps a telegraph pole, in its centre. The causeway onto the promontory has been artificially consolidated and revetted by drystone walling as has some of the adjoining cliff edge. There is a trace of a very low, narrow bank, about 1.5m wide and 0.4m high along the north edge of the promontory. There are also traces of a larger bank, possibly with an external ditch protecting a narrow ridge at the west, which would have allowed fairly easy access from the beach. This bank is about 4m wide and 0.5m high. This is the only hint that this really was a defended enclosure as originally recorded but both banks could be just associated with the signal station.

### **Bwlch possible defended enclosure, Mechell, PRN 3144**

#### **Location**

A low flat hilltop within a gently undulating landscape.

#### **Short description**

A site of uncertain identification known only from aerial photographs. A hilltop enclosure representing the ploughed down remains of a 19<sup>th</sup> century hilltop field but which might have re-used an earlier enclosure.

#### **Site visit notes**

The features recorded by C. Musson are the remains of the boundaries of a former curvilinear field that existed on the hilltop as shown on the OS 25 inch map of 1900 and now incorporated into a larger field. The south-east edge of the hilltop is a very steep rocky scarp up to 8m high so the hilltop could have made a good defended enclosure. The earlier field could therefore have simply been continuing the shape of a much earlier enclosure. However, the ploughed down banks seem to have been quite

minimal although a dip outside the former bank at the north-west could just be the remains of a ditch where there is a hint of a further concentric curvilinear feature on the aerial photo.

### **Cemlyn Bay West possible promontory fort, Cylch y Garn, PRN 3532**

#### **Location**

A small low promontory just above high water mark at the west side of Cemlyn Bay.

#### **Short description**

Non-site or possibly site of more recent period.

#### **Site visit notes**

The position marked by Morris is a small promontory on which is a derelict cottage and barn, Glan y Mor. The promontory is edged by a post-med. boundary wall that is more substantial along the east/sea facing side. There is no trace of any earlier enclosure wall or bank and the promontory has no natural defences being very low, almost at high tide level. Difficult to understand why Morris, in plotting carefully natural features of the coastline, should insert spurious man-made features, unless, as suggested for 3536 this was a post-med. artillery position.

### **Cemlyn Bay East possible promontory fort, Cylch y Garn, PRN 3536**

#### **Location**

Low slopes above cliffs at the east side of Cemlyn Bay.

#### **Short description**

Non-site or possibly site of more recent period.

#### **Site visit notes**

At the position marked by Morris is a fairly level and straight-edged terrace or knoll at 25m wide which is somewhat different than all the other irregular rocky knolls in the vicinity in that it is fairly level, fairly regular and grassed over with no rock visible. It provides a good prospect over the bay. Could it have been an artificially modified terrace for an artillery point?

### **Dinas, Traeth Bychan, promontory fort, Llaneugrad, PRN 3600 (Fig. 22)**

#### **Location**

A low, fairly level promontory of limestone, with steep cliff faces on most of its perimeter.

#### **Short description**

An isolated hillock with natural cliff scarps all around. On the top are several sub-circular platforms probably for roundhouses and one better preserved as a slightly upstanding earthwork. There are no recognisable defensive or enclosure features and the site is probably best classified just as a prominently sited settlement.

#### **Site visit notes**

This site seems best described as a nucleated settlement. There is no evidence of any kind of defences around the promontory. However, there are at least four vaguely circular hollows or platforms, which must be the remains of the roundhouse sites previously described. The hollows are all about 8m diameter, internally. The recent track up to the hilltop has run over one of the house hollows. The best preserved, to the SE of the holiday chalet, survives as an upstanding feature, suggesting walls survive, not just a platform.

### **Ynys Fydlyn possible promontory fort, Cylch y Garn, PRN 4361 (Fig. 23)**

#### **Location**

Two coastal stacks separated by a deep gully. Some erosion has taken place on the north side.

### **Short description**

Two adjoining small cliff stacks, accessible at low tide, that may have been a single island at the time of occupation. The easier access to the innermost is defended by a dump bank quarried from the inside. Part of the quarry ditch has created a terrace that could be a hut platform but the only other feature is on the outer stack and has been recorded as a hut circle but seems to have no entrance and is more likely to be a small pond, similar to that on Dinas, Trearddur (PRN 807).

### **Site visit notes**

This is an odd and uncertain site. There are two coastal stacks with precipitous sides except on the south. The innermost and smaller stack has a man-made bank on the south side that creates a difficult approach and therefore appears to be defensive. The bank is created by quarrying on the inside, upslope creating a very steep outer face and a slight inner terrace. There is no entrance through the bank but some of it is lost at the landward side where the cliff has eroded. There are no internal features and in fact no suitable space for any huts except perhaps one just behind the rampart. The larger outer stack, has no defences but has a circular embanked feature (PRN 2515) about 5m diameter which could be an overgrown hut but seems more likely to be a freshwater pool. Very similar to one at Dinas promontory fort, Porth Ruffydd. It is possible that the deep gully separating the 2 stacks was once a natural arch so the 2 stacks formed one island. However, the inner island could have been defensible on its own. The provision of a freshwater pool on the outer island seems to suggest that the two stacks were joined at the time when the defences were built.

### **Llanllibio Fawr possible hillfort, Bodedern, PRN 4397 (Fig. 24)**

#### **Location**

A low rounded hill, one of many similar in the west of Anglesey.

#### **Short description**

A small sub-circular hilltop enclosure identified as a crop-mark although traces of a single ploughed-down bank survive, partly incorporated into the existing field boundary banks. In the centre of the enclosure is a slightly embanked ovoid or sub-rectangular platform that is probably the remains of a building, possibly representing a more recent re-use of the site.

#### **Site visit notes**

The only earthworks visible are in the field to the east. These show a very low spread bank about 8m wide as indicated on AP. There is a break, possibly an entrance at the E but may have been caused by ploughing. The bank joins with the short curving E-W boundary at the N side suggesting that the N & W part of the enclosure were beneath the present field banks so the enclosure was smaller than suggested by CM. Within the enclosure is another smaller vaguely rectangular enclosure with low ploughed out bank, and c.15m SE-NW & 10m NE-SW. Within this are 3 large stones level with the surface, suggesting the remains of a building. The farmer's wife at Llanllibio Fawr, (who wouldn't allow access to their fields) said there was a tradition of there being a tavern or 'brothel house' on the hill - so the remains could be all post-medieval not Iron Age. Alternatively the tavern story may be just a fanciful explanation for the remains. Nothing is shown here on the 1891 OS 6 inch map.

## **7 GEOPHYSICS TRIALS**

Two sites chosen that would give a contrast between a major scheduled earthwork site of which little was known of the interior and one minor site recorded mainly as a crop mark. The scheduled site chosen was the bivallate hillfort of Dinas Dinlle, Llandwrog, Gwynedd, PRN 1570, SAM CN 48. This strongly defended site has never been excavated in modern times although there have been a number of antiquarian and chance finds suggesting high status for the site in the Romano-British period, including coins and an intaglio-set ring. There are several internal features including a possible large round barrow, two rectilinear enclosures and four possible roundhouse platforms noted by the RCAHMW (1960, 189-90). The minor site chosen was Y Werthyr, Llantrisant, Anglesey, PRN 2077. This is a small bivallate hillfort on a low rounded hill that has been long-used for agriculture. The site survives as very faint low, ploughed-down earthworks, which were recorded in plan by the RCAHMW (1937, 114) but best seen on aerial photographs. There have been no excavations and no chance finds to

indicate a date but the site has been compared to the LBA/EIA hillfort of Castell Odo, Gwynedd (Alcock 1960, Lynch 1991, 268). It is the most substantial of a number of ploughed-down hill-top enclosures in Anglesey of which more may yet be located by aerial survey.

Work at the sites chosen was dependent on the permission of the landowners and happily both agreed. Dinas Dinlle is part of a farm recently purchased by the National Trust and thanks go to John Latham, Senior Archaeologist for the National Trust and to Keith Jones, Head Warden for the area for permission. Thanks also go to Cadw for permission to carry out the geophysical survey. The site has had some conservation problems, subject to visitor wear and to coastal erosion. Fortunately these problems are being addressed and as part of its strategy the National Trust has recently commissioned a fresh total station survey of the site. This provided a very useful basis for the geophysical survey and thanks go to John Latham for making the survey available. The site of Y Werthyr has clearly been much ploughed in the past but now is stable in semi-permanent sheep pasture. Many thanks must go to the landowners, Hughes Bros. of Glan Gors, Llanbabo for permission.

## **The Geophysical Surveys by David Hopewell**

### **1. Introduction**

Areas of fluxgate gradiometer survey were carried out in the interiors of two defended enclosures. This survey method has the advantage of being non-invasive and relatively swift. It is ideal for detecting larger scale features such as enclosure ditches and occupation areas.

### **Instrumentation**

*Geoscan FM36 Fluxgate Gradiometer.*

This instrument detects variations in the earth's magnetic field caused by the presence of iron in the soil. This is usually in the form of weakly magnetised iron oxides which tend to be concentrated in the topsoil. Features cut into the subsoil and backfilled or silted with topsoil therefore contain greater amounts of iron and can therefore be detected with the gradiometer. This is a simplified description as there are other processes and materials which can produce detectable anomalies. The most obvious is the presence of pieces of iron in the soil or immediate environs which usually produce very high readings and can mask the relatively weak readings produced by variations in the soil. Strong readings are also produced by archaeological features such as hearths or kilns as fired clay acquires a permanent magnetic field upon cooling. Not all surveys can produce good results as results can be masked by large magnetic variations in the bedrock or soil. In some cases, there may be little variation between the topsoil and subsoil resulting in undetectable features.

The Geoscan FM36 is a hand held instrument and readings can be taken automatically as the operator walks at a constant speed along a series of fixed length traverses. The sensor consists of two vertically aligned fluxgates set 500mm apart. Their Mumetal cores are driven in and out of magnetic saturation by a 1,000Hz alternating current passing through two opposing driver coils. As the cores come out of saturation the external magnetic field can enter them producing an electrical pulse proportional to the field strength in a sensor coil. The high frequency of the detection cycle produces what is in effect a continuous output (Clark 1990).

The gradiometer can detect anomalies down to a depth of approximately one metre. The magnetic variations are measured in nanoTeslas (nT). The earth's magnetic field strength is about 48,000 nT, typical archaeological features produce readings of below 15nT although burnt features and iron objects can result in changes of several hundred nT. The machine is capable of detecting changes as low as 0.1nT.

### **Data Collection**

The gradiometer includes an on-board data-logger. Readings in the surveys were taken along parallel traverses of one axis of a 20m x 20m grid. The traverse interval was one metre. Readings were logged at intervals of 0.5m along each traverse giving 800 readings per grid.

## Data presentation

The data is transferred from the data-logger to a computer where it is compiled and processed using Geoplot software. The following display option is used in this report along with an interpretation drawing.

### *Grey-Scale plot*

Data values are represented by modulation of the intensity of a grey scale within a rectangular area corresponding to the data collection point within the grid. This produces a plan view of the survey and allows subtle changes in the data to be displayed. A smoothed version of the above may also be included. This does not contain any additional information; its function is to suppress the random background noise allowing anomalies to be seen more clearly.

## Data Processing

The data is presented with a minimum of processing. High readings caused by stray pieces of iron, fences, etc are usually modified on the grey scale plot as they have a tendency to compress the rest of the data. The data is however carefully examined before this procedure is carried out as kilns and other burnt features can produce similar readings. Corrections are also made to compensate for instrument drift and other data collection inconsistencies. Any further processing is noted in relation to the individual plot. The plots in this report have been interpolated to 0.5 x 0.5m spacing in order to reduce pixellation.

## 2. Results

### 2.1 Dinas Dinlle, Llandwrog, Gwynedd, PRN 1570, SAM CN 48

A sub-rectangular area with dimensions of approximately 110m x 160m was surveyed encompassing the interior of the fort and extending just over the top of the ramparts where possible. The outer slope of the ramparts is generally very steep and it was not possible to survey within this area.

### Survey Conditions

Survey conditions were fairly good with even temperatures although strong winds may have introduced a little noise into the results due to buffeting of the instrument. Much of the area was fairly flat and ideal for survey. One large mound was very steep and uneven and was surveyed at a slow rate to ensure reasonably accurate data collection. The inside of the ramparts is quite steep and some spatial inaccuracy was inevitable here although it is unlikely to be significant when viewed at 1:1000. The survey area is crossed by a barbed wire fence and this is visible as the large linear north/south anomaly on the grey-scale plot.

### Survey results (Figs 25-27)

The survey did not produce particularly clear anomalies but general areas of activity can be seen and some detail is visible. The results are presented as a trace plot, a grey-scale plot and an interpretation diagram. The data needed little processing apart from the clipping of obvious ferrous anomalies (mainly the fence). The grey scale data is clipped to  $\pm 15\text{nT}$  and interpolated on the x-axis to reduce pixellation.

The top of the ramparts are visible as a faint negative linear anomaly (1 and 2), characterised by a lack of noise (defined as random fluctuations in the data) perhaps indicating fairly stone-free soil or turf in this area. A noticeable scatter of higher readings (3, 4 and 5) on the outside of upper part of the rampart may indicate stone facing. In places, this can be seen to coincide with concentrations of stone that are visible on the surface but no definite facing could be identified. The entrance (6) is visible as a slight patch of noise. This may simply be the result of erosion down to a stony layer in the natural drift but could alternatively be interpreted as an indication of metallurgy or tumbled stone.

Responses vary across the interior of the site. Anomalies in the eastern side are fairly well defined whereas those on the western side are faint and diffuse. This almost certainly indicates that there is a

greater depth of windblown sand on the west of the site. Up to a metre can be seen in places in the cliff-edge section.

Several areas of activity are visible within the site. The most obvious anomaly corresponds to a large mound, possibly a disturbed round barrow (7). This produced a mass of high responses many of which appear to be caused by still-visible modern ferrous material and burning. A faint anomaly on the western side could indicate a small ditch or kerb.

A band of noise and diffuse anomalies (8, 9 and 10) extends around the inside of the rampart. Area 9 corresponds to a series of low earthworks shown on the RCAHMW plan (Fig. 7b). Area 10 corresponds to further unevenness on the ground. Neither the earthworks nor the geophysical anomalies are particularly easy to interpret although a subrectangular enclosure is visible on the ground to the south of the barrow/mound. The geophysical results from area 9 suggest a series of three or four house platforms to the south of the enclosure. A fairly clear circular anomaly (12) in area 10 appears to be a further platform about 9m in diameter. These anomalies therefore suggest a band of occupation around the inside of the rampart. Further diffuse anomalies in area 11 could represent similar activity although the line of the rampart is now lost to the sea.

The centre of the fort contains several larger linear anomalies and one possible further house (13, visible as a slight 11m wide hollow on the ground). Anomaly 14 corresponds to an enclosure recorded on the RCAHMW and National Trust plans. The higher responses here are probably caused by stones in the bank. A further linear bank (15), also shown on the plans produced a similar anomaly. An area of very high responses (17) at the north of the survey area is probably modern given that other anomalies in the area appear to be masked by blown sand. There are several other areas of increased noise, mainly within area 11, but also to the south of anomalies 13 and 15. It is not possible to tell if these are a result of variations in the glacial drift that underlies the site or an indication of further archaeological remains.

## **Conclusions**

The results are not clear enough to draw any definite conclusions about the level of archaeological survival within Dinas Dinlle. It seems safe to conclude that there was a band of activity around the inside of the rampart possibly in the form of house platforms. The central area appears to contain at least one further platform, a subrectangular enclosure and a linear bank. Further lower level magnetic responses could indicate further activity but excavation would be required to confirm that this was not a result of natural variations in the subsoil.

## **2.2 Y Werthyr, Llantrisant, Ynys Mon, PRN 2077**

A rectangular area with dimensions of 60m x 120m was surveyed, encompassing about 70% of the interior of the inner enclosure as indicated on the OS map. The results are presented as a trace plot, a grey-scale plot and an interpretation diagram.

### **Survey Conditions**

Conditions were good with even temperatures and low winds. The area was fairly flat with short turf and was ideal for survey.

### **Survey results (Figs 28-30)**

The results were fairly clear with low levels of background noise and no obvious geological interference. The enclosure ditch (1) produced a very well-defined anomaly at the south. The responses around the entrance (7) at the north-east are complicated by a lot of random and high readings. One ditch (4) on the south side is well-defined and could belong to an outer enclosure; a fragment of linear anomaly (2) could be a continuation of ditch 1. Somewhat less clear responses on the north of the entrance (3 and 5) can be tentatively interpreted as the opposing ditches. It should be stressed that the interpretation in this area can only be seen as provisional and could be enhanced by further survey to ascertain the line of the ditches to the north-west and south-east. A band of increased noise (6) on the inside of ditch 1 probably marks the remains of a mostly ploughed-out rampart. Linear anomalies within the rampart presumably indicate some surviving features such as stone facing, burnt timbers or a palisade slot.

The interior of the enclosure contains a series of eight patches of noise (11-18). These are best interpreted as house platforms, with anomalies produced by magnetically enhanced occupation debris. The Anomaly 16 is fairly well defined and can be interpreted as a roundhouse with an external diameter of around 11m. Anomaly 10 appears to intersect the rampart and may be a later feature. The area (8) to the south of the line of possible houses is the highest part of the hill and is magnetically quiet and best interpreted as an open area within the settlement. The area to the north of the houses (9) is slightly more noisy perhaps indicating some activity although there is no evidence of further dwellings. A further circular anomaly (19) about 17m in diameter appears to intersect the ditches and could belong to a later phase.

## Conclusions

The results from this site are quite clear and confirm the presence of a sub-circular ditched enclosure about 95m in diameter. An outer ditch also appears to be present but a larger survey area would be needed to confirm this. The interior appears to contain the remnants of several circular house platforms perhaps clustered around the south and western sides of a hollow just below the highest part of the hill.

## 8 MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Condition and threats

**Table 5 Recorded condition and vulnerability of all visited hillforts and defended enclosures, by occurrence in Conwy, Arfon and Ynys Môn**

<i>SAMs</i>	<i>Value</i>	<b>Defences</b>		<b>Interior</b>	
		<i>Condition</i>	<i>Vulnerability</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Vulnerability</i>
	1 Low	-	3	-	3
	2 Medium	1	6	2	7
	3 High	9	1	8	-
<i>Non-SAMs</i>	1 Low	7	4	7	2
	2 Medium	6	6	9	10
	3 High	8	11	5	9

The occurrence of recorded condition and threat values are summarised in Table 5 and the sites with recorded management issues are summarised in Table 6. 6 out of 10 SAMs and 11 out of 21 non-SAMs have management issues. The details are comments are listed in the Management gazetteer.

The numbers in each authority area are too small to be statistically significant for comparison but non-scheduled sites in Anglesey are in poorer condition because several are or have been under plough. Overall as might be expected, scheduled sites have both defences and interior in better condition and are less vulnerable. Nevertheless there are still some scheduled sites that are vulnerable with active or foreseeable threats such as visitor erosion to defences at Caer Seion (Conwy PRN 2816) and Dinas Dinlle (Arfon PRN 1570) and tree fall at Castell Oleu (Conwy PRN 686) and Dinas y Prif (Arfon PRN 593). For the non-scheduled sites there are still a significant proportion that are in good condition but have higher vulnerability. These include visitor erosion at Dinas Allt Wen (Conwy PRN 713), Horse trampling at Caerlan Tibot (Arfon PRN 3693) and Gadlys (Arfon PRN 585) and tree fall at Mynydd Llwydiarth (Ynys Môn PRN 404). Generally in north-west Wales sites benefit from the decline in arable farming and of ploughing so that most sites are now in pasture. Some lowland pasture may be ploughed at intervals and so have some potential threat. These include Cefn Coch (Conwy PRN 2646), Caer Helen (Ynys Môn PRN 2517) and Y Werthyr, Llantrisant (Ynys Môn PRN 2077). The trial geophysical survey at Y Werthyr (above) indicates that much still remains there despite centuries of ploughing and some kind of management seems desirable. Caer Helen has been subject to recent ploughing as well as by construction of a radio transmitting station but even though it may be preserved only in part, still deserves further investigation.

**Table 6 Hillforts and defended enclosures with management issues in Conwy (C), Arfon (A) and Ynys Môn (YM)**

SAMs			Non-SAMs		
<i>Name</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>Issue</i>
Dinas y Prif (A)	593	Tree fall	Hen Gastell (A)	584	Sheep trample
Dinas Dinlle (A)	1570	Natural erosion and visitor trample	Gadlys (A)	585	Horse trample
Castell Caer Seion (C)	2816	Visitor trample	Twthill (A)	3091	Construction
Caer y Twr (YM)	1760	Visitor trample	Castell Gron (A)	3706	Cattle trample
Tywyn y Parc (YM)	3024	Rabbit burrowing	Dinas Ty-du (A)	4034	Visitor trample
Din Silwy (YM)	2595	Visitor trample	Caerlan Tibot (A)	3693	Horse trample
			Pen y Gaer (A)	261	Sheep trample
			Erw Goch (C)	2891	Stock trample
			Dinas Allt Wen (C)	713	Visitor trample
			Mynydd Llwydiarth (YM)	404	Tree fall/felling
			Tan y Graig (YM)	1639	Cattle trample

### Monument Evaluation

**Table 7 Recorded Status rank of all visited hillforts and defended enclosures, by occurrence in Conwy, Arfon and Ynys Môn**

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No. of occurrences</i>
SAM	Visited	10
SAM	Not visited	22
A	National importance	8
B	Regional importance	6
C	Local importance	1
D	Minor importance	-
E	Requiring further investigation before a rank can be given	8
N	Visited: Non-site/Other site type	20
NA	Not visited: Destroyed site	1

The occurrence of recorded status rank, based on monument evaluation is summarised in Table 7. The proportion identified as possibly of national value is large but hillforts and defended enclosures are nationally a rare site type as well as which, as potential foci of settlement and status, are particularly valuable. These include three fairly compete small hillforts at Cerrig y Dinas (Conwy PRN652), Dinas Allt Wen (Conwy PRN 713) and Dinas Ty-du (Arfon PRN 4034) as well as four smaller defended enclosures at Erw Goch (Conwy PRN 2891), Pen y Gaer (Arfon PRN 261), Hen Gastell (Arfon PRN 584) and Caerlan Tibot (Arfon PRN 3693).

### Future investigation and research

It could be said that all sites require further investigation because even Caer Seion (Conwy PRN 2816), the only site in this area with substantial excavation, still has many unanswered questions. It is also unfortunate that such a major site as Dinas Dinlle (Arfon PRN 1570), known only from previous

chance finds, remains little understood. Several other major sites are also of disputed attribution or period, such as Caer Oleu (Conwy PRN 686) and Caer y Twr (Ynys Môn PRN 1760). Those that have been recorded as requiring further investigation are those where there are at present no identifiable features that can be used to assign a function or period with any certainty. These include most of those sites identified from aerial survey such as Ty'n Llan Uchaf (Arfon PRN 18357), Bwlch (Ynys Môn PRN 3144), Cors Bodwrog (Ynys Môn PRN 2110) and Llanllibio Fawr (Ynys Môn PRN 4397) as well as sites where little remains above ground, such as Dinas Dinoethwy (Arfon PRN 5531) and Caer Helen (Ynys Môn PRN 2517).

The crop mark site of Cefn Coch (Conwy PRN 2646) can be classified with certainty as a hillfort of some significance on the basis of its typical bivallate shape and of some traces of ramparts but its true value cannot be assessed without excavation or at least geophysical survey. On ploughed down sites such as this the ditches may provide the most productive area for investigation to establish sequences. Only extensive excavation of interiors can hope to fulfil the same objectives. Enquiries into the origins of defended enclosures in this area need to investigate those sites with some similarities to the 'lightly defended enclosure' of Castell Odo (Dwyfor), and these would be Cerrig y Dinas (Conwy PRN 652) and Y Werthyr, Llantrisant (Ynys Môn PRN 2077).

North-west Wales is fortunate in the number of defended sites that have already been recorded in detailed plans by the RCAHMW. However, some new features have been discovered as part of the present work and new measured survey would be beneficial at the sites listed in Table 8.

**Table 8 Hillforts and defended enclosures recommended for new detailed topographic survey in Conwy (C), Arfon (A) and Ynys Môn (YM)**

SAMs		Non-SAMs	
<i>Name</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>PRN</i>
Caer Oleu (C)	686	Dinas Dinoethwy (A)	5531
Dinas, Trearddur (YM)	807	Cefn Coch (C)	2646
		Ynys Fydlyn (YM)	4361
		Llanllibio Fawr (YM),	4397
		Cors Bodwrog (YM)	2110
		Tan y Graig (YM)	1639

The trial geophysical surveys have both proved very worthwhile and illustrated the potential of such non-intrusive and rapid survey. Similar work would not be as productive in all situations such as rocky hilltop sites. However, there are several sites in more lowland settings where it could provide very useful information. These are Erw Goch (Conwy PRN 2891), Cefn Coch (Conwy PRN 2646), Caerlan Tibot (Arfon PRN 3693), Castell Gron (Arfon PRN 3706), Dinas y Prif (Arfon PRN 593), Tywyn y Parc (Ynys Môn PRN 3024) and Din Silwy (Ynys Môn PRN 2595).

Further aerial survey work should be productive in Anglesey where the presence of an RAF base has restricted flights but where work so far suggests that there may be several more small hilltop enclosures that have been ploughed down and hidden from view. The plateau to the east of the Conwy Valley is another area where more defended enclosures and other settlements or even hillforts can be expected judging by the scarcity of known sites, a situation highlighted by the surprising discovery by Chris Musson of the major new hillfort of Cefn Coch, Maenan (Conwy PRN 2646).

## 9 DISCUSSION

The interpretation and discussion at this stage only covers part of the area of north-west Wales. The comments here will therefore be extended and improved on in the final report, when the remainder of the area has been studied.

### Site types

The agreed recording form simplified the types to Hillfort and Defended Enclosure. The survey also separated Promontory fort as a type within the main Hillfort category. Some sites were also identified

as either Non-sites, Natural features or Sites of other type or period. The latter were described and recorded for enhancement of the HER but are not included in the site descriptions above. It is apparent that there is a problem of definition in that no clear distinction can be drawn between some lightly defended enclosures and some enclosed settlements. The latter were visited and assessed as part of the hut circle settlement survey and the initial proposal for the defended settlement survey was that it should include all sites not included in the hut circle settlement survey. In fact many of the latter choose prominent sites on low hill tops, and sometimes have quite substantial enclosure walls. At the same time, some hillfort or defended enclosure sites on quite prominent hills have relatively minor enclosure walls and in several cases have no walls at all, relying on natural scarps. In all cases the simple act of enclosure is the most important indicator, marking out a protected area. This might have been as a protection against stock, or to signify status as much as for actual defence, that is there was an element of monumentality, with appearance and display being as important as functionality. A few of the more prominently sited enclosed hut circle settlements were included in the survey and the final discussion will compare the distribution of both defended and undefended settlement.

### Site altitude

The location of sites has some relation to their site type with defended enclosures being more frequent at lower altitudes while most strongly defended hillforts naturally found on more inaccessible higher hills. Nevertheless in this area there are still some locations with strong natural defences at lower altitudes, on rocky promontories, for instance, and some well-defended hillforts on relatively low and accessible hills.

**Table 9 Site altitude**

	<i>Altitude m OD</i>					
	<i>Total No.</i>	<i>0-50m</i>	<i>50-100m</i>	<i>100-200m</i>	<i>200-300m</i>	<i>300-400m</i>
<i>Coastal promontory fort</i>	4	4	-	-	-	-
<i>Defended enclosure</i>	22	8	6	6	2	-
<i>Defended enclosure?</i>	2	2	-	-	-	-
<i>Hillfort</i>	27	2	5	9	7	4
<i>Total</i>						
<i>Non-site, natural feature</i>	7	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Non-site/uncertain site</i>	5	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Other site type</i>	8	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 10 Site size**

	<i>Area of inner enclosure</i>			
	0-1.2ha	1.2-3ha	3-6ha	>6ha
<i>Coastal promontory fort</i>	3	-	-	1
<i>Defended enclosure</i>	18	2	1	-
<i>Defended enclosure?</i>	2	-	-	-
<i>Hillfort</i>	19	5	-	3

### Settlement size

17 sites have evidence of internal buildings. Of these 10 are well-preserved stone-walled structures so that we probably have a complete record of the internal buildings. In these cases the buildings are all circular except at Dinas Cadnant where some are rectangular. The number of roundhouses at these well-preserved sites varies from six at Caer Carreg y Fran (Arfon PRN 3688) to 90 at Braich y Dinas (Conwy PRN 712). It is the three largest forts in terms of area that have the most buildings. As well as Braich y Dinas, there are 50 at Caer Seion (Conwy PRN 2816) and 42 or more at Pen y Dinas (Conwy PRN 637). These are the only forts that can be regarded as major settlements, which could have been

communal or trading centres. Other quite sizeable forts have far fewer houses, with 18 at Pen y Gaer (Conwy PRN 663) and 13 at Dinas (Conwy PRN 392) and these are no larger than many of the nucleated unenclosed roundhouse settlements that were in use during the Roman period. Three large walled forts, those of Caer Oleu (Conwy PRN 686), Din Silwy (Ynys Mon PRN 2595) and Caer y Twr (Ynys Mon PRN 1760) are notable because they have no evidence of roundhouses within them despite their stone construction. Din Silwy has produced good artefactual evidence for occupation so it must be assumed that the internal buildings were either timber or, if stone, have been cleared. Houses should survive at both Caer Oleu and Caer y Twr, which suggests that they may have functioned more as places of refuge than working settlements. In other places the settlement inside some large forts is unknown because of clearance or erosion. This is the case at Dinas Dinorwic (Arfon PRN 5) and Dinas Dinlle (Arfon PRN 1570). Both are much more substantially defended than other forts, suggesting that they may have been of greater status, particularly since both are quite compact in area. Geophysical survey at the latter (Hopewell, above) has identified two larger buildings, one circular and one sub-rectangular in the central space and possibly several other smaller circular buildings immediately within the ramparts.

On Anglesey there are a number of quite compact defended settlements with more buildings than most unenclosed settlements and these were probably of greater status or prosperity or acted as communal centres, larger than simply the focus of an extended family. The largest is at Parciau (Ynys Mon PRN 2203) with 21 houses, while there are 16 at Porthamel (Ynys Mon PRN 2168) and 11 at Dinas Cadnant (Ynys Mon PRN 1562). Two of the promontory forts are large in area, at Twyn y Parc (Ynys Mon PRN 3024) and Dinas Gynfor (Ynys Mon PRN 3067) but neither has evidence of buildings. At Twyn y Parc they may have been hidden under blown sand. There are some smaller promontory forts and hilltop enclosures that may have been little different in function from small undefended settlements, such as Dinas (Ynys Mon PRN 807), Ynys Fydlyn (Ynys Mon PRN 4361) and the inland promontory fort of Mynydd Llwydiarth (Ynys Mon PRN 404). Two inland forts on Anglesey are unusual. These are the two sites called Y Werthyr. Both are on low hilltops and both have been ploughed down so there has been no evidence of buildings. However, the geophysical survey carried out for this project at Y Werthyr, Tref Alaw (Ynys Mon PRN 2077) has identified a number of probable circular buildings (Hopewell, above) with specialised use of the internal space. Y Werthyr, Bryngwran (Ynys Mon PRN 3505) is much larger in area and is likely to have been a large and important settlement so geophysical survey would be particularly valuable.

### Settlement shape

**Table 11 Internal shape of all defended enclosures, differentiating those that are determined entirely by natural topography**

	Circular		Sub-circ		Ovoid		Rectang		Sub-rect		Polygon		Irregular	
	Artificial	Natural												
Coastal promontory fort	1													3
Defended enclosure	2		4	1	8		2							6
Hillfort			7		2	5	1		2		2			9

The results show that shape alone cannot be used to provide a classification that is useful in terms of style or for dating. It has been shown that a large proportion/the majority of defended enclosures owe their shape to the natural topography on which they are situated. Even in cases where the topography does not directly determine the layout the defensive works often follow the contours, accounting for the ovoid shape of those built on ridges or promontories, as at Cefn Coch (Conwy PRN 2646) or Dinas Tydu (Arfon PRN 4034). In a few cases the topography is not a limiting factor and regularity of shape indicates that an arc was deliberately set-out, as at Dinas Dinorwic (Arfon PRN 5), Y Werthyr, Bryngwran (Ynys Mon PRN 3505), Caer Bach (Conwy PRN 563), Gadlys (Arfon PRN 585) and

Porthamel (Ynys Mon PRN 2168). Rectilinear types are few and undated in each case. Only one, that of Dinas y Prif (Arfon PRN 593), is certainly of this shape. The site seems likely to belong to the category of rectilinear enclosed settlements of the Romano-British period, but a larger and more substantially enclosed version than most. This dating is supported by the presence just outside it of an unenclosed roundhouse settlement, which seems to be in an associated but subordinate relation to the main enclosure. The enclosure itself is clearly defensive, with a ditch and bank as well as what appear to be the extraordinary and unique feature of platforms for towers at each corner of the enclosure (Fig. 6). There are two other enclosures that seem to have been rectangular, at Caer Helen (Ynys Mon PRN 2517) and Ty'n Llan Uchaf (Arfon PRN 18357). Caer Helen has been largely ploughed away, its shape known only from earlier descriptions and as yet unconfirmed by aerial photographs or geophysics. Ty'n Llan Uchaf is known only from a recent aerial photograph (Driver 2003). Its overall shape and extent are not known because most of it lies beneath a modern cemetery but the part visible from the air has two parallel narrow, straight ditches with curving corners. This site lies not far from the line of the Roman road from Caerhun to Segontium and it could prove to be a signal station or fortlet.

### **Defence type**

North-west Wales is distinctive for the presence of a number of stone-walled forts, often without accompanying ditches. These forts have been regarded as a separate class (RCAHMW 1964, lxxiv-v) but in some cases may be just a reflection of the ready availability of surface stone, while ditches functioned as much as quarries for bank material as defensive works in their own right. In several cases the addition of walls to natural scarps precluded the need for a ditch. It was also difficult to cut ditches in hard rock areas. Nevertheless, at Cerrig y Dinas (Conwy PRN 652), a trivallate walled fort, ditches were added around the approach to the entrance. When excavated many ramparts prove to have had stone facing so walled forts are not necessarily a distinctive type. In one case however, at Dinas Dinorwic (Arfon PRN 5) an original stone-walled fort appears to have been supplemented by massive bivallate bank and ditch defences in a style more like the hillforts of eastern Wales and the Borders and a secondary phase at the walled fort of Castell Caer Seion (Conwy PRN 2816) involved the addition of a dump rampart created from a quarry ditch.

The evidence for timberwork as part of the defensive design, either as palisades or as rampart lacing in this area is limited to two sites. At Pendinas, Llandegai (Arfon PRN 223) excavation of part of the rampart showed burnt timberwork (White 1975) while at Craig y Dinas, Llandwrog (Arfon PRN 1312) pre-modern excavation recorded breaks in the stonework that suggested the presence of timber lacing. At Dinas y Prif, Llanwnda (Arfon PRN 593) traces of a terrace at the rear of the (earthen) rampart suggest a walkway which was probably behind a timber breastwork since this was lowland site where stone would have been difficult to obtain. At the well-preserved stone-walled fort of Caer y Twr (Ynys Mon PRN 1760) on Holyhead Mountain, however, the wall incorporated a walkway, which was fronted by a wall, with no evidence of associated timberwork (RCAHMW survey files).

In a number of cases the complex layout and differing styles of ramparts incorporated in bi- or multi-vallate forts suggests development over a long period. This might represent simply expansion of the site with addition of annexes, as was probably the case at Braich y Dinas or the elaboration and improvement of defences by the addition of outworks as at Tywyn y Parc promontory fort, Craig y Dinas (Llanllyfni) and Dinas Dinorwic. At Castell Caer Seion modification and improvement of the defences involved a contraction rather than an expansion with the construction of a small inner enclosure defended by a large rampart and ditch in comparison to the simple stone wall of the original fort (Griffiths and Hogg 1956). In this case a late date for the use of the rampart and ditch style of defence, which is rare in the area as a whole, is attested, although excavations did not find any artefactual dating evidence to confirm this.

### **Dating evidence**

Stratigraphic, artefactual or scientific dating evidence for different structural phases or periods of use can only come from excavation although there have been some chance finds. Four sites have had some modern (post WWII) excavation, six have had some excavation in the earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century and three have had some excavation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Eleven have produced finds as a result of quarrying, agricultural clearance or other surface disturbance and two more have produced finds as a result of modern metal detecting activity (Table 12).

At Caer Seion the two observed phases of defence were undated, and the finds indicated only pre-Roman occupation. However, it has been suggested that the small inner enclosure may be a post-Roman addition as similar inner citadels were added to the hillforts of Garn Boduan and Garn Fadryn on the Llyn peninsula and both have traditions of medieval use. Boduan is ‘home of Buan’ who by tradition was the grandson of Llywarch Hen, indicating a date around AD 700 and Fadryn is identified by Giraldus Cambrensis as a castle built by the sons of Owain in the 12<sup>th</sup> century (RCAHMW 1964, cxvii-viii).

Castell Bryn Gwyn (Anglesey) was originally a Late Neolithic (ceremonial) henge enclosure (Phase I), the earthworks were later rebuilt more than once as a fortification but the associated evidence of occupation was slight. Four sherds of pottery of the late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD were assumed to denote the latest phase of occupation and rebuilding (Phase III). The earlier phase of rebuilding, (called Phase II) was therefore presumed to be late Iron Age (Wainwright 1962).

At Y Werthyr (Bryngwran, Anglesey) limited excavations in advance of road construction provided no useful structural or stratified dating evidence but an unstratified find of a bronze terret indicated occupation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD (Livens 1965, 1976).

At Pendinas (Llandygai, Bangor) limited rescue excavation of the defences suggested only a single structural phase. The only artefactual find was a saddle quern but a radiocarbon date from the rampart indicated construction in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> century BC (White 1992).

**Table 12 Defended settlements with excavated or other evidence**

	<i>Post 1945 excavation</i>	<i>Pre-1945 20<sup>th</sup> C excavation</i>	<i>19<sup>th</sup> C excavation</i>	<i>Finds from quarrying, clearance or surface</i>	<i>Finds from metal-detecting</i>
Conwy	Caer Seion	Pen y Gaer	Pen y Dinas (Gt. Orme)	Braich y Dinas	
		Braich y Dinas			
		Dinas (Llanfairfechan)			
Arfon	Pendinas	Craig y Dinas	Craig y Dinas	Pier Camp (Bangor)	
			Dinas Dinlle	Pen y Gaer	
				Caer Engan	
				Dinas (Y Felinheli)	
				Dinas Dinoethwy	
Anglesey	Y Werthyr (Bryngwran)	Parciau		Caer Idris	Din Silwy
	Castell Bryn Gwyn	Tywyn y Parc		Porthamel	Dinas (Trearddur)
				Din Silwy	
				Dinas (Traeth Bychan)	
				Dinas Cadnant	
				Caer Helen	

### **The origins of defended settlements**

Both the origins and the later periods of use of defended enclosures are problematic because of the limited amount of excavation and because of the general lack of datable artefacts in this region, particularly the absence of pottery in the first millennium BC. The earliest known defended enclosure in the region, although outside the area covered by this part of the survey is that of Castell Odo, Llyn

peninsula. This began as an unenclosed hilltop settlement in the Late Bronze Age, c. 1000-700 BC, and was later protected successively by a palisade, then a single bank and then by bivallate ditches and banks (Alcock 1960). This type of defended enclosure has been called a 'weak double ringwork' (RCAHMW 1964, lxxvi-viii) of which all the most likely examples are situated in the Llyn peninsula. However, the recognition of this class shows that we should expect to find elsewhere a class of early enclosures that were designed to be defended even though their enclosure banks were relatively slight compared to those of later defended enclosures and hillforts. These might therefore subsequently be difficult to distinguish from later enclosed settlements that were not basically defensive in nature. Away from the lowland they might also be walled rather than ditch and banked. Dinas (Llanfairfechan) has been suggested to be such an early walled lightly defended settlement (RCAHMW lxxvii) and other examples might be Cerrig y Dinas (Llangelynin) and the lightly built single-walled hillforts of Dinas Allt Wen (Penmaenmawr) and Dinas Ty Du (Llanberis). On Anglesey the ploughed-down multivallate hilltop enclosure of Y Werthyr (Lantrisant) has been suggested to be another such early enclosure (Lynch 1991, 268). Geophysical survey as part of this survey may support this because the ditches seem to be quite small and the entrance does not appear to have been designed to be defensive in the sense that those of major hillforts were (Hopewell, above). Such lightly defended enclosures are vulnerable to ploughing in lowland areas and just as some possible examples have been recognised in the Llyn peninsula from crop marks others may yet be located in Anglesey.

### **Artefactual evidence**

The earliest, undefended phase at Castell Odo was associated with pottery but no similar evidence of early occupation has been found in West Conwy, Arfon or Anglesey. Finds of Middle or Late Bronze Age bronzes are widely scattered through the area but only one comes from a defended enclosure, a looped spearhead from Braich y Dinas, although this was an antiquarian find of uncertain provenance or significance. However, there is a similar lack of evidence of settlement of any kind from this period, which is quite at odds with the ubiquity and number of funerary and ritual monuments.

Querns are the most frequent finds from defended enclosures and saddle querns have been found at Pendinas (Llandygai, Bangor), Caer Seion (Conwy) and Braich y Dinas (Penmaenmawr) and querns of unspecified type have been found at Hen Gastell (Llanwnda, Caernarfon), Pen y Gaer (Bettws Garmon) and Dinas (Llanfairfechan). Unfortunately saddle querns had a long currency, continuing in use into the Roman period, despite the introduction of rotary querns, which in this area was probably sometime in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (Hughes 1977). Rotary querns are thus more useful for dating and one was found built into the rampart at Caer Engan (Llanllyfni), showing a quite late date for construction or refurbishment.

The only firm evidence of Early Iron Age date for a defended enclosure is an iron ring-headed pin from Din Silwy (Anglesey) but this was an antiquarian find, now lost (Lynch 1991, 262). Evidence of occupation in the later first millennium is absent apart from the radiocarbon date from Pendinas (Llandygai, Bangor) mentioned above. Several 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century excavations have failed to find dating evidence, but have produced other kinds of evidence such as spindle-whorls from Craig y Dinas (Pontllyfni), iron-working at Pen y Gaer (Conwy), copper working at Tywyn y Parc (Anglesey) and slingstones and rubbing stones at Caer Seion. Excavation at the latter revealed charcoal deposits in the ditch of the later inner enclosure and focussed re-excavation could be carried out to produce radiocarbon dates.

Organic evidence survives in only two places. At Pen y Dinas on the Great Orme (Llandudno) where animal bones, limpets and snail shells were found during excavation of a roundhouse in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (RCAHMW 1956, 114), in association with a Samian sherd, and at Dinas (Traeth Bychan, Anglesey) where animal bones and marine shells were found during clearance.

### **Occupation in the Roman period**

The lack of artefacts of the first millennium BC from defended settlements is made more evident by the contrast with the widespread presence of finds of the Roman period. However, this only mirrors a similar bias in the occurrence of datable artefacts in undefended settlements and just shows that the native settlements continued to be occupied. It is perhaps surprising to find evidence that many of the defended settlements also continued in occupation, apart from the notable exception of Caer Seion, although they may no longer have been defended settlements as such. There is no firm evidence of Roman

destruction of forts although there was evidence of vitrification of the rampart at Pendinas (Llandygai, Bangor, White 1992) and it has been suggested that ramparts had tumbled in an unnatural way and had perhaps been deliberately dismantled at Caer y Twr (Holyhead) (Lynch 1991, 266) and Caer Seion (RCAHMW 1964, lxxix). Geophysical survey at Dinas Dinlle (Llandwrog) as part of the present project, showed no evidence of burning of the entrance or ramparts (Hopewell, above). While it appears that Caer Seion was not occupied in the Roman period, Braich y Dinas (Penmaenmawr), in a similar very strong and prominent position, has produced numerous finds between AD 100-400 including pottery and coins. Dinas coastal promontory fort (Trearddur Bay, Anglesey) has produced late 2<sup>nd</sup> to early 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD pottery and Dinas Dinlle (Llandwrog), pottery of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Lack of 1<sup>st</sup> century pottery except in the case of Castell Bryn Gwyn (Anglesey) means that forts may have been re-occupied rather than continuously occupied and some of this re-occupation may have occurred only late in the Roman period. Apart from the finds mentioned above there is a mortarium of late 3<sup>rd</sup> century type from Tywyn y Parc coastal promontory fort (Bodorgan, Anglesey) pottery and coins of late 3<sup>rd</sup> to early 4<sup>th</sup> century AD from Parciau (Llaneugrad, Anglesey), pottery and a coin hoard of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD from Din Silwy (Llanddona, Anglesey) and a gold coin of AD 306-40 from the uncertain site of Pier Camp (Bangor).

Finds of Roman period pottery and coins occur at both undefended and defended settlements the finds from the latter are more numerous suggesting that the defended sites retained some greater status, even if their defences were no longer functional. This is emphasised by the presence of other classes of finds such as the intaglio-set ring from Dinas Dinlle, the oxhead bronze bucket mounts from Dinas coastal promontory fort (Trearddur, Anglesey), the bronze terret from Y Werthyr (Bryngwran, Anglesey) and the glass beads and box tiles from Parciau (Llaneugrad, Anglesey). Coin hoards may be particularly indicative of accumulations of wealth and possibly of periods of social upheaval and any finds of coins of more than an isolated specimen may have belonged to deliberately concealed caches. Apart from those mentioned above from Din Silwy and Braich y Dinas there is a group of coins of the late 3<sup>rd</sup> to early 4<sup>th</sup> century from the Tywyn y Parc coastal promontory fort (Bodorgan, Anglesey). There is also a 19<sup>th</sup> century record of an undated hoard, now lost from Dinas (Y Felinheli, Arfon) and other lost and undated 19<sup>th</sup> century finds of coins from Dinas Dinoethwy (Llanwnda, Arfon) and Porthamel (Menai Bridge, Anglesey).

### **Post-Roman Occupation**

If forts were re-occupied or became the focus for increased activity in the later Roman period their occupation could have continued in the fifth century. The same can be said of the contemporary non-defended settlement but though like the forts most of those excavated have produced evidence of Roman contact and until recently there has been almost a complete absence of evidence that settlement continued. Recent excavation prior to the new A55 road across Anglesey has located three previously unknown settlements of later prehistoric and Roman date. One of these, at Cefn Cwmwd, Rhostrewfa, has produced an intaglio, a copper alloy penannular brooch and a sherd of imported French pottery, all suggesting that occupation continued into the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> century AD (Davidson and Hughes forthcoming). Previously, the only other evidence showing that these settlements continued to be occupied came from two sites. Excavation at the enclosed roundhouse settlement of Pant y Saer (Anglesey) produced a copper alloy penannular brooch of 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> century AD date as well as some coarse pottery of unidentified type. Excavation at Graeanog roundhouse settlement, south of Caernarfon demonstrated an aceramic phase of occupation in the late Roman period and further occupation or re-occupation sometime between the 6<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> centuries AD (Kelly 1998). Other evidence of post-Roman occupation, in the form of imported Mediterranean pottery, has also come from the defended settlement of Dinas Emrys (Beddgelert). It is surprising that similar pottery has not been forthcoming from other defended settlements or else signs of reconstruction of defences or of the appearance of new house styles. In some cases activity must have focussed on former Roman forts such as Caerhun, Segontium and Caer Gybi, although as yet unproven, but in other cases on former native defended settlements. Examples that could be argued to belong to such a group might be Caer Oleu (Maenan, Conwy), where there is a platform for a possible rectangular building within a secondary inner non-defensive enclosure within the fort. Caer Seion, which also has a secondary inner fortification, although strongly fortified. At Dinas Dinlle (Llandwrog, Arfon) Pennant saw ‘traces of rectangular buildings’ and geophysical survey for the present project has identified one possible example (Hopewell, above). Dinas Cadnant (Menai Bridge, Anglesey) and Dinas (Y Felinheli, Arfon) both also have remains of rectangular buildings. However, rectangular buildings also occur in a number of undefended settlements of the Romano-British period in this area and are clearly part of that phase

of occupation. Dinas y Prif (Llanwnda, Arfon) has no signs of internal buildings but this itself suggests that it may have had timber buildings, which would most likely be rectangular, since the local house style of the Romano-British period is of clay-walled round-houses and several of these occur as earthworks immediately outside the ramparts of Dinas y Prif, apparently in an associated but subordinate position.

### **Etymology of the names of defended enclosures**

Some clues to the understanding of the later history of the defended settlements may be indicated by their names, some of which probably originate in the Early Medieval period. Only general comments can be made here because etymology is a specialised study. Most enclosures have descriptive rather than individually distinctive names, such as Dinas or Caer or their derivatives such as Pendinas, Braich y Dinas, Craig y Dinas or Pen y Gaer. These names are actually those of the hills, which have then been used as names for the forts. Such names, incorporating caer, dinas or castell are also often applied to entirely natural features such as hilltops or rocky inland or coastal promontories. Some of these were erroneously included by early antiquaries in lists of early fortifications. Place names suggesting the presence of fortifications also occur in places where there seem to be no natural features that could have led to them. For instance, Gaerwen – white fort - occurs both in Anglesey and in Arfon. The latter farm includes an enclosed roundhouse settlement, to which the name probably refers. Similarly Din has also been applied to the enclosed roundhouse settlement of Din Lligwy (Moelfre, Anglesey), which does have substantial, but clearly non-defensive, stone walls.

There are other place names that suggest the presence of defended settlements, such as Castell Faban, Anglesey and Dinas Mawr, Llanddeiniolen, but the full extent of these has not been included in the present study. Some may be natural features and some may indicate post-Roman works, such as a promontory fort at the mouth of the Conwy estuary illustrated on a navigation chart by Lewis Morris as Castell Tremlyd – Lookout castle, but now lost to coastal erosion (Morris 1748). Three others recorded by Morris on Anglesey were included in the present survey but no trace could be found and it may be that he was referring just to artillery emplacements.

A few defended enclosures have descriptive names such as Gadlys (Llanwnda, Arfon) probably from cadlas – enclosure or stack-yard. Dinas y Prif is ‘City of the fly’, possibly because of its low-lying situation with water-filled ditches that would have bred insects. Two defended enclosures in Anglesey are curiously called Y Werthyr – market or fair, both very ploughed down sub-circular sites, almost unrecognisable at ground level. Whether this refers to some presumption about the meaning of the circular earthworks or whether it refers to some actual usage, for example as cattle markets, in the past is unknown. Another circular site, Penarth Gron (Tregarth) that was destroyed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century still has a local tradition as a fair site. The name of Caer Seion may derive from locally distinctive use of a ditch for the defence of the later inner fort. The earliest records of the name, in Leland’s Itinerary of 1536-9 and on a map of c. 1750 by Emanuel and Thomas Bowen is ‘Sinadun’ and this may derive from an early Welsh word for ditch ‘sinach’ with dun/din – fort (T. Williams, pers. com.). However, this old version of the name has also been interpreted as simply a confusion with *Segontium* or Snowdon.

Some enclosures have proper names attached. A few of these clearly relate to folklore, such as Dinas Dinlle (Llandwrog, Arfon) – the dinas of the dun of Lleu. Just south of Dinas Dinlle is an offshore reef that is exposed at very low tides and this is called Caer Arianrhod. The name Lleu and the place name Caer Arianrhod occur in the Mabinogi folk tales. Caer Idris (Llanidan, Anglesey) must be named after a giant in folk tales, the same as in the Llech Idris standing stone (Trawsfynydd, Meirionnydd), thrown by Idris from his seat – cadair – on Cader Idris. Caer Helen (Bodedern, Anglesey) a defended enclosure of uncertain type, thought to be a Roman camp because of its rectangular shape and so, perhaps, accounting for its name, related to the Roman road, Sarn Helen.

Some enclosures have names that do not obviously derive from folklore. These are Din Silwy, Dinas Dinoethwy, Dinas Dinorwic, Caer Egan, Caerlan Tibot, Castell Gron and Penarth Gron (also recorded as Pen-yr-arth Gron) – possibly ‘top of the cliff of Gron’. Caer Egan may derive simply from Hen Gaer. Din Silwy has been argued to refer to the Dun of the Silures but may derive from a personal name *Silvestris* and a later layer of Arthurian folklore is also evident in the occurrence of Bwrdd Arthur – Arthur’s Table - as an alternative name for Din Silwy. Dinas Dinoethwy has not yet been proven to be a defended enclosure because it has been largely built over by a house and landscaped gardens but Roman coins have been found there. The name may be the same as the dun of Daethwy, which is

regarded as a tribal name centred on south-east Anglesey, surviving in the Medieval commote name Dindaethwy and in the former name of Menai Bridge, Porthaethwy (Davies 1972, 156). Dinorwic has been thought to refer to the tribal name Ordovices (Gardener 1947, 247) but again may derive from a personal name Orwic or Orwig as may CaerlanTibot, Castell Gron and Penarth Gron. Gron is traditionally regarded as a local chieftain and Goronwy is a common name in early lineages. Caer Oleu is 'Castle of light' (alternatively named Pen y Castell) and is derived from its topographic position on a narrow exposed promontory. A folk tale of the Conwy valley refers to a giant who guarded the valley, placing his feet on either side of the valley while hurling boulders at intruders. This seems to refer to the two forts of Caer Oleu and Pen y Gaer set on hilltops opposite each other on either side of the valley.

### **Distribution and Territory**

The distribution of defended enclosures (Fig. 2) may provide some information about patterns of settlement and perhaps of tribal allegiance or of authority. The predominantly coastal or near coastal distribution of defended settlements in Caernarvonshire parallels the distribution of undefended settlements (Fig. 31) and most likely just reflects the availability of better quality land along the coastal belt, with the one exception of the Conwy valley, where the two inland forts of Caer Oleu and Pen y Dinas occur. On Anglesey there is still a bias towards coastal areas despite the lack of upland and the relatively even spread of better quality agricultural land. This can be explained as determined by the occurrence of naturally defensible hilltops – mainly near the eastern coast - and of defensible coastal promontories. A few defended enclosures do occur in the interior of Anglesey - at the two sites called Y Werthyr and at several smaller enclosures such as two recently identified on aerial photographs at Gors Bodwrog (Bodwrog) and Llanllibio Fawr (Bodedern). More of these crop mark sites are likely to exist, as yet unidentified. The same situation is likely on the east side of the Conwy, which has relatively good quality agricultural land, but where defended enclosures are almost absent. The discovery of a large bivallate fort from crop marks at Cefn Coch (Maenan) shows that there is considerable potential and several additional smaller defended and undefended settlements are very likely to be found in this area.

In Anglesey, apart from the coastal bias, the defended settlements are quite evenly distributed except for a noticeable gap in the central south of the island. If this distribution indicates tribal territories the boundaries are difficult to identify because of the similarity of the lowland landscape. On the mainland there are much more marked landscape features, particularly the valleys and the rivers they contain. The economy in these areas was also likely to include elements of both lowland mixed farming and upland pasture and the valleys were important routes to upland pasture. Upland and lowland land usage was therefore probably built into the territorial system. The largest area of lowland around Caernarfon Bay has a natural focus around the fort of Dinas Dinlle. Dinas Dinorwic overlooks the plateau to the north and the entrance to the Padarn Valley (Llanberis). The Nantlle Valley has two forts close to its entrance at Caer Engan and Cerrig y Dinas. Pendinas (Llandygai, Bangor) overlooked the entrance to the Ogwen Valley. Smaller valleys to the east are overlooked by small forts at Maes y Gaer (Abergwyngregyn) and Dinas (Llanfairfechan). Braich y Dinas overlooked the whole of the northern coastal plain and Caer Seion overlooked the entrance to the Conwy Valley. The two forts of Caer Oleu and Pen y Dinas on opposite sides of the Conwy Valley are seen as having a complementary relationship in the folk tale described above. In fact they are quite different to each other in style of construction and a competitive role is more likely as the river provided a major natural physical boundary. The land on either side of the valley is different too, as is the distribution of settlements. On the east side there is mainly improved pasture, the bivallate fort of Cefn Coch is quite different to any forts west of the Conwy and there is only one small defended settlement, fortified by bank and ditch, that at Erw Goch (Eglwys Bach). The west side of the Conwy is mainly upland grazing and the area is dominated by the two major forts of Pen y Gaer and Caer Seion apart from two smaller defended settlements quite close to each other at Cerrig y Dinas, possibly an early lightly defended enclosure, and Caer Bach, a well defended small ringwork.

Interpretation is made difficult because it is likely that not all the defended settlements were occupied simultaneously. Many have however, produced evidence of occupation during the Roman period, and so can be assumed to have been part of a contemporary settlement distribution. The larger and better-defended enclosures are quite well spaced so some kind of territorial pattern can be envisaged. The few likely exceptions that do not fall into this pattern are smaller enclosures, difficult of access, with little

or no evidence of actual settlement. These may be early or short-lived defended enclosures that were eventually displaced or replaced by larger, more accessible settlements. Examples are Dinas Allt Wen (Penmaenmawr), perhaps replaced by Caer Seion, Dinas Ty-Du (Llanberis), perhaps replaced by Dinas Dinorwic, Dinas (Trearddur) perhaps replaced by Caer y Twr and Ynys Fydlyn, perhaps replaced by a defended enclosure on a nearby hilltop, recently discovered by aerial survey. The area east of the Conwy at present is rather poorly understood. Physically and probably culturally it belongs with a wider area to the east and might be better defined in relation to a study of that area as part of the pan-Wales project. The overall pattern west of the Conwy, in Gwynedd and Anglesey may be better understood and described when the remainder of the area in Llyn and Meirionnydd has been studied.

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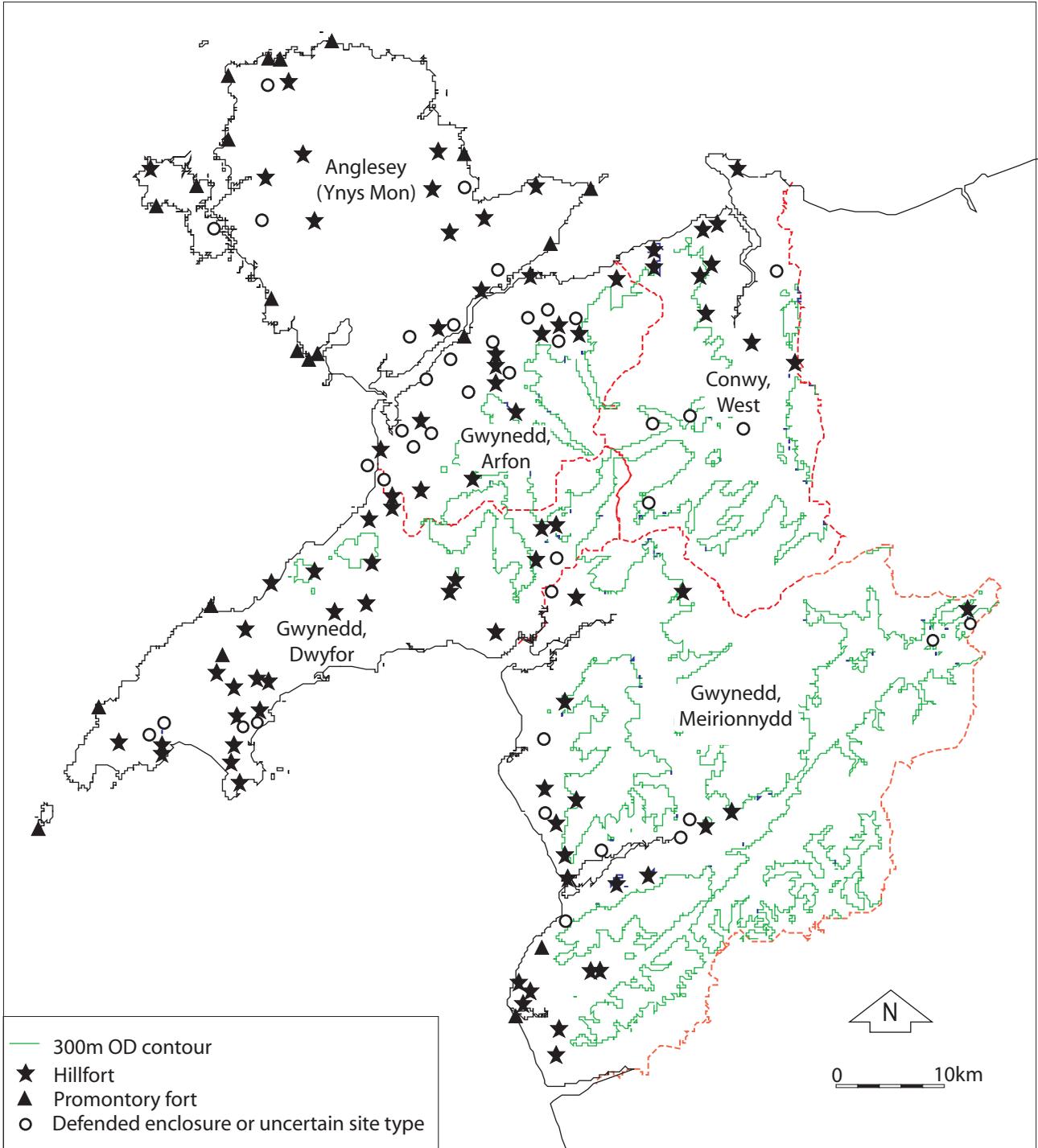


Fig. 1 Distribution of all known and possible prehistoric defended settlements in north-west Wales

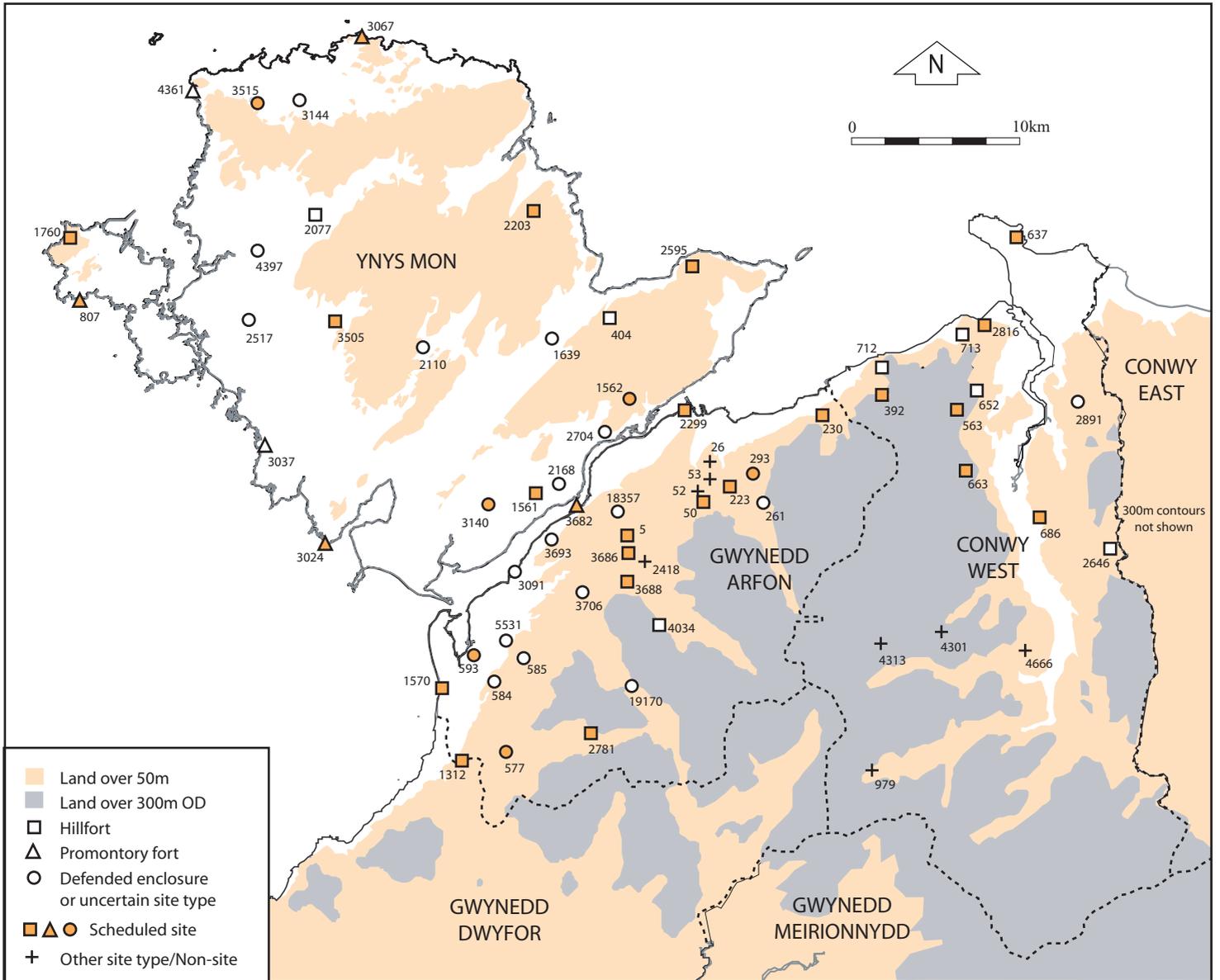


Fig. 2 The location of all known and possible prehistoric defended settlements in Conwy West, Gwynedd Arfon and Ynys Mon

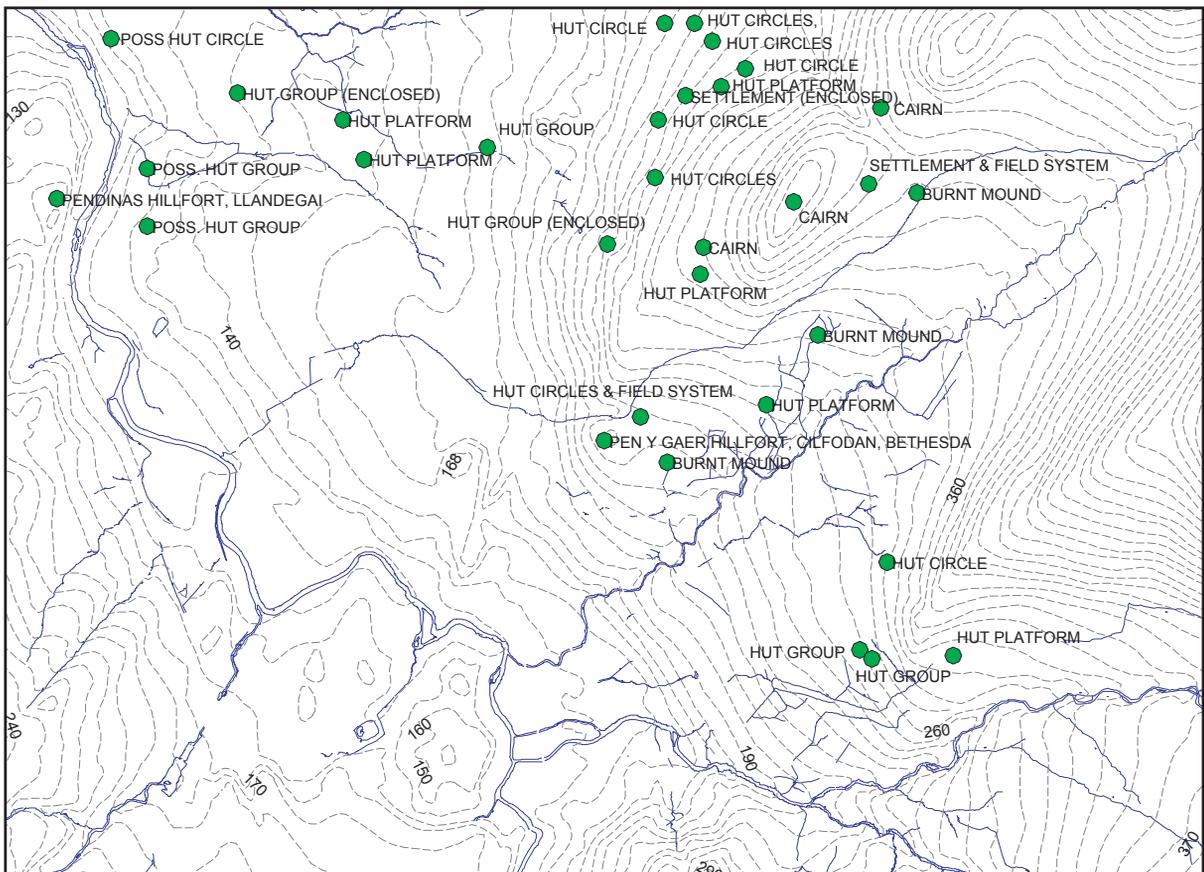


Fig. 3a Pen y Gaer hillfort, Llanllechid, PRN 261.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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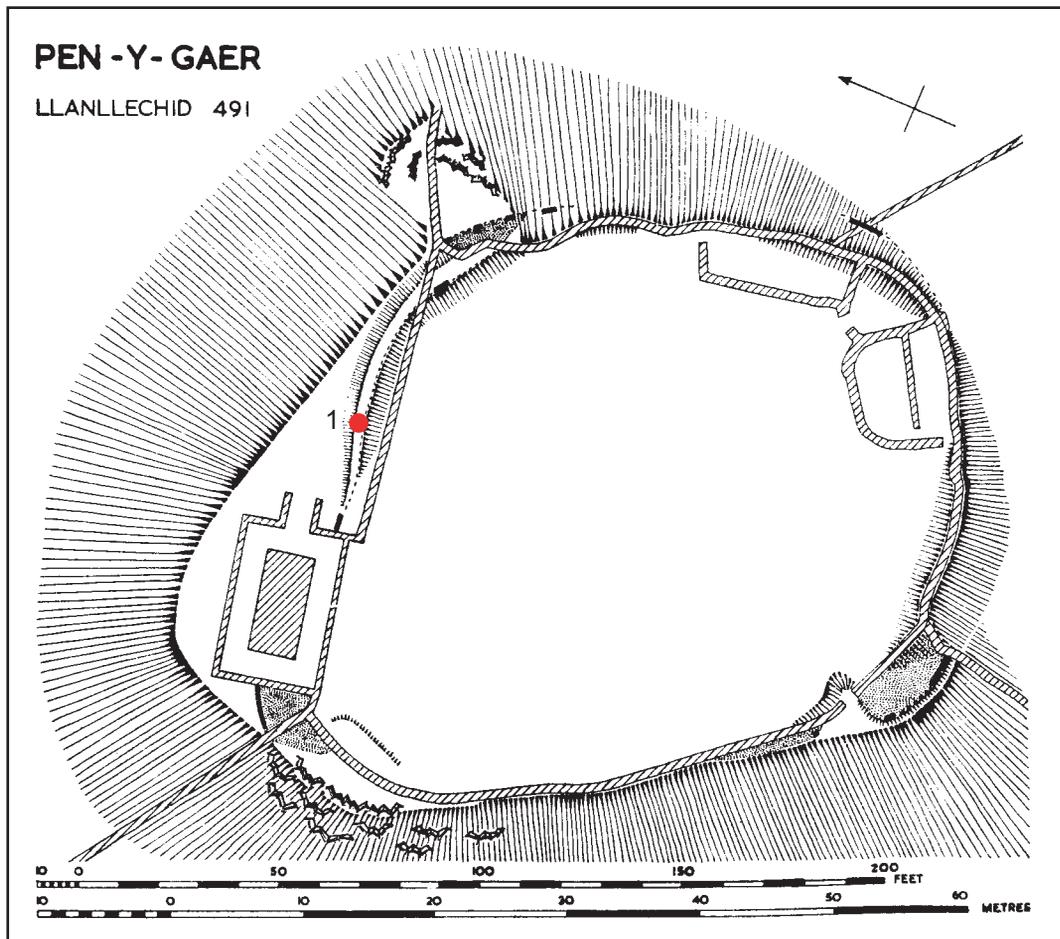


Fig. 3b Pen y Gaer hillfort, Bethesda, PRN 261. Plan by RCAHMW (1956, Fig. 135) with management issue added.  
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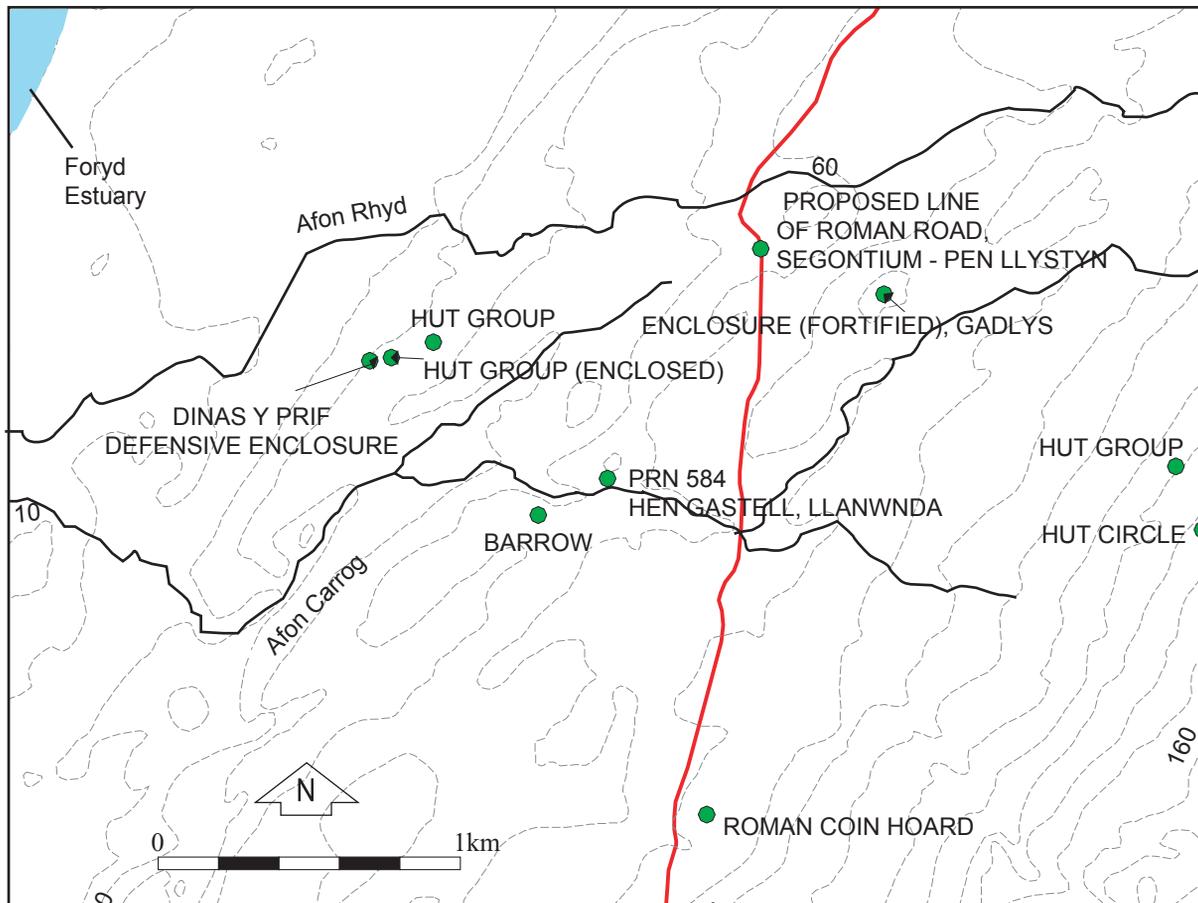


Fig. 4a Hen Gastell, Defended Enclosure Llanwnda, PRN 584:  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000  
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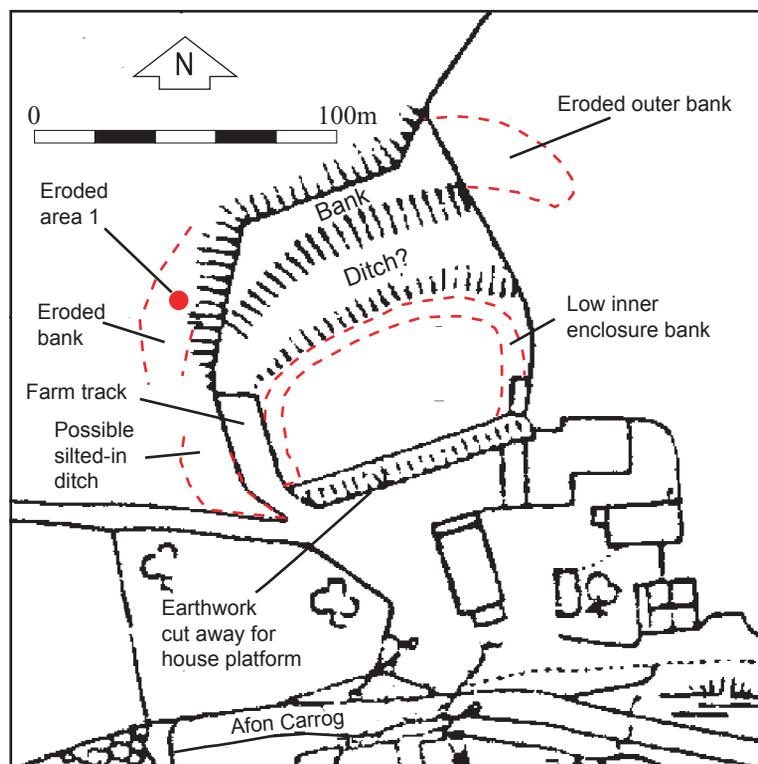


Fig. 4b Hen Gastell, Defended Enclosure Llanwnda, PRN 584:  
 Plan showing additional features and management issues.  
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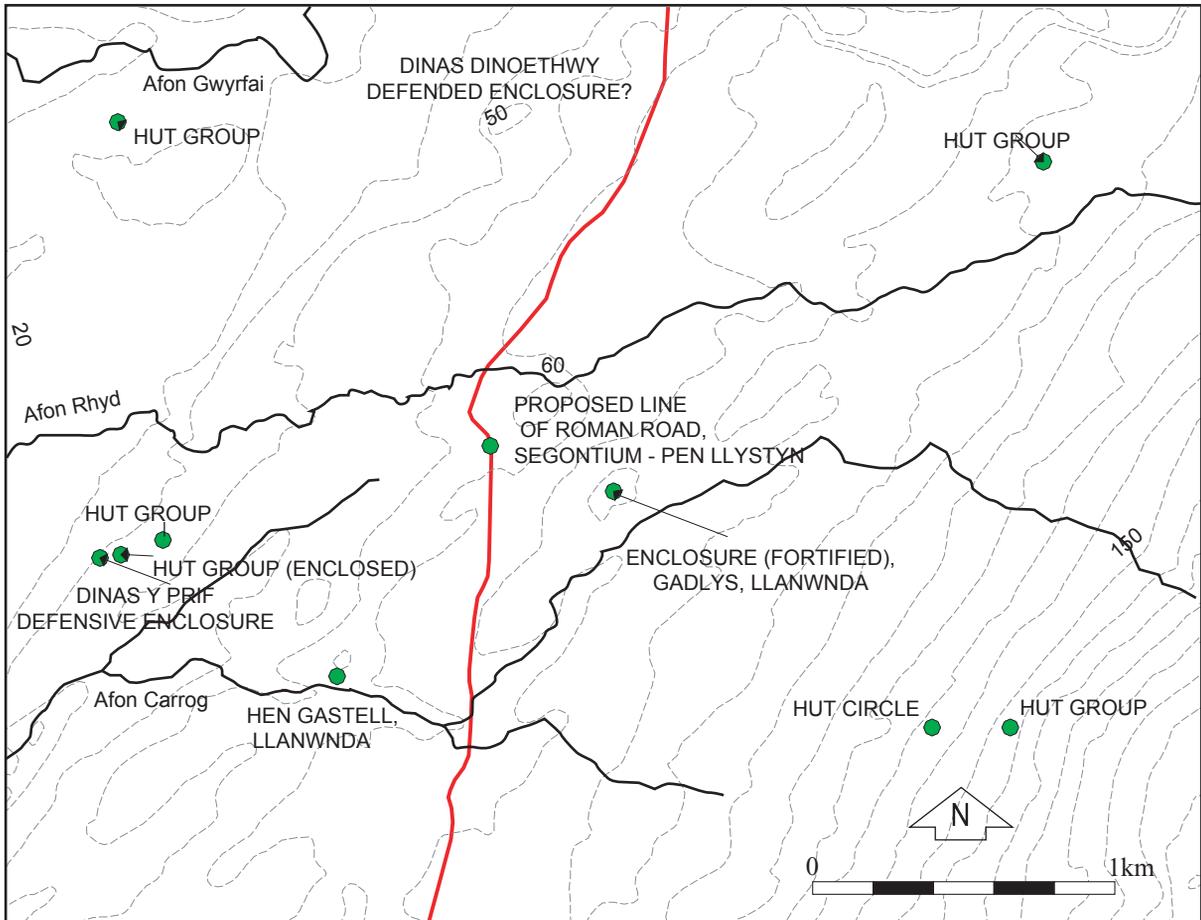


Fig. 5a Enclosure (Fortified), Gadlys, Llanwnda, PRN 585:  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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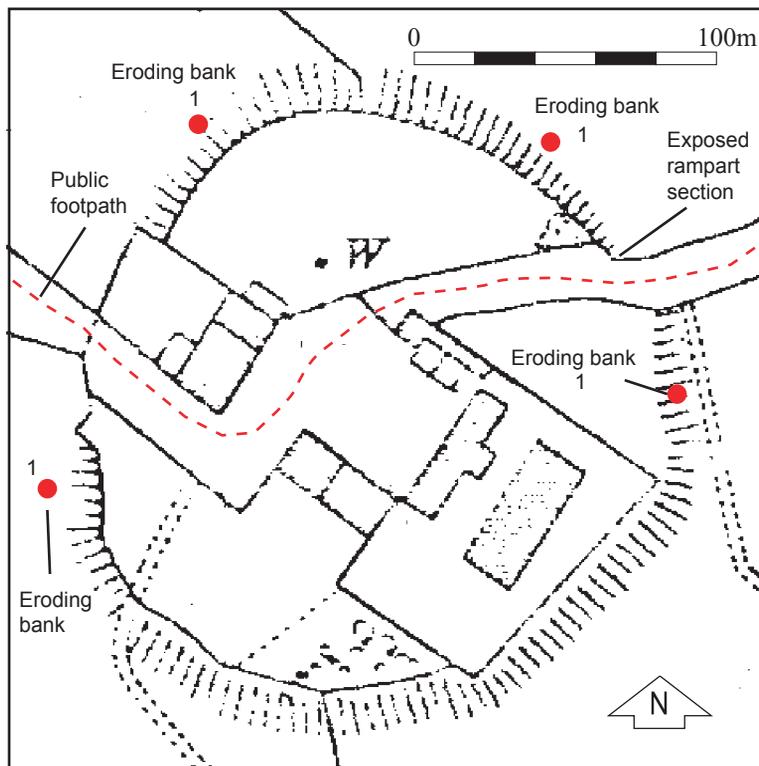


Fig. 5b Enclosure (Fortified), Gadlys, Llanwnda, PRN 585:  
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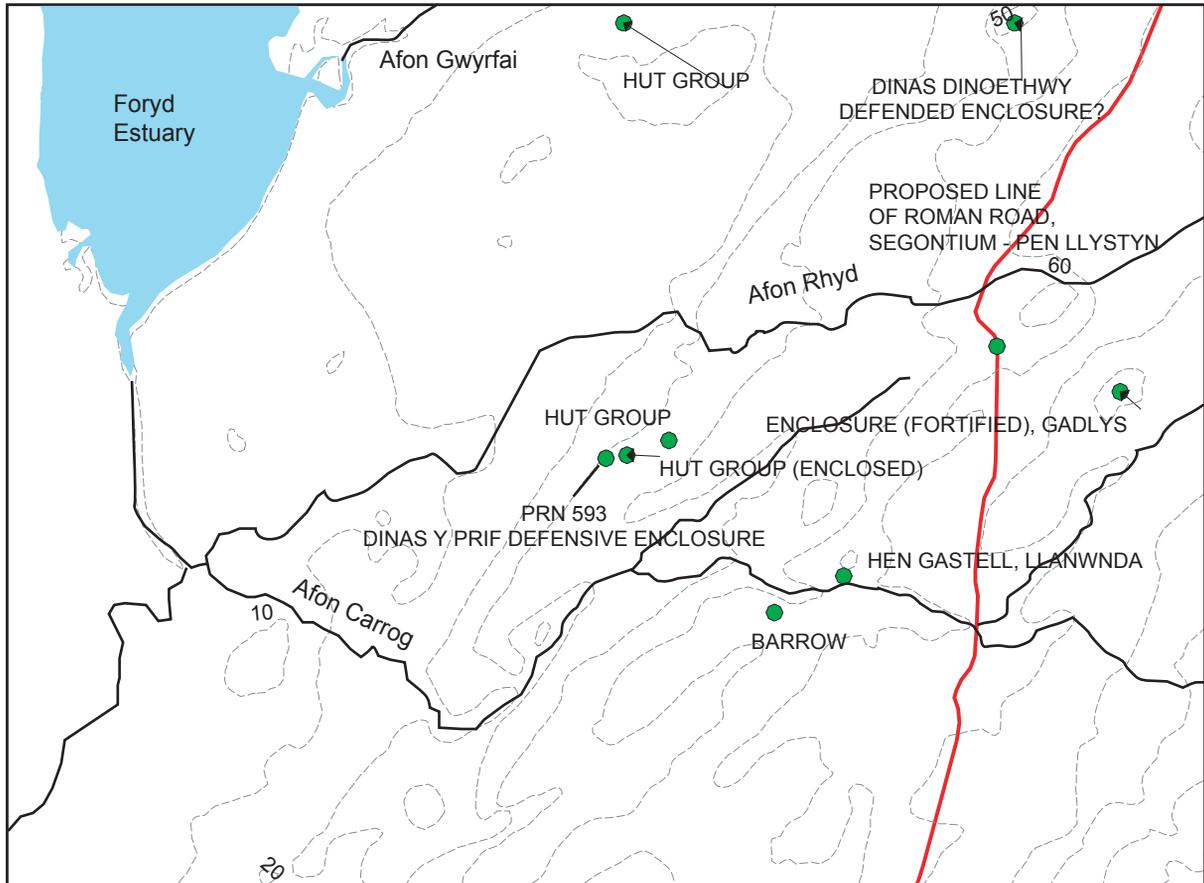


Fig. 6a Dinas y Prif Defended Enclosure, Llanwnda, PRN 593:  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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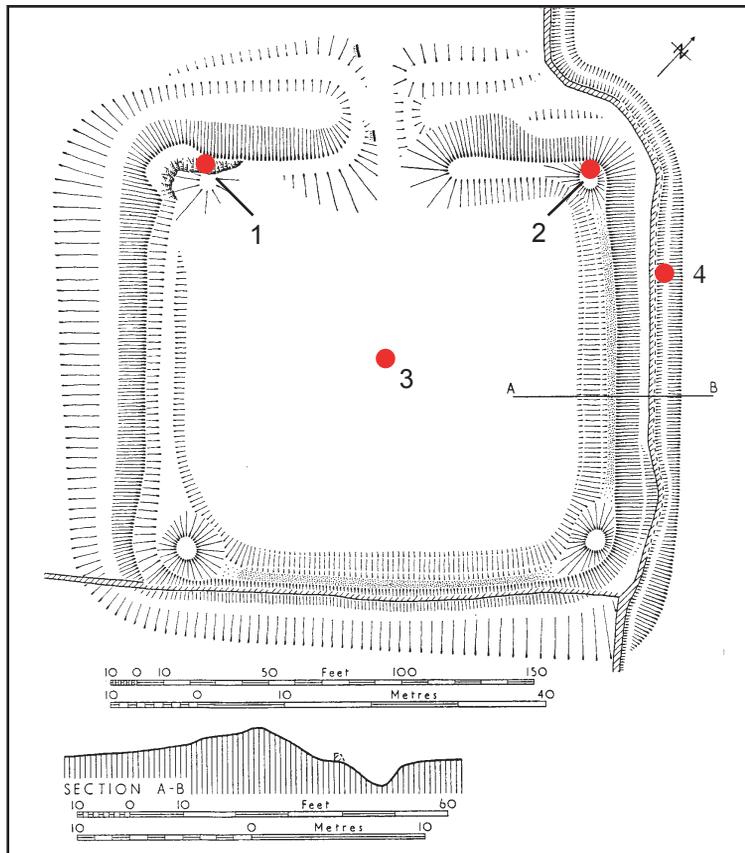


Fig. 6b Dinas y Prif Defended Enclosure, Llanwnda, SAM C30, PRN 593.  
 Plan by RCAHMW (1960, Fig. 156) with management issues added.  
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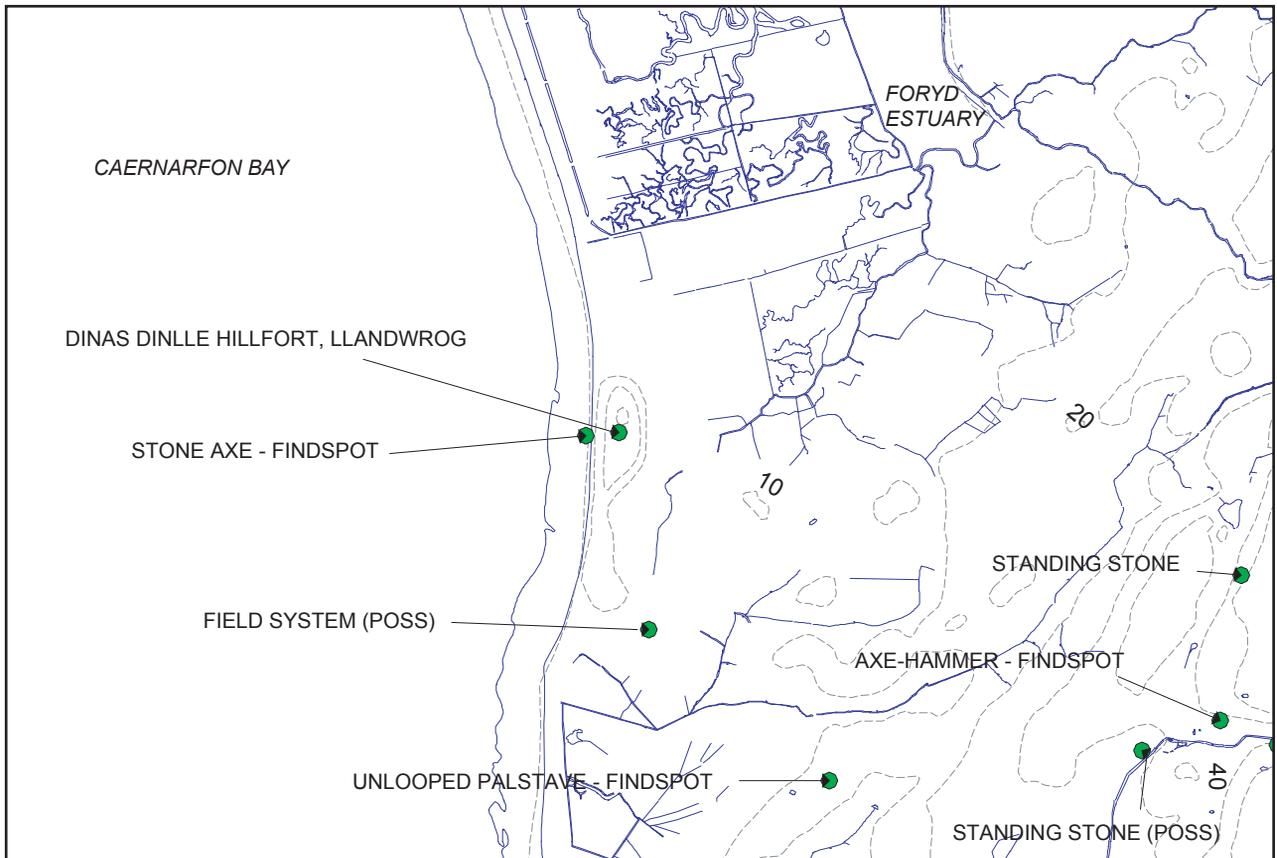


Fig. 7a Dinas Dinlle hillfort, Llandwrog, PRN 1570, SAM C48.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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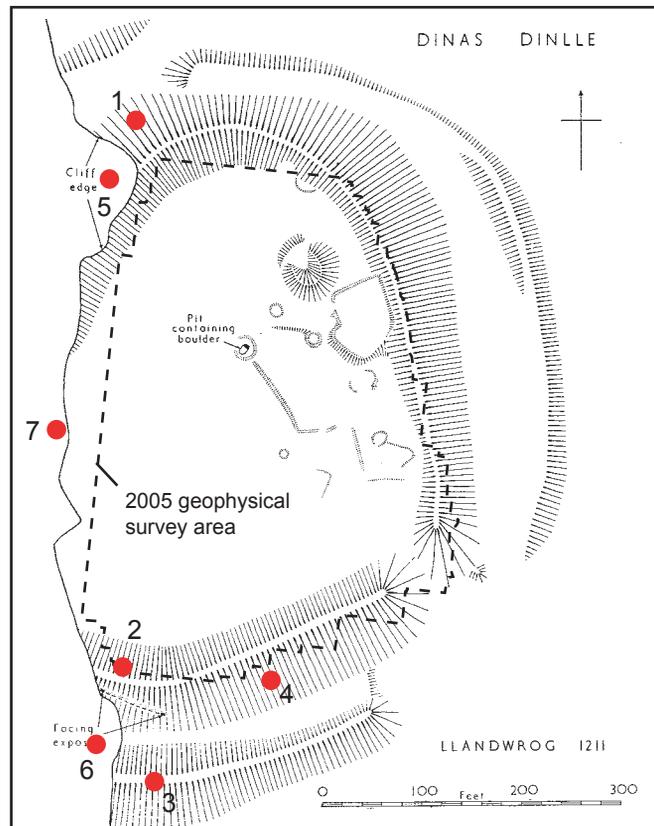


Fig. 7b Dinas Dinlle hillfort, Llandwrog, PRN 1570. Plan by RCAHMW (1960, Fig. 127) with management issues added.  
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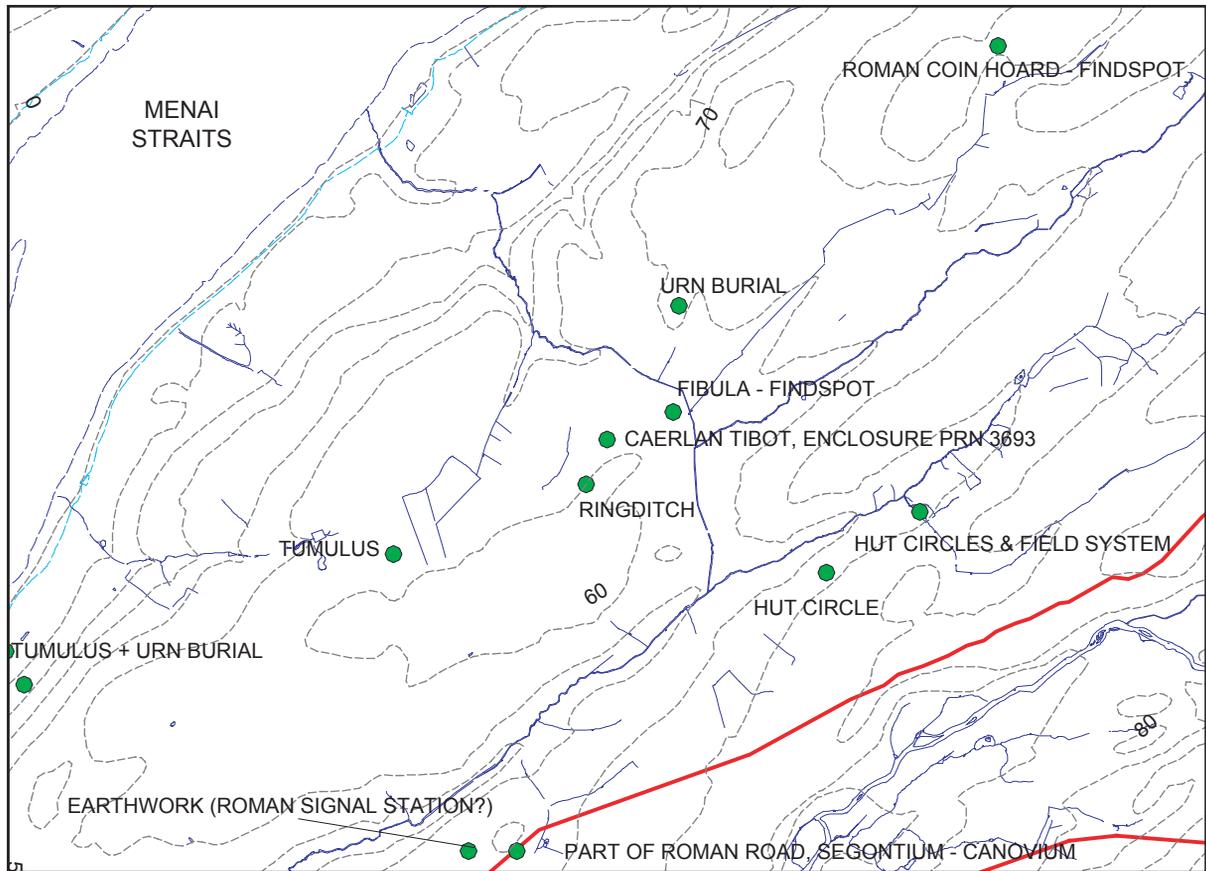


Fig. 8a Caerlan Tibot defended enclosure, Caernarfon, PRN 3693.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:2500.  
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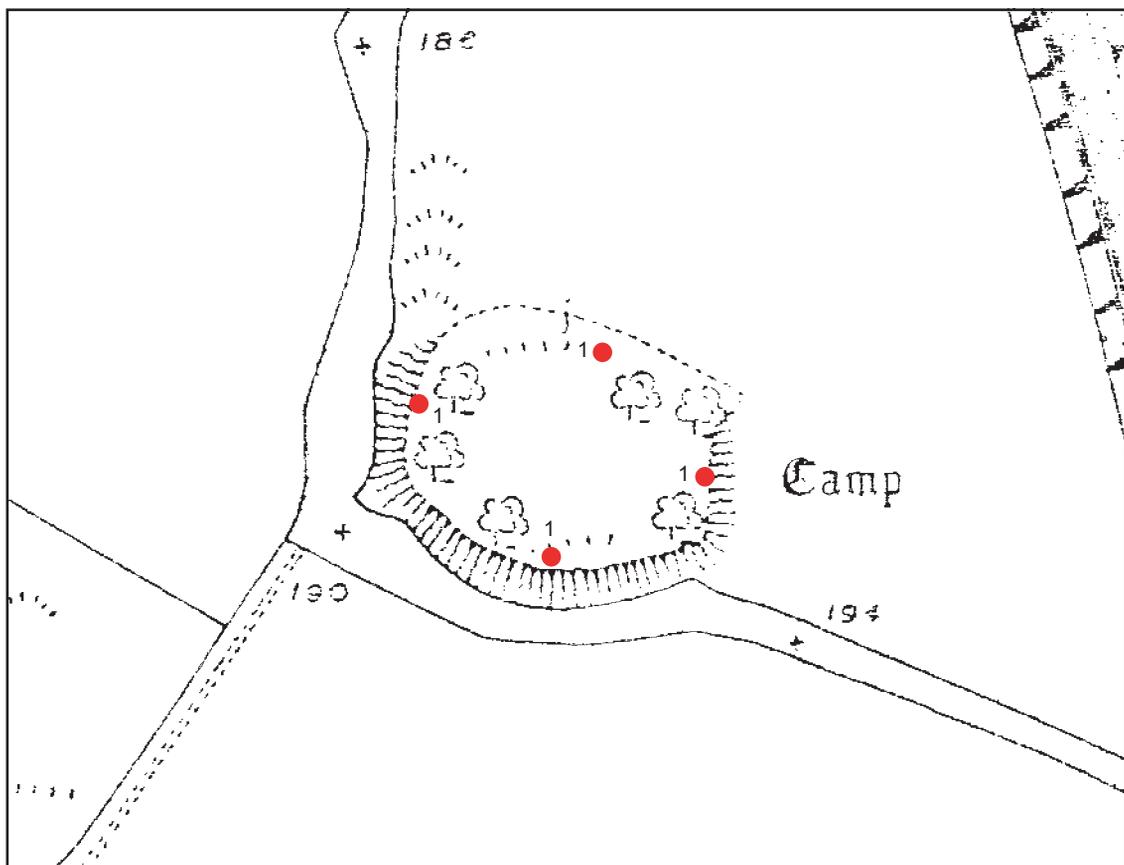


Fig. 8b Caerlan Tibot defended enclosure, Caernarfon, PRN 3693. Scale 1:2500.  
 From Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1917 with management issues added.

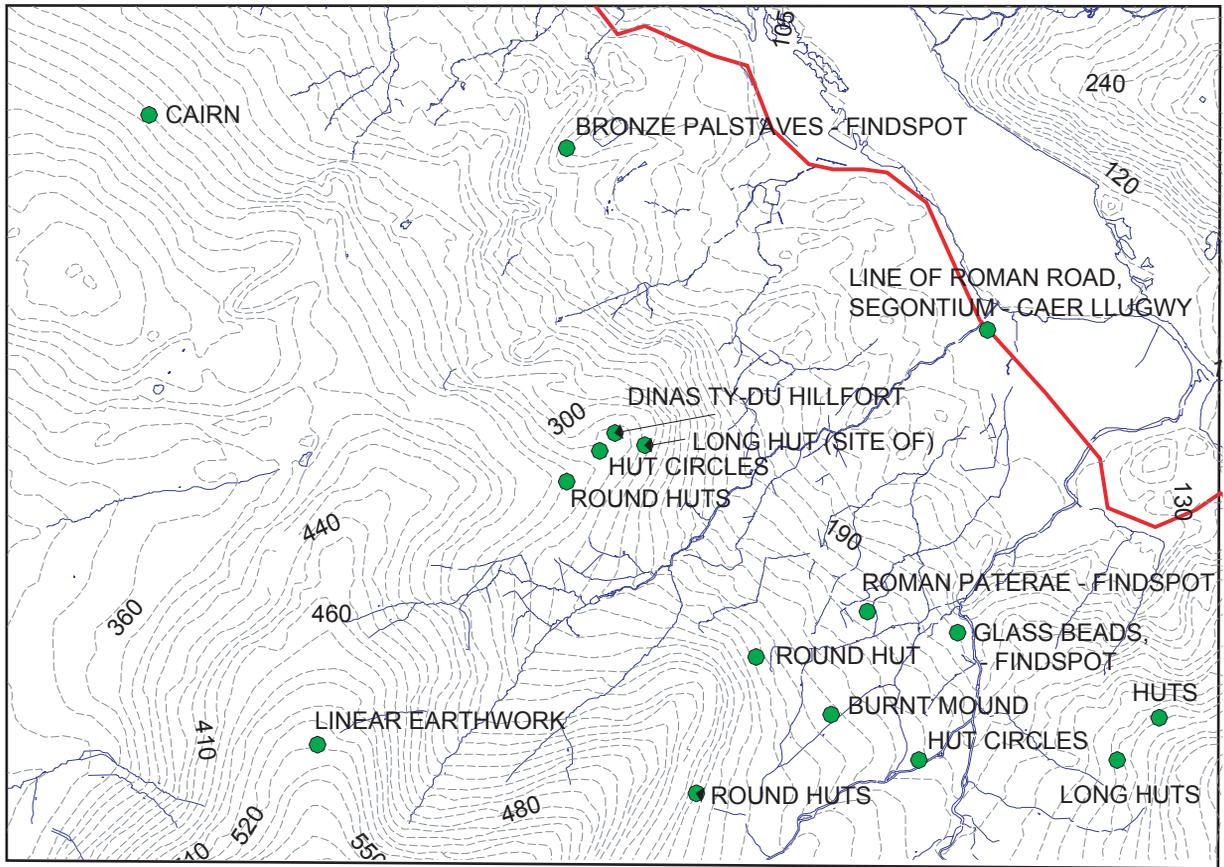


Fig. 9a Dinas Ty-Du hillfort, Llanberis, PRN 4034.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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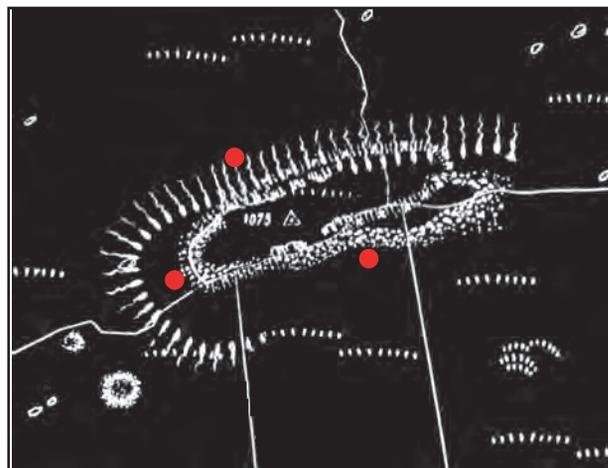


Fig. 9b Dinas Ty-Du hillfort, Llanberis, PRN 4034. Scale 1:2500.  
 From Ordnance Survey 1:2500. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100020895.

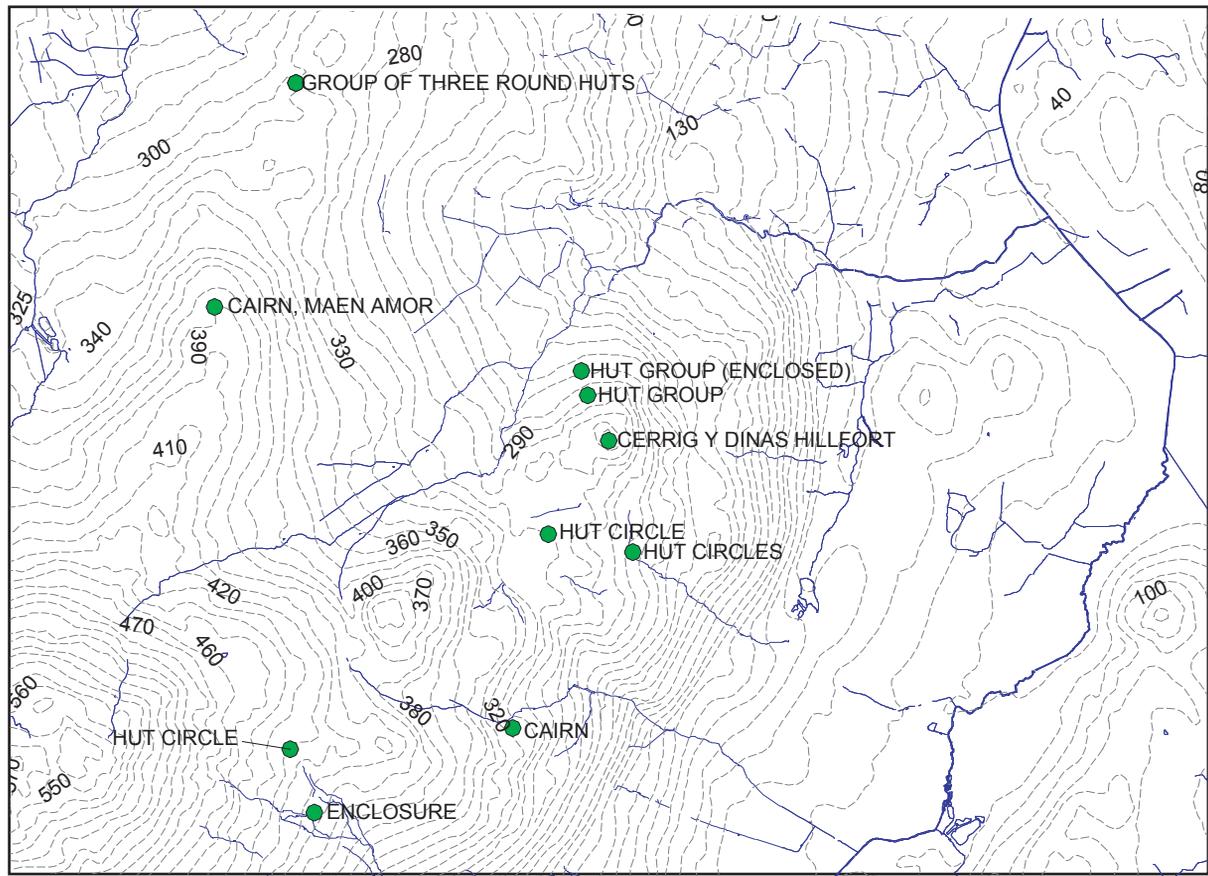


Fig. 10a Cerrig y Dinas hillfort, Henryd, PRN 652.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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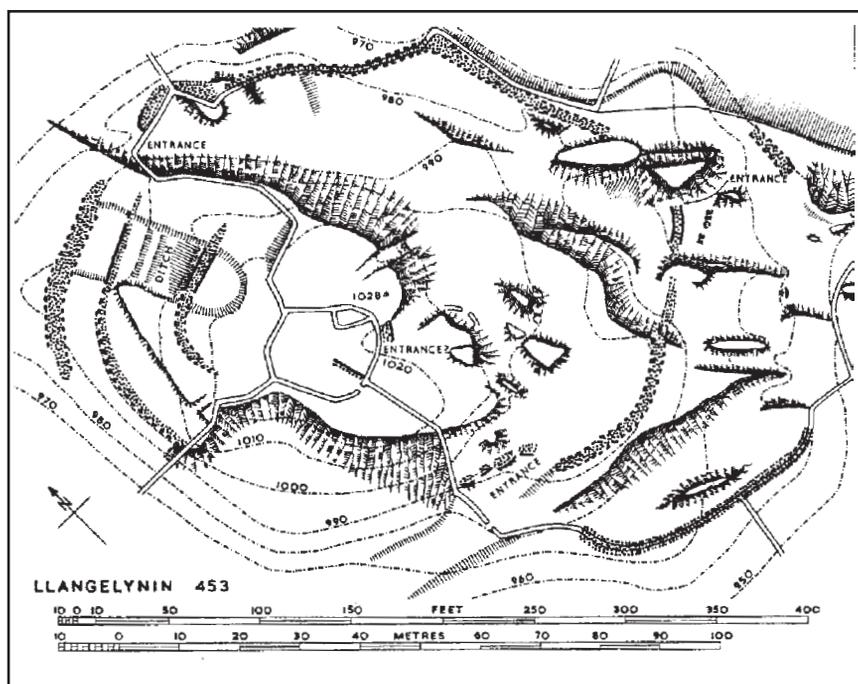


Fig. 10b Cerrig y Dinas hillfort, Henryd, PRN 652. Plan by RCAHMW (1956, Fig. 129).  
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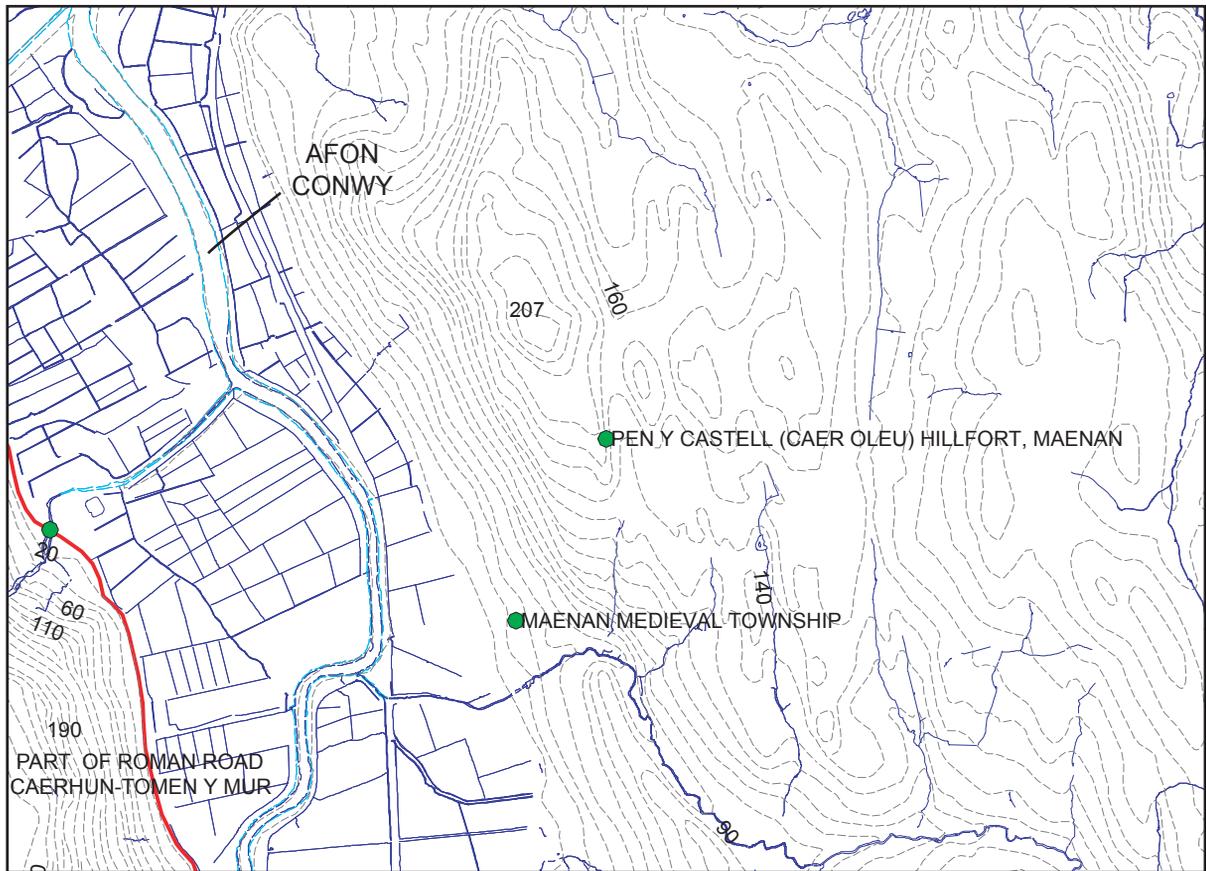


Fig. 11a Caer Oieu, Maenan, PRN 686, SAM Co41.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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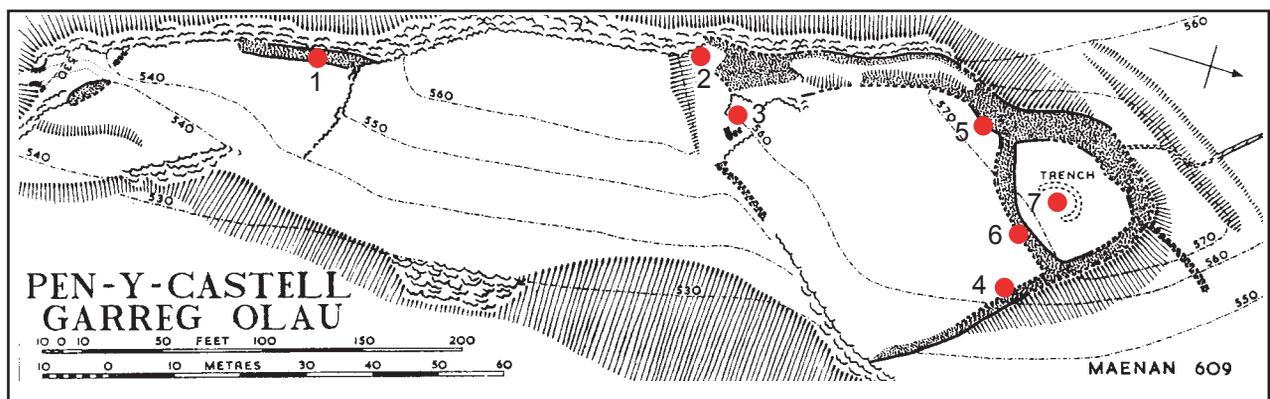


Fig. 11b Caer Oieu, Maenan, PRN 686. Plan by RCAHMW (1956, Fig. 159) with described features added.  
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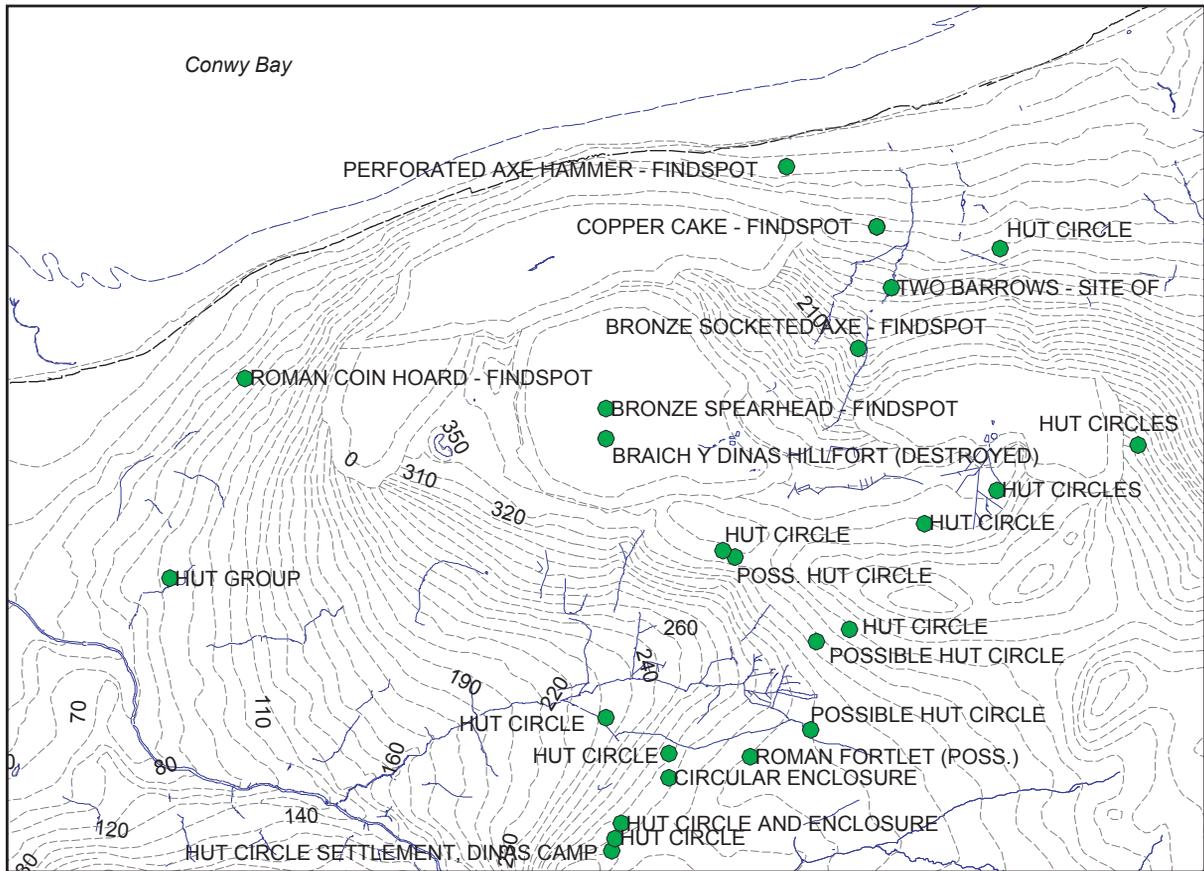


Fig. 12a Braich y Dinas, Penmaenmawr, Conwy, PRN 712.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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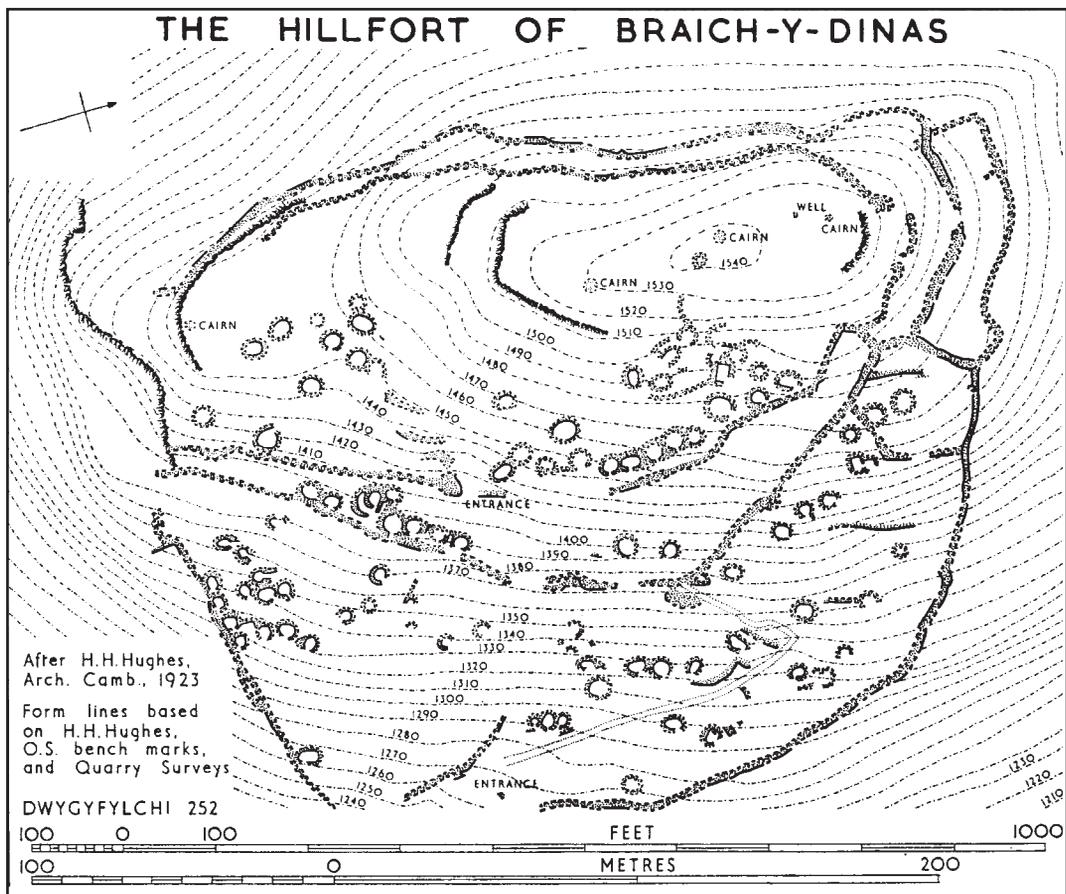


Fig. 12b Braich y Dinas, Penmaenmawr, Conwy, PRN 712. Plan by RCAHMW (1956, Fig. 85) after H.H. Hughes 1923, before destruction by quarrying. Crown copyright: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

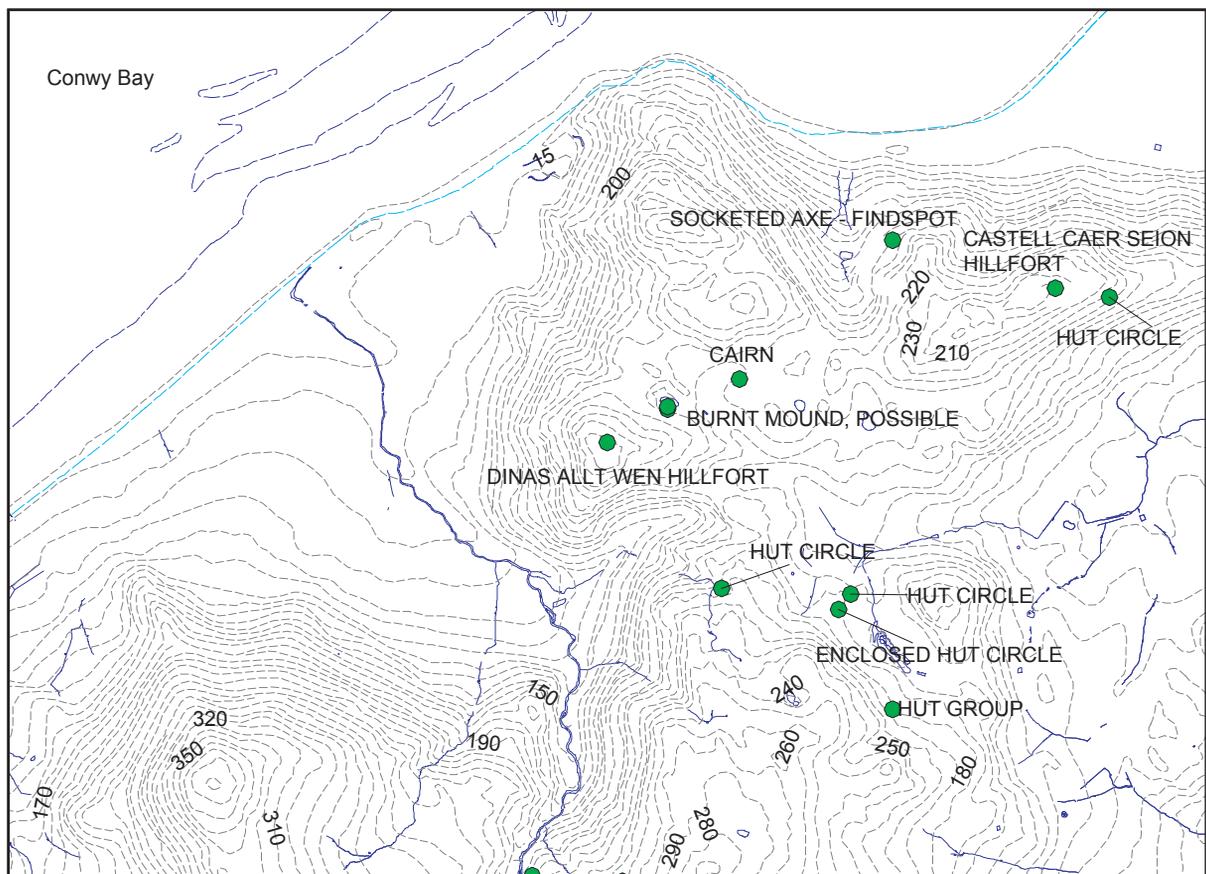


Fig. 13a Dinas Allt-Wen hillfort, Penmaenmawr, PRN 713.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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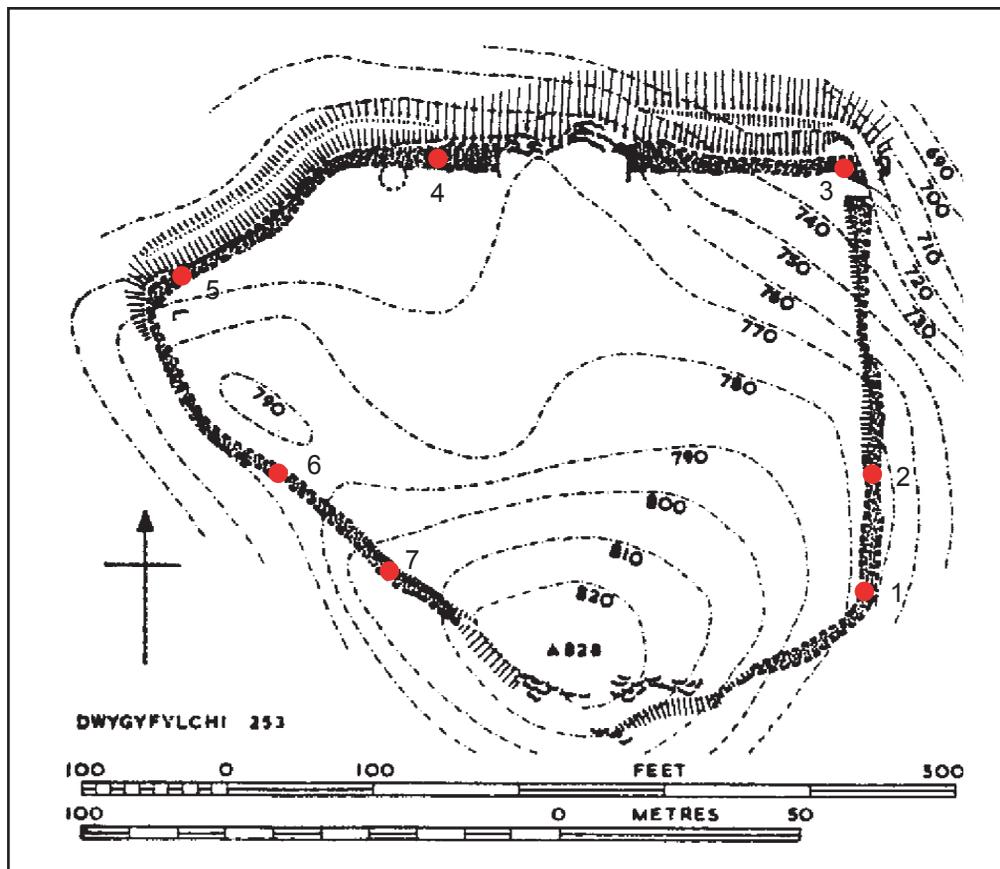


Fig. 13b Dinas Allt-Wen hillfort, Penmaenmawr, PRN 713. Plan by RCAHMW (1956, Fig. 86) with management issues added.  
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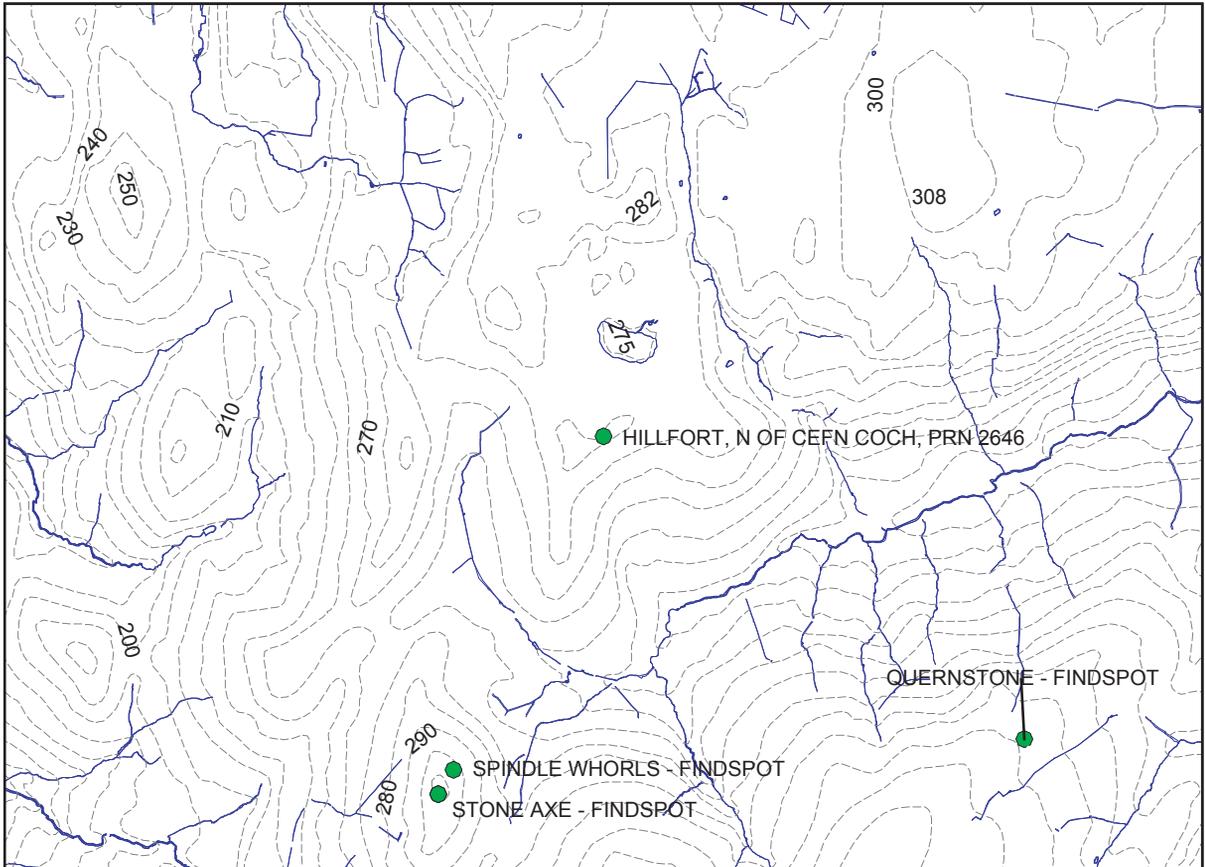


Fig. 14a Hillfort north of Cefn Coch, Maenan, Conwy, PRN 2646.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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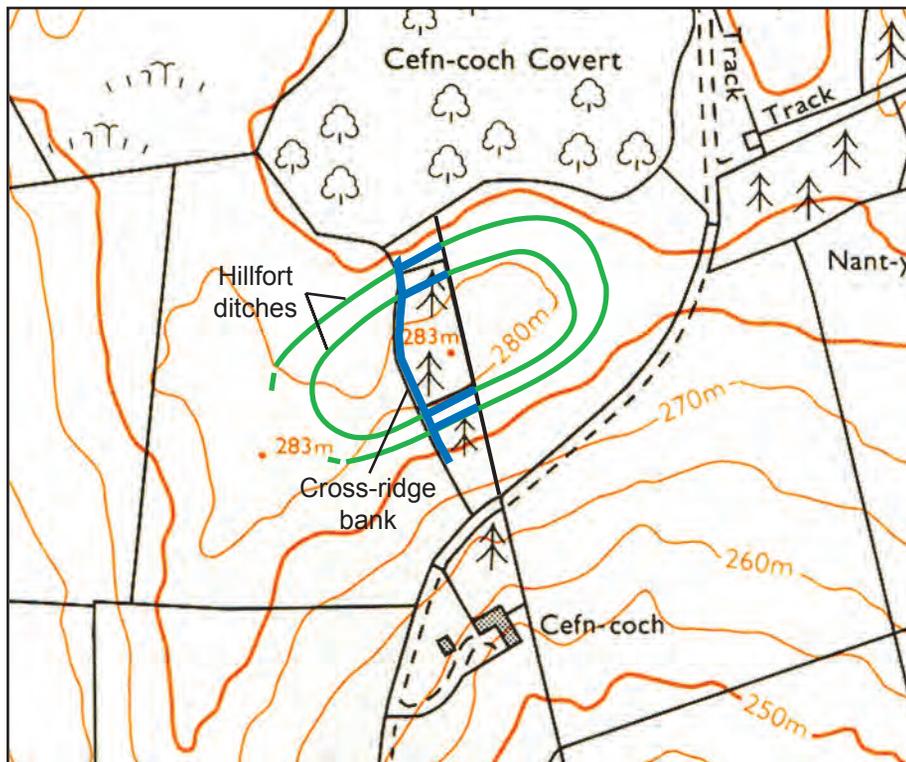


Fig. 14b Hillfort north of Cefn Coch, Maenan, Conwy, PRN 2646.  
 Green: Cropmark, Blue: Earthwork. Scale 1:5000.  
 Cropmarks plotted from O.S. aerial photograph 72-394-537.  
 Based on OS 1:10,000 scale maps. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100020895.

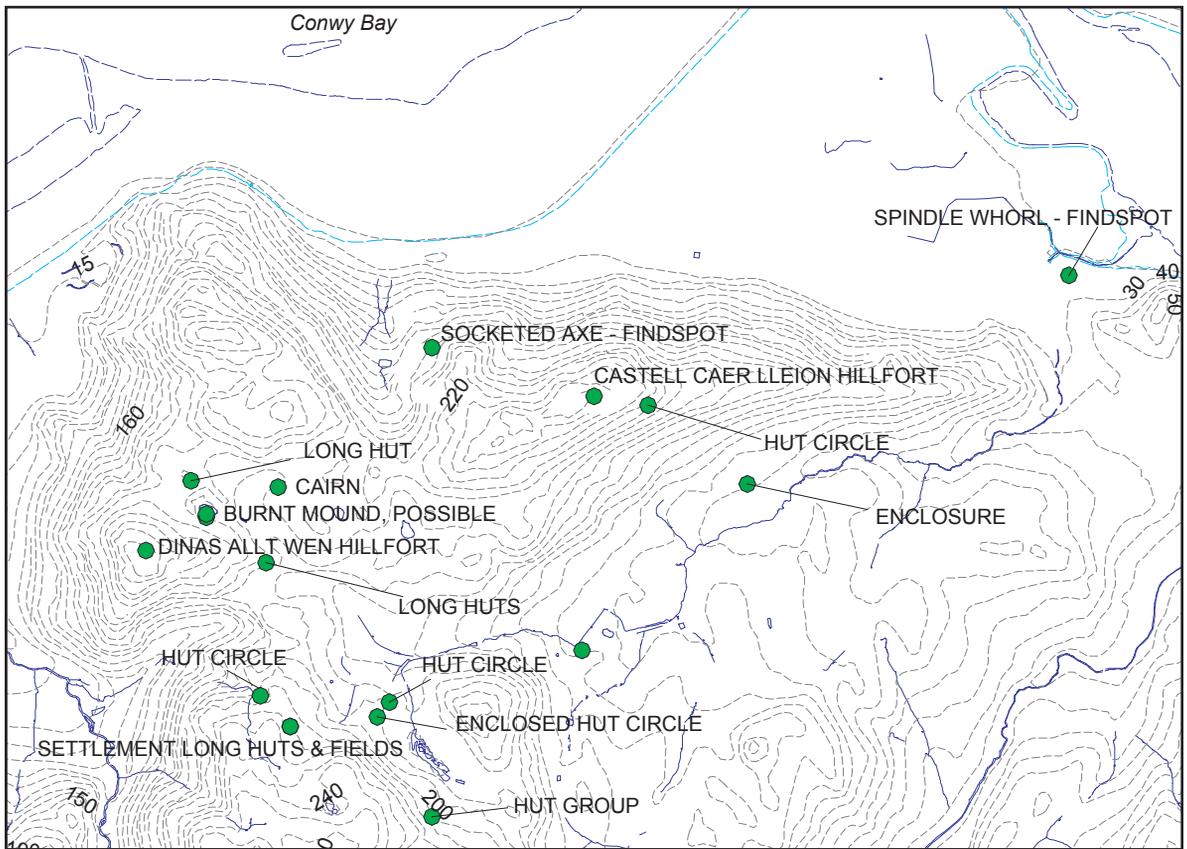


Fig. 15a Castell Caer Seion, Conwy, PRN 2816, SAM Co12.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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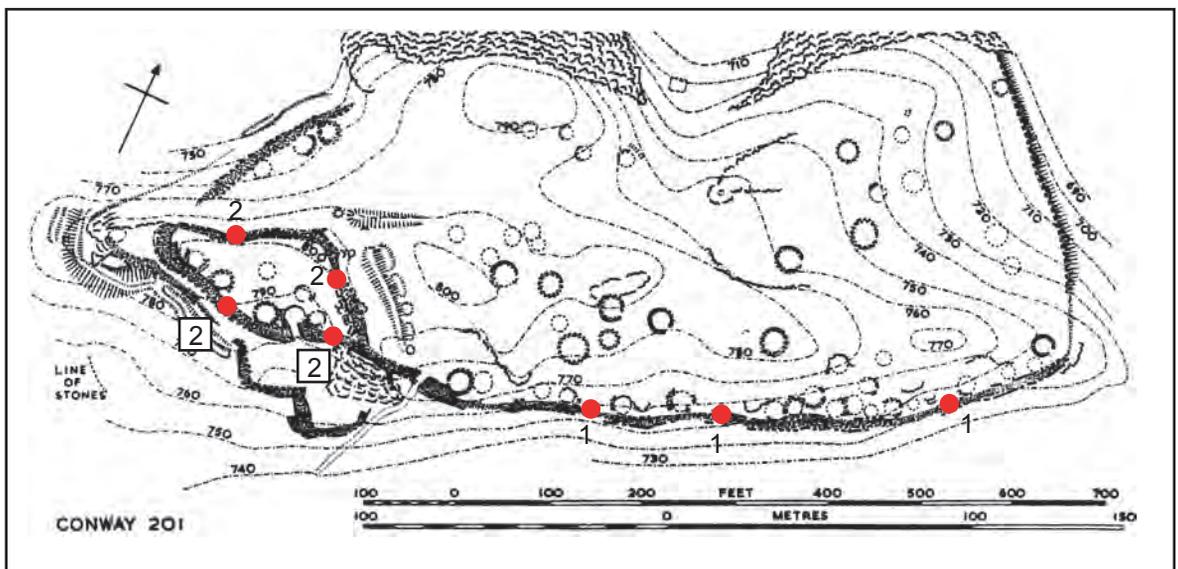


Fig. 15b Castell Caer Seion, Conwy, PRN 2816, SAM Co12. Plan by RCAHMW (1956, Fig. 72) with management issues added.  
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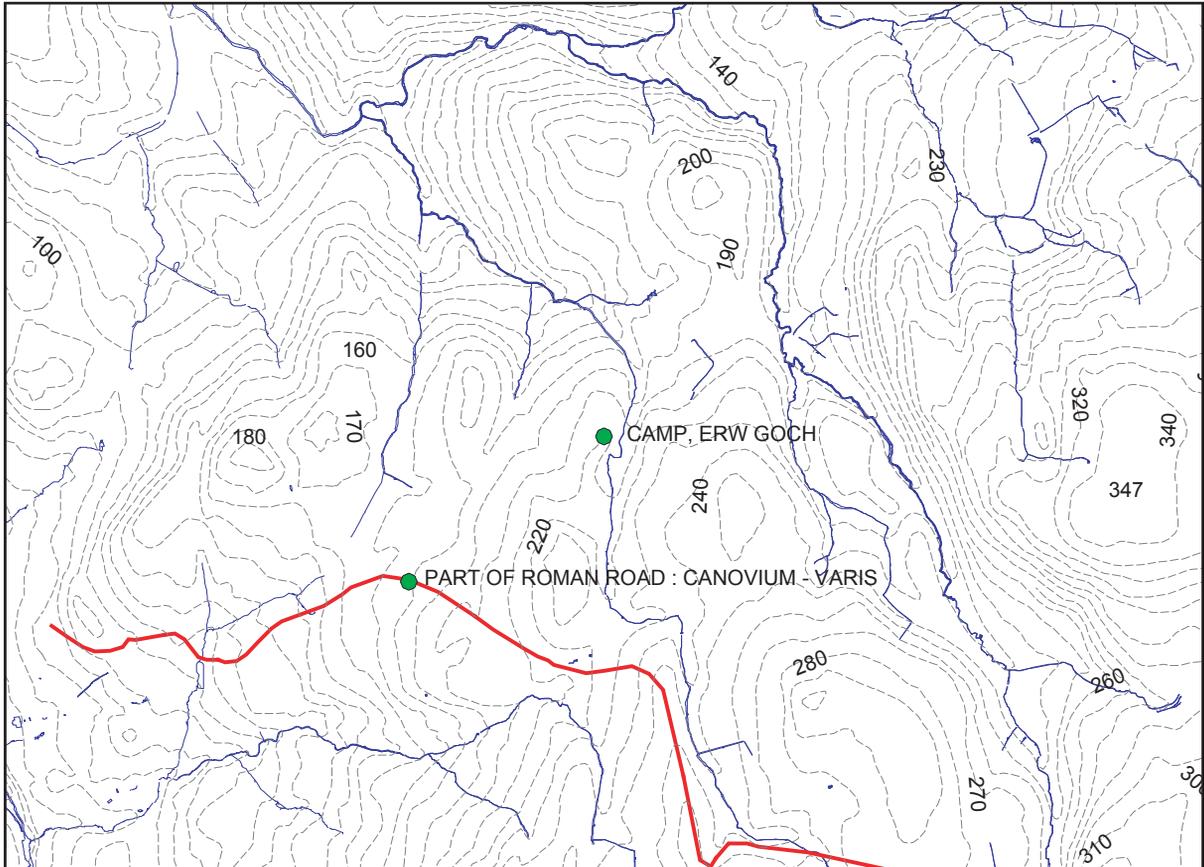


Fig. 16a Erw Goch defended enclosure, Eglwys Bach, PRN 2891.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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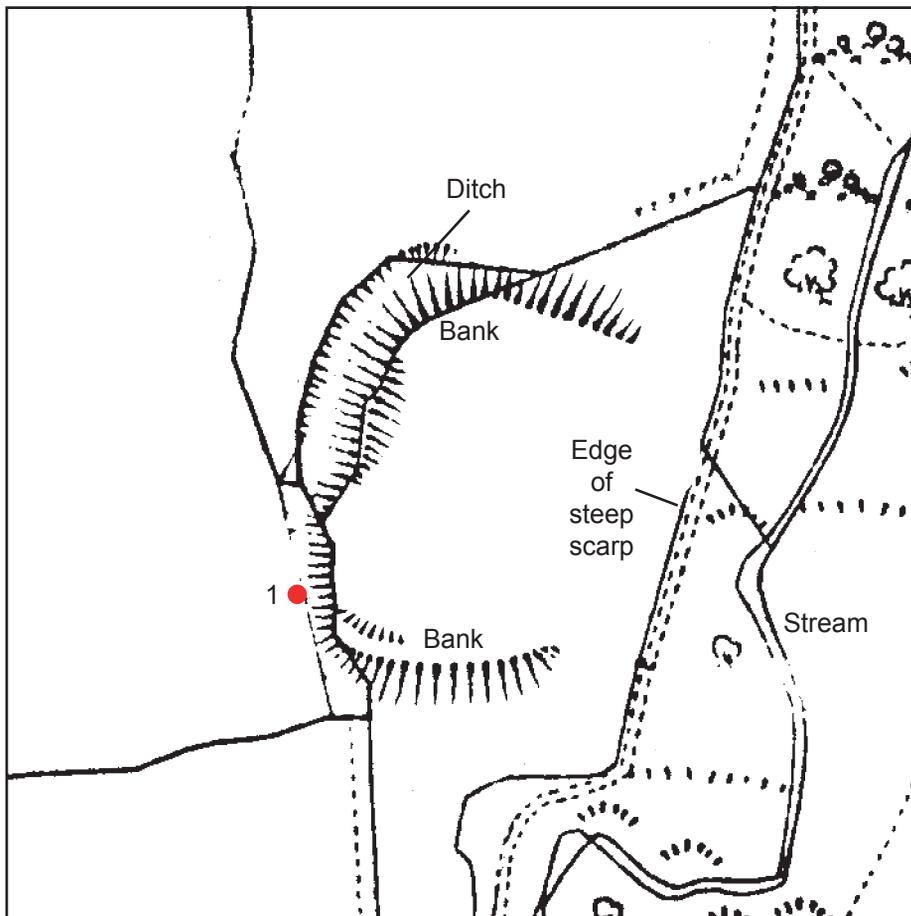


Fig. 16b Erw Goch defended enclosure, Eglwys Bach, PRN 2891. Scale 1:2500.  
 From Ordnance Survey, 1:2500. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100020895.

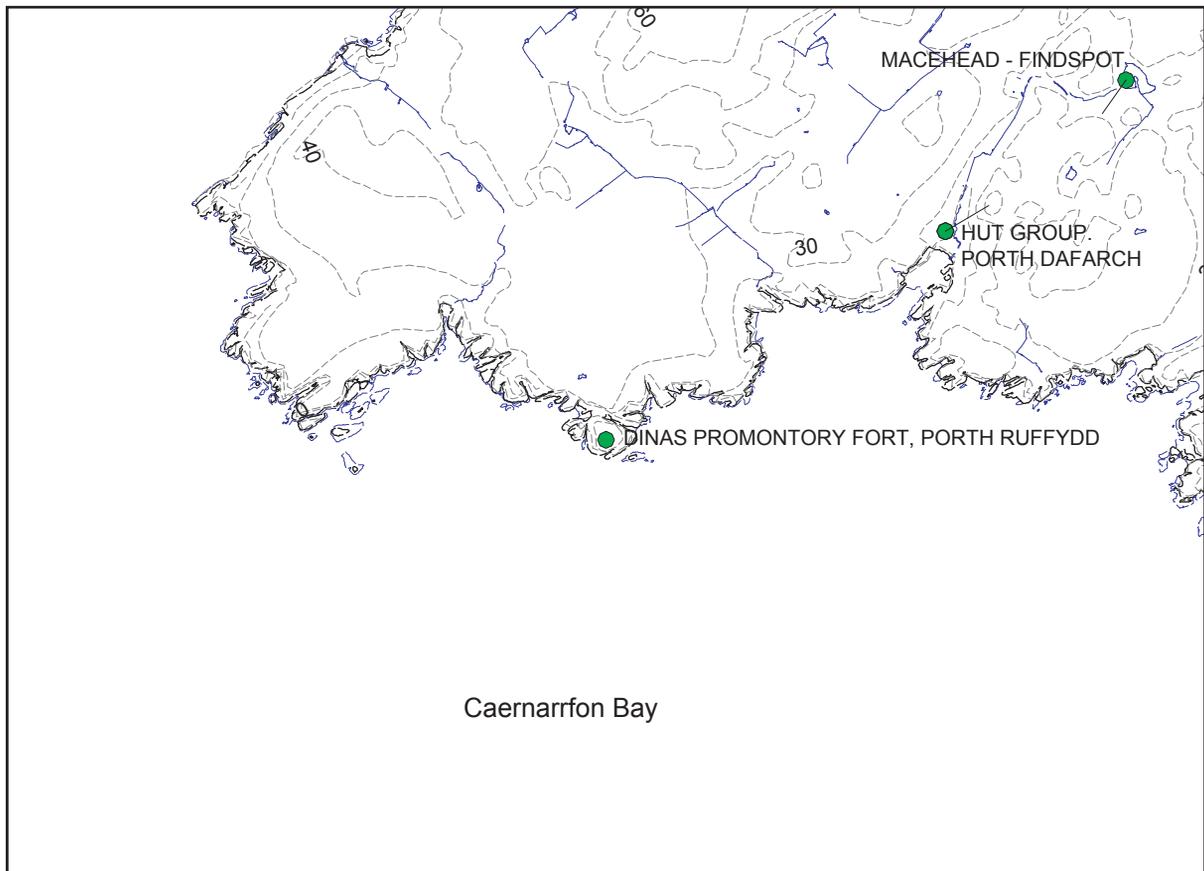


Fig. 17a Dinas promontory fort, Trearddur, PRN 807, SAM A121.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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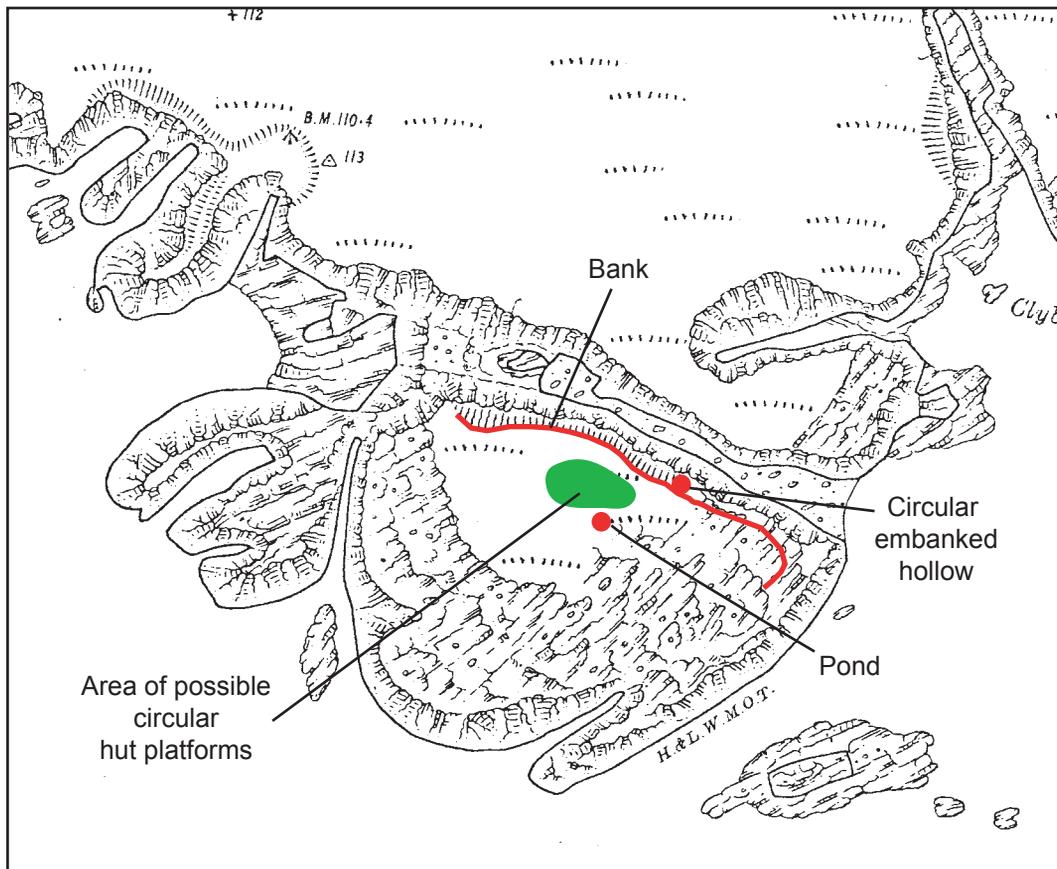


Fig. 17b Dinas promontory fort, Trearddur, PRN 807, SAM A121. Scale 1:2500.  
 From Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1900 with described features added.

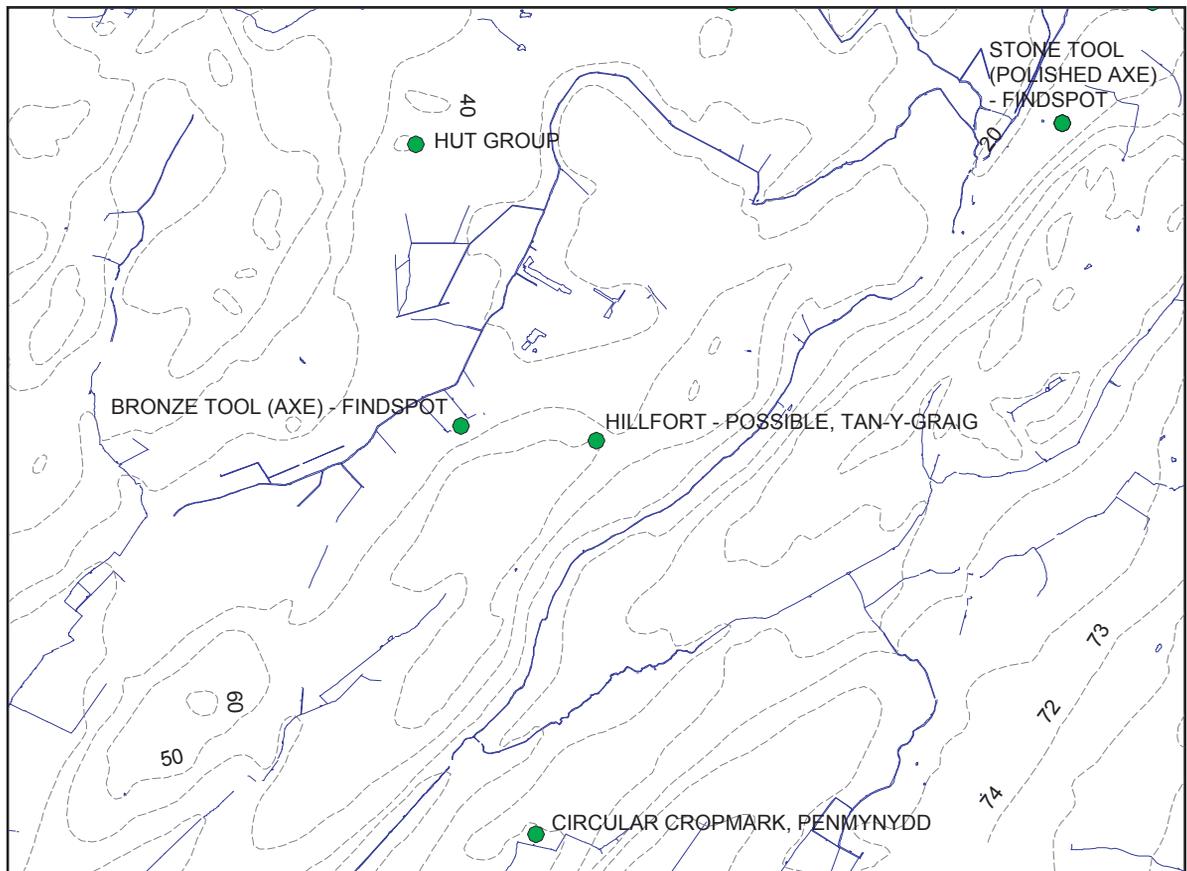


Fig. 18a Tan-y-Graig defended enclosure, Pentraeth, PRN 1639.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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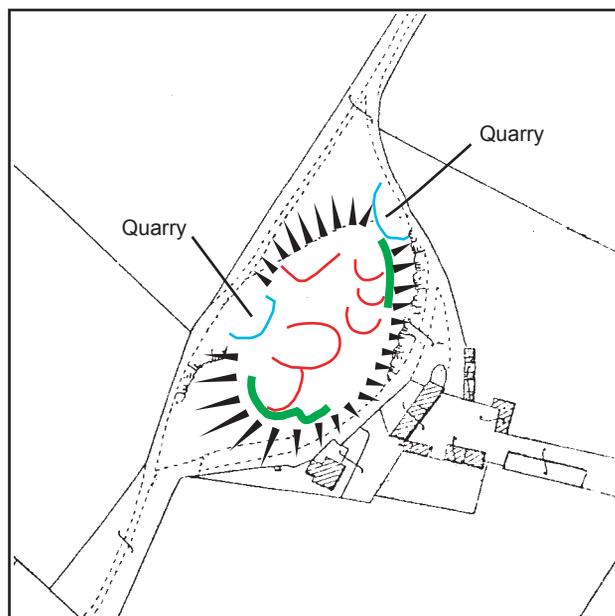


Fig. 18b Tan-y-Graig defended enclosure, Pentraeth, PRN 1639. Scale 1:5000.  
 Sketch plan of described features. Green: Bank c. 0.40m high, Red: platform edges.  
 Based on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map 1900.

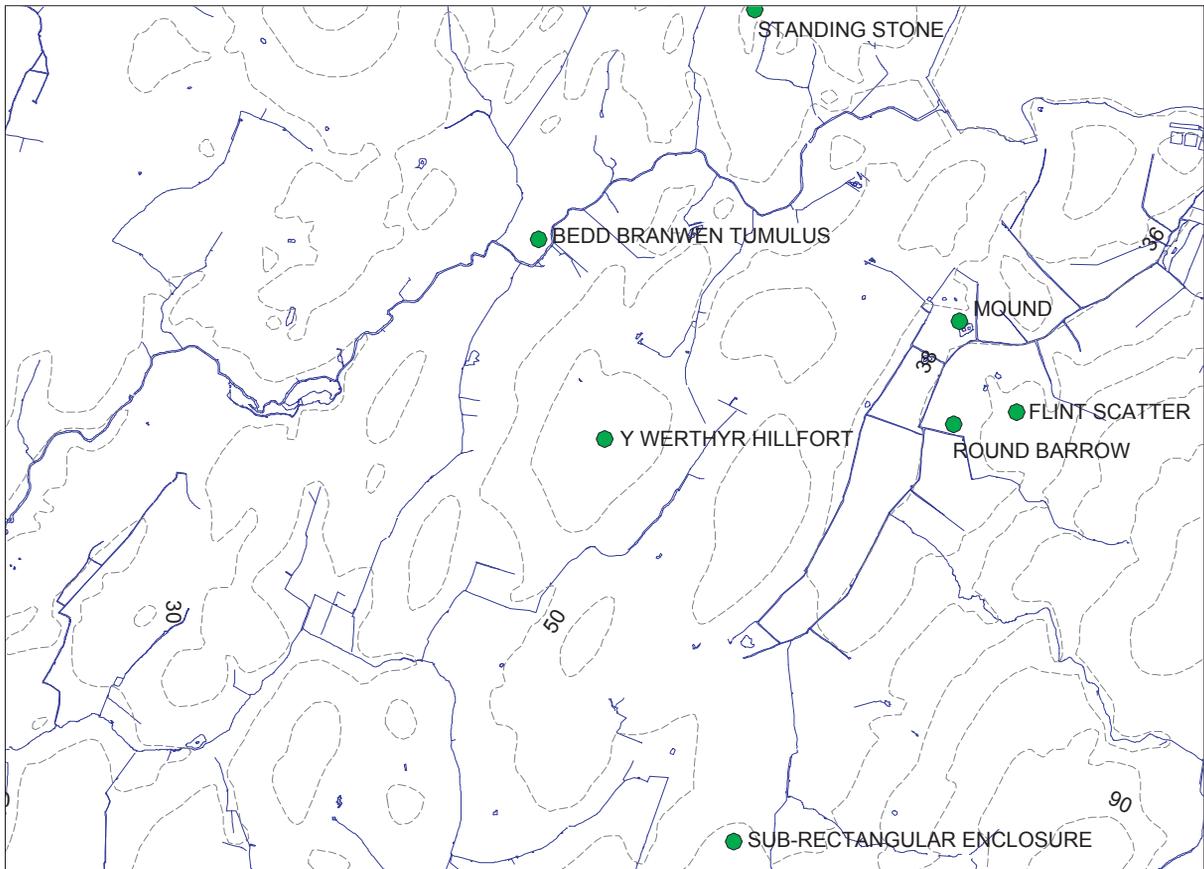


Fig. 19a Y Werthyr hillfort, Llantrisant, PRN 2077.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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Fig. 19b Y Werthyr hillfort, Llantrisant, PRN 2077.  
 Plan based on Ordnance Survey 1:10000. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100020895.

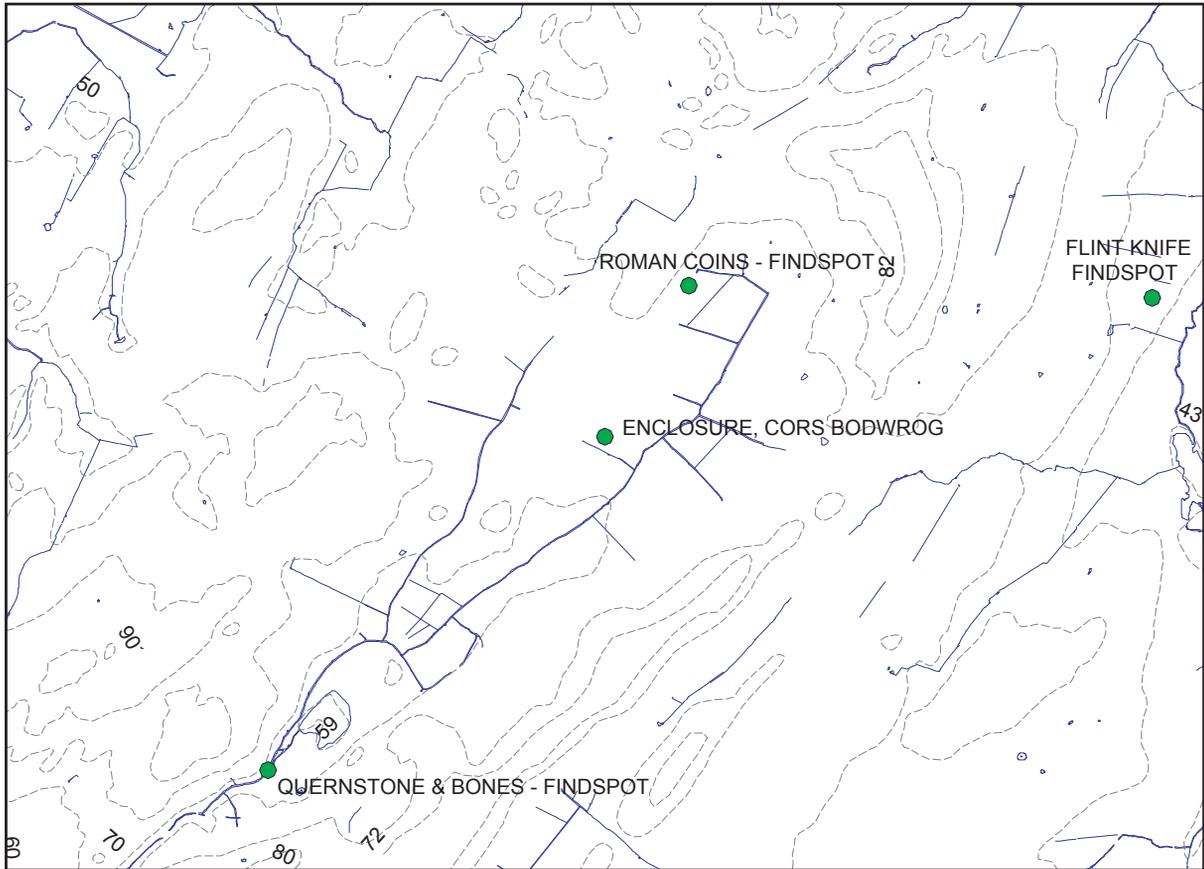


Fig. 20a Cors Bodwrog defended enclosure, PRN 2110.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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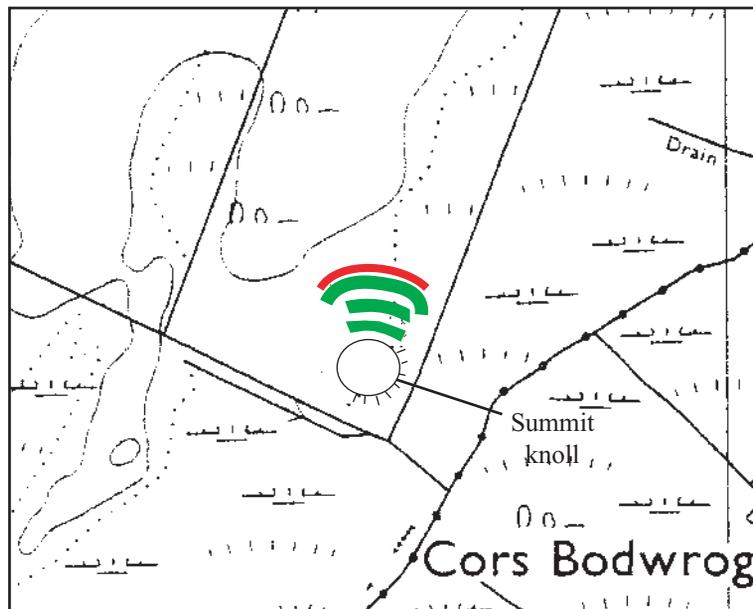


Fig. 20b Cors Bodwrog defended enclosure, PRN 2110. Scale 1:5000.  
 Sketch plan of described features. Green: bank, Red: ditch.  
 Based on OS 1:10,000 scale maps. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100020895.

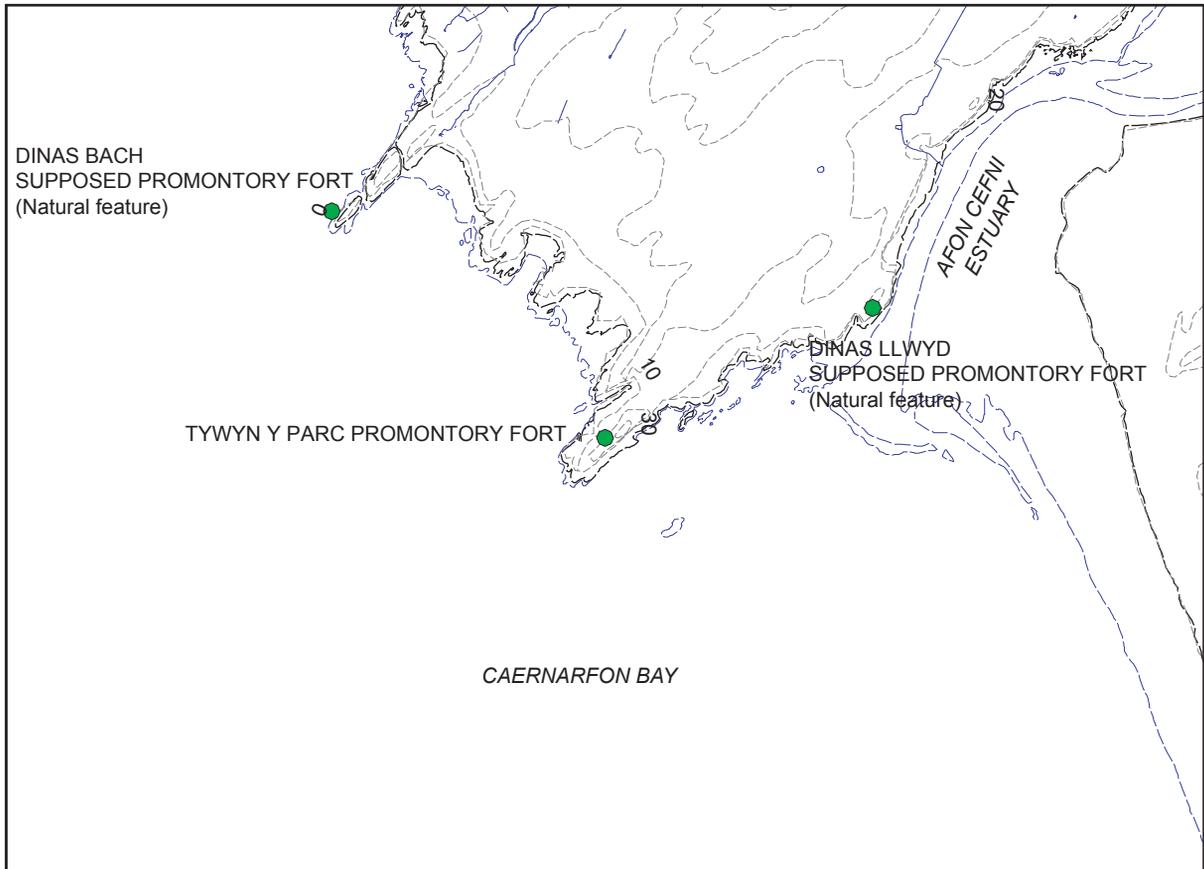


Fig. 21a Tywyn y Parc promontory fort, Bodorgan, PRN 3024, SAM A49.  
Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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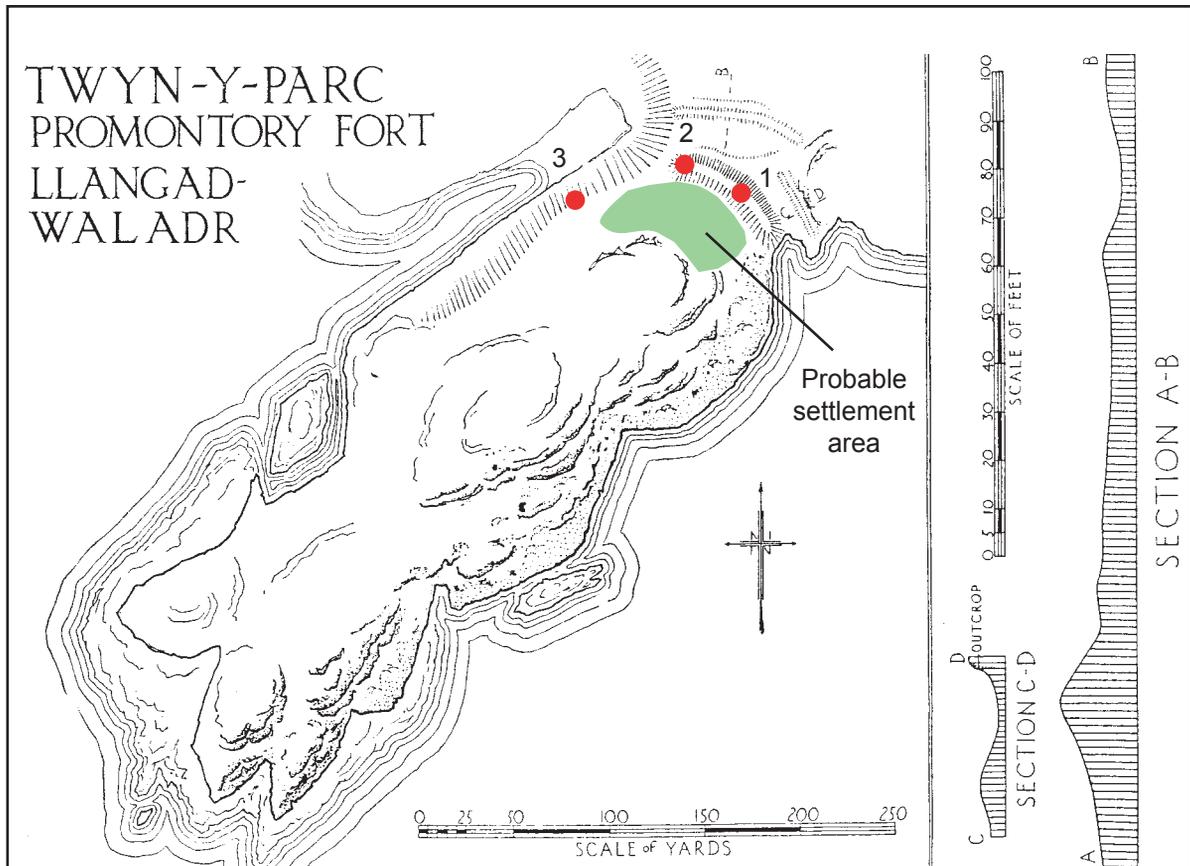


Fig. 21b Tywyn y parc promontory fort, Bodorgan, PRN 3024, SAM A49. Map by RCAHMW (1937, p. 88)  
with management issues added. Crown copyright: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

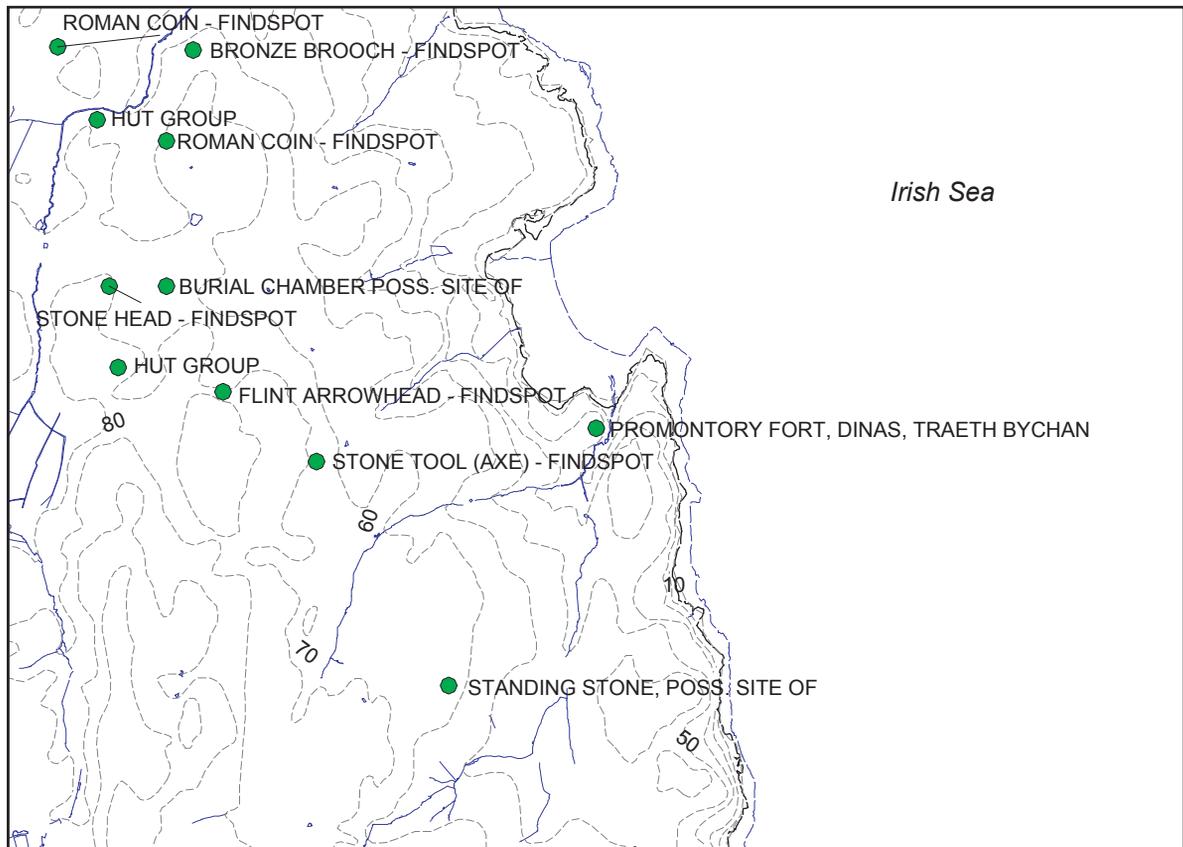


Fig. 22a Dinas Traeth Bychan, Llaneuhrad, PRN 3600.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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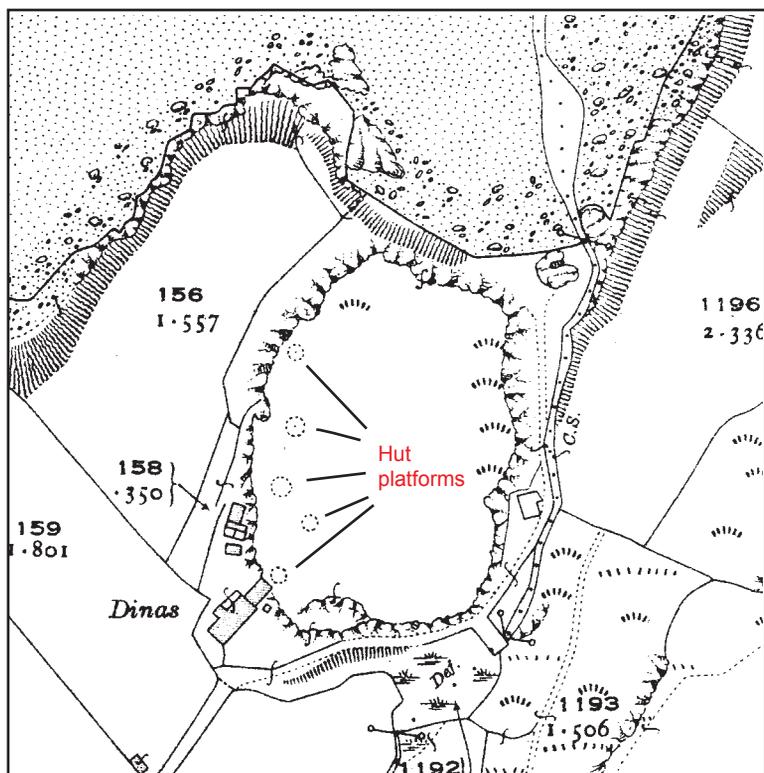


Fig. 22b Dinas Traeth Bychan, Llaneuhrad, PRN 3600.  
 Plan from Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1920.

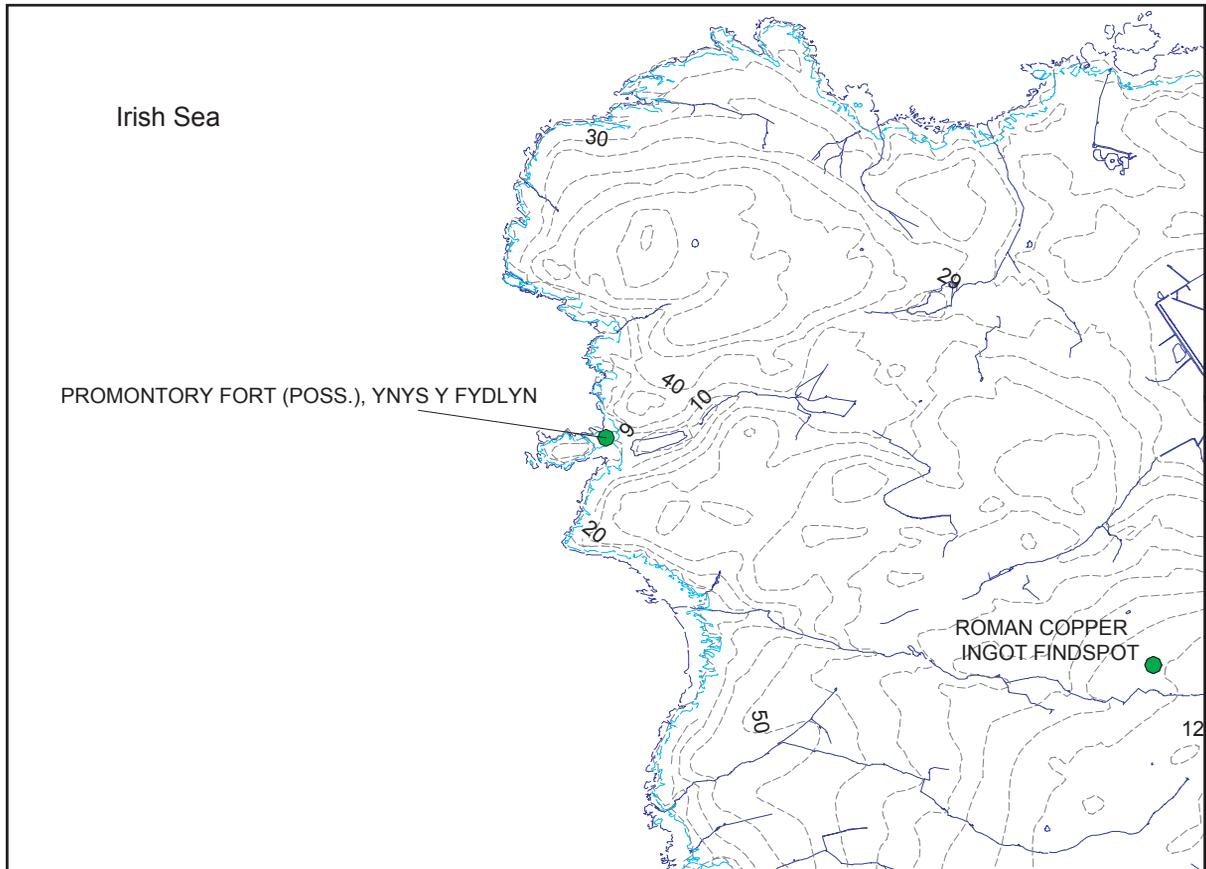


Fig. 23a Ynys Fydlyn possible promontory fort, Cylch y Garn, PRN 4361  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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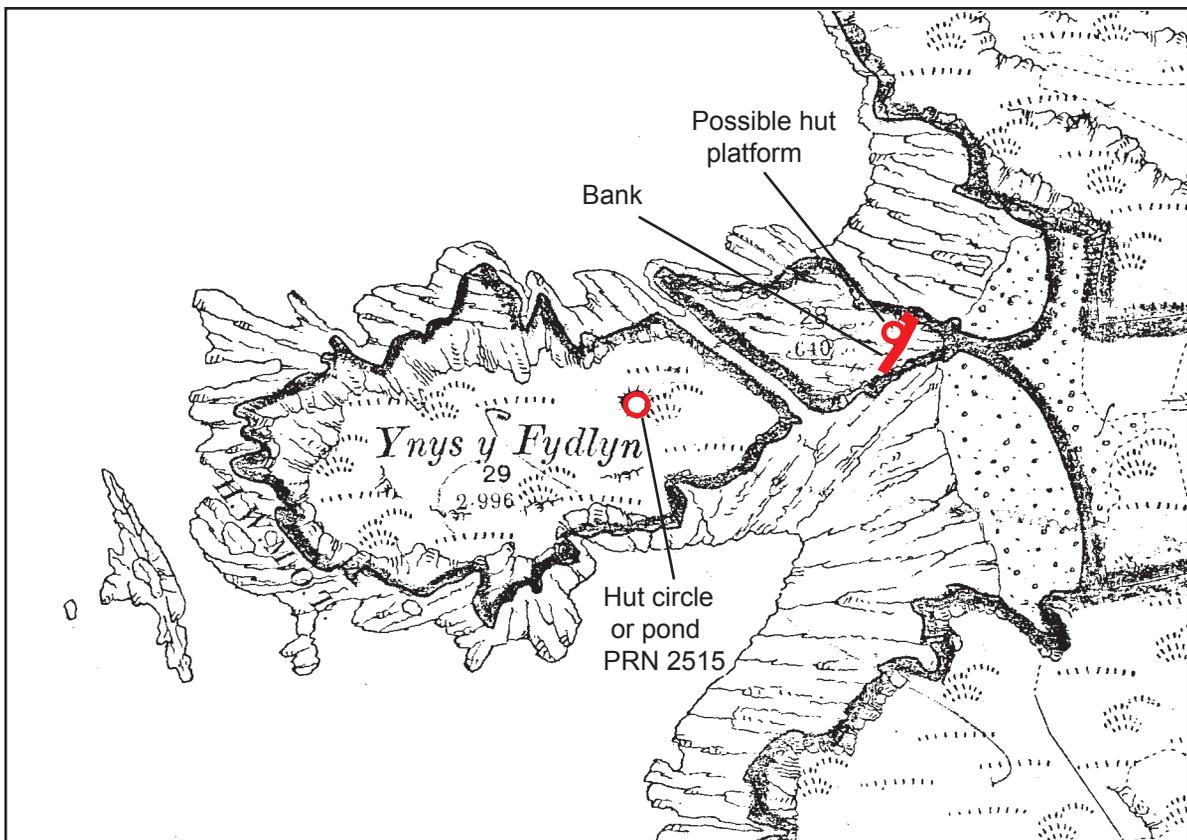


Fig. 23b Ynys Fydlyn possible promontory fort, Cylch y Garn, PRN 4361. Scale 1:2500.  
 From Ordnance Survey 1:2500, 1900 with described features added.

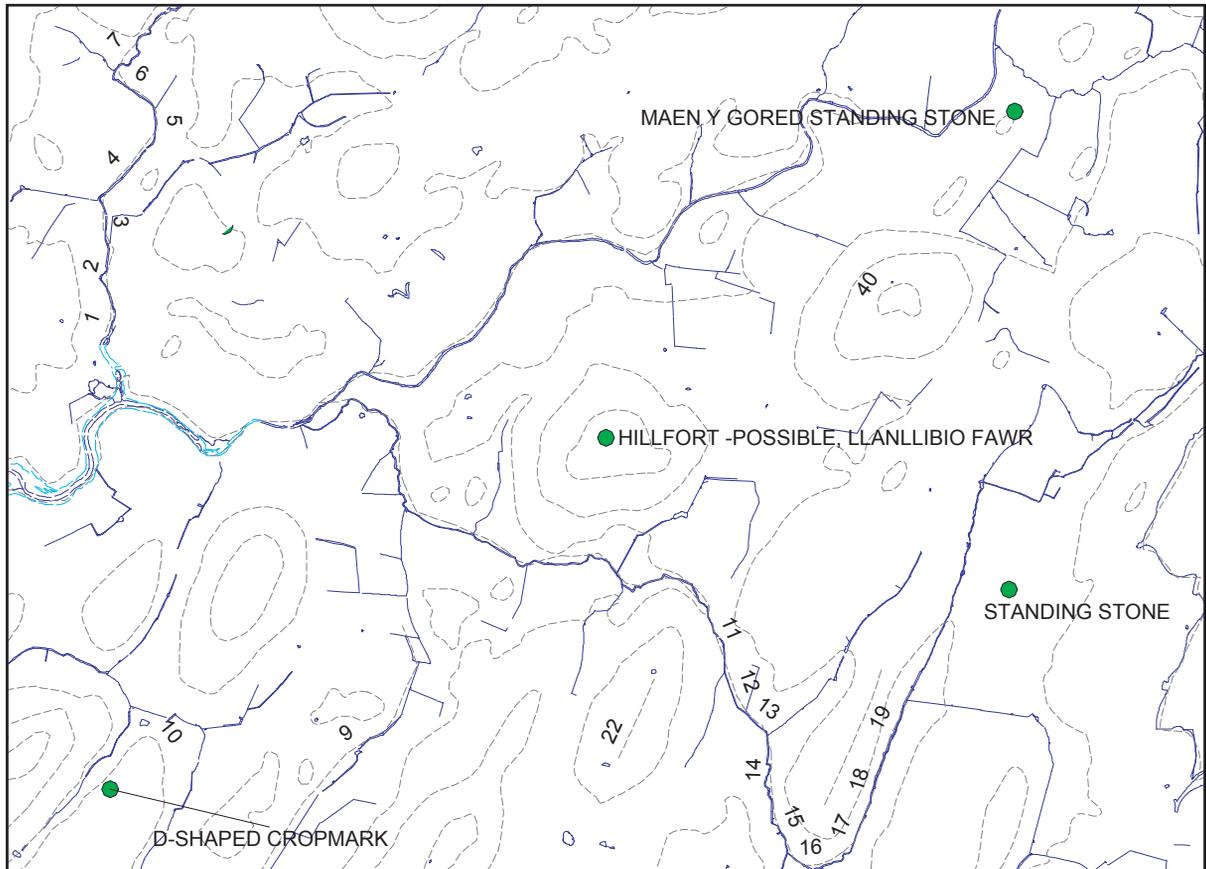


Fig. 24a Llanllibio Fawr defended enclosure, Bodedern, PRN 4397.  
 Topographic location and archaeological setting. Scale 1:25000.  
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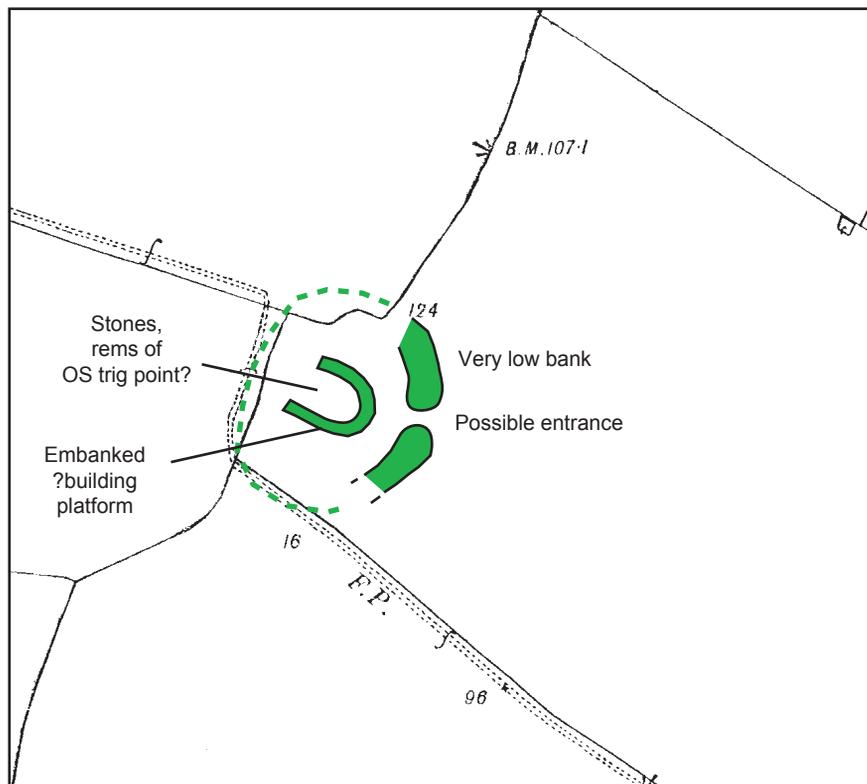


Fig. 24b Llanllibio Fawr defended enclosure, Bodedern, PRN 4397. Scale 1:2500.  
 Based on Ordnance Survey 1:2500, 1900, with sketch plan of described features.

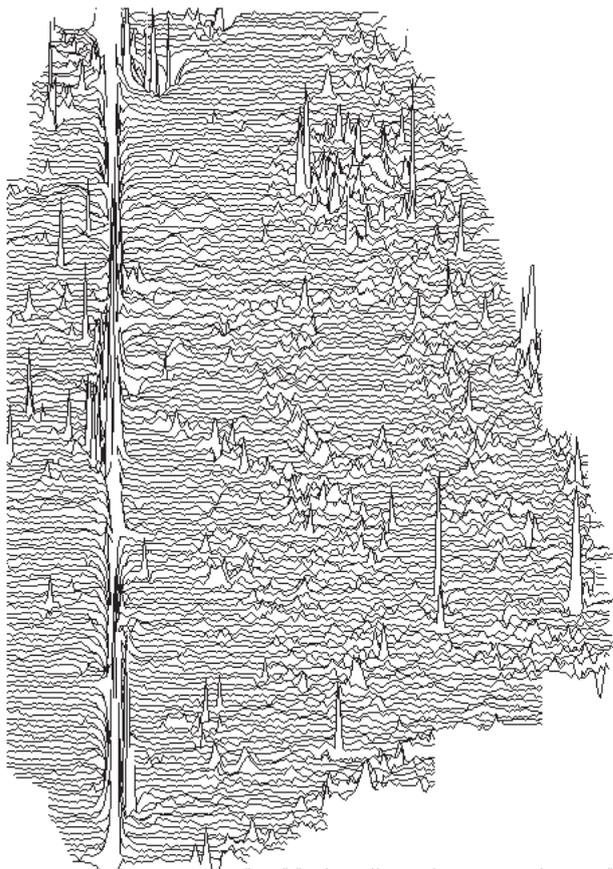


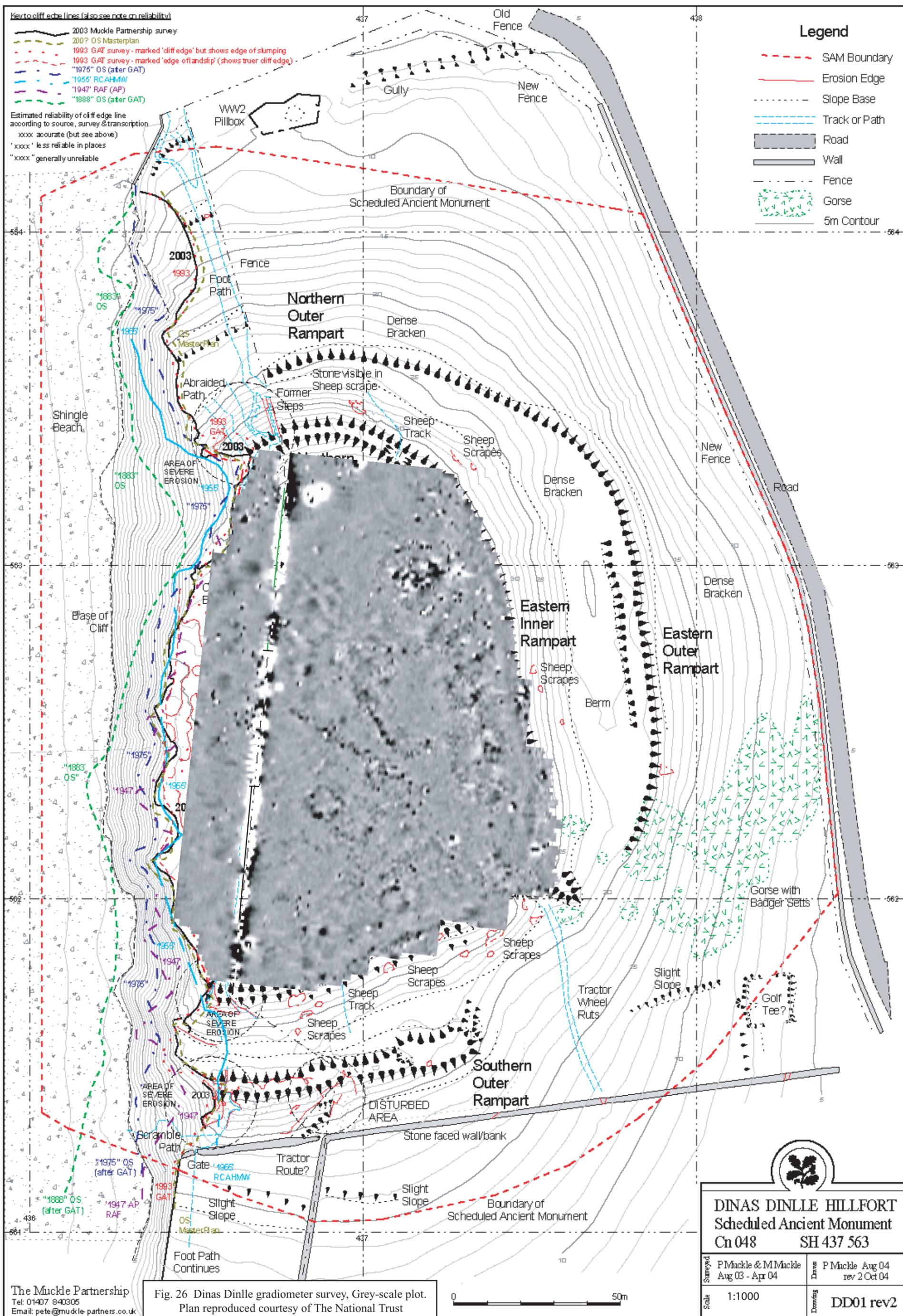
Fig. 25 Dinas Dinlle gradiometer survey: Trace plot

Resolution: 102 nT/cm  
Units: Absolute  
Hidden Line: On

**Statistics**

Mean: 0.5  
Std Dev: 12.97  
Min: -204.01  
Max: 202.00





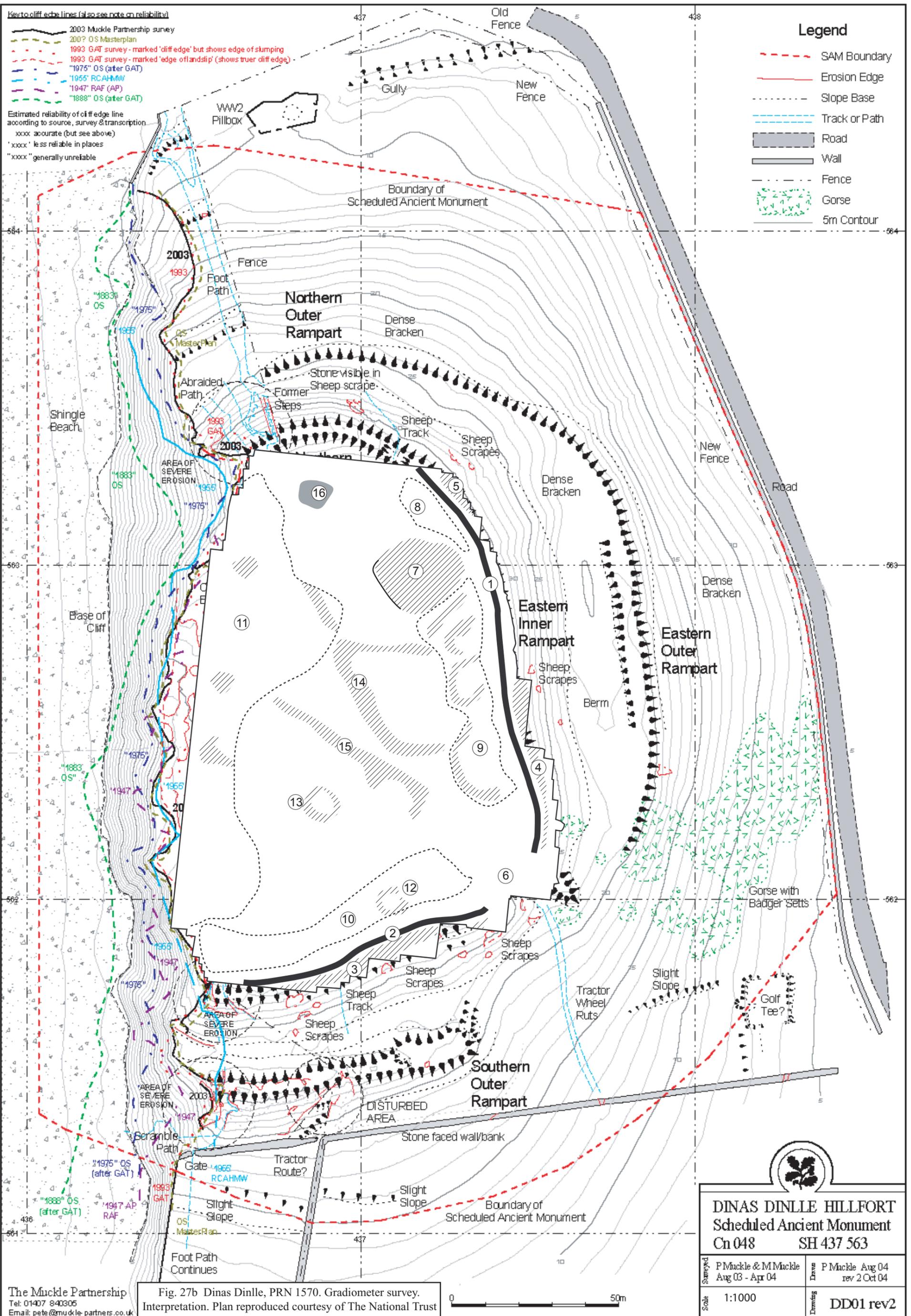
The Muckle Partnership  
 Tel: 01407 840305  
 Email: pete@muckle-partners.co.uk

Fig. 26 Dinas Dinlle gradiometer survey, Grey-scale plot. Plan reproduced courtesy of The National Trust

0 50m

	
<b>DINAS DINLLE HILLFORT</b> <b>Scheduled Ancient Monument</b> <b>Cn 048 SH 437 563</b>	
Surveyed P Muckle & M Muckle Aug 03 - Apr 04	Drawn P Muckle Aug 04 rev 2 Oct 04
Scale 1:1000	Drawing DD01 rev2





The Muckle Partnership  
 Tel: 01407 840305  
 Email: pete@muckle-partners.co.uk

Fig. 27b Dinas Dinlle, PRN 1570. Gradiometer survey. Interpretation. Plan reproduced courtesy of The National Trust



**DINAS DINLLE HILLFORT**  
 Scheduled Ancient Monument  
 Cn 048 SH 437 563

Scale	1:1000	Drawn	P Muckle Aug 04 rev 2 Oct 04
Surveyed	P Muckle & M Muckle Aug 03 - Apr 04	Drawing	DD01 rev2

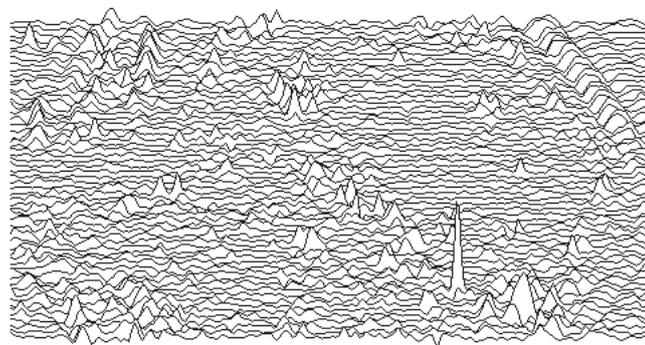


Fig. 28 Y Werthyr, Llantrisant, PRN 2077.  
Gradiometer survey: Trace plot

Resolution: 64 nT/cm  
Units: Absolute  
Hidden Line: On

**Statistics**

Mean: 0.2  
Std Dev: 1.61  
Min: -15.94  
Max: 42.18



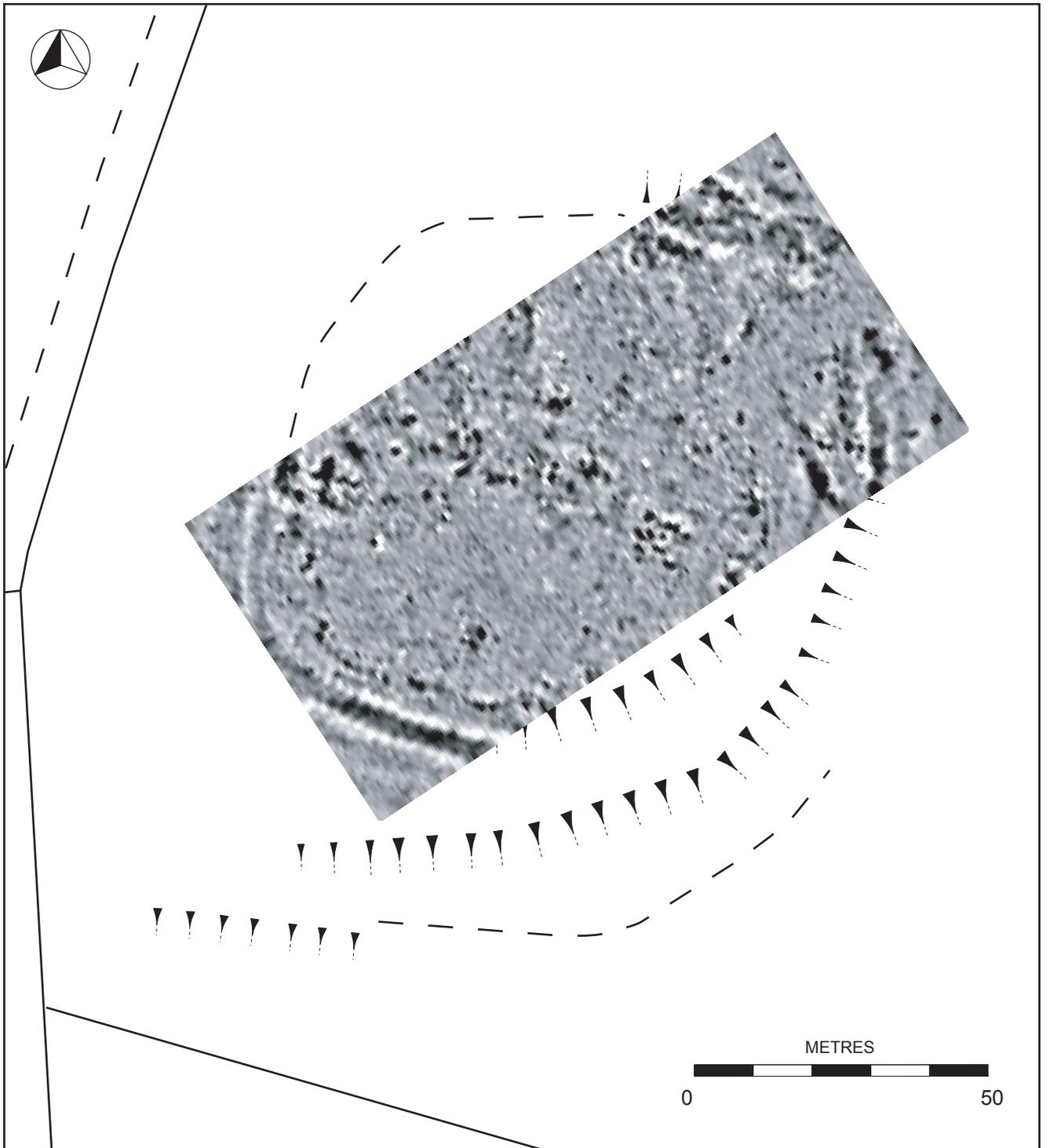


Fig. 29 Y Werthyr, Llantrisant, PRN 2077. Gradiometer Survey. Grey scale plot.  
Plan based on Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100020895.



Fig. 30 Y Werthyr, Llantrisant, PRN 2077. Gradiometer Survey. Interpretation.  
 Plan based on Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100020895.

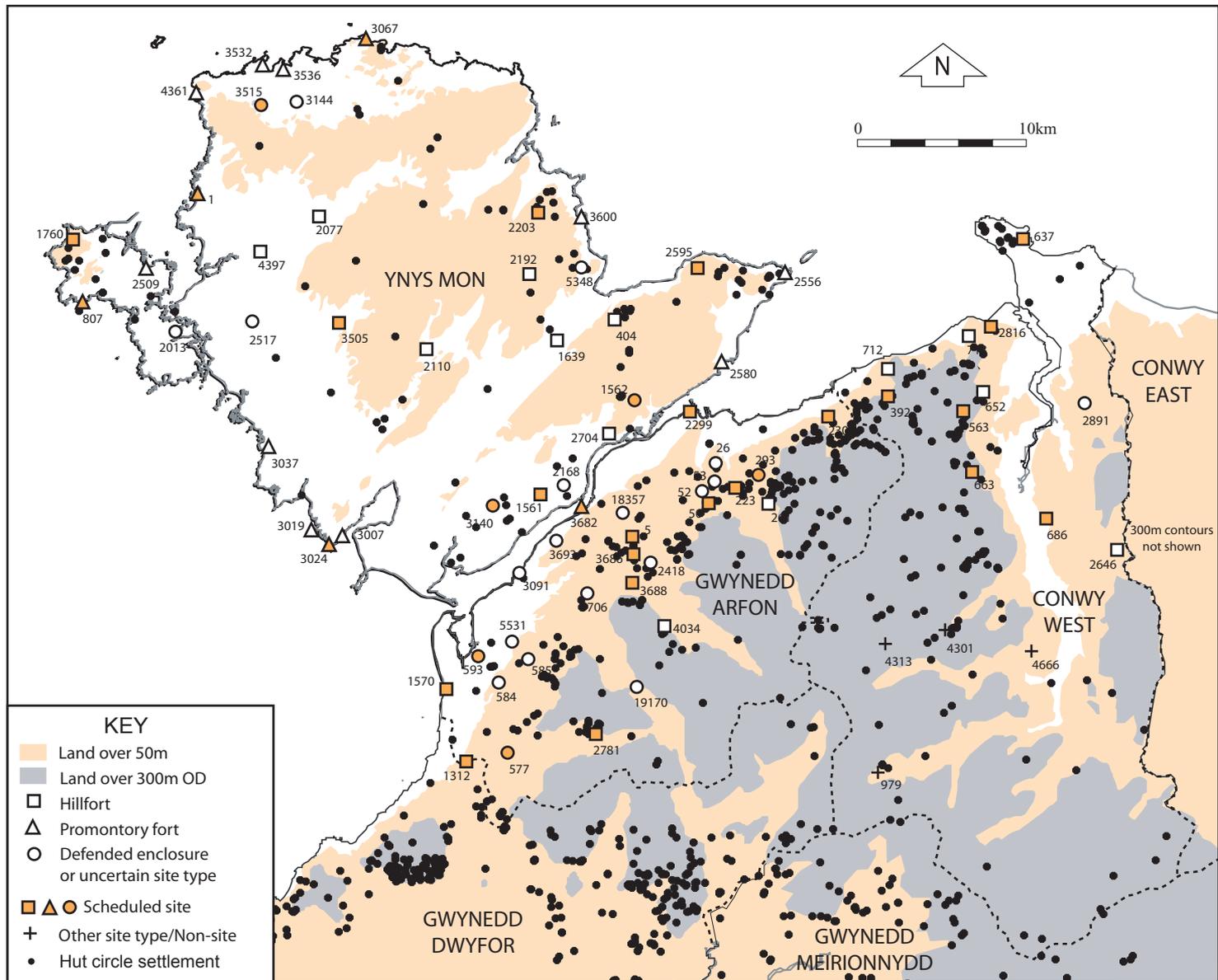


Fig. 31 The location of all known and possible prehistoric defended settlements in Conwy West, Gwynedd Arfon and Ynys Mon in relation to the distribution of all known hut circle settlement. (Defended settlements in Dwyfor and Meirionnydd not shown).





YMDDIRIEDOLAETH  
ARCHAEOLEGOL  
GWYNEDD



GWYNEDD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
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