

SAM B69 - 25" map not published

**Full Management Report - Internal Use**  
**SAM Information Section 1 (General Information)**

<b>SAM No:</b> BR069(POW)	<b>AI No:</b> 2	<b>File No:</b> 2040	<b>Schedule Ref:</b> 17/2040/BR069(POW)//
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**SAM Name:** Mynydd Bach-Trecastell Stone Circles

	Traditional	Qualifier	NGR-X	NGR-Y	Scheduled:
NGR	SN833310	0	283323	231078	Yes
	1:50, 000	1:10, 000	1:2, 500		
Primary	160	SN83SW	N/A		
Additional					

**Unitary Authority(UA):**  
Powys

**Community:**  
Llywel

**Area(Ha):** 0.75

**Primary Class:** Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual  
**Additional Class:**

**Summary:**

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**Archaeological History:**

Events	Name	Date
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**Sources:**

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Descriptive text	AM7		
<b>Title:</b>		<b>Other:</b>	

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Descriptive text	AM107	Whittle E	1988
<b>Title:</b>		<b>Other:</b>	

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Plan: sketch	AM107	Whittle E	1988
<b>Title:</b>		<b>Other:</b>	

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Photograph	AM107	Whittle E	1987
<b>Title:</b>		<b>Other:</b>	

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Descriptive text	AM107	Owen W G	1991
<b>Title:</b>		<b>Other:</b>	

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Plan: sketch	AM107	Owen W G	1991
<b>Title:</b>		<b>Other:</b>	

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Descriptive text	AM107	Taylor F	1992
<b>Title:</b>		<b>Other:</b>	

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Photograph	AM107	Taylor F	1992
<b>Title:</b>		<b>Other:</b>	

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Map	1:10,000		
<b>Title:</b>	Current Scheduled Area	<b>Other:</b>	

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<b>Type</b> Descriptive text	<b>Collection</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Year</b> 1907
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<b>Title:</b> Trans Swansea Scientific Society, p146	<b>Other:</b>
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<b>Type</b> Descriptive text	<b>Collection</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Year</b> 1854
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<b>Title:</b> Arch Camb, p125	<b>Other:</b>
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<b>Type</b> Descriptive text	<b>Collection</b> I LI Foster and L Alcock (eds) Culture and Environment	<b>Author</b> Grimes W F	<b>Year</b> 1963
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<b>Title:</b> The stone circles and related monuments of Wales	<b>Other:</b> nos25a+b, p135-6, fig29
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<b>Type</b> Descriptive text	<b>Collection</b>	<b>Author</b> Burl H A W	<b>Year</b> 1976
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<b>Title:</b> The Stone Circles of the British Isles	<b>Other:</b> p369 + plan
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<b>Type</b> Descriptive text	<b>Collection</b>	<b>Author</b> Thom A, Thom A S and Burl H A W	<b>Year</b> 1980
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<b>Title:</b> Megalithic Rings	<b>Other:</b> 390 (plan)-391(text)
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<b>Type</b> Descriptive text	<b>Collection</b>	<b>Author</b> RCAHMMW	<b>Year</b> 1997
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<b>Title:</b> Brecknock Inventory vol 1 part i	<b>Other:</b> SC4 153-155, 2 figs
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<b>Type</b> Photograph	<b>Collection</b> AM107B	<b>Author</b> Burnham H B	<b>Year</b> 2000
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Other:</b> 00/14/5-12
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<b>Type</b> Descriptive text	<b>Collection</b> AM107C	<b>Author</b> Burnham H B	<b>Year</b> 2000
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Other:</b>
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<b>Type</b> Descriptive text	<b>Collection</b> AM107	<b>Author</b> Halfpenney I	<b>Year</b> 2006
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Other:</b>
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<b>Type</b> Photograph	<b>Collection</b> AM107	<b>Author</b> Halfpenney I	<b>Year</b> 2006
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<b>Title:</b> View of large Circle, looking E	<b>Other:</b> BR069_13112006_02
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Type	Collection	Author	Year
Photograph	AM107	Halfpenney I	2006
<b>Title:</b>	Wear around SW stone (small Circle), looking N	<b>Other:</b>	BR069_13112006_04

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Photograph	AM107	Halfpenney I	2006
<b>Title:</b>	View of large Circle, looking NE	<b>Other:</b>	BR069_13112006_06

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Photograph	AM107	Halfpenney I	2006
<b>Title:</b>	View of both Circles, looking NW	<b>Other:</b>	BR069_25102006_01

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Photograph	AM107	Halfpenney I	2006
<b>Title:</b>	View of small Circle, looking E	<b>Other:</b>	BR069_13112006_01

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Photograph	AM107	Halfpenney I	2006
<b>Title:</b>	View of small Circle, looking N	<b>Other:</b>	BR069_13112006_03

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Photograph	AM107	Halfpenney I	2006
<b>Title:</b>	Wear around NW stone (small Circle), looking N	<b>Other:</b>	BR069_13112006_05

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Photograph	AM107	Halfpenney I	2006
<b>Title:</b>	View of large Circle, looking N	<b>Other:</b>	BR069_13112006_07

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Photograph	AM107	Halfpenney I	2006
<b>Title:</b>	View of large Circle, looking N	<b>Other:</b>	BR069_25102006_02

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Photograph	AM107	Halfpenney I	2006
<b>Title:</b>	View of small Circle, looking NE	<b>Other:</b>	BR069_25102006_03

Type	Collection	Author	Year
Aerial photograph	RCAHMW, AP monitoring programme		1998
<b>Title:</b>	983526-06 27/08/98	<b>Other:</b>	Oblique B & W

**Full Management Report - Internal Use**  
**SAM Information: Section 2 (Internal use only)**

**SAM No:** BR069(POW)

**SAM Name:** Mynydd Bach-Trecastell Stone Circles

**Scheduling Actions:**

Events Scheduling	Name Unknown	Proposed Date	Signed Date	Completed Yes
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**Reason:**

**Visits**

Date	Name	Office	Reason:	Condition	Round	Visit
09/12/1988	Whittle E	FMW	Routine		1	
<b>Visit Notes:</b>					<b>Next Visit:</b> No	
08/07/1991	Owen W G	FMW	Damage			
<b>Visit Notes:</b>					No	
06/10/1992	Taylor F	FMW	Routine		2	
<b>Visit Notes:</b>					No	
16/10/2000	Burnham H B	FMW	Routine	Stable	3	
<b>Visit Notes:</b>						
13/11/2006	Halfpenney I	FMW	Routine	Stable	4	
<b>Visit Notes:</b>						

# Full Management Report - Internal Use

## Archaeological Item Information

### Section 1: General

<b>AI No:</b> BR069A		<b>AI Name:</b> North East Stone Circle	
<b>Altitude(m):</b> 390	<b>Trust PRN:</b> CP801	<b>Endex PRN:</b>	92065
<b>Qualifier:</b> 0	<b>NGR-X:</b> 283350	<b>NGR-Y:</b> 230090	
<b>Sitetype (FMW):</b> Stone circle			
<b>Period General:</b> Prehistoric <b>Specific:</b> Bronze Age			<b>Date:</b>
<b>Sitetype (Broad):</b>		<b>Sitetype (Narrow):</b>	
<b>Broad Class:</b> Religious, Ritual and Funerary			
<b>Components:</b>			

**Status:** Scheduled Ancient Monument; National Park

<b>Form:</b> Standing monument	<b>Condition:</b> Very Good
<b>Proportion SCH:</b> Complete	<b>Survival within SCH. Area:</b> Almost complete
<b>Summary:</b>	

### Section 2: Internal use only - A.I. Monitoring

Date	Name	Office	Purpose	Condition
09/12/1988	Whittle E	FMW	Routine	

**Land Class On:** Grassland / Heathland - Heathland

**Land Class Around:** Grassland / Heathland - Heathland

08/07/1991	Owen W G	FMW	Damage	
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**Land Class On:**

**Land Class Around:**

06/10/1992	Taylor F	FMW	Routine	
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**Land Class On:** Grassland / Heathland - Heathland

**Land Class Around:** Grassland / Heathland - Heathland

16/10/2000	Burnham H B	FMW		Stable
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**Land Class On:** Grassland / Heathland - Heathland

**Land Class Around:** Grassland / Heathland - Heathland

13/11/2006	Halfpenney I	FMW		Stable
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**Land Class On:** Grassland / Heathland - Undisturbed Grassland

**Land Class Around:** Grassland / Heathland - Undisturbed Grassland



# Full Management Report - Internal Use

## Archaeological Item Information

### Section 1: General

<b>AI No:</b> BR069B		<b>AI Name:</b> South West Stone Circle	
<b>Altitude(m):</b> 390	<b>Trust PRN:</b> CP3409	<b>Endex PRN:</b>	99337
<b>Qualifier:</b> 0	<b>NGR-X:</b> 283350	<b>NGR-Y:</b> 230090	
<b>Sitetype (FMW):</b> Stone circle			
<b>Period</b>	<b>General:</b> Prehistoric <b>Specific:</b> Bronze Age		<b>Date:</b>
<b>Sitetype (Broad):</b>		<b>Sitetype (Narrow):</b>	
<b>Broad Class:</b> Religious, Ritual and Funerary			
<b>Components:</b>			

**Status:** Scheduled Ancient Monument; National Park

<b>Form:</b> Standing monument	<b>Condition:</b> Very Good
<b>Proportion SCH:</b> Complete	<b>Survival within SCH. Area:</b> Almost complete
<b>Summary:</b>	

### Section 2: Internal use only - A.I. Monitoring

Date	Name	Office	Purpose	Condition
09/12/1988	Whittle E	FMW	Routine	
<b>Land Class On:</b> Grassland / Heathland - Heathland				
<b>Land Class Around:</b> Grassland / Heathland - Heathland				
08/07/1991	Owen W G	FMW	Damage	
<b>Land Class On:</b>				
<b>Land Class Around:</b>				
06/10/1992	Taylor F	FMW	Routine	
<b>Land Class On:</b> Grassland / Heathland - Heathland				
<b>Land Class Around:</b> Grassland / Heathland - Heathland				
16/10/2000	Burnham H B	FMW		Stable
<b>Land Class On:</b> Grassland / Heathland - Heathland				
<b>Land Class Around:</b> Grassland / Heathland - Heathland				
13/11/2006	Halfpenney I	FMW		Stable
<b>Land Class On:</b> Grassland / Heathland - Undisturbed Grassland				
<b>Land Class Around:</b> Grassland / Heathland - Undisturbed Grassland				

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**SAM Visit Description Text**

<b>SAM No:</b> BR069(POW)	<b>SAM Name:</b> Mynydd Bach-Trecastell Stone Circles
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**Visit Date:** 09/12/1988

**Visited By:** Whittle E

**Description Text:** The stone circles lie close to each other on level moorland SE of the E end of Y Pigwn. They are on open moorland, grazed by sheep and horses.

BR069a - This is the larger of the two circles, and lies NE of the other (B69b). It is c 21 m in diameter and consists of 22 (visible) stones set upright in a circle. They stand up to 0.5 m high, and are mostly evenly spaced. There are some wider gaps, and in some of them holes in the ground which could mark where a stone once stood. On the S side there are two larger recumbent stones, one of which rests on a rough slab or rock which could be bedrock, the other of which stands in reeds. There is a slight circular central mound in the middle of the circle.

BR69b - This is the smaller of the two circles, and lies SW of the other (B69a). It is c 7 m in diameter. It consists of four outward leaning boulders and three buried stones, with only their tops showing in the turf. The largest of the boulders is c 0.7 m high, the others are c 0.4 - 0.5 m high. With the buried stones they are fairly evenly spaced around the circle.

**Visit Date:** 06/10/1992

**Visited By:** Taylor F

**Description Text:** BR069a - The description remains the same as when last visited in 1991.

BR069b - The description of this site remains the same as when last visited in 1991.

**Visit Date:** 16/10/2000

**Visited By:** Burnham H B

**Description Text:** Grimes 1963 text (visited 1931, 1961 (replanned)):  
This complex consists of two circles, a larger to the north-east, a smaller to the south-west, with a short alignment of four stones beyond, the whole covering a distance of about 300ft. The position is the level top of Mynydd-bach Trecastell, a ridge forming part of the north-western scarp of the Black Mountains on the Carmarthenshire-Brecknockshire border. Various small streams, minor tributaries of the River Usk on the east and of the Tywi on the west, rise in the ridge, the lower parts of which, as usual, are wet and marshy. A few hundred yards to the west are the Roman legionary marching-camps of Y Pigwn; and as Llewellyn Morgan noted years ago, it is surprising that these monuments should have survived so relatively completely in an area which must at one time have seen a good deal of Roman activity.

The larger circle [Item A] has a diameter of about 75-6ft. It is fairly regular. Thirty stones or sites of stones survive: 7 are marked by holes; 5, mainly in the southern half, are fallen. The stones are all small: never more than 24in high and mostly a good deal less. Near the centre is a very low mound, roughly circular and about 24ft across. This mound may of course cover a burial; but the character of the circle appears to be that of a stone- rather than of a cairn-circle in the senses in which those terms are now understood. The stones are fairly regularly spaced at 5-7ft apart; there are one or two bigger gaps which may or may not be due to the loss of stones.

The second circle [Item B] is about 145ft away (centres). It has a diameter of about 25ft. Five stones survive, with depressions for four or perhaps five others. They are larger than those of the other circle, ranging between 31 and 42in and all lean outwards. The interior is featureless and the remains do not look like those of a cairn-circle.

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The alignment begins with a hollow for a missing stone about 54ft from the centre of the small circle. The stones are like those of the small circle. They are 17.5, 24 and 19ft apart respectively, so that the alignment has an overall length of 61-62ft. They make a good line, which is not directed towards the centre of the circle, but towards its southern half.

There are other low stones in the immediate neighbourhood of the circles which are of the same general character as those of the alignment, but only excavation could decide whether they are artificially set. The alignment itself, including the shallow hollow which marks the position of the most northerly stone, appears to have an objective existence: but again, only excavation will finally determine its true character.

The site is rarely mentioned in the literature. According to William Rees, writing in 1854 [Arch Camb, 125-6], it was discovered by John Rhys Jones in 1849. The only plan is that made by Llewellyn Morgan [Trans Swansea Sci Soc 1907-8, 146]. There have probably not been many changes down the years, but Morgan's usual failure to differentiate between fallen and upright stones, or between stones artificially and accidentally placed makes exact comparison difficult. The small circle seems to have lost one stone, but in the larger circle Morgan shows fewer stones and depressions than appear in Fig 29 here. He observes that stone-holes reported as freshly made in 1854 looked equally fresh in 1907. He attempted astronomical interpretations, or at least provided observations without being able to suggest a reason for them.

According to the writer in 1854 the circles were said locally to have been used for games by the Britons.

Burl 1976 text (no visit date given):

Across the Usk valley three and a half miles NNE of the Nant Tarw pair [Br 070] and near a Roman road and temporary camps are two other rings on Trecastle Mountain, again quite dissimilar from each other. The ENE circle is 23.2m across of inconspicuous stones with an eccentric mound in its interior. Close by is the second ring, only 7.3m across, ruined and incomplete. To its WSW is a miserable alignment crawling towards the circle, its stones now just perceptible in the wet ground. Even allowing for a rise in the ground level it is unlikely that such a setting could have been made for astronomical observation, and it is significant that though proposing three possible solar lines in these rings Thom overlooked this row altogether (1967, 101, W11/2).

Thom, Thom and Burl 1980 text (no visit date given):

1. A Thom (W 11/2):

Construction: Circle and two concentric circles. NE circle diameter 76.3ft = 28.0mr. Perimeter 88.1my = 35.2mr. The outer of the concentric circles is perhaps 43.7ft = 16.1my. Perimeter 50.4my = 20.2mr. The inner if concentric perhaps is 24.3ft = 8.9my. Perimeter 28.0my = 11.2mr. Note that there is a large fallen stone and a stump in the SE indicating the rising midwinter sun from the main circle.

2. A Burl (Brecknockshire 4a, b):

This pair of rings stands on a level ridge in the Black Mountains at a height of 370m OD, 4.5 miles ESE of Llandovery.

Some 30 small stones survive in the eastern ring which is about 76 ft (23.1m) across. Near the centre is a low mound which may cover a burial. The smaller, western ring, 24ft 4 ins (7.4m) across, has much larger stones in it, up to 3ft 6ins (1.1m) high. 5 remain of an

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original 9 or 10. An overgrown alignment of tiny stones begins 54ft (16.5m) to the WSW. It is about 60ft (18m) long and like the avenue at Rhos y Beddau it points towards the southern half of the circle.

There is a distant standing stone to the S of these paired rings which may be of different dates.

RCAHMW 1997 text (visited 21.2.90):

(SC4; Figs 97-98) On Trecastle Mountain, on an undulating plateau sloping gently towards the N at 370m above OD are the remains of two circles (SC4 i and ii), a cairn (SC4 iii), three scattered groups of stone (SC 4 iv) and a recumbent standing stone (SC4 v). [Sic - in fact, SC4 i - iii are all circles, ii being Br 069 Item B and iii being Br 069 Item A, SC4 iv is the cairn, SC4 v the scattered stone and SC4 vi the recumbent stone - see below - HBB] The stone alignments and monolith are not entirely anthropogenic in origin. Lying about 400m E of Y Pigwn Roman practice camps, the circles may at one time have acted as waymarkers on the open moorland beside the course of the former coach road (based upon the Roman route) from Brecon to Llandovery. Curiously they are not depicted upon the earliest editions of the Ordnance Maps and William Rees, the celebrated Swansea scholar-printer, said the group had been found in 1849 by John Rhys Jones [Arch Camb 8, 1854, 125-34]. Circles (SC4 i-ii) and (SC4 iii) were not planned until the turn of the century [W LI Morgan, Proc Swansea Sci Soc 1907-8, 146-9 + plan]. Several later fieldworkers also surveyed the sites, variously ascribing their functions to ritual, and more commonly in recent years, to astronomical uses. It is still possible to detect an E-W track actually passing through the site, immediately N of, and slightly truncating, the more southerly circle.

Footnote: An unsigned MS of 30th July 1933, which includes sketch plans of two circles and notes about them written upon Castle of Brecon Hotel notepaper, probably in the hand of W F Grimes, suggests there were at that time many more outlying stones than later survived. The writer felt that a handful of stones may at one time have belonged to an outer circle. It is difficult to correlate the second circle described in this MS with the present known sitings. It had eight peristaliths, was some 95 feet (about 29m) in diameter, also had a slightly raised centre, and apparently lay roughly equidistant between the known, larger NE circle and the NW corner of Y Pigwn Roman camp (Lloyd MSS).

The whole complex lies within a curvilinear enclosure comprising a substantial bank and ditch, the southern length of which runs roughly E-W, and its E boundary runs N-S, about 50m E of the recumbent stone. This E-W bank continues in a westerly direction to the Roman fort, where its overall alignment coincides almost precisely with that of the N bank of the interior fort, although the two do not appear to join. The bank's dating is unclear, but it seems unlikely to have been Roman and presumably marks the boundaries of a medieval agricultural or pastoral enclosure.

Not only is the area around the Roman fort heavily mined by quarrying, but minor quarries pock-mark this entire area. The activity of stone-drawing from the common was probably responsible for helping denude all upstanding stone-filled monuments of such cairn material as might have been notionally reveted by the surviving orthostats which make up the circles. As the area was also in military use for some time after the Second World War, it is possible that some of these pock-marks and tracks may derive from that activity.

(SC4 i: SN 8319 3118) About midway between the two upstanding circles are three stones, which if plotted out would lie upon a circumference of about 10.6m in diameter. They comprise a block 0.64m by 0.58m by 0.4m high; a fallen pillar 0.5m by 0.23m by 0.91m high (when upright) and a block 0.86m by 0.55m by 0.48m high. Its location suggests that this

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could be the fugitive remnant of a feature seen more complete during the 1930s by Grimes.

(SC4 ii: SN 8331 3106 [Br 069B]) Of the surviving circles, the smaller, more westerly is 7.9m in diameter and consists of four irregularly spaced massive slabs now leaning outwards. Each is about 0.6m wide and stands 0.9m high. The ground around the orthostats is very badly eroded by sheep, to form deep hollows which have collected water.

(SC4 iii: SN 8335 3109 [Br 069A]) The second and larger, northeastern circle, is 23.1m in diameter NE-SW by 22m and consists of twenty-one uprights from 0.1 to 0.5m high, with at least five stone-holes, with a regular spacing at intervals of about 2.6m. Some stones are well weathered, or even frost-shattered into angular stumps, whereas others are more boulder-like in form. Between two orthostats rather larger than the rest on the SE, the Old Red Sandstone is exposed over an area about 3m long and 1m wide (along the cairn perimeter). On the SW is a gap of 5.5m between stones which it has been suggested may have been an entrance. There is a slight irregular mound about 6-7m in diameter lying towards the northern part of the site, which may be all that remains of a former cairn infill, or alternatively may represent the capping of a near-central burial.

(SC4 iv: SN 8314 3098 [Br 142]) A stone-built cairn, see (RC 35).

(SC4 v) Depending upon the number included in the grouping, there are four or five groups of outlying uprights, none of which is certainly associated with the circles, and indeed, some or all may even be natural. Running between the two circles and aligned N-S along their E perimeters are three stones. To the immediate W of the SW circle are two more, and beyond, to the S of it, two further pairs of apparently unrelated stones. Roughly at right angles to this grouping, and about 40m from it, is a further alignment of four stones. It has been suggested that at one time, at least some of these stones may have formed part of a field boundary. [RCAHMW refer to a plan, Fig 55, showing positions of these features; Fig 55 is something else altogether and I cannot locate the plan referred to.]

(SC 4 vi: SN 8339 3107) at 385m above OD is a recumbent standing stone with a pointed end, lying to the E, some 125m from the northeastern circle and 143m from the southwestern. If the stone ever had any significance within this monument group, it would probably have projected above ground about 1.5m high, at an oblique angle. However, the stone appears to have formed part of an outcropping band of sandstone, and its presence here may be adventitious. It measures 1.16m wide by 0.74m thick and the original stump, now much weathered and rounded, is at least 1m thick. About 10m due S of this there is another stone (not marked upon the plan), also with an almost vertical bedding plane, and about 1m in length. It appears to form part of the same rock exposure.

Helen Burnham's visit text:

For a detailed description of each individual circle, please see the separate Item entries. A number of stones in the larger circle (Item A) appeared to have been reset fairly recently. There are some suggestions of New Age activity at this site.

I did not have the sources with me and did not pursue the supposed alignments and additional circles. There are a fair number of scattered stones in the vicinity, some more earth-fast than others, and it is hard to be sure how many of them have been intentionally set.

The outlier appears to lie almost exactly to the south-east of the main circle (Item A). As seen from the centre of the circle, it appears to stand on the crest of a local ridge, although there is higher ground behind at a distance. This stone is a big slab which appears to have

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been broken some time ago, about 2.75m long by about 1.3 wide, though nearer 1.5m at its base; at its south end the south-east corner appears to have broken away quite some time ago. Both stone circles are clearly visible from the outlier.

**Visit Date:** 13/11/2006

**Visited By:** Halfpenney I

**Description Text:**

These two stone circles remain as previously described and are located on a relatively level area of ground within a large area of unimproved upland grassland.

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**Item No:** BR069A      **Item Name:** North East Stone Circle

**Visit Date:** 16/10/2000      **Visited By:** Burnham H B

**Description Text:** Grimes 1963 text (visited 1931, 1961 (replanned)):  
The larger circle has a diameter of about 75-6ft. It is fairly regular. Thirty stones or sites of stones survive: 7 are marked by holes; 5, mainly in the southern half, are fallen. The stones are all small: never more than 24in high and mostly a good deal less. Near the centre is a very low mound, roughly circular and about 24ft across. This mound may of course cover a burial; but the character of the circle appears to be that of a stone- rather than of a cairn-circle in the senses in which those terms are now understood. The stones are fairly regularly spaced at 5-7ft apart; there are one or two bigger gaps which may or may not be due to the loss of stones.

Burl 1976 text (no visit date given):

The ENE circle is 23.2m across of inconspicuous stones with an eccentric mound in its interior.

Thom, Thom and Burl 1980 text (no visit date given):

1. A Thom (W 11/2):

Construction: NE circle diameter 76.3ft = 28.0mr. Perimeter 88.1m = 35.2mr. Note that there is a large fallen stone and a stump in the SE indicating the rising midwinter sun from the main circle.

2. A Burl (Brecknockshire 4a, b):

Some 30 small stones survive in the eastern ring which is about 76 ft (23.1m) across. Near the centre is a low mound which may cover a burial.

RCAHMMW 1997 text (visited 21.2.90):

(SC4 iii: SN 8335 3109) The second and larger, northeastern circle, is 23.1m in diameter NE-SW by 22m and consists of twenty-one uprights from 0.1 to 0.5m high, with at least five stone-holes, with a regular spacing at intervals of about 2.6m. Some stones are well weathered, or even frost-shattered into angular stumps, whereas others are more boulder-like in form. Between two orthostats rather larger than the rest on the SE, the Old Red Sandstone is exposed over an area about 3m long and 1m wide (along the cairn perimeter). On the SW is a gap of 5.5m between stones which it has been suggested may have been an entrance. There is a slight irregular mound about 6-7m in diameter lying towards the northern part of the site, which may be all that remains of a former cairn infill, or alternatively may represent the capping of a near-central burial.

Helen Burnham's visit text:

I counted 26 stones; I started counting with one at about 240 deg from the centre of the circle just north of the sheep track coming in from the other circle (see annotation on plan in RCAHMMW photocopy). Going clockwise:

1. small white stone;
2. long pointed stone about 0.5m high;
3. small roundish stone with a wet pit next to it;  
a gap
4. irregularly-shaped stone, about 0.5m high. Comparison with 1988 photos suggest this may have been reset.
5. very small stone, just about 0.3m high;
6. stone about 0.5m high, apparently reset;

**Full Management Report - Internal Use**  
**SAM Archaeological Item Description Text**

<b>SAM No:</b> BR069(POW)	<b>SAM Name:</b> Mynydd Bach-Trecastell Stone Circles
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7. very small stone, just about 0.2m high;
  8. very small stone, just above ground level;
  9. largish stone, 0.6-0.7m high, very rough with rushes to side;
  10. largish stone, 0.4-0.5m long, but only standing about 0.1m above ground surface;
  11. pointed-topped stone, 0.6-0.7m high, very mossy on the outer side;
  12. small stone, only 0.3-0.4m high, slightly pointed top;
  13. low stone, 0.4m long, but only about 0.1m above ground surface;
  14. very irregular stone, 0.7-0.8m high, roughly pointed top, rushes on its outside;
  15. very small stone, 0.1m high and 0.2m wide;
  16. appears reset; now stands 0.6-0.7m high. There an area of irregular turf roughly the shape of the stone on its outer side;
  17. appears reset; now stands 0.8m high, very pointed. In something of a boggy hollow with quite a few obvious packing stones, though it doesn't look particularly tightly wedged. Very fresh-looking on parts of its outer face, though the upper point and inward face are quite well weathered;
  18. possibly reset; about 0.6 to 0.7m high, Old Red Sandstone, pointed top, one packing stone on the inside;
- Water-filled hollow with no stone;
- (Grimes, Thom and Liz Whittle (1988) all show three hollows in this last stretch; RCAHMW show a gap with what looks like a recumbent pointed stone close to its south end, about 2m from no 19. This stone is no longer in this position and is likely to be one of the ones which now appear as nos 17 and 18; it is not clear where the second stone of this pair came from.)
- Nos 19-21 lie in a rushy area and have been thought to be a possible entrance structure:
19. stone about 1m wide, stands about 0.4m at highest point but has clearly fallen outwards;
  20. smaller stone about 0.15m from ground surface, quite heavily covered in rushes;
- Just inside the line of the circle from this is an area of bedrock or earthfast recumbent stone(s) of which an area a little over 1m square is visible above the turf;
21. lying flat and actually propped against the bedrock/recumbent stone is another fairly large stone which looks as if it has fallen inward;
  22. very small stone, perhaps 0.2m high with pointed top, quite wide;
  23. flat-topped stone, about 1m wide with flat top 0.5-0.6m deep. Sheep's skull beside it and two sheep's jawbones on top suggest New Age activity;
  24. definitely reset; 1m high as now seen. Inner side of stone looks suspiciously unweathered; area of turf the same shape as stone on its inner side has been neatly re-laid. This stone is clearly visible as recumbent on August 1998 AP;
  25. small stone, just above ground level;
  26. longish stone, about 0.2m high with a sharp edge along its length.

Comparison with the 1988 ground photo suggests stone no 4 has been reset, though this was not apparent on the ground; the evidence for resetting of no 6 was more obvious. Around the eastern part of the site stones nos 16, 17 and 18 all appeared to have been reset; one of either no 17 or no 18 appears to have been provided with a stone not previously noted on the site. No 24 had also been very obviously reset. Some stones are of Old Red Sandstone which does not seem to have weathered to the same extent as the whiter stone of which others are made. The sheep's bones on and around no 23 strongly suggest New Age activity.

The slight mound within the circle appears much as previously described and photographed.

**Item No:** BR069B

**Item Name:** South West Stone Circle



**Full Management Report - Internal Use**  
**SAM Archaeological Item Description Text**

**SAM No:** BR069(POW)

**SAM Name:** Mynydd Bach-Trecastell Stone Circles

**Visit Date:** 16/10/2000

**Visited By:** Burnham H B

**Description Text:**

Grimes 1963 text (visited 1931, 1961 (replanned)):

The second circle is about 145ft away (centres) [from Item A]. It has a diameter of about 25ft. Five stones survive, with depressions for four or perhaps five others. They are larger than those of the other circle, ranging between 31 and 42in and all lean outwards. The interior is featureless and the remains do not look like those of a cairn-circle.

Burl 1976 text (no visit date given):

Close by is the second ring, only 7.3m across, ruined and incomplete. To its WSW is an alignment crawling towards the circle, its stones now just perceptible in the wet ground.

Thom, Thom and Burl 1980 text (no visit date given):

1. A Thom (W 11/2):

Construction: The outer of the concentric circles is perhaps 43.7ft = 16.1m. Perimeter 50.4m = 20.2m. The inner if concentric perhaps is 24.3ft = 8.9m. Perimeter 28.0m = 11.2m.

2. A Burl (Brecknockshire 4a, b):

The smaller, western ring, 24ft 4 ins (7.4m) across, has much larger stones in it, up to 3ft 6ins (1.1m) high. 5 remain of an original 9 or 10. An overgrown alignment of tiny stones begins 54ft (16.5m) to the WSW. It is about 60ft (18m) long and like the avenue at Rhos y Beddau it points towards the southern half of the circle.

RCAHMW 1997 text (visited 21.2.90):

(SC4 ii: SN 8331 3106 [Br 069B]) Of the surviving circles, the smaller, more westerly is 7.9m in diameter and consists of four irregularly spaced massive slabs now leaning outwards. Each is about 0.6m wide and stands 0.9m high. The ground around the orthostats is very badly eroded by sheep, to form deep hollows which have collected water.

Helen Burnham's visit text:

Working clockwise around the circle, the following features were noted:

Stone 1: almost due north from the centre of the circle, squared off, c. 0.5m high;

Gap: beyond that a fair-sized gap; [Grimes marks two hollows towards the N of this stretch, but I didn't see these and no other source marks them];

Stone 2: on the east, squared off, leaning outwards, now standing c. 0.5m high vertically;

Gap: c. 4m long;

Stone 3: on the south-east, with a wet hollow on its east. It stands c. 0.6m high and is pointed at the top;

Hollow 1: about 1.5m beyond Stone 3, almost due south, a water-filled hollow with rushes;

Hollow 2: 2m beyond that, on the south-west, another hollow, not particularly deep, with a small stone at the bottom of it;

Hollow 3: About 2m round from that, at about due west, another hollow, quite well grassed-over;

Hollow 4: about 1m from Hollow 3, another similar small hollow [this seems to be one more hollow than recorded along this stretch by Grimes, but Thom and RCAHMW both show four];

Stone 4: on the north-west, a stone with a rounded top c. 0.75m high, with a water-filled hollow around its western side;

Stone 5: about 1m from Stone 4, between it and the N stone, a small worn stone at ground level.

**Full Management Report - Internal Use**  
**SAM Archaeological Item Description Text**

**SAM No:** BR069(POW)

**SAM Name:** Mynydd Bach-Trecastell Stone Circles

A number of sheep tracks cross or meet in the circle; two fork towards its south-east, while one from the north joins the more northerly of these near the north-west. The circle lies in relatively short, rough grassland with some rushes in the wetter hollows. Sheep and horses graze. The circle remains much as described by all the previous sources, despite regular reports by visitors that stones have been removed!

I did not have the sources with me when I visited and did not pursue the supposed western alignment or Thom's additional concentric circle.

# CADW:WELSH HISTORIC MONUMENTS

## Ancient Monuments Record Form

O.S. sheet 160

01 Site number	02 Cross reference B 69 b		03 G.R. number
04 County (Breck) Powys	05 County number B 69 a	06 Local Authority Brecknock	
07 Community Traianglas	08 NGR SN 833311	09 Height OD 390 m.	10 File number ANC/2040
11 Site Name Mynydd Bach-Tre Castell stone circles			

12 Description The stone circles lie close to each other on level moorland SE of the E end of Y Pigwn. They are on open moorland, grazed by sheep and horses.

### B 69 a

This is the larger of the two circles, and lies NE of the other (B 69 b). It is c. 21 m. in diameter and consists of 22 (visible) stones set upright in a circle. They stand up to 0.5 m. high, and are mostly evenly spaced. There are some wider gaps, and in some of them holes in the ground which could mark where a stone once stood. On the S side there are two larger recumbent stones, one of which rests on a rough slab of rock which could be bedrock, the other of which stands in reeds. There is a slight circular central mound in the middle of the circle. <1>

B69

13 Site type/Period — general/Period — specific/Form Stone circle/Prehistoric/Bronze Age/Standing monument	
14 Proportion of Site Scheduled/Survival within Scheduled Area/Condition 1/2/A	15 Area
16 Land Class, on site Grassland heathland 1	17 Land class, around site Grassland heathland 1
18 Site Status SAM	19 Area Status
20 Owner(s) Defence Land Agent, Ministry of Defence, The Barracks, Brecon, Powys.	
21 Occupier(s) Not known	
22 Legal Action — See AM107C	
23 Works File	

Site No: B 69 Site Name: Mynydd Bach-Trecastell stone circles

25 Assessment of Importance of Monument

26 Scheduling Procedure

Date	/	/19	/Recommended/IAM, . . . . .
	/	/19	/(Approved (Not Approved/PIAM, . . . . .
	/	/19	/(Recommended (Not Approved/Ancient Monuments Board
	/	/19	/Notices Sent
	/	/19	/Monument included in Schedule

27 Monument not scheduled, de-scheduled because:

28 Archaeological History: Event/Name/Date

29 Visits: Name/Date

WHITTLE, E., FMW/9/12/1988

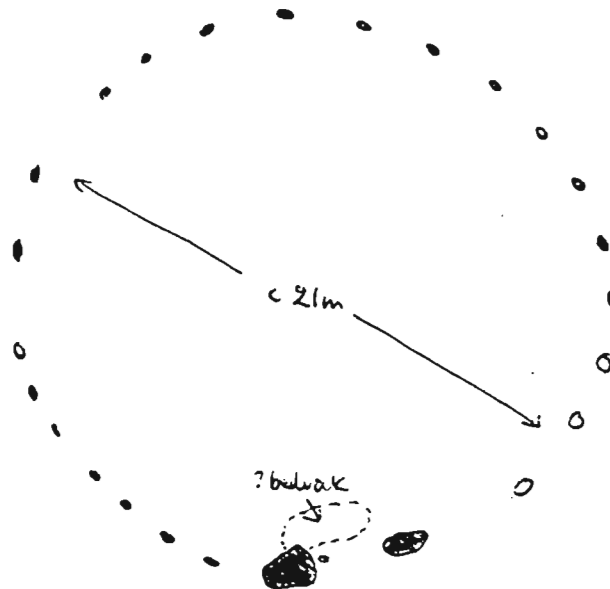
30 Sources: Source Type/Collection/Author/Date/Title/Other

Desc text/AM 107/Whittle, E./1988// <1>  
Desc text/Arch Camb.//1854//p. 125 <2>  
Desc text/Trans. Swansea Science Soc.//1907-8//p. 146 <3>

31 Date of compilation, Updating (For Office Use Only)

Plan of circle

↑



key  
● stone  
○ hole

&lt;i&gt;

# CADW:WELSH HISTORIC MONUMENTS

## Ancient Monuments Record Form

O.S. sheet 160

01 Site number	02 Cross reference B 69 a		03 G.R. number
04 County (Breck) Powys	05 County number B 69 b	06 Local Authority Brecknock	
07 Community Traianglas	08 NGR SN 833311	09 Height OD 390 m.	10 File number ANC/2040

11 Site Name Mynydd Bach-Tre Castell stone circles

12 Description The stone circles lie close to each other on level moorland SE of the E end of Y Pigwn. They are on open moorland, grazed by sheep and horses.

### B 69 b

This is the smaller of the two circles, and lies SW of the other (B 69 a). It is c. 7 m. in diameter. It consists of four outward leaning boulders and three buried stones, with only their tops showing in the turf. The largest of the boulders is c. 0.7 m. high, the others are c. 0.4-0.5 m. high. With the buried stones they are fairly evenly spaced around the circle. <1>

B69

13 Site type/Period – general/Period – specific/Form Stone circle/Prehistoric/Bronze Age/Standing monument	
14 Proportion of Site Scheduled/Survival within Scheduled Area/Condition 1/2/A	15 Area
16 Land Class, on site Grassland heathland 1	17 Land class, around site Grassland heathland 1
18 Site Status SAM	19 Area Status
20 Owner(s) Defence Land, Agent, Ministry of Defence, The Barracks, Brecon, Powys.	
21 Occupier(s) Not known	
22 Legal Action – See AM107C	
23 Works File	



Site No: B 69 b Site Name: Mynydd Bach-Trecastell stone circles

25 Assessment of Importance of Monument

26 Scheduling Procedure

Date	/	/19	/Recommended/IAM, . . . . .
	/	/19	/(Approved (Not Approved/PIAM, . . . . .
	/	/19	/(Recommended (Not Approved/Ancient Monuments Board
	/	/19	/Notices Sent
	/	/19	/Monument included in Schedule

27 Monument not scheduled, de-scheduled because:

28 Archaeological History: Event/Name/Date

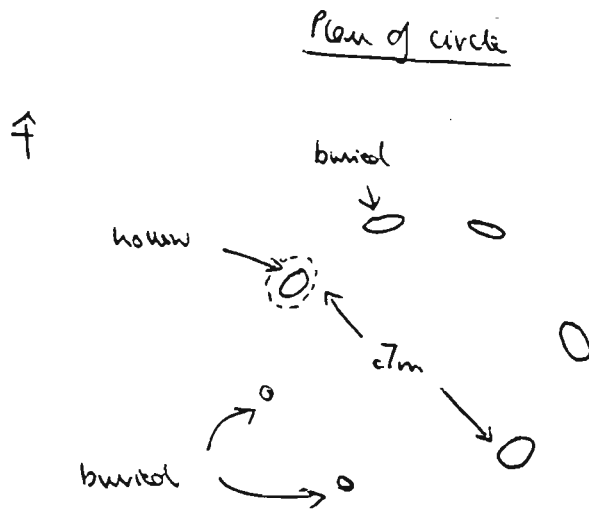
29 Visits: Name/Date

WHITTLE, E., FMW/9/12/1988

30 Sources: Source Type/Collection/Author/Date/Title/Other

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Desc text/Arch. Camb.//1854//p. 125	<2>	
Desc text/Trans. Swansea Science Soc.//1907-8//p. 146		<3>

31 Date of compilation, Updating (For Office Use Only)



# CADW:WELSH HISTORIC MONUMENTS

## Ancient Monuments Record Form

01 Site number	02 Cross reference B69b		03 G R number
04 County Powys	05 County number B69a	06 Local Authority Brecknock	
07 Community Traianglas	08 NGR SN833311	09 Height OD 390m	10 File number ANC/2040
11 Site Name Mynydd Bach - Treaskell stone circles			
12 Description			

The description of this site remains the same as when last visited in 1991

<6>

# CADW:WELSH HISTORIC MONUMENTS

## Ancient Monuments Record Form

01 Site number	02 Cross reference B69a	03 G R number
04 County Powys	05 County number B69b	06 Local Authority Brecknock
07 Community Treianguilas	08 NGR SN 833311	09 Height OD 390m
10 File number ANC/2040	11 Site Name Mynydd Bach - Tre Castell stone circles	
12 Description		

The description remains the same as when last visited in 1991

<77

B69

13 Site type/Period - general/Period - specific/Form

stone circles / Prehistoric / Bronze Age / Standing monument

14 Proportion of Site Scheduled: Survival within Scheduled Area/Condition

1/2 / A

15 Area

16 Land Class. on site

Grassland heathland 1

17 Land class. around site

Grassland heathland 1

18 Site Status

SAM

19 Area Status

20 Owner(s)

21 Occupier(s)

22 Legal Action - See AM107C

23 Works File

Site No B69 b Site Name

25 Assessment of Importance of Monument

26 Scheduling Procedure

Date	19	/Recommended/IAM
/	/19	/Approved
		(Not Approved/PIAM)
/	/19	/Recommended
		(Not Approved/Ancient Monuments Board)
/	/19	/Notices Sent
/	/19	/Monument included in Schedule

27 Monument not scheduled, de-scheduled because

28 Archaeological History Event Name Date

29 Visits Name Date

Whittle E FMW/9/12/1988  
Owen W G FMW/8/7/1991  
Taylor F FMW/6/10/1992

30 Sources Source Type Collection Author Date Title Other

Desc text/AM107/Whittle E/1988//<1>  
Photo/AM107B/Whittle E/1988//<2>  
Desc text/Arch Comb //1854//p125 <3>  
Desc text/Trans. Swansea Science Soc.//1907-8//p146 <4>  
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Plan/AM107/Owen W. G./1991//<6>  
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Photo/AM107B/Taylor F/1992//<8>

Site No B 69a Site Name

25 Assessment of Importance of Monument:

26 Scheduling Procedure

Date	19	/Recommended/PIAM
/	/19	/Approved (Not Approved/PIAM)
/	/19	/Recommended (Not Approved/Ancient Monuments Board)
/	/19	/Notices Sent
/	/19	/Monument included in Schedule

27 Monument not scheduled, de-scheduled because

28 Archaeological History, Event Name, Date

29 Visits Name Date  
Whittle E FMW/9/12/1988  
Owen WG FMW/8/7/1991  
Taylor F FMW/6/10/1992

30 Sources Source Type Collection/Author/Date/Title/Other

Desc text / AM107 / Whittle E / 1988 // <1>  
Photo / AM107 B / Whittle E / 1988 // <2>  
Desc text / Arch. Camb. // 1854 // p125 <3>  
Desc text / Trans Swansea Science Soc. // 1907-8 // p146 <4>  
Desc text / AM107 / Owen W.G. / 1991 // <5>  
Desc text / AM107 / Taylor F / 1992 // <6>

31 Date of completion, Updating (For Office Use Only)

AM107(REV.'88)-cc