

CPAT Report No 1313

Caves of North-East Wales

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT 2014-15




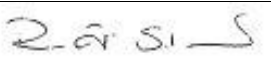
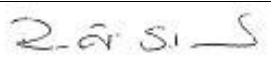
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Cover photo: Dulas Cave, Llanddulas, Conwy (photo CPAT 3906-0038). The lower entrance is a mined tunnel cut into the natural fill of the cave entrance.

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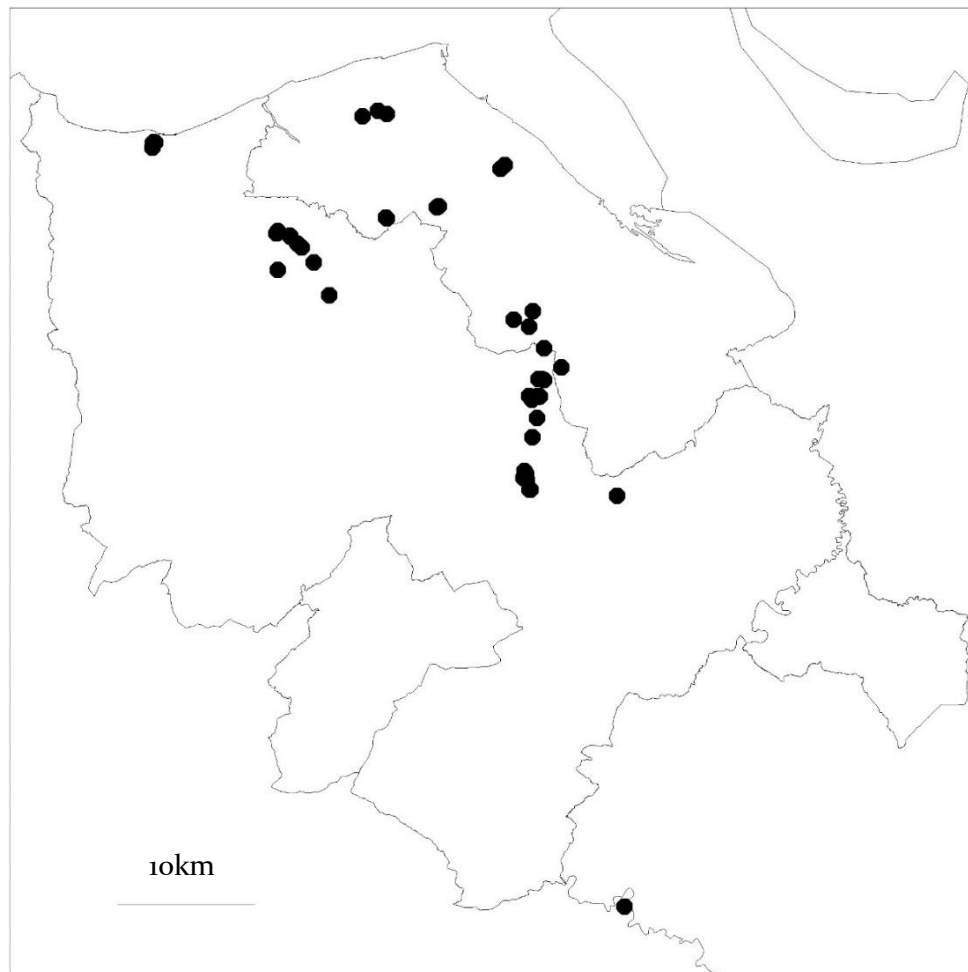
1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2014 and January/February 2015, the Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) carried out an assessment of known and possible archaeological caves in north-east Wales with grant aid provided by Cadw. This was designed to update an earlier assessment (Hankinson and Silvester 2009), conducted in 2008-9 under Cadw's scheduling enhancement programme, as a result of additional evidence coming to light. The earlier report considered caves throughout the CPAT area, but work for this revised report has been limited to those within the limestone region of north-east Wales. Caves in south Wales have not been re-examined. The background to the study of caves and their processes of formation, together with a discussion of the potential use of caves during different periods, was considered in the 2009 report and has not been reproduced here.
- 1.2 Following the 2008-9 report and subsequent field visits to cave sites recommended for scheduling therein, Cadw determined that further information and specialist input were required before a decision could be made before designations were finalised. This would enable Cadw to make an informed and robust assessment of their archaeological potential and significance. At the same time, some issues had been raised over potential additional sources of information for north-east Wales and the need to address conflicts between these sources and the data in the gazetteer that formed part of the 2008-9 CPAT report. This led to the formation of a working group comprising Elizabeth Walker (National Museum of Wales), Rob Dinnis (Oxford University), Fiona Gale (Denbighshire County Archaeologist), and representatives of Cadw and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) which established two courses of action:
- The expansion of the existing gazetteer to a 'peer-reviewed' version, incorporating additional sources of data and input from local and regional experts.
 - A collaborative programme of fieldwork, involving both the working group, and importantly this includes input from NRW, and regional experts with the aim of identifying robust candidates for scheduling based on the expanded gazetteer. The fieldwork to include visits to assess potential candidates and trial excavation, where appropriate.
- 1.3 The reassessment of caves was preceded by an informal seminar held at The Old Schoolhouse, Llanarmon-yn-Iâl, on 25 September 2014, where various interested parties gathered to watch presentations relating to the identification, recording and protection of caves of archaeological interest. In the afternoon session, discussion groups gathered to debate cave identification, fieldwork methods and management. The feedback from the group discussions has been utilised in this study and it is hoped that it will inform any future work programmes.
- 1.4 The work described here combined desk-top assessment of sources not examined in 2008-9, with a series of field visits designed to provide a rapid assessment of various caves' potential. A list of visits is included in Section 3.4 of this report.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The project was primarily a desk-top exercise, gathering information not already housed in the Historic Environment Record (HER). The starting point for the study was an extract from the HER, covering those caves recorded in 2008-9, and any others which had subsequently been recognised. The extract was used as a framework to collate additional data from the new sources and to add new sites, and it was also designed to introduce new information directly into the HER upon the completion of the project. The main thrust of the project was to produce an up-to-date gazetteer of archaeological caves, thereby providing background information against which further assessment could be planned.
- 2.2 The main source newly utilised was Cris Ebbs' website on the caves of north-east Wales (see Section 7.1), which is acknowledged to be the most comprehensive source of information available. Other interested parties have been consulted, from whom further information and a small number of additional sites were also forthcoming.
- 2.3 Although some of the caves with archaeological potential had been visited in 2008-9, there remained a group for which visits were still desirable. Each visit was designed to record the nature of a particular cave, primarily with a view to assessing its potential for in-situ deposits containing material of archaeological interest. As already noted, a list detailing the visits and their results is included in Section 3.4.
- 2.4 The results of the study comprise a revised list of sites and a more detailed gazetteer of the information relating to the caves of north-east Wales than its predecessor of 2009. The list contains all known sites that are thought to be relevant to this study, and it is ordered firstly by PRN (Appendix 1) and secondly by name (Appendix 2). The gazetteer incorporates a varied range of records, including non-authentic caves, multiple records relating to a single site, mines that have been recorded as caves in the past and group records of caves recorded individually elsewhere. Rather than separate out the authentic cave sites from the rest, the writer decided to keep all records in a single section (Appendix 3) in order to avoid confusion and provide a simpler format for the reader. Authentic individual caves have headings in **bold black** type, while all others have headings in **bold grey** type. The latter group are, nevertheless, relevant to the study as a whole.
- 2.5 Although it is as comprehensive as possible, given current knowledge, the list necessarily reflects only a proportion of the total number of caves in existence in north-east Wales, given that there will be others, currently unrecognised, that have varying potential for the retention of evidence relating to former land-use and climate in addition to past faunal and human use. There will also be caves containing significant archaeological deposits that have been masked by later geomorphological processes and so have not yet been recognised. Furthermore some caves have been listed where there is no existing evidence of occupation or utilisation, but whose potential is worth considering, as a tacit acknowledgement that there are known caves whose significance has yet to be appreciated.
- 2.6 In some cases, the names of caves have become confused, with different authorities and researchers adopting different names, leading to various misunderstandings. Where possible, the alternatives are given in the descriptions in Appendix 3, and the revised names have been chosen to fit with the more common usage (normally that proposed by Cris Ebbs), wherever possible. However, irrespective of their names, it is

the Primary Record Numbers for the caves in the HER and the associated National Grid References for their locations that allow the caves to be uniquely identified within the parameters of the project.



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Fig. 1: Distribution of caves with known or potential archaeological significance in north-east Wales

- 2.7 In general, we have not exploited any additional historical sources relating to caves and their excavation, beyond those examined in 2008-9. Those sources are detailed at the end of this report for convenience, with a small number of additions and revisions, where appropriate. Some of these have been drawn from Ebbs' website (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>).
- 2.8 Returning to the site visits these normally comprised the examination of readily accessible parts of the cave, with a view to identifying features and deposits of potential interest. In some cases, a superficial clean of the deposits was attempted to see if this provided a better basis for assessment, but the results were generally inconclusive. Larger-scale trial excavations are needed to confirm the nature of the deposits examined.
- 2.9 The trial excavations will necessarily vary in scope and scale, depending on the nature of the cave being assessed, and may also include work immediately outside the cave as

well as within suitable locations in its interior. In the past 1m² test pits have been used on surface sites to determine the presence or absence of relevant deposits and one of these per cave may provide a starting point, but it is clearly inappropriate to remove a significant proportion of the surviving deposits in a cave by means of this evaluative process. The exact methods adopted for each cave will depend on the topography of the site and the nature of its associated deposits and this is something which is most appropriately dealt with by the project group examining the site in question on the ground.

- 2.10 The Cadw-funded aspect of the work will be designed to retrieve sufficient evidence to determine whether significant deposits survive either within or outside a cave or shelter. The deposits could include material relating to occupation or burial at the site in any of a range of dates, most likely from the Neolithic to the Roman periods, but could also include palaeo-environmental evidence. It follows that those of the project group with specialist interests may not wish to be involved with all aspects of this work, but also that there could be opportunities for them to continue their input into a phase beyond the initial trial excavations.
- 2.11 To summarise, there are a number of elements which will combine to inform the project work in the forthcoming year whose scope and extent cannot be determined at present. It is proposed that an outline programme of fieldwork will be established at a meeting of the project group at the beginning of the 2015-16 financial year.

3 RESULTS OF THE STUDY

- 3.1 At the completion of this year's study, the gazetteer contained a total of 85 records, of which 59 related to individual caves potentially containing deposits or features of archaeological interest relevant to this study. The other 26 records included additional records, created by the HER, of caves occupied or used in more than one phase or period, records relating to groups of caves where each cave was in addition recorded individually, and sites that should be classed not as caves but as mines.
- 3.2 The information provided by Ebbs has clearly enhanced the archaeological record, both from the point of view of adding to the total numbers of caves recorded and as a result of the site visits which he has carried out over many years to provide additional information for his website. His examination of caves in the vicinity of Llandegla (Denbs) was published in 2013, and represents a significant contribution to the study as a whole and the protection of caves in that locality.
- 3.3 The visits carried out by CPAT, both in 2008-9 and 2014-15, were designed to assess the potential of each site to retain evidence of past use, or material of archaeological interest. The following list provides an overview of the visits, including whether there is the potential for a site to yield archaeological evidence by small-scale investigation of the surviving deposits. The terms used to describe condition are:
Excavated, meaning there have been large-scale archaeological excavations;
Dug, which refers to large-scale excavations apparently undertaken without archaeological oversight; and
In-situ, meaning the deposits in the cave are relatively undisturbed.

3.4 The suggestions for further work are largely self-explanatory, except perhaps *In progress*, which refers to sites currently undergoing archaeological excavation. The lower section of Gwaenysgor Cave has been contaminated by sewage and it seems self-evident that no work should be contemplated there.

3.5 *List of site visits*

<i>Name</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>Visited</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Further work?</i>
Big Covert Cave	102318	11/03/2009	Excavated	Trial excavation
Brasgyll Cave No.2 (Nant-y-Graig B)	101424	11/02/2009	In-situ	Trial excavation
Brasgyll Cave No.6 (Nant-y-Graig A)	102147	11/02/2009	Excavated	Trial excavation
Bryn Alyn Cave No. 3	123461	06/01/2015	Excavated	None
Bryn Alyn Cave No. 5	123462	06/01/2015	In-situ	Trial excavation?
Bryngwyn Quarry Cave	84434	06/01/2015	Dug?	Trial excavation?
Caerwys Cave No. 2	123464	07/01/2015	In-situ?	None
Caerwys Cave No. 3	123465	07/01/2015	In-situ	Trial excavation
Cefn Cave	19306	11/02/2009	Excavated	None (SAM)
Cefn Old Cave	102136	11/02/2009	In-situ	None (SAM)
Dulas Cave	123466	15/02/2015	Dug	Trial excavation
Eryrys Hill Cave	123467	Visit by RD	In-situ	Trial excavation
Galltfaenan Cave	54853	11/02/2009	Excavated	None
Gop Cave	102261	06/03/2009	Excavated	None (SAM)
Gwaenysgor Cave	102239	06/03/2009	Excavated	Contaminated
Llanarmon Cave	100895	11/03/2009	Excavated	In progress
Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave No. 1)	100947	11/03/2009	Excavated	In progress
Nant-y-fuach rock shelter	102106	06/03/2009	Excavated	None
Ogof Colomendy	102804	06/01/2015	Excavated	Trial excavation
Orchid Cave	103035	11/03/2009	Dug	Examine spoil
Plas Heaton Cave	100568	07/01/2015	Excavated	Trial excavation?
Pontnewydd Cave	102132	11/02/2009	Excavated	None (SAM)
Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 1	123456	16/01/2015	In-situ	Trial excavation
Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 2	123457	16/01/2015	Dug	None
Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 3	123458	16/01/2015	Dug	None
Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 4	123459	16/01/2015	Dug	Trial excavation
Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 5	123337	16/01/2015	Dug	Trial excavation?
Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 6	123460	16/01/2015	Uncertain	None

3.6 The list identifies thirteen caves where small-scale excavations might be considered to provide information on their significance. One of these, Eryrys Hill Cave, has been examined by Dr Dinnis and thought to have sufficient potential to merit further investigation. The methods which may be used are discussed in the following section.

4 PROPOSED METHODOLOGY FOR FUTURE STUDY

- 4.1 As stated above, the primary motivation for this further study of caves is to identify in-situ archaeological deposits. While it is possible to invoke a 'gut instinct' on the archaeological potential of a cave, either from its overall appearance and accessibility or from the observed nature of the surviving deposits, there are no hard and fast rules that can be cited to provide a convincing result. A comment of John Blore's during his presentation at the seminar at Llanarmon-yn-Iâl, namely that 'if a cave is large enough to let a human crawl in, then it holds archaeological potential', is particularly apposite.
- 4.2 The thirteen caves where excavation might be contemplated are reasonably well spread throughout the limestone area of north-east Wales and this distribution is important to ensure that the results of the study are not biased geographically. There are other caves which have not been visited in 2008-9 or in 2014-15, particularly those around Llandegla, that may merit further attention and it is hoped that a small amount of time can be found in the future to complete these visits and any additional work that might be needed to fulfil the aims of the project.
- 4.3 The question of how we can assess cave deposits in an efficient and timely manner within the limits of the available resources is a difficult one, as can be appreciated by anyone who has experience of or who has observed excavations of this type. The most appropriate approach is likely to involve a fairly rapid initial excavation, a method which is then revised if deposits of particular interest are identified. In concert with the excavation, the resultant spoil needs to be examined carefully to see if significant material is encountered and allow for the revision of techniques, should this be necessary. Ideally, this may mean that some form of water supply is required to enable wet sieving of the excavated material, although this may not be practicable owing to the inaccessibility of some sites.
- 4.4 It is difficult to specify a particular size for excavation, as each cave is of different shape and size, so it is perhaps best left to the excavators to determine the scale of investigation that is possible with the given resources. In some cases, particularly where the deposits appear to be relatively undisturbed, area excavation may be the most appropriate method, but there are also caves which have been subject to disturbance in the past where other methods may be appropriate. As an example, there are some of the Tan-yr-Ogof caves (PRNs 123337, 123456-460) where the deposits filling the outer section of the cave have been excavated in the past, probably without any form of archaeological supervision, and it seems more appropriate in these caves that the initial work should involve cleaning and/or cutting back an existing section through the deposits to see if this provides sufficient information for a decision to be made on whether additional work is appropriate.
- 4.5 Given that the main aim is to identify whether deposits of archaeological significance are present with a view to their future preservation and protection, consideration needs to be given to the point at which the cumulative evidence is sufficient to fulfil that aim. While it is clear that particular finds, such as bones and artefacts, provide the key evidence, it is the writer's opinion that understanding the nature of deposition of any such finds is equally important, to ensure that authentic in-situ material can be properly defined. This involves at least some attempt to assess the deposits themselves to determine their origin, in so far as that is possible.

- 4.6 There are some inherent difficulties with working in caves, one of which is the need to make sure there is sufficient light to allow for the legitimate examination of deposits and the identification of finds at the time of excavation. From his work in this field, it is Dr Dinnis' opinion that the smallest artefacts can often provide the most significant evidence, and his experience has led him to favour on-site cataloguing and conservation, although whether this will be possible in all cases is uncertain. He has also commented that caves are prone to complex depositional sequences and that some assessment of the natural deposits is frequently desirable for comparative purposes.
- 4.7 In addition to the excavations themselves, consideration needs to be given to the employment of suitable specialists to identify and report on any material which may be forthcoming. This could potentially involve the assessment of at least lithics and skeletal material (both human and faunal), and needs to allow for radiocarbon determinations of suitable organic material, if any is recovered.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The work described in this report has been undertaken to provide a baseline against which the archaeological caves of the study area can be assessed. It is envisaged that there will be a further phase of investigation in the coming financial year, designed to determine conclusively whether some of the caves identified in the gazetteer contain in-situ archaeological deposits and to assess the nature of any which may survive. It is anticipated that the results will inform future scheduling decisions.
- 5.2 The importance of caves as repositories for material capable of informing our understanding of past environments is well understood and was alluded to in the 2009 CPAT report. In this regard, the lime-rich environment aids greatly the survival of bone, whether human or animal, but the presence of further material transported into caves by palaeoenvironmental processes is of equal importance.
- 5.3 The caving community itself is actively involved in the preservation of cave deposits, for example by restricting access to certain sites to members of a recognised caving club and taping off areas containing significant deposits. Many caves, however, have no form of protection for any deposits that they might hold. In the case of those known to contain archaeological material there is generally no overt evidence to inform a user of the cave of the need for this material to be protected from damage, whether it is a designated site or not. Clearly, some thought should be given to informing the public about the sensitivity of cave environments.
- 5.4 The potential threat to caves from limestone quarrying was mentioned in the 2009 report and the situation is little changed. The potential still exists for this activity to impact on caves in the future unless sites are accorded some form of statutory protection. The likelihood of quarry activity exposing caves that have not previously been recognised should also be considered, and attempts made to consult with the relevant companies to ensure that valuable evidence is not lost.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1 The writer would like to thank Will Davies, the regional Cadw Inspector, and Fiona Gale, Denbighshire County Archaeologist, for their support and help with the project. The work could not have been carried out without permission from the various landowners of the caves that have been examined.
- 6.2 Particular thanks are due to Cris Ebbs, John Blore and Peter Appleton for offering information and suggestions of sites with archaeological potential, much of which has been incorporated in the gazetteer of cave sites. Ebbs' website on the caves of North Wales has provided the vast majority of the new information reproduced herein.
- 6.3 Thanks are also due to Dr Rob Dinnis of Oxford University for his work on developing a methodology for the further study of the caves, some of which is summarised in Section 4, and Elizabeth Walker of the National Museum Wales. Also, to all who attended the seminar on the caves of north-east Wales at Llanarmon-yn-Iâl, for their contributions and comments.
- 6.4 The writer would like to thank his colleagues at CPAT, Viviana Culshaw and Menna Bell, for their assistance with the site visits; the latter has also contributed to the report.
- 6.5 Some of the site visits were carried out in the company of Peter Appleton and Tony King and the writer would like to thank them for their help and contributions.

7 SOURCES

7.1 Digital sources

Blore's website relating to Lynx Cave: <http://lynxcave.webs.com/>

Ebbs' website: <https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>

A gazetteer of information about natural caves, fissures and rock shelters in Wales that have contained human remains of possible or proven prehistoric date, compiled by A.T. Chamberlain, University of Manchester, is available at:
<http://caveburial.ubss.org.uk/wales/wales.htm>.

This was formerly referred to as: Chamberlain, A.T., and Williams, J.P., 2000. 'A Gazetteer of Welsh Caves, Fissures and Rock Shelters Containing Human Remains', *Capra* 2. (<http://capra.group.shef.ac.uk/2/wales.html>)

A research report on the impact of limestone quarries on caves in northern England is available at:
http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-1119-1/dissemination/pdf/Caves_ALSF_4996_Research_Report_for_EH_sent_ADS.pdf

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7.3 Cartographic Sources

1994 British Geological Survey map: The Rocks of Wales (Geological map of Wales - Solid edition at 1:250,000 scale)

1876 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 map (Denbighshire 4.6)

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF ALL SITES ASSESSED DURING THE CAVES STUDY (by PRN)

<i>PRN</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>NGR</i>
<i>Type</i>		<i>Period</i>
13089	Denbigh cave	SJ0443366705
Cave		Unknown
15864	Llanymynech Ogof Mine, Roman activity	SJ265223
Cave occupation		Roman
19106	Grange Farm Cave	SJ173763
Cave occupation		Prehistoric
19107	Gwaenysgor Cave, Harrison's Entrance (formerly Gwaenysgor Cave)	SJ0802580391
Cave occupation		Prehistoric
19108	White Quarry caves; Barnewell cave	SJ1776
Cave occupation		Prehistoric
19109	Perthi Chwarae Farm Caves	SJ18805360
Multiple site		Neolithic
19306	Cefn Cave (formerly Cefn caves multiple)	SJ02057052
Multiple site		Multiperiod
19309	Brasgyll caves	SJ00567130
Cave occupation		Multiperiod
19412	Cae Gronw Cave	SJ015711
Rock shelter		Palaeolithic
24204	Pot Hole Valley cave	SJ20306010
Cave		Unknown
24310	Eisteddfa Farm mine entrance	SJ14755560
Mine		Unknown
24388	Big Covert Badger cave	SJ20206050
Cave		Unknown
24398	Bryn Alyn Caves (Formerly Burley Quarry caves)	SJ20105940
Multiple site		Unknown
34749	Dawkins' Llandegla hominin caves (Rhos Isaf Caves, multiple)	SJ18865357
Multiple site		Neolithic
34750	Clwyd Forest Cave	SJ198605
Cave occupation		Neolithic
54853	Galltfaenan Cave	SJ0230570259
Cave		Unknown
54854	Ogof yr Iwrch	SJ19005930
Cave		Unknown
54884	Tan-yr-Ogof caves (formerly Cefn yr Ogof caves)	SH9150377944
Multiple site		Unknown
79456	Llechryd, cave	SJ00646843
Cave		Unknown
80138	Llanymynech Quarry, cave	SJ2607021750
Cave		Unknown
84434	Bryngwyn Quarry Cave	SJ2143961438
Cave		Unknown
97857	Ty 'n-y-caeau, hole in rock	SJ0677480987
Cave		Unknown

99270	Cilcain Cave (formerly Rhyd-y-Feni Cave)	SJ17956490
Cave		Unknown
100568	Plas Heaton Cave	SJ03216911
Cave occupation		Multiperiod
100569	Plas Heaton Cave, Neolithic finds	SJ03216911
Cave occupation		Neolithic
100570	Plas Heaton Cave, Mesolithic finds	SJ03216911
Cave occupation		Mesolithic
100895	Llanarmon Cave	SJ19315628
Cave occupation		Multiperiod
100930	Perthi Chwarae Farm Cave I	SJ18795363
Cave occupation		Neolithic
100940	Rhos Isaf Cave A	SJ1884453557
Cave occupation		Neolithic
100947	Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1)	SJ1976359309
Cave occupation		Multiperiod
100948	Lynx Cave, Palaeolithic activity	SJ1976359309
Cave occupation		Palaeolithic
100949	Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1), Mesolithic activity	SJ1976359309
Cave occupation		Mesolithic
100950	Lynx Cave, Roman activity	SJ1976359309
Cave occupation		Roman
101424	Brasgyll Cave No.2 (Nant y Graig Cave B)	SJ0058371318
Cave occupation		Multiperiod
101774	Rhos Isaf Cave B	SJ1876953457
Cave occupation		Neolithic
101775	Rhos Isaf Cave C	SJ18765345
Cave occupation		Neolithic
101776	Rhos Isaf Cave D	SJ18655327
Rock shelter		Neolithic
102106	Nant-y-fuach rock shelter	SJ06777979
Rock shelter		Multiperiod
102132	Pontnewydd Cave	SJ01527102
Cave occupation		Palaeolithic
102135	Cefn Cave, Western Entrance	SJ02027053
Cave occupation		Prehistoric
102136	Cefn Old Cave	SJ02037049
Cave occupation		Palaeolithic
102137	Cefn Cave, Southern Entrance	SJ02057052
Cave occupation		Unknown
102138	Cefn cave, Eastern Entrance	SJ02077052
Cave		Unknown
102147	Brasgyll Cave No.6 (Nant-y-Graig Cave A)	SJ0056171303
Rock shelter		Multiperiod
102158	Ffynnon Beuno Cave	SJ08537242
Cave occupation		Palaeolithic
102159	Cae-Gwyn cave	SJ08527244
Cave occupation		Palaeolithic
102174	Tynewydd Cave	SJ08567226
Cave occupation		Palaeolithic

102239	Gwaenysgor Cave Upper Entrance (formerly Gop Farm Cave)	SJ08028041
	Cave occupation	Palaeolithic
102261	Gop Cave	SJ08648008
	Cave occupation	Multiperiod
102262	Gop Cave, Palaeolithic	SJ08648008
	Cave occupation	Palaeolithic
102263	Gop Cave, Neolithic	SJ08648008
	Cave occupation	Neolithic
102264	Gop Cave, prehistoric	SJ08648008
	Cave occupation	Prehistoric
102318	Big Covert Cave	SJ19796055
	Cave occupation	Multiperiod
102319	Big Covert Cave, Bronze Age	SJ19796055
	Cave occupation	Bronze Age
102320	Big Covert Cave, Roman	SJ19796055
	Cave occupation	Roman
102804	Ogof Colomendy	SJ2020162773
	Rock shelter	Neolithic
102953	Minera Cave	SJ255520
	Cave occupation	Prehistoric
103035	Orchid Cave	SJ1999060497
	Cave occupation	Multiperiod
120881	Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1), Bronze Age activity	SJ1976359309
	Cave occupation	Bronze Age
123337	Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 5	SH91547793
	Cave	Unknown
123451	Brasgyll Cave No.8	SJ0060571416
	Cave	Unknown
123452	Llandegla Cave E	SJ1882753579
	Cave	Unknown
123453	Llandegla Cave L (Basil's Cave)	SJ1888153165
	Cave	Unknown
123454	Llandegla Cave 1	SJ1909352416
	Cave	Unknown
123455	Llandegla Cave 2	SJ1915752422
	Cave	Unknown
123456	Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 1	SH9139977893
	Cave	Unknown
123457	Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 2	SH9139577905
	Cave	Unknown
123458	Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 3	SH9142177910
	Cave	Unknown
123459	Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 4	SH9150377944
	Cave	Unknown
123460	Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 6	SH91497793
	Cave	Unknown
123461	Bryn Alyn Cave No. 3	SJ19755927
	Cave	Unknown
123462	Bryn Alyn Cave No. 5 (Hawthorn Cave)	SJ1993159324
	Cave	Unknown

123463	Bryn Alyn Cave No. 12	SJ192885889
Cave		Unknown
123464	Caerwys Cave No. 2	SJ1236973200
Rock shelter		Unknown
123465	Caerwys Cave No. 3	SJ1238573201
Cave		Unknown
123466	Dulas Cave	SH9136377594
Cave		Unknown
123467	Eryrys Hill Cave	SJ1964257696
Cave		Unknown
123468	Caerwys Caves	SJ12377320
Multiple site		Unknown
123469	Brasgyll Cave No.3	SJ0049971259
Cave		Unknown
128550	Perthi Chwarae Farm Cave II	SJ18855370
Cave occupation		Neolithic
128551	Rhos Isaf Cave E	SJ1870253323
Cave occupation		Neolithic
128674	Limekiln cave I	SJ18755379
Cave		Unknown
128675	Limekiln Cave II	SJ18755379
Cave		Unknown
132147	Murphy's Pot	SJ1904864417
Cave		Mesolithic?
132161	Skull Pot	SJ1934665524
Cave		Unknown

APPENDIX 2

LIST OF ALL SITES ASSESSED DURING THE CAVES STUDY (by Name)

<i>PRN</i> <i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>NGR</i> <i>Period</i>
24388 Cave	Big Covert Badger cave	SJ20206050 Unknown
102318 Cave occupation	Big Covert Cave	SJ19796055 Multiperiod
102319 Cave occupation	Big Covert Cave, Bronze Age	SJ19796055 Bronze Age
102320 Cave occupation	Big Covert Cave, Roman	SJ19796055 Roman
19309 Cave occupation	Brasgyll caves	SJ00567130 Multiperiod
101424 Cave occupation	Brasgyll Cave No.2 (Nant y Graig Cave B)	SJ0058371318 Multiperiod
123469 Cave	Brasgyll Cave No.3	SJ0049971259 Unknown
102147 Rock shelter	Brasgyll Cave No.6 (Nant-y-Graig Cave A)	SJ0056171303 Multiperiod
123451 Cave	Brasgyll Cave No.8	SJ0060571416 Unknown
24398 Multiple site	Bryn Alyn Caves (Formerly Burley quarry caves)	SJ20105940 Unknown
123461 Cave	Bryn Alyn Cave No. 3	SJ19755927 Unknown
123462 Cave	Bryn Alyn Cave No. 5 (Hawthorn Cave)	SJ1993159324 Unknown
123463 Cave	Bryn Alyn Cave No. 12	SJ192885889 Unknown
84434 Cave	Bryngwyn Quarry Cave	SJ2143961438 Unknown
19412 Rock shelter	Cae Gronw Cave	SJ015711 Palaeolithic
102159 Cave occupation	Cae-Gwyn cave	SJ08527244 Palaeolithic
123468 Multiple site	Caerwys Caves	SJ12377320 Unknown
123464 Rock shelter	Caerwys Cave No. 2	SJ1236973200 Unknown
123465 Cave	Caerwys Cave No. 3	SJ1238573201 Unknown
19306 Multiple site	Cefn Cave (formerly Cefn caves multiple)	SJ02057052 Multiperiod
102138 Cave	Cefn cave, Eastern Entrance	SJ02077052 Unknown
102137 Cave occupation	Cefn Cave, Southern Entrance	SJ02057052 Unknown
102135 Cave occupation	Cefn Cave, Western Entrance	SJ02027053 Prehistoric

102136	Cefn Old Cave	SJ02037049
	Cave occupation	Palaeolithic
99270	Cilcain Cave (formerly Rhyd-y-Feni Cave)	SJ17956490
	Cave	Unknown
34750	Clwyd Forest Cave	SJ198605
	Cave occupation	Neolithic
34749	Dawkins' Llandegla hominin caves (Rhos Isaf Caves, multiple)	SJ18865357
	Multiple site	Neolithic
13089	Denbigh cave	SJ0443366705
	Cave	Unknown
123466	Dulas Cave	SH9136377594
	Cave	Unknown
24310	Eisteddfa Farm mine entrance	SJ14755560
	Mine	Unknown
123467	Eryrys Hill Cave	SJ1964257696
	Cave	Unknown
102158	Ffynnon Beuno Cave	SJ08537242
	Cave occupation	Palaeolithic
54853	Galltfaenan Cave	SJ0230570259
	Cave	Unknown
102261	Gop Cave	SJ08648008
	Cave occupation	Multiperiod
102263	Gop Cave, Neolithic	SJ08648008
	Cave occupation	Neolithic
102262	Gop Cave, Palaeolithic	SJ08648008
	Cave occupation	Palaeolithic
102264	Gop Cave, prehistoric	SJ08648008
	Cave occupation	Prehistoric
19106	Grange Farm Cave	SJ173763
	Cave occupation	Prehistoric
19107	Gwaenysgor Cave, Harrison's Entrance) (formerly Gwaenysgor Cave)	SJ0802580391
	Cave occupation	Prehistoric
102239	Gwaenysgor Cave Upper Entrance (formerly Gop Farm Cave)	SJ08028041
	Cave occupation	Palaeolithic
128674	Limekiln cave I	SJ18755379
	Cave	Unknown
128675	Limekiln Cave II	SJ18755379
	Cave	Unknown
100895	Llanarmon Cave	SJ19315628
	Cave occupation	Multiperiod
123452	Llandegla Cave E	SJ1882753579
	Cave	Unknown
123453	Llandegla Cave L (Basil's Cave)	SJ1888153165
	Cave	Unknown
123454	Llandegla Cave 1	SJ1909352416
	Cave	Unknown
123455	Llandegla Cave 2	SJ1915752422
	Cave	Unknown

15864	Llanymynech Ogof Mine, Roman activity	SJ265223
	Cave occupation	Roman
80138	Llanymynech Quarry, cave	SJ2607021750
	Cave	Unknown
79456	Llechryd, cave	SJ00646843
	Cave	Unknown
100947	Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1)	SJ1976359309
	Cave occupation	Multiperiod
120881	Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1), Bronze Age activity	SJ1976359309
	Cave occupation	Bronze Age
100949	Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1), Mesolithic activity	SJ1976359309
	Cave occupation	Mesolithic
100948	Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1), Palaeolithic activity	SJ1976359309
	Cave occupation	Palaeolithic
100950	Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1), Roman activity	SJ1976359309
	Cave occupation	Roman
102953	Minera Cave	SJ255520
	Cave occupation	Prehistoric
132147	Murphy's Pot	SJ1904864417
	Cave	Mesolithic?
102106	Nant-y-fuach rock shelter	SJ06777979
	Rock shelter	Multiperiod
102804	Ogof Colomendy	SJ2020162773
	Rock shelter	Neolithic
54854	Ogof yr Iwrch	SJ19005930
	Cave	Unknown
103035	Orchid Cave	SJ1999060497
	Cave occupation	Multiperiod
100930	Perthi Chwarae Farm Cave I	SJ18795363
	Cave occupation	Neolithic
128550	Perthi Chwarae Farm Cave II	SJ18855370
	Cave occupation	Neolithic
19109	Perthi Chwarae Farm Caves	SJ18805360
	Multiple site	Neolithic
100568	Plas Heaton Cave	SJ03216911
	Cave occupation	Multiperiod
100569	Plas Heaton Cave, Neolithic finds	SJ03216911
	Cave occupation	Neolithic
100570	Plas Heaton Cave, Mesolithic finds	SJ03216911
	Cave occupation	Mesolithic
102132	Pontnewydd Cave	SJ01527102
	Cave occupation	Palaeolithic
24204	Pot Hole Valley cave	SJ20306010
	Cave	Unknown
100940	Rhos Isaf Cave A	SJ1884453557
	Cave occupation	Neolithic
101774	Rhos Isaf Cave B	SJ1876953457
	Cave occupation	Neolithic
101775	Rhos Isaf Cave C	SJ18765345
	Cave occupation	Neolithic
101776	Rhos Isaf Cave D	SJ18655327
	Rock shelter	Neolithic

128551	Rhos Isaf Cave E	SJ1870253323
	Cave occupation	Neolithic
132161	Skull Pot	SJ1934665524
	Cave	Unknown
123456	Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 1	SH9139977893
	Cave	Unknown
123457	Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 2	SH9139577905
	Cave	Unknown
123458	Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 3	SH9142177910
	Cave	Unknown
123459	Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 4	SH9150377944
	Cave	Unknown
123337	Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 5	SH91547793
	Cave	Unknown
123460	Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 6	SH91497793
	Cave	Unknown
54884	Tan-yr-Ogof caves (formerly Cefn yr Ogof caves)	SH9150377944
	Multiple site	Unknown
102174	Tynewydd Cave	SJ08567226
	Cave occupation	Palaeolithic
97857	Ty 'n-y-caeau, hole in rock	SJ0677480987
	Cave	Unknown
19108	White Quarry caves; Barnewell cave	SJ1776
	Cave occupation	Prehistoric

APPENDIX 3

GAZETTEER OF ALL SITES ASSESSED DURING THE CAVES STUDY (headings in grey denote either non-authentic caves, multiple records relating to a single cave, mines or group records of caves recorded individually elsewhere in the gazetteer)

PRN	Name	NGR
13089	Denbigh cave	SJ0443366705
Description		
Large pre-glacial cave, plugged with debris-flow material and stalagmite and stalactite formations. Entrance is 7m wide by >3m high. A small trench was excavated in 1976 outside the entrance but no conclusions were reached. The original location of this record was SJ 044 667. May be the only unexcavated cave in north Wales of considerable size. (Ebbs, C, 1996, 63)		

The cave is also described by Oldham (1991, 17) under the name 'Cuppy Cave', which refers to the nearby farm. However, the description suggests that the cave is no more than 0.6m high, and extends for about 8m in length. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT 2009)

The original HER description actually relates to two separate caves at Cuppy Farm, near Denbigh and Ebbs describes three caves in the area: Cave Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Cave No. 2 being lost and untraceable. Ebbs states that Cuppy Cave No. 3 is also called Denbigh Cave, and is located at SJ 04433 66705; it is this to which the first part of the original HER description relates, while Oldham's 'Cuppy Cave' is probably Cave No. 1, which, according to Ebbs, is located at SJ 04276 66788. (Menna Bell, hereafter MB, 15/12/14)

Ebbs has the following description of Denbigh Cave:

'A 3m x 5m entrance visible from the road almost totally plugged with glacial debris flow deposits. Cuppy Cave 3 may be the only remaining cave in north Wales having such a large entrance and known to contain similar, but as yet, unexcavated debris flow deposits. At the entrance, substantial blocks of in situ and derived speleothem can clearly be seen, indicating many periods of speleothem deposition. The cave could have considerable archaeological potential. The landowner, who has farmed the area all his life, stated (in October 2012) that the area in front of the cave entrance was about 10 metres deeper until it was filled with waste material from a local housing development in the 1960s. Prior to this, a second similar entrance was clearly visible at the base of the now-filled depression. He describes the second entrance as being at least as large as Cuppy Cave 3, and also nearly filled with deposits. This would suggest that before the 1960s, Cuppy Cave 3 was elevated some 10m above ground level, and may possibly account for the fact that in 1974, the deposits plugging the entrance had been unaffected by animal excavation'. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

Dinnis (pers. comm.) notes that the deposits in this cave are of considerable (geological) age.

15864	Llanymynech Ogof Mine, Roman activity	SJ265223
A range of Roman artefacts were recovered from excavations of Ogof entrance in 1969, together with many others from the interior, as far back as the 1750s. Perhaps this was occupation, but is more likely associated with occasional visits for sepulchral rituals. (HER)		

Cave with possible Roman associations. A trumpet brooch was found here. (Branigan, K and Dearne, M J, 1992, 110).

CPAT 2009: Despite its name, the site is effectively artificial, and was probably first mined for copper in prehistory, rather than the Roman period. Implements made from copper with a chemical signature confirming that it originated in this immediate locality have been found from Iron Age contexts in the past. Hammer marks on the walls of the mine have been observed by the writer, but these remain undated. The writer is also aware that at least one deliberate burial has been found within the cave in the past, as well as a hoard of Roman coins that were allegedly hidden behind an area of calcified waste. It seems improbable that the mine would have been in operation by the time it was being used as a place of burial and for the deliberate concealment of valuables. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT 2009)

The site was visited in late 2014 by the Early Mines Research Group, their examination of the mine suggesting that blunt iron tools were used to create the passages beyond the shaft chamber; a late Iron Age/early Roman date was suggested for this activity. The date of the other passages was thought to be earlier, but the evidence was not conclusive. (Richard Hankinson, hereafter RH, 18/02/2015)

19106 Grange Farm Cave

SJ173763

Situated behind The Grange near Holywell. Used as storage dumps during war. One of three caves in this area. Remains from caves at Stoneyhurst College, Lancashire. (Valdemar, A E and Jones, R D 1970, 100).

A reproduction of an advert for the Grange Cavern military museum is included in Oldham (1991, 28), mentioning that the caverns were excavated in the 19th century to provide stone for the construction of the South Docks in Liverpool and that they were reused as a bomb store in WW2. The museum has since closed and the present use of the caverns is unknown (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT 2009).

According to Ebbs' website, the HER description for this record incorrectly includes a description for the Grange Caverns, this being a separate site. Ebbs provides the following additional information:

'It seems that the location of this cave was lost for many years. Although the bones found here are said to reside at Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe, the accompanying records are incomplete. However, recent research by Andrew Williams of Carmel, Holywell may have rediscovered the site. Access difficulties have prevented Andrew from entering the cave to provide a description but he describes the entrance as being of stooping size. The entrance lies below a rock overhang in a small dry valley not far from the farm'. The first reference to this cave is by J. Wilfrid Jackson of Manchester Museum, in *British Caving* 1953.....'Two caves at Holywell, Flintshire, have yielded animal remains. In one, known as Grange Farm Cave, the remains of hyaena and rhinoceros were found; and in the other, known as Barnewell Cave, mammal bones were met with'. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales>, accessed December 2014)

19107 Gwaenysgor Cave, Harrison's Entrance (formerly Gwaenysgor Cave) SJ0802580391

Note that this record is headed in grey as it relates to a second entrance to the cave described under PRN 102239, below. The two records were created independently, so have been retained for the present. (RH 16/03/2015)

Cave adjoining Gwaenysgor-Newmarket road in limestone outcrop. Entrances are due to mining activity. Excavated by Dyserth and District Field Club during 1950s/60s: animal bones of Pleistocene and post-Pleistocene found: National Museum of Wales (NMW) 45.179/34-47.

Possible Neolithic finds now in NMW acc.15/64/5-8.

CPAT 2009: First discovered in 1885, excavated in 1911 and 1930. Finds from the later excavation included human remains and flints. Most of the finds are said to be in the J W Jackson Collection, Manchester Museum.

Apparently contaminated by untreated sewage (Valdemar and Jones 1970, 101).

A shaft entrance mostly concealed by gorse with traces of a dilapidated chestnut fence was noted. This is quite close to the Gop Farm cave (PRN 102239) and it is possible that they may once have been interconnected. An iron grid immediately to the SW is no doubt related to the sewage outfall mentioned above. Location altered from SJ 0815 8030, where there is a spring but no recognisable cave entrance. Perhaps there was a further entrance nearby where there is a large amount of badger activity. (CPAT site visit 6/3/2009)

The human remains from this cave might have originated from Gop Cave. The finds from Gop had been stored in the columbarium at Gop Farm but were disposed of 'down an open mine shaft nearby' (Davies, 1949, 280) in about 1913. The description fits well as this site is also on the land belonging to Gop Farm. It is possible that this record and that of Gop Farm Cave may have been conflated by previous sources (Caves Scheduling enhancement Project, CPAT 2009).

A single cave known generally as Gwaenysgor Cave. It has 2 entrances, which have previously been recorded in the HER as 2 separate caves. See also PRN 102239. (Jeff Spencer, 2013 with information from Caves of North Wales website)



Plate 1: Gwaenysgor Cave, Harrison's Entrance. Photo CPAT 2784-0029.

The name for this record has been changed from Gwaenysgor Cave to Gwaenysgor Cave, Harrison's Entrance in accordance with Ebbs' description of the cave. The cave has an upper and lower series associated with the entrances, which has caused confusion in the past. The lower cave, to which this entrance gave access, has been contaminated and filled with sewage. Ebbs cites the second entrance as being located at SJ 08026 80421 and giving access to the Upper, uncontaminated, section of the cave. (MB 15/12/14)

Ebbs has a full description which is included in the entry for PRN 102239.
(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales>, accessed December 2014)

19108 White Quarry caves; Barnewell cave SJ1776

Six caves are recorded in a limestone quarry at Pantasaph. All except one are waterworn passage; one has deposits. Not known if there are archaeological deposits although one cave may be Barnewell cave referred to by Cullingford, C H D in British Caving. (Valdemar, A E and Jones, R D 1970).

In the case of Barnewell Cave, mammal remains were apparently collected by Rev G. Pollen in about 1897. The finds are said to be in the Museum of Stonyhurst College, Lancashire. (Oldham 1991, 1)

The grid reference given by Oldham for the White Quarry caves is SJ 1660 7590, but none of the descriptions suggest a cave suitable for an excavation. The Cullingford (1962, 291) reference to Barnewell Cave only notes that it contained mammal bones and was near Holywell (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT 2009)

According to Ebbs' website (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014), there are now nine recognized caves in this area although none are suggested as having archaeological potential. To improve the integrity of the record, the following information from the website is included here, and note that there is also a sketch of the quarry on the website, referred to below:

This quarry had not been worked for many years until it was re-activated for a short time in the 1980s. Then earth-moving changed the quarry considerably, blocking some caves and revealing others previously unknown. Some of the caves listed here may therefore be new and should not be compared or confused with those mentioned in: Stride, A.H. and R.D. (1953) Britain Underground or Jenkins and Mason-Williams (1963 and 1967) Caves of Wales and the Marches, or elsewhere. One of the largest caves to have been lost was a vertical pot followed by a steeply descending floor into a chamber about 9m long x 3m wide x 2.5m high. This could perhaps be the lost Barnewell Cave, although there is no evidence to support this (Its position is shown as A on a sketch on ebbs' website).

By digging through rubbish, we revealed a drop of 15ft to a steeply sloping passage terminating in a roomy chamber (Source: Ebbs diary 20/5/1974).

A newly uncovered tube was also noticed in the quarry floor in 1987 after the quarry had been re-activated and again closed. This seemed explorable beyond a single jammed boulder (entrance shown at B on a sketch on Ebbs' website).

The nine caves are:

Cave 1, length 2m. An uninspiring silted tube.

Cave 2, length 3m. A small passage 3m long to a rift in the floor 11m deep now partially blocked by boulders.

Cave 3, length 5m. A crawl leads to a low passage but the entrance is nearly blocked by boulders.

Cave 4, depth 4m. A narrow rift pot to a small chamber with no way on.

Cave 5, length 2m. Uninspiring. 2m to silt and boulders.

Cave 6, length 1m. Merely a silted niche, but a way on can be seen inside.

Cave 7, length 20m. Roomy entrance reduces in height from 2m to a crawl. Obvious entrance half way up the cliff face.

Cave 8, length 8m. A 4m tube leads to an S-bend after which a tight squeeze is followed to a small chamber. Concealed entrance half way up the cliff face and 6m to the right of Cave 9.

Cave 9, length 4m. Two entrances. The lower entrance is a 3m tube with a crawl at floor level which connects with the second entrance, a 2m pot.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

19109 Perthi Chwarae Farm Caves

SJ18805360

Formerly named Perthi Chwarae Farm Cave II and changed by Sophie Watson of CPAT to Perthi Chwarae Farm Caves (2014). Three caves are known in the vicinity of Perthi Chwarae Farm. Two are mentioned by Valdemar and Jones as having been emptied, the other as damaged by quarrying.

Five caves are described in this locality by Oldham. Five individuals from cave no 1, sixteen from cave no 2. The finds are in the Manchester Museum (Oldham 1991, 56-7).

One of the caves appeared to have been deliberately blocked. There was also an adjacent rubbish heap containing mammal bones, those of golden eagle, and mussel and cockle shells (Cullingford 1962, 291). The finds are in Cardiff and Manchester museums. (Cullingford 1962, 338)

This record has been superseded by PRN 34749.

19306 Cefn Cave (formerly Cefn caves multiple)

SJ02057052

Multiple site: Cefn Caves. See PRNs 102135, 102137, 102138 for the different entrances. Probably only one (PRN 102135) has been excavated. (This is almost certainly incorrect - RH 25/2/2015)

CPAT 2009:

This record is an overall reference to the upper three cave entrances recorded in the Cefn Rocks, all of which (PRNs 102135, 102137 and 102138) interconnect to form a single system (see detailed survey in Oldham 1991, 13).

Exploration and excavation commenced in the 1830s and is first described by the Rev E Stanley in 1833. Early finds included four flint flakes and pottery, together with human and apparently Pleistocene mammal bone. The presence of boulder clay pebbles and waterworn bone suggested that the deposits had been brought into the cave by the action of water (Dawkins 1874, 286).

The human bone and flint flakes are described as originating from the 'lower' entrance by Dawkins (1874, 159 and 286), probably referring to PRN 102135, although the possibility that some material originated from cave PRN 102136, nearby, cannot be dismissed. A late Upper Palaeolithic Creswellian point is recorded from an excavation, and noted by Campbell (1977). (Davies 1989, 100)

The finds from the 1830s excavations are now apparently in both the Grosvenor Museum, Chester and the National Museum Wales, Cardiff. (Oldham, 1991, 12). Other finds in Chester and Liverpool museums, and also in private hands (Cullingford 1962, 337).



Plate 2: Cefn Cave, western entrance (see also PRN 102135). Photo CPAT 2784-0002.

The W entrance is one of three whose passages interconnect underground, this being the first to be discovered and facing W towards Dolben outdoor activity centre on the opposite side of the valley. This entrance is situated at the rear of a ledge with near vertical rock faces above and below, its present appearance suggesting that it would have provided good shelter. It is unknown whether any deposits survive on the shelf outside the entrance, but it seems likely that this area is the 'lower entrance' mentioned by Dawkins (1874, 286), from which the flints and human bone were recovered. The other two entrances (PRNs 102137 and 102138) both appear to have been partially dug out, and this is confirmed by Dawkins (1874, 286) who describes them as having been 'completely blocked up with red silt, containing a vast quantity of bones in very bad preservation'. These other entrances face SSW and S.

In the interior, there are places where steps have been created to aid access, and it seems evident that the passages were used by visitors, probably in the 19th century, whose access was facilitated by a number of contouring tracks that can still be identified on the hillside. The site is used occasionally by the outdoor centre, but there seems to be no real impact as the floor is hard and quite stable. Its passages were formed during an early phase of the downcutting of the Elwy gorge and probably reflect fossil remnants of the old underground flow of the river. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)

There is an extensive literature on this group of caves for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

Information from Ebbs is as follows:

Archaeological cave, length 220m. Designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument DE115, the designated area encompasses the three entrances of Cefn Cave and Old Cefn Cave, the large cave nearer to river level below Cefn Cave. Three entrances give access to a series of large walking-sized passages. Much of the cave was cleared of infill in the search for bones from 1830 onwards. Finds include, hominin, mammoth, hippo, cave bear, lion and also flint flakes, worked antler and pottery. The National Museum of Wales carried out small-scale work at the cave in 1982-84. The oldest floor deposits have been dated to nearly 230,000 years (see also Pontnewydd Cave nearby). Once inhabited in the 1750s by a 'mysterious hermit' who lived in the entrance passage when it was only 20 feet long. The cave was visited by Charles Darwin in 1831 (then aged 22) with Adam Sedgewick (geologist). Later that year Darwin accepted his famous passage aboard the *Beagle*.

Excavated 1866 by T.J. Moore, curator of Liverpool City Museum.

Excavated 1869-70 by landowner, Mr Williams Wynn.

Excavated 1872 by William Boyd Dawkins.

Designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument in 1923.

Source: *Neanderthals in Wales* (2012)

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

Ebbs does not specify the exact location of these entrances but has produced a location plan and an annotated satellite image. According to the plan produced by Ebbs (based on surveys by Bryn Ellis and others in 1966 and a survey by the National Museum of Wales in 1991), the three entrances are the Western entrance, described as the main entrance, which faces south-west, the southern entrance facing south-south-east and the eastern entrance facing east-south-east.

The original HER records are as follows:

PRN 102135 Cefn cave III

PRN 102137 Cefn cave I

PRN 102138 Cefn cave II

To avoid any further confusion, these have been changed by CPAT to:

PRN 102135 Cefn Cave Western Entrance

PRN 102137 Cefn Cave Southern Entrance

PRN 102138 Cefn Cave Eastern Entrance

Documentary sources suggest that the finds from this cave are certainly prehistoric and perhaps as early as the Palaeolithic. This record name has been changed from Cefn caves (multiple) to Cefn Cave to reflect the fact that it is actually one cave with three entrances. This is not to be confused with Cefn Old Cave (PRN 1022136). (MB 11/12/14)

19309

Brasgyll caves

SJ00567130

A series of nine caves of various sizes on both sides of a small stream valley called the Nant-y-Graig. They are variously known as Brysgill Caves, Graig Caves or Nant-y-Graig caves. It seems reasonable to assume that other caves, in addition to those mentioned below, have the potential to reveal material of archaeological interest. The known finds are in NMW. Exploration in 1871 by Mrs William Wynn and Co. C S Mainwaring found evidence of occupation probably of Neolithic date. Finds include flint arrowheads, core and flakes,

charcoal, bones of horse, ox, goat and flog. Also explored in 1946 by J Hwel Owen who found red deer, ox, sheep, horse and pig bones as well as human bones from at least 6 individuals. Pottery of Romano-British, early 14th century and 17/18th century date were found in a disturbed layer. (HER)

It is unclear which of the nine caves were the ones explored. All contain water-borne deposits (Oldham, T 1989, 6).

See also PRNs 101424, 102147.

Davies (1949, 445-8) gives a detailed description of the work carried out by Hywel Owen in 1946 and it seems evident that it was Cave A that was excavated (PRN 102147: SJ 00561 71303). The existing HER record incorrectly states that 14th-century pottery was found, but this is due to a mis-interpretation of the original reference by Oldham (1991, 6) which should relate to a Romano-British cooking pot of early 4th-century date (apparently similar to black-burnished ware). See Davies (1949) or Cullingford (1962, 290) for the correct description of the finds. Cave B (PRN 101424: SJ 00583 71318) is that excavated by Mrs Williams-Wynn and Mr Mainwaring in 1871. Finds included flint arrowheads, core and flakes, charcoal, bones of horse, ox, goat and dog. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT 2009)

The original name for this record has been changed from Nant-y-Graig/Brysgill caves to Brasgyll to conform with that used by Ebbs, whose website states that there are only 8 caves in the Brasgyll gorge. Ebbs mentions that three of these caves have been archaeologically excavated (Caves 2, 6 and 8) and appear to contain further undisturbed deposits, but that only two are documented as having produced remains (Caves 2 and 6, PRNs 101424 and PRN 102147 respectively). (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

See also PRN 123451 for Brasgyll Cave No. 8. (MB 16/12/14)

19412

Cae Gronw Cave

SJ015711

Pleistocene and recent fauna from Cae Gronw cave. Excavations of H S Green 1985. NMW 86.32H.

No definite surface evidence was found of this cave when visited and it is presumed that it was backfilled after the excavation was completed. This was intimated by the owner when permission to visit was sought. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

Ebbs' website has the following additional information:

Also known as Upper Pontnewydd Cave. An archaeological shelter-type cave where limited excavation work was carried out by the National Museum of Wales in 1985. Finds include arctic lemming, bear and human remains of Neolithic age. The glacial fill which blocks the passage contains 'abundant' blocks of stalagmite. Prior to excavation, the entrance was completely filled with sediments. A small area of 3 square metres was excavated down to bedrock. The oldest radiocarbon date from the cave relates to bone of cave bear, being about 33,000 years of age (Source: Aldhouse-Green and Walker (2012) Neanderthals in Wales: Pontnewydd and the Elwy Valley Caves). (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

24204 Pot Hole Valley cave SJ20306010

New site recorded as a cave during Clwydian Range Upland Survey in 1996/7.

No known archaeological component. (Caves Scheduling enhancement project, CPAT 2009)

No cave is known at this grid reference. The location stated appears to be the centre of a lake in the disused Burley Hill Quarry, and no cave was known at this location before the quarry existed (Ebbs, C, Caves of North Wales website, 2011).

24310 Eisteddfa Farm mine entrance SJ14755560

New site recorded during Clwydian Range Upland Survey in 1996/7.

No known archaeological component. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT 2009)

This site is described by Ebbs to be the remains of old mine workings and not a natural cave. He cites its location as being SJ 14796 55580. (MB 15/12/14)

Ebbs gives the following description:

‘A large entrance measures 5m in height by 8m in width; the site is basically one large chamber descending to an almost horizontal floor at the end, some 15m from the entrance. Much of the roof and walls display numerous man-made linear markings including some later shot-holes left after blasting. Although the site gives the initial appearance of being a natural cave, the rock walls are either sandstone, or a very sandy limestone. In view of the iron residues visible in various places, and the abundance of man-made markings, the site is obviously the result of iron mining.’

Ebbs also provides the following comments, given by ancient mining expert Andy Lewis:

‘The iron pick marks obviously indicate there has been prospecting for some mineral. Judging by the shape of the passage, lack of mineral vein and iron staining, I would suspect the deposit could be a secondary infill feature of a solution pocket in the limestone/calcareous sandstone. There are similar deposits on Moel Hiraddug where cobalt and nickel bearing iron/manganese ores are found infilling older solution pockets and cave passage. I do not think the site is prehistoric, more likely 18-19th century would be my guess.’

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales>, accessed December 2014)

24388 Big Covert Badger cave SJ20206050

New site recorded during Clwydian Range Upland Survey in 1996/7.

There is no further information available for this cave and it does not appear on Ebbs' website. (MB 11/12/14)

24398 Bryn Alyn Caves (Formerly Burley quarry caves) SJ20105940

New site recorded during Clwydian Range Upland Survey in 1996/7. (HER)

Four caves described as Bryn Alyn caves 7-10 are noted in this area by Oldham (1991, 9), although the only information of any archaeological interest is that cave No 8 has been modified by mining. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT 2009)

Ebbs' website provides the following details on the caves:

Cave No. 7 NGR SJ 2023 5935

A short drop into a small chamber where a blocked passage can be seen at floor level.

Cave No. 8 NGR SJ 2023 5935

A 9m deep pot modified by mining containing a 9m mined passage. Entrance covered by large boulder. Tackle required.

Cave No. 9 NGR SJ 2023 5935

A 2m low crawl.

Cave No. 10 NGR SJ 2023 5935

A 9m crawl with a small aven on the right near the entrance.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales>, accessed December 2014)

The original HER name for this record has been changed from Burley Quarry Caves. Ebbs states that these caves are a part of a group of 12 caves in this area, most of which lie in the north facing side of Bryn Alyn overlooking 'Pothole Valley'. Cave No. 1 of the group is Lynx Cave (PRN 100947), but apart from this and the evidence for some mining activity in Cave No. 8, none of the caves have provided evidence for any activity of archaeological interest. For this reason the four caves have not been given individual records and this multiple PRN should suffice. Ebbs also provides a location plan for 11 out of the 12 caves on his website. (MB 18/12/14)

34749 Dawkins' Llandegla hominin caves (Rhos Isaf Caves (multiple) SJ18865357

Five caves are known to have been excavated here by Boyd Dawkins between 1869-72, producing various finds of Neolithic date. They occur in the west face of a limestone outcrop which runs NE to SW. Dawkins named the caves: Cave No. 1., Cave No. 2., then Cave, Rhosdigre, No.1., Cave, Rhosdigre, No.2., and Cave, Rhosdigre, No.3, but there are no known plans to show the exact locations of the caves excavated nor did he leave any detailed descriptions of their locations. Subsequently, the locations and identity of these caves became lost within the documentary record. Consequently, subsequent attempts to identify and locate the caves have caused confusion as various names have been assigned to the caves by a number of contributors. The confusion had also been exaggerated as new caves have been discovered within the area. At the time of writing (Dec 2014) there are a total of 13 caves within the Llandegla group. This encompasses the area of Rhos Isaf (formerly Rhosdigre), Perthi Chwarae and immediately west of the village of Llandegla. (MB 17/12/14)

Dawkins also excavated a refuse heap near to the caves, and this as well as the caves produced evidence of wild and domestic animals, including stag, roe deer, hare, pig, dog, horse, ox and goat. Bear and wild boar bones were also found on the floors of the caves as well as numerous human skeletons. Finds of a Neolithic axe, flints and coarse pottery were also recovered (Dawkins 1912, 61-108)

An entry (No 269) in the RCAHMW Denbighshire Inventory of 1914 refers to Dawkins (1874), where he states: 'We discovered and explored no less than 4 other sepulchral caves within a few hundred yards of the refuse heap in which the corpses had been buried.....From one on the farm of Rhosdigre we obtained a perfect celt of polished greenstone which had never been used, together with several flint flakes and numerous fragments of pottery'.

Cullingford (1962, 291) records that one of the caves appeared to have been deliberately blocked. There was also an adjacent rubbish heap containing mammal bones, those of golden eagle, and mussel and cockle shells. The finds were in Cardiff and Manchester museums. (Cullingford 1962, 338)

Five caves are described in this locality by Oldham with five individuals from cave no 1, sixteen from cave no 2. The finds are in the Manchester Museum. (Oldham 1991, 56-7)

Finds in NMW. (CPAT Lithics study, 2001)

In 2011, Ebbs re-assessed the Llandegla caves in an attempt to try and identify Dawkins' five caves. This was followed up by a survey in 2012, published by Ebbs (2013). He was able to identify Dawkins' prolific Cave No.1 (PRN 128550) and the remaining four caves (PRNs 100930, 101774, 101775, and 128551). His findings may necessitate a re-assessment of the existing schedulings for these caves. In total, Ebbs surveyed 11 caves within this group, labelling them Caves A - L. A further two caves (PRN 123454 and PRN 123455) were identified by Appleton (pers. comm.) and do not feature in Ebbs' survey. The HER records for the individual elements of this cave group have been updated to correspond with Ebbs' 2013 publication. These records include the alternative names for each cave.

34750 **Clwyd Forest Cave** **SJ198605**
Cave excavated in ?1970s with finds of human bones dated to Neolithic: 4170bp (OxA-3817). (Chamberlain, A 1996).

This reference relates to PRN 103035 to judge from Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

No evidence of a cave was found in the vicinity of the given NGR (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT 2009).

No cave exists within the locality stated for this record. The information provided by Chamberlain confirms that this is a duplicate record for Orchid Cave. (MB 16/12/14)

54853 **Galltfaenan Cave** **SJ0230570259**
Cave in the slope above the Elwy near its junction with the Afon Meirchion. The site is significant in that it was apparently excavated in 1871 by Prof McKenny Hughes and Mr Mainwaring, who found bones belonging hyaena, cave bear and reindeer. (Oldham 1991, 24)

The site is on a wooded W-facing slope overlooking the River Elwy and consists of a low overhang, c.7m long, created by the loss from erosion of one side of a fossil cave passage. There is a slight platform at the entrance, but the soils appear shallow and there doesn't seem to be much prospect for in-situ deposits there. The nature of the interior is not known, but the cave allegedly extends to the SE for about 85m from the end of the overhang, on two levels. Although mammal bones are noted, there is no known evidence of human settlement and there seems little room, at most it might have functioned as a temporary shelter. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT Field Visit 11/2/2009)

The entrance is 1.5m high but lowers to a crawl after 12m. An awkward climb 6m from the entrance leads to an upper rift passage (up to 6m high by 1m wide) which becomes too low after 15m. The cave was excavated in 1871 by Professor T. McKenny Hughes and Mr. Mainwaring who found bones of hyaena, cave bear and reindeer. Located at SJ 02315 70276. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales>, accessed December 2014)



Plate 3: Galtfaenan Cave. Photo CPAT 2784-0017

54854 **Ogof yr Iwrch**

SJ19005930

A cave to the west of Bryn yr Orsedd farm, described as an archaeological cave dug by Mr J D Blore in 1984. (Oldham 1991, 54)

No details are available of the material that was discovered, although the name given refers to a roebuck suggesting bones of this animal were recovered. The cave site was not identified during this visit, the only possible evidence revealed was along a W-facing limestone escarpment, where a badger sett in a natural hole was found at SJ 19026 59274 and what appeared to be an old mine shaft at SJ 18975 59221. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 11/3/2009)

Ebbs has the following to add to this description:

Although excavated by J. D. Blore of Wallasey, no archaeological finds were revealed and the excavation was abandoned due to the discovery of chemical contamination of the site. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales>, accessed December 2014)

54884 **Tan-yr-Ogof caves (formerly Cefn yr Ogof caves)**

SH9150377944

A group of about seven caves in the hillside overlooking the North Wales coast between Abergele and Llanddulas. The largest entrance is visible from below and measures about 6m in width and height, extending to a length of about 45m (Oldham 1991, 66). The cave was described by Pennant (1991, 348-9) near the end of the 18th century as having 'the most

magnificent entrance into a cave which Britain can boast'. No archaeological material has been reported from any of these caves at present, but this seems rather to reflect the lack of any systematic investigation and it is reasonable to expect that they would have been utilised in prehistory, given their large size and prominent position. A distribution map in Green (1989, 75) has a Mesolithic cave settlement site marked in this approximate position, but the exact location of the site and the basis of the attribution are unknown. (CPAT 2009)

It was not possible to gain access to the area at the time of the visit, but the location and size of the caves suggests strongly that they could have been utilised in the prehistoric period, as mentioned above. There are excellent views over what is now the sea to the N and the Great Orme is visible off to the WNW. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 6/3/2009)

The original HER name for this record has been changed from Cefn-yr-Ogof Caves to Tan-yr-Ogof Caves (formerly Cefn-yr-Ogof Caves). This is in accordance to the names published in other sources. According to Ebbs, there are only six caves within this location; this is the parent record for the following PRNs: 123456 Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 1; 123457 Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 2; 123458 Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 3; 123459 Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 4; 123337 Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 5; and 123460 Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 6. (MB 18/12/14)

Ebbs' website provides the following information:

A group of 6 caves in a large limestone outcrop overlooking the Irish Sea. The caves were named 'Tanyrogo' in *The Netherworld of Mendip* (1907) by Baker and Balch. The name presumably derives from the nearest property indicated on early OS maps: 'Tan-yr-Ogof'. The name was later published as 'Tan-yr-Ogof Caves' in: Stride, A.H. and R.D., 1953. *Britain Underground*, by Dalesman Publishing.

Significant volumes of clay deposit remain in several of these caves, although their archaeological potential is unknown. Cave 6 however, may hold the most promise. Location SH 914 779.

(Ebbs.C, <https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>), accessed December 2014.

The location of the group record has been revised after the visit, to reflect that of the largest entrance (Cave No 4). It seems likely that most of these caves have suffered the loss of some deposits, probably removed to create features of interest for the Gwrych Castle estate. (CPAT site visit 16/1/2015)

79456 **Llechryd, cave** **SJ00646843**

Site not visited. Observed from a distance. Cave appears to be in S side of the river which is formed by a steep gorge. This cave may contain important archaeological, and/or environmental deposits. (CPAT Tir Gofal assessment, 2000)

No further information is available on this putative cave site.

80138 **Llanymynech Quarry, cave** **SJ2607021750**

Phreatic tube running NE beneath Asterley Rocks. Extends for 15m before it is blocked with clay. Only known natural cave entrance at Llanymynech. Could contain prehistoric remains and clay may have palaeoenvironmental/geological potential. (CPAT 2001)

Part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument. No further information. (MB 16/12/14)

84434 Bryngwyn Quarry Cave**SJ2143961438**

Cave entrance at base of quarry face. Very short, but its extent prior to quarrying cannot be gauged. No finds recorded. Two other rock shelters are reputedly present in the quarry but not readily visible. (Hankinson, Jones and Silvester, 2008)

The location for this cave is similar to that given by Ebbs to a cave he describes as Bryngwyn Quarry Cave No. 1. It is described as a roomy chamber 6m x 6m x 4m with blocked tube at floor level. In south-facing end of Quarry.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)



Plate 4: Bryngwyn Quarry Cave. Photo CPAT 3906-0007.

A fairly large entrance to the remains of a cave exposed by quarrying. Approximately 10m long by 5m wide and up to 8m high (internally). There is a mound of spoil at the entrance that may have come from the interior, which is about 1m lower; the side of the mound facing the cave is supported by a low wall. Clearly used on occasion as a shelter but the floor deposits may have some potential beneath the modern disturbance. There is some evidence that stone may have been quarried from within the cave. (CPAT site visit 6/1/2015)

97857 Ty 'n-y-caeau, hole in rock**SJ0677480987**

'Hole in rock' depicted on 1871 and 1912 OS maps. Site not visited. (Clwyd County Council 1979 - Flintshire SMR)

This lies in the area of the 'Fish mine' above Prestatyn so perhaps of artificial origin. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT 2009)

Within an area of post-medieval mine workings (lead and calcite). Although this is in an area of Carboniferous Limestone, no other caves are noted in the locality. There is prehistoric archaeology nearby. (MB 15/12/14)

99270 Cilcain Cave (formerly Rhyd-y-Feni Cave) SJ17956490

Cave entrance at the base of a long limestone outcrop located on the N bank of the stream, NNW of the Rhyd y Feni Farmhouse. Cave entrance measures 1.5m high by 1m wide. Appears to be natural. (Clwyd County Council 1979 - Flintshire SMR)

No known archaeological component. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement project, CPAT 2009)

Ebbs' website has further information to add: This cave is identified as being Cave No.9, Cilcain Cave, within a group of 10 caves known as Nant Gain Caves 1-10. Whilst this cave has been investigated, no archaeological evidence has been recovered from these investigations and the potential for such deposits is very low. Animal disturbance and relatively recent stream action are cited as reasons for the assessment.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

100568 Plas Heaton Cave SJ03216911

Cave excavated in 1860s (Heaton, W) to some 18m from entrance. Evidence of Neolithic and Mesolithic occupation found.

Davies (1929, 138) provides useful background information on the cave. He states that it was explored with a view to providing work for casual labourers during a hard winter in the 1860s. At the time the entrance was opened it was only a few feet in height, but when the excavation was done it was found to have been inhabited in two ages, associated with separate floors, the lower of which was 25ft or 30ft below the surface. Faunal and human remains were recovered, including a bone handle, bone awl and two worked flints.

Finds in Chester Museum. Cave in dangerous condition. (Valdemar, A E and Jones, R D 1970, 102).

Some finds in NWM 92.234H.

Dawkins and Prof McKenny Hughes co-operated with Heaton in the original excavation. Material found included a Neolithic bone awl and flints (Oldham 1991, 58). However, the presence of human bone and artefacts is not mentioned by Dawkins in his statements on the excavations at this cave (Dawkins 1874, 160 and 287).

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

Ebbs locates this cave at SJ 03211 69130 and has produced a detailed survey (plan and section) of the cave (2014). His website contains the survey and provides the following information: Length 43m. A large entrance 3.6m wide x 6.7m high. First excavated by Colonel J. R. Heaton and T. McKenny Hughes in 1870. Finds included a human jaw bone, a flint and bones of cave bear, hyaena and glutton (wolverine) being 10,000 to 12,000 years of age. The cave appears to have remaining unexcavated deposits at the far end, the floor rising in benches (see survey below), presumably resulting from early excavations. In the garden of Plas Heaton Estate from where prior permission must be sought.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)



Plate 5: Plas Heaton Cave. Photo CPAT 3906-0011

A large cave entrance to the rear of the farm buildings at Plas Heaton, some modern material has been mounded up at the entrance. Internally, the cave has been dug out to its natural extent of 7-8m in height, it is up to 5m wide and has an overall figure-of-eight passage shape. The single passage runs for about 30m to a step up of about 1.0m, where the lower part of the clay and gravel fill remain. After a further 15m is a second step up of the same height, with a third after another 5m, of 1.2m in height. Another 5m along the passage, the floor slopes up for 5m and the open part ends. The presence of the steps clearly shows how the fill was excavated. At this end of the passage the excavators encountered large boulders in the fill and probably stopped due to their instability. No finds earlier than 19th-century in date were observed, but there is clearly undisturbed material still in the floor. The remains of a former stalagmite floor can be seen near the roof of the passage about 50m in from the entrance, probably representing the original floor level, and there are a range of pick marks present on the walls where the fill was excavated in the 1860s. This site may be worthy of further investigation to see whether either of the two strata which produced the finds can be identified. (CPAT site visit 7/1/2015)



Plate 6: Plas Heaton Cave, benches of in-situ deposits left by the 1860s excavation.
Photo CPAT 3906-0016.

100569 Plas Heaton Cave, Neolithic finds

SJ03216911

This cave was excavated for some 18m in the 1860s at 7.6 to 9m below the surface. Fragments of human skull, worked flints and bone implements were found. The entrance is 3.5m wide, 8m high. Finds in Chester Museum. The parent record is PRN 100568.

Material from Plas Heaton is on loan to NMW from Grosvenor Museum (Figgis 1999, 100). Amount of material not stated.

100570 Plas Heaton Cave, Mesolithic finds

SJ03216911

One unworked blade or flake thought to belong to the Mesolithic period.

The parent record is PRN 100568.

100895 Llanarmon Cave

SJ19315628

A finely worked flint arrowhead broken in two was found 1905 during partial exploration of the cave which is wide at the mouth and extends 25m in a NW direction.

An imposing natural limestone cave. Entrance faces S. a chimney, or natural shaft through which can be seen daylight is situated just inside the entrance. (CCC, 1988)

Excavations have been carried out in recent years at this site, revealing further evidence of prehistoric occupation and activity, including flint artefacts. Unfortunately, no report is yet

available and the location of the finds is uncertain. (Information from F Gale of Denbighshire Countryside Service, March 2009)

Large cave entrance situated at the base of a rock scarp, with a grassy slope descending from it to the valley floor. Perhaps 5m high, although only seen from the road. The occupation evidence, its large size and apparently fairly dry interior suggest that this would have been very suitable for settlement. The extent of any previous work is unknown, but it seems to have a high potential for preserved archaeological material, confirmed by excavations in the relatively recent past. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement project, CPAT site visit 11/3/2009)



Plate 7: Llanarmon Cave. Photo CPAT 2784-0050

Ebbs provides further details on the cave, as follows:

First excavated in 1905: Dora Seed Knowles and Barbara Parkin, authors of 'Just One Parish', deposited their extensive notes with Ruthin Records Office, which state, 'The cave was partly explored in 1905 by the late Mr. Rouw, Chemist, Ruthin, and others. The only find made was a finely-worked flint arrowhead, broken in two, measuring about three-quarters of an inch in length. This was shown to the writer by Mr. Rouw in May, 1913. Since Mr. Rouw's death, which occurred not long afterwards, it has been lost sight of. No detailed account of this excavation is known to exist.

It was excavated again between 2003 and 2005 by CWP Archaeology with Mark Olly. Amongst the many assorted finds from various excavation trenches, they unearthed many flint bladelets and an undated human toe bone.

This cave was excavated by Rob Dinnis (of the British Museum) and John Boulton of Devon Speleological Society with local volunteers in 2012 and 2013. In October 2012, a shallow exploratory pit was excavated by Rob Dinnis of the British Museum accompanied by John Boulton of Devon Speleological Society with local volunteers. A flint cutting tool was first identified by 'village sifters' Rob and Ros Mannix and a metatarsal of wild horse or deer was also found. The excavators anticipated that radiocarbon dating would be carried out on the bone. In August 2013, Dinnis and Boulton returned to carry out further work, and additional stone cutting tools were found. Although the stone cutting tools are merely small worked flint bladelets of no more than an inch across, they do suggest early human activity within the cave and may justify further excavation work during 2014.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

100930 Perthi Chwarae Farm Cave I

SJ18795363

Cave, possibly one of the five caves excavated by Boyd Dawkins between 1868-72, with human skeletons, some charcoal and a flint flake. The cave is now almost filled in. Its entrance is 1.8m wide and 2m high. Scheduled Ancient Monument.

One of the caves appeared to have been deliberately blocked. There was also an adjacent rubbish heap containing mammal bones, those of golden eagle, and mussel and cockle shells (Cullingford 1962, 291). The finds are in Cardiff and Manchester museums. (Cullingford 1962, 338)

The entrance measures 2.7m high x 1.5m across at the roof and 2m across at ground level. Cave entrance leads into a chamber and then narrows to a small tunnel entrance measuring 0.7m x 0.7m (Cadw, 1989).

Five caves are described in this locality by Oldham. Five individuals from cave no 1, sixteen from cave no 2. The finds are in the Manchester Museum. (Oldham 1991, 56-7)

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

Ebbs (2011) has the following comparative assessment regarding the various names ascribed to this cave. He locates this cave at SJ 18792 53626.

Ebbs' Cave name: Cave D

Dawkins' Cave name: Cave No.2

Cadw Cave name: Rhosddigre Cave I (SAM Den19A)

CPAT Cave name: Perthi Chwarae Farm Cave I

OS Cave name: 874

RCAHMW Cave name: Cave A

A study of the cave by Ebbs in 2012 recorded: The cave entrance lies about 6m above field level near the top of the outcrop. From the entrance, a crawl 2m long enters, at floor level, a chamber 4m x 2m x 2m high. A 4m long crawl bears south from the chamber ending in a clay blockage and discarded bottles. The sloping chamber floor contains significant deposits, which could, however, be waste material resulting from excavation of the continuing passage. Proposed as Dawkins Cave 2, both caves being in the same outcrop and in the ownership of Perthi Chwarae at that time (Ebbs, C., 2013). This also includes a detailed survey (plan and section) of this cave, also available on Ebbs' website

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

100940 Rhos Isaf Cave A**SJ1884453557**

Cave, possibly one of the five caves excavated by Boyd Dawkins from 1868 to 1872, which contained various finds of Neolithic date, including crouched inhumations. Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Cave entrance is located on a SE facing slope and measures 0.7m high x 2m across. Partially infilled with earth and stones and the floor of the cave contains old bottles and jars etc. A large deciduous tree is growing out of the rock face above the roof of the cave. (Cadw 1989).

The finds are now in NMW and include a polished axe, pottery, human and animal remains. (Oldham 1991, 35)

There is a limited literature on the Rhos Isaf group of caves for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

Ebbs (2011) has the following comparative assessment regarding the various names ascribed to this cave.

Ebbs' Cave name: Cave F

Dawkins' Cave name: n/a

Cadw Cave name: Rhosddigre Cave II (SAM Den9B)

CPAT Cave name: Rhos Isaf Cave A

OS Cave name: 884

RCAHMW Cave name: Cave B

A study in 2012 by Ebbs recorded the cave as a low, south-facing, cavity 2m x 2m x 0.4m high lying about 10m north of the Offa's Dyke Path. Above the cave, just 2 metres north of the entrance, is a rift in the limestone 2m long. A hole in this rift connects with the roof of the cave below. Documentary research carried out in 2011 found no evidence to suggest that this was one of Boyd Dawkins five caves (Ebbs, 2013).

Ebbs also provides a detailed survey plan which is available on his website, and suggests that an examination of the floor deposits in the form of a test pit might confirm if they are undisturbed. Through his research, Ebbs considers it very unlikely that this cave is one of Dawkins' original five hominin caves based on the documentary evidence and that the status of the cave as an Ancient Monument may need to be reassessed.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

100947 Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave No.1)**SJ1976359309**

Small tunnel cave c.14m long. Excavations by J Blore from 1962-4 revealed evidence of Upper Palaeolithic, possibly Mesolithic and Romano-British activity.

A trumpet brooch, with silver inlay, was discovered by Mr Blore in 1962, and also a plain disc headed bronze pin, and a half shale bracelet. Site is still under excavation. (CCC, 1981)

Site not found. (CCC, 1988)

Oldham (1991, 8 and 39) gives two conflicting NGRs of SJ 1974 5936 and SJ 1930 5960, while Davies (1989, 94-5) gives another conflicting NGR of SJ 194 593. The situation has been resolved by the use of GPS during the visit in 2009.

The cave entrance measures 1.5m high and 0.8m wide and is situated at the base of a rock spur, with the passage extending S into the hillside for at least 15m. The site is being actively (and archaeologically) excavated, to the effect that there are tools stored in the interior and notices next to them stating 'This is a protected archaeological site - please do not disturb the layers'. Some excavation has taken place in the interior, but the most obvious evidence is the level platform at the entrance, where an area of about 4m by 3m has been taken down by more than 1m, to the level of the interior. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 11/3/2009)

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.



Plate 8: Lynx Cave. Photo CPAT 2784-0046.

A small archaeological single-passage cave excavated by J.D. Blore of Wallasey since 1962. John celebrated his 50th year of excavation at Lynx Cave in 2012. His work at the cave has provided evidence that it has been used by animals and humans for 12,000 years. It was used as an occasional shelter by hunting parties, who butchered and cooked sufficient for their needs in the cave, before returning home with the bulk of their spoils. In the late Bronze Age (around 3,000 years ago) several bodies were buried in the cave, after which the entrance was sealed with a large capstone. A total of eight individuals including an infant, are represented amongst the bones. Other finds include 26 sharp cutting tools, three hammer-stones, a bone spear-point 11,700 years old, a shale bracelet and a bronze brooch inlaid with silver and enamel of Romano-British origin. (Ebbs' website <https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales>, accessed December 2014)

Excavation by Blore and volunteers has continued since the 1960s and has revealed several phases of activity, see Event PRN120880 (Blore, J D, 1981 and 2011). In June 2012, the results were presented on CD as 'Lynx Cave, Denbighshire: 50 years of Excavation 1962 - 2012'. There is also a dedicated website to the excavations (<http://lynxcave.webs.com>). The original HER name for this record has been changed from Lynx Cave to Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1) as it is part of the Bryn Alyn Caves group, comprising 12 separate caves. (MB 15/12/14)

100948 Lynx Cave, Palaeolithic activity SJ1976359309

Small tunnel cave excavated by Blore. Flintwork probably dateable to the Creswellian or Cheddarian period of the Upper Palaeolithic recovered. A bone spear-point 11,700 years old, is mentioned by Blore. No Pleistocene faunal evidence so far recovered. Refer to PRN 100947 for cave description.

The original HER name for this record has been changed from Lynx Cave Palaeolithic activity to Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1) Palaeolithic activity, as it is part of the Bryn Alyn Caves group, comprising 12 separate caves. (MB 15/12/14)

100949 Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1), Mesolithic activity SJ1976359309

Small tunnel cave excavated by Blore (see PRN 100947). It revealed one possible microlith, tentatively suggested as Mesolithic. A significant quantity of animal bones suggested as dating from 5000 to 8000 years BP was discovered and it has also been suggested that some of the human bone from the cave may be Mesolithic.

Microlith in NMW. (CPAT Lithics study, 2001)

The original HER name for this record has been changed from Lynx Cave, Mesolithic activity to Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1), Mesolithic activity, as it is part of the Bryn Alyn Caves group, comprising 12 separate caves. (MB 15/12/14)

100950 Lynx Cave, Roman activity SJ1976359309

Small tunnel cave excavated by Blore. During the clearance of the entrance and front part of the cave a Roman bracelet, fibula and pin were found. Also human and animal bones found, not necessarily related. Bracelet and pin subsequently considered to be Bronze Age (Blore, 2011). Refer to PRN 100947 for cave description.

The original HER name for this record has been changed from Lynx Cave Roman activity to Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1) Roman activity, as it is part of the Bryn Alyn Caves group, comprising 12 separate caves. (MB 15/12/14)

101424 Brasgyll Cave No.2 (Nant y Graig Cave B) SJ0058371318

Cave of smaller size than Cave A. May have been the one explored by Wynn and Mainwaring in 1871: finds of probable Neolithic date, in NMW. (HER)

Cave excavated in 1871 by Mrs Williams-Wynn and Col. C S Mainwaring, which revealed human and mammal bones, flint objects and charcoal. The cave has previously been mis-sited at SJ 0055 7128, which refers to a site known as Cathedral Cave. It is evident from reading Davies (1929, 288-9) that the revised location, on the east side of the stream, is correct and that this is the cave dug in 1871. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT 2009)

The cave faces west, and has an external platform a few metres above the river, which it overlooks. A talus slope leads up towards the interior, which lies in a vertical cliff face, but the rock above has evidently collapsed at some point and it is now about 5m shorter, with an entrance about 3m square. A few marks of some excavation are evident in the interior, but most of the deposits seem to be intact. It seems reasonable to assume that significant archaeological material survives in-situ. (CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.



Plate 9: Brasgyll Cave No 2. Photo CPAT 2784-0012.

The original HER name for this record has been changed from Nant y Graig Cave B to Brasgyll Cave No.2 to conform with that used by Ebbs, whose website provides the following information (though note the paragraphs above):

Warning: Beware of unstable boulders above the entrance. Cave length, 25m. The cave is 6 metres above stream level with a 2m square entrance that lies in an obvious fold in the eastern cliff-face. A passage of 15m leads to a small chamber from where a crawl to the right has been dug for a few metres. First excavated by J. Hywel Owen in 1946 who found human remains of at least six individuals and animals in unstratified deposits. Source: J. Wilfrid Jackson (Manchester Museum) in 'British Caving' (1953) ed Cullingford, page 209. The cave contains a significant quantity of undisturbed deposits.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014).

101774 Rhos Isaf Cave B SJ1876953457

Cave with north-facing entrance measuring 2.2m high x 2.3m across. A large deciduous tree is growing from the bank on the west side of the entrance. The floor of the cave is covered by earth and loose stones (Cadw, 1989). Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Possibly one of the five caves excavated 1869-72 by Boyd Dawkins, which contained various finds of Neolithic date including crouched inhumations. The finds are now in NMW and include a polished axe, pottery, human and animal remains. (Oldham 1991, 35)

There is a limited literature on the Rhos Isaf group of caves for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

Ebbs (2011) has the following comparative assessment regarding the various names ascribed to this cave.

Ebbs' Cave name: Cave G

Dawkins' Cave name: Rhosdigre Cave No.1

Cadw Cave name: Rhosddigire Cave III (SAM De119C)

CPAT Cave name: Rhos Isaf Cave B

OS Cave name: 1752

RCAHMW Cave name: Cave C

Ebbs also provides a detailed survey plan which is available on his website. He describes the cave as follows:

The cave entrance measures 2m high x 2m wide. Six metres from the entrance, the passage reduces to 1 metre in height, then bears to the right and increases again to 2 or 3 metres in height. A small hole at floor level near the end of the passage is too small to enter, but connects with the adjoining cave (Ebbs' Cave H).

Pristine white or cream crystalline speleothem deposits are in the process of formation on the roof at the end of the cave. These may possibly have a biological component of a similar nature to 'moonmilk'. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

101775 Rhos Isaf Cave C SJ18765345

Sited to the west of PRN 101774, the cave entrance measures 1.2m high x 1.1m across. The cave forms a small tunnel leading into the rock face (Cadw 1989). Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Possibly one of the five caves excavated 1869-72 by Boyd Dawkins, which contained various finds of Neolithic date including crouched inhumations. The finds are now in NMW and include a polished axe, pottery, human and animal remains. (Oldham 1991, 35)

There is a limited literature on the Rhos Isaf group of caves for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

Ebbs (2011) has the following comparative assessment regarding the various names ascribed to this cave.

Ebb's Cave name: Cave H

Dawkins' Cave name: Rhosdigre Cave No.2

Cadw Cave name: Rhosddigire Cave IV (SAM De119D)

CPAT Cave name: Rhos Isaf Cave C

OS Cave name: 1752

RCAHMW Cave name: Cave D

Ebbs also provides a detailed survey plan which is available in his 2013 publication and describes the cave as follows:

The entrance measures 1.3m high x 1.3m wide, but the passage quickly reduces to a crawl, becoming too tight to negotiate 5m from the entrance. At this point a passage of smaller dimensions can be seen to continue towards the adjoining Cave G (PRN 101774). The floor ahead appears to comprise deposits that may be undisturbed.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

101776 Rhos Isaf Cave D

SJ18655327

Possibly one of the five caves excavated 1869-72 by Boyd Dawkins, which contained various finds of Neolithic date including crouched inhumations.

The finds are now in NMW and include a polished axe, pottery, human and animal remains. (Oldham 1991, 35)

There is a limited literature on the Rhos Isaf group of caves for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

Ebbs (2011) has the following comparative assessment regarding the various names ascribed to this cave. He locates the site at SJ 18663 53272.

Ebb's Cave name: Cave K

Dawkins' Cave name: None given

Cadw Cave name: None given

CPAT Cave name: Rhos Isaf Cave D

OS Cave name: 1754

RCAHMW Cave name: None given

Ebbs has a photograph showing the location of this shelter available on his website (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014) and describes it as follows: Merely a shallow rock shelter or overhang. Marked as 'Cave on Ordnance Survey Archaeological Record card (1963).

102106 Nant-y-fuach rock shelter

SJ06777979

Rock shelter excavated by W Stead of Dyserth from 1950 to 1957. He found five crouched inhumations near the entrance with animal bones. Later a barbed and tanged arrowhead and Neolithic pottery were found.

Cave now filled in and is now visible only as a slight overhang in the rock face, and an area of exposed earth. (OS, 1959)

Area of mounds, banks, quarried rock faces, old shafts and caves. Caves are probably associated with mining and quarrying activity. No trace of the rock shelter was visible, difficult to distinguish when considering the number of old caves and exposed rock faces in the area. (CCC, 1982)

The site consists of a 5m length of overhang with a small cave passage at its S end. Little visible trace remains of the excavations but the location was confirmed by the owner, who was present at the time the excavation took place. The cave is at least 5m long and there are good views from the site to the W down the lower part of the gorge. Note that the suggestion that this area had been quarried is refuted by the presence of the burials and the nature of the

valley confirms that this is a natural formation originally caused by a watercourse, although there is now little evidence of surface water. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 6/3/2009)

There is a limited literature on this rock shelter for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.



Plate 10: The location of Nant-y-Fuach rock shelter (centre of image). Photo CPAT 2784-0028.

According to Ebbs' website this shelter is located within a group of caves called Dyserth Castle Caves 1-3, located at SJ 0680 7976. These are described as follows:

Cave 1: Length, 4m. A short passage becoming too low. This is the most easterly of the three caves in the north facing cliff.

Cave 2: Length, 9m. An uninspiring short passage, a little to the right (west) of cave 1.

Cave 3: Length, 12m. This ends where sediments block further progress.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

It would appear that the rock shelter corresponds to Ebbs' Cave 1 in this group. The original HER description does not mention the potential for undisturbed deposits. (MB 16/12/14)

102132 Pontnewydd Cave

SJ01527102

Initially excavated by Boyd Dawkins, Mrs Williams-Wynn and the Rev D R Thomas, who recovered various mammal bones, subsequently by the Rev Thomas and Prof. Hughes who recovered stone implements and a human tooth (Dawkins 1874, 287). The finds described by Prof. McKenny Hughes (Hughes, 1887) are apparently in the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge. (Oldham, 1991, 3)

Recent excavations by S Green of NMW (PRN 39919) has revealed evidence of human occupation dating back in excess of 128000 years. Probably Neanderthal man present also. Excavations continue.

Artefact-rich debris flows examined in 1984. Also new and undisturbed entrance located. Artefacts included hand axes, discoidal cores, Levallois flakes, scrapers and struck flakes. 1985 season produced first hominid find of unworn molar from immature individual, perhaps from 8 to 12 years old, found in previous seasons (Green, S 1985, 25-6).

In 1987, excavations focussed on new entrance and deposits in cave. Entrance deposits 6m deep, palaeolithic artefact-bearing levels at base (Green, S 1987, 39).



Plate 11: Pontnewydd Cave. Photo CPAT 2784-0007.

Cave occupied 250,000 years ago by populations of Neanderthal lineage. Stone implements, animal and human bones found. Fauna include deer, bison, rhinoceros, horse, wolf, fox, hare and bird bones. Bones from adult and three children also found (Green, S 1988, 51-2). Scheduling revised 24/8/90.

Finds in NMW. Lithic numbers taken only from first report (Green 1984). (CPAT Lithics study, 2001)

Brick structures at the entrance were apparently created to act as an ammunition store in WW2. The cave is as described by previous sources. Apparently some in-situ deposits survive below ground but this was not checked, although the access doors to the interior were open. The degree of past excavation at the entrance to the site is not now readily apparent, but can

be readily seen on old site photographs. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)

There is an extensive literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

Ebbs' website provide the following information:

An entrance about 3m wide and 2m high leads through two doors to a single passage running east into the hill. A trench in the main passage and several short passages on the right have been excavated. The most easterly of these passages leads to a new second entrance (not shown on plan above). The cave is walled and securely gated. Despite being designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument in 1923, the cave was requisitioned for wartime use in 1940. The floor was levelled for the placement of duck boards, upon which were stored land-mines and depth charges. An inner and outer wall built into the entrance, created a guard chamber once equipped with a coke stove. Source: Neanderthals in Wales: Pontnewydd and the Elwy Valley Caves (2012).

It was originally excavated by T. McKenny Hughes and Rev. D.R. Thomas in 1871 who found amongst the animal bones, remains of cave bear, grizzly bear and rhinoceros. It was subsequently excavated by Boyd-Dawkins, author of Cave Hunting, in 1874, who paid labourers by the ton excavated. Despite this, he still managed to find the only evidence at that time of Palaeolithic man in North Wales. A major dig between 1978 and 1995 by the National Museum of Wales proved the human remains to be 225,000 years old. The cave is the most northerly of only two such sites in Britain. Remains of an adult and two children were found. As a bonus, the Boyd-Dawkins waste tips were re-examined and found to contain various items of interest including several stone hand-axes. Other remains include bones of lion, rhino, bison and bear. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

102135

Cefn Cave, Western Entrance

SJ02027053

Cave at foot of cliff. A natural tunnel 3m wide, 3.5m high at south end. The tunnel expands to form a chamber with two blocked off caves in the east and north faces. Human and animal bone and flint flakes found by Stanley in 1873 (PRN 39956).

The entrance is one of three whose passages interconnect underground, this being the first to be discovered and facing W towards Dolben outdoor activity centre on the opposite side of the valley. This entrance is situated at the rear of a ledge with near vertical rock faces above and below, its present appearance suggesting that it would have provided good shelter. It is unknown whether any deposits survive on the shelf outside the entrance, but it seems likely that this area is the 'lower entrance' mentioned by Dawkins (1874, 286), from which the flints and human bone were recovered. The other two entrances (PRNs 102137 and 102138) both appear to have been partially dug out, and this is confirmed by Dawkins (1874, 286) who describes them as having been 'completely blocked up with red silt, containing a vast quantity of bones in very bad preservation'. These other entrances face SSW and S.

In the interior, there are places where steps have been created to aid access, and it seems evident that the passages were used by visitors, probably in the 19th century, whose access was facilitated by a number of contouring tracks that can still be identified on the hillside. The site is used occasionally by the outdoor centre, but there seems to be no real impact as the floor is hard and quite stable. Its passages were formed during an early phase of the downcutting of the Elwy gorge and probably reflect fossil remnants of the old underground flow of the river. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)

This record was formerly known as Cefn cave III. (MB 12/11/14)

102136 Cefn Old Cave

SJ02037049

This cave known as the 'old cave' was explored by Stanley in 1830. The cave is one third down the cliff. Entrance 5m wide 2.5m high. Part of cave closed off. Human and animal bones and ancient weapons found. M D115

Scheduling revised 24/8/90.

The existing HER reference to the Old Cave suggests that it was explored by Stanley in 1830 and was located one third of the way down the cliff (at SJ 0202 7053), with an entrance 5m wide and 2.5m high. However, reading Davies (1929, 62-4) it becomes plain that the 'Old Cave' is in fact the short cave, almost more of an extended natural arch, nearer the base of the Cefn Rocks outcrop (at SJ 0203 7049), through which the route from Denbigh to Kinmel once passed. This was apparently first described by Leland in the 16th century, the distinction between 'Old' and 'New' being made by Stanley when he visited both in 1830. Stanley reported human and animal bones and stags horns together with 'the remains of ancient weapons' from the lower cave, but whether this refers to PRN 102135 or PRN 102136 is uncertain. The presence of the site is also alluded to by Pennant in the 18th century (Pennant 1991, 22).

The original HER record for PRN 102135 has an appropriate description, as follows: 'Cave at foot of cliff. A natural tunnel 3m wide, 3.5m high at south end. The tunnel expands to form a chamber with two blocked off caves in the east and north faces. Human and animal bone and flint flakes found by Stanley 1873 (PRN 39956).'



Plate 12: Cefn Old Cave. Photo CPAT 2784-0003.

Despite some excavation, probably in the 19th century, the precise amount of which is unclear, there appear to be plenty of undisturbed deposits which may be of archaeological interest, including the talus slopes leading down from the entrances. The passage is a fossil remnant of a former underground course of the River Elwy, left behind by the continued downcutting of the gorge. The complex is used by the nearby outdoor centre, but this may be a benefit as it deters any random digging activity. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)

Ebbs (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed February 2015) provides the following description of the cave and its history:

The cave can be found above field level, some 20m below Cefn Cave. It lies in the wall of a 20m long large natural arch (10m high x 2.5m wide), through which the old St.Asaph to Denbigh road once passed. Bones 'of a great age' were first reported here in 1801 by Richard Fenton (in his diary of 1808). He also describes a "chamber to the left, shews a most stupendous and picturesque roof". Reverend Edward Stanley carried out the first excavation in 1833, naming it 'Cefn Cave'. This later led to confusion after the discovery of archaeological remains in the larger cave above. To rectify this, the cave is now referred to by the National Museum of Wales as Old Cefn Cave. Source: Neanderthals in Wales (2012).

102137 Cefn Cave, Southern Entrance

SJ02057052

Cave near the top of the cliff. Its entrance is 3m wide, 2.2m high. A second cave was excavated by Stanley but which cave it was cannot be determined.

This is a secondary entrance to the passages associated to PRN 102135, and has been described under that record. This entrance faces SSW and was described by Dawkins (1874, 286) as having been completely blocked up with red silt, containing a vast quantity of bones in very bad preservation'. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT 2009)

This record was formerly known as Cefn Cave I, but has been renamed to make its relationship to the other caves of this locality clear. (MB 11/12/14)

102138 Cefn cave, Eastern Entrance

SJ02077052

Cave near the top of the cliff. It penetrates the cliff in a north-westerly direction. The entrance is 3m wide and 2.7m high. Not known if explored or not. (HER)

This is a secondary entrance to the passages associated to PRN 102135, and has been described under that record. This entrance faces south and was described by Dawkins (1874, 286) as having been completely blocked up with red silt, containing a vast quantity of bones in very bad preservation'. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT 2009)

This was formerly known as Cefn Cave II. Contrary to the description as stated in the Caves Scheduling Enhancement Programme 2009 report (CPAT Report 980), this was incorrectly described as facing south-south-west in the original HER record. This has been corrected to south in the description. (MB 11/12/14)

102147 Brasgyll Cave No.6 (Nant-y-Graig Cave A)

SJ0056171303

Cave 7.5m wide, 2m high, 3.5m deep. This may be the cave explored in 1946 by Hwel Owen. Excavations revealed possible IA?/RB occupation dated from pottery. Three deposits of human and animal remains. No real stratigraphy. Finds in NMW. (HER)



Plate 13: Brasgyll Cave No.6. Photo CPAT 2784-0008.

Davies (1949, 445-8) gives a detailed description of the work carried out by Owen in 1946 and it seems evident that the excavation took place in the rock shelter here and the short passages which lead off it. The previous grid reference given for the site was SJ 0055 7130. The finds noted by Davies include human and animal bone, fragments of a Romano-British cooking pot (Black burnished ware) and a metal implement, perhaps a mason's point. Further excavations were carried out by Owen later in 1946 (Davies 1949, 448) in the area of the rock shelter, revealed more human bone, two flints and two iron objects. Finds in NMW. The HER record for PRN 19309 (a general reference to caves in the valley) incorrectly states that 14th-century pottery was found, but this was probably due to a misinterpretation of the original reference by Oldham (1991, 6). (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT 2009)

The site consists of a rock shelter, about 10m long, 2m-3m high and facing E, with an overhang above and two short passages running from it to the N and S. The interior has obviously been dug out, although there may well be some surviving deposits on the floor, especially to the N where the floor level is higher. The passage to the north appears to have been the place from which the pottery was recovered. The excavated spoil forms a bank, 1-2m high, on the E side of the shelter, which is likely to have sealed some significant deposits. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 11/2/2009)

Name changed from Nant y Graig Cave A to Brasgyll Cave No.6 to conform with the names used by Ebbs, whose website provides the following information:

A rock-shelter-like cave which runs for a few metres to the left and has a narrow passage off to the right. There is also a hole in the cliff 5m above, but this immediately becomes too tight and is not worth the climb. Warning: A large limestone block forming the roof of the rock-

shelter is unstable. Floor deposits have been archaeologically excavated as indicated by the step up into the right-hand passage. Further deposits of unknown depth remain. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

102158 Ffynnon Beuno Cave**SJ0853272414**

Cave complex excavated in 1885 (PRN 39975) consisted of a number of chambers and tunnels. Occupational evidence included Aurignacian and proto-Solutrean flintwork plus Pleistocene fauna.

Located high on N side of the ravine. As in description above. (CCC, 1982)

No change since 1982. (CCC, 1988)

Scheduling revised 22/8/90.

NMW collection holds: replicas of 6 tools and two original flakes, all Upper Palaeolithic. Originals in Natural History Museum, London (Figgis 1999, 110). (CPAT Lithics study, 2001)

A detailed description of the early work and finds is given by Davies (1949, 333-8).

Ebbs locates this cave more accurately; his website provides further information, as follows: Cave length, 38m. A 2m diameter short entrance passage leads to a rift running off to left and right. At this junction is a 3m wide chamber where a 7m shaft opens to the surface. A smaller passage on the left (when entering the chamber) leads back to the surface. Finds include mammoth bone C14 dated to 18,000 +/-1,300 years BP. This cave has recently been partially excavated and studied by Rob Dinnis and Chantal Conneller, the excavations taking place within the cave and just outside its entrance.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales>, accessed December 2014)

Ffynnon Bueno Cave is currently being excavated by Rob Dinnis (British Museum) and Chantal Conneller (Manchester University) who hope to return each summer season. They have carried out laser surveying of the cave and excavated three small trial pits within the cave, and six outside the entrance to identify the extent of 1880s' waste tips. Undisturbed deposits have been found in one of these pits near the junction of the side passage with the chamber. The latest information, following recent work, is that the two caves have been confirmed as containing artefacts associated with groups of both the last northern European Neanderthals immediately prior to their extinction (42,000 - 40,000 BP) and the first Homo sapiens to occupy Europe (37,000 - 36,000 BP): Hence one of only three such sites known to exist in Britain containing archaeological material from both periods, and the most northerly. The cave is therefore of international significance. Excavation carried out in 2011 (and 2012) has identified that the 1880s' waste tips contain significant archaeological material amongst which were found remains of woolly rhino, mammoth and hyaena (65,000 - 10,000BP). (Conneller and Dinnis, 2012). (MB 15/12/14)

102159 Cae-Gwyn cave**SJ08527244**

Cave extensively investigated from 1883-87. Artefacts found mostly just outside the entrance dated to middle Aurignacian period to middle Aurignacian period. Radiocarbon date of 16050 BC obtained from mammoth bone. Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Appeared as described above. Cave entrance was blocked up at time of visit with planks and chicken wire. (CCC, 1982)

As described in 1982 visit. (CCC, 1988)

Scheduling revised 22/08/90.

In Denbighshire Record Office (storage in advance of museum facilities) are 12 flints from the Pennant Collection (Figgis 1999, 21).

Another scraper in the Natural History Museum (Figgis 1999, 110). (CPAT Lithics study, 2001)

A detailed description of the work carried out and the finds recovered is given by Davies (1949, 338-43).

Ebbs' website provides the following further information regarding this cave:

This cave is also known as Bryn Bella Cave, length 46m. Large entrance passage leads to junction with a smaller passage. Left goes 16m to a wall of rocks. Right gets too tight after 16m. Described as having been used as a dumping place for rubbish over the years and is now almost ruined (Cave Research Group Vol 12, No 2, 1970).

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales>, accessed December 2014)

102174 Tynewydd Cave

SJ08567226

Cave explored and excavated in 1897. No evidence for human occupation was found and the only find was a worn rhinoceros molar tooth.

Located at bottom of the rock face to rear of Ty-newydd house. Garden very overgrown at time of visit so close examination not possible. (CCC, 1982)

Site much more accessible. Depth of cave could not be determined however. (CCC, 1988)

The description in Oldham (1991, 68) suggests that there are three caves here, at least two of which retain evidence of mining.

Davies (1949, 343-4) gives a detailed account of work on the caves. Apparently a committee was formed to excavate them in 1896, but to gain access a cutting and tunnel had to be excavated through solid rock. Two caves were investigated in 1897, the eastern cave was unproductive, with the western being that from which the rhinoceros tooth was recovered.

According to Ebbs (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014) there are at least 2 caves in this location, with a third cavity being a result of mining extending one of the original caves. He provides a detailed extract taken from Davies' (1949 and 1960) discussions on these caves, as follows:

The following account appears to be the most accurate (being taken by Ellis Davies from the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society*, Feb. 1888), and is copied here from *'The Prehistoric and Roman Remains of Flintshire'*, 1949.

Position: The entrance to these caves is hidden from the valley by a wall of rock, the space between this and the caves having been quarried away about 1850. The caves which are now practically inaccessible owing to growth of jungle, are in a dangerous condition as the rock is falling in.

Description: The present part of the cave exposed appears to be the back of a large chamber, 19ft across, and 12ft high, of which the roof still projects some 7 to 10ft. Leading out of this chamber are two caves, on the east and west respectively.

1: The eastern cave consists of a passage 6ft high and 8ft long, at the end of which, at a much lower level, is a cavern 23ft long and 4ft to 10ft broad.

2: The western cave is a fissure tunnel extending a considerable distance into the hillside, with its roof more or less parallel to the slope of the hill at a distance of 16 to 20ft which gradually diminishes further on. At 24ft from the mouth, and again at 44ft there were vertical openings in the roof of the cave, reaching to the surface, one free and the other filled with drift.

Exploration: Owing to the proximity of Ty Newydd Cottage it was found impossible to approach the cave from the exposed front, so a cutting and tunnel through the solid rock had to be made from the hillside above. This work occupied the whole winter of 1896-97. The actual exploration was begun in March, 1897.

Ellis Davies states that sections were made in seven places in the eastern cave, and although a depth of 8ft was reached, no rock floor was found. No bones or implements were found. In the western cave, sections were made at intervals along the cave, but again, no rock floor was found. The only find was a fragment of tooth identified as lower molar of Rhinoceros, found almost 47ft from the cave entrance.

Ebbs' website (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014) states that the caves are situated in the back garden of Ty-newydd-y-graig Cottage on the south side of the first lane running east from the south of Tremeirchion. The caves are in very red, sandy rock. It is likely that one of these caves is the man-made cutting and tunnel referred to by Ellis Davies (not Davies and Ellis) driven to provide an easier entrance to the cave below. He also provides the following description, taken from *Caves of North Wales* (1960) by Davies and Ellis of Shepton Mallet Caving Club:

Cave 1, length 18m. The largest entrance and the cave is used as a household rubbish tip. A ten feet drop, which requires a 20 foot rope, leads to sixty foot of high rift passage in a rectangular plan. At the far end of the cave the rift is at least thirty feet high and props were seen across the walls (suggesting evidence of mining).

Cave 2, length 5m (see note below). This is five feet vertically above Cave 1 but after 15 feet the passage is blocked by a wall of 'deads' (also suggesting evidence of mining)

Cave 3, length 15m. This is twenty feet west of Cave 1. Ten feet from the entrance a thirty foot high aven leads to the top of the cliff. To the left the passage slopes steadily upwards for fifty feet.

102239 Gwaenysgor Cave Upper Entrance (formerly Gop Farm Cave) SJ08028041

Cave with upper and lower chambers. Quantities of bone, some human and Pleistocene, have been found along with worked and unworked flint from both chambers. (HER)

A single cave known generally as Gwaenysgor Cave with two entrances which have previously been recorded in the HER as two separate caves. The name for this record has been changed from Gop Farm Cave to Gwaenysgor Cave, Upper Entrance to reflect this. The cave has an upper and lower series associated with the respective entrances, which has caused confusion in the past. The lower cave (see PRN 19107 - Gwaenysgor Cave, Harrison's Entrance) has been contaminated and filled with sewage and Ebbs cites that its entrance is located at SJ 08025 80395. The HER record for PRN 19107 includes some additional information: Finds from excavations around 1930 included human remains and flints, most of these are said to be in the J W Jackson Collection, Manchester Museum. Also excavated by Dyserth and District Field Club during 1950s/60s: animal bones of Pleistocene and post-Pleistocene found: NMW 45.179/34-47. Possible Neolithic finds now in NMW acc.15/64/5-8. (MB 15/12/14)



Plate 14: Gwaenysgor Cave, Upper entrance. Photo CPAT 2784-0030.

Opening of cave could be seen down an earth clearance resembling a shaft. The cave entrance was still open and is in reasonable condition. The owners said that sewerage overflow from the nearby treatment works passed into the cave. (CCC, 1979)

Rubbish had been dumped near the entrance, otherwise little change since 1979. (CCC, 1988)

Previous descriptions point to this cave being located at the bottom of a steeply sloping hollow, where the upper part of what seems to be a near horizontal passage leads off to the N. Rock is visible in the sides of the hollow to the N, E and S, but there is modern fill on the W. The interior might be accessible but was not examined owing to the alleged presence of sewage. (Caves Scheduling enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 6/3/2009)

The human remains from this cave might have originated from Gop Cave. The finds from Gop had been stored in the columbarium at Gop Farm but were disposed of 'down an open mine shaft nearby' (Davies, 1949, 280) in about 1913. The description fits well as this site is also on the grounds belonging to Gop Farm. It is possible that this record and that of Gwaenysgor Cave may have been conflated by previous sources. (Caves Scheduling enhancement Project, 2009)

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

The following description is taken verbatim from Ebbs' record.
(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales>, accessed December 2014)

Lower Cave

'Harrison's Entrance' (after the miner who discovered it in 1885) was a shallow shaft which happened to break into a cave where bones were found in a roomy chamber, originally called the 'Lower Cave'. The entrance shaft (originally 4m from surface to floor of chamber) currently has a triangular cast-iron inspection cover fitted into a concrete cap, below which a fixed ladder gave access to the chamber. Unfortunately this half of the cave has been used as a septic tank by Welsh Water for the last 40 years and is now filled.

Upper Cave

Harrison found a route leading upwards from the Lower Cave along a narrow passage to the discovery of the Upper Cave. This was later opened to surface (the Upper Entrance) creating a second entrance (Goold 1926). This half of the cave is uncontaminated. The entrance lies about 25 metres to the north (of Harrison's shaft) where a steep slope down provides access to a 25m long chamber. At the north end of this chamber is a 15 - 20m excavated crawl. Near the base of the entrance slope is the connecting crawl against the west wall (usually obscured by loose rocks) running southwards back to the Lower Cave. This is 14m long with a 3m vertical descent near the end (shown as 'pothole' on the survey above).

Archaeological notes

The cave was first discovered in 1885 by mine captain George Harrison, a prospecting mining engineer. In search of ore he excavated a shaft which after a few feet, happened to break into a cave where many animal bones were found in a roomy chamber. Between 1885 and 1910 several excavations were carried out, when 'several bushels of bones' were found, but no records of the work are known to exist.

The mining prospector eventually filled Harrison's shaft, but after his death the cave fell into the hands of two local people and was made into a show place (around 1910), but later fell into ruin. A stone 'igloo' existed over the entrance in 1920. A photograph of this can be seen online at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/81944984@N02/8020040900/lightbox/>

The cave was then excavated in 1929 by Dr. J. Wilfrid Jackson and the Dyserth and District Field Club, assisted by Professor Boswell and Mr E. Montag F.G.S.. They found remains of bison reindeer and human beings in the re-excavated debris filling Harrison's shaft. These could be remains from the nearby Gop Cave, thrown into a shaft at Gop Farm around the time it was filled in (CPAT's report 980, 2009). This however, in no way negates the importance of Gwaenysgor Cave as a rare archaeological site, as Goold states: In the lower cave, embedded in boulder clay, and lying in the entrance to the feeder marked on the plan, the writer found teeth and bones of woolly rhinoceros, hyena, wolf, bear, boar, deer and elk. The article adds that two unworked flakes of flint were also found inside the cave, as well as charcoal. Round about 1911 Mr Goold had the good fortune to find a number of bones at a point a little way from the foot of Harrison's shaft. These bones were identified by Dr J. Wilfrid Jackson as woolly rhino, cave hyaena, wild boar and great Irish deer. NB Wilfrid Jackson has been described as Britain's leading cave prehistorian from the 1920s to 1960s ('The Cave Hunters' edited by M.J. Bishop).

Harrison's entrance was capped in the 1960s by Welsh Water who were granted consent to discharge untreated sewage into the Lower Cave. By 2013 the entire Lower Cave had been filled with solids and the remaining 2 metres depth of the entrance shaft is now collapsing beneath the Welsh Water concrete cap.

In 2014 the Upper Cave remains uncontaminated and may still contain deposits of archaeological importance. Concerns that Welsh Water might re-direct their discharge pipe

into the uncontaminated Upper Cave have been allayed by the Environment Agency (now Natural Resources Wales) who in June 2014 confirmed that Welsh Water would have to apply for a variation of consent to divert their discharge pipe. In view of a European Directive now preventing discharges of this kind, the granting of such an application is very unlikely. Thus the Upper Cave should now be safe for the foreseeable future.

102261 Gop Cave

SJo8648008

Interconnected rock shelter and cave. The rock shelter was excavated in 1886 and the cave in 1908. Finds show use from Palaeolithic to Neolithic. Some of the finds are in the NMW.

Condition good. Natural limestone cave. (CCC, 1979)

No change since 1979 visit. (CCC, 1988)

The cave was excavated from 1908-14 and details are provided by Davies (1949) who also notes the results of further excavations in the area in front of the rock shelter by Glenn in 1921-2. (Davies 1949, 280-4). Further excavations were carried out between 1953 and 1962 by Stead and Bridgwood, and discovered a new chamber containing a Neolithic charnel deposit, apparently without grave goods. (Cullingford 1962, 325)

The burial contained unusual Late Neolithic artefacts of northern English origin (MacInnes, 1968) which epitomise a new phase in north-eastern Wales, opening up eastwards contacts which are maintained through the Bronze Age (Lynch, 2003).



Plate 15: Gop Cave. Photo CPAT 2784-0031.

The cave entrance lies at the base of a linear rock outcrop below Gop Cairn on its S side. There are two entrances which interconnect, the passages extending into the hillside for about 10m-15m. The cave was revealed by excavation and two trenches are evident in the spoil which extends in an E/W direction to the S of the mouth of the cave. Although extensively investigated over the years, it seems likely that some deposits may survive in front of the cave entrances and traces of a clastic deposit were seen within the E part of the cave suggesting that this was also not completely excavated. The scheduled area only covers the deposits in front of the cave mouth and not the cave passages which extend into the hillside. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 6/3/2009)

There is an extensive literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

This cave has three associated records representing the periods of finds found with the cave: PRN 102263 Gop Cave, Neolithic; PRN 102262 Gop Cave, Palaeolithic; and PRN 102264 Gop Cave, prehistoric (MB 15/12/14)

Ebbs surveyed this cave in May 2013 and has produced a detailed plan of the cave which is available to view on his website (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales>). He provides the following detailed log of the archaeological investigations undertaken in the cave: **1886**. Archaeologically excavated in 1886 by Boyd Dawkins who found 14 human skeletons of Late Neolithic age. Beneath this deposit was a Pleistocene (Ice Age) layer containing animal bones: in one area of the cave, found rubble walls which made up a rectangular chamber. Within this chamber were fourteen human skeletons laid in crouched positions, along with pottery, a polished flint knife, jet 'belt-sliders' and quartz pebbles..... Beneath this Neolithic deposit there was a layer of Pleistocene cave earth which contained bones of animal species including hyaena, woolly rhinoceros, reindeer, horse and bison.

1908-14. John H. Morris of Rhyl and T. Allen Glenn found a further 6 skeletons (of which two were children) in the north-west passage beyond the burial chamber excavated by Boyd Dawkins. Also found was a 'beautifully made' hand-axe of Graig Lwyd rock from Penmaenmawr. This excavation work opened the passage to surface creating a second entrance, known as the North West Cave.

1919-21. T. Allen Glenn, with funding from the National Museum of Wales, excavated the platform in front of the cave, extending the existing trenches of earlier work. He found further human and animal remains and stone tools. Many of the remains from the cave are held by the National Museum of Wales. (Walker, E., 1993. *History of Excavations at Gop Cave*, Clwyd Archaeological News.)

1956. Excavated by William H. Stead (Source: Coflein cat. No. C433032: Photocopies of correspondence, includes letters from the excavator).

102262 Gop Cave, palaeolithic

SJ08648008

Faunal remains from lower layers in shelter and cave dated to Pleistocene by the excavator.

Parent record PRN 102261. (MB 15/12/14)

102263 Gop Cave, neolithic

SJ08648008

Human skeletons from chamber in rock shelter. Sherds of decorated pottery possibly Peterborough type were found with the skeletons. Also Graig Llywd axe found near cave entrance.

NMW record the following: Mesolithic - flint microlith, 3 chert microliths, 1 chert blade; Neolithic - flint leaf shaped arrowhead (1); Prehistoric - flint scrapers (2); flint flake (4), chert flake (1), flint and chert debitage (1?) (CPAT Lithics study, 2001).

Fourteen skeletons were found according to Oldham (1991, 24), with Pleistocene faunal remains in the lower deposits. Some of the human remains and implements are in NMW, human remains and pottery also in the Manchester University Museum (M13), and other human remains are in the private collection of J H Morris, West Bromwich. (Oldham, 1991, 26)

Cullingford (1962, 290) notes that that the skeletons were found in a 'rudely constructed stone chamber against the cave entrance' and mentions further finds in addition to those described above, including two links or studs of shale, a polished flint knife and white quartz pebbles.

The burial contained unusual Late Neolithic artefacts of northern English origin (MacInnes, 1968) which epitomise a new phase in north-eastern Wales, opening up eastwards contacts which are maintained through the Bronze Age (Lynch, 2003).

All of these features are described in more detail by Davies (1949), who provides a plan of the entrance showing the position of the chamber. See also PRN 102261. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT 2009)

Parent record PRN 102261. (MB 15/12/14)

102264 **Gop Cave, prehistoric** **SJ08648008**

Human remains from the inner cave excavated 1908. All in disturbed layers associated with finds of scattered flint flakes, faunal remains and shells. No pottery recovered.

Parent record PRN 102261. (MB 15/12/14)

102318 **Big Covert Cave** **SJ19796055**

Cave excavated 1949 and later (PRN 39918). Six burials and finds indicating Roman date plus some modern material. Cave entrance is 2m high and 1m wide. (HER)

The first excavations here were by Hesketh and Wyke in 1948-9. Finds up to 1954 included a bronze penannular brooch, possibly of 1st-century date, a zoomorphic plate brooch in the shape of a fish, possibly of the 2nd century, and a bronze ring. A Roman bronze fibula was recovered from work in the entrance chamber in 1950, at the same time as a barbed and tanged arrowhead. (Hesketh 1955)

A natural limestone cave, the entrance to which is S facing. Cave mouth measures 1m high and 1.3m wide. (CCC, 1988)

The datable Roman finds have apparently been attributed to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Stalagmitic deposits noted on some of the bones from the cave, which is also known as Maeshafn Cave. (Davies 1989, 94)

Natural cave, much modified by mining, allegedly excavated by Pritchard in 1950 who uncovered six skeletons (Oldham 1991, 40), although this is contrary to the report produced by Hesketh, above, and suggests that Pritchard, perhaps along with others, made casual finds from the cave while the work was in progress.



Plate 16: Big Covert Cave. CPAT 2784-0040.

CPAT 2009: The cave entrance is 1.3m wide and 1.0m high, with a passage leading N to a chamber, from which a passage heads E, but this was not examined further. There are some deposits which appear to be in-situ on the W side of the entrance passage and there may be others forming the floor as this does not appear to consist of bedrock. The ground at the mouth of the cave is about 2m below the adjoining land and there is a sloping terrace about 5m across which is partially formed from a spoil tip created by past excavations and overlooks a moderate W-facing slope. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 11/3/2009)

There is an extensive literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

The following information is taken from Ebbs' website:

A stooping-sized entrance opens into a chamber of about 3m wide x 4m long x almost 2m high. At the rear of the chamber, a roomy passage on the right descends at about 30 degrees for 30m to a junction. To the right is a 30m mined passage which was not driven any further than a pool of water. Straight on, the cave continues as a descending crawl over miners waste rock (This crawl has remained unchanged since the original archaeologists dug a way through the miners 'deads' in the 1940s). The cave terminates at a clay-filled blockage where the roof dips to a shallow clay-floored pool. This is the original 'bone chamber' first excavated in the 1940s. Working space is limited at this point, there being just enough room to turn around. Further clay deposits remain untouched here, but working conditions would be difficult without first excavating the miners waste that blocks the last 30 metres and removing the water by pumping.

The first archaeological discovery in the cave was made by J. L. Williams. He had the bones identified by Dr. Gamble of Holywell (source: personal communication with one of the original excavators, Mr Birchall, Corwen Road, Treuddyn in 1985). Numerous other excavations then took place during the 1940s and 50s, both at the entrance chamber and the 'bone chamber' at the end of the cave. Amongst the finds were bronze brooches and a ring, a flint arrowhead and numerous hominin remains (5 adults, 1 child). Ebbs asserts that there has been no recent disturbance of the site, as a modern survey of the cave shows it to be identical to that recorded in 1949. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>)

102319 **Big Covert Cave, Bronze Age** **SJ19796055**

Cave excavated in 1949 and later (PRN 39918). The only prehistoric find reported was a barbed and tanged arrowhead. NMW accession no. 55.22.2-4.

Finds in NMW are two flint flakes and one spall. Undiagnostic (NMW record). (CPAT Lithics study, 2001)

A tanged and barbed, flint arrowhead was found in the Entrance Chamber. It was found at the same time as a bronze, Roman fibula. It has already been mentioned that the two items were close together, but it would be unwise to regard this as definite evidence of their being contemporary because: a) the floor may have been subjected to disturbance, and b) articles lost in rubble can work down between stones through the interstices. Dr. Savory, in his brief account, implies that the disturbance may have brought them together. (Hesketh 1955, 146-147)

See PRN 102318 for cave description.

102320 **Big Covert Cave, Roman** **SJ19796055**

Roman Cave excavated in 1949 (Prn 39918) and later revealing the burials of about 6 individuals, two associated with Roman brooches. Other finds included a pennanular brooch, a Roman coin and a bronze ring. (HER)

CPAT 2009:

See PRN 102318 for cave description. The HER notes that of the six individuals buried in the cave, two were associated with Roman brooches. Other finds included a pennanular brooch, a Roman coin and a bronze ring. The datable Roman finds have apparently been attributed to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. (Davies 1989, 94)

Of the discovery of the bones and bronze Roman artefacts:

'There is no direct evidence that the brooches and ring are associated with the bones, for we cannot yet definitely assign them to the same calcite layer. However, it seems reasonable to assume that the bronze articles were worn on the clothing of the people whose bones have lain there so long. It seems probable that we have here the remains of a burial or burials in the first or second century A.D. (Hesketh 1954, 146)

Ebbs' NGR: SJ 19795 60558 (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>)

For cave description see PRN 102318. (MB 11/12/14)

102804 Ogof Colomendy**SJ2020162773**

Potholers digging to extend a cave in 1975 found animal and human bones. Subsequently excavated in 1975 and 1976 but nothing dateable found. A broken leaf-shaped arrowhead and waste flake found in 1977. The excavations were apparently limited to work necessary to open a route into the inner cave and the entrance platform has apparently been left untouched. The human remains represented a minimum of three individuals. (Davies 1989, 99)

A natural limestone cave. Entrance is roughly triangular in shape and faces south, 1.4m high and 1m wide. From cave entrance to rear wall is 2.2m. (CCC, 1988)

Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead in NMW. (CPAT Lithics study, 2001)

The site of the cave was not convincingly found. It seems to be located in a low rock band which has been quarried at the location given by Oldham (1991, 45) and is used here in preference to that originally recorded in the HER (SJ 202 628). The location of the HER reference does not tally with the site description. Perhaps the cave/shelter has become infilled since it was dug, or it may be mis-located. (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 11/3/2009)

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

The following summary of Davies' work in the cave is taken verbatim from Ebbs' website: (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>)

1975 August 3rd Although the cave was first noticed by Ted Carr two weeks earlier, the first excavation at the site was carried out on August 3rd. Heavily disturbed ground was cleared which revealed many bones and at least 13 teeth, at which point digging was halted and the finds reported to a cave archaeologist.

1975 December 14th The second excavation by cavers with Mel Davies directing. After just four hours work two bucketfuls of bones had been unearthed, many of which were obviously human. All finds were found in very loose earth, although undisturbed deposits were reached at a depth of about a metre inside the cave.

1976 March 21st Excavated by cavers with Mel Davies. Work continued excavating loose earth and boulders for three hours, after which a further bucketful of bones were found. Mel commented that one bucket of bones equals two months work!

1976 October 24th Carefully excavated by cavers, following Mel's guidelines. A day was spent excavating the platform in front of the entrance, although several large boulders had to be cleared. The bones found were cleaned and sent to Mel Davies for identification.

1977 April 3rd Fourteen cavers and Mel Davies carefully excavated at the site. The area within the cave was now found to be lacking in bones. Mel Davies stated that the main area for future work lay within the platform outside the entrance.

A large sample of the finds were placed on temporary loan with the National Museum of Wales in 1981, whilst part of the bone assemblage was retained by Ebbs. The following are held at the NMW: 6879g of animal bones, 2981g of human bones, and a leaf-shaped arrowhead. Ebbs also provides a photograph of some of the finds within his possession. Whilst the interior of the shelter has been extensively excavated, Ebbs states that there is a high possibility of undisturbed deposits in the entrance platform of the site. The artefact assemblage from this site obviously presents an invaluable resource which could be re-evaluated. Davies speculated that the bones (which suggest interesting postmortem cuts and fractures) were around 3000 years old but none were subject to radiocarbon dating. (MB 16/12/14)



Plate 17: Ogof Colomendy. Photo CPAT 3906-0003.

The cave lies in the S side of a limestone outcrop and comprises a short passage, excavated in the 1970s. The interior has a step down of about 0.5m from the exterior, then slopes down a further 0.5m to 0.8m to the end of the excavation. The step is formed by a large limestone block which overlies a seemingly undisturbed buff silt. It is possible, though not certain, that the cave extended for a further 3-4m to the SSE, but had its roof removed by quarrying. In this area the ground steps up again a further 0.4m to a levelled platform measuring 5m NW/SE by 3m. It seems quite probable, as suggested by Ebbs, that there will be in-situ deposits left in both the interior and exterior of the cave. (CPAT site visit 6/1/2015.)

102953 Minera Cave

SJ255520

In 1904 during blasting operations at Minera Lime Works a human skeleton was discovered in a cave close to the River Clywedog. The cave was previously unknown and has been destroyed.

There is a limited literature on this cave for which see Chamberlain and Williams 2000.

Ebbs agrees that this is now a lost cave. He also suggests that the cave may have been in close proximity to other known cave systems within the area such as Ogof Hen Ddyn (SJ 2541 5201) and that Minera cave is thought to be close to and west of Ogof Dydd Byraf (SJ 2551 5202). (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

The two additional caves mentioned by Ebbs are not thought to contain archaeological deposits; the former shows evidence of mining. Neither cave is recorded in the HER. (MB 16/12/14)

103035 Orchid Cave**SJ1999060497**

Roman Cave at base of limestone cliff found during digging by cavers in 1981. The remains of at least three human skeletons were found, two bone objects (a carved bone toggle and pin), a flint scraper and various animal bones. Probably of Iron Age or Roman date (Guilbert, 1982, 15).

At the base of limestone cliff running approx N-S. Cave mouth faces approx W. Entrance originally choked with boulders and leaf mould. (CCC, 1981)

Described as being at base of a limestone cliff, however site could not be located due to the density of woodland. (CCC, 1988)

Finds of human bones dated to Neolithic: 4170bp (OxA-3817). (Chamberlain, A 1996)

Two human bones, an ulna and an atlas, along with some animal bones were recovered from this cave by a member of the public in November 2003 (see PRN 87295), having been put to one side by cavers during cave excavation. It is believed that these will be transferred to Denbighshire Countryside Service in the near future. (CPAT 2009)



Plate 18: Orchid Cave, spoil mound at entrance. Photo CPAT 2784-0043.

Cave entrance 1.3m wide and 1.1m high situated in a WNW-facing rock scarp which is 2.5m high. A spoil tip from cave digging extends to the NNW for about 7m and is up to 1m high. Digging seems to have extended over a considerable period of time as the part of the tip nearest the entrance is vegetated, whereas the opposite end seems quite fresh. A wire is attached to the rock on one side of the entrance and leads into the passage which descends at

about 30 degrees from the horizontal. A bucket can be seen attached to one end of the wire. No archaeological material was visible at the time of the visit (Caves Scheduling Enhancement Project, CPAT site visit 11/3/2009).

A pathologist considered the bones not to be of recent origin (*i.e.* in excess of 100 years old). They were subsequently transferred to Denbighshire County Council Heritage Service (CPAT 2012).

Ebbs locates this cave at SJ 20002 60506 and provides additional information, as follows: Length 13m. An entrance over 1m high opens onto a steeply descending passage about 7m long. The passage then turns to the right and continues descending more gradually for at least another 6m. Difficult to find without a GPS being in the midst of woodland. The cave was first excavated by members of North Wales Caving Club in 1981 (Source: NWCC newsletter No 100, April 1981). This source also mentions another cave 100 metres to the south being a long slit at the base of a low outcrop, and a third cave a further 100 metres south described as a short crawl leads to a section over 2m high at a distance of about 6m. These other two caves may now be occupied by badgers, their entrances being obscured by burrowing (Pers. comm John Blore 2012). Davies stated that the spoil heap had not been sieved during the excavations. Non-archaeological digging of bone-bearing deposits continued for some years after 1981 by persons unknown. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>)

Davies' report on the bones retrieved from the caves is available, on Ebbs' website. Ebbs also provides the following radiocarbon date retrieved from the human bone, provided by the NMW: 4,830+/-100 BP (OxA-3815). This is an uncalibrated date but by some estimation it would broadly assign a Neolithic date to the human remains. The original HER record states the period as being Roman and Iron Age. This seems to be tentatively based on the artefacts found, although it is not clear on the reasoning behind this classification. Given the radiocarbon date, the period(s) for this site should be reviewed. PRN 34750, Clwyd Forest Cave, is probably a duplicate record. (MB 16/12/14)

120881 **Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1), Bronze Age activity** **SJ1976359309**

A hearth, and partly overlying it, a burial mound, were found at the back of the cave. The mound was rectangular in shape but had been burrowed into just over half way along its length. It consisted of small, angular blocks of stone. Ten disarticulated and gnawed human bones were recovered from within the mound during excavation (Blore, 1981). The original HER name for this record has been changed from Lynx Cave Bronze Age activity to Lynx Cave (Bryn Alyn Cave 1) Bronze Age activity as it is part of the Bryn Alyn Caves group, comprising 12 separate caves. See PRN 100947 for the parent record. (MB 15/12/14)

123337 **Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 5** **SH91547793**

This is a previously unrecorded cave that features on Ebbs' website and is one of 6 caves in the Tan-yr-Ogof caves group. The parent PRN for this group is 54884. (MB 19/12/14)

Ebbs provides the following information:

Length, 8m. A straight rift passage with an aven in the roof.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)



Plate 19: Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 5. Photo CPAT 3906-0021.

It seems likely that some, if not most, of the currently open part of the cave was deliberately emptied of its fill to create a feature of landscape interest for the Gwrych Castle estate, as seems to have happened to most of the other caves in this group. The photograph of Cave No 6 on Ebbs' website is actually of this cave. There is evidence of the truncated remains of a stalagmite floor at head-height at the end of the cave, although this has been removed nearer to the entrance. This may be the evidence reported by Blore under Cave No 6 (PRN 123460), as there appear to be in-situ deposits beneath the surviving portion of the floor. (CPAT site visit 16/1/2015)

123451

Brasgyll Cave No.8

SJ0060571416

This is a previously unrecorded cave which is located within the Brasgyll gorge caves group (see PRN19309 for the parent record for this group of caves).

This cave features on Ebbs' website as Cave No.8 within the group, as described below:

Length, 7m. An obvious entrance about 1.5m in diameter, leads after a few metres to a chamber about 2 or 3 metres in diameter. It has a second smaller entrance just 3 metres to the right. Portions of old speleothem floor can be seen just below roof level. The cave contains undisturbed deposits of unknown archaeological potential.
(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)



Plate 20: Brasgyll Cave No.8. Photo CPAT 2784-0010.

In the website entry for this cave, Ebbs attaches some archaeological data to the cave. However, the data is not specific to this cave itself, rather it is generic information which refers to PRNs 101424, PRN 102147 and the group PRN 19309. Whether the site contains archaeological material remains unknown, but its proximity to known archaeological caves suggests it has potential, particularly as Ebbs reports undisturbed deposits. (MB 17/12/14)

123452

Llandegla Cave E

SJ1882753579

This is a previously unrecorded cave in the Llandegla group discovered by Ebbs in 2011, during his cave survey of the area. He describes it as:

A north-facing entrance which appears to have been revealed by animal activity. The entrance is currently blocked with boulders. It may form part of a single passage connecting to Cave F, perhaps 20-25 metres to the south. (NB. Cave F = PRN 100940 Rhos Isaf Cave A).
(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

An internal view (on the website) was obtained by lowering a camera at arms length down between boulders and there is also a photograph showing the location of this cave. (MB 17/12/14)

123453 Llandegla Cave L (Basil's Cave) SJ1888153165

This is a previously unrecorded cave included within the Llandegla caves group by Ebbs, who describes the cave as comprising a low crawl-sized passage first revealed by animal activity.

An exploratory excavation was carried out by the writer (Ebbs) in 1984 when a trench was excavated just outside the entrance. This yielded 66 animal and bird bones of no archaeological interest. In 1986, the landowner's dog Basil became trapped in the cave. Although a low passage was enlarged by the landowner for a distance of approximately six metres, the dog was not recovered. Subsequently the excavated passage and resulting spoil were briefly examined for archaeological remains without success. The entrance is currently sealed with boulders. Significant deposits remain within the cave, requiring a more determined archaeological examination (Ebbs 2013). In the circumstances, it seems unlikely that this will be carried out.

123454 Llandegla Cave 1 SJ1909352416

One of two previously unrecorded caves immediately west of the village of Llandegla, visited by Peter Appleton in 1963. No further information is available for this cave, but it is relatively close to those (see PRN 34749) examined by Dawkins in the late 19th century and therefore has some archaeological potential. (MB 18/12/14)

123455 Llandegla Cave 2 SJ1915752422

One of two previously unrecorded caves immediately west of the village of Llandegla, visited by Peter Appleton in 1963. No further information is available for this cave, but it is relatively close to those (see PRN 34749) examined by Dawkins in the late 19th century and therefore has some archaeological potential. (MB 18/12/14)

123456 Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 1 SH9139977893

This is a previously unrecorded cave that features on Ebbs' website and is one of 6 caves in the Tan-yr-Ogof caves group. The parent PRN for this group is 54884. (MB 19/12/14)

Ebbs provides the following information:

Length, 5m. A low rock shelter quickly reducing in size to a low crawl 3m long which enters Cave 2 at roof level. The cave contains unexcavated deposits which extend outside the cave entrance.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

Cave as described by Ebbs. The deposits outside the cave are largely gravels while those inside appear to be silts and sands, but they were not investigated. Access is a little awkward but possibly worth some further assessment as many of the other caves in this locality have been subject to large-scale excavation, perhaps to create features of interest for the Gwrych Castle estate. (CPAT site visit 16/1/2015)



Plate 21: Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 1, showing external deposits. Photo CPAT 3906-0031.

123457 Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 2

SH9139577905

This is a previously unrecorded cave that features on Ebbs' website and is one of 6 caves in the Tan-yr-Ogof caves group. The parent PRN for this group is 54884. (MB 19/12/14)

Ebbs provides the following information:

Length, 19m. A passage up to 6m high becomes silted after 10m, but at the top of the clay blockage at the end is a crawl excavated in 1974. This enters a small chamber after 8m and terminates close to a dig in Cave 3. During this excavation no archaeological material was found. Above the bank on the right of the passage is a crawl into Cave 1.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

Cave as described by Ebbs. It seems likely that the current open part of the cave was deliberately emptied of its fill to create a feature of landscape interest for the Gwrych Castle estate. (CPAT site visit 16/1/2015)

123458 Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 3

SH9142177910

This is a previously unrecorded cave that features on Ebbs' website and is one of 6 caves in the Tan-yr-Ogof caves group. The parent PRN for this group is 54884. (MB 19/12/14)

Ebbs provides the following information:

Length, 30m. A 5m high winding passage, 24m long, with a smaller 6m passage on the right at the end. Part way into the cave are two tubes in the passage wall. 6m above these tubes is a crawl passage connecting to Cave 2. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)



Plate 22: Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 3. Photo CPAT 3906-0029.

Cave as described by Ebbs. It seems likely that the current open part of the cave was deliberately emptied of its fill to create a feature of landscape interest for the Gwrych Castle estate. This is particularly so as evidence of a former stalagmite floor can be seen at a high level in the main passage and there are pick marks visible on the walls. Most of the deposits seem to have been removed. (CPAT site visit 16/1/2015)

123459 Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 4

SH9150377944

This is a previously unrecorded cave that features on Ebbs' website and is one of 6 caves in the Tan-yr-Ogof caves group. The parent PRN for this group is 54884. (MB 19/12/14)

Ebbs provides the following information:

The Ogo (after Baker and Balch 1907), length 52m. A 7m diameter entrance immediately splits into two passages. The left ends after 10m. The main right-hand passage passes beneath a rift in the roof leading up to surface, within which an awkward climb leads to a 6m passage. Some 35 metres from the entrance the main passage becomes more silted at a point where a small chamber can be seen on the left. The main route closes down after a further 7m. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

Cave as described by Ebbs. It seems likely that some of the currently open part of the cave was deliberately emptied of its fill to create a feature of landscape interest for the Gwrych Castle estate; a photograph on Ebbs' website shows that this had probably already taken place by 1907. This is the only cave of the group depicted on late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps. It appears that the right-hand passage had a stalagmite floor, about 2m above its current one, and there are traces of a possible second stalagmite floor at a lower level, suggesting that there were at least two phases of silt deposition in the life of the cave. The right-hand passage is exposed to a through draught, being open to the surface above, and is not particularly

habitable. The left-hand passage provides rather more shelter and has a curious rock step at its entrance. There are clay deposits within the passage, which are thicker near its end. The site may be worth some trial excavation to assess the archaeological potential of the remaining deposits. (CPAT site visit 16/1/2015)



Plate 23: Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 4 (The Ogo). Photo CPAT 3906-0023.

123460 Tan-yr-Ogof Cave 6

SH91497793

This is a previously unrecorded cave that features on Ebbs' website and is one of 6 caves in the Tan-yr-Ogof group. The parent PRN for the group is 54884. (MB 19/12/14)

Ebbs provides the following information:

Length, 6m. A crawl becoming too tight. This small cave could be of archaeological interest: In 2001 John Blore examined the deposits and revealed an undisturbed speleothem floor (J Blore, pers. comm. to C Ebbs, 2012). (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

An image of the cave on Ebbs' website is of Cave No 5, so it may be that it is that cave which is considered to have archaeological potential. (RH 26/2/2015)

123461 Bryn Alyn Cave No. 3

SJ19755927

This is a previously unrecorded cave that features on Ebbs' website and is one of 12 caves within the Bryn Alyn Caves group. The parent record for this group is PRN 24398. (MB 18/12/14)

Ebbs provides the following information:

Cave 3, also known as Top Ridge Cave or Windy Cave. Length 20m. A stooping-sized passage can be followed down then up to where it becomes a squeeze up into a tiny chamber. Daylight

can be seen ahead through a narrow rift. At the surface, this rift is left of, and 6m above, the entrance. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

Ebbs also states that the site was examined in 1959 by John Blore who named it Top Ridge Cave. It was first documented as Windy Cave (Shepton Mallet Caving Club Journal, Series Four, No 1, June 1966). Subsequently excavated by John Blore in 1986. No evidence was found to suggest human use or occupation. Remains recovered included: wild cat, fox, badger, dog, pig, hare and hedgehog (source: pers. comm. C Ebbs with John Blore 2012).

Cave as described by Ebbs. No significant deposits were seen. (CPAT site visit 6/1/2015)

123462

Bryn Alyn Cave No. 5 (Hawthorn Cave)

SJ1993159324

This is a previously unrecorded cave that features on Ebbs' website and is one of 12 caves within the Bryn Alyn Caves group. The parent record for this group is PRN 24398. (MB 18/12/14)



Plate 24: Bryn Alyn Cave No.5. Photo CPAT 3906-0009.

Ebbs (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014) provides the following information:

Cave 5, also known as Hawthorn Cave (by Blore). Length 10m, comprising a low crawl into a small chamber. A small exploratory trench was begun at the cave entrance in 2009. The site certainly has potential as an archaeological site (source: pers. comm. with John Blore 2012).

The cave is sited at the base of a rock outcrop and consists of a crawling passage, about 10m long, ending at a chamber about 4m long by 1m wide and 1.3m high. The passage probably continues beyond but is too tight for access. The floor is formed by a deposit of clay, suggesting that the actual passage is significantly larger, probably not much different from the nearby Lynx Cave. The deposits in the chamber have a small trench, about 2m long by 0.2m wide and 0.3m deep, cut into them, although there are no finds visible. Location revised from that provided by Ebbs. (CPAT site visit 6/1/2015)

123463 Bryn Alyn Cave No. 12 SJ192885889

This is a previously unrecorded cave that features on Ebbs' website and is one of 12 caves within the Bryn Alyn Caves group. The parent record for this group is PRN 24398. (MB 18/12/14)

Ebbs provides the following information regarding this cave:

A previously undocumented cave found by the writer (Ebbs) in March 2013. Although merely a 3m crawl, the end is blocked with loose stones and could be extended a little further. The angle of the passage walls suggest the cave enlarges below the earth and clay floor, hence it could have archaeological potential. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014).

123464 Caerwys Cave No. 2 SJ1236973200

This is a previously unrecorded cave that features on Ebbs' website. The site is one of four caves in this locality though only two of these (this site and PRN 123465) have been appended to the HER on account of their archaeological potential. See PRN 123468 for the group record. (MB 18/12/14)

Ebbs provides the following information regarding this cave:

An entrance chamber-cum-rock-shelter 6m wide by 1m high. A passage leads off but is blocked with what appear to be undisturbed deposits. The entrance faces 160 degrees (in 2013). (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

The cave lies to the west of the nearby track and its entrance is partially hidden by trees from on-going felling operations in the woodland. It appears to be a rock shelter with a passage to the rear and so is similar in character to Cave No 3, opposite, although there appears to be less likelihood of archaeological deposits. (CPAT site visit 7/1/2015)

123465 Caerwys Cave No. 3 SJ1238573201

This is a previously unrecorded cave that features on Ebbs' website. The site is one of four caves in this locality though only two of these (this site and PRN 123464) have been appended to the HER on account of their archaeological potential. See PRN 123468 for the group record. (MB 18/12/14)

Ebbs provides the following information regarding this cave:

An entrance chamber 7m wide x 1m high x 7m+ long tapers down to a passage. The passage was not explored in 2013, but appears to have been excavated.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

A low but wide cave entrance on the east side of the track up the valley. It seems to be a chamber whose outer edge contains a range of modern, dumped material, but towards the rear the sandy silt floor appears relatively undisturbed. This may merit investigation and a small trial showed that the deposits were of some depth. A passage continues to the rear but this was not followed as it was of restricted size and bats were observed. (CPAT site visit 7/1/2015)



Plate 25: Caerwys Cave No. 3. Photo CPAT 3906-0018.

123466

Dulas Cave

SH9136377594

This is a previously unrecorded cave that features on Ebbs' website. (MB 18/12/14)

Ebbs provides the following information regarding this cave:

Length, 200m. Also known as Ogof Dulas. A glacially-filled cave partially excavated during mining operations. A 3m diameter natural passage runs east straight into the hillside to a chamber then a major blockage. The blockage can be climbed but this point corresponds with a depression on the surface. 90m from the entrance is a small stone-walled shallow shaft in the passage floor that leads to mine workings which can then be climbed upwards for 15m.

Archaeological

The entrance exhibits a thick layer of stalagmite floor. Although miners have excavated a passage below this, undisturbed deposits remain for a distance of about 8 metres. Further significant deposits remain in places along the passage walls, some undisturbed, other deposits placed there, presumably moved from the channel excavated along the passage floor. Their archaeological potential is unknown.

Early references:

British Caver, Vol 18, 1948 by Peter Wild

British Caver, Vol 32, 1959 by Alan Ashwell

<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

The cave is much as described by Ebbs. The mining has left many sections cut through the old fill, some of which might be relatively easily investigated to assess their archaeological potential. A few small mammal bones were visible in drip pockets in the deposits a short way into the cave and a small amount of charcoal was observed, apparently disturbed by animal burrowing, just inside the entrance. Overall, it is probable that the site is worthy of further investigation. (CPAT site visit 15/2/2015)



Plate 26: In-situ fill in Dulas Cave. Photo CPAT 3906-0035.

123467**Eryrys Hill Cave****SJ1964257696**

This is a previously unrecorded cave that features on Ebbs' website. (MB 18/12/14)

Ebbs provides the following information regarding this cave:

Length, 30m. A low but wide crawl narrows after 9m then enlarges to almost 1m high. The passage ascends and ends at a clay and boulder blockage close to the surface. Much of the cave

is floored with clay at least 2m in depth, hence if excavated should reveal a passage at least 2m wide x 2m high. First documented in 1991. May repay excavation work to assess its archaeological potential. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

123468 **Caerwys Caves**

SJ12377320

A group of 4 previously unrecorded caves that feature on Ebbs' website, where a location plan is available. This record is the parent PRN for the group, but of these only two (PRNs 123464 and 123465) have been appended to the HER on account of their archaeological potential. (MB 18/12/14)

Ebbs provides the following information regarding this group of caves:

An interesting dry valley containing four caves, one filled cave and two blocked entrances of unknown extent. The valley could repay closer examination.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

123469 **Brasgyll Cave No.3**

SJ0049971259

A previously unrecorded cave which is located within the Brasgyll gorge and forms one of a group (see PRN 19309 for the parent record). (MB 18/12/14)

The cave features on Ebbs' website as Cave No.3 within this group, where it is described in the following terms:

(B.S. Pot), length 110m. Archaeological cave? A narrow slot at the foot of the limestone outcrop is 2m deep having a blocked passage at floor level. Directions above. Awaiting archaeological details. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

128550 **Perthi Chwarae Farm Cave II**

SJ18855370

Sited to the north-east of PRN 100930 and possibly one of the five caves excavated in 1869-72 by Boyd Dawkins, containing crouched inhumations assumed to be of Neolithic date.

Ebbs (2011) has the following comparative assessment regarding the various names ascribed to this cave. He locates the cave at SJ 18850 53704.

Ebbs Cave name: Cave C

Dawkins' Cave name: Cave No.1

Cadw Cave name: Cave 1a (not scheduled)

CPAT Cave name: Perthi Chwarae Farm Cave II

OS Cave name: Not named

RCAHMW Cave name: Not named

A roomy entrance rift chamber, 2.7m high x 4m wide, having, at floor level, a 1m high passage 7m in length, terminating at a collapse of clay and boulders. The collapsed material is unconsolidated, appearing to have fallen since Boyd Dawkins' time. The end of the cave is littered with discarded bottles. The 2012 survey has identified several close similarities with Boyd Dawkins' survey of his Cave No 1 in which animal and human remains were found. A total of up to sixteen individuals were found to have been represented in the deposits. Two cranial samples were tested for radio carbon analysis by Dr Rick Shulting of Oxford University in 2011 (paper forthcoming), returning the following dates: 3080-2904 cal BC (95%) 29-607/ 1B OxA-17563 4354 27, and 1494-1322 cal BC (95%) 29-607/ 1A OxA-17562 3141 26, dating the bone

to the late Neolithic and middle Bronze Age. Ebbs has also produced a detailed plan and section survey of this cave which is available on his website.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

This was the most prolific of the five hominin caves which Dawkins (1874, 152 and 154) discovered in this area. He recovered up to sixteen crouched burials, a flint flake, numerous animal bones representing a variety of species, including clam, mussel, and cockle shells. At the time of its discovery, Dawkins reported that the cave entrance was blocked by large stones and the interior was filled nearly to the roof with fine red silt. Dawkins suggested that the burials were Neolithic in age and speculated that the cave had been used as a cemetery at different times. (MB 17/12/14)

128551 Rhos Isaf Cave E

SJ1870253323

Ebbs (2011) has the following comparative assessment regarding the various names ascribed to this cave.

Ebb's Cave name: Cave J

Dawkins' Cave name: Rhosdigre No.3

Cadw Cave name: Not named

CPAT Cave name: Rhos Isaf Cave E

OS Cave name: 1754

RCAHMW Cave name: Not named

A photograph showing the location of this shelter is available on Ebbs' website.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed December 2014)

No cave passage is currently accessible, although the location of the entrance is indicated by animal burrows. The father of the current landowner states that the cave once had a large entrance and was used for storing hay bales. These became wet and were abandoned. Significant animal activity then accelerated the sealing process. If this cave can be confirmed as being Cave Rhosdigre No. 3 as mentioned by Boyd Dawkins, its Ancient Monument status will need to be re-assessed, as the cave is currently unprotected. (Ebbs 2013)

128674 Limekiln cave I

SJ18755379

This cave entrance is now lost, possibly buried. The cave was excavated and named by J. D. Blore and L. Robinson in 1984 without finding archaeological remains. The entrance lay on the west side of the Llanarmon-Llandegla road in what remains of an old quarry about 50m to 70m south of Perthi Chwareu house. A limekiln existed a few metres from the entrance in 1974 but this and the cave entrance were lost during ground clearance work. A north-facing entrance 1m in diameter provided access to a straight, descending passage 3m long. This terminated at a clay blockage. The passage beyond the clay blockage was likely to connect, after a few metres, with a south-facing cave which is also now buried (see PRN 128675). (Ebbs website: <https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>).

128675 Limekiln Cave II

SJ18755379

This cave entrance is now lost, possibly buried. The entrance lay on the west side of the Llanarmon-Llandegla road a few metres east of what remains of an old quarry about 60m to 80m south of Perthi Chwareu house. The cave entrance was lost during ground clearance work. The entrance was south-facing, 1m in diameter providing access to a straight, ascending passage 4m in length. This terminated at a clay blockage. The passage beyond was likely to

connect, after a few metres, with a north-facing cave which is also now buried (see PRN 128674). (Ebbs website: <https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>)

132147 **Murphy's Pot** **SJ1904864417**

Ebbs records this as an archaeological cave, with depth 40m, as follows:

A chamber formed by collapse beneath the perimeter of a large dry shakehole. A 4m fixed ladder descent from the entrance enters the 5m x 10m x 3m high chamber. A timber and scaffolding walkway crosses the chamber to a further ladder descent of 12m. A series of excavated short drops then lead to the working face. Digging continues through loose boulders and clay against a 'solid' wall. An assortment of animal bones were found in the chamber including horse and wild boar dated as being 5000 to 7000 years of age. The cave was first discovered in 1993. (see also Millennium Pot – in opposite side of same shakehole). Could possibly connect with the nearby Ogof Hesp Alyn cave system which terminates at a point about 150m to the north-east and perhaps 50m below the lowest point in the dig. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed February 2015)

Ebbs' website also contains a number of photographs, one of some bones in the chamber and another of a notice reading:

'Murphy's Pot, Cilcain October 1998 ongoing

The main chamber of this cave contains several bones of significant archaeological interest. The placement of the bones and their positions within the cave are extremely important. Please do not touch any bones or stray outside the taped routes until all excavation work is finished. Please report any accidental movement of artefacts to: (A contact is then given). This cave may be designated as a site of special historical importance as a result of this work. No access restrictions will be imposed to GCC members and their guests.'

132161 **Skull Pot** **SJ1934665524**

Ebbs records this as an archaeological cave, with depth 15m+, as follows:

A small entrance immediately opens out over the top of a 2m diameter vertical pitch blocked with clay at floor level. First found in 1984 by GCC (Grosvenor Caving Club) when a mandible of wild boar and many other animal bones were found lying on the floor of the pot. This was identified in 1998 by Paul Finnegan, Natural History Centre, Liverpool Museum, who described it as "*Wild Boar (sus scrofa) which has been sub-fossilized. The age of the bone is probably around 5,000 years, may be older, but no more than 10,000 years old*" (Source: Pers. comm. between Dr Dave Merchant and Paul Finnegan Oct 16th 1998). Excavations in the floor of the pot, found no bones below the initial surface layer. In the absence of a suitable local museum, the mandible is currently on display in a glass case at the Colomendy Arms, Cadole, near Loggerheads. (<https://sites.google.com/site/cavesofnortheastwales/>, accessed February 2015)

Ebbs' website has an image of the bone collection, apparently now in private hands.