

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

*Carno Windfarm, Trannon Moor, Powys*  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUND SURVEY



CPAT Report No 315

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUND SURVEY

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March 1999

Report for National Wind Power and Powys County Council

**The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust**

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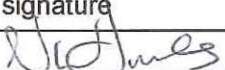
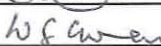
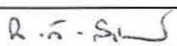
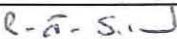
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Carno Windfarm occupies an area of 7.5km<sup>2</sup> on Trannon Moor to the south of Carno, Powys, in what was southern Montgomeryshire. The windfarm opened in 1996, and among the conditions agreed between the then Montgomeryshire District Council and the developers, National Wind Power, at the time that planning consent was granted, was for the latter to make an annual grant for environmental work within the windfarm area.
- 1.2 The potential impact of the windfarm upon the archaeological resource has been the subject of several investigations by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, who conducted the initial historic landscape assessment of the windfarm site (Owen 1993) and subsequently undertook both an excavation and a watching brief before and during construction work (Silvester 1995; Hankinson 1996). During 1997 a further stage of investigation was undertaken on behalf of Powys County Council under the grant scheme agreed with National Wind Power, in the form of a historically-oriented landscape study. The subsequent report (Hankinson *et al.* 1998) included a number of recommendations, amongst which was one for a detailed measured survey to be undertaken of the more significant archaeological sites within the windfarm.
- 1.3 In 1998 a programme of work was prepared and agreed with Powys County Council, who administered the funding, to allow for detailed survey of all sites previously identified where sufficient remains survived. The resulting survey was undertaken during February 1999 and this report prepared immediately thereafter.

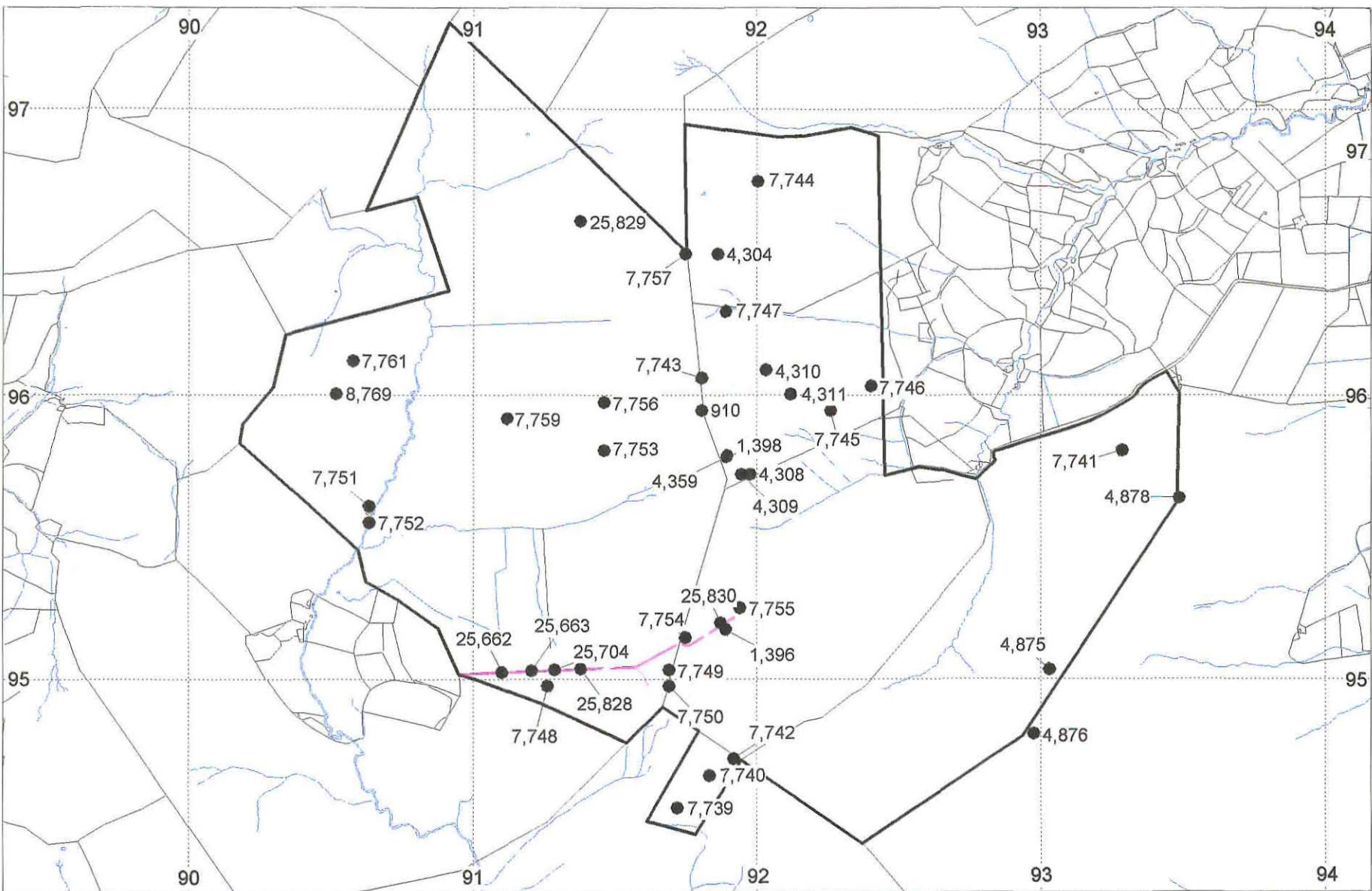
## 2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The area of the windfarm, which is entirely in Carno Community except for one small offshoot in Trefeglwys, is dominated by the Twr Gwyn ridge which descends from Bryn Amlwg in the north (SN 922 973) to Bryn yr Oerfa in the south (SN 915 945), and acts as a watershed between the upper reaches of Afon Cledan to the east and Afon Trannon to the west. Another ridge from Bryn yr Oerfa across Esgair Draenllwyn to Bryn yr Aran (SN 935 955) acts as a watershed between Afon Cledan on the north-west and Afon Gerniog on the south-east. Except for Afon Trannon which runs south-westwards, the aforementioned streams together with Afon Cwm-calch represent the dominant drainage pattern flowing south-eastwards into the Carno valley.
- 2.2 The windfarm occupies moorland, divided into large tracts of land by wire fences, much of which has been improved at some point in the past. South of the windfarm is a continuous forestry plantation extending over several square kilometres.
- 2.3 In spite of the absence of habitations, Trannon is an archaeologically significant area. Several prehistoric burial cairns and a stone alignment have been known since the mid-19th century, and other cairns were identified during the preliminary survey (Owen 1993, 3). In addition, the discovery of two worked flints during the excavations in 1995 (Silvester 1995) confirmed a level of domestic activity on the moors during the prehistoric era which might be anticipated but has been recognised only rarely during specific field studies, as with the work on Carreg-y-big a few miles to the north of Carno (Silvester and Davies 1992). A circular enclosure could be of later prehistoric date and, traversing the area, is a metalled road which has the appearance of a Roman road, although it remains undated (Silvester 1995) and more recent work has cast some doubt on its early attribution (Thomas in Hankinson *et al.* 1998, section 4.3). From more recent times there are the signs of such traditional upland activities as summer pasturing (in the form of a hafod) and peat cutting, the latter particularly extensive as an aerial photo mapping programme for the moor demonstrated in the previous report (Hankinson *et al.* 1988, fig 2).



### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MEASURED SURVEY

- 3.1 In any study of the archaeological and historic landscape, full appreciation of the resource can only be achieved by having detailed and accurate depictions of the individual sites immediately to hand. In the case of Trannon, several of the prehistoric sites were planned by the Ordnance Survey some years ago but only on a small scale. Other sites, newly identified by the original assessment in 1992/93, have never been properly recorded. The current grant has enabled this omission to be rectified. All the significant sites have been planned using sophisticated surveying equipment which will, where necessary, enable detailed drawings to be generated at any scale. A number of sites were not subjected to detailed survey as their remains were not sufficient to warrant such precise recording - these sites are referenced in Appendix 1. Furthermore, the close inspection demanded by the measured survey has enabled a fresh perspective on the earthworks and stone structures, leading on occasions to a re-assessment of the remains and reclassification of the site type and period. For the first time, then, we have a detailed record of the archaeological resource of Trannon Moor, its location, form and extent as well as its condition. This will allow future work to be planned with considerably more confidence than before, and provide a baseline for future management and monitoring, which will hopefully aid in the continued preservation of the monuments concerned.
- 3.2 The survey was conducted using a Wild TC500 EDM in conjunction with Penmap survey software. Each site, or group of sites, was surveyed in close detail including features such as top and bottom of slopes, walling, stones, areas of disturbance etc., as well as locational detail in the form of adjacent field boundaries and streams. The latter were used during post-survey processing to position the individual surveys with respect to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using AutoCAD13. In the case of two adjacent sites (PRNs 1398 and 4359) the degree of structural detail necessitated a combination of digital and hand measured survey. Further details were also recorded to augment the existing records for each site, as well as a photographic record in black and white print, colour print, and colour slide formats.
- 3.3 For the purposes of this report the individual sites were plotted at a scale of 1:100 or 1:50, as appropriate, to form a basis for the production of the series of drawn plans contained here.
- 3.4 The following section provides a detailed description of each site surveyed, together with an accurate scaled plan. Sites are ordered by Primary Record Number (PRN), the standard used for all archaeological and historic remains in the regional Sites and Monuments Record for Powys which is maintained by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust at their offices in Welshpool. The location of the Trannon Moor sites is indicated in fig. 1.



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Fig. 1 Location of archaeological sites. Scale 1:20,000

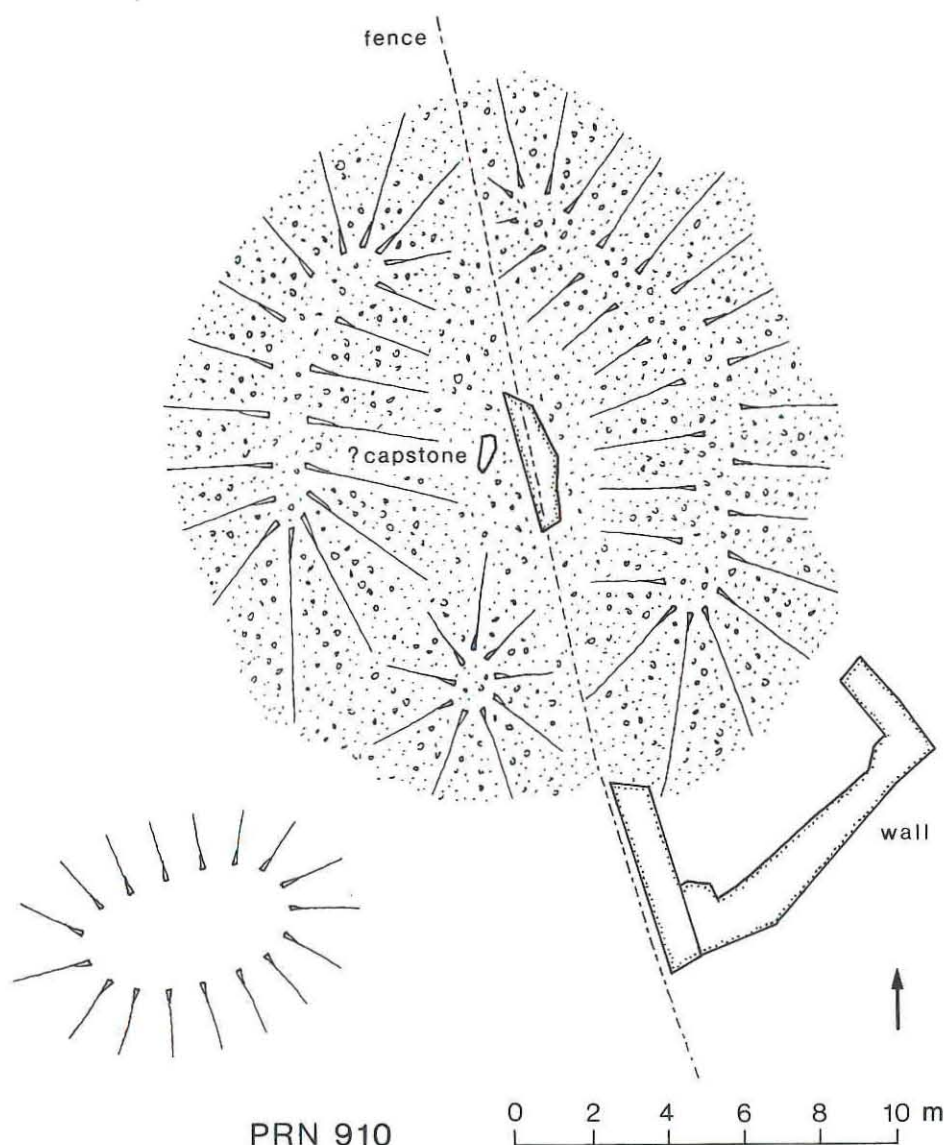


**PRN 910** Twr Gwyn Mawr Cairn  
Round barrow (cairn)

**NGR** SN9180495946  
Bronze Age

Formerly a substantial stone-built cairn (plate 1) which has been extensively damaged both by excavation and the construction of a modern boundary. The excavation in 1855 revealed three cremations and flints within a central cist, the capstone of which may still be visible. The modern boundary has been constructed by excavating a north-south trench across the cairn, stones from which were used to build a wall, the basal courses of which are generally all that survive. One upstanding section of wall does remain to the south of the cairn, forming the western side of a small sheepfold of dry stone wall construction, c. 8.75 x 5.0m externally. The boundary has since been replaced by a post and wire fence.

The surviving remains of the cairn consist of three large mounds of stone surrounding a central depression, presumably the result of the excavations and boundary construction. Overall, the cairn survives to a diameter of c. 18.5m and a height of up to 1.9m. A mound of earth and stone to the south-west may be spoil from the excavations.

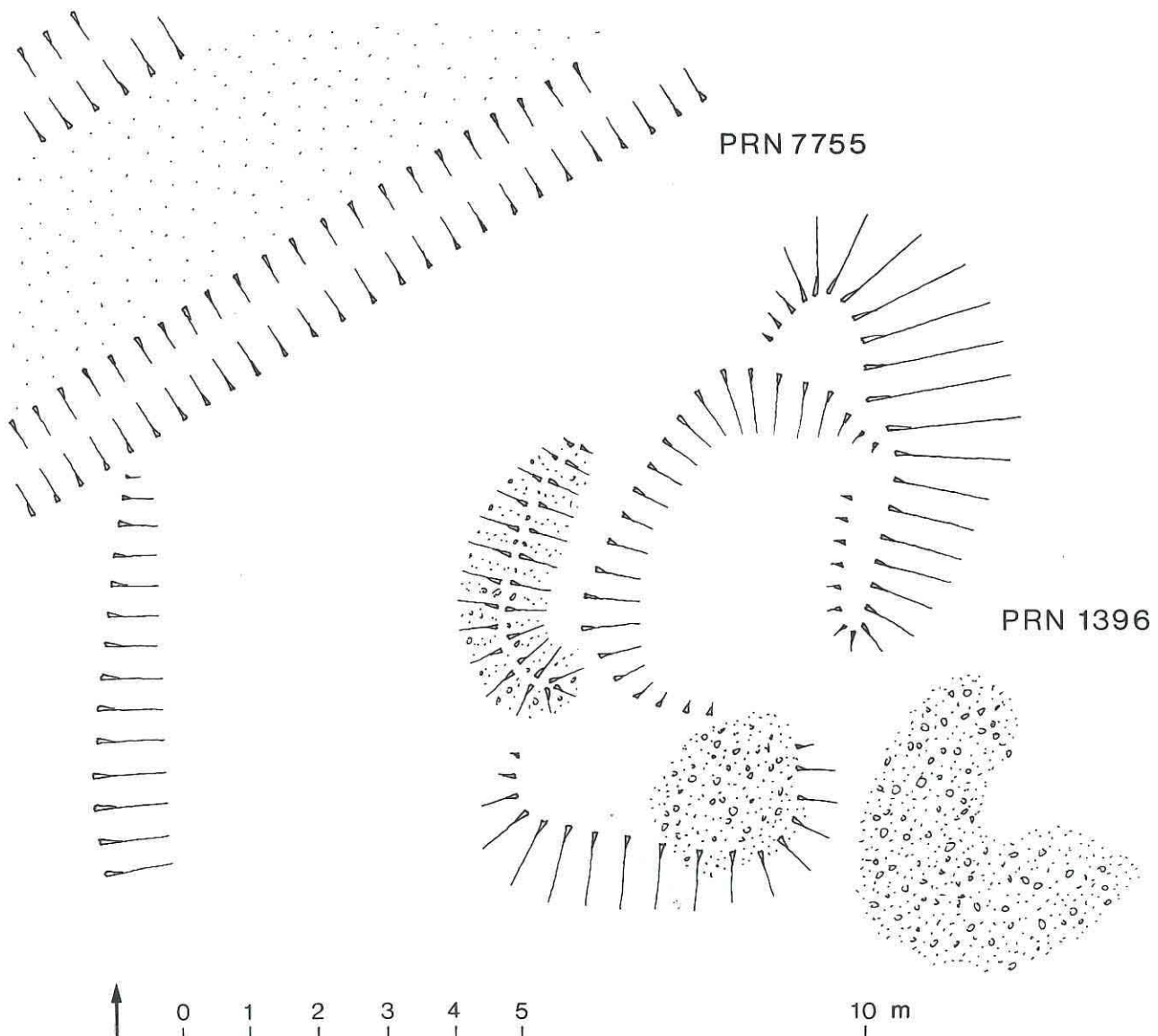




**PRN 1396** Twr Gwyn Bach  
House ?

**NGR** SN9188995176  
Post Medieval

The remains of a building are situated immediately to the south-east of the possible Roman road (PRN 7755). A level platform 4.0 x 2.5m internally is defined by a scarp on the west and north sides, and built up above the natural slope on the east side. At the south-west corner is a curving bank of stone measuring c. 4 x 1.4 x 0.6m which appears to be structural rather than rubble. Other areas of stone to the south, situated on a possible platform measuring c. 4.0 x 2.0m, and to the south-east, may represent further areas of building.



**PRN 1398** Careg Lwyd Cairn I  
Round barrow (ring cairn)

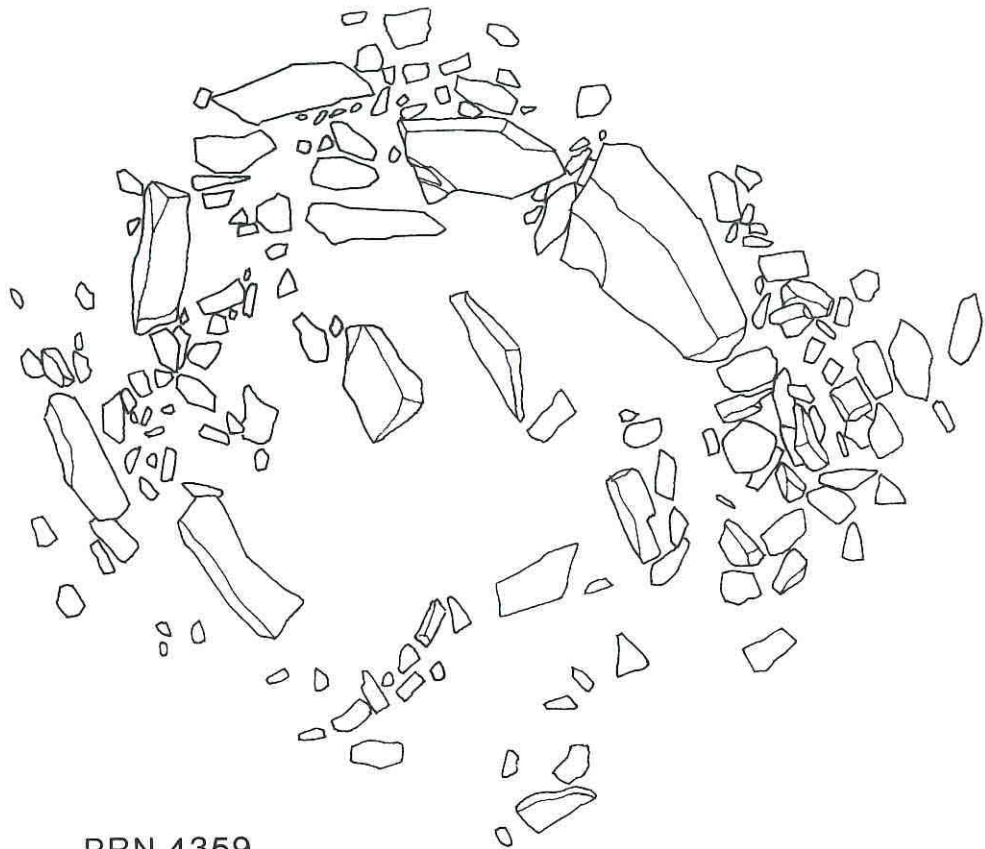
NGR SN9189295780  
Bronze Age

The sub-circular cairn (plate 2) measures 5.2m x 4.4m, defined by a broken ring of large stones. The site is best preserved on the north and east sides. The interior has a scatter of stones but no evidence of a cist. There is no surviving evidence for a mound. Immediately adjacent to PRN 4359.

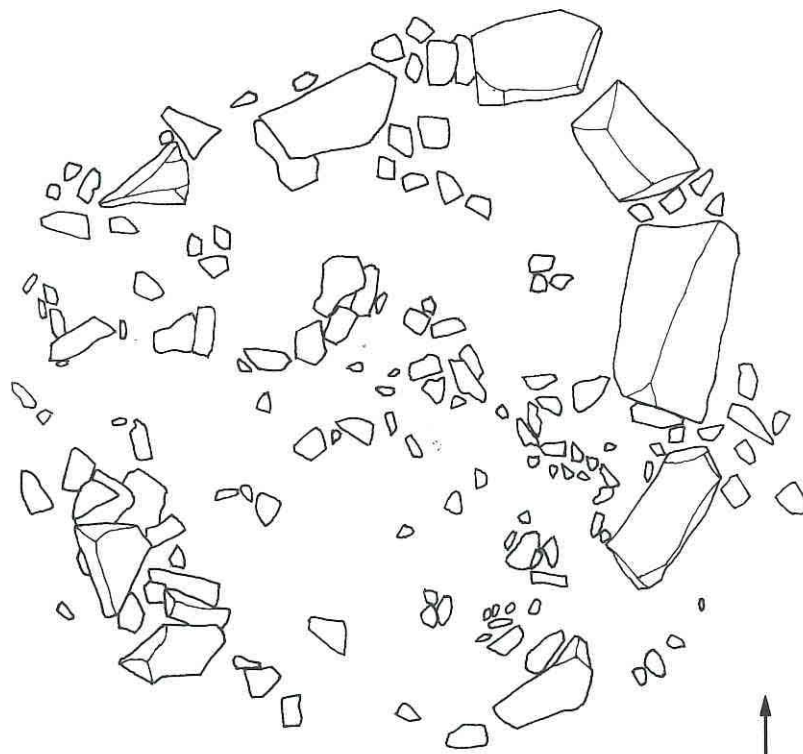
**PRN 4359** Careg Lwyd Cairn II  
Round barrow (ring cairn)

NGR SN9189495785  
Bronze Age

The cairn (plate 2) is roughly circular, c. 4m in diameter, and defined by a broken ring of large stones up to 1.6m long. The north and west sides are best preserved, with the south-east side the least well defined. Two large stones lie within the interior, although they are not obviously part of a cist. Immediately adjacent to PRN 1398.



PRN 4359



PRN 1398

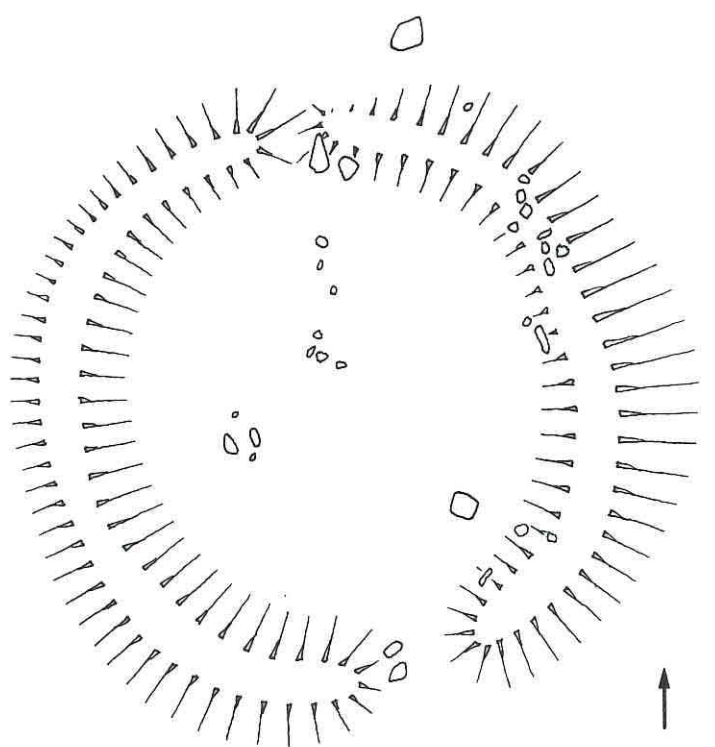




**PRN 4308** Trannon Enclosure  
Enclosure

NGR SN9197595718  
Iron Age ?

Circular enclosure c. 17.5m in diameter, defined by a low earth and stone bank 3-4m wide and up to 0.3m high. There would appear to be a definite entrance 2.5m wide on the side south, and a possible opposing entrance to the north. The interior is slightly sloping to the south-east and has two areas of exposed stone, although neither would appear to be structural.



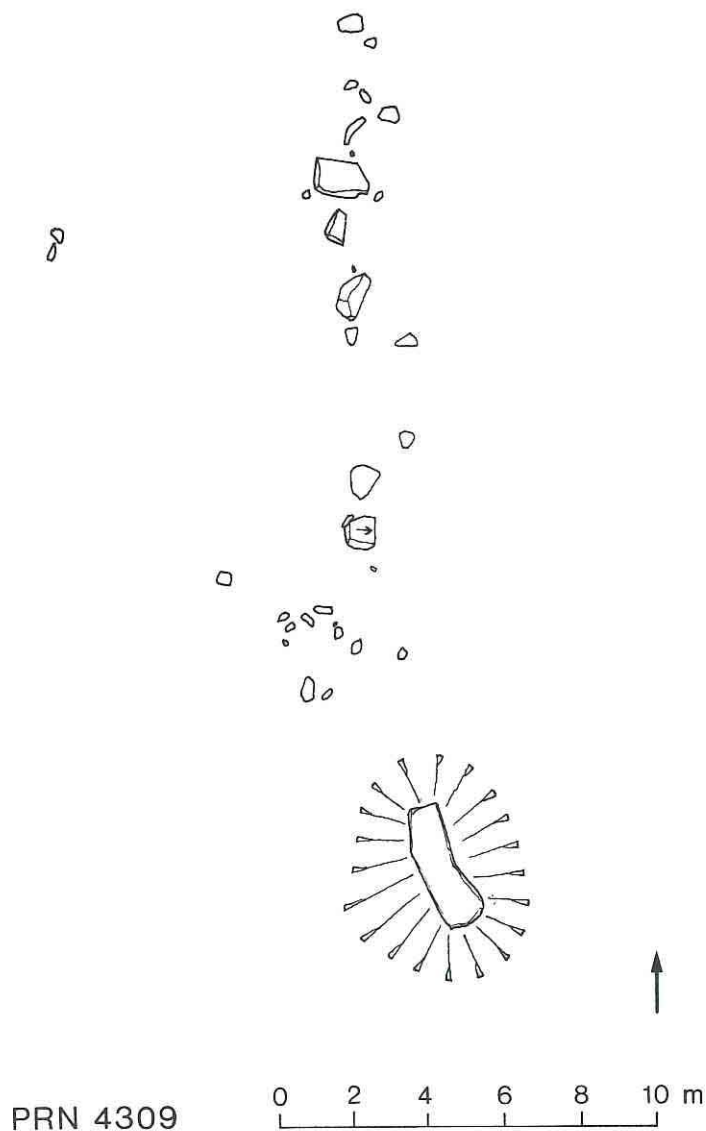
PRN 4308

0 2 4 6 8 10 m

**PRN 4309** Careg Lwyd Stone Alignment  
Stone row

NGR SN9194695718  
Bronze Age

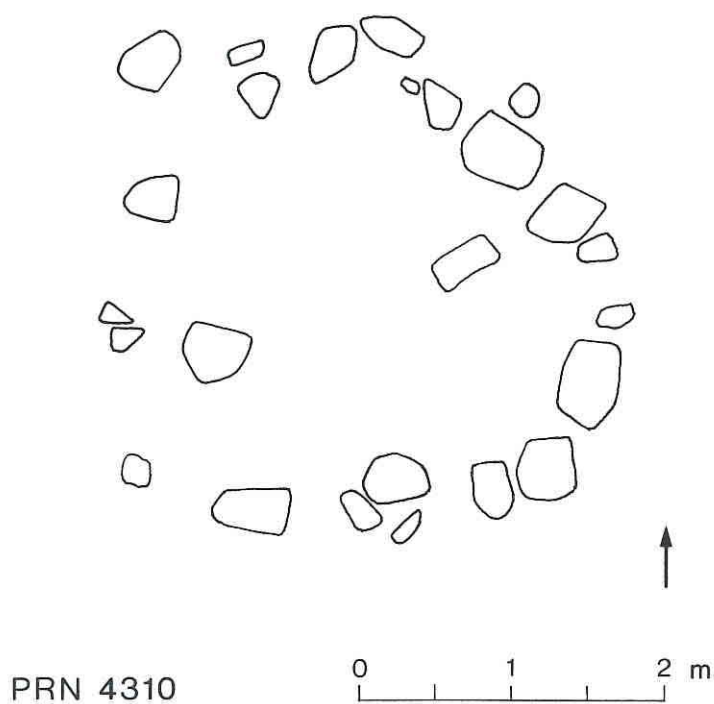
Situated on a moderate slope, the stone row (plate 3) is orientated north-south and appears to terminate at the southern end at a large recumbent stone some 3m long by 1m square. This monolith lies in a hollow which is probably the result of animal erosion and it is uncertain as to whether or not it ever stood upright. The row itself may be traced for 21m to the north of this stone, comprising 6 or 7 stones between 0.8 and 1.5m in length, together with numerous small stones, some of which may be natural. It is possible, although not certain, that the row may have originally been double.



**PRN 4310** Trannon Moor Cairn  
Round barrow (ring cairn) ?

NGR SN9203296089  
Bronze Age

The possible cairn is roughly 3.5m in diameter and consists of a sub-circular ring of individual stones, between 0.4 and 0.6m in length. The site is best preserved on the eastern side and may have been disturbed to the west.

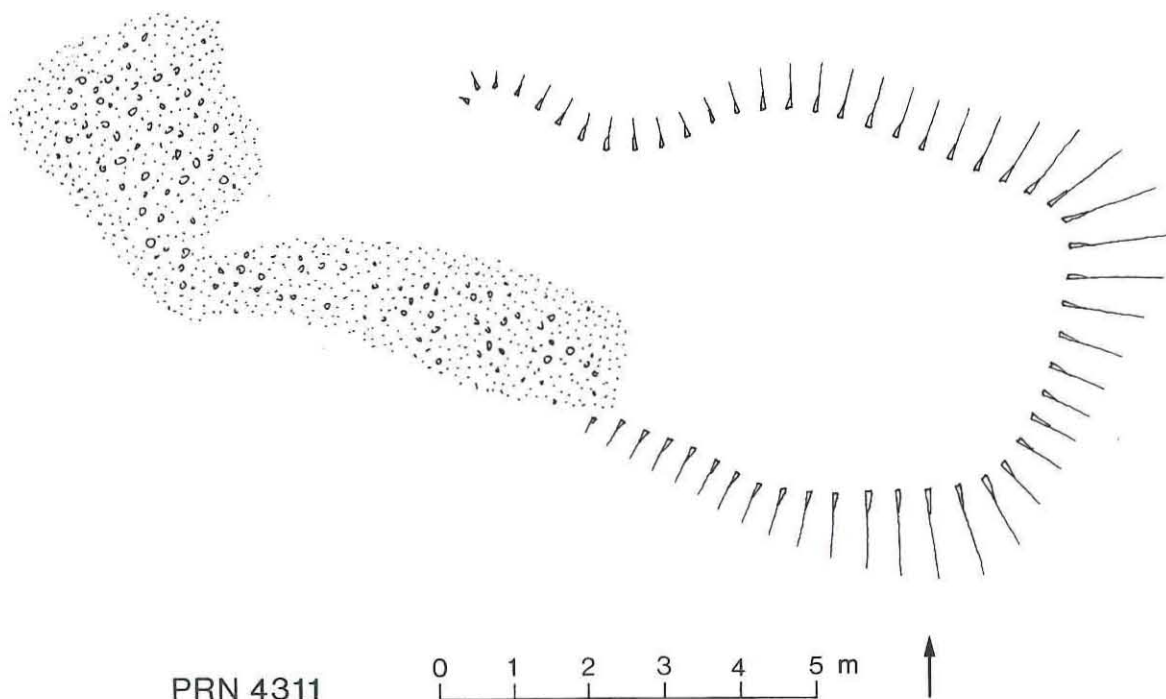




**PRN 4311** Blaen y cwm cairn ?  
Clearance cairn ?

NGR SN9211896004  
Post Medieval ?

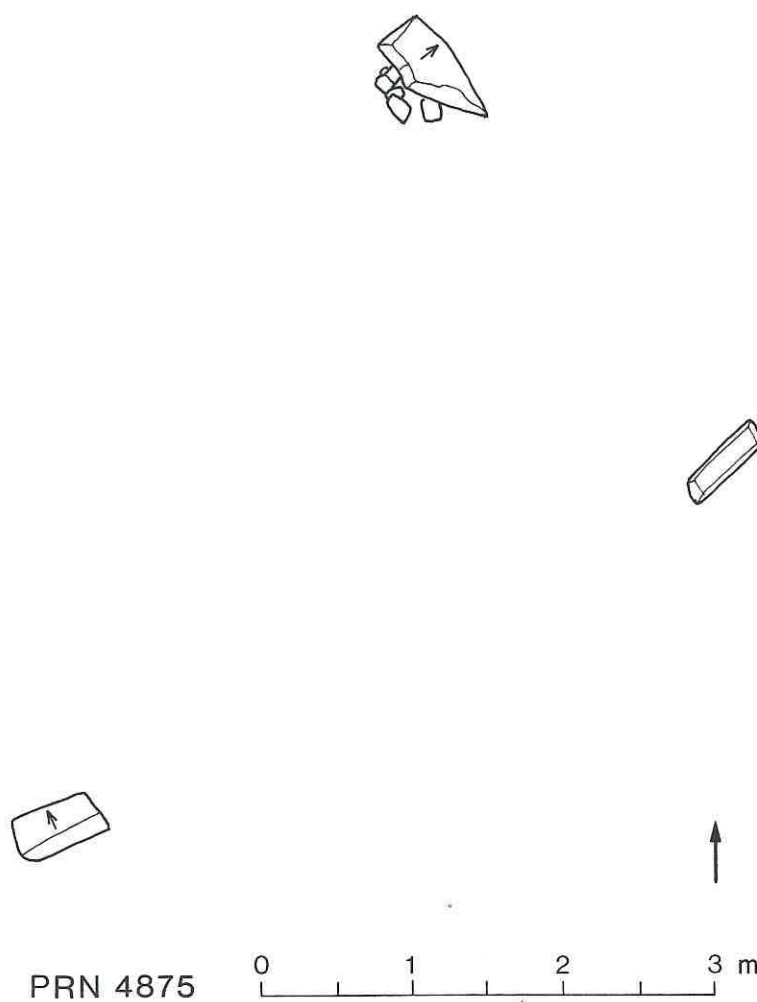
Although previously identified as a possible cairn, the survey suggests that the site is perhaps more likely to be the result of clearance. A low flat mound of earth and stone measures c. 8.5 x 6.5m and has the appearance of a platform, although the surface is uneven. A pile of stones to the west possibly represents further clearance and shows no evidence of any structure.



**PRN 4875** Bryn yr Aran Stones  
Stone Setting

NGR SN9303195033  
Bronze Age ?

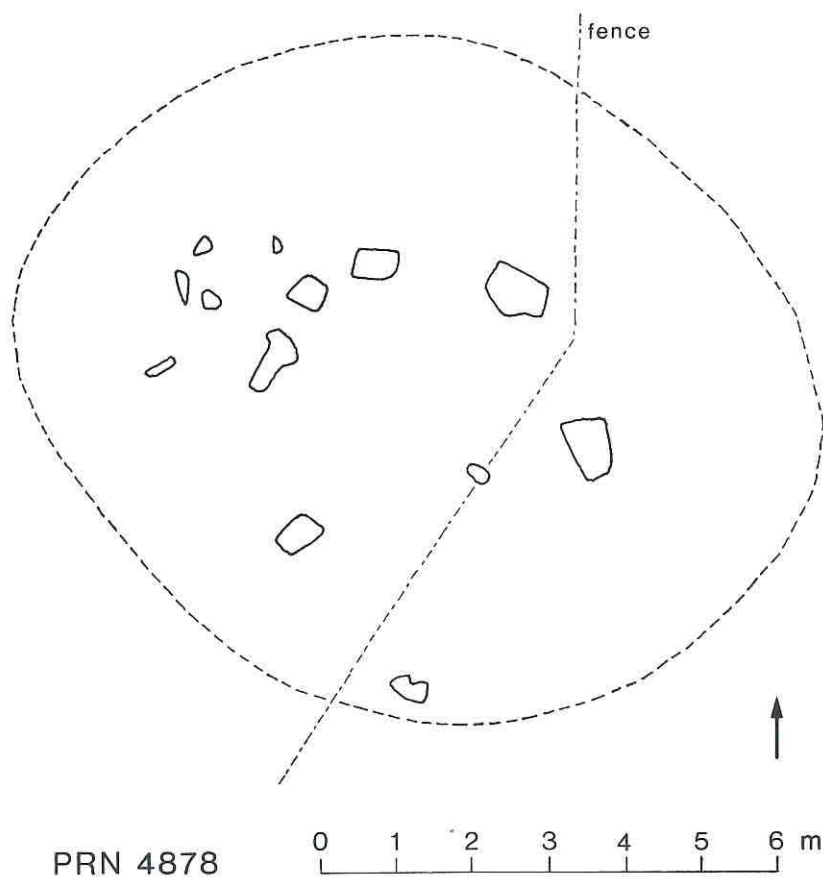
A group of three widely spaced edge-set stones (plate 4), two of which are leaning. The stones form an angle aligned NE-SW to NW-SE.



**PRN 4878** Bryn yr Aran Cairn II  
Round barrow

NGR SN9348895633  
Bronze Age

Little survives of the cairn with no evidence of a surviving mound. However, an area of disturbance indicates a diameter of roughly 10m within which are a number of large stones, although none obviously structural. Recent fencing for the boundary of the windfarm crosses the cairn, which is located on a change in direction.

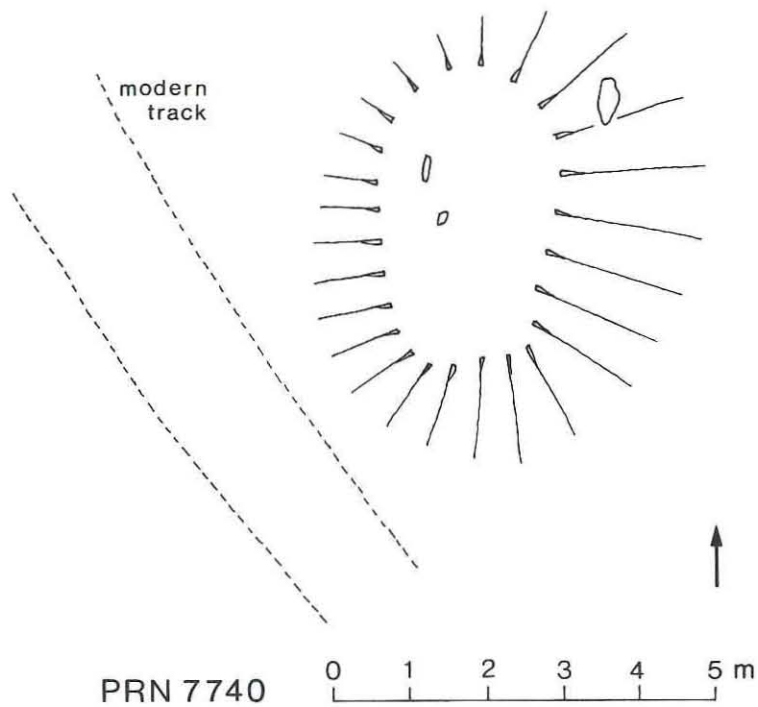




**PRN 7739** Garreg Hir cairn I  
Clearance cairn

NGR SN9171894548  
Undated

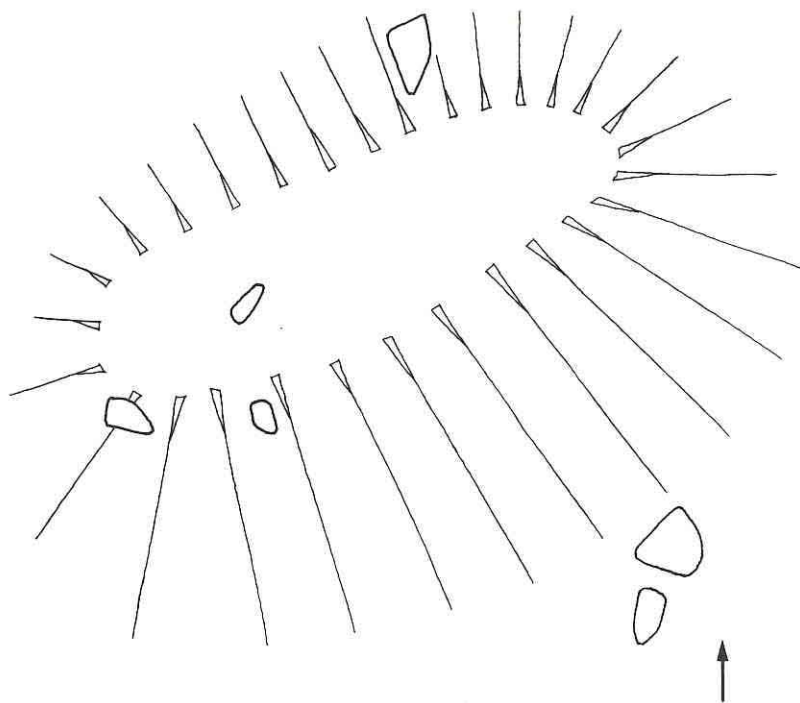
An oval mound of earth and stone, measuring 5.5 x 3.8 x 0.35m, would appear to be the result of stone clearance.



**PRN 7740** Garreg Hir cairn II  
Clearance cairn

NGR SN9183294662  
Undated

An oval mound of earth and stone, measuring 6.0 x 5.0 x 0.4m, would appear to be the result of stone clearance.



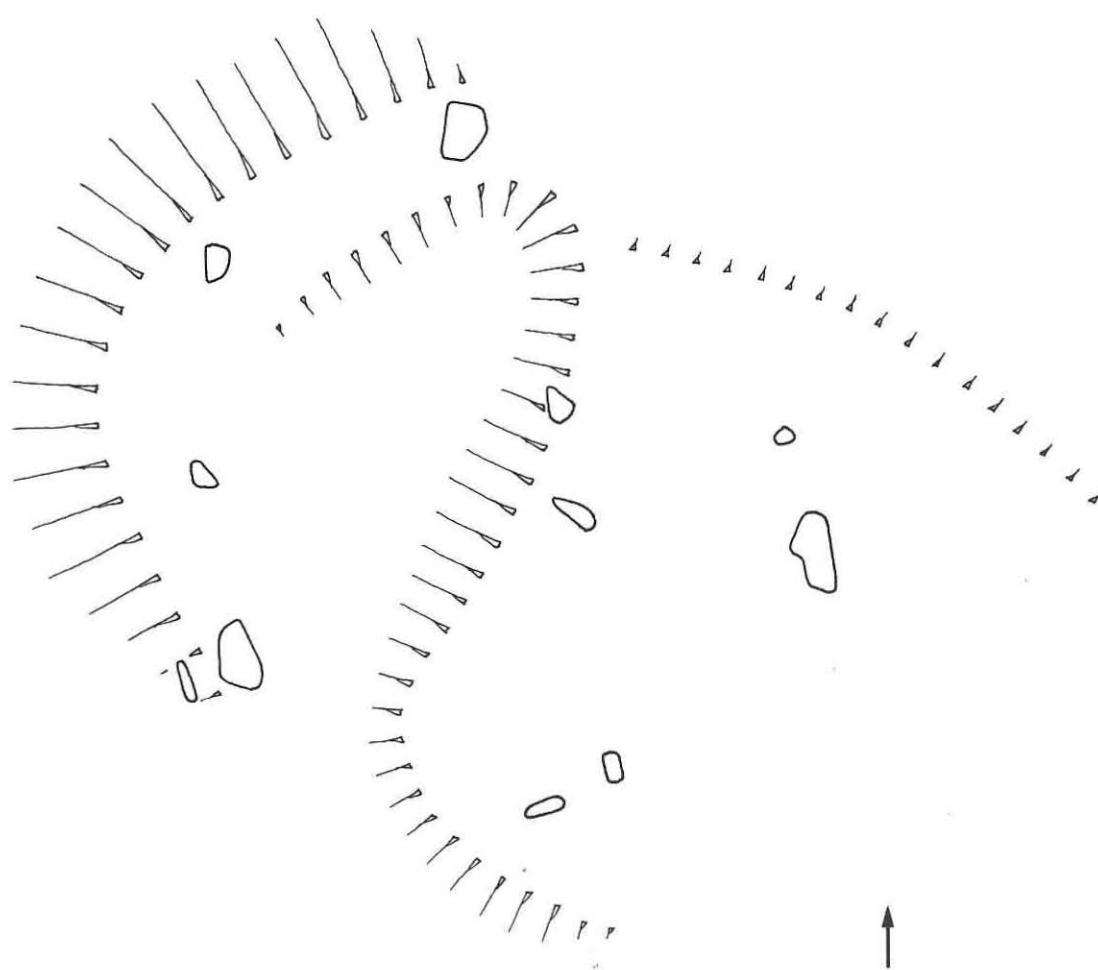
PRN 7739



**PRN 7741** Bryn yr Aran Platform ?  
Platform ?

NGR SN9328895804  
Undated

Formerly identified as a possible ring cairn, the earthworks consist of a low curving bank c. 5.2m long and 0.15m high, to the east of which is a slight hollow 1.5m across with some stone visible around the edges. A level area to the east may be a platform, although this is not certain.



PRN 7741

0 1 2 3 m



**PRN 7751** Afon Trannon sheep dip  
Sheep-dip

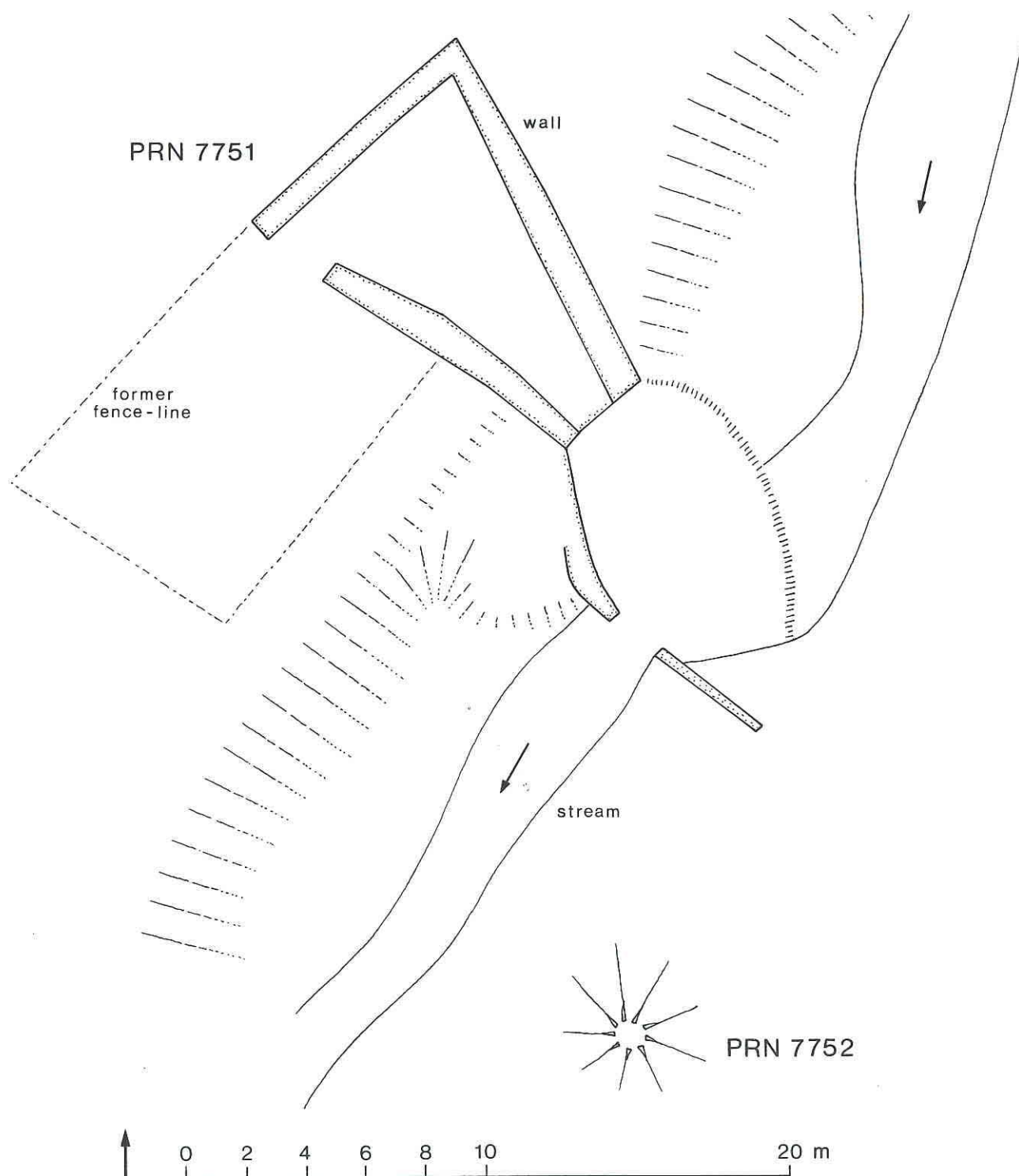
NGR SN90639559  
Modern

The site would appear to have been deliberately constructed as a sheep dip and dipping pool (plate 7). The main structure consists of dry-stone walls forming an enclosure with entrance on W corner, 9m across at NW end, narrowing to 3.5m across at SE end. Remains of timber post fenced enclosure c. 11.5 x 8m to SW adjoining entrance. SE end is open and adjoins a pond dug/cut out of stream bed and enlarged by construction of stone/concrete dam consisting of curving wall c. 6m long and 0.75m high on NW side, and straight wall c.4m long on SE side, with sluice 1.75m wide in between. The pool measures c. 9.5 x 6m.

**PRN 7752** Afon Trannon mound  
Soil heap

NGR SN90649556  
Modern

Mound of earth and stone 5.5 x 2.2 x 0.25m, probably the result of excavations relating to the construction of the sheep-dip.



**PRN 7755** Trannon Road  
Road

NGR SN919952  
Roman ?

The road (plate 5) survives as an earthwork c. 1km in length, consisting of a cambered track, or agger, 3m wide with ditches on either side. It has been suggested by that the road is of Roman date, and probably linked the putative Roman fortlet at Penycrogbren above Dylife, with the fort at Caersws (Bebb *et al.* 1973; Hogg 1973).

Excavations across the road in two places in advance of the windfarm construction (Silvester 1995) revealed that it was constructed of redeposited stony loam with evidence for deliberate metalling surviving in places. Evidence of wheel ruts was revealed in one excavation. The excavation concluded that the road was of Roman date, as had been previously suggested.

The recent survey has provided an accurate plan of the surviving road, the results of which may cast some doubt regarding the assumed Roman dating. It is clear that the road undertakes an obvious dogleg at a point where it is crossed by a north-south boundary. Topographically, there is no reason for the road to make any such deviation in course, which may therefore suggest that the boundary was already in existence before the road was constructed. If this were so, it would be more likely to be post medieval in date, rather than Roman. However, conclusive evidence for dating could only be provided by further excavation.

Five culverts had been previously identified beneath the road, and these were accurately located during the survey.

**PRN 25662** Trannon road culvert 1  
Culvert

NGR SN9110195026  
Roman ?

Fairly well-preserved stone culvert (plate 6) with a capstone entrance at both ends and an earthwork gully to the north of the road.

**PRN 25663** Trannon road culvert 2  
Culvert

NGR SN9120695031  
Roman ?

Fairly well-preserved stone culvert with a slightly arched capstone visible on the south side and an earthwork gully to the north of the road.

**PRN 25704** Trannon road culvert 3  
Culvert

NGR SN9128795034  
Roman ?

Stone culvert with large flat slabs visible at both ends.

**PRN 25828** Trannon road culvert 4  
Culvert

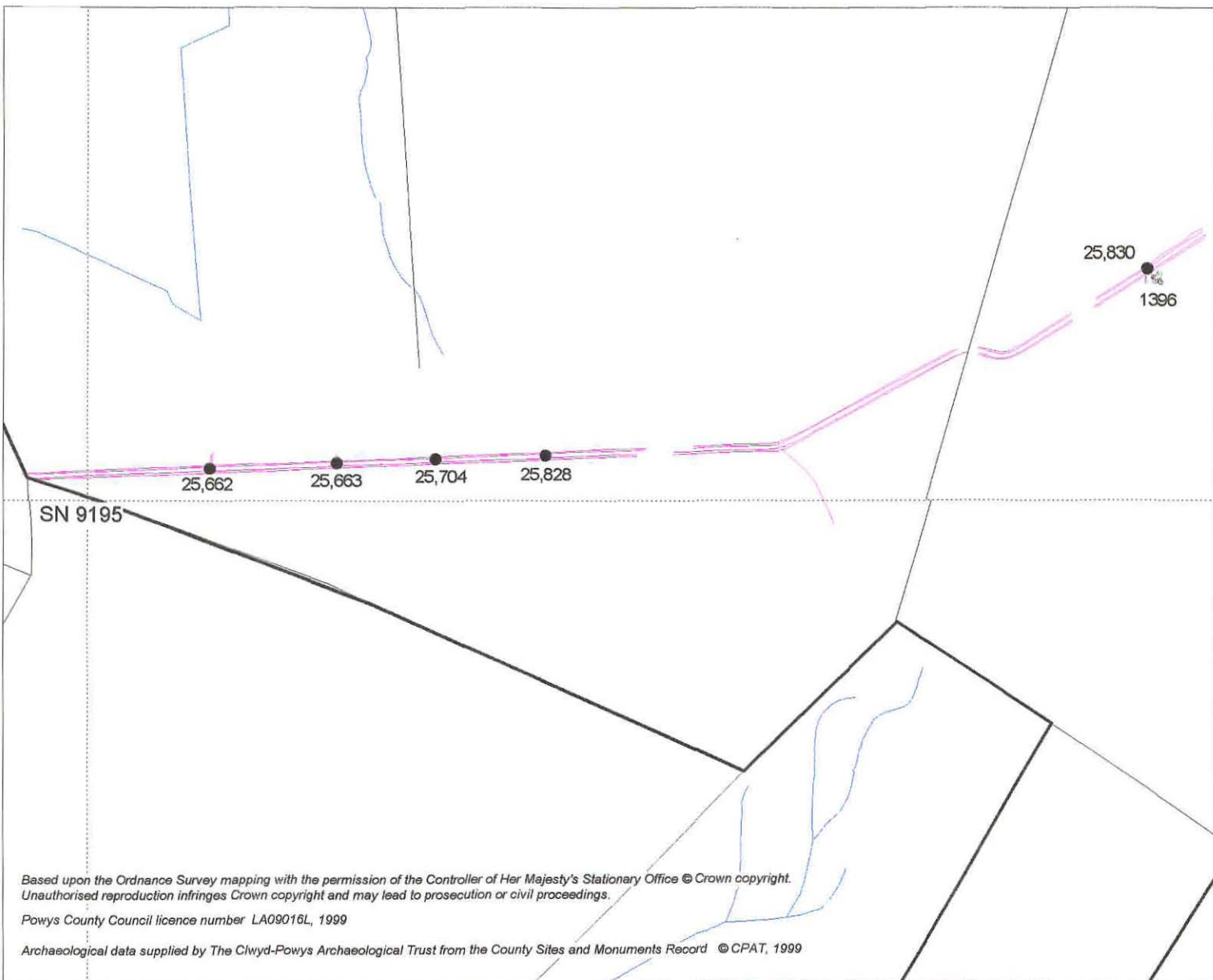
NGR SN9137895037  
Roman ?

Stone culvert with a capstone visible on the north-west side.

**PRN 25828** Trannon road culvert 5  
Culvert

NGR SN9187095200  
Roman ?

Stone culvert with capstone at north-west end and possibly south-east.



Trannon Road PRN 7755. Scale 1:5,000

**PRN 7758** Afon Trannon Wall  
Wall

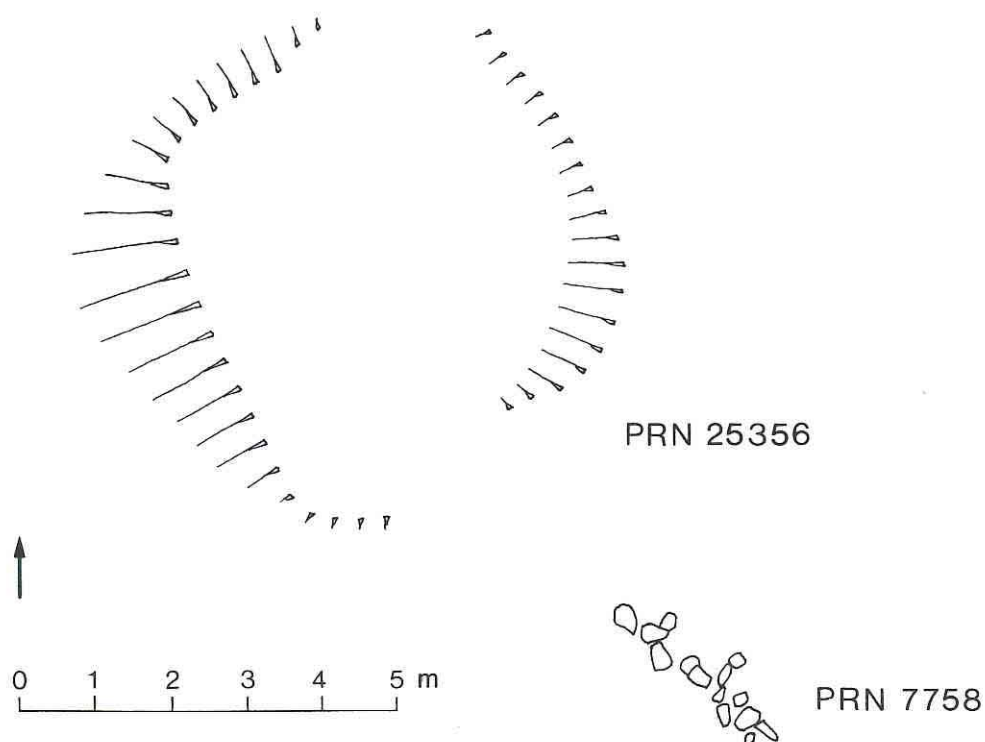
NGR SN9137696603  
Post Medieval

A distinctive group of transversely laid stones c. 2.8m in length and 0.6m wide aligned north-west to south-east. Possibly represents the base of a wall.

**PRN 25829** Afon Trannon Platform ?  
Platform ?

NGR SN9137696603  
Post Medieval ?

A relatively level area c. 5.5 x 5.0m, defined by slight scarp on the north-east and south-west sides. Possibly a hut platform or associated with adjacent peat cutting.

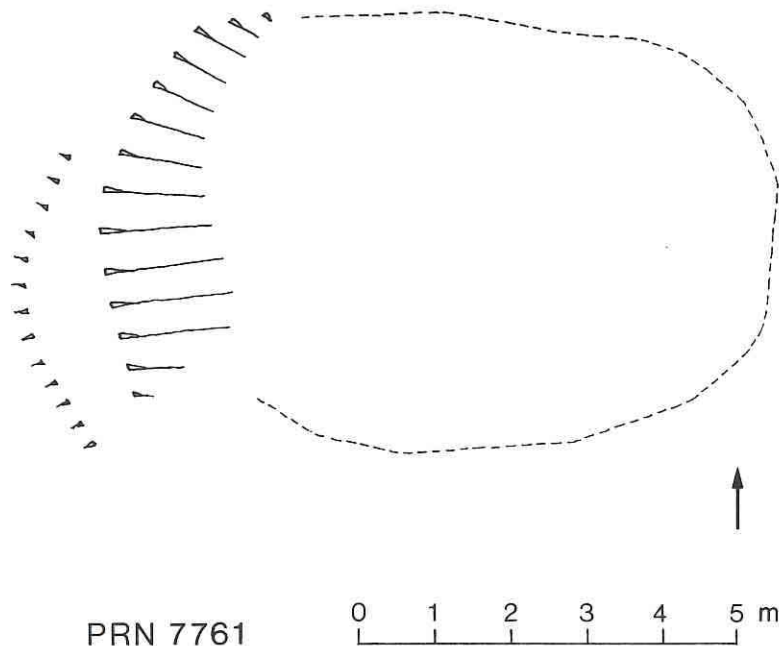




**PRN 7761** Bryn yr Wyn Platform  
Platform ?

NGR SN9057796118  
Post Medieval ?

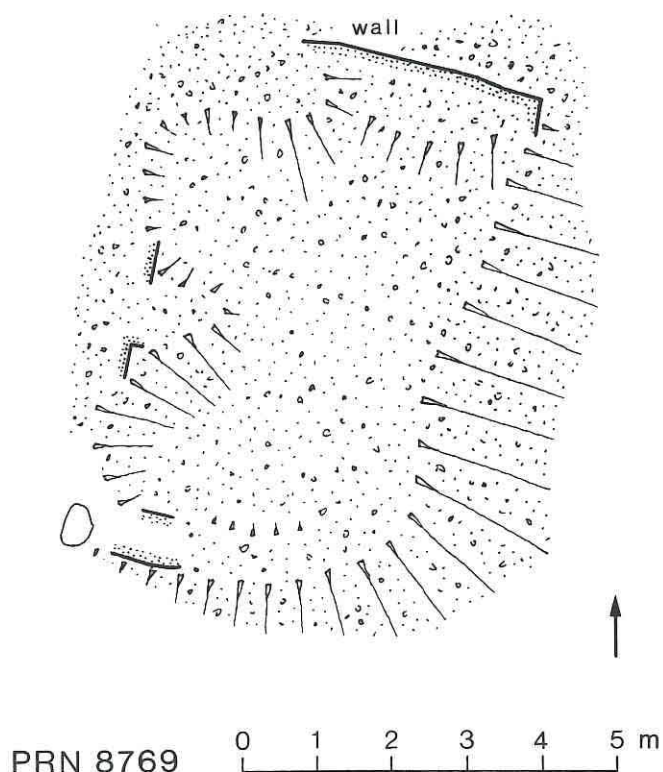
A level area measuring c. 7.5 x 6.0m and obscured by rushes, has a distinct bank on the upslope, western end. The bank is slightly curving, c. 5.0m in length and up to 0.4m high. It is possible that this represents the remains of a small hut platform, although it may also be related to adjacent peat cutting.



**PRN 8769** Bryn yr Wyn House Site  
House

NGR SN9051996004  
Post Medieval

The ruinous remains of a small two-celled building (plate 8) are situated on the eastern, leeward side of a low north-south ridge. The building measured 7.2 x 5m externally with walls around 0.7m thick. Although there are some traces of facing stone remaining, most of the walls now consist only of a spread of rubble. Surface finds within the general area include glass and glazed earthenware, suggesting that the building may have been occupied during the later 18th and 19th centuries.



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## APPENDIX 1

## Gazetteer of sites not included in survey

PRN	NGR	Site Name	Form	Type	Period
4304	SN91869648	Trannon Stone	Structure	Standing stone ?	Bronze Age
4876	SN9297494805	Brynyraren Cairn I	Structure	Round barrow	Bronze Age
7743	SN91799605	Twy Gwyn standing stone	Structure	Standing stone	Post Medieval
7744	SN92009674	Rhyd-y-Mwyn standing stone	Structure	Standing stone	Post Medieval
7745	SN92259595	Carreg Lwyd cairn?	Structure	Mound	Unknown
7746	SN92399604	Rhyd-y-Mwyn mound	Landform	Non antiquity	Not recorded
7747	SN91889629	Rhyd-y-Mwyn structure	Earthwork	Spoil heap	Post Medieval
7748	SN91259499	Cerrig Fforchog earthwork	Landform	Non antiquity	Not recorded
7749	SN91689502	Cerrig Fforchog cairn	Structure	Clearance cairn ?	Post Medieval ?
7750	SN91689498	Cerrig Fforchog cairn II	Structure	Clearance cairn ?	Post Medieval ?
7753	SN91469580	Nant Twr Gwyn cairn	Structure	Clearance cairn	Unknown
7754	SN91749515	Cerrig Fforchog boundary stone	Structure	Boundary stone	Post Medieval
7757	SN91759650	Twr Gwyn Ridge boundary stone	Structure	Boundary stone	Post Medieval
7759	SN91139591	Afon Trannon peat mound	Earthwork	Peat mound	Post Medieval ?





Plate 1 PRN 910, Twr Gwyn Mawr Cairn from SW. Photo CPAT 784.1



Plate 2 PRN 1398 and PRN 4359 Careg Lwyd Cairns I and II from SW. Photo CPAT 777.4



Plate 3 PRN 4309 Careg Lwyd Stone Alignment from NW. Photo CPAT 777.1



Plate 4 PRN 4875 Bryn yr Aran Stones from W. Photo CPAT 777.32





Plate 5 PRN 7755 Trannon Road from E. Photo CPAT 784.9



Plate 6 PRN 25662 Trannon Road Culvert 1 from S. Photo CPAT 784.10





Plate 7 PRN 7751 Afon Trannon sheep dip from E. Photo CPAT 784.15



Plate 8 PRN 8769 Bryn yr Wyn House Site from N. Photo CPAT 784.12