

# MEDIEVAL AND EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL FISH TRAPS: A THREAT-RELATED ASSESSMENT 2012



*PRN 32528 A stone built fish trap situated on the stone and shingle foreshore northeast of Aberarth, Ceredigion.*

Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

For Cadw



ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol

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# MEDIEVAL AND EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL FISH TRAPS: A THREAT-RELATED ASSESSMENT 2012

Gan / By

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## **MEDIEVAL AND EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL FISH TRAPS: A THREAT-RELATED ASSESSMENT 2012**

### **SUMMARY**

*The aim of this project was to assess the potential for enhancing the schedule of ancient monuments with medieval or early post medieval fish trap sites. This site type is currently under-represented on the schedule of ancient monuments in Dyfed. The medieval and early post-medieval fish traps project forms an element of the Cadw grant-aided medieval and early post-medieval threat related assessment project.*

*An initial scoping study undertaken in 2010-11 collated a list of 40 sites that required a desk top appraisal and/or a field visit. All such sites had to have some kind of physical presence and/or documentary evidence or be scheduled ancient monuments (SAMs). However, during the course of this project the number of sites requiring a desk top appraisal was amended to 55 sites. Added to this were a number of new sites identified during site visits and in consequence a total of 63 sites were visited and recorded during 2012.*

*The catching of fish in rivers, lakes and tidal waters using traps or weirs is an ancient practice and the remains of such structures have become an increasingly recognised feature of inter-tidal archaeology. On river estuaries lines of wooden stakes are evidence of once complex weirs that guided fish into nets and baskets. On coastal beaches stone-rubble walls are all that remain of vast fish traps some stretching along the beach for hundreds of metres. Coastal traps work on the basis of trapping fish on the falling tide behind stone or wattle and stone barriers. Most often the trap is V-shaped (although many variations occur) and at the apex of the V that sits just above the low water mark is a sluice where the fish are collected in a net or trap.*

*Site visits to coastal fish traps were restricted to periods when the low water height is at least less than 1.0m and therefore the opportunities were limited. Nevertheless, 63 sites were visited ranging from the remains of wooden fish weirs in estuarine locations to the extensive groups of stone built fish traps or goredi situated on the shingle beaches between Aberaeron and Aberystwyth in Ceredigion. These include two fish trap sites that are currently scheduled ancient monuments, that form part*

*of a group on the stony foreshore west of Aberarth that are believed to be those recorded in Rhys ap Gruffydd's charter of 1184 as the goredi of Llanddewi Aberarth offered to the monastery of Strata Florida. It is doubtful that the existing remains are of such an early date but it would appear that this is an extensive complex which has undergone changes in alignment and construction over time, as some of the dry stone walls overlie each other.*

*Fish traps are extremely difficult to date but groups of fish traps further north along the Ceredigion coast, notably to the north of Llansantffraid, may show how a rise in local sea level change necessitated the rebuilding and development of fish traps further inland as sea levels rose over time. At very low tides the remnants of earlier fish traps can still be traced, some still under water even at the lowest spring tides, but as one moves nearer inland the evidence for fish traps is more robust reflecting their later date.*

*The fieldwork has proved that well-preserved medieval or post medieval fish traps exist and are of schedulable quality, particularly where a complex of sites has a significant group value.*



## INTRODUCTION

In 2010, Dyfed Archaeological Trust undertook a Cadw grant-aided scoping study of medieval and post-medieval sites and landscapes (Davis 2010), part of a pan-Wales project (undertaken by all four Welsh Archaeological Trusts). The aim of this study was to identify all medieval and post-medieval sites recorded on the HER that have not been the subject of a previous threat-related assessment and to categorise them by site type.

**'Fish trap or weir' was one of the site types identified.**

The primary sorting exercise identified the following site types within the HER:

- Fish trap (40)
- Fish weir (2)

For the purposes of this report the term ***fish trap*** is used to describe any barrier erected in the sea to deflect fish into an opening where they can be caught in a net or other device.

The term ***weir*** comes from the Anglo-Saxon '***wer***', meaning a device to trap fish and in this report is used to describe a barrier erected in a river or estuarine environment for the same aim of deflecting fish into a net or other device.

All but one of these sites has a physical presence, with just one of the sites known from documentary sources only.

40 sites were initially identified from this list as requiring a desk-top appraisal, of which two were SAMs.

Acting on the results of the scoping study, the Trust applied to Cadw for grant-aid to undertake a threat-related assessment of fish traps in south-west Wales (Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire). This application was successful and the project, including fieldwork, was undertaken in 2012.

However, during the course of the work in 2012 the number of sites requiring a desk-top study was amended to 55 sites following work by the

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) who had recently identified a number of new fish trap sites that had yet to be added to the Historic Environment Record.

It was proposed that some 75% of this total would be visited in the field, including the SAMs, in order to ascertain the criteria and quality of surviving remains. The HER entries for all 55 sites would be updated and enhanced.

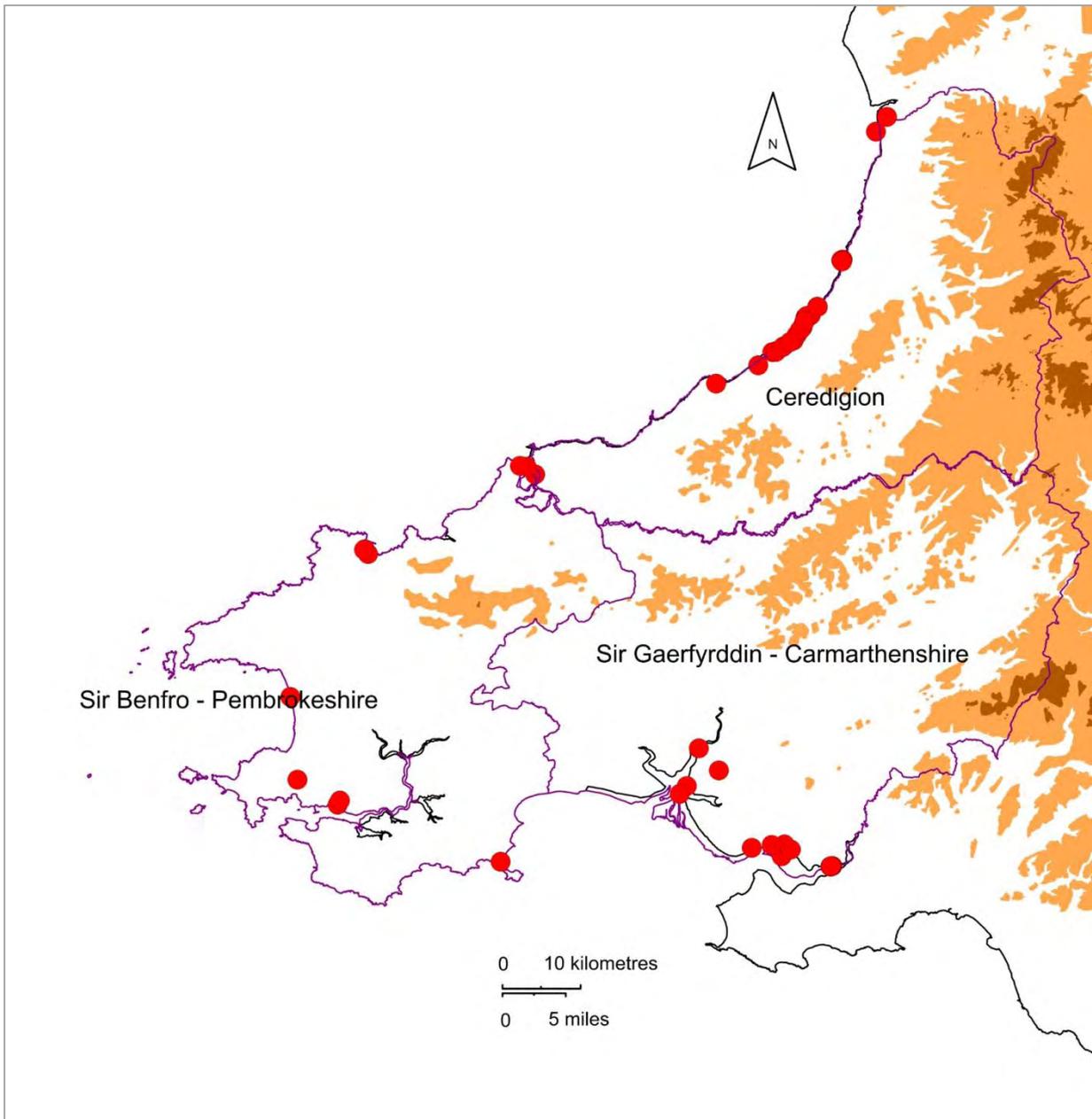


Figure 1 Map showing the distribution of known fish trap or weir sites across the three counties of Dyfed.

■ Uplands over 250m    ■ Uplands over 500m

## **PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The main aim of this project is to use the HER, National Monument Record, secondary sources and field visits to assess the potential for enhancing the schedule of ancient monuments with medieval or early post-medieval fish trap sites.

The overall **project's aims are:**

- Assessment of the archaeological significance of fish traps in both a regional and national perspective;
- Assessment of the vulnerability of this element of the archaeological resource, review of scheduling, and recommendations for future management strategies; and
- Enhancement of the regional HER and Extended National Database.

The **project's objectives are:**

- To identify all fish traps which require further assessment;
- To collate existing documentary evidence for the sites;
- To carry out a field assessment of those sites where necessary;
- To incorporate all the information into a database and enhance the Dyfed HER; and
- To advise Cadw on those sites which are of national value and currently without statutory protection.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The scoping study collated a list of sites that could potentially require a desk-top appraisal and possible field visit. Sites within this subset were then rejected if they fell within one of the categories listed below:

- Known only from place-name evidence
- Vague documentary evidence for location

- Post-date AD1750
- An early medieval sites (visited as part of the early medieval project)

Sites that possessed the following criteria were included:

- Some kind of physical presence
- Good documentary evidence available
- SAM status

From this analysis a list of 40 sites that required a desktop appraisal developed, of which two were designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM). The list was further supplemented with another 15 sites during the course of the project in 2012.

Almost all the sites had already been reviewed during several previous projects: Cardigan Bay survey; Milford Haven survey; Llanelli Wetlands survey. These sites were all reconsidered. Only one site was known only from documentary sources, all of the others having some kind of physical presence.

The desktop appraisal collated all the available information on each site as held in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (HER). This included reference to the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps, tithe maps, SAM and Listed Building records, Ordnance Survey record cards, Royal Commission inventories and archived reports. The information provided on the Royal Commission for Historic Buildings and Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) Coflein website was also utilised.

## RESULTS

- A total of 63 sites were visited during this project ranging from the remains of wooden fish weirs in estuarine locations, the majority of which are found along the Carmarthenshire coast, to the extensive groups of stone built fish traps or *goredi* (*gored* = weir in Welsh) situated on the shingle beaches between Aberaeron and Aberystwyth in Ceredigion.
- Fish weirs or traps found in river mouths, estuarine channels or along coastal foreshores all work on the basic principle of trapping fish on an ebbing tide. The most common shape in these locations is a V-shape with the apex pointing downstream or seaward. Fish are guided on the ebb by the arms of the V (which can be of great length) towards the apex where a gap or sluice was normally located. Either the captured fish are collected in a net or basket at this point or are gathered up at low water.

### Estuarine or river fish weirs

- The term "weir" comes from the Anglo-Saxon 'wer', meaning a device to trap fish. A fish weir can be defined as a barrier erected in the sea or a river to deflect fish into an opening where they can be caught by a net or other method. They can be as simple as lines of wooden posts arranged to hold nets or complex structures created from wattle fences held in place by wooden posts or a combination of posts and rubble, and can be found on rivers, coastal estuaries or coastal foreshores.
- River weirs mainly trap migratory fish and point up or downstream depending on the species one wishes to catch but do not tend to stretch across the entire width of the channel because of the obstruction to shipping.
- The majority of river weirs are identified today by remnants of wooden stakes placed in lines within river mouths and estuarine channels. These stakes supported wattle fences or nets or a combination of both. Stones can be placed around the bases of the stakes to prevent scouring. There are currently very few examples recorded on the HER in Ceredigion and none were judged worthy of a site visit during this project.

- Unfortunately the fragility of these structures means that they do not often survive the constant erosion of sea and tide for very long. There are cases where the deposition of sands and silts has preserved the wood in a waterlogged environment, as in the Severn Estuary (Godbold, S & Turner, R 1994) but field visits in 2012 during this project found the condition of these wooden structures in estuarine environments to have deteriorated since they were last recorded.

### *Carmarthenshire*

- The biggest concentration of sites visited during this project was centred on the submerged forest at Morfa Bacas, within the intertidal zone of the Afon Lougher estuary. In 1998 the area was visited as part of the Carmarthen Bay Coastal Survey (Page, N 1998) and over 200 upright stakes were recorded and samples taken from two of the stakes returned radiocarbon dates from the seventeenth and early nineteenth centuries (Page, N 1997). In 2012 far fewer stakes were visible and the stake-lines that had been recorded nearer the main channel of the Lougher were no longer evident. It would appear that the continued northward movement of the channel is steadily eroding the submerged forest and destroying the evidence of fish traps. In places wooden stakes have been replaced by metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent times (Photo 1).



Photo 1 – PRN 31247. The remains of lines of wooden posts that once supported nets found within the intertidal zone at Morfa Bacas.

- The fish weirs located on the stony beds of Salmon Point Scar and Pastoun Scar that lie between the Towy and Gwendraeth estuaries in Carmarthenshire have been well documented by James & James in 2003. The scars are raised stony ridges covered with mussel beds. As the tide receded fish would naturally swim into hollows within Salmon Point Scar and the large hollow that once lay between the two scars. These hollows are now filled with sand. The fish weirs were constructed from a mixture of wooden posts bedded in low stone banks, combined with the use of the natural scars themselves as one or more sides of the weir. The lines of wooden posts would have supported timber planks or wattle walls or a combination with nets set between the posts or stakes.



Photo 2 – PRN 30087. The surviving stakes and horizontal timbering of the largest fish weir, Weir A, on Salmon Scar, looking south-east.



Photo 3 – PRN 30087. The surviving stakes and horizontal timbering of Weir A, looking north-west. The raised bank of the wall can be seen in the background curving around to the right (east).

The photographs above show the remains of the most substantial of the fish traps on Salmon Point Scar (Weir A as recorded by James & James 2003). This is a complex fish weir that takes advantage of a large hollow within the scar where fish would have been trapped at low tide. Where the scar was highest there was no need to construct any walls but towards the seaward end, approaching the catchment area which drove fish into the trap (Photos 2 & 3) there are low stone banks and timber uprights set in these (Photo 4), with horizontal timbering at ground level. The weir may have medieval origins and was still in use in the 1960s.



Photo 4 – PRN 30087. Showing the surviving low stone banks and timber uprights of the largest fish trap on Salmon Point Scar.

In September 2012 the remains of the fish weir could still be clearly seen on the ground. The upright stakes and traces of the horizontal timbering are visible but are obviously suffering from the continual effects of sea and tide.

### ***Pembrokeshire***

- The majority of fish weirs situated on rivers survive as arrangements of wooden posts but there are a few examples of stone built structures. A stone-built fish weir across the channel of Sandyhaven Pill is one example visited during this project (Photo 5). All that remains is a low bank of rubble, approximately 50m long (E-W) and 2m wide and 0.3m high. It is not breached at any point by the channel and is probably post-medieval in date. It is depicted on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1875, 1908 and 1953.



Photo 5 – PRN 34632. The remains of a stone fish weir constructed across Sandyhaven Pill, Pembrokeshire. Looking east.

## Coastal fish traps

- Around the coast of south-west Wales where rock and shingle beaches are widespread traps are commonly constructed from thick boulder walls, thereby utilising an available building material that provides resistance to the regular scouring action of waves and tide. Wooden stakes placed within the boulder walls may have supported wattle walls or nets. These would have had to be refurbished on a regular basis and in most cases are no longer evident but the stone walls are long lasting and survive until the present day.
- Attempts have been made to classify coastal fish traps based on the morphological evidence but this has only been undertaken in a particular location or across a defined area. Bannerman and Jones (1999) identified seven distinct types of fish trap around the coast of Anglesey and Gwynedd. Although many of the traps found on the gently shelving sand, shingle and boulder foreshores of Dyfed broadly follow the forms they identified there are clear differences.

- Without dating evidence it is extremely difficult to draw a correlation between the date of construction and the size and shape of the trap, particularly as fish traps undergo continuous modification over time. Nevertheless, it is clear that at very low tides the remnants of fish traps can still be traced running out into the sea, for example to the north of Llansantffraid on the Ceredigion coast. A number of fish traps always remain submerged, even at the lowest tides, and have only been identified from aerial photography. Notable examples are those at Newquay (PRN 103606), Poppit Beach (PRN 103599) and Ffos Las south of Aberystwyth (PRN 103592). It is of note that these three traps are all large V-shaped traps. Site visits demonstrated that as one moves up the beach from the low water mark the evidence for fish traps becomes more robust, reflecting their more recent age, suggesting that one could construct a provisional classification based on the relative position of a number of traps in a particular location.

### *Carmarthenshire*

- No examples of stone built fish traps, apart from those found in the estuaries of the Taf, Towy and Gwendraeth discussed earlier have been recorded in Carmarthenshire. The coast of Carmarthenshire is generally one of sandy beaches and wide estuaries and identifying fish traps in such environments is always more problematical where the movement and deposition of sand and silt can be so great.

### *Pembrokeshire*

- The problem of the constant movement of beaches is highlighted by the example of a fish trap located at the far southern end of Penally Beach near Tenby (PRN 30040). **Labelled as a 'Fish Weir' on Captain Aldridge's Chart of Tenby and Caldey Roads 1856 (Figure 2)** it was first recorded on the ground in 1995 (Gale 1995) at low water spring tide. It was visible as a V-shaped structure with the apex of the V pointing seaward, constructed from stone boulders and beach pebbles within which were lines of wooden stakes. It was noted during the periods of recording how much the appearance of the beach changed between tides, with material and sand rearranged, accumulated or dispersed.

Subsequent site visits have found no trace of any structure, although this part of the beach is markedly stonier and boulder strewn.

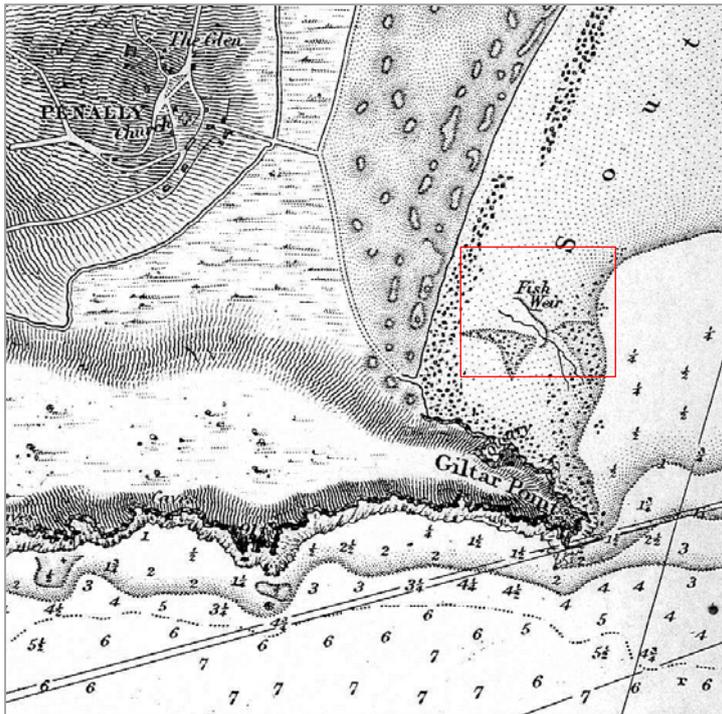


Figure 2 An extract from Captain Aldridge's Chart of Tenby and Caldey Roads 1856, showing a **Fish Weir** at the far southern end of Penally Beach near Tenby (PRN 30040).

In 2012 the only trace of a possible fish trap at this grid reference was a linear spread of stone running roughly in a N-S direction for approximately 120m close to the low water mark (Photo 6 & 7). Towards the northern end the line of stone curves around to the shore and there are faint traces of what could have been a sluice at the seaward apex of this curve. What appeared to be remnants of wooden posts were visible placed within the stone spread. It is possible that there are a number of different phases of fish trap in this area that are never all evident during the same period of time.



Photo 6 – PRN 30040. Linear stone spreads revealed at low tide at the southern end of Penally beach are all that remains of former medieval or post medieval fish traps in this area.



Photo 7 – PRN 30040. Another picture taken looking towards the town of Tenby showing the linear stone spreads revealed at low tide at the southern end of Penally beach. This is the only evidence for former medieval or post medieval fish traps in this area.

- The most common shape for a fish trap is a V-shape with the apex pointing seaward. The arms of the V usually run landwards across the beach and range from 80 to over 200m in length. A gap or sluice of about 1m in width is generally located at the apex of the V (Figure 3).

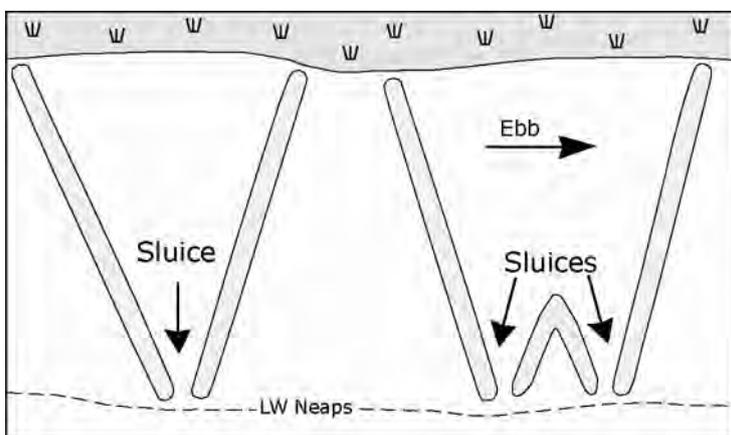


Figure 3 V and double V shaped traps (after Bannerman and Jones 1999).

- A good example of a V-shaped trap that is clearly visible at low tide exists at Goodwick beach, within Fishguard Harbour. On the north-west side of Goodwick beach is the remains of the large V-shaped fish trap (PRN 32127) first shown on the early maritime charts of Lewis Morris dating from 1748. The first edition Ordnance Survey 6in map of 1891 (Figure 4) illustrates it as a clear V-shaped structure whose east-west arm adjoins coastal rocks north of the village of Goodwick. This east-west half of the V was destroyed by construction of the railway between 1901 and 1906 as the Ordnance Survey 6in map of 1908 (Figure 5) plainly shows.



Figure 4 An extract from the first edition Ordnance Survey 6in map of 1891 showing the V-shaped fish trap (PRN 32127) whose east-west arm adjoins coastal rocks north of the village of Goodwick.



Figure 5 An extract from the Ordnance Survey 6in map of 1908 showing the east-west half of the V destroyed by construction of the railway between 1901 and 1906.

What remains of the fish trap now extends for approximately 120 metres into Fishguard Harbour from the harbour side and then turns to the north for approximately 37m (Photo 8). The wall is constructed from large stone boulders and measures approximately 5.0m wide, and still retains water at low tide. The sluice or gate was presumably at the apex of the V and has been destroyed by the construction of the railway in the nineteenth century.



Photo 8 – PRN 32127 The remaining half of the V-shaped fish trap at Goodwick as it appears today at low tide.

- In contrast on the other side of Goodwick beach there is another smaller, crescent shaped fish trap (PRN 103601), not depicted on any historic map or chart (Photo 9). Built from stone boulders it is approximately 80m in length and 5m wide. The apex of the crescent points seaward and the south-east end adjoins coastal rocks. However, unlike neighbouring PRN 32127 it is further down the beach and sits below the low water mark and is only partially exposed at the lowest tides of 0.5m and under. Present sea-levels would make it very difficult to use and make repairs and this might indicate a construction date back in the early medieval period or earlier. In 2012 it was not possible to record a sluice or gate because it was never fully exposed and remained submerged at its apex even at a very low tide.



Photo 9 – PRN 103601 The small crescent shaped fish trap located on the south side of Goodwick beach, still partially submerged even at very low tides.

This fish trap is consistent with the crescent shaped traps thought to be an early form of trap by Bannerman and Jones (1999) in their study of fish traps around the coasts of Anglesey and Gwynedd. One end abuts the shore and the structure curves in the direction of the ebb tide (Figure 6). The crescent-shaped stone base may well have supported a stake and a wattle superstructure. This is a classic shape for a fish trap and is known as a *gored* in Welsh literature.

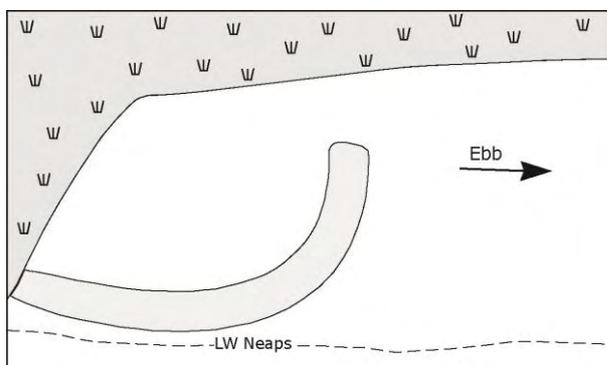


Figure 6 Crescent shaped fish trap (after Bannerman and Jones 1999).

- Larger more elongated examples can appear more as a long boulder wall running approximately parallel to the shore whose ends then curve landward (Figure 7). Sluice gates are placed along the long wall that runs roughly parallel to the low water mark.

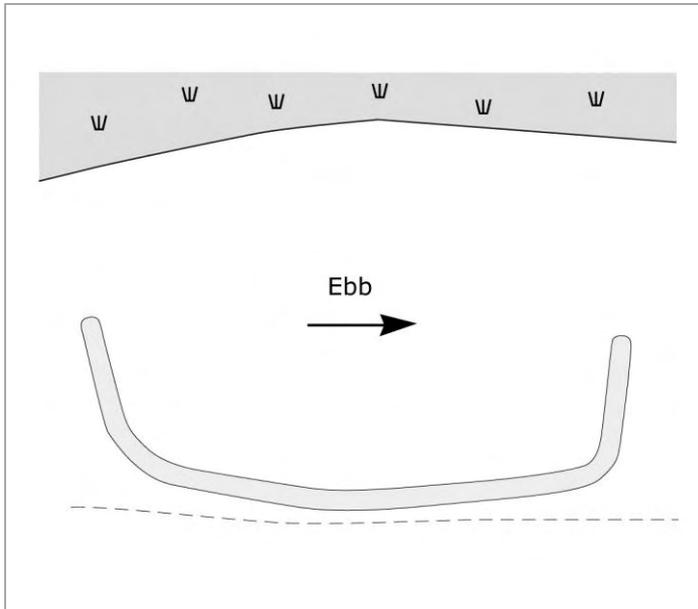


Figure 7 An elongated crescent shaped fish trap; examples of which are found along the coasts of Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion. **This was not a form identified by Bannerman and Jones (1999) in their study of fish traps around the coasts of Anglesey and Gwynedd.**

The photograph below shows such a style of fish trap. This large stone-built fish trap is situated at the very southern end of Newgale beach, Pembrokeshire in an area of rocks below Black Cliff



Photo 10 – PRN 103607 The large stone built fish trap at the very southern end of Newgale beach, Pembrokeshire.

This fish trap is a long sinuous curve of stone boulders that forms a wall aligned roughly N-S. To the east (landward) side of the wall a large pool that retains water at low tide is evident. The wall is constructed from very large boulders and appears to be built up on the seaward side creating a sloping stone bank. The wall measures approximately 310m long and the pool is roughly 80m wide.

### *Ceredigion*

- The tradition of building and maintaining fish traps along the Ceredigion coast has a long history and it is in Ceredigion that some of the best surviving examples of stone-built fish traps in Dyfed are found, particularly on the stretch of coast that lies roughly between Aberaeron and Aberystwyth. Evelyn Lewes notes in a report to the Cambrian Association (Lewes 1924) that **Rhys ap Gruffyd's charter of 1184** records that the *goredi* of Llanddewi Aberarth were offered to the monastery of Strata Florida emphasising the ancient use of such fishing methods. It is probable that in some form they continued in usage into the 20<sup>th</sup> century but Lewes charts their decline, stating that 60 years before writing 12 fish traps were in use but that by 1896 only six were still maintained. At the time of writing he records two fish traps were still being used. Lewes records a conversation with a retired gored-keeper who describes the hard work necessary to maintain a gored. In the spring of each year she was obliged, as she **expressed it, to 'codi gored', raise the gored, or in other words, repair the ravages of the storms and this was no mean effort for it entailed occasionally the lifting and replacing of some exceedingly heavy stones"** (Lewes 1924, 399). The remains visible today are likely to be of this more recent construction albeit retaining material from much earlier structures.
- A group of fish traps to the west of Aberarth (PRNs 32526 & 32527) have been scheduled (CD 281) but further north along the coast roughly between Aberarth and Llansantfraid are the remains of a number of equally well-preserved single fish traps and groups of fish traps on the stone and shingle foreshore. One outstanding example is the group of three fish traps located just north-east of Aberarth (Figure 8).

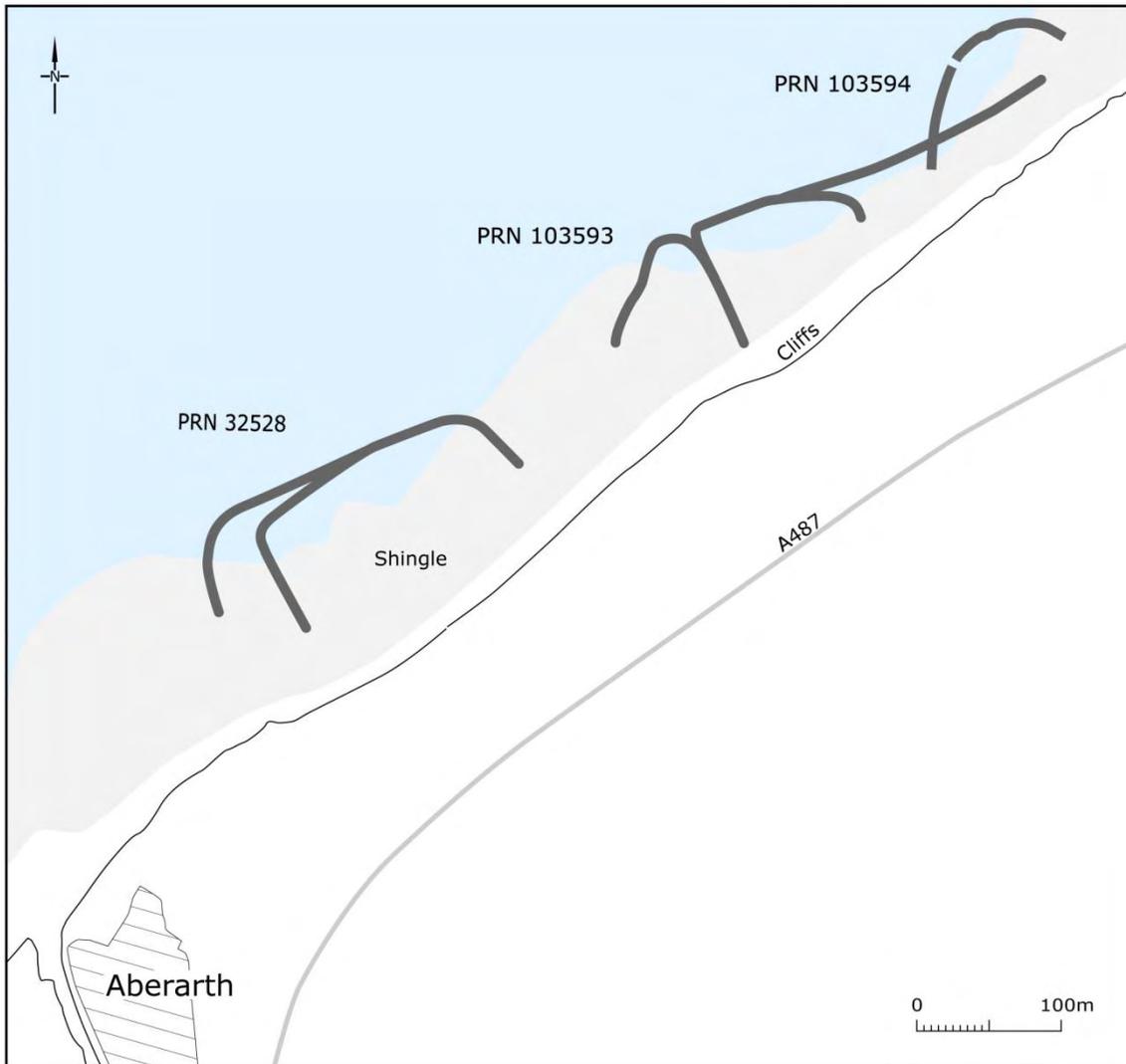


Figure 8 A plan of the group of stone fish traps that lie on the shingle foreshore to the northeast of Aberarth, Ceredigion.

- PRN 32528 consists of two arms of elongated crescent shape (Figure 8), which probably represent different phasing of the same trap. One elongated crescent shape is visible on the first edition Ordnance Survey 6" mapping of 1890. The long seaward side of both phases of the trap measure over 100m each and the curving arms of the trap run up the beach for up to 60m. The first arm of the fish trap is constructed from large stone boulders and measures c. 4.0m wide. The landward sides of the banks are neatly faced and built up with boulders (some very large) on the seaward side to form a wide sloping bank. The second arm is neatly faced on both sides and measures c. 2.5m until it joins the first arm and then becomes a rougher stone bank faced on the landward side only.



Photo 11 – PRN 32528 The multi-phased stone built fish trap situated on the stone and shingle foreshore north-east of the mouth of Aberarth.



Photo 12 – PRN 32528 Detail of the well preserved stone walls, still retaining water at low tide.

The traps retain water at low tide. Well-constructed sluice gates exist along the seaward long sides of the traps, with faced stones on their internal edges. Small circular traps were identified within the larger trap area.



Photo 13 - PRN 32528 Detail of one of the sluice gates within one of the seaward walls.

- PRN 103593 is a large splayed M-shaped fish trap (Figure 9). The scheduled fish traps that lie to the west of Aberarth (PRNs are somewhat similar in form).

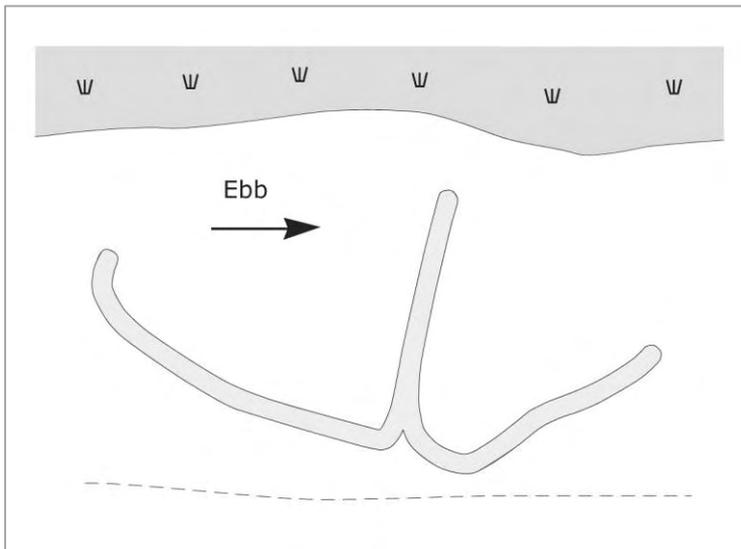


Figure 9 An M shaped fish trap; examples of which are found along the coast of Ceredigion. This was not a form identified by Bannerman and Jones (1999), although it has similarities with the double V shaped form they recorded.

The central line of the M is a wide raised linear bank constructed from stone boulders, faced on its outer east side. This central spine splits the large polygonal structure into two cells that are defined by the curving arms of the M. These are splayed outwards: the western arm running

at an angle towards the shore for roughly 120m, while the eastern arm runs in an easterly direction for approximately 220m, more parallel to the shore. It is this eastern arm that connects to the curving crescent shaped fish trap PRN 103594 further to the north-east (Photo 14).



Photo 14 - PRN 103593 Shot taken from cliffs showing the wide M-shaped fish trap. Its eastern arm connects to the crescent shaped fish trap PRN 103594 that can be seen to the right of the photo, pointing out to sea.

Both arms of this M-shaped fish trap have been altered over time with additional lengths of wall built at angles to them (Photo 15) and more than one sluice gate are visible along the arms.

- PRN 103594 is a crescent shaped fish trap with the apex of the C pointing seawards (Photo 16). The curving raised stone bank of the trap retains water at low tide. Just to the west of the apex of the curve is a large sluice measuring several metres wide. This sluice then empties into what appears to be a manmade pool dug out of the ground. The eastern arm of fish trap PRN 103593 runs behind the open arms of the C-shaped fish trap on the landward side. Water is retained by this extended arm and what appears to be a dug out channel connects this pool of water with that retained behind the curving wall of the C shaped trap. It is difficult to decipher what is going on here because of the amount of seaweed that covers all the structures but there are lengths of wall running in many different directions and what

could be manmade pools forming a complex arrangement for catching fish.



Photo 15 - PRN 103593 Detailed shot showing how the fish trap has been altered over time with additional lengths of wall.



Photo 16 - PRN 103594 A crescent shaped fish trap. Just to the west of the apex of the curve is a large sluice measuring several metres wide. This sluice then empties into what appears to be a manmade pool dug out of the ground.

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## GAZETTEER OF SITES – MEDIEVAL & EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL FISH TRAPS

**M. PAGE, Historic Environment Record Manager**

**PRN** 11355

**NAME** GORED WYDDNO **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Early-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Documents **CONDITION**

**NGR** SN6092 **COMMUNITY** Borth **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### HER DESCRIPTION

#### SUMMARY

The fish trap is mentioned in 'Hanes Taliesin' which suggests the early mediaeval use of fish traps, although the particular fish trap in question is mythical.  
GW 1995

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**PRN** 14394

**NAME** LLIEDI ESTUARY **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Unknown

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Not Known

**NGR** SS4899 **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### HER DESCRIPTION

#### SUMMARY

Not visited in 2012. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

Unconfirmed report of 'three ancient fish traps more than 40 feet long' uncovered by erosion on Llanelli Beach. The discovery was reported by the Llanelli Star on March 28th, 1991. DE Morgan 1991

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**PRN** 25518

**NAME** LLANON      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN5060066800      **COMMUNITY** Llansantffraid      **COUNTY** Ceredigion

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A well preserved C-shaped fish trap located on the foreshore to the west of Llannon village and visible at low tide. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

A well preserved C-shaped fish trap comprising a curving dry stone boulder wall, constructed from 2 sections of wall set at an angle facing seaward. The longer section is to the southwest not the southeast as described below. The wall is one boulder high. The curve retains water at low tide. The NE shorter section measures c. 36.5m in length and the wall is faced along its landward facing side with a built up rubble bank to seaward side, c.6.0m wide. The longer SW section is c.105m long and 51m from the east end of this section of wall, the wall is faced on both N and S sides and measures 2.0m wide. 4.0m from the western end is a stone lined gap in the wall 1.8m wide possible sluice gate (see photos). F Murphy & H Wilson 2012





The feature lies on a boulder and shingle beach some 100m to seaward end of a cliff. Visible on AP's as a dark linear feature. It consists of two straight sections of walls set at an angle facing seaward. The south-eastern section being the longer some 200m across. The walling consists of a simple line of stones set side by side (although not all the ground was observed at close quarters). The feature loses definition in shingle on the south on the ground. GW 1995

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**PRN** 30040

**NAME** PENALLY BEACH **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SS1243698650 **COMMUNITY** Tenby **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

## HER DESCRIPTION

### SUMMARY

The remains of a possible fish trap located at the far southern end of Penally Beach that is often obscured by sand. F Murphy 2012



### LONG DESCRIPTION

A putative fish trap identified by a linear spread of stone that runs roughly in a N-S direction for approximately 120m at the far southern end of Penally Beach. Towards the northern end the line of stone curves around to the shore. There are faint traces of what could have been a sluice at the seaward apex of the curve. A fish weir is marked near this location in Captain Aldridge's Chart of Tenby and Caldey Roads of 1856 but it is shown on a different alignment. The fish trap identified in 1995 in this area was recorded as a V-shaped fish trap but this could not be seen in 2012. It is possible that there are a number of different phases of fish trap in this area, exposed or covered by the constantly shifting sands. F Murphy Dec 2012 This area is ensanded. The trap may survive beneath sand though an area of boulders may mark the site of this site - there is no

obvious plan to the boulders. KM 1996 A roughly V-shaped fish trap in the lower intertidal area of Penally beach, measuring some 125m x 47m overall. The apex of the fish trap points seaward and is comprised of spreads of stone, within which are the remnants of roundwood uprights placed approximately 1ft apart. The stakes were located on 03.02.95 and partly surveyed 05.02.95. A fish weir is marked in this location in 1856. A. Gale Feb 1995

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**PRN** 30087

**NAME** SALMON POINT SCAR **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** None **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN3580007100 **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

## HER DESCRIPTION

### SUMMARY

Group PRN for a complex fish trap structure constructed on the extensive natural stony bank called Salmon Scar located where the Towy and Gwendraeth estuaries converge. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

A site visit was made in September 2012. Evidence of the fish trap could still be clearly seen on the ground. The upright stakes and traces of the horizontal timbering are still visible but are obviously suffering from the continual effects of sea and tide. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



Salmon Scar is an extensive natural stony bank covered with mussel beds that is exposed at low tides. This record covers a complex fish trap that takes advantage of a large hollow, of c. 2 hectares, within the scar where fish would have been trapped at low tide. Where the scar was highest there was no need to construct any walls but towards the seaward end, approaching the catchment area which drove fish into the trap there are low stone banks and timber

uprights set in these, with horizontal timbering at ground level. The weir may have thirteenth century origins and was still in use in the 1960s. For a detailed description of the fish trap complex please see H & T James article in Carms. Antiq. 2003

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**PRN** 30101

**NAME** ST ISHMAELS SCAR      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Unknown

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Not Known

**NGR** SN359080      **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael      **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

Not located during a site visit in 2012. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

A structure possibly associated with fishing. This structure shows as a round pool in the rock strew of the scar. A. Gale Feb 1995

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**PRN** 30102

**NAME** SALMON POINT SCAR      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Unknown

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Not Known

**NGR** SN356069      **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael      **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A wooden post alignment located to the east of Salmon Scar, possibly linked to fishing. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

Not identified during a field visit in 2012 but this line of stakes could be a continuation of PRNs 103611 to 103613; fish traps that begin on Salmon Scar as walls & then continue as post lines further south where the scar ends.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

A structure of uncertain purpose possibly linked to fishing or the construction of a training wall. Six vertical pieces of wood spaced across a watercourse on the south side of Salmon Point Scar. A. Gale Feb 1995

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**PRN** 30926

**NAME** TRE-NEWYDD FACH **TYPE** Breakwater **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN46756360 **COMMUNITY** Dyffryn Arth **COUNTY** Ceredigion

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A probable post medieval breakwater located on the shingle foreshore northeast of Aberaeron, Ceredigion. Visited during fieldwork in 2012.

### LONG DESCRIPTION

As previously described though no evidence now of any long beams or cross braces, although the wooden uprights that lean inwards still remain.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

The feature was spotted as a dark linear mark on an aerial photograph seaward of Aberaeron. The feature lies 80m north of the base of a low cliff and some 40m west of PRN 30927 on a boulder and shingle beach. It is of the same construction as example PRN 30770 but stands to a much greater height. Surviving elements include parallel long beams, cross braces, and outer uprights leaning inward at an angle. These stand some 2m high and were nailed at the top to longitudinal timbers (although the latter do not themselves survive), which were presumably attached to the central vertical uprights. Erosion by the sea is on-going. GW 1995



**PRN** 30927

**NAME** TRE-NEWYDD FACH **TYPE** Fish trap? **PERIOD** Medieval/ Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN46806360 **COMMUNITY** Dyffryn Arth **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A probable post medieval breakwater located on the shingle foreshore northeast of Aberaeron, Ceredigion. Visited during fieldwork in 2012.

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

As previously described though eroded by the sea. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

The feature lies 80m, seaward of the base of a low cliff and some 40m east of PRN 30926. It is some 9m long. Same construction as PRN 30770. Exposed remains consist of a few wooden posts standing roughly 2m apart set in a linear bank constructed from variously sized boulders. The stone bank continues 2m to landward and 10m to seaward from the ends of the timbers. Erosion by the sea is on-going. GW 1995



**PRN** 30933

**NAME** MORFA      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Medieval/ Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN5252069540      **COMMUNITY** Llanrhystyd      **COUNTY** Ceredigion

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

Curving elongated C shaped stone built fish trap. Located on the foreshore of the Ceredigion coast near Llanrhystud. Visible at low tide. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Curving elongated C shaped fish trap with the apex of the curve pointing seaward. Built up bank on seaward side. Retains water at low tide. Measuring roughly 95m in length with a 2m wide sluice gate 18m in from the northern end of the curve. Looks good on APs. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



Observed at half tide not all exposed. The feature begins some 60m to seaward of a low cliff on a shingle and boulder beach. Some 20m was observed disappearing into the sea and turning to the north. No return was marked on the north; the feature was overlain on the south by shingle. It consisted of a single line of large somewhat elongated stones set side by side. It included two straight sections, angled to the north. Presumably being eroded by the sea. GW 1995

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**PRN** 30939

**NAME** CRAIGLAS **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN51206834 **COMMUNITY** Llansantffraid **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

Complex stone built fish trap situated on the Ceredigion coast north of Llansantffraid. It covers a wide area of foreshore and is only visible at very low tide. It lies in an area of stone built fish traps that represent many phases of construction. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

Difficult to identify the D-shapes as described in 1999. We could identify many varying lengths of N-S running walls, 1 course high, outer flat face to N although broken in places the longest line of stones would appear to be about 66m long. It does cover a wide area. There appear in places to be circular depressions edged with stones possibly the remnants of small circular traps. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



Field visit to site by TGD/RFS 1999 Site independently discovered by E Dockerty and A Darlington of Llansantffraid History Society. Confirmed as complex fish trap with at least two D-shaped compartments c53m x 63m. Stonewalls survive in places with well-built outer faces, rubble core and capping stones laid on edge. Traps still retain water at low tide. Sketch plan made On a boulder and shingle beach. The site was nearly submerged when observed and was not reachable. A semi-circular depression 40m across, in the shingle and boulders is

cut off by what appears to be a roughly piled up curved wall of stones at the seaward end. They may be natural or artificial depression. Presumably being eroded by the sea. GW 1995

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**PRN** 30940

**NAME** CRAIGLAS **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN5106068200 **COMMUNITY** Llansantffraid **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

Complex but badly eroded stone built fish trap situated on the Ceredigion coast north of Llansantffraid. It covers a wide area of foreshore and is only visible at very low tide. It lies in an area of stone built fish traps that represent many phases of construction. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

Difficult to confirm the description as recorded in 1999 because the walls are extremely difficult to trace on the ground. Several lengths of wall can be identified but they do not form an obvious shape. One length of wall measures 16.8M and is orientated NNW SSE. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



Field visit to site by TGD/RFS 1999 Site independently discovered by E Dockerty and A Darlington of Llansantffraid History Society. Confirmed as complex fish

trap with at least two compartments at least 64m x 45m overall. In places stonewalls survive very well with inner and outer faces and capping stones. Traps partly retain water at low tide. Sketch plan made but very complex arrangement of walls calls for more accurate survey. On a boulder and shingle beach. The site was nearly submerged when observed and was not reachable. It consists of a dog-leg section of what appears to be roughly piled walling, facing seaward, some 55m long. Presumably being eroded by the sea. GW 1995



**PRN** 30941

**NAME** LLANSANTFFRAID **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN5090067620 **COMMUNITY** Llansantffraid **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A series of connecting V-shaped stone built fish traps situated on the foreshore at Llansantffraid, Ceredigion. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

From between two outfall pipes broken lines of single boulders can be seen extending northwards beyond the mouth of the River Peris. It would appear that this is a former extensive fish trap complex which has undergone changes in alignment over time, as some of the dry stone walls overlie each other. Gaps within the arms of the V shaped traps may have once formed sluice gates. At low tide at least 2 of the V's retain water. Please see the recording work carried out by the RCAHMW in 2011 for more detailed information (NPRN 413854/5). F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 31244

**NAME** MORFA BACAS    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged/ Near Destroyed

**NGR** SS54369775    **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

Probable fish trap or training line constructed from a series of roundwood uprights. Situated within the peat shelf (PRN 31245) on the foreshore at Morfa Bacas and visible at low tides. BDA 1997

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in July 2012. The peat shelf (PRN 31243 & 31245-6) in which many of the roundwood uprights are situated has been severely eroded by the effects of tide and river. It was not always possible to locate the groups of uprights as previously recorded in 1997. Some of the groups of have been completely removed and in other cases short stumps of uprights could be discerned some of which are still in lines. The submerged forest (PRN 31317) in this area is now more obviously exposed with many tree stumps and tree trunks clearly visible. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



Over 200 uprights have been recorded on the peat exposures at Morfa Bacas. Many of the identifiable lines of uprights were on 2 orientations: those closest to land were parallel to the shoreline whilst those close to the channel were at 90 degrees to it. Samples taken from 2 of the lines have returned radiocarbon dates of 290 +/- 60BP and 140 +/- 60BP. In places, wooden uprights have been replaced with metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent times. It appears that the northward movement of the main channel of the Loughor has removed any earlier structures. NP 1997

Collection of five roundwood uprights in a straight line, perpendicular to present channel, driven into the peat shelf 31245, set exactly 1m apart from one another, average diameter 2cm and protrusion 5cm, each top eroded to a point. Probable fish trap/training line. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 31247

**NAME** MORFA BACAS    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged/ Near Destroyed

**NGR** SS54229769    **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

Probable fish trap identified, comprising 35 roundwood uprights driven into exposed peat shelf (PRN 31246) on the foreshore at Morfa Bacas. BDA 1997.

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in July 2012. The peat shelf (PRN 31243 & 31245-6) in which many of the roundwood uprights are situated has been severely eroded by the effects of tide and river. It was not always possible to locate the groups of uprights as previously recorded in 1997. Some of the groups of have been completely removed and in other cases short stumps of uprights could be discerned some of which were still in lines. The submerged forest (PRN 31317) in this area is now more obviously exposed with many tree stumps and tree trunks clearly visible. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



Over 200 uprights have been recorded on the peat exposures at Morfa Bacas. Many of the identifiable lines of uprights were on 2 orientations: those closest to

land were parallel to the shoreline whilst those close to the channel were at 90 degrees to it. Samples taken from 2 of the lines have returned radiocarbon dates of 290 +/- 60BP and 140 +/- 60BP. In places, wooden uprights have been replaced with metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent times. It appears that the northward movement of the main channel of the Loughor has removed any earlier structures. NP 1997

Probable fish trap identified, comprising 35 roundwood uprights driven into exposed peat shelf 31246. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 31248

**NAME** MORFA BACAS    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged/ Near Destroyed

**NGR** SS54239771    **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

Probable fish trap identified surviving within the peat shelf (PRN 31246) on the foreshore at Morfa Bacas. It comprises seven roundwood uprights forming a v-shaped structure. BDA 1997

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in July 2012. The peat shelf (PRN 31243 & 31245-6) in which many of the roundwood uprights are situated has been severely eroded by the effects of tide and river. It was not always possible to locate the groups of uprights as previously recorded in 1997. Some of the groups have been completely removed and in other cases short stumps of uprights could be discerned some of which were still in lines. The submerged forest (PRN 31317) in this area is now more obviously exposed with many tree stumps and tree trunks clearly visible.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



Over 200 uprights have been recorded on the peat exposures at Morfa Bacas. Many of the identifiable lines of uprights were on 2 orientations: those closest to land were parallel to the shoreline whilst those close to the channel were at 90 degrees to it. Samples taken from 2 of the lines have returned radiocarbon dates of 290 +/- 60BP and 140 +/- 60BP. In places, wooden uprights have been replaced with metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent times. It appears that the northward movement of the main channel of the Loughor has removed any earlier structures. NP 1997

Probable fish trap identified surviving within the peat shelf 31246 comprising seven roundwood uprights forming a v-shaped structure. Possible putt, may be part of 31247 & 31249. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 31249

**NAME** MORFA BACAS    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged/ Near Destroyed

**NGR** SS54229772    **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

Straight line of eleven roundwood uprights surviving within the peat shelf (PRN 31246) on the foreshore at Morfa Bacas. Visible at low tides. BDA 1997

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in July 2012. The peat shelf (PRN 31243 & 31245-6) in which many of the roundwood uprights are situated has been severely eroded by the effects of tide and river. It was not always possible to locate the groups of uprights as previously recorded in 1997. Some of the groups have been completely removed and in other cases short stumps of uprights could be discerned some of which were still in lines. The submerged forest (PRN 31317) in this area is now more obviously exposed with many tree stumps and tree trunks clearly visible.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

Over 200 uprights have been recorded on the peat exposures at Morfa Bacas. Many of the identifiable lines of uprights were on 2 orientations: those closest to land were parallel to the shoreline whilst those close to the channel were at 90 degrees to it. Samples taken from 2 of the lines have returned radiocarbon dates of 290 +/- 60BP and 140 +/- 60BP. In places, wooden uprights have been replaced with metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent times. It appears that the northward movement of the main channel of the Loughor has removed any earlier structures. NP 1997

Straight line of eleven roundwood uprights surviving within the peat shelf 31246. Sample (EDM no.671) of one of the uprights taken for RCD, awaiting results. Structure probable fish trap, putcher rank, associated with structures 31247 & 31248. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 31250

**NAME** MORFA BACAS    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged/ Near Destroyed

**NGR** SS54439774    **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

Straight row of nine roundwood uprights surviving within the exposed peat shelf (PRN 31246) on the foreshore at Morfa Bacas. Visible at low tides. BDA 1997

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in July 2012. The peat shelf (PRN 31243 & 31245-6) in which many of the roundwood uprights are situated has been severely eroded by the effects of tide and river. It was not always possible to locate the groups of uprights as previously recorded in 1997. Some of the groups have been completely removed and in other cases short stumps of uprights could be discerned some of which were still in lines. The submerged forest (PRN 31317) in this area is now more obviously exposed with many tree stumps and tree trunks clearly visible.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

Over 200 uprights have been recorded on the peat exposures at Morfa Bacas. Many of the identifiable lines of uprights were on 2 orientations: those closest to land were parallel to the shoreline whilst those close to the channel were at 90 degrees to it. Samples taken from 2 of the lines have returned radiocarbon dates of 290 +/- 60BP and 140 +/- 60BP. In places, wooden uprights have been replaced with metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent times. It appears that the northward movement of the main channel of the Loughor has removed any earlier structures. NP 1997

Straight row of nine roundwood uprights surviving within the exposed peat shelf 31246. Probable fish trap, putcher rank, no other lines of uprights appear to be associated with this structure but maybe buried by mobile sediment to the north. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 31251

**NAME** MORFA BACAS    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged/ Near Destroyed

**NGR** SS54249772    **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A probable post medieval fish trap surviving as a V-shaped structure comprising six roundwood uprights within the exposed peat shelf (PRN 31246) on the foreshore of Morfa Bacas. BDA 1997

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in July 2012. The peat shelf (PRN 31243 & 31245-6) in which many of the roundwood uprights are situated has been severely eroded by the effects of tide and river. It was not always possible to locate the groups of uprights as previously recorded in 1997. Some of the groups of uprights have been completely removed and in other cases short stumps of uprights could be discerned some of which were still in lines. The submerged forest (PRN 31317) in this area is now more obviously exposed with many tree stumps and tree trunks clearly visible. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

Over 200 uprights have been recorded on the peat exposures at Morfa Bacas. Many of the identifiable lines of uprights were on 2 orientations: those closest to land were parallel to the shoreline whilst those close to the channel were at 90 degrees to it. Samples taken from 2 of the lines have returned radiocarbon dates of 290 +/- 60BP and 140 +/- 60BP. In places, wooden uprights have been replaced with metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent times. It appears that the northward movement of the main channel of the Loughor has removed any earlier structures. NP 1997

V-shaped structure comprising six roundwood uprights surviving within the exposed peat shelf 31246. Probable fish trap, putt. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 31252

**NAME** MORFA BACAS    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged/ Near Destroyed

**NGR** SS54359773    **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A probable fish trap surviving as a straight line of five roundwood uprights within the exposed peat shelf (PRN 31245) on the foreshore of Morfa Bacas. Visible at low tide. BDA 1997

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in July 2012. The peat shelf (PRN 31243 & 31245-6) in which many of the roundwood uprights are situated has been severely eroded by the effects of tide and river. It was not always possible to locate the groups of uprights as previously recorded in 1997. Some of the groups have been completely removed and in other cases short stumps of uprights could be discerned some of which were still in lines. The submerged forest (PRN 31317) in this area is now more obviously exposed with many tree stumps and tree trunks clearly visible.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



Over 200 uprights have been recorded on the peat exposures at Morfa Bacas. Many of the identifiable lines of uprights were on 2 orientations: those closest to land were parallel to the shoreline whilst those close to the channel were at 90 degrees to it. Samples taken from 2 of the lines have returned radiocarbon dates of 290 +/- 60BP and 140 +/- 60BP. In places, wooden uprights have been replaced with metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent times. It appears that the northward movement of the main channel of the Loughor has removed any earlier structures. NP 1997

Straight line of five roundwood uprights surviving within the exposed peat shelf 31245. Probable fish trap, putcher rank, possibly associated with 31253. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 31253

**NAME** MORFA BACAS      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Damaged/ Near Destroyed

**NGR** SS54349773      **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural      **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A probable post medieval fish trap surviving as a straight line of twenty five plus roundwood uprights within the exposed peat shelf (PRN 31245) on the foreshore of Morfa Bacas. BDA 1997

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in July 2012. The peat shelf (PRN 31243 & 31245-6) in which many of the roundwood uprights are situated has been severely eroded by the effects of tide and river. It was not always possible to locate the groups of uprights as previously recorded in 1997. Some of the groups have been completely removed and in other cases short stumps of uprights could be discerned some of which were still in lines. The submerged forest (PRN 31317) in this area is now more obviously exposed with many tree stumps and tree trunks clearly visible.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

Over 200 uprights have been recorded on the peat exposures at Morfa Bacas. Many of the identifiable lines of uprights were on 2 orientations: those closest to land were parallel to the shoreline whilst those close to the channel were at 90 degrees to it. Samples taken from 2 of the lines have returned radiocarbon dates of 290 +/- 60BP and 140 +/- 60BP. In places, wooden uprights have been replaced with metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent

times. It appears that the northward movement of the main channel of the Loughor has removed any earlier structures. NP 1997

Straight line of twenty five plus roundwood uprights surviving within the exposed peat shelf 31245. RCD sample taken from one of the uprights from this structure, (EDM no 672), awaiting results. Probable fish trap, putcher rank, possibly associated with structure 31252. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 31254

**NAME** MORFA BACAS     **TYPE** Fish trap     **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure     **CONDITION** Damaged/ Near Destroyed

**NGR** SS54339772     **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural     **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A probable post medieval fish trap surviving as a straight line of nine roundwood uprights within the exposed peat shelf visible on the foreshore of Morfa Bacas. BDA 1997

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in July 2012. The peat shelf (PRN 31243 & 31245-6) in which many of the roundwood uprights are situated has been severely eroded by the effects of tide and river. It was not always possible to locate the groups of uprights as previously recorded in 1997. Some of the groups have been completely removed and in other cases short stumps of uprights could be discerned some of which were still in lines. The submerged forest (PRN 31317) in this area is now more obviously exposed with many tree stumps and tree trunks clearly visible.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

Over 200 uprights have been recorded on the peat exposures at Morfa Bacas. Many of the identifiable lines of uprights were on 2 orientations: those closest to land were parallel to the shoreline whilst those close to the channel were at 90 degrees to it. Samples taken from 2 of the lines have returned radiocarbon dates of 290 +/- 60BP and 140 +/- 60BP. In places, wooden uprights have been replaced with metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent times. It appears that the northward movement of the main channel of the Loughor has removed any earlier structures. NP 1997

Straight line of nine roundwood uprights surviving within the exposed peat shelf. Probable fish trap, putcher rank, training wall. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 31255

**NAME** MORFA BACAS    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged/ Near Destroyed

**NGR** SS54319771    **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A probable post medieval fish trap surviving as a straight line of eleven roundwood uprights within the exposed peat shelf (PRN 31245) on the foreshore at Morfa Bacas. BDA 1997

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in July 2012. The peat shelf (PRN 31243 & 31245-6) in which many of the roundwood uprights are situated has been severely eroded by the effects of tide and river. It was not always possible to locate the groups of uprights as previously recorded in 1997. Some of the groups have been completely removed and in other cases short stumps of uprights could be discerned some of which were still in lines. The submerged forest (PRN 31317) in this area is now more obviously exposed with many tree stumps and tree trunks clearly visible.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

Over 200 uprights have been recorded on the peat exposures at Morfa Bacas. Many of the identifiable lines of uprights were on 2 orientations: those closest to land were parallel to the shoreline whilst those close to the channel were at 90 degrees to it. Samples taken from 2 of the lines have returned radiocarbon dates of 290 +/- 60BP and 140 +/- 60BP. In places, wooden uprights have been replaced with metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent times. It appears that the northward movement of the main channel of the Loughor has removed any earlier structures. NP 1997

Straight line of eleven roundwood uprights meet up with structure 31256, surviving within the exposed peat shelf 31245. Probable fish trap, training line, possible putt. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 31256

**NAME** MORFA BACAS    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged/Near Destroyed

**NGR** SS54329772    **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

Probable post medieval fish trap surviving as a straight line of sixteen roundwood uprights within the exposed peat shelf (PRN 31245) on the foreshore at Morfa Bacas. BDA 1997

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in July 2012. The peat shelf (PRN 31243 & 31245-6) in which many of the roundwood uprights are situated has been severely eroded by the effects of tide and river. It was not always possible to locate the groups of uprights as previously recorded in 1997. Some of the groups have been completely removed and in other cases short stumps of uprights could be discerned some of which were still in lines. The submerged forest (PRN 31317) in this area is now more obviously exposed with many tree stumps and tree trunks clearly visible.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

Over 200 uprights have been recorded on the peat exposures at Morfa Bacas. Many of the identifiable lines of uprights were on 2 orientations: those closest to land were parallel to the shoreline whilst those close to the channel were at 90 degrees to it. Samples taken from 2 of the lines have returned radiocarbon dates of 290 +/- 60BP and 140 +/- 60BP. In places, wooden uprights have been replaced with metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent times. It appears that the northward movement of the main channel of the Loughor has removed any earlier structures. NP 1997

Straight line of sixteen roundwood uprights meet up with structure 31255, surviving within the exposed peat shelf 31245. Probable fish trap, training line, possible putt. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 31257

**NAME** MORFA BACAS    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged/Near Destroyed

**NGR** SS54299770    **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A probable post medieval fish trap surviving as a V-shaped structure comprising eight roundwood uprights within the exposed peat shelf (PRN 31245) on the foreshore at Morfa Bacas. BDA 1997

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in July 2012. The peat shelf (PRN 31243 & 31245-6) on which many of the roundwood uprights are situated has been severely eroded by the effects of tide and river. It was not always possible to locate the groups of uprights as previously recorded in 1997. Some of the groups have been completely removed and in other cases short stumps of uprights could be discerned some of which were still in lines. The submerged forest (PRN 31317) in this area is now more obviously exposed with many tree stumps and tree trunks clearly visible.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

Over 200 uprights have been recorded on the peat exposures at Morfa Bacas. Many of the identifiable lines of uprights were on 2 orientations: those closest to land were parallel to the shoreline whilst those close to the channel were at 90 degrees to it. Samples taken from 2 of the lines have returned radiocarbon dates of 290 +/- 60BP and 140 +/- 60BP. In places, wooden uprights have been replaced with metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent times. It appears that the northward movement of the main channel of the Loughor has removed any earlier structures. NP 1997

V-shaped structure comprising eight roundwood uprights, surviving within the exposed peat shelf 31245. Probable fish trap, putt. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 31258

**NAME** MORFA BACAS    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged/Near Destroyed

**NGR** SS54229766    **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A probable post medieval fish trap surviving as a V-shaped structure comprising roundwood uprights, situated alongside the glacial till exposure, south west of the exposed peat shelf (PRN 31246) at Morfa Bacas. BDA 1997

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in July 2012. The peat shelf (PRN 31243 & 31245-6) in which many of the roundwood uprights are situated has been severely eroded by the effects of tide and river. It was not always possible to locate the groups of uprights as previously recorded in 1997. Some of the groups have been completely removed and in other cases short stumps of uprights could be discerned some of which were still in lines. The submerged forest (PRN 31317) in this area is now more obviously exposed with many tree stumps and tree trunks clearly visible.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

Over 200 uprights have been recorded on the peat exposures at Morfa Bacas. Many of the identifiable lines of uprights were on 2 orientations: those closest to land were parallel to the shoreline whilst those close to the channel were at 90 degrees to it. Samples taken from 2 of the lines have returned radiocarbon dates of 290 +/- 60BP and 140 +/- 60BP. In places, wooden uprights have been replaced with metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent times. It appears that the northward movement of the main channel of the Loughor has removed any earlier structures. NP 1997

V-shaped structure comprising roundwood uprights, surviving alongside the glacial till exposure, south west of the exposed peat shelf 31246. Probable fish trap, putt. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 31259

**NAME** MORFA BACAS    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged/Near Destroyed

**NGR** SS54269773    **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

Probable post medieval fish trap surviving as a straight line of five roundwood uprights within the exposed peat shelf (PRN 31246) on the foreshore at Morfa Bacas. BDA 1997

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in July 2012. The peat shelf (PRN 31243 & 31245-6) in which many of the roundwood uprights are situated has been severely eroded by the effects of tide and river. It was not always possible to locate the groups of uprights as previously recorded in 1997. Some of the groups of have been completely removed and in other cases short stumps of uprights could be discerned some of which were still in lines. The submerged forest (PRN 31317) in this area is now more obviously exposed with many tree stumps and tree trunks clearly visible. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



Over 200 uprights have been recorded on the peat exposures at Morfa Bacas. Many of the identifiable lines of uprights were on 2 orientations: those closest to land were parallel to the shoreline whilst those close to the channel were at 90 degrees to it. Samples taken from 2 of the lines have returned radiocarbon dates of 290 +/- 60BP and 140 +/- 60BP. In places, wooden uprights have been replaced with metal bars and tubes, showing a continuity of use until very recent times. It appears that the northward movement of the main channel of the Loughor has removed any earlier structures. NP 1997

Straight line of five roundwood uprights, surviving within the exposed peat shelf 31246. Probable fish trap, putcher rank. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 31429

**NAME** CRAIGLAS **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN5167068410 **COMMUNITY** Llansantffraid **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

'Walking stick' shaped fish trap situated on the shingle foreshore northeast of Llansantffraid on the Ceredigion coast. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

The outer faces of the stone wall of the 'walking stick' shaped fish trap are clearly visible and are in-filled with beach boulders. The long axis runs NE-SW and measures c.35.4m. The NE end curves round to the south and measures c.15.5m. Average width of the wall is 4.8m face to face. Remnants of wooden posts run along the centre of the stone structure and the ironwork that held the posts together can still be seen in places. The longest surviving post is 2.55m high and has a diameter of 0.20m. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012





On a boulder and shingle beach. The site was nearly submerged when observed and was not reachable. A shallow semi-circular depression 25m across in the stone and shingle beach is cut off by what appears to be a roughly piled up straight length of walling end. The depression may be natural or artificial.  
GW 1995

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**PRN** 31444

**NAME** FFOS-LAS **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Near Intact/Damaged

**NGR** SN5577075620 **COMMUNITY** Llanfarian **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A curving C-shaped stony bank clearly visible from the cliffs that probably represents the remains of a fish trap. It is situated on the sand and shingle foreshore south of Aberystwyth on the Ceredigion coast. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

Approximately 6km south of Aberystwyth a curving C-shaped fish trap can be seen on the shingle foreshore below from the neighbouring cliffs above. The fish trap is visible as a curving stony bank, the apex of which points seaward. It still retains water at low tide. The bank is approximately 70m long which was estimated from aerial photographs as it was not possible to access the beach. It is situated just to the north of a much larger V shaped fish trap (PRN 103592) that is situated further out to sea and is not exposed even at low tides but has been identified from aerial photographs by the RCAHMW.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



Sand, shingle and boulder curving shaped platform. Obscured from the cliff top. A very doubtful fish-trap. A roughly C-shaped, area of sand 15 x 6m, bounded by shingle to seaward. It possibly incorporates piled up shingle walls but probably represents fortuitous spread of sand on beach. GW 1995

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**PRN** 31445

**NAME** FFOS-LAS **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Near Intact/Damaged

**NGR** SN55667534 **COMMUNITY** Llanfarian **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A V-shaped fish trap situated on the sand and boulder foreshore to the south of Aberystwyth, on the Ceredigion coast. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

Approximately 6km south of Aberystwyth, what appears to be a V-shaped fish trap can be seen on the sand and shingle foreshore below from the neighbouring cliffs above. The point of the V points out to sea and each arm of the V measures between 40.0 to 50.0m in length, and still retains water at low tide. The measurements had to be estimated from an aerial photograph as it was not possible to access the beach. It is situated just to the south of a much larger V shaped fish trap (PRN 103592) that is situated further out to sea and is not exposed even at low tides but has been identified from aerial photographs by the RCAHMW. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



Sand and boulder beach. Obscured from the cliff top. A doubtful fish-trap. V-shaped, shingle and boulders. Water retaining. GW 1995

**PRN** 32025

**NAME** POPPIT SANDS      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Near Intact/ Not known

**NGR** SN166480      **COMMUNITY** St Dogmaels      **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A series of 4 *goredi* or fish-traps situated on Poppit Sands. They are of 'walking stick' shape. The three most easterly are only exposed at spring tides when sand has been scoured away from them. GW 1995

### LONG DESCRIPTION

No evidence of any fish traps or *goredi* were visible in the area during very low tides in September 2012. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

These sites were described by D. Maynard, Glan-y-Mor, Poppit. A series of 4 *goredi* lay on Poppit Sands. They are of 'walking stick' shape. The three most easterly are only exposed at spring tides when sand has been scoured away from them. They are all of roughly piled stone. The most westerly gored is exposed at less extreme tides. The landward end of the most westerly gored was briefly exposed at low tide during a field visit. It was not closely inspected but appeared to be a typical gored. It was also observed as a sub-triangular feature from high ground to the south of the beach. The other three *goredi* were not observed. GW 1995

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**PRN** 32127

**NAME** FISHGUARD HARBOUR **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SM94903840 **COMMUNITY** Fishguard & Goodwick **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

## HER DESCRIPTION

### SUMMARY

The remains of what was once a large V-shaped fish trap. It is situated to the north-west of Fishguard Harbour and lies just below the entrance road to the ferry terminal. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

This large V-shaped fish trap is first shown on the early maritime charts of Lewis Morris dating from 1748, and is depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey 25in map of 1889 as a V-shaped submerged stone wall pointing seawards, adjoining coastal rocks north of the village of Goodwick at its west end. The east-west half of the V was destroyed by construction of the railway between 1901 and 1906. What remains of the fish trap now extends for approximately 120 metres to the SSW into Fishguard Harbour from the harbour side and then turns to the north for approximately 37m. The wall is constructed from large stone boulders and measures approximately 5.0m wide, and still retains water at low tide. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012





The feature is first shown on the 2nd edition 25" map, but not on the 1st edition. On the 2nd edition it is shown as a linear pile of stones but is more complex. On the modern 25" and on the ground it is a roughly piled line of stone running north south from the stone onto the sandy Goodwick Beach. There is a 'hook' formed by a further shorter line of stones running at an acute angle to its seaward end. To the southeast is a further line of stone (not shown on the 25" map: obscured from the shore but not plotted on the record map). The features may represent a fish trap. Further assessment and survey necessary. GW 1996

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**PRN** 32526

**NAME** ABERARTH BEACH **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN47256375 **COMMUNITY** Dyffryn Arth **COUNTY** Ceredigion

## HER DESCRIPTION

### SUMMARY

Two large fish traps (PRN 32526 & 32527) that appear to form one complex covering an extensive area of approximately 600m of foreshore south of Aberarth. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Two large adjoining polygonal structures (PRN 32526 & 32527) defined by raised stone banks that cover an area of roughly 600m of shingle foreshore. This, the more easterly trap, PRN 32526 is more substantial and easier to see on the ground. They are similar in shape and both have a central raised linear bank constructed from stones, faced on both their outer east and west sides. This central spine splits the large polygonal structure into two cells. More than one sluice gate is visible in the seaward end of the polygon, more probably existed but are not discernible now as the banks have eroded and spread. Evelyn Lewes (in Arch. Camb. 1924, 397-400) notes that Rhys ap Gruffydd's charter of 1184 records that the *goredi* of Llanddewi Aberarth were offered to the monastery of Strata Florida. They remained in use until the 1930s. They were scheduled in 2011. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012





The well-defined *goredi* south of Aberarth (PRN 32526 & 7) were visited at low tide. The more easterly (PRN 32526) is the more substantial; the western wall in particular having two faces with rubble infill. The more westerly (PRN 32527) is similarly shaped and apparently attached to the fish trap to the east but it is less substantial consisting of a single line of elongated stones lain side by side. Other associated features observed during this visit include sluices and short lengths of wall channelling water or forming pools in association with both *goredi*. They are suffering erosion from the sea, with the collapse of walls and there is also encroachment by shingle. GW 1996

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**PRN** 32527

**NAME** ABERARTH BEACH **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN46976367 **COMMUNITY** Dyffryn Arth **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

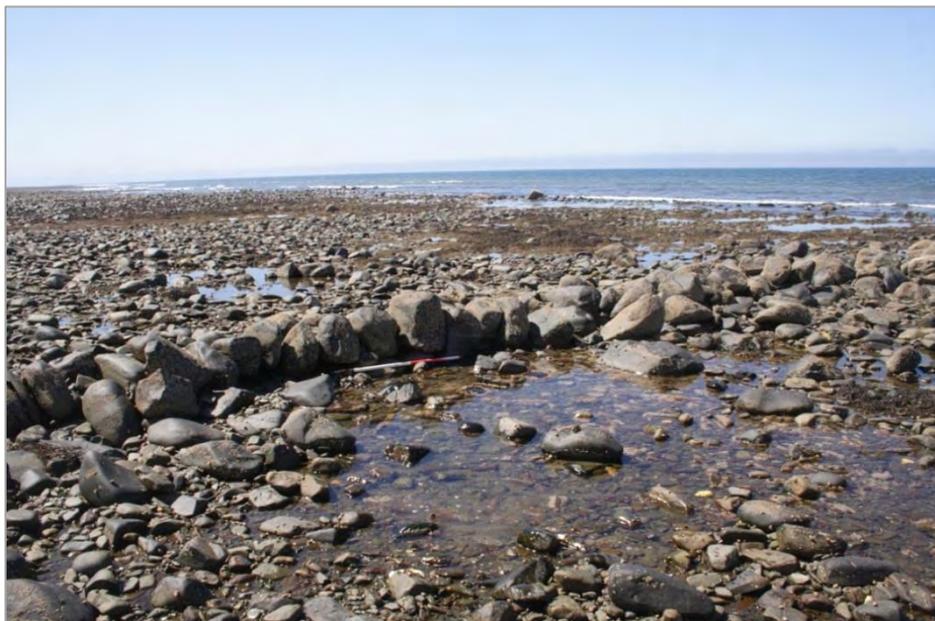
#### SUMMARY

Two large fish traps (PRN 32526 & 32527) that appear to form one complex covering a large area of level ground across 600m of foreshore south of Aberarth. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

Two large adjoining polygonal structures (PRN 32526 & 32527) defined by raised stone banks that cover an area of roughly 600m of shingle foreshore. This, the more westerly of the two, PRN 32527 is the less easy to trace on the ground and is defined more by a single line of boulders than a bank. Sluice gates are visible at the northern end of the line of boulders where it joins PRN 32526. The two fish traps are similar in shape and both have a central raised linear bank constructed from stone, faced on both outer east and west sides. This central spine splits the large polygonal structure into two cells. More than one sluice gate is visible in the seaward end of the polygon, more probably existed but are not discernible now as the banks have eroded and spread. Evelyn Lewes (in Arch. Camb. 1924, 397-400) notes that Rhys ap Gruffydd's charter of 1184 records that the *goredi* of Llanddewi Aberarth were offered to the monastery of Strata Florida. They remained in use until the 1930s. They were scheduled in 2011.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012





The well-defined *goredi* south of Aberarth (PRN 32526 & 7) were visited at low tide. The more easterly (PRN 32526) is the more substantial; the western wall in particular having two faces with rubble infill. The more westerly (PRN 32527) is similarly shaped and apparently attached to the fish trap to the east but it is less substantial consisting of a single line of elongated stones lain side by side. Other associated features observed during this visit include sluices and short lengths of wall channelling water or forming pools in association with both *goredi*. They are suffering erosion from the sea, with the collapse of walls and there is also encroachment by shingle. GW 1996

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**PRN** 32528

**NAME** ABERARTH BEACH **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN48426456 **COMMUNITY** Dyffryn Arth **COUNTY** Ceredigion

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A multi phased stone built fish trap situated on the stone and shingle foreshore northeast of the mouth of the River Arth at Aberarth, Ceredigion. It consists of two arms, which probably represent different phasing of the same trap.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION



This fish trap consists of two arms, which probably represent different phasing of the same trap. The first arm is an elongated C-shape and is visible on first edition Ordnance Survey 6" mapping of 1890. It measures approximately 180m from end to end and runs along the shoreline at the low water mark. The western end of the second arm begins approximately 20m further shoreward and 25m further east than the first arm. It is also an elongated C-shape, and runs at an angle to the first arm for over 50m at which point it joins the first arm. The two arms then become one and continue east for approximately 100m

at which point the arm turns landward and runs up towards the top of the beach. The first arm of the fish trap is constructed from large stone boulders and measures c.4.0m wide. The landward sides of the banks are neatly faced and built up with boulders (some very large) on the seaward side to form a wide sloping bank. The second arm is neatly faced on both sides and measures c.2.5m until it joins the first arm and becomes a rougher stone bank faced on the landward side only. The traps retain water at low tide. Well-constructed sluice gates exist along the seaward long sides of the traps, with faced stones on their internal edges. Small circular traps can be identified within the larger trap area. Further to the northeast lie further stone built fish traps; PRN 103593 and 103594. This group of fish traps cover an area of beach of at least c.750m in length that lies between the mouth of the River Arth and the rocky cliffs of Graig Ddu to the northeast. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 34040

**NAME** CEFN PADRIG      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Unknown

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Not Known

**NGR** SN46730045      **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural      **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

Probable fish trap identified from aerial photographs in the intertidal zone of Cefn Padrig beach, south of Pwll. Substantial uprights uniformly spaced forming a 'W' shape on the sand bank. On 1951 AP's the structure was positioned approximately 200m away from low water, however the sand bank is now truncated and much closer to the channel edge. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 34050

**NAME** CEFN PADRIG      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Unknown

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN48350051      **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural      **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

Possible remnant of a fish trap situated close to land on Cefn Padrig beach, Pwll. It comprises four roundwood uprights, arranged in a 'V' identified during site visit. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 34051

**NAME** CEFN PADRIG      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Unknown

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SS49179985      **COMMUNITY** Llanelli Rural      **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

Possible remnant of a fish trap situated on Cefn Padrig beach, Pwll. It is comprised of four roundwood uprights, arranged in a 'V', identified during site visit. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 34065

**NAME** PEMBREY HARBOUR      **TYPE** Fish weir      **PERIOD** Unknown

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN44200007      **COMMUNITY** Cefn Sidan      **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A possible fish weir situated in Pembrey Harbour. It was identified during a site visit and comprises water worn cobbles of local glacial till exposures. The stones have been arranged across the channel to form a pool at low tide. The weir is no longer in use and the dam has been breached. BDA 1997

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**PRN** 34632

**NAME** SANDYHAVEN PILL      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SM86330883      **COMMUNITY** Herbrandston      **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

Stone-built fish-weir across the channel of Sandyhaven Pill. N Ludlow 2002

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

No change from the description given in 2002. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

Stone-built fish-weir across the channel of Sandyhaven Pill. Loose rubble construction, approximately 50m long (E-W) and 2m wide. All that remains is a low bank of rubble, approximately 0.3m high, not breached at any point by the channel. Probably post-medieval, and fairly late; depicted on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1887, 1908 and 1964. N Ludlow 2002

Fish weir identified from AP's. Stone built fish weir across the channel for approximately 50m and 2m wide. All that remains is a low band of stone not breached at any point by the channel. BA & KM 1997



**PRN** 34960

**NAME** CASTLE PILL      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Modern

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SM91450562      **COMMUNITY** Milford      **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

Numerous roundwood uprights recorded at low tide within the alluvial mud of Castle Pill, Milford Haven. They probably represent the remains of post medieval fish traps or netting points. The uprights have an average diameter of 0.03m. They are exposed at low tide along the edge of the present channel. Survive as either distinct rows (single and doubles) or in V-shape. Therefore represent putchers and putts. One row can be traced across the channel for approximately 30m in length. BA & KM 1997

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**PRN** 34973

**NAME** CASTLE PILL      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Modern

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SM91730615      **COMMUNITY** Milford      **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

Various arrangements of roundwood uprights recorded at low tide within the alluvial mud of Castle Pill, Milford Haven. They probably represent the remains of post medieval fish traps or netting points. The uprights have an average diameter of 0.03m. There are a few V-shape formations and rows comprising 3-4 uprights. Inaccessible sludge! The V configurations are positioned on the upper slopes within the pill pointing towards the main channel. BA & KM 1997

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**PRN** 35208

**NAME** MORFA UCHAF    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Near Destroyed

**NGR** SN37451285    **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A number of wooden uprights protruding through the alluvial mud on the southern side of the River Towy north of Ferryside, Carmarthenshire. They probably represent the remnants of a fish trap or netting points. They are on average 10 to 15cms above the surface. N Page & R Ramsey May1997

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**PRN** 49600

**NAME** CRAIGLAS    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Near Intact Damaged

**NGR** SN51006808    **COMMUNITY** Llansantffraid    **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

Complex stone built fish trap situated on the Ceredigion coast north of Llansantffraid. It covers a wide area of foreshore and is only visible at very low tide. It lies in an area of numerous stone built fish traps that represent many phases of construction. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

Difficult to confirm the description recorded in 1999 because the walls are extremely difficult to trace on the ground. Several lengths of wall can be identified but there is no particular shape to them. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

On foreshore north of Llansantffraid in lee of large shingle bank, 'L' shaped fish trap approximately 34m across with walls on N and W sides. Trap retains water at low tide. Gap in NW corner to allow water to exit. Niche noted mid-way along W wall. Trap discovered by E Dockerty and A Darlington of Llansantffraid History Society. RCAHMW 1999

**PRN** 103592

**NAME** FFOS LAS **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Submerged Feature **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN55587548 **COMMUNITY** Llanfarian **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

Large V-shaped fish trap set low down on the stony foreshore c.6km south of Aberystwyth. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

This fish trap was identified from aerial photographs by the RCAHMW in 2009. Its apex points out to sea and it appears to be constructed of stone. Each arm is estimated to be c.130m in length. Approximately 80.0m to its south is a far smaller V-shaped fish trap (PRN 31445) and 100m to the north is a smaller C-shaped fish trap (PRN 31444). Unlike the two smaller fish traps either side that are visible at low tide this larger fish trap is further out to sea and is normally submerged under water and is only visible on aerial photographs.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

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**PRN** 103593

**NAME** ABERARTH BEACH **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN48306450 **COMMUNITY** Dyffryn Arth **COUNTY** Ceredigion

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A large stone built fish trap that together with another fish trap (PRN 103594) further to the north appears to form one complex covering a large area of level ground across 400m of foreshore north of Aberarth. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

A large splayed M-shaped fish trap. The central line of the M is a raised linear bank constructed from stone, faced on its outer east side. This central spine splits the large polygonal structure into two cells that are defined by the curving arms of the M. These are splayed outwards: the western arm running at an angle towards the shore for roughly 120m, while the eastern arm runs in an easterly direction for approximately 220m, more parallel to the shore. It is this eastern arm that connects to the curving fish trap PRN 103594 further to the northeast. Both arms of this M shaped fish trap have been altered over time with additional lengths of wall built at angles to them and more than one sluice gate is visible along the arms. F Murphy & H Wilson Dec 2012





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**PRN** 103594

**NAME** ABERARTH BEACH **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN48496463 **COMMUNITY** Dyffryn Arth **COUNTY** Ceredigion

## HER DESCRIPTION

### SUMMARY

A curving C-shaped stone built fish trap that together with another fish trap (PRN 103593) further to the southwest appears to form one complex covering a large area of level ground across 400m of foreshore north of Aberarth.

F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

A curving C-shaped fish trap with the apex of the C pointing seawards. The curving raised stone bank of the trap retains water at low tide. Just to the west of the apex of the curve is a large sluice measuring several metres wide. This sluice then empties into what appears to be a manmade pool dug out of the ground. The eastern arm of fish trap PRN 103593 runs behind (landward) and behind that retains water but what appears to be a dug out channel connects this pool of water with that retained behind the curving wall of the C shaped trap. It is difficult to decipher what is going on here because of the amount of seaweed that covers all the structures but there are lengths of wall running in many different directions and what could be manmade pools forming a complex arrangement for catching fish. F Murphy & H Wilson Dec 2012





**PRN** 103595

**NAME** GRAIG DDU      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Medieval/Post-medieval

**FORM** Submerged Feature      **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN49006495      **COMMUNITY** Dyffryn Arth      **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A probable stone built fish trap located near Graig Ddu cliffs north of Aberarth, Ceredigion. The trap was identified by the RCAHMW during aerial reconnaissance in 2009. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

A site visit was made in 2012. The site is submerged even at low tide. Nothing was visible from the cliff. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

This fish trap was identified by the RCAHMW during aerial reconnaissance in 2009. It consists of the remains of dry stone walls, probably constituting different phasing of a V-shaped fish trap. It is also visible on modern aerial photographic coverage, which shows four arms. RCAHMW 2009

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**PRN** 103596

**NAME** GRAIG DDU I      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN49446522      **COMMUNITY** Dyffryn Arth      **COUNTY** Ceredigion

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A C-shaped fish trap located on the stony foreshore north of Aberarth, Ceredigion, near Graig Ddu cliffs. It is one of a group of 3 fish traps (with PRNs 103597 & 103598) that are positioned closely together. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

A squat C-shaped evenly curved fish trap located on the stony foreshore north of Aberarth, near Graig Ddu cliffs. It consists of a curving arm constructed from stone boulders, with its apex pointing seaward. The arm measures some 70m from end to end, with the northern end pointing east (shoreward), and the southern end pointing south (shoreward). At low tide the fish trap is uncovered fully. It is the most westerly of a group of 3 fish traps, with PRNs 103597 & 103598, that are positioned close together. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103597

**NAME** GRAIG DDU II      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN49526535      **COMMUNITY** Dyffryn Arth      **COUNTY** Ceredigion

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

An elongated C-shaped fish trap located on the stony foreshore north of Aberarth, Ceredigion, near Graig Ddu cliffs. It is one of a group of 3 fish traps (with PRNs 103596 & 103598) that are positioned closely together.

F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

An elongated C- shaped fish trap constructed from stone boulders. It is approximately 160m long and is constructed from large stone boulders. The apex of the C points out to sea. The landward side of the stone boulder wall is neatly faced with stone but the seaward side is a rough built up bank. Sluice gates appear to be at the top of the seaward curve. At low tide the fish trap is uncovered fully and still retains water. It is positioned between 2 other fish traps, PRNs 103596 & 103598. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103598

**NAME** GRAIG DDU III    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN49616542    **COMMUNITY** Dyffryn Arth    **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A V-shaped fish trap located on the stony foreshore north of Aberarth, Ceredigion, near Graig Ddu cliffs. It is one of a group of 3 fish traps (with PRNs 103596 & 103597) that are positioned closely together. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

A small well defined V-shaped fish trap constructed from stone boulders. The trap points seawards and there are possibly 2 sluice gates at the apex of the triangle currently filled with sand. The eastern side of the open V measures approximately 70.0m and the western side 35m before it meets the elongated C shaped fish trap (PRN 103597) to the west. At low tide the fish trap is fully uncovered. It is the most easterly of a group of 3 fish traps, with PRNs 103596 & 103597, that are positioned close together. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103599

**NAME** POPPIT BEACH    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Medieval

**FORM** Submerged Feature    **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN14674911    **COMMUNITY** St Dogmaels    **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A very large V-shaped fish trap located west of Poppit Sands beach, some 80m east of the harbour wall of Cei Bach. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

A very large V-shaped fish trap constructed from stone boulders. The V opens to the southeast and converges to a point to the northwest (seawards). The arms point roughly towards the shore, each measuring approximately 230m long. The ends of the arms are splayed outwards. The fish trap was recorded by the RCAHMMW during low-tide reconnaissance in 2007. It is also visible on modern aerial photographic coverage. In 2012 a site visit was undertaken at the lowest point of a very low tide and the stone boulders forming the southerly arm of the fish trap could be seen protruding above the water. It has been speculated that the fish trap may be medieval because of its submerged position and could be associated with St Dogmaels Abbey just under 4km to the south. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103600

**NAME** CEI BACH, NEWQUAY    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN40665995    **COMMUNITY** Llanllwchaearn    **COUNTY** Ceredigion

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A complex of overlapping stone built fish traps located on a raised but level area of sand and shingle that separates the bays of New Quay and Cei Bach in Ceredigion. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

This series of stone walls was identified by RCAHMW as a possible complex of fish traps during aerial reconnaissance in 2000. During a site visit in 2012 many sections of wall could be traced on the ground and probably represent many phases of fish trap construction. An elongated walking-stick shaped structure was identified, centred on SN40826000, running in a rough northwest-southeast direction, curving more to the west at its northwest end. The southeast end runs nearly up to the current shoreline but c.160m before that it dissects a V-shaped fish trap, centred on SN40925992, whose apex points out to sea. During the site visit it was difficult to trace the eastern arm of the V-shaped trap as it remained under water even at low tide. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103601

**NAME** GOODWICK BEACH      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Medieval

**FORM** Submerged Feature      **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SM95293777      **COMMUNITY** Fishguard and Goodwick      **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

## HER DESCRIPTION

### SUMMARY

A small C-shaped stone-built fish trap, constructed against coastal rocks on the south side of Goodwick Harbour. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in 2012 this is a small C-shaped stone-built fish trap. The apex of the C points seaward and the southeast end of the C is built against coastal rocks on the south side of Goodwick Harbour. It is approximately 80m in total length and up to 5m wide. It is built from large stone boulders and is only exposed at the lowest tides, of 0.5m and under. Because of the present sea-level it would be difficult to regularly use and make repairs to this fish trap, and this might indicate a construction date back in the early Medieval period or earlier. This trap is not mapped on any sea-charts or historic maps, unlike its counterpart on the north-west side of Fishguard Harbour (PRN 32127). The site was discovered and photographed through shallow water during Royal Commission aerial reconnaissance in 2005. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103602

**NAME** SALMON POINT SCAR    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Modern

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN35919848    **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

Located on Salmon Scar are 2 double lines of 2 x 3 inch wooden stakes which were inserted as an experiment for oyster or mussel farming in 1999.

F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

Salmon Scar is an extensive natural stony bank covered with mussel beds that is exposed at low tide. Located on this bank are 2 double lines of 2 x 3 inch wooden stakes, c.40m long aligned NE-SW which were inserted as an experiment for oyster or mussel farming in 1999. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103603

**NAME** LLANNON **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Post-medieval/ Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN49886599 **COMMUNITY** Llansantffraid **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A V-shaped fish trap situated on the sand and stone foreshore between Aberarth and Llannon, That was first identified by the RCAHMW in 2009 during aerial reconnaissance. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

This V-shaped fish trap was first identified by the RCAHMW in 2009 and is also visible on modern aerial photographic coverage. The apex of the V points seaward and both arms measure approximately 40m. Visited in 2012 the fish trap is constructed from stone boulders that form a rough wall one boulder high. At low tide the fish trap is fully visible and retains some water. It would appear that the sluice or gate was at the apex of the V. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103604

**NAME** LLANSANTFFRAID **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN5039 6655 **COMMUNITY** Llansantffraid **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

'Walking stick' shaped fish trap situated on the shingle foreshore SW of Llansantffraid on the Ceredigion coast. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

The long axis of this stone built fish trap measures c.59 m in length and runs roughly N to S until the north end curves around to NNE. The curved end is c.20.0m long. The eastern side of the stone wall is faced with stones but the seaward western side is a built up bank of stone. Remnants of wooden posts lie spaced apart along the centre of the long axis. This fish trap is similar in construction to PRN 31429. F Murphy & H Wilson May 2012



**PRN** 103605

**NAME** YNYSLAS    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Unknown

**NGR** SN61409390    **COMMUNITY** Borth    **COUNTY** Ceredigion

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

The possible remains of a fish trap structure recorded on the beach at Ynyslas that appears as a straight line defining the boundary between two habitat areas on the foreshore. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visited in 2012 this feature appears as a linear bank of sand approximately 100m in length aligned SW-NE that curves to the north at its north eastern end forming a 'walking stick' shape. This structure was first identified by the RCAHMW in 2010 during aerial reconnaissance. It is possible that the deposition of sand in this area obscures the fish trap structure beneath, leaving only its vague shape where the sand has built up over it. The sand bank has an average width of c.5.0-6.0m and separates two distinct habitat areas; marshy area to east and sand to west. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103606

**NAME** NEWQUAY **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Medieval

**FORM** Submerged Feature **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN39635965 **COMMUNITY** New Quay **COUNTY** Ceredigion

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A V-shaped fish trap located within New Quay Bay that is never visible even at low tides but has been identified through aerial reconnaissance by the RCAHMW in 2009. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

A V-shaped fish trap comprising two arms probably constructed from stone boulders that meet at an apex that points northwards out to sea. From the apex of the triangle the western arm runs for c.100m in a SW direction until it turns and continues for another c.45m in a SE direction before it terminates. The eastern arm points runs in a SE direction from the apex and measures approximately 90m. These measurements were estimated from aerial photographs by the RCAHMW in 2009. In 2012 a site visit during the lowest point of a very low tide recorded at least 2 stone boulders visible protruding through the sea in this area. It was not possible to confirm whether these formed part of the fish trap as the water was too deep. The depth of water that now always covers this fish trap may indicate the relative age of the structure, placing its origins in the early medieval period? F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103607

**NAME** BLACK CLIFF, NEWGALE **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SM85421945 **COMMUNITY** Nolton and Roch **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

A possible fish trap situated at the very southern end of Newgale beach in an area of rocks below Black Cliff. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

This fish trap was first identified by the RCAHMW in 2012 during aerial reconnaissance. A site visit by DAT was undertaken in 2012. The fish trap could not be reached on foot because of deep water but was clearly visible from nearby cliffs. A long sinuous curve of stone boulders forms a wall aligned roughly N-S. To the east (landward) side of the wall a large pool that retains water at low tide is evident. The wall is constructed from very large boulders and appears to be built up on the seaward side creating a sloping stone bank. The wall measures approximately 310m long and the pool is roughly 80m wide.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103608

**NAME** LLANNON **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN50026633 **COMMUNITY** Llansantffraid **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A V-shaped fish trap situated on the stony foreshore southwest of Llannon village. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

A site visit was undertaken by DAT in 2012 at a very low tide. The two arms of the V are constructed from stone boulder walls. At the apex of the V that points out to sea is a gate or sluice that can only be viewed at very low tides. The 2 arms are orientated roughly north-south and east-west, and are the height of a single boulder. The north-south arm is straight, and measures approximately 105m in length. The east-west arm curves gently, and measures approximately 80m in length. Sections of dry stone wall retain their aligned facing stones, mostly on the internal landward edge of the wall. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103609

**NAME** GRAIG DDU IV    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN49746564    **COMMUNITY** Dyffryn Arth    **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A possible stone built fish trap located north of Aberarth, Ceredigion, near Graig Ddu cliffs. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

The fish trap is situated at approximately SN4973 6564 but most of it was still under water even at very low tide, during the site visit in 2012. Just visible as a curving line of stones protruding through the water. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103610

**NAME** SALMON POINT SCAR    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Not known

**NGR** SN355069    **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

This fish trap is part of a multi-phased complex of fish traps located on the stony beds of Salmon Point Scar and Pastoun Scar that lie between the Towy and Gwendraeth Estuaries. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

This fish trap, along with PRNs 103611-103613, is situated on the southeast (seaward side) of Salmon Point Scar. This is fish trap or weir H as recorded by James & James in 2003. The group consists of 4 lengths of post and stone wall lines, thought to be stake lines for fixed nets. All start on the scar as low stone walls, changing to post lines where the scar finishes. James & James interpret them as the remains of 'strem' or stream nets. These nets were set on their lines of stakes out into the river channels for maximum effectiveness.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

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**PRN** 103611

**NAME** SALMON POINT SCAR    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Not known

**NGR** SN355069    **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

This fish trap is part of a multi-phased complex of fish traps located on the stony beds of Salmon Point Scar and Pastoun Scar that lie between the Towy and Gwendraeth Estuaries. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

This fish trap, along with PRNs 103610, 103612 and 103613 is situated on the southeast (seaward side) of Salmon Point Scar. This is fish trap or weir G as recorded by James & James in 2003. The group consists of 4 lengths of post and stone wall lines, thought to be stake lines for fixed nets. All start on the scar as low stone walls, changing to post lines where the scar finishes. James & James

interpret them as the remains of 'strem' or stream nets. These nets were set on their lines of stakes out into the river channels for maximum effectiveness. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

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**PRN** 103612

**NAME** SALMON POINT SCAR **TYPE** Fish trap **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure **CONDITION** Not known

**NGR** SN355069 **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

This fish trap is part of a multi-phased complex of fish traps located on the stony beds of Salmon Point Scar and Pastoun Scar that lie between the Towy and Gwendraeth Estuaries. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

This fish trap, along with PRNs 103610, 103611 and 103613, is situated on the southeast (seaward side) of Salmon Point Scar. This is fish trap or weir E as recorded by James & James in 2003. The group consists of 4 lengths of post and stone wall lines, thought to be stake lines for fixed nets. All start on the scar as low stone walls, changing to post lines where the scar finishes. James & James interpret them as the remains of 'strem' or stream nets. These nets were set on their lines of stakes out into the river channels for maximum effectiveness. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

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**PRN** 103613

**NAME** SALMON POINT SCAR    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Not known

**NGR** SN355069    **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

This fish trap is part of a multi-phased complex of fish traps located on the stony beds of Salmon Point Scar and Pastoun Scar that lie between the Towy and Gwendraeth Estuaries. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

This fish trap, along with PRNs 103610-103612, is situated on the southeast (seaward side) of Salmon Point Scar. This is fish trap or weir F as recorded by James & James in 2003. The group consists of 4 lengths of post and stone wall lines, thought to be stake lines for fixed nets. All start on the scar as low stone walls, changing to post lines where the scar finishes. James & James interpret them as the remains of 'strem' or stream nets. These nets were set on their lines of stakes out into the river channels for maximum effectiveness.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

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**PRN** 103614

**NAME** PASTOUN SCAR    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Not known

**NGR** SN36100682    **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

This fish trap is part of a multi-phased complex of fish traps located on the stony beds of Salmon Point Scar and Pastoun Scar that lie between the Towy and Gwendraeth Estuaries. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

In 2012 a site visit was undertaken. At the given location the remains of this fish trap or weir were obscured by sand. This is fish trap or weir L as recorded by James & James in 2003. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

This may be a free-standing weir originally unrelated to any others. At a subsequent stage it was linked by a post wall line to another weir (PRN 103615).

This is the least substantial of the weirs in this area and the only one that does not incorporate part of a scar. It consists today of stumps of stakes set in a narrow curving trench running some 80m cut into the peat shelf subsoil, which has been backfilled and packed with stone. Spade cuts for the trench can still be seen. The trench curves with its apex to seaward. Description based upon James & James 2003

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**PRN** 103615

**NAME** PASTOUN SCAR    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN36100684    **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

This fish trap is part of a multi-phased complex of fish traps located on the stony beds of Salmon Point Scar and Pastoun Scar that lie between the Towy and Gwendraeth Estuaries. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

In 2012 a site visit was undertaken. At the given location the remains of this fish trap or weir were visible though obscured by sand in places. This is fish trap or weir 'J' as recorded by James & James in 2003. It would appear that the structure has suffered from the effects of sea and tide in the intervening years and there are few traces of the timber uprights as recorded in 2003.

F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



The evidence for weir 'J' is very fragmentary because features are usually obscured by sand. The most interesting feature is a pair of low NE-SW aligned stone banks that form the approach to a cage. Both walls have evidence for

upright posts, so these features must have been constructed of horizontal timber between uprights, forming a most impressive timber cage or sluice. The stonework in the 'cage' sits directly on the peat shelf which suggests that the stonework here is totally artificial and not part of the natural scar. The approach stonework has been recorded running inland for about 53m. These two parallel walls align with the two banks 200m further to the NE (Weir M). This is James & James (2003) preferred site for the medieval 'Broad Weir'. Description based upon James & James 2003

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**PRN** 103616

**NAME** PASTOUN SCAR    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN36150682    **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

This fish trap is part of a multi-phased complex of fish traps located on the stony beds of Salmon Point Scar and Pastoun Scar that lie between the Towy and Gwendraeth Estuaries. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

In 2012 a site visit was undertaken. At the given location the remains of this fish trap or weir are visible as a stone rubble bank. In places the long sides of the stone bank are still edged with a single course of neatly aligned faced stone blocks. This is fish trap or weir I as recorded by James & James in 2003. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

Fish trap or weir I forms the most impressive remains on Pastoun Scar. They consist of about 83m of an E-W stone bank on the scar. The bank becomes more massive as it moves west off the scar running for a further 30m. It tails off near where the low water channel (Cwter Draw) crosses, and although no physical evidence has been recorded, it is assumed that a sluice was located here. Description based upon James & James 2003



**PRN** 103617

**NAME** PASTOUN SCAR    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN36180683    **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

This fish trap is part of a multi-phased complex of fish traps located on the stony beds of Salmon Point Scar and Pastoun Scar that lie between the Towy and Gwendraeth Estuaries. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

This fish trap is situated on Pastoun Scar. It is fish trap or weir K as recorded by James & James in 2003 and shares its south wall with the eastern half of fish trap I (PRN 103616). Together with its north wall, the fish trap is V-shaped. The northern wall is orientated north-south, and extends to where the scar finishes. For a fuller description please refer to James & James 2003. In 2012 much of this area was obscured by sand. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103618

**NAME** PASTOUN SCAR    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Not known

**NGR** SN36000683    **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

Two short stretches of stone bank that could have formed part of a fish trap. This feature is part of a multi-phased complex of fish traps located on the stony beds of Salmon Point Scar and Pastoun Scar that lie between the Towy and Gwendraeth Estuaries. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

In 2012 neither of the two stretches of stone bank could be identified as the area was covered with sand. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

Two short stretches of stone bank that sit on the peat shelf which suggests they are not natural recorded as weirs O and N. They are situated to the west of a more visible fish trap complex (recorded as weirs I to L). One stretch is between 0.5 and 3m wide, about 20m long N-S. Another is a smaller 5m long spread to the NW. They are aligned NW-SE and both could form weirs that curve to join Pastoun Scar to the east. There is undoubtedly more hidden evidence for weirs covered by sand at this location. James & James 2003

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**PRN** 103619

**NAME** PASTOUN SCAR    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval/Medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN36250697    **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

This fish trap is part of a multi-phased complex of fish traps located on the stony beds of Salmon Point Scar and Pastoun Scar that lie between the Towy and Gwendraeth Estuaries. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

In 2012 these two linear but spread stony banks are visible. They are both approximately 60m in length and run in a roughly east-west direction. They appear to be aligned with the parallel walls of weir J (PRN 103615) that lie roughly 170m to the SW. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012

Located west of Pastoun Scar but probably joined to it, is a roughly NE-SW aligned pair of parallel cambered banks of spread stone, 5m high and 3m wide with a possible break for the site of a cage or sluice at SN36250671. It is possible that these two banks were linked with Weir J. James & James 2003



**PRN** 103622

**NAME** SALMON POINT SCAR    **TYPE** Fish trap    **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure    **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN36120718    **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael    **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

## **HER DESCRIPTION**

### SUMMARY

This hook-shaped fish trap, known as 'Polyon Ifan' is located on the far northeast side of Salmon Point Scar. F Murphy 2012

### LONG DESCRIPTION

This fish trap is hook-shaped and consists of two sections. The first is a 55m C-shaped low stone bank situated mainly on the scar, which changes to a line of wooden posts where the scar finishes. This post line terminates at the sluice gate. The second section begins at the sluice and extends along the same east-west orientation for 15m as the end of the first section. It then changes direction, extending roughly southeast in a straight line for approximately 50m. This second section is c.3-4m wide, with a clear sharp edge on the south side, and a spread of stone to the north. This fish trap, known as 'Polyon Ifan', was constructed by the Phillips/Davies family in the 1900s. 'The name recalls the owner and the stakes that were set along the course of the wall' (James & James 2003). It is said to have been a failure, which would have led to its subsequent abandonment. F Murphy & H Wilson 2012



**PRN** 103748

**NAME** TANYBWLCH BEACH      **TYPE** Fish trap      **PERIOD** Post-medieval

**FORM** Other Structure      **CONDITION** Damaged

**NGR** SN57697973      **COMMUNITY** Llanfarian      **COUNTY** Ceredigion

### **HER DESCRIPTION**

#### SUMMARY

A possible fish trap or other submerged structure visible on APs, located at the far southern end of Tanybwllch Beach, south of Aberystwyth. F Murphy 2012

#### LONG DESCRIPTION

Visible on modern aerial photographic coverage is a submerged structure that could possibly be the remains of a former fish trap. It is located at the far southern end of Tanybwllch Beach, south of Aberystwyth. In 2012 a site visit was undertaken at a very low tide but the majority of the structure was still submerged. There is some type of structure created from boulders that retains water at low tide, but the purpose of it is unclear. F Murphy June 2012





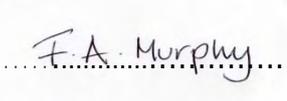
# **MEDIEVAL AND EARLY POST- MEDIEVAL FISH TRAPS: A THREAT RELATED ASSESSMENT 2012**

**DAT 120  
RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2012/59**

**Mawrth 2013  
March 2013**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by Frances Murphy

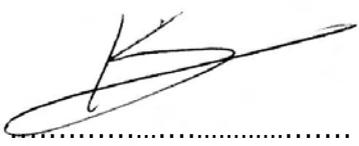
Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature .....  ..... Dyddiad / Date 28/03/2013

**Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith**  
This report has been checked and approved by Kenneth Murphy

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.  
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Trust Director

Llofnod / Signature  ..... Dyddiad / Date 01/05/2013

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd  
gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you  
may have on the content or presentation of this report



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