

# **SCHEDULING ENHANCEMENT PROJECT 2010: PREHISTORIC SITES FIELDWORK - CEREDIGION**



Banc Bryn-chwthi cairnfield, Cwmrheidol – PRN 34938

Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
For Cadw



## DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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# SCHEDULING ENHANCEMENT PROJECT 2010: PREHISTORIC SITES FIELDWORK - CEREDIGION

Gan / By

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*Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynir cyfrifoldeb gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys*

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## SUMMARY

*In 2007 Cadw commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust to undertake an assessment of the minor site types within the regional Dyfed Historic Environment Record for which there was a known or potential under representation within the Schedule of Ancient Monuments. Three distinct site groups were identified in this study:*

- Prehistoric settlement and associated agricultural remains
- Roman non-military sites
- Medieval Fortified Dwellings

*The aim of this specific project was to evaluate all sites within Ceredigion that fell into the category of 'prehistoric settlement and associated agricultural remains' on the regional Dyfed Historic Environment Record that have not been the subject of a previous threat-related assessment. Initially 112 sites were identified as possibly requiring a site visit and a desk-based assessment of each site was carried out. However, the desk-based assessments produced very few prehistoric settlement sites worthy of a site visit, in complete contrast to the number and quality of sites recorded in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. One exception to this is the Groes Fawr Valley in Blaencaron surveyed in some depth by Muckle & Williams in 1992. Here there is a dense concentration of sites ranging from the Bronze Age to the post medieval periods, including the Iron Age hillfort of Castell Rhyfel. As part of this project the Blaencaron report, a paper copy of which was the only archive, was fully integrated into the Historic Environment Record. In total 30 sites were visited including a sample of the prehistoric sites recorded in the Groes Fawr valley. During the course of the field visits the condition of each site was considered and a threat related assessment undertaken. It was discovered that a number of sites had been destroyed, whilst the condition of others had degraded.*

*It had been estimated that this project would require approximately 80 sites to be visited; therefore the resources set aside for this were re-directed to carrying out survey for the Scheduling Enhancement Prehistoric Fieldwork Pembrokeshire 2009 project.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

In 2007-2008 Dyfed Archaeological Trust undertook a study for Cadw *Appraisal of Minor Site Types in Dyfed: Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval Fortified Dwellings*. This was an assessment of the minor site types within the regional Dyfed Historic Environment Record (HER) for which there was a known or potential under representation within the Schedule of Ancient Monuments. It had been anticipated that by 2010 the proposed Heritage Protection Reform bill would be implemented, and it was intended that all sites of prehistoric and Roman date would be reviewed and, as far as possible, the Schedule of Ancient Monuments complete and correct for all nationally important archaeological sites for which scheduling was the appropriate management tool. However, the passage of the Heritage Protection Reform bill through Parliament has been postponed, and perhaps cancelled, but the date of 2010 for assessing all sites is still considered achievable.

Southwest Wales has a rich heritage of prehistoric sites. Funerary and ritual monument, and defended enclosures have been assessed over the years, but many of the less easily classified sites have not been assessed but are vital to our understanding of the prehistory of the area. One group of sites that appeared under represented within the Schedule was prehistoric settlement and associated agricultural remains. In 2008 a database was compiled of those sites within the regional HER that fell within this category and were located in the county of Ceredigion. The desktop element of the project was undertaken, and dossiers collated for each site for which a site visit was deemed necessary. A specific project was then proposed to enable the field assessment of such sites within Ceredigion, for the purpose of updating the records as well as the identification of those examples, which were of potentially national importance. In 2009-2010 this project *Scheduling Enhancement Project: Prehistoric Sites Fieldwork – Ceredigion* was undertaken.

## **PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The main aim of this project is to assess the prehistoric settlement sites within Ceredigion on the regional Dyfed HER that have not been the subject of a previous threat-related assessment.

The overall project aims are:

- An application of definition, classification, quantification and distribution of these sites in Ceredigion
- Assessment of the archaeological significance of these sites in both a regional and national perspective.
- Assessment of the vulnerability of this element of the archaeological resource, review of scheduling criteria, and recommendations for future management strategies.
- Enhancement of the regional HER.

The overall project objectives are:

- To carry out a site visit to each site identified as requiring a visit in the desk-top element of the project.
- To carry out a threat-based assessment for each site.
- To incorporate all the information into a database and enhance and update the main records on the regional Dyfed HER.
- To report on the project results.
- To advise Cadw on those sites which are of national value and currently without statutory protection.

A further project objective was added to the above in January 2010:

- To integrate fully the report on the Archaeological Survey of the Groes Fawr Valley, Blaencaron, Mid Wales by Muckle & Williams (Muckle & Williams 1992), a paper copy of which is the only archive, into the Historic Environment Record.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The desk-top element of this project, undertaken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 2008, identified settlement sites of prehistoric date in Ceredigion that might not have been the subject of a previous threat-related assessment. From this database of approximately 392 records 112 sites were judged to require a site visit. A dossier was compiled for each of these 112 sites. These dossiers consisted of published records, Ordnance Survey cards, cartographic records and aerial photographs, and for use in this proposed element of the project – fieldwork, database compilation and reporting.

The following methodology was followed:

- Field recording. A site visit was made to each site identified as requiring a visit in the desktop element of the work. Pro-forma site recording sheets were completed for all site visits, and digital photographs recorded significant aspects of each site. An accurate grid reference for each site was recorded using a Global Positioning System device.
- Database records. Data collected on the pro-forma sheets was used to update the main HER.
- Reporting. A project report was compiled. A second report containing scheduling recommendations and other recommendations was produced for Cadw.

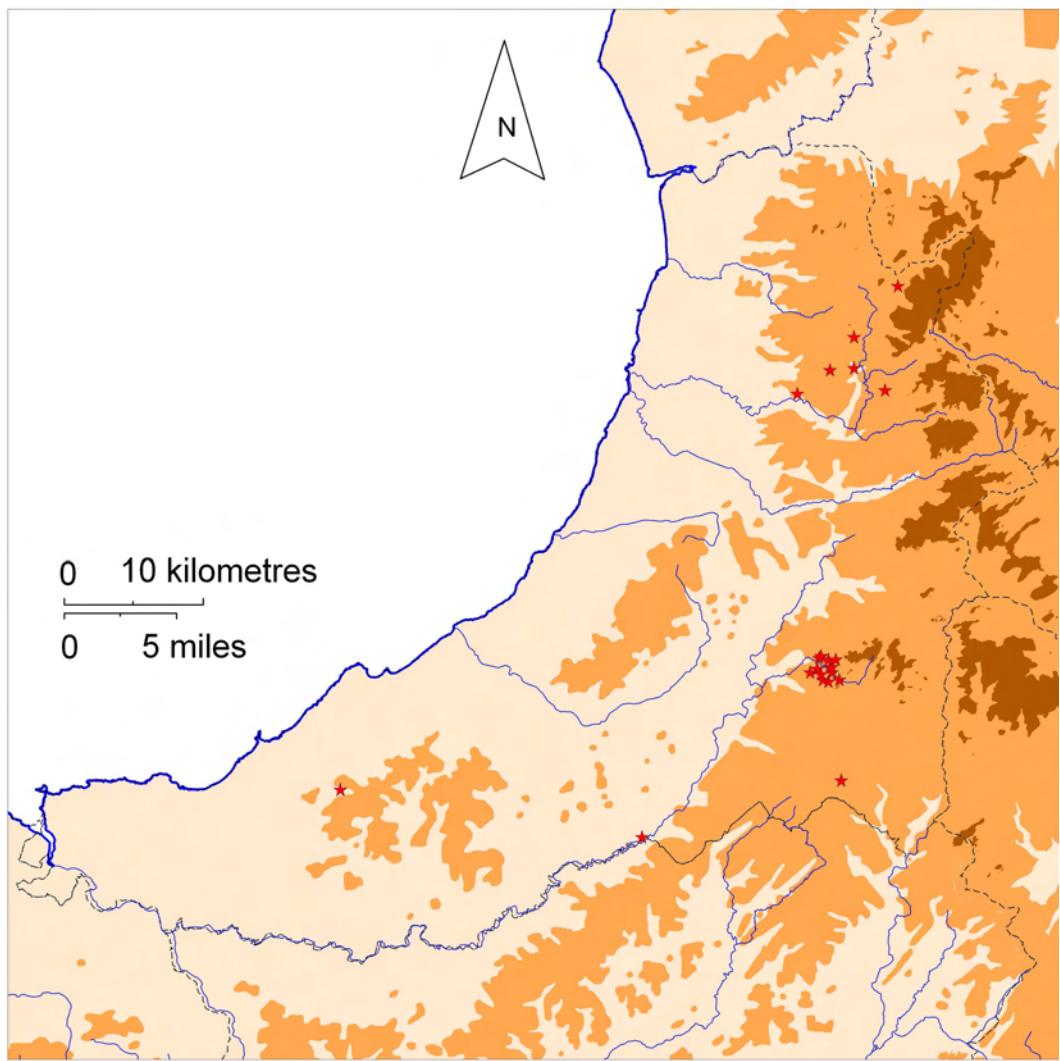


Figure 1: Map of Ceredigion, showing the location of sites visited during the project. The majority of the sites were situated on unenclosed moorland within the Groes Fawr valley.

## RESULTS

Initially 112 sites were identified as possibly requiring a site visit and a desk-based assessment of each site was carried out. However, the desk-based assessments produced very few prehistoric settlement sites worthy of a site visit, in complete contrast to the number and quality of sites recorded in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. In total 30 sites were visited in late spring/early summer of 2009, including a sample of the prehistoric sites recorded in the Groes Fawr valley (Figure 1). Previous studies and site visits of the archaeology of the area primarily by the Ordnance Survey in the 1960's and 70's, and periodic work by Dyfed Archaeological Trust formed the basis for the records within the HER that were examined for this project. For the Groes Fawr area reference was also made to the detailed study of the area by Muckle & Williams in 1992.

For this project much use was made of the relevant site type descriptions for prehistoric structures recognised on the Black Mountain compiled by the RCAHMW during their survey work in the area during the 1980s (RCAHMW 1997). They are as follows:

**Cairns** - heaps of stones in the form of grassy mounds or loose rubble found singly or in groups. Present in a range of shape and size, usually circular or oval but often of amorphous shape.

**Enclosures** – defined by linear or curvilinear **stony banks**. They are of variable area and shape.

**Field systems** – whose component parts are defined by linear or curvilinear **stony banks**.

**Hut circles** – are small enclosures defined by a single ring bank, sometimes incorporating small boulders, of circular or slightly oval plan, and with or without a visible entrance gap. Most are poorly preserved – some are defined only by a discontinuous line of stones protruding through the turf and are dubious examples.

**Platforms** – level or gently sloping terraces cut into rising ground, are usually rectangular in shape, occasionally oval or circular.

**Rectangular or rectilinear foundations** – are the footings of rectangular buildings defined by stony banks, stone blocks or coursed drystone masonry, sometimes they rest upon platforms. These structures are often associated with small foundations resembling hut circles of circular or oval plan.

The main results of the fieldwork can be summarised in the following:

- Problems of identification were frequently encountered during the fieldwork. Many of the sites were hard to distinguish in appearance, which had in the past led to more than one interpretation of their purpose and date. What were once upstanding walls are now spread obscuring entrances and the original shape of the feature, or resulting in heaps of stone that have the appearance of small cairns. Vegetation overgrowth can mask the feature, and it can be very difficult to distinguish between man made features and natural spreads of stone in a landscape that includes extensive areas of ground covered with rock debris.

- Only a few sites have been excavated satisfactorily and none have been dated scientifically. Despite this the majority of these sites can be broadly assigned to one period or another on the basis of their similarity to monuments elsewhere in the country, some of which have been more securely dated.
- It became apparent during the fieldwork that many sites had been formerly recorded more than once under different record numbers, normally due to differing and inaccurate grid references, or that sites believed to be duplications were in fact separate sites. During the fieldwork all these inaccuracies were amended and any duplication in the records corrected.
- Every site was fully described and its relationship to other nearby structures assessed, so that the identification of site groups could be attempted and this information put onto the respective HER record. This also helped in the broad assignment of monuments. For example, hut circles bear a resemblance to small animal pens of putative Medieval date, but the latter are normally associated with rectangular buildings, and similarly the foundations of circular buildings are comparable in form to that of ritual ring cairns but ring cairns are not associated with other settlement features such as enclosures, boundaries, groups of clearance cairns or hut circles.
- A threat based assessment for each site was made but owing to the disparate nature of the sites no one major threat could be identified. On open moorland many structures have survived quite well because of the relatively low intensity of land use over the centuries. However, erosion and disturbance by animals and human visitors particularly in areas more easily accessible to the public, was evident though hard to quantify. There are also natural erosion processes such as the eroding effects of rivers and streams and natural subsidence.
- Extensive work on the relevant records within the HER was completed following the conclusion of the fieldwork. A large number of site records that were in various ways associated with the sites visited also had to be updated, particularly where site type definitions had changed or different site groups identified. The fieldwork resulted in a number of new site records that were added to the HER.

- The fieldwork identified few unique monuments worthy of additional protection. Typical of the sites visited is the possible prehistoric cairnfield (PRN 34938) located on the north facing slopes of Banc Bryn Chwith (SN760809). This is an enigmatic group of at least 9 low oval shaped grass covered mounds situated on a gentle north-facing slope at 320m above sea level. Some of the mounds appear to be the result of excavating small pits/hollows. They have an average diameter of between 3.0-4.0m and measure 0.2m - 0.3m high. The surrounding ground does not otherwise appear to have been disturbed by mining or peat cutting activity.



Banc Bryn-chwith cairnfield, Cwmrheidol – PRN 34938



Banc Bryn-chwith cairnfield, Cwmrheidol – PRN 34938

- A number of sites were not located at the recorded grid reference and at least one site, a stone built hut circle (PRN 8576) recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1978 as having a fine entrance flanked by stone boulders, was found to have been virtually destroyed by forestry planting as shown in the photograph below.



The remains of what was once a stone hut circle PRN 8576. Destroyed by  
forestry planting – photograph taken at dusk!

- However, the fieldwork confirmed the remarkable character of the extensive group of sites found in the area of the Groes Fawr valley, stretching east and west of the Iron Age hillfort of Castell Rhyfel.

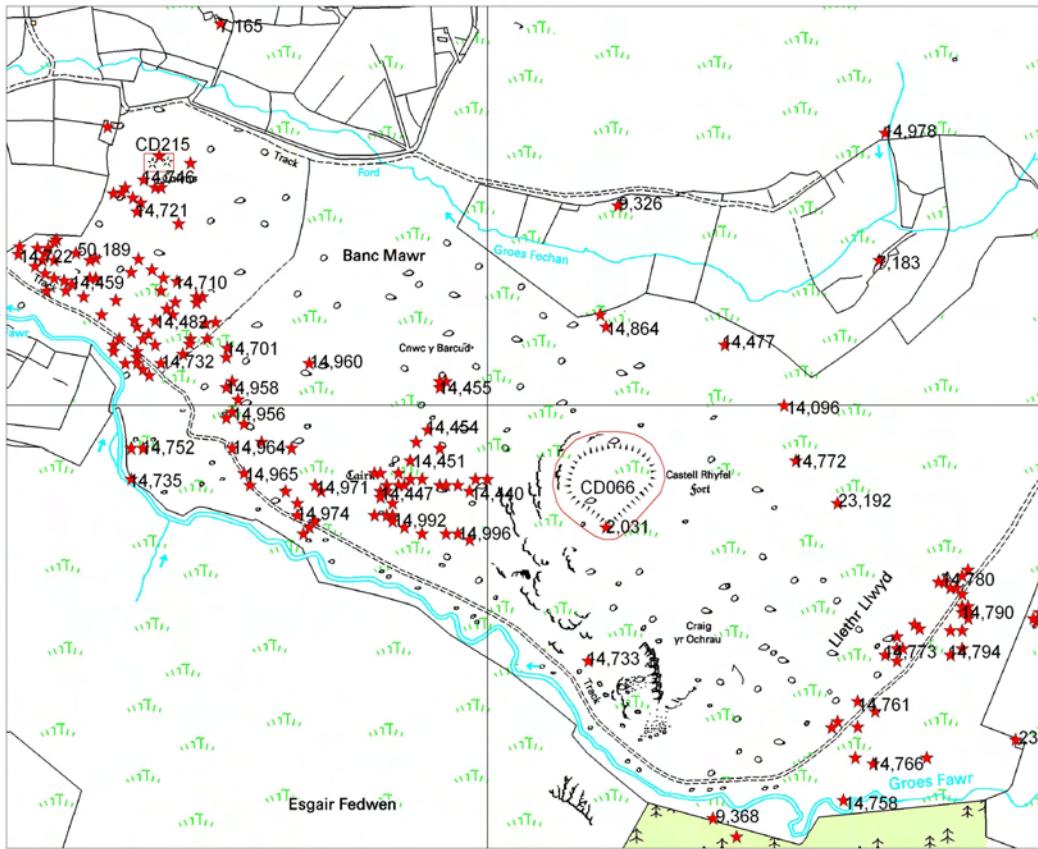


Figure 2 Plan showing the position of archaeological sites of all periods recorded within the Groes Fawr valley.

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The Groes Fawr valley is situated in Blaencaron, an upland parcel in the upper Teifi valley, 5km east of Tregaron. It is an area uniquely rich in well preserved archaeological remains at the junction between the main upland plateau of central Wales and the more lowland area of the Teifi valley to the west. Here, between 325-435m above sea level, are found a high number and diversity of archaeological sites, including possible Bronze Age burial cairns, platforms, enclosures, field boundaries, clearance cairns, Castell Rhyfel hillfort and long huts. Prehistoric settlement is particularly concentrated on the lower south facing slopes of Banc Mawr stretching down to the Afon Groes Fawr. Whereas on the moorland edge, in the valleys of the Llethr Llwyd and Nant y Moelau streams, are found a large number of long huts. Further into the moorland there is less evidence of settlement.



Platform (PRN 14715) terraced into the south-facing slope of Cwm yr Olchfa.



Looking southwest along the line of linear bank and ditch (PRN 14720) that appears to act as a northern boundary to a group of possible prehistoric platforms that lie to the south (PRNs 14714-14719).

- There is another large concentration of archaeological sites including ritual cairns, clearance cairns, stony banks, ridge and furrow and long huts a little further to the west of Banc Mawr, south of Cae Tudor farm shown on the map below.

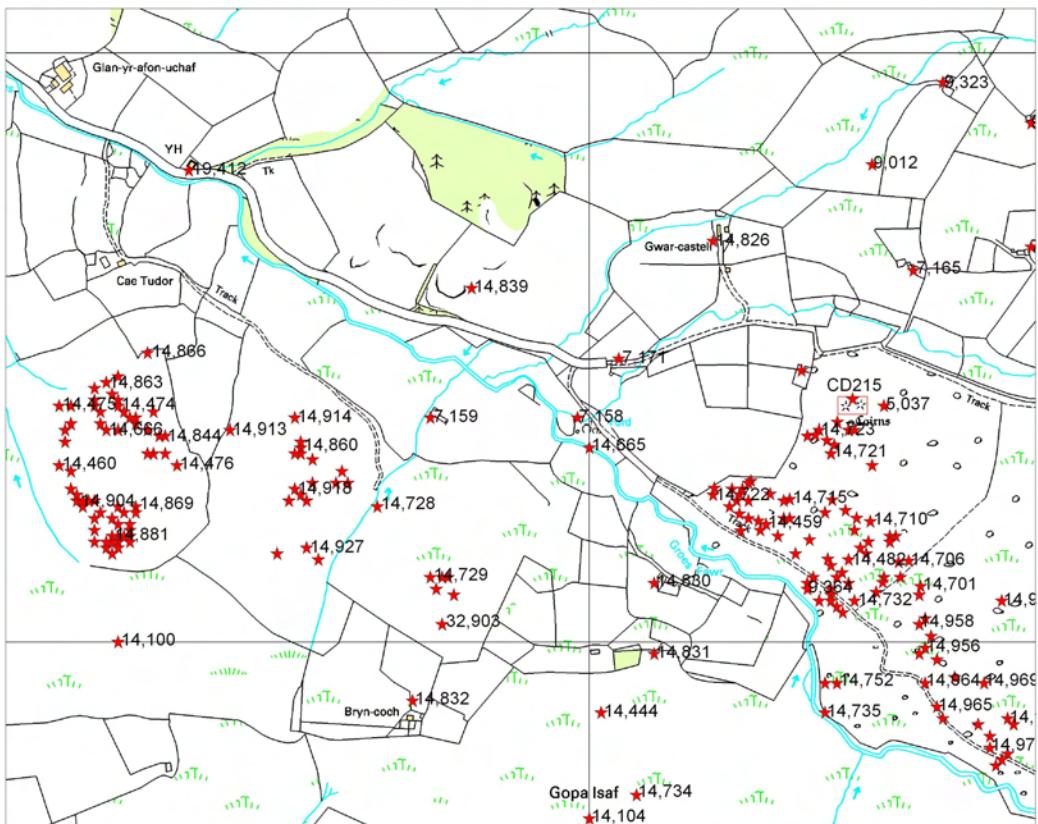


Figure 3 Plan showing the position of archaeological sites of all periods recorded within the western area of the Groes Fawr valley including Cae Tudor fields.

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- This study has highlighted the dearth of unenclosed prehistoric settlement sites in Ceredigion. This group of sites stands out as unique in this county by the number and concentration of sites within such a relatively small area. Although a number of the earthworks have been attributed with a later medieval date across the whole area, there is a distinct concentration of probable prehistoric sites including platforms, many cairns (including those of a funerary and ritual origin), banks, field boundaries and an enclosure on the southwest-facing slopes of Banc Mawr. It is recommended that the whole area be scheduled in consideration of the rarity of such a group of earthworks to survive in Ceredigion or elsewhere in Wales.

## **DATABASE GAZETTEER**

For ease of handling the gazetteer has been arranged by PRN number. Each updated PRN entry comprises a printout from the Historic Environment Record, including a site description.

## GAZETTEER OF SITES - CEREDIGION

**PRN 1387 NAME** DISGWYLFA

**TYPE** ROUND BARROW, BEACON    **PERIOD** Bronze Age, Post-Medieval

**NGR** SN37315254

**CONDITION**    **STATUS** *None recorded*    **FORM** Documents

### SUMMARY

Originally recorded by Fenton in 1860 as a large circular mound in an elevated position, called 'Y Disgwylfa' or 'lookout post'

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Nothing found at the given grid reference. FM 2009  
A reference made by Fenton in 1860 (*Archaeologia Cambrensis*) suggested that there was a large circular mound known as "Disgwylfa" (look-out post) here. A visit by the Ordnance Survey in 1973 could not identify a 'mound' at this location but at SN37055240 identified what they believed to be the remains of a possible enclosure (PRN1751). In 1989, further field survey by DAT did not identify a 'mound' either, but did locate the possible enclosure (PRN1751) although was of the opinion that it could be a natural feature. RPS September 2001

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**PRN 1751 NAME** DISGWYLFA

**TYPE** NATURAL FEATURE, ENCLOSURE    **PERIOD** Unknown

**NGR** SN37055240

**CONDITION** Not known    **STATUS** *None recorded*    **FORM** Earthwork

### SUMMARY

A possible earthwork enclosure first identified by the Ordnance Survey in 1973. A visit by DAT in 2009 confirmed that this was in fact a natural feature.

### LONG DESCRIPTION

Nothing on ground. The possible earthwork is a natural formation. FM May 2009

In 1989 a field visit by DAT reported that the earthwork was of natural origin.  
RPS September 2001

Whilst searching for a 'mound' (PRN1387) in 1973 the Ordnance Survey identified what they believed to be the remains of a possible enclosure at SN37055240. They record that it consists of a broad rounded ridge running E-W for about 90.0m with a smaller ridge or denuded bank running southwards for about 30.0m from its western extremity. They report that from the west the whole has the appearance of the side of an earthwork or an enclosure but that on closer inspection it seems to be wholly natural. Ordnance Survey 1973.

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**PRN** 5602 **NAME** DINAS

**TYPE** HUT PLATFORM **PERIOD** Prehistoric

**NGR** SN74298285

**CONDITION** Not known **STATUS** None recorded **FORM** Building

#### **SUMMARY**

A possible hut platform situated near Dinas hillfort, on a steep southeast facing hillslope at 315m above sea level. In 2009 nothing resembling the described site was apparent at the given grid reference.

**LONG DESCRIPTION** In 2009 nothing resembling the described site was apparent at the given grid reference. There is a natural terrace but this follows the contours of the SE facing hillslope. Under pasture. RR & AS December 2009

In 1978 the Ordnance Survey reported that the hut platform is as described previously and under pasture. Ordnance Survey 1978

An undated report listed by the Ordnance Survey records a hut platform at SN74298295, near Dinas hillfort (PRN 5614), situated on a steep ESE facing slope at 1100 feet (315m). It was recorded as approximately 20 feet (6.0m) in diameter, cut into the hillside and terraced out but with no visible stonework.

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**PRN** 8576 **NAME** BRYN GWYN

**TYPE** HUT CIRCLE **PERIOD** Bronze Age;Iron Age

**NGR** SN74648573

**CONDITION** Near destroyed **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Building

#### **SUMMARY**

The fragmentary remains of a possible hut circle situated within forestry on a southeast facing slope at 400m above sea level. In 2009 the site was found to be severely damaged.

**LONG DESCRIPTION** In 2009 the site was found to be deep within forestry but was located. It is now represented by numerous dislodged stones spread across a wide area, as a result of the deep furrows excavated during tree planting. The hut circle has now lost its shape and has been severely compromised. RR & AS December 2009

This site was first recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1978 as a hut circle. The site was defined by a spread ring of small boulders and large stones, with an internal diameter of 5.0m. This circular 'wall' was 1.0 to 2.0m wide, with a maximum height of 0.4m. An entrance was visible on the east flanked by 2 large boulders each with a flat side lining the entrance. Ordnance Survey 1978

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**PRN** 9488 **NAME** NANT GOU  
**TYPE** HUT CIRCLE **PERIOD** Prehistoric  
**NGR** SN599487  
**CONDITION** **STATUS** *None recorded* **FORM** Cropmark

#### **SUMMARY**

Cropmark of three small circles 4, 5 and 6 metres in diameter, in a field on the flood plain of the Afon Teifi southwest of Glantaify Farm, Ceredigion

**LONG DESCRIPTION** Nothing seen on the ground in 2009. Nothing seen on any aerial photographs held by DAT. Quite possibly a result of natural processes within the flood plain. FM 2009

Cropmark of three small circles 4, 5 and 6 metres in diameter, in a field on the flood plain of the Afon Teifi southwest of Glantaify Farm, Ceredigion at 130m above sea level, allegedly identified from an aerial photograph by UCWL in 1979.

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**PRN** 13064 **NAME** CWM HENGWM  
**TYPE** CAIRNFIELD, PEAT WORKINGS **PERIOD** Unknown  
**NGR** SN77928884  
**CONDITION** Damaged **STATUS** CL , ESA **FORM** Earthwork

#### **SUMMARY**

A group of at least 6 mounds, one of which may be a prehistoric funerary barrow, situated on fairly level ground on the east side of the Afon Hengwm, at 350m above sea level.

**LONG DESCRIPTION** In 2009 a site visit was made to the area of PRN 13064. The group of mounds were much as previously described - rough circular or rectangular grass covered mounds situated on a gentle north facing slope overlooking the river valley. The heights of some of the mounds appear exaggerated as a result of peat cutting in the area. Only one mound at SN7794888837 is recorded as possibly a funerary barrow. It has a diameter of approximately 7.0m and is 1.2m high and although the view shed is restricted locally by the valley sides, it has long views to a distant ridge due west (260 degrees) and longish views between 10 & 20 degrees along the valley. RR & AS December 2009

Following field survey in 1986 in the Hengwm valley, a number of groups of mounds, possibly barrows or earth and peat covered cairns were discovered. One group on the east side of the Afon Hengwm comprises six mounds on fairly level ground. Four of the mounds are 6m across x 1m high. The other two are rectangular, one being 10m long x 7m across x 1m high, the other being 7m long x 5m across x 1m high. All lie on an area that appears to have been once cut for peat. M Johnson, Arch in Wales 26, 1986

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**PRN 14254 NAME** DINAS RESERVOIR  
**TYPE** FIELD SYSTEM **PERIOD** Medieval; Post Medieval  
**NGR** SN74598244  
**CONDITION** Damaged **STATUS** None recorded **FORM** Earthwork

#### **SUMMARY**

A curvilinear field system forming several enclosures/fields on a south facing slope, north of Dinas reservoir at 265m above sea level. Within one of the enclosures are the remains of a small rectangular structure.

**LONG DESCRIPTION** A curvilinear field system forming several irregularly shaped enclosures/fields on a south facing slope, north of Dinas reservoir at 265m above sea level. The largest of the enclosures is defined by a spread earthen bank c.2.5m wide and 0.45m high. An outer ditch is quite well defined on the SW downslope side but less easy to trace elsewhere. The banks are clearly visible as they are covered in green mossy grass whereas the surrounding vegetation is one of dying marsh grass. Within this larger enclosure, towards the NW, are the remains of a small rectangular structure in good condition. It is formed by an earthen bank approximately 0.45m high and 1.0m wide, creating a sub rectangular enclosure 10.0m east-west by 6.0m north-south. Surrounding it is a shallow outer ditch. There is a possible entrance on the south side. Possibly not a dwelling but an animal enclosure? RR & AS December 2009

A curvilinear field system now partly submerged beneath the waters of Dinas Reservoir. Several separate enclosures are formed by the field banks. Within one of the enclosures is a smaller sub-rectangular enclosure possibly the site of a dwelling. KM 1989

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**PRN 14255 NAME** PEN-RHIWLAS  
**TYPE** ENCLOSURE COMPLEX **PERIOD** Medieval; Post Medieval  
**NGR** SN7070880224  
**CONDITION** Damaged **STATUS** None recorded **FORM** Earthwork

#### **SUMMARY**

A small complex of enclosures situated on the south facing edge of an undulating ridge at 320m above sea level.

**LONG DESCRIPTION** A small complex of enclosures situated on the south facing edge of an undulating ridge at 320m above sea level. The best preserved earthwork is a small rectangular enclosure measuring approximately 18.0m north-south by 15.0m east-west, defined by a spread earthen bank 2.0m wide and 0.25m high. It appears to have opposing entrances at its north and south ends. This small enclosure sits in the southwest corner of a much larger linear east-west running enclosure defined by a low earthen bank, that measures approximately 109.0m east-west by 20.0m north-south. There are traces of an outer ditch along the north side, as well as an entrance on the north. The long south side of the enclosure has either been destroyed by the current east-west trackway or was always defined by it. There are good earthwork indications of at least 2 further small rectangular structures attached to and slightly upslope to the N of the well preserved rectangular enclosure, that all lie within the boundary of the larger linear enclosure. The site has good views to Castell Bwa Drain hillfort (PRN 2056). RR & AS December 2009

A small circular earthwork enclosure alongside a road. No indication of date or function is provided by the aerial photographs. KM 1989

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**PRN 14459 NAME** CWM-YR-OLCHFA  
**TYPE** ROUND BARROW **PERIOD** Bronze Age  
**NGR** SN7230360197  
**CONDITION** Near intact, Near Destroyed **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Earthwork

**SUMMARY**

A near-circular, turf-covered mound, 5m in diameter and 0.3m high. NC 2005.

**LONG DESCRIPTION** As previously described. FM & RR 2009

Probable ritual cairn. Regular, circular cairn, diameter 5m, H 0.15m, situated in a commanding position on the end of a spur overlooking lower lying ground to the west. Roughly plotted. Williams and Muckle 1993.

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**PRN 14715 NAME** CWM-YR-OLCHFA  
**TYPE** HUT PLATFORM, PLATFORM **PERIOD** Prehistoric, Medieval  
**NGR** SN7234060243  
**CONDITION** Damaged **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Earthwork

**SUMMARY**

A good example of an oval platform terraced into a south facing slope of Cwm yr Olchfa.

**LONG DESCRIPTION** A good example of an oval platform terraced into a south facing slope. FM & RR June 2009

Slightly larger than stated previously, measuring 8m by 5m. NGR amended from SN72336023. RPS October 2002

Platform, sub-oval, 6.6m x 5m, upper scarp, height 0.5m, large stones on lower scarp. Williams & Muckle 1993

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**PRN 14720 NAME** CWM-YR-OLCHFA  
**TYPE** EARTHWORK **PERIOD** Bronze Age, Medieval?  
**NGR** SN72336024  
**CONDITION** Damaged **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Earthwork

**SUMMARY**

Linear earthwork bank and ditch, revetted on ditch side with laid stone and intermittent orthostats, orthostatic element particularly marked on north. The feature runs along the edge of a slight spur which projects from the valley side and occupies a 'false crest position' when viewed from below.

**LONG DESCRIPTION** This earthwork is clearly visible. GW's description of 1993 is very good. FM & RR 2009

Earthwork bank and ditch. RPS October 2001

Linear bank and ditch, revetted on ditch side with laid stone and intermittent orthostats, orthostatic element particularly marked on north. Revetment collapsed in places. W 1.0m , H 0.5m, L 85m, gap/ entrance W 3.5m, 35m from west end, with a trackway (No 54, PRN 14,754) leading southeast downslope. The feature runs along the edge of a slight spur which projects from the valley side and occupies a 'false crest position' when viewed from below. It runs across front of an outcrop on north. For possible interpretations see 136 (PRN 14,836). SN 7233 6024 (east end) to SN 7241 6026. GW 1993

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**PRN 14721 NAME** CWM-YR-OLCHFA  
**TYPE SETTLEMENT PERIOD** Bronze Age  
**NGR** SN72416032  
**CONDITION** Damaged **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Earthwork

#### **SUMMARY**

Sub-rectangular banked enclosure, with remains of external ditch on the south and east. Bank largely stone free, though concentrations of stone on south side in middle and northeast corner.

**LONG DESCRIPTION** This enclosure is unique in this area – nothing in record that approximates to it. Difficult to date as it sits very much on its own upslope of platforms and linear ditch and bank (PRN 14720). Clearly visible earthwork. FM & RR 2009.

Banked enclosure, sub-rectangular, 24.0 x 15.0m, bank 1.0m, H 0.3-0.5m. Remains of external ditch on the south and east. Bank largely stone free, though concentrations of stone on south side in middle and northeast corner. Orthostats in northwest. Probably original entrance in northwest - other gaps probably modern. Situated on a 17 degree slope just above the limit of enclosure at 345m OD. Williams and Muckle 1993.

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**PRN 14723 NAME** CWM-YR-OLCHFA  
**TYPE WALL PERIOD** Bronze Age  
**NGR** SN72396036  
**CONDITION** Near intact **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Earthwork

#### **SUMMARY**

Linear stone wall/ bank foundations.

**LONG DESCRIPTION** As previously described. FM & RR 2009

Linear stone wall/ bank foundations, L. 80m, W 1.25m, H 0.2m. It runs across the front of possible platform 46 although the relationship of the two is not certain. SN7239 6036 (N) to SN 7236 6029. Williams and Muckle 1993.

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**PRN 14731 NAME** CWM-YR-OLCHFA  
**TYPE ROUND BARROW, CLEARANCE CAIRN PERIOD** Bronze Age, Medieval  
**NGR** SN7240360343  
**CONDITION** Damaged **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Earthwork

#### **SUMMARY**

Interpretation uncertain: possibly a ritual cairn, or clearance cairn associated with a nearby settlement. HGW 2010 based on various sources.

**LONG DESCRIPTION** Vague stony mound. FM & RR 2009

Described by Williams as a raised stony area, overgrown with rushes, central orthostat... kerbstones on S. Interpretation very uncertain; possibly a ritual cairn, very doubtfully a long hut. This may be a clearance cairn, associated with a nearby settlement. NGR amended from SN72396034. RPS October 2002

Uncertain. Apparently a raised stony area, overgrown with rushes, central orthostat, ? kerbstone on south. Interpretation very uncertain: possibly a ritual cairn. Diameter 3m, orthostat H 0.4m, L 0.6m. Williams and Muckle 1993.

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**PRN 14741 NAME** CWM-YR-OLCHFA  
**TYPE** HUT PLATFORM **PERIOD** Prehistoric  
**NGR** SN72276024  
**CONDITION** Damaged **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Earthwork

**SUMMARY**

Sub-circular platform with possible scatter of stones around the periphery of the platform. Could not be located in 2009 (HGW 2010 based on Williams & Muckle 1993).

**LONG DESCRIPTION** Site not located in 2009. FM & RR June 2009

Nothing found at this grid reference in 2002. RPS March 2003

Recorded as Earthwork/B. Platform, Sub-circular, 4.7 x 3.7m possible scatter of stones around the periphery of the platform. Williams & Muckle 1993

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**PRN 14745 NAME** CWM-YR-OLCHFA  
**TYPE** HUT PLATFORM, PLATFORM **PERIOD** Prehistoric, Medieval  
**NGR** SN7227460274  
**CONDITION** Damaged **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Earthwork

**SUMMARY**

A probable prehistoric feature comprising a platform on a cross-contour long axis with no structural remains. (HGW 2010 based on various sources).

**LONG DESCRIPTION** Visited in 2009 - as previously described but not obviously of medieval/post medieval date particularly when considering the surrounding settlement evidence. More likely to be prehistoric. FM & RR June 2009

Platform, vestigial, dished, 5.0m x 4.5m. G. Williams May 1993.; A platform measuring 5m by 4.5m on a cross-contour long axis. There are no structural remains on the platform. NGR amended from SN72276027. Descriptive Type amended from Platform-vestigial. Period amended from Bronze age?. Form/Condition amended from Earthwork/B. RPS October 2002

Platform, vestigial, dished, 5.0 x 4.5m. Williams & Muckle 1993.

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**PRN 14746 NAME** CWM-YR-OLCHFA  
**TYPE** PLATFORM **PERIOD** Prehistoric, Medieval  
**NGR** SN7242160373  
**CONDITION** Damaged **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Earthwork

#### **SUMMARY**

A 2m x 2.5m platform which appears not to be natural and, given its location, is likely to be prehistoric in date. MP 2010 based on several sources.

**LONG DESCRIPTION** As previously described but not obviously of medieval/post medieval date particularly when considering the surrounding settlement evidence. More likely to be prehistoric. FM & RR June 2009

Looks like a man-made feature. NGR amended from SN72396036. Period amended from Bronze Age?. RPS October 2002

Platform 2m x 2.5m. May be natural. G. Williams, May 1993

Possible platform, some stone, 2.0 x 2.5m, may be natural. Front scarp obscure as wall 23 runs across its' front, relationship uncertain. Williams & Muckle 1993

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**PRN 14748 NAME** CWM-YR-OLCHFA  
**TYPE** PLATFORM **PERIOD** Prehistoric  
**NGR** SN72456036  
**CONDITION** Not known **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Earthwork

#### **SUMMARY**

Platform, some stone, with poorly defined upper scarp. Could not be located in 2009 (HGW 2010 based on Williams & Muckle 1993).

**LONG DESCRIPTION** Not located in 2009 at the given grid reference. FM & RR June 2009

Recorded as Earthwork/B in 1993. Platform, some stone, 4m x 4m. G. Williams May 1993.

Nothing found at this grid reference in 2002. RPS March 2003

Platform, some stone, 4.0 x 4.0m, poorly defined upper scarp. Williams & Muckle 1993

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**PRN 14833 NAME** CWM-YR-OLCHFA  
**TYPE** PLATFORM, SHELTER **PERIOD** Prehistoric, Medieval  
**NGR** SN7238460352  
**CONDITION** Damaged **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Earthwork

#### **SUMMARY**

Sub-circular platform/ small shelter. Some stones protrude through the wall bases (HGW 2010 based on various sources).

**LONG DESCRIPTION** Much as previously described - south side appears terraced into slope. Not obviously of medieval/post medieval date particularly when considering the surrounding settlement evidence. More likely to be prehistoric. FM & RR June 2009

Sub-circular platform, diameter 6.1m. G. Williams May 1993

Closer to 5m in diameter, 2m internally. Some stones protrude through the wall bases - (looks structural). The wall bases only stand 0.2m high at most. It appears to be open to the west, downslope facing side. It looks like a small shelter or pen. NGR amended from 72376035. Descriptive Type amended from Platform-sub circular. Period amended from Bronze Age?. Form/Condition amended from Earthwork/B. Land Use amended from Heath. RPS October 2002

Platform, sub-circular, diameter 6.1m. Williams & Muckle 1993.

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**PRN 14834 NAME** CWM-YR-OLCHFA  
**TYPE** CLEARANCE CAIRN **PERIOD** Bronze Age  
**NGR** SN72376035  
**CONDITION** Near intact **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Earthwork

#### **SUMMARY**

A possible cairn, sub-circular in form. Interpretation uncertain - possibly clearance, possibly ritual. HGW 2010 based on various sources.

**LONG** Not located in 2009. FM & RR 2009

Possible clearance cairn, sub-circular, ? outcrop, diameter 2m. Williams and Muckle 1993.

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**PRN 14933 NAME** CWM-YR-OLCHFA  
**TYPE** PLATFORM **PERIOD** Prehistoric, Medieval  
**NGR** SN7241760334  
**CONDITION** Damaged **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Earthwork

#### **SUMMARY**

A platform, with possible collapsed upper scarp/ cairn. No obvious structure on top of the platform, but a concentration of small stone is cut into the slope at its east end. HGW 2010 based on various sources.

**LONG DESCRIPTION** As previously described but not obviously of medieval/post medieval date particularly when considering the surrounding settlement evidence. More likely to be prehistoric. FM & RR June 2009

Larger than Williams' 1993 description. It is grassy on the platform with a concentration of small stone cut into the slope at the negative (east) end of the

platform. There is no obvious structure on top of the platform. NGR amended from SN72416034. Descriptive Type amended from Platform-sub oval. Form/Condition Amended from Earthwork/B. Land Use amended from Heath. RPS October 2002

Platform, sub-oval, very stony, 7.2 x 4.4m, ? collapsed upper scarp/ cairn. Williams and Muckle 1993.

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**PRN** 34938 **NAME** BANC BRYNCHWYTH  
**TYPE** CAIRNFIELD **PERIOD** Bronze Age  
**NGR** SN760809  
**CONDITION** Damaged **STATUS** ESA **FORM** Earthwork

#### **SUMMARY**

A group of at least 9 low oval shaped grass covered mounds.

#### **LONG DESCRIPTION**

An enigmatic group of at least 9 low oval shaped grass covered mounds situated on a gentle north facing slope at 320m above sea level. Much as previously described. Some of the mounds appear to be the result of excavating small pits/hollows. No other obvious archaeological activity in the area. RR & AS 2010

Approx. 9-10 small earth and stone mounds were observed in this area, on average measuring 4m x 3m and 0.2m - 0.3m in height. Ground does not otherwise appear disturbed by mining or peat cutting activity. Sambrook,P June 1997

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**PRN** 96892 **NAME** CWM YR OLCHFA  
**TYPE** CIST **PERIOD** Prehistoric  
**NGR** SN7237660289  
**CONDITION** Damaged **STATUS** None recorded **FORM** Stone built feature

#### **SUMMARY**

A possible cist burial situated on a moderate west facing slope of Banc Mawr.

**LONG DESCRIPTION** A possible cist burial situated on a moderate west facing slope of Banc Mawr at 340m above sea level. Identified from a rectangular arrangement of stones protruding through the turf, that appears to be lying in the centre of a low circular earthen mound. The stones form a rectangle approximately 1.0m north-south by 0.60m east-west. From the site there are long views at 255-330 degrees, but elsewhere medium views except where the views are restricted on the east by the local topography. RR & FM June 2009

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Thanks are due to the landowners who granted access to their land to view the sites. Frances Murphy, Richard Ramsey and Andy Shobbrook visited the sites, and Frances Murphy wrote this report. Marion Page extracted the site data from the Historic Environment Record and verified the new data collected during the study

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# **SCHEDULING ENHANCEMENT PROJECT 2010: PREHISTORIC SITES FIELDWORK - CEREDIGION**

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD/REPORT NUMBER 2010/12**

**Mawrth 2010  
March 2010**

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

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date

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

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

