

CPAT Report No. 1341

Relict Landscapes of the Limestone in Flintshire

Assessment



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

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Relict Landscapes of the Limestone in Flintshire

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Relict Landscapes on the Limestone Plateau

Introduction

Amongst the various scheduling enhancement projects (SEPS) that CPAT has been conducting on behalf of Cadw over the last couple of years, the assessment of surviving earthworks on the limestone plateau of north Wales stands out as being different in both origin and nature and while it has some similarities in its methodology and characteristics with past (and present) SEPS its geographical focus and multi-period coverage set it apart.

As a programme of work Landscapes of the Limestone had its genesis within the Hen Caerwys settlement project that was initiated in 2011. Hen Caerwys is arguably the most significant medieval rural settlement site in north-east Wales but in study and appreciation it has had a remarkably chequered recent history (Davies and Silvester 2015). For many years after the abolition of Clwyd County Council and its heritage service the only definitive site plan – prepared by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in 1993 – was unlocatable and believed lost. A copy was then found in safe-keeping in Flintshire, together with several other plans of relict earthworks that lay in the neighbourhood of Hen Caerwys, prepared in the follow year, 1994. All of these sites in the Caerwys area lay on limestone, and it was decided that it might be useful to assess what other relict earthworks surviving on the limestone belt had already been recorded in Flintshire and were to be found within the regional HER and the NMR, not least because it might help to determine whether the survival around Caerwys was anomalous and exceptional.

The Geological Background

The limestone bedrock underlying portions of western Flintshire and neighbouring eastern Denbighshire is far from being the coherent single block that might be imagined. Enhanced mapping in recent years by the British Geological Survey reveals two bands of Carboniferous Limestone, one to either side of the Vale of Clwyd, running initially from north-west to south-east before shifting their alignments to a more southerly direction. The more easterly band running primarily through Flintshire and lying below the Clwydian Hills is unbroken from Prestatyn in the north to the vicinity of the A525 (Mold to Ruthin road) in the south. The other, wholly in Denbighshire, is more fragmented, appearing as three or four discrete blocks. South of the A525 a major fault looks to have shifted the rock formations eastwards for upwards of seven kilometres, so another band, intermittent in its appearance, runs from Bwlchgwyn southwards, forming Esclusham and Ruabon Mountains, to terminate at Llanymynech Rocks above the Severn floodplain. Nor should the limestone under parts of Anglesey be overlooked, though it is not relevant to this regional survey (Rudeforth *et al* 1984. 9).

The continuous limestone band that runs through Flintshire is the subject of this study; it extends across just over 130km², and is broader in width to the north, narrower to the south. It spreads over parts of twenty historic parishes: Caerwys, Cilcain, Cwm, Dyserth, Gwaensygor, Halkin, Holywell, Llanasa, Meliden, Mold, Nannerch, Nercwys, Newmarket (Trelawnyd), Northop, Prestatyn, Whitford and Ysceifiog; and in old county of Denbighshire, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Llandegla and Llanferres.

The Limestone Landscape

The changing appearance and past land-use of this limestone band is instructive. At the northern end above Prestatyn the landscape is for the most part a gently undulating plateau although there are steeper heights such as Gop Hill. Long established nucleated settlements are sparse, but do exist at Gwaensygor, Trelawnyd, Ysceifiog and Caerwys, though others such as Dyserth, Cwm and Whitford all appear to lie

just off the limestone. Woodland too is intermittent. What is not apparent from modern maps is that large tracts of this limestone plateau were open, common land until the 18th century, and we are fortunate in having some estate maps from this period which provide at least a partial view of these commons, a reasonable number of which belonged to the Grosvenors of Eaton Hall near Chester and the Mostyn Family of Mostyn Hall (see Silvester 2014).

East and south-east of Caerwys and Ysceifiog there is a discernible change with the predominantly agrarian landscape giving way to a more industrially-focused landscape exemplified by the pockmarked surfaces of Holywell Common and Halkyn Mountain, a lack of woodland and small settlements that have their origins in the industrial and early modern era. South of this the limestone band starts to narrow and is bisected first by the valley of the River Wheeler, and then by that of its parent river, the Alyn. From the environs of the Wheeler southwards the landscape takes on a different character. Quarries operating on a large-scale dot the limestone, growing, relatively modern settlements such as Pantymwyn and Gwernaffield spread across it, woodland is prevalent and open ground becomes sparser. This continues past Loggerheads and Maeshafn until in the vicinity of Eryrys, the limestone landscape starts to open again with small settlements of mixed origins and date – Llanarmon-yn-Ial and Eryrys being at opposite ends of chronological spectrum – and the stone itself manifesting itself in field walls and outcrops.

From the B5430 cutting across the grain of the limestone to south of the A525 where the limestone disappears, the character is different again. Wooded linear ridges and outcrops impose distinctive patterns across what is once again a farming landscape, and one which has an obviously long history from the caves occupied in prehistory through to the medieval earthwork castles at Tomen-y-faerdre and Castell y Rhodwydd, and 16th-century Bodidris.

Historic landscapes of the limestone

There is nothing overtly remarkable about the limestone regions of north-east Wales. They receive little mention in the seminal volume entitled *The Archaeology of Clwyd* (Manley *et al* 1991), other than in the introductory chapter on the natural environment, and ‘limestone’ does not figure in the index of the book, but then nor does its most prominent medieval rural settlement, Hen Caerwys, despite the presence of an entire chapter devoted to medieval settlement! That some of the limestone areas make an appearance within the historic landscapes recorded in the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales* (Cadw 1995) is more by chance than by design: the Vale of Clwyd Historic Landscape (HLW (C) 1) intrudes a little into the Denbighshire limestone belt, and much of the small Lower Elwy Valley Historic Landscape (HLW (C) 4) also lies within it, yet in the case of the latter it is the geomorphology in the form of the Elwy gorge rather than the limestone geology which is the chief characterising factor. Eastwards the Holywell Common and Halkyn Mountain Historic Landscape (HLW (C) 2) lies largely though not entirely across the Flintshire limestone, its significance a result of the intense industrial exploitation of the post-medieval era.

The farming base for the limestone region appears to be a mix of pasture and arable. To what degree one outweighs the other has not been established – no doubt an objective assessment has been published somewhere – but one senses from a cursory examination of such works as the Soil Survey’s study of Welsh soils (Rudeforth *et al*, 1984) that pasture is now the more extensive. Whether this has always been the case is another matter.

As with so many other historic landscapes, the key is one of differential survival. Regular cultivation and even pasture improvement will of course have a deleterious effect on earthworks, regardless of whether they are composed of limestone rubble or of stone-free earth will suffer and ultimately disappear in the wake of continual cultivation. It will not escape notice that the better survivals are

under woodland. Hen Caerwys is necessarily the obvious example, but so too it would seem are some of the enclosures listed below. But if the presence of woodland is beneficial to the survival of limestone sites, there is a further implication, namely that the woodland is not likely to have been there for many centuries but may represent relatively recent plantations or regeneration. The medieval houses on their platforms at Hen Caerwys were not created in woodland glades but in largely open countryside. Only after their abandonment did the plateau revert to scrub and woodland, to be treated as common by the time that the Earl of Plymouth's surveyor came to map the area at the beginning of the 18th century. In this, the site of Hen Caerwys was unusual but not because it was common, for tracts of open ground, small or large, were prevalent up until the later 18th or early 19th century. Rather this was farmed ground that subsequently reverted to common, and different from the majority of commons, such as the vast one further north on the border of Caerwys and Whitford which had been open ground since time immemorial. Just to the north of Hen Caerwys Pant is different in that its complex earthworks are now under permanent pasture, but it too was common land in the early 18th century and its depiction on the first large-scale Ordnance Survey map in the 1870s suggests that it continued in this form even well into Victorian times.

There is another specific yet related factor that influences our appreciation of past limestone landscapes and this is entirely down to modern land ownership. That Hen Caerwys remained unsurveyed, its extent largely unappreciated, until 1993 is down to the nature of the vegetation on the site and the enthusiasm of the owner, Mike Owens, for the archaeology of his woodlands. Today is not possible to form any sort of impression of the earthworks that lie to the north of the straight lane bisecting the site because of the density of the vegetation that covers it. The survey in 1993 and successor surveys in other patches of woodland that lie on the Caerwys Hall Estate were feasible only because of Mike Owens' persistence in vegetation clearance immediately in advance of those surveys. Without that clearance work accurate surveying would not have been possible. And there is another integral factor here: that without his intimate knowledge of the estate woodlands, two or perhaps even three of the surveys would not have taken place.

One implication of this work is that other earthwork complexes could lie under woodland cover on the limestone plateau awaiting discovery. A rapid examination of the modern Ordnance Survey map reveals that there are large numbers of small and medium-sized plantations and woodlands which have probably never been examined to see what lies beneath them. And this impression of an imbalance in the evidence is reinforced by the difficulties that we have in establishing a complete picture of the Warren A enclosure at Abergele because of the vegetation, of Pen y Gelli in Whitford and the apparently recent discovery of an enclosure at Coed y Garreg, Whitford, which lacks supporting detail and is something that Ellis Davies must have missed.

Methodology and Report Layout

The processes involved in compiling this report have not been in any way significantly different from other comparable studies. Definition of the 'search zone' has been facilitated by British Geological Survey data made available to the Trust, allowing a correlation with HER data within then Trust's GIS. Only the limestone belt in Flintshire was examined, that in Denbighshire on the western side of the Vale of Clwyd not being included.

Information was then amplified by recourse to *inter alia*, Ordnance Survey index cards, historic mapping, particularly early editions of the large-scale Ordnance Survey surveys, the Cadw field monument wardens' records and Canon Ellis Davies' *The Prehistoric and Roman Remains of Flintshire* published in 1949. The last of these had been consulted in the past for material that could be extracted to the HER, but not always consistently. Where it was thought necessary original reports such as those prepared by T A Glenn at the beginning of the 20th century were also consulted. Information from these

various sources have been synthesised into the set of gazetteer entries that form the bulk of this report, and a brief overview has been prepared which follows in the next section. However, no in-depth analysis has been attempted.

The earthworks surveyed by GAT in 1993 and 1994 provide a different perspective on relict landscapes. Their level of survey is of a different order to say the Ordnance Survey, and it is not likely that the plans will be bettered in the foreseeable future. But what was absent from the GAT work was an analysis or commentary on what was surveyed. This is not to say that such reports weren't prepared, it is simply that they have been looked for yet not found. The fieldwork element of this programme has thus focussed on these GAT-surveyed sites including Hen Caerwys, and this has, in the writer's view, been one of the most useful elements of the project. Where appropriate analytical information has been added to the gazetteer entries, but perhaps more valuably the field notes have been typed up and ordered and these, cross-referenced by number to annotated GAT plans, have been included in an annex at the end of the report.

It remains to note what hasn't been done within the study. Firstly, and as already noted, we have not attempted to examine surviving heritage features on the limestone west of the Vale of Clwyd. Secondly, no fieldwork has been conducted on the majority of the earthworks recorded in the gazetteer. Thirdly, no exploratory research has been undertaken, drawing on aerial photograph sources, Lidar, or early mapping. Had a large run of good quality RAF vertical photographs from the 1940s providing comprehensive coverage of the Flintshire limestone belt been identified, the strategy might have been different. Finally, and also referred to elsewhere, certain site types have been omitted; these include mining and quarrying remains, though occasionally these might be referred to in relation to other forms of earthwork, large hillforts, mottes such as Llanarmon-yn-Iâl and other places of higher status, buildings regardless of their date, and of course artefact scatters.

Sites and complexes

The archaeological sites that have been identified on the limestone fall broadly into two categories, single enclosures of which there are a surprising number, and secondly other earthworks which form a more heterogeneous grouping that includes lynchets and field banks, trackways, mounds and, in the case of Hen Caerwys, house platforms. A late addition to the site list has been Caerwys Hall with its unfathomed earthworks. Excluded from the list are such industrial remains as mine shafts and trials, quarry pits and similar extraction sites. Including these would open up the study well beyond the current limits of the study imposed by time and resources.

Enclosures

Over the last century, a number of enclosures have been recognised on the limestone. Ellis Davies referred to several of them and one – a supposed enclosure in Gwaenysgor, known as Blaen Golau and overlooking Prestatyn – was excavated by T A Glenn in 1912. It is quite unfortunate that this was selected by Glenn for it is clear from more recent assessments that its identification as an enclosure is spurious and that the supposed enclosing earthwork is no more than a relict field enclosure boundary of relatively recent date. However, the work, by chance it seems, did generate an interesting collection of either Neolithic or Bronze Age artefacts which in its own right would merit further contextualisation.

More authentic enclosures are known at Bron Fadog, Bwrdd y Rhyfel, Coed Trefraith, Glol, Hen Caerwys (where the dating is the subject of on-going debate, for which see below), Marian Ffrith, Old Foxhall, Pen y Gelli and the two enclosures on the Warren at Abergele, and possibly at Coed Bryn-Sion, Coed y Garreg and Pant though these last three really need to be authenticated. To these can be added a second enclosure in Coed Trefraith, though its shape sets it apart from most of the other

limestone examples, and one that has gone unremarked in Coed Tan y Walk. In one or two cases - Glol, Marian Ffrith, Old Foxhall - there are reports that field systems could be associated with the enclosures, but at Marian Ffrith that association can be discounted and in the other cases the postulated association is ill-defined or the remains have not been mapped to a level where that association can be confidently accepted.

It is generally assumed that most of these enclosures are of Iron Age or Roman date, primarily because their generally simple morphology pushes them into a category of earthwork that is usually attributed to those periods, and only excavation is going to demonstrate otherwise. Exceptional then is Marian Ffrith where the interrupted bank has drawn parallels with Neolithic enclosures elsewhere, an interesting concept which again will lonely be strengthened through excavation. No attempt has been made to compare the enclosures in terms of their size, the strength of their defences, orientation of entrance etc. This is something that would be better done on a broader areal basis incorporating other enclosure sites off the limestone.

Other Sites

The efforts of T A Glenn, whilst no doubt well intentioned, have done little to progress the understanding of prehistoric archaeology on the coastal fringes of north Wales. His work at the Bowling Green near Gwaenysgor and at Blaen Golau in the same parish can be criticised for his misunderstanding of the earthwork remains that he encountered. His plan of the Bowling Green would have been much more useful and less misleading if he had accessed the large-scale Ordnance Survey mapping of the area, and this inadequate use of accessible, publicly available survey material had also been displayed by Glenn at nearby Bryn Golau a couple of years earlier. These shortcomings in identification and interpretation tend to overshadow his discovery of prehistoric assemblages which are of more fundamental importance.

The house platforms at Hen Caerwys are currently unique in as much as there are no other confirmed examples on the limestone as is largely evident from the distribution plan published in *Lost Farmsteads* (Roberts 2006, fig 9.2a). One must assume that this is primarily because so little systematic field survey has been undertaken in the region, for it would be myopic to assume that Hen Caerwys was sufficiently exceptional to warrant its own form of earthworks.

The miscellaneous earthworks that make up Coed Tan-y-plas and Coed Tan-y-walk represent sets of relict landscape features which have come to light through local knowledge, and there must be a suspicion that comparable earthworks should exist under woodland beyond the bounds of Caerwys parish. Pant falls broadly into the same category, not least because it too is in Caerwys and because of its mix of features that probably represent several different phases of land use; but where it differs is in its current appearance as pasture land.

Many cases of field boundaries that have been partially levelled through field amalgamations survive on the limestone as slight earthworks, and many more come to light through the subtleties that show up on LiDAR. Few of these have been recorded in the HER, and those that have are perhaps unlikely to be exceptional: the Garn earthworks at Henllan and those at Talacre fall into this category.

There is a wider issue here inasmuch as open fields of medieval date were in some places formerly quite prevalent on the limestone plateau. The open field strips (also termed *lands*, at least in England, and *quilllets* in Wales, for which see Adams 1976, 88) may not originally have been separated by physical dividers such as banks or ditches, even of small size, for sometimes nothing more than a boundary or mere stone marked a division. Such insubstantial divisions are depicted on the mid-19th-century title maps by pecked lines, and in this respect Caerwys parish is truly exceptional in the scale of open-field survival into the 19th century. Enclosure into fields and closes led to more permanent (or at least more

substantial) boundaries being imposed on the landscape, though these might well mirror the divisions that had existed previously. It is highly likely that there are a number of places on the limestone plateau where one or the other of these forms remain as relict earthworks; there are for instance one or two banks on the northern side of Pant Common (see the gazetteer below). Generally, though, such earthworks have not been recorded in the HER, perhaps a reflection of the limited amount of fieldwork that has been conducted on the limestone, but we might also note that at the beginning of the 20th century, the Royal Commission recorded the in-situ survival of three mere stones in Caerwys and commented too on the unusual size of the associated Quillets (RCAHMW 1912, 10) .

Inevitably, there are anomalous sites and Coitia'r Hen Ysgubor falls into this category. It is especially sad that the earth circles have been excised from the landscape: they may not have been of any great antiquity, but there can be little doubt of their inherent interest as rare examples of their type. Different is Llys Awe which would certainly benefit from fieldwork.

A Gazetteer of Earthwork Survivals

Blaen Golau, Gwaenysgor

Enclosure A
SJ 0678 8084
PRN 101934

Enclosure B
SJ 0679 8089
PRN 102208

Status as enclosure(s) suspect; not scheduled

Ellis Davies provided a useful description of an oval earthwork in his *Prehistoric and Roman Remains of Flintshire*. He clearly saw the feature (in 1916) which he calculated was originally 73yds (67m) from north to south though by the beginning of the 20th century it was only 56yds (51m), and 65yds (59m) from east to west. The southern segment of the enclosure, lying in a different field, had been largely levelled during agricultural improvement. Further details came from the Ordnance Survey field investigator, Norman Quinnell in 1959: the enclosure was defined by a bank up to 1m high and 3m wide, but in places this transmuted into a scarp bank. No ditch was observed as far as can be ascertained.

Excavations by T A Glenn in 1912, who we may suspect was the discover of the site, were described briefly by Ellis Davies. The trial works produced coarse pottery and worked flint, fire-cracked stone and perhaps hammerstones, which indicate Bronze Age and perhaps Neolithic activity but do not necessarily date the enclosure which has the look of a late prehistoric enclosure. Some of the flint finds were illustrated by Ellis Davies but it is not clear from the caption whether they came from the enclosure or near to it. Some of the artefacts are now housed in the National Museum in Cardiff, although Ellis Davies' notes imply that not all the material was deposited there.

A fragment of a second enclosure, termed here Enclosure B, lay no more than 30ft to the north and Glenn's excavations produced baked clay fragments, thought to resemble moulds for casting metal, and more flints, including two barbed and tanged arrowheads. Quinnell pointed out in 1959 that the apparent association of enclosure and finds was almost certainly a coincidence, and thought that 'the illogical situation for an occupation or settlement site, the apparent relation to existing fields, and the similarity of the bank to disused field boundaries, suggest the possibility of a field enclosure of comparatively recent times which has reverted to rough pasture'.

The Clwyd Archaeology Service in 1983 opined that the stony earth bank was a continuation of existing field boundaries set on a slope of 1 in 3 and was unlikely to be of archaeological importance, despite finds made 1912. John Manley in 1990 described it as an earthwork in a non-defensive position covering 0.47ha, while Pat Frost on behalf of CPAT in 1994 noted a turf-covered stone bank continued from an existing field boundary on the west and parallel to a public footpath, on the east bracken, gorse and heather obscured any earthwork, and the enclosure was not visible in the pasture field to the south.

Glenn’s plan of the site as reproduced by Ellis Davies is included below, as is the Ordnance Survey’s plan of Enclosure A. Curiously, no Ordnance Survey plan of Enclosure B has been encountered.

The area was visited during the north-east Wales defended enclosure survey in 2007/8 but nothing was identified, perhaps because of the dense gorse cover there. LiDAR is a little more helpful. It appears to confirm suspicions that Enclosure A is no more than an abandoned extension to an existing field system, verifying the Ordnance Survey plan rather than the curvilinear design proposed by Glenn. Enclosure A is problematic in that nothing on the LiDAR provides any support to Glenn’s claim which he alone seems to have seen.

Frost 1995, 87; Davies 1949, 162-5; Glenn 1913, 187-90; HER; Manley 1990, 54; OS Record Card

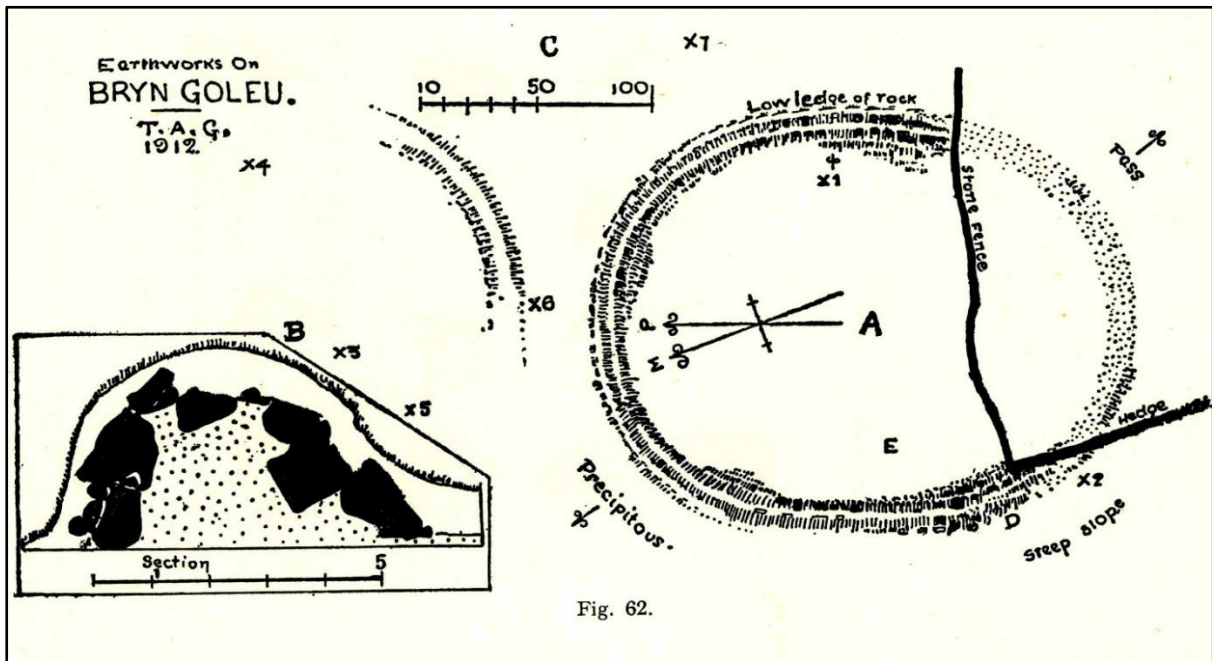
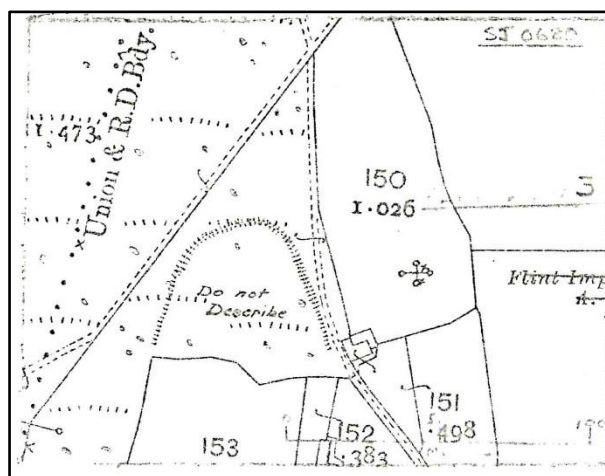


Fig. 62.

Bryn Golau Enclosure A (after Glenn, with south to the right)



Bryn Golau Enclosure A (after Quinnell, Ordnance Survey, with south to the bottom)

Bodelwyddan Castle park enclosure

SH 9995 7463
123909

A square or perhaps rectilinear enclosure in the castle park was noted by staff of Bodelwyddan Castle Trust and brought to the attention of the HER officer of CPAT. The vertical aerial photography available to the Trust is unhelpful in determining the authenticity of the feature and LiDAR coverage stops short of the location. No focussed fieldwork has taken place on the site, but casual examination has yet to confirm the presence of the enclosure.

HER

Bodelwyddan enclosure

SJ 0047 7527

NPRN 408227; PRN --

Coflein records 'a rectangular enclosure, possibly of prehistoric or medieval date, shows as a cropmark in a field some 200m south-east of Bodelwyddan Church. It measures approximately 70m east-west by 90m and has rounded corners. There may be a smaller enclosure, about 10m square, within the feature towards the south. A circular cropmark, approximately 10m in diameter, is visible between the main enclosure and an earthen mound which stands some 60m to the south-west in the corner of the field' (B.A.Malaws, RCAHMW, 09 September 2008).

The source of the photograph(s) is not stated, and the vertical photography available to the Trust throws no light on this feature. LiDAR coverage does not extend over this area. However, Dr Toby Driver has confirmed that this is a Royal Commission photo taken in July 2008 (AP 2008.2142) and has provided the writer with a copy of the image which cannot be reproduced here because of copyright restrictions. He has also confirmed that the enclosure shows as a soilmark not a cropmark.

Three sides of the enclosure are clearly visible, the inference being that there is a broad bank, perhaps spread by agricultural activity, and a narrower ditch; the fourth, north-east, side is much fainter, but hints at an enclosure that may be more of an irregular quadrilateral than a rectangle. The mound 60m to the south-west is a lead mine shaft which is depicted and labelled on the 1st edition of the large-scale Ordnance Survey map from 1872. The circular cropmark between the enclosure and the shaft is one of several which with the shaft itself form a linear pattern suggestive of trial pits, and confirmed by the presence of another shaft on the same alignment in the pasture to the south.

The Bodelwyddan enclosure does not appear to be an earthwork survival and is thus peripheral to this assessment. It is included in the gazetteer, however, because the existing available records were not sufficiently detailed to confirm this distinction.

NMR (Coflein); T Driver, RCAHMW: pers. comm.

Bron Fadog enclosure, Ysceifiog

SJ 1410 7211

PRN 102450

Enclosure: scheduled

First recognised by Ellis Davies in 1930, this enclosure was originally viewed by him as a circular feature, about 57 by 50 paces across with its enclosing bank about 6 yards wide and composed of earth.

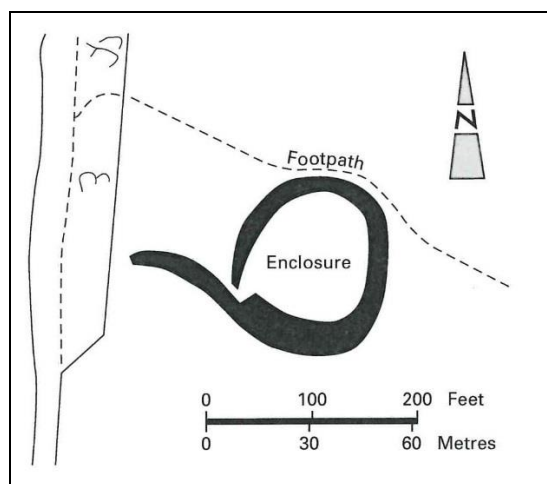
The Ordnance Survey field investigator in 1961 noted that the enclosure was not quite circular, its interior raised above the surrounding ground and no obvious entrance nor an external ditch. The plan made at the time suggested a sub-rectangular enclosure about 39m wide with banks averaging 0.4m high, and where it survives 0.3m internally. The HER adds that the bank is up to 4.5m wide, the entrance is on the south-west side and an additional length of bank runs off from the enclosure bank adjacent to an entrance.

John Manley calculated that the earthworks covered an area of about 0.13ha, and that its position on flat ground was not a defensive one. He postulated too that the earthwork ‘tail’ might be part of a field system.

Helen Burnham in her Cadw guide to Clwyd and Powys offered more precise measurements as well as a sketch plan (for which see below): 40m north-north-east top south-south-west, by 25m and the north end and 35m at the south; on level ground though with a slight slope to the south; with a plough-damaged bank 0.4m-0.5m high and most visible on the south side. Burnham pointed to a possible entrance gap on the south-west. Slightly different measurements have been provided by Cadw’s field monument warden (Lorna Bell) in 1995, indicating little more than the fact that no detailed measured survey has been made of the site.

Burnham opined that the enclosure could have housed a small farmstead or possibly that it was no more than just a stock enclosure.

Burnham 1995, 56; Cadw scheduling records; Davies 1949, 419; HER; Manley 1990, 51; NMR



Bron Fadog after Burnham



Bron Fadog enclosure: CPAT AP 89-mb-554

Bryn Llwyn, Gwaenysgor (King Charles' Bowling Green)

SJ 0718 8150

PRN 102238

Banks and 'enclosure'

Ellis Davies in *The Prehistoric and Roman Remains of Flintshire* recorded that this Neolithic settlement occupied the crests and slope of the ridge, particularly on the eastern side, between Gwaunysgor village and Prestatyn at a height of between 500' and 700' OD. This area was known locally as King Charles' Bowling Green and was excavated by T A Glenn in 1912 to 1913, publishing the results in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* in 1914.

Davies noted but without comment that Glenn had assigned a Neolithic date to the banks of earth and stone because they 'were well engineered and too massive and erratic for fences, and as the area included has never been cultivated, little being arable land, such fences could have served in the past no useful purpose'. Ellis Davies summarised Glenn's findings and got him to revise the summary. It appears that quite understandably for the time, the mass of finds, many of them typically Neolithic (leaf-shaped arrowheads, axe fragments, coarse pottery etc), were in the minds of the excavators directly associated with the slight earthworks. Bill Britnell in discussing the Neolithic of Clwyd in 1991 saw this as one of several hilltop settlements of Neolithic date in the northern coastal region but attempted no further analysis.

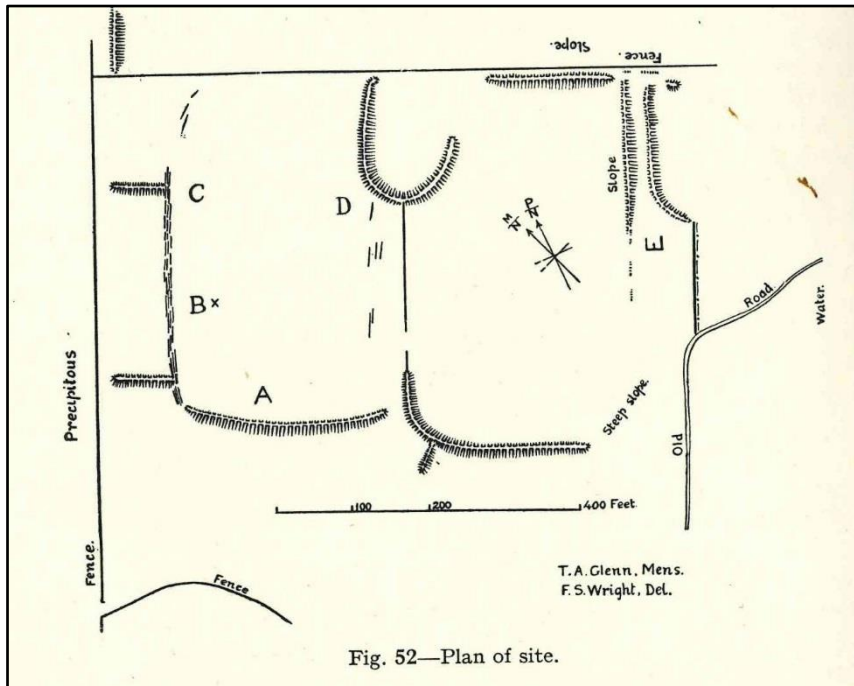
Davies noted that during the second world war the ridge was cultivated and that in 1946 corn and oilseed rape were being grown there, and it was after this time that fundamental doubts were raised about the nature of the remains, though by then much had been destroyed. Stuart Piggott had raised doubts about the Neolithic attribution of the pottery in 1935 suggesting that in other circumstances the pottery might have been given an Early Iron Age label, but Hubert Savory was content with a Neolithic or Bronze Age date as he explained in a letter from the National Museum of Wales in 1959. More critical to the linkage between the artefacts and the remains was an excavation conducted by Terence Powell of the University of Liverpool in 1951. The Ordnance Survey summed up the findings thus:

During 1951 an excavation was carried out by the Department of Prehistoric Archaeology in the University of Liverpool to determine the real nature of the site. On the top of the hill is a deposit of light boulder clay containing many pebbles. This deposit deceived Glenn who took it to be a floor prepared by the Neolithic settlers, and this description has unfortunately been repeated. Also the banks which Glenn claimed to be Neolithic are clearly field fences of no great antiquity. It was found that ploughing had completely destroyed the old ground surface over the whole of the hill and no evidence of early occupation was found in situ. The 1951 excavation had therefore negative results except to show that this site should no longer be regarded as potentially important.

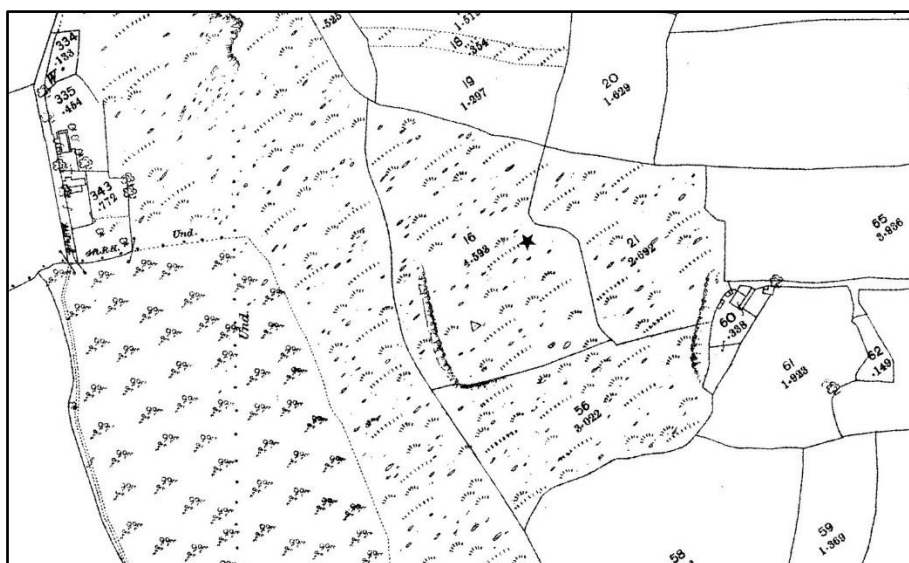
The HER now notes that an 'area of many finds thought to be a settlement site has since been ploughed. Subsequent study has cast doubt on the associations of pottery with other finds and consequently [the settlement's] dating'. This is perhaps to confuse two somewhat separate issues. Contrary to the Ordnance Survey's contention, this site should be considered important for the implications to be drawn from its artefacts. Assuming that Savory was correct, there was presumably a Neolithic settlement on the hill-top, as noted by Britnell, and these are far from common in Wales. So it is regrettable that agricultural activity during the war disturbed and probably erased the sub-surface traces. However, any association between the earthworks and the artefact assemblage is clearly spurious.

Referring back to Glenn’s belief that the banks were Neolithic, it comes as a surprise to find most of them were depicted on the Ordnance Survey map in 1872, and that the curvilinear ‘enclosure’ at the top of Glenn’s drawing was an integral part of a boundary, albeit one that displayed a curious dog’s-leg kink which may have something to do with the enclosure of the open fields that formerly surrounded Gwaenysgor. Presumably Powell came to the same conclusions over sixty years ago, and one can wonder why Glenn did not make the same connection at the beginning of the 20th century.

Glenn 1914, 247-70; Britnell 1991, 55; Davies 1949, 148; Ordnance Survey Record Cards; HER



Earthworks on King Charles Bowling Green (after Glenn). North-north-west is approximately at the top of the frame.



The earthworks as shown on the 1872 Ordnance Survey map.

Bwrdd y Rhyfel, Ysceifiog

SJ 1406 7540

PRN 102370

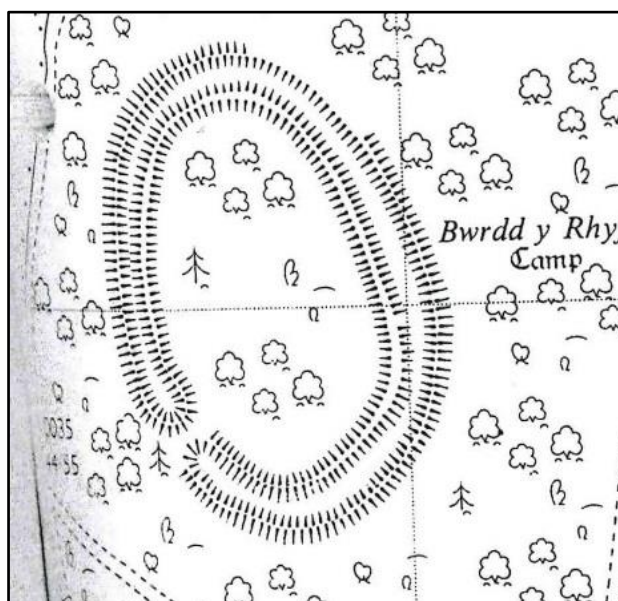
Enclosure; scheduled (FI072)

Unsurprisingly for such a prominent earthwork this was recorded in detail by Ellis Davies in *The Prehistoric and Roman Remains of Flintshire*. It was first cited in a letter to Edward Lhuyd in 1701 and mapped – as ‘an old ditch’ – by Joseph Hawley in the 1720s. Thomas Pennant referred to it in his history of Whitford and Holywell and there have been a succession of references since.

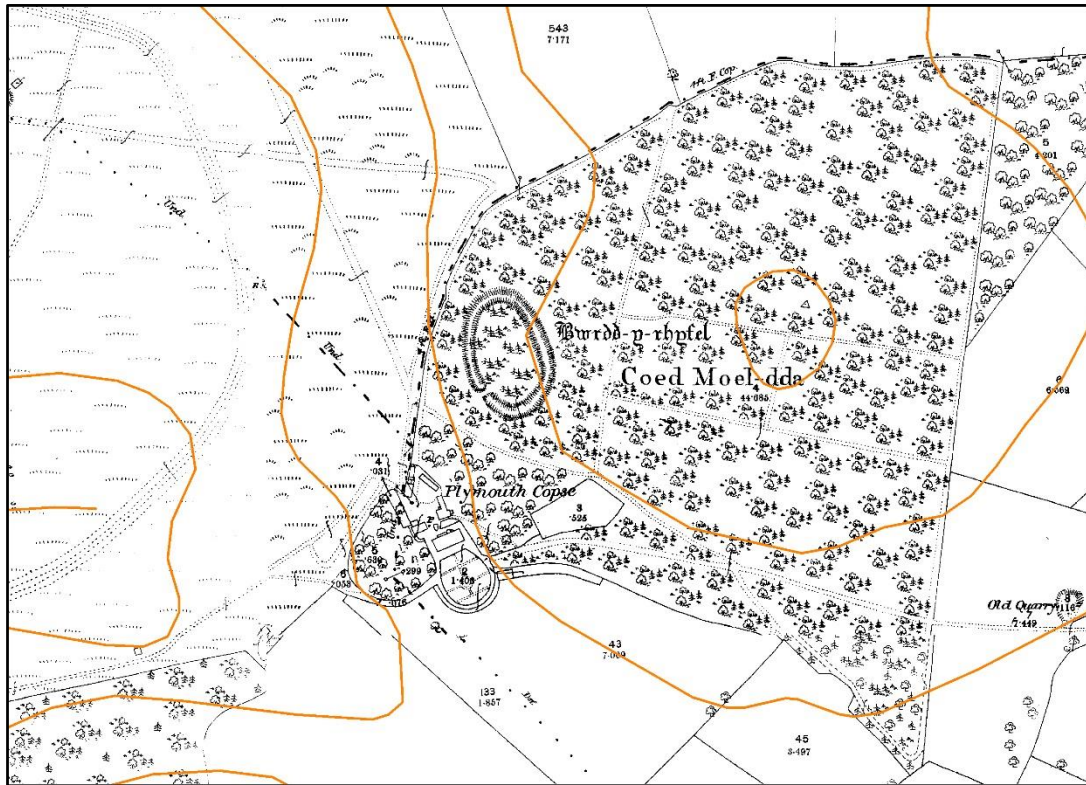
The Clwyd Archaeology Service provided baseline information in 1979: an oval enclosure 110m by 65m surrounded by two banks with an intervening ditch 1.2m deep by 10m wide. There is a simple entrance gap on the south-west. The site is in a poor defensive position on sloping ground and is covered by plantation trees. Further details of the dimensions could be added from the Ordnance Survey records and the Cadw scheduling records but do not added substantively to the brief description above, other perhaps than noting that the outer bank is not continuous but missing from the north-east corner (see plan below). From the Ordnance Survey plan the internal area of the enclosure is calculated to be about 0.28ha. No associated field system or other features have ever been noted by any of those who have written about the site, although there is a statement from the field monument warden in 1995 that a local farmer had observed other earthworks in the woodland.

The location in particular is a revealing one. Below (though not dramatically so) and to the west of the ridge crest, the ground slopes very gently away further west. Bwrdd y Rhyfel offers a greater degree of survival than many of the enclosure earthworks on the limestone but this is certainly due in part to the fact that until the 19th century it lay on an unenclosed common.

Cadw scheduling records; Davies 1949, 416; HER; Manley 1990; Silvester: forthcoming



Modern plan of Bwrdd y Rhyfel (after the Ordnance Survey)



Bwrdd y Rhyfel in its slope setting as depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map of 1872 (overlaid with digital contours)

Caerwys Hall, Caerwys

SJ 1330 7401

PRN 102719

Caerwys Hall has yet to be properly researched. Much altered, it is said to date to 1589 and comprises a two-storey stone farmhouse with a massive gabled chimneybreast, and with some stone-mullioned windows surviving. Peter Smith considered that it was built as a storeyed house with a first-floor room open to the roof (as reported by Edward Hubbard). Hubbard also referred to the massive two-storey gatehouse shown in a drawing of c.1800, presumably the work of Moses Griffith and this also appears on William Burnham's 1717 estate map of the area.



The Royal Commission noted the hall's surrounding features including a kitchen garden, orchard and a possible carriage drive as shown on the 2nd edition of the 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map. Burnham's map shows the drive as a tree belt leading northwards towards the gatehouse from the lane to the south.

Clwyd County Council's records from 1979 refer to a rectangular earthen enclosure (98443) measuring 52m long by 20m wide; there was a break, 1.5m wide, on the north side at the north-east corner and evidence of stones being used here, and there was also a rough bank, 3m wide, running down the centre of the enclosure from north to south. This shows on early Ordnance Survey maps as a quadrilateral feature (at SJ 1317 7400) incorporated into the enclosure pattern around the hall. It is without doubt unusual and probably represents a park or garden feature.

A platform, not shown on Ordnance Survey maps, lies against the surrounding wall in the north-west corner of the almost-square field in front of the house (at SJ 1326 7400). Its purpose is uncertain.

Burnham 1717 (Bangor University); HER; Hubbard 1986, 336; NMR (Coflein)

Coed Bryn-Sion, Ysceifiog

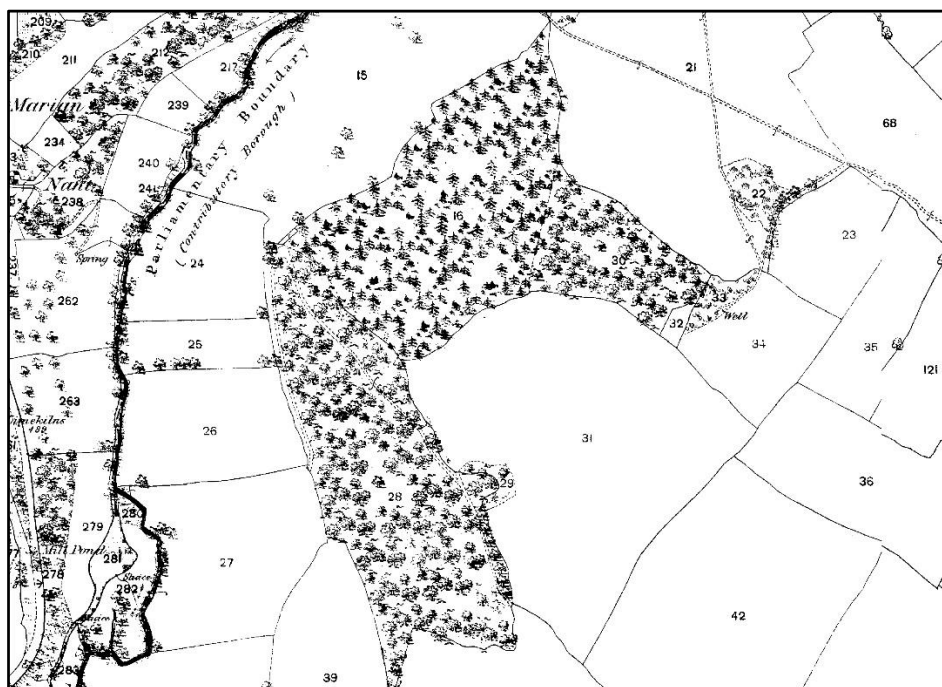
SJ 1348 7227

PRN - -

This apparent enclosure was first identified by the landowner, Mr M. Owens some years ago. It lies on the eastern edge of a wood, unnamed on Ordnance Survey maps, in a position that is not dissimilar to Coed Trefraith about one kilometre to the north. The 1st edition of the large-scale Ordnance Survey map preserves its outline to a degree because it was left as rougher ground when the pasture was improved, and can be seen projecting from the otherwise smooth boundary line of the wood.

Aerial photography is of little help in explaining this feature, but LiDAR reveals some interesting features. It is difficult to make out a curvilinear enclosure for other anomalies coalesce to create a confused picture. However, emerging from the east side of the anomaly that disguises the enclosure is a straight if very low bank, and another runs out from the woodland on an almost parallel alignment, about 70m to the south. It is possible to see these banks linked by a third, rather fainter linear feature to create three sides of a rectilinear enclosure, but it should be stressed that the definition of this eastern side may as much be due to the termination of cultivation marks as to the presence of an actual linear bank.

The impression from the LiDAR is thus of a medieval or later farmholding as of a focal curvilinear enclosure on the edge of the valley.



1st edition Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1871 showing the enclosure 'bulge' just below the centre

Coed Tan-y-plas

SJ 1362 7388

PRN 128502

Coed Tan-y-plas was one of a further group of earthwork sites surveyed by GAT on behalf of Clwyd Archaeology Service in 1994/95 in the wake of the work undertaken on Hen Caerwys.

The earthworks appear to comprise two linear banks, a possible trackway and a number of hollows, perhaps the residue of surface quarrying, all under woodland which on the basis of the 1717 estate map of Caerwys may go back to at least the beginning of the 18th century. It is not known whether a commentary on the 1990s survey and its earthwork discoveries was prepared by GAT.

The earthworks have not been scheduled.

HER; Hen Caerwys Archives



Earthworks in Coed Tan-y-plas, based on survey by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Coed Tan-y-walk

SJ 1330 7367
PRN 128503

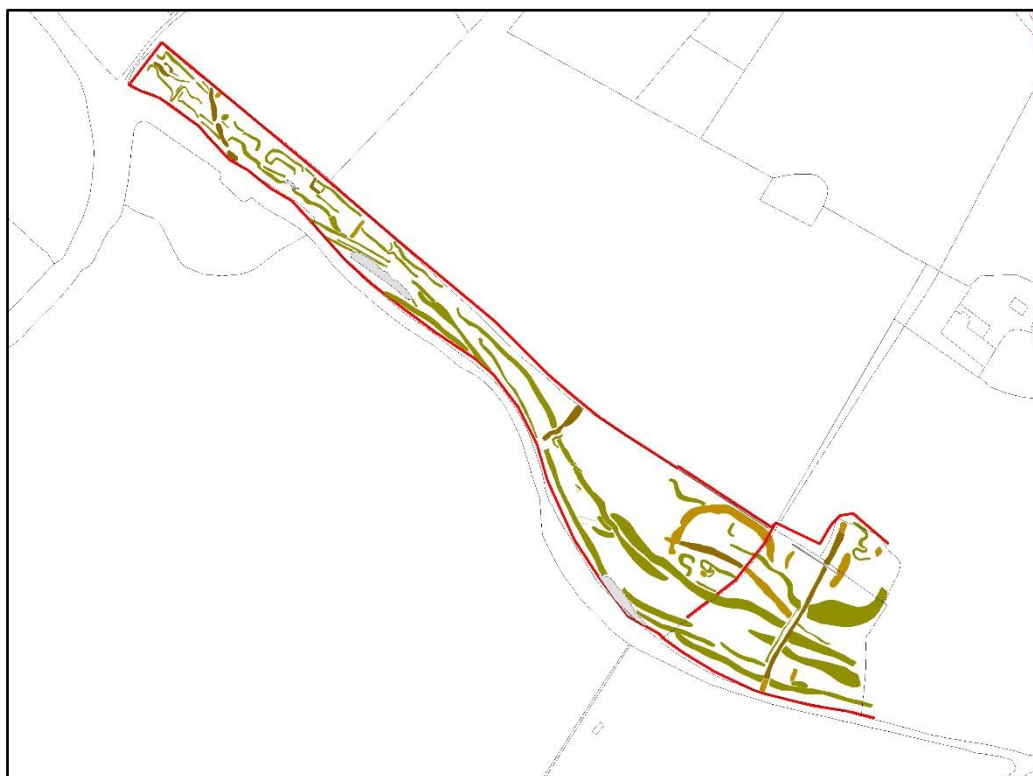
Coed Tan-y-walk was one of a further group of earthwork sites surveyed by GAT on behalf of Clwyd Archaeology Service in 1994/95 and was classed as part of Phase II of the work undertaken on Hen Caerwys.

The earthworks are referred to as a field system together with possible huts in the HER and undoubtedly present a more complicated picture than Coed Tan-y-plas, 400m to the north-east. Some of this woodland block was under trees when the Earl of Plymouth's estate around Caerwys was surveyed in 1717.

It is not known whether a commentary on the 1990s survey and its earthwork discoveries was prepared by GAT, and in the absence of such a report, there is little to be achieved from an analysis of the existing plan.

The earthworks have not been scheduled.

HER; Hen Caerwys Archives



Earthworks in Coed Tan-y-walk, based on survey by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

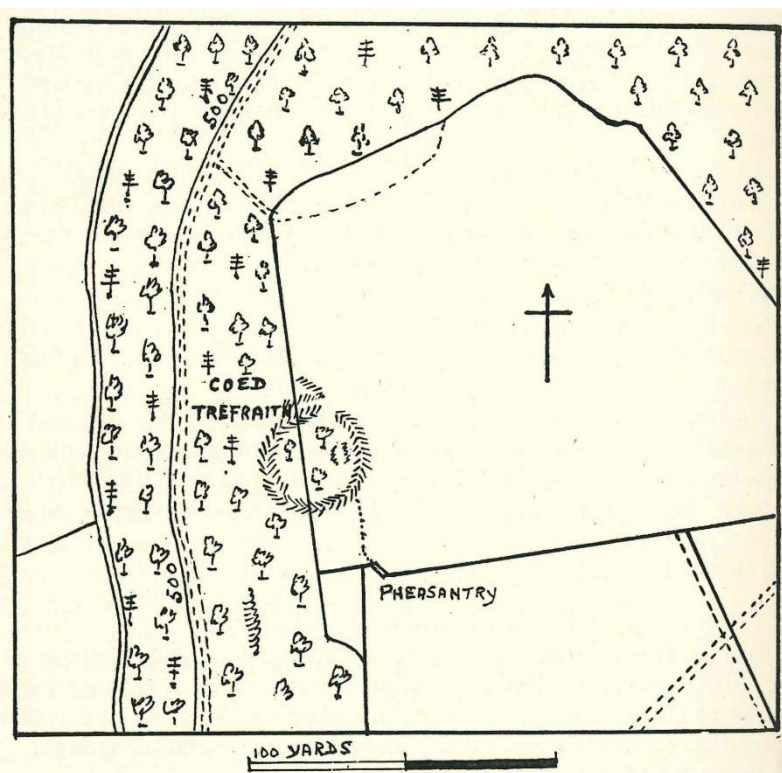
Coed Trefraith, Ysceifiog

SJ 1344 7311

PRN 102449

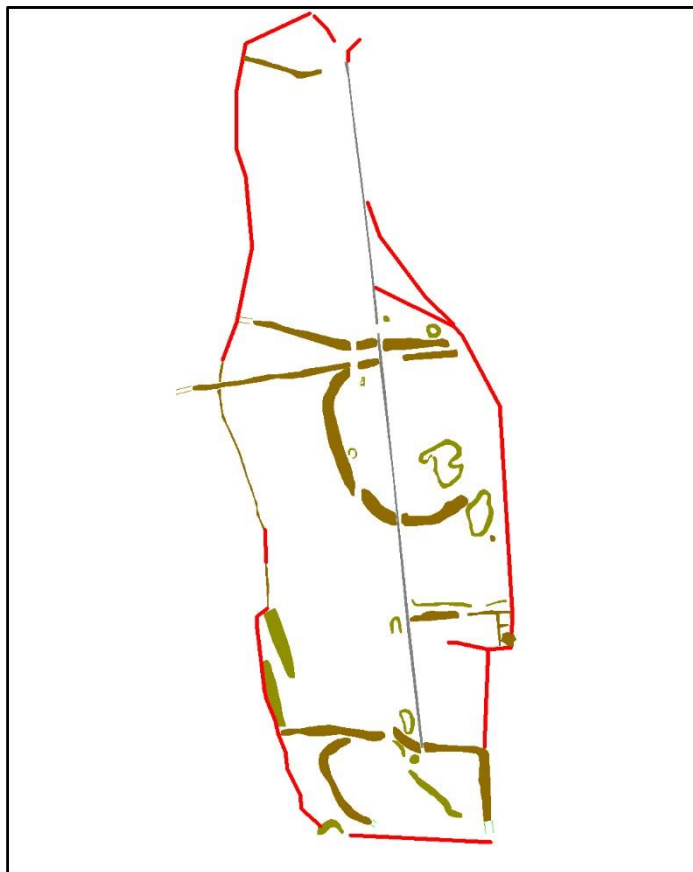
Enclosure; scheduled as F1161. Other features.

The enclosure in Coed Trefraith was discovered by Ellis Davies in 1938 who, reporting it in 1949, noted that it was intersected by a stone wall that bounded the wood on its eastern side. Additionally there was a further bank on the north side of the enclosure and to the east of the wall, and Ellis Davies also referred to disturbance close to the north-east 'corner' of the enclosure where he thought the entrance to it might have been. In passing we might note that in the 19th century the eastern side of the enclosure was covered with trees, revealed as a narrow belt of woodland on the large-scale Ordnance Survey map.



Coed Trefraith enclosure after Ellis Davies

Between 1938 and 1993, when the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust surveyed the site for the Clwyd Archaeology Service on behalf of Cadw, the most significant change to the landscape was the abandonment of the stone wall as a boundary between the woodland and the field to the east and its replacement by a post and wire fence which united much of the enclosure in one land unit. Assuming, however, that Ellis Davies' sketch plan of the site is accurate, some of the earthwork was lost or at least severely degraded through pasture improvement during this period, and it is possible too that a pit or pond was dug just outside its southern sector, although its counterpart inside the enclosure appears to be depicted on Davies' sketch.

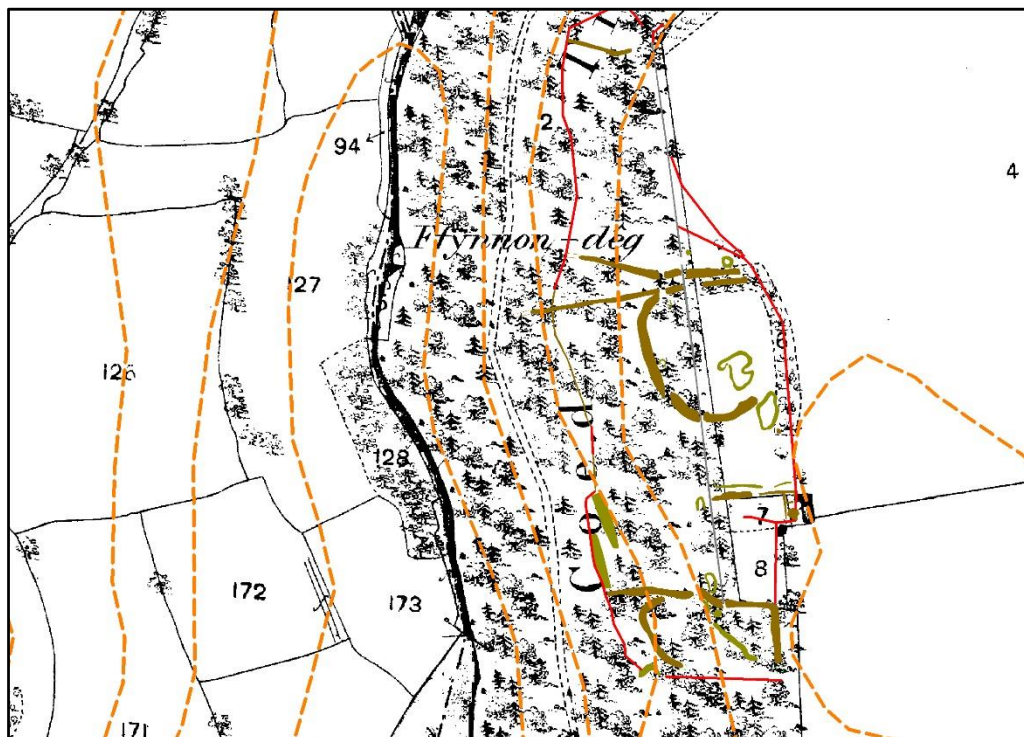


Coed Trefraith after the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (1993)

From GAT's plan, the more obvious earthwork and kindred elements at Coed Trefraith are the sub-circular enclosure, a funnel-like pair of linear earthworks which utilise the northern side of the enclosure, a complex of ruined buildings immediately to the south of the enclosure, various linear earthworks, a long, and very straight boundary cutting across the enclosure, and several pools. The enclosure and the building complex sit on the lip of the steep-sided valley that houses a small unnamed tributary of the River Alyn. Some of the other earthworks including the funnel banks slip down the upper side of the valley.

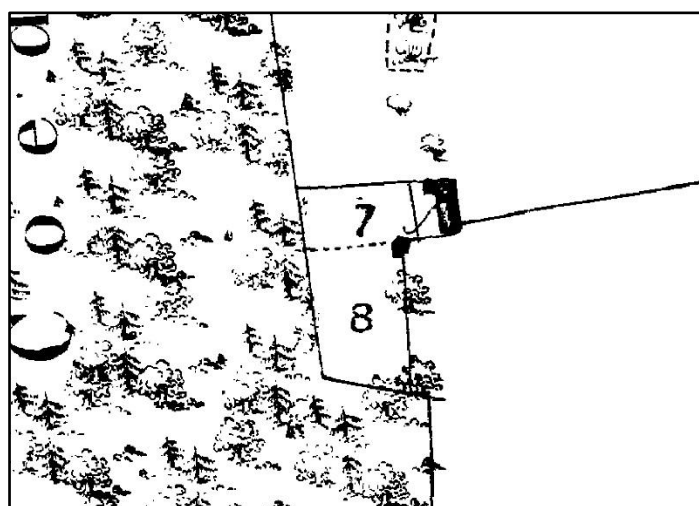
The building is shown on the 1st edition (1:2500) map of 1872, probably still in use though not named; on the Ysceifiog tithe map of 1849 and the Ordnance Surveyors' drawing of 1834 it is termed *Pendrefraeth* and was clearly a cottage. A 1717 estate map in the Bangor University archives shows Coed Trefraith as a wooded and scrubby area, terming it *Treffaraith*. No dwelling or indeed any other feature is shown within the specific area of *Pendrefraeth* which was clearly in the Earl of Plymouth's landholding, but our experience of Hen Caerwys which is on the same map suggests that the surveyor William Burnham may not have been particularly thorough when it came to mapping dwellings within wooded areas. It is perhaps significant, however, that the farm of Trefaith, a few hundred metres to the south, is not shown either, and in passing we can note that in 1834 it was called a barn.

The 1872 map confirms that there was an outbuilding and hints that the 'enclosed' area fronting the west side of the house was an open yard. The map also shows that there were two small rectangular paddocks or enclosures (nos 7 & 8 on the Ordnance Survey map and 1457 on the Tithe map) between the house and the long north to south wall.



Gwynedd Archaeological Trust survey and digital contours overlaid on Ordnance Survey 1st edition (1:2500) map of 1872

Interestingly no map depicts a means of access to the cottage.



The long wall is shown on all the maps, other than that of 1717. Its southern terminal as shown in 1872 reveals it to be an integral part of the *Pendrefraeth* complex and is thus 18th- if not 19th-century in date. Its dog-leg course around the cottage suggests that the latter was already in existence at the time of the enclosure.

The enclosure, defined only by its bank, was fully described by Lorna Bell in 1988 in her capacity as a field monument warden for Cadw; she demonstrated that the full circuit of the earthwork was visible, contrary to the GAT plan shown above, and though the enclosure was fringed by arable ground, modern cultivation had not had a direct impact on the site. Bell gives no dimensions for the enclosure itself and Ellis Davies claimed it to be 62 paces from north to south by 57 paces from east to west. The GAT survey indicates its internal measurements to be 55m north to south by 50m east to west. The entrance is likely to have been in the eastern sector and Ellis Davies may well have been right in placing it in the north-east corner, although there is now nothing to corroborate his observation.

What is evident is that the north side of the enclosure is flattened out, the curving bank that is apparent on the other sides being straight on its northern course, although a straight length is also visible on the west. This hints at a possibility that the funnel is earlier and that the enclosure has been fitted against it, though it would be more logical to assume that the enclosure was already in existence when the funnel effect was created.

The pit within the enclosure is viewed as a quarry, about 20m in length, 10m wide and up to 2m deep.

A tentative sequence from earliest to latest is:

- 1) Enclosure
- 2) Field boundary running up from the valley
- 3) Funnel and boundary running to it from the north, perhaps but not certainly contemporary with 2)
- 4) Boundary bank abutted by wall to south of cottage; perhaps contemporary with 2) or 3)
- 5) Cottage
- 6) North/south wall across enclosure

Cadw scheduling documentation 1977-; Davies 1949, 418; GAT 1992; HER; Manley 1990

Coed y Garreg, Whitford

SJ 132 784

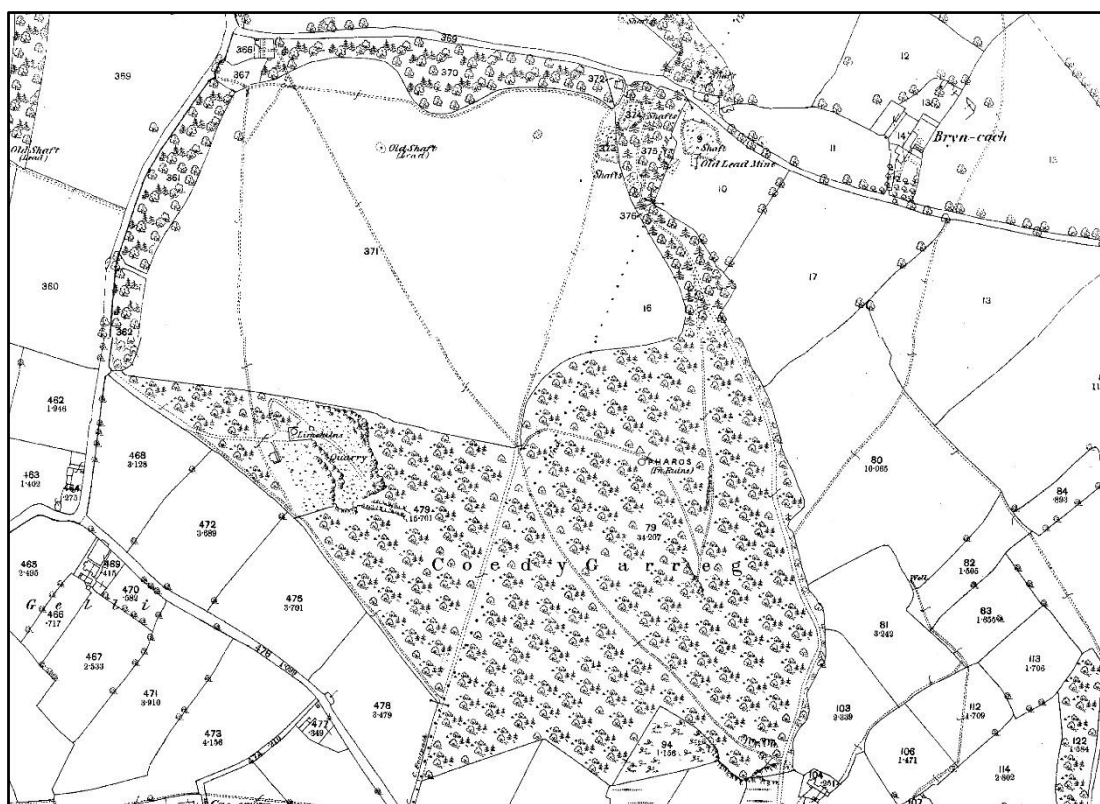
PRN 123773

Coed y Garreg is best known for its circular stone tower, the remains of which reveal a structure which is now 4m in diameter at base (6.45m at ground level according to the NMR) and 6m high. A listed building, it was reportedly rebuilt for Queen Victoria's golden jubilee, but its original function is unknown – there has been speculation that it was probably for coastal navigation or a defence beacon. Ellis Davies detailed at length Thomas Pennant's view that it was a Roman *pharos* or lighthouse before dismissing the idea. He himself favoured a 16th-century date associating it with coastal security.

There are also the remains of 18th-century lead mining within the woodland, and limekilns are shown on early Ordnance Survey maps.

However, the HER also carries a brief statement from the Denbighshire County Archaeologist, Fiona Gale that in the recent past a banked enclosure was identified near the Tower by Graeme Guilbert. There is no plan of this feature, aerial photography offers no assistance and LiDAR does not extend quite far enough. So as a consequence no further details are available, and only the extent of the wood is provided by the Ordnance Survey plan.

Davies 1949, 388-91; HER; NMR



Ordnance Survey map from 1872 depicting Coed y Garreg wood, Whitford

Coitia'r Hen Ysgubor, Gop Farm, Gwaunysgor

SJ 0803 8043

PRN 102242

Recorded first by T A Glenn and then by Ellis Davies, the earth circles at this site have now destroyed. There is a brief but unsatisfactory record in the HER, so the opportunity is taken here to provide a fuller explanation of these curious features.

At least nineteen earthen circles were identified in a field enclosing uncultivated rocky ground that belonged to Gop Farm, located around half a mile south of the farm itself, and situated on the eastern side of the Newmarket to Gwanysgor road and. Together with the earthen circles, there was a disused quarry in the north-eastern part of the field with the remains of building foundations immediately adjacent. South-west of the quarry was a cave within which numerous animal bones and prehistoric flint artefacts had been found.

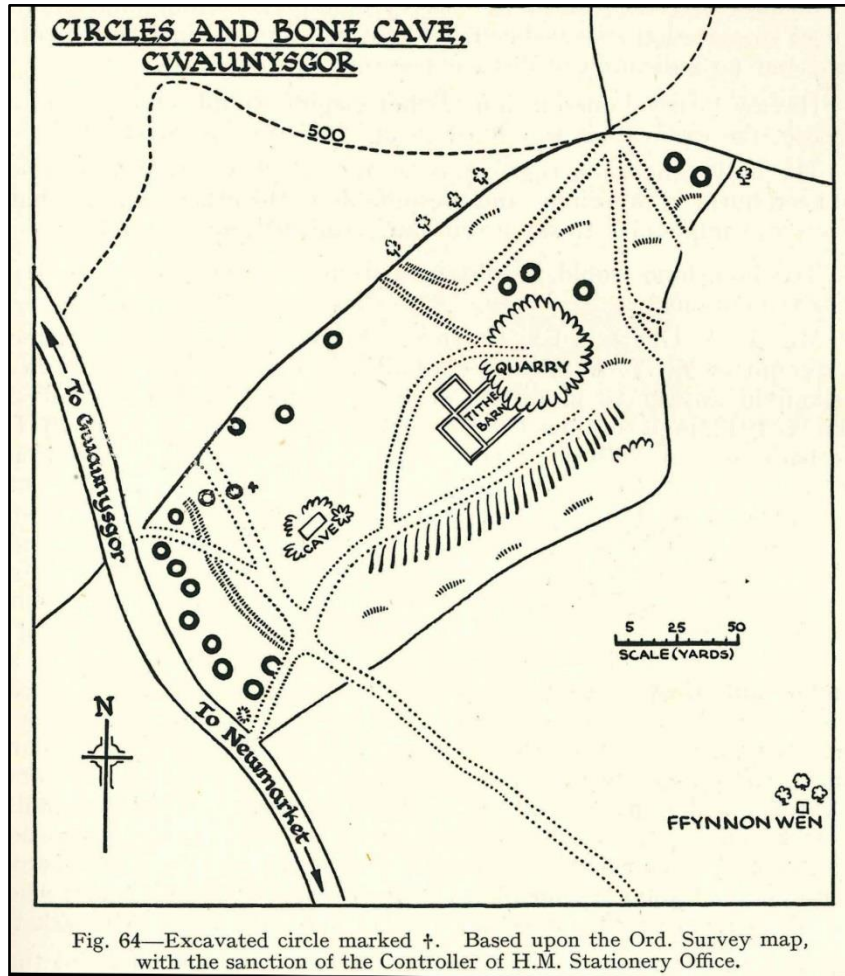
The earthen circles were arranged in a linear order and appeared to respect the boundaries of the field. They were described as being in varying states of preservation but the best-preserved examples were between 6.4m and 9.1m in diameter and survived to a height of between 0.46-0.76cm. The circles were complete with no gaps or entrances visible save for one which had been affected by a modern footpath. A low linear bank, oriented north-west to south-east, ran parallel with the road, flanking the eastern side of the circles and extending across almost the whole width of the field.

One circle was excavated by T. A. Glenn in 1911, probably that truncated by the footpath and located close to the northern edge of the field. It comprised a clay bank devoid of stones, surviving to around 0.6m in height and 0.9m in width at the base. The centre of the circle had been dug down into the natural clay subsoil to create a shallow hollow around 0.3m deep, which had then been infilled with lime and fragments of carbonised coal. This material was sealed by windblown loam and a humic horizon. The excavation yielded no artefacts.

Ellis Davies also excavated here, in 1942, working on the circle immediately south of Glenn's circle. After de-turfing the circle, a small trench was excavated in the interior. This revealed deposits of lime, coal, possible charcoal and burnt clay within the interior. Davies noted a particularly 'thick deposit' in the north-eastern end of the circle which cut into the enclosing bank. Here, there was also a small heap of randomly arranged stones. Investigations on the southern side of the interior revealed only occasional fragments of lime and coal, while to the west, the occurrence of lime and coal was consistent. At the very centre of the interior, Davies encountered a very soft 'clayey soil to a considerable depth' which he suspected indicated the infilling of a hole though he could not detect evidence for disturbance. [It seems more likely that Davies, like Glenn, had reached the subsoil].

Davies advised by Sir Cyril Fox and Dr F. J. North at the National Museum of Wales concluded that the earthen circles were almost certainly coal-fuelled lime kilns, of the 'temporary turf-walled' sort (described today as 'clamp kilns') and were likely to be medieval in date.

Davies 1949, 168



The earth circles at Coitia'r Hen Ysgubor, Gop Farm after Ellis Davies

Eryrys Horseshoe, Eryrys, Flints

SJ 2006 5864

PRN 121783

In 2007 John Blore first encountered what he felt might be a stone circle on the south-western slopes of a limestone hill, south-east of Bryn Alyn and north of the small settlement of Eryrys. Subsequent research suggested that rather than being a circle it was of horseshoe shape. The present writer visited the site in August 2008 and subsequently wrote in the HER that:

‘Seen from the south this feature is reasonably convincing. Starting close to a natural ridge of limestone which is running north-south and occupying a natural shelf, there is a distinctive curve to the stones, which are for about 34m. Beyond this point, it breaks down. The arc terminated in a cluster of recumbent stones which look to be natural. Beyond this cluster there are a few visible stones but they do not follow the curve defined by those on the south and they fade well before the natural ridge. Five or six stones are visible in the turf in the ‘interior’. There is surface stone scattered all over the ridge, some natural outcrops and some probable dislodge boulders. [I] cannot realistically confirm the authenticity of this site’.

John Blore has continued to study this putative site, surveying it and test pitting close to some of the stones. His current report, held within the HER, and in the general form of an on-going blog, runs to eighteen pages. He has not, I think yet managed to demonstrate conclusively that this is an authentic archaeological site, but he has found a pit beneath one stone which contained a collection of water-worn pebbles, suggestive of some human activity. And, on the other hand the evidence to support a natural origin for the stones is hardly indisputable.

HER



The Eryrys horseshoe (after John Blore)

Ffrith y Garreg Wen

SJ 1377 7536

PRN 130970

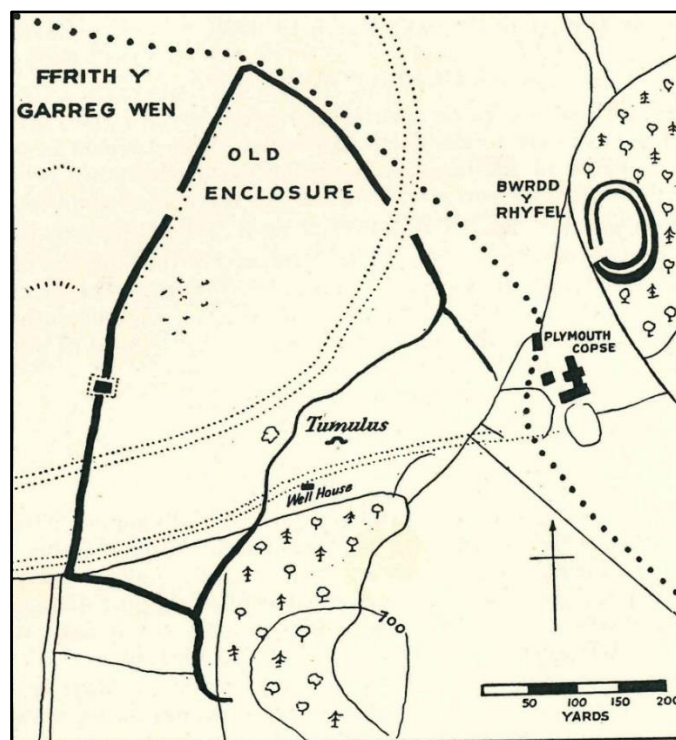
Ellis Davies recorded an 'old enclosure' on Ffrith y Garreg Wen in *The Prehistoric and Roman Remains of Flintshire* in 1949, attributing its discovery to W J Hemp around 1922 with his own visits chronicled in 1939 and 1941. Davies recorded it in some detail and also produced a sketch of it together with the adjacent hillfort of Bwrdd y Rhyfel, the implication being that the enclosure was measured or paced out in order to produce the plan.

Davies noted that the enclosure was ploughed over in 1941 and at least partially erased. This certainly must be the deduction from more recent work on Ffrith y Garreg Wen where a development assessment found few if any traces remaining. As an aside it might be noted that Davies also depicted a barrow (or tumulus) (PRN 130709) beside the enclosure but did not describe it in his 1949 treatise.

Ffrith y Garreg Wen represented a portion of a much more extensive tract of common land that straddled the boundaries of Whitford and Caerwys in the middle of the 18th century, and subsequently was fragmented into smaller discrete blocks as the later 18th and 19th centuries progressed. Assuming the 'old enclosure' was authentic (and given that its presence was noted by both Hemp and Davies this can hardly be doubted), it has the form of an agrarian enclosure of post-medieval origin. That it was not shown on early large-scale Ordnance Survey maps suggests that it had fallen into disuse by the middle of the 19th century.

No further recording work can be proposed.

Davies 1949, 78



Ffrith y Garreg Wen (after Davies 1949)

Garn earthworks, Henllan

SJ 0264 6882

NPRN 403194

Curving earthworks, initially appearing to define a circular enclosure, are likely to have resulted from the removal of field boundaries to form open parkland. They were discovered during Royal Commission aerial photography on 8th April 2003, and the interpretation is likely to be highly reliable as it was made by Dr T. Driver. Assessment of both LiDAR and available vertical aerial photography tends to support the interpretation. RCAHMW Ref: 2003/5074-56

NMR

Glol Camp

SJ 1202 7813

PRN 102346

Enclosure; scheduled (FI071)

Glol Hill rises to 232m OD, a pear-shaped hill drawn out to the north-west, but with the enclosure encompassing the highest point of the hill towards its more bulbous eastern end. Ellis Davies who examined the site before its afforestation recorded that it had extensive views in all directions.

The fullest description of the enclosure which is presumably of Iron Age or Romano-British date, was compiled by Tim Morgan in his capacity of field monument warden in 1986. The enclosure or 'camp' is protected by a bank formed of boulders and other material, rising 0.3m high from the interior and of variable height externally: a section on the north indicated it to be only 0.3m high but this rapidly expanded in size to 1.5m and on the natural hillslope on the south-east was 2.5m high. It is reported in the HER that the bank was between 2m and 4m wide, but Morgan's sketch sections show it to be between 5.5m and 9m. He also noted that it was difficult to distinguish between the bank rubble and natural limestone outcrops. A berm or counterscarp bank is present on the south-east side but only for a short distance. There are no signs of either an entrance or an external ditch. There are however traces of an additional bank which may have formed part of an annexe on the west side. Its internal area is about 0.71ha. The only accurate plan of the site is that by the Ordnance Survey (below) and this does not appear to be as complete as it could be.

According to the HER, a field system associated with the enclosure adjoins it to the west and east. The NMR simply notes that fragments of banks have been noted elsewhere on the hill, including a stretch springing from the enclosure. Morgan identified banks, not dissimilar to the enclosure bank, running off it on the north and north-west sides (see Morgan's sketch below).

LiDAR data are available for only a portion of Glol Hill, to the south and west of the ridge top, with only a small part of the enclosure itself included. This is visible, as are two small near parallel banks (at SJ 1178 7808) which could be part of a rectilinear enclosure or field. South of the enclosure are two slightly sinuous linear features which partly follow the contours; these could be hollows or scarps representing tracks, although one is matched by a boundary feature mapped in the Ordnance Survey electronic data, but not shown on the published Explorer (1:25,000) map, nor significantly perhaps on the large-scale Ordnance Survey map of 1872 (though even then the whole of the hill of the hill was under a plantation). There are other linear features on the LiDAR together with faint traces of at least one further circular anomaly towards the west end of the ridge top; this already has a PRN (102346) and was examined during the North-East Wales Defended Enclosure Project in 2007-8. The description in the report (Grant and Jones 2008, 64) is appended below.

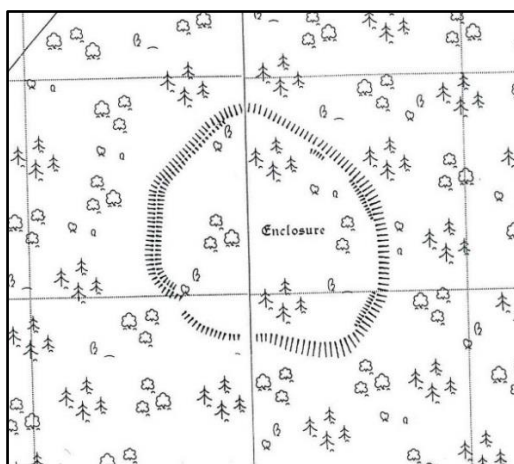
The enclosure now lies in a deliberately cleared zone within the forestry plantation. The scheduled area, unarguably an arbitrary rectilinear area, extends beyond the clearing as far west as the boundary wall that runs across the hill from north to south. While the enclosure itself is thus open though overgrown and is likely to be respected during any felling operations, any boundaries running off it are more vulnerable to damage during forestry operations, even where they lie within the scheduled area.

Enhanced LiDAR data for the whole wooded hill might assist in identifying the boundaries, but at present this can only be an aspiration. Tracking them through the plantation does not appear to be a practical option.

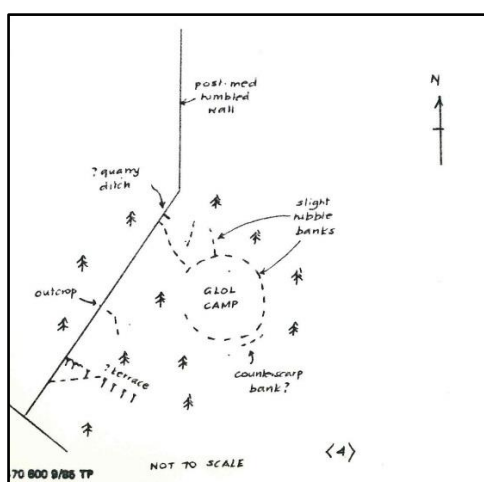
PRN 102346

An incomplete circular bank of earth and stone of irregular shape, it was considered to be of little significance by the Ordnance Survey field investigator in 1961. CPAT visited the feature in 2008 and compiled the following description. On the western edge of the summit of Mynydd Glol, 1.75 miles west of Whitford is a sub-rectangular enclosure sited in an area of dense forestry, with heavy bramble and bracken undergrowth. The enclosure measures 30m east to west and 18m north to south, and consists of an bank up to 5m wide constructed from large limestone blocks and earth. When viewed from the exterior the height is between 0.5m and 0.8m. The long eastern arm of the enclosure is difficult to establish owing to dense undergrowth and erosion. Both ends of the encircling bank are butt-ended, forming between them a broad, simple entrance on the eastern side. The interior is flat but densely overgrown with spruce trees and it is therefore difficult to find evidence for dwelling sites within. The shape and construction of the bank differ from the adjacent field system banks sited in open beech woodland to the north, which are regular in layout and smaller in size, and probably of medieval or post-medieval date.

Cadw scheduling record; Davies 1949, 386; Grant and Jones 2008, 64; HER; Manley 1990, 33ff; NMR:Coflein



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© Cadw



RCAHMW Internet Archive. North-west to the bottom

Hen Caerwys, Caerwys

SJ 1413 7440

PRN 102461

There is no existing published description of the earthworks known as Hen Caerwys, nor anything other than summary details in the HER and NMR. The earthworks on what had been common into the 18th century and are today largely covered by woodland other than in the pasture fields beside the farms of Marian-Trefedwin and Marian Bach, were never properly mapped until 1993, let alone interpreted, despite the fact that the interest of the area was first recognised sometime prior to 1960 by Ellis Davies and Hemp, and then excavated by the Flintshire Historical Society between 1960 and 1967. The full story or historiography as we have called it is detailed by Will Davies of Cadw and the writer in a publication due to be published in March 2015.

In brief Hen Caerwys consists of two sets of medieval house platforms, at least three encroachment cottages, paddocks and enclosures associated with the cottages, trackways and terraceways, one enclosure without any internal features, unassociated field boundaries and low walls, quarries and trials, a putative icehouse and probably other anomalous features that do not fall into any of the previous categories. The area is crossed by two lanes and one farm road. With the exception of a few features around Marian Trefedwin, all the area is scheduled.

Excavation over the last three years has exposed prehistoric and Romano-British activity through flints and pottery respectively, and on the basis of finds, the excavations, maps and inference, the following sequence is suggested:

Bronze Age occupation on the basis of finds; possible that some boundaries could be this early, but probably unlikely;

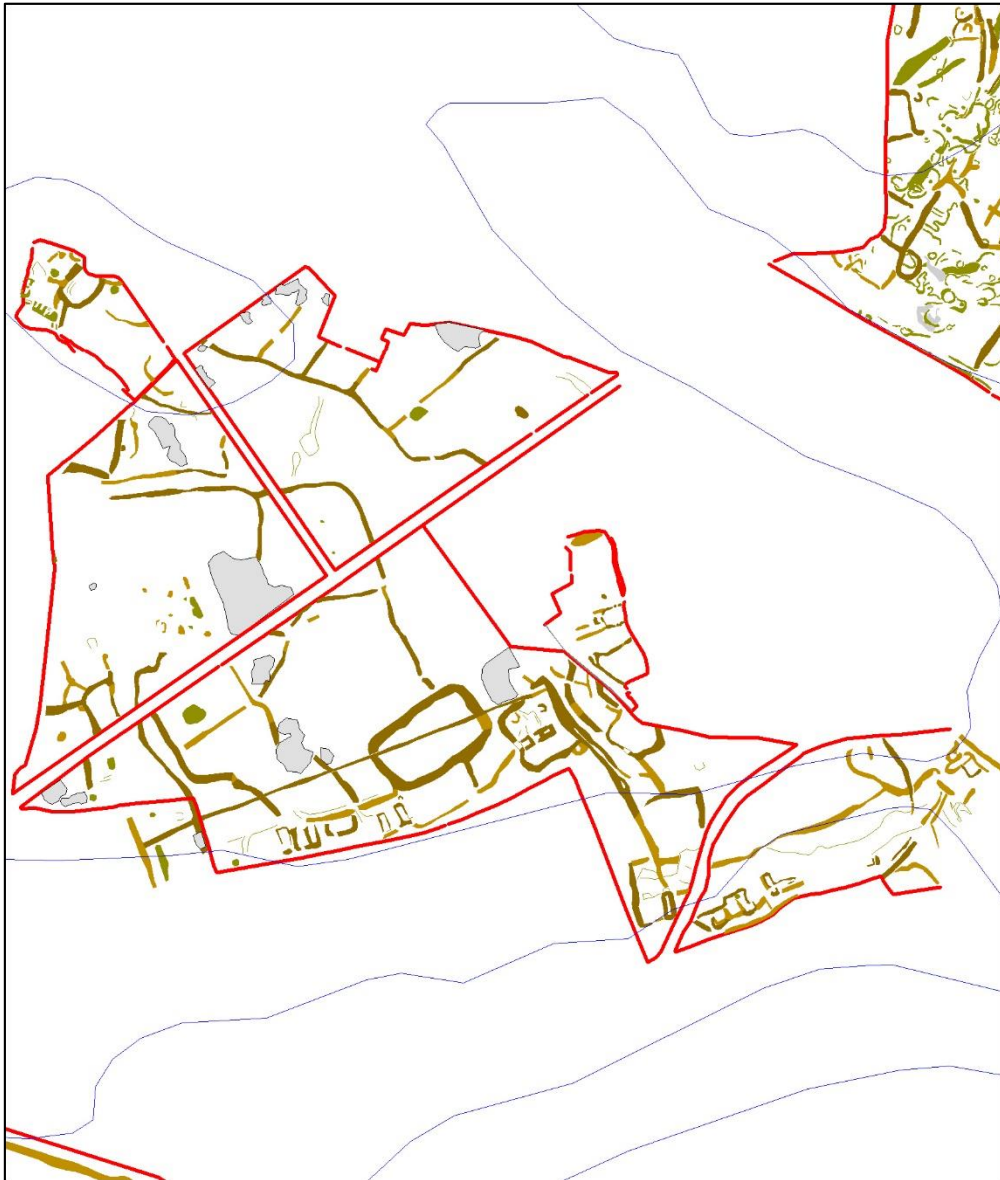
Iron Age: Possible that the solitary enclosure could be this early, but no positive evidence to support the contention, and opinion is divided.

Roman-British occupation on the basis of finds and perhaps some of the boundaries on the plateau top

Medieval; some boundaries could be of this date, while the house platforms are late medieval in date (15th century) and were served by trackways.

Post medieval: cottages and their associated enclosures; trackways; mining and quarrying.

Davies and Silvester 2015; Rogers 1979



Hen Caerwys. Note that Pant intrudes in the top right corner of the plan

Kimmel Park enclosure

SH 9790 7412

NPRN 417346

The cropmark of a well-defined, curved corner of an enclosure on arable land to the south of Kimmel Park was photographed during aerial reconnaissance by the Royal Commission on 24 July 2008. The cropmark represents the northern part of the enclosure, measuring approximately 100m by 70m, and orientated north-east to south-west. The enclosure is truncated by the B5381 which itself is considered to reflect the line of the Roman road from Chester to Caernarfon.

NMR

Llys Awe, Llanddulas

SH 9210 7687

NPRN 412371

The sole reference to this site is a brief statement in Coflein of earthworks visible on aerial photographs, which helpfully are also available on the NMR's website. The record is a recent one, from the end of December 2010, though the photographs were taken on 14 August 2006.

The site lies at the western end of a long ridge, one of several summits in the vicinity elevated in this undulating limestone landscape. Slightly higher ground lies just to the east and 600m to the south-west the hillfort of Pen-y-corddyn crowns a hilltop of similar height.

On the NMR oblique photos, the earthworks appear to comprise two parallel banks running down the slope to meet an existing boundary bank, their straight alignment being particularly apparent. There is a hint of a much smaller rectilinear feature within these two banks. Vertical aerial photographs add a little detail for there could be a further two parallel banks further to the east though neither is wholly convincing. And on the uphill side there appears to be a terminal bank against which several of the parallel banks might abut. Perhaps significantly this terminal earthwork coincides with the edge of a small patch of unimproved ground as shown on the large-scale Ordnance Survey maps of the late 19th century. LiDAR also reveals several potentially interesting surface anomalies, though without a cohesive pattern emerging.

There can be little doubt that a field visit would be useful.

NMR (Coflein)

Marian Ffrith, Cwm

SJ 0742 7792

PRN 101730

In 1983 Chris Musson took an aerial photo showing an ovoid enclosure with possibly an associated field system. It can be assumed that the feature was checked in the field, soon after – there is a 1983 visit record by the Clwyd Archaeology Service – for the bank was adjudged to be 0.4m high at best with traces of a ditch in places, and it was recorded that the enclosure was sited on a gentle east-facing slope with its entrance on the east side.

The Clwyd Archaeology Service paid a further visit in 1988 recording it as an ovoid enclosure. 12.3m E-W, 6.3m N-S [sic]. It apparently consisted of a depression with a raised south-east bank, 0.4m high, and incorporated on the north-western side a limestone outcrop. John Manley a couple of years later claimed it to have an area of c.0.81ha, and this represents the only time (other than the re-publication in 1991) that Marian Ffrith has appeared in print.

CPAT visited the enclosure in August 1998, noting that the site measured 105m from north to south and 88m east to west, enclosing an area calculated to be c.0.72ha. It was defined by a low bank best preserved to the south where it followed the crest of a limestone ridge. There were numerous limestone outcrops within the general area, which apparently ran roughly east to west across the site. At that time the site was being used as a course for trail bikes, generating some damage to the turf cover. Coupled with this field examination, the enclosure was plotted from aerial photographs and it is almost certainly from this plot (reproduced below) that the dimensions given at the beginning of this paragraph were derived.

Fieldwork by the Royal Commission (Toby Driver and Oliver Davis) in December 2011 has provided the most detailed assessment: ‘in general the enclosure is defined by a spread inner bank surviving to c.0.2m high and 1.5-2m broad, with an outer ditch about 2m wide. In places an outer stone revetment is visible. In places the defences are constructed as a series of discrete sections, defined by terminals of undug rock at both ends. This is particularly so on the west side of the enclosure. On the east side the bank and ditch section is better preserved, standing to a combined height of 1 metre from ditch base to rampart top. The original entrance to the enclosure appears to have been at the north-west tip, where a natural gully in the limestone provides a ready-made holloway leading up and into the enclosure. On the south side the enclosure follows the natural line of the east-west outcrops. In places the earthwork is disturbed by past mining trials and former trackways and vehicle routes’.

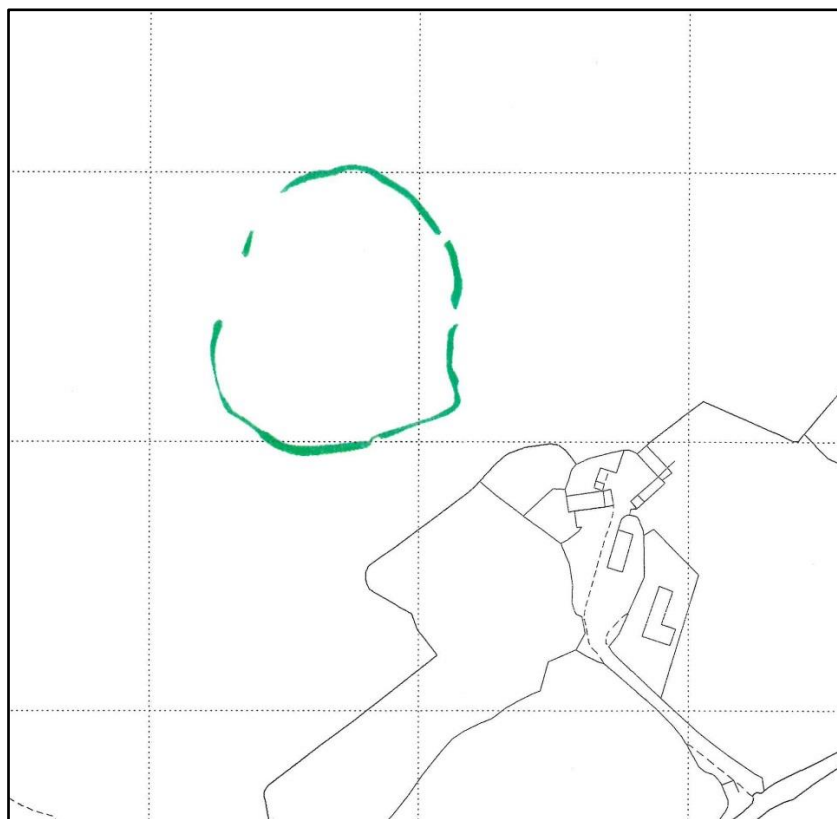
Toby Driver in a 2009 article has also drawn attention to the possibility that the enclosure could be of earlier prehistoric date, perhaps Neolithic, on the basis of its discontinuous bank. Its morphological characteristics imply a similarity to the interrupted ditched enclosures (or causewayed camps) which have begun to appear in other parts of Wales, but Driver has preferred to draw attention to the its similarities with the classic causewayed enclosure at Knap Hill in Wiltshire.

Relatively little attention appears to have been paid to the putative field system that was noted in 1983. Under a different PRN (101838) the HER records the sporadic remains of a rectilinear field system, possibly associated with the Marian Ffrith enclosure above. The Clwyd Archaeology Service in 1988 recorded it as a series of mounds, hollows and linear banks dispersed amongst limestone outcrops, and decreed that a definite pattern was hard to discern. Additionally, there are records of limekilns, quarries, lead-mining shafts, an iron mine and various mounds, some of them natural, on the hill.

The Royal Commission in July 2008 described an extensive earthwork field system, comprising a number of north-south boundary banks and the suggestion of a rectangular enclosure on the east side, surviving on unimproved heathland. These were possibly related to the defended enclosure on the southern part of the hill (NPRN 407978).

In summary there is a slope-sited enclosure defined by a discontinuous bank, the breaks of which do not appear to be the result of more modern agencies. On the north side of the hill are several linear boundaries which struggle up the slope but fade out well below the crest and highest slopes of the hill and reveal no physical association with the enclosure. These have the appearance of medieval or post-medieval boundaries which are effectively extensions of the surviving field patterns that ring the hill, and while we should not dismiss completely the possibility that the enclosure and the boundaries were in contemporary use, it is considerably more likely that the boundaries are of much more recent date, as are the other man-made remains on the hill top.

Coflein; Driver 2009; HER; Frost 1995, 53; Jones 1999, 18; Manley 1990, 47; Manley 1991



Marian Ffrith enclosure as plotted by CPAT in 1998



Marian Ffrith © CPAT 83-c-0238. The enclosure can be seen a little to the left of centre, the boundaries to the right of the image.



Marian Ffrith © CPAT 84-c-0261. The enclosure.

Old Foxhall enclosure

SJ 0346 6740

PRN 100580

Several records exist for the enclosure near Old Foxhall. The NMR, drawing largely on the Ordnance Survey record of the site (OS card SJ06NW10) has: an oval enclosure, *c.*62m by 48m, defined by a single bank - possibly a degraded wall. At the west entrance the bank terminals extend to define an approach way, aligned tangentially to the entrance.

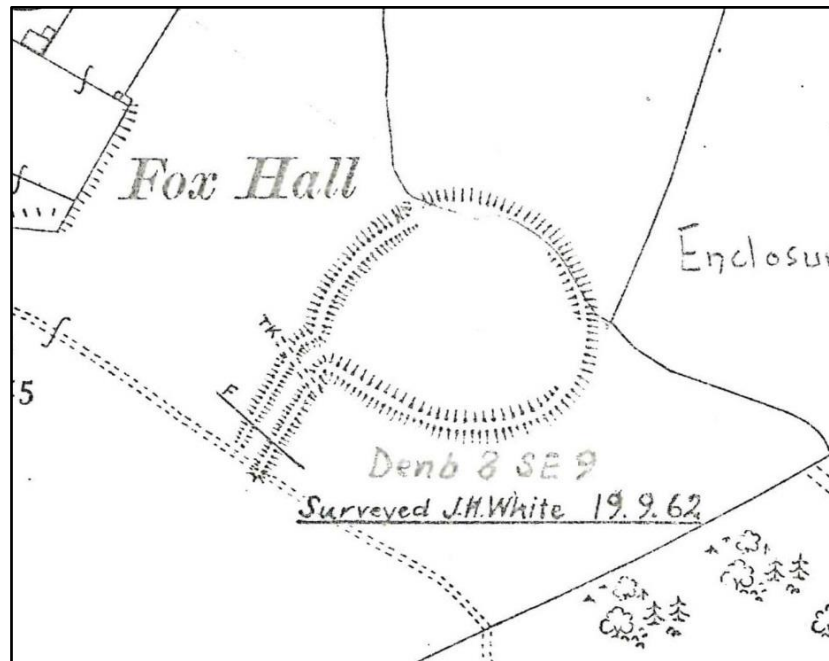
The HER has: a circular enclosure 60 metres in diameter with a low spread bank *c.*0.8m high with no ditch. There is an entrance with an embanked trackway leading from the south-south-west. Possibly Iron Age or medieval in date.

John Manley noted that the relatively intact enclosure was set on fairly level ground with a well-defined entrance and covering an area of *c.*0.28ha. He referred to Ellis Davies' statement that there was a second enclosure to the south-west but that this had been discounted as 'old field walls' by the Ordnance Survey.

The earthwork is scheduled as De053 and the various Cadw reports from the mid-1980s onwards collectively reveal that the enclosure bank is incomplete, from 6m to 7m wide and between 0.5m and 1.0m high. A poorly defined gap in the bank on the south-south-west might form an original entrance and adjacent to it, a double-embankment which has been considered to be perhaps a track, leads off the enclosure in the same direction. Interestingly, Tim Morgan in 1985 claimed that the enclosure seemed 'connected with other banks, fragments of which survive in the parkland and woodland in the area to the south, a field system of uncertain date', while Lorna Bell in 2001 noted that a 'series of embankments lie to the south-west'.

Analysing the data currently available, the internal area of the Foxhall enclosure is around 0.21ha. Its entrance is intriguing with the banks extended to provide a long funnelled access in banjo fashion, seemingly the only one in the region. Significantly, the enclosure itself is scheduled, the antenna ditches are not. Little if any attempt has been made to understand the banks seen by Morgan and Bell to the south of the enclosure, there is no LiDAR available and the aerial photography, whether oblique or vertical, is uninformative.

Cadw scheduling records; Davies 1929, 143; HER; Manley 1990, 42; NMR



The Foxhall enclosure as planned by the Ordnance Survey



The Foxhall enclosure © Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust; CPAT-93-c-0298. Part of the enclosure bank is just apparent on the right of the aerial photograph immediately above the road, while the antenna banks are crossed by the same road, closer to the centre of the image.

Pant, Caerwys

SJ 1420 7450

PRN 17443

Previous Research

The earthworks at Pant were first recognised to be of interest by Ellis Davies who identified them on 18 September 1939, recording this date with his usual precision in *The Prehistoric and Roman Remains of Flintshire* in 1949 under the heading ‘Old banks: Moel Dda’ (Davies 1949, 79). He wrote:

Site. These are to be seen in the north part of the enclosure situated immediately to the north of the road from Llidiart Cerrig to Babell, and east of the lane leading from Marian Trefedwin towards Plymouth Copse, and also in the small field to the west of the lane.

Description. In the large field on the east side of the lane, the banks, which look old are partly straight and partly curved. They measure only a few feet width and height. The surface of the south part of the field is studded with mine pits. The field to the west of the lane is crossed by a bank of earth with a ditch on one side.

No explanation of their purpose can be given.

Although the longitude and latitude co-ordinates that Ellis Davies gave do not satisfactorily conform to our modern GIS, his description leaves no doubt that it was Pant that he was alluding to. The only incongruous part of the description is the reference to the lane leading from farm of Marian Trefedwin, for the earthworks lies to the west of this rather than the east.

The HER distinguishes between the Pant earthworks (17443) and the Moel Dda earthworks (102517), further to the north. This, however, is an arbitrary division serving little purpose. The two fields coming under a single scheduling (FI063; see below), and the earthworks themselves do not fall naturally into two groups, although only the northern end of the area had been scheduled in 1989, presumably because of the enclosure that was present (Leighton and Malaws 1990, 45), and it was in 1990 that the scheduled area was enlarged.

The Ordnance Survey made the briefest of records for the site in 1982, based on the scheduling list of the previous year, but the first survey appears to be one prepared by the Royal Commission in 1989 which picked out the major linear features, almost entirely in the form of banks (Leighton and Malaws 1990, 45). A considerably more detailed (and inevitably more complex) plan was prepared by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust on behalf of Clwyd Archaeology Service as an integral element of the Hen Caerwys survey in 1993. Two years later in 1995 CPAT carried out a watching brief on an inconsequential watching brief in 1995. Nothing of significance was encountered but the location of the pole supporting an overhead electricity line was close to what was considered to be a platform and a possible hut circle.

No systematic attempt has been made to describe in detail and sequence the earthworks, perhaps not surprisingly for the GAT plan offers the clearest demonstration of the complexity of the site. Cadw’s own records tend to confirm this view.

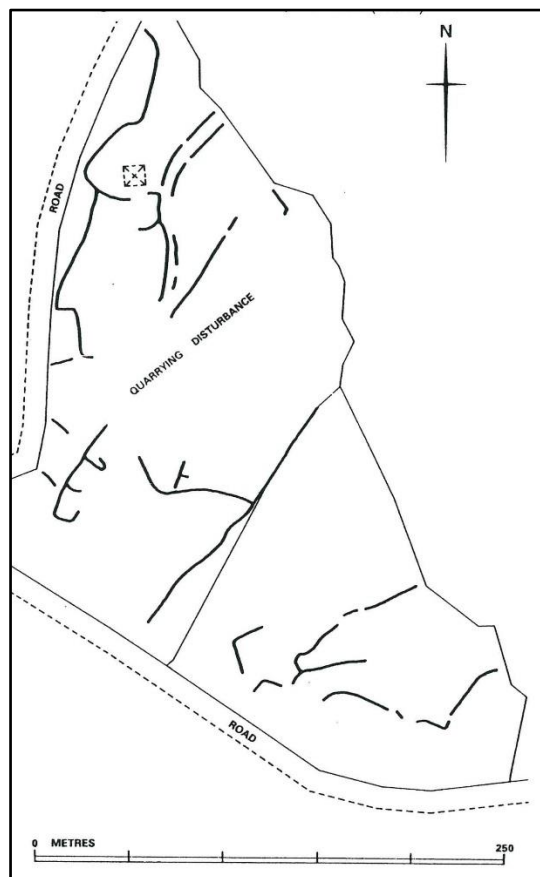
Location, Setting and Survival

The Royal Commission calculated the area of the earthworks at around 6ha – the GAT survey indicates 6.85ha - and described the site as lying on uneven ground falling gently from the north-west to the south-east, from 205m OD to 190m OD. This is on the periphery of the parish of Caerwys, and this location is of significance in that it goes a part of the way to explaining why this area on the margin remained as common into the 18th and probably into the 19th century (for it appears from the damaged

Tithe map to have still been open land in the late 1840s), thus offering greater possibilities of earthwork survival than if the area had been permanently enclosed. But it also begs the question, as do the survivals at Hen Caerwys, as to when the area became a common, because the earthworks all surely pre-date that creation.

An additional element is that older Ordnance Survey maps pick out the fact that a thin strip of former common lay to the west of the lane leading from Caerwys to Plymouth Copse and thus is outside the scheduled area. There is however no current evidence to indicate the survival of relict earthworks in this strip.

Cadw scheduling records; Davies 1949, 79; GAT survey 1993; Leighton and Malaws 1990, 45; Ordnance Survey: Record Card SJ 17 NW 49; Owen 1995



Earthworks at Pant (after Leighton and Malaws)



Earthworks at Pant (after GAT)

Pen y Gelli, Whitford

SJ 1354 7621
PRN 102379

Ellis Davies recorded this enclosure in 1941, his attention drawn to it by someone in the general locality. It was set in a wood near the main road from Holywell to St Asaph. The bank of earth and stone was incomplete but overall the enclosure was thought to be circular and about 150 yards in diameter, the bank up to 2' high. Mining disturbance was widespread within the wood, and Ellis Davies also pointed out that there were other stretches of bank running from the enclosure and also encountered elsewhere in the wood.

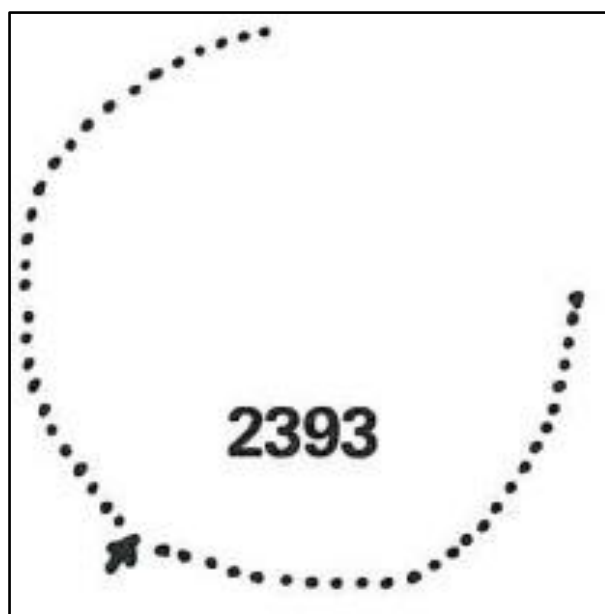
Clwyd Archaeology Service defined that as a circular enclosure, 110m in diameter with a bank 4m wide and 0.5m high. A possible entrance, 4.5m wide, was detected on the south side. The site displayed much mining disturbance. It was sited on land that slopes gently to the south and was in a non-defensive position.

John Manley contributed an area calculation of around 1.13ha to the description, but otherwise had little to add to the general record of the site. However, he did produce a sketch plan of the enclosure in the pages of *Archaeologia Cambrensis* which is all that is available to us in the way of mapping. The enclosure appears to have escaped the attention of the NMR (Coflein) entirely.

As far as we can determine no measured survey has ever been produced of this site, the woodland prohibits any useful aerial photography, and existing LiDAR stops short of the hill on which it sits. It appears to have been visited by CPAT in 1995, but subsequent enclosure studies by the Trust in the north-east, in 1999 and 2008, appear to have avoided it, perhaps because of the inherent difficulties with the vegetation.

Its interest, however, is enhanced by the presence of another enclosure, Bwrdd y Rhyfel, less than one kilometre to the south.

Davies 1949, 383; Manley 1990, 50; HER



Pen-y-gelli (after Manley)

Talacre, Llanasa (Flints)

SJ1058 8301

PRN - -

Lorna Bell, formerly Cadw's field monument warden in north-east Wales reported the occurrence of earthworks to the west and south-west of a round platform overlooking Talacre. This, as the Clwyd Parks and Gardens Register clarifies, is a circular plantation known as the Hovel Plantation and of late 18th- or early 19th-century origin.

LiDAR imagery reveal relict strip fields to the north and south of the plantation and, to the west two broader boundaries, parallel and with greater separation than the strips, a low traverse bank creating an H-shape. In addition that traverse bank butts up against a sinuous disconformity in the more easterly parallel, suggestive of some other anomaly.

Vertical aerial photography adds nothing to this picture, but it is fairly evident that this group of boundaries pre-dates the formation of the park around the start of the 19th century.

Cadw 1995, 246

The Warren, Abergele

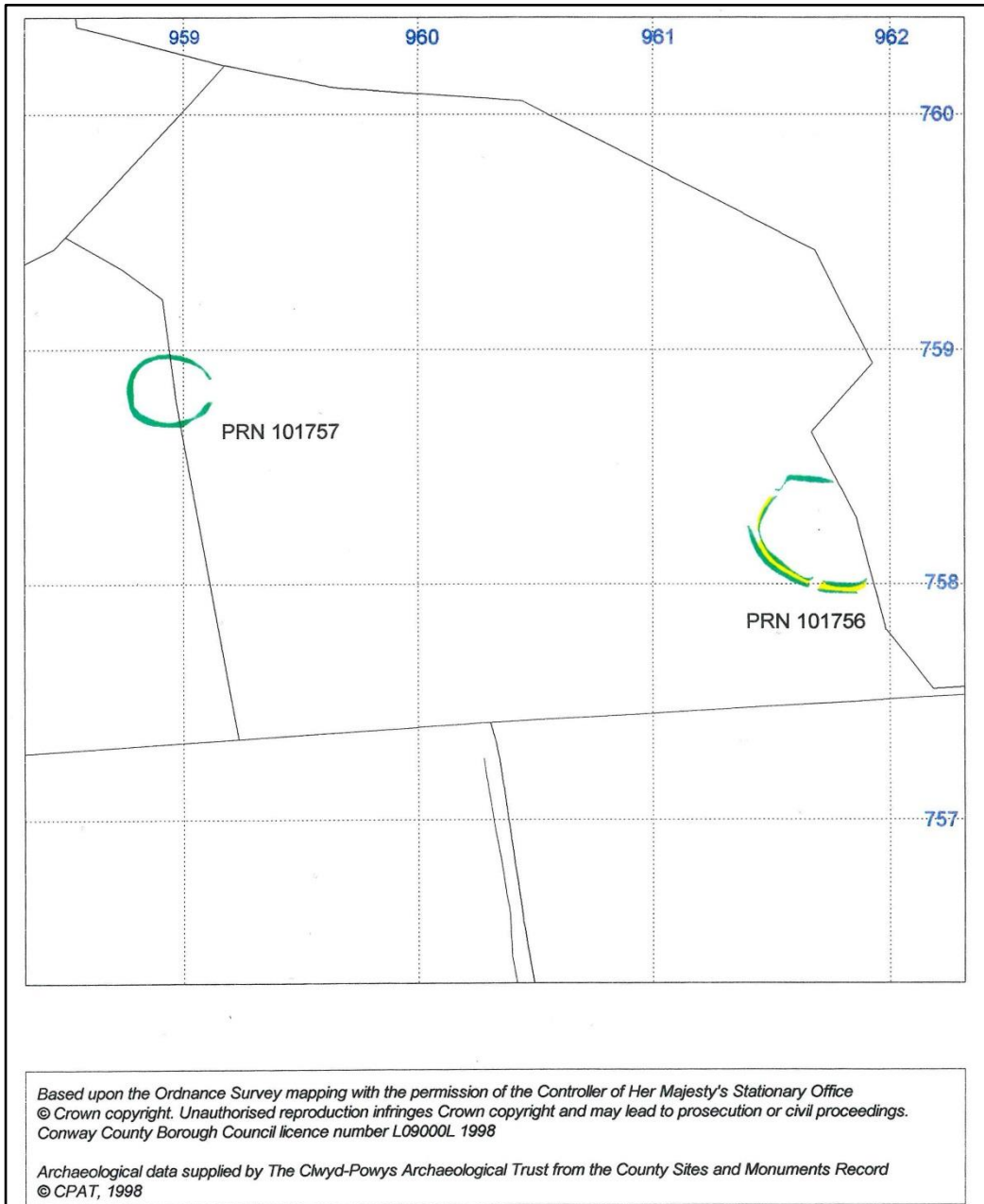
SH 9615 7583 + SH 9591 7582
PRN's 101756 + 101757

The earthwork enclosure in the Warren at Abergele was first recorded in print by Graeme Guilbert of CPAT in 1982. Subsequent visits to the site by the Clwyd Archaeology Service or CAS (in 1982), by John Manley (prior to 1990) and by CPAT (in 1994, 1998 and 2004) enables a brief but useful description to be put together. A second enclosure known as Warren Enclosure B, about 250m to the west of the first, seems first to have been recorded by CAS in 1983. Both enclosures were subject to total station ground survey in 1998 and the resultant plan is reproduced below.

Enclosure A is described as two-thirds of an oval enclosure standing on the summit of a hill. Its bank, defined as 'prominent' in 1998 was claimed as between 0.15m and 0.30m high near the south-east corner, although earlier assessments had suggested it was up to 0.5m high. Authorities agree on the external ditch with a counterscarp bank beyond, but in 1998 the latter appeared only on the south side of the enclosure. The suggestion was made in earlier reports that the entrance was likely to be on the north, more accessible side, but in 1998 it was mooted that it could be on the south side, though the likelihood of quarry damage was also introduced; indeed parts of the south-east side had been damaged by small-scale quarrying. The continuation of the perimeter bank on the east is assumed rather than proven as this is covered in a dense thicket. The interior, it was reported in 1998, was domed with several depressions visible. Beyond the enclosure to the west, it was claimed there might be associated trackways and/or field boundaries, and indeed vertical aerial photographs do showing a long, low bank arcing across the ridge between the two enclosures. Its internal area was calculated as *c.*0.18ha, but this can only be an estimate in view of the incomplete perimeter on the east.

Enclosure B was originally recorded as being circular, 25m in diameter with a surrounding bank 0.5m high and a possible entrance to the east. It was crossed by a north to south fenceline. Survey in 1998 revealed it to be small, oval in plan with dimensions of 35m from east to west and 30m from north to south, the bank being up to 0.3m high and 1m wide, the survey giving an internal area of a little under 0.07ha. The entrance to the east, and the north to south fence were confirmed, and it was noted too that damage from quarrying had affected the west side.

Guilbert 1982, 43; HER; Jones 1999, 19



The Warren Enclosures (after Jones 1999)

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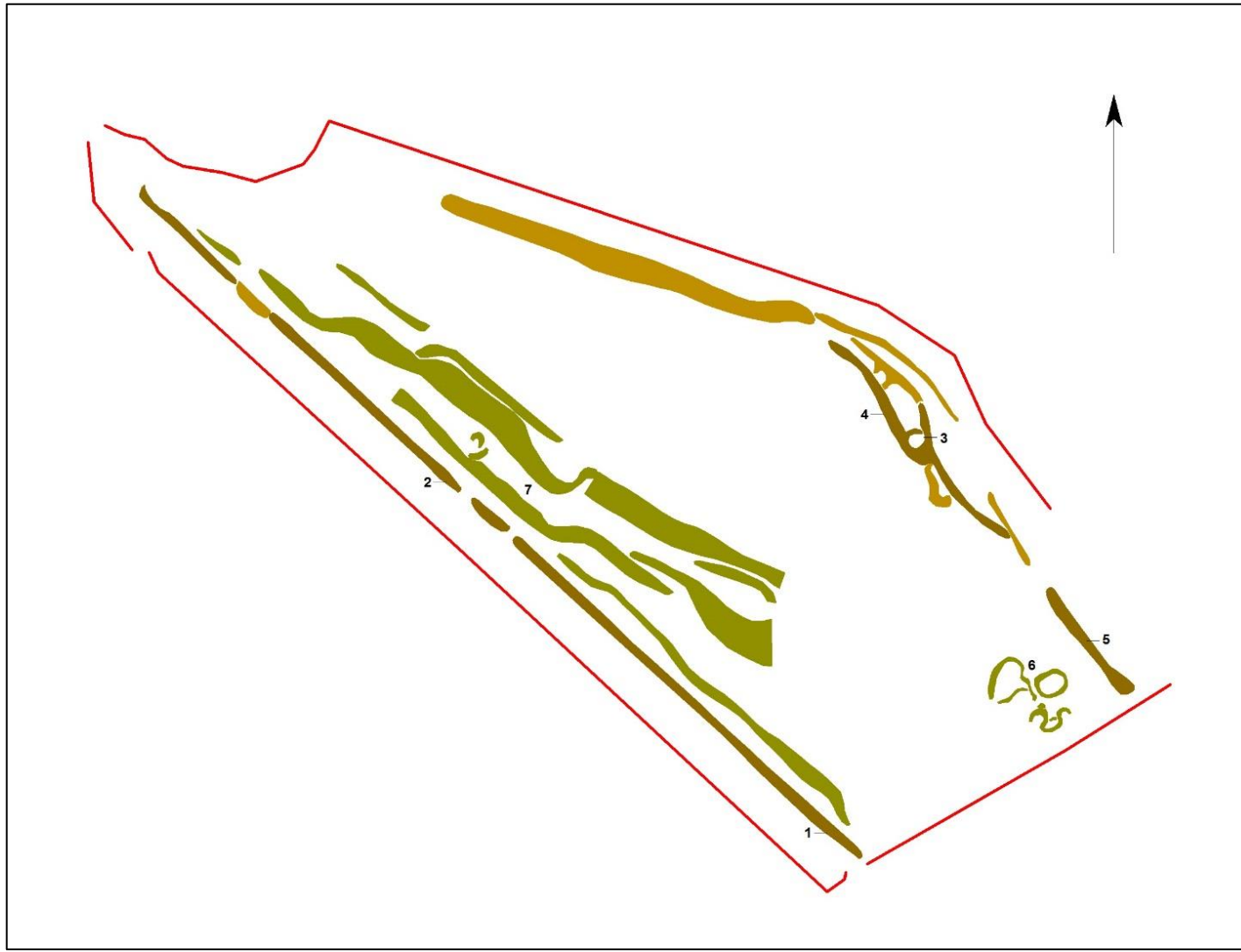
Silvester, R J, 2014 Thomas Badeslade: his life and career from eastern England to north Wales, in S Ashley and A Marsden (eds) *Landscape and Artefacts: Studies in East Anglian Archaeology Presented to Andrew Rogerson*, Oxford: Archaeopress, 217-229

Silvester, R J, forthcoming. Joseph Hawley's maps of Whitford.

Appendix 1

The five sets of notes that follow relate to measured surveys that were undertaken by GAT in 1993 and 1994. Annotated copies of the GAT plans each carry numbers that cross-reference to the notes resulting from fieldwork over the winter of 2014-15.

Coed Tan-y-Plas Earthwork: Plan



Coed Tan-y-Plas Earthwork: Field Notes

No part of the site is scheduled.

(Any measurements given were done by eye by the writer, or paced in the case of horizontal measurements. NGRs can be calculated from GIS table where required).

This wedge-shaped tract of woodland, some of it felled, is surrounded by the pastures of Caerwys Hall. Of the areas surveyed by GAT it is the sparsest in terms of features, and of those that were recorded, some are certainly geomorphological in origin.

Visits made by R J Silvester on 10/02/2015. Field notes written up 24 March 2015.

1 A bank, its SW face about 0.6m high maximum, its NE face barely perceptible, so more a scarp bank. Its course is slightly sinuous, but this is not reflected satisfactorily on plan. As the bank runs north-westwards the bank becomes less pronounced.

2 From somewhere around here bank (1) becomes difficult to detect as a physical feature (but its disappearance might be pin-pointed more accurately with a GPS); it merges with the natural slope and is considerably less obvious than the plan suggests. In places it supports very mature deciduous trees which help to pick out its line. Near the NW corner of the wood a slight ground swell couple with several protruding stones mark its position.

Below (1) and (2) there are places which suggest the presence of a track; tempting to suggest that (1) and (2) mark the edge of an original approach to Caerwys Hall from the S.

3 A mine shaft with a corona of spoil. Overgrown. Now only 0.6m deep but amount of spoil suggests it was rather deeper. This probably interrupts (4).

4 A scarp bank, 0.4m maximum height on its SW. To the SE of (3) this becomes a little more pronounced, up to 0.5m. (3) and (4) both occupy a natural ridge of limestone, which runs out into (and is visible in) the pasture fields to the north.

5 Not recognised under the vegetation but possibly coinciding with the edge of the field.

6 A shaft to the NE and a number of quarries set into the natural slope.

Coed Tan y Walk Earthwork: Plan



Coed Tan y Walk Earthwork: Field Notes

No part of the site is scheduled.

(Note all measurements given were done by eye by the writer, or paced in the case of horizontal measurements. NGRs can be calculated from GIS table where required).

This forms a strip of bramble-ridden woodland below the pastures surrounding Caerwys Hall. Many of the surveyed features picked out in green on the accompanying plan are pits and hollows; how many of these could be natural features is far from certain. There is also a final natural scarp dropping down into the valley, of no great height; limestone outcrops in places and the lane runs along the dry valley floor.

Visits made by R J Silvester on 10/02/2015. Field notes written up 23 March 2015.

1 A group of pits, probably with some upcast around their perimeters. Man-made but of no major significance, presumably quarries or trials. Note that also quarry hollows or similar in adjoining pasture to NE.

2 Low bank of limestone rubble with thin covering of earth; 0.21m high max on downhill W side, but 0.1m on E side. The most northerly section, closest to the pasture field is not particularly convincing; the central section more so; and the SE section is clearest with a vertical height of 0.4m.

[Worth noting here that a visit to the pasture field a month or so previously had shown a linear bank that faded out towards the woodland edge.]

3 A mossy rise could be the remnants of a feature with a defining bank no greater than 0.3m high. NW and E sides are authentic; the SE side is little more than a barely perceptible rise in the ground, its authenticity in question. Nevertheless the interior is flattened, particularly towards the SW.

4 A low but distinctive rubble bank, 0.3m high on NW and the same on the SE, with rubble on surface. To NE it fades out before it reaches pasture field boundary. To SW it drops down the slope, has two coppice stools on it, and comes to a halt on the lip of the limestone scarp. Perhaps the NW edge of a small block of common as shown on 1742 estate map of Maes Mynan.

5 Terraceway traverses slope as mapped by GAT. Below it a quarry used by fly-tippers. As it rises up the slope it flattens out and has not been surveyed but its course is still discernible and it runs to what is still an entrance (with a modern field gate) into the pasture fields on the plateau top.

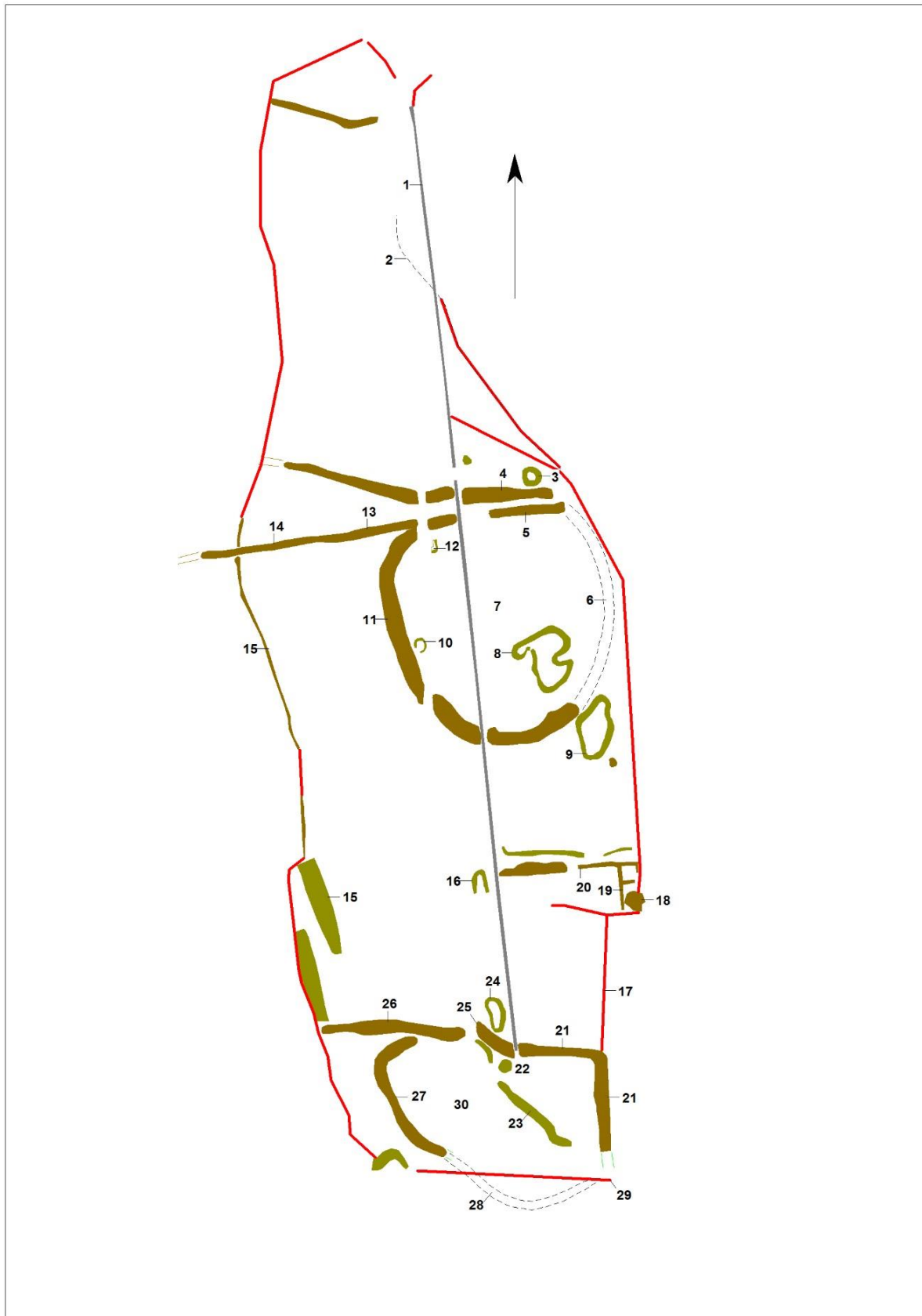
6 A second terraceway comes up from the SE. It is broader and less well-defined than its counterpart (5), but in places it has been well incised into the natural landscape. Estimated at 3m+ wide and around 1.2m high on average.

7 Stone wall runs along the edge of the wood. It was not established whether this existed for the full length of the wood.

8 Another short length of bank up to 0.5m high, though slighter as it travels down the hill. The remnant of a field bank. Also functioned as the edge of a small block of common as shown on 1742 estate map of Maes Mynan.

- 9 A slight bank, about 2m wider and no more than 0.3m high. An impression of facing slabs, particular at the western end. It meets (10) and does not go further, *contra* GAT's survey.
- 10 The curving bank is as shown by GAT, the bank on its inner face on the NW about 0.4m high, the outer face about 0.2m. Note that a sizeable number of coppice tools are set on (9) and within the curving line of (10).
- 11 Possibly a track here sandwiched between the bank (10) and a fairly shallow (i.e. low) limestone face. It rises gently off a shelf that lies to the W of (10) and is a little less than 3m wide. Reasonably convincing.
- 12 Bank (10) is still convincing at this point with its inner drop of 0.4m more pronounced than further W. Where the footpath (the red line on the plan = (20)) crosses the bank the latter shows as a gentle swelling around 4m wide, but less than 0.3m high.
- 13 At this point (10/12) has disappeared; there is nothing beyond the natural scarp mapped as a sinuous feature immediately to the NE on the survey. The area embraced by the curve of (10/12) is a relatively level patch of ground, albeit with some gentle naturel terracing; as to whether (10/12) and (9) are associated is not clear but the extension of (9) well beyond the arc of (10/12) suggests not.
- 14 A stony bank up to 0.5m high which runs over a natural scarp. There may have been some digging out on the NW side, less a ditch more a quarry scoop. As it drops down the slope to the SE it becomes more wall-like with rough coursing.
- 15 Wall (18) does not extend beyond (14), other than for a few tumbled stones; in other words they are part of the same system.
- 16 Despite the detail shown on the survey, this could not be identified during the field visit.
- 17 The GAT shows this as an integral part of a natural scarp. This is misleading. Note how the arc of (17) mirrors the curve of (10/12). The break between (17) and (10) is less obvious than shown on the plan. Basically (17) is part of the bank of the enclosure (19) with (10) and (12). (17) is about 1.5m across the crest and as the plan indicates has a gentle curve; the inner drop is 0.1m to 0.2m. The dimensions of the outer face are more difficult to gauge. Below it is an intermittent terrace which may not be entirely natural.
- 18 A low stone wall, badly ruined.
- 19 Enclosure which from the survey is 45m NW/SE by 39m, with a large gap on its SE side of nearly 24m.
- 20 Footpath but also some residual fencing.
- 21 Possible base of wall cf (7).
- 22 Overgrown and not detected.
- 23 Area integrated into pasture field to N.

Coed Trefraith Earthwork: Plan



Coed Trefraith Earthwork: Field Notes

Northern enclosure scheduled as FL161

(Note all measurements given were done by eye by the writer, or paced in the case of horizontal measurements. NGRs can be calculated from GIS table where required).

Visits made by R J Silvester on 01/12/2014 and 27/01/2015. Field notes written up 30 January 2015

1 Stone wall to 1.3m high. Now in poor condition with many gaps and considerable damage where it acts as a field boundary, and now reinforced by post and wire fence outside it (i.e. to E). Where it cross the enclosure, in generally better condition. Terminal to N not sought; terminal to S at bank (see 21).

2 Low bank 2-3m wide and 0.3m high. Precise position and alignment not gauged as not surveyed by GAT in 1993. Sinuous course takes it into pasture field and out again until it reaches bank (4) where it appears to terminate.

3 Pit-like hollow, several metres across; shallow. Does not look like the result of a wind-blow; perhaps a quarry?

4 Bank, perhaps 5m wide by 0.3m+ high, its crest around 1m wide. With (5) it forms a holloway now 1-1.2m wide, though broadening out to W. Hollow appears sporadically deeper than ground to N of (4).

Bank overlain by (1). To W by 8m only a hint of a cut through bank (in part because of the vegetation) but this depicted much more clearly on GAT plan. Just beyond this (4) changes alignment to WNW (from WWSW). Then becomes less pronounced and 25m to W is 3.5m x 0.2m high. As it reaches the break of slope above the valley to the W it virtually altogether.

5 A second bank, not dissimilar to (4) but a little less pronounced. At its E end there is a definite angle where it links to (6) and a 3m-wide gap which has been interpreted in the past as the original entrance.

In line with the putative break in bank (4) is a much more definite cut through (5). With sharp sides to it.

6 Bank defining enclosure (7) on E not planned by GAT. Broad, about 4m wide on top on E, and of varying width – up to 5.5m, though this may be due to spoil being spread over it elsewhere. Continuous on S and W sides, the break shown by GAT near the SW curve looking relatively modern, a narrow cut or track angling across the earthwork. On E internal ground surface a little lower than external surface.

7 Enclosure; D-shaped defined by bank but no ditch. No internal features identified. Internal measurements from GAT plan are 55.5m NNW/SSE by 49.5m ENE/WSW (estimated). Only the one possible entrance gap in NE.

8 Large and irregular pit. Quarry.

9 Large and irregular pit. Quarry.

10. A shallow hollow with a downslope on all sides. Not a quarry. From GAT plan about 3.5m across. Could be a large tree hole?

11. Bank passes through patch of readily recognisable coppice stools.

12. A 0.8-0.9m wide channel, its sides visibly of natural limestone. S end masked by tree bole and roots; there is a possible widening at this end and as such is shown by GAT though it is not so certain on basis of current observations. GAT mapped it at about 3.3m long. A saw-pit though Mike Owens, the owner disagrees. Note, however, this it lies close to the modern cuts through (4) and (5).
13. Bank (5) continues to the W. Beside it is a sharp-sided depression or gutter, a little less than 1m wide; earlier than the modern cut mentioned under (5), but still reasonably modern in appearance.
14. Bank (5) here is about 3.5m wide and 0.3m high. Stony surface may be due to material being thrown up from gutter (13). Bank continues down the steep slope that defines the valley on the W of the site.
15. Immediately back from the lip of the drop into the valley is an artificially created shelf, 1m-1.5m wide with stone behind it projecting from the scarp face created by its construction. In places this appears like a facing wall up to 0.6m high. Runs for at least 130m S, and appears in a similar form.
16. Quarry. Sunk to a depth of around 0.7m with visible stone face of natural limestone.
17. Old boundary wall, extremely dilapidated and showing as a bank with a maximum height of 0.4m internally, 0.1m externally; but some stone showing. Now superseded by a post and wire fence on a different line.
18. Large tree growing on ruins of (19).
19. Two-unit building, walls to height of 1.1m+ but only in one place where tree grows out of the pile rubble, which may be position of chimney; rather less high elsewhere; some wall-facing stones in place. On E wall has virtually disappeared. This is the cottage of *Pendrefraeth*.
20. A low wall runs W, then a break of 3m+; then a broader tumbled wall which itself stops short of (1). Nothing beyond (1) to suggest a continuation.
21. Stony bank up to 0.5m high but 0.9m internally, and including spread material about 2m to 3m wide. Possibly some stone-facing but this is not convincing. Ceases on S where natural ground level starts to drop into a gently sloping valley, this break of slope also being evident in the pasture field to the E, but is continued by a slighter feature, with an internal drop of 0.3m and barely visible in some places; trees grow out of it. At N end it swings round through right-angle to form the N side of the defined area. Here again some traces, perhaps more plausible of facing stone. Stone wall (1) stops where it meets (21).
22. Pit upwards of 1m deep and probably more; near circular with natural rock showing in sides. Standards growing out of side. ? Industrial origin.
23. Gentle scarp bank, perhaps up to 0.8m high. Initially appears to be a natural landform (but see below). (22) cut into the crest of it; modern track runs along the side of it.
24. Irregular kidney-shaped pit of uncertain origin.
25. Marks a continuation of (21), although not so distinctive and offers a confused picture because of the converging presence of (23) and the disturbance created by (24), as well as the modern track referred to above and depicted as a break on the GAT plan.
26. W of the modern track the bank that was (25) follows a zig-zag line, difficult to appreciate at the scale of plan employed for the GAT plan. It makes two if not three shifts in alignment in order to utilise a pre-existing bank (27). It is however higher, 0.5m-0.6m with a sharper profile than its predecessor. Its construction has also put a notch on the S side of (26) where they meet.

Further W it is about 3m wide and 0.4m high, follows a fairly straight line, though there is some evidence of later damage, a concave length of it as shown by GAT coinciding with a lower length of the bank.

Where (26) reaches the natural break of slope it encounters (15) whose terrace here is close to 3m wide. There is no sign of (15) continuing beyond (26) to S. Immediately W of (15) the ground drops away in a vertical face to a limestone crag. (26) also terminates, not surprisingly, though it could have continued no doubt on a slightly different alignment had the builders so determined. It is more likely that (26) and (15) and perhaps even (14) or even (4) are elements of the same scheme. Further and more critical observation would be useful here

27. Bank of a curvilinear enclosure (see below); high rubble limestone content with material visible over much of its surface; generally no more than 0.2m-0.3m high and 3m wide. On W side the bank has an internal drop of 0.2m, an external one of 0.6m.

28. Though not surveyed by GAT in 1993, (27) continues as a stony bank following a course just above the drop down into the valley. In one place it is cut through by a broad shallow trench of modern vintage, and increasingly it takes on the form of a scarp bank 3m wide and 0.4m-0.5m high but still quite traceable.

29. Track goes over (28) but then it becomes more difficult to identify, but there can be no doubt that it linked to (23), to form an elongated enclosure (30).

30. Elongated enclosure about 51m NW/SE by 23m SW/NE (estimated).

Revised sequence for D-shaped enclosure:

- a) Bank 5/14.
- b) Enclosure 7 built against 5/14; not just the atypical straightness of the 7 bank on the N side but also the fact that it is a narrower bank than the rest of the 7 circuit.
- c) Funnel produced by 4 and 5 could be earlier than enclosure but could be contemporary with it. 4 appears to be shorter than 5 which may or may not be significant. On evidence available to us, the funnel holloway stops at the entrance to 7, suggesting it was in contemporary use.

Field notes

R J Silvester 01/12/2014 & 27/01/2015

Written up 30/01/2015

Hen Caerwys Earthworks: Plan 1



Hen Caerwys Earthworks: Plan 2



Hen Caerwys Earthworks: Field Notes

Much of the 'site' is scheduled.

(Any measurements given were done by eye by the writer, or paced in the case of horizontal measurements. NGRs can be calculated from GIS table where required).

Hen Caerwys is a complex site, made more difficult by the vegetation. Considerable parts of what was surveyed in 1993 has not been examined – the vegetation is simply too dense to make access feasible, and the survey in 1993 was only possible because of strimming in advance by the landowner. None of the earthworks in the woodland to the north of the straight road transecting the site from south-west to north-east have been properly re-assessed, nor those in the pasture further north-east which is in different ownership.

Visits made by R J Silvester on 26/06/2014; 23/07/2014; 27/01/2015 & 10/02/2015. Field notes written up 24 and 25 March 2015.

1 Excavated platform from the 1960s, the work reflected in the steep sides of the earthwork. Deep fan and flat stance, though quite narrow. Apron is a raised bank with an obvious slope dropping away below to the S, but how much of this is excavation spoil? 1993 survey plan shows low spoil bank on W side of platform, but this too could be a 1960s creation is now barely apparent. Ground rises gradually northwards but the slope is not steep and only a few metres to the plateau crest.

2 Hedge with some mature trees in; field boundary reinforced by post and wire fence.

3 Levelled linear feature, with ground dropping away gently beyond hedge on S side. More convincing as a track in some places than in other, but this is undoubtedly what it was (see 1717 Plymouth plan). West end impossible to see because of veneration but a little to east it is about 5m wide. Can be traced as ***.

4 Track (3) reasonably well-defined because on its S side a slight rise, almost all though the track had been hollowed through use. Width here possibly less than 4m, but as it runs eastwards the width becomes more variable and the rise on the S less convincing.

5 Extension of (3)/(4) but in different woodland compartment. At base of a limestone scarp, the ground flattens out to create a level terraceway with the field boundary on its S edge. Terraceway about 5m wide though some variation, and in at least one place it is interrupted by a rise induced by a probable tree stump.

6 Lateral platform, excavated in 1960s. N side is a scarp bank, <1m high but of sharp profile; the S side looks to be a scarp bank too and then with a drop to (4), though this could be a function of the vegetation. The central ridge as shown on plan seems to be a result of the excavation, and this has obscured the E end which cannot now be defined closely.

7 A board low bank, about 3.5m wide by 0.4m high. Divorced from its general context – the cottage on the other side of the road - by the creation of that road through the area.

8 A lateral platform with the W side slightly more continuous than shown on the GAT plan. Almost square, but not quite. Bank on S side gives it a wedge-shaped appearance but this is due to uneven spread of material, and the inner slope on this side as shown on plan is barely present. E side is

formed by a low scarp bank 0.3m high, exaggerated by a tree stump. Again the inner drop is almost imperceptible.

9 A scarp bank carved out of the natural slope. It continues W to the road, *contra* the GAT plan. Generally around 0.6m high.

10 Standard slope-set platform. Fan no more than 1m high. W side is E side of (8); S apron is poorly defined, but more in line with apron of (11) than shown on plan. Then a gentle slope down to (2).

11 Even without the advice of the late Len Moores, this would have been the obvious candidate for the second of the Flints Hist Soc's second excavation at HC. The fan is sharply defined, the apron now more than 1.2m high. On E side near the fan a tree distorts the plan of the platform, but at least one short section of possible wall face appears to be visible on this side. S end now distorted by the 1960s excavations and then by the re-investigation in 2012. S apron is prominent with stone showing; 0.5m high in its external face, but inner face is due to the excavation.

12 Irregular mounding, possible a result of the excavations.

13 Only small sections of this seen because of vegetation. Origins and purpose unknown.

14 A scarp bank with virtually no down slope on upper side. That part of it running W to E is clearly discernible, around 0.6m high, but its N to S continuation could not be traced in the vegetation and must be slighter, though this is not to doubt its existence. Overall it is quite a pronounced feature, and it is interesting that nothing more can be detected to the E which is probably not solely a result of the vegetation.

15 Vegetation difficult here, but 2/3m-wide terraceway traverses the slope, rising as it runs NE. Scarp slopes define it, the downhill one (SE) the more prominent.

16 Stone walls to either side of road, but not built a consistent distance from the road, for in places close to the road edge and elsewhere set back from it. Drystone walling, in places approaching 1m high, but higher where new gates/entrances inserted. Walls are not maintained.

17 A long building = a cottage. It is not on flat ground but has not been set into the slope, the walls following the natural slope of the ground from NE to SW which admittedly is fairly gentle, so not platformed. No obvious compartments to the building. Interior appears lower than adjacent external ground surface, so inner slope to bank is more pronounced than outer counterpart. From crest to crest about 5.5m. The N wall is virtually indistinguishable, but one or two blocks of stone in approximately the right location. The S wall is clear, its external face sharper than its internal one.

18 Virtually undetectable in the vegetation, the validity of the gap between it and (19) is open to question.

19 The short section on the S side is a bank but when it turns N it becomes a scarp bank, its slope facing inwards, and there is no convincing outer slope until higher up the hill side. It then swings round to run E, merging with the natural slope. It is not clear whether the NW angle is as sharp as shown on the GAT plan, but the vegetation here is not helpful. Overall (19) defines a long rectangular enclosure abutting (17), laid out on the natural slope with a gradient of say 1:5 in places; only towards the S end does it begin to even out.

20 Above the N arm of (19) is a platform, about 10m E/W x 2.5m N/S. The fan is about 1.1m high, and a slight drop into the interior on the S side. The E end is rounded, and the W side has a slight drop into the interior. The whole thing is distinctive. Therefore it is not clear why it was missed by GAT.

21 A shallow scarp continues the line of the western side of (19), but only for a short distance before fading out.

22 Features within (19) enclosure mapped by GAT cannot be detected on ground.

23 Above (17) this rises up the natural slope with drops to both sides, but because of the natural hollow occupied by (17) and (19) it is difficult to determine where the slope of (22) stops and the natural slope starts. No doubt that the bank does fade out before it reaches (17) although one large upright block is set between the two.

24 An insubstantial bank, more obvious on the S than on the N side.

25 At first thought to be a natural limestone crag, but actually a quarry face which interrupts the line of (24). Perhaps the source of stone for the walls edging the road?

26 Contrary to the GAT survey this is not a 'stand-alone' bank but the S side of a terraceway with a scarp bank that is not really shown lying to the N. The terraceway is 2-3m wide and appears to approach the cottage (17) from the E. Possibly a shallow quarry has been cut into its E end near the lane.

27 It is assumed that this bank runs along the top of the natural scarp, but not easily visible for vegetation is a problem and it blends into the natural slope. Estimated to be 0.5m high in places. . Presumably an extension of (24), and note its similar alignment to the field boundary at the bottom of the field (to S).

28 The GAT survey shows this as the continuation of (27). However in a late January visit when the vegetation should have been at its lowest, it proved very difficult to see this as a feature. This is not to say that it doesn't exist, rather than conditions not good enough to follow it.

29 Follows a natural scarp edge, though this is not particularly pronounced. An authentic man-made feature perhaps but not truly convincing.

30 This bank is authentic; it has a curve to it and in its southern section is little more than 0.3m high externally. Further to the N it is more pronounced.

31 A continuation of terraceway (15). Little of it can be seen in normal circumstances because of the vegetation.

32 Not visible.

33 Foundations of a rectangular building, almost certainly a cottage, but one which has seen some damage subsequent to its abandonment. The long sides are the better preserved. That on the NW is up to 0.7m high, that on the SE 0.5m+ but this includes collapsed material; in both cases the wall fronts that face to the SE and clearer. The SW end is damaged by the passage of traffic and it is difficult to identify this end wall with any confidence.

34 A rectangular enclosure appended to building (33). The outer face of the SW bank is the most obvious at 0.5m and is quite sharp, and stone protrudes from the bank itself. . The SE bank is brash-covered. From some angles it appears less substantial than the SW wall, but from another angle it is more impressive. The NE side is slighter but still discernible. Perhaps an embanked paddock or yard.

35 The survey shows a hollow which certainly exists, but its function or origin is not clear, and the scale of its slopes appears exaggerated in the survey. This could be however in part a result of the fact that this is a designated picnic area. .

36 A linear hollow runs past the (33) complex. It has a bank on its NE side, up to 0.5m high and beyond that is the post and wire fence than divides the wood from the pasture field to the NE. Evidently a trackway, but its course has not been traced and it was not planned by GAT.

37 Stony bank about 0.4m high on both sides and around 1.5m across the top. It is more complete than the plan shows. Its E arm runs down almost to the stone wall, while its N arm runs up to bank (23/39).

38 No break in the bank at this point; the plan maps the position of a footpath which has eroded the bank to some degree.

39 One of the more substantial banks on the site. It is up to 0.6m high generally, but can reach 0.7/0.8m, is 1m across the top and contains a considerable amount of stone; in places it looks more wall like than a bank. It should be more accentuated than on the GAT plan.

40 At this point there is a hint of a rise; tempting though nit is to see this as the stub of a continuation of (37) coming through (and thus preceding (23/39), it is perhaps more likely that it's a result of a windblown tree.

41 A small structure or building set against or into the bank (23/39). Certainly the bank forms its W edge. It has walls 2.5m wide but the interior is only 2.0m+ wide. The NW wall is unimpressively slight.

42 Slighter as a bank than (37) though not by much. Some doubt about the integrity of the little spur arm that runs off to the W.

43 Effectively a scarp bank, 0.4m high on the S side, 0.1m on the N. As it swings round to the NW having met (42) it becomes a slighter feature, but the break shown on the GAT plan is not convincing. Its E side stops abruptly where the wall-edged trackway runs along the woodland edge. It presumably continued but has been erased, presumably during the creation of the track.

44 (23/39) is slighter here than further S, but still a sizeable bank.

45 The more easterly bank shown on the GAT plan poses questions. Close to point (45) the two banks are separate but only by 1m or so. Further N and to the S they coalesce. Could the E bank be earlier? It is certainly of a different calibre to the W bank (23/39).

46 An amorphous but possibly rectangular structure, perhaps more so than the GAT plan suggests.

47 Rectilinear enclosure surrounding cottage.

- 48 (23/39) and (45) merge into one.
- 49 Bank, overgrown; the GAT differentiation along its length merely reflects changing size. Bank is 0.3m high on W side, 0.1m on E side.
- 50 This is a lower bank than anticipated from the GAT plan. Generally no more than around 0.2m high and probably less in some places. It does continue further SE than shown on the plan.
- 51 Gap shown here could be original.
- 52 The NE/SW bank does come to a stop at the enclosure bank, otherwise (23/39).
- 53 A gentle scarp bank, perhaps no more than 0.3m high.
- 54 Bank running (58) down hill continues as a slight scarp bank as far as the field fence/hedge. Its relationship to (53) cannot be established.
- 55 Upstanding feature proved to be a shallow quarry by excavation in 2014.
- 56 Platform under excavation in 2014 and 2015 (trench E). Pronounced apron with its outer face bigger than the inner one. The spur of material running off to the SW is genuine.
- 57 (53) is difficult to trace on its course W, largely because of its diminutive size in heavy vegetation, but perhaps too because there could be a natural scarp here too. As to whether there is an authentic gap in its line SW of (58) is uncertain. But further W still and closer to (56) the form of this linear feature changes from a scarp bank that drops down to the S to one that drops away to the N. Close to (56) a slight feature little more than 0.1m high.
- 58 Bank under excavation.
- 59 Platform of conventional type set into the slope, but not impressively so. Not excavated.
- 60 profile of the top of the natural scarp is hollowed here, suggesting a track leading to and from the plateau top. Below this it spreads out in funnel-fashion, and is evident looking upwards from the lower ground.
- 61 A lateral platform. There is a drop into the interior on the W, a less obvious bank on the E, and much the same on the S and this exaggerated by a tree stump; a gap near the SW corner could be original, though there is still a slight drop to the exterior. The E side also has a slight drop, and the N side has a long, drawn-out slope, less a fan, more an eroding natural slope.
- 62 Conventional platform. The fan is non-descript but site immediately below the scarp edge and a modern track, and in this respect is convincing. The side 'walls' are stony and the impression is that the interior is hollowed and fractionally lower than the surrounding ground. The S wall and the apron are disguised by vegetation, but the spur wall off the SW corner looks genuine.
- 63 Judged not to be a platform, despite the fact that where the fan would have been there is a vertical stone face. Perhaps this provided some quarried stone. No convincing side walls and the S side has only the spur wall mentioned under (62). Likely to be open ground between two buildings, but it is

also a fact that it is flat enough to have accommodated a building without having to shift much material and thus leave visible traces.

64 Most westerly and a poorly defined platform. The fan is not convincing and what there is appears to be an integral part of the natural limestone scarp. The E wall or side is broad as shown by GAT, more a wall base than the scarp of a platform (but see (66) below). The W wall is slight, barely perceptible. The S wall is detectable as rubble underfoot and it is far from clear whether it is the building itself or the platform that is apparent. 7m from (62) and is the least convincing of the Hen Caerwys platforms.

65 Not identified on the ground.

66 Intersection between bank and (67), the latter running over the former. (66) is substantial, at least 0.4m high, and in this area is followed by a woodland path. It is impossible to determine what happens at its S end where it reaches the lip of the natural scarp. But it should be noted that it is in alignment with the unusually broad E side of (64).

67 Continuous boundary cuts across various features and is late in the sequence. Stony on surface. One mature growing out of it must be at least a century old.

68 Shallow quarry.

69 Deep quarry than (68).

70 This is not as shown in 1993. On the E a scarp bank of 0.3m which can be traced running towards cottage (72) as a faint scarp bank. Yet a possibility that this is natural for cottage (72) Also shows a dip in its NW wall as though affected by a pre-existing landform. On the W side of (70) is another scarp, this one dropping off to the E. It merges with the irregular edge of the platform excavated in 2012.

71 Horseshoe-shaped feature accurately depicted in 1993 survey. Bank no more than 0.3m high on both of its faces. A hint that the interior is higher than the surrounding ground level.

Pant, Caerwys Earthworks: Plan



Pant, Caerwys Earthworks: Field Notes

(Note all measurements given were done by eye by the writer, or paced in the case of horizontal measurements). Visits were made on 27 January and 04 February 2015. Field notes written up 06 February 2015

Of the various locations surveyed by GAT in 1993, Pant without doubt returned the most complex results. In part this was due to its nature as open pasture and secondarily to the geomorphology, though it might be wondered whether this was more visible than in other surveyed areas simply because of the grass cover.

At the time of the visits, sheep were restricted to the more westerly of the two fields, and this undoubtedly had an effect on the varying appearance of the two fields, with the more easterly one showing lush pasture. Nevertheless, the writer came away with a lasting impression that the more easterly field had seen more pasture improvement than its counterpart, and this appeared to be borne out by the fact that some minor earthworks in the former, mapped in 1993, were almost impossible to detect, a situation which did not seem to apply to the west field.

The ground rises gradually from SE to NW, often in a series of largely natural terraces. Highest point is crowned by an enclosure and an electricity pylon. Both fields are scattered in varying densities with hollows, raised spreads of grassed over limestone, and flattened areas. It is a reasonable assumption that some of these are trial workings for metals, others could be shallow sink-holes and there might be other types of man-made feature which are too slight or amorphous to distinguish satisfactorily. It was not feasible to validate every single anomaly surveyed by GAT. Many were too slight or too natural in appearance to merit such treatment at the current level of study.

1 Irregular curvilinear enclosure missing its NE section. No obvious evidence of the missing length, and although the modern track passes across its potential line, it appears more likely that it has been deliberately levelled, assuming of course that it was completed originally. As an alternative it could always have been open to the NE, a horseshoe shaped earthwork that was never completely close off. Otherwise a pronounced bank which stands out from other banks in the field through its size. On NW the bank is externally 0.9m, internally 0.7m; no ditch. Internally a slight curvilinear feature which might be natural or man-made and to the S of this, a pylon. Estimated 39m NE/SW x 34m.

2 Low bank, 0.3m on W, 0.4m on E. Separated from 1) by modern trackway, which nevertheless rises over it suggesting that originally continuous here. N end bears off to the NW where it is then interrupted by hedge. Lost beyond this point.

3 Bank of not dissimilar proportions to 1) running down the slope southwards. Survey not complete here because it converges on hedge, continuing for longer than shown by GAT.

4 Embanked trackway emerges from field boundary on North side of Pant fields (no trace in pasture field beyond). A bank to either side of this creating a track about 3.75m wide according to the survey. Banks of similar size but that on E begins to diminish as it runs S. It then disappears for nearly 20m before re-appearing, while the W bank is near continuous.

5 Embanked trackway disappears at SJ 1419 7460. No convincing continuation and although there are banks further S they may not be related. Perhaps the trackway led on to the next, lower terrace which is apparent just below this terminal.

6 A small group of features S of 1) and W of 5). Several of these are almost certainly natural but one with a low bank and a degree of curvilinearity could be man-made or perhaps the residue of a trial exploration. Bank is no more than 3m high and could be spoil rather than a deliberately created feature.

7 Shallow scarp bank dropping down to E, perhaps 0.3m max height. At S end it curves to run SE before fading into a limestone outcrop and shows as a bank with inner and outer slopes. The outcrop shows a little clearance material, but nothing substantial.

8 Low tump, 0.2m high, probably natural limestone rise.

9 A scarp bank rather similar to 7), but could be a natural slope below the terrace. At its S end it merges with the E bank of trackway 4), which implies that the latter may have made use of scarp 7) on its line.

10 A scarp bank, quite pronounced in appearance, and at least 0.5m high. To the north as it approaches the edge of the field it becomes more amorphous, more gentle in slope as well as broader, and could be a natural slope in the limestone, not least because bedrock appears in at least one place. But to the S it adopts a sharper profile, becomes more lynchet-like and has a single thorn tree rooted in it. Its alignment takes it directly to the cottage complex of Marian-Drew, now abandoned. An association must be a possibility.

11 Gentle scarp bank, rising perhaps 0.4m max. Its location suggests that it could be associated with 7).

12 The 19thC boundary to the Marian-Drew holding (and thus the boundary of the common) followed a sinuous course which has since been adapted by the introduction of a wire fence. At the point shown on the GA plan the original boundary and the fence coincide for the first time and then follow the same line. The original is now a tumbled drystone wall up to 0.7/0.8m high, with the fence posts set into to it.

13 Planned feature could be a natural spine of rock, for at its S end is a thorn tree which appears to be bedded into natural limestone; possibility too of some stone clearance on this.

14 Excellent example of the difficulties in unravelling this landscape. The features plotted here by GAT could resolve themselves into a hut platform but only from certain directions. Otherwise quit clear that these are natural features perhaps coupled with trial works.

15 Area of concentrated dips and hollows, a terrace area with a very gentle slope from NE to SW. Initially these looked to be natural, but such is the distribution compared with say the area to the SE, that they are surely of human origin in the main. Most likely explanation is that this area was trialled for minerals and that the GAT reflects the spoil and hollows of individual pits. It would be possible to draw all these up on the basis of the GAT plan, but this does not appear to be a particularly worthwhile exercise.

16 Distinctive feature plotted by GAT is a slight hollow with a flat corona of raised spoil particularly on E side. Has every appearance of an excavated pit, now infilled.

17 Believed to be a natural grass-covered outcrop.

18 Following the grain of the landscape is a distinctive gully, up to 1m wide, with an outer slope of no more than 0.1m wide in depth, but internally including the slope of its associated bank the height/depth is perhaps 0.5m. The bank has an inner depth of no more than 0.2m. The GAT plan suggests also a smaller outer bank but this is barely perceptible on the ground.

To the NE bank and ditch suddenly undergo a change of alignment. The banks fades out, and there is at least one significant break in the ditch which could be partially the result of the passage of traffic. However, as a feature it stops well short of the field boundary around the N side of the site.

To the SW, the bank fades out but the gully continues and then executes a near perfectly right-angled turn. On the SW side there is only the gully, no bank.

19 A gully returning at right angle to the S arm of 18), but this could not be detected on the ground, and is ruled out as unlikely. It is much more likely that the return is 10) and that the intervening section between 18) and 10) has been obliterated by 20).

20 A distinctive hollow which appears to impinge on 10).

21 Three sides of an enclosure or a field with a slight tail of material running off from the SE corner. The gap at the same corner is visible but perhaps not too meaningful. Bank is little more than 0.2m high on inside and 0.1m externally.

22 Linear bank, more pronounced on its W side (0.3m) than on its E side (0.1m). It does not join to the bank of 18) but the alignment is suggestive, and amorphous marks on the GAT plan NE of 18)s change in alignment, could indicate its former continuation, although these were clearly visible on the ground. At its S end the complicating details shown by GAT were not detectable. The short linear extension running to the SE was visible, but not that to the NW nor the continuation of 22) southwards.

23 Linear is visible, its relationship to 22) an unknown. Internal height to W is 0.2m, external to E is 0.1. The projecting bank on the E is more discernible, for it has a sharper line and may not be associated with the main linear.

24 Broad bank following lip of natural limestone scarp as it pitches down to the valley. Across the top it is 1.5m, with an external height of 0.4m and internal one of 0.3m. Towards its E end it looks more and more like a lynchet. It closes and stops at 35) with no sign of an extension into the next field to the E.

25 GAT plan is perhaps misleading. This bank running NW/SE is certainly present but it is a slight thing, and not as dominant as GAT show it. Instead 24) appears to continue N to link up with 27) and is as obvious, perhaps so than 25).

26 A pronounced bank, 0.4m on W side, 0.3m on E. It looks to be continued by the W arm of 25), but cannot be taken any further N.

27 Low bank continuing for a short distant N. But it would be unwise to place too much emphasis on this. In its earthworks this is a very confused area.

28 Short length of bank, isolated and not joining to anything although its alignment suggests a relationship with the 26) complex. 0.3m high on downhill S side, 0.2m on the uphill N side.

29 A curious group of features which seem to consist of four hollows separated by broad low banks; it could be that the banks are significant rather than the hollows that separate, but this seems unlikely. They follow parallel courses but their purpose is unclear. The hollows are no more than 0.3m deep, but have been created on what is almost a level surface.

30 An enclosure, D-shaped or sub-oval, about 9.2m NW/SE internally by 12.2m NE/SW (from the GAT plan). At the back or N side of the enclosure the scarp rises to 1m or more with some limestone protruding. Elsewhere it is less prominent, but throughout it is a broad bank rather than a scape. Within it is a platform, though this is not perhaps the correct word to use. It is more a raised area, not regular

and misaligned to the axes of the enclosure. Nevertheless it seems likely that this is where a building was, and perhaps its uneven collapse has created this form,

31 A low bank running out to the field boundary. No check to see whether it continued beyond the boundary but this seems unlikely.

32 A low bank runs almost imperceptibly down the slope to the lip of the limestone scarp. A single limestone block protrudes from it.

33 There could be intermittent traces of this bank along the lip of the limestone scarp, but it is not entirely convincing. Other features that it runs up to at its W end are not visible.

34 Tumbled wall, about 0.6m high max. Obviously a continuation of 12). Modern fence on top of it which divides the two field at Pant. The gap between 34) and 12), around 2.5m wide appears to be original.

35 Modern fence runs just to W of a much reduced bank; stone is only rarely visible in this and it is little more than a lynchet bank, 0.4m on E, 0.1m on W. While there are breaks between this and 34) there can be little doubt that 35) ran off from 34), but they are different in their appearance, suggesting that 34) overlies an earlier extension to 35).

36 35) and 24) amalgamate and become 36), a broad bank with a crest 1.5m wide. Externally this is 0.9 to 1.0m high, 0.4m internally. A substantial feature compared with many at Pant.

37 This has some of the appearance of a 'platform' created for a small structure, but is not convincing and is more likely to be natural.

38 Flattened areas and hollows creating an irregular surface. Nothing incontrovertibly man-made that resolve into recognisable features.

39 One top of an intermittent limestone outcrop are several stones on edge. They create a small hollow edged on two or three sides, but this could be fortuitous and of no heritage significance. About 1.5m NE/SW by 1.0m.

40 Quarry set into small outcrop.

41 Terraceway, but discontinuous.

42 A broad low bank. Externally (to S) 0.3m+ ; internally 0.2m+; about 7m wide and 2.5m across top. Spread boundary, a continuation of 34), shown on 1st edition 1:2500 map. At its SE end it spreads and then turns NE into 43).

43 A low almost-lynchet like bank, continuing 42) and gradually fading, appearing to end at a tree.

44 A linear scarp bank, 0.3m high on its NE side; imperceptible drop on S.

45 A curious bank, stony but very different from wall 46) which is not present at this point. Possibly the wall has been pushed over at this point to allow access into an adjacent field?

46 Stone wall, largely now redundant as wire fence in place. 0.6m high with quickset hedge on the top of it.

47 Primarily a lynchet, with a scarp up to 1.3m high on the interior (SE) face, and an eternal drop of no more than 0.2m. (It does not continue into the adjacent field to the N). That is the NW side but as it curves round to the SE, creating a SW bank, the outer face becomes a little more obvious and the inner face starts to fade.

- 48 Hollows which are assumed to be primarily natural.
- 49 Slight bank, 0.2m high on SW, 0.1m on NE which then swings around to the SW and continues as 50).
- 50 More distinct than 49); 0.4m on S face but only 0.1m on N.
- 51 A long slightly sinuous scarp that could be natural. On its inner (N) side no drop, just rougher ground which may tend to confirm that limestone lies immediately below the surface.
- 52 Tumbled walls associated with enclosures and pounds around the ruined cottage of Marian-Trefedwin. Generally no more than 0.5m high and including the tumbled about 1.5m wide. Location of some walls suggest that they probably utilised the scarp 51).
- 53 Marian-Trefedwin, in ruins.
- 54 Ruins of a small outbuilding; does not appear rectangular but this could be a result of the way the structure has collapsed. Shown as a two-compartment feature on the 1st edition 1:2500 map.
- 55 Outbuilding. First foundation course shows as facing stones. Does not appear on the 1st edition 1:2500 map, nor on later editions.
- 56 Bank, distinctive. 0.6m high on SE, but only 0.1m on NW. A modern track breaks through the bank and it then swings round to take a WNW course. There are several breaks on this side but none of them appears likely to be original.
- 57 Bank fades into and merges with a natural scarp. Cannot be traced any further.
- 58 Limestone outcrop has been quarried. Quarry face exposed SE of 57) and a smaller quarry dug into the limestone a little further south.
- 59 Large features shown by GAT in this field are primarily natural.
- 60 A gentle scarp bank, about 0.3m or more high on W face. It is not clear how this fits in with other man-made features in this field.
- 61 A pronounced bank in its central section with heights of 0.5m on SE and 0.4m on the NW. As it runs NE it diminishes in size and then just fades out; there is nothing at this point to link it with any other recognisable earthwork. Tempting to see this as part of a funnel system.
- 62 This low scarp is just visible, but it is difficult to see how it fits in with anything else and is not likely to be relevant.
- 63 This looks like a lynchet bank, pronounced on the SE side to a height of 0.5m, almost non-existent on the NW where it is no more than 0.1m high.
- 64 61) and 63) appear to be a funnel system. They culminate in a slightly bowed area closed off by these banks on three sides and open only to the NE. It is almost sub-oval and the banks create a definite area and are up to 1.2m high. It is reasonable to assume that they provided some degree of protection for a building though there is absolutely no sign of one. The space provided is now no more than 6m by 4m SSE/NNW, but there could have been considerable slippage.
- 65 Some of the features mapped by GAT in this area are not convincing; others show faintly but it is impossible to determine what their function might have been.

66 Isolated stretch of bank which kinks through a near right-angle. In the angle is the site of a small building, about 7m x 3m internally, and broadly rectangular. A few projecting limestone blocks may indicate facing slabs at foundation course level.

67 Thought to be a natural spread.

Sequence

Phase I Irregular lay out of lynchet banks across the former common. It can only be a working assumption that all of these are contemporary, for perhaps several phases are represented. The irregularity contrasts with Phases II and IV. The embanked trackway is included in this phase but this could be misleading as early Ordnance Survey map ties in to a footpath in the fields to the north which are likely to have followed the embanked trackway across the parish boundary and could thus be a medieval feature (perhaps more likely than an RB or prehistoric one). Two funnel systems – one with the pylon in, the other rather smaller 270m to the SE – hint at contemporary features. One is tempted to think in terms of RB or even late prehistoric, simply because these do not sit comfortably in a medieval context.

Phase II Open fields and their enclosure into strip fields. TO the north-east the late 19thC OS maps suggest an open field which was then enclosed perhaps on a piecemeal basis. These fields extended into what was later a common and account for a few of the banks in the more easterly of the two fields.

Phase III The cottage phase. Two cottages lie on the northern edge of the former common, both now abandoned. Their stone walled boundaries and the small fields that these enclosed are reasonably distinctive and are largely recoverable from the early OS maps.

Phase IV Whether Phase 4 preceded or followed III cannot be deduced from the evidence. The phase focuses on the gully and bank-defined enclosure south-west of Marian-Drew. Conceivably it could have pre-dated the cottage, and the fact that the enclosure is almost precisely aligned on the cottage may be due to the latter's location on a natural scarp. Within the enclosure is an intensity of trial activity not encountered elsewhere? Whether the two are linked and the enclosure defined a zone of activity cannot be determined; and if so it may have been superseded as trials extended beyond it. That is pure speculation.