

# CAE HAIDD, GWYLLT ROAD, LLANFAIRFECHAN, CONWY

## Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessment





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## Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessment

Yr Amgylchedd Hanesyddol yn Cofnodi Prif Gyfeirnod /  
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Wedi'i baratoi ar gyfer / Prepared for: Gareth Williams

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Ysgrifenydd gan / Written by: Neil McGuinness

Delwedd clawr / Cover image: View from SW corner of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) showing the platforms on the north side of the monument, viewed from the SW (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_005).

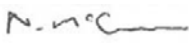
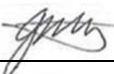
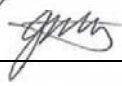
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Rev No.	Summary of Changes	Ref Section	Purpose of Issue
0.1	Initial draft of Stages 1 and 2	All	For Cadw review
0.2	Completed Stages 3 and 4	3.3, 3.4	First draft of complete assessment
0.3	Client approved final report	N/A	Submission report



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## **CRYNHODEB ANHECHNEGOL**

*Mae Ymddiriedolaeth Archeolegol Gwynedd wedi'i chomisiynu gan Gareth Williams i gynnal Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gosod Asedau Hanesyddol i gefnogi cais cynllunio i godi sied amaethyddol gyffredinol ar dir o fewn Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri yn Cae Haidd, Ffordd Gwyllt, Llanfairfechan, Syr. Conwy. Mae asesiad pedwar cam wedi'i gwblhau yn unol â'r canllawiau yn "Setting of Historic Assets in Wales" Cadw. Mae effeithiau posibl y datblygiad arfaethedig ar osodiad ac arwyddocâd dau ased hanesyddol wedi'u hystyried. Mae'r asesiad wedi canfod bod effaith bosibl y datblygiad arfaethedig ar Heneb Gofrestredig Anheddiad Gwledig Anial Cae'r Haid yn negyddol gyda maint dibwys. Mae'r effaith bosibl ar Grwpiau Cytiau Garreg Fawr, Caeau Hynafol a Heneb Gofrestredig y Carneddi yn negyddol gyda mân faint. Oherwydd y lefelau isel o effaith, ni argymhellwyd unrhyw fesurau lliniaru pellach i leihau'r effeithiau.*

## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

*Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has been commissioned by Gareth Williams to undertake a Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessment in support of a planning application for the erection of a general-purpose agricultural shed on land within the Eryri National Park at Cae Haidd, Gwyllt Road, Llanfairfechan, Sir Conwy. A four-stage assessment has been completed in accordance with the guidance in Cadw's "Setting of Historic Assets in Wales". The potential impacts of the proposed development on the setting and significance of two historic assets have been considered. The assessment has found that the potential impact of the proposed development on the Cae'r Haid Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument is negative with a negligible magnitude. The potential impact on the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument is negative with a minor magnitude. Due to the low levels of impact, no further mitigation to lessen the impacts has been recommended.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) has been commissioned by *Gareth Williams* to undertake a *Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessment* in support of a planning application (NP4/23/46F) for the erection of a general-purpose agricultural shed on land within the Eryri National Park at Cae Haidd, Gwylt Road, Llanfairfechan, Sir Conwy, LL33 0EE (NGR: SH 68200 73365; Figure 01; Figure 02; Figure 03). The proposed building will be located in the yard of the former ruinous Cae Haidd farmstead (GAT HER PRN 77388), which is being replaced with a like-for-like building in the same position for which planning permission has already been granted (NP4/23/46B).

The assessment has been requested by Gareth Williams following feedback from Cadw on an earlier planning application (NP4/23/46C). Cadw have identified two designated historic assets in proximity to the proposed new shed, which lies:

- 200m to the northeast of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372); and
- 26m to the west of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185; GAT HER PRNs 248-251, 377-379, 393, 4067, 7444, 7460-7462, 7466, 7470, 59873).

Given the proximity of the proposed development to these designated historic assets (Figure 01), the agricultural shed may have an impact on their significance and the way that the assets are experienced, understood and appreciated. The impact on the designated assets' settings will be a material consideration when determining the outcome of any planning application (Welsh Government 2021, Secs 6.1.19; 6.1.23). Consequently, an assessment of the impact is being undertaken in accordance with the *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw, 2017).

The methodology used for the impact assessment incorporates a four-stage assessment process. A draft report containing the results of Stages 1 and 2 of the assessment was submitted to Cadw for review before the assessment proceeded to Stages 3 and 4.

The Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessment has been undertaken between June and September 2023 and has been conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- *Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales* (Cadw 2011);

- *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (ICOMOS 2011);
- *Guidelines for digital archives* (RCAHMW 2015);
- *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) (Version 2.0) (The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2022)*;
- *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991);
- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015);
- *Planning Policy Wales, 11th edition (Welsh Government 2021)*;
- *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017);
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014); and
- *Standard and Guidance for Desk-Based Assessment* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014).

The assessment has been undertaken by Neil McGuinness BA MA MCIfA, a GAT archaeologist with over 17 years of experience working as a historic environment professional and experienced in the production of Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessments.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust is certified to ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 (Cert. No. 74180/B/0001/UK/En) and is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and a member of the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME).

The project has been monitored by Cadw.

The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER) Event Primary Reference Number for this project is 46645; the Gwynedd HER Enquiry number is GATHER 1860.

## 2 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessment was undertaken in accordance with the best-practice guidance set out in *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw, 2017). As stated in the guidance, the document “outlines the principles used to assess the potential impact of development or land management proposals within the settings of World Heritage Sites, ancient monuments (scheduled and unscheduled), listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens, and conservation areas” (ibid., ii). Setting is defined in the guidance as the broader landscape context into which the individual historic asset is set; this context includes physical and cultural factors specific to that location.

The assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the identified historic assets has been carried out following the four stages specified in the Cadw guidance document:

- **Stage 1:** Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development;
- **Stage 2:** Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the significance of the historic assets and, in particular, the ways in which the assets are understood, appreciated and experienced;
- **Stage 3:** Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance; and
- **Stage 4:** If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

This report contains the results of the four-stage assessment. A draft report containing the results of Stages 1 and 2 of the assessment was submitted to Cadw for review before the assessment proceeded to Stages 3 and 4.

More detailed information regarding the individual assessment stages is included overleaf.

## **2.1 Stage 1: Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development.**

This was undertaken as follows:

- i. The location, size and scale of the proposed development was examined; and
- ii. The location and nature of identified historic assets were considered.

The historic assets that might be affected by the proposed development have been identified by Cadw as:

- the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372); and
- the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185; GAT HER PRNs 248-251, 377-379, 393, 4067, 7444, 7460-7462, 7466, 7470, 59873)

The regional Historic Environment Register (HER) Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Craig Beuno, Ffordd y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2RT) was examined for information concerning the affected assets; The National Monuments Record of Wales (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth SY23 1NJ) was also checked for additional data including aerial photographs.

1m resolution LiDAR Digital Terrain Model (DTM) data, available from Welsh Government (<https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/lidar-viewer/>), has been used to construct a 1000m Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) model for the proposed new building. The model enables an assessment of the degree of visibility of the proposed development from the impacted historic assets. If the 'worst-case scenario' DTM ZTV model demonstrates that a historic asset will not be visually impacted by the proposed development it will be scoped out from further assessment at this stage.



## 2.2 Stage 2: Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the significance of the historic assets and, in particular, the ways in which the assets are understood, appreciated and experienced.

The setting of a historic asset is made up of:

- its current surroundings;
- our present understanding and appreciation of the historic asset; and
- what (if anything) survives of its historic surroundings.

The significance of each historic asset is considered with reference to the guidelines for establishing a heritage asset's 'value' as set out in out in *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties (ICOMOS 2011, Appendix 3A)*. These designation based criteria may not always reflect the true significance of a historic asset but still provide a useful starting point. The final assessment of the overall significance of the asset is made based upon professional judgment and expressed as either **Very High, High, Medium, Low, Negligible**, or **Unknown**.

The significance of each historic asset is then considered with respect to the four contributory component heritage values as set out in *Conservation Principles* (Cadw 2011, 10): its **evidential** value; its **historical** value; its **aesthetic** value; and its **communal** value in order to understand how the setting of the asset contributes to its significance.

The *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017) provides a series of questions to help to define and understand the significance of the asset:

- How do the present surroundings contribute to our understanding and appreciation of the historic asset today?
- Thinking about when the historic asset was first built and developed:
  - what were its physical, functional and visual relationships with other structures/historic assets and natural features?
  - what topographic or earlier features influenced its location/what was its relationship to the surrounding landscape/was it constructed to take advantage of significant views or to be a part of a significant view?

- Thinking about changes since the historic asset was built:
  - has its function or use changed?
  - what changes have happened to the surrounding landscape/streetscape?
  - have changes happened because of changes to the historic asset or to its historical setting?
  - has the presence of the historic asset influenced changes to the landscape, for example, where a monument has been used as a marker in the layout of a field enclosure/ has the presence of the historic asset influenced the character of the surrounding landscape/streetscape/ have historic and designed views to and from the historic asset changed?
- Thinking about the original layout of the historic asset and its relationship to its associated landscape:
  - were these relationships designed or accidental/how did these relationships change over time?
  - how do these relationships appear in the current landscape; are they visual or buried features?
  - are there other significant factors, such as historical, artistic, literary, placename or scenic associations, intellectual relationships (for example, to a theory, plan or design), or other non-visual factors such as sounds or smells that can be vital to understand the historic asset and its setting?

Stage 2 also identifies the viewpoints from which the impact of the proposed change or development should be assessed, taking into account:

- views to, from and across the historic asset that were designed and developed when the historic asset was first created;
- views to, from and across the historic asset which are linked with a time in its history;
- important modern views to, from and across the historic asset – for example, popular visitor viewing points.

### **2.3 Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.**

The *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* states that at the end of Stage 3, the assessor should be able to identify the impact that the proposed development will have upon the setting of a historic asset.

For Stage 3, the *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* lists 11 factors to be considered:

1. the visual impact of the proposed change or development relative to the scale of the historic asset and its setting;
2. the visual impact of the proposed change or development relative to the location of the historic asset;
3. whether the proposed change or development would dominate the historic asset or detract from our ability to understand and appreciate it — for example, its functional or physical relationship with the surrounding landscape and associated structures and/or buried remains;
4. the presence, extent, character and scale of the existing built environment within the surroundings of the historic asset and how the proposed change or development compares with this;
5. the lifespan of the proposed change or development and whether or not the impact might be reversible;
6. the extent of tree cover, whether it is deciduous or evergreen, and its likely longevity;
7. the impact of artificial lighting — for example, on night-time view;
8. the capability of a landscape setting to absorb change or new development without the erosion of its key characteristics;
9. the impact of the proposed change or development on non-visual elements of the setting and character of the historic asset, such as sense of remoteness, evocation of the historical past, sense of place, cultural identity or spiritual responses
10. the impact of non-visual elements of the proposed change or development, such as the removal or addition of noises and smell;

11. the cumulative effect of the proposed change or development — sometimes relatively small changes, or a series of small changes, can have a major impact on our ability to understand, appreciate and experience a historic asset.

At the end of Stage 3, the impact of the proposed development on the potentially impacted historic asset will be expressed as **positive**, **negative** or **neutral**. Following the guidance set out in *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (ICOMOS 2011, Appendix 3B), an indication of the magnitude of the impact is given as either **major**, **moderate**, **minor**, **negligible** or **no change** using the criteria shown in Table 2.1.

<b>Magnitude of Impact</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
<b>Major</b>	Comprehensive changes to the setting of a historic asset
<b>Moderate</b>	Considerable changes to the setting of a historic asset that significantly modify the setting and affect the character of the historic asset
<b>Minor</b>	Slight but noticeable changes to the setting of a historic asset
<b>Negligible</b>	Very minor changes to the setting of a historic asset that hardly affect it
<b>No change</b>	No change to the setting of a historic asset

Table 2.1 Criteria used to assess the magnitude of impact of the proposed development on setting

Field visits were undertaken for the Stage 3 assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the viewpoints identified in Stage 2. On-site observations were recorded on GAT pro-forma sheets and a photographic record made in RAW format using a digital SLR set to maximum resolution (Nikon D5100; resolution: 4,928 × 3264 [16.2 effective megapixels]). Photographic images have been archived in TIFF format; the archive numbering system starts from G2783\_HASIA\_001.

Photographs taken from the viewpoints identified in Stage 2 have been used to assess and explain the impact of the proposed development along with the results of desk-based GIS analyses including ZTV and viewshed models.

## **2.4 Stage 4: If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance**

This involves consideration of any action taken to avoid or minimise any harm to the significance of the historic asset and its setting if a negative impact has been identified at the conclusion of Stage 3. The measures would need to be within the planning application boundary being considered and could include the relocation of the development or elements therein or the introduction of screening. The potential impact of the proposed development on the setting of the historic asset will then be reassessed in light of the proposed mitigation.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Stage 1: Identify the historic assets that might be affected

##### 3.1.1 The location, size and scale of the proposed development

The proposed new general-purpose agricultural shed will be located on the northern edge of the Eryri National Park in a relatively isolated location on the western slopes of Garreg Fawr, 800m to the south of the southern edge of Llanfairfechan (LL33 0EE; NGR: SH 68200 73365; Figure 01). It will be situated in the southeastern corner of an irregularly shaped 0.44 ha stone-walled open pasture field. The field lies close to the eastern limit of enclosed grazing land with higher open mountainside further to the east. The ground level in the field slopes down fairly uniformly from the southeast (at circa 184m AOD) to the northwest (at circa 170m AOD).

The new building will be situated 18m to the southwest of a new replacement two-storey farmhouse (permitted planning application NP4/23/46B) constructed on the footprint of the former ruinous Cae Haidd farmstead (GAT HER PRN 77388). It will be an outbuilding in the new yard of the new farmhouse, accompanying an existing single storey outbuilding/bike store, and will be used to store animal fodder, farm machinery and tools, and can potentially be utilised as an emergency unit during the lambing period (Figure 02; Plate 01).

The shed will be built on a newly constructed level terrace cut into the sloping ground (Figure 02; Figure 03). It is a single-storey structure, rectangular in plan, 12.47m long and 8.65m wide. Its gabled roof will have a maximum ridge height above the current ground level of approximately 6.62m.

The shed is of typical modern utilitarian design and will be a type of building commonly encountered at working farms in the locality. It will be constructed with a steel frame and concrete blocks set on a masonry plinth with grey facing bricks. Its walls and most of its roof will be faced with 0.5cm thick anthracite grey box profile galvanised sheeting. Up to 10% of the roof will include clear box profile sheets to allow natural light to illuminate the interior of the building. A steel security door will be situated at ground level on the eastern gable elevation. A shed door, approximately 4m wide and 3m high with a ribbed aluminium roller shutter, will be located at the centre of the northern lateral elevation.

A new L-shaped stone-built retaining wall, up to approximately 1.6m high, will revet the upslope ground to the immediate south and east of the building. The top of the revetment wall will be flush with the adjacent untterraced ground surface. A new access track,

approximately 21m long and 3m wide and constructed from natural stone/slate waste laid on geotextile, will run northwards from the shed door in the northern elevation to join the existing access track and the new parking area in front of the farmhouse (Figure 02).

### **3.1.2 The location and nature of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330)**

Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372; SH 68072 73155) lies in the centre of a large irregularly shaped field of improved pasture 200m to the southwest of the proposed new building (Figure 01; Plate 02). It covers a rectangular area of 0.40 ha which sits at elevations of between 199m and 216m AOD on a sheltered, northwest-facing slope, overlooking the Cae Haidd farmstead to the northeast, and with spectacular views across the Menai Strait and eastern Anglesey. The Cae'r Haidd Scheduled Monument (CN330) consists of the well-preserved remains of a complex Medieval deserted rural settlement. It comprises two groups of features: three platform houses (I-III; GAT HER PRNs 7537, 7536, 7535), levelled areas of ground on which houses would have been built, are aligned in a southwest-northeast row along the contour of the hillslope; and an adjacent group of three rectangular house platforms (IV-VI; GAT HER PRNs 7538, 7539, 7540) are all cut deeply into the hill slope. The remnants of probable contemporary terraced fields and ridge and furrow cultivation are visible to the north of the settlement, outside of the scheduled area, and the settlement forms an important element in a wider Medieval upland landscape.

*(Sources: Cadw Scheduled Monument Full Report CN330; GAT HER Record PRNs 372, 7537, 7536, 7535, 7538, 7539, 7540)*

### **3.1.3 The location and nature of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185)**

The Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185; GAT HER PRNs 248-251, 377-379, 393, 4067, 7444, 7460-7462, 7466, 7470, 59873; SH 68487 73396; Figure 01; Plates 05, 07, 15 and 16) covers a large, irregularly shaped area of 19 ha on ground that slopes down from a height of 295m AOD at the east to 188m AOD to the west. Part of the scheduled area lies on open mountain grazing, and the remainder on enclosed pasture land. At its closest point in its south western corner, it lies 26m to the east of the new building.

The monument has a number of component parts which include several settlement and subsistence features, none of which have been subject to modern archaeological excavation but, by comparison with excavated examples, most likely date to the late prehistoric or Romano-British periods.

The settlement features include two enclosed hut circle settlements. Enclosed Hut Group, Carreg Fawr is a large oval enclosure in the northern corner of the area, 400m to the northwest of the new building (CN185A; GAT HER PRN 248; RCAHMW NPRN 301028). The enclosure measures 55m by 43m, with orthostatic faced walls of grass-covered small stone containing the visible remains of up to four round huts. Field walls adjoin the western, eastern and southern sides of the enclosure. In the southern corner of the area, 410m to the southeast of the proposed shed, another site named Enclosed Hut Group, Carreg Fawr consists of a levelled oval-shaped platform, 38m in diameter and formed from 3m-high terraces (CN185B; GAT HER PRN 249; RCAHMW NPRN 308679). The enclosure contains the remains of a further two round huts which survive as low grass banks. A third possible enclosed hut circle settlement, the Enclosure, Carreg Fawr (CN185C; GAT HER PRN 250; RCAHMW NPRN 308678) consists of another roughly oval shaped enclosure, 28m by 23m. It is located in the central part of the scheduled area 240m to the east of the new shed. A 2m high terrace on the eastern side of the enclosure contains a row of large stones set on edge to form a revetment, whilst to the west, a 1m high field terrace curves around the site. No traces of any huts are identifiable within the enclosure.

The probable remains of an unenclosed hut circle, 6m in diameter, are located on a level platform in the eastern corner of the scheduled area, 500m to the east-southeast of the new building (CN185D; GAT HER PRN 251; RCAHMW NPRN 308680). Another probable unenclosed round hut, the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393; RCAHMW NPRN 302991) is located in the southwestern corner of the scheduled area, on ground sloping steeply to the northwest. It is the element of the Scheduled Monument closest to the proposed new building and overlooks it from an elevated position 60m to its northeast. Currently overgrown with bracken, it consists of a roughly circular platform 8m in diameter with some orthostatic walling surviving around its perimeter. A hollow in the ground approximately 50m to the north-northeast, may be the site of another hut circle and a further possible hut circle is recorded in the central part of the monument, 220m to the east of the proposed new shed (GAT HER PRN 7461).

The settlement remains are surrounded by extensive and well-preserved areas of relict agricultural field systems and enclosures bounded by field walls and terraces 1 - 2.5m in



height (GAT HER PRN's 4067, 59873, 7444, 7462, 7466, 7470). These appear to be contemporary with the late prehistoric / Romano British settlement remains, however, the presence of a possible Medieval rectangular house platform (GAT HER PRN 7460) in the central-western part of the scheduled area, 240m to the northeast of the new building, suggests they may also have been used in later periods.

The remains of what are believed to be three prehistoric funerary cairns, features that are most likely Bronze Age in date and predate the later prehistoric / Romano-British period settlement activity, are located in the northern side of the scheduled area. An oval mound of stone 8-9m long, 6m wide and 0.75m high is situated in the northwestern corner of the scheduled area, 345m to the northeast of the new building (CN185F; GAT HER PRN 378). The cairn has had the stone from its interior removed and built up around the outside to form a sheep shelter. Another cairn lies close by, 50m to the southwest of CN185F. It consists of a grass and gorse-covered stone mound, 6m long, 4m wide and 0.75m high (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379). Another mound of small stones, now covered with grass and gorse and 6m in diameter and 0.5m high (CN185G; GAT HER PRN 377) is located on the northeastern side of the scheduled area, 475m to the northeast of the new shed.

(Sources: Cadw Scheduled Monument Full Report CN185; GAT HER Records PRNs 248-251, 377-379, 393, 4067, 7444, 7460-7462, 7466, 7470, 59873; RCAHMW NMR Records NPRNs 301028; 308679; 308678; 308680; 302991)

### **3.1.4 The visibility of the proposed development**

The proposed new building lies 200m to the northeast of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372) and 26m to the west of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185; GAT HER PRNs 248-251, 377-379, 393, 4067, 7444, 7460-7462, 7466, 7470, 59873).

1m resolution LiDAR data available from Welsh Government (<https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/lidar-viewer/>) has been used to construct a multipoint Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) model for the proposed development in a GIS. The ZTV model uses Digital Terrain Model (DTM) LiDAR data, filtered to remove obstructions such as buildings and trees, and therefore represents the underlying ground surface only enabling an assessment of the worst-case scenario degree of visibility of the proposed new building in the surrounding landscape (Figure 04). The ZTV model is based on 9 assessment points located on the corners, sides and ridgeline of the new building at a height of 6.62m above the level of the current ground surface, the maximum height of the shed's ridgeline once built.

Eye-level height was set at 1.8m and the ZTV radius at 1000m. The model overestimates the potential visibility of the proposed development as all assessment points are set at the ridge height of the proposed new building above the current ground surface, the as-built heights of the corners and sides of the shed will be lower than this.

The ZTV model shows that the proposed new building may theoretically be visible from ground level across the entirety of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372) (Figure 04). The ZTV model also shows that the proposed development may be potentially visible from ground level from the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185); though due to the impact of local topography, available views will be restricted to those from elements within a 3.66 ha area on the western side of the scheduled area (20% of the total area of the monument): the late prehistoric Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr in the southwestern corner of the area (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393; RCAHMW NPRN 302991); the possible Bronze Age funerary Cairn, Carreg Fawr in the northwest (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379); and the possible Medieval long hut/house platform (GAT HER PRN 7460) in the central-western part of the scheduled area.

The GIS terrain-based analysis suggests that the proposed new building will be visible from ground level in northeasterly views from the entirety of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330), and in southwesterly views from the western edge of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185). The impact of the development on the setting of both monuments will therefore need to be assessed in Stages 2 and 3, though the analysis of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) will focus on the potentially visually impacted parts of the monument on its western side: the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393); the possible Bronze Age funerary Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379); and the possible Medieval long hut/house platform (GAT HER PRN 7460) (Table 3.1).

<b>Historic Asset</b>	<b>Potentially visually impacted according to GIS terrain based analysis</b>
Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330)	Yes

Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185)	Yes
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Table 3.1 Historic Assets that the proposed new building may potentially visually impact

## **3.2 Stage 2: Define and analyse the setting of the potentially impacted historic assets**

The setting of a historic asset is made up of:

- its current surroundings;
- our present understanding and appreciation of the historic asset; and
- what (if anything) survives of its historic surroundings.

### **3.2.1 The setting of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330)**

#### **3.2.1.1 The current surroundings of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330)**

Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372) lies in the centre of a large irregularly shaped field of improved pasture 200m to the southwest of the proposed new building (Figure 01; Plate 02). The field lies on the present edge of the limits of enclosed, improved ground on the western slopes of Garreg Fawr, part of the coastal northwestern edge of the Carneddau on the edge of the Eryri National Park. The mountain, and its unenclosed heathland, rises to a height of 364m AOD 900 m to the east of CN330, beyond the field's eastern stone-walled field boundary which lies 100m to the east of the scheduled monument.

A tree-lined stream gully runs along the northeastern side of the field, separating it from the field that lies adjacent to the Cae'r-haidd farmstead, 250m to the northeast. The access track from Cae'r-haidd joins the stream valley in a woodland copse just to the north of the northern edge of the field before following the route of the stream northwards to join Gwyllt Road. On the western side of the field, the wooded slopes on the eastern side of the Rhiwiau valley fall away to the lower ground to the west and southwest. To the north and northwest, in contrast to the wilder, open mountainside to the east, the improved ground on the lower slopes of Garreg Fawr is covered by a patchwork of small, irregular fields stone-walled fields, many with a distinctive prehistoric 'curvilinear' shape, with patches of woodland. Gwyllt Road, part of the minor road from Llanfairfechan to the hamlet of Gwyllt and the house at Gorddinog, runs northeast-southwest across the contours along a break of slope 500m to the northwest of the monument, forming a boundary between the small irregular fields on the steeper

slopes and the larger sub-rectangular Post Medieval improved fields on the gentler sloping ground and the narrow coastal plain.

The Scheduled Monument is located on the upland eastern edge of a rural agricultural fieldscape, a living, working landscape, with a dispersed scatter of modernised 18th and 19th century farmsteads and former farmworkers' cottages to its west and north. The closest farmstead is the recently replaced Cae'r-haidd, the location of the proposed new shed 250m to the north east. The modernised 19th century farmstead at Rhiwiau Isaf (GAT HER PRN 92696) lies on the lower ground beyond the wooded valley sides 280m away to the west, whilst the ruined former farmstead at Rhiwiau Isaf (GAT HER PRN 56319) lies further up the valley 350m to the southwest of the Scheduled Monument. The modernised Post Medieval Llys-y-gwynt farmstead (GAT HER PRN 56319) lies on the southern side of Gwyllt Road, 500m to the northwest of the site. Houses are scattered either side of the Gwyllt Road, including three pairs of semi-detached 19th century farmworkers' cottages and a modern single storey 20th century house at the small hamlet of Gwyllt, 600m to the north-northwest of the site. A terrace of 19th century buildings associated with the farmstead at Bryn-y-goleu (GAT HER PRN 92697) is located on the southern side of the minor road Terrace Walk, 670m to the northwest of the Scheduled Monument. Another farmhouse, which judging by its name on historic Ordnance Survey maps, Capel Uchaf, appears to have been used as a chapel in the 19th century, sits on the northeast side of the junction between Gwyllt Road and Terrace Walk, 100m to the west of Bryn-y-goleu.

### **3.2.1.2 Our present understanding and appreciation of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330)**

The Cae'r Haidd Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372) consists of the well-preserved remains of a complex Medieval deserted rural settlement (DRS). It comprises two groups of features: three house platforms (CN330 I-III; GAT HER PRNs 7537, 7536, 7535), levelled rectangular areas of ground on which houses would have been built, all cut deeply into the hill slope aligned in a southwest-northeast row along the contour; and an adjacent group of three rectangular house platforms (IV-VI; GAT HER PRNs 7538, 7539, 7540) to the east.

The house platforms at Cae'r Haidd have not been subject to archaeological excavation, but morphological similarities with excavated sites suggest that they are settlement features that date to the Medieval period. They are part of a group of 671 DRS sites that are recorded on the Gwynedd HER (Longley 2006, 61). The platforms, typically between 8-10m long and 4-5m wide, provided an area of level ground on the hillslope upon which houses could be

constructed. The houses would be rectangular in shape and built with a low stone foundation wall, often with rounded external corners, that supported a timber superstructure (Longley 2006, 63). Other typical elements of the Medieval sites include an alignment at 90 degrees to the contours of the slope, a drainage ditch cut upslope of the buildings, often referred to as a 'drainage hood', and nearby associated Medieval enclosures and field systems.

The ruined remnants of the external stone foundation walls, now surviving as stoney banks up to 0.8m high, with rounded external corners, occasional remnant facing visible and gaps where the entrances would have been, are visible on 3 of the 6 house platforms (CN330 I-III; GAT HER PRNs 7537, 7536, 7535), whilst the stone footings of two of the external walls of a fourth building (CN330 VI; GAT HER PRN 7540) are also evident. The remaining 2 platforms contain no visible evidence of architectural remains (CN330 IV-V; GAT HER PRNs 7538, 7539). There are no drainage hoods evident on any of the platforms but one of the platforms (CN330 II; GAT HER PRN 7536) is associated with an enclosure. Extensive areas of terracing, field systems and ridge and furrow agriculture (GAT HER PRN 7443; RCAHMW NPRN 408169) are evident outside of the scheduled area in the field to the north of the monument. The presence of likely contemporary field systems demonstrates that this was a permanent agricultural settlement, not seasonally occupied buildings or *hafodau*, used only in the summer months when animals were turned out into upland pasture to graze.

The Medieval occupation of the uplands appears to have taken place during two discreet periods. Population increase in the 12th and 13th centuries coincided with a warmer and dryer climate. These factors, along with the Welsh Medieval inheritance tradition of *cyfran* which meant that on the death of a landowner land was equally divided between all of his sons, eventually resulting in holdings that were too small to be economically viable, combined to create a demand to bring what were once agriculturally marginal locations in the uplands into cultivation and inhabitation. The climate appears to have declined during the course of the 14th century and this, combined with population decline due to famine and plague, resulted in population movement into more productive lowland areas causing the shrinkage or abandonment of settlements on marginal land. In the 15th century climatic improvement and population growth again resulted in an increased demand for land and settlement again expanded into viable upland areas (Jones and Thompson 1998, 33; Leighton and Silvester 2003, 35)

The use of the word 'complex' to describe the Cae'r Haidd Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372) site is intentional and is intended to convey that the site is complex in form and possibly time: not all of the buildings at the site may have been in use concurrently

and the surviving remains may represent temporally different occupation episodes (Jones and Thompson 1998, 12, 29). Without archaeological excavation of the site, it is difficult to know, however.

The proximity of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) to the earlier late prehistoric / Roman period hut circle settlements that are part of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185), the closest of which (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) lies 260m to the northeast (Figure 01), is not unusual. Jones and Thompson (1998, 27) identified that 10.7% of DRS sites in eastern Caernarvonshire are associated with earlier hut circle settlements but they only included sites where the DRS overlay or sat in very close proximity to the earlier settlements, so Cae'r Haidd was not included as one of those sites. The proximity of Late Prehistoric / Roman period settlement does not however demonstrate continuity of occupation between the two periods (Jones and Thompson 1998, 29) and more likely represents the utilisation of suitable land for cultivation when climatic conditions allow and population pressure increases the need to take more marginal ground into cultivation.

Beyond a short written description in the RCAHMW inventory (RCAHMW 1956, 123) there are no known historic artistic depictions or literary references to the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330). It was described as 'visually impressive' with 'good public access' by Jones and Thompson in 1998 (1998, 12). The site was scheduled in 2002 because of its national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of Medieval settlement organisation and the retention of significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of associated archaeological features and deposits, including preserved Medieval ground surfaces below the monuments and intact palaeo-environmental remains.

*(Additional sources: Cadw Scheduled Monument Full Report CN330; GAT HER Record PRNs 372, 7537, 7536, 7535, 7538, 7539, 7540, 7443; RCAHMW Records NPRN 408619)*

### **3.2.1.3 What (if anything) survives of the historic surroundings of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330)**

The Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372) is located within a landscape rich in medieval settlement and agricultural features. A 1998 GAT project which sought to identify previously unrecorded archaeological sites in the area from the analysis of aerial photographs (Geary 1998) identified a number of possible broadly contemporary settlement sites in proximity to the monument. These include the

remains of a rectangular structure (GAT HER PRN 7442) 85m to its north; a possible medieval house platform (GAT HER PRN 7445) 85m to the south; another rectangular structure (GAT HER PRN 7465) 300m to the northeast; and the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) 420m to the northeast (see Sec 3.2.2.6). Unfortunately, there appears to have been no follow-up work to study these sites in more detail and little is recorded about them beyond their descriptive names and locations.

The 1998 survey also identified numerous potentially broadly contemporary agricultural features (Geary 1998) in proximity to the Scheduled Monument including an Area of Terraced Fields (GAT HER PRN 7443) immediately to the north and east; an Area of Cultivation (GAT HER PRN 29529) 250m to the northwest; and a medieval Field System (GAT HER PRN 7437) 420m to the north. The Lynchets (GAT HER PRN 7446) located 140m to the south and the Remains of Small Fields (GAT HER PRN 7459) that lie 190m to the east may be earlier in date but were potentially reused in the Medieval period. Another area of probable Medieval lynchets (PRN 27506) was identified 160m to the north of the Scheduled Monument during a survey of potential prehistoric field systems in 2009-10 (Hopewell and Smith 2010).

A 3km radius multipoint viewshed model constructed for The Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372) (Figure 05) suggests that the site commands a relatively good, if somewhat narrow, view out over the coastal plain to the north, but due to local topographic factors views in other directions are largely restricted to by the nature of the local topography. Despite this, the model suggests that with the exception of GAT HER PRNs 29529 7446, and 7459, the broadly contemporary nearby sites mentioned above appear to have been potentially visible from the settlement.

A hut platform 940m to the southwest at Bod-silin (GAT HER PRN 7132) marks the location of a former settlement that was potentially visible from the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372), however the cluster of platforms around the Medieval Homestead 400m SE of Maes y Gaer Scheduled Monument (CN137), located 1.5km to the southwest, cannot be seen from the site (Figure 05).

Further medieval house platforms and agricultural remains are located in the upland areas further inland, none of which are visible from the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372). These include a cluster of five house platforms on the northwestern slopes of Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRNs 374, 5413, 5415, 3477 and 5411) and an associated field system (GAT HER PRN 59896) between 1.25 and 1.5km to the east (Figure 05). Another group of five house platforms is located on the



northern slopes of Foel Ganol 0.9-1.4km to the southeast (GAT HER PRNs 5403, 5400, 7058, 67627 and 67628). Three house platforms (GAT HER PRNs 4088 and 29526) and a field system (GAT HER PRN 34714) are located on the northwestern side of Foel Dduarth between 1.1 and 1.4km to the south-southwest (Figure 05).

It is possible that the northern part of the predicted route of the former Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570) from Segontium (Caernarvon) to Canovium (Caerhun), which skirts the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372) 50m to the south (Figure 05), was still utilised during the Medieval period. It would have provided the Medieval inhabitants of the settlement with access to the lowland coastal plain to the west, and possibly, if required, the Medieval Church of St Mary in Llanfairfechan. The Church lay 1.4km to the north-northeast and the CN330 viewshed model suggests that it was potentially visible from the settlement (Figure 05). The Medieval church, recorded in the Norwich Taxation of 1254, was demolished in 1849 and replaced with the present building constructed on the same site (GAT HER PRN 6991). The Roman Road would also have provided a useful means of traversing the uplands and accessing the Conwy Valley to the east.

Other earlier anthropogenic landscape features that would have been familiar to the Medieval communities that occupied the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) include the prehistoric cairns, field systems and ruined homesteads at the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185), most of which is visible from the settlement. The presence of the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) within its scheduled area suggests that the fields there may have been taken back into cultivation and reused during the Medieval period.

*(Additional sources: Cadw Scheduled Monument Full Reports CN330, CN137; GAT HER Record PRNs 372, 374, 3477, 4088, 5400, 5403, 5411, 5413, 5415, 6991, 7058, 7132, 7437, 7442, 7443, 7445, 7446, 7459, 7465, 7460, 17570, 27506, 29526, 29529, 34714, 59896, 67627, 67628)*

### 3.2.1.4 The contribution of setting to the significance of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330)

As a Scheduled Monument, the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372) is designated as a nationally important historic asset and its overall significance is assessed as **high**.

It has important **evidential** value as the physical remains of an example of a complex Medieval deserted rural settlement with significant potential to enhance our understanding of the nature, organisation and chronology of medieval settlement and agricultural exploitation in upland areas. Its evidential value is further enhanced by its group value with other nearby broadly contemporary settlement and agricultural features within its setting.

It is of **historical** value because it connects the past with the present by illustrating an example of medieval upland farmsteads set within their contemporary field systems. The presence of nearby broadly contemporary remains within its setting illustrates how extensively the uplands were settled during the medieval period and the presence of nearby prehistoric settlement remains demonstrates the cyclical nature of the historical processes of settlement and abandonment in agriculturally marginal upland areas.

Its **aesthetic** value derives from its visually impressive form and its location on the edge of a tranquil modern-day agricultural landscape which incorporates visibly preserved elements from earlier periods, the views out over that landscape across the Menai Strait to Anglesey, Ynys Seiriol, and the open sea beyond, and the contrast between these and the available inland views to a dramatic wild mountainscape, all of which contribute to a rich and layered visual experience. The contrasting elements evoke both a sense of timeless continuity and an awareness and appreciation of the history of human endeavour, adaptation, and the struggle to coexist with nature.

Its **communal** value derives from the contribution that the Scheduled Monument, and the other historic assets in its setting, make to the distinctive character and sense of place of this part of North West Wales.

The setting of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372) is an important contributor to its significance and its evidential, historic, aesthetic and communal values.

### **3.2.2 The setting of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185)**

The analysis of the setting of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) will focus on the potentially visually impacted elements of the monument on its western side: the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393); the possible Bronze Age funerary cairn (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379); and the possible Medieval long hut/house platform (GAT HER PRN 7460). Following a discussion of the current surroundings of the entire Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) (Sec 3.2.2.1), the present understanding and appreciation of the affected elements, and the level of survival of their historic surroundings, will be considered (Secs 3.2.2.2-7) before the contribution of setting to the significance of the entire Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) is assessed (Sec 3.2.2.8).

#### **3.2.2.1 The current surroundings of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185)**

The Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) covers a large, irregularly shaped area of 19 ha on the western slopes of Garreg Fawr, part of the northwestern coastal fringe of the Carneddau (Figure 01; Plates 05, 07, 15 and 16). The 364m AOD peak of the mountain lies 350m to the southeast of the monument. The scheduled area straddles the boundary between open upland heathland on the upper slopes of the mountain and the lower slopes to the west and southwest that contain an irregular patchwork of enclosed small fields of probable prehistoric origin with sporadic patches of natural deciduous woodland.

The southwestern side of the monument lies 215m to the northeast of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) and as such, its current surroundings to the west and south are broadly similar (see Sec 3.2.1.1). A number of Post Medieval sheepfolds lie in close proximity to the upland eastern side of the monument including a complex multicellular example (NPRN 308667) on the open mountainside 150m to the east. Approximately 120m or so to the north of the Scheduled Monument, in a similar fashion to the landscape character on the west side of the monument, the unenclosed heathland on the northern slopes of Garreg Fawr is bounded by a patchwork of small irregular fields which mark the present limit of cultivation of the ground on the mountain slopes.

The minor road Terrace Walk runs west-southwest-east-northeast along the contours at the break of slope on the northwestern side of the mountain, 240m from the northern edge of the scheduled area, before turning to the east to run along the Afon Llanfairfechan valley. A modern golf course lies 240m to the NW of the northern edge of the scheduled area on the northern side of the road. Further east along Terrace Walk, the small irregular fields give way not to large regular Post Medieval enclosures as seen on the lowest slopes and coastal plain to the west, but to patches of woodland along the southern bank of the Afon Llanfairfechan and residential houses that were built along the valley during the expansion of the Llanfairfechan settlement during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) lies on the upland edge of a modern farming landscape. The closest settlement structure is the recently reconstructed Cae'r-haidd farmstead which lies just 12m from the southwestern corner of the scheduled area, the yard of which is the proposed location of the new agricultural building. Other modernised 19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads lie to the south of Terrace Walk on the lower slopes to the northwest and north of the monument. These include the farmsteads at Bryn-y-goleu (GAT HER PRN 92697) 240m to the northwest of the northern corner of the Scheduled Monument, Tan-yr-allt-isaf (GAT HER PRN 77417) at the mouth of the Afon Llanfairfechan valley 240m to the north, Tan'rallt-uchaf (GAT HER PRN 77407) in the valley 200m to the north, Ty-pitch (GAT HER PRN 77412) 360m to the north east, and further along the valley, 570m to the northeast of the eastern side of the scheduled area, Hengae (GAT HER PRN 77401).

### **3.2.2.2 Our present understanding and appreciation of the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393)**

The Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393; Plate 03), located in the southwestern corner of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185), represents the remains of small circular stone-built upland homestead and over 1000 such sites are known in northwest Wales (Smith 1999, 22).

Though it has not been subject to archaeological excavation, it is assumed to date to the late prehistoric or Romano-British periods. In 1999, Smith wrote that fifty-five of the hut group sites had been subject to archaeological excavation, and most of these have produced evidence of occupation during the Romano-British period. However, a small number of modern excavations with the benefit of scientific dating have been able to show that the Romano-British material represents a later phase of use of some of the more recently excavated sites, and many may have earlier Iron Age origins in the middle of first millennium

BC (Smith 1999). For this reason, undated but morphologically similar sites such as CN185E tend to be broadly designated to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, with their occupation and use spanning the periods before and after the historically documented Roman invasion and conquest of North Wales in the first century AD. The hut circle settlements are broadly contemporary with, and economically and socially complimentary to hillforts, larger sites that may have had a defensive role and a higher status, or perhaps a communal function.

It is possible that the hut circles were abandoned during the instability following the collapse of Roman rule in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. Smith (1998, 4) however argues that the population of upland North West Wales, which had never been fully integrated into a Romanized villa economy, would not have suffered the same kind of social and political disruption as that experienced by lowland populations exposed to Saxon encroachment. The pre-Roman settlement tradition represented by the hut circle settlements may have continued into the Early Medieval period. Continuity of occupation into the Early Medieval period has been demonstrated at the hut circle settlements at Graeanog and Bush Farm, near Caernarfon and possibly at Ty Mawr, Holyhead. How widespread a phenomena this is unclear however: a lack of pottery and coins in circulation and the general paucity of finds relating to the sub-Roman period makes Early Medieval occupation of the structures difficult to identify archaeologically and more research is needed to gain a better understanding of the nature of the transition (Smith 1998, 4).

In 1964 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW 1964, lxxxix – xc), building on earlier work by Gresham, Hemp and Griffiths, classified the hut group sites in Caernarvonshire into four broad types, most of which were further subdivided:

- I Huts not associated with fields or enclosures
- II Huts within enclosures (subdivided into types a-c)
- III Concentric Circles (subdivided into types a and b); and
- IV Huts associated with terraced fields (subdivided into types a - e).

Smith, writing in 1999 (1999, 8) developed a further classification system that concentrated on the form of the hut-circle rather than any associated field system or enclosures which he classified separately:

- 1 Single Hut (subdivided into types 1.1 -1.6)

- 2 Scattered hut settlement (subdivided into types 2.1 - 2.3)
- 3 Circular / Concentric settlement (subdivided into types 3.1 - 3.2)
- 4 Nucleated / Enclosed Settlement (subdivided into types 4.1 - 4.5)
- 5 Unclassified probable settlement (subdivided into types 5.1 – 5.2)

The Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) was not included in the survey of Carreg Fawr published in the Caernarvonshire Inventory (RCAHMW 1956, 120-1), however it falls into their Class I category, a single hut not associated with fields or enclosures, as it has no adjoining enclosure walls. It does however lie in close proximity to various terraces (agricultural features formed by ploughing) and enclosures within the wider scheduled area (GAT HER PRN's 4067, 59873, 7444, 7462, 7466, 7470). It is classified by Smith (1998) as a type 1.4 - a single hut that is a probable outlier to a type 4 nucleated/enclosed group: either the enclosed hut group in the northern corner of the scheduled area (CN185A; GAT HER PRN 248), the possible enclosed hut circle settlement in the central part of the scheduled area (CN185C; GAT HER PRN 250; RCAHMW NPRN 308678) or the enclosed settlement in the southern corner (CN185B; GAT HER PRN 249; RCAHMW NPRN 308679). It should be noted however that the various broadly contemporary hut circle settlement structures within the scheduled area may not all have been in contemporaneous occupation; they may instead represent localised shifts of foci of settlement activity over time (see Waddington 2013, 45).

As a permanent agricultural settlement the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) appears to have been located on relatively good agricultural land, possibly in a more defensible position on higher ground, but also at low enough altitude to be viable for year-round use. A single point 3km radius viewshed model constructed for CN185E (Figure 06) suggests that the site commands relatively good views to the northwest towards the coast but due to local topographic factors views in other directions are restricted.

The viewshed model also suggests that intervisibility between the broadly contemporary hut circle settlement elements within the scheduled area (CN185A, GAT HER PRN 248; CN185C, GAT HER PRN 250; CN185B, GAT HER PRN 249; CN185D, GAT HER PRN 251; and GAT HER PRN 7461) may not have an important factor when deciding on their locations (Figure 06); proximity though may still have been. It is also possible that if they were in contemporaneous use, the tops of the roofs of the various hut circle elements may have

been visible from the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) but this depends on their original construction height.

The Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) is included in the scheduled area because it is part of a complex of functionally, chronologically and spatially related features that are of national importance for their potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric settlement. It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of associated archaeological features and deposits and the structure itself may be expected to contain archaeological information concerning chronology and building techniques.

*(Additional Sources: Cadw Scheduled Monument Full Report CN185; GAT HER Records PRNs 248, 249, 250, 251, 393, 4067, 7461, 7462, 7466, 7470, 59873; RCAHMW NMR Records NPRN 308679)*

### **3.2.2.3 What (if anything) survives of the historic surroundings of the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393)**

The Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) is an Iron Age/Roman period settlement feature and is part of a more widely settled contemporary agricultural landscape. It was built in relatively close proximity to other broadly contemporary settlement features which are part of the Carreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) including the possible hut circle 165m to the east-southeast (GAT HER PRN 7461); the hut group in the northern corner of the scheduled area (CN185A; GAT HER PRN 248) 355m to the northeast, the possible enclosed hut circle settlement in the central part of the scheduled area (CN185C; GAT HER PRN 250) 200m to the east; the enclosed settlement in the southern corner (CN185B; GAT HER PRN 249) 400m to the southeast; and the hut circle in the eastern corner of the scheduled area (CN185D; GAT HER PRN 251) 480m to the east-southeast. Relict agricultural field systems and enclosures bounded by field walls and terraces (GAT HER PRN's 4067, 59873, 7444, 7462, 7466, 7470) associated with the settlement sites lie to the east and southeast of The Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393).

Other broadly contemporary settlement sites are located nearby, outside of the scheduled area. The closest non-scheduled example, The Hut Group, North of Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 256), is located in woodland on the banks of a stream 210m to the west-southwest of The Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393). It consists of the remains of a square structure and at least three hut circles with associated enclosure walls. A relatively

isolated small hut circle (GAT HER PRN 258) lies 380m to the south-southwest, a small possible hut circle (GAT HER PRN 29530) lies 400m to the southwest, whilst another single structure (GAT HER PRN 7439) is located 430m to the southwest. A single-point viewshed model for The Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) (Figure 06) suggests that three of these four broadly contemporary sites (GAT HER PRNs 256, 258 and 29530), would have been visible from the settlement.

The same model suggests that no other undesignated contemporary sites in proximity would have been visible from the hut circle (Figure 06). These include the remains of a possible destroyed enclosed hut circle settlement located on the eastern side of Coed-y-Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 253) and an associated circular defended enclosure (GAT HER PRN 7447) 560m to the southwest; an isolated round hut (GAT HER PRN 259) located in marshy ground close to the head of the Rhiwiau valley 850m to the southwest; and numerous further examples located on the upland slopes further southwest towards the Abergwyngregyn valley. Other possible examples of isolated roundhouses in proximity include a circular feature (GAT HER PRN 7471) 370m to the southeast and a possible roundhouse (GAT HER PRN 7451) 600m to the south. Two other examples (GAT HER PRNs 9375 and 7473) lie around 900m to the southeast, further up the slopes of the western side of Garreg Fawr, though again, they are not visible from the settlement.

Examples of hut circle settlements that are designated Scheduled Monuments are located slightly further away from the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) than the undesignated sites listed above (Figure 06). The only lowland example, and the only one potentially visible from CN185E according to the viewshed model, is the Hut Circles near Wern Newydd Scheduled Monument (CN250; GAT HER PRN 257) which lies on the coastal plain 1.2km to the northwest. The Gwern y Plas Ancient Village (CN072; GAT HER PRN 255) sits on the northern side of the Afon Llanfairfechan Valley, 1.5km to the north-northeast. Further inland, the Pont y Teiryd Hut Group and Ancient Fields Scheduled Monument (CN184; GAT HER PRN 252) lies 1.25km to the east on the northeastern slopes of Garreg Fawr. Two sites, the Hut Group 750m SE of Bod Silin (CN136; GAT HER PRN 321) and the Enclosed Hut Circle Settlement South-East of Bod Silin (CN285; GAT HER PRN 323) Scheduled Monuments are located in marshy ground northwest of Foel Dduarth, 1.2km to the southwest. A cluster of designated sites are located on the northwestern slopes of Foel Dduarth 1.6-2.2km to the southeast: the Hut Circle and Rectangular Hut North of Wern Y Pandy (CN286; GAT HER PRN 324); Foel Dduarth Enclosure (CN122; GAT HER PRN 229); the Hut Group West of Foel Dduarth (CN123; GAT HER PRN 322); and the Hut Group 180m Northwest of Hafod-y-Gelyn (CN135; GAT HER PRN 320).



Contemporary agricultural fields systems and enclosures bounded by field walls and terraces (GAT HER PRN's 4067, 59873, 7444, 7462, 7466, 7470) associated with the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) are located within the boundary of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185). Other nearby potentially contemporary agricultural remains include Lynchets (GAT HER PRN 7446) 450m to the southwest; and the Remains of Small Fields (GAT HER PRN 7459) 300m to the south.

Other broadly contemporary sites include Iron Age hillforts, the two closest being Maes y Gaer Camp (Scheduled Monument CN038), which stands overlooking the mouth of the Aber Valley 2km to the southwest, and the Dinas Camp Hillfort (Scheduled Monument CN049) 1.8km to the east-northeast. The viewshed model for the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) (Figure 06 – CN049 not shown) demonstrates that there are no available views of either hillfort from it.

A short section of the predicted route of the former Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570) from Segontium (Caernarvon) to Canovium (Caerhun) is visible from the site, 375m to the southwest where it runs from the coastal plain to the northwest into the uplands to the southeast. Roman roads often followed earlier prehistoric routeways, particularly in the uplands where the earlier tracks would have been optimized for the terrain, and it is almost certain that the route would have been utilised by the late prehistoric or Roman period inhabitants of the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) for local travel, communication with neighbouring settlements, and trade.

*(Additional Sources: Cadw Scheduled Monument Full Reports CN038, CN049, CN072, CN122, CN123, CN135, CN136, CN185, CN185, CN250, CN285, CN286; GAT HER Records PRNs 229, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 393, 4067, 7439, 7444, 7446, 7447, 7451, 7461, 7462, 7466, 7470, 7471, 7473, 9375, 17570, 59873)*

### 3.2.2.4 Our present understanding and appreciation of the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379)

Cairns, or *carneddau* in Welsh, are circular or oval mounds of stone, often found grassed over or partially covered with moss and lichens. They are a common sight in the uplands of Conwy and Gwynedd, so much so that they have inspired the name of the *Carneddau* mountain range. The Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379; Plate 04) is thought to be the possible remains of a Bronze Age round barrow funerary monument and is one of three cairns located within the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185), the other two being the robbed out cairn 50m to the northeast (CN185F; GAT HER PRN 378) and the cairn on the northeastern side of the scheduled area (CN185G; GAT HER PRN 377) 280m to the east-southeast. None of the Cairns at the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) have been subject to modern archaeological excavation.

Field clearance cairns, mounds of stone resulting from the removal of stone to aid cultivation of nearby ground are also common in the uplands and can often have the appearance of a funerary cairn. The Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) is however thought to most likely be a funerary cairn due to the absence of other clearance cairns in the vicinity, as is (CN185F; GAT HER PRN 378) to its northeast, whilst (CN185G; GAT HER PRN 377) 280m to the east-southeast is more likely to be a clearance cairn. Of the 202 likely or possible round barrows identified by Smith in 2002, 60 were classified as sites that could not be confidently identified as either funerary or clearance features (Smith 2002, 11).

Bronze Age round barrows are the most common type of Prehistoric funerary and ritual monument encountered in the region and 202 likely or possible examples were identified in West Conwy and North Gwynedd during Smith's *Prehistoric Funerary And Ritual Sites Project* in 2002 (Smith 2002). Typically they consist of a mound between 5 and 9m in diameter which has been raised over a central burial, often in a stone cist or pit, though larger and smaller examples are known. In lowland areas the mounds are sometimes constructed of earth, in the uplands the mounds are typically made of stone as with The Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379).

Excavated examples of round barrows show that in Early Bronze Age Wales (2200 – 1700 BC) the burial might consist of an inhumation accompanied by a ceramic beaker or food vessel, but more commonly the burial will be a cremated individual usually placed in a ceramic urn. In the Middle Bronze Age (1700 – 1200 BC), only cremation burials are encountered (Tellier 2018, 112-117). Later secondary insertions of burials into the mounds

are common, as are enlargements and modifications to the original mound. Radiocarbon dates from mounds with multiple burials and phases frequently display no discernible temporal difference between the different phases of activity, and it has been suggested that they represent the funerary monuments of individuals, small families or communities that are only used for one or two centuries, being abandoned once the memory of the person represented by the primary central burial has been forgotten (Bradley 2007 cited in Tellier 2018, 111).

Earlier burials under or in cairns are frequently associated with grave goods, but this tradition declines in the Middle Bronze Age (Tellier 2018, 117). The high visibility of the better-preserved examples of this class of monument and their potential for the recovery of artefacts means that they have frequently been the target of antiquarian treasure hunters and examples of disturbed, robbed-out cairns are common.

The Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) is classified as a simple stone cairn which is by far the most common type of round barrow in West Conwy and North Gwynedd (Smith 2002). Other rarer types of round barrow with a similar function include: *Earthen Mounds*, usually found on lowland sites and often larger than the simple stone cairns with a diameter of 10-19m; *Kerbed Cairns*, usually with a smaller diameter of 5-9m with the mound of stones surrounded by a ring of stones set to form a clearly defined kerb; *Structured Cairns*, mounds of stone between 5-19m in diameter that incorporate large orthostatic elements suggestive of ring structure; and *Ring Cairns*, a clearly defined circular bank of stone usually between 5-19m in diameter containing an open central area. The latter type of monument may not be primarily a funerary monument however, evidence from excavated examples in North Wales suggests that ceremonial activity in the enclosed space within the stone ring possibly played a more important role in their use (Lynch 1979, 9).

It is often difficult to identify which type of round barrow a site belongs to without archaeological excavation (Lynch 1979, 2): grassed over simple cairns may be misidentified as earthen mounds, robbed out simple or kerbed cairns can also be mistakenly taken for ring cairns and the ruinous and often disturbed condition of many cairns means that diagnostic features such as kerbs or open areas in the centre may be covered by tumbled stones.

The round barrows in Gwynedd appear to have been deliberately sited in highly visible locations including hillslopes, upland plateaus, ridges and mountain and hill tops, often far beyond the limits of cultivation during any period. They are often placed in a skewed location, slightly offset from the actual peak or ridge, or on the false crest of a hill, which accentuates their prominence on the horizon when viewed from a certain direction. The exceptions to this

are the ring cairns which tend to be located in saddles or valleys, which may again suggest a different function to the other types of cairns. All of the barrows and cairns appear to have been sited to be seen from either settlements, or the prehistoric routeways between them which would have crossed the uplands during the Bronze Age (Smith 2002, 20; GAT 2023). It is possible that the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570) from Segontium (Caernarvon) to Canovium (Caerhun), which runs northwest-southeast 600m to the southwest of The Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379), follows the line of an earlier prehistoric trackway that provided access to the uplands from the coastal plain.

The Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) lies on the western fringe of a cluster of barrows located between the Aber Valley and the Conwy Valley, the densest concentration of such monuments in Gwynedd and West Conwy. Within this cluster, there is a particular concentration around uplands to the south of Penmaenmawr which is also the location of an unusually high number of Bronze Age ceremonial monuments (Scheduled Monument CN024), most notably the Cefn Coch group of stone circles including the Druid's Circle (GAT HER PRN 541). Smith (2002, 20) suggests that the number and density of sites, and the wealth of finds recovered from some of the excavated barrows in the area, demonstrates that the area was utilised by well-established and affluent Bronze Age communities that were probably settled on the lower lying land to the east or west.

There are no known historic artistic depictions or literary references to The Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379). The site was scheduled in 1977, along with the other parts of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185), because it is part of a group of features with significant archaeological potential to enhance our knowledge and understanding of prehistoric settlement and funerary practices. There is a strong probability of the presence of currently unidentified features and deposits, including human remains and artefacts, associated with the cairn, and the structure of the barrow may be expected to contain archaeological information concerning chronology and building techniques.

*(Additional sources: Cadw Scheduled Monument Full Reports CN024, CN185; GAT HER Records PRNs 377, 378, 379, 541, 17570)*

### **3.2.2.5 What (if anything) survives of the historic surroundings of the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379)**

The Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) is one of three broadly contemporary probable prehistoric funerary cairns located within the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185), the other two being the robbed out cairn 50m to the northeast (CN185F; GAT HER PRN 378) and the example in the northeast of the scheduled area (CN185G; GAT HER PRN 377) 410m to the northeast. A 3km radius single point viewshed generated for the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) (Figure 07) shows that it is clearly visible from nearby CN185H, however, there is no intervisibility between it and CN185G to the east (Figure 07).

As was stated above (Sec 3.2.2.4), The Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) lies on the western fringe of a cluster of barrows located between the Aber Valley and the Conwy Valley, the densest concentration of such monuments in Gwynedd and West Conwy. Just outside of the Scheduled Area, 450m to the south, lies another possible funerary cairn (GAT HER PRN 7468) whilst another lies 750m to the southwest (GAT HER PRN 375). The viewshed model suggests that only the latter, GAT HER PRN 375, is visible from The Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379). A cluster of 7 funerary cairns (GAT HER PRN 4074) is located on the saddle to the south of Garreg Fawr, 910m to the east whilst another small example is located on the southeastern slopes of the mountain (GAT HER PRN 5414). None of the Garreg Fawr cairns are visible from CN185H (Figure 07).

A number of cairns are located on the slopes of Foel Dduarth and Foel Ganol, between 1.6 and 2.2km to the south and southwest of the site, including the seven examples included in the Carnedd y Saeson and Neighbouring Cairns Northwest of Foel Dduarth Scheduled Monument (CN138; GAT HER PRN 354), another, the Cairn to the Northeast of Foel Dduarth Scheduled Monument (CN342; GAT HER PRN 376) and the Cairn, North-northwest of Yr Orsedd Scheduled Monument (CN341; GAT HER PRN 381). At least seven undesignated cairns are also located in this vicinity (GAT HER PRNs 4095, 5394, 6391, 362, 355, 356 and 364). The viewshed model suggests that of all of the barrows in this area, only Scheduled Monument CN342 and a nearby undesignated cairn (GAT HER PRN 364) are potentially visible from The Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) (Figure 07).

As was discussed earlier, funerary cairns appear to have been sited in areas where they would be visible from either settlements or the prehistoric routeways between them which would have crossed the uplands during the Bronze Age (Smith 2002; GAT 2023) (see Sec 3.2.2.4). It is possible that the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570) from

Segontium (Caernarvon) to Canovium (Caerhun), which runs northwest-southeast 600m to the southwest of The Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379), follows the line of an earlier prehistoric trackway that provided access to the uplands from the coastal plain. Viewshed models suggest that the Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) would potentially have been visible to travellers along the trackway from an approximately 850m long stretch to the southwest and south of the cairn (Figure 07).

In addition to the Bronze Age funerary and ceremonial monuments scattered across the uplands, evidence for contemporary settlement activity is also present in the form of *burnt mounds*. These are found in both lowland and upland locations and typically consist of grassed over circular or crescent-shaped mounds of heat-shattered stone situated close to a current or former watercourse. Excavated examples are usually accompanied by a 'trough', a pit in which water appears to have been heated using stones heated on a fire. The repeated raking out of the trough and discard of the heat-shattered stones results in their accumulation into a mound. Radiocarbon-dated examples span the period from the late Neolithic to the medieval period, however, typically they date to the Middle to Late Bronze Age (1200 - 800 BC).

The nearest known burnt mound to the Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379), the Burnt Mound, Nr. Tyddyn y Waen (GAT HER PRN 387), is located on the western slopes of Garreg Fawr, 850m to the southeast of the cairn. Further examples have been identified further inland, including the Burnt Mound, Ffridd Newydd (GAT HER PRN 391) 1.6km to the southeast, a cluster of 3 on the to the north of Foel Ganol (GAT HER PRNs 390, 389, 5402), 1.5km to the south-southeast, possible examples on the northern slopes of Foel Dduarth (GAT HER PRN 5397) 1.5km to the south-southwest of the cairn, and a number of burnt mounds in the Anafon Valley (GAT HER PRN 1191) 2.2km to the south-southwest. Viewsheds suggest that the Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) would not have been visible from any of these upland burnt mounds when they were in use (Figure 07). It may have been visible however from one of the lowland examples, the Burnt Mound, at Madryn Farm, Abergwyngregyn (GAT HER PRN 927) which was located on the coastal plain close to the present-day A55 trunk road, 1.9km to the west (Figure 07).

*(Additional Sources: Cadw Scheduled Monument Full Reports CN138, CN185, CN341, CN342; GAT HER Records PRNs 354, 355, 356, 362, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 381, 387, 389, 390, 391, 927, 1191, 4074, 4095, 5394, 5397, 5402 5414, 6391, 7468, 17570)*

### **3.2.2.6 Our present understanding and appreciation of the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460)**

The possible Medieval long hut/house platform (GAT HER PRN 7460) was identified during a GAT project which set out to identify previously unrecorded sites visible on aerial photographs (Geary 1998). It was not identified in time to be included in Jones and Thompson's 1998 *Deserted Rural Settlement in Eastern Caernarfonshire*, and no further survey work has been carried out at the site following its identification. As such, very little information is currently available about it.

It sits on the western side of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185), surrounded by the traces of earlier, prehistoric funerary monuments, and prehistoric and Roman period settlement sites and field systems, and is one of the group of 671 Deserted Rural Settlement sites that are recorded on the Gwynedd HER (Longley 2006, 61).

The nature of Medieval house platforms is discussed more fully as part of the analysis of the setting of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) in Sec 3.2.1.2. The platforms, typically between 8-10m long and 4-5m wide, provided an area of level ground on the hillslope upon which a rectangular house could be constructed. The Medieval occupation of the uplands appears to have taken place during two discreet periods, the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century and the 15<sup>th</sup> century, when favourable climatic changes and population pressure saw agricultural settlement expand into what were previously marginal upland landscapes. The Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460), if it is a Medieval settlement site, probably dates to one of these settlement expansion episodes.

The Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) is not mentioned in the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) Full Report, and does not appear to be a major factor in the designation of the monument. It is possible that the house platform, if that is indeed what it is, was sited to take advantage of the earlier terraces and enclosures that form part of the Scheduled Monument and it illustrates another episode of agricultural settlement and abandonment of the uplands by agricultural communities, cyclical processes which have continued for millennia.

The Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) potentially contains archaeological remains that can enhance our knowledge of Medieval settlement organisation and there is a possibility that associated archaeological features and deposits survive,

including a preserved Medieval ground surface below the house platform and intact palaeo-environmental remains.

(Additional sources: Cadw Scheduled Monument Full Report CN185; GAT HER Record PRN 7460)

### **3.2.2.7 What (if anything) survives of the historic surroundings of the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460)**

The Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) is located in a landscape relatively densely populated with broadly contemporary Medieval settlement and agricultural remains. A rectangular structure (GAT HER PRN 7465) that most likely dates to this period is located 180m to the south, just outside the boundary of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185). A single-point viewshed model constructed for the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) suggests that the ground level at the rectangular structure (GAT HER PRN 7465) would not have been visible from the Possible Long Hut, but its roof may have been (Figure 08).

The Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) lies 420m to the northeast of, and is inter-visible with, the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372) (see also Sec 3.2.1.3). Two other possible settlement sites lie in close proximity: the remains of another rectangular structure (GAT HER PRN 7442) 410m to the southwest; and a possible medieval house platform (GAT HER PRN 7445) 530m to the southwest. Both of these sites would have been clearly visible to the inhabitants of the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) (Figure 08).

A hut platform 1.5km to the southwest at Bod-silin (GAT HER PRN 7132) marks the location of a former settlement that was potentially visible from the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460), however, the cluster of platforms around the Medieval Homestead 400m SE of Maes y Gaer Scheduled Monument (CN137), located 2.0km to the southwest, cannot be seen from the site (Figure 08).

Further medieval house platforms and agricultural remains are located in the upland areas further inland from the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460). These include a cluster of five house platforms on the northwestern slopes of Garreg Fawr between 1.1 and 1.25km to the southeast (GAT HER PRNs 374, 5413, 5415, 3477 and 5411) and an associated field system (GAT HER PRN 59896). Another group of five house platforms is located on the northern slopes of Foel Ganol 1.1-1.4km to the south-southeast (GAT HER



PRNs 5403, 5400, 7058, 67627 and 67628). Three house platforms (GAT HER PRNs 4088 and 29526) and a field system (GAT HER PRN 34714) are located on the northwestern side of Foel Dduarth between 1.6 and 1.9km to the south-southwest. Only two of these sites are potentially visible from the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460): the Hut Platforms, Foel Dduarth (GAT HER PRN 5400) and Hut Platform II, Foel Dduarth (GAT HER PRN 67627) (Figure 08).

The location of the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) within an area of prehistoric agricultural remains suggests that the various fields and terraces in the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372) may have been reused during its occupation in the Medieval period. Other broadly contemporary agricultural features in proximity include an Area of Terraced Fields (GAT HER PRN 7443) 380m to the southwest; an Area of Cultivation (GAT HER PRN 29529) 550m to the west; and a Medieval Field System (GAT HER PRN 7437) 450m to the northwest. Lynchets (GAT HER PRN 7446) are located 580m to the southwest and the Remains of Small Fields (GAT HER PRN 7459) lie 370m to the south-southwest, both of which may originally be earlier in date but were potentially reused in the Medieval period. Another area of probable Medieval lynchets (PRN 27506) lies 450m to the west-southwest (Figure 08).

As has already been discussed in relation to the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330; GAT HER PRN 372) (see Sec 3.2.1.3), it is possible that the predicted route of the former Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570) from Segontium (Caernarvon) to Canovium (Caerhun) was still utilised during the Medieval period. At its closest point, the route lies 500m to the southwest of the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) (Figure 08). It would have provided an important means of access into the uplands to the east and to the coastal plain to the northwest. It is unclear whether the Medieval Church of St Mary in Llanfairfechan, located 1.26km to the north-northwest, would have been visible from the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460). The viewshed model (Figure 08) suggests there are no views to ground level at the site of the former church, though it's possible that the upper parts of the building may have been visible depending on its height.

*(Additional sources: Cadw Scheduled Monument Full Reports CN330, CN137; GAT HER Record PRNs 372, 374, 3477, 4088, 5400, 5403, 5411, 5413, 5415, 6991, 7058, 7132, 7437, 7442, 7443, 7445, 7446, 7459, 7465, 7460, 17570, 27506, 29526, 29529, 34714, 59896, 67627, 67628)*

### 3.2.2.8 The contribution of setting to the significance of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185)

As a Scheduled Monument, the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) is designated as a nationally important historic asset and its overall significance is assessed as **high**.

It is a multi-period historic asset with important **evidential** values that relate to the physical remains of examples of Bronze Age funerary cairns, Late Prehistoric/Roman period roundhouse settlement structures and field systems, and potentially medieval settlement structures. The various components of the asset retain significant potential to enhance our understanding of Prehistoric funerary practices and the nature, organisation and chronology of both Prehistoric/Roman and Medieval settlement and agricultural exploitation. Its evidential value is further enhanced by the group value of both its various component parts, and by the presence and survival of other nearby broadly contemporary funerary, settlement and agricultural features within its setting.

It is of **historical** value because it connects the past with the present by illustrating examples of Bronze Age funerary cairns, Late Prehistoric/Roman period settlement structures set within their contemporary field systems, and medieval upland farmsteads. As a group, the different elements of the Scheduled Monument, and the broadly contemporary sites within their settings, also illustrate how extensively the uplands were utilised during the different periods, and the cyclical nature of the historical processes of settlement and abandonment in agriculturally marginal upland areas, illustrating how the multi-period landscape has evolved and been used over time to create the palimpsest that we can see today. The hut circles also have further associative historical value as they were most likely occupied during the nationally important and historically documented Roman invasion of North Wales and the Roman conquest of much of the British Isles.

The Scheduled Monument's **aesthetic** value derives from its scale and location, straddling the interface between a tranquil modern-day agricultural landscape with visibly preserved elements from earlier periods, and a wilder rugged upland mountainscape. The views out over the farming landscape, across the coastal plain and the Menai Strait to Anglesey, Ynys Seiriol, and the open sea beyond, stand in stark contrast to the available inland views to the dramatic wild mountains of the Carneddau, creating a rich and layered visual experience. The contrasting elements evoke both a sense of timeless continuity and an understanding and appreciation of the history of human endeavour, adaptation, and the struggle to coexist with nature.

The Scheduled Monument's **communal** value derives from the contribution that it, and the other historic assets in its setting, make to the distinctive character and sense of place of this part of North West Wales. The cairns at the monument, and elsewhere within the area, are characteristic landscape forms that give the area, the mountain range the Carneddau, its name. Another aspect of the monument's communal value is the potential origin of the hut circles and field systems in the Celtic Iron Age, and the importance that a sense of Celtic identity plays in shaping modern concepts of Welsh national identity.

The setting of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) is an important element of its significance and contributes to its evidential, historic, aesthetic and communal values.

### 3.2.3 Viewpoints

The 14 viewpoints listed in Table 3.2 have been identified as those from which the impact of the proposed development on the settings of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) and the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) should be assessed (Figure 09).

Viewpoint		Reason
01	Views E towards the proposed development and the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) from the field to the W of the Cae'r-haidd farmstead	Modern visitor viewpoint
02	Views SSE towards the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) from the trackway at the entrance to the field to its N	Modern visitor viewpoint / historic viewpoint
03	Views NE from the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) over the terraced fields (GAT HER PRN 7443) towards the proposed development and the broadly contemporary hut platform (GAT HER PRN 7460)	Historic viewpoint
04	Views N from the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) over the terraced fields (GAT HER PRN 7443) towards the proposed development and the broadly contemporary rectangular building (GAT HER PRN 7442)	Historic viewpoint
05	Views N towards the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) from the broadly contemporary hut platform (GAT HER PRN 7445) and the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570)	Historic viewpoint
06	Views NW from the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) towards the Hut Circles near Wern Newydd Scheduled Monument (CN250)	Historic viewpoint

Viewpoint		Reason
07	Views WSW from the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) over the proposed development towards the broadly contemporary settlement N of Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 256)	Historic viewpoint
08	Views SW from the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) over the proposed development towards the broadly contemporary Settlement Nr. Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 258), Hut Circle (GAT PRN 29530) and the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570)	Historic viewpoint
09	Views SW from the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) towards the Cairn, East of Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 375)	Historic viewpoint
10	Views S from the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) towards the Cairn to the NE of Foel Dduarth Scheduled Monument (CN342) and the Cairn on the North Slopes of Foel Dduarth (GAT HER PRN 364)	Historic viewpoint
11	Views N towards the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; from the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570)	Historic viewpoint
12	Views NE towards the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; from the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570)	Historic viewpoint
13	Views SW from the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) towards the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330), terraced fields (GAT HER PRN 7443), Lynchets (GAT HER PRN 7446), the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570), the Rectangular Platform, Nr Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 7445), the Rectangular Building, NE of Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 7442) and the Long Hut/Platform Hut, SW of Bod-silin (GAT HER PRN 7132)	Historic viewpoint

Viewpoint		Reason
14	Views WSW from the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) towards the Lynchets, W Of Coed Rhiwau (GAT HER PRN 27506) and the Area of Cultivation (GAT HER 29529)	Historic viewpoint

Table 3.2 Assessment viewpoints

### **3.3 Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance**

#### **3.3.1 Field assessment**

A field visit was undertaken by Neil McGuinness and Jessie Baumgardner of GAT in August 2023 in order to assess the impact of the proposed development on the settings of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) and the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185), in particular the impact on the 14 key viewpoints identified in Stage 2 (Sec 3.2.3). The results of the assessment of the key viewpoints are detailed below.

##### **3.3.1.1 Viewpoint 01: Views east towards the proposed development and the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) from the field to the west of the Cae'r-haidd farmstead (Plate 05; Figure 09)**

The field visit confirmed that the proposed new agricultural building will be clearly visible in the middle ground of views towards the western side of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) from the access trackway that runs across the field to the west of the Cae Haidd farmstead (Plate 05). Parts of the western side of the scheduled area, which occupies the bracken and gorse-covered hillside behind the newly rebuilt farmstead, form the horizon of views from here and the new building will obscure existing views to the extreme southwestern corner of the monument (Plate 05). The addition of the agricultural shed, which will be located to the southwest of the newly reconstructed farmhouse (to the right of the farmhouse as depicted in plate 05), will not alter the character of existing views to any great degree. They will still essentially be views of a modern working farmstead, with a farmhouse sympathetically designed with the style and appearance of traditional post-medieval farmsteads in the locality, located with its outbuildings at the interface between more gently sloping cultivated land and the steeper, wilder upland area that incorporates the Scheduled Monument.

##### **3.3.1.2 Viewpoint 02: Views south-southeast towards the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) from the trackway at the entrance to the field to its north (Plate 06; Figure 09)**

The trackway that enters the field to the north of The Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) is a public right of way and as such, it provides publicly

accessible views of the Scheduled Monument. The Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) is clearly visible on the horizon of the rising grassland slopes in views from here (Plate 06). The orientation of the view means that the proposed new agricultural building, located 170m to the east, is not visible in views towards the Scheduled Monument from this location and it will have no impact on them. Nor is it visible in easterly views from the location due to intervening mature trees and shrubs around the hut circle settlement North of Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 256) and in the stream valley that contains the southwestern field boundary of the field to the immediate west and south of the Cae Haidd farmstead. It is likely that this screening effect will also be apparent in the winter months due to the density and proximity of trees and shrubs to the immediate east of the viewpoint.

**3.3.1.3 Viewpoint 03: Views northeast from the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) over the terraced fields (GAT HER PRN 7443) towards the proposed development and the broadly contemporary hut platform (GAT HER PRN 7460) (Plate 07; Figure 09)**

The Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) has clear views to the northeast, out over the medieval terraced field system (GAT HER PRN 7443) towards the location of the broadly contemporary hut platform (GAT HER PRN 7460) within the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) (Plate 07). The Scheduled Monument forms the horizon in the centre of northeasterly views from here with the impressive Penmaenmawr mountain lying behind it to the northeast and Garreg Fawr to the east. The modern Cae Haidd farmstead is visible in the middle ground of the view, set in its relatively isolated location on lower ground, nestled at the break of slope on the western side of the Scheduled Monument. The new building will be visible just to the southwest of the farmstead (just to the left of it in Plate 07), 200m to the northeast of the viewpoint. It will not block or obstruct these northeasterly views however, and it will be partially screened by trees growing along the stream valley that runs along the southwestern side of the field to the immediate west and south of the Cae Haidd farmstead. The screening effect will however be reduced during the winter months when the foliage falls from the trees. The current character of the views, a picturesque combination of mountain and farmland with a narrow strip of coastal plain separating them from the open sea beyond, will not be significantly impacted however and the scenic quality of the view will largely remain unchanged. The partially screened building will be a very small component of the overall view which will remain dominated by existing natural landscape features.



**3.3.1.4 Viewpoint 04: Views north from the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) over the terraced fields (GAT HER PRN 7443) towards the proposed development and the broadly contemporary rectangular building (GAT HER PRN 7442) (Plate 08; Figure 09).**

The elevation of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) provides expansive views to the north from the Scheduled monument, out over the coastal plain towards Llanfairfrchan with the northern end of the Menai Strait, Anglesey, Ynys Seiriol and the open sea beyond. The location of the broadly contemporary hut platform (GAT HER PRN 7442), set within the medieval terraced field system (GAT HER PRN 7443) is clearly visible (Plate 08). As with Viewpoint 03 above, partially screened views of the new shed, located 220m to the northeast, will be available from this location, albeit on the periphery of the view (in the middle ground on the right side of Plate 08). It will form a new component of the view, but it will not block or significantly obstruct it in this direction and the scale and scenic quality of available views from this location suggest that it will not have a significant impact on their character.

**3.3.1.5 Viewpoint 05: Views north towards the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) from the broadly contemporary hut platform (GAT HER PRN 7445) and the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570) (Plate 09; Figure 09)**

Viewpoint 05 is located approximately 100m to the south of Viewpoint 04 on slightly higher ground, and as such, the long-range northerly views towards the coast and sea from this location are similar in character and scope to those described in Sec 3.3.1.4 above. The southern edge of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) 60m to the north is just visible from viewpoint 04, however, the hut platforms on the lower parts of the slope are obscured by the topography (Plate 09). The ZTV model (Figure 04) suggested that Viewpoint 05 lay on the edge of the theoretical visibility envelope of the proposed new shed. As was stated in Sec 3.1.4, the model overestimates the potential visibility of the proposed development and in practice, the ground-level footprint of the proposed new building 325m to the northeast, is not visible in northerly views from the hut platform (GAT HER PRN 7445). It is possible that its roof may just be visible on the periphery of views in this direction once constructed, however, the fact that the roof of the new Cae Haidd farmhouse cannot be seen from this location suggests that this is unlikely.

**3.3.1.6 Viewpoint 06: Views northwest from the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) towards the Hut Circles near Wern Newydd Scheduled Monument (CN250) (Plate 10; Figure 09)**

Views to the northwest from the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) towards the location of the Hut Circles near Wern Newydd Scheduled Monument (CN250) are available over the bracken that covers the hillside (Plate 10). The monument itself is not however visible due to intervening mature trees. The Hut Circle (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) is the closest of the potentially impacted historic assets to the proposed new shed included in this study, the location of which lies 60m to the southwest. The new building will not appear in the view, though it may be sensed on the periphery of it, behind (to the southwest) of the new Cae Haidd farmhouse which lies 30m to the southwest of the Hut Circle.

**3.3.1.7 Viewpoint 07: Views west-southwest from the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) over the proposed development towards the broadly contemporary settlement N of Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 256) (Plate 11; Figure 09)**

Historic views to the west-southwest from the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) towards the broadly contemporary Settlement N of Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 256) look out over the Cae Haidd farmhouse and the location of the proposed new shed. The location of the Settlement N of Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 256) is visible above the roofs of the new farmhouse and outbuilding (as is part of the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570)) though the settlement itself is hidden by the mature deciduous trees that surround it (Plate 11). The proposed new building will appear in this view (located behind the stone wall to the left of the existing outbuilding in Plate 11) but it will not block or obscure it.

**3.3.1.8 Viewpoint 08: Views southwest from the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) over the proposed development towards the broadly contemporary Settlement Nr. Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 258), hut circle (GAT PRN 29530) and the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570) (Plate 12; Figure 09)**

The historic views to the southwest from the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) towards the broadly contemporary Settlement Nr. Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 258) and the Hut Circle (GAT PRN 29530) are obscured by a nearby large deciduous tree growing within the scheduled area (Plate 12). The route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570) is however visible to the right of the tree, running along the top of the ridge in the background of Plate 12. The new agricultural building, which will lie 60m to the southwest, will be clearly visible in views from this location, it will not however block available historic views to the Roman Road which will still be visible over the ridgeline of the new structure.

**3.3.1.9 Viewpoint 09: Views southwest from the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) towards the Cairn, East of Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 375) (Plate 13; Figure 09)**

In contrast to the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) and the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E), the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) commands long-distance views inland in addition to expansive coastal views. The location of the broadly contemporary Cairn, East of Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 375), 750m to the southwest, is clearly visible from CN185H, set on the edge of a grassland plateau with the woodland at Coed y Rhiwiau behind and the impressive peaks of the Carneddau forming the distant horizon. The ground level footprint of the proposed new shed, 300m to the southwest, is not visible in views from Viewpoint 09 in this direction, nor is the new farmhouse at Cae Haidd (Plate 13). These field observations of the visibility of the proposed new building from this location support the findings of the viewshed model constructed for the cairn (Figure 07). The tops of the two large deciduous trees within the western side of the scheduled area which are located in proximity to the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) and the new farmhouse, are just visible above the gorse which covers this part of the monument (central middle-ground in Plate 13). It is possible that the ridgeline of the new building may just be visible in views in this direction once constructed, however, the fact that the roof of the new Cae Haidd farmhouse cannot be seen from this location suggests that this is unlikely. In the unlikely event that the top of the

new building can be seen in views in this direction once it is constructed, its visual impact will be negligible.

**3.3.1.10 Viewpoint 10: Views south from the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) towards the Cairn to the NE of Foel Dduarth Scheduled Monument (CN342) and the Cairn on the North Slopes of Foel Dduarth (GAT HER PRN 364) (Plate 14; Figure 09)**

The Cairn to the NE of Foel Dduarth Scheduled Monument (CN342) and the Cairn on the North Slopes of Foel Dduarth (GAT HER PRN 364) Cae Haidd lie approximately 1.5km to the south of the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) and at that distance, neither is clearly identifiable in the landscape. Their locations in close proximity to each other at the base of the northern slopes of Foel Dduarth are visible however (Plate 14). As with the slightly differently orientated Viewpoint 9 above, neither the location of the footprint of the proposed new shed 300m to the southwest, nor the newly built Cae Haidd farmhouse, are visible due to the nature of the local topography (they would appear beyond the gorse covered hillside in the middleground on the left of shot in Plate 14). It is possible that screened glimpses of the ridgeline of the building will be visible once it is constructed, however, this seems unlikely given that no part of the roofs of the existing buildings at the site can be seen in this view. As with Viewpoint 9, in the unlikely event that the top of the roof of the proposed new building can be seen from this location, its impact on available southerly views will be negligible.

**3.3.1.11 Viewpoint 11: Views north towards the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H) from the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570) (Plate 15; Figure 09)**

As was discussed earlier (see Secs 3.2.2.4 and 3.2.2.5), Bronze Age funerary cairns appear to have been deliberately sited to be seen from either settlements, or the prehistoric routeways between them, and it is possible that the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570) has earlier, prehistoric origins. The viewshed model for the cairn (Figure 07) suggests that it is visible from an approximately 850m long stretch of the route to its south and southwest. Northerly views from the southeastern end of the 850m stretch with theoretical views show the location of the cairn on the crest of the hill which forms the terrestrial horizon in this direction, with the open sea beyond (Plate 15). The cairn itself cannot be discerned however due to the density of the gorse shrubs growing on the hillside on this part of the Scheduled Monument. The proposed new building will not be visible from this location and it will have no impact on the view.

### **3.3.1.12 Viewpoint 12: Views northeast towards the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; from the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570) (Plate 16; Figure 09)**

The northeasterly views from Viewpoint 12, located at the northwestern end of the part of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570) from which the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H) is theoretically visible, also confirm the findings of the cairn viewshed model (Figure 07). The location of the cairn is again clearly visible on the crest of the hill, this time with Penmaenmawr Mountain as a backdrop, though once again, gorse growing on the hillside surrounding it obscures views of the asset itself (Plate 16). The roof and first-floor windows of the new farmhouse at Cae Haidd are clearly visible in the middle ground of the view, its ground floor screened in the summer months by the deciduous trees that run along the southwestern field boundary of the field that lies to the south and west of the farmhouse. It seems likely that the roof of the proposed new building will be visible in this view, however, its main impact will be to partially block views of the new farmhouse from this location. The scale and location of the proposed new shed mean that it will not have a significant impact on either the composition of existing views in this direction or their overall scenic quality.

### **3.3.1.13 Viewpoints 13 and 14: Views southwest and west-southwest from the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) towards the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330), terraced fields (GAT HER PRN 7443), Lynchets (GAT HER PRN 7446), the Lynchets, W Of Coed Rhiwau (GAT HER PRN 27506) the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570), the Rectangular Platform, Nr Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 7445), the Rectangular Building, NE of Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 7442), and the Long Hut/Platform Hut, SW of Bod-silin (GAT HER PRN 7132), viewed from the NE and ENE (Plate 17; Figure 09)**

The views to the southwest and west-southwest from the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) take in a number of broadly contemporary medieval historic assets and illustrate the visible extent of the medieval exploitation and settlement of the uplands in this direction, set against a backdrop of the Carneddau mountain range with views of the lowland Arfon Plateau opening out to the west (Plate 17, right of shot) and the Menai Strait and Anglesey beyond. The location of the new building, 240m to the southwest, is not visible in the view as it is partially screened by intervening topography and partially by the trees located within the western side of the scheduled area which are located in proximity to the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) and the new Cae Haidd farmhouse. Parts of the new farmhouse can just be glimpsed through the summer foliage of the trees,

and it is possible that parts of the roof of the new building will also be just about visible, more so in the summer when the leaves fall from the trees. Despite this potential visibility, the scale of visual change that the new building will introduce to the view will be minimal.

### **3.3.2 Assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330)**

The visual impact of the proposed new building on the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) is limited to its potential appearance in northerly and northeasterly views from across the entire area of the Scheduled Monument, and in southwesterly views towards it from the broadly contemporary Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460). In each instance however, the proposed new building is screened to varying degrees by existing vegetation and/or topography. No important views will be blocked or impeded by the new shed, and the small scale of the development, a single-storey structure, and its distance from the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement, means that it will not dominate the historic asset, the local landscape, or the affected views to and from the Scheduled Monument.

As an obviously modern structure, the shed will be a novel visual element in the middle ground of affected views from the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330). The nature of the development, an agricultural outbuilding associated with an existing farmstead, its functional design typical of similar modern farm outbuildings in the locality, will not be incongruous in the wider local agricultural landscape however. It can be absorbed into the affected views, and the surrounding landscape, with little consequent erosion of their key characteristics or scenic qualities.

Works associated with the construction phase of the development will most likely be visible from the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement (CN330), and the presence and movement of construction equipment and vehicles 200m to the northeast may increase ambient noise levels experienced at the Scheduled Monument. These will be very short-term impacts however.

In the medium and long term, the use of the new shed will not create additional noise or generate any additional vehicle traffic in the vicinity that would impact the setting of the Scheduled Monument. The proposed new building will not affect other non-visual elements of the setting and character of the Scheduled Monument such as evocation of the historical past or sense of place.

The cumulative effect of the reconstruction of the farmhouse and the building of a new shed on the setting of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement (CN330), in particular on its former sense of remoteness, is acknowledged. However, the transformation of the formerly derelict site into a functioning farmstead serves as a relatively gentle and minimally obtrusive

visual reminder for visitors to the Scheduled Monument that it is sited on the fringes of a working agricultural landscape, an inhabited landscape, as it was when Cae'r Haidd was occupied during the Medieval period. The farmhouse and outbuildings together represent the latest iteration of the post-abandonment re-occupation of land at the edge of agricultural viability, cyclical historical processes which the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement (CN330) represents an earlier episode of. Arguably, this enhances our understanding and appreciation of Scheduled Monument, and of the different periodic settlement, abandonment and re-settlement episodes that the area has witnessed. The different episodes have combined to create the palimpsest of human-made elements of the landscape within the setting of the Scheduled Monument, and together with the new Cae Haidd farmstead, provide a reminder of both the historical and ongoing processes of adaptation in marginal areas and the struggle to coexist with nature.

Overall, the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) has been assessed to be **negative**. The overall magnitude of the impact is assessed as **negligible** however, as the proposed development will result in only very minor changes to the setting of Cae'r Haidd that hardly affect its heritage values or the way it is understood, appreciated and experienced.



### **3.3.3 Assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185)**

The ZTV model (Figure 04) indicated that the visual impact of the proposed new building on the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) is potentially limited to views from approximately 20% of the total 19 ha area of the Scheduled Monument on its western side. The visual impacts include those on southwesterly views from the late prehistoric Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393; RCAHMW NPRN 302991), the possible Bronze Age funerary Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) the possible Medieval long hut/house platform (GAT HER PRN 7460), and views to the western side of the Scheduled Monument from the access trackway that crosses the field to the west of the the new Cae Haidd farmstead. Field visits confirmed that the view to the western side of the Scheduled Monument and the views to and from the 3 elements of the monument listed above would be potentially visually impacted to varying degrees.

The proposed new building will be clearly visible in east-facing views towards the Scheduled Monument from the trackway in the field to the west of the new Cae Haidd farmstead. The new shed, an outbuilding for the farm, will only block existing views from here to the extreme western corner of the Scheduled Monument however and the new building will not dominate the views or detract from our ability to understand and appreciate the Scheduled Monument. Though, in contrast to the traditional style of the newly rebuilt farmhouse, the new shed will be a functional modern design, it is typical of other modern farm outbuildings in the locality and it will not appear out of place in this landscape. Given the presence of the existing farmhouse and outbuilding in the views, the introduction of a new building in the yard will only slightly alter their character and, following the construction of the new shed, the views will essentially still be those of a working farmstead, located with its outbuildings, at the interface between the more gently sloping cultivated land and the steeper, wilder upland area that incorporates the Scheduled Monument behind.

In the cases of the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) and the possible Medieval long hut/house platform (GAT HER PRN 7460), it is possible that the roofline of the new building may be glimpsed in historically significant southwesterly views from them during the winter months, but the scale and character of the affected views compared to the scale and degree of visibility of the proposed development in them, means that there will be very little impact on either the scenic quality of the outward views or their existing character. Similarly, seasonally screened views of the proposed new building will appear in

northeasterly views towards the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) from the northwestern end of the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570), and towards the possible Medieval long hut/house platform (GAT HER PRN 7460) from the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330). Though the degree of visibility of the proposed new shed in these inward views towards these elements of the Scheduled Monument is higher than its appearance in outward views, the scale of the new building and its distance from the viewpoints compared to the scale of the natural landscape features that dominate the views means that the changes to the views will be minimal.

The most heavily visually impacted element of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) will be the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393). The Hut Circle is located 60m to the northeast of the new building which will appear at relatively close range in historically significant views to the southwest and west-southwest. The new shed will not block any of the views to the locations of broadly contemporary assets however. Nor will it dominate those views to any significant degree, they already include the rear elevations and roofs of the existing Cae Haidd farmhouse and its outbuilding in their composition, just as they would formerly have included the older Post-medieval farmstead and its outbuildings that the new buildings have replaced. Though it will increase the number and density of buildings currently in close proximity, the new shed will appear as a small-scale extension to the existing built environment in proximity which currently, and historically, forms part of the character of the existing views.

Construction activities will most likely be visible from the western side of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185), and the presence and movement of construction equipment and vehicles may also increase ambient noise levels experienced at the western side of the Scheduled Monument, particularly at the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393). These will be very short-term impacts however.

In the medium and long term, the use of the new shed will not create additional noise or generate any additional vehicle traffic in the vicinity that would impact the setting of the Scheduled Monument. Nor will the new shed negatively affect other non-visual elements of the setting and character of the Scheduled Monument such as evocation of the historical past or sense of place.

As is the case for the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement (CN330), the cumulative effect of the re-construction of the farmhouse and the building of a new shed on the setting of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185), in particular on its former sense of remoteness, must be acknowledged. Bringing the derelict

site back into productive use however represents the latest episode in a long history of reoccupation of previously abandoned upland settlement within this landscape, and arguably serves to illustrate the cyclical nature of upland adaptation, occupation and settlement as evidenced by the multiperiod remains that comprise the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185), thereby enhancing our appreciation and understanding of it.

Overall, the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) has been assessed to be **negative**. The overall magnitude of the impact on its setting is assessed as **minor** as the proposed development will result in slight, but noticeable, changes to the way it is understood, appreciated and experienced. These changes will be most evident at the affected elements on its western side, most noticeably at the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E).

### 3.3.4 Summary of impacts

The assessed impacts of the proposed development on the settings of the potentially affected historic assets are summarised in Table 3.3 below.

<b>Historic Asset</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Magnitude</b>
Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330)	Negative	Negligible
Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185)	Negative	Minor

Table 3.3 Summary of the impacts of the proposed development on potentially affected historic assets

### **3.4 Stage 4: If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance**

The guidance *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017) states that ‘depending on the level of impact, mitigation measures to reduce the negative impact of the proposals should be considered’ (Cadw 2017, Sec 4.3). The proposed new agricultural building has been assessed to have a potential negative impact of negligible magnitude on the setting and significance of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330), and a negative impact of minor magnitude on the setting and significance the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185).

As the potential negative impacts of the proposed new shed on the settings and significance of the two Scheduled Monuments have been assessed to be negligible and minor, no further options to mitigate or improve the potential impacts of the proposed development will be considered as part of this assessment.

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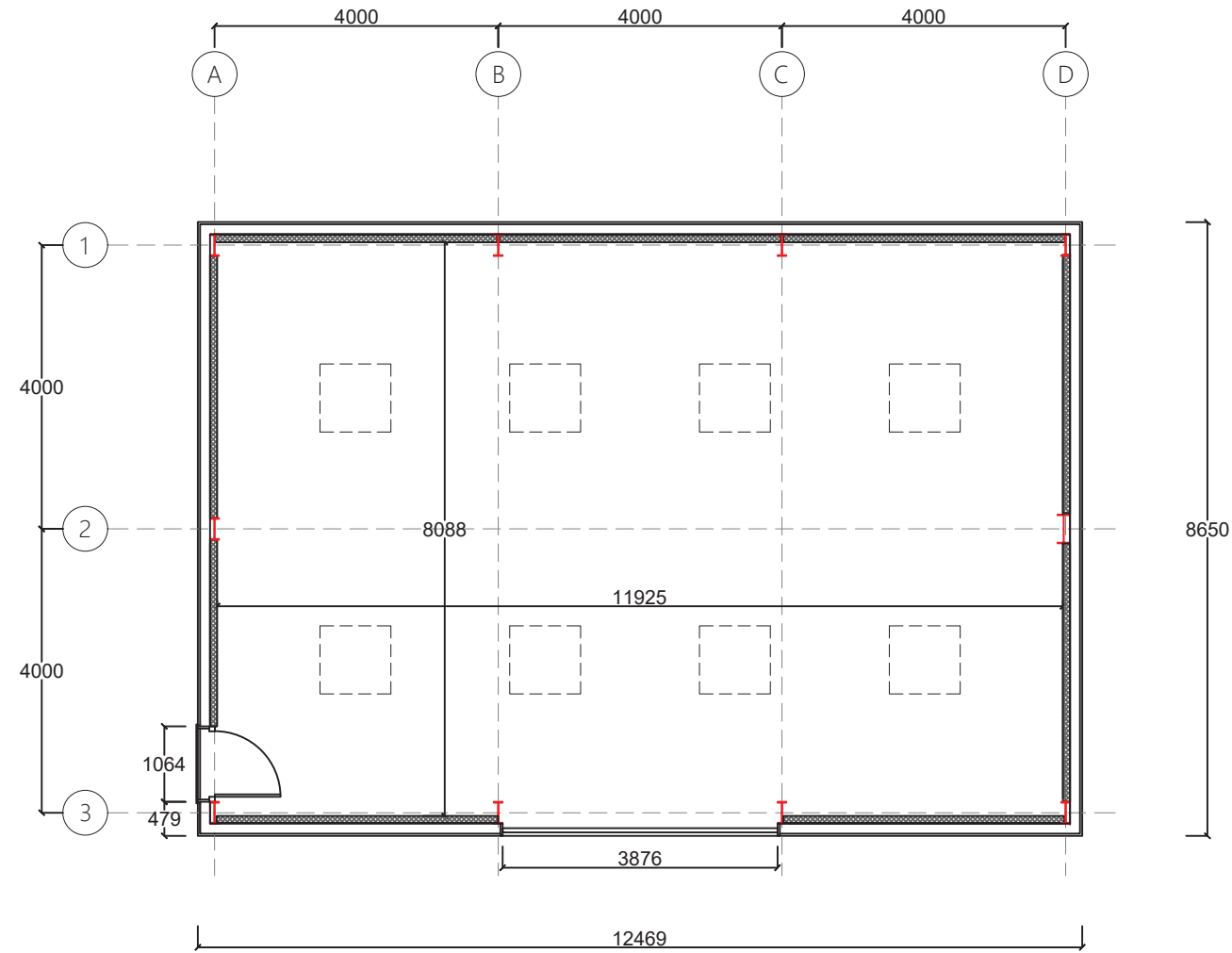
## FIGURES



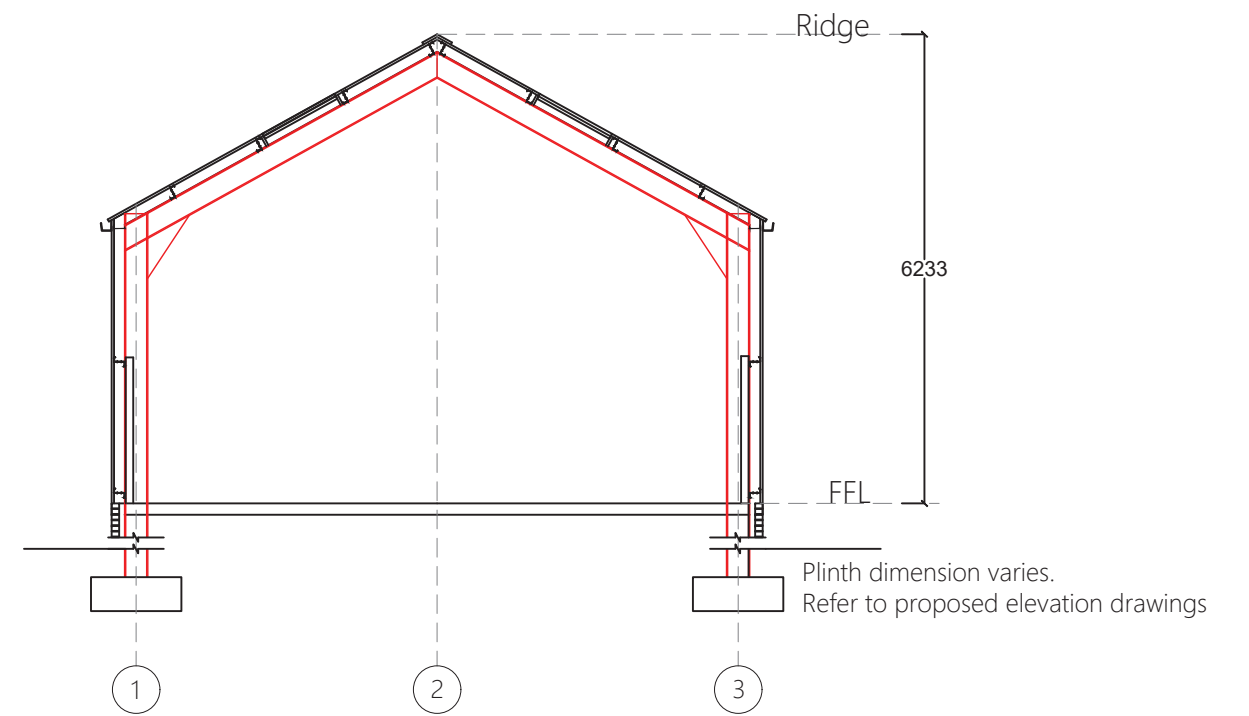




FIGURE 03: Reproduction of drawing showing cross section and plan of the proposed agricultural shed (ABZAC Drg. GW/0223/P/01)



Floor Plan



Cross Section

A3


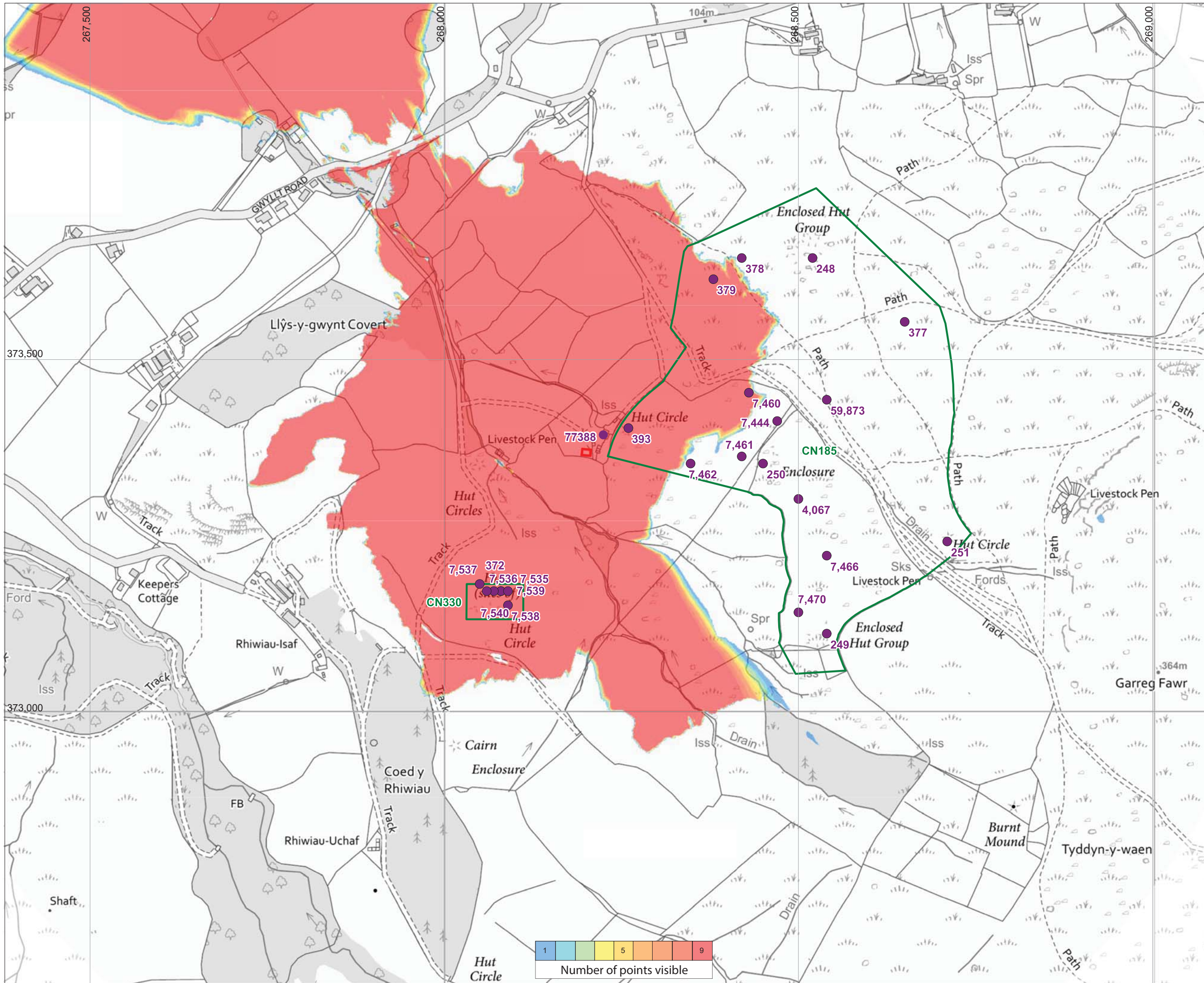
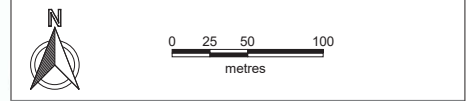
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	SITE: Cae Haidd, Gwylt Road, Llanfairfechan, Conwy	SCALE: 1:100 @ A3	STATUS: Planning	Revision: -	DRAWN: L.J	CHECKED: -	

Figure 04: Digital terrain model multi-point zone of theoretical visibility for the proposed development



- CN185 Scheduled Monument
- 377 GAT HER site within scheduled area with PRN
- proposed building location

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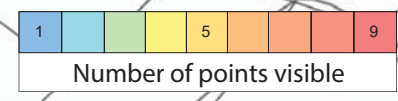
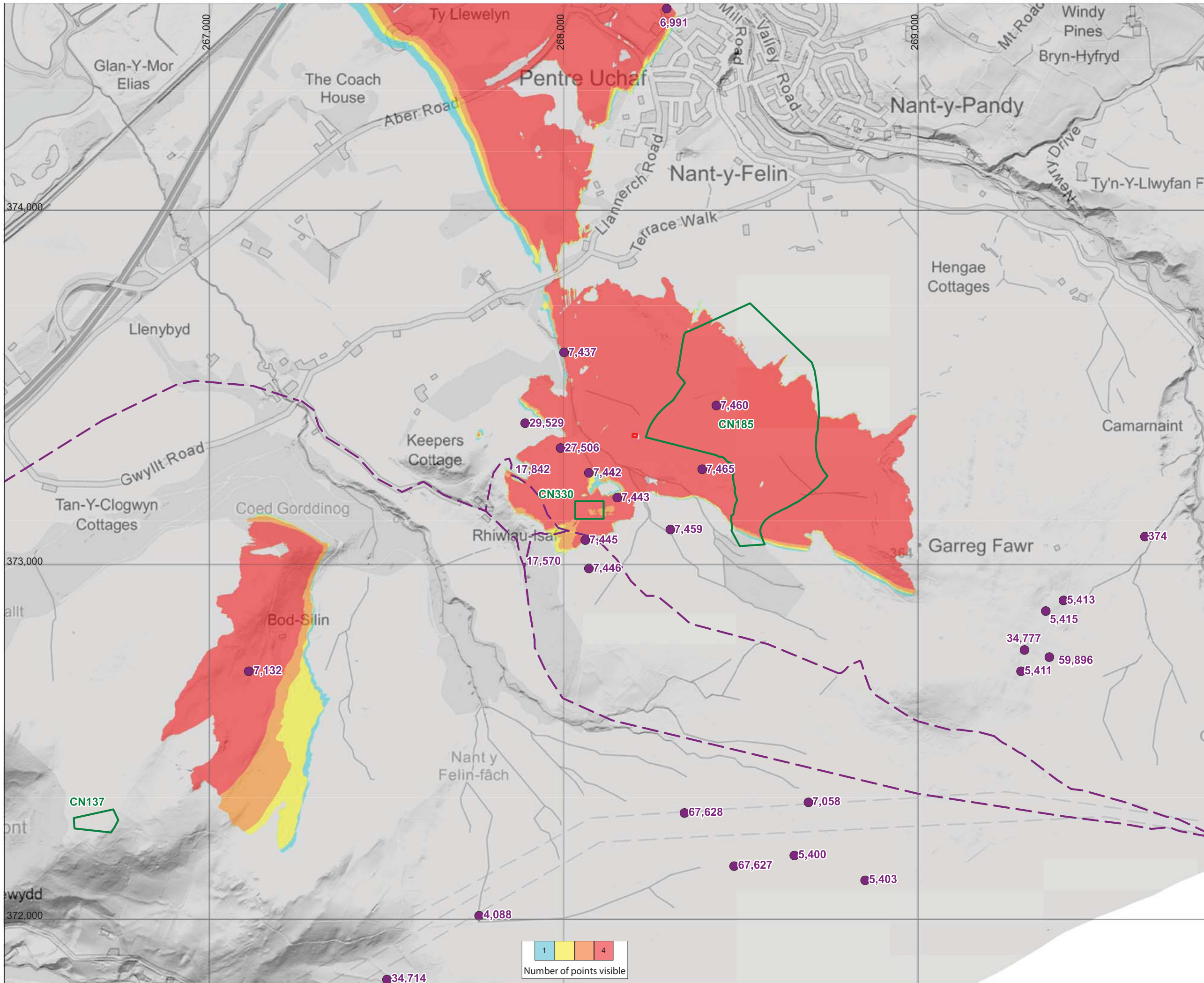
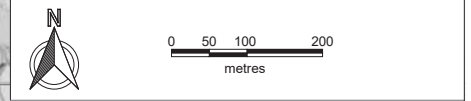


Figure 05: Digital terrain model multi-point viewshed for the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330)



- CN185 Scheduled Monument
- 377 Broadly contemporary GAT HER site with PRN
- Proposed route of Roman Road
- proposed building location

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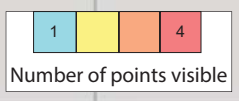
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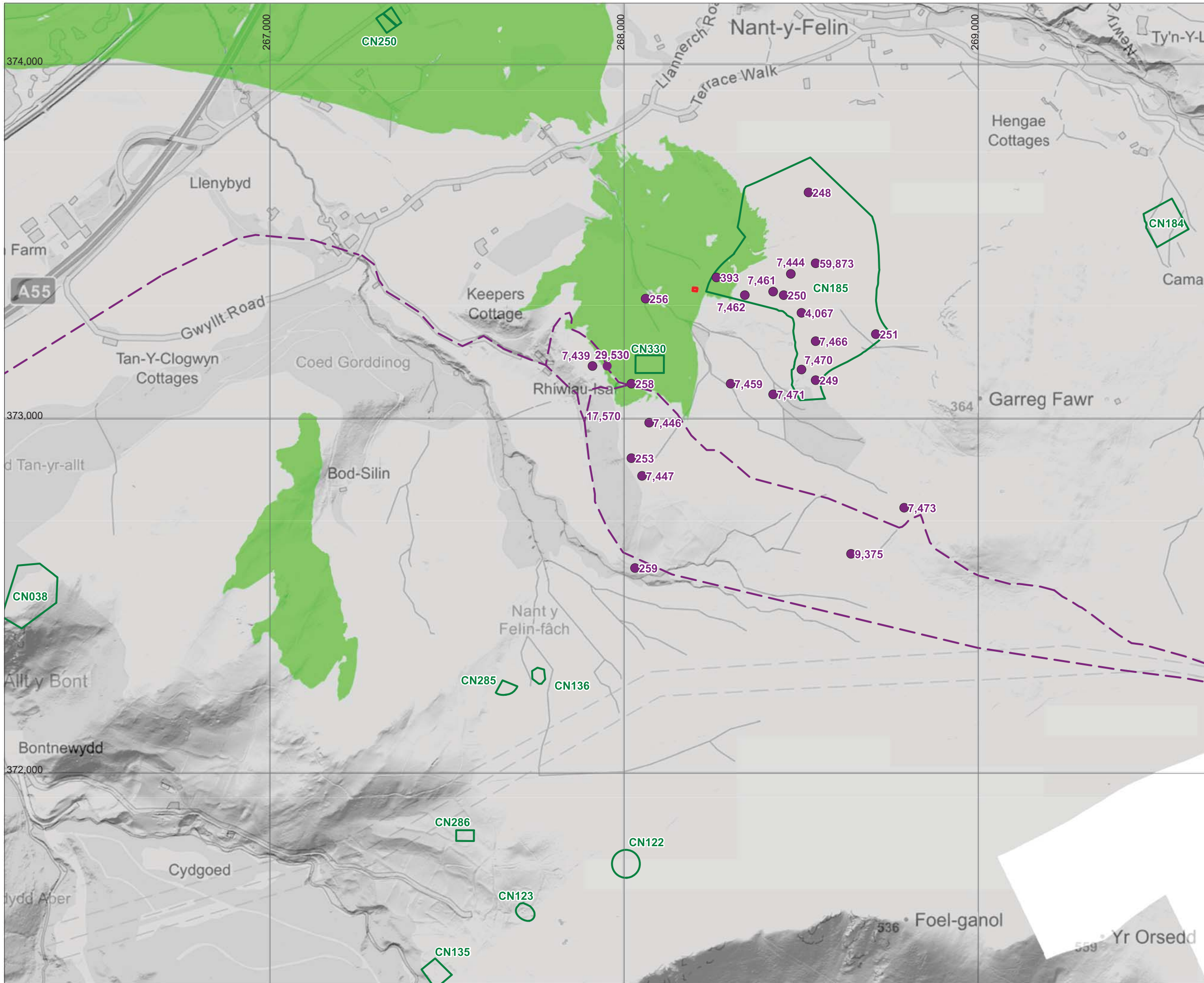


Figure 06: Digital terrain model single point viewshed for the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393)

**CN185** Scheduled Monument

**377** Broadly contemporary GAT HER site with PRN

Proposed route of Roman Road

Terrain theoretically visible from viewpoint

Proposed building location

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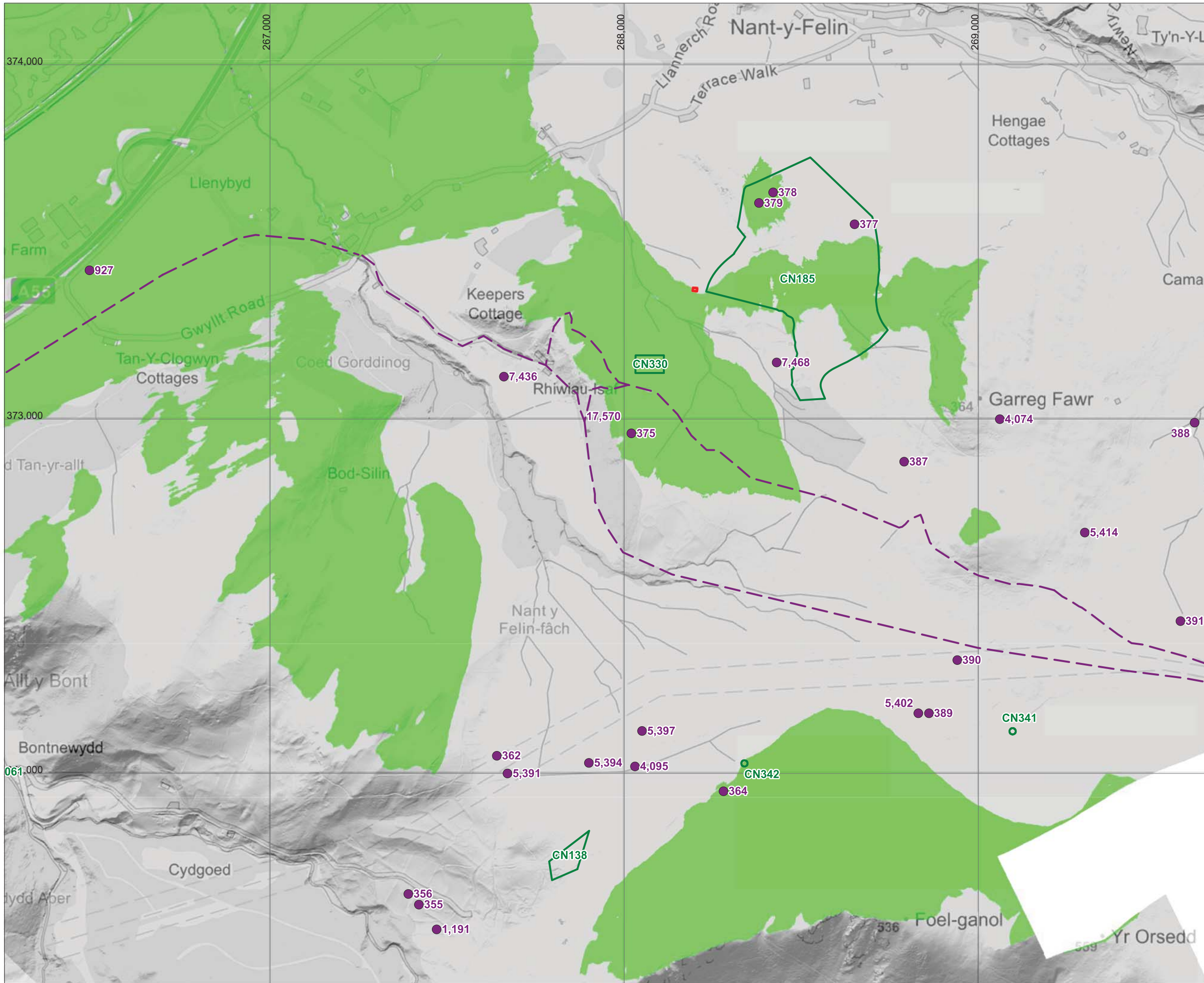


Figure 07: Digital terrain model single point viewshed for the Cairn at Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379)

- Scheduled Monument
- 377 Broadly contemporary GAT HER site with PRN
- - - Proposed route of Roman Road
- Terrain theoretically visible from viewpoint
- Proposed building location

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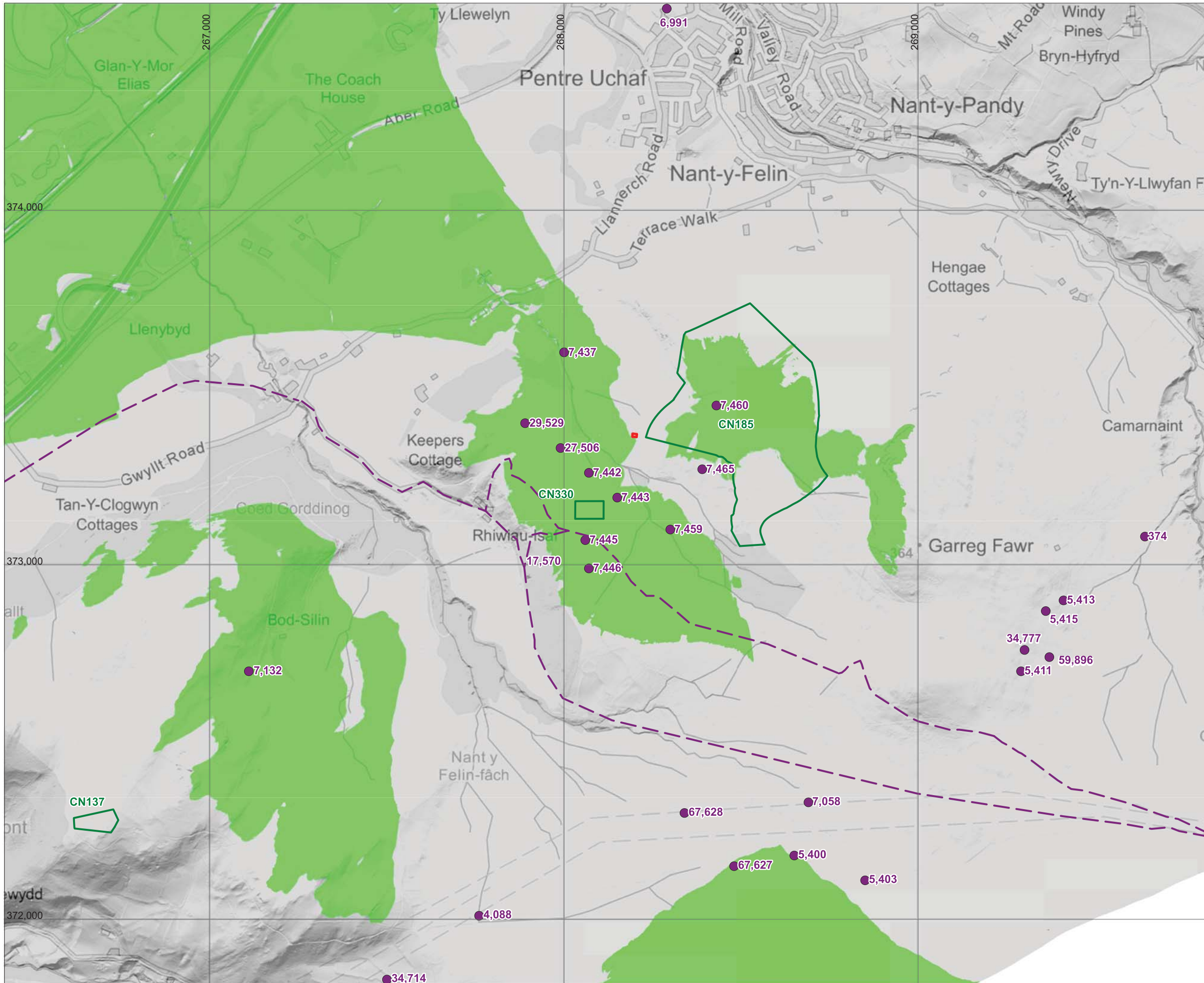
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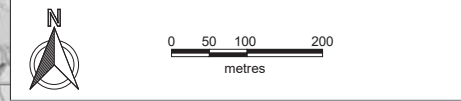
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Figure 08: Digital terrain model single point viewshed for the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460)



- CN185 Scheduled Monument
- 377 Broadly contemporary GAT HER site with PRN
- Proposed route of Roman Road
- Terrain theoretically visible from viewpoint
- Proposed building location

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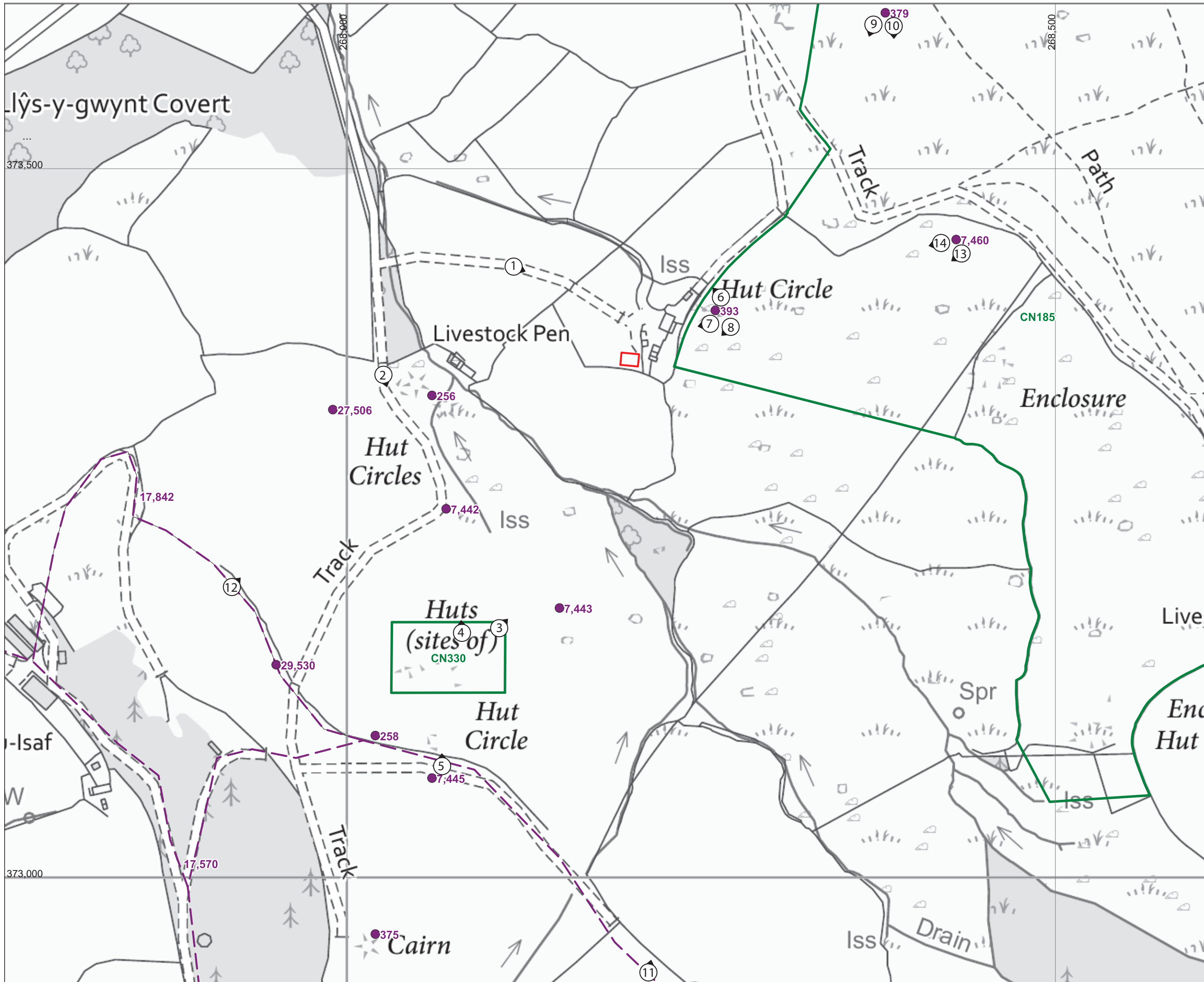
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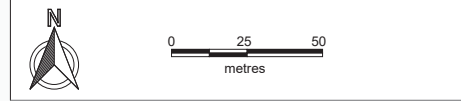


Figure 09: Assessment viewpoints



- Scheduled Monument
- Broadly contemporary GAT HER site with PRN
- Proposed route of Roman Road
- 1 Assessment viewpoint and orientation
- Proposed building location

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## PLATES



**Plate 01: View of the location of the proposed barn, viewed from the SW (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_022).**



**Plate 02: View from SW corner of the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) showing the platforms on the north side of the monument, viewed from the SW (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_005).**



**Plate 03: View of the overgrown and obscured N edge of the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393), viewed from the N (scale: 1x1m; archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_017).**



**Plate 04: View of the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379), viewed from the W (scale: 1x1m; archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_013).**



Plate 05: Viewpoint 1, View ESE towards the proposed development and the Garreg Fawr Hut Groups, Ancient Fields and Cairns Scheduled Monument (CN185) from the W side of the field to the W of the Cae'r-haidd farmstead, viewed from the WNW (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_001).



Plate 06: Viewpoint 2, view SSE towards the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) from the trackway at the entrance to the field to its N, viewed from the NNW (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_023).



**Plate 07: Viewpoint 3, view NE from the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) over the terraced fields (GAT HER PRN 7443) towards the proposed development and the broadly contemporary hut platform (GAT HER PRN 7460, viewed from the SW (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_003).**



**Plate 08: Viewpoint 4, view N from the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) over the terraced fields (GAT HER PRN 7443) towards the proposed development, the broadly contemporary rectangular building (GAT HER PRN 7442) and Llanfairfechan, viewed from the N (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_004).**



**Plate 09: Viewpoint 5, view N towards the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330) from the broadly contemporary hut platform (GAT HER PRN 7445) and the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570), viewed from the S (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_006).**



**Plate 10: Viewpoint 6, view NW from the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) towards the Hut Circles near Wern Newydd Scheduled Monument (CN250), viewed from the SE (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_021).**



Plate 11: Viewpoint 7, view WSW from the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) over the proposed development towards the broadly contemporary settlement N of Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 256), viewed from the ENE (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_019).



Plate 12: Viewpoint 8, view SW from the Hut Circle, Carreg Fawr (CN185E; GAT HER PRN 393) over the proposed development towards the broadly contemporary settlement Nr. Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 258), hut circle (GAT PRN 29530) and the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570), viewed from the NE (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_020).



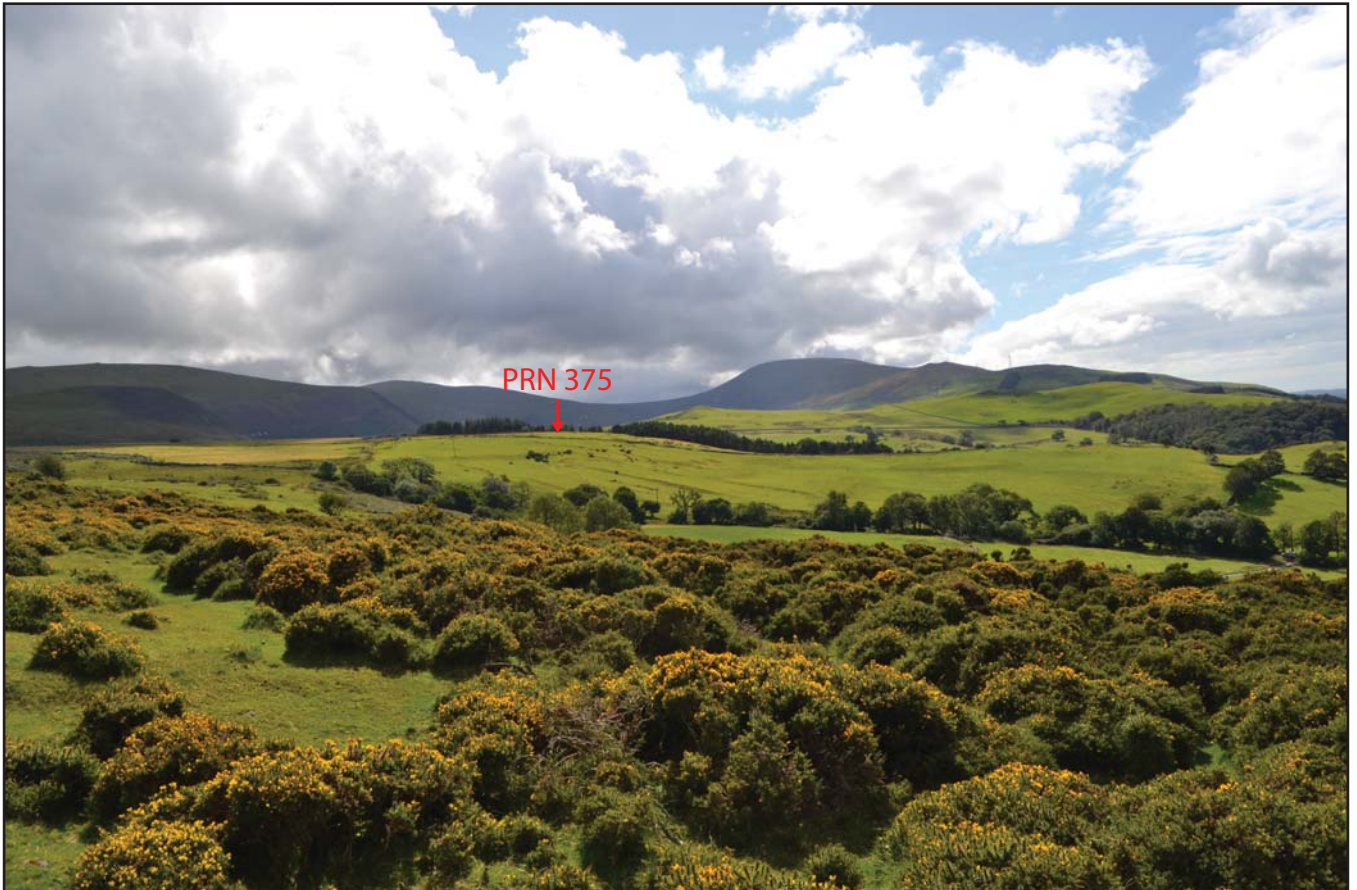


Plate 13: Viewpoint 9, view SW from the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) towards the Cairn, East of Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 375), viewed from the NE (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_014).

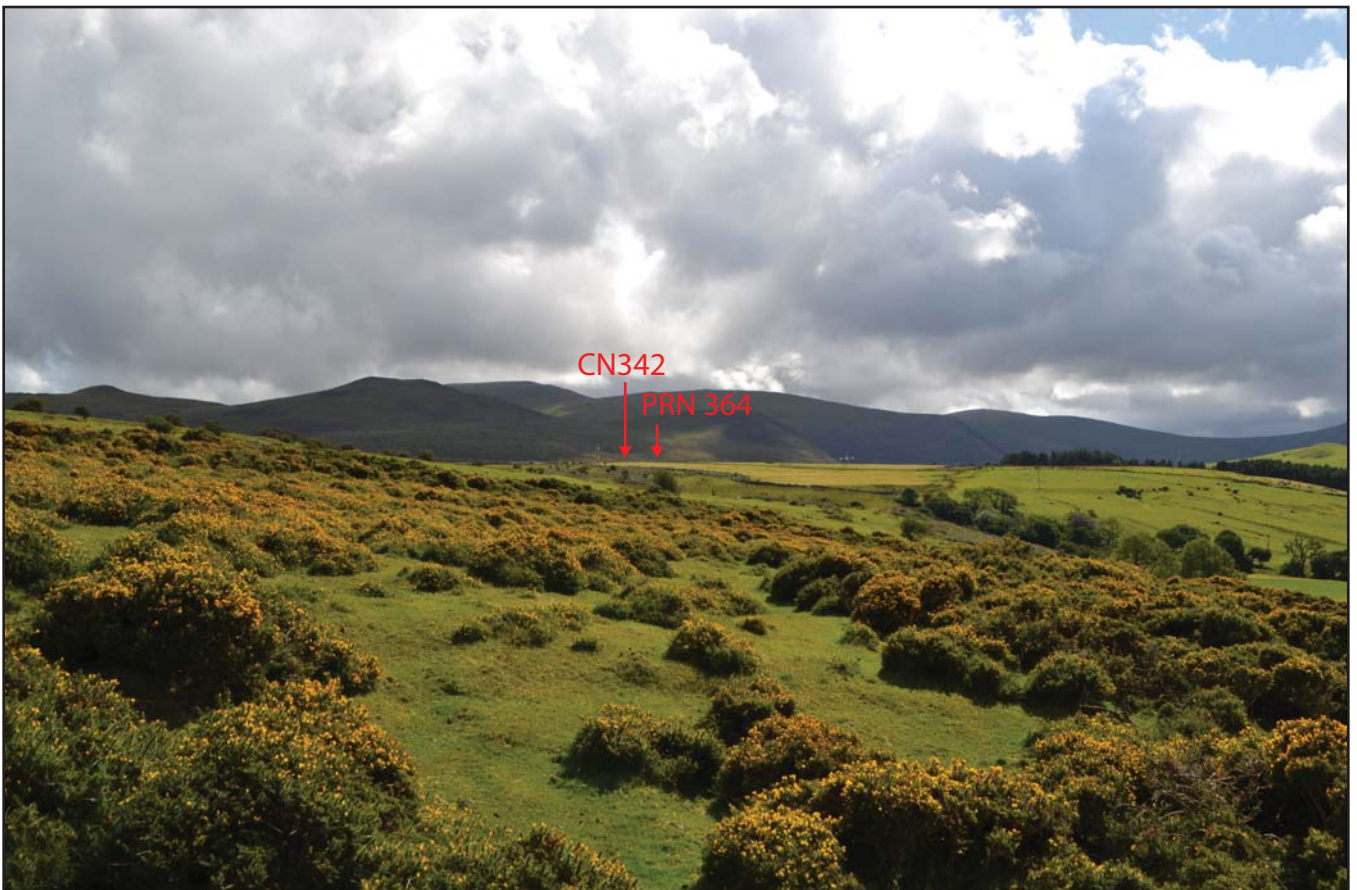


Plate 14: Viewpoint 10, view S from the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H; GAT HER PRN 379) towards the Cairn to the NE of Foel Dduarth Scheduled Monument (CN342) and the Cairn on the North Slopes of Foel Dduarth (GAT HER PRN 364), viewed from the N (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_016).



Plate 15: Viewpoint 11, view N towards the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H) from the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570), viewed from the S (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_007).



Plate 16: Viewpoint 12, view NE towards the Cairn, Carreg Fawr (CN185H) from the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570), viewed from the SW (archive ref: G2783\_HASIA\_008).

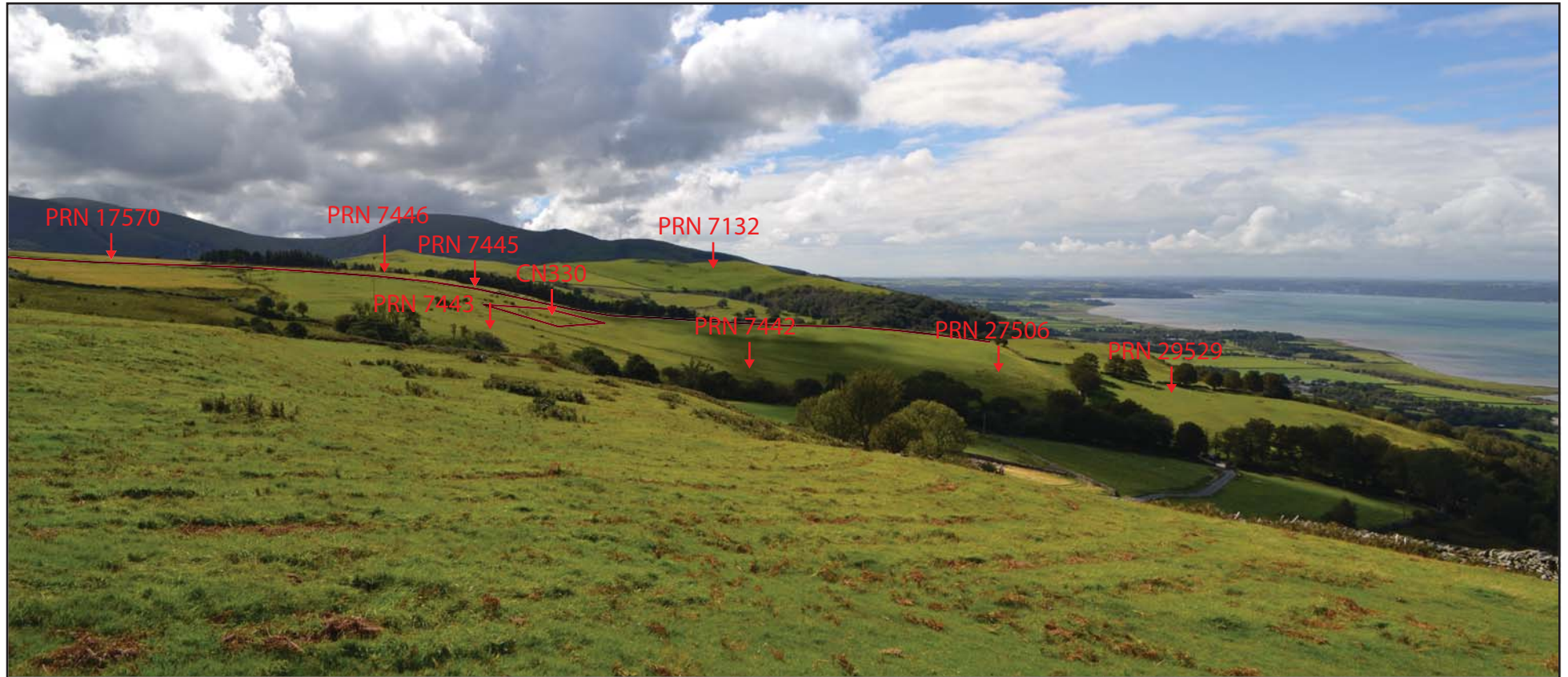


Plate 17: Viewpoints 13 and 14, panoramic view looking SW and WSW from the Possible Long Hut, Garreg Fawr (GAT HER PRN 7460) towards the Cae'r Haidd Deserted Rural Settlement Scheduled Monument (CN330), terraced fields (GAT HER PRN 7443), Lynchets (GAT HER PRN 7446), the Lynchets, W Of Coed Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 27506), the Area of Cultivation (GAT HER 29529), the route of the Roman Road (GAT HER PRN 17570), the Rectangular Platform, Nr Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 7445), the Rectangular Building, NE of Coed y Rhiwiau (GAT HER PRN 7442) and the Long Hut/Platform Hut, SW of Bod-silin (GAT HER PRN 7132), viewed from the NE and ENE (archive refs: G2783\_HASIA\_010; G2783\_HASIA\_012).







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