

The Uplands Initiative

# Dinas Mawddwy – Brithdir

## An Archaeological Survey



by

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for

RCAHM Wales

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## Crynodeb

Cafodd arolwg archaeolegol Dinas Mawddwy – Brithdir ei gynnal yn 2012 a hynny â chymorth grant Menter Archaeoleg Uwchdiroedd Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru. Mae'n ymdrin â 31 o gilometrau sgwâr o weundir wedi'i amgáu ym Mharc Cenedlaethol Eryri, lle cafodd 555 o safleoedd archaeolegol eu cofnodi, 20 o'r rheiny wedi'u cofnodi o'r blaen yn y Cofnod Henebion Cenedlaethol.

Carneddau o'r Oes Efydd oedd y safleoedd cynharaf a gafwyd, a hynny uwchben dyffryn Wnion, ac yn agos i'r rhain ceir tri lloc crwn sy'n ansicr eu dyddiad ond yn gynhanesyddol yn ôl pob tebyg. Ar un adeg bernid bod traciau ar draws y gweundir sydd wedi'u cadw'n dda yn ffyrdd Rhufeinig, yn arwain o gaer gyfagos y Brithdir, ond dim ond un adran sydd â thystiolaeth yn dangos ei bod yn ganoloesol neu'n gynt. Mae llwybrau eraill yr awgrymwyd eu bod yn Rhufeinig yn ffyrdd modern erbyn hyn a does dim nodweddion Rhufeinig i'w gweld.

Cafwyd tystiolaeth o aneddiadau canoloesol ac ôl-ganoloesol mewn sawl ardal is, gan gynnwys yn agos i Fwlch yr Oerddrws, a hynny ar ffurf llwyfannau i adeiladau a chytiau hir o waith maen. Mewn rhai achosion, gellir dangos mai *hafotai* i ffermydd tir isel oedd yr hen anheddau uchel hyn; mewn achosion eraill mae'r ffaith eu bod yn agos at ffiniau hen gaeau yn awgrymu mai ffermdai parhaol oedden nhw.

Mawn oedd y prif danwydd yng nghartrefi Meirionnydd mor ddiweddar â'r ugeinfed ganrif a chafwyd tystiolaeth o dorri mawn mewn sawl man. Un o nodweddion neilltuol y mawnogydd sydd wedi'u torri yma yw'r nifer fawr o lwyfannau sychu mawn, sydd i'w gweld ar ffurf amlinelliad lled-betryal o gerrig neu lwyfannau o gerrig rwbel, ar oled yn aml. Dyma un o'r crynodiadau mwyaf niferus o nodweddion anarferol o'r fath sydd wedi'u gweld yng Nghymru hyd yn hyn.

Mae gweithfeydd haearn gwasgaredig ar y Tyllau Mwyn, ar ochr ddeheuol Aran Fawddwy, yn enghraifft brin o fwynglawdd haearn yn goroesi o'r ddeunawfed ganrif yng Nghymru. Cafodd y rhain eu dechrau ym 1770. Mae mwynglawdd aur bach ac aflwyddiannus o ganol y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, o'r enw mwynglawdd y Ddraig Goch, wedi'i gadw'n dda ar lannau uchaf Nant Maesglase.

Mae ardal yr arolwg yn cynnwys gweddillion helaeth pedair chwarel lechi, a'r rheiny'n grŵp pwysig o chwareli ar gyfer slabiau yn hytrach na llechi to. Rhwng y 1840au a'r 1920au yn bennaf y bu'r rhain ar waith. Nodweddir pob un gan byllau dwfn, gwaith dan ddaear, a melinau ac adeiladau atodol sydd wedi goroesi. Roedd incleiniau a thramffyrdd yn cael eu defnyddio'n helaeth, ac mae llawer o dystiolaeth o'r rhain wedi parhau.

Ychydig yn unig o effaith a gafwyd ar dirlun yr ucheldir yn yr ugeinfed ganrif. Ym Mwlch yr Oerddrws cafodd amddiffynfeydd eu codi yn y 1940au i atal goresgyniad, a hynny ar ffurf blociau anferth o garreg i atal tanciau sy'n ychwanegiad trawiadol at un o'r bylchau uchaf yng Nghymru.

Mae'r adroddiad yn gorffen gydag argymhellion ar gyfer gwaith cofnodi ac ymchwil at y dyfodol.

## Summary

The Dinas Mawddwy – Brithdir archaeological survey was undertaken in 2012 and was grant-aided by the RCAHM Wales Uplands Archaeology Initiative. It covers 31 square kilometres of enclosed moorland in Snowdonia National Park, in which 555 archaeological sites were recorded, 20 of which had been recorded previously in the National Monuments Record.

The earliest sites to be discovered were Bronze Age cairns overlooking the Wnion valley, close to which are three circular enclosures of uncertain date, but probably prehistoric. Well-preserved tracks across moorland were once interpreted as Roman roads leading from the nearby fort at Brithdir, but only one section of track can be shown to be medieval or earlier. Other suggested Roman routes are now modern roads and no Roman features are visible.

Evidence of medieval and post-medieval settlement, in the form of building platforms and stone long huts, was found in several of the lower-lying areas, including close to the pass of Bwlch Oerddrws. In some cases these former upland dwellings are demonstrably the *hafotai* of lowland farms; in others the proximity of old field boundaries suggests that they were permanent farmsteads.

Peat was the main domestic fuel in Merioneth as late as the twentieth century and evidence of peat cutting was found concentrated in several areas. A distinguishing feature of the peat cuttings here is the proliferation of peat-drying stands, which are found in the form of sub-rectangular outlines of stones or rubble-stone platforms, often on sloping ground. They constitute one of the densest concentrations of such unusual features so far identified in Wales.

A scatter of ironstone workings on Tyllau Mwn, on the southern flank of Aran Fawddwy, comprises a rare example of surviving eighteenth-century ironstone mines in Wales. They were begun in 1770. A small unsuccessful mid-nineteenth century gold mine known as Red Dragon is well preserved in the upper reaches of Nant Maesglase.

Extensive remains of four slate quarries are within the survey area, which constitute an important group of quarries for slabs rather than roof slates. They were worked mainly from the 1840s to the 1920s. All are characterised by deep quarry pits, underground workings, and the survival of mills and other ancillary buildings. Inclined planes and tramways were used extensively, much evidence for which has survived.

There has been little impact on the upland landscape in the twentieth century. At Bwlch Oerddrws anti-invasion defences were constructed in the 1940s in the form of large stone anti-tank blocks which form a striking addition to one of the highest passes in Wales.

The report concludes with recommendations for future recording and research.

# Dinas Mawddwy – Brithdir An Uplands Initiative Archaeological Survey

Richard Hayman & Wendy Horton

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## **Acknowledgement**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

The Dinas Mawddwy – Brithdir uplands archaeological survey area is a tract of high enclosed moorland at the southern end of the Snowdonia National Park (fig 1). Covering an area of approximately 31 square kilometres, the landscape comprises rough grassland, heather moorland and small areas of bracken. Altitude ranges from 120 metres AOD to 784 metres at the summit of Glasgwm.

The landscape comprises the southern flank of Aran Fawddwy with the valleys of the Wnion to the west and Cwm Cywarch to the east. The pass of Bwlch Oerddrws, one of the highest passes in Wales, and on the A470 trunk road between Mallwyd and Dolgellau, crosses through the survey area. On the south side of this road the survey area extended to the high ground on the west side of Dinas Mawddwy as far west as the Clywedog valley and the pass of Bwlch Llyn Bach on the A487 road between Dolgellau and Machynlleth. The survey area is bounded by forestry at the southern end, and on the west side of the survey area above the Wnion valley. On the east side, above Cwm Cywarch and Dinas Mawddwy, the boundary of the upland and lowland is starkly defined by precipitous U-shaped valleys.

The survey area is within Dolgellau, Brithdir and Llanfachreth, Mawddwy and Llanfihangel-y-Pennant communities. The Cadair Idris Site of Special Scientific Interest extends into the western end of the survey area at Mynydd Fron Fraith, where there are few archaeological features. The SSSI is designated chiefly on account of its blanket bog, heath, vegetated natural rock exposures, and the flora and fauna associated with them. Nearly the same area of the landscape, less than 1 square kilometre, is part of the Cadair Idris Special Area of Conservation for the same reason. An area of 11.9 hectares around the Tyllau Mwn ironstone workings (nprn 527249) is a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its geological importance. It is a key site for the study of bedded ironstones in North Wales. The whole of the survey area is within the Snowdonia National Park and almost all of it is designated Access Land.

The field survey was undertaken between August and December 2012 by Richard Hayman and Wendy Horton, with grant in aid from RCAHM Wales under the Uplands Archaeology Initiative.

## **2.0 Methodology**

The project aimed to identify and record the resource through rapid, systematic field survey. Archaeological remains of all periods were considered equally. RCAHM Wales undertook aerial photograph mapping of the area, which was consulted through the fieldwork phase. The regional Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted prior to the fieldwork, which yielded records of twenty archaeological sites (derived from field survey and documentary research), including the approximate location of two sites derived from documentary sources. RCAHM Wales provided digital copies of the county-series Ordnance Survey maps at 6-inch and 25-inch scales. Tithes surveys and the first edition of the Ordnance Survey were also consulted, but a search did not discover any useful estate maps covering the area.

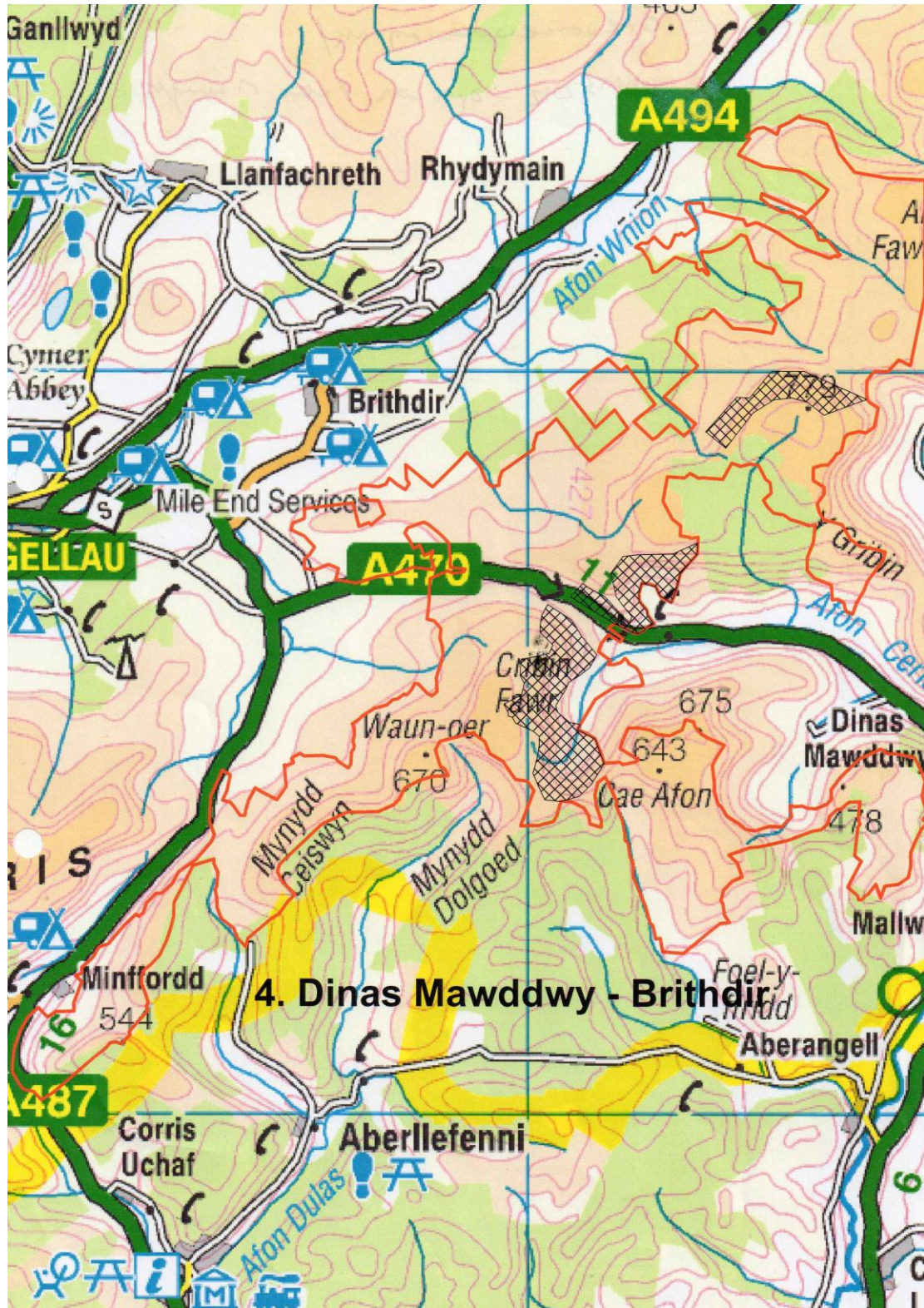


Figure 1. Location plan

The area was divided into transects 30m apart, except in areas where archaeological sites were sparse. These were divided into 50m transects. The location (NGR) and altitude of each site was established by a hand-held Global Positioning System



receiver (GPS). Written descriptions, including approximate dimensions, were made in the field and photographs were taken of all important sites and when conditions were favourable. The information for each site is entered into the National Monuments Record for Wales (NMR), each with its own unique identifying number, or National Primary Reference Number (nprn).

### 3.0 Results of survey

The field survey identified 555 archaeological sites, giving a site density of 17.9 sites per square kilometre (fig 2). Previously only 20 sites had been recorded in the National Monuments Record. One of the sites previously recorded, settlement features near Nant Helygog (nprn 402329), was not found during field survey. Two other sites, for which only approximate locations were given in the NMR, a cottage and a woollen mill (nprn 28339, 40994) were discovered to be outside of the survey area.

Contour band (m)	Area (square km)	Number of sites	Density per square km
101-150	0.05	2	40
151-200	0.20	2	10
201-250	0.70	52	74.29
251-300	2.52	75	29.76
301-350	2.97	111	37.37
351-400	4.18	124	29.67
401-450	3.72	37	9.95
451-500	3.58	27	7.54
501-550	3.92	16	4.08
551-600	3.88	37	9.54
601-650	2.82	59	20.92
651-700	1.56	8	5.13
701-750	0.70	3	4.29
751-800	0.20	2	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>17.90</b>

*Table 1: sites grouped by contour*

The survey falls between the 120 metre and 790 metre contours. In general, site density decreased with increased altitude, although the figures are distorted where there are large industrial complexes. Sites associated with settlement and agriculture are generally found below 500 metres. The highest long hut was found at 524 metres and the highest sheepfold at 579 metres. Sites above 550 metres are almost exclusively associated with extraction, either of peat, slate or other minerals.

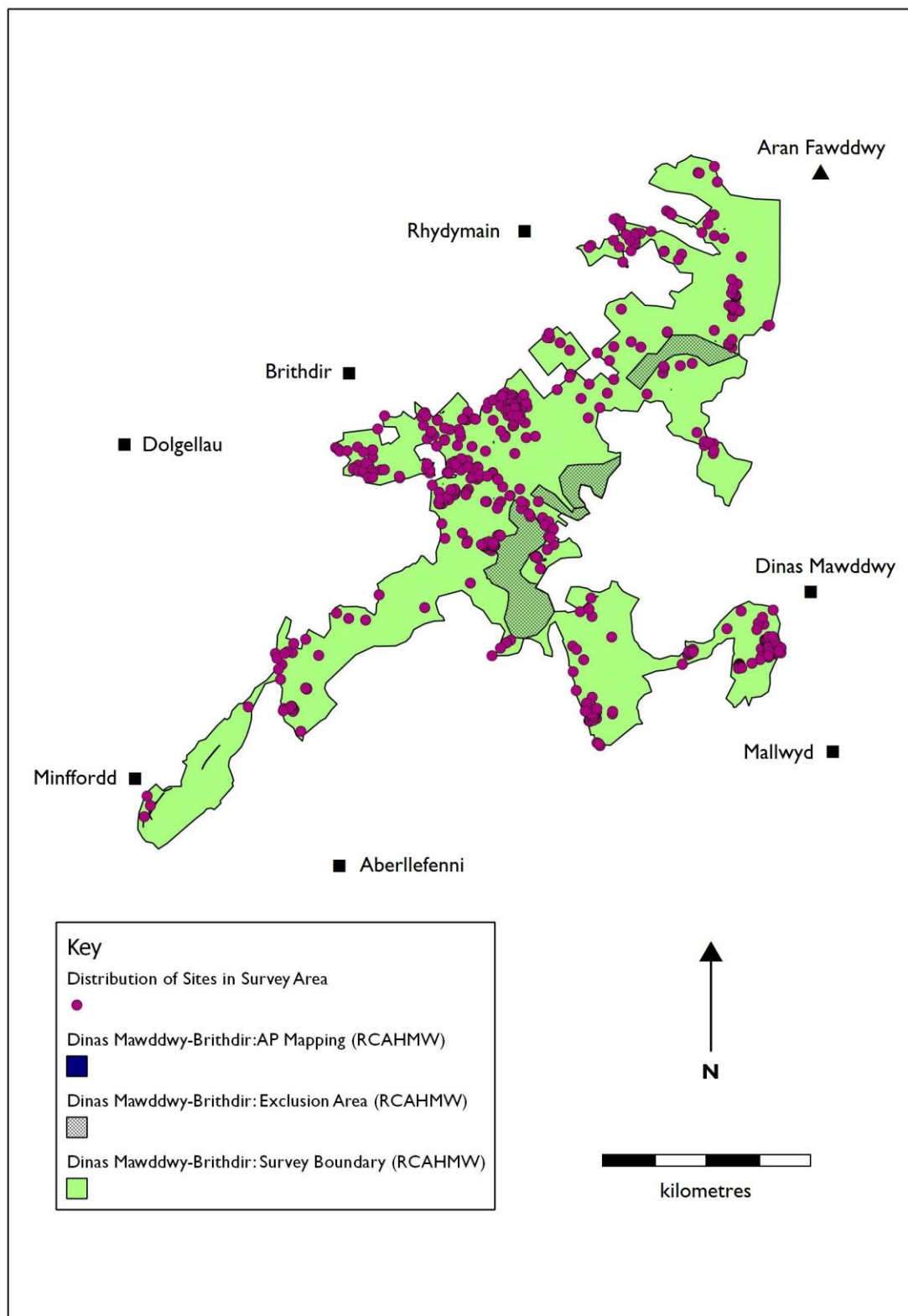


Figure 2. Distribution of sites in the survey area

The high density of sites in the 102-250m band is accounted for by Maes-y-gamfa quarry (nprn 527383), where numerous sites were recorded. The relatively high figures for sites between 550m and 650m is accounted for by the large slate quarry of Cloddfa Gwanas (nprn 401448), a complex of sites that lies between 580m and

612m, and is unusually high for an extensive slate quarry. The highest ground is occupied by cairns, but in all cases they are small and have been interpreted as modern features and are not the prehistoric cairns discussed below in section 3.1. The highest of them are on Glasgwm at 779m (nprn 527002) and Llyn y Ffynnon at 784m (nprn 527018). Mining and quarrying sites are less affected by altitude than other classes of site, although high altitudes would have presented transportation problems. The highest mining site was a small adit on Craig y Ffynnon (nprn 527019) at 734m.

Period	Number of sites
Bronze Age	3
Prehistoric	3
Roman	2
Medieval	45
Post Medieval	457
Modern	43
Unknown	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>

*Table 2: sites grouped by period.*

Broad class	Number of sites
Agriculture and subsistence	115
Civil	9
Defence	3
Domestic	35
Industrial	271
Monument <by form>	17
Recreational	5
Religious, ritual and funerary	3
Transport	65
Unassigned	3
Water supply and drainage	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>

*Table 3: sites grouped by Broad Class.*

Post-medieval industrial sites are by far the most numerous of sites identified, accounting for nearly half of the total. But it does not mean that industry dominates the landscape. High numbers of sites are concentrated into complexes of slate quarries, which also include tracks and tramways entered under the Broad Class of

Transport. Sites entered under the Broad Class of Agriculture and Subsistence include field boundaries and animal enclosures, mostly sheepfolds. They belong almost entirely to the post-medieval period, although some field boundaries may be medieval and two of the larger enclosures are probably prehistoric. Domestic sites are long huts and building platforms. Where examples can be interpreted as the *hafotai* of existing farms they can be ascribed to the post-medieval period, but in most cases it is not possible to determine which period they belong to because only a minority have diagnostic features such as fireplaces. Therefore the period ascribed to these sites is more speculative than for other classes of site.

### 3.1 Prehistoric sites

Very few prehistoric sites were identified. Bronze Age cairns in north-west Wales are usually found in prominent but inaccessible positions, or occur in accessible groups on slopes or near passes (Smith 2003, 114). The cairns discovered in the survey area belong to the latter category. As stated above, hilltops are devoid of prehistoric cairns. A Bronze Age round cairn (nprn 300458) and a ring cairn (nprn 300459) were discovered on Marchnad Mawr, the relatively flat moorland on the south-west flank of Aran Fawddwy (fig 3). This location overlooks the route from the Mawddach Estuary eastwards to Llyn Tegid and the Dee valley. These sites are perhaps associated with that important route, or simply overlook an area of rich pasture in the valley of the Wnion. Close to the cairns are the remains of two round enclosures, which are probably also prehistoric (nprn 402330, 527227). Further west is another small cairn (nprn 527331) and nearby small enclosure (nprn 527330). Its position on the south side of the hill known as Y Foel means that it is not visible from the valley below, but may, nevertheless, have been close to a route from the Mawddach to Llyn Tegid.

Bwlch Oerddrws may have been an important pass in prehistoric and Roman times, but it does not seem to have determined the location of prehistoric ritual sites. However, one round hut of probable prehistoric date was identified on the rocky slope immediately above the pass (nprn 527117).



Figure 3. Ring cairn on Marchnad Mawr (nprn 300459)

### 3.2 Roman roads

The existence of Roman roads across the survey area has been much debated (Rigg & Toller 1983; Browne 1986; Toller 1999). None of the roads are related to the recent discovery of a Roman camp nearby at Gwanas Fawr, however (Barker 2007). A road leading east from Dolgellau is presumed to lie on the exact line of the present A470 trunk road over Bwlch Oerddrws, but none of its Roman archaeology has been identified. A branch road (nprn 91903) leading northwards off this above Cae'r Tyddyn farm, which then turns north-east towards Pont Helygog where a branch road (nprn 309197) leads north-west to the fort at Brithdir, has also been claimed as a Roman road (Rigg & Toller 1983, 164-65) (fig 4). It was argued that the well-made track has changed little since its creation, but the possibility that it could be Roman was challenged by David Browne (1986). In places it is retained by drystone walls and there are numerous small quarry pits which seem to be associated with the road (nprn 527116, 527140, 527141, 527142, 527143, 527144), although only one of them (527116) is near the raised and retained sections. The 'agger' of the road surface is very similar to the stony subsoil beneath the peat in this vicinity, and is not necessarily an artificial road surface, let alone a Roman one.

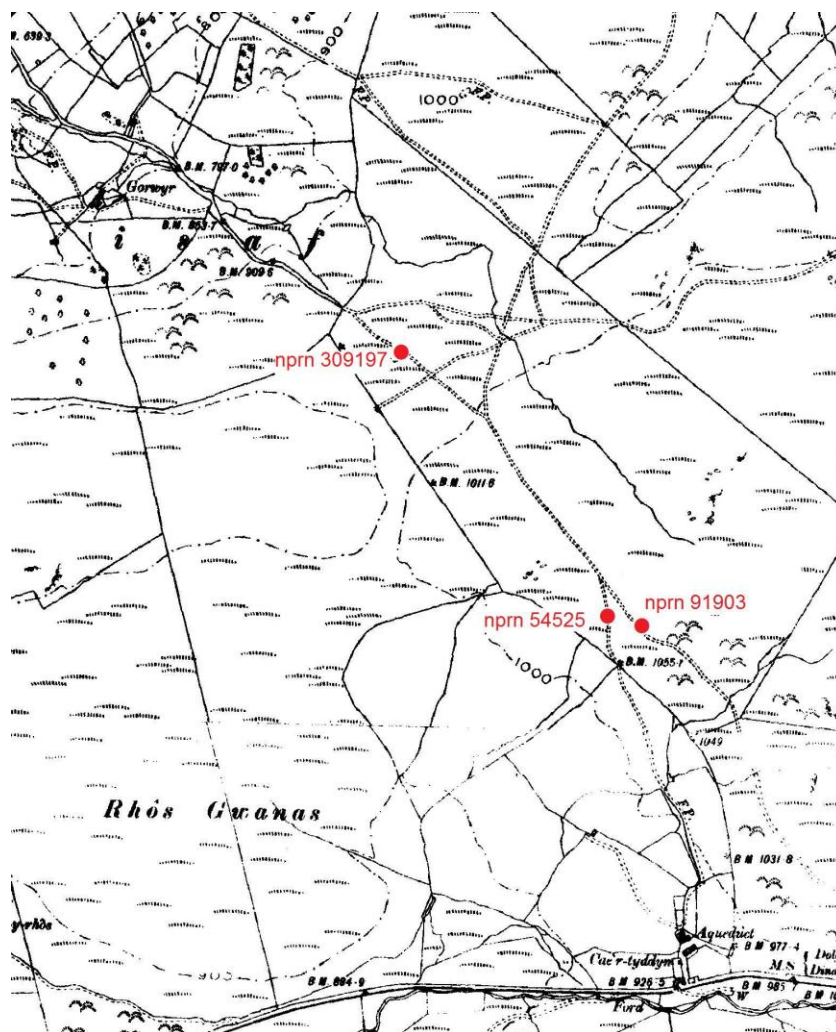


Figure 4. Tracks across moorland north of Cae'r Tyddyn, as shown on the 1901 Ordnance Survey

However this road can now be interpreted as post-medieval because an earlier section of road (nprn 54525) lies to the west of it at a lower level, where it passes close to Cae'r Tyddyn. This latter road is now difficult to see on the ground, was disused by the time of the 1819 Ordnance Survey of Aran Fawddwy, but is visible clearly on an aerial photograph (Crew & Musson 1996, 31). The photograph shows that, at the south end, it originally joined the main road (A470) below Bwlch Oerddrws, whereas on later maps it looks misleadingly like a track leading from the farm on to the moors. It is therefore almost certainly the track marked on Ogilby's map of 1671, rather than the higher track to the east (nprn 91903), and it almost certainly determined the site of the farmstead Cae'r Tyddyn, the earliest part of which was built in the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century beside this road. Its course further northward is uncertain, but it is possible that the later tracks (nprn 921903, 309197) overlie it. The proximity of small quarry pits by the latter suggests an early date. Having established that this is the only section of road across the moorland that can be dated earlier than 1671, there are nevertheless no diagnostic features that prove it to be of Roman origin.



*Figure 5. Milestone on Mynydd y Waun (nprn 400835)*

Another proposed Roman road continues south from Dolgellau and then crosses Mynydd y Waun towards Aberllefenni (nprn 400836). The route is now an unclassified road laid with tarmac. A stone beside this road has been interpreted previously as a Roman milestone (nprn 400835), although its location has previously been mistaken for one of the former boundary stones marked on the county-series Ordnance Survey maps (fig 5). The stone is roughly hewn and has, in the centre of the face to the road, the letter V, although it is now weathered and difficult to read. Evidence that it is a Roman milestone is not convincing and it was excluded from a published inventory of Roman milestones in Wales (Margary 1967, 355; Jarrett 1969, 182-8). The earliest milestones in Wales were cylindrical pillars, only later examples being of more roughly hewn stones (Jarrett 1969, 182). Other Roman milestones

have been identified by the inscriptions found on them. The stone found in the survey has no inscription apart from the 'V', and some later graffiti above it. The 'V' could be a letter or a Roman numeral. However, it is more likely to have been a post-medieval boundary stone, or a milestone on the road between Aberllefenni and Dolgellau.

### **3.3 Medieval and post-medieval settlement**

Roads are nevertheless an important feature of the survey area, in which there are important communication routes across North Wales. The pass of Bwlch Oerddrws is the focus of settlement on both sides of the road. Another route is known as Llwyber Elen (nprn 527260), a path that crosses the southern flank of Aran Fawddwy from Cwm Cywarch to the Wnion valley. On the more sheltered and steeper Cwm Cywarch side it determined the site of a small farmstead, cottage or hafoty (nprn 527258).

There is documentary evidence of lowland settlement in areas adjoining the survey boundary. In the Vale of Mawddwy, Penantigi-Uchaf was the site of a grange of Strata Marcella Abbey by 1324 (Williams 1990, 60; RCAHMW 1921, 155). In the deep cwm uphill from the present farmhouse is a platform on which a sheepfold has been built, but which could be the site of a medieval dwelling that would be associated with the farm (nprn 527221). In Brithdir and Llanfachreth community a large estate in the valley of the Wnion river was owned by Cymer Abbey. Brynbedwen Grange included a farm at Esgair Gawr, land belonging to which extends to the peak of Aran Fawddwy (Williams 1990, 42). However none of the settlement features identified in this part of the survey area was demonstrably medieval.

The incidence of settlement sites is very much dependent upon the relationship between lowland and upland. Where there are steep-sided valleys, such as the Vale of Mawddwy, Cwm Cywarch and the Dyfi valley at Dinas Mawddwy, communication between lowland and upland is difficult and no settlement sites were found, except in the upper reaches of the steep stream valleys, as mentioned above on Llwyber Elen. The most concentrated areas of settlement are on the west side of Bwlch Oerddrws, where the slopes are modest and the line separating upland and lowland has been less fixed.

The difference between huts and folds can be difficult to distinguish. As a general rule huts are interpreted as those structures which appear to have been built on level or levelled ground, and are of a rectangular shape. Square or irregular structures were clearly unroofed folds, and structures attached to relict field walls are also interpreted as sheepfolds. Huts may also have been used as sheepfolds after they were abandoned as human habitations. County-series Ordnance Survey maps mark most stone structures as sheepfolds, even those that were clearly originally roofed buildings (e.g. nprn 527311).

The pass of Bwlch Oerddrws was an important route to and from Dolgellau. This high pass had a reputation as bandit country (Lewis 1843), but there is also considerable evidence of medieval and post-medieval settlement, none of which remained inhabited into the nineteenth century. Huts and platforms cluster on the west side of the pass, as on the east side the ground falls away steeply. On the north

side of the road are two small platforms on steep ground overlooking the pass (nprn 527224, 527225). Another platform (nprn 527122) was found beside a long hut (nprn 310058), which has an adjoining wall outlining a probable yard, which may represent a small farmstead, perhaps of medieval date. There are also small huts (nprn 527119, 527121) on the rocky slope above the pass (fig 6), and a gabled hut (nprn 527027) nearby that were probably dwellings, although none of them has a fireplace.



*Figure 6. Long hut overlooking Bwlch Oerddrws, with Cadair Idris in the distance (nprn 527121)*



*Figure 7. Long hut near Bwlch Oerddrws (nprn 527106)*



On the south side of the pass is another former dwelling, gable ends of which survive (nprn 527106), with a building platform close to it (nprn 527107) (fig 7). This might have been the *hafoty* of Gwanas Fawr Farm further west, although fragments of former field walls (nprn 527108, 527104, 527103) close by seem likely to be associated with it and suggest that it was a permanent farmstead. Other structures on this rocky hillside seem also to have been dwellings, although in some cases they are labelled as sheepfolds by the Ordnance Survey (nprn 527101, 527102).

On the flatter western flank of Aran Fawddwy, below the 300 metre contour, there is also evidence of settlement. Two sub-rectangular structures may have been the sills for timber-framed buildings (nprn 527239, 527240). Slightly further downhill is a dwelling, the gable ends of which have survived (nprn 527243) (fig 8). Slightly further uphill are two sub-rectangular structures in which the wall height has been reduced to below 1 metre (nprn 527235, 527237). They are divided into two and three units respectively, but it is not possible to give a definitive interpretation. The larger is 6 metres wide, probably beyond the maximum span that such a structure would have been roofed, and is more likely to have been a fold. The smaller is only 4 metres wide, although it has a (possibly later) guide wall attached, indicating that it was used to pen sheep at least for part of its period of use. Another single-unit structure on lower ground is reduced to stones and boulders at ground level (nprn 527244), which is 4 metres wide. Inside it is a later peat stand (nprn 527245).



Figure 8. Long hut above Lletty wyn farm (nprn 527243)

Other post-medieval settlement was discovered above Aberllefenni. Waenllefenni remains a roofed house (now in farm use), comprising house and byre (nprn 527359). Further uphill is the ruins of Fotty-y-waun (nprn 28392, 527367), presumably the *hafoty* of Waenllefenni. Both stand close to the mountain road to Dolgellau (nprn 400836). Further north west, over the summit of Mynydd y Waun, is

a long hut (nprn 527376) which could have been the *hafoty* of Cefn-y-clawdd farm, which stands 800m to the north (fig 9).



Figure 9. Long hut (nprn 527376), possibly the *hafoty* of Cefn-y-clawdd farm



Figure 10. *Hafoty* Maes-y-gamfa (nprn 527445)

In the upper reaches of Nant Maes-y-gamfa is the small *Hafoty* Maes-y-gamfa (nprn 527445), which is shown on the 1832 Ordnance Survey drawing of 'Llanerfyl' (fig 10). In the back wall of its fireplace, is graffiti of 1869, which provides a *terminus ante quem* for its abandonment. Another graffiti reads 'JM 1901', exactly the same as found on one of the boundary stones on Craig Portas (nprn 527044), which is interpreted as marking later ownership (see section 3.6). The building is intriguing

because its masonry is bonded in mortar, unlike other examples in this class in which the stones are laid dry. It stood 1.6km NNW of the farmhouse and in the same stream valley. The 1832 map also indicates a *beudy* between the two, the site of which later became Maes-y-gamfa quarry (nprn 527383). The eastern flank of the valley is known as Ffridd Bwlch Gwyn, on which there are field walls (nprn 527452) and field banks (nprn 527443, 527450) that show enclosure of the upper reaches of the stream valley, all of which had been given up by 1832.

The latest phase of permanent settlement is of encroachment on to the common land. Cae'r Tyddyn (excluded from the survey area) was a small farmstead built on the west side of Bwlch Oerddrws, and the old part of the house suggests a sixteenth or seventeenth century origin. Its adjoining fields form an island in the former common land. A little further west is Tyn-y-rhos (nprn 411867), a small farmstead with surrounding fields, which also has the appearance of an encroachment. The ruins of the house comprise two large units, suggesting that they comprised a house and byre. The fields are shown on the 1816 Ordnance Survey drawing of 'Cader Idris' but the farmstead had been abandoned by the time of the 1890 Ordnance Survey.

### 3.4 Cattle and sheep farming

As late as the eighteenth century farmers maintained both drystone walls and earthen banks as field boundaries. Drystone walls were the most common (Evans 1812, 892). However, in 1770 Joseph Cradock described field boundaries as 'small banks of earth or turf mounds ... these continue but a very little time, as the cattle destroy them in winter, and the farmer is at considerable expence in repairing them every spring' (Cradock 1770, 99). Both types of field boundary were discovered in the survey area. The earliest, and possibly medieval, evidence for field boundaries includes lines of stones that could be the remnants of stone walls, but are just as likely to have been earth and stone banks (nprn 527108, 527104, 527103, 527205, 527226). A stock enclosure on Marchnad Mawr (nprn 527191) may also have been formed by an earth and stone bank.



Figure 11. Relict field banks above Maes-y-gamfa farm (nprn 527443)

Banks are generally found on lower ground and were perhaps mainly associated with cattle farming (as many farmers contend), while stone walls up to 1.4m high are found on the higher ground and are associated with sheep farming. An exception is the bank across the ridge at Bwlch Siglen (nprn 527416), above the steep-sided valley of Nant Maesglase, which is possibly medieval (Crew 1979). By the eighteenth century the uplands were probably already largely confined to the pasture of sheep. Fields delineated by banks above Maes-y-gamfa farm (nprn 527443, 527450) appear to have been abandoned by the early nineteenth century, since they are not shown on the 1832 Ordnance Survey drawing of Llanerfyl (fig 11). In 1770 Joseph Cradock described upland North Wales as consisting of 'barren mountains, incapable of improvement. They serve, however, to subsist a great abundance of sheep. With the wool they make considerable quantities of flannel, which they export' (Cradock 1770, 98). According to John Evans writing four decades later, 'the hills ... are nearly clothed to their summits, furnishing most extensive sheep walks, and large flocks of sheep are seen to depasture their sides, while numerous goats browse among the adjacent crags' (Evans 1812, 891-2).

Many other sheepfolds are found close to streams and were used for gathering and washing sheep. This can be inferred not simply from their location, but because they have openings towards the stream itself. Good examples are beside Afon Cwm Ochr (nprn 527254) and Nant Helygog (nprn 527134). Other folds are found close to roads (nprn 527111, 527114, 527378), at the boundary of enclosed land and mountain pasture (nprn 527110, 527159), or in sheltered positions beneath natural outcrops (nprn 527015, 527133, 527136, 527233) (fig 12).



Figure 12. Small sheepfold on Marchnad Mawr (nprn 527015)

An unusual form of animal enclosure was found on the southern flank of Aran Fawddwy, close to Llwyber Elen (nprn 527260), which is interpreted as a goose pen (nprn 527262). It is sub-circular, has walls 2 metres high, considerably higher than sheepfolds, inside which is a small shelter, or goose-cot, with a slab roof (fig 13). The only evidence of arable land found in the survey area was a small area of ridge and furrow plough marks above Lletty-wyn farm, in which the furrows are 2.5m apart (fig 14). These are probably post-medieval (nprn 527252).



*Figure 13. Goose pen near Llwyber Elen (nprn 527262)*



*Figure 14. Cultivation ridges above Lletty wyn farm (nprn 527252)*

### 3.5 Peat Cutting

Peat was the predominant domestic fuel in upland Merioneth until coal became available with the building of railways in the nineteenth century. However, in conversation with local landowners, it is apparent that peat was still cut in parts of the uplands survey area as late as the mid-twentieth century. Peat cutting is well documented historically. Peat cutting at high altitude was noted by Thomas Pennant in the Vale of Mawddwy in the 1770s:

The turberies are placed very remote from their dwellings; and the turf or peat is gotten with great difficulty. The roads from the brows of the mountains, in general, are too steep even for a horse; the men therefore carry up on their backs, a light sledge, fill it with a very considerable load, and drag it, by means of a rope placed over their breast, to the brink of the slope; then go before, and draw it down, still preceding, and guiding its motions, which at times have been so violent, as to overturn and draw along with it the master, to the hazard of his life, and not without considerable bodily hurt (Pennant 1883, ii, 220).

Another useful description of the practice near Dinas Mawddwy was published in 1813 by J.G. Wood:

The turf, or peat, the only fuel of the inhabitants, is not to be met with in this little vale [Llanymawddwy], but abounds in the turberies upon the surrounding mountains. The ascent is much too steep to admit of a horse; a man, therefore, ascends the mountain carrying a light sledge, about five feet long and three broad. The turf is previously stacked in large heaps, near the brow of the hill, where he loads his sledge, having secured it with cords, drags it to the edge of the precipice, by means of a rope placed over his breast, and sets it in motion. Preceding it, he regulates the rate of its progress, as well as he is able, by leaning against it, and as it sometimes acquires a considerable degree of velocity, great exertion and agility is necessary to prevent its gaining the ascendancy, and overpowering its conductor ... The angle made by some of these roads, with the horizon, is from forty to fifty degrees by measurement (Wood 1813, 181).

The sledge was called a 'glwyd-fawn', or 'hurdle', and was about 5 feet (1.5 metres) long. Other contemporary accounts describe the scars left in the hillside when the sledges descended, but no evidence of these was recognised during the field survey. The use of sledges might, however, explain why sunken tracks are associated with peat cuttings.

Evidence of peat cutting was found in numerous parts of the survey area. In most cases the actual cutting could not be distinguished, but there are associated surviving features such as tracks and peat stands for stacking and drying. On exposed hilltops such as Maesglase, the ridge that rises above 600 metres AOD between Maes-y-gamfa farm to the south and Dinas Mawddwy to the north east, former peat cutting are now badly eroded (nprn 527379, 527455, 527454, 527425, 527392). Their former presence is indicated by tracks on the 1890 Ordnance Survey map, although the tracks are no longer visible on the high ground. The most extensive areas of peat

cutting were identified on the west side of Bwlch Oerddrws, on relatively level ground below 450 metres AOD, which served the surrounding farms and village of Brithdir. Tracks from Braich-y-Ceunant farm (nprn 527145, 527135) lead directly to areas where peat was cut.



*Figure 15. Peat stand on Marchnad Mawr (nprn 527198)*



*Figure 16. Peat stand by Nant Helygog (nprn 527179)*



Figure 17. Peat stand near Tyn-y-rhos (nprn 527353)

A distinguishing feature of peat cuttings here is the proliferation of stands for peat drying. They are sub-rectangular, often placed on slopes above boggy ground (where peat was cut) and are defined by kerbs of stones (e.g. nprn 527127, 527172, 527180) narrow ditches (e.g. nprn 527256, 527157), or a combination of both (nprn 527130) (figs 15, 16). They vary between 3.5 by 2.5 metres in plan to 10 by 2.5 metres (nprn 527025). In a minority of examples the stand is a low stone mound (nprn 517155), including four peat stands close to Tyn-y-rhos farm (nprn 527346, 527351, 527352, 527353) (fig 17). These features form one of the densest clusters of peat stands found in north Wales (Crew and Owen 1986).

### 3.6 Land ownership

The Tithe survey of Llanymawddwy (1842) shows that the uplands comprised several parcels of land in multiple ownership, but that the land was farmed as 'undivided sheepwalks'. The Tithe surveys indicate that the uplands of Talylyn, Mallwyd and Dolgellau parishes (all 1838) were common land until the mid nineteenth century. Subsequently the common land was divided into smaller parcels and sold off to the neighbouring farms. These newer boundaries are marked by fences rather than banks or walls, and so all such banks and walls that can be seen on the uplands belong to an earlier period.

Boundary stones were found in only two contexts. A line of four stones, all engraved 'EB', were discovered on the high ground of Craig Portas, all above 550 metres AOD (nprn 527040, 527041, 527043, 527044) (fig 18). The manor of Dinas Mawddwy was purchased in 1856 from the Mytton family of Shropshire by Edmund Buckley for his son, also Edmund. The younger Buckley invested in both mines and



neighbouring farms and built himself a country house at Plas yn Dinas (1864-7, but burned in 1917). He was bankrupt in 1876 (Haslam 2009, 582). The stones therefore belong to the period 1856-76 but on two of the stones later graffiti is inscribed, reading 'DM 1889' and 'NM 1926' (nprn 527043) and 'JM 1901' (nprn 527044). These probably refer to later landowners. The latter graffiti is also found on the abandoned Hafoty Maes-y-gamfa (nprn 527445). Another boundary stone above Cloddfa Gwanas is dated 1861 and is inscribed 'CCC', the identity of whom is not known (nprn 527039). Intriguingly it is also inscribed 'No 2', suggesting a series of stones, but no others were found.



*Figure 18. Boundary stone of Edmund Buckley's estate on Craig Portas, with later graffiti 'DM 1889' (nprn 527043)*

### **3.7 Recreational sites**

There are three sites associated with nineteenth-century grouse shooting. A structure exposed on a ridge at Y Gadfa is marked by the Ordnance Survey of 1836 as a Grouse Box (nprn 527306). It may once have been roofed. Two other stone-built grouse butts were found on Marchnad Mawr (nprn 527175, 527201), one of which is constructed on, as has robbed the stone from, a Bronze Age cairn (nprn 300458) (fig 19). In recent decades the pass of Bwlch Oerddrws has become known as one of the best places in Wales to see and photograph low-flying military aircraft. This activity has left its own traces as enthusiasts have built low walls on the ledges above the pass for shelter (nprn 527086, 527087).



Figure 19. Grouse butt (nprn 527175) on the site of a Bronze Age cairn (nprn 300458)

### 3.8 Mining

Mining remains discovered during the survey belong to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. On the southern flank of Aran Fawddwy are small trial mines for copper or lead (nprn 527019, 527021, 527302, 527395). Mining remains are found on a larger scale for iron ore at Tyllau Mwn and for gold at the Red Dragon mine in the upper reaches of Nant Maesglase (nprn 527400).

Red Dragon mine was begun in 1852, apparently initially as a lead mine. A waterwheel and blowing machine (nprn 527410) were erected to ventilate a cross-cut adit and by 1853 a carpenter's and blacksmith's shop had been erected (nprn 527412). These surface structures have survived beside the adit (nprn 527407) and its spoil tip (527409) (figs 20, 21). Above the structures is a small reservoir (nprn 527405) fed by a leat (nprn 527406) from Nant Maesglase (527415). Other features that appear to belong to this initial phase of working are a trial adit high up on the slopes of Bwlch Siglen, and another lower down the valley that is outside of the present survey area. The discovery of black gossan changed the nature of the enterprise because it was discovered to be a gold-bearing mineral and henceforth the mine operated as a gold mine. In 1854 a Perks' Gold Reduction and Amalgamating Machine was purchased and erected in a new water-powered mill. It appears that it was the limitations of the Perks machinery, which was a very large investment for a small mine, that caused the company to fail. Work ceased there by 1856 (Bick 1978, 18-19; Hall 1988, 81). The location of this mill is uncertain and seems to have been at some distance from the mine itself as there is no archaeological evidence for a processing mill next to the adit.



Figure 20. Red Dragon mine (nprn 527407)

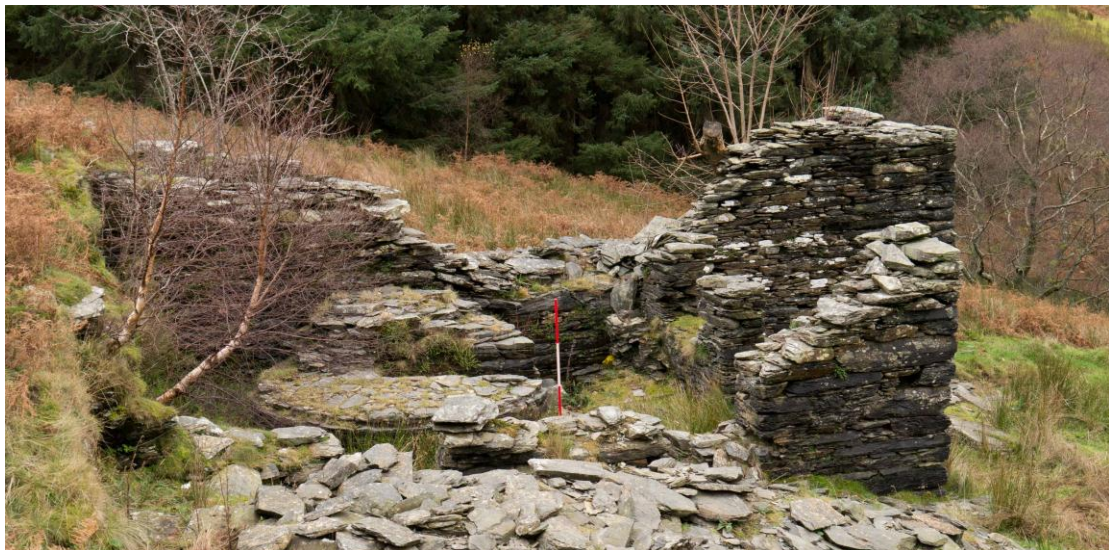


Figure 21. Blowing house at Red Dragon mine (nprn 527410)

Iron ore was raised in the district in the late eighteenth and the nineteenth century. Initially it was probably dug to supply the Dolgun blast furnace in Brithdir, which was in blast from 1719 and where there were many campaigns into the 1730s, after which references to it dwindle (Crew 2009, 28-9). In the nineteenth century ore was sent to Ruabon, Round Oak (Staffordshire) and Brymbo ironworks, but in this phase mining was concentrated near the Cross Foxes Hotel, just west of the survey area (Bick 1978, 14). The small workings found within the survey area, most of which can have been little more than trials (e.g. nprn 527332), are probably associated with Dolgun furnace and can therefore be dated to the eighteenth century.

The best example within the survey area is on Tyllau Mwn (nprn 527249), where trials for lead ore were made in 1770. The workings are described in the diary of Elizabeth Baker: 'We have sunk a shaft five yards, the vein is about four feet wide ... I've drove a level that will be up to the shaft this week – when I hope to God it may prove a copper mine tho' the magnet acts powerfully upon what is raised ... if it proves iron, and silver, those are the metals which constitute what is called the Friars Coat' (Bick 1978, 22-23). The workings are known alternatively as Friars Coat. The assayer had been hoping that it would be a lead mine, but the spoil contains a reddish deposit that, combined with evidence that it had a strong magnetic field, indicates that iron ore was yielded as opposed to lead ore. There was apparently further mining over a century later, as the Geological Survey recorded that iron ore was raised in 1878 and again in 1910. This may refer to some of the other small workings nearby. Another source has claimed that lead and copper trials were made c1851 (Foster-Smith 1977, 31-2). The shaft and adit of 1770 can be identified (nprn 527271, 527281) (fig 22). Other workings are small and were probably no more than trials, but there are two more adits (nprn 527282, 527296) that are probably later. There is a substantial embankment below the workings (nprn 527285), but it ends in boggy ground, suggesting that it was intended as a track to cart away ore from the mines, but the workings were abandoned before any significant commercial production occurred (fig 23).



Figure 22. Ironstone mine of 1770 on Tyllau Mwn (nprn 527282)



Figure 23. Embankment below Tyllau Mwn ironstone mines (nprn 527285)

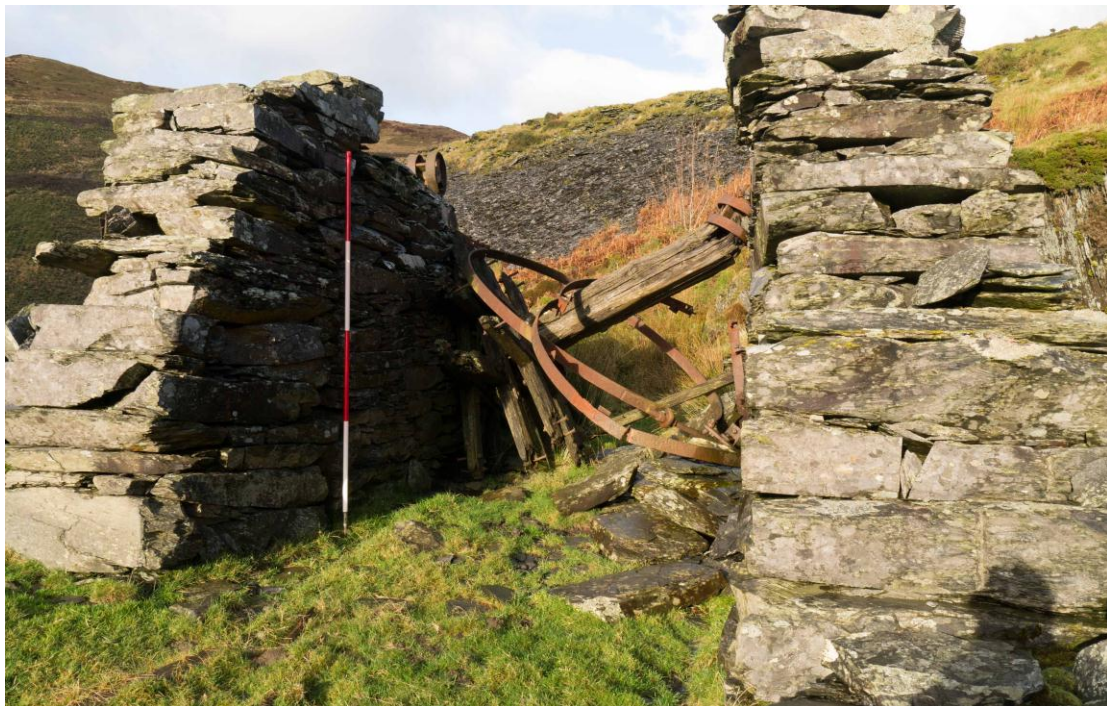
### 3.9 Slate mines and quarries

Slate quarrying in the area belongs to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In almost all cases they were quarries that specialised in slabs rather than roof slates. Large-scale slate quarrying is associated with the period from the mid nineteenth century, but the site of two earlier quarries was identified that belong to an earlier phase of the industry. A small quarry at Mynydd y Waun (nprn 527370) is marked on the 1816 Ordnance Survey drawing for 'Cader Idris'. A track, no longer extant, led north to the road to Dolgellau (nprn 400836). Above Penantigi Uchaf, at the foot of the steep valley of Afon Cerist, a quarry (nprn 527217) is indicated on the same 1816 Ordnance Survey drawing (fig 24). A track (nprn 527216) was used to transport material to the road below Bwlch Oerddrws (now the A470).



Figure 24. Slate quarry above Penantigi-Uchaf (nprn 527217)

Cae Abaty is a deep slate quarry that is shown on the 1836 Ordnance Survey (nprn 310051). By the time of the 1890 Ordnance Survey it appears to have been abandoned because the incline tramway that took material away from the site was described as disused, but a recent study has said that work there continued until 1911 (Richards 2007, 240-1). Phases of working the deep pit (nprn 527519) can be recognised in the ancillary features. The earliest phase is marked by the highest of the spoil tips (nprn 527512). A second phase is marked by the tunnel that leads out to a small dressing shed and a second tip (nprn 527513, 527514, 527516). In the third phase the rock was hauled up to the surface of the pit by means of a crane, the base of which has survived (nprn 527518). There is no evidence of a water-powered mill, only of open-sided dressing shelters (nprn 527523) (see fig 34). The site is on a steep west-facing hillside that suggests that slate was originally carried southwards down the valley to Aberangell. Later it was taken eastwards over the summit of Waun Fach to Minllyn Quarry and then down to the village to the railway in Dinas Mawddwy. There is an incline that transported material from the middle level of the quarry workings to the base of the main incline to Minllyn (nprn 527521). Its winding house has survived (nprn 527515), as has some of the winding drum, in the form of its axle-tree, three clasp-arm frames giving a diameter of approximately 1.9m, and iron bands (fig 25). The tramroad to Minllyn required climbing to the summit of Waun Fach and then travelling downhill to the east (nprn 527511). At the summit is not a building but the debris of the winding frame, in the form of axles with gear wheels, iron bands, and a cast-iron turntable with a gauge of 2 feet and 2 inches (nprn 527525).



*Figure 25. Incline winding house at Cae Abaty, showing the axletree and remains of the winding drum (nprn 527515)*

Cloddfa Gwanas slate quarry is said to have been worked sporadically from the 1840s (nprn 401448). It is of note for the altitude, approximately 600 metres AOD,

which was a difficult terrain from which to transport heavy materials. The oldest of its identifiable workings are on the east side of the summit (nprn 527047, 527049, 527051, 527057, 527059) (fig 26). Later workings are concentrated around a deep pit (nprn 527062) and a level (nprn 527071) and were well developed by the time of the Ordnance Survey of 1890. Buildings associated with the later phase of working include a tiny saw mill (nprn 527074), ancillary buildings (nprn 527070, 527072, 57075, 527077) such as office and forge, and a small barracks (nprn 527068) (fig 27). The slate was taken away by packhorse rather than tramroad and incline. A track leads around the side of the hill above Bwlch Oerddrws and appears to have been the main route (nprn 527032). Another path that takes a more direct, and steeper route, was probably used by workmen (nprn 527078). At the foot of the path is a large enclosure on steep ground, said by the land owner to have been used for stabling the horses (nprn 308804). Another track leads westwards towards Gwanas Fawr Farm, but was probably only a farm track (nprn 527045).



Figure 26. Trial quarry at Cloddfa Gwanas (nprn 527059)



Figure 27. Barracks at Cloddfa Gwanas quarry (nprn 527068)

Minllyn is the largest of the quarry sites, only the upper part of which fell within the survey area (nprn 310049). The workings were concentrated on two deep pits (nprn 527472, 527485), with other smaller quarries close by (nprn 527458, 527463, 527506). Slate was also extracted from levels in the steep hillside below the main workings, much of which is now forested, while there was a large processing mill at the foot of the hill near the township of Minllyn on the edge of Dinas Mawddwy. The workings belong to the nineteenth century but clearly are of several phases. An upper processing mill close to the quarries is said to have been built in 1845 (Gwyn 2006, 59; nprn 527460) (fig 28). In 1856 the land was purchased by Edmund Buckley of Manchester, who gave it to his son, also Edmund. The younger Buckley invested in the Minllyn quarry and the local infrastructure. In 1867 he opened the railway from Dinas Mawddwy to Cemmaes Road, a seven-mile private railway that linked with the Cambrian Railway (Lindsay 1974, 135). It was built with the express purpose of serving local quarries. The Minllyn slate quarry business failed in 1871 (Haslam 2009, 582). However, output and investment increased after the formation in 1872 of the Carlyle Slate and Slab Company, when sixty men were employed, and which continued in production until 1925. It was visited in 1873 by the *Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald*, which provides a useful description of the working of the quarry at that time: ‘as a slab quarry it is one of the most important in the country. The blocks can be literally obtained in any required size. The plan of the quarry is the usual system of underground chambers – the uppermost chamber being uncovered. The blocks are conveyed down inclines to a large machine room at the foot of the hill, where there are over forty planning and sawing machines driven by water power’. (Lewis 1987, 61). Output in 1883 was 1,468 tons (Lindsay 1974, 317).



Figure 28. Minllyn slate quarry, showing the main processing mill (nprn 527460), with adjoining engine and boiler house (nprn 527466) to its left and stack further left (nprn 527467)

The earliest workings that can be identified at Minllyn are underground workings of the mid nineteenth century (fig 29). These levels have associated tips, the variable size of which suggests their relative success (nprn 527490, 527492, 527504, 527505,



527508). Formerly underground workings were expanded into open deep pits. A processing mill was built immediately downhill of the pits in 1845, as mentioned above (nprn 527460) (fig 28). This was powered by a steam engine, evidence for which is a surviving boiler house and stack (nprn 527466, 527467). A pipe (nprn 527468) brought water down from a reservoir on the steep hill north of the works (nprn 527530), and which seems also to have been supplied by Llyn Foeldinas (nprn 527418) higher up the hill (fig 30). It has been said that the original mill was powered by waterwheel – although no wheelpit was identified by the survey – and then by Pelton wheel, supplemented by steam power (Richards 2007, 249-50). The pipe, however, looks to have been laid to feed an engine boiler. A line of pillars on the west side of the engine house was apparently to support compressed air pipes (Ibid; nprn 527464).



Figure 29. Early slate mine at Minllyn (nprn 527492)

Other features on the site include a stone-lined tramway tunnel (nprn 527462) that brought stone out from the lower pit (nprn 527472), and which cuts the line of an earlier short inclined plane (nprn 527474) that was used in an earlier phase of the pit working (fig 31). Another inclined plane (nprn 527475) brought down stone from the upper pit (nprn 527485) to the mill area. At its summit is a winding house (nprn 527479). A further short incline (nprn 527486) brought stone down from a smaller quarry (nprn 527506) above the main pit, and for which the winding house is less well preserved (nprn 527501).

The archaeology of the Minllyn slate quarries extends beyond the uplands survey area. On the steep slope overlooking Dinas Mawddwy is some evidence of earlier workings in the form of levels and tips, much of it within forestry and also forested by the beginning of the twentieth century, according to the Ordnance Survey. There

is also an incline, and reservoirs on the steep ground. At the foot of the slope there is a surviving store house which is known as Meirion Mill. There are also former quarrymen's cottages in Minllyn township.



Figure 30. Reservoir above Minllyn slate quarry (nprn 527530)



Figure 31. Minllyn slate quarry, showing an inclined plane (nprn 527475) to the left. Right of centre is the tunnel exit (nprn 527462) from a large quarry pit, which replaced the inclined plane on the right side (nprn 527474)

Above Aberllefenni, where there were large slate quarries, is a small quarry at Fotty-y-Waun (nprn 527362), which was worked in the 1870s, and briefly again in 1934 (Richards 2007, 270).

The latest of the large slate quarries was begun at Maes-y-gamfa in 1889 (nprn 527383). It made slabs for, among other things, mantelpieces, billiard tables and urinals and employed up to twenty men (fig 32). Power was derived from turbines instead of waterwheels, but it still necessitated construction of reservoirs (nprn 527439, 527440, 527444) on the hillside and leats (nprn 527441, 527442, 527446) to feed them (fig 33). The topography required the use of an incline (nprn 527429) to transport materials from quarry to mill (nprn 527427). Other inclines were then needed to transport material southwards from the quarry to the Hendre Ddu tramroad, by which means slate was taken to the railway at Dinas Mawddwy (Richards 2007, 248-9).



Figure 32. Maes-y-gamfa quarry (nprn 527434)

The archaeology of the slate quarries within the survey area incorporates many of the characteristic features of the industry. There are deep pits, some of which result from the opening up of earlier underground workings. From these pits stone was raised by crane or was removed through tunnels. Bases for cranes at Minllyn and Cae Abaty are the only two examples of hand-derricks recorded in North Wales (Gwyn 2000, 194; nprn 527483, 527518). Spoil tips are large, in the form of individual finger tips on which it is possible to see where the trams ran. There are open-fronted dressing sheds, or *gwaliau*, in which workmen laboured in pairs splitting and trimming, which indicate that roofing slates were produced (e.g. at Cae Abaty, nprn 527523) (fig 34). Larger mill buildings were built so that blocks could be sawn and trimmed into slabs.



Figure 33. Reservoir at Maes-y-gamfa quarry (nprn 527440), fed by a leat running diagonally from the bottom right corner (nprn 527442), downhill of which is another leat (nprn 527441), for a lower reservoir



Figure 34. Gwaliau at Cae Abaty quarry (nprn 527523)

Cloddfa Gwanas is exceptional as an isolated upland slate quarry because there is no inclined plane for transporting slate away from the site. Instead the quarry relied on packhorse tracks. Elsewhere inclines are much in evidence. These were all of the self-acting type, in which the descent of full wagons pulled up empty wagons from below on a parallel track by means of a chain or rope passed around a horizontal

drum at the summit. The large incline at Minllyn has lengths of steel cable embedded in the thin soil covering the incline surfaces (nprn 527475). At Cae Abaty there survives much of a winding frame and its axletree, in a position that shows that the winding drum was mounted vertically rather than horizontally (nprn 527515).

### 3.10 The twentieth century

Of the forty-three modern sites many were associated with the digging of drainage ditches across large areas of moorland. Erosion has caused most of them to have widened or deepened. In the latter case some of the ditches are up to 1 metre deep. Modern quarries are found beside tracks (nprn 527008, 527009, 527010, 527082), but they appear to be for gravel rather than freestone.

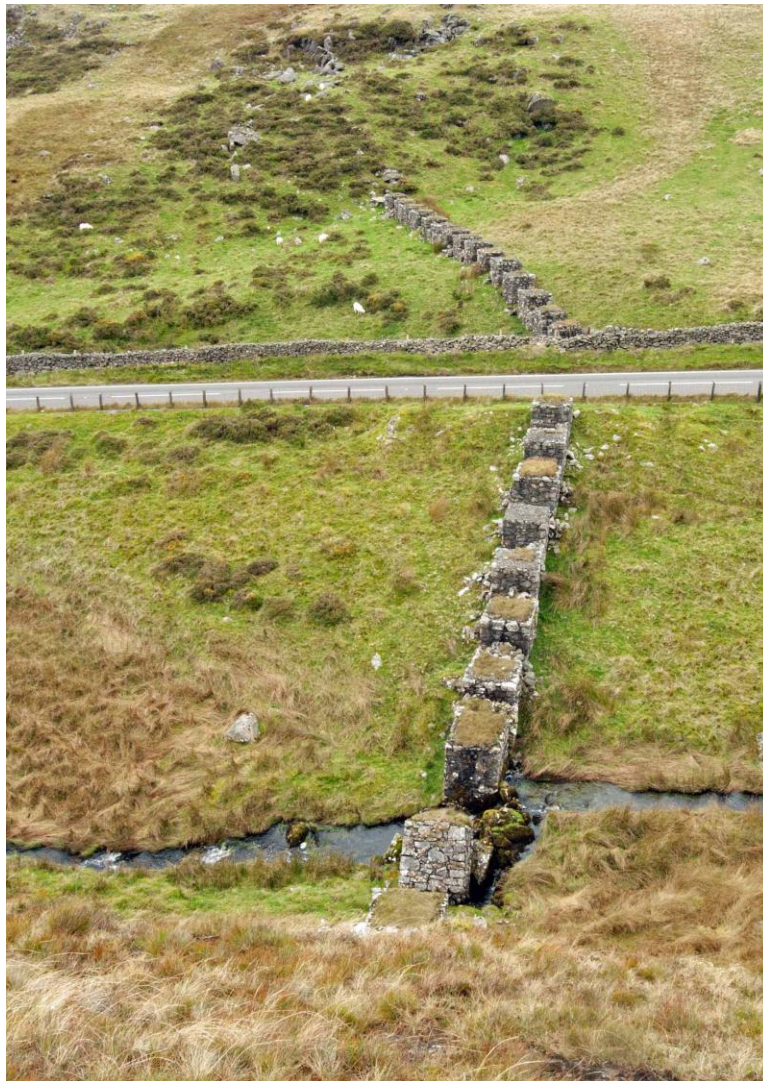


Figure 35. Anti-invasion defences at Bwlch Oerddrws (nprn 270350, 270351)

The strategic importance of Bwlch Oerddrws is demonstrated by the presence of anti-invasion defences built across the pass in the 1940s (nprn 270350, 270351). It was part of the Western Command Stop Line 21, which extended from Rhyl to Machynlleth. A small quarry (nprn 527113) was opened nearby to provide the stone. The defences comprise a line of mortared stone blocks 72m long in total, broken by

the A470 trunk road (fig 35). Ten blocks are south of the road and fifteen are on the north side. The blocks are 1.5m square and up to 1.7m high; the gaps between them are infilled with rubble stone laid dry, which seems to have been an integral component of the original construction.

### **3.11 Use of aerial mapping**

Mapping of archaeological features from aerial photographs was carried out by RCAHM Wales prior to the commencement of the field project. The results were incorporated on to digital maps that were used in the field for identification. In addition, the location of entries in the National Monuments Record and the regional Historic Environment Records were pinpointed on the maps.

Some site types were identified by this exercise, including huts, sheepfolds and mine workings. However, the number of sites identified by aerial mapping was a small proportion of the total number of each type of site found. Old sheepfolds still appear on Ordnance Survey mapping, but aerial mapping identified only some of those that are not. In most cases these were sites with significant remains, often where the walls stand to their full height. Earlier sites, which can now be identified only as a line of stones on the ground, were not consistently found by aerial mapping. The same was true generally of the long huts. Smaller features were identified only rarely by aerial mapping. An example is the group of peat stands on Marchnad Mawr. Here the larger of the structures were identified, but not the smaller ones, which are the majority. Other peat stands that are constructed as earthworks with a surrounding narrow ditch are not identifiable from aerial mapping.

### **3.12 Summary and statement of significance**

The Dinas Mawddwy-Brithdir survey area comprises 31 square kilometres of high enclosed moorland at the southern end of the Snowdonia National Park. The landscape is characterised by precipitous slopes on the eastern side of the survey area above Dinas Mawddwy and Cwm Cywarch, and gentler slopes on the western side toward the valley of the Wnion. This western side was an important route between the Mawddach estuary and Llyn Tegid in the Dee valley. The high pass of Bwlch Oerddrws between Dolgellau and mid Wales also passes through the survey area.

The earliest sites to be discovered were Bronze Age cairns overlooking the Wnion valley, close to which are two circular enclosures of uncertain date, but probably prehistoric. A Roman fort is just north of the survey area at Brithdir and well-preserved tracks across moorland were once interpreted as Roman roads leading from it. These can now be shown to be post-medieval, except for one section of track, by Cae'r Tyddyn farm, that may be medieval or earlier. Other suggested routes are now modern roads and no Roman features are visible.

Evidence of medieval and post-medieval settlement close to the pass of Bwlch Oerddrws was found, in the form of building platforms and long huts. Other medieval and post-medieval settlement was clustered around the south-west flank of Aran Mawddwy, on relatively level ground, and was in the form of the ruins of stone dwellings. In some cases upland dwellings are demonstrably the *hafotai* of lowland

farms; in others the proximity of old field boundaries suggest that they were permanent farmsteads. There is evidence of the later encroachment of common land at Tyn-y-rhos, an upland farm on relatively flat moorland, which was abandoned by the end of the nineteenth century and may have been occupied for less than a century. (An example, Cae'r Tyddyn, is close to Bwlch Oerddrws but outside of the survey area.)

Peat was the main domestic fuel as late as the twentieth century and evidence of peat cutting was found concentrated in several areas. Where peat was cut from exposed moorland tops direct evidence of cutting has been lost to erosion, but the general areas where peat was exploited can be identified by the presence of disturbed ground and the existence of tracks leading on to the moorland from surrounding farms. On the relatively level ground west of Bwlch Oerddrws other indirect evidence of cutting was found, which can be related to farms in Brithdir by the survival of tracks. A distinguishing feature of the peat cuttings here is the proliferation of peat-drying stands, which are found in the form of sub-rectangular outlines of stones, rubble-stone platforms, or defined by narrow ditches on sloping ground. They constitute one of the densest concentrations of such unusual features so far identified in Wales.

A scatter of ironstone workings on Tyllau Mwn comprises a rare example of surviving eighteenth-century ironstone mines in Wales. They were begun in 1770 but were worked only briefly. This fact, combined with their altitude, has ensured that they are undisturbed but for brief attempts at re-working later. A small unsuccessful mid-nineteenth century gold mine known as Red Dragon is well preserved in the upper reaches of Nant Maesglase.

Extensive remains of four slate quarries are within the survey area, which constitute an important group of quarries for slabs rather than roof slates. Minllyn, above Dinas Mawddwy, is the largest of them and was worked from the 1840s to the 1920s. The others are at Cae Abaty, Maes-y-gamfa and Cloddfa Gwanas. All are characterised by deep quarry pits, underground workings, and the survival of mills and other ancillary buildings. Power at Minllyn quarry was provided by waterwheel, and later Pelton wheel and steam engine. Maes-y-gamfa was powered by water turbines. At both quarries there is extensive evidence of leats and reservoirs that serviced them. Cloddfa Gwanas is at 600 metres altitude and transport was by steep packhorse tracks. At the other quarries inclined planes and tramways were used extensively, much of the evidence for which has survived.

There has been little impact on the upland landscapes in the twentieth century. At Bwlch Oerddrws anti-invasion defences were constructed in the 1940s in the form of large stone anti-tank blocks which form a striking addition to one of the highest passes in Wales.

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

Only one roofed building was discovered during the field survey, Waenllefenni farmhouse (nprn 527359). It has been altered significantly and is no longer of sufficient architectural or historic interest to justify statutory protection. The

milestone (nprn 400835) beside the road that passes over Mynydd Ceiswyn from Aberllefenni has been rejected as a Roman site but remains of historical interest and may therefore qualify for listed-building status.

There are significant quarry remains within the survey area. The ironstone workings on Tyllau Mwn (nprn 527249) are within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (fig 36). They belong to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but the chronology of the workings is understood only in general terms. Closer inspection of spoil tips may allow a distinction to be made between the ironstone mines and the copper mining that is said to have been attempted in the mid nineteenth century. In addition there are numerous small prospecting trenches in the area that could be related to copper or iron mining. There are other small-scale mines on the southern flank of Aran Fawddwy that might also benefit from similar survey (nprn 527019, 527021, 527302, 527395), as well as the probable ironstone mines on Y Foel (nprn 527332, 527334). The slate quarries most worthy of more detailed survey are Maes-y-gamfa (nprn 527383), Cloddfa Gwanas (nprn 401448), Cae Abaty (nprn 310051) and Minllyn (nprn 310049). Together these constitute a range of medium-sized nineteenth-century slate quarries that specialised in slabs rather than roofing slates.

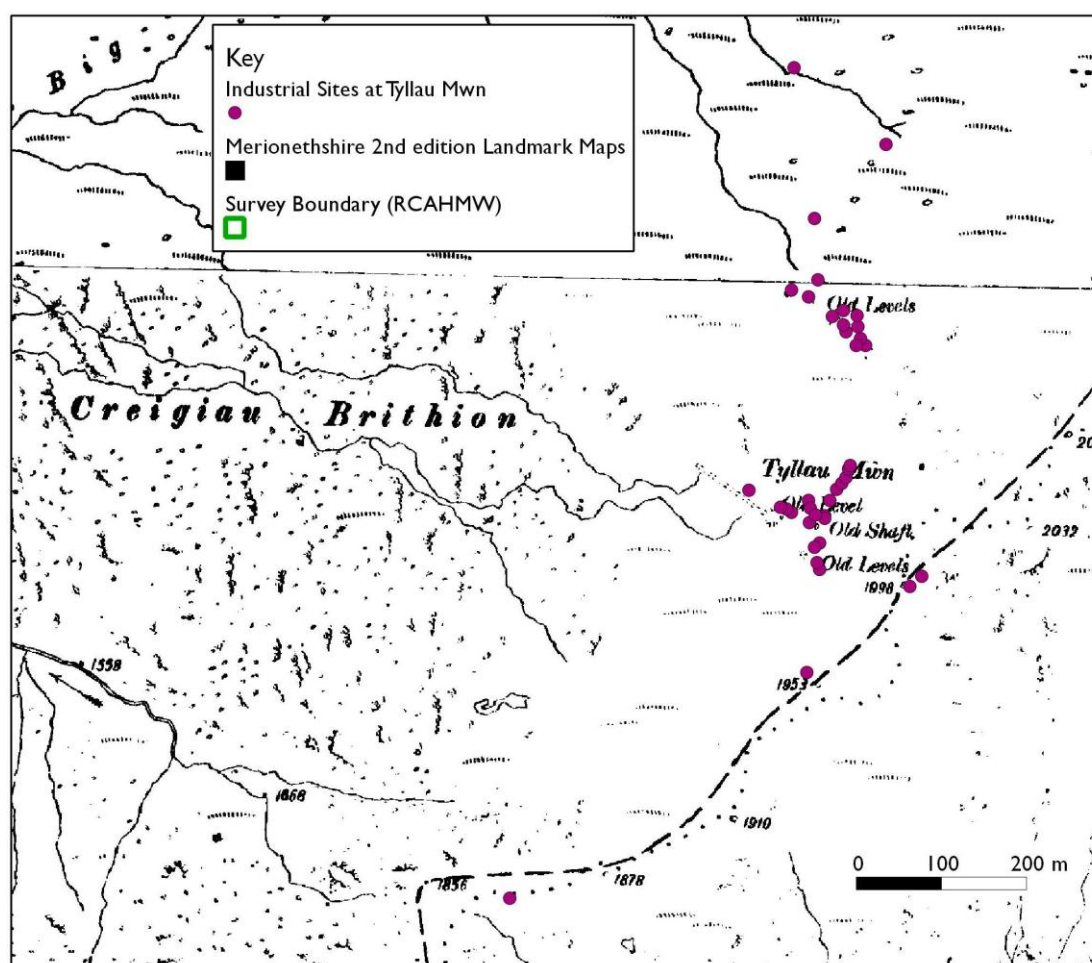


Figure 36. Distribution of industrial sites on Tyllau Mwn



Peat deposits that may be suitable for pollen analysis and other environmental sampling are found across the survey area. However, areas where the most concentrated settlement is found are the same areas where the peat has been cut most intensively. Marchnad Mawr is nevertheless a large area where uncut peat is found to a depth of at least 0.5m and suitable samples may be had in the vicinity of SH 800 183.

The numerous archaeological sites on Marchnad Mawr are not well understood in relation to one another. There are numerous peat stands, a sheepfold and shooting butt that seem to be post-medieval. However, it would be worth investigating two round enclosures (nprn 402330, 527227) to establish their chronological relationship with the two nearby Bronze Age cairns (nprn 300458, 300459), a stock enclosure (nprn 57191) and fragmentary remains of field boundaries (nprn 527205, 527226).

The existence of possible Roman roads across the moorland north of Cae'r Tyddyn was discussed in section 3.2. Future investigation should be concentrated on the lower section of road (nprn 54525) by Cae'r Tyddyn farm, as this has been shown to be the earliest section of track across the moorland, although it is by no means certain that it is earlier than the medieval period.

Modern Ordnance Survey maps show some archaeological sites such as the cairns on Marchnad Mawr. Many sheepfolds and modern cairns are mapped as topographical rather than archaeological features. Other sites that should be appended to Ordnance Survey maps are given in table 4.

<b>nprn</b>	<b>site to be mapped</b>
527040	Boundary stone
527041	Boundary stone
527043	Boundary stone
527044	Boundary stone
527091	Sheepfold
527092	Sheepfold
527095	Sheepfold
527096	Sheepfold
527100	Sheepfold
527101	Long hut
527102	Sheepfold
527105	Long hut
527117	Round hut
527119	Long hut
527121	Long hut
310058	Long hut
527136	Sheepfold
527217	Quarry
527227	Enclosure
527233	Sheepfold
527235	Long hut
527237	Long hut

527239	Long hut
527240	Long hut
527243	Long hut
527244	Enclosure
527258	House
527261	Sheepfold
527262	Enclosure
527300	Long hut
527301	Sheepfold
527352	Mine
527306	Shooting box
527310	Sheepfold
527311	Long hut
527318	Sheepfold
527323	Enclosure
527324	Sheepfold
527326	Sheepfold
527330	Enclosure
527331	Cairn
527332	Trial mine
527334	Trial mine
400835	Milestone
527376	Long hut
527387	Sheepfold
527395	Trial mine
527396	Sheepfold
527439	Reservoir
527440	Reservoir
527444	Reservoir
527445	Hafoty Maes-y-gamfa
527448	Quarry trial
527449	Quarry trial
527514	Quarry building
627515	Incline winding house
527521	Incline
527523	Quarry building
527526	Trial mine

*Table 4. Sites to be added to Ordnance Survey mapping*

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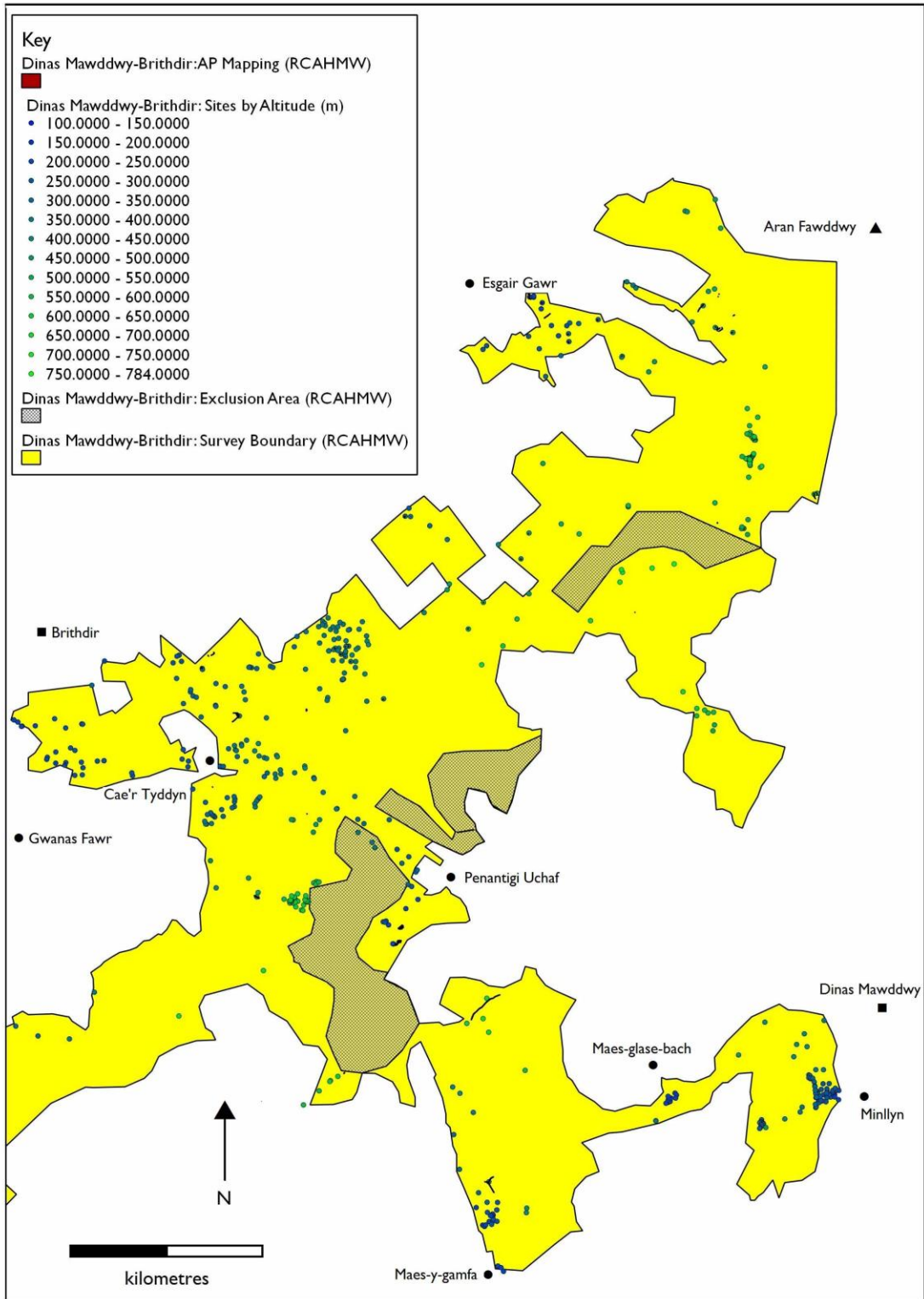
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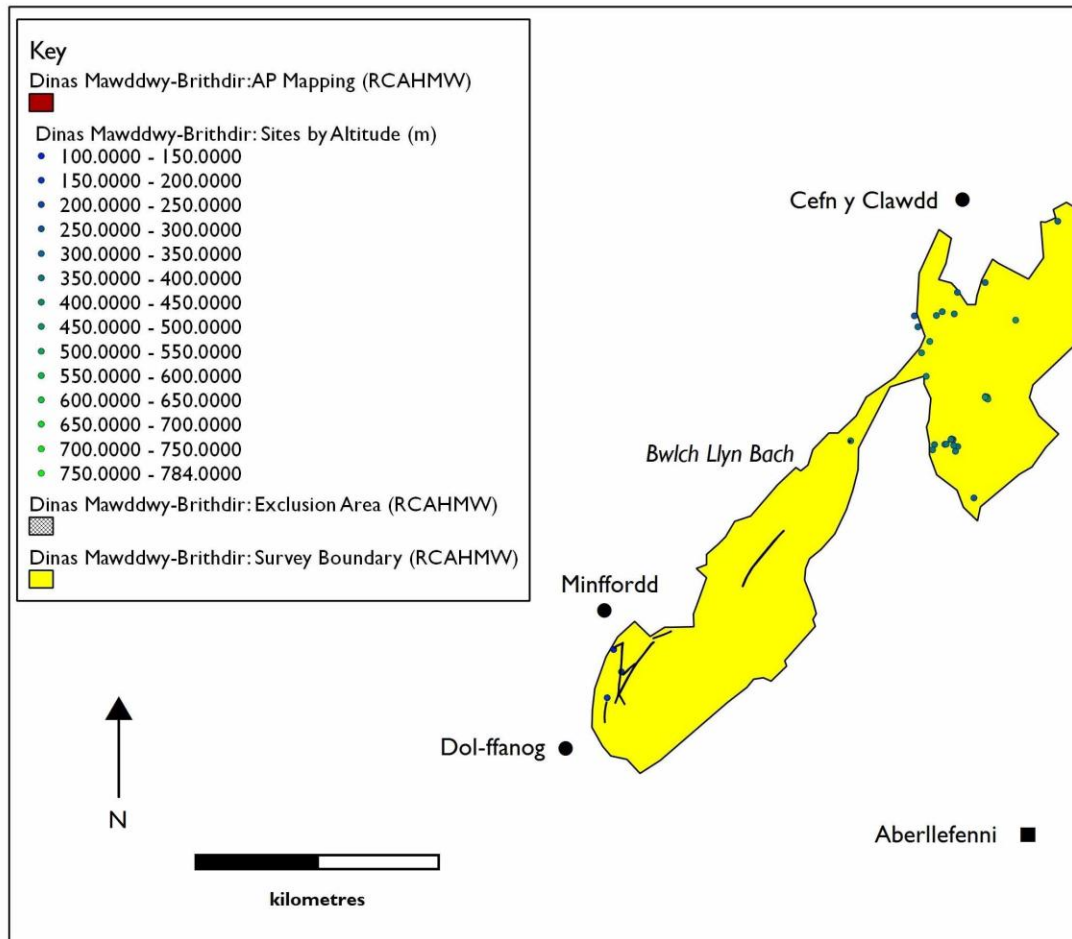
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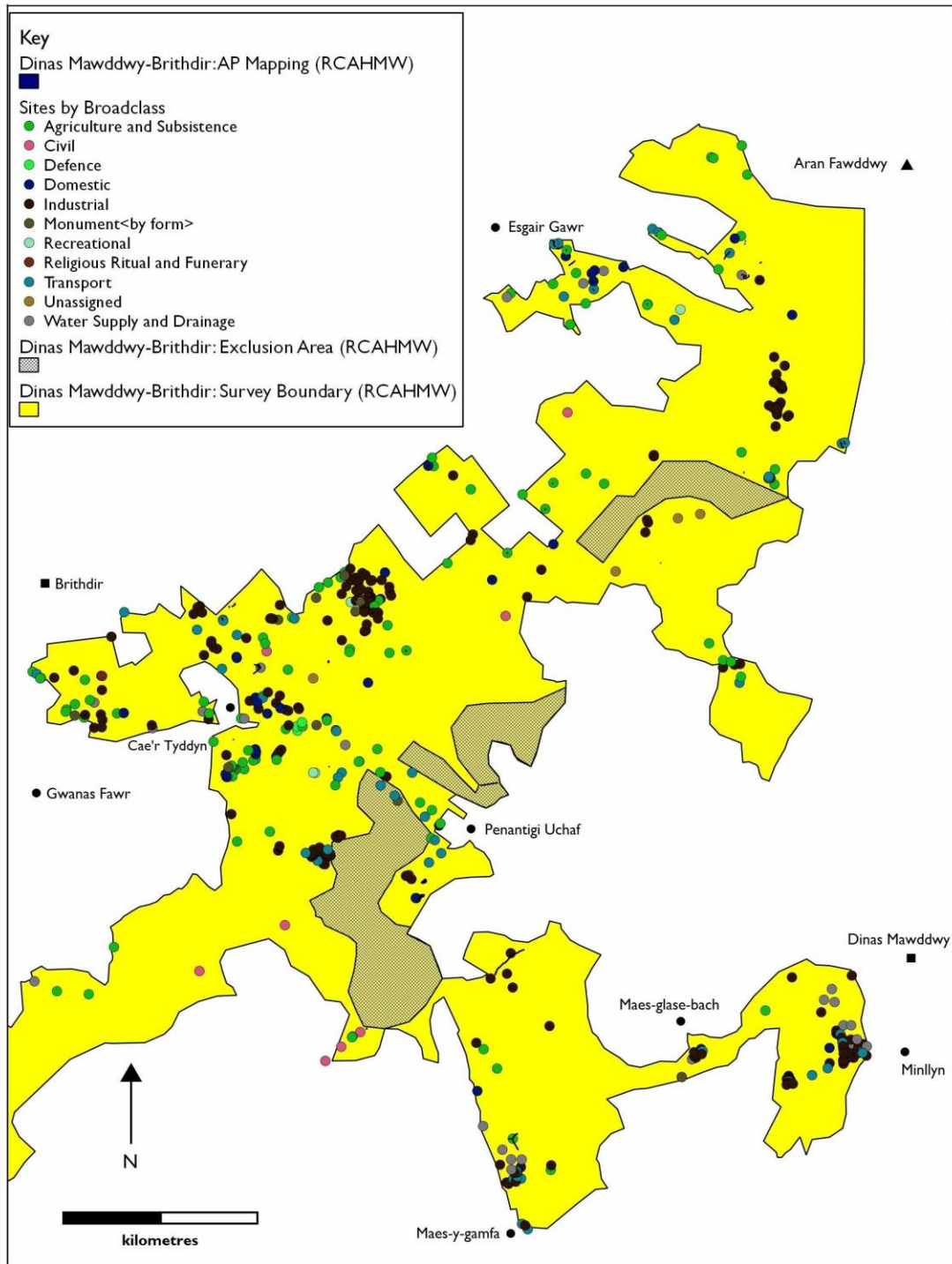
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Map 1. Archaeological sites by altitude (east)

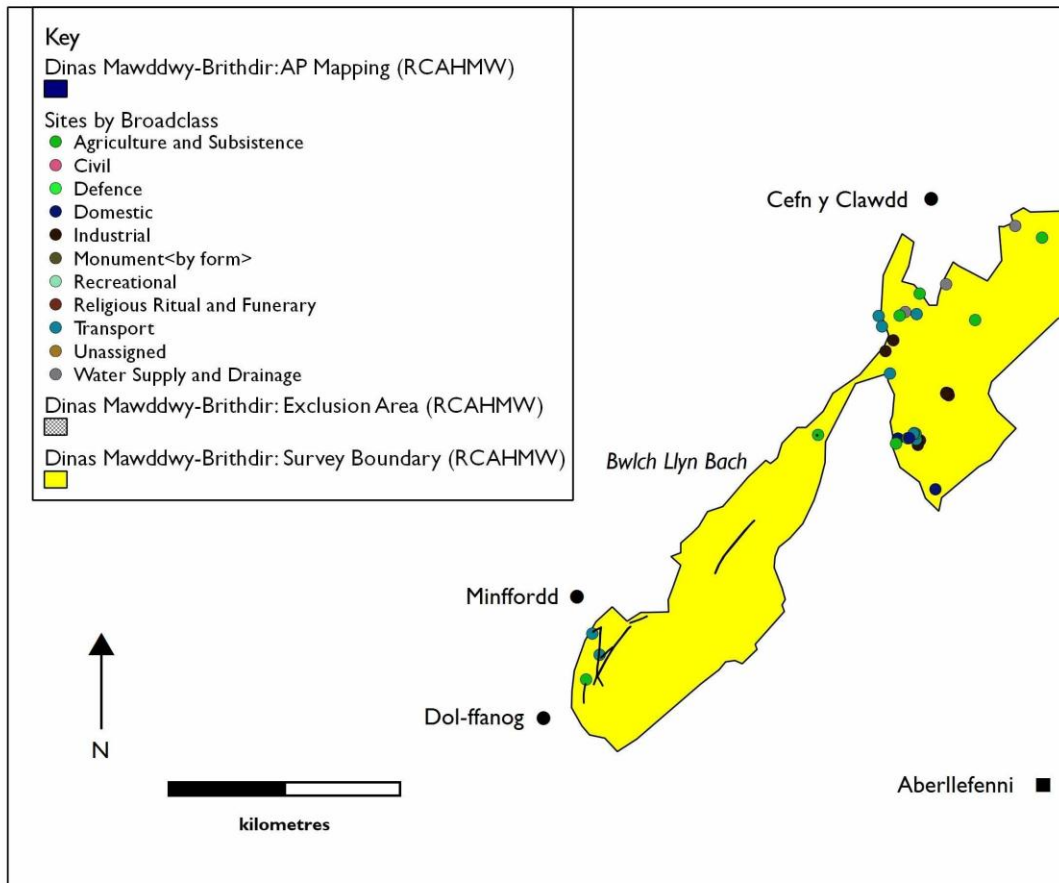


Map 2. Archaeological sites by altitude (west)



Map 3. Archaeological sites by Broad Class (east)





Map 4. Archaeological sites by Broad Class (west)

# Appendix I

## Table of sites by period, altitude and type

NAME	NPRN	NGR	BROADCLASS	TYPE	PERIOD	ALTITUDE
MARCHNAD MAWR, CAIRN I	300458	SH8010718561	Religious, Ritual and Funerary	CAIRN	Bronze Age	384
MARCHNAD MAWR, RING CAIRN	300459	SH8021218589	Religious, Ritual and Funerary	RING CAIRN	Bronze Age	390
Y FOEL, CAIRN	527331	SH7756217803	Religious, Ritual and Funerary	CAIRN	Bronze Age	298
CAE'R TYDDYN, ROUND HOUSE	527117	SH7925117419	Domestic	ROUND HOUSE	Prehistoric	360
Y FOEL, ENCLOSURE I	527330	SH7755317805	Monument<by form>	ENCLOSURE	Prehistoric	295
Y GADFA, ENCLOSURE I	527234	SH8313621597	Agriculture and Subsistence	ENCLOSURE	Prehistoric?	428
CAE'R TYDDYN, ROAD I	54525	SH7878717877	Transport	ROAD	Roman	320
CEFN-Y-CLAWYDD, ROAD	400836	SH7602413924	Transport	ROAD	Roman	351
CAE'R TYDDYN, LONG HUT IV	310058	SH7914117538	Domestic	LONG HUT	Medieval	354
NANT HELYGOG, ENCLOSURE I	402330	SH7975018603	Monument<by form>	ENCLOSURE	Medieval	346
BWLCH Y FIGN, LONG HUT I	527013	SH8155018787	Domestic	LONG HUT	Medieval	531
BWLCH Y FIGN, LONG HUT II	527022	SH8217719157	Domestic	LONG HUT	Medieval	471
NANT HELYGOG, PEAT STAND	527025	SH8067418065	Agriculture and Subsistence	ENCLOSURE	Medieval	426
CAE TYDDYN BACH, BUILDING	527105	SH7913217002	Domestic	BUILDING	Medieval	337
CAE TYDDYN BACH, LONG HUT	527106	SH7913617028	Domestic	LONG HUT	Medieval	334
CAE TYDDYN BACH, BUILDING PLATFORM	527107	SH7912817054	Domestic	BUILDING PLATFORM	Medieval	331
CAE'R TYDDYN, BUILDING PLATFORM I	527122	SH7915117530	Domestic	BUILDING PLATFORM	Medieval	353
CAE'R TYDDYN, LONG HUT III	527123	SH7913217582	Domestic	LONG HUT	Medieval	355
CAE'R TYDDYN, LONG HUT VI	527137	SH7893617998	Domestic	LONG HUT	Medieval	347
CAE'R TYDDYN, LONG HUT V	527138	SH7893917988	Domestic	LONG HUT	Medieval	349
CAE'R TYDDYN, ENCLOSURE II	527153	SH7920718195	Agriculture and Subsistence	ENCLOSURE	Medieval	352
MARCHNAD MAWR, FIELD WALL I	527160	SH7987218759	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval	354
MARCHNAD MAWR, FIELD WALL II	527161	SH8000218811	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval	372
MARCHNAD MAWR, FIELD WALL III	527162	SH8004418866	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval	377
MARCHNAD MAWR, SHEEP FOLD II	527163	SH8006318848	Agriculture and Subsistence	SHEEP FOLD	Medieval	380
OCHR Y BWLCH, ENCLOSURE I	527177	SH8009618078	Agriculture and Subsistence	ENCLOSURE	Medieval	364
OCHR Y BWLCH, FIELD BANK	527178	SH8009018049	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval	359

MARCHNAD MAWR, ENCLOSURE	527191	SH8019518565	Agriculture and Subsistence	ENCLOSURE	Medieval	387
MARCHNAD MAWR, HUT	527192	SH8020218564	Monument<by form>	HUT	Medieval	387
MARCHNAD MAWR, FIELD WALL IV	527205	SH8039018576	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval	405
MARCHNAD MAWR, LONG HUT	527209	SH8045418862	Domestic	HUT	Medieval	379
OCHR Y BWLCH, BUILDING PLATFORM I	527224	SH7995217250	Monument<by form>	BUILDING PLATFORM	Medieval	381
OCHR Y BWLCH, BUILDING PLATFORM II	527225	SH7975417301	Monument<by form>	BUILDING PLATFORM	Medieval	381
MARCHNAD MAWR, FIELD BANK	527226	SH8034718518	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval	401
NANT HELYGOG, PLATFORM	527227	SH8015218462	Monument<by form>	PLATFORM	Medieval	377
CAE TYDDYN BACH, SHEEPFOLD	527232	SH7934616947	Agriculture and Subsistence	SHEEP FOLD	Medieval	390
CEUNANT COCH, LONG HUT 1	527239	SH8259821951	Domestic	LONG HUT	Medieval	304
CEUNANT COCH, LONG HUT II	527240	SH8256821922	Domestic	LONG HUT	Medieval	296
CEUNANT COCH, LONG HUT III	527243	SH8230322097	Domestic	LONG HUT	Medieval	249
CEUNANT COCH, PATH II	527248	SH8218322219	Transport	PATH	Medieval	226
CEUNANT COCH, TRACK II	527250	SH8228321684	Transport	TRACKWAY	Medieval	292
CREIGIAU CAMDDWR, PLATFORM	527257	SH8439919826	Monument<by form>	PLATFORM	Medieval	498
AFON CELYNOG, ENCLOSURE	527323	SH8209419512	Agriculture and Subsistence	ENCLOSURE	Medieval	448
Y FOEL, TRACK I	527333	SH7766118196	Transport	TRACKWAY	Medieval	313
Y FOEL, FIELD WALL I	527340	SH7738617764	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval	283
Y FOEL, FIELD WALL II	527341	SH7728417515	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval	265
TYN Y RHOS, FIELD WALL II	527350	SH7743717557	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval	268
AFON CELYNOG, LONG HUT	527397	SH8089719953	Domestic	LONG HUT	Medieval	305
BWLCH SIGLEN, BANK	527415	SH83489	Monument<by form>	BANK	Medieval	360
FFRIDD MAESYGAMFA, TRACK	527431	SH8184612663	Transport	TRACKWAY	Medieval	267
FFRIDD BWLCH GWYN, FIELD SYSTEM	527443	SH8176213072	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD SYSTEM	Medieval	374
NANT MAESYGAMFA, BANKS AND DITCHES	527450	SH8146313987	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval; Post Medieval	407
NANT Y NOD, FIELD WALL	527452	SH8160113789	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval; Post Medieval	400
FOTTY Y WAUN, HUT I	28392	SH7586312856	Domestic	HUT	Post Medieval	366
WOOL HOUSE	40994	SH77561766	Industrial	WOOLLEN MILL	Post Medieval	
CAE'R TYDDYN, ROAD II	91903	SH7929817333	Transport	ROAD	Post Medieval	342
BWLCH OERDDRWS, ENCLOSURE	308804	SH8047016775	Industrial	ENCLOSURE	Post Medieval	326

GORWYR, ROAD	309197	SH7853318276	Transport	ROAD	Post Medieval	302
MINLLYN SLATE AND SLAB QUARRY	310049	SH8514513943	Industrial	SLATE QUARRY	Post Medieval	308
CAE ABATY SLATE QUARRY	310051	SH84581365	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	311
FOTTY WAUN, MILESTONE	400835	SH7579513414	Transport	MILESTONE	Post Medieval	409
CLODDFA GWANAS SLATE QUARRY	401448	SH7974315950	Industrial	SLATE QUARRY	Post Medieval	610
GORWYR, PEAT STAND I	402344	SH7849718437	Industrial	PEAT STAND	Post Medieval	294
TYN-Y-RHOS FARM	411867	SH7778317425	Agriculture and Subsistence	FARM	Post Medieval	271
GLASGWM, STONE PILE I	527000	SH8281318873	Unassigned	STONE PILE	Post Medieval	676
GLASGWM, PIT	527001	SH8311719272	Industrial	PIT	Post Medieval	740
GLASGWM, STONE PILE II	527002	SH8345019416	Unassigned	STONE PILE	Post Medieval	779
CRAIG CYWARCH, WALL	527003	SH8376918138	Agriculture and Subsistence	WALL	Post Medieval	656
CRAIG CYWARCH, FIELD WALL	527004	SH8391217965	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Post Medieval	616
CRAIG CYWARCH, FIELD BOUNDARY	527005	SH8399317948	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Post Medieval	595
PEN WAUN WEN, TRACK	527007	SH8407917734	Transport	TRACKWAY	Post Medieval	521
BWLCH Y FIGN, QUARRY I	527011	SH8190818612	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	650
BWLCH Y FIGN, CAIRN	527012	SH8168818417	Civil	CAIRN	Post Medieval	656
BWLCH Y FIGN, SHELTER	527014	SH8170619062	Agriculture and Subsistence	SHELTER	Post Medieval	503
FFRIDD LLAW'R GORS, SHEEP FOLD I	527015	SH8109318956	Agriculture and Subsistence	SHEEP FOLD	Post Medieval	430
FFRIDD LLAW'R GORS, PIT I	527016	SH8135319252	Industrial	PIT	Post Medieval	453
FFRIDD LLAW'R GORS, SHEEPFOLD II	527017	SH8133219712	Agriculture and Subsistence	SHEEP FOLD	Post Medieval	363
CRAIG Y FFYNNON, MINE	527019	SH8314419373	Industrial	MINE	Post Medieval	734
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BWLCH Y FIGN, TRIAL MINE	527021	SH8205318890	Industrial	TRIAL MINE	Post Medieval	563
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OCHR Y BWLCH, SHEEP FOLD II	527029	SH7986117349	Agriculture and Subsistence	SHEEP FOLD	Post Medieval	421
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BWLCH OERDDRWS, FIELD WALL I	527031	SH8018616927	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Post Medieval	373

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TYLLAU MWN, TRIAL MINE XI	527279	SH8445320549	Industrial	IRONSTONE WORKINGS	Post Medieval	601
TYLLAU MWN, TRIAL MINE XII	527280	SH8445220532	Industrial	IRONSTONE WORKINGS	Post Medieval	600
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TYLLAU MWN, LEVEL II	527282	SH8443120544	Industrial	IRONSTONE MINE	Post Medieval	589
TYLLAU MWN, BUILDING I	527283	SH8442520548	Industrial	MINE BUILDING	Post Medieval	587
TYLLAU MWN, SPOIL TIP I	527284	SH8441820550	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	589
TYLLAU MWN, EMBANKMENT	527285	SH8438120570	Industrial	EMBANKMENT	Post Medieval	580
TYLLAU MWN, TRIAL MINE XIII	527286	SH8451820740	Industrial	IRONSTONE WORKINGS	Post Medieval	606
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TYLLAU MWN, IRONSTONE MINE III	527289	SH8450920762	Industrial	IRONSTONE WORKINGS	Post Medieval	602
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TYLLAU MWN, SPOIL TIP IV	527292	SH8447920774	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	601
TYLLAU MWN, SPOIL TIP V	527293	SH8449220781	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	600
TYLLAU MWN, TRIAL MINE XV	527294	SH8450820775	Industrial	IRONSTONE WORKINGS	Post Medieval	601
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TYLLAU MWN, IRONSTONE MINE IV	527296	SH8445120797	Industrial	IRONSTONE MINE	Post Medieval	585
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Y FOEL, TRIAL MINE I	527334	SH7727217859	Industrial	IROINSTONE MINE	Post Medieval	298
Y FOEL, SHEEP FOLD I	527335	SH7685117847	Agriculture and Subsistence	SHEEP FOLD	Post Medieval	240
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RED DRAGON MINE, ADIT I	527407	SH8363613902	Industrial	ADIT	Post Medieval	225
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RED DRAGON MINE, SPOIL TIP II	527409	SH8364613938	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	227
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CAE AFON, PEAT CUTTING I	527425	SH8170214759	Industrial	PEAT CUTTING	Post Medieval	660
MAES-Y-GAMFA QUARRY, SPOIL TIP I	527426	SH8169812624	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	227
MAES Y GAMFA QUARRY, BUILDING I	527428	SH8172912626	Industrial	BUILDING	Post Medieval	225
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MAES Y GAMFA QUARRY, INCLINED PLANE WINDING HOUSE II	527430	SH8180312664	Transport	WINDING HOUSE	Post Medieval	259
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MAES Y GAMFA QUARRY, TRAMWAY II	527433	SH8180712686	Transport	TRACKWAY	Post Medieval	253
MAES Y GAMFA QUARRY	527434	SH8184412781	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	260
MAES Y GAMFA QUARRY, PLATFORM	527435	SH8180712727	Industrial	PLATFORM	Post Medieval	246



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MAES Y GAMFA QUARRY, SPOIL TIP III	527438	SH8178012721	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	250
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MAES Y GAMFA QUARRY, LEAT I	527441	SH8185212859	Water Supply and Drainage	LEAT	Post Medieval	299
MAES Y GAMFA QUARRY, LEAT II	527442	SH8185512874	Water Supply and Drainage	LEAT	Post Medieval	302
NANT MAESYGAMFA, RESERVOIR	527444	SH8145813201	Water Supply and Drainage	RESERVOIR	Post Medieval	318
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NANT MAESYGAMFA, LEAT	527446	SH8165512959	Water Supply and Drainage	LEAT	Post Medieval	305
MAES Y GAMFA QUARRY, MAGAZINE	527447	SH8163112806	Industrial	MAGAZINE	Post Medieval	247
NANT MAESYGAMFA, QUARRY I	527448	SH8138814052	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	426
NANT MAESYGAMFA, QUARRY II	527449	SH8143713985	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	427
NANT HELYGOG, PEAT CUTTING	527451	SH8001318169	Industrial	PEAT CUTTING	Post Medieval	360
MARCHNAD MAWR, PEAT CUTTING	527453	SH8028118556	Industrial	PEAT CUTTING	Post Medieval	393
CAE AFON, PEAT CUTTING III	527454	SH8213714224	Industrial	PEAT CUTTING	Post Medieval	585
CRAIG RHIWERCH, PEAT CUTTING I	527455	SH8174114969	Industrial	PEAT CUTTING	Post Medieval	679
LLECHWEDD MELYN, FIELD BANK	527456	SH8215012753	Agriculture and Subsistence	FIELD BOUNDARY	Post Medieval	406
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MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, QUARRY I	527458	SH8537813921	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	248
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, BUILDING I	527459	SH8532813959	Industrial	BUILDING	Post Medieval	248
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SLATE MILL I	527460	SH8533413982	Industrial	SLATE MILL	Post Medieval	249
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, TRAMWAY TUNNEL	527462	SH8528313970	Transport	TUNNEL	Post Medieval	247
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, TRAMWAY I	527465	SH8531413984	Transport	TRAMWAY	Post Medieval	249
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, ENGINE AND BOILER HOUSE	527466	SH8532613996	Industrial	ENGINE HOUSE	Post Medieval	249
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, CHIMNEY STACK	527467	SH8531714002	Industrial	CHIMNEY	Post Medieval	259
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, PIPELINE	527468	SH8531814017	Industrial	PIPELINE	Post Medieval	258
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SPOIL TIP I	527469	SH8534414039	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	273
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SHELTER I	527470	SH8526014007	Industrial	SHELTER	Post Medieval	269
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, QUARRY III	527471	SH8525714033	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	275
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, QUARRY IV	527472	SH8522013972	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	269

MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, TRAMWAY TUNNEL II	527473	SH8525113971	Transport	TUNNEL	Post Medieval	261
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, INCLINED PLANE I	527474	SH8527813972	Transport	INCLINED PLANE	Post Medieval	255
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, INCLINED PLANE II	527475	SH8525613940	Transport	INCLINED PLANE	Post Medieval	262
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SHELTER II	527476	SH8525113991	Industrial	SHELTER	Post Medieval	294
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SPOIL TIP II	527477	SH8524713899	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	294
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SHELTER III	527478	SH8520913908	Industrial	SHELTER	Post Medieval	296
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, INCLINED PLANE WINDING HOUSE I	527479	SH8518013918	Industrial	WINDING HOUSE	Post Medieval	305
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SHELTER IV	527480	SH8518213926	Industrial	SHELTER	Post Medieval	301
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SHELTER V	527481	SH8516813895	Industrial	SHELTER	Post Medieval	301
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SPOIL TIP III	527482	SH8517513890	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	302
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, CRANE BASE	527483	SH8517413925	Industrial	PIT	Post Medieval	297
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, BUILDING II	527484	SH8516813944	Industrial	BUILDING	Post Medieval	303
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, QUARRY V	527485	SH8514513943	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	308
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, INCLINED PLANE III	527486	SH8514913968	Transport	INCLINED PLANE	Post Medieval	310
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, TRAMWAY II	527487	SH8516313989	Transport	TRAMWAY	Post Medieval	307
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, LEAT I	527488	SH8519914027	Water Supply and Drainage	LEAT	Post Medieval	283
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SPOIL TIP IV	527489	SH8521814085	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	300
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, QUARRY VI	527490	SH8507014177	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	346
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SPOIL TIP V	527491	SH8508214170	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	345
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SLATE MINE I	527492	SH8507014148	Industrial	MINE	Post Medieval	338
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SPOIL TIP VI	527493	SH8508814137	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	336
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SHELTER VI	527494	SH8509114143	Industrial	SHELTER	Post Medieval	341
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, PATH	527495	SH8511114142	Transport	PATH	Post Medieval	340
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SPOIL TIP VII	527496	SH8512614104	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	320
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SPOIL TIP VIII	527497	SH8513214063	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	314
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, TRAMWAY III	527498	SH8513414055	Transport	TRAMWAY	Post Medieval	319
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SPOIL TIP IX	527499	SH8514714013	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	318
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SHELTER VII	527500	SH8514313991	Industrial	SHELTER	Post Medieval	319
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, INCLINED PLANE WINDING HOUSE II	527501	SH8514113986	Industrial	WINDING HOUSE	Post Medieval	311
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, LEAT II	527502	SH8528114087	Water Supply and Drainage	LEAT	Post Medieval	300

MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, RESERVOIR I	527503	SH8538114016	Water Supply and Drainage	RESERVOIR	Post Medieval	247
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SLATE MINE II	527504	SH8519513914	Industrial	MINE	Post Medieval	288
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SLATE MINE III	527505	SH8518813954	Industrial	MINE	Post Medieval	291
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, QUARRY VII	527506	SH8513714018	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	318
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SHELTER VIII	527507	SH8514913948	Industrial	SHELTER	Post Medieval	307
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SLATE MINE IV	527508	SH8514213839	Industrial	MINE	Post Medieval	314
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, SPOIL TIP X	527509	SH8514713847	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	314
WAEN FACH, QUARRY I	527510	SH8500113844	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	360
WAEN FACH, INCLINED PLANE	527511	SH8498113793	Transport	INCLINED PLANE	Post Medieval	372
CAE ABATY SLATE QUARRY, SPOIL TIP I	527512	SH8458213714	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	326
CAE ABATY SLATE QUARRY, TUNNEL I	527513	SH8458113693	Industrial	TUNNEL	Post Medieval	311
CAE ABATY SLATE QUARRY, BUILDING I	527514	SH8456813688	Industrial	BUILDING	Post Medieval	310
CAE ABATY SLATE QUARRY, INCLINED PLANE WINDING HOUSE	527515	SH8458313675	Industrial	WINDING HOUSE	Post Medieval	309
CAE ABATY SLATE QUARRY, SPOIL TIP II	527516	SH8456313683	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	308
CAE ABATY SLATE QUARRY, BUILDING II	527517	SH8458813683	Industrial	BUILDING	Post Medieval	308
CAE ABATY SLATE QUARRY, CRANE BASE	527518	SH8459913676	Industrial	CRANE	Post Medieval	311
CAE ABATY SLATE QUARRY, QUARRY I	527519	SH8460113673	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	315
CAE ABATY SLATE QUARRY, PLATFORM I	527520	SH8459113665	Industrial	PLATFORM	Post Medieval	312
CAE ABATY SLATE QUARRY, INCLINED PLANE	527521	SH8457913660	Transport	INCLINED PLANE	Post Medieval	306
CAE ABATY SLATE QUARRY, QUARRY II	527522	SH8457713645	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	302
CAE ABATY SLATE QUARRY, BUILDING III	527523	SH8456813630	Industrial	BUILDING	Post Medieval	296
CAE ABATY SLATE QUARRY, SPOIL TIP III	527524	SH8456213623	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	293
WAEN FACH, INCLINED PLANE WINDING HOUSE	527525	SH8482213722	Transport	WINDING HOUSE	Post Medieval	406
FOEL DINAS, SLATE MINE	527526	SH8461614722	Industrial	MINE	Post Medieval	450
FOEL DINAS, SPOIL TIP	527527	SH8462613633	Industrial	SPOIL TIP	Post Medieval	451
NANT MINLLYN, QUARRY	527528	SH8491514365	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	420
NANT MINLLYN, LEAT	527529	SH8514314231	Water Supply and Drainage	LEAT	Post Medieval	381
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, RESERVOIR II	527530	SH8522214231	Water Supply and Drainage	RESERVOIR	Post Medieval	368
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, TRAMWAY IV	527531	SH8533913949	Transport	TRAMWAY	Post Medieval	248
MARCHNAD MAWR, PEAT STAND XXX	527532	SH8038518451	Industrial	PEAT STAND	Post Medieval	392

MARCHNAD MAWR, PEAT STAND XXXI	527533	SH8038218390	Industrial	PEAT STAND	Post Medieval	390
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, QUARRY VIII	527534	SH8513813873	Industrial	QUARRY	Post Medieval	320
LLYN FOEL DINAS, DAM	527418	SH8505214469	Water Supply and Drainage	DAM	Post Medieval; Modern	427
LLYN FOEL DINAS, LEAT	527419	SH8494414492	Water Supply and Drainage	LEAT	Post Medieval; Modern	430
LLYN FOEL DINAS, BANK	527420	SH8502414602	Water Supply and Drainage	BANK	Post Medieval; Modern	428
DINAS MAWDDY (COTTAGE IN)	28339	SH8514	Domestic	HOUSE	Post Medieval?	
BWLCH OERDDRWS, ANTI TANK BLOCKS I	270350	SH7955917244	Defence	ANTI TANK BLOCK	Modern	351
BWLCH OERDDRWS, ANTI TANK BLOCKS II	270351	SH7955317288	Defence	ANTI TANK BLOCK	Modern	359
PEN WAUN WEN, FENCE	527006	SH8409517795	Agriculture and Subsistence	FENCE	Modern	538
PEN WAUN WEN, QUARRY I	527008	SH8408617926	Industrial	QUARRY	Modern	568
PEN WAUN WEN, QUARRY II	527009	SH8402917919	Industrial	QUARRY	Modern	573
PEN WAUN WEN, QUARRY III	527010	SH8391117889	Industrial	QUARRY	Modern	583
LLYN Y FIGN, CAIRN	527018	SH8367819459	Unassigned	CAIRN	Modern	784
PENANTIGI UCHAF, FENCE I	527036	SH8081316509	Agriculture and Subsistence	FENCE	Modern	292
CRAIG PORTAS, FENCE	527042	SH8011714109	Agriculture and Subsistence	FENCE	Modern	605
NANT FFRIDD FAWR, QUARRY	527085	SH7888316391	Industrial	QUARRY	Modern	438
CRAIG Y BWLCH, WALL I	527086	SH7973916813	Recreational	WALL	Modern	488
CRAIG Y BWLCH, WALL II	527087	SH7972116816	Recreational	WALL	Modern	488
BWLCH OERDDRWS, DRAINAGE SYSTEM	527088	SH8004917098	Water Supply and Drainage	DRAINAGE SYSTEM	Modern	357
CAE'R TYDDYN, WALL	527112	SH7963117350	Monument<by form>	WALL	Modern	388
CAE'R TYDDYN, QUARRY I	527113	SH7947017299	Industrial	QUARRY	Modern	350
CAE'R TYDDYN, WATER TANK	527115	SH7901617367	Water Supply and Drainage	WATER TANK	Modern	301
CAE'R TYDDYN, BANK	527118	SH7960617330	Defence	BANK	Modern	378
CAE'R TYDDYN, DRAINAGE SYSTEM	527131	SH7918317888	Water Supply and Drainage	DRAINAGE SYSTEM	Modern	369
GORWYR, SHEEP FOLD I	527149	SH7879818379	Agriculture and Subsistence	SHEEP FOLD	Modern	304
MARCHNAD MAWR, FENCE	527166	SH7998818639	Agriculture and Subsistence	FENCE	Modern	381
MARCHNAND MAWR, CAIRN II	527174	SH8004118831	Monument<by form>	CAIRN	Modern	384
PENANTIGI UCHAF, FENCE	527214	SH8092816145	Agriculture and Subsistence	FENCE	Modern	322
CEUNANT COCH, DRAINAGE SYSTEM I	527238	SH8269121945	Water Supply and Drainage	DRAINAGE SYSTEM	Modern	309

CEUNANT COCH, DRAINAGE SYSTEM II	527241	SH8248221818	Water Supply and Drainage	DRAINAGE SYSTEM	Modern	297
AFON CWM-OCHR, DRAINAGE SYSTEM	527253	SH8170121677	Water Supply and Drainage	DRAINAGE SYSTEM	Modern	251
AFON HARNOG, DRAINAGE SYSTEM	527308	SH8410321904	Water Supply and Drainage	DRAINAGE SYSTEM	Modern	470
FOEL DDU, FENCE	527317	SH8381323100	Agriculture and Subsistence	FENCE	Modern	488
BRYN MAWR, CAIRN	527327	SH8232120498	Civil	CAIRN	Modern	513
Y FOEL, CLEARANCE CAIRN I	527337	SH7693617783	Agriculture and Subsistence	CLEARANCE CAIRN	Modern	238
Y FOEL, CLEARANCE CAIRN II	527338	SH7692917780	Agriculture and Subsistence	CLEARANCE CAIRN	Modern	238
MYNYDD CEISWYN, DRAINAGE DITCHES	527377	SH7627714180	Water Supply and Drainage	DRAINAGE DITCH	Modern	301
BWLCH LLYN BACH, MILEPOST	527384	SH7569813908	Transport	MILEPOST	Modern	296
TY'N Y MAES, QUARRY	527388	SH7315311059	Industrial	QUARRY	Modern	122
YR ALLT, TRACK	527391	SH7330410999	Transport	TRACKWAY	Modern	193
WAUN OER, TRIANGULATION POINT	527399	SH7855714786	Civil	TRIANGULATION POINT	Modern	671
MYNYDD CEISWYN, SHEEP FOLD I	527401	SH7742514549	Agriculture and Subsistence	SHEEP FOLD	Modern	399
CWM COCH, DRAINAGE SYSTEM	527402	SH7687014681	Water Supply and Drainage	DRAINAGE SYSTEM	Modern	324
CWM COCH, SHEEP FOLD	527403	SH7768315032	Agriculture and Subsistence	SHEEP FOLD	Modern	383
FOEL DINAS, FENCE	527417	SH8434414383	Agriculture and Subsistence	FENCE	Modern	480
MAES Y GAMFA QUARRY, MILL	527427	SH8171712610	Industrial	BUILDING	Modern	230
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, STONE BLOCK	527461	SH8533713974	Unassigned	STONE BLOCK	Modern	246
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, QUARRY II	527463	SH8529613948	Industrial	QUARRY	Modern	253
MINLLYN SLATE QUARRY, WALL	527464	SH8531213984	Industrial	WALL	Modern	247
MARCHNAD MAWR SETTLEMENT FEATURES	300418	SH8019518570	Domestic	SETTLEMENT	Unknown	387