

PE298 FOEL ERYR ROUND CAIRN SCHEDULED MONUMENT:
RECONSOLIDATION OF CAIRN SHAPE



Prepared on behalf of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Authority by Tomos Jones, Community Archaeologist.

03 October 2022

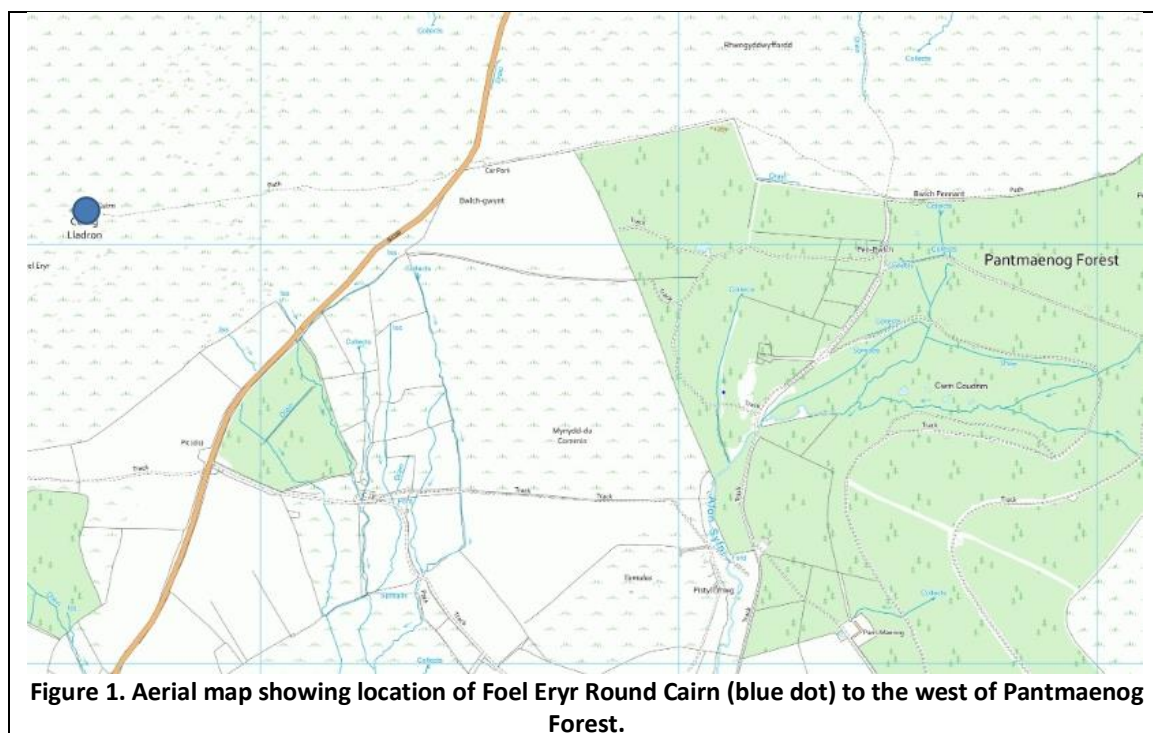


Crynodeb / Summary

Mae'r adroddiad canlynol yn darparu manylion gan gynnwys lluniau ynglŷn â gwaith atgyweirio cafodd ei chwblhau yn yr heneb gofrestredig gan Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro ar yr 26ain o Mai 2022. Yn benodol, lleihau brig y garnedd oedd wedi cael ei chreu gan ymwelwyr yn ail-drefnu lleoliad cerrig o fewn y garnedd.

The following report provides details, including photographs regarding repair work carried out at the scheduled monument by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority on the 26th of May 2022. Specifically, reducing the peak of the cairn created by visitors redistributing stones.

1. Background



The redistribution of stones within cairns by visitors is a longstanding issue that the National Park Authority continues to monitor and carry out work from time to time. The scheduled monument known as PE298 Foel Eryr Round Cairn (see map in figure 1 for location), is one of the sites affected by this activity. In the case of this monument, visitors have been redistributing stones within the cairn to increase the height of the peak at the centre of the monument (see figure 2). This peak was created at the expense of another area of the monument where the removal of stones for the peak had resulted in a depression (see figure 2). The ongoing issue at this site and others have been reported to the police so that they are aware that it is an issue. However, the National Park Authority felt it was time to carry out some reconsolidation work to redefine the shape of the cairn, so that the cairn appears less disturbed, hopefully reducing the degree and likelihood of further visitor disturbance or at the very least reducing the number of occurrences. Reconsolidation work is also important from an ecological perspective as it ensures that lichen growing on the monument are facing the correct direction. This means the work is beneficial for the historic and natural environment.

On the 20th of January, the National Park Authority community archaeologist made a request to Cadw to carry out reconsolidation work at PE298 Foel Eryr Round Cairn. The regional inspector advised that the work could go ahead as per a simplified process and in line with the proposal sent in January. Official consent was granted on 08 April 2022 and the work was completed on the 26th of May 2022.

The proposed work for reconsolidation was as follows:

- Rearrange the stones that have been placed recently, indicated by the lack of lichen and re-place them within the cairn where it is evident that stones have been removed (i.e. indicated by the absence of stones with lichens).
- A drone survey would be completed prior to carrying out the work, so that we have detailed photogrammetric photos of the cairns prior to carrying out reconsolidation work.
- Carry out a drone survey following completion of consolidation work.
- The work would be carried out by the Community Archaeologist, area Ranger and volunteers.
- A short report on approach at both sites would be submitted to Cadw following completion of the work.
- Thereafter carry out a drone survey on an annual basis to monitor the cairn for further disturbance.
- As part of the consolidation work run a publicity campaign to highlight the importance of leaving cairns as they are found as re-arrangement distorts these monuments.

2. Reconsolidation work

Prior to the reconsolidation work, a drone survey was carried out on 25 March 2022 to provide a detailed 3D model of the site prior to the work. This model is available to view at <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/carnedd-foel-eryr-cairn-25032022-006b92590b094f2f996a3b5f3e634996>.

The proposed work was carried out on behalf of the National Park Authority by the community archaeologist with the help of an area ranger on the 26th of May 2022. No volunteers were present due to the poor weather conditions. The following approach was undertaken:

- Stones were carefully removed to reduce the height of the peak. It is likely that disturbance had been ongoing for a significant amount of time, as such only a degree of reduction took place. Once the height had been reduced, stones with lichen were placed at the surface facing upwards. Stones removed from the peak were used to infill the depression created by visitors redistributing stones to place on the peak.
- A general walk over the cairn surface took place to identify stones that had been disturbed, indicated by the absence of lichen on the surface of stones. Any identified disturbed stones were turned over, so that lichen was facing towards the sky (see example in figures 4 and 5).
- Photographs showing before and after are provided below (section 3).

Following the reconsolidation work, a drone survey was carried out on 08 April 2022 to ascertain a 3D model to provide a baseline model for future monitoring, to identify disturbance and if so, the extent. The model is available to view at <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/carnedd-foel-eryr-cairn-01062022-9fe535c7b6ed4c4b9539f9b3aacd7258>.

In August 2022, the issue of disturbance was highlighted via posts on the Heritage Watch Facebook and Twitter accounts to discourage further disturbance, raise awareness and encourage the public to report issues of this type.

3. Photographs



Figure 2. Photo showing disturbance prior to reconsolidation work (looking south).



Figure 3. Photo showing disturbance after reconsolidation work (looking south).



Figure 4. Photo showing example of disturbed stone with lichen facing downwards.



Figure 5. Photo of same disturbed stone in figure 4 turned over so that lichen is correctly facing the sky.