

WAUN HIR, CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



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**WAUN HIR, CARMARTHENSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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WAUN HIR, CARMARTHENSIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

Waun Hir is the site of a post-medieval 'lluest' farmstead, formerly known as Pen y Banc, on the northernmost ridge of Mynydd y Bettws in Carmarthenshire. The site was Scheduled in 2005 as it was considered that 'the monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of post medieval land use, settlement and economy'. At that time the remains consisted of the relatively well-preserved grass-covered drystone rubble wall footings of a building surrounded by several enclosures.

In January 2012 it was reported that an unauthorised excavation had taken place on the site in order to obtain building stone/rubble for nearby construction works, damaging the site. In February 2012 Cadw commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site in order to assess the damage. This evaluation was undertaken in early March 2012.

The evaluation demonstrated that the damage was concentrated on the remains of the building, the surrounding enclosures remaining undisturbed. Prior to the unauthorised excavation the building wall remains consisted of banks 0.7m wide and 0.6m high above current ground levels. These walls had been reduced to foundation levels across the site, which in some places were up to 0.6m below current ground levels, and had been completely removed in the northwest corner of the building. Floor remains survived remarkably intact at the southwestern end of the building, although these became progressively more disturbed to the northeast. Floor levels became disturbed and partially removed, obscuring evidence of the north-eastern end of the building and a former outshot that stood attached to the north-east. Much of the material that had been removed from the site by the unauthorised excavation had subsequently been returned, and this contained a large amount of building material and finds. However, the building material consisted largely of unworked stone, formerly bedded in clay, so once removed the information it contained was severely limited. Similarly the finds, which consisted mainly of apparent late 19th century material, had been removed from their contexts. The unauthorised excavation had therefore clearly removed a large amount of important detail about the construction, layout and function of the building and the settlement as a whole.

The building was rectangular, divided by a stone cross partition wall. To the southwest of the partition smooth mortar flooring indicated the main domestic area, which was divided into two areas by a presumed timber partition. Changes in floor deposits against the southwest gable wall suggest the location of the fireplace range. An unusual external addition to the southwest corner of the building may be related to the fireplace range, or may represent a gable entry. A series of external and under-floor drainage culverts were also partially revealed in this area.

To the northeast of the cross partition wall was a disturbed but roughly laid stone-flag floor. Evidence of the northeast gable wall had been disturbed to the point where it was difficult to establish during the course of the evaluation. Remains of an outshot to the northeast of this had largely been removed.

The disturbance cause by the unauthorised excavation has clearly impacted on the original reasons for Scheduling the site as a whole. Should it be considered that the site is no longer suitable for Scheduling the remains could still provide a valuable opportunity for important information about such relatively little-understood sites to be gained through further archaeological excavation. Post-medieval settlements similar to this one have proved to be excellent sites to engage communities in their local heritage and learn archaeological techniques, as well as providing valuable information about the site itself.

INTRODUCTION

Project Commission

Waun Hir is the site of a post-medieval 'llost' farmstead on the northernmost ridge of Mynydd y Bettws in Carmarthenshire (PRN 56573, NGR SN 6637 1148). The remains consisted of the grass-covered drystone rubble wall footings of a building surrounded by several enclosures.

This site was scheduled in 2005 (Cm331). The Scheduling information assessed the importance of the site thus:

'The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of post medieval land use, settlement and economy. It is a well-preserved, relatively rare and little-understood example of upland settlement; and it retains great archaeological potential to enhance our knowledge of post medieval stock rearing practices in the upland zone, whether as permanent settlement, regular transhumance, or intermittent opportunistic expansion. Its importance is further enhanced by the surviving historical documentation.'

In January 2012 it was reported that an unauthorised excavation had taken place on the site in order to obtain building stone/rubble for nearby construction works, which had clearly caused substantial disturbance to the site.

In February 2012 Cadw commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site in order to assess the damage.

Scope of the project

The project, as requested by Cadw, aimed to;

- Carry out rapid cleaning and emergency recording of any features exposed by the works, including surface finds
- Make an assessment of the overall extent and severity of the damage to the archaeological record, particularly with reference to those qualities for which the site was originally Scheduled
- Suggest future options for the site

The fieldwork was undertaken in early March 2012.

Report outline

Because of the limited nature of this project, together with the considerable archaeological evidence in the wider area, this report is restricted solely to the results of the evaluation on the site of the farmstead complex.

Abbreviations used in this report

All sites recorded on the regional HER are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD).

NW - northwest; NE - northeast; SW - southwest; SE - southeast
SSW - south-southwest; SSE - south-southeast; NNW - north-northwest; NNE - north-northeast; ESE - east-southeast; WSW - west-southwest; ENE - east-northeast; ESE - east-southeast

Illustrations

Photographic images and printed map extracts are to be found at the back of the report. Note that the printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

Timeline

The following timeline is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text (Table 1).

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1066	
Medieval Period –	1066 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period ¹ –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

¹ The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is situated on the edge of common land on the upper NW-facing slopes of the northernmost ridge of Mynydd y Betws in Carmarthenshire (SN 6637 1148). The farmstead lies on the western edge of this upland landscape of rough grazing. Enclosed fields lie immediately to the west as the land falls way into the Amman valley.

The current farmstead of Waun Hir lies c.200m to the north, and other dispersed farmsteads lie around the upper slopes of the valley. The larger settlements of Pontamman, Betws and Ammanford lie in the valley bottom c.2km to the west.

Prior to the unauthorised excavation the remains of the farmstead were described in the Scheduling description as;

'The building is subrectangular on plan, measuring 11.1m from NE to SW by 3.7m transversely, within grass-covered drystone rubble walls 0.7m in thickness and up to 0.6m in height. The building has two compartments (separated by a partition wall offset to the NW and measuring 0.7m in thickness), both with probable entrances on the NW side. There is an outshot extending to the NE; this measures internally 1.7m from NE to SW by 2.8m transversely. A track or hollow way runs in front [to the northwest] of the building. Two subrectangular enclosures are situated to the rear of the building; that to the NE is boggy and reed-filled, while that to the SW is level and clear of stone. A large enclosing earthen bank with external ditch originally surrounded the whole complex; this bank forms a drainage hood on its upper, SE side. The upper, SE portion of this enclosure is cut by several drainage ditches and is crossed by a raised track'

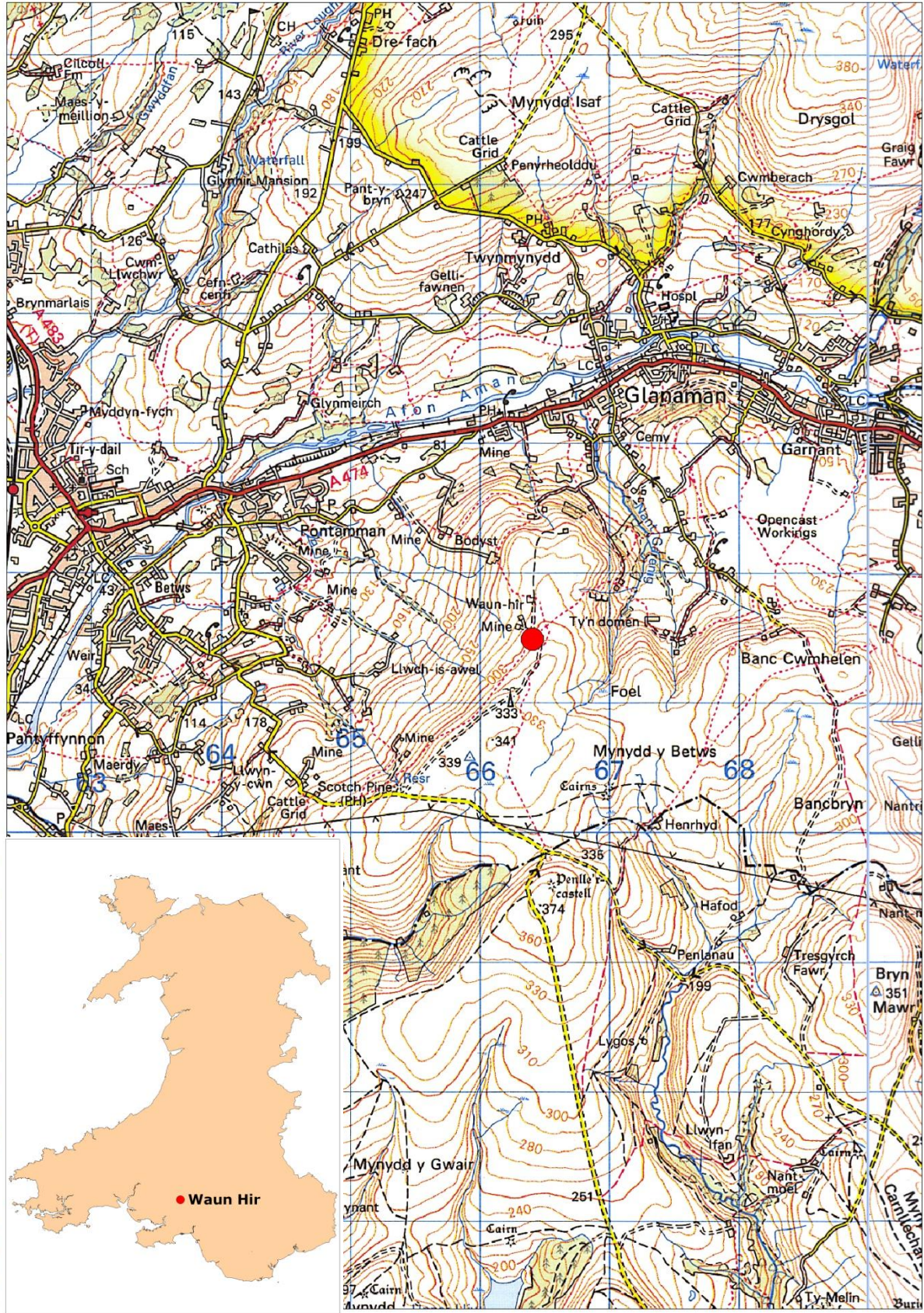


Figure 1: Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842



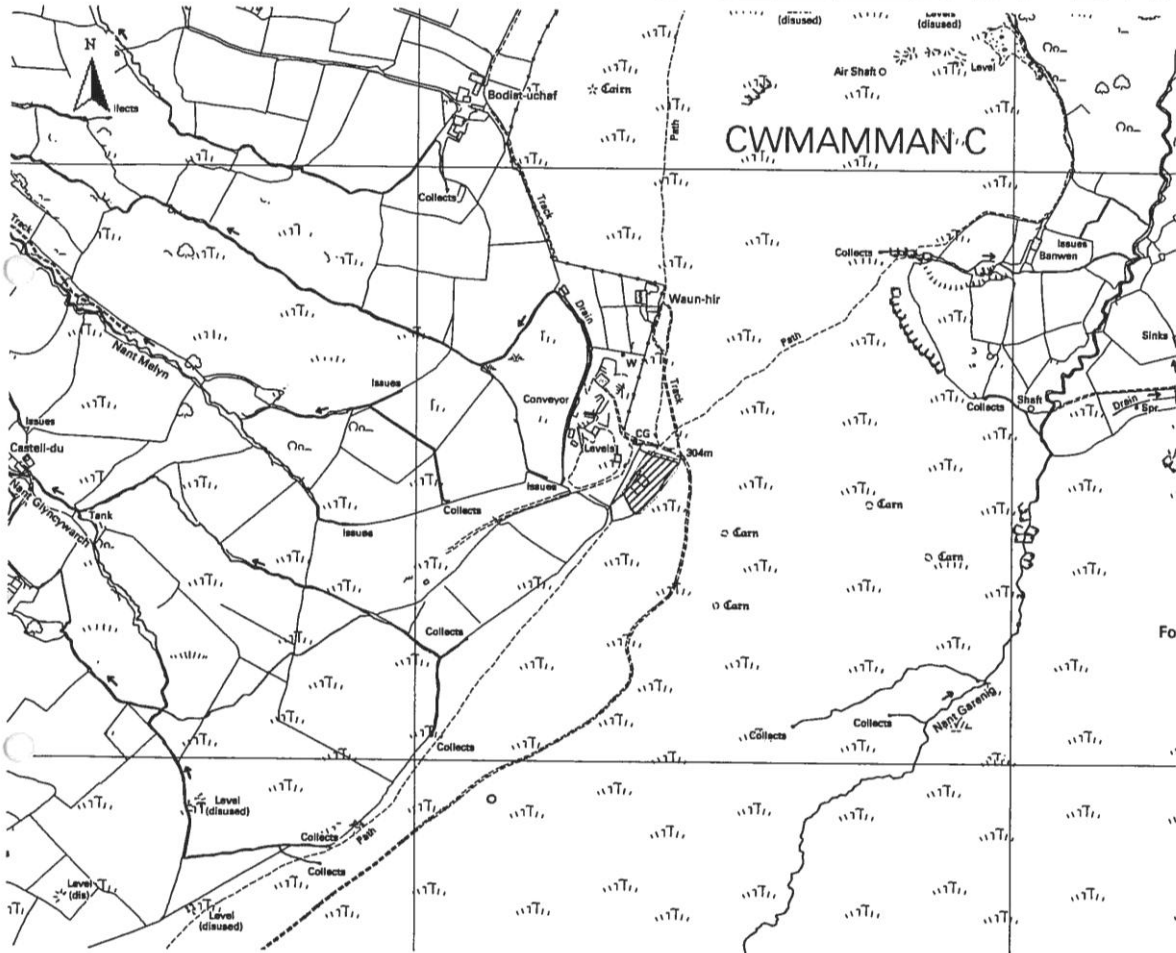
CADW

Welsh Historic Monuments

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Location maplet for SAM No. CM331

Waun-hir post-medieval lliest farmstead



Extract from Scale 1:10,000 Sheet SN61SE

File No: 7578

This is the Plan referred to in the Scheduling entry dated: 10 January 2005

Authorised by the National Assembly for Wales to sign in that behalf

Map based upon the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the the Permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright All rights reserved
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Figure 2: Location map and Scheduled Area for site Cm331.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of this site has not been researched in any detail for the purposes of this report. The following is reproduced from the Scheduling description;

'The monument comprises the remains of a small lluest farmstead, probably dating to the 17th or 18th century...The farmstead is depicted on the Betws Parish tithe map (1846) and noted as 'Penybanc house and land', farmed by Richard Hopkin. The state of cultivation is described as 'meadows and pasture'. The farmstead probably represents the remains of a small lluest farmstead, a settlement predominantly concerned with the upland pasture, its lifespan perhaps extended (when compared to others in the vicinity) by its location and proximity to the edge of the enclosed farmland'.

The farmstead is shown on the 1st edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey of 1878 (Figure 3). However, the time the 2nd edition map was published in 1906 the farmhouse would appear to be unoccupied and the site abandoned.

METHODOLOGY

The area affected by the unauthorised excavation was covered by a spread of disturbed topsoil and rubble. This area was hand-cleaned down to a level of undisturbed ground, to an appropriate standard to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and condition of the archaeological remains. Any revealed archaeological remains that had not been disturbed by the unauthorised excavation were left undisturbed.

Removed material was deposited to the north of the disturbed area but remained on site. The site was left uncovered at the end of the evaluation.

All deposits were recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, photography and site notebooks. Trench plans and sections were recorded by means of measured sketches and accurate surveying using an EDM. A photographic record was maintained using digital cameras.

Trench locations were accurately surveyed using an EDM, and related to existing boundaries.

Archaeological finds were recovered from the disturbed ground, any finds revealed *in situ* were left undisturbed. Recovered finds will be temporarily stored by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services in stable conditions.

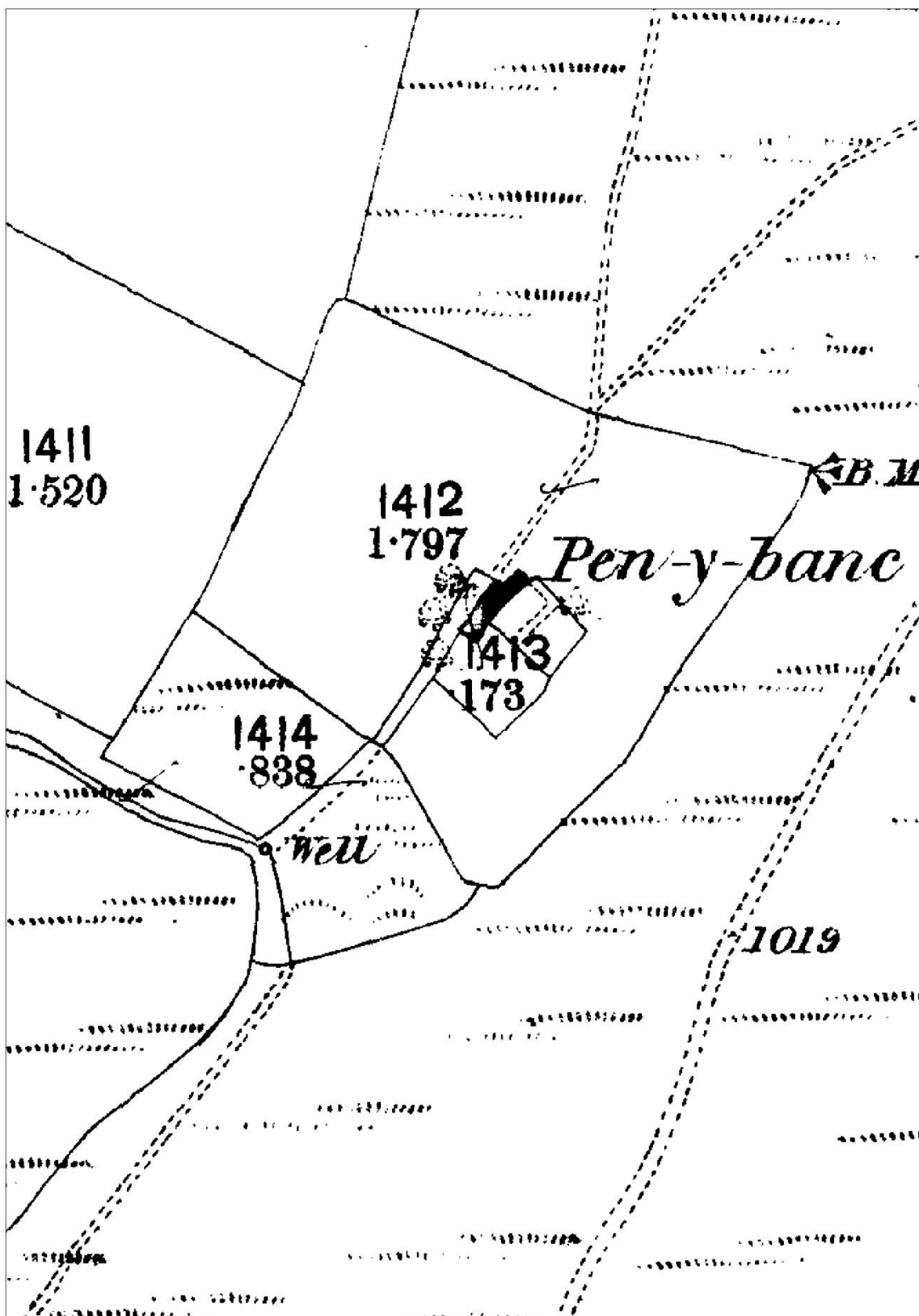


Figure 3: Extract from the 1st edition 1;2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1878.

EVALUATION RESULTS (Figures 4 & 5)

The area affected by the unauthorised excavation covered a roughly rectangular area measuring c.19m SW - NE by c.7m NW - SE (photos 7 - 9). This was concentrated on the area of the building remains. It would appear that material that had initially been removed from the site had been returned and spread over the affected area. This had left a disturbed topsoil deposit of mixed soil and stone rubble of varying thickness up to 0.5m thick, thinning to the southwest. The original depth of deposits removed was greater than this.

Once the disturbed topsoil deposit had been removed it revealed wall remains showing the outline of a rectangular building aligned SW - NE, divided by the partial remnants of a cross wall, the partition wall mentioned in the Scheduling description. To the southwest surviving mortar floor deposits indicated the site of the main domestic area of the farmhouse. To the northeast lay an area with rougher floor deposits but also more heavily disturbed.

Domestic (Southwest) Compartment

This compartment comprised the area of the building to the southwest of the cross partition wall. The external walls had been removed down to ground floor level in all but the southeast corner, which still stood 0.6m high. The walls were all built of random rubble, bedded in clay, and varied in thickness. Along the southeast side the wall measured 0.5m thick, although backed by a stone-capped drain topped by 0.4m depth of soil (photos 16 & 17). This wall measured 8m long to the cross partition wall, although the line then continued to the northeast. Along the northwest side of the building the wall measured 0.7m wide (photo 15). It survived for a length of 7.4m but to the northeast the line of the wall had been removed. The Scheduling description records a possible entrance in this wall. This was not clearly visible in the revealed remains, although changes in the external surface suggest a possible entrance c.4.6m up from the southwest corner. The southwestern gable wall was up 0.9m wide but appears to have been built 0.6m wide with an extra thickness subsequently added to on its external side (photos 20 & 21). The northeast cross partition wall measured 0.6m wide extending 3.5m with the north-western end truncated (photos 27 & 28).

These walls enclosed a rectangular area 6.7m SW - NE by 3.9m NW - SE, with a rounded internal corner to the southeast. A straight linear feature 0.1m wide ran the width of this space that would appear to be the remains of a room partition, the width of the linear suggesting a timber partition. This is borne out by differences in the floor deposits on either side, with an area 4.6m wide to the southwest covered by a relatively well-preserved smooth mortar floor (photo 13), and an area 2m wide to the northeast with the partial remains of a rougher mortar floor (photo 18).

The mortar floor to the southwest is missing in patches, revealing cobbling beneath. It also stops short of the south-western gable wall. In the southeast corner is a roughly square patch 1.5m by 1.3m without a smooth mortar floor surface, although the floor does still consist of a rough clayey-mortar and stone deposit, the stones become more plentiful and visible along the north-western edge. In the southwest corner is a rectangular area 1.9m by 1.25m of similar rough clayey-mortar material with a distinct edge to the smoothed mortar floor around it (photo 14). In between these two patches, against the southwestern gable wall, is a small patch 0.65m square of flat stones laid in lime-mortar. The precise function for these areas is unclear although it is likely they are associated with the main fireplace and cooking activity that seems most likely to have taken place against this gable wall, although no fireplaces were identified. An iron oven door, 0.3m wide and 0.25m high, lay in front of these areas (photo 14), suggesting an oven, or a bread oven, may have stood close by.

The mortar floor to the northeast of the timber partition is mostly missing its smoothed surface, and only survives to cover an area 1.8m wide against the southeastern side. To the northwest patches survive to indicate the mortar surface once extended the full

width of this room. However, where it has been removed it has revealed the remains of a stone-lined and capped culvert running underneath the floor (photo 18). This culvert, 0.35m wide, runs SE – NW before curving round to the west, to run out under the outer wall of the building, roughly at the point where the presumed entrance is. Close to this point a second culvert is just visible running underneath the floor of the southwestern room to exit under the wall at the point of the presumed entrance. Both culverts are presumably also linked to the stone-capped drain visible running along the outside of the south-eastern wall (photo 17), helping to drain water running off the higher ground to the southeast.

Attached to the external side of the southwestern corner of the building were the remains of a small structure (photos 19 – 21). Roughly midway along the southwest gable a clay-bedded stone wall projected at a right angle for c.1.3m, before seeming to return northwest, although this area was only partially uncovered. Assuming that the main northwest wall continues in a straight line, this would enclose an area 1.9m NW- SE by 1.3m SW – NE. Remnants of a stone slab floor, bedded in lime-mortar were visible. This floor, which was 0.1m higher than the mortar floor of the main building, appeared to project over the line of the outer skin of the southwest gable wall of the main building (photo 21). The function of this structure is unclear, it is possible it may be associated with a fireplace or bread oven at the southwestern end of the main building, or it may represent the remains of a gable entry into the building.

Northeast Compartment

The area to the northeast of the main partition wall is more heavily disturbed than the area to the southwest. As a result the only external wall that is visible is the continuation of the southeastern wall (photos 22 & 25). The stonework of this wall disappears immediately beyond the cross partition wall for a distance of 1.55m. The inner line of the boundary is represented by a shallow gully however, and there is a difference between a yellow clay visible along the line of the wall and more mottled yellow-brown silty-clay to the west. This gap in the stonework may represent an entrance from the building into the presumed garden enclosure to the rear (photos 23 & 29).

The stone wall then continues, at an angle slightly offset to the east from the rest of the building, for at least another 4.9m beyond this gap although it is only partially revealed within the excavated area. It continues as a very rough clay-bedded wall comprising some very large base stones topped by smaller stone for the first c.3m, before the stones become smaller and less distinct. The first c.3m (a total of c.4.5m including the possible entrance) appears to roughly correspond to the size of the northeast compartment of the main building described within the Scheduling description. The continuation of less distinct stones beyond this presumably represents the outshot extending to the northeast. No cross walls survive in this area.

An area of rough stone-paved flooring survives almost immediately beyond the cross partition wall (photos 23 & 24). This covers an area roughly 4m by 3m. These stone slabs are unworked, but with a roughly flat side laid facing upwards, varying in size from 0.2m to 0.6m across. They are set in a silty-clay deposit with patches of blackened sandy-clay amongst the stones. A single posthole, 0.35m in diameter was identified amongst the stones. The surface is not level across this area, but it is not clear as to what degree these stones have been disturbed by recent activity. There is a possible straight edge visible amongst the stones along its north-eastern side that may represent the remnants of a wall line, c.0.6m wide, although this is not clearly represented in the section behind.

The area to the northeast of this is represented by a mottled light yellow-brown silty-clay (photo 22). It is unclear if this represents a natural subsoil or a further floor level. The unauthorised excavation in much of this area has gone below the surviving floor levels.

Finds

A variety of pottery, glass and some metalwork was recovered from the disturbed topsoil across the site. Unfortunately as all these finds came from a disturbed layer they could not be allocated to particular features, or even particular areas of the building. The finds have

not been analysed, but an initial examination suggests the pottery and glass to derive mostly from domestic or utilitarian utensils dating to the later 19th century. Some glassware did appear to be fragments of glass window panes. The metal consisted of mostly unidentified ironwork, with some iron nails and the prongs of a pitchfork.

There was a distinct lack of identifiable roofing material, suggesting the building was originally thatched as evidence of this is unlikely to have survived. Fragmentary remains of lime render are visible in surrounding soil deposits, as well as occasionally adhered to some loose stonework, indicating the building was externally rendered. The render also appears in a mixture of white and pink.

Field Enclosures

During the course of the project the surrounding field enclosures were also surveyed. In front of the main building, on its north-western side, stands a large bank parallel to the building, with a gap of c.3m between the two. This gap was partially uncovered in front of the main building (photo 15), where it was paved with cobbles. This changed to flagstones to the northeast, possibly in front the main entrance to the building and presumably also covering the point where the under-floor culverts emerge. There was also a step down of 0.08m roughly in line with the cross partition wall. This flagstone and cobbled area leads on to a sunken pathway that runs off to the southwest towards the well (photo 35), as marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1878 (Figure 3).

The 1st edition map shows the house, along with two adjoining small enclosures, sat within a large square field with two smaller enclosures attached to the south and further enclosed fields to the west. A modern field boundary now runs SSW – NNE across this large square field, with the original field and enclosure banks only surviving as prominent earthworks to the east of the modern boundary. These surviving banks now form a large rectangular enclosure 75m by 40m with one of the smaller surviving enclosure attached to the south measuring c.32m square. These are surrounded by high grass-covered banks (photos 32, 34 & 36), exposed sections suggest the banks are at least partly stone-built. A large ditch also runs around the outside.

The large rectangular field is subdivided into several smaller enclosures. Adjoining the house, to the southeast, the 1st edition map shows two square enclosures. The northernmost appears to be accessed from the house and presumably represents the garden. It measures 13.5m by 11.5m, surrounded by grass-covered banks. The interior is reed covered, and two hawthorn trees stand at the corners. The southern of these two enclosures is 15m by 17.5m, surrounded by a grass-covered stone wall and can be accessed just to the south of the house, as well from the field to the southeast. A third square enclosure lies to the south of this, enclosed by a somewhat more denuded earthen bank and not marked on the 1st edition map. This measures 18m by 14.5m.

The large field is subdivided to the north, a low earthen bank encloses the northernmost 24m, with a gap in the surrounding bank giving access to the upland area to the east. A possible trackway also curves around the eastern side of the garden enclosure, and meets a distinct kink in the outer field bank (photo 32), although there is no gap in the bank at this point.

EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE

The aim of the unauthorised excavation was to procure stone for use in a nearby construction. Consequently it is the remains of the stone walls of the single building that have suffered the most significant damage. The Scheduling description, and photographs taken at the time of scheduling (photos 1 to 6), clearly indicate the remains of the external walls of the building consisted of large grass-covered stone banks, 0.7m wide and 0.6m high above ground level. Even the cross partition wall is described as 0.7m wide. Although likely to be partly tumbled, the size of these banks indicates there could have been substantial standing remains with evidence of construction techniques, doorways, windows and chimneys amongst others. As can be seen in photos 7 to 9 and photo 26 these grass-covered stone banks have been excavated, removing the wall remains down to foundation levels, with the exception of scant remains in the section along the southeast side. The southeastern section also shows that walls had been removed up to 0.6m below ground levels, which would have put the original standing remains at over 1m. Although the line of walls can still be traced and evidence of their construction revealed much has clearly been lost, in particular the location and construction of the doorways and clear remains of the fireplace and chimney. To the northwest it would appear the wall remains have been entirely removed to below their foundation levels.

It is likely that prior to the unauthorised excavation tumbled wall remains and finds are likely to have remained *in situ* on the site, close to their points of origin. The building remains have been cleared to floor levels and below which has removed much of the contextual evidence of any of these tumbled remains and finds. Much of the stonework from these walls has subsequently been returned to site, including some very large blocks, but as the stone used was largely unworked and generally clay-bonded once it has been removed from its original location the information they can provide is limited.

Floor levels at the southwestern end of the building survive remarkably well, and there are clearly features surviving below the floor levels, and possibly even earlier floors. To the northeast floor levels have become increasingly disturbed, presumably as material was removed from the partition wall and generally dragged to the north. The mortar floor at the northern end of the Southwest Compartment is clearly disturbed, as is the stone-flag flooring beyond. Excavation has clearly gone below the level of the existing floors, obscuring evidence of the northwestern end of the building and the outshot beyond, of which in particular very little evidence now survives.

The excavation was clearly concentrated on the remains of the building. The surrounding field banks and enclosures still survive remarkably well. One section of bank has been removed and subsequently replaced (photo 10), presumably to gain access to a former trackway that cut across the site. As the trackway is a feature that post-dates the farmstead complex anyway this section of bank is also likely to have been a relatively recent section as well, although it does appear to lie within the Scheduled area.

FUTURE OPTIONS

This site was Scheduled 'for its potential to enhance our knowledge of post medieval land use, settlement and economy. It is a well-preserved, relatively rare and little-understood example of upland settlement; and it retains great archaeological potential to enhance our knowledge of post-medieval stock rearing practices in the upland zone, whether as permanent settlement, regular transhumance, or intermittent opportunistic expansion.'

Much still remains of the site, in particular the surrounding field and enclosure banks, although one of its most informative aspects, the main farm building, has clearly been damaged to an extent that compromises the degree of information it contains. It can probably no longer be considered a well-preserved example of upland settlement, therefore its reasons for Scheduling have been compromised.

Recent archaeological excavations by Dyfed Archaeological Trust have shown the value and interest in excavating post medieval farmstead sites with the aid of volunteers, both as a training and information gathering exercise as well as an opportunity to engage communities in their local heritage (Poucher 2010). This site would also present similar opportunities, with a mix of some clear remains that can be immediately understood and more complex details and stratigraphic deposits. Similarly, finds are generally more plentiful and easily recognisable on post- medieval sites.

CONCLUSION

Waun Hir is the site of a post-medieval 'llest' farmstead, known originally as 'Pen y banc', on the northernmost ridge of Mynydd y Bettws in Carmarthenshire. The site was Scheduled in 2005 as it was considered 'of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of post medieval land use, settlement and economy'.

At the time it was Scheduled the site consisted of the grass-covered drystone rubble wall footings of a building surrounded by several enclosures, and was considered a well-preserved, relatively rare and little-understood example of upland settlement. However, in January 2012 an unauthorised excavation on the site, in order to obtain building stone/rubble for nearby construction works, caused substantial disturbance to the remains of the main farm building.

It is clear that wall remains, which had previously stood 0.6m high above ground level, had been reduced down to foundation levels, which in some places was a further 0.6m below ground level. In the northwest corner of the building these walls had been completely removed to below their foundation levels. This clearly removed a large amount of important archaeological information relating to the understanding of the function and layout of the building, such as the construction of the walls, location of doorways and fireplace and chimney remains amongst others. Removed stonework had subsequently been returned to the site after its unauthorised excavation, but as the stonework consisted mainly of unworked stone bedded in clay, once removed from its original context the information it could provide was severely compromised.

Floor levels survived remarkably intact and relatively undisturbed at the south-western end of the building, which would appear to comprise the main domestic area of the building. A former partition, presumably of timber, divided this area in two. To the northwest of this timber partition the mortar floor had clearly become disturbed. This domestic area was enclosed to the northwest by a stone cross partition wall, which had been removed to foundation levels. To the northwest of this cross partition wall the floor level consisted of roughly-laid stone flags, disturbed and partially removed. The unauthorised excavation appears to have removed floor levels beyond this point making the interpretation of the north-western end of the main building difficult, and largely removing evidence of a former outshot beyond that.

Finds were recovered from the layer of disturbed ground overlying the building remains. These included pottery fragments of domestic and utilitarian wares that on initial examination appear to largely date to the late 19th century. Also recovered were fragments of glassware including window panes, several iron nails, the prongs of a pitchforks and a small amount of unidentified ironwork. These finds had clearly been removed from their contexts, limiting the amount of information that could be obtained from them.

Surrounding field and enclosure banks remained largely untouched and relatively well-preserved. However the disturbance of the only farm building on the site has clearly impacted on the original reasons for Scheduling the site as a whole. Should it be considered that the site is no longer suitable for Scheduling the remains could still provide a valuable opportunity for important information about such relatively little-understood sites to be gained through further archaeological excavation. Post medieval settlements similar to this one have proved to be excellent sites to engage communities in their local heritage and learn archaeological techniques, as well as providing valuable information about the site itself.

SOURCES

- Cadw 2005 Scheduled Ancient Monument Record Cm331 (CAM)
- Ordnance Survey 1878 1st edition 1;2500 Carmarthenshire XLIX.9
- Ordnance Survey 1906 2nd edition 1;2500 Carmarthenshire XLIX.9
- Poucher, P 2010 *Exploration Tywi! Wern Fawr Excavation 2010*. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Report No.2010/49

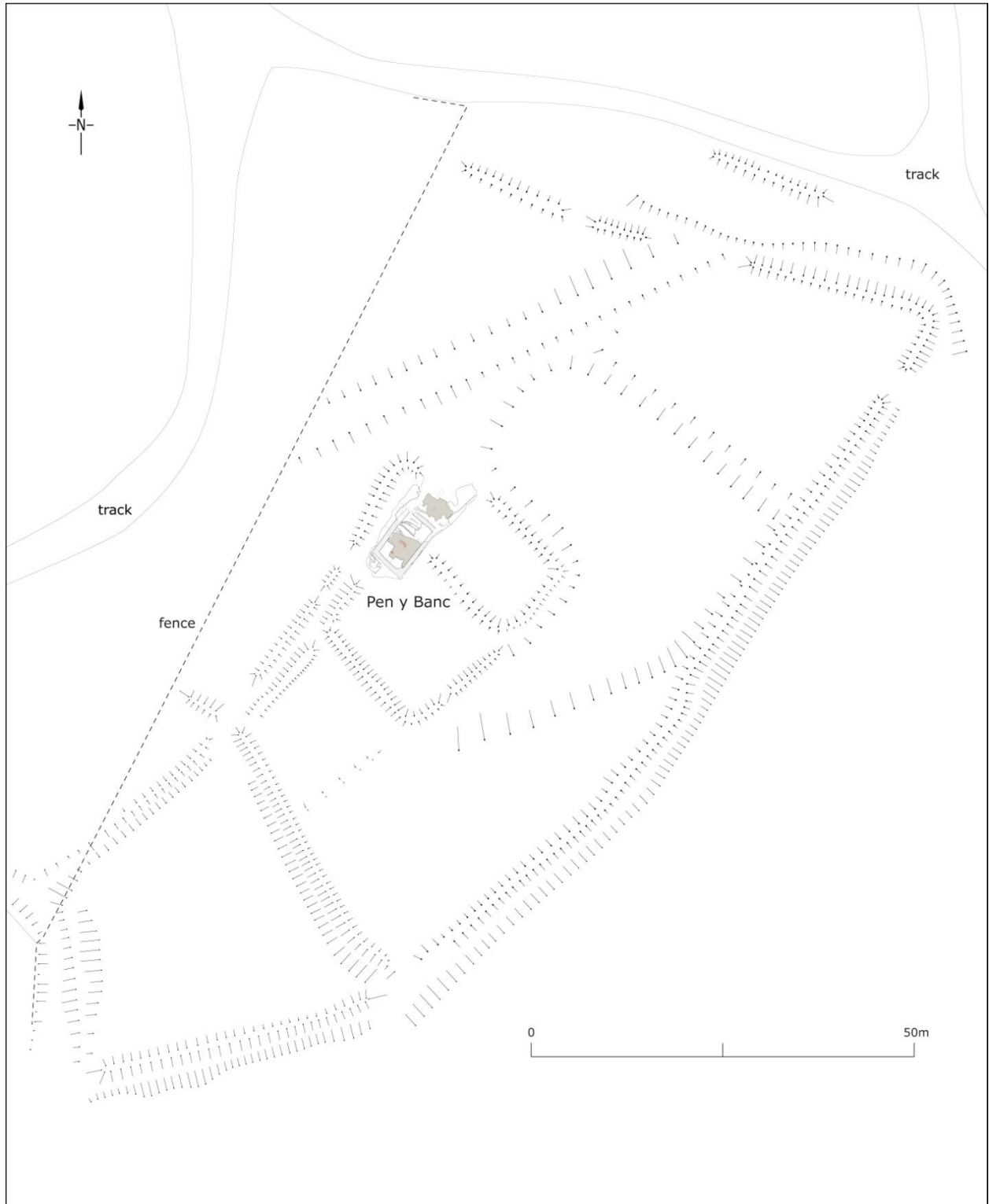


Figure 4: Overall plan of the building remains and the surrounding banks and enclosures.

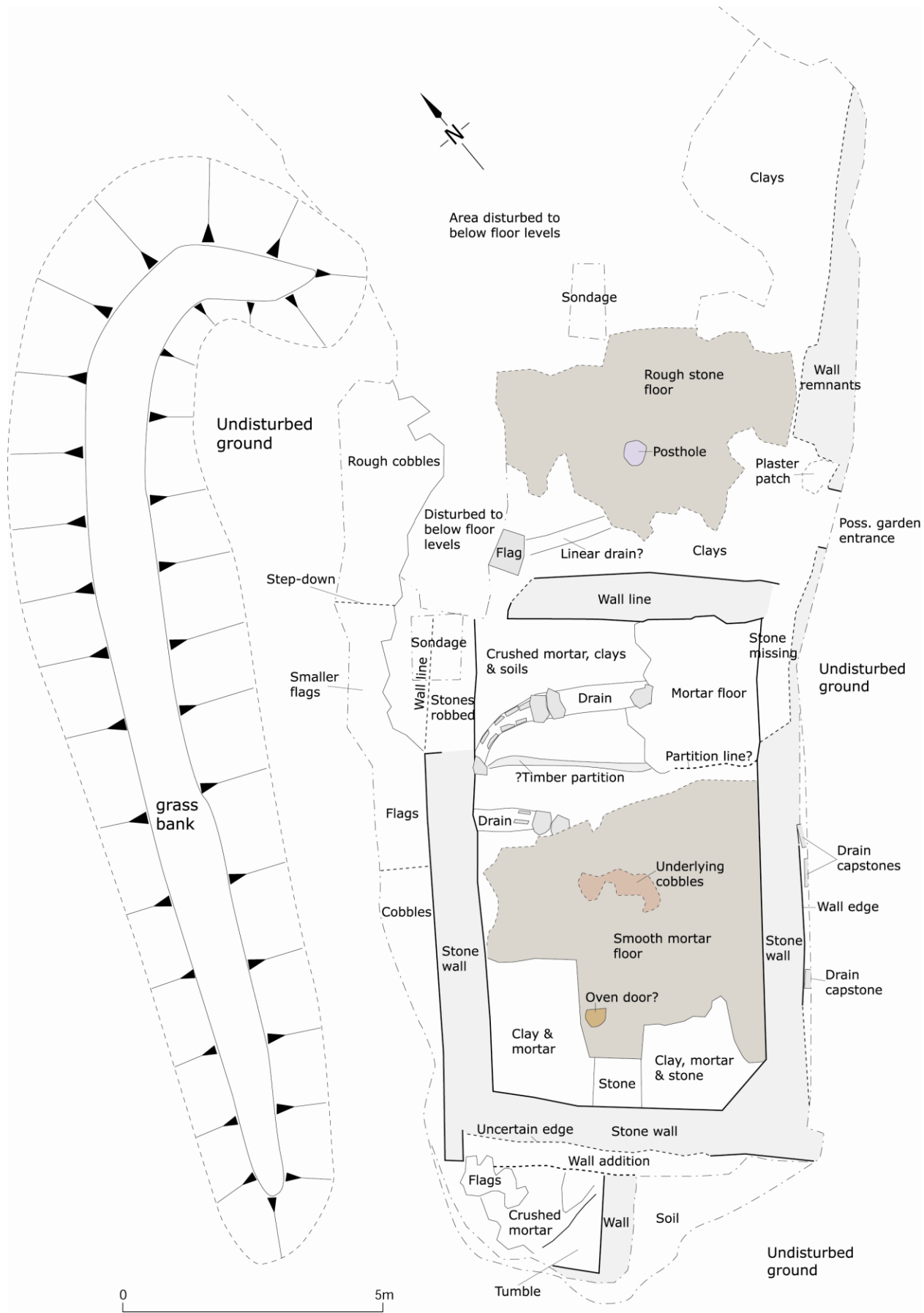


Figure 5: Plan of archaeological remains revealed by the unauthorised excavation.



Photo 1: View of the site prior to any unauthorised excavation, facing NW. Photo taken from Cadw Scheduling description (Cm331) 2003.



Photo 2: View of the building remains prior to any unauthorised excavation, facing SW. Photo taken from Cadw Scheduling description (Cm331) 2003.



Photo 3: View of the building remains prior to any unauthorised excavation, facing S. Photo taken from Cadw Scheduling description (Cm331) 2003.



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Photo 4: View of the building remains prior to any unauthorised excavation, facing NE. Photo taken from Cadw Scheduling description (Cm331) 2003.



Photo 5: View of the building remains prior to any unauthorised excavation, facing S. Photo taken from Cadw Scheduling description (Cm331) 2003.



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Photo 6: View of the building remains prior to any unauthorised excavation, facing SE. Photo taken from Cadw Scheduling description (Cm331) 2003.



Photo 7: View of the site after the unauthorised excavation, but prior to the archaeological evaluation work. Facing S.



Photo 8: View of the site after the unauthorised excavation, but prior to the archaeological evaluation work. Facing SW.



Photo 9: View of the site after the unauthorised excavation, but prior to the archaeological evaluation work. Facing NE.



Photo 10: View of damage to the modern bank at the northeast end of the modern trackway across the site. Facing WNW.



Photo 11: View down the modern trackway across site, facing SW.



Photo 12: Archaeological evaluation in progress, cleaning the southwest end of the building. Tooth marks from the digger bucket can be seen in the mortar floor just above the scale. Facing SW, 1m scale.



Photo 13: Mortar floor at the southwest end of the building. Facing SW, 1m scale.



Photo 14: Rectangular area of rough ground in the southwest corner of the mortar floor. Possible oven door visible just above the scale. Facing NW, 1m scale.



Photo 15: Looking down the north-western wall line, with the mortar floor to the left, and cobbled exterior to the right. Facing SW, 1m scale.



Photo 16: Looking down the south-eastern wall line, with the mortar floor to the left. Facing NE, 1m & 0.5m scale.



Photo 17: Looking at the north-eastern wall, remains of the stone-flag covering of an external drainage culvert is visible at the base of the section along the outside of the wall. Facing E, 1m & 0.5m scale.



Photo 18: Looking at the disturbed floor levels at the northeastern end of the Southwest Compartment. A curving under-floor drain is visible to the bottom left of the scale. Facing SE, 0.5m scale.



Photo 19: Remains of the small attached structure on the southwest corner of the building. Facing SW, 1m & 0.5m scale.



Photo 20: Remains of the small attached structure on the southwest corner of the building. Facing SE, 1m & 0.5m scale.



Photo 21: Flooring of the attached structure overlying the outer edge of the gable wall of the main building. Facing SW, 0.5m scale.



Photo 22: Disturbed floor remains at the north-eastern end of the building, the approximate location of the 'outshot'. Facing SW, 1m scale.



Photo 23: Rough stone flooring at the north-eastern end of the building. Facing SE, 1m scale.



Photo 24: Rough stone flooring at the north-eastern end of the building. Facing NE, 1m scale.



Photo 25: Disturbed floor and wall remains in the section at the north-eastern end of the building, the approximate location of the 'outshot'. Facing SE, 1m & 0.5m scale.



Photo 26: Section at south-western end of the building, showing depths reached by the unauthorised excavation. Facing SE, 1m & 0.5m scale.



Photo 27: Section showing remains of the partition wall. Facing SE. 1m & 0.5m scale.



Photo 28: Section showing area of former northeast gable wall and outshot attachment. Facing SE, 1m & 0.5m scale.



Photo 29: Section showing gap in stonework and possible entrance to the garden. Facing SE, 1m & 0.5m scale.



Photo 30: General view of site after archaeological clearance. Facing NE, 1m scale.



Photo 31: General view across the Scheduled area, facing N.



Photo 32: View along the outer field bank to the east, with common land to the right. The kink in the bank is visible, where the possible trackway meets it. Facing NE



Photo 33: General view across the Scheduled Area towards Ammanford, facing W.



Photo 34: View along the outer field bank, facing SW.



Photo 35: View from the main building along the sunken path towards the well (roughly where the tree stands in the middle distance). Facing SW, 1m scale.



Photo 36: Looking along the outer field bank to the south, showing the bank and external ditch. Facing ENE, 1m scale.

WAUN HIR, CARMARTHENSIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2012/28

MAWRTH 2012
MARCH 2012

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

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Llofnod / Signature



.... Dyddiad / Date 30/3/2012

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by K Murphy

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Director

Llofnod / Signature



Dyddiad / Date 30/03/2012

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd
gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may
have on the content or presentation of this report



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