

SURVEY OF PREHISTORIC REMAINS ADJACENT TO CARN FFOI FORT, NEWPORT, PEMBROKESHIRE, 2013



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

For Cadw



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**SURVEY OF PREHISTORIC REMAINS
ADJACENT TO CARN FFOI FORT, NEWPORT,
PEMBROKESHIRE, 2013**

Gan / By

K Murphy and H Wilson

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CONTENTS

SITE DESCRIPTION	1
MAPS	
Map1. Location map showing area of survey and the areas of two Scheduled Ancient Monuments.	3
Map 2. Topographic survey.	4
PHOTOGRAPHS	
Photograph 1. One of the robbed clearance cairns of site 1454	5
Photograph 2. Burnt mound 105466.	5
Photograph 3. Burnt mound 105466.	6
Photograph 4. Part of field system of site 1454.	6
Photograph 5. General view of site 1454.	7

SITE DESCRIPTION

This short report provides a commentary on the survey of sites adjacent to Carn Ffoi fort, Pembrokeshire, undertaken during the first week of March 2013.

The main area of survey concentrated on PRN 1454 (SAM PE052) centred on SN046378, but included peripheral areas to the north, east and south, including a previously unrecorded possible burnt mound (PRN 105466).

In 1953 site 1454 was identified as a group of round barrows and scheduled as such. In 1962 staff of the Ordnance Survey described the site as "A dozen or so small mounds varying from 6'-18' diameter. Some are undoubtedly tumuli, some small ones could be primitive hearths. The larger ones are mostly eroded to ground level". By 1966 it was considered that "These are probably old stone clearance heaps, there being traces of an old field system in the area. The larger mounds have probably served as quarries for the modern stone walls." - information from the Ordnance Survey record card SN03NW 25.

Subsequent to these site visits in the 1960s the site became very overgrown with bracken and gorse. However in 1998 the vegetation was burnt off and the archaeological remains once again revealed. Cadw staff who visited the site following this burning described the site as "a number of well preserved hut circles marked by earth foundation banks with visible exposed stonework. Internal and external facing stones are present in several places. The huts average 4-5m wide with the walls c.1m wide and 0.4m high. It can only be assumed that these are the structures originally mistaken for burial cairns. The huts lie within a field system formed from a series of parallel low stone and earth banks spread to widths of 2.5m – 3m. These divide the area into enclosures averaging 20m in length". The scheduling of the site was subsequently revised to "Carn Ffoi Prehistoric Settlement" – information from Cadw's Scheduled Ancient Monument Record.

There seems to be a discrepancy between the 1953 and 1962 descriptions and those of 1966 and 1988. This is probably due to damage occurring between 1962 and 1966, with possibly additional damage post-1966. The site as described in 1953 and 1962 consisted of mounds of stone, probably clearance cairns. It seems highly likely that stones from the central area of some of the larger mounds were removed by machine sometime before 1966, and possibly from the smaller mounds post 1966, resulting in crescent-shaped stony banks ranging in diameter from 4m to 8m.

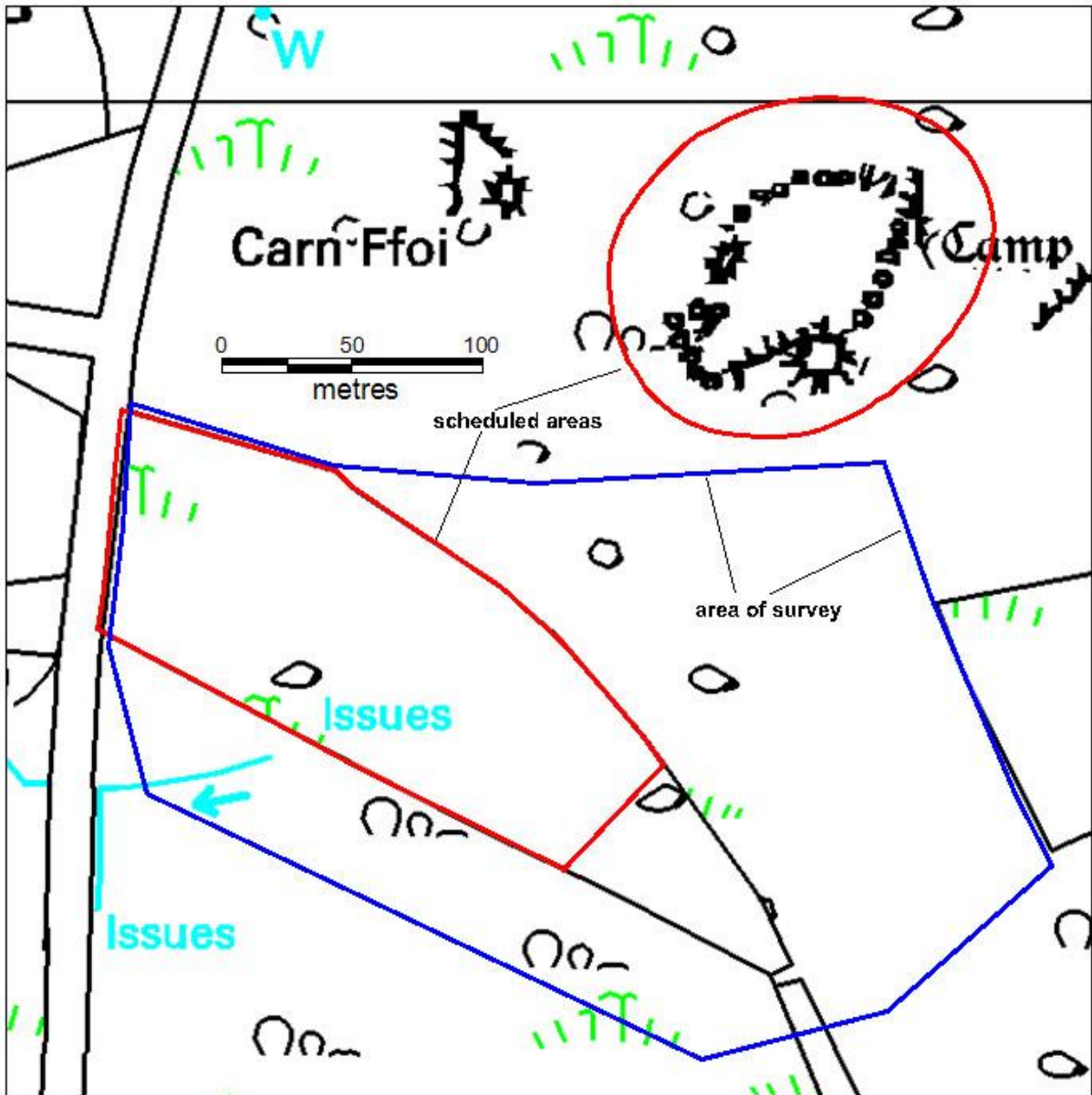
Amended HER description of PRN 1454: The site was surveyed in March 2013. Vegetation was rough grass, heather, bracken and gorse, which was sufficiently dense in some areas to conceal ephemeral features. The core of the site lies within a long, narrow field defined by substantial earth/stone post-medieval boundary banks and comprises c.16 low mounds and crescent-shaped earthworks, and discontinuous, low, linear banks on a different alignment to the post-medieval boundaries. The mounds vary from 3m – 4m diameter and the crescent from 3.5m - 8m in diameter. They are between 0.4m and 0.8m high. It seems likely that the crescent-shaped earthworks are the result of stone being removed from the central area of mounds – probably clearance cairns - resulting in remains very similar in appearance to hut circles. It is interesting to note that apart from one example all the mounds lie in the post-medieval field and thus may be of a similar date. The low linear banks form no clear pattern (the vegetation almost certainly masks some lower banks), but are part of a field system that clearly predates the post-medieval field boundaries. Further boundaries to the north and east of the post-medieval

field are of the same earlier field system. One of these boundaries runs up to the rocky outcrop on which Carn Ffoi Iron Age fort is located – the field system may be contemporaneous with the fort.

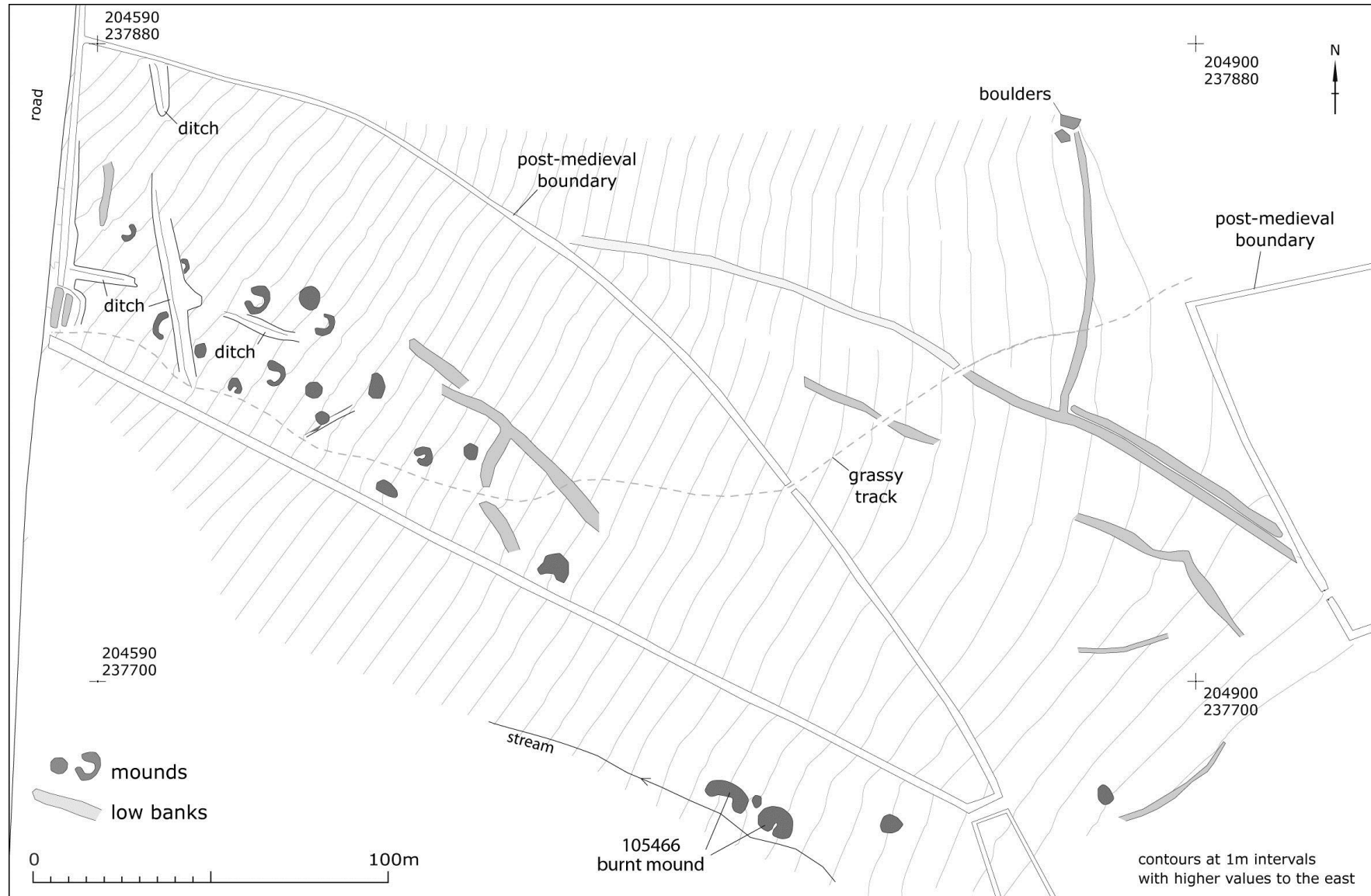
Descriptions of the site in the 1950s and early 1960s suggests that stone was removed from the mounds creating the crescent-shaped earthworks during the mid-1960s and later. The site thus comprises a field system of unknown date, but probably prehistoric and a series of disturbed stone clearance cairns which are probably later.

Burnt mound PRN 105466. (SN04781 37658). An armchair-shaped mound c.12m across and 1.2m high with the opening to the 'armchair' facing a small stream immediately to the south. A similar sized sausage-shaped mound is attached to this mound on its western side. A discrete circular mound 5.5m diameter and 0.8m high lies 28m to the east. These three mounds are treated as one site. The nature of the armchair-shaped mound and its location next to a stream strongly suggests it is a burnt mound. However, no burnt material was noted during a survey in March 2013 and it possible that it and the other mounds are clearance cairns.

MAPS



Map1. Location map showing area of survey (blue) and the areas of the two Scheduled Ancient Monuments. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved.



Map 2. Topographic survey.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph 1. One of the robbed clearance cairns of site 1454.



Photograph 2. Burnt mound 105466.



Photograph 3. Burnt mound 105466.



Photograph 4. Part of field system of site 1454.



Photograph 5. General view of site 1454.

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

Swydd / Position: Director

Llofnod / Signature



Dyddiad / Date 18 March 2013

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith

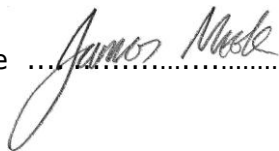
This report has been checked and approved by J Meek

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.

on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Head of Field Services

Llofnod / Signature



Dyddiad / Date 18 March 2013

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

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