

Uplands Initiative Elenydd (Central)

Archaeological Survey (Part One)



For: The Royal Commission on the Ancient
and Historical Monuments of Wales

February 2010



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By

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Trysor

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**For: The Royal Commission on the Ancient
and Historical Monuments of Wales**

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Cover photograph: A longhouse (NPRN 503555) on the banks of the Afon Claerwen.

ELENYDD (CENTRAL)

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Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan bartneriad Trysor. Mae wedi ei gael yn gywir ac yn derbyn ein sêl bendith.

This report was prepared by the Trysor partners. It has been checked and received our approval.

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Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.

We welcome any comments on the content or structure of this report.

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Crynodeb

Mae Elenydd (Canol) yn ymestyn dros 23.47 cilomedr sgwâr ac yn ffurfio tua thraean o ardal ehangach ym mryniau canolbarth Cymru a archwiliwyd gan Trysor yn ystod haf a hydref 2009. Ceir adroddiadau ar wahân ar gyfer arolygon ardaloedd De a Gogledd Elenydd. Cariwyd y gwaith allan gyda chymorth ariannol Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru, fel rhan o brosiect Menter yr Ucheldiroedd.

Mae Elenydd (Canol) yn cynnwys ardal o dirwedd fynyddig, anghysbell rhwng rhannau uchaf cymoedd Elan a Chlaerwen. Lleolir ym mhlwyf Llansanffraid Cwmdeuddwr, yng ngorllewin yr hen Sir Faesyfed, rhan o sir Powys bellach. Dyma ardal sydd heb gael ei effeithio'n drwm gyda gweithgareddau dynol, ar wahân i'w defnydd fel tir pori gan ffermydd y cymoedd cyfagos. Dim ond dwy fferm fynyddig sydd o fewn ei ffiniau heddiw. Y pentref agosaf yw Pentref Elan, 4km i'r dwyrain, tra bod tref Rhaeadr Gwy rhyw 8km i ffwrdd i'r un cyfeiriad. Yr unig ffordd gyhoeddus i gyffwrdd â'r ardal yw'r heol garw sy'n cysylltu Dyffryn Elan â Ffair Rhos, Ceredigion, gan ddilyn ochr ogleddol Llyn Claerwen. Serch hynny, mae'r ffordd hon yn rhy arw i ganiatáu llawer o drafnidiaeth. Ceir llwybr arall, sy'n croesi trwy ganol yr ardal o Ffair Rhos i ran uchaf Dyffryn Elan, sef y llwybr a elwir "Ffordd y Mynachod" heddiw. Mae hon yn un o'r ychydig ffyrdd cyhoeddus yn Elenydd (Canol).

Yn ystod y Canol Oesoedd, ffurfia'r ardal hon rhan o Gwmdeuddwr, un o ystadau abaty Ystrad Fflur, Ceredigion. Ar ôl Diddymiad y Mynachlogydd, roedd yr hen ystâd y mynachod wedi syrthio i ddwylo preifat fel rhan o Ystâd Cwm Elan. Daeth y rhan fwyaf o'r ystâd yn eiddo i Gorfforaeth Birmingham yn ystod yr 1890au, pan roddwyd hawl iddynt, drwy ddeddf gwlad, feddiannu dyffrynnoedd Elan a Chlaerwen, a'r tiroedd cyfagos. Gwnaed hyn er mwyn creu llynnoedd enwog Dyffryn Elan i gyflenwi dŵr i Ganolbarth Lloegr a chymoedd De Cymru. Llyn Claerwen oedd yr olaf o'r llynnoedd i agor, ym 1952. Hyd heddiw, mae bryniau Elenydd (Canol) o dan reolaeth Ystâd Elan, sydd bellach yn nwylo Dŵr Cymru.

Cofnodwyd 122 o safleoedd ac olion archaeolegol gan yr arolwg maes, y rhan fwyaf o'r rhain yn safleoedd a nodwyd am y tro gyntaf. Dyma gyfanswm hynod isel am ardal fynyddig o'r maint yma. Ymhlith prif ganfyddiadau'r arolwg oedd rhai carneddau claddu sy'n dyddio I Oes yr Efydd, yn ogystal ag ychydig o gytiau hir, sydd o bosibl yn dyddio i'r oes pan fu'r ardal yn nwylo mynachod Ystrad Fflur. Serch hynny, dominyddir y cofnod archaeolegol gan safleoedd ôl-ganoloesol neu fodern, llawer ohonynt yn gysylltiedig â gweithgareddau Ystâd Elan.

Adnabyddir Elenydd fel ardal sy'n gyfoethog mewn bywyd gwyllt, yn enwedig mewn rhywogaethau o adar a phlanhigion. Un o nodweddion amlycaf Elenydd heddiw yw'r trwch o laswellt y waun (*Molinia Caerulea*), sydd bellach yn gorchuddio rhannau helaeth o'r tir yma. Mae'n rhwystr difrifol i archaeolegwyr yn y maes, gan guddio olion archaeolegol a gwneud y tir yn anodd ei gerdded. Yn ogystal, mae'n achosi dirywiad yn ansawdd y porfeydd mynyddig a bioamrywiaeth y fro yn gyffredinol. Mawnogydd a geir dros rannau sylweddol o Elenydd (Canol) hefyd, ond ychydig o dystiolaeth sydd am dorri mawn nac erydiad o'r mawn yn gyffredinol.

Ychydig iawn o ymwelwyr sy'n mentro allan ar y bryniau yma, ac mae'r ardal yn cael ei gyfrif fel un o'r ardaloedd mwyaf anghysbell a digyfnawid yng Nghymru. Gall y cynnydd parhaol mewn poblogrwydd gweithgareddau hamdden megis cerdded a beicio mynydd newid y sefyllfa yn y dyfodol. Gobeithir y bydd y cofnod cyflawn o olion archaeolegol yr ardal a grëwyd gan y prosiect hwn yn fodd i ddiogelu'r dystiolaeth frau am weithgarwch dynol ar fryniau Elenydd.

Summary

The Elenydd (Central) study area extends across some 23.47km² and forms about one third of a larger area surveyed in the Cambrian Mountains by Trysor during the summer and autumn of 2009. Separate reports have been prepared for the surveys of Elenydd (North) and Elenydd (South). The projects were undertaken with grant-aid from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, as part of their Uplands Initiative project.

Elenydd (Central) is focused on a remote hilly area which lays between the Claerwen and upper Elan valleys. It is in the parish of Llansanffraid Cwmdeuddwr, in western Radnorshire, part of the modern county of Powys. It is an area which appears to have seen very little human activity apart from pastoral farming and has only two occupied hill farms within its boundaries. The nearest village is Elan Village, 4km to the east, whilst the town of Rhayader lies 8km in the same direction. The only public road through the study area is the rough track which connects the Elan Valley with Ffair Rhos in Ceredigion, which runs along the northern edge of the Claerwen reservoir, via Claerwen farm, at the southern edge of the area. This track is too rough to carry road traffic and is therefore rarely used. A long distance trackway runs through the heart of Elenydd (Central), from the Ffair Rhos and Strata Florida area in Ceredigion to the upper Elan valley, the so-called “Monks’ Way” or “Monks’ Trod”. This is one of very few public footpaths in the district and is also infrequently used.

During medieval times, the area formed a part of Cwmdeuddwr, an upland grange of Strata Florida abbey, Ceredigion. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the grange was transformed into the private Cwm Elan estate. During the 1890s the whole district passed into the ownership of the Birmingham Corporation, when an Act of Parliament granted the Corporation permission to occupy the Elan and Claerwen valleys, and the water catchments of each river. This created a new Elan Estate focused on the famous Elan Valley reservoirs, constructed to supply water to the English Midlands and the South Wales valleys. Claerwen was the last of the reservoirs to appear, not being opened until 1952. To the present day, the hills of Elenydd (Central) are managed by the Elan Estate, now in the hands of Welsh Water.

The field survey recorded 122 archaeological sites in the area, most of which were noted for the first time. This is a very low figure for an upland area of this size. Amongst the most significant discoveries were a small number of Bronze Age funerary cairns and several long huts, some of which may have been in use in medieval times, when the area was controlled by the monks of Strata Florida. The record is, however, dominated by post medieval and modern archaeology, much of which is associated with the activities of the Elan Estate.

Elenydd (Central) is rich in terms of its wildlife, especially in terms of bird species and its flora. However, one of the most important characteristics of Elenydd (Central) is the thick mat of purple moor-grass (*Molinia Caerulea*) which now covers a significant portion of the area. This proved a hindrance to the archaeological survey as it obscures surface features and makes the land difficult to walk. It is also affecting the quality of the upland pasture and the bio-diversity of the area in general. Elenydd (Central) also has extensive areas of peat bog, with remarkably little evidence for peat cutting or peat erosion.

The Elenydd landscape is considered to be amongst the most remote and undisturbed in Wales, and this part of it is rarely frequented by visitors. It is not impossible that the rise in popularity for outdoor pursuits might yet have an impact. It is hoped that the complete record of archaeological features created by this project will help protect the fragile evidence of human activity in the area and enable an increased understanding of the history and development of this special landscape.

1. Introduction

1.1 The 2009 Survey

This field project and related desktop research in the Elenydd hills, an extensive upland area within the central Cambrian Mountains, was undertaken by Trysor during 2009, grant-aided by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW). Desktop research was undertaken during April 2009, and fieldwork was carried out over 15 days between June and October 2009. This final report was compiled during February 2010.

The study area was designated as “Elenydd (Central)” and was one of three areas along the western side of the historic county of Radnorshire which were surveyed by Trysor for the Uplands Initiative Project during 2009 (see Sambrook & Hall, 2009a and 2009b for Elenydd (North) and Elenydd (South)). These three areas combined cover an area of some 63km².

1.2 Study Area Location and Extent

The extent of the Elenydd (Central) study area is 23.47km². It comprises a block of land extending from the upper Claerwen valley to the west, across the high ground around the upper and lower lakes at Cerrigllwydion, to its eastern boundary, which was determined by the extent of the archaeological survey of the adjacent Elan Valley by Cambrian Archaeological Projects (2000). The southern and northern boundaries were chosen by Trysor, in advance of the field survey, to create a land unit of similar size to the neighbouring Elenydd (North) and Elenydd (South) study areas.

1.3 Altitude

Most of the study area lies between the 450m and 550m contours, with the highest point reached at 549m on Cnapyn Blaendrawsffos and above Pant Llwyd, both overlooking the Cerrigllwydion lakes. The lowest point is just below 380m in a narrow band of land near Claerwen farm, at the western tip of the study area.

1.4 Land Ownership

Elenydd (Central) lies entirely within Welsh Water’s Elan Estate, which is managed by the Elan Trust. Of the three study areas examined during 2009, only some 2.7km² at the northern edge of the Elenydd (North) study area lies outside the estate boundary and is still registered common land. The three study areas therefore cover *circa* 60km² of the 112km² estate.

Until the 20th century, the uplands of the area were unenclosed common land, apart from a small number of tenanted farms, and fell within the bounds of the Cwm Elan Estate, held by the Lewis Lloyd family. This land was bought in its entirety by the Birmingham Corporation in advance of the construction of the famous Elan Valley reservoirs in the late 19th century, and subsequently the common lands were de-registered, with the exception of the small area at the northern edge of the Elenydd (North) study area.

1.5 Land Management

Today, pastoral farming holds sway and the area is devoted to the pasturing of sheep and some horses, although stocking levels are now much lower than in the recent past. There is little improved or semi-improved pasture in Elenydd (Central), that which exists being confined to small field systems around the farmsteads of Glanhirin and Claerwen, are the only inhabited dwellings in the study area. The reduced stocking levels, and absence of cattle, appear to have allowed the *Molinia Caerulea* to spread and grow far more thickly, and it now obscures a large part of the land surface of the study area. *Molinia* is dominant on many of the hillslopes and hilltops and presents a considerable barrier to fieldwork throughout most of the year.

1.6 Geology

The underlying geology of Elenydd (Central) is characterised by early Silurian (Llandovery) strata, with sandstones and mudstones of the Rhuddnant Grits formation. At the heart of the study area, higher, often rocky ground is observed around the Cerrigllwydion lakes. The bedrock here is the harder sandstones and conglomerates of the Pysgotwr Grits, which are well exposed on the western flanks of Esgair Cormwg. Otherwise, relatively little outcropping rock is seen in the area, as it is largely masked by glacial till or peat deposits. The native rock appears to have been of limited value as a building stone, or difficult to access, and consequently there has been relatively little quarrying in the area.



Plate 1: A photograph looking southeast towards the outcrop of the Pysgotwr Grits on Esgair Cormwg.

1.7 Geomorphology

The study area forms part of a more extensive upland plateau, dissected by the larger rivers such as Elan and Claerwen, with their tributaries dividing the landscape into a series of hills and ridges. Elenydd (Central) includes a series of tributary stream valleys of both the Claerwen and the Elan. The most significant of these include the Gwngu and the Hirin streams, which flow northeastwards to the upper Elan. The Caletwr flows eastwards, also to the Elan. The Ddwynant flows southwards into the Claerwen reservoir. The floors of each of these valleys are filled with glacial till.

These stream valleys are interspersed with blocks of higher ground. These increase in altitude to the centre of the study area, where the basin containing the Cerrigllwydion lakes is surrounded by a series of hills which make up the highest ground in the study area. Along the eastern side of the lakes is a line of rocky outcrops, formed by the rocks of the harder Pysgotwr Grits series, focused on Blaen Rhestr. This is the only significant outcrop of stone in the study area.

Most of the valleys within the study area are relatively narrow, although flat-bottomed due to the accumulation of glacial till and peat. The higher ground is also masked with boulder clay and extensive peat deposits, with little evidence of peat erosion, despite evidence of post-medieval peat workings at several locations around the fringes of the area.



Plate 2: A photograph looking northeast from Esgair Cormwg towards Glanhirin Farm.

1.8 Protected landscapes: Statutory designations

Almost all of the Elenydd (Central) study area is designated as a protected landscape. The Elenydd-Mallaen Special Protection Area (SPA No. UK9014111) covers the whole study area, with the exception of the small field systems surrounding Claerwen and Glanhirin farms. The same is true of the Elenydd Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI Code 1172).

The Elenydd Special Area of Conservation (SAC No. UK0012928) covers most of the study area, only the land to the east of Clawdd Du Mawr, Clawdd Du Bach and Claerwen and Glanhirin farms being excluded. The area between the Afon Claerwen and Clawdd Du Mawr, and to the south of Llyn Cerrigllwydion Isaf forms the Claerwen National Nature Reserve (NNR Code 00102), which includes Claerwen farmstead.



Plate 3: A photograph of the rather featureless, grass-covered hills above the Caletwr valley, at the eastern edge of the study area.

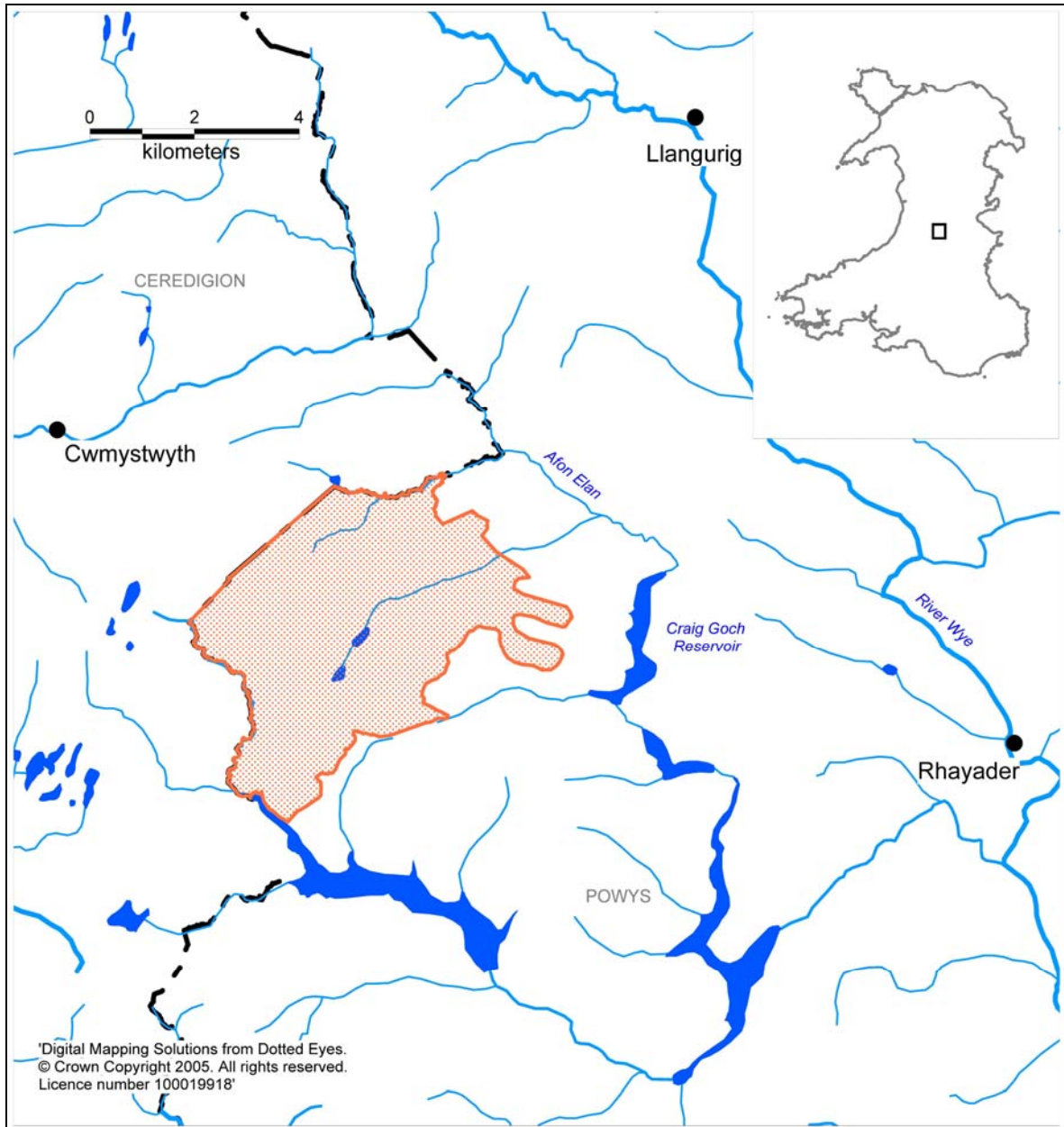


Figure 1: A map showing the location of the study area

1.9 Previous Fieldwork

Limited archaeological fieldwork had been carried out in the survey area prior to this project. Adjacent areas within Powys have been included in previous Upland Initiative surveys, namely The Elan Valley (Cambrian Archaeological Projects, 2001), Elan Valley (NE) (Hankinson, 2003, Elan Valley Uplands (Silvester, 1994). Across the border in Ceredigion, a series of Uplands Initiative projects were undertaken by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust and CPAT during the late 1990s (e.g. Sambrook & Silvester, 1997). The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has undertaken field survey and desktop research for several Cadw pan-Wales projects which have included Elenydd (Central). These include the Deserted Rural Settlements survey (Silvester, 1997), Funerary and Ritual Monuments Survey (CPAT, 2000), Short Dykes and Linear Earthworks Survey (Hankinson, 2003) and the Roman Roads in Mid and North-East Wales (Silvester & Owen, 2003).

Each of these was a monument-type specific project, designed to improve the understanding and management of monuments previously known or suspected in the area. They did not include whole-area field surveys and consequently did not produce a comprehensive record of the archaeological evidence for the monument type within the study area. Nevertheless, the NMR and regional HER benefited from each project and the record, with respect to some of the most significant monument types found in the study area, was better informed as a result.

CPAT have undertaken Tir Gofal surveys for most of the tenant farms within the Elan Estate (HE1 desktop surveys and HE2 field surveys). Both Glanhirin and Claerwen farms in Elenydd (Central) have been subject to a general HE1 appraisal undertaken by CPAT for the Welsh Water Elan Trust (Phipps, 2003).

CPAT also undertook research and fieldwork for the CCW/Cadw/ICOMOS/ Elan Valley Historic Landscape Area, which is included in the Register of Historic Landscapes in Wales. The whole of the Elenydd (Central) study area falls within the Elenydd character area of the Elan Valley Historic Landscape Area.

There are no records of any archaeological excavation having taken place within the study area. No palaeoenvironmental sampling has been undertaken within the study area, although several sample sites are situated in close proximity. To the south and east, good palaeoenvironmental evidence has been obtained at Esgair Nantbeddau and Pwll Nant Du (Wiltshire & Moore, 1983). Further north, at Gors Lwyd, important evidence was obtained in the late 1960s (Moore & Chater, 1969 and Moore, 1970).



Plate 4: A photograph looking eastwards towards the Elan Valley from Esgair Cywion at the eastern edge of the study area.



Plate 5: A photograph looking north towards the Llyn Cerrigllwydion Uchaf and Isaf lakes, at the heart of the study area, set alongside one of the few rocky areas encountered.

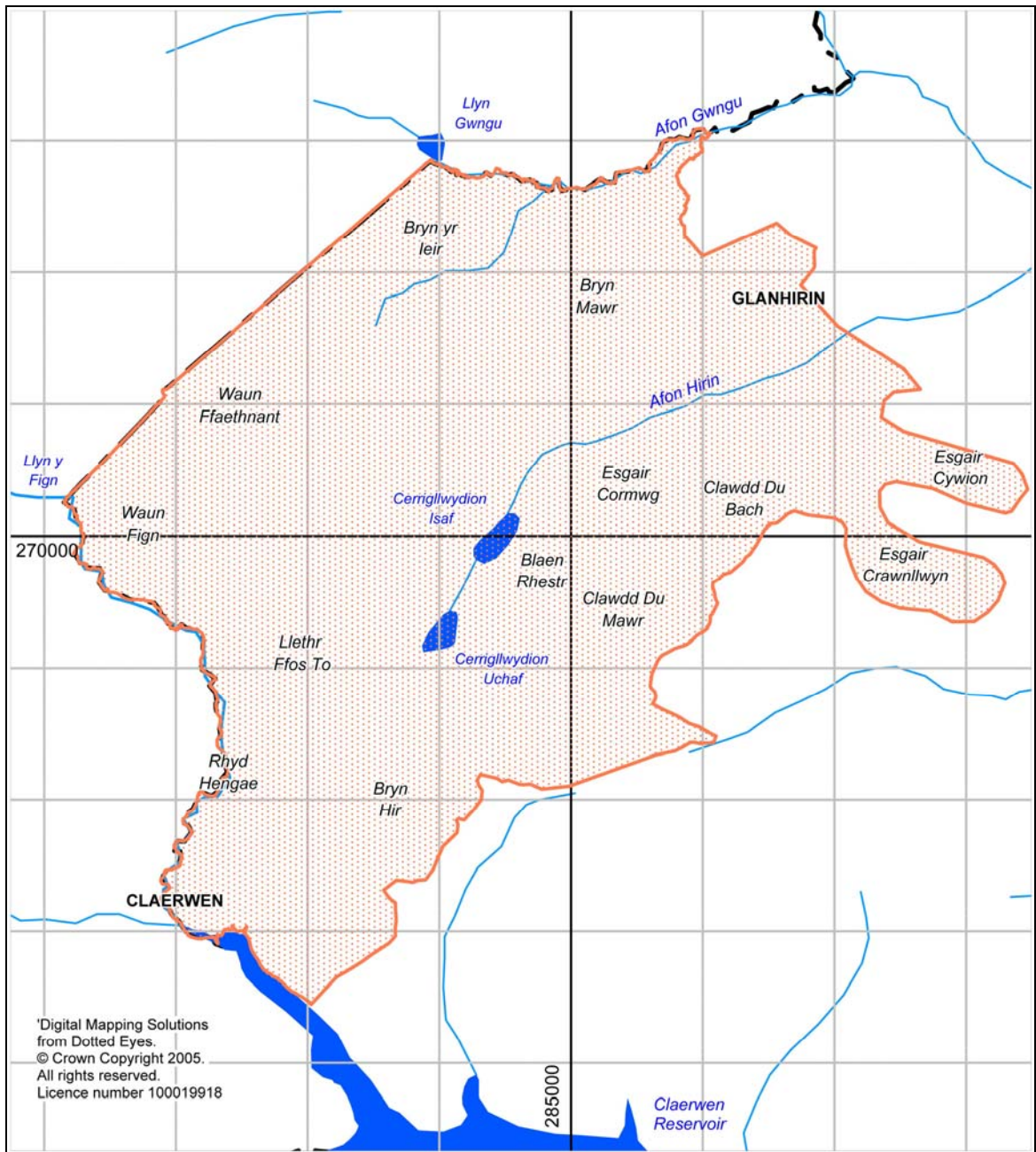


Figure 2: A map showing place names within the study area

1.10 Methodology

1.10.1 Desktop Research

Digital data from the databases maintained by the NMR (RCAHMW) and the Powys Historic Environment Record (held by CPAT) were the starting point for the desktop research undertaken prior to the fieldwork. The information on 1st, 2nd and 1953 edition Ordnance Survey maps was interpreted and records created for sites of interest within the scope of the project. The relevant parish tithe and estate maps held by the National Library of Wales were also consulted. Documentary records in the NMR and aerial photographs were studied.

The results from the desktop research were entered into a Microsoft Access 2003 database, constructed according to the guidelines given in the Revised Data Standard for Upland Survey. The material included in this database is reproduced in the site gazetteer of this report.

1.10.2 Fieldwork

Elenydd (Central) has poor road access. The only vehicular access is gained via rough tracks to Claerwen and Glanhirin farms. There are very few public footpaths or bridleways, and access to the heart of the area was generally gained on foot from Claerwen track or Glanhirin, although access to the eastern side of the study area was also gained on foot via the Monk's Trod, approached from Pont ar Elan to the northeast. With the exception of the small, enclosed field systems at Claerwen and Glanhirin farms, the area is all Open Access land.

The fieldwork element of the project covered 23.47km², carried out over 15 days, which was an average coverage rate of *circa* 1.56km² per day.

30m and 50m transects were used according to the nature of the terrain (wider transects were favoured on steeper slopes). There were no areas which could not be adequately surveyed in this manner.

Features were recorded on pro-forma sheets derived from the database. This had a two-fold benefit: ensuring previously recorded information was readily available in the field and that standard recording of features was undertaken. The pro-formas had space for field sketches which were made where appropriate. The pro-forma sheets have been deposited with the RCAHMW as part of the project archive. Digital photographs were taken where appropriate and these have also been included in the project archive as TIFF files.

The RCAHMW supplied interpretation of aerial photographs as digital files, referred to as AP Mapping in this report. Each of these was investigated in the field, see 2.7 below and Figure 6.

2. Analysis of Sites Recorded in the Survey Area

2.1 Number of Sites

Prior to this survey, only 9 archaeological sites were included in the RCAHMW's National Monuments Record data supplied for Elenydd (Central). Two linear features recorded in the NMR and included in this survey, despite much of their extent being outside the study area, are the Monk's Trod trackway (NPRN 23712) and the Cwm Elan mine leat (NPRN 261660). Following the field survey there were a total of 122 sites recorded in the NMR for the study area, representing an increase of 1355%.

There were also 24 sites recorded in the Clwyd/Powys Regional Historic Environment Record (HER).¹ These sites have been re-evaluated in the field and new records created for the NMR in many cases. However, included amongst the sites recorded in the HER is an event record for the Claerwen HE1 Tir Gofal survey, 8 records for trackways, 2 fords, 3 sections of the Monk's Trod, a discounted Roman Road, the natural outcrop at Trum y Gwr and two groups of pillow mounds which were rejected by this survey. These sites have not been added to the Elenydd (Central) project database as they were either erroneous or could not be associated with archaeological features in the field. Therefore, there is not a direct correlation between the NMR records and the regional HER for Elenydd (Central).

Location maps for all sites recorded by the project can be found in Part 2 of this report, preceding the Site Gazetteer.



Plate 6: A photograph looking southwards across the flat and bleak peat moorland of Waun Ffig, at the head of the Claerwen valley, at the western edge of the study area.

¹ Maintained by the Clwyd/Powys Archaeological Trust.

2.2 Summary of Sites by Broad Class

The 122 sites recorded by the project are categorised by Broad Class² in Table 1 and Figure 4.

Broad Class	Number of Sites	Includes
Agriculture and Subsistence	17	Agricultural Building, Farmstead, Field System, Rabbit Warren, Sheep Dip, Sheep Fold, Sheep Wash
Defence	1	Firing Range
Domestic	10	Cottage, Farmhouse, Hut Circle?, Long Hut, Longhouse
Education	20	Experimental Plot, Rain Gauge, Survey Point
Industrial	8	Peat Cutting, Peat Workings, Quarry
Monument <By Form>	22	Bank (Earthwork), Natural Feature, Platform, Shed, Shelter, Sunken Shelter, Wall
Recreational	1	Shooting Stand?
Religious Ritual and Funerary	5	Cairn, Cairn?, Ring Cairn
Transport	19	Boat House, Bridge, Footbridge, Footpath, Road, Trackway
Unassigned	15	Building, Marker Cairn, Shed, Stone Pile, Structure
Water Supply and Drainage	4	Dam, Leat, Well

Table 1: Broad Class

Like the adjacent study areas of Elenydd (South) and Elenydd (North), Elenydd (Central) was found to have an unusually low number of archaeological sites in comparison to most areas of similar extent elsewhere in the mid-Wales uplands. To some extent, this is a reflection of the remoteness of the study area, although large areas of peat bog on high ground and in many valley bottoms have also limited opportunities for human settlement and agricultural activity.

There is no predominant Broad Class category for this area. The human touch is a light one, and even evidence of Agriculture and Subsistence are relatively rare.

The Industrial Broad Class is poorly represented, as there are relatively few peat cuttings in the area, with only 7 sites (5.7%) recorded, despite the large areas of peat bog found. Most of the peat is in areas of high ground, away from settlements and with poor access. It seems to have been left relatively undisturbed as more accessible deposits on lower ground were available.

² Broad Class is used as defined by English Heritage in the monuments thesaurus, <http://thesaurus.english-heritage.org.uk>

Many of the sites recorded relate to the activities of the Elan Estate. These include features such as the corrugated iron fishing lodge (NPRN 503506) at Llyn Cerrigllwydion Uchaf, as well as the group of features recorded under the Education Broad Class, which include several former rain gauges and a number of Experimental Plots created with post and wire fencing, as part of a programme to study the impact of the removal of grazing animals from select areas on the flora of the upland pastures.

The Broad Classes which are usually most relevant to upland archaeological surveys have remarkably low figures. Only five sites are included in the Religious Ritual and Funerary Broad Class, an indication of the very low occurrence of prehistoric sites in the study area. Likewise, the Domestic Broad Class includes very few sites, with traditional upland monuments such as long houses and long huts represented by only nine examples. Agriculture and Subsistence is also poorly represented, with only 17 sites. The remote and bleak moorland which characterises most of the study area has for centuries been associated with pastoral farming, with little evidence of attempts at land enclosure or land improvement.

The impact zone of an Edwardian artillery range, which targeted Esgair Cywion at the northeastern corner of the study area, is one of the more unexpected discoveries of the project. It is adjacent to the larger impact zone on neighbouring Esgair Rhiwlan, targeted by the guns of the Rhayader Artillery Camp in the period 1907-1914.

Figure 3, below, shows the distribution of sites by Broad Class.



Plate 7: A photograph showing the thick sward of purple moor-grass which masks much of Elenydd Central. Tracks cut by sheep and shepherds' quad bikes are often the only easy routes to follow across this difficult landscape.

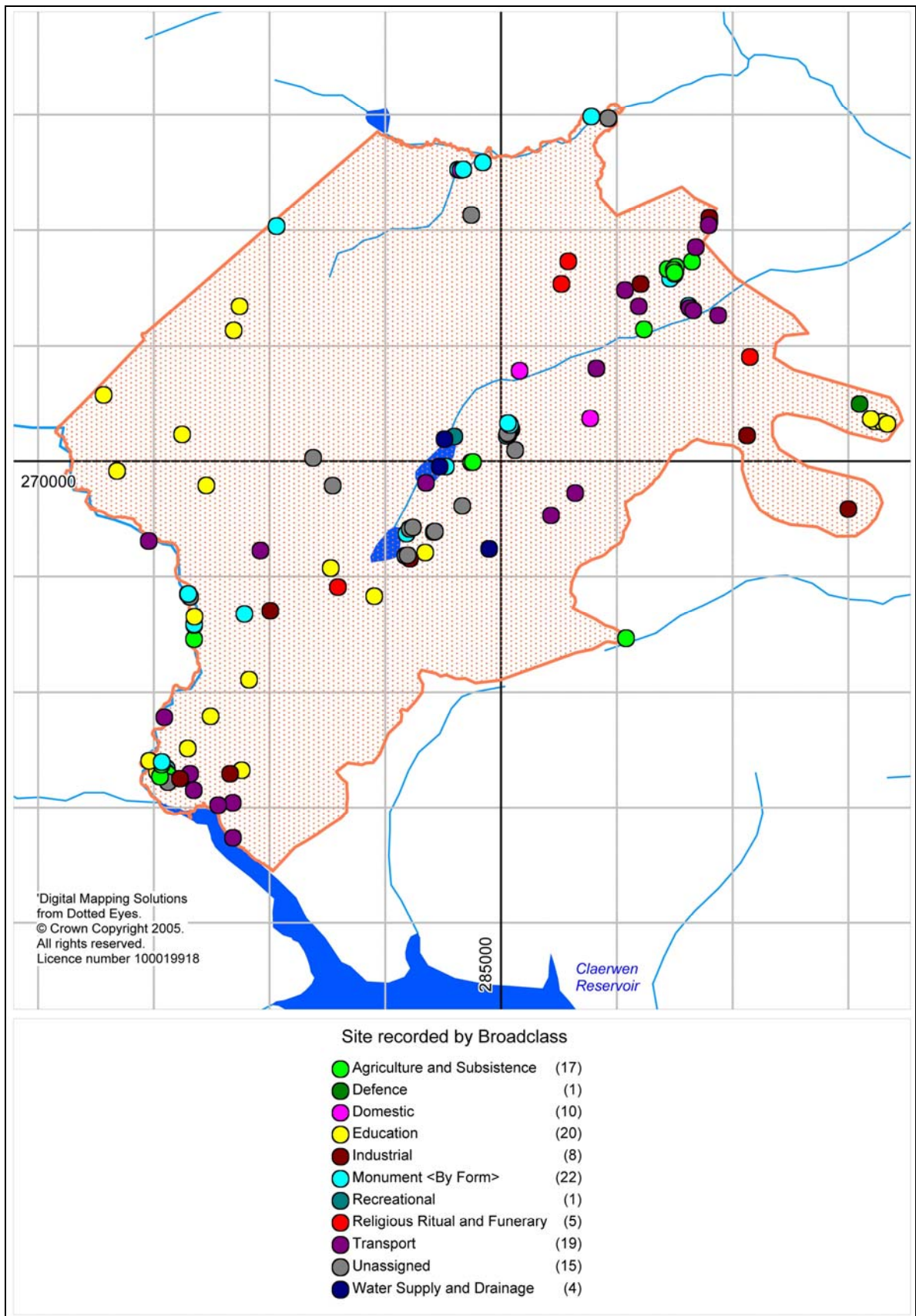


Figure 3: A map showing the distribution of sites by Broad Class

2.3 Summary of Sites by Period

As Table 2 shows, the majority of the sites recorded by the survey are of Post Medieval or Modern date. The largest group of sites categorised by Period fall into the Modern category, which includes 42 sites, or 33% of the total. Many of these are features associated with the activities of the Elan Estate, including 13 Experimental Plots. Another 39 sites (30%) are of either Post Medieval or probable Post Medieval date. These are chiefly related to land improvement and other pastoral activity, including features associated with Glanhirin and Claerwen farms.

A much smaller number of sites (10, or 8%) are thought to be of Medieval or early Post Medieval date, including the small number of deserted settlement sites encountered and their ancillary structures. None of these sites can be ascribed a Medieval date with any certainty, although the large long hut on the banks of the Claerwen (NPRN 503555) and two smaller long huts found nearby (NPRN 503553 & 503554) may be associated with transhumant activity dating to the time when the area formed part of the medieval monastic grange of Cwmdeuddwr.

The number of sites attributed to prehistoric periods is exceptionally low, amounting to only 5 sites in total, or 4.1%, comprising just four Bronze Age cairns or possible cairns and a single structure thought possibly to be a Bronze Age hut circle.

Eight sites of Unknown date include a cluster of features on the western side of Esgair Cornwg, including rough, revetted terraces or platforms and associated small shelters (NPRNs 503567-503570) which could date to any period from the prehistoric to medieval.

Period	Number of Sites	Includes
Bronze Age	1	Cairn
Bronze Age?	3	Cairn, Ring Cairn?
Prehistoric?;Medieval?	1	Hut Circle?;Long Hut?
Medieval?;Post Medieval?	10	Long Hut, Longhouse, Platform?, Shelter, Structure, Sunken Shelter, Wall
Post Medieval	34	Agricultural Building, Bank (Earthwork), Cottage, Dam, Farmhouse, Farmstead, Field System, Footbridge, Footpath, Leat, Peat Cutting, Peat Workings, Rabbit Warren, Sheep Fold, Sheep Wash, Structure, Trackway
Post Medieval?	5	Building, Road, Trackway, Wall
Post Medieval?;Modern?	8	Farmhouse, Marker Cairn, Shelter, Well
Modern	42	Agricultural Building, Boat House, Bridge, Building, Experimental Plot, Firing Range, Footbridge, Marker Cairn, Peat Cutting, Quarry, Rain Gauge, Road, Shed, Sheep Dip, Sheep Fold, Survey Point, Trackway
Modern?	7	Marker Cairn, Quarry, Rain Gauge, Shooting Stand?
General	3	Natural Feature
Unknown	8	Cairn?, Platform, Shelter, Stone Pile

Table 2: Sites by Period

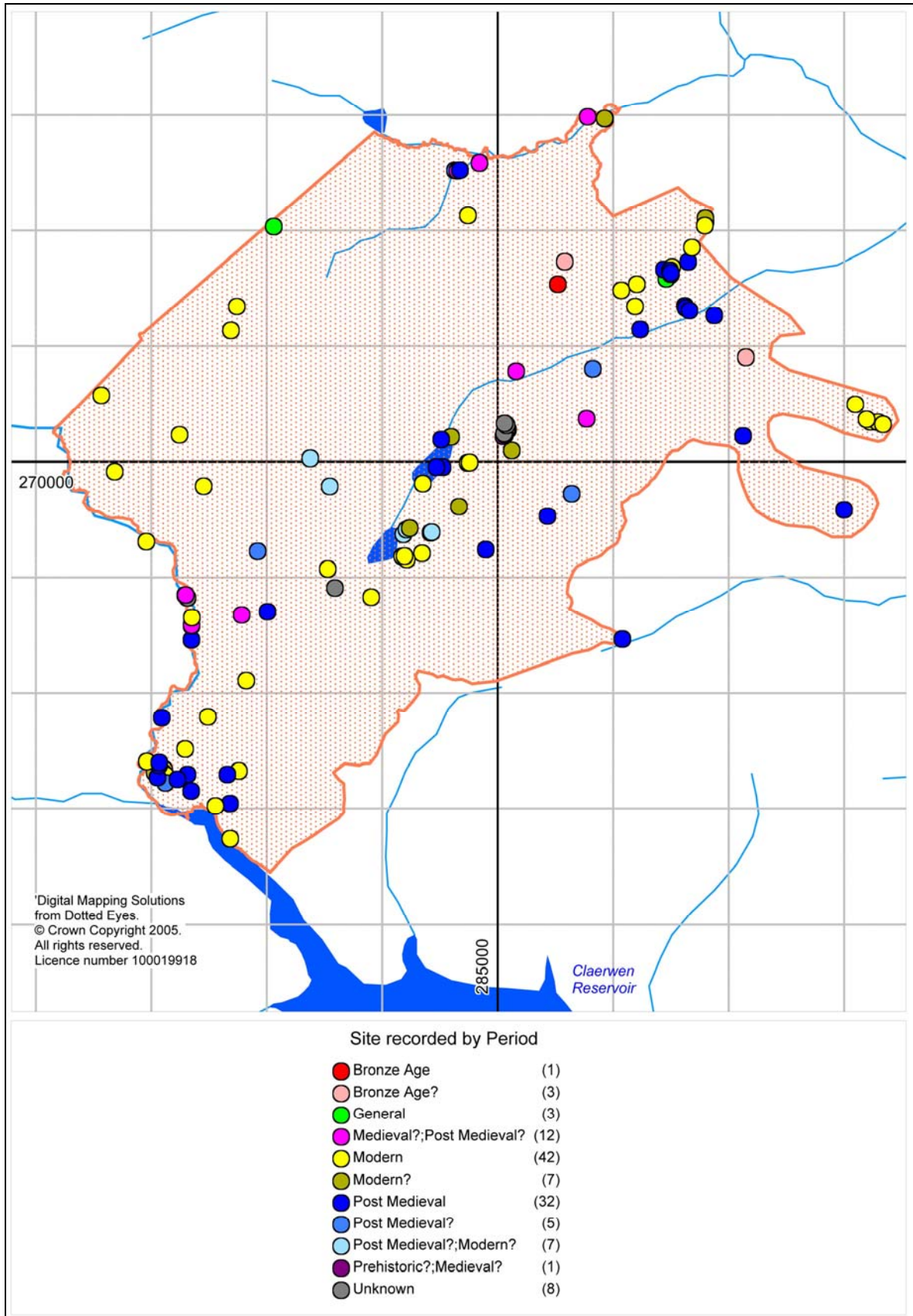


Figure 4: A map showing the distribution of sites by Period

2.4 Summary of Sites Found by Type

Table 3 shows the range and numbers of site types recorded by the project. A fuller breakdown of this information is found in Appendix A and detailed site descriptions are included in the Site Gazetteer in Part 2. Figures 7 & 8 also map the distribution of the most significant site types.

AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	7	QUARRY	3
BANK (EARTHWORK)	3	RABBIT WARREN	1
BOAT HOUSE	1	RAIN GAUGE	4
BRIDGE	1	RAIN GAUGE?	1
BUILDING	2	RING CAIRN?	1
CAIRN	3	ROAD	2
CAIRN?	1	SHED	3
COTTAGE	1	SHEEP DIP	1
COTTAGE?	1	SHEEP FOLD	2
DAM	2	SHEEP FOLD?	1
EXPERIMENTAL PLOT	13	SHEEP WASH	1
EXPERIMENTAL PLOT?	1	SHELTER	6
FARMHOUSE	3	SHELTER?	2
FARMSTEAD	2	SHOOTING STAND?	1
FIELD SYSTEM	2	STONE PILE	3
FIRING RANGE	1	SUNKEN SHELTER	1
FOOTBRIDGE	3	SURVEY POINT	1
FOOTPATH	1	TRACKWAY	11
HUT CIRCLE?;LONG HUT?	1	WALL	1
LEAT	1	WALL?	1
LONG HUT	3	WELL	1
LONGHOUSE	1		
MARKER CAIRN	9		
NATURAL FEATURE	1		
NATURAL FEATURE?	2		
PEAT CUTTING	3		
PEAT WORKINGS	2		
PLATFORM	2		
PLATFORM?	1		

Table 3: Sites by Type

2.5 Summary of sites by Altitude

Table 4 shows the number of sites per 50m contour band, the amount of land in each 50m band and the density of sites per square kilometre. Figure 5 shows the distribution of sites over the 50m contour bands.

The area has 4 contour bands. Each of these is large enough to present meaningful statistical information.

The lowest band, 350m to 399m, has a fairly small area and this perhaps slightly inflates the number of sites per square kilometre recorded within it, at over 29. It includes the floors of the Claerwen, Gwngu and Hirin valleys, which are all reasonably accessible and have evidence of settlement and pastoral agricultural activity.

The next highest band, 400m to 449m, is larger, at nearly 4km² but has a much lower concentration of sites, at just 9 per square kilometre. It takes in the flanks of the above named valleys, but these are often steep-sided and difficult to access.

As can be seen in Table 4, 18.67km² (79.54%) of the Elenydd (Central) study area lies between the 450m and 549m contours. However, only 58 (47.54%) of the recorded sites are found within this altitude range.

Therefore the greatest density of recorded sites lies on the lower ground, within the valleys of the study area, a clear reflection of the bleak and exposed environment found on the higher ground.

Appendix C provides details of sites by NPRN, Name and contour band.

Contour band	Number of sites	Sq km	Sites per sq km
350m to 399m	27	0.92	29.34
400m to 449m	37	3.88	9.53
450m to 499m	32	11.50	2.78
500m to 549m	26	7.17	3.63
Total	122	23.47	5.2 per km²

Table 4: Sites by contour band

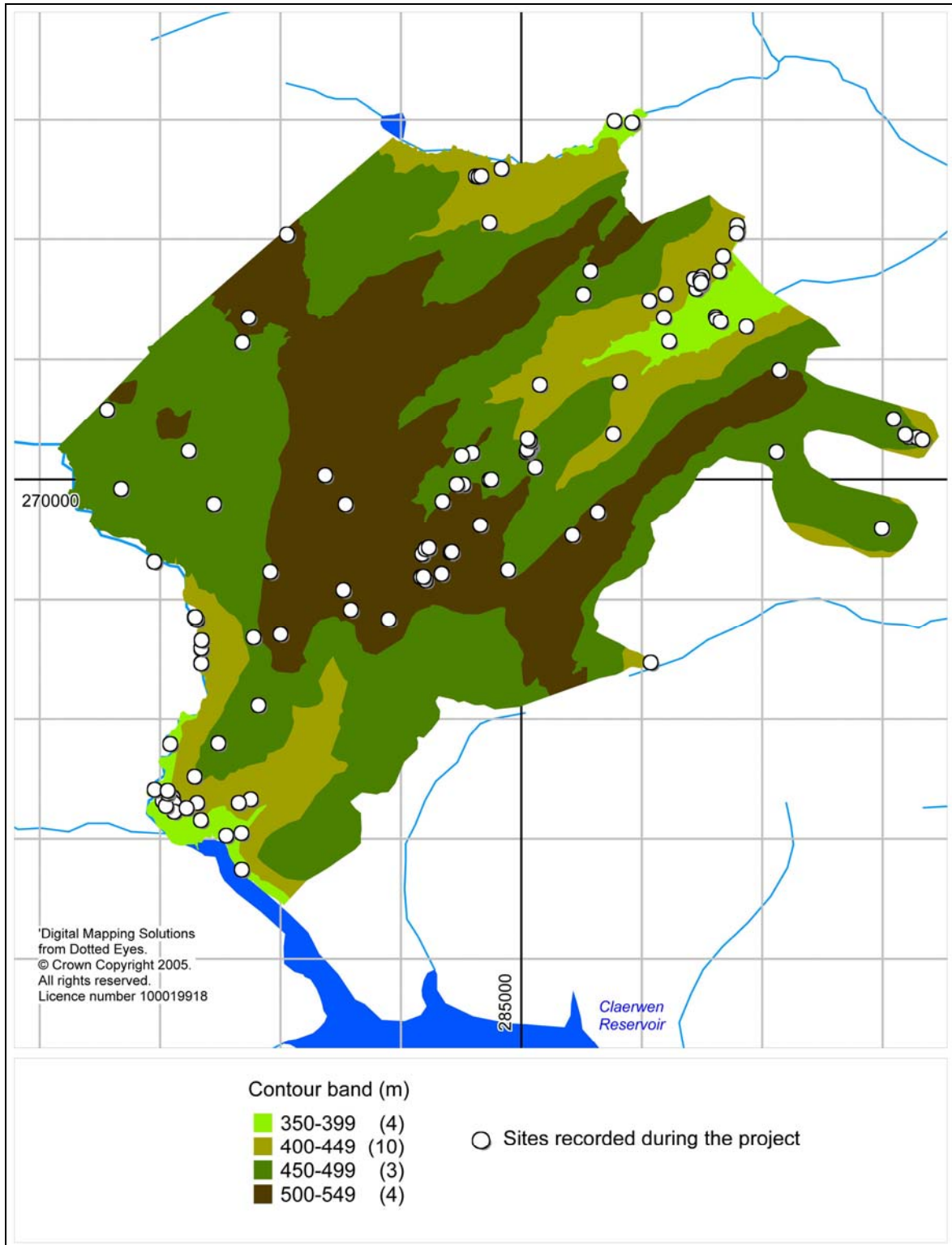


Figure 5: A map showing the distribution of sites by Altitude

2.6 Significant New Sites

2.6.1 Funerary Monuments

Prior to fieldwork, only a single Bronze Age cairn was known in the study area, namely Carn Ricet (NPRN 304804). During fieldwork, a small number of new cairns were discovered for the first time. These are the first prehistoric funerary monuments to be recorded in the heart of Elenydd (Central) and for that reason are of some significance.

On Bryn Mawr, two cairns were recorded. Bryn Mawr I (NPRN 503526) is a low stone cairn, placed on a rocky outcrop overlooking the upper Hirin valley. Bryn Mawr II (NPRN 503525) is found a little over 200m to the north-northeast and comprises an oval, stony bank, which appears to be a ring cairn, although vegetation obscuring the site made positive identification impossible.

The best preserved stone cairn encountered is that on Esgair Cormwag (NPRN 503564) which is a small structure, no more than 1m in diameter, placed on a rocky outcrop, but clearly not as a marker cairn. It is close to the putative hut circle NPRN 503565, and postulated relationships between these and other features on the outcrop make this one of the most interesting groups of archaeological sites in the study area.



Plate 8: A photograph of the newly discovered Bryn Mawr Cairn I (NPRN 503526), which sits upon a rock outcrop.

2.6.2 Medieval and Post Medieval Settlement

There is relatively sparse evidence of settlement within the Elenydd (Central) study area. There are only two occupied farmsteads and a handful of deserted settlement sites, which are mostly found along the main valleys of the area, the upper Claerwen, Gwngu and Hirin, which are the most accessible parts of the study area. Few of the deserted settlements were previously known and their discovery is a significant step forward in our understanding of the settlement history of the study area and the wider district.

The area was associated with Strata Florida abbey's upland grange of Cwmdeuddwr during medieval times. John Leland, writing in the 1530s, indicated that the *hafod* tradition was still in place in his day, observing "summer houses" at Claerddu, just to the west of the study area. Identifying archaeological evidence relating to this period on the basis of surface remains is clearly difficult, but good candidates are a long hut and ancillary building and a larger long hut found along the eastern banks of the upper Claerwen river (NPRNs 503552 & 503553 and 503555 respectively).

In the Gwngu valley, two deserted post medieval settlement sites were also noted at Bryn yr Ieir (NPRN 503521) and Nant Garw (NPRN 503502), both with ruined drystone buildings (Winchester & Straughton, 2008).

Perhaps the most interesting settlement-related features are two rough platforms and two accompanying shelters found in a rocky area on the western side of Esgair Cormwg (NPRNs 503567-503570). These features cannot be positively dated to any period on the basis of their form and could even be prehistoric. They are found in close proximity to the cairn and possible hut circle (NPRNs 503564 and 503565) found higher up on the ridge.



Plate 9: A photograph showing the faint outline of a newly discovered long hut on the eastern banks of the Afon Claerwen NPRN 503552, one of a pair of such structures.

2.7 Value of AP mapping to the field project

In keeping with the low number of archaeological sites recorded by the field survey in Elenydd (Central), only 22 separate records for AP mapping were supplied by the RCAHMW, a very low number for an upland area of this extent (these are listed in Appendix D).

As is shown in Appendix D, nine of these records were peat cuttings, although only five of these proved to be so on the ground, the others being features caused by a combination of animal or vehicular tracks. Further scrutiny of modern aerial photographs identified several more peat cuttings, but the numbers are low, considering the thick blanket of peat that covers a large proportion of the land surface here. Many of the other AP records were linear features, including seven trackways and several banks and ditches, all of purely local significance.

Only a few archaeological features were identified through AP mapping in Elenydd (Central). Those identified were minor features such as trackways and peat cuttings. This is, perhaps, unsurprising in view of the nature of the terrain and the low incidence of sites in general. Large parts of the study area are swathed in thick purple moor-grass, which is a more effective barrier than bracken for obscuring relatively small features in the landscape, even from the air. The extensive peat bogs of the area have made it generally unattractive for human activity during historic times, and also mean that the potential for subterranean archaeological finds and palaeoenvironmental discoveries is probably higher than surface features.

AP Mapping was of limited value in Elenydd (Central) and made only a small contribution to creating a good archaeological record in an environment where the distribution of classic upland field monuments is relatively sparse.

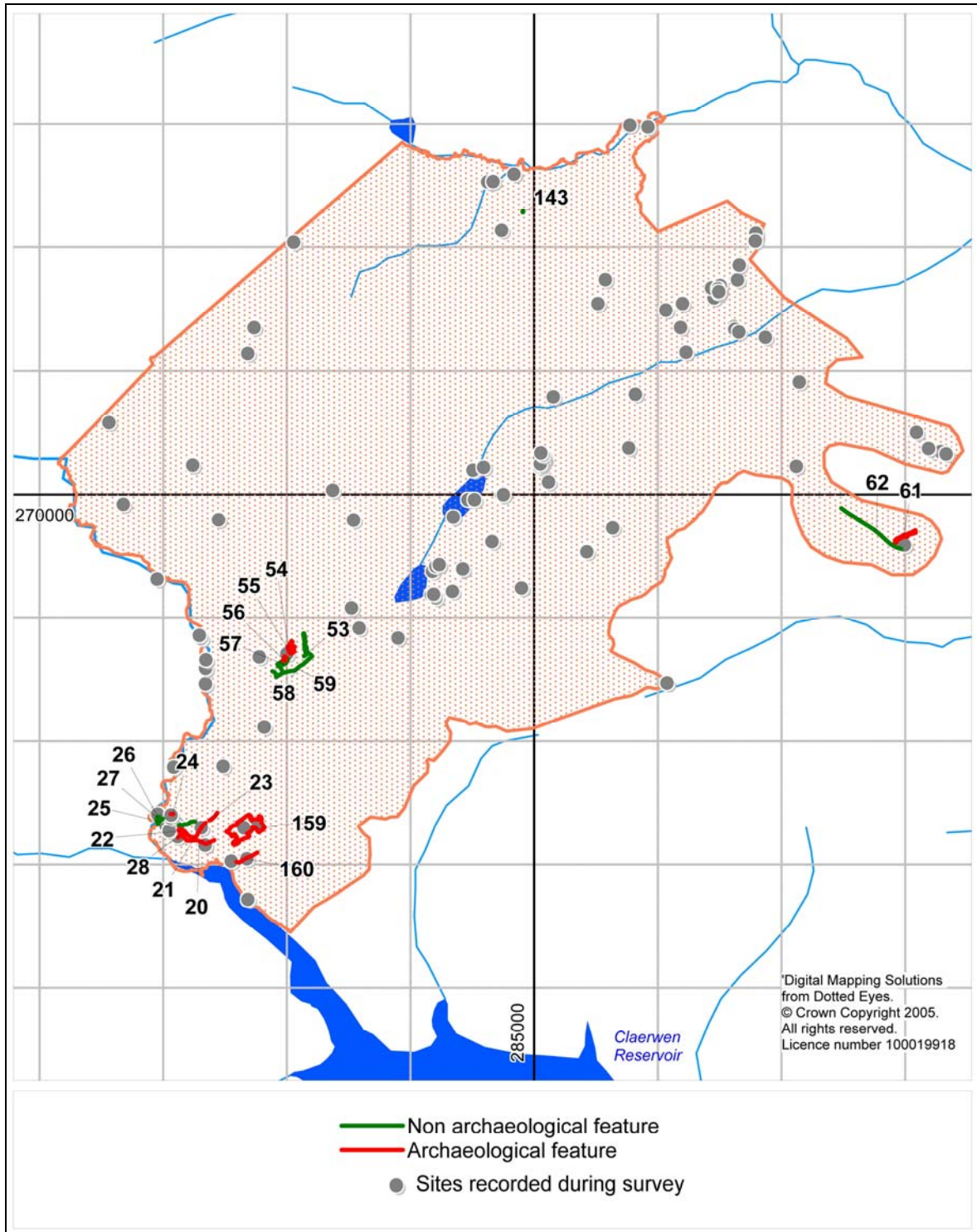


Figure 6: A map showing the location of features plotted by the RCAHMW from aerial photographs

3. Elenydd (Central) History and Archaeology: Characteristics and Comparisons

3.1 Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

The Elenydd (Central) study area lies within a landscape which was heavily modified by glacial action during the last Ice Age, leaving an upland plateau dissected into a series of smooth, rounded hills by steep sided valleys. Although only a small number of palaeoenvironmental sampling sites are located close to the study area, sufficient information has been retrieved to give some insight into environmental conditions in the late glacial and early prehistoric periods in the wider district.

Some 2.55km to the north of the Elenydd (Central) study area, is the Gors Lwyd peat bog. Palaeoenvironmental sampling here in the late 1960s provided important evidence of relevance to this study area (Moore & Chater, 1969; Moore, 1970). Pollen evidence from Gors Lwyd demonstrates that a tundra environment was present in the area around 13,000 BC. Around 9,800 BC birch forests were beginning to be established, although by 8,800 BC this first flourishing of birch came to an end and there appears to have been a return to open montane grassland and juniper scrub on local hills. The colder period of the Younger Dryas, 8,800 to 8,300 BC, saw a brief return to a tundra environment.

By 8,000 BC, it would appear that birch woodland was again established in hollows and valleys, gradually spreading onto the hills, although pollen evidence suggests that grasses and open-habitat herbs may have survived longer locally, on the more exposed hills. A sharp rise in hazel appears to have followed, a characteristic found in many western parts of Britain, where mild, maritime conditions favoured its growth.

Later sampling was undertaken at two sites located within 2.5km to the southeast of Elenydd (Central), at Pwll Nant Ddu and Esgair Nantybuddau (Wiltshire & Moore, 1983). The pollen evidence and radiocarbon dating from these sites provides slightly different dates to those offered by Gors Lwyd for the spread of birch forests (*circa* 8,500 BC) and date the rise of hazel to *circa* 8,200 BC. Charcoal fragments dating to the Mesolithic period, *circa* 7,500 BC, were also reported, suggesting this to be evidence of some forestry clearance through burning, the first human impact on the area.

Throughout the Mesolithic period (7,700 – 5,500 BC), pollen evidence from Gors Lwyd shows that there was a mixed woodland in the area, possibly not extending onto the highest ground, which may include the hills surrounding the Cerrigllwydion lakes in Elenydd (Central), which reach over 540m at several locations. Species such as pine, oak and elm became increasingly dominant during this period. Wiltshire & Moore note damper conditions and a rise in alder pollens after 6200 BC, with a general transition to more open conditions, with heather, grass and sedge pollens increasing by *circa* 5,000 BC. This may be further evidence of the clearance of woodland for hunting, with the open hills then being used to graze domesticated animals during the Neolithic.

Moore & Chater (1969) found evidence of a marked rise in pine pollens by *circa* 4000 BC, and suggest that this may represent an invasion of pine on early bog surfaces, formed at wet hollow locations such as Gors Lwyd, at a time when these bog surfaces were drying out in the warmer climate, as the Climatic Optimum approached. They also speculate that extensive peat bog formation had begun in the region by 3000 BC, quoting the discovery of pine wood beneath peat formations at Llyn Teifi, Ceredigion (Moore & Chater, 1969, 195). This pine wood was dated to 3300bc by radiocarbon dating and must

have been buried by the peat quickly enough to have ensured its preservation. No evidence of wood beneath the peat was noted in Elenydd during fieldwork in 2009, although there are relatively few places where the peat is sufficiently eroded to observe the base of the peat beds here. By the late Neolithic, human activity was undoubtedly a factor in environmental change and the appearance of pollens associated with cultivation at Gors Lwyd, including *Plantago lanceolata*, English Plantain, indicates that domesticated animals were probably grazing in the area by the early Bronze Age.



Plate 10: A photograph showing a rare exposure of thick peat beds to the west of Llyn Cerrigllwydion Uchaf.

The pollen evidence from Esgair Nantbeddau and Pwll Nant Du also suggests that cultivation was present in the wider area by the later Bronze Age and during the Iron Age. Further light is thrown on the environmental history of the later prehistoric and early historic periods in the wider area by the work carried out by Chambers et al (2007) at Drygarn Fawr, some 13km further to the south in the Elenydd hills. Radiocarbon dating at this site shows that between *circa* 60BC and 320AD the area was probably relatively dry, with heather and sedges present, as well as some purple moor-grass, but not sphagnum moss. This may just reflect a generally warmer, drier climatic period. It would appear likely that during the subsequent 1700-2000 years, climatic variation has simply meant that there have been fluctuations between drier and wetter conditions, but the essential open character of the Elenydd hills has generally persisted.

It is probable that the use of the upland pastures was intensified to some degree during the medieval period, when the uplands of the district came under the control of the Cistercian abbey of Strata Florida. It is also likely that the hill pasture of this area had a far more diverse flora during medieval and early post medieval times. The modern landscape across most of Elenydd (Central), and neighbouring areas, is dominated by *Molinia caerulea* or purple moor-grass, which has had a negative impact, both on the natural mires of the area and the traditional heather and grass pastures which have sustained local pastoral activity for centuries. Chambers *et al* (2007) suggests that the degradation of the upland pastures of Elenydd may well be a phenomenon associated with the past century or so. His work at Drygarn Fawr indicates that the present dominance of *Molinia caerulea* may in fact be due to high stocking levels and consequent nutrient enrichment of the soil within the past two centuries. At Llyn Gynon, across the border in Ceredigion, Stevenson & Thompson (1993) have shown that *Calluna* degradation may even be a 20th century phenomenon related to the spread of purple moor-grass.

3.2 Prehistoric Archaeology

3.2.1 Previously Recorded Prehistoric Sites

There are no artefact findspots or archaeological sites recorded in the National Monuments Record in Elenydd (Central) of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic date.

Several postulated Neolithic sites are recorded in the NMR further to the east, in the Rhayader district. These include two undated, possibly Neolithic, flint flakes (NPRN 261803) from the shore of Craig Goch reservoir in the Elan Valley, recorded in 1977, and a possible chambered tomb (NPRN 261599) at Brinddel Felen, the identification of which is tenuous. This ‘chambered tomb’ has been discounted as an antiquity by CPAT. Two Neolithic stone axe heads have been found at Cloggarmon, St Harmon (recorded in the regional HER as PRNs 3374 & 6403). The HER also dates a funerary monument at Beddaufolau, Rhayader to the Neolithic (PRN 871), although the RCAHMW classify the site as a Bronze Age round barrow. It has an unusually large central cist or chamber, some 2.5m square. At Coed Mynach, Rhayader there is also a HER record of a possible Neolithic henge (PRN 80132), which is a circular cropmark site, *circa* 16m in diameter. This small number of Neolithic finds or sites in neighbouring areas are scant clues to the presence of the human community which, according to the palaeoenvironmental record, began to farm the landscape and graze domesticated animals on the Elenydd hills some 5,000 or 6,000 years ago.

Prior to the 2009 survey, there was only a single Bronze Age funerary monument recorded within the Elenydd (Central) study area. This was the funerary cairn at Carn Ricet (NPRN 304804), which has been denuded to the extent that it is no longer easily identifiable in the field. The surveys of Elenydd (North) and Elenydd (South) for the Uplands Initiative in 2009 expanded the number of Bronze Age funerary cairns in both areas particularly to the north. This shows that both the Elan and Claerwen valleys must have been a focus of Bronze Age activity to some extent, perhaps due to their use as east-west communications routes through the Cambrian Mountains.

Prehistory in neighbouring areas of Elenydd (Central) is largely represented by Bronze Age monuments and findspots, with over 50 monuments or possible monuments from the period recorded in the NMR within Rhayader community alone, including cairns, round barrows and standing stones. Amongst these are three cairns in the Nant Calettwr valley, immediately to the east of the study area, above the abandoned farmsteads of Lluest Abercaethon and Lluest Calettwr.

Finds of Bronze Age artefacts suggest that the wider area was well settled during the period. Only 3.5km from the western boundary of the study area is the important Bronze Age mining site at Copa Hill, Cwmystwyth, Ceredigion. National Museum of Wales records show that a number of significant bronze artefacts have been found on the Powys side of the border, including an important hoard of six bronze socketed axe heads is recorded from Caban Coch common (NMW Code 25.59E/2 – 7), to the southeast of the study area. To the south of the study area is the community of Llanwrthwl, Breconshire, for which the NMR records nearly 50 Bronze Age sites, mainly funerary monuments. Amongst these are remarkable finds, which include four gold torques of Middle Bronze Age date from Cae Gwyllt Bank Field (NMW Code 54.306/1 – 4), Llanwrthwl and a gold ring from Talwrn Farm NMW Code 59.96).

Within 9km to the north of the study area, two bronze palstaves have also been recorded at Clochfaen (NMW Code 25.59E/1) and Llangurig (NMW Code 25.59E),.

It should be noted here that there are no Iron Age monuments of note within the study area. The nearest Iron Age hillforts being recorded some distance away from the study area in St Harmon community, Powys to the northeast and Ystrad Fflur community, Ceredigion to the west. A spindle-whorl (NPRN 261815) found in 1976 at Penygarreg, in the Elan Valley several kilometres to the east of the study area is the only find of possible Iron Age date recorded in the NMR or Regional HER in the adjacent area.



Plate 11: A photograph of a possible Bronze Age funerary cairn (NPRN 503564) on Esgair Cormwg, recorded for the first time by the survey.

3.2.2 Prehistoric Sites Recorded in 2009

The 2009 Elenydd (Central) survey has added a small number of new cairns to the National Monuments Record. This includes a ring cairn, and two small cairns, as well as a rectilinear stone setting of unknown date and purpose, which may represent a cairn site.

These newly discovered sites are;

- **Cerrigllwydion, Stone Pile - NPRN 503546:** This small stone feature is clearly a man-made stone-setting, but its purpose is unclear. It is a possible cairn, but surface evidence alone is not enough to interpret the feature (see Plate 12, below).
- **Bryn Mawr, Cairn II - NPRN 503525:** This oval ring of stone, measuring 4m by 3m is thought to be a ring cairn or disturbed round cairn. However, its precise nature is difficult to determine due to vegetation cover.
- **Bryn Mawr, Cairn I - NPRN 503526:** This small, low cairn is positioned on one of the few rocky outcrops in the northern section of Elenydd (Central). There is clearly a small stone cairn, circa 4m in diameter here, with the structure of the southeastern part of the monument clearly visible (see Plate 8, page 21).



Plate 12: This photograph shows a small stone feature, possible a funerary cairn (NPRN 503546). It has a distinctively rectilinear form.

Evidence for prehistoric settlement sites in the Elenydd area is scarce. However a single site (NPRN 503565) found at the heart of Elenydd (Central) was recorded as a possible prehistoric hut circle. This site was found on a rocky hillock at the southwestern end of Esgair Cormwg. It comprises a ring of stone, representing the wall base of the structure, on the southeast facing side of the hillock, with an entrance on the southeastern side of the structure. The structure is somewhat sub-circular in plan, measuring 7m by 6m.

This site lies in close proximity to several other features of unknown date and purpose, all or any of which could be of early date, and potentially associated with this postulated hut circle. At the northern tip of the hillock is a small stone cairn, neatly constructed, but only about 1m in diameter (NPRN 503564; see Plate 11 above). This cairn was not constructed as a marker cairn, as it is not visible from the adjacent hills, but lies alongside a more prominent natural crag which is highly visible in the landscape. It is difficult to be certain what the purpose of this small cairn was, but an association with the hut circle is possible. Similarly, there are other small stone features on the hillock with a possible link to the hut circle; two stone piles NPRN 503563 & 503566 and possible stone walling NPRN 503601.

Below the north-facing, craggy end of this hillock is a stony area in which several platform-like terraces and small stone structures were also noted (NPRNs 503567-503570). These are discussed in a later section of this report as they were thought to be probable medieval features. However, such is the difficulty of even approximately dating stone buildings in an upland environment, it is quite possible that all of the features on or around the hillock are contemporary, though undatable from surface evidence alone.



Plate 13: A photograph of the possible hut circle on Esgair Cormwg (NPRN 503565). It is not clear from surface evidence if this is a hut circle or long hut.



Plate 14: A photograph of the rocky hillock on Esgair Cormwg where the cairn and possible hut circle shown in Plates 11 and 13 are located.

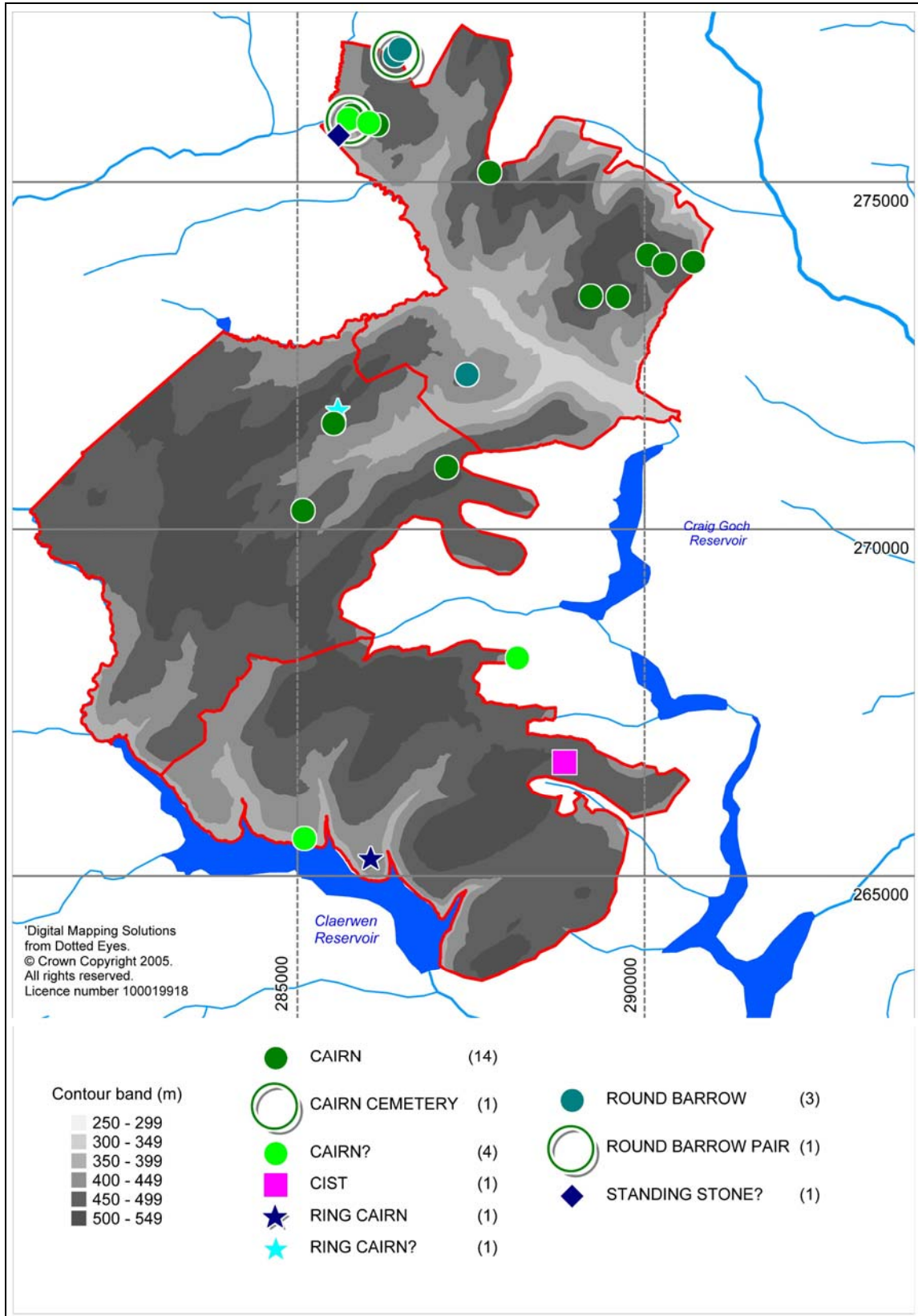


Figure 7: A map showing the distribution of prehistoric funerary and ritual sites in the three Elenydd study areas; North, Central and South. Note that the four sites in Elenydd (Central) all overlook the Hirin valley).

3.2.3 Significance of the Prehistoric Archaeology

Palaeoenvironmental evidence suggests that there was a human presence in the Elenydd area from Mesolithic times onwards, certainly by the Neolithic period. The absence of monuments and artefact finds of early prehistory within the study area may be explained by a low level of human occupation during Mesolithic and Neolithic times. It may also reflect the likelihood that any evidence from these periods is likely to be obscured by peat, which covers a substantial part of Elenydd (Central).

There is enough evidence from the Rhayader area to suggest that there was a Neolithic population on the lower ground to the east, and the probability is that the Elenydd hills were simply used as an area of upland grazing or hunting during Neolithic and Bronze Age times. Clearly the Bronze Age saw a significant increase in human activity across the region. It seems reasonable to suppose that the Elan and Claerwen valleys would have provided natural routeways through the Cambrian Mountains. The presence of Bronze Age funerary monuments on high ground either side of the upper Elan valley, and to a lesser extent along the Claerwen undoubtedly indicate that Bronze Age people exploited the area.

More pertinent to Elenydd (Central) is the fact that the Nant Hirin valley runs northeastwards from the heart of the study area to join the Elan valley. The small number of prehistoric sites recorded in Elenydd (Central) all overlook the Nant Hirin and, as Figure 7 shows, seem to be part of the larger group of Bronze Age funerary monuments recorded in the Elenydd (North) study area, focused on the upper Elan valley.

Although they are located just to the east of the Elenydd (Central) study area, a small group of Bronze Age funerary cairns at Esgair y Beddau (NPRNs 261546 & 261547) and near Egair Crawllyn (NPRN 261643) are similarly focused on the Nant Caletwr valley, another tributary of the Elan. This again points to the apparent importance of the river and stream valleys to prehistoric communities.

This observation also applies to the putative hut circle on Esgair Cormwg (NPRN 503565). Although there is little evidence from surrounding areas to show where the Bronze Age population had settled, the presence of such a population within reasonably close proximity to the hills of Elenydd is unquestionable, be it in the Ystwyth to the west or the Wye to the east.

As with the previous periods, the absence of evidence of Iron Age activity in the study area may well simply indicate that settlement was focused on sites away from the main Cambrian Mountain block. Iron Age hillforts are known on the Ceredigion side of the county boundary around Pontrhydfendigaid and Ystrad Meurig. In Powys, to the northeast there is a possible Iron Age homestead recorded at Gelli Las, in St Harmon community (NPRN 304957). It seems likely that the Elenydd hills were valued as mountain pastures during the Iron Age, with settlement and cultivation confined to lower land either side of the upland block.

3.3 Medieval and Post Medieval Settlement and Agriculture

The virtual absence of settlement evidence from prehistoric times also applies to the Roman and early medieval periods in Elenydd (Central). A Roman marching camp on Esgair Perfedd (NPRN 261456), some 4km to the east of the study area, indicates some Roman presence in the wider area, but no permanent settlement of the period is known.

The settlement history of Elenydd (Central) is largely related to the medieval, post medieval and modern periods. Although a certain amount can be gleaned from surviving early post medieval sources and later maps of the area, settlement history and distribution has not been well-documented in the past and a number of the discoveries made during fieldwork are likely to be of significance in terms of understanding how the area has been settled during, and after, medieval times.

Elenydd (Central) forms part of the southern portion of the medieval monastic grange of Cwmdeuddwr, a property of Strata Florida abbey in Ceredigion. The study area forms only a small portion of this extensive and chiefly upland grange, which was granted to the abbey by Rhys ap Gruffudd of Deheubarth in 1184. Although the original charter has been lost, later documents have preserved descriptions of the boundaries of the Cwmdeuddwr grange, most of which are recognisable today (Banks, 1880, 30).

It is evident that Cwmdeuddwr has been largely characterised by upland pasture lands since medieval times, with contemporary references from as early as the late 12th and 16th centuries indicating that it was essentially regarded as a mountainous wasteland. Giraldus Cambrensis, in 1199, merely hastened “through the mountains of Elenydd” on a journey from Strata Florida to Abbey Cwmhir (Butler, 2005, 163). During the late 1530s, John Leland visited the area and viewed the hills of Elenydd from the west, describing the land between Strata Florida and the Elan valley as “Montaine Ground” comprising mostly “wilde Paftures and Breeding Grounde” (Toulman-Smith, 1906, 122). Leland also visited the lead mines of Cwmystwyth, from where he travelled up the Ystwyth, noting the source of the Ystwyth before he travelled on to Llangurig and the Wye valley. One of his most interesting observations is that between Strata Florida and the Wye he saw neither “Wood nor Corne”, implying that the area was characterised wholly by moorland and mountain pasture ground (Toulman-Smith, 1906, 122).

Little reference is made to settlements within the Elenydd hills by these early sources. Leland raises a pertinent point when he notes that animals were freely put to pasture on the hill, without payment. By implication this suggests that a population existed around the mountain fringes, undoubtedly using herdsmen to look after animals depastured on the hills. He also mentions two summerhouses at Claerddu, just outside the study area, on the Ceredigion side of the county boundary, confirming that the *hafod* tradition was in place in the district.

Place names across the Elenydd hills include *hafod*, *llest* and *ty* elements, all of which are suggestive of the presence of deserted settlement sites which would show that in previous centuries the settlement pattern of the area was different to the scattering of upland sheep farms seen at present. It was anticipated that evidence of such settlement would be encountered across the area during the 2009 field survey.



Plate 15: A photograph of Claerwen farm (NPRN 503516) viewed from the northwest. It is one of only two occupied settlements in the study area.

3.3.1 Previously Known Sites

Prior to the 2009 survey, there were only two medieval or post medieval settlement sites recorded in the NMR in Elenydd (Central). These were the farmstead at Glanhirin (NPRN 22670) and the farmhouse at Claerwen (NPRN 30561), which lie at opposite ends of the study area. Relatively little is known of the early histories of either farmstead. It is not possible to say with certainty whether either have their roots in the medieval period, perhaps as upland “hafods” on the Cwmdeuddwr grange, although both can be traced back to at least the late 17th century (Banks, 1880, 48-49). It is worth noting that Aber Glanhirin farm, the nearest neighbour to Glanhirin, is named as a “summer house” or *hafod* in an estate document as early as 1585 (Winchester & Straughton, 2009, 8).

An interesting reference to Claerwen as a “new cottage”, built by Howell Powell of Nantgwyllt c.1674 (Banks, 1880, 48) appears to show that it was a new holding carved out of the mountain wastes, perhaps succeeding earlier hafods represented by the long huts and longhouses of the upper Claerwen valley. Glanhirin is named in a document dating to 1696 (Banks, 1880, 49) although there is no indication as to how long it had existed before that date.

There is no archaeological evidence to suggest that the farmsteads are anything other than post-medieval farms. The NMR had previously recorded three sets of pillow mounds at

Glanhirin, which might be expected to be of medieval or early-post medieval date. The 2009 survey concluded that one of these pillow mound groups (NPRN 24595) could not be found and was probably a mistaken record for natural mounds in a wet area immediately to the south of the farm buildings. A second group (NPRN 304802), reportedly of three pillow mounds, recorded to the north (and marked on modern Ordnance Survey maps) was not found. There is modern quarrying activity at the location and it is possible that any features have been lost. Interestingly, the original description of this group, made by the Ordnance Survey in 1977 (CPAT PRN 4121) states that the 6.5m long mounds were “dug into”. The third group of pillow mounds (NPRN 24596) was the only one of the three where linear mounds of obvious human construction were present. The group is found in a southwest facing field, on a moderate slope, immediately to the west of the farmyard. Six linear mounds are present, although it is notable that each appears to have a hollow cut into the top of the mound, reminiscent to the description of NPRN 304802. Although this group remains recorded as a pillow mound group in the NMR, it is worth noting that the hollow in each mound may suggest that they are in fact large potato clamps associated with the post-medieval farm. It is unusual for pillow mounds to display such a characteristic.

Both Claerwen and Glanhirin remain occupied and are post medieval complexes which have seen some improvement terms of their buildings, field enclosures and access roads during the 20th century, under the management of the Elan Estate. Both have also been associated with extensive sheepwalks on the Elenydd hills during historical times.

The earliest records consulted for this project were a little over two hundred years old. Amongst the papers of the Lewis family of Neuadd, Llansanffraid Cwmdeuddwr is the will of Margaret Lewis Lloyd of Nantgwyllt, dated 1787. This refers to sheep pastured at Claerwen (Powys Archives R/D/LEW/01/032). A conveyance document from the same collection, dated to 1795, mentions Claerwen as a farm (Powys Archives R/D/LEW/01/032).

The will of William Williams, Glanhirin, dating to 1802, is held by the National Library of Wales (BR/1802/26). This document gives some insight into life on the farm over two centuries ago. It lists the possessions of the deceased;

Item	Value £ s d
Wearing apparel	1-10-0
Household furniture	2-10-0
4 cows	24-0-0
2 heifers	6-0-0
1 steer	3-0-0
2 calves	1-0-0
7 ponies	17-0-0
100 sheep @ 8 shillings each	40-0-0
Total	96-10-0

Several other farmsteads are located just outside the study area, which have historically enjoyed rights of pasture or turbary on some the hills included in the survey area. The sheepwalks of Glanhirin, Claerwen and Nantybeddau have historically covered the western side of the area. Along the eastern edge of the area, along the Elan Valley, are farmsteads such as Hirnant and Llust Abercaethon which have also made use of the upland pastures.



Plate 16: A photograph of the remote Glanhirin Farmstead (NPRN 22670) viewed from the south. It is the larger of the two occupied settlements in the study area.

3.3.2 Newly Recorded Sites

The 2009 field survey was successful in recording a small number of previously unknown settlements and settlement-related features. Their identification assists in gaining an understanding of how the upland pastures of Elenydd (Central) have been managed in medieval and post medieval times.

The newly identified sites are not numerous, only 18 in total (see Table 6), but include a range of site types which demonstrate that the settlement history of Elenydd (Central) is similar to that of other areas of the Cambrian Mountains which have been subject to earlier surveys. The sites identified include a new longhouse and several new long huts, as well as ancillary structures, such as shelters.

The newly discovered settlements are;

- **NANT GARW** (NPRN 503502) is a ruinous cottage, situated on a terrace just above the broad floor of the Afon Gwngu valley, close to its confluence with the Nant Garw stream. It is likely to be the site of a dwelling called “Abernantgarrow” in manorial records, which was built in 1797 (Winchester & Straughton, 2008). It is not known whether the site was newly built at that time or was based on a pre-existing structure. The ruins of the building measure circa 7m by 6.75m with a possible entrance in the western corner. A stone marker pillar (NPRN 503515) has been built on the ruined western gable wall, presumably by shepherds. No ancillary structures were recorded in close proximity to this building, but a sunken shelter (NPRN 503519) was recorded circa 150m to the west, close to the Afon Gwngu. This shelter is likely to have been associated with Nant Garw as no other settlement exists in the vicinity.



Plate 17: A photograph of the Nant Garw cottage (NPRN 503520), looking north.

- **NANT BRYN YR IEIR, COTTAGE?** This structure appears to be the badly eroded remains of a cottage recorded in manorial records as having been built at “Brynyair” in 1811 (Winchester & Straughton, 2008). It appears to be the northwestern end of the cottage, with only a 5m section of each lateral wall and the western gable end surviving. The southeastern portion of the building has been completely washed away by the nearby Nant Bryn yr Ieir stream. The surviving masonry displays well-built, roughly-coursed walling, and it appears that an entrance survives at the northern corner, where there is a gap between the gable and lateral walls. It is not clear if these features date to 1811, or are in fact earlier structures reused in 1811. The 1833 and later Ordnance Survey maps do not show a dwelling here.



Plate 18: A photograph showing the remains of Bryn yr Ieir, where two buildings (NPRNs 503521 & 503522) have been seriously damaged by river erosion. NPRN 503522 is in the foreground.

- **AFON CLAERWEN, LONGHOUSE**, a longhouse (NPRN 503555) which stands on a river terrace on the eastern side of the upper Afon Claerwen river, in what is now a remote area with poor access. This appears to be the highest settlement site in the Claerwen valley, as no further sites were identified in 2009 between here and the Claerwen-Gwngu watershed, some 2.5km further to the north.

This building has two compartments, the lower compartment being stone-filled, the upper reed-filled. Overall, the structure measures 13.2m by 4m, and is now reduced to wall bases. Two small ancillary features were noted; a small stone shelter (NPRN 503592) immediately to the east of the building, and a stone pile (NPRN 503612) 25m to the southeast.



Plate 19: A photograph of the Claerwen Longhouse (NPRN 503555), looking northwest. The drop in the floor level from the reed-filled upper compartment to the lower compartment is plainly visible.

- **AFON CLAERWEN LONG HUT** (NPRN 503552) is found on a small terrace alongside the Afon Claerwen. It shares the terrace with a smaller, ancillary structure (NPRN 503553). Both structures are defined by very low, stony wall bases and were presumably originally the sites of wood and clom buildings. The largest of the two structures measures 6.25m by 3.75m, with the ancillary structure measuring 3m by 2.5m, with a large natural boulder incorporated to form its northeastern side.

The location of these structures is interesting. Although this is a remote location, the farmstead at Claerwen is visible some 1.3km to the south, with longhouse NPRN 503555 just 250m to the north. The “Monks’ Trod” trackway, crosses the Afon Claerwen some 550m downstream to the south. It is possible therefore that this site was in use at a time when the upper Claerwen valley was slightly more populated than at present.



Plate 20: A photograph of the site of the long hut (NPRN 503552) and shelter (NPRN 503553), on a natural terrace on the banks of the Afon Claerwen, looking south. The shelter is in the foreground and the figure is standing at the western end of the long hut.

- **NANT CORMWGW, LONG HUT** (NPRN 503560) is perhaps the most inaccessible of all of the settlement sites in the study area. It is found some 1.5km to the southwest of Glanhirin farm, hidden on a small, sheltered terrace on the western side of the Nant Cormwgg stream. Access is only possible via a steep slope from the west, or across the boggy floor of Nant Cormwgg valley to the east. This long hut now survives only as low, earth and stone wall bases, and measures 6m in length. The southern lateral wall has been lost due to stream erosion, but the structure must have been at least 3.5m wide. No ancillary features were noted at this site.



Plate 21: A photograph looking northwest, showing the location of the small long hut (NPRN 503560) in the Cormwgg valley, with Esgair Cormwgg in the background.

- **NANT HIRIN, LONG HUT (NPRN 503573)** , is a solitary feature, high up in the Hirin valley, in a position which is almost as difficult to access as that of the Nant Cornwg long hut. This site is found on a more open river terrace, and it is relatively large, measuring 9m long by 5.25m wide externally. Although defined now only by low wall bases, quite a lot of stone is exposed on the surface, showing that the structure had well-built stone foundations, presumably supporting a clom wall. The surrounding landscape is now choked with a thick mat of purple moor-grass, which makes access difficult, but it is possible that as recently as the early 19th century it would have been easier to move along the Hirin valley, before the vegetation became such a problem. No ancillary features were noted in association with this site.



Plate 22: This photograph shows the site of long hut NPRN 503573 on the banks of the Nant Hirin.

- **ESGAIR CORMWGW, PLATFORM (NPRN 503569).** This is amongst the most interesting, yet difficult to interpret sites in the Elenydd (Central) study area. The platform is one of four structures which lie sheltered at the foot of a craggy outcrop on the western flank of Esgair Cormwgg, in an area covered with rock and scree derived from the crag above. In this stony area is found this distinctive, terraced platform, only recognisable due to rough revetment walls defining its downslope end, as seen in Plate 23, below. It is not a classic earthwork platform, and the shape and dimensions of the terrace above the revetment is not easily defined. After on-site deliberation, it was felt that the terrace was roughly circular, circa 4m in diameter. It must be assumed that some form of structure once stood on the terraced platform, but no clear evidence of any such structure was observed.

A smaller revetted terrace was recorded nearby (NPRN 503567), measuring circa 2.5m by 2m. Two small stone shelters were also noted amongst the rocks (NPRNs 503568 and 503570). The date and purpose of this group of features clearly cannot be determined on the basis of examining surface evidence. Nor is it possible to know if there is any association between these features and a putative hut circle (NPRN 503565) and cairn (NPRN 503564) recorded within 100m to the south, above the crag. Some, or all, of these structures could be of prehistoric date, or belong to the early medieval or medieval periods. The platform and its ancillary structures do not appear to conform to any of the settlement types normally associated with more recent settlement activity.



Plate 23: This photograph shows the revetment of the platform NPRN 503569, one of a range of crude structures in the shelter of the rocky outcrop on the western flank of Esgair Cormwgg.

COTTAGE	1	
503502 NANT GARW, COTTAGE		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
COTTAGE?	1	
503521 NANT BRYN YR IEIR, COTTAGE?		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
FARMHOUSE	2	
30561 CLAERWEN, FARMHOUSE II		Post Medieval
503602 CLAERWEN, FARMHOUSE I		Post Medieval
LONGHOUSE	1	
503555 AFON CLAERWEN, LONGHOUSE		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
LONG HUT	4	
503552 AFON CLAERWEN, LONG HUT		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
503560 NANT CORMWG, LONG HUT		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
503573 NANT HIRIN, LONG HUT		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
PLATFORM	2	
503567 ESGAIR CORMWG, STRUCTURE III		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
503569 ESGAIR CORMWG, STRUCTURE IV		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
PLATFORM?	1	
503544 LLETHR FFOS TO, EARTHWORK		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
SHELTER	10	
503520 AFON GWNGU, STRUCTURE		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
503522 NANT BRYN YR IEIR, WALL		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
503549 BLAEN RHESTR, SHELTER		Post Medieval?;Modern?
503553 AFON CLAERWEN, SHELTER		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
503568 ESGAIR CORMWG, SHELTER I		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
503570 ESGAIR CORMWG, SHELTER II		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
503572 CERRIGLLWYDION, SHELTER		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
503580 BLAEN RHESTR, STRUCTURE		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
503592 AFON CLAERWEN, STRUCTURE		Medieval?;Post Medieval?
SUNKEN SHELTER	1	
503519 NANT GARW, SUNKEN SHELTER		Medieval?;Post Medieval

Table 5: Settlement related sites in the study area

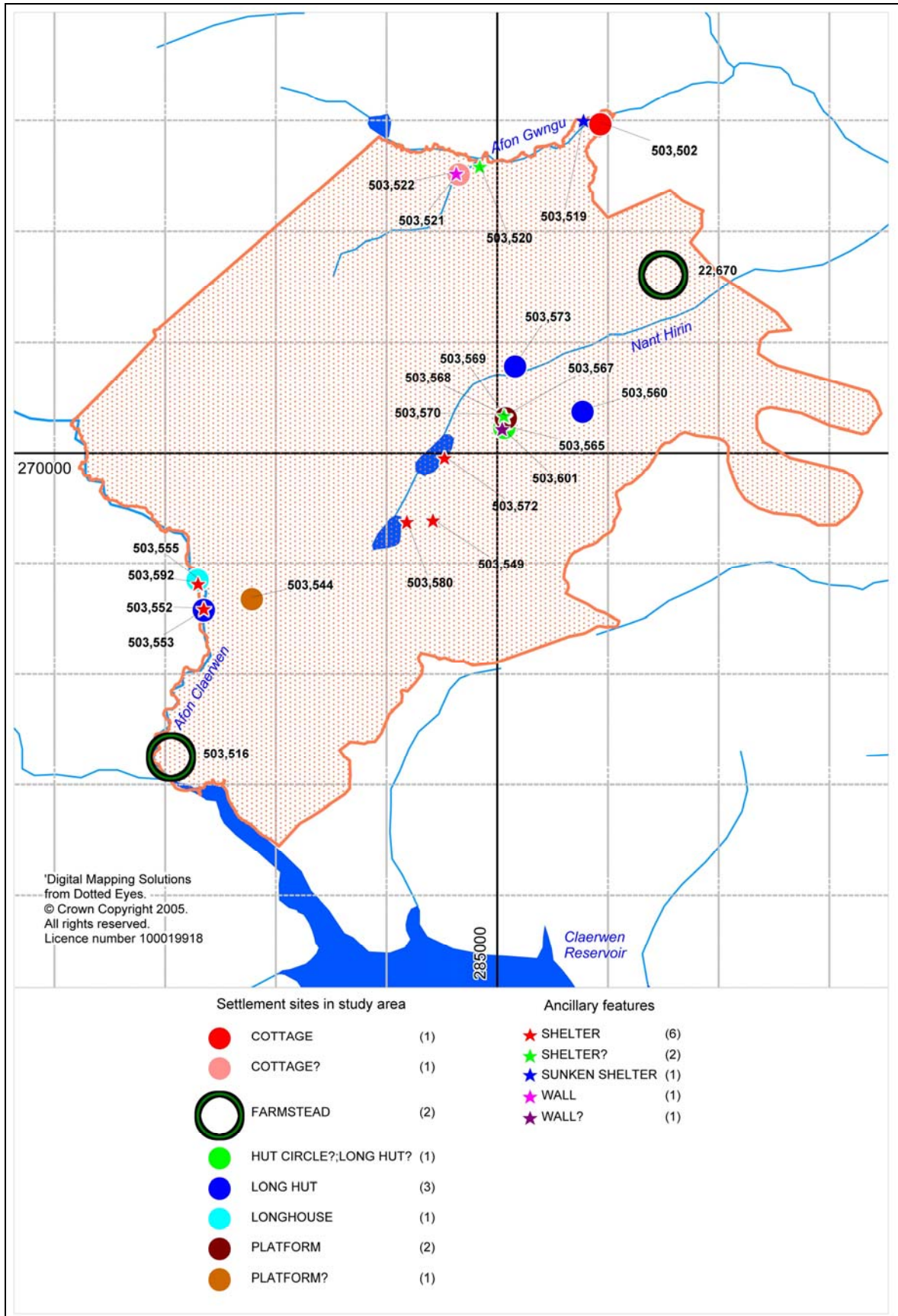


Figure 8: A map of medieval and post medieval settlement sites.

3.3.3 Folds, shelters and other ancillary features

The settlements of Elenydd (Central) are exclusively associated with pastoral activity. The range of settlement-related ancillary structures seen in the area reflects this very strongly. These often give some useful indication of the character of a settlement, which cannot otherwise be gleaned from surface remains.

Sheep Folds and Sheep Washes

Despite this being a landscape which has almost exclusively been given over to sheep-farming in recent centuries, sheep folds are not numerous in the study area. Only two drystone sheepfolds are recorded, at Fuches (NPRN 503514) in the east and at Claerwen (NPRN 503504), to the west. The latter example is known only through historic maps as it appears to have vanished completely due to river erosion.

It is possible that some of the long huts of the study area may have been reused as sheep folds or shelters of course. The stone pillar on the ruined gable wall of Nant Garw cottage (NPRN 503502) was in all likelihood erected by a shepherd to make it more visible in the landscape, indicating that such ruined drystone structures were still visited once they had been abandoned as settlements.



Plate 24: A photograph of the revetment wall at the sheep wash on the Nant Hirin (NPRN 503575).

Other structures associated with sheep-management now recorded in the study area are sheep washes and sheep dips. One example of each was encountered in the study area. Sheep washes are usually simply arrangements of a fold or enclosure alongside a natural or enhanced pool in a stream or river. Sheep could be gathered into the enclosure and then individually pushed into the pool for washing, from where they could make their own way out of the water via the stream bank. This process preceded shearing and would ensure that the fleeces would be somewhat cleaner than would otherwise be the case. The site of a well-built sheep wash (NPRN 503575) was found on the northern side of the Nant Hirin, some 550m southwest of Glanhirin farm. It is likely that it would have been used to wash the sheep of this and neighbouring farms which used the adjacent hill pasture. It does not appear that a drystone enclosure was employed here. Instead the edge of a natural stream terrace has been revetted with drystone walling (see Plate 24 above), and enhanced by a broad earth and stone bank at the stream edge, creating a barrier against which sheep could be driven by men and dogs. The sheep could then be forced down towards the Nant Hirin stream along the line of this barrier, to a natural pool where they could be washed. It is possible that a wooden or post and wire fence once stood to create an enclosure, or two-sided “funnel” to aid control of the sheep.

Sheep dips were used for similar reasons and in a similar way, but are markedly different as they include artificial pools fed by a leat or piped water. In the Elenydd area, there are examples of sheep dips built by the Elan Estate for their tenant farmers during the early 20th century. These not only have concrete dipping baths for the sheep, but were also covered by well-built corrugated iron sheds. Water was channelled or piped to the dipping bath and post and wire enclosures were provided to assist in the control of flocks brought for dipping. This method of dipping became highly regulated during the 20th century as chemical dipping solutions were used to treat sheep for a variety of conditions, including combating sheep-ticks, as well as washing their fleeces.



Plate 25: This photograph shows the collapsed corrugated iron shed at the site of the covered sheep dip NPRN 503527.

Shelters and Sunken Shelters

Mention has already been made of the presence of simple shelters in association with a number of the settlement sites recorded in the study area. Shelters can be simply defined as structures which shelter an area of ground. Within this definition is room for a wide range of structures of varying purpose, from animal or fowl pens to storage buildings or small shepherds' shelters. Field evidence is often insufficient to distinguish between different types of ancillary structure, as they are usually all simply small, ruinous structures of drystone build.

Some of the Elenydd (Central) sites demonstrate this difficulty. NPRN 503522, a badly ruined structure at Bryn yr Ieir is an example of a drystone feature which may have been an ancillary shelter to the nearby post-medieval cottage (NPRN 503521), or even a more substantial building or fold. Only part of the structure survives, hence it is only recorded as a "Wall", although clearly it was of some importance to life at Bryn yr Ieir, when the site was occupied. Unfortunately, there is no cartographic record of the settlement complex to help interpret the significance of each component.

NPRN 503549, on Blaen Rhestr is a small shelter in a high and lonely position, clearly not associated with any other structure in the immediate area. Such a feature seems a likely candidate for a small shepherd's shelter, completed with a light and impermanent structure. However, a local fisherman related a tale about a artillery gun being brought onto Blaen Rhestr in the past, with the intention of having gun practice by firing over the Cerrigllwydion lakes. The gun reportedly exploded and its remains are said to still be on the hill, although no trace of them was found in 2009. This small shelter could be associated with this curious story.

Examples such as the two small shelters recorded in a rocky area on Esgair Cornwg (NPRNs 506568 & 503570) display different characteristics. NPRN 506568 measures only 25m by 2m overall, clearly too small internally to have been occupied by a human, and thought likely to be a fowl or animal pen, or storage feature. NPRN 503570 is a stone feature, measuring 3m by 2.5m overall, which appears to be of human construction, but could equally be a natural stone pile.



Plate 26: A photograph of a stone fold (NPRN 503580) with Llyn Cerrigllwydion Uchaf in the background. A fisherman at the lake could remember this structure being used as a campsite by Scouts some decades ago. It is not clear if it was built for that purpose.

The sunken shelter is a very distinctive site type of structure, although by no means uniform in appearance. They share the characteristic of being deliberately created hollows, often defined by banks along their lateral sides, terraced into a slope and with the downslope end left open. The significance of the hollow is difficult to assess. Folds, pens and shelters encountered in the field are usually simply built on the land surface, or on a levelled area of ground. Further discussion and research is required to explain why sunken shelters are cut into the land surface. The tradition of creating subterranean storage clamps for potatoes is well known in the uplands districts of mid-Wales, and sunken shelters may be a forerunner of, or variation on this theme. It could perhaps be speculated that they are sunk into the surface, sometimes with a stone revetting along the lateral sides, with the intention of creating a cool store, perhaps covered over with a thatched roof. Ultimately, understanding such structures may be of importance to our understanding of the date and function of the settlements they are associated with. Only one example of a sunken shelter was recorded in Elenydd (Central), near Nant Garw (NPRN 503519, Plate 26).



Plate 26: A photograph of a sunken shelter (NPRN 503519), found close to Nant Garw cottage and presumably associated with it.

3.3.5 The Significance of Medieval & Post Medieval Settlement and Agriculture

The 2009 survey has provided the first opportunity to explore and map the settlements at the heart of this part of the Elenydd hills as part of a detailed ground survey. The newly identified sites complete the partial picture that was previously known through the regional HER and NMR databases and compliment the earlier surveys of adjacent areas.

It is now evident that settlement did extend into the Elenydd (Central) area during medieval or post medieval times, along the upper reaches of the Claerwen valley as well as along the Gwngu and Nant Hirin valleys, both of which are tributary valleys of the Elan. Inevitably, the settlement density has historically been extremely thin, for Elenydd (Central) has been a remote and inhospitable landscape since time immemorial. The area was bypassed by the settlement and industrial expansion of post medieval times and consequently there was no new settlement. Even the arrival of the dam-builders of the Birmingham Corporation in the late 19th century failed to impact on the settlement pattern of the area.

The deserted settlement sites of the area are instead echoes of the pastoral regime which has existed on the hills of Elenydd for many centuries. Some of the long huts and longhouses of these uplands may well have their origins as herdsmen's dwellings dating back to the medieval use of the pastures as part of the monastic grange of Cwmdeuddwr. None appear on 19th century maps and they had evidently become abandoned and forgotten long beforehand.

Although we do not have excavation evidence to date any of the deserted settlement sites of Elenydd (Central) we can compare their physical evidence with that of similar sites elsewhere in the mid-Wales uplands about which we know much more. Particularly significant are the similarities with deserted rural settlement sites in the Pumlumon uplands (Hall & Sambrook, 2007) which are known to have been in use as permanent shepherding stations in the mid-18th century, but to have been abandoned before 1800. The *lluestau* of Pumlumon were even then understood to have their origins as *hafodydd* or summer houses, seasonally occupied, in early post medieval or medieval times.

As a rule, deserted settlement features are difficult to date in the field, and this is particularly true of the group of stone structures in the rocky outcrops of Egair Cormwng, where rough platforms and shelters are found, which may date to any period from prehistory to the post medieval. They demonstrate the need for further study, and further archaeological excavations, to help build a better understanding of the chronology of upland settlement.

Only post medieval farmsteads associated with the later Cwm Elan estate remained in occupation by the mid-19th century, and these have to varying degrees been improved and modernised during the 20th century to ensure their survival into the modern period. The role of the Elan Estate founded by the Birmingham Corporation in ensuring the continuation of settlement in the hills of Elenydd is evident. The changing fortunes of agriculture mean that traditional hill farms have had to adapt and change to survive into the 21st century, and this is undoubtedly the case in a harsh and difficult landscape, such as that of Elenydd (Central).

3.4 Post Medieval Industry

The geology and inaccessibility of the Elenydd (Central) study area has not allowed the development of significant extractive industries.

Much of the land surface is obscured by peat and glacial till. The remoteness of the area and low human population throughout historic times has meant that even the thick peat deposits of the study area have only been lightly exploited.

Good outcrops of hard conglomerates and mudstones are found around the lakes at Cerrigllwydion, but this area is evidently too remote to have been considered suitable for quarrying on anything but a purely local scale. A handful of minor quarries were encountered across the study area, most of these being of modern age and associated with the track building activities associated with the Claerwen reservoir, or the tenant farms of the Elan Estate.

Despite the presence of the Cwm Elan mine just outside the eastern boundary of the study area, there are no known metal ores within Elenydd (Central) and no evidence of prospecting was recorded. The only mining-related feature within the study area is a leat which was built during the 1870s to carry water from Llyn Cerrigllwydion Isaf to the Cwm Elan mine.



Plate 28: In an often featureless, grass-covered environment, local shepherds have placed occasional stone cairns as waymarkers or boundary markers, such as this example on Blaen Rhestr (NPRN 503550).



Plate 29: A photograph of the dam (NPRN 503507) at the start of the leat which took water from Llyn Cerrigllwydion Isaf lake to the Cwm Elan mine.



Plate 30: A photograph of a section of leat NPRN 261660, near Carn Ricet.

3.4.1 Peat Cutting

Although peat cutting has been an activity of great significance in the wider Elenydd landscape, it is less evident in Elenydd (Central). The project database includes records for only 7 peat cuttings or peat cutting areas. The turbaries noted on AP mapping or during fieldwork are mostly close to the post-medieval farmsteads of Claerwen and Glanhirin, with some working also present to the southwest of Cerrigllwydion. It is likely that further peat cutting has occurred in the area, but a combination of thick surface vegetation and the erosion of the peat cuttings themselves means that much of the evidence is now very difficult to identify.

There is no evidence of peat drying platforms in the area. The local tradition was to pile the freshly cut peat in small stacks for drying at the edge of the cutting. Trefor M. Owen, in his 1990 publication on peat cutting in Wales, illustrates with photographs the local method of peat cutting at Bodtalog and also Hirnant, to the north and east of the study area (Owen, 1990, 27-28, 31, 39 & 41).



Plate 31: A photograph showing an area of peat cutting in the Ddwynant valley, near Claerwen farm (NPRN 503587).

3.4.2 Significance of the Industrial Sites

Only 7 sites are recorded under the Industry broad class in the project database, most of which are peat workings or cuttings. To these can be added the Cwm Elan mine leat and two associated dams at Llyn Cerrigllwydion Isaf.

These low numbers demonstrate that Elenydd (Central) has been largely untouched by the industrial processes, despite the extensive peat deposits of the area, as well as the proximity of the Claerwen dam and reservoir and the Cwm Elan lead mine.



Plate 32: A photograph of the fishing lodge at Llyn Cerrigllwydion Uchaf (NPRN 503506). This corrugated iron building dates to the early 20th century and was built by the Elan Estate.

3.5 Land Management

During fieldwork, evidence of the land management activities associated with Welsh Water’s Elan Estate was encountered in the form of numerous experimental plots. These small, post and wire enclosures, usually 4m square were apparently erected to study the effect of the removal of grazing animals on the moorland flora.

A total of 13 experimental plots were recorded in the study area, including a group of four on Esgair Cywion, at the eastern edge of the area. Another six examples along the upper Claerwen valley, including Waun Fign and Groes Bryn-llwyd, at the western margins of the area.

It should be noted that the sites of five disused rain gauges were also recorded. Two of these are found at Claerwen farm and two others on Waun Ffaethnant, at the head of the Claerwen valley. These were also originally set within simple post and wire plots, with the rain gauge set inside the enclosure, although a sub-rectilinear earthwork was all that survived to define the example NPRN 503551 at Claerwen.



Plate 33: A photograph giving a southward view of Experimental Plot NPRN 503548, on Bryn Hir, south of Llyn Cerrigllwydion Uchaf.

3.6 Tracks and roads

3.6.1 The Monks' Trod

This rather enigmatic trackway, which passes through the heart of the study area, has received renewed attention during 2009, following the publication of two articles by Professor Andrew Fleming (Fleming, 2009a and 2009b).

Professor Fleming suggests that the “Monks’ Trod” is perhaps the best preserved, engineered medieval road in Britain, and dates to the time of Rhys ap Gruffudd (the Lord Rhys) of Deheubarth. He also suggests that Rhys ap Gruffudd himself ordered the construction of the road, to link his lands in mid-Wales. These included the territories where the Cistercian abbeys of Strata Florida, Ceredigion and Abbey Cwmhir, Powys were founded and granted extensive granges by Rhys himself. This is a variation on a tradition that the route was constructed by the monks of Strata Florida as a means of travelling easily between the abbey and its daughter-house at Abbey Cwmhir.

Suffice to say, there should be some cause for concern that general acceptance of this simple trackway as a medieval road of some importance has been achieved without any archaeological or documentary evidence being produced to substantiate such a theory. Indeed, there seems to be room to doubt that the term “Monks’ Trod” or “Monks’ Way” is anything more than a modern appellation which has gained acceptance in recent decades.

John Ogilby’s much earlier road map, published in his ‘Britannia’ in 1675, shows the road connecting Rhayader and Cwmystwyth, via Pont-ar-Elan. This road later became a turnpike road and is now the only tarmacadamed road connecting the Ystwyth and Elan valleys. Ogilby depicts another track joining the main road from the south at this point, which he labels as the road to *Rhose Ffaire*, or Ffair Rhos, Ceredigion as it is now known. This clearly corresponds with the route now known as the “Monks’ Trod”. Ffair Rhos was known for its horse and cattle fairs in earlier post-medieval times. Any road running from there in the late 17th century must be strongly suspected to be a post-medieval drove road. Whether it can be said that its use extends back to medieval times and use or construction by the monks of Strata Florida cannot be said, although it is a possibility. Even so, it would appear that the trackway is more likely to be associated with the movement of stock, rather than a route for abbots or medieval armies.

The records of the monastic grange of Cwmdeuddwr are lost, but the records of the Elan Estate held at the Powys Record office include documents dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries relating to farms in Cwmtoyddwr. Invariably the fact that the area or particular holdings were former possessions of Strata Florida is acknowledged. Yet there seems to be no reference to a monastic road as a feature, or even as a boundary marker, at any time.

The traveller John Leland, who visited Strata Florida Abbey just before the Dissolution and explored some of its upland granges in Elenydd, was led into the heart of the hills, via the Teifi Pools to Carregnewllyn, not via the “Trod”, but rather along a route further to the north that took him to a remote viewpoint. The area was wild and untamed to his eye. Surely a road through the hills would have merited attention? An even earlier visitor to the abbey was Giraldus Cambrensis, in 1199 (Butler, 2005, 163). Giraldus records that

his assistant had been instructed to take the road from Brecon to Builth in order to carry some of his most precious possessions quickly through the mid-Wales landscape. Yet, when Giraldus speaks of making a hasty journey between Strata Florida and Abbey Cwmhir, he makes no mention of following a road. Had there been a road constructed by the Lord Rhys, as suggested by Professor Fleming, it must have been relatively new and Giraldus must surely have followed it. His silence on the matter is perhaps significant.

During the autumn of 2009, Trysor had the opportunity to undertake a rapid field survey of this trackway and note its characteristics along its route from Rhyd Hengae to Pont ar Elan, most of which lies within Elenydd (Central). The section from Carn Ricet to Pont ar Elan, which lies in the adjacent Elenydd (North) study area, was also surveyed and is described here. More detailed information is also included in the Site Gazetteer in Part 2 of this report.

Some documentary and cartographic research was also undertaken, though it must be stressed that this was only incidental to the general survey of the Elenydd (Central) and Elenydd (North) study areas for the Uplands Initiative programme and cannot be said to be definitive.

This information is the basis of the following descriptions of the main sections of the trackway noted in the field, presented here from west to east. A more detailed breakdown of the information recorded is given for the site record NPRN 503508 in the Site Gazetteer in Part 2 of this report.



Plate 34: A photograph of an eroded “cut and fill” section of the “Monks’ Trod” on Llethr Ffos-to, looking southwest towards Rhyd Hengae.



Plate 35: A photograph of a section of the Monks' Trod (NPRN 503508) where large stone blocks have been laid to define or reinforce the edge of the trackway. Taken just west of Cerrigllwydion.



Plate 36: A photograph of a section of the Monks' Trod (NPRN 503508) on Clawdd Du Bach.

Section 1: Rhyd-Hengae to Llethr Ffos-to. This is the first section of the trackway after it fords the Afon Claerwen, passing from Ceredigion into Powys. From the stony ford at Rhyd Hengae, it crosses the floor of the Claerwen valley, which is largely an area of peat bog which means that the surface of the trackway is soft and wet and often reed-covered.

Section 2: Llethr-Ffos-to. The trackway rises out of the wet valley floor and diagonally ascends the drier slope of Llethr Ffos-to. For much of this section, the trackway is a “cut and fill” feature, terraced into the slope, up to 4m wide. The upper part of this section is quite steep and badly eroded by vehicular and water erosion.

Section 3: Llethr Ffos-to to Ddwynant. From the top of Llethr Ffos-to the trackway takes on the form of a shallow hollow way, 3m to 4m wide, as it runs northeast towards the top of the Ddwynant valley. The track here is in good condition and easily followed, with a grassy surface, with some natural gravel exposed in places.

Section 4: Ddwynant. Where the Trod runs to the north of the source of the Ddwynant stream, it crosses relatively wet ground and vehicular and water erosion has caused considerable rutting of the surface. The trackway is terraced into the southeast-facing slope and up to 4m wide, although it becomes a shallow hollow way as it approaches the rocky area at Cerrigllwydion to the east. Some attempts have been made in the past to better define parts of the track by laying large stone slabs along its downslope (southern) edge. Stone has also been added to create fords where the trackway crosses the occasional streams which run southwards towards the Ddwynant. It is not possible to say when these additions were made but there is no reason to think that they are not relatively recent additions i.e. 19th or 20th century.

Section 5: Cerrigllwydion. This section of the Trod runs to the south and east of Cerrigllwydion. Across this section the track is largely a level trackway with an often stony surface, with bedrock exposed in places at its western end, where it braids and is somewhat indistinct, following a 7m wide natural gully. The stone seen in the make-up of the track surface is derived from the boulder clay which covers much of the area. It is not thought to be artificial metalling.

Section 6: Cerrigllwydion to Clawdd Du Mawr. This section of the track turns eastwards from Blaen Rhestr and crosses the area south of the head of the Cormwg valley, where it has an essentially firm surface, although on some slopes it becomes very wet with water running off the peat-covered ridge of Clawdd Du Mawr. There is some slight terracing of the track as it ascends some slopes here.

Section 7: Clawdd Du Mawr to Carn Ricet. This is a long section of the trail which crosses the often peaty and wet ridge-top along Clawdd Du Mawr and Clawdd Du Bach. At its southern end, the track is difficult to distinguish in places, as it crosses areas of eroding peat. Proceeding northeastwards, sections of the trail survive as a boggy or water filled hollow, with a raised, flat-topped embankment along its western side. It is not clear if the track follows the ditch or the embankment. Some parts of this section have been badly damaged by 4 x 4 vehicles and suffered considerable water erosion as a result. The trail becomes drier as it reached Carn Ricet however, before descending towards Pont ar Elan.



Plate 37: A photograph of a section of the Monks' Trod (NPRN 503508) showing "metalling" to the south of Llyn Cerrigllwydion Uchaf.



Plate 38: A photograph of a 20th century trackway rising out of the Hirin valley (NPRN 503562) This trackway, like most trackways in Elenydd, shows similar "metalling" to that seen on sections the Monks' Trod. This effect is caused by natural stone in the boulder clay, not human construction, however.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, it must be said that Elenydd (Central) is a remote area in which the evidence of human impact is limited. The numbers and density of recorded archaeological sites are therefore low, at just over five sites per square kilometre.

Palaeoenvironmental evidence shows that there has probably been some exploitation of the local landscape for upland pasture since Neolithic times, and the land has remained the main natural resource of the area to the present day.

The archaeological resource includes most of the typical site types associated with upland archaeology in the Cambrian Mountains. A small number of cairns represent Bronze Age funerary monuments, and a possible hut circle on Esgair Cormwg may be a rare find of a Bronze Age settlement site. There is a possibility that more evidence of prehistoric activity lies buried beneath the thick peat of the area.

A limited number of medieval and later deserted settlement sites show that human habitation has reached into the area during historic times. Some of the deserted settlements recorded by the survey may well have origins in the medieval monastic grange held by Strata Florida abbey in the wastes of Cwmdeuddwr. Settlement density and population levels have always been low here, however, and the archaeological record reflects this fact. Both of the occupied farmsteads of the area can be traced back to early post-medieval times, with one, Claerwen, apparently being founded circa 1674.

This harsh and remote landscape saw no influx of settlers during the industrial age. Even the peat cutting industry, the most significant extractive activity in adjacent areas, is relatively poorly represented, despite the extensive peat bogs which mask much of the area. The other major industries of the Cambrian Mountains landscape, metal mining, forestry and water management, have taken place just outside the study area, but made virtually no impact on its hills and valleys.

The overriding characteristics of Elenydd (Central) are the thick blankets of purple moor-grass and extensive peat deposits which combine to make a large part of the area a sometimes bleak and difficult landscape for the field archaeologist. These characteristics have also ensured that the area has remained relatively untouched into the 21st century, despite its location adjacent to the Elan and Claerwen valleys, which are amongst the most popular visitor destinations in mid-Wales.

Elenydd (Central) is an area which is recognised nationally and internationally for its habitat and bio-diversity value. The peat bogs of the area remain substantially intact and appear to continue to grow; peat erosion and haggling is not widespread. Modern land management has seen a significant reduction in the presence of grazing animals on the hill pastures of the area. This will bring challenges in the future, as the continued expansion of purple moor-grass may threaten the quality not only of the mountain pasture and peat mires, but it may also swallow up and obscure more and more of the archaeological evidence which has been recorded by this survey. The recognition and protection of archaeological features of all periods will hopefully be a management issue for the future, in an era when climate change may bring about unpredictable and possibly dramatic changes to the Elenydd landscape.

5. Sources

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6. Recommendations

The following lists highlight those sites which might be suitable for further analysis, palaeoenvironmental analysis and inclusion on future Ordnance Survey maps.

6.1 Detailed site analysis

6.1.1 Afon Claerwen Longhouse (NPRN 503555)

This well preserved longhouse, with its adjacent shelter, is worthy of a detailed record.

6.1.2 Esgair Cormwg (NPRN 503563-503570)

Several features on Esgair Cormwg are worthy of detailed survey, including the features on top of the rocky hillock on the western side of the hill (NPRNs 503563-503566) and the features beneath the crag at the northern side of the hillock (NPRNs 503567-503570). Consideration should be given to undertaking a more detailed survey of the whole of the hillock and the stony area along its northern side as this may reveal details and features in addition to those recorded during the Uplands Initiative survey.

6.1.3 Nant Bryn yr Ieir (NPRN 503521 & 503522)

Much of this settlement site has already been lost to stream erosion and there is a possibility that the remaining structures will be lost in future. Consideration should be given to recording what remains before this happens.

Sites for inclusion on Ordnance Survey mapping (see Figure 10).

The following sites are recommended for consideration;

NPRN 503502	Nant Garw Cottage
NPRN 503515	Nant Garw, Marker Cairn
NPRN 503521	Bryn yr Ieir, Cottage?
NPRN 503522	Bryn yr Ieir, Wall
NPRN 503526	Bryn Mawr I
NPRN 503550	Blaen Rhestr, Marker Cairn III
NPRN 503555	Afon Claerwen, Longhouse
NPRN 503564	Esgair Cormwg, Cairn
NPRN 503565	Esgair Cormwg, Hut Circle?
NPRN 503573	Nant Hirin, Long Hut
NPRN 503575	Nant Hirin, Sheep Wash
NPRN 503578	Cefn Ffos yr Ewig, Marker Cairn
NPRN 503580	Blaen Rhestr, Shelter
NPRN 503581	Blaen Rhestr, Marker Cairn II

6.3 Sites for pollen analysis and other environmental sampling.

Although there are no recorded palaeoenvironmental sampling sites within Elenydd (Central) itself, published results are available from sampling sites in close proximity, at Gors Lwyd (Moore & Chater, 1970) and Esgair Nantybuddau and Pwll Nant Du (Moore, 1983). These provide a valuable insight into the botanical history of the immediate area.

Should further palaeoenvironmental study be required in this area, there are three extensive areas of well-preserved peat bog within Elenydd (Central). There are mapped in Figure 9 and are;

- Waun Fign, at the western edge of the study area, at the head of the Claerwen valley (centred on SN8176070050).
- Pant Llwyd, immediately to the west of the Cerrigllwydion lakes (centred on SN8354069680).
- Clawdd Du Mawr, to the east of the Cerrigllwydion lakes. Of particular interest here is the fact that the course of the “Monks’ Trod” trackway crosses the peat bog, and may even in sections be buried in the peat. Study of the relationship between the peat and the trackway would be of value (centred on SN8600069900).

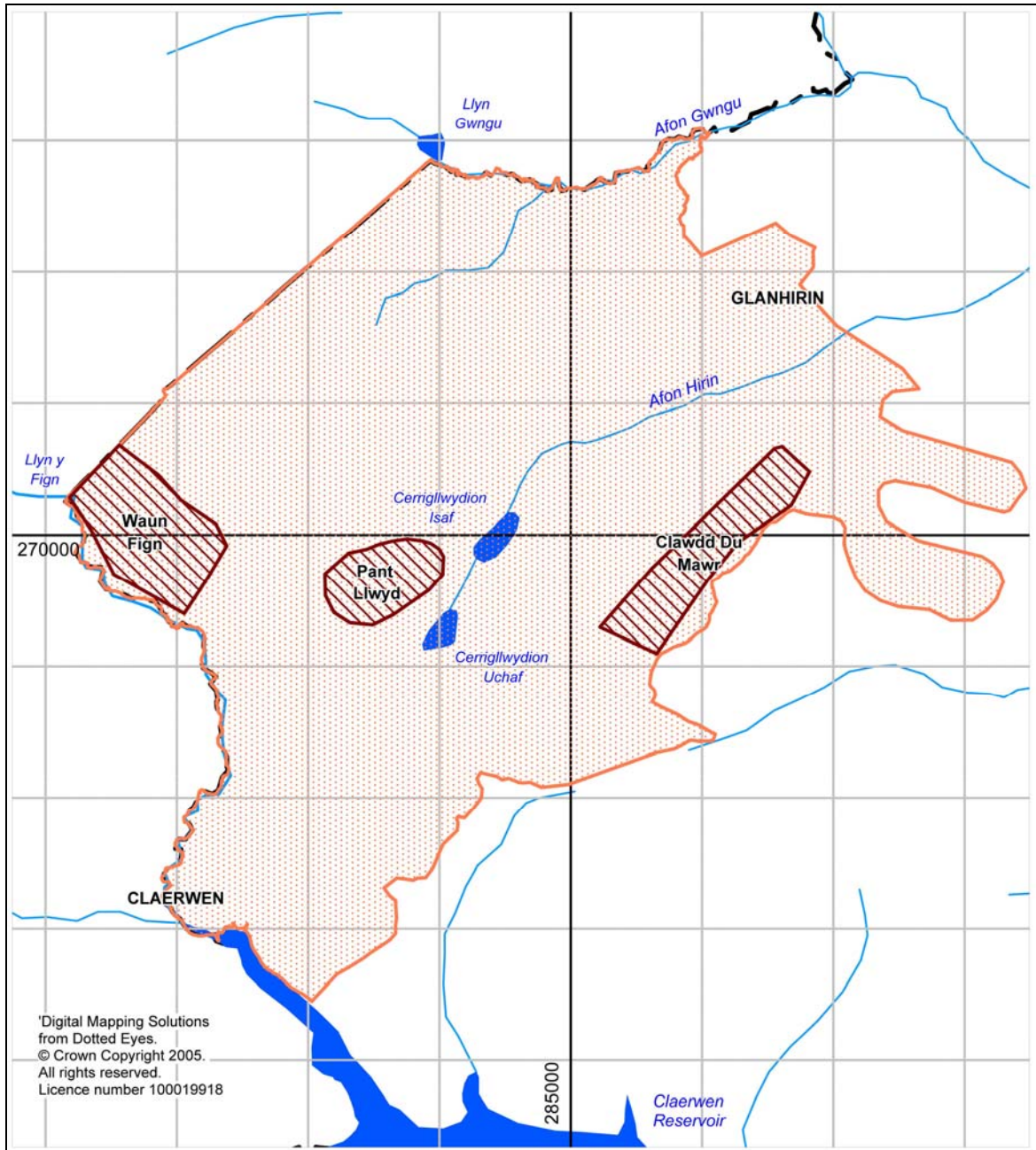


Figure 9: A map showing areas with palaeoenvironmental potential.

APPENDICES

Appendix A - Site Type Summary

<i>Site Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>NPRN</i>	<i>Site Name</i>
AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	7		
		503597	GLANHIRIN, SHED I
		503598	GLANHIRIN, SHED II
		503599	GLANHIRIN, SHED III
		503600	GLANHIRIN, FARM BUILDING
		503605	CLAERWEN, AGRICULTURAL BUILDING I
		503606	CLAERWEN, AGRICULTURAL BUILDING III
		503607	CLAERWEN, AGRICULTURAL BUILDING II
BANK (EARTHWORK)	3		
		503523	NANT BRYN YR IEIR, BANK
		503574	GLANHIRIN, BANK
		503590	CLAERWEN, BANK
BOAT HOUSE	1		
		503577	LLYN CERRIGLLWYDION ISAF, BOAT SHED
BRIDGE	1		
		503610	CLAERWEN, BRIDGE
BUILDING	2		
		503506	CERRIGLLWYDION, BUILDING
		503513	CLAERWEN, BUILDING
CAIRN	3		
		304804	CARN RICET
		503526	BRYN MAWR, CAIRN I
		503564	ESGAIR CORMWYG, CAIRN
CAIRN?	1		
		503546	CERRIGLLWYDION, STONE PILE
COTTAGE	1		
		503502	NANT GARW, BUILDING
COTTAGE?	1		
		503521	NANT BRYN YR IEIR, STRUCTURE
DAM	2		
		503507	CERRIGLLWYDION, DAM
		503594	LLYN CERRIGLLWYDION ISAF, DAM II
EXPERIMENTAL PLOT	13		
		503529	ESGAIR CYWION, ENCLOSURE I
		503530	ESGAIR CYWION, ENCLOSURE II
		503531	ESGAIR CYWION, ENCLOSURE IV
		503538	ESGAIR CYWION, ENCLOSURE III
		503545	CERRIGLLWYDION, ENCLOSURE II
		503548	CERRIGLLWYDION, ENCLOSURE I
		503554	AFON CLAERWEN, ENCLOSURE II
		503556	AFON CLAERWEN, ENCLOSURE I
		503557	GROES BRYN-LLWYD, ENCLOSURE
		503558	WAUN FIGYN, ENCLOSURE I
		503559	WAUN FIGYN, ENCLOSURE II
		503561	DDWYNANT, ENCLOSURE
		503591	CLAERWEN, ENCLOSURE

<i>Site Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>NPRN</i>	<i>Site Name</i>
EXPERIMENTAL PLOT?	1		
		503613	ESGAIR GWAR Y TY, ENCLOSURE
FARMHOUSE	3		
		30561	CLAERWEN, FARMHOUSE II
		503532	GLANHIRIN, FARMHOUSE
		503602	CLAERWEN, FARMHOUSE I
FARMSTEAD	2		
		22670	GLAN-HIRIN
		503516	CLAERWEN, FARMSTEAD
FIELD SYSTEM	2		
		503509	GLANHIRIN, FIELD SYSTEM
		503517	CLAERWEN, FIELD SYSTEM
FIRING RANGE	1		
		503539	ESGAIR CYWION, FIRING RANGE
FOOTBRIDGE	3		
		503510	CLAERWEN, FOOTBRIDGE
		503596	GLANHIRIN, FOOTBRIDGE
		503611	NANT Y FIGYN, FOOTBRIDGE
FOOTPATH	1		
		503595	GLANHIRIN, FOOTPATH
HUT CIRCLE?; LONG HUT?	1		
		503565	ESGAIR CORMWG, STRUCTURE I
LEAT	1		
		261660	LLETHR DU WATERCOURSE
LONG HUT	3		
		503552	AFON CLAERWEN, LONG HUT
		503560	NANT CORMWG, LONG HUT
		503573	NANT HIRIN, LONG HUT
LONGHOUSE	1		
		503555	AFON CLAERWEN, LONGHOUSE
MARKER CAIRN	9		
		503515	NANT GARW, STONE PILLAR
		503524	NANT BLOEDDIAS, MARKER CAIRN
		503550	BLAEN RHESTR, MARKER CAIRN III
		503576	ESGAIR CORMWG, MARKER CAIRN
		503578	CEFN FFOS YR EWIG, MARKER CAIRN
		503579	BANC STEFFAN, MARKER CAIRN
		503581	BLAEN RHESTR, MARKER CAIRN II
		503582	BLAEN RHESTR, MARKER CAIRN I
		503583	BLAEN RHESTR, STONE PILE
NATURAL FEATURE	1		
		304827	TRUM-Y-GAER, STONES
NATURAL FEATURE?	2		
		24596	GLAN-HIRIN, PILLOW MOUNDS (2)
		304802	DDWYNANT, RABBIT WARREN

<i>Site Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>NPRN</i>	<i>Site Name</i>
PEAT CUTTING	3		
		503533	ESGAIR CRAWNLLWYN, PEAT CUTTING I
		503537	ESGAIR CRAWNLLWYN, PEAT CUTTING II
		503547	CERRIGLLWYDION, PEAT CUTTING
PEAT WORKINGS	2		
		503584	LLETHR FFOS TO, PEAT WORKINGS
		503587	DDWYNANT, PEAT WORKINGS
PLATFORM	2		
		503567	ESGAIR CORMWG, STRUCTURE II
		503569	ESGAIR CORMWG, STRUCTURE III
PLATFORM?	1		
		503544	LLETHR FFOS TO, EARTHWORK
QUARRY	3		
		503518	GLANHIRIN, QUARRY I
		503534	GLANHIRIN, QUARRY II
		503614	ESGAIR GWAR Y TY, QUARRY
RABBIT WARREN	1		
		24595	GLAN-HIRIN, PILLOW MOUNDS (1)
RAIN GAUGE	4		
		503501	WAUN FFAETHNANT, RAIN GAUGE II
		503505	CERRIGLLWYDION, RAIN GAUGE
		503512	CLAERWEN, RAIN GAUGE II
		503551	CLAERWEN, RAIN GAUGE I
RAIN GAUGE?	1		
		503535	WAUN FFAETHNANT, RAIN GAUGE I
RING CAIRN?	1		
		503525	BRYN MAWR, CAIRN II
ROAD	2		
		23712	ANCIENT ROAD (1);MONK'S WAY
		504565	CLAERWEN, TRACKWAY III
SHED	3		
		503586	CERRIGLLWYDION, SHED
		503603	CLAERWEN, SHED
		503604	CLAERWEN, SHED
SHEEP DIP	1		
		503527	CORMWG, SHEEP DIP
SHEEP FOLD	2		
		503503	LLOCHES LEWSYN, SHEEP FOLD
		503514	FUCHES, SHEEP FOLD
SHEEP FOLD?	1		
		503504	CLAERWEN, FOLD
SHEEP WASH	1		
		503575	NANT HIRIN, SHEEP WASH
SHELTER	6		
		503549	BLAEN RHESTR, SHELTER
		503553	AFON CLAERWEN, SHELTER
		503568	ESGAIR CORMWG, SHELTER I
		503572	CERRIGLLWYDION, SHELTER
		503580	BLAEN RHESTR, STRUCTURE
		503592	AFON CLAERWEN, STRUCTURE

<i>Site Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>NPRN</i>	<i>Site Name</i>
SHELTER?	2	503520	AFON GWNGU, STRUCTURE
		503570	ESGAIR CORMWG, SHELTER II
SHOOTING STAND?	1	503571	ESGAIR PENTANAU, STONE SHELTER
STONE PILE	3	503563	ESGAIR CORMWG, STONE PILE II
		503566	ESGAIR CORMWG, STONE PILE I
		503612	AFON CLAERWEN, STONE PILE
SUNKEN SHELTER	1	503519	NANT GARW, SUNKEN SHELTER
SURVEY POINT	1	503543	ESGAIR CYWION, POST
TRACKWAY	11	502704	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY I
		503508	MONKS WAY: CARN RICET TO RHYD HENGAE
		503528	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY IV
		503562	ESGAIR CORMWG, TRACKWAY
		503585	DDWYNANT, TRACKWAY
		503588	CLAERWEN, TRACKWAY II
		503589	CLAERWEN, TRACKWAY I
		503593	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY V
		503608	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY III
		503609	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY II
		503615	LLETHR FFOS TO, TRACKWAY
WALL	1	503522	NANT BRYN YR IEIR, WALL
WALL?	1	503601	ESGAIR CORMWG, WALLING
WELL	1	503511	CLAERWEN, WELL

Appendix B - Period Summary

<i>Period</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>NPRN</i>	<i>Site Name</i>
Bronze Age	1	503526	BRYN MAWR, CAIRN I
Bronze Age?	3	304804	CARN RICET
		503525	BRYN MAWR, CAIRN II
		503564	ESGAIR CORMWG, CAIRN
Prehistoric?;Medieval?	1	503565	ESGAIR CORMWG, STRUCTURE I
Medieval?; Post Medieval?	10	503519	NANT GARW, SUNKEN SHELTER
		503520	AFON GWNGU, STRUCTURE
		503544	LLETHR FFOS TO, EARTHWORK
		503552	AFON CLAERWEN, LONG HUT
		503553	AFON CLAERWEN, SHELTER
		503555	AFON CLAERWEN, LONGHOUSE
		503560	NANT CORMWG, LONG HUT
		503573	NANT HIRIN, LONG HUT
		503592	AFON CLAERWEN, STRUCTURE
		503601	ESGAIR CORMWG, WALLING
Post Medieval	34	22670	GLAN-HIRIN
		24595	GLAN-HIRIN, PILLOW MOUNDS (1)
		261660	LLETHR DU WATERCOURSE
		503502	NANT GARW, BUILDING
		503504	CLAERWEN, FOLD
		503507	CERRIGLLWYDION, DAM
		503508	MONKS WAY: CARN RICET TO RHYD HENGAE
		503509	GLANHIRIN, FIELD SYSTEM
		503510	CLAERWEN, FOOTBRIDGE
		503514	FUCHES, SHEEP FOLD
		503516	CLAERWEN, FARMSTEAD
		503517	CLAERWEN, FIELD SYSTEM
		503521	NANT BRYN YR IEIR, STRUCTURE
		503523	NANT BRYN YR IEIR, BANK
		503528	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY IV
		503533	ESGAIR CRAWNLLWYN, PEAT CUTTING I
		503537	ESGAIR CRAWNLLWYN, PEAT CUTTING II
		503572	CERRIGLLWYDION, SHELTER
		503574	GLANHIRIN, BANK
		503575	NANT HIRIN, SHEEP WASH
		503584	LLETHR FFOS TO, PEAT WORKINGS
		503585	DDWYNANT, TRACKWAY
		503587	DDWYNANT, PEAT WORKINGS
		503588	CLAERWEN, TRACKWAY II
		503589	CLAERWEN, TRACKWAY I
		503590	CLAERWEN, BANK

<i>Period</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>NPRN</i>	<i>Site Name</i>
Post Medieval contd.	34	503594	LLYN CERRIGLLWYDION ISAF, DAM II
		503595	GLANHIRIN, FOOTPATH
		503596	GLANHIRIN, FOOTBRIDGE
		503598	GLANHIRIN, SHED II
		503600	GLANHIRIN, FARM BUILDING
		503602	CLAERWEN, FARMHOUSE I
		503606	CLAERWEN, AGRICULTURAL BUILDING III
		503614	ESGAIR GWAR Y TY, QUARRY
Post Medieval?	5	23712	ANCIENT ROAD (1);MONK'S WAY
		503513	CLAERWEN, BUILDING
		503522	NANT BRYN YR IEIR, WALL
		503562	ESGAIR CORMWG, TRACKWAY
		503615	LLETHR FFOS TO, TRACKWAY
Post Medieval?; Modern?	8	503511	CLAERWEN, WELL
		503532	GLANHIRIN, FARMHOUSE
		503549	BLAEN RHESTR, SHELTER
		503550	BLAEN RHESTR, MARKER CAIRN III
		503578	CEFN FFOS YR EWIG, MARKER CAIRN
		503579	BANC STEFFAN, MARKER CAIRN
		503580	BLAEN RHESTR, STRUCTURE
		503581	BLAEN RHESTR, MARKER CAIRN II
Modern	42	30561	CLAERWEN, FARMHOUSE II
		502704	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY I
		503501	WAUN FFAETHNANT, RAIN GAUGE II
		503503	LLOCHES LEWSYN, SHEEP FOLD
		503505	CERRIGLLWYDION, RAIN GAUGE
		503506	CERRIGLLWYDION, BUILDING
		503524	NANT BLOEDDIAS, MARKER CAIRN
		503527	CORMWG, SHEEP DIP
		503529	ESGAIR CYWION, ENCLOSURE I
		503530	ESGAIR CYWION, ENCLOSURE II
		503531	ESGAIR CYWION, ENCLOSURE IV
		503534	GLANHIRIN, QUARRY II
		503535	WAUN FFAETHNANT, RAIN GAUGE I
		503538	ESGAIR CYWION, ENCLOSURE III
		503539	ESGAIR CYWION, FIRING RANGE
		503543	ESGAIR CYWION, POST
		503545	CERRIGLLWYDION, ENCLOSURE II
		503547	CERRIGLLWYDION, PEAT CUTTING
		503548	CERRIGLLWYDION, ENCLOSURE I
		503551	CLAERWEN, RAIN GAUGE I
		503554	AFON CLAERWEN, ENCLOSURE II
		503556	AFON CLAERWEN, ENCLOSURE I
		503557	GROES BRYN-LLWYD, ENCLOSURE
		503558	WAUN FIGYN, ENCLOSURE I
		503559	WAUN FIGYN, ENCLOSURE II
		503561	DDWYNANT, ENCLOSURE

<i>Period</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>NPRN</i>	<i>Site Name</i>
Modern contd.	42		
		503577	LLYN CERRIGLLWYDION ISAF, BOAT SHED
		503586	CERRIGLLWYDION, SHED
		503591	CLAERWEN, ENCLOSURE
		503593	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY V
		503597	GLANHIRIN, SHED I
		503599	GLANHIRIN, SHED III
		503603	CLAERWEN, SHED
		503604	CLAERWEN, SHED
		503605	CLAERWEN, AGRICULTURAL BUILDING I
		503607	CLAERWEN, AGRICULTURAL BUILDING II
		503608	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY III
		503609	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY II
		503610	CLAERWEN, BRIDGE
		503611	NANT Y FIGYN, FOOTBRIDGE
		503613	ESGAIR GWAR Y TY, ENCLOSURE
		504565	CLAERWEN, TRACKWAY III
Modern?	7		
		503512	CLAERWEN, RAIN GAUGE II
		503515	NANT GARW, STONE PILLAR
		503518	GLANHIRIN, QUARRY I
		503571	ESGAIR PENTANAU, STONE SHELTER
		503576	ESGAIR CORMWG, MARKER CAIRN
		503582	BLAEN RHESTR, MARKER CAIRN I
		503583	BLAEN RHESTR, STONE PILE
General	3		
		24596	GLAN-HIRIN, PILLOW MOUNDS (2)
		304802	DDWYNANT, RABBIT WARREN
		304827	TRUM-Y-GAER, STONES
Unknown	8		
		503546	CERRIGLLWYDION, STONE PILE
		503563	ESGAIR CORMWG, STONE PILE II
		503566	ESGAIR CORMWG, STONE PILE I
		503567	ESGAIR CORMWG, STRUCTURE II
		503568	ESGAIR CORMWG, SHELTER I
		503569	ESGAIR CORMWG, STRUCTURE III
		503570	ESGAIR CORMWG, SHELTER II
		503612	AFON CLAERWEN, STONE PILE

Appendix C – Contour Summary

<i>Contour Band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>NPRN</i>	<i>Site Name</i>
350m to 399m	27		
		30561	CLAERWEN, FARMHOUSE II
		502704	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY I
		503502	NANT GARW, BUILDING
		503510	CLAERWEN, FOOTBRIDGE
		503511	CLAERWEN, WELL
		503512	CLAERWEN, RAIN GAUGE II
		503513	CLAERWEN, BUILDING
		503515	NANT GARW, STONE PILLAR
		503516	CLAERWEN, FARMSTEAD
		503517	CLAERWEN, FIELD SYSTEM
		503519	NANT GARW, SUNKEN SHELTER
		503528	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY IV
		503551	CLAERWEN, RAIN GAUGE I
		503574	GLANHIRIN, BANK
		503575	NANT HIRIN, SHEEP WASH
		503585	DDWYNANT, TRACKWAY
		503588	CLAERWEN, TRACKWAY II
		503590	CLAERWEN, BANK
		503595	GLANHIRIN, FOOTPATH
		503596	GLANHIRIN, FOOTBRIDGE
		503602	CLAERWEN, FARMHOUSE I
		503603	CLAERWEN, SHED
		503605	CLAERWEN, AGRICULTURAL BUILDING I
		503606	CLAERWEN, AGRICULTURAL BUILDING III
		503607	CLAERWEN, AGRICULTURAL BUILDING II
		503609	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY II
		503610	CLAERWEN, BRIDGE
400m to 449m	37		
		22670	GLAN-HIRIN
		24595	GLAN-HIRIN, PILLOW MOUNDS (1)
		24596	GLAN-HIRIN, PILLOW MOUNDS (2)
		304802	DDWYNANT, RABBIT WARREN
		503504	CLAERWEN, FOLD
		503509	GLANHIRIN, FIELD SYSTEM
		503514	FUCHES, SHEEP FOLD
		503518	GLANHIRIN, QUARRY I
		503520	AFON GWNGU, STRUCTURE
		503521	NANT BRYN YR IEIR, STRUCTURE
		503522	NANT BRYN YR IEIR, WALL
		503523	NANT BRYN YR IEIR, BANK
		503524	NANT BLOEDDIAS, MARKER CAIRN
		503531	ESGAIR CYWION, ENCLOSURE IV
		503532	GLANHIRIN, FARMHOUSE
		503552	AFON CLAERWEN, LONG HUT
		503553	AFON CLAERWEN, SHELTER
		503554	AFON CLAERWEN, ENCLOSURE II
		503555	AFON CLAERWEN, LONGHOUSE
		503560	NANT CORMWG, LONG HUT
		503561	DDWYNANT, ENCLOSURE
		503562	ESGAIR CORMWG, TRACKWAY

<i>Contour Band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>NPRN</i>	<i>Site Name</i>
400m to 449m contd		503573	NANT HIRIN, LONG HUT
		503587	DDWYNANT, PEAT WORKINGS
		503589	CLAERWEN, TRACKWAY I
		503592	AFON CLAERWEN, STRUCTURE
		503593	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY V
		503597	GLANHIRIN, SHED I
		503598	GLANHIRIN, SHED II
		503599	GLANHIRIN, SHED III
		503600	GLANHIRIN, FARM BUILDING
		503604	CLAERWEN, SHED
		503608	GLANHIRIN, TRACKWAY III
		503612	AFON CLAERWEN, STONE PILE
		503613	ESGAIR GWAR Y TY, ENCLOSURE
		503614	ESGAIR GWAR Y TY, QUARRY
		504565	CLAERWEN, TRACKWAY III
450m to 499m	32	261660	LLETHR DU WATERCOURSE
		503503	LLOCHES LEWSYN, SHEEP FOLD
		503507	CERRIGLLWYDION, DAM
		503526	BRYN MAWR, CAIRN I
		503527	CORMWG, SHEEP DIP
		503529	ESGAIR CYWION, ENCLOSURE I
		503530	ESGAIR CYWION, ENCLOSURE II
		503533	ESGAIR CRAWNLLWYN, PEAT CUTTING I
		503534	GLANHIRIN, QUARRY II
		503537	ESGAIR CRAWNLLWYN, PEAT CUTTING II
		503538	ESGAIR CYWION, ENCLOSURE III
		503539	ESGAIR CYWION, FIRING RANGE
		503543	ESGAIR CYWION, POST
		503544	LLETHR FFOS TO, EARTHWORK
		503556	AFON CLAERWEN, ENCLOSURE I
		503557	GROES BRYN-LLWYD, ENCLOSURE
		503558	WAUN FIGYN, ENCLOSURE I
		503559	WAUN FIGYN, ENCLOSURE II
		503563	ESGAIR CORMWG, STONE PILE II
		503564	ESGAIR CORMWG, CAIRN
		503565	ESGAIR CORMWG, STRUCTURE I
		503566	ESGAIR CORMWG, STONE PILE I
		503567	ESGAIR CORMWG, STRUCTURE II
		503568	ESGAIR CORMWG, SHELTER I
		503569	ESGAIR CORMWG, STRUCTURE III
		503570	ESGAIR CORMWG, SHELTER II
503572	CERRIGLLWYDION, SHELTER		
503576	ESGAIR CORMWG, MARKER CAIRN		
503591	CLAERWEN, ENCLOSURE		
503594	LLYN CERRIGLLWYDION ISAF, DAM II		
503601	ESGAIR CORMWG, WALLING		
503611	NANT Y FIGYN, FOOTBRIDGE		
500m to 549m	26	23712	ANCIENT ROAD (1);MONK'S WAY
		304804	CARN RICET
		304827	TRUM-Y-GAER, STONES

<i>Contour Band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>NPRN</i>	<i>Site Name</i>
500m to 549m contd.	503501		WAUN FFAETHNANT, RAIN GAUGE II
	503505		CERRIGLLWYDION, RAIN GAUGE
	503506		CERRIGLLWYDION, BUILDING
	503508		MONKS WAY: CARN RICET TO RHYD HENGAE
	503525		BRYN MAWR, CAIRN II
	503535		WAUN FFAETHNANT, RAIN GAUGE I
	503545		CERRIGLLWYDION, ENCLOSURE II
	503546		CERRIGLLWYDION, STONE PILE
	503547		CERRIGLLWYDION, PEAT CUTTING
	503548		CERRIGLLWYDION, ENCLOSURE I
	503549		BLAEN RHESTR, SHELTER
	503550		BLAEN RHESTR, MARKER CAIRN III
	503571		ESGAIR PENTANAU, STONE SHELTER
	503577		LLYN CERRIGLLWYDION ISAF, BOAT SHED
	503578		CEFN FFOS YR EWIG, MARKER CAIRN
	503579		BANC STEFFAN, MARKER CAIRN
	503580		BLAEN RHESTR, STRUCTURE
	503581		BLAEN RHESTR, MARKER CAIRN II
	503582		BLAEN RHESTR, MARKER CAIRN I
	503583		BLAEN RHESTR, STONE PILE
503584		LLETHR FFOS TO, PEAT WORKINGS	
503586		CERRIGLLWYDION, SHED	
503615		LLETHR FFOS TO, TRACKWAY	

Appendix D - Uplands Initiative Aerial Photo Mapping

	Temporary ID number:	19	NPRN:	
Initial Interpretation:	TRACKWAY identified from NAW vertical APs			
Field Interpretation:	Natural feature			
	Temporary ID number:	20	NPRN:	503588
Initial Interpretation:	TRACKWAY identified from NAW vertical APs			
Field Interpretation:	TRACKWAY			
	Temporary ID number:	21	NPRN:	503589
Initial Interpretation:	TRACKWAY identified from NAW vertical APs			
Field Interpretation:	Part of TRACKWAY			
	Temporary ID number:	22	NPRN:	503589
Initial Interpretation:	TRACKWAY identified from NAW vertical APs			
Field Interpretation:	Braiding of TRACKWAY			
	Temporary ID number:	23	NPRN:	503589
Initial Interpretation:	TRACKWAY identified from NAW vertical APs			
Field Interpretation:	Part of TRACKWAY			
	Temporary ID number:	24	NPRN:	503590
Initial Interpretation:	BANK identified from NAW vertical APs			
Field Interpretation:	BANK			
	Temporary ID number:	25	NPRN:	
Initial Interpretation:	DITCH identified from NAW vertical APs			
Field Interpretation:	Natural feature			
	Temporary ID number:	26	NPRN:	
Initial Interpretation:	BANK identified from NAW vertical APs			
Field Interpretation:	Natural feature			
	Temporary ID number:	27	NPRN:	
Initial Interpretation:	BANK identified from NAW vertical APs			
Field Interpretation:	Natural feature			
	Temporary ID number:	28	NPRN:	503517
Initial Interpretation:	503517 identified from NAW vertical APs			
Field Interpretation:	Part of earlier internal boundaries of Claerwen FIELD SYSTEM			

Initial Interpretation:	Temporary ID number: 53	NPRN:	
	PEAT CUTTING identified from NAW vertical APs & RAF cpe/uk/1873-2167		
Field Interpretation:	Modern vehicles		
Initial Interpretation:	Temporary ID number: 54	NPRN:	503584
	PEAT CUTTING identified from NAW vertical APs		
Field Interpretation:	PEAT CUTTING		
Initial Interpretation:	Temporary ID number: 55	NPRN:	503584
	PEAT CUTTING identified from NAW vertical APs		
Field Interpretation:	PEAT CUTTING		
Initial Interpretation:	Temporary ID number: 56	NPRN:	503584
	PEAT CUTTING identified from NAW vertical APs		
Field Interpretation:	PEAT CUTTING		
Initial Interpretation:	Temporary ID number: 57	NPRN:	
	PEAT CUTTING identified from NAW vertical APs		
Field Interpretation:	Animal tracks		
Initial Interpretation:	Temporary ID number: 58	NPRN:	
	PEAT CUTTING identified from NAW vertical APs		
Field Interpretation:	Animal tracks		
Initial Interpretation:	Temporary ID number: 59	NPRN:	
	PEAT CUTTING identified from NAW vertical APs		
Field Interpretation:	Animal tracks		
Initial Interpretation:	Temporary ID number: 61	NPRN:	503533
	PEAT CUTTING identified from NAW vertical APs		
Field Interpretation:	PEAT CUTTING		
Initial Interpretation:	Temporary ID number: 62	NPRN:	
	TRACKWAY identified from NAW vertical APs		
Field Interpretation:	Modern trackway		
Initial Interpretation:	Temporary ID number: 143	NPRN:	
	PLATFORM identified from NAW vertical APs		
Field Interpretation:	Natural feature		

Temporary ID number: 159 **NPRN:** 503587
Initial Interpretation: PEAT CUTTING identified from NAW vertical APs
Field Interpretation: PEAT WORKINGS

Temporary ID number: 160 **NPRN:** 503585
Initial Interpretation: TRACKWAY identified from NAW vertical APs
Field Interpretation: TRACKWAY