



UPLANDS INITIATIVE FIELD PROJECTS 2002-3 North Berwyn Survey Area North Wales

Archaeological Survey Report



Oxford Archaeology North

May 2003

RCAHMW

Issue No: 2002-3/109
OA North Job No: L9049
NGR (centre): SJ 180 360

Document Title: UPLANDS INITIATIVE FIELD PROJECTS 2002-3
NORTH BERWYN SURVEY AREA

NORTH WALES

Document Type: Archaeological Survey Report

Client Name: RCAHMW

Issue Number: 2002-3/109

OA Job Number: L9049

National Grid Reference: SJ 180 360 (centre)

Prepared by: Neil Wearing
Position: Project Supervisor
Date: May 2003

Checked by: Jamie Quartermaine Signed.....
Position: Project Manager
Date: May 2003

Approved by: Emily Mercer Signed.....
Position: Project Manager
Date: May 2003

Document File Location Jamie/Projects/9049wels/berwreport

Oxford Archaeology North

Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TF
t: (0044) 01524 848666
f: (0044) 01524 848606

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2003

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0EA
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	3
SUMMARY	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Circumstances of the Project	5
1.2 Objectives	5
2. METHODOLOGY	6
2.1 Project Design.....	6
2.2 Desk-Based Survey.....	6
2.3 Identification Survey.....	6
2.4 Gazetteer of Sites	7
2.5 Archive.....	7
3. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	8
3.1 Location and Topography.....	8
3.2 Geology.....	8
3.3 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	8
4. RESULTS OF THE DESK-BASED STUDY	10
4.1 Desk-Based Study Summary	10
5. SURVEY RESULTS.....	11
5.1 Introduction.....	11
5.2 Prehistoric	12
5.3 Medieval	13
5.4 Post-medieval.....	13
6. CONCLUSIONS	15
6.1 Discussion.....	15
7. RECOMMENDATIONS	16
7.1 Recommendations for Further Work	16
8. BIBLIOGRAPHY	17
8.1 Primary Sources	17
8.2 Published Cartographic Sources	17
8.3 Secondary Sources	17
APPENDIX 1.....	18

Gazetteer of Sites

ILLUSTRATIONS19

Figure 1: North Berwyn Location Map

Figure 2: Site distribution showing both pre- and post-survey sites

Figure 3: Site distribution within the reduced study areas

TABLES

Table 1: Pre and Post Survey Site Numbers

Table 2: Pre and Post Survey Site Numbers with Respect to Altitude

Table 3: Range of Site Types

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank the Staff of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW), in particular David Leighton, David Thomas and Medwyn Parry, and also the staff of the reader services of the National Library of Wales. OA North is also grateful to all the land owners who generously allowed the survey team onto their land; in particular, we would also like to thank Claire Scott of Conwy County Borough Council and Nick Critchly, Access Development Officer for Denbighshire County Council, for facilitating access. We must also thank Jeff Spence of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for providing SMR details. Also Carter Jonas Estate Agents, on behalf of MacAlpine Estates, for allowing access although the area was eventually not included in the survey.

The field survey was supervised by Neil Wearing with the assistance of Peter Schofield. The report was written by Neil Wearing and the illustrations were by Emma Carter. The report was edited by Jamie Quartermaine and Emily Mercer. The project was managed by Jamie Quartermaine.

SUMMARY

An archaeological identification survey of the North Berwyn Mountain area of North Wales (SJ 180 360 centred) was undertaken in October 2002. The work was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) on behalf of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) as part of the Uplands Initiative. The fieldwork consisted of an identification survey to identify, locate and describe archaeological and historical features within the defined survey area.

The North Berwyn study area incorporates Historic Landscape of Wales 3 (Countryside Council for Wales 2003). The general area comprises tracts of rolling moorland pasture lying to the south east of the Dee valley, overlooking Llandrillo and having prospects to the Snowdon massif beyond in the west. Unfortunately, the original study area was greatly reduced by access limitations across the Plas Nantyr estate from 35km² to c9km², this was also the area where most of the SMR/NMR records were also located.

The reduced area is mainly improved and enclosed agricultural land. Within this five sites were identified from the SMR/NMR and, as a result of the survey, a total thirty-nine new sites were identified from the general prehistoric, Bronze Age medieval and post-medieval periods.

The identified archaeological resource was of predominantly post-medieval date and there was very little extant evidence for medieval or prehistoric activity. This was, in part, due to the removal of the resource by modern/post-medieval farming practices. The only prehistoric site added to the record was a kerbed cairn at Aber Las which was in very poor condition having been ploughed almost flat.

The survey has highlighted the limited nature of the evidence which survives on lower heavily improved agricultural land, whilst the higher largely unimproved land has not been subject to investigation. Documentary evidence suggests that this more expansive area of land has considerable potential to contain a valuable prehistoric resource and warrants investigation. It is recommended that a similar survey be undertaken on these uplands should access become available.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was invited to undertake an archaeological identification survey of the North Berwyn Mountain area (SJ 180 360 centred) of North Wales on behalf of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) as part of the Uplands Initiative. The field work was carried out during October 2002.

1.1.2 The majority of the original study area was within the ownership of a single estate (Plas Nantyr) who were reluctant to allow access at this stage and, therefore, the present report represents the investigation of a minority part of the original area.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

1.2.1 The objectives of the project were:

- to promote a wider and deeper understanding of upland areas and their role in Welsh history, in accordance with the aims of the Uplands Initiative
- to provide an accurate Level 1 survey of all identified monuments (OA North 2002).

1.2.2 To achieve these objectives the study area was subject to a desk-based study and walk-over survey. The desk-based study was carried out in April/May 2002 and consisted of a search of both published and unpublished records held by the National Monuments Record of Wales, Clywd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the library and archives at OA North's offices in Lancaster. The field work was undertaken during October 2002.

1.2.3 This report sets out the results of the work, accompanied by a summary gazetteer of new sites (*Appendix 1*).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by OA North in response to a request for archaeological surveys of extensive areas of the Welsh Uplands, and was designed to meet the requirements of a brief by RCAHMW. The project design provided for an initial archaeological desk-based study, followed by a field identification survey for four survey areas: Mynydd Hiraethog, Clwydian Range, Ruabon Mountain and Eglwyseg, and North Berwyn and Ceiriog. Of these surveys all but the Clwydian Range area were commissioned to and the present report relates to the North Berwyn Mountain area only (Figs 1 and 2). Access was denied by a single estate owning the majority of the study area and consequently the survey area was reduced. As a result of this, an additional area to the immediate east of the original Mynydd Hiraethog area was also commissioned but this is subject to a separate report. In all other respects the work has been carried out in accordance with the project design.

2.2 DESK-BASED SURVEY

2.2.1 **National Monuments Record (NMR):** an assessment was made of data held by the RCAHMW, Aberystwyth, which was overlain onto digital 1:10,000 mapping for the study area.

2.2.2 **Sites and Monuments Record (SMR):** an assessment was made of data held by the Clywd–Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT), which was also overlain onto the digital base map for the area.

2.2.3 **Aerial Photographs:** aerial photography from the NMR office was also consulted, and information relating to possible new sites was annotated onto the field walking maps.

2.2.4 **Ordnance Survey Mapping:** first and/or second edition mapping was available for the entire survey area and was examined for indications of historic sites not previously represented on the NMR and SMR.

2.2.5 **World Wide Web:** parish records, census data and transcripts of some public records were obtained from archives and local histories on the internet. More modern data on the parish was also gleaned, which provided information about recent developments in the area.

2.3 IDENTIFICATION SURVEY

- 2.3.1 An identification survey to Level 1 (OA North 2002) was undertaken across the North Berwyn study area. The identification survey represents the minimum standard of record for field investigation, and is aimed at the discovery of previously unrecorded sites. Its objective is to record the existence, location, and extent of any archaeological site. The emphasis of the record lies on the written description which, in this instance, includes comment on character and condition, and sites have been graded in terms of condition and archaeological significance. Sites already identified within the study area by the NMR and SMR were checked and recorded at the same level of consistency as the newly discovered sites. The whole survey area originally outlined was not accessible and the reduced area consisted mainly of enclosed and improved land, north and south of the eastern half of the area. The survey aimed to identify, locate and record archaeological sites and features on the ground and involved four elements: reconnaissance, mapping, description and photography.
- 2.3.2 Each area was traversed in transects of between 20m and 50m, depending on local topography and ground cover. The archaeological detail was mapped using Leica differential GPS equipment, which used post-processed corrections from a base station to achieve an accuracy of $\pm 0.25\text{m}$. The digital survey data was transferred, via DXF file format, into a CAD system (AutoCAD v14), and was then superimposed onto the digital base map (Fig 3). The descriptive records were input into a database on a Psion portable palm computer on-site; the more complex sites were also sketched onto paper *pro-forma* sheets. A photographic record of the sites was maintained in 35mm black and white print format, colour slides and also using digital colour photography.

2.4 GAZETTEER OF SITES

- 2.4.1 All of the information concerning archaeological sites within the assessed area was collated into a gazetteer (*Appendix 1*) which provides details of their location, period, and character. Locations are given as eight-figure National Grid References where possible, and the position of each site is indicated on Fig 3.

2.5 ARCHIVE

- 2.5.1 A full archive has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (1991) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The archive is provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and digitally. A synopsis, including the index to the archive and a copy of the report, will be placed in the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW at Aberystwyth and the Clywd-Powys Sites and Monuments Record, CPAT, Welshpool.

3. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1.1 The area of Berwyn Mountain Range (SJ 150 350 centred) forms a physical divide between North and Mid Wales (Fig 1). The area extends from the village of Glyn Ceiriog at its most easterly extent, across the Ceiriog Forest to the county boundary to the west. The Vivod mountain lies to the north and to the south is the village of Tregeiriog. The central ridge of the Berwyn Mountain reaches a height of 827m OD at the summits of Cader Berwyn and Moel Sych (Countryside Council for Wales 2003).
- 3.1.2 The majority of the area lies between the 200m and 500m OD contours and is broadly characterised as open heather moorland surrounded by the river valleys of the Afon Ceiriog and Nant Rhydwllym. The northern part of the study area is now the plantation known as the Ceiriog Forest and the western edge borders the remains of the New Cambrian Slate Mines shown on the OS 1st edition mapping of 1880.

3.2 GEOLOGY

- 3.2.1 The solid geology of the study area is divided into two with the northern part of the area consisting of Silurian shales and carboniferous limestone, and the southern part of the area comprising Ordovician, Llandeilo and Arenig beds of volcanic rock. The overlying soils in the north are predominately of the low base status, poorly drained podzols, gleys and peaty gleys derived from Silurian drift (Neville George and Smith 1961; Lawes Agricultural Trust 1982).

3.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.3.1 **Prehistoric:** the original study area contained eighteen known sites dating from the prehistoric period, many of which were within the land belonging to the inaccessible Plas Nantyr Estate. The records contained burial cairns, a stone setting and five standing stones. In addition, a stone hammer (NPRN 156242) and a palstave (NPRN 156237) were recorded as finds. The sites are evenly spread throughout the study area with a distinct concentration to the west of the Afon Ceiriog. As with many upland settings in the region the prehistoric remains were predominantly funerary and there was no direct evidence for settlement or agricultural remains. Whilst the existence of settlement is inferred by the presence of the funerary remains this may be on the adjacent lowlands rather than in the vicinity of the funerary monuments.
- 3.3.2 **Roman:** there were no Roman remains identified within the study area or its environs.

- 3.3.3 **Medieval:** there was little evidence of medieval activity in the area. Only four previously recorded sites existed, two of which appear to relate to the same site. Sites NPRN 156249 and NPRN 32290 both refer to Fynnon Y Brenin where there was supposedly a well but all that remains is a patch of boggy ground now under plantation. The church at Llangynafal is dated from the medieval period (NPRN165241) but no further details are given in the SMR. A hall, which is a few hundred yards from the current Plas Nantyr Hall, is also recorded as being medieval (NPRN 170791). While there was undoubtedly a medieval settlement linked to the hall and church few remains survive. This reflects in the temporal nature of the medieval housing stock and that there has been little attempt to record any earthwork remains.
- 3.3.4 Across the Berwyn mountain to the west around Cwm Pennent are extensive areas of field systems believed to be of medieval and prehistoric origins (Countryside Council for Wales 2003)
- 3.3.5 **Post-Medieval:** the post-medieval period is relatively well represented within the records and reflects agricultural and industrial activity. This has been later imposed upon by the shooting estate and plantations of Plas Nantyr and McAlpines. The eastern part of the study area is lower enclosed agricultural land around the river valleys, with the New Cambrian Slate Mines extending beyond the eastern boundary of the study area. During the second half of the eighteenth century slate quarrying became an operation on an industrial scale and the Ordovician volcanic slates of the Berwyn range was exploited (Morgan Rees 1975 and Williams 1986). The open moors of the Plas Nantyr estate to the west have been subject to little sign of occupation or improvement although some of the southerly area has been enclosed. Most of the records relate to standing buildings such as Plas Nantyr itself (NPRN 27796), built in 1825 for the Storey family, and Hafod Adams (NPRN 27262) which is thought to have a medieval core and subsequent extensions and rebuilds.

4. RESULTS OF THE DESK-BASED STUDY

4.1 DESK-BASED STUDY SUMMARY

- 4.1.1 ***Documentary and Cartographic Evidence:*** the desk based study showed that the area has been subject to little improvement and limited enclosure. The Ceiriog forest, however, has expanded since the OS 1st edition map (1880).
- 4.1.2 ***Clwyd Powys Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), National Monuments Record of Wales (NMR):*** in total, forty-five sites were identified between the SMR and NMR. Of these eighteen were prehistoric, one Bronze Age, fourteen medieval, nineteen post-medieval and three of unknown date (Fig 3). Digital air photo mapping was supplied by the RCAHMW under the auspices of the Uplands Initiative. Any information relating to potential sites was transcribed onto the field walking maplets.

5. SURVEY RESULTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 The original study area was to examine 38km² of enclosed and unenclosed land. However, due to the access restrictions only two areas totaling c9km² were surveyed. The survey examined both known and previously unknown sites which ranged in date from the prehistoric to the post-medieval periods, most of which were individual monuments or linear features, such as a single cairn or robbed out boundary. Very few sites were part of a larger group but those that do exist have been combined into a single record because of their relationships. The sites identified by the documentary study were examined. Their locations and extent were updated on the mapping, where required, and the site descriptions were enhanced. Both new and old sites are shown on Figs 2 and 3.

5.1.2 **Previously Recorded Sites:** the desk based study identified forty-five sites in the original area between the SMR and MNR. However, only four of these fell within the reduced study area. Two records were updated and despite extensive searching, the remaining two could not be located.

5.1.3 **New Sites:** in total, thirty-nine new sites were identified and are summarised below in Table 1. This demonstrates a substantial numerical increase in the number of sites within the study area.

Table 1: Pre and post survey site numbers

Period	Pre-Survey Number	Post-Survey Number	Numerical Increase
Neolithic	0	0	0
Bronze Age	2	3	1
General Prehistoric	3	4	1
Medieval	0	1	1
Post- Medieval	0	35	35
Unknown Date	0	1	1
Multi-Period	0	0	0
Total	5	44	39

5.1.4 **Altitude range of sites:** the overall site density was 4.77 sites per km² which was spread according to altitude as shown in Table 2 below. The greatest density of sites occurs within the 375-450m OD range.

Table 2: Pre and post survey site numbers with respect to altitude

Height Range	Existing sites	New sites	Total
300-324	0	1	1
325-349	0	3	3
350-374	0	2	2
375-399	1	9	10
400-424	0	11	11
425-449	2	6	8
450-474	2	7	8
475-499	0	1	1
Total	5	39	44

Table 3: Range of site types

Site Types	Existing Sites	New Sites	Total
Barn		1	1
Barrow	2		2
Building Platform		1	1
Church		1	1
Cairn	1	2	3
Clearance Cairn		5	5
Drain		1	1
Earthwork		1	1
Droeway/road		1	1
Farmhouse		1	1
Level		1	1
Quarry		10	10
Pond		1	1
Spoilheap		1	1
Standingstone	1		1
Trackway		3	3
Wall		8	8
Find Site	1	1	1
Total	5	39	43

5.1.5 **Range of site types:** the sites identified from both the present survey and those previously identified within the record are categorised into twenty-six types. These are defined as shown in Table 3 below.

5.2 PREHISTORIC

- 5.2.1 There was plentiful evidence of prehistoric activity within the larger study area, and of the five SMR/NMR sites within the reduced area, four were of general prehistoric/Bronze Age date. These sites represent the earliest recorded evidence and consist of three barrows/tumuli (NPRN 156231, 156235, 156232) and a standing stone (NPRN 156234). The standing stone of Croes Garreg Rhys Goch could not be located during the survey. However, this may be due to inaccurate coordinates as it was described as being 90m north-north-west of cairn, NPRN 156233 whose location was confirmed by the present survey. The NMR coordinates, on the other hand, indicate that the two sites are over 1.3km apart.
- 5.2.2 Of the three funerary monuments located in the reduced study, the first was the Tomen Y Gwyddell Barrow (NPRN 156232) which has been built over by the intersection of four boundary walls at the corner of an area of plantation. It is shown on the current OS mapping and is in a very poor state of preservation due to truncation by the construction of the boundary walls. Furthermore, these walls are now in a state of disrepair and are partially collapsed and earthfast. Secondly, there was the Llyn Gloyw Bach Cairn (NPRN 156235) which was recorded as being the possible site of a cairn surviving as a stoney patch in a ploughed field. Upon inspection it was seen to survive as a 3m diameter pile of clearance stone in a circular depression, a distinct rise was noted to the south-east which had earthfast stone in it. The surrounding area has been significantly improved and the origin of the site is consequentially somewhat uncertain.
- 5.2.3 The third funerary monument, Tomen Y Meirw Round Barrow (NPRN 156231), could not be located. The NMR describes it as being positioned on a prominent spur of land. In contrast the coordinates indicate that it is on the Aber Las watercourse to the east of a modern field boundary. The record states that it is 2.2m high and 21m in diameter but no resembling feature could be seen in the area, with only a few patches of scattered stone visible in the field to the west. It therefore appears that the stated coordinates are inaccurate.
- 5.2.4 The only new identified site of prehistoric date was the ploughed out remains of kerbed cairn south of Aber Las (NPRN 269218) which is approximately 0.5m high and 11m in diameter. It survives only as a low mound but the kerb stones can be seen in places around the circumference and were identified by probing around the circumference of the monument.

5.3 MEDIEVAL

5.3.1 There was only one site recorded as potentially from the medieval period, a stretch of walling (NPRN 269220) to the north of the farm known as Pant-y-Graig.

Located at the junction of current boundaries, a series of slate slabs comprise the remains of an orthostatic wall which has an early character. The present farmhouse was said by the owners to date to 1608 according to their deeds (Mr Northwood, Pant-y-graig pers comm). This does not, however, preclude the existence of an earlier structure on the site or in the vicinity.

5.4 POST-MEDIEVAL

- 5.4.1 Thirty-five new records were ascribed a post-medieval date and were predominantly agricultural remains reflecting the improvement of the enclosed agricultural land on the lower slopes over the last 400 years. However, much more recent activity has begun to remove the remains of post-medieval land use. The other sites were industrial, ranging from the remains of small field quarries, associated with the building of enclosure walls and agricultural buildings, to the levels, buildings and spoilheaps of the New Cambrian Slate Mines (NPRN 269213).
- 5.4.2 The northern section of the study area revealed that enclosure walls had been removed leaving low earthfast stone banks in large, heavily improved fields. To the north of Cefn Uchaf Farm the enclosure walls have been robbed out and are no longer in use as field boundaries (NPRN 269203, 269207). The same can be seen to the east of Cefn Canol (NPRN 269211) where the removal of the walls has doubled the size of the field. The substantial walls at Plas Leiucu farm had been abandoned as boundaries and were now decayed stone banks which were no longer stockproof (NPRN 269224, 269226).
- 5.4.3 Along with these boundaries were found a well and spring, ponds of recent date and associated drainage features, recent mechanically dumped stone 'clearance piles', as well as disused modern agricultural buildings such as that north of Cefn Uchaf (NPRN 269242). There were several stretches of disused trackway noted throughout the area but only one thought to be a drove road (NPRN 269216). This ran over the hill to the east of Aber Las where a distinctive hollow could be seen as 4m wide with slight banks to each side.
- 5.4.3 North of Cefn Ucaf was a substantial field quarry with a working face 60m long and divided into three bays. To the south earthfast spoil heaps 20m in length run down slope (NPRN 269206). The area contained several small field quarries but nothing of substantial size except for the most westerly remains of the New Cambrian Slate Mines. These are shown on the OS 1st edition mapping and as a series of disused levels and spoil-heaps on current mapping. A building and level are shown on the current mapping (NPRN 269214) which were found to be the probable remains of an entrance to a haulage level, winding house and dressing platform. The building is ruined and the level entrance is blocked by iron railings. The valley to the east is littered with mining remains.
- 5.4.5 The southern section of the study area had been extensively improved. The current mapping shows the centre of the area as being moorland but it was found also to

have been improved. The landscape contained traces of removed boundary walls (NPRN 269234) and associated with them were sets of gate posts made of upright slate slabs standing up to 2m high (NPRN 269231).

- 5.4.6 The most significant post-medieval feature was the disused farm house and buildings of Ty'n-y-Pistyll, located to the south of the Youth Adventure Centre (NPRN 269236). The building was deserted but in a state of repair with internal wooden fittings still in situ. Although its datestone has been removed, the building was of eighteenth century character. There was considerable evidence of modern improvement and clearance in the surrounding area and the only identified features were recently disused trackways and field boundaries.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 The survey recorded a limited range of monuments and landscapes dating between the Bronze Age and the present. Unfortunately, the greatly reduced size of the study area has significantly biased the results of the present area excludes the unimproved upland and is essentially low lying enclosed land which has been subject to continual improving and changing agricultural practice.
- 6.1.2 The archaeological resource was predominantly of post-medieval date and there was very little extant evidence for medieval or prehistoric activity. This is in part due to the removal of the resource by modern/post-medieval farming practices. For example, documented prehistoric burial cairns were either no longer extant, could not be found, or were in extremely poor condition as a result of ploughing or incorporation into boundaries as has happened in the case of Tomen-y-Gwyddel (NPRN 156232). The only prehistoric site added to the known record was the cairn at Aber Las (NPRN 269218) which was in very poor condition. It had been ploughed almost flat but was still evidently a kerbed cairn surviving to 11m in diameter although standing to no more than 500mm. It occupies the typical topography for such a monument a prominent level plateau overlooking a river valley and lower fertile slopes. The presence of the limited number of extant and documented Bronze Age funerary structure suggests that there were Bronze Age communities settled in the valleys or general environs and burying their dead on the surrounding skyline. Unfortunately, modern land improvement has left only a glimpse of what may have been a more extensive funerary landscape.
- 6.1.3 Similarly there is only slight evidence of medieval occupation which may exist in the form of the wall remains at Pant-y-Graig and possibly the drove road at Aber Las (NPRN 269220 and 269216). This land improvement is changing the patterns of enclosure; with parliamentary enclosure boundary walls under threat as the land is again opened up subjecting it to more intensive mechanised farming practices.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

- 7.1.1 The survey has highlighted the limited nature of the evidence which survives on lower heavily improved agricultural land, whereas the higher largely unimproved land has not been subject to investigation. This more expansive area of land has, according to documentary evidence, considerable potential to contain a valuable prehistoric resource and warrants investigation.
- 7.1.2 It is recommended that further approaches are made to the Plas Nantyr estate to negotiate access and that the outstanding area of the original study be subject to identification survey.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

8.1.1 *Aerial Photographs*

Digital Air Photograph Mapping: North Berwyn, RCAHMW

8.2 PUBLISHED CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Ordnance Survey (OS) 1st edition 6" to 1 mile map (1880)

8.3 SECONDARY SOURCES

Countryside Council for Wales, 2003, *Berwyn*, unpubl rep (www.ccw.gov.uk/Generalinfo)

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edn, London

Lawes Agricultural Trust (Soil Survey of England and Wales), 1982 *Soils of Clwyd, 1:250,000*, Harpenden)

Morgan Rees, D, 1975 *The Industrial Archaeology Of Wales*, Newton Abbot

Neville George, T, and Smith, B, 1961 *British Regional Geology: North Wales, 3rd edition*, London

OA North (Oxford Archaeology North), 2002 *Survey Levels*, unpubl doc

Quartermaine, J, and Leech, R, forthcoming *The later prehistory of the Lake District, the results of upland survey work*

UKIC, 1990 *United Kingdom Institute for conservation: Guidelines for the preparation of archives for long-term storage*

Williams, CJ, 1986 *Industry in Clwyd*, Howarden

APPENDIX 1 GAZETTEER OF SITES

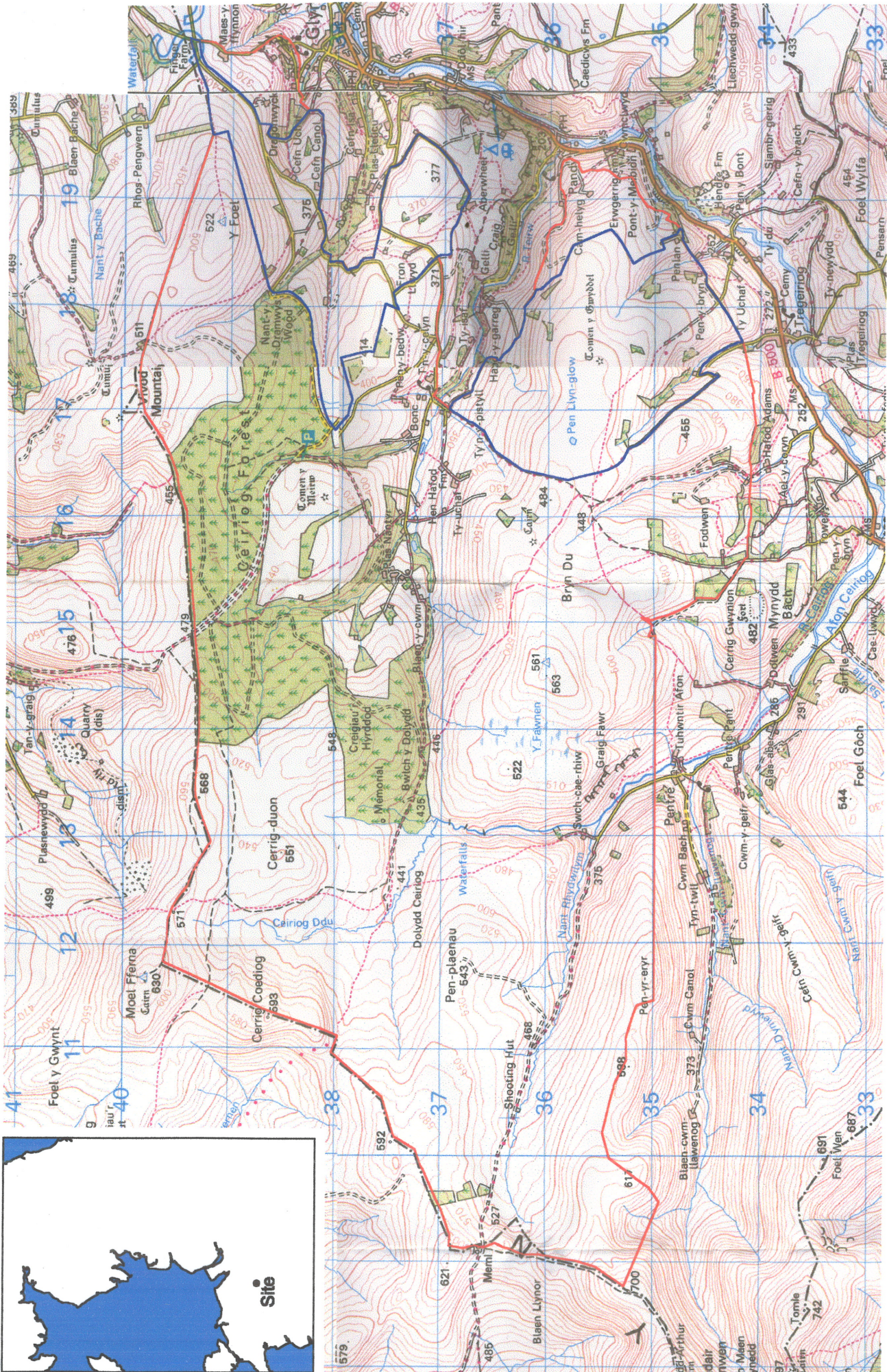
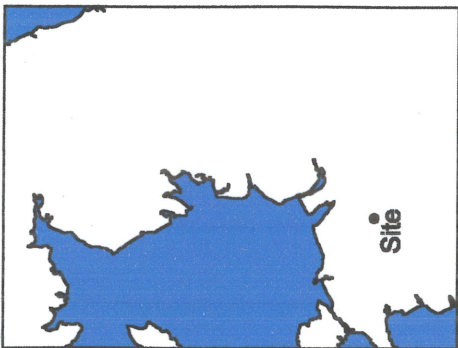
NPRN	NGR	TYPE	PERIOD	ALTITUDE
156231	SJ 16173812	CAIRN	Bronze Age	380
156232	SJ 17513551	CAIRN	Bronze Age	470
156234	SJ 15733621	STANDING STONE	Prehistoric	438
156235	SJ 17023548	ROUND CAIRN	Bronze Age	440
156238	SJ 17513551	FIND SITE	Prehistoric	470
269203	SJ 19493891	WALL	Post-Medieval	468
269204	SJ 19583880	WELL	Post-Medieval	410
269205	SJ 19163868	DRAIN	Post-Medieval	400
269206	SJ 18563872	QUARRY	Post-Medieval	462
269207	SJ 18473866	WALL	Post-Medieval	440
269241	SJ 17313443	BARN	Post-Medieval	336
269208	SJ 18513846	QUARRY	Post-Medieval	414
269209	SJ 18653848	QUARRY	Post-Medieval	422
269213	SJ 18433812	SPOIL HEAPS	Post-Medieval	408
269214	SJ 18373815	LEVEL	Post-Medieval	413
269215	SJ 17683775	QUARRY	Post-Medieval	429
269216	SJ 18183780	DROVE ROAD	Post-Medieval	422
269211	SJ 19293825	BOUNDARY WALL	Post-Medieval	344
269218	SJ 18323765	CAIRN	Bronze Age	423
269219	SJ 18353756	TRACKWAY	Post-Medieval	416
269220	SJ 18463744	WALL	Medieval	409
269221	SJ 18653709	TRACKWAY	Post-Medieval	389
269222	SJ 18723747	CLEARANCE CAIRN	Post-Medieval	392
269223	SJ 18943750	QUARRY	Post-Medieval	390
269224	SJ 18973749	WALL	Post-Medieval	395
269225	SJ 18963753	QUARRY	Post-Medieval	391
269226	SJ 19163733	WALL	Post-Medieval	376
269231	SJ 17163519	GATEPOST	Post-Medieval	449
269230	SJ 16953531	QUARRIES	Post-Medieval	456
269232	SJ 16623529	CLEARANCE CAIRN	Post-Medieval	460
269233	SJ 16423555	WALL	Post-Medieval	480
269234	SJ 16723623	WALL	Post-Medieval	435
269235	SJ 16703644	EARTHWORK	Unknown	375
269236	SJ 17143675	FARMYARD	Post-Medieval	366
269236	SJ 16873609	CLEARANCE CAIRN	Post-Medieval	442
269237	SJ 16993545	CLEARANCE CAIRNS	Post-Medieval	463
269238	SJ 17513552	TUMULUS	Prehistoric	472
269239	SJ 17633551	CAIRN	Prehistoric	469
269240	SJ 18233469	QUARRY	Post-Medieval	323
269227	SJ 19343732	QUARRY	Post-Medieval	380
269228	SJ 19143735	QUARRY	Post-Medieval	398
269229	SJ 18953738	CLEARANCE CAIRN	Post-Medieval	367
269217	SJ 18133792	POND	Post-Medieval	417
269242	SJ 18503867	PLATFORM	Post-Medieval	440
269243	SJ 18863693	TRACKWAY	Post-Medieval	340

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: North Berwyn Location Map

Figure 2: Site distribution showing both pre- and post-survey sites

Figure 3: Site distribution within the reduced study areas

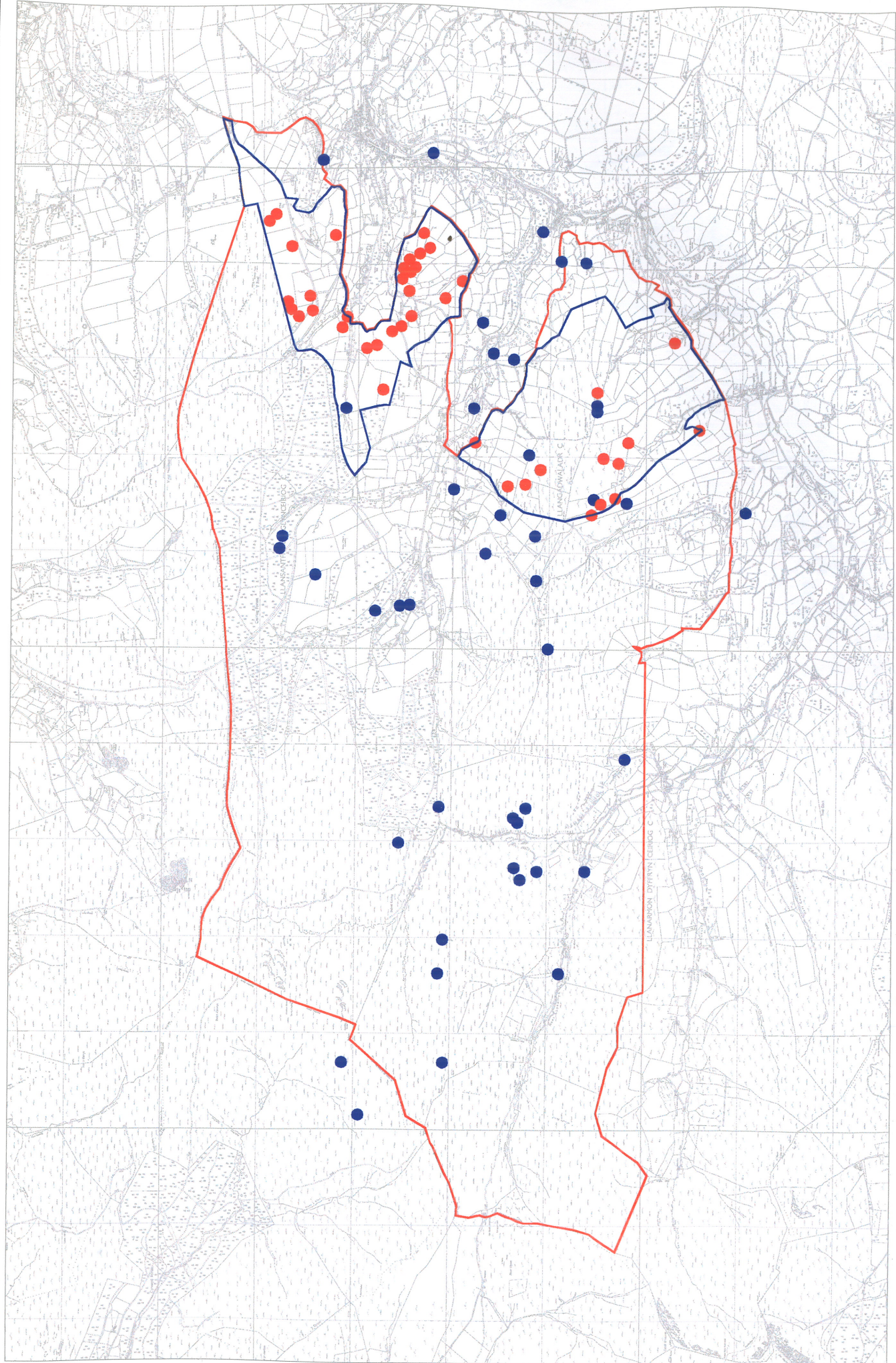


based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000
with the permission of the controller of HMSO
© Crown Copyright

 original study area
 revised study area due to restricted access



Figure 1: North Berwyn Location Map



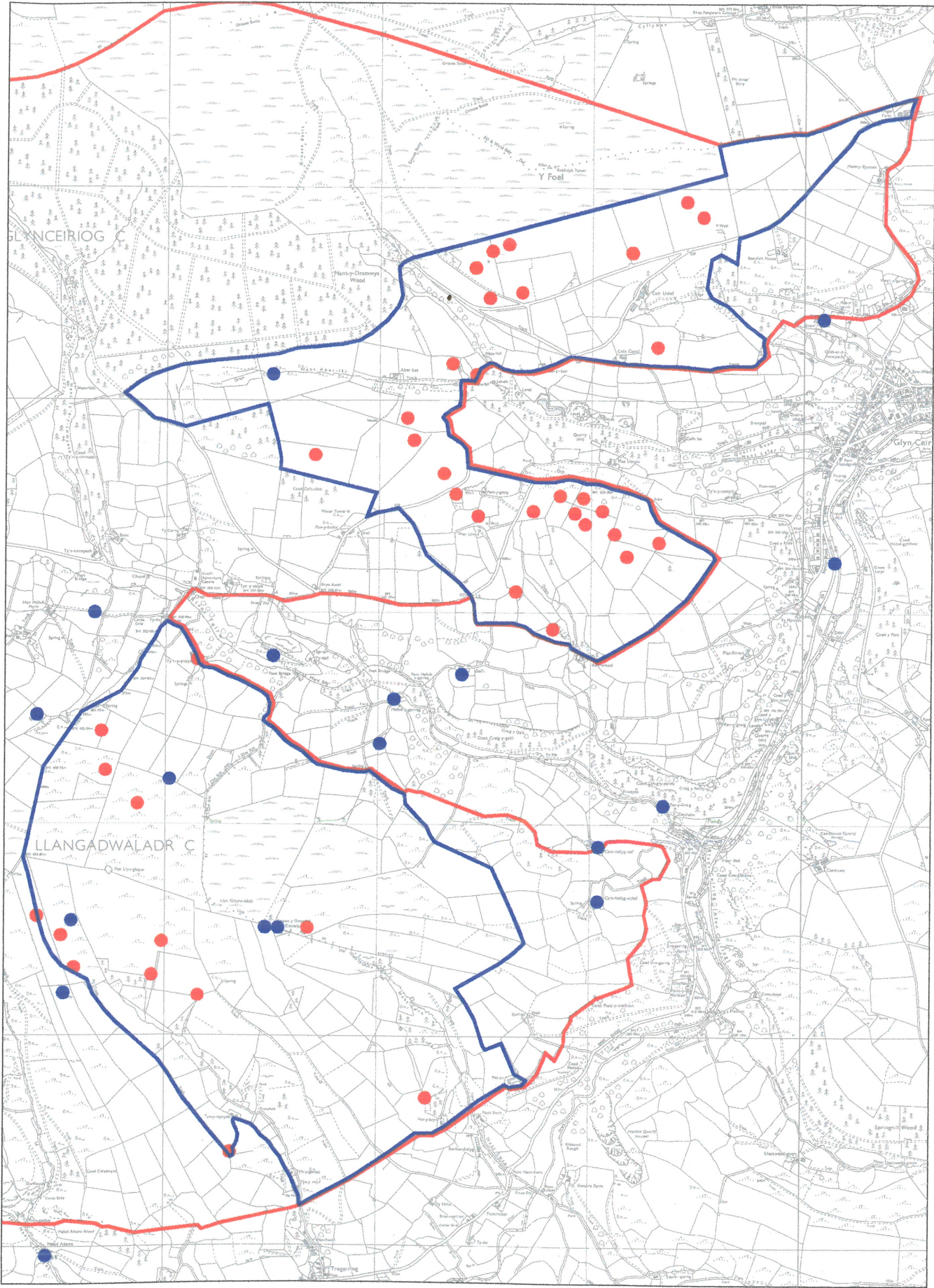
based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10000
with the permission of the controller of HMSO
© Crown Copyright

- New sites
- Sites from SMR and NMR
- Original Proposed Study Area
- Reduced Study Area

Scale 1:40,000 at A3



Figure 2: Site distribution showing pre- and post survey sites



based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10000
with the permission of the controller of HMSO
© Crown Copyright

- New sites
- Sites from SMR and NMR
- Original Proposed Study Area
- Reduced Study Area

0 500
metres



Scale 1:10,000 at A3

Figure 3: Site distribution within the reduced survey areas