

Uplands Archaeology Initiative

Project Summaries: 2007 - 08

Below are summaries of the findings which emerged from last year's completed field survey projects.

Full reports for all surveys can be viewed at the Royal Commission offices in Aberystwyth. Descriptions of individual sites, with images, will be available on www.coflein.gov.uk later this year.

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Snowdonia (Bethesda)

Ymgwymerwyd ag arolwg archeolegol i adnabod mynydd-dir Eryri ger pentref Bethesda (SH612 615 canol) rhwng Rhagfyr 2007 a Chwefror 2008 gan Oxford Archaeology North (OANorth) ar ran Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru (RCAHMW) fel rhan o'r FenterUcheldir. Roedd y prosiect yn golygu astudiaeth archeolegol wrth y ddesg i ddechrau, ac wedyn arolwg adnabod caeau ar gyfer holl ardal yr astudiaeth.

Mae ardal yr arolwg yn Eryri (Bethesda) yn cwmpasu darn o dir 13.76 cilomedr sgwâr, sef ochr ogleddol pen gogledd-orllewinol masiff Eryri. Mae'n ardal o gopaon uchel, yn cynnwys y cefnau rhwng Glyder Fawr a Charnedd y Filiast, ynghyd ag allgrai Elidir Fawr.

Gweunydd agored llechweddog sydd dan astudiaeth, gan godi o ryw 300m i dros 800m ar y cefnau uchaf, gyda thir caeedig wedi'i led-wella ar lethrau isaf ymylon y gweundir.

I gyd, pennwyd bod pum safle wedi'u cofnodi o dan HER ac NMR, a phedwar o'r rheiny wedi'u diweddarau i gael rhifau ychwanegol newydd o dan NMR. A chymryd y cyfan gyda'i gilydd, 99 o safleoedd newydd a gafodd eu pennu, sy'n cynrychioli cryn gynnydd yn nifer y safleoedd o fewn ardal yr astudiaeth.

Roedd y safleoedd a ddarganfyddwyd o'r blaen ac a gafodd eu hadnabod o dan NMR ac HER wedi'u cyfyngu i gae da byw/cloddwaith posib, tŷ a grŵp o fframweithiau

rheoli da byw neu ddomestig posib. Ni chawsai unrhyw safle o ddyddiad canoloesol neu gynharach pendant ei ddarganfod o'r blaen yn ardal yr astudiaeth, ac ni fu modd i'r arolwg presennol ychwanegu safleoedd sydd o ddyddiad pendant gynharach na'r ôl-ganoloesol. Mae casgliad bach o lwyfannau tŷ a fframweithiau oedd gynt â tho ac a allasai fod â swyddogaeth ddomestig neu amaethyddol wedi'u gwasgaru ar hyd ymylon deheuol ardal yr astudiaeth, ynghyd â chasgliad o fframweithiau'n perthyn o bosib i'r drefn drawstrefa neu fframweithiau rheoli da byw mewn un ardal ddiffiniedig.

I gyd, cafodd 97 o safleoedd eu priodoli i'r cyfnod ôl-ganoloesol, gyda mwyafrif y safleoedd a bennwyd yn adlewyrchu defnyddio cymharol ddiweddar ar leiniau eang o weundir agored fel ffriddoedd ar hyd ochr orllewinol Eryri. Roedd hyd at 59 enghraifft o gorlannau a llochesau wedi'u gwasgaru ar draws holl ardal yr astudiaeth, gan ddangos i ffermio defaid fod yn fenter o bwys yno. Mae ymylon y gweundir wedi'u troi'n dir caeedig ers o leia'r cyfnod ôl-ganoloesol cynnar, yn enwedig ar ochr y de uwchlaw Nant Peris.

Yn ogystal â'r nodweddion amaethyddol, roedd hefyd rywfaint o dystiolaeth o chwarela am lechi ar ffurf mannau mwyngloddio prawf ar wahân, gyda gwaith llunio cronfeydd, yn ymwneud gan mwyaf â byd gwaith yr ugeinfed ganrif. Gwelid hefyd dystiolaeth o arferion hamdden ar ffurf casgliad o dwmpathau saethu a sawl cysgodfa i gerddwyr ar y copaon o fewn ardal yr astudiaeth.

An archaeological identification survey of the mountainous region of Snowdonia adjacent to the village of Bethesda (SH 612 615 centred) in Snowdonia, North Wales was undertaken between December 2007 and February 2008, 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 project carried out an initial archaeological desk-based study, followed by a field identification survey for the study area.

The survey area of Snowdonia (Bethesda) covers an area of 13.76 sqkm and consists of part of the northern flank of the north-west end of the Snowdonia massif. The area is dominated by high peaks, including the ridges between Glyder Fawr and Carnedd y Filiast, along with the outlier Elidir Fawr. The study area consists of sloping open moorland which rises from approximately 300m to over 800m on the highest ridges, with the moorland being fringed by semi-improved enclosure on the lower slopes. In total, five sites were established by the desk-based study as being recorded within the HER and NMR, of which four were updated and given additional new NMR numbers. In total, 99 new sites were identified by the field survey, representing a substantial numerical increase in the number of sites within the study area.

The previously discovered sites identified in the NMR and HER were limited to a possible stock enclosure/earthwork, a house, and a group of potential stock management or domestic structures. No sites of definitively medieval or earlier date had previously been discovered within the study area, and the present survey has not been able to add sites that are definitely earlier than post-medieval in date. There is a small collection of house platforms and once roofed structures that may have had domestic or agricultural function scattered along the southern fringes of the study area, along with a collection of possibly transhumance-type structures or stock management structures within one defined area.

In total, 97 sites have been ascribed to the post-medieval period, four sites are modern and three are of unknown date. The majority of the identified sites reflect the relatively recent exploitation of large tracts of open moorland that forms the western

edge of the Snowdonia for sheepwalks. Up to 59 examples of sheepfolds and shelters were scattered across the whole study area, demonstrating that sheep farming has been a major enterprise within the study area. The fringes of the moorland have been subject to enclosure from at least the early post-medieval period, particularly on the southern side above Nant Peris.

As well as the agricultural features, there was also some evidence for slate quarrying consisting of discrete areas of trial mining and reservoir construction, that for the most part related to twentieth century exploitation. There was also evidence of recreational practices in the form of a collection of shooting mounds and four walkers shelters' on the summits within the study area.

Snowdon (NW slopes)

Ymgwymerwyd ag arolwg archeolegol i adnabod mynydd-dir ymyl gogledd-orllewinol *massif* Eryri ger Llanberis (SH 569 576 canol) rhwng Mehefin 2007 ac Ionawr 2008 gan Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) ar ran Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru

(RCAHMW) fel rhan o'r Fenter Ucheldir. Roedd y prosiect yn golygu astudiaeth archeolegol wrth y ddesg i ddechrau, ac wedyn arolwg adnabod yn y maes ar gyfer holl ardal yr astudiaeth. Mae ardal yr arolwg yn Eryri (Gogledd-orllewin) yn cwmpasu darn o dir 27.2 cilometr sgwâr, sef ochr ogleddol yr Wyddfa a throedfrynau ymylol pen gogledd-orllewinol *massif* Eryri. Gweunydd agored llechweddog sydd dan astudiaeth, gan godi o ryw 300m i dros 840m ar y llwyfandir islaw copa'r Wyddfa, gyda thir caeedig wedi'i led-wella ar lethrau isaf ymylon y gweundir. I gyd, pennodd yr astudiaeth ddesg 91 safle oedd wedi'u cofnodi o dan HER ac NMR, a phob un o'r rheiny wedi'u diweddarau gyda 70 yn cael rhifau newydd o dan NMR. A chymryd y cyfan gyda'i gilydd, 510 o safleoedd newydd a gafodd eu pennu gan yr arolwg maes, sy'n cynrychioli cryn gynnydd yn nifer y safleoedd o fewn ardal yr astudiaeth.

O'r cyfnod cynhanesyddol mae nifer fach o garneddau clirio cerrig, un garnedd gopa ar Foel Eilio, carnedd gladdu wedi'i dinistrio, carnedd angladdol newydd fach o bosib, a charnedd gylchog botensial. Mae'r crynhoad cymharol isel hwn o henebion angladdol yn awgrymu nad oedd patrwm arbennig o weithgarwch seremonïol/angladdol. Ychydig o dystiolaeth, hefyd, sydd o weithgarwch anheddu ar ffurf caeau carneddau cynhanesyddol, yn annhebyg i fannau eraill yng nghadwyn Eryri, er y pennwyd saith twmpath wedi'u llosgi – i gyd wedi'u gwasgaru ar hyd ymylon ardal yr astudiaeth rhwng 240 a 370m ac wrth ochr nentydd mynydd a/neu fannau corsio. Nodwedd amlyca cyfnod Oes yr Haearn yn ardal yr astudiaeth yw bryngaer fach Dinas Tŷ-du sy'n edrych dros lawr y dyffryn a phentref Llanberis. Nid yw arwynebedd y fryngaer yn helaeth ac efallai, yn hytrach, mai un darn o dir caeedig ydoedd gyda rhagfur amddiffynadwy ar fryncyn serth ar hyd y gefn.

Yn y cyfnod canoloesol roedd ardal yr astudiaeth o dan reolaeth Tywysogion Gwynedd a byddid yn defnyddio'r mynyddoedd at ddibenion amaethu a dull hafota a hendrefa o anheddu. Gellir olrhain clawdd a ffos ffin fawr yn codi ar hyd copaon trumiau'r mynyddoedd yng nghanol ardal yr astudiaeth. Cafodd yr anheddiad hafota yng nghyswllt yr ystâd ei archwilio'n flaenorol yng Nghwm Brwynog ac roedd cofnod ohono ym 1352 fel 'Combrounok'. Mae dynaid o anheddau anghyfannedd gwasgaredig pellach, ynghyd ag enghreifftiau unigol o lwyfannau tai, tai hirion a hafodydd y system drawstrefa ar hyd y tiroedd is ar ochr ddwyreiniol ardal yr astudiaeth ac i fyny i'r basnau peiran uchel. Mae'n bosib bod llawer o'r ffermdai,

bythynnod a hyd yn oed gorlannau sy'n dal i oroesi yn nhiroedd ymylol ardal yr astudiaeth wedi datblygu o aneddiadau trawstrefa cynharach.

I gyd, cafodd 359 o safleoedd eu priodoli i'r cyfnod ôl-ganoloesol; mae 115 o safleoedd yn ddiweddar ac mae 28 o ddyddiad anhysbys. Mae mwyafrif y safleoedd a uniaethwyd yn cynrychioli ymelwa cymharol ddiweddar ar eangderau'r gweundir agored ar hyd ymyl gorllewinol Eryri at ddibenion ffriddoedd. Gwelwyd hyd at 124 enghraifft o gorlannau a llochesau wedi'u gwasgaru ar draws holl ardal yr astudiaeth, yn ogystal â nifer o ffermdai a bythynnod, sy'n profi bod ffermio defaid wedi bod yn fenter o bwys yn yr ardal.

Nodwedd amlyca'r dirwedd bresennol yw diwydiannau echdynnu-mwynau helaeth y chwareli llechi a'r mwyngloddiau copor/haearn. Canolbwynt y diwydiant llechi oedd cymhlyg chwarela llechi Glyn Rhonwy yng ngogledd-ddwyrain ardal yr astudiaeth, gyda chanolbwynt y mwyngloddio copor ger copa'r Wyddfa yng Nghlogwyn Coch a chanolbwynt y mwyngloddio haearn ar ochr y cwm yn Nant y Betws uwchlaw Betws Garmon. Cofnodwyd casgliadau mawr o nodweddion gweithgarwch chwarela llechi, mwyngloddio prawf, adeiladau mwyngloddio, cysgodfeydd a chabanau/lletyau gweithwyr yn ystod yr arolwg presennol ac roedd y chwareli/mwyngloddiau wedi'u cyd-gysylltu gan wastadoedd inclein, tai dirwyn a systemau tramffordd helaeth. Mae gan y mwynglawdd haearn hefyd raffordd grog helaeth a fyddai'n mynd â'r mwyn dros y mynydd i Reilffordd Caernarfon a Llanberis ar ochr ddwyreiniol ardal yr astudiaeth.

Mae'r cydgasgliad mwyaf o safleoedd a gafodd eu cofnodi o dan yr arolwg presennol yn dwyn cyswllt â chymhlyg eang gorsaf drawsyrro donfedd-hir drawsatlantig Waunfawr sydd wedi'i lleoli ar ystlys isel ddwyreiniol Cefn Du ym mhen gogleddol ardal yr astudiaeth. Mae'r araeau awyr helaeth, y llwyfannau adeiladu a'r ategion rigio o goncrid yn dal i fod hyd heddiw. Dyma safle o bwys cenedlaethol, gan ei fod yn rhan o grŵp cydlynol o safleoedd yn ymwneud â geni'r diwydiant telathrebu.

An archaeological identification survey of the mountainous region on the north-western edge of the Snowdonia massif (SH 570 580 centred), near Llanberis, North Wales was undertaken between June 2007 and January 2008, by Oxford Archaeology North (OANorth) on behalf of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) as part of the Uplands Initiative. The project comprised an initial archaeological desk-based study, followed by a field identification survey for the study area.

The survey area of Snowdonia (North-West) covers an area of 27.2 sqkm and consists of the northern flank of mount Snowdon and the outlying foothills at the north-west end of the Snowdonia massif. The study area consists of sloping open moorland, which rises from approximately 300m to over 840m on the plateau below the summit of mount Snowdon, with the moorland being fringed by semi-improved enclosure on the lower slopes. In total, 91 sites were established by the desk-based study as being recorded within the HER and NMR, all of which were updated and 70 were given new NMR numbers. In total, 510 new sites were identified by the field survey, representing a substantial numerical increase in the number of sites within the study area.

From the prehistoric period there is a small number of clearance-type cairns, one summit cairn on Moel Eilio, a destroyed burial cairn, a new potential small funerary cairn and a potential ring cairn. This relatively low concentration of funerary monuments indicates that there was no particular pattern of ceremonial / funerary activity in the area. There is also little evidence of settlement activity in the form of

prehistoric cairnfields unlike elsewhere on the Snowdonia range, although seven burnt mounds were identified and distributed on the fringes of the study area between 240 and 370m and adjacent to mountain streams and/or boggy areas. The Iron-Age period is dominated within the study area by the small hillfort of Dinas Ty-du sat overlooking the valley floor and Llanberis village. The hillfort is not extensive in area and may have rather formed a single rampart defensible enclosure on the steep ridgeline knoll.

Within the medieval period the study area was under the control of the Princes of Gwynedd and they used the mountains for transhumant hafod-style settlement and agriculture. A large boundary bank and ditch can be traced ascending the summits of the mountain ridgeline within the centre of the study area. The sheiling settlement associated with the estate of the princes of Gwynedd has been previously investigated at Cwm Brwynog and was recorded in 1352 as 'Combroinok'. There are a scattering of further deserted settlements and singular examples of house platforms, longhouses and transhumant hafod throughout both the lower lands on the east of the study area and up into the elevated cwm basins. Many of the surviving farmsteads, cottages and even sheep folds within the fringe lands of the study area may have grown out of earlier transhumant settlement.

In total, 359 sites have been ascribed to the post-medieval period, 115 sites are modern and 28 are of unknown date. The majority of the identified sites reflect the relatively recent exploitation of large tracts of open moorland that form the western edge of Snowdonia for sheepwalks. Up to 124 examples of sheepfolds and shelters were scattered across the whole study area, as well as a number of farmsteads and cottages, demonstrating that sheep farming has been a major enterprise within the study area.

The most dominant element of the present day landscape are the extensive extractive mining industries of slate quarrying and copper/iron mining. The slate industry was centred on the Glyn Rhonwy slate quarrying complex in the north-east of the study area, copper mining near the summit of mount Snowdon at Clogwyn Coch, and Iron mining was on the valley side at Nant y Betwys above Betws Garmon. Large collections of slate mining extractive features, trial mines, and mine buildings, labourers shelters and accommodation/barracks were recorded during the present survey and the quarries/mines were all connected by an extensive incline planes, winding houses and tramway systems. The iron mine also has an extensive aerial ropeway which took the ore over the mountain to the Caernarvon and Llanberis Railway on the east side of the study area.

The largest agglomeration of sites recorded by the present survey are associated with the large complex site of the Waunfawr longwave transatlantic transmitting station which is located on the shallow east-facing flank of Cefn Du on the northern end of the study area. The extensive aerial arrays, building platforms and concrete rigging stays survive today. The site is of national importance, as it forms a cohesive group of sites that were connected with the birth of the telecommunications industry.

Clwydian Hills (Denbighshire)

Mae arolwg archeolegol ucheldir Bryniau Clwyd, yr ymgwymerwyd ag ef yn 2007, yn cwmpasu tuag 16 cilomedr sgwâr o Ardal Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol Bryniau Clwyd. Mae'r dirwedd yn gefnen gul o ucheldir, y rhan fwyaf ohono heb ei gau, gan ffurfio'r ffin rhwng Sir Ddinbych a Sir y Fflint. Mae'n terfynu ar ochr y gorllewin â Dyffryn Clwyd, Sir Ddinbych, ac ar ochr y dwyrain â ffermdir isel Sir y Fflint a

Dyffryn Alun. Trefnwyd yr arolwg drwy gerdded trawsluniau 30 metr rheolaidd a'i nod oedd pennu safleoedd o bob cyfnod. Cofnodwyd cyfanswm o 500 safle, yn amrywio o garneddi Oes yr Efydd i garneddi clirio byrhoedlog gweithgarwch ffermio ucheldir yr unfed ganrif ar hugain. Cafwyd hyd i garneddi o Oes yr Efydd fel safleoedd ar wahân ac fel rhan o gaeau carneddi ehangach. Mae pedair bryngaer o Oes yr Haearn yn ymgodi dros y dirwedd uchel - Foel Fenlli, Moel-y-Gaer, Moel Arthur a Phenycloddiau - a gwelwyd tystiolaeth ynddynt o gyn-anheddau ar ffurf llwyfannau adeiladu wedi'u gwastatáu. Daethpwyd o hyd hefyd i glostir amddiffynedig pellach ar Foel Llys y Coed. Ychydig i'r dwyrain o Foel Fenlli, darganfuwyd darn bach o ffordd Rufeinig. Gwelwyd tystiolaeth o amaethyddiaeth ar ffurf nifer helaeth o gloddiau cae o bridd a meini, i gyd rhwng cyfuchliniau 250m a 350m, a gafodd eu dehongli'r ganoloesol diweddar neu'n ôl-ganoloesol ond a aethai o arfer erbyn y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg. Mae'r dirwedd wedi dioddef chwaraela ar raddfa fach, yn bennaf i gyflenwi cerrig ar gyfer adeiladau a therfynau caeau lleol. Yn y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg gwnaed ymdrechion i gloddio aur, plwm a barytes o Fryniau Clwyd. Mae'r dystiolaeth o weithgarwch o'r fath ar ffurf ffosydd chwilio, er y darganfuwyd siafftiau dau fwynglawdd aur. Mae'r adroddiad yn dirwyn i ben gydag argymhellion ar gyfer cofnodi ac ymchwil y dyfodol.

The Clwydian Hills uplands archaeological survey, undertaken in 2007, covers approximately 16 square kilometres of the Clwydian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The landscape is a narrow spine of upland, most of it unenclosed, forming the boundary between Denbighshire and Flintshire. It is bounded on the west side by the Vale of Clwyd, Denbighshire, and on the east side by the low-lying farmland of Flintshire and the Alyn valley. The survey was conducted by walking regular 30 metre transects and aimed to identify sites of all periods. A total of 500 sites were recorded, ranging from Bronze Age cairns to the ephemeral clearance cairns of twenty-first century upland farming. Bronze Age cairns were found as isolated sites and as part of larger cairn fields. Four Iron Age hillforts dominate the upland landscape – Foel Fennli, Moel-y-Gaer, Moel Arthur and Penycloddiau – inside which evidence was found of former habitations in the form of levelled building platforms. A further defended enclosure was also found on Moel Llys y Coed. Just east of Foel Fenlli a short section of Roman road was discovered. Evidence of agriculture was found in the form of numerous earth and stone field banks, all between the 250m and 350m contours, which have been interpreted as late medieval or post medieval in date, but were disused by the nineteenth century. The landscape has been subject to small-scale quarrying, largely to supply building stone for local buildings and field boundaries. In the nineteenth century attempts were made to extract gold, lead and barytes from the Clwydian Hills. Evidence of such activity is mostly in the form of prospecting trenches, although the shafts of two gold mines have been discovered. The report concludes with recommendations for future recording and research

Llanegryn (Merioneth)

Gwnaed arolwg o 9 km sgwâr o ucheldir Llanegryn yn 2007, sef ardal oedd wedi cael ei gweld fel un toreithiog o ran olion archeolegol, ond nad oedd wedi cael ei arolygu'n drylwyr gynt. Cafwyd hyd i gyfanswm o dros 500 o safleoedd a nodweddion archeolegol a hanesyddol. Fe gafodd y rhain eu lleoli a'u cofnodi.

Cofnodwyd 13 ohonynt yn gynharach yng Nghofnod Henebion Cenedlaethol Cymru, a 23 ohonynt yng Nghofnod Amgylchedd Hanesyddol Gwynedd.

Gellir dosbarthu'r safleoedd a'r nodweddion a gofnodwyd mewn categorïau gwahanol, sef gweithgareddau amaethyddol a threfedigaethol o'r cyfnodau cyn-hanesyddol, o'r oesoedd canol ac o'r cyfnod ôl-ganoloesol. Gwelwyd clystyrau amlwg o nodweddion ar draws llethrau Allt-llwyd, ar hyd ochr orllewinol Cwm-llwyd ac yn ardal Bryn Seward yn y gogledd. Gellir dirnad y defnyddiwyd yr ucheldiroedd hyn ar gyfer magu defaid ers y cyfnod cyn-hanesyddol.

Mae patrwm ymddygiad crefyddol a defodol cyn-hanesyddol yn yr ardal hon wedi cael ei ymestyn, gyda'i ddosbarthiad yn adlewyrchu, mewn llawer ffordd, gweithgareddau amaethyddol a threfedigaethol.

Gwelir gweithgaredd diwydiannol hefyd, gyda llechi yn cael eu cloddio yn y cyfnod ôl-ganoloesol ar ochr ddwyreiniol Cwm-llwyd ac ym Modwylan. Cloddiwyd cerrig hefyd yn eang yn yr ardal, ond ar raddfa fechan.

The 2007 Llanegryn Upland Survey covered 9 square kilometers in an area already known to be potentially rich in archaeological monuments, but previously not systematically searched. A total of 500 archaeological and historic sites and features were located and recorded, 13 of which had previously been recorded in the National Monuments Record for Wales, and 23 of which had been previously recorded in the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record.

Sites and features recorded fell into fairly distinct groupings dominated by agricultural and settlement activities from the Prehistoric, Medieval and Post Medieval periods. Marked concentrations of features were seen across the slopes of Allt-llwyd, along the western side of Cwm-llwyd and in the Bryn Seward area to the north. A picture of an extensive use of these uplands for sheep husbandry probably dating back to the Prehistoric period emerges.

The pattern of Prehistoric religious and ritual behaviour in this area has been extended with distributions in many ways mirroring the agricultural and settlement activity.

Industrial activity is also seen with Post Medieval slate quarrying concentrating along the eastern side of Cwm-llwyd and at Bodwylan. Stone quarrying is small scale but extensive.

Great Rhos (Radnorshire)

Yn ystod haf 2007, cyflawnwyd arolwg archaeolegol manwl o ardal astudiaeth Great Rhos gan gwmni Trysor. Gwnaed y gwaith fel rhan o Fenter Uwchdiroedd y Comisiwn Brenhinol ar Henebion yng Nghymru. Gorwedd ardal yr astudiaeth yng nghanol Fforest Clud (Fforest Maesyfed), ychydig i'r gogledd o fwrdeistref hanesyddol Maesyfed Newydd (Trefaesyfed gynt). Mynydd Great Rhos, sy'n cyrraedd 660m, yw'r man uchaf o fewn y Fforest Clud.

Ardal astudiaeth cymharol fechan yw Great Rhos, sy'n mesur tua 9 cilometr sgwâr yn unig. Cynhwysir rhyw 5.5 cilometr sgwâr o fewn ardal yr arolwg maes, gyda'r prif ffocws ar y tir uchel, lle ceir porfeydd mynyddig heb eu gwella, gan fwyaf. Roedd tua 5.5 cilometr sgwâr arall yn syrthio o fewn ardal maes saethu'r "Radnor Range", safle sydd ym meddiant cwmni preifat lle gwneir arbrofion ar fwledi. Nid oedd modd cael mynediad i diroedd y maes saethu oherwydd cyfyngderau a roddwyd mewn lle yn 2006. Fel canlyniad, arolwg pen fwrdd yn unig a wnaed o'r ardal honno.

Dim ond 56 o safleoedd archaeolegol a gofnodwyd yn yr ardal astudiaeth gan y gwaith maes a'r arolwg pen fwrdd, y rhan fwyaf ohonynt yn safleoedd digon dinod.

Yn rhyfedd iawn, ychydig iawn o enghreifftiau o'r mathau o safleoedd archaeolegol mwyaf cyffredin

ym mynyddoedd y Canolbarth a welwyd. Dwy garnedd yn dyddio i Oes yr Efydd ac un clawdd sy'n dyddio i'r Oesoedd Tywyll, o bosib, oedd y safleoedd pwysicaf a nodwyd yn yr ardal.

Roedd y rhan fwyaf o'r safleoedd a gofnodwyd yn dyddio i'r cyfnodau ôl-ganoloesol neu fodern a ni chyfrir hwy i fod o bwys mawr. Maent yn cynnwys nifer o safleoedd sy'n gysylltiedig â'r maes saethu ei hunan. Mae prinder o safleoedd archaeolegol, yn enwedig safleoedd anheddu, yn hynod ddiddorol. Fe all hyn fod yn ganlyniad i'r ffaith mai tiroedd hela brenhinol oedd y fforest yn ystod y canol oesoedd, statws fyddai wedi bod yn rhwystr i anheddu a bob math o weithgareddau eraill yn yr ardal. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r dirwedd o few ardal yr astudiaeth yn dir mynyddig, garw, ac wedi derbyn statws Safle o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig oherwydd amrywiaeth a chyfoeth ei bywyd gwyllt a phlanhigion, yn enwedig ei adar. Yn ddi-os, mae'r bryniau o gwmpas Great Rhos, llawer ohonynt yn dir comin cofrestredig, wedi cael eu defnyddio fel porfeydd mynyddig ers canrifoedd, gan ffermydd sy'n gorwedd yn y cymoedd cyfagos.

Heddiw, mae ardal Great Rhos yn boblogaidd iawn gyda cherddwyr am ei fod yn cynnig lle ardderchog i gerdded, gyda golygfeydd arbennig ar draws tirwedd drawiadol y Fforest Clud a rhannau mawr o'r Canolbarth.

An archaeological field survey of the Great Rhos study area was undertaken by Trysor during the summer of 2007, grant aided as part of the RCAHMW's Uplands Initiative project. The area is found at the heart of the Radnor Forest, of which the Great Rhos summit, at 660m, is the highest point. The study area lies just to the north of the historic settlement of New Radnor.

Great Rhos was a small study area, only 9km² in total. Some 5.5k m² of the area was included in the field survey. This focussed on the highest ground, which was predominantly unimproved mountain pasture. A further 3.5k m² fell within the Radnor Range, a private ammunition testing complex, which was not accessible due to restrictions

put in place during 2006. A desktop survey was undertaken of this area.

Fieldwork and desktop research identified only 56 archaeological sites and features within the study area, most of which were of minor importance. Remarkably there are few of the site types commonly encountered in the mid-Wales uplands. Two Bronze Age round barrows and one possible Early Medieval dyke were the most significant sites within the area.

Most of the features recorded were minor in nature and of post medieval or modern date. These included many features associated with the Radnor Testing Range.

However, this relative absence of archaeology, particularly settlement evidence, is in itself interesting. It may in part be explained by the former status of the area as a royal hunting forest during medieval times, which must have restricted activity within the area to some extent.

Most of the landscape within the area is now rough, hill pasture, a large part of which is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to its rich flora and fauna, particularly its bird-life. Clearly, the hills around Great Rhos, much of which is still registered common land, have been used as upland pasture throughout recent centuries, by farms located in adjacent valleys.

Today, Great Rhos is popular with walkers as it offers exhilarating walks and spectacular views across the dramatic landscape of the Radnor Forest and mid-Wales.

Aberedw Hill (Radnorshire)

Cyflawnwyd arolwg archaeolegol yn ardal astudiaeth Mynydd Aberedw gan gwmni Trysor yn ystod hydref 2007 a gaeaf 2007-2008, gyda chymorth ariannol trwy brosiect Menter yr Uwchdiroedd y Comisiwn Brenhinol ar Henebion Cymru.

Gorwedd ardal yr astudiaeth tua'r dwyrain o dref Llanfair ym Muallt, rhwng pentrefi bychain Hundred House, Cregrina ac Aberedw.

Cofnodwyd dros 250 o safleoedd ac olion archaeolegol newydd o fewn yr ardal dan sylw, sy'n ymestyn dros 11 cilometr sgwâr o dir sydd yn bennaf yn borfeydd mynyddig, heb ei wella, tiroedd comin hanesyddol plwyfi Llanfaredd, Aberedw a Chregrina. Roedd presenoldeb trwch o redyn dros y llethrau o dan 400m o uchder yn gwneud gwaith maes yn anodd, ac oherwydd hynny gwnaed y rhan fwyaf ohono dros fisoedd y gaeaf, ar adeg pan oedd y llystyfiant wedi gwywo.

Cafwyd peth dystiolaeth archaeolegol am weithgarwch dynol yn y cyfnodau cynhanesyddol, gyda nifer o garneddau yno sy'n dyddio i Oes yr Efydd, prawf pendant bod y dirwedd wedi cael ei defnyddio gan gymunedau dynol dros 3,000 mlynedd yn ôl.

Mae'r ardal hefyd yn cynnwys llawer iawn o dystiolaeth archaeolegol yr ardal sy'n perthyn i'r canoloesoedd a'r cyfnod ôl-ganoloesol cynnar, sef olion aneddiadau a thystiolaeth am weithgarwch amaethyddol. Cofnodwyd nifer sylweddol o lwyfannau a chytiau hirion. Cyfrifir y rhain fel safleoedd tai a bythynnod sydd hen wedi diflannu. Daethpwyd o hyd i olion hen gaeau a llociau oedd yn gysylltiedig â hwy, yn ogystal â hen gwysi, tystiolaeth bod ymgais wedi bod i aredig a ffermio'r tir mynyddig mewn rhai mannau ar ryw adeg yn y gorffennol.

Yn ystod cyfnodau diweddarach, gwnaed ymgais i ddiffinio ffin y comin yn well. Ceir olion nifer fawr o chwareli bychain, lle cafwyd cerrig er mwyn i godi cloddiau cerrig o gwmpas y comin. Diben hynny oedd cadw anifeiliaid ar y comin dros fisoedd yr haf, ac i ffwrdd o'r caeau a phentrefi yn y cymoedd cyfagos.

Porfeydd mynyddig a thir comin yw'r rhan fwyaf o'r ardal astudiaeth. Heddiw, defaid yn unig sy'n pori'r comin. Ceir digon o byllau a nentydd naturiol i ddisychedu'r preiddiau. Croesir y brynau gan rwydwaith o lwybrau sydd yn ei wneud yn hawdd iawn i gyrraedd bron pob rhan o'r ardal. Ar y cyfan, mae digon o dir cymharol wastad ar y brynau i ganiatáu i ffermwyr y fro dorri'r rhedyn, sydd mor drwchus yma. Gwneir hyn gyda pheiriannau yn gynnar yn yr hydref ac mae'r llystyfiant yn cael ei balo a'i defnyddio yn lle gwellt dros fisoedd y gaeaf ar y ffermydd o gwmpas y mynydd.

Yn fwyfwy mae gweithgareddau megis cerdded yn dod ag ymwelwyr newydd i fryniau Aberedw. Gall hyn greu problemau newydd ar gyfer diogelu treftadaeth yma yn y dyfodol. Y gobaith yw y bydd y cofnod manwl o archaeoleg yr ardal fodd i helpu pobl mwynhau a deall yr ardal yn well, ac yn gymorth i'r sawl sydd am ddiogelu treftadaeth y fro rhag niwed dianghenraid.

An archaeological field survey of the Aberedw Hill study area was undertaken by Trysor during the autumn and winter of 2007-2008, grant aided as part of the RCAHMW's Uplands Initiative project. The area lies to the east of Builth Wells, between the villages of Hundred House, Cregrina and Aberedw.

Fieldwork identified over 250 new archaeological sites and features in a study area which extended over some 11 km² of predominantly unimproved mountain pasture, the historic commons of the parishes of Llanfaredd, Aberedw and Cregrina. The

presence of dense bracken below the 400m contour within the study area caused considerable difficulty for the field survey, much of which could not be undertaken until the winter months, when the bracken had withered.

There is some evidence of prehistoric activity, with several well-preserved Bronze Age round barrows recorded within the area, providing solid proof that the landscape here was exploited by human communities over 3,000 years ago. The study area also contains a significant amount of archaeological evidence relating to settlement and agricultural activity in the medieval and post-medieval periods. This includes platforms and long huts, many of which are suspected to be former dwelling sites, often within or associated with, earthwork enclosures and evidence of cultivation. It appears that in recent centuries some attempts to properly define the common boundary were made. In several areas, small quarries were dug at the edge of the common to provide stone for boundary walls to better define the common edge and keep stock on the hill pastures and away from the enclosed lands on the lower-lying, inhabited valleys.

Most of the landscape within the area is hill pasture and designated common land. These pastures are now used almost exclusively for sheep grazing. The hills within the study area are crossed by numerous trackways, which provide easy access. There are a plentiful supply of natural pools and streams to provide ample water for the grazing flocks. The relatively gentle slopes that are found across much of the area allow local farmers to make use of the dense bracken that grows up to the 400m contour. Large areas of bracken are mown during the early autumn and the vegetation is baled for use as winter bedding for stock wintered on farms around the mountain fringe.

Increasingly leisure activities, particularly walking, are bringing new users to the Aberedw hills, which may in future present new problems for the management of heritage sites. The comprehensive record of archaeological features that has been created by this project will hopefully enhance the enjoyment and understanding of the area in future, whilst serving to protect its heritage from avoidable damage.

Llyn Brianne (Carmarthenshire)

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn cynrychioli un rhan o Fenter Archeolegol yr Ucheldiroedd ehangach. Mae'r fenter hon, trwy arolwg ac archwiliad, yn anelu at lenwi'r bylchau yn y cofnodion archeolegol ar gyfer ucheldiroedd Cymru. Bydd synthesis a chyhoeddi y dystiolaeth a gasglwyd yn help i hyrwyddo dealltwriaeth bellach o archeoleg a hanes Ucheldiroedd Cymru, er mwyn darparu methodolegau integredig sy'n berthnasol i'w anghenion.

Comisiynwyd Archeoleg Cambria gan RCAHMW i ymgymryd â rhan o Fenter Archeoleg yr Ucheldiroedd, ar gyfer yr ardal a nodir yn yr adroddiad hwn (sef Ardal 6 ddynodedig De Llyn Brianne) ym mis Mai 2007.

Mae Ardal 6 yn gorwedd i'r dwyrain o gronfa ddŵr Llyn Brianne, rhwng Rhandirmwyn ac Abergwesyn, gan ganoli ar NGR SN 8203 4922. Mae'n cynnwys strïbed hir a chul o dirwedd ucheldir, sy'n lledu ar draws ffin Siroedd Caerfyrddin/Ceredigion/Powys. Diffinir ffin yr ardal astudiaeth yn y mwyafrif o leoedd gan blanhigfa coedwigoedd gonwydd, tra fod Cronfa Ddŵr Llyn Brianne yn ffurfio'r ffin ar hyd rhywfaint o'r ochr orllewinol.

Mae'r adnodd archeolegol sydd o fewn yr ardal astudiaeth yn nodweddiadol o'r ucheldir yn yr ardal hon ac mae'n cynnwys yn benna olion anhedd-dai amaethyddol

bychain sy'n dyddio nôl i'r canoloesoedd ac ôl-canoloesoedd, mwyngloddio plwm ôl-canoloesol a chromlechi yr Oes Efydd. Cofnodwyd nifer o lwybrau hefyd. Awgrymwyd rhaglen o arolwg topograffig a chloddio er mwyn cymharu safleoedd anhedd-dai cyffelyb sy'n dyddio nôl i'r canol oesoedd ac ôl-canoloesoedd er mwyn profi dilysrwydd dyddio'r safleoedd hyn.

This report represents one part of the wider Uplands Archaeology Initiative. This initiative, through survey and research, aims to fill gaps in the archaeological record for the Welsh uplands. Synthesis and publication of the evidence gathered will help to promote further understanding of the archaeology and history of the Uplands of Wales, in order to provide integrated methodologies related to their needs. The RCAHMW commissioned Cambria Archaeology to carry out part of the Uplands Archaeology Initiative, for the study area covered by this report (designated Area 6 Llyn Brianne South) in May 2007.

Area 6 lies to the east of Llyn Brianne reservoir, between Rhandirmwyn and Abergwesyn, centring on NGR SN 8203 4922. It comprises a long narrow strip of upland landscape, which straddles the Carmarthenshire/Ceredigion/Powys border. The boundary of the study area is defined in most places by coniferous forestry plantation, whilst Llyn Brianne Reservoir forms the boundary along some of its western side.

The archaeological resource within the study area is typical of the uplands in this area and consisted largely of the remains of small agricultural settlements of medieval and post-medieval date, post-medieval lead mining and Bronze Age burial monuments. A number of trackways were also recorded.

A programme of topographic survey and targeted excavation has been suggested to compare similar abandoned settlement sites of supposed medieval and post-medieval date in order to test the validity of the dating of these sites.

Sennybridge (Brecknockshire)

Yn ystod gwanwyn 2008, cyflawnwyd arolwg maes archaeolegol o Ardal Hyfforddi Ddiogel Pontsenni, sy'n rhan o diroedd y Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn yng Nghanolfan Hyfforddi Pontsenni (SENTA). Gwnaed y gwaith gyda chymorth grant gan Gomisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru, fel rhan o Fenter yr Ucheldiroedd. Gorwedd ardal yr astudiaeth yn ne Powys, yn yr hen Sir Frycheiniog. Mae'n rhan o'r ardal sylweddol fwy a gymerwyd drosodd gan y Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn ar gychwyn yr Ail Ryfel Byd ym 1940. Defnyddir hyd heddiw i hyfforddi milwyr.

Yn hanesyddol, roedd y rhan fwyaf o'r ardal yn dir gomin, gyda rhywfaint o hen dir â'r yng nghornel de-ddwyreiniol yr ardal. Gyda dyfodiad y Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn ar ddechrau'r Ail Ryfel Byd symudwyd y boblogaeth oddi ar y tiroedd hyn am byth. Ers 1940, mae'r ardal wedi cael ei gweddnewid fel canlyniad i hynny. Mae heolydd wedi cael eu gosod i wella mynediad i'r ardal, a choedwigoedd coniffer bychain a gwrychoedd wedi'u plannu. Yn ogystal, mae nifer o ffug-ffermydd wedi cael eu hadeiladau a llawer o gloddweithiau milwrol wedi ymddangos yma hefyd, gan gynnwys ffosydd a safleoedd amddiffynnol.

Defnyddiwyd yr ardal astudiaeth ar gyfer hyfforddiant gyda ffrwydron byw yn ystod ac ar ôl yr Ail Ryfel Byd, gan gynnwys ymarferion gyda gynau mawr ac arfau gwrth-danciau. Cofnodwyd cloddweithiau sy'n gysylltiedig â'r hyfforddiant cynnar hyn gan y prosiect. Heddiw, defnyddir yr Ardal Hyfforddi Ddiogel fel ardal lle gall unedau milwrol ymgymryd ag ymarferion gyda ffrwydron gwag. Golyga hynny fod yr

ardal arbennig hon yn llawer mwy diogel na'r ardal hyfforddi byw ymhellach i'r De, er roedd angen cymryd pob gofal wrth wneud yr arolwg er mwyn osgoi unedau milwrol oedd wrthi'n ymarfer.

Cofnodwyd dros 400 o safleoedd yn yr Ardal Hyfforddi Ddiogel, sy'n mesur dros 13.67 cilometr². Ychydig iawn o dystiolaeth sy'n goroesi am bresenoldeb cymunedau cynhanesyddol yng nghofnod archaeoleg yr ardal astudiaeth, sydd heb yr un safle claddu nac anheddiad cynhanesyddol sicr wedi'i gofnodi. Tystiolaeth am anheddu a ffermio yn ystod y cyfnodau canoloesol ac ôl-ganoloesol, neu safleoedd sy'n gysylltiedig â hyfforddiant milwrol yn y cyfnod modern a geir yn yr ardal hon, yn bennaf.

Er bod gwaith blaenorol wedi cofnodi nifer o aneddiadau canoloesol ac ôl-ganoloesol, gwnaed darganfyddiadau newydd o gytiau hirion a llwyfannau yn 2008 sydd wedi cynyddu nifer yr aneddiadau o fewn yr ardal yn sylweddol. Ceir llawer o safleoedd yn gysylltiedig â'r aneddiadau hyn, megis olion fferm magu cwingod ar fryn y Warren, a chlytwaith o gaeau tir â'r o gwmpas ffermydd anghyfannedd Pentre Dolau Honddu. Mae olion o'r math wedi goroesi oherwydd diwedd y traddodiad amaethyddol ar y tiroedd hyn ym 1940, cyn oes peiriannau amaethyddol trwm ar y tir.

Heddiw, mae preiddiau ffermydd lleol yn dal i bori'r bryniau yn ystod misoedd yr haf, er bod unedau milwrol yn rhannu'r un llethrau ar adegau. Ffermwyr lleol yw rhai o'r aelodau prin o'r cyhoedd sydd wedi cael caniatâd i fynd i mewn i'r ardal hyfforddi dros y degawdau oddi ar yr Ail Ryfel Byd, ac maen nhw'n dal i ymweld yn gyson â'r porfeydd i gadw golwg ar eu defaid. Yn ddiweddar, fodd bynnag, mae llwybr Ffordd yr Epynt wedi cael i agor, sy'n gadael cerddwyr i groesi trwy galon yr ardal hyfforddi a chael mynediad dirwysr i'r bryniau hyn am y tro cyntaf ers 1940. Wrth greu cofnod cyflawn ar gyfer safleoedd archaeolegol, y gobaith yw y bydd canlyniadau'r prosiect hwn yn gyfrwng i ddyfnhau dealltwriaeth o'r ardal ac yn gymorth i ddiogelu a hyrwyddo archaeoleg Mynydd Epynt ar gyfer y dyfodol.

An archaeological field survey of the Dry Training Area on the Sennybridge Training Area (SENTA) was undertaken by Trysor during the spring of 2008, grant aided as part of the RCAHMW's Uplands Initiative project. The study area lies in southern Powys, in the historic county of Breconshire. It forms the northern portion of a large area of Mynydd Epynt which was first taken over by the Ministry of Defence in 1940, at the outset of the Second World War and retained until the present day for military training purposes. Historically, most of this land was mountain common, with some enclosed and ploughed farmland and several farmsteads at its southeastern margins. The occupants of these settlements were evicted in June 1940, and they were never reoccupied.

Since 1940, the area has been modified considerably by the creation of a series of access roads, small conifer plantations and a hedgerow system, all provided to assist military training exercises. A considerable number of minor military earthworks, such as trenches and defensive positions have also appeared on the range, as well as several purpose-built mock farms which are also used during training exercises.

The study area was used for live firing exercises during and after the Second World War, including training in artillery and anti-tank weaponry. Earthworks associated with some of these early practices were identified in the field. At present, the specific purpose of the Dry Firing Range is to provide an area where military units can undertake training exercises which include the use of blank ammunition. It is therefore a much safer environment than the larger live firing ranges further to the

south, although caution has to be exercised during fieldwork to avoid contact with units engaged in training.

Fieldwork on the Dry Firing Range identified over 400 new archaeological sites and features in an area extending across an area of 13.67km². There is little evidence for prehistoric activity in the area, and no certain funerary or settlement sites of prehistoric date have been recorded. The archaeology of the Dry Firing Range is almost exclusively that of medieval or post-medieval settlement and modern military activity.

Although previous work had identified a number of medieval or post-medieval settlement sites, several new discoveries of platforms and long huts have been made, which significantly increase the range and number of settlement sites known within the area. Associated features include a large rabbit warren complex on Warren Hill, and a fossilised arable field system near the now deserted farmsteads around Pentre Dolau Honddu. The survival of both these complexes is largely the result of the end of agricultural activity on the land here in 1940.

Today, sheep from local farms still graze the hill pastures during the summer months, despite the daily presence of military units. Local farmers have been amongst the few members of the public allowed into the area for many decades, and they still enter the Dry Training Area to check on their flocks, both on horseback and with more modern agricultural machinery. Recently, however, the long distance walkers trail known as the Epynt Way has also been opened, crossing the military range and allowing public access to part of the area for the first time since 1940.

The creation of a comprehensive record of archaeological features as a result of this project will hopefully enhance people's understanding of the area in future, and help to protect and promote the archaeology of the Epynt range.

Black Mountains Central (N) (Brecknockshire)

Gwnaed arolwg archaeolegol yn ardal y “Mynyddoedd Duon Canol (Gogledd)” gan gwmni Trysor yn ystod haf a hydref 2007. Ariannwyd y gwaith trwy brosiect Menter yr Uwchdiroedd gan y Comisiwn Brenhinol ar Henebion Cymru. Gorwedd ardal yr astudiaeth yn Ne Powys, yng nghornel ddwyreiniol Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog, yn agos i'r ffin rhwng Cymru a Lloegr.

Cofnodwyd 360 o safleoedd ac olion archaeolegol newydd yn ystod y gwaith maes, o fewn ardal sy'n ymestyn dros ryw 23 cilomedr sgwâr o dir sydd yn bennaf yn fynydd-dir garw, anghysbell. Canfuwyd bod llawer o'r gweithgarwch dynol y gorffennol wedi cymryd lle ar ochrau gorllewinol a dwyreiniol yr ardal fynyddig hon, neu ar hyd cwm Grwyne Fawr, sy'n rhedeg i'r galon yr ardal astudiaeth.

Ymhlith y rhestr hir o safleoedd archaeolegol a welwyd yn y maes, roedd tystiolaeth posibl o aneddiadau cynhanesyddol a nifer o enghreifftiau da o garneddau claddu sy'n dyddio i Oes yr Efydd, rhai a'u cofnodwyd am y tro cyntaf. Gwnaed darganfyddiadau pwysig o safleoedd anheddiad canoloesol yn ogystal, prawf bod ffermwyr a bugeiliaid wedi meithrin y mynydd-diroedd a byw ar y brynau o fewn yr ardal hyd at amseroedd cymharol ddiweddar. O'r cymoedd cysgodol yn nwyrain a chanol yr ardal, draw hyd at y llethrau agored sy'n wynebu'r gorllewin, ceir digon o dystiolaeth am hen dai hirion, cytiau hirion a llwyfannau, yn ogystal â ffermydd a bythynnod cyfnodau mwy diweddar.

Ar wahân i chwarela am lechfaen ar raddfa fechan, doedd diwydiant ddim wedi cael unrhyw effaith ar yr ardal hyd ar ddechrau'r 20fed ganrif, pan dorwyd heddwch cwm Grwyne Fawr gyda dechrau'r gwaith adeiladu i greu Cronlyn y Grwyne Fawr, er

mwyn cyflenwi dŵr i ardal Abertyleri. Bron canrif yn ddiweddarach, mae'r llyn pictwresg hwn, a'i argae wyneb-garreg pert, yn dal i gael eu hamgylchynu gan olion yr adeiladau a pheiriannau a ddefnyddiwyd i'w hadeiladu.

Defnyddir bryniau'r ardal o hyd fel porfeydd haf i ddefaid y ffermydd sy'n sefyll oddi amgylch y mynyddoedd, ond mae Cronlyn y Grwyne Fawr hefyd yn symboleiddio diwydiant Newydd sy'n cael effaith ar y fro. Mae'r diwydiant hamdden yn tynnu mwy a mwy o ymwelwyr i mewn i'r ardal i brofi a mwynhau'r eangderau agored a'r golygfeydd ysblennydd. Mae dyfroedd y llyn yn atyniad mawr i bysgotwyr. Mae'r llwybrau mynyddig yn cael eu defnyddio'n ddyddiol gan lengoedd o gerddwyr, beicwyr mynydd a merlotwyr, tra bod gleidars a phara-gleidars yn hedfan yn dawel uwchben yr ardal yn ystod misoedd yr haf a'r hydref.

Mae'r prysurdeb newydd yma yn creu pwysau newydd ar safleoedd archaeolegol ac amgylchedd y Mynyddoedd Duon. Felly, y gobaith yw y bydd y cofnod cyflawn o olion archaeolegol yr ardal y mae'r prosiect hon wedi ei greu yn fodd i gynyddu dealltwriaeth o'r ardal yn y dyfodol, ac ar yr un pryd fod yn gymorth i ddiogelu'r olion brau a edrydd hanes miloedd o flynyddoedd o weithgarwch dynol ar y Mynyddoedd Duon.

An archaeological field survey of the Black Mountains Central (N) area was undertaken by Trysor during the summer and autumn of 2007, grant aided as part of the RCAHMW's Uplands Initiative project. The area lies in southern Powys, at the eastern end of the Brecon Beacons National Park, and close to the Wales – England border.

Fieldwork identified 360 new archaeological sites and features in an area extending across 23 km² of mountain common. Much of the human activity was found to have been focussed on the eastern and western fringes of the mountain block, as well as along the Grwyne Fawr valley, which cuts into the heart of the area.

The wide range of archaeological features encountered included possible evidence of prehistoric settlement and a number of fine Bronze Age funerary monuments, some identified for the first time. Significant new discoveries of Medieval and later settlement sites also showed clearly that the hills of the study area have in the not so distant past been settled and carefully managed by herdsmen and shepherds. From the sheltered valleys of the eastern and central parts of the study area, to the exposed terraces overlooking Talgarth to the west, there exists ample evidence of these past settlements in the form of longhouses, long huts, platforms, and more recent farms and cottages.

Apart from small-scale quarrying for tilestones, the area was not subject to industrial development until the early 20th century, when the tranquillity of the Grwyne Fawr valley was broken by the construction of the Grwyne Fawr reservoir, built to supply water to Abertillery and district. Almost a century later this picturesque reservoir, held back by a splendidly constructed, stone-faced dam, is still surrounded by traces of the buildings and machinery used in its creation.

The hills are still used as the summer pastures for sheep from farms situated around the mountain fringes, but the Grwyne Fawr reservoir also symbolises the importance of a new industry to this area. The leisure industry is drawing many more people into the area to explore and enjoy its open spaces and beautiful landscapes. The waters of the lake are used by fishermen, but the surrounding hills are daily used by hill walkers, mountain bikers and pony-trekkers, whilst the skies above are frequented by gliders and paragliders during the summer and autumn months.

This modern activity is creating new pressures on the archaeological resource and landscape of the Black Mountains. The creation of a comprehensive record of archaeological features as a result of this project will hopefully enhance people's understanding of the area in future, and help to protect the fragile sites which tell the story of thousands of years of human activity on the Black Mountains.

Black Mountains Central (S) (Brecknockshire)

Gwnaed yr arolwg o'r Mynydd Du dan nawdd Menter yr Uwchdiroedd, a noddir gan Gomisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru, rhwng Ebrill a Hydref 2007. Oherwydd dwysedd annisgwyl y darganfyddion a oedd yn gysylltiedig â'r byd milwrol modern yn ystod y sesiwn cyntaf, gwnaed y gwaith maes mewn dau sesiwn.

Rhyw 38 o gilometrau sgwâr o dir a arolygwyd, ac fe gynhwysai hynny'r ddwy gefn i'r gogledd o Grucywel a ymunai â'i gilydd yn Waun Fach i ffurfio siâp tebyg i bedol. Pennau deheuol y cefnennau oedd Table Mountain a Partrishow Hill.

Cafwyd bod dwysedd uwch o safleoedd ar y gefn orllewinol nag ar yr un ddwyreiniol, a hynny am fod mwy o graig yn brigo yno a bod modd ei defnyddio i godi adeiladweithiau arni. Ychwanegwyd ymhellach at y nifer o amgylch Pen Cerrig-calch gan amllder y pantiau o wneuthuriad dyn ar y llethrau sgri. Nodweddion ôl-ganoloesol neu fodern oedd y rheiny a chawsant eu creu drwy dynnu cerrig rhydd a'u pentyrru o amgylch y pant. Fel rheol, yr oeddent yn rhyw 1.5 metr ar draws ac yn fetr o ddyfnder, ond fe amrywiai eu siâp a'u dimensiynau lawer iawn. Yn aml, ceid grwpiau, ac weithiau barau, ohonynt, ond yn weddol fynych ceid cynifer â deg neu bymtheg. Gan i'r gwaith o ddod o hyd i ordnans byw ar y llethrau i'r gorllewin o Ben Alltmawr, a'i bod hi'n hysbys i ymarferion milwrol gael eu cynnal yno, mae'n debyg mai cysgodfannau bach neu dyllau ymochel a oedd yn gysylltiedig â hyfforddiant milwrol yw'r pantiau hynny.

Gan mwyaf, brigai'r graig ar y llethrau uchaf ac yr oedd y ffaith fod meini adeiladu ar gael yno'n gwrthbwysio anghyfleustra'r lleoliad mor uchel â hynny. O ganlyniad, gwelwyd y gostyngiad cyffredinol a disgwyliedig yn amllder y safleoedd wrth i'r tir godi, a hynny oherwydd y ffaith amlwg bod llai o arwynebedd wrth i'r mynydd gulhau, ond ni chafwyd unrhyw anghysondeb penodol nad oedd modd ei esbonio.

Sylwyd bod llai o safleoedd ar y llethrau a wynebai'r dwyrain ar y gefn orllewinol, a hynny am fod yr ochr orllewinol yn cael mwy o oriau o heulwen. Nid oedd y rhan fwyaf o ochr ddwyreiniol y gefn ddwyreiniol yn rhan o'r tir a arolygwyd. Gwelwyd tueddiadau o ran y math o safle wrth i'r cwarrau fod ar dir is gan mwyaf, er y cafwyd digon o eithriadau. Yr oedd bron pob un o'r cerrig terfyn a gofnodwyd yn ymyl copaon y mynyddoedd.

Yn ystod yr arolwg, nid oedd modd dod o hyd i rai o'r safleoedd sydd wedi'u codi yn y Cofnod lleol o'r Amgylchedd Hanesyddol (cofnod Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys). Ar dro, gallai hynny ddigwydd am fod y cyfesurynnau'n anghywir. Er enghraifft, cawsai capel ei gofnodi ar y llethr serth i'r gogledd-ddwyrain o Ben Cerrig-calch ond ni ellid dod o hyd iddo. Yr un oedd y sefyllfa o ran ty ar lethr gorllewinol Tal Trwynau. Mae'n debyg bod modd priodoli methu â dod o hyd i safleoedd eraill i'r llystyfiant trwchus ar y llethrau isaf – er enghraifft, safle damwain B17 gilometr i'r de o Ben Twyn Mawr a'r llwyfannau ar lethr ddwyreiniol Crug Mawr, er y cafwyd hyd i lu o safleoedd newydd.

Ar y cyfan, mae'r prosiect wedi llwyddo i wneud cofnod cyflawn o'r adeiladweithiau artiffisial ar y tir a arolygwyd ac i gynhyrchu set o ddata a fydd yn cynorthwyo ymchwil yn y dyfodol. Mae defnydd helaeth wedi'i wneud o GIS a'r trawsgrifiadau o

awyrluniau gan CBHC, a bydd y data'n cyfrannu at brosiect sydd ar y gweill gan ArchaeoPhysica i ddatblygu ymagweddau dadansoddol ar sail GIS at archwilio Uwchdiroedd Cymru.

Survey of the Black Mountains area proceeded on the auspices of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) grant aided Uplands Initiative between April and October 2007. The fieldwork took place in two sessions, due to the unexpected density of modern military-associated finds in the first session.

The survey area was roughly 38 square kilometres and covered two ridges north of Crickhowell, joining at Waun Fach to form a rough horseshoe shape. The southern extremities of the ridges were Table Mountain and Partrishow Hill.

The western ridge bore a higher density of sites than the eastern one. This was because there was far more outcropping rock which could be utilised to build structures. The tally was further bolstered around Pen Cerrig-calch by the very frequent occurrence of man-made hollows in the scree slopes. These were post medieval or modern features created by removing loose stones and piling around the depression. They were usually about 1.5 metres across and 1 metre deep, though their shape and dimensions varied markedly. They were often found in groups, sometimes in pairs, but not infrequently numbering as many as ten or fifteen. As live ordnance was discovered on the slopes to the west of Pen Allt-mawr, and the area is known to have been the scene of military exercises, it seems likely that these hollows are small shelters or foxholes associated with military training.

The rock outcropping was generally on the higher slopes and the availability of building stone counter balanced the inconvenience of the location at these heights. As a result, there was the expected general decrease in the frequency of sites with altitude, due to the obvious fact that there is less surface area as the mountain tapers, but there was no explicit, unexplainable discrepancy.

It was noticeable that on the western ridge there were fewer sites located on the east facing slopes, which can be explained by the west side enjoying longer hours of sunlight. Most of the east side of the eastern ridge was not in the survey area. There were trends within site type, with quarries generally being located lower down, although there were plenty of exceptions.

Almost all the boundary stones recorded were located near the tops of the mountains. Some sites recorded in the local HER (the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust) could not be found during survey. On occasions this could be because the co-ordinates were incorrect, for instance there is a chapel recorded on the steep slope to the northeast of Pen Cerrig-calch which could not be located, and likewise a house on the west slope of Tal Trwynau. Other failures to locate sites are probably attributable to the dense vegetation cover on the lower slopes, for instance the B17 crash site a kilometre south of Pen Twyn Mawr and the platforms on the east slope of Crug Mawr, although many new sites were discovered.

Overall the project has been successful in making a total record of the artificial structures within the survey area and producing a data set that will support future research. Extensive use has been made of GIS and the air photo transcriptions from the RCAHMW and the data will contribute to a developing project at ArchaeoPhysica to develop GIS-based analytical approaches to examining Welsh Uplands.