

Great Archaeological Sites in Rhondda Cynon Taf



5. HUTS AND HOUSES AT WERNLAS, MYNYDD Y GLOG



The Brecon Beacons are now deserted and lonely, with only a handful of farms scattered here and there, but they were not always quite so empty. The remains of houses can be seen dotted around the hills, showing where farmers came up every year with their stock to take advantage of the summer grazing, or had even scratched a living all year round.

There are farmsteads strung along Cwm Cadlan for a distance of about 3km. They stand at intervals on both sides of the road and most of the houses are still occupied. Above them the moorland rises bare to Cefn Cadlan on the north and Mynydd y glog on the south. But if you take the track that leads south past Wernlas, on the lower slopes of Mynydd-y-glog (SN 970 095) you will find the remains of other houses. One of them now appears as a grass-covered platform set north-south across the lie of the slope, with irregular lines of rubble marking where the outside walls once stood. It has a small yard attached to its western side. In another, which lies along the contour a little way to the south-east, the bottoms of the walls are marked by

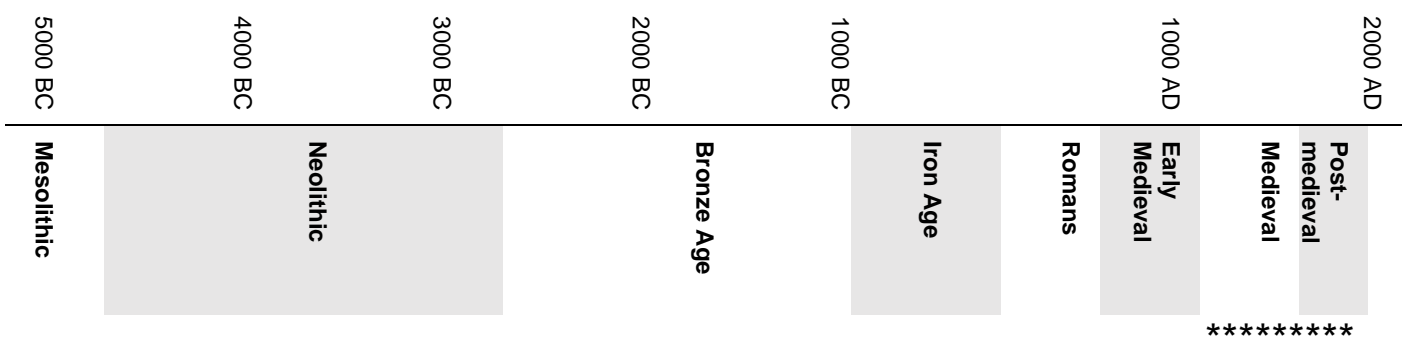
large irregularly shaped stones. This building was divided into two by a cross-wall, making two rooms. It has a yard at its west end. Other traces of enclosures can be seen nearby.

We have no written records of these houses and they do not appear on any maps. Were they part of the farming community of Cwm Cadlan? Further up the slope there are limestone quarries and the traces of limekilns. Were the people who lived there quarrymen and lime-burners? We will probably never know.



The site can be accessed from the footpath that runs, via Wernlas Farm, between Penmoelallt Forest and the unclassified road linking Penderyn village with the Llwyn-on reservoir. Parking in all these areas is very limited. Maps: OS Landranger Series sheet 160, Explorer Series Outdoor Leisure sheet 12.

Timeline (the asterisks indicate the possible time-span)



You can learn more about this site, and other similar archaeological sites in Wales, by going to <https://www.archwilio.org.uk/arch/>. Please read and observe the Conditions of Use. The complex of houses and enclosures has the PRNs (Primary Record Number) 05223m, and you can search for other similar sites here too. You can contact us via social media or through the methods given at the bottom of the page.