

# Burnt Mounds Southeast Wales

**February 2007**

A report for Cadw  
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## GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales

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mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmcdliii)Figure 17: Location of 00342w and 00343w and prehistoric sites in the vicinity. Based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd 100017916 (2006). Annotations are the copyright of GGAT and Cadw. 62

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### Summary

*This report presents the results of an assessment of known burnt mounds within southeast Wales, following a similar assessment carried out by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (Williams 1995). The assessment consisted of a desktop study of the TYPE 'burnt mound' and 'cooking mound' sites within the regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the National Monuments Record (NMR) of which all the SMR sites were visited (n=18) in agreement with the management plan, which stated sites other the SMR sites would be visited if time allowed. During these field visits a written and photographic record was created for each site and panoramic photographs taken where weather permitted. Eight of these sites were positively identified through the presence of burnt stone, two further which likely had burnt stone (00182 and 00183w) and 8 were the subject of an earthwork survey.*

*Research was carried out throughout the time of the study to gather any data or information that would enhance the interpretation and understanding of sites and/or recognition of sites in different states of preservation in the field, as well as to enhance the database of Burnt Mounds for the production of this report and the updating of GGAT's SMR. Activities included a guided tour of exposed and excavated burnt mounds along the new Milford Haven to Aberdulais gas pipeline in Wales and other site TYPE searches on NMR, Cadw and SMR databases as suggested by further reading, namely 'mound' and 'hearth'.*

*Following the fieldwork a database was prepared, incorporating the details recorded during the field visits and generated by the research and desktop studies. Altogether 25 new burnt mounds have been added to those previously entered onto the SMR, along with a vast amount of information added to the original SMR Burnt Mounds records, the majority of which were previously almost void of information.*

*The main part of this report consists of a description and photographs for each site visited, accompanied by an computer generated illustration for those sites which where subject to a earthwork survey or detailed hachure sketch on site; followed by a discussion of the field findings in relation to the general picture of burnt mounds in Southeast Wales.*

*There was no mound or other evidence suggesting a burnt mound for two sites (02241w and 02903w). A possible mound was found for 00344w and a possible mound and burnt stone found for 02241w. For 02238w, a possible mound and location with burnt stone in the very near-by stream.*

### Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the National Trust for permission to carry out various works at 00021w and to other owners of the lands in the Vale of Glamorgan and the Gower, as well as the support of the various Common's Association: Gower Commoner's Association, West Glamorgan Commoner's Association. We would also like to thank Tony Brown and Shirley Wyn of the University of Exeter for their time and expertise, in particular visiting some of the sites. We would also like to thank Neil Fairburn for taking Gail Higginbottom to visit many burnt mounds along the Milford-Haven to Aberdulais gas pipeline and various burnt mound discussions.

Gail Higginbottom PhD, Andy Sherman BA and Caroline Thomas BA prepared this report. Caroline Thomas BA carried the desktop study; Caroline Thomas, Gail Higginbottom, and Andy Sherman undertook the fieldwork. The maps where prepared by Gail Higginbottom and Caroline Thomas, and the illustrations drawn to scale by Paul Jones.

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## 1. Introduction

Following a pilot project carried out by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (Williams 1995) it had been decided that the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) should carry out an assessment of the known burnt mounds within the former counties of Glamorgan and Gwent. Despite being one of the most common site types in Britain (n=c.2,500, from ADS in Brown and Davis 2005), *the* most common site type in Ireland and very common in regions of western Wales, only 18 burnt mounds are registered on the SMR of south-east Wales.<sup>1</sup> Numbers such as these in the various countries of the British Isles, and the comparative lack of the same in Wales, and in southeast Wales in particular, along with the lack of information within the burnt mound records of the GGAT SMR provided the necessary spur to finally investigate the nature of the record in the Glamorgan Gwent area.

The term burnt mound refers to an enigmatic monument that constitutes a mound constructed from heat cracked stone and fire debris, beneath which can often be found a series of pits and troughs that are sometimes lined with wood or stone. The purpose of the activity that created these mounds is highly contested with a number of theories have being suggested, including a form of ritual sauna, cooking and metalworking. Of these theories the most often sited is their use in cooking.

Generally, burnt mounds are invariably associated with water or wetlands including rivers, streams, lakes and springs (Williams 1995, 3 and Crane 2002,110) and usually appear in clusters or pairs with some now being identified having been placed on top of natural glacial. This close association of the mounds with water – both springs and streams – allowed Cantrill and Jones to conclude that the mounds were ‘prehistoric hearths or cooking places’ (Cantrill and Jones 1906) and the stones ‘pot-boilers’. Cantrill was, however, puzzled by the large accumulations of stone debris, since pot-boilers should be reusable many times. However, analogies with Irish hearths, and ethnographic parallels, allowed Cantrill to conclude that of the three well-attested methods of cooking by heated stones – boiling, steaming and baking – only the first produced sufficiently large quantities of cracked and reddened stones as debris to compare with the quantities found in burnt mounds (James 1986, 248).

James 1986 paper attests that some of these sites can also be rather complex in form with a number of pits occurring within one monument, and, where more than one monument occurs in the vicinity, pits can appear between them. As well, linear or other forms of stake holes occur as well as embankments. Importantly for some sites, dates from different pits under the same mounds may offer evidence of at least overlapping use over a period of time, and the various dumps may well “represent a gradual build up of debris from (separate events) in the pits (James, 1986, 260)”. This suggests that excavated sites require a greater amount of dating evidence to gain certitude of “the relative ages of pit abandonment and the make up of the dumps”.

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<sup>1</sup> Importantly, these sites are now known not to be a rarity in England as heretofore reported by Williams, as attested by the ADS register (1995, 2). Note too, that the ADS register seems even not to yet map the many sites to be found in south-west Wales. Thus the real numbers of even known mounds is probably much higher.

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More specifically, a more in-depth environmental picture has recently been elaborated by Brown and Davis' paper, presented at the Bronze Age Forum in Dublin, 2006 (Leverhulme Project, as yet unfinished). The wetland locations, especially peated areas, have proven to be very good environments for obtaining the appropriate beetle and pollen data required for such analyses. Brown and Davis explained that burnt mounds were created and generally operated in a backwater situation, near a fast flowing channel, and the digging of lined pits away from the main water channels could have aided in the prevention of rubbish accumulating during times of flooding. The Irish sites tested appear to post-date both arable and pastoral activities in the area and the local area appeared to have been progressively cleared prior to the burnt mound being built or used. Pollen and beetle analyses suggest the areas were possibly originally covered either by minimum or fairly open woodland or scrub (part of the tests specifically suggested a lack of canopy). At these same sites, charcoal evidence revealed that at times burnt mounds were used, cleared and re-used (such as at Craigbrien). The beetle evidence suggested that the mounds may have been used in spring or autumn as the beetles that were found are not generally found in areas without light. It is likely, then, that there is a lack of canopy when the burnt mounds were in use.

The date range of burnt mounds appears to be substantial with sites dating to the late Neolithic being excavated in northeast England and from the medieval period in west Wales, however the majority of sites date from the early Bronze Age. Radiocarbon dates obtained from burnt mounds in south-west Wales range primarily from 3960±65 BP to 2890±60 BP (Groom and Wilson 2004, 11, James 1986, Crane 2002). This places the majority of dated sites for south-west Wales in the early to middle bronze age (n=6/7). One also appears to occur in the late bronze age. These fit in with the general pattern of the majority of mounds found across the British Isles and other regions. However, a mounds dating to the late Neolithic in NE England and even the mediaeval period in Wales have been identified. Thus they are long-lived in use but their period and the new evidence of varying contexts shows that the form has been adapted and used for more than one function and/or cultural use. The majority to date have neither bone nor cereal remains. Importantly in Wales, burnt mounds have begun to be considered in a wider context in relation to other monuments close by and even discovered within settlement contexts further revealing that this simple-seeming monument is just that.

The form of these mounds vary considerably, it has been noted in west Wales that the majority of sites are a variation on oval and sub-circular forms and truncated variations on these (Williams 1995, 5). However in southeast Carmarthenshire, as in the rest of the UK and Ireland, large crescentic mounds are more frequent, on first inspection of the regional SMR this also seems to be the pattern on Gower, which contains the largest known concentration of burnt mounds within Glamorgan and Gwent.

### 1.1 Methodology

#### Desktop

The first stage of the project involved the extraction from the regional SMR and the NMR of all records of the TYPE '*burnt mound*' and '*cooking mound*' either on their own or with other parameters (such as a description of the shape). Continued reading throughout the project resulted in further site TYPES being examined in the SMR, NMR and Cadw databases, namely '*mound*' and '*hearth*', again on their own or with other parameters. The results of these later

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searches were used to enhance the digital database only as these extra investigations came later on in the project.

These processes produced a total of 213 sites for the whole of Glamorgan and Gwent. The results of this search were then edited to remove any duplicate entries and those records which were clearly not burnt mounds leaving a total of 43 sites, of which all the SMR sites were visited (n=18, plus two extra sites that were found in the vicinity of the original SMR sites) in agreement with the management plan, which stated sites other than the SMR sites would be visited if time allowed (Figure 1: see, Figure 2: and Figure 3: for maps of site locations in Southeast Wales).

It was at this point that it was discovered that only three possible burnt mounds were recorded in the former county of Gwent. In fact, there is very little information available for them. Why this should be is not clear, however given the frequency of burnt mounds in other regions of the UK and Ireland, the near absence of this monument type within Gwent probably stems from a lack of fieldwork, combined with a difficulty in identifying the monuments on the ground, rather than a lack of burnt mounds themselves. It is hoped that future fieldwork will remedy this situation.

Information from the regional SMR and NMR database was then supplemented from published sources and material held in the further information files. The most useful material was that which was contained in the Stone and Bronze Ages volume of the *Inventory* (RCAHMW 1976) and Cantrill and Jones survey of the burnt mounds in Dyfed (Cantrill and Jones 1906), which covered a number of the sites located in the northwest of the modern county Neath Port Talbot. Data for other sites was compiled as well as possible from other sources.

Information on Burnt mounds in general was researched via literature and through active contact with individuals who were currently working in the field. Non-literature bases sources included Polly Groom of Pembrokeshire, John O'Neil (who recently completed a PhD on Burnt Mounds in Ireland), The Bronze Age Forum (including new research in bronze age landscapes with three papers on Burnt Mound research) and William O'Brien (UCC).

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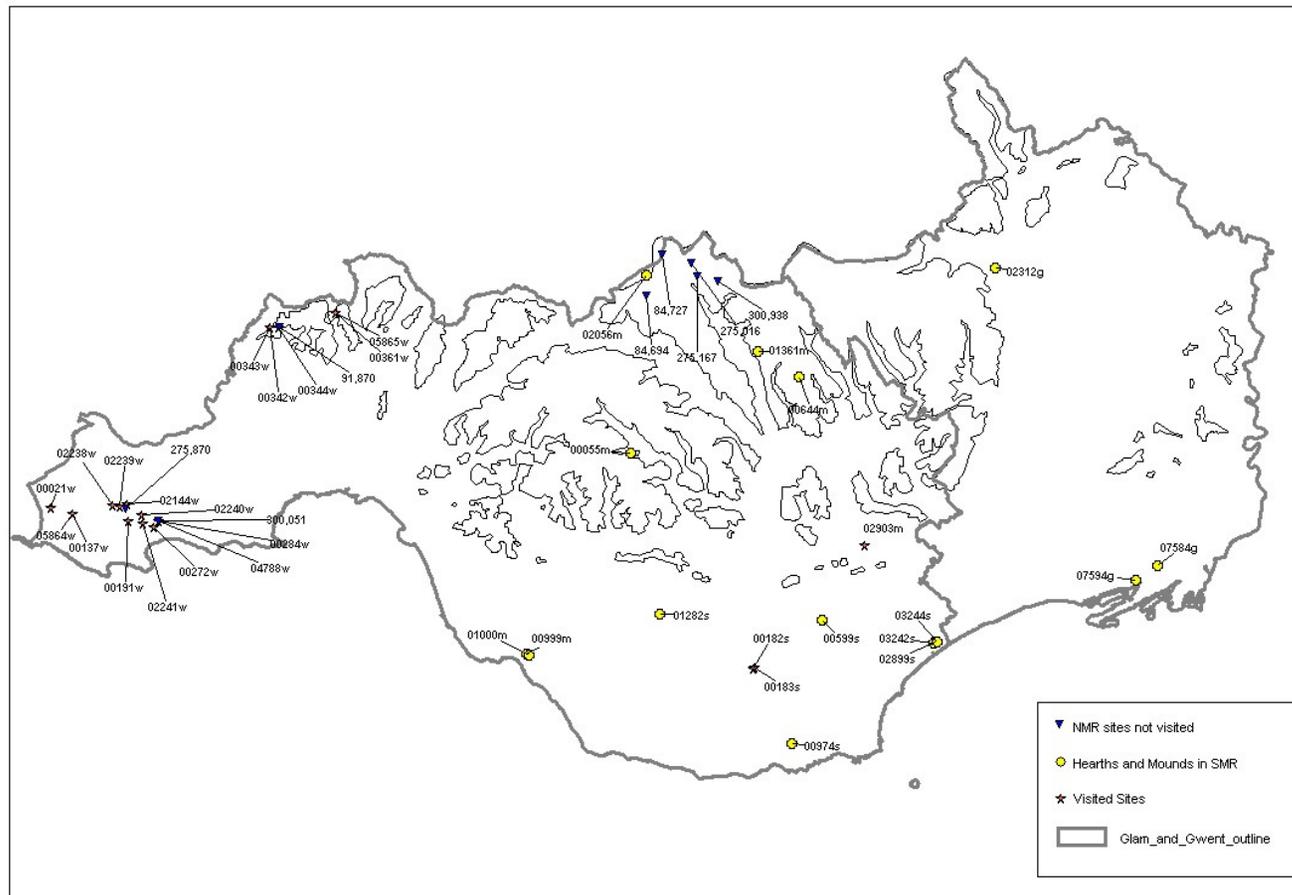


Figure 1: This map shows the known and possible burnt mounds in the area of southeast Wales. The sites on the map are divided into three kinds: those that were visited and thus originally on the SMR plus two NMR sites that were not, NMR sites that were burnt mounds but not visited due to lack of time and sites that were uncovered through further desktop survey via extra sites TYPES being considered that were considered possible burnt mounds. Upland areas are outlined by fine lines (that is over 244m OD). Based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd 100017916 (2006). Annotations are the copyright of GGAT and Cadw.

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### GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales

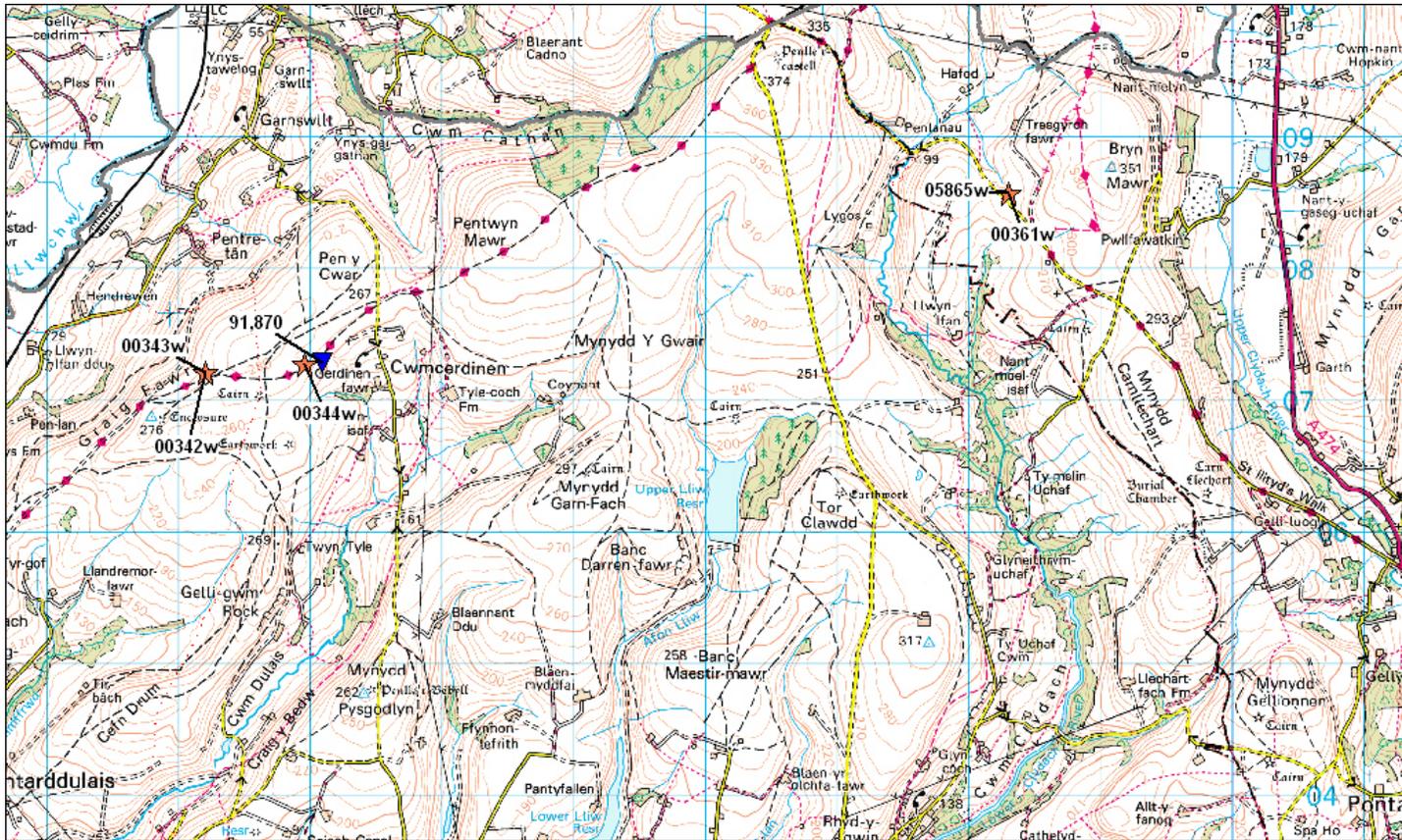


Figure 3: On this map can be seen those sites that sit tightly together in two areas northeast of Pontarddulais and northwest of Pontarddulais. It is quite possible that many more burnt mounds could be found in this location given the survival of monuments in upland locations generally and the amount of burnt stone found in streams whilst walking towards the known monuments and walking about trying to find them. This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd 100017916 (2006). Annotations are the copyright of GGAT and Cadw.

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As far as possible the identity of the landowner was established via the Land Registry, to eliminate the need for time-consuming enquiries in the area. However this proved to be rather fruitless in the end. For, whilst cover letters were successfully written to the various Commoner's Associations (the cover letter introduced the project and contact details given, also sent was an informative leaflet for the general public on burnt mounds produced primarily by Caroline Thomas) approximately 15 of the 18 SMR/NMR sites were registered with the incorrect landowner (discovered after first mail out) which caused the need much for research via telephoning and so forth. Similar cover letters and the same informative leaflet had been posted to the original owners and most letters redone and sent to the new or correct owners of the properties. No reply was gained then for 14 of the sites (eventually turned out to be the same representative for each of the 14 sites). To speed up the process somewhat, the representative was contacted via telephone just as fieldwork was to begin. The landowner of a further two sites was found through house-to-house enquiry. Eventually, we were able to visit and carry out non-intrusive work on all 19 sites, and had permissions to carry out intrusive work on five.

### **Fieldwork**

All the SMR sites were visited for this survey, with two extra sites discovered one each at separate SMR sites. These two extra sites were found to be noted on the NMR at the same sites. The sites visited were located by GPS, enabling the NGR for each monument to be corrected if necessary, allowing for future relocation in the field by subsequent workers; the GPS readings in the database were taken approximately in the centre of each monument. Occasionally it was not possible to obtain a reliable GPS reading, because a sufficiently good signal could not be obtained. Where sites were not at the NGR marked, a search was made of the area to see whether they could be located. The GPS was also used to obtain a height OD where this was not previously known, but as this function is less reliable than the NGR, it was not used to supplant existing data and where used, was corrected to the nearest 5m.

Assessment in the field included a written record comprised of a description of each site, current vegetation coverage, a note of any nearby archaeological monuments and the nature of the surrounding landscape. Photographs were taken using black-and-white print and digital format where there was anything to be seen on the ground and detailed sketch hachured plans were made for all positively identified monuments.

Initially it had been intended to follow the methodology established by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust and augur each burnt mound with a scotch auger as recommended by Brian Williams of the Department for the Environment for Northern Ireland (Williams 1995, 4). As well as this, we hoped to remove a small rectangle of turf for certain identification in those areas on the mounds where the turf was not too deep (if too deep larger sections would have required removal, perhaps up to two metres where the turf lay more 45-50 cm). Unfortunately it was not possible to acquire landowner's permission to carry out this intrusive work on most of the sites. It was discovered, however, that the abundance of burnt stone and charcoal on the surface of many identifiable monuments was significant enough to positively identify each as a burnt mound. One mound required minor turf cutting for confirmation and was done so with prior permission.

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As intrusive work was not allowed it was deemed important to at least carry out detailed earthwork survey using trilateration at approximately half of these sites to better inform us of the monuments (n=8). A series of panoramic shots were taken at 8 sites (as weather permitting).

Five monuments were planned to be revisited with specialists from Exeter University in order to establish suitability for future excavation and future gathering of palaeo-environmental evidence. The latter would help to reveal function, site activity and dating sequences, and the environment prior to, during and after the monuments were used and built. Naturally these are the 5 upon which permission had been given for intrusive work to date. Of these 5, 3 were visited as the rain had affected fields for one site (00137w – only 1 recorded on SMR but in fact 2 mounds) to such an extent the farmer asked us to come again next year if we could.

### 1.2 General topography and geology

The area in which the fieldwork was carried out constitutes the former counties of West, Mid and South Glamorgan created in 1974. These counties can be split into two main regions, an area of lowland coastal plain and an area of upland. The area of upland comprises the larger part of the south Wales coal measures which consist of a series of sharp ridges and deep narrow valleys generally orientated north-south, although those in the eastern half are orientated northwest-southeast while the Swansea and Neath Valleys run northeast-southwest; along with the lower foothills that form the southern edge of the Brecon Beacons. The solid geology of which is made up of bands of Millstone Grit and Carboniferous Limestone, which changes to Old Red Sandstone towards the northern boundary of Glamorgan.

The area of coastal plain covers the Gower peninsula and the Vale of Glamorgan. The Gower peninsula consists of undulating lowland split by narrow, steep sided valleys and occasional areas of highland; the geology of the eastern half of the peninsula consists of Coal Measures overlain by glacial drift, whereas the western half is dominated by Old Red Sandstone and occasional outcrops of Carboniferous Limestone. The Vale of Glamorgan can split into three areas, that which occurs around the border of the Vale and Bridgend is a rolling plateau of Carboniferous, Lower Lias and Triassic Limestone broken by branching steep sided valleys to the east of the River Thaw and shorter, shallower, winding valleys between the Rivers Thaw and Ewenny; with a significant area of sand dune formation around the meeting of the Ewenny and Ogmere Rivers. That which occupies the area to the west of the River Thaw and the eastern edge of the county, where the geology consists largely of glacial sands and gravels with occasional outcrops of Carboniferous, Lower Lias and Triassic Limestone. Whilst the final area to the north and east of the River Ely and to the west of Barry is characterised by steep-sided hills, with geology that mainly constitutes deposits of Triassic Limestone interspersed with smaller areas of Carboniferous and Lower Lias Limestone separated by narrow bands of Rhaetic Sandstone.

There have been significant changes in parts of the coastline since the Bronze Age, particularly around the Gower peninsula and eastwards to the mouth of the River Ogmere. The data for coastline change dependent upon sea level in the Bristol Channel are presented by Allen (2001, 17, fig 4B), indicating that at the beginning of the Neolithic (6000 bp), mean high water would have been at around 10m below datum, and the most significant differences would therefore have been in the bays of this area. The contours below the high-water mark also indicate that a

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cave used for burial in the Bronze Age which is now on the coast, was then close to the sea but not on a sea cliff with access limited by the tides. At Merthyr Mawr Warren at the mouth of the River Ogmore, the appearance of the coastline and the area immediately inland of it has been altered by besandment, which seems to have started in the Bronze Age (perhaps 2000 BC) and has continued up to the medieval period and beyond (Higgins 1933, 38-41, 61), obscuring the original topography and resulting in the disappearance from view of an important group of barrows and cairns. To the east of Merthyr Mawr, the coastal edge of the Vale is formed mainly by limestone cliffs, and here the main losses will have been through erosion of the cliff-edge; there is no evidence here for significant lower-lying deposits which have been overwhelmed by the sea (Evans and Lewis 2003, 4).

### 1.3 Present land use

At present, most of the lowlands are agricultural land, with some arable particularly in the Vale, but with improved pasture predominating elsewhere; unimproved moorland pasture and woodland and limited areas occupy a relatively small percentage of the lowland. In the uplands there are extensive areas of forestry, the remainder being given over largely to pasture, which takes the form of moorland pasture on the higher ground and improved pasture at lower elevations. Coal mining has taken place in many locations, though mainly in the uplands, and has been responsible for the complete restructuring of significant areas of landscape in some areas, through tipping and, more recently, open-casting. Differences in land use have affected the survival of monuments. Although some monuments in the uplands have been completely lost to mining and forestry, the remainder survive relatively well; but in the lowlands there is a problem for most of them of continual degradation caused by repeated ploughing. The spread of the main urban areas, particularly Bridgend, Cardiff and Swansea, has also had some impact on monuments that lie within their bounds (Evans and Lewis 2003, 5). The monuments that were visited were primarily found on moorland pasture on the higher ground of the uplands a smaller number were found on improved pasture at lower altitudes.

## 2. Notable fieldwork outcomes

Of the 18 sites visited, 15 are deemed to be found with three possible, with a further two offering no evidence. Two 'new' sites were visited for the SMR, at 00316w and 00137w. At the former the new site was not found to be listed anywhere else, and at the latter, the second mound was mentioned as one of two in the NMR. According to the NMR, the two mounds were placed in a field near to the SMR NGR, and their limited descriptions appear to match the pair when visited.

Unequivocal confirmation of burnt stone was gained at eight sites: seven where burnt stone was apparent without intervention and at one site (00021w) where a small rectangular piece of turf was removed to reveal such. Visiting the other three (00021w, 00183s and 00183s) with the environmental specialists proved to be exceptionally helpful. Previously 00183s and 00183s were not located with any definiteness due to the changes in the environs and the sites themselves over time. With their help defunct/realigned water-courses, relic streams and spring lines were located and a greater understanding of the monument and landscape was produced, along with the likelihood of each site's location (see specific monument discussion/description). This site location was further supported when possible burnt stone was also identified at the sites for 00182w and 00183w. Both sites were covered quite deeply in turf from approximately 20 cm at the shallowest until 60 cm or greater either side of a roughly circular diameter. At the base of this was mostly stoney, impenetrable material. Thus we have confirmation of a monument and possible monument type in these two locations.

### **3. Individual site assessments**

This section provides the details of each site in separate tables. The importance of this section is to highlight the increase in information for each site due to the desktop surveys and the completed fieldwork. This is most easily demonstrated by comparing the fields 'ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION' with 'FULL DESCRIPTION', the latter having the majority of the new research added. As well as these, archaeological illustrations of the sites (earthwork surveys and site sketches) and photographs elucidate the situation of the burnt mounds in southeast Wales.

3.1 00021w



Plate 1: Site 00021w, Rhossili Down Burnt Mound. Photograph taken towards the northeast in late summer (GGAT 85 photographic catalogue - 00021w Return site visit 25\_08\_06).

**Index No** 1135  
**PRN** 00021w  
**RELATED PRNs** 0  
**NPRN** 305560  
**SAM Ref** GM476  
**NAME** RHOSSILI DOWN, BURNT MOUND  
**NGR** SS41919053  
**BROADCLASS** Domestic  
**TYPE** Burnt mound  
**FORM** Earthwork  
**SUMMARY** Crescentric turf covered mound on the brow of the N slope of Rhossili Down. About 12.5m N-S by about 10.7m E-W, and about 1m high, rising to two low mound-like features on each horn of the crescent. There are about 12-14 burnt mounds in Glamorgan.  
**ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION** Crescentric turf covered mound on the brow of the N slope of Rhossili Down. About 12.5m N-S by about 10.7m E-W, and about 1m high, rising to two low mound-like features on each horn of the crescent. There are about 12-14 burnt mounds in Glamorgan, of which 5 are in Gower.  
**FULL DESCRIPTION** Site Visit made by Gail Higginbottom (GGAT), Tony Brown (University of Exeter) and Shirley Wyn (University of Exeter) in November 2006. At this visit it was established that burnt stone was in evidence by the creation of a small cutting 20 cm in depth on the north side of the monument (small spade width). From coring offsite it was established that the topsoil and turf in surrounding area was very shallow before bedrock was reached. This suggests that this site would not be suitable for obtaining palaeo-environmental

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evidence. To find the shallowest area of turf for the viewing of burnt stone the site was checked for soil-turf depth. The site itself appears to be shallowly covered in topsoil and turf, ranging from approximately 20-35 cm. Therefore excavation here (on a crest with shallow covering) at this site may be difficult and with little distance downwards offering any depth of context except on the steep bank of the crest. Importantly, at this time of year we could easily observe the spring in operation and the affect of the blocking stones which clearly created a pond opposite the opening of the crescent shaped mound. Such an amount of water would recommend excavation in summer, whilst in summer there is the issue of the thick bracken (GMH, GGAT 85, 28/11/06).

Site Visit made by Gail Higginbottom and Caroline Thomas on 15/08/2006. A crescentic turf covered mound on the brow of the hill on the north slope of Rhossili Down. The crescent of the mound faces west with steep slopes rising upwards towards the left and down towards the right. The sea is in view when looking east to west. A ridge of outcropped stone runs NE to SE and the surrounding area is strewn with conglomerate boulders. The description produced in the original data entry suggests the mound is situated beside a spring. However, this source appears to be located further up the hill in agreement with the OS card information. The spring opens to a small stream and becomes a pond on the southwest of the mound (the 'pond' is evidence by a thick cover of sphagnum moss). This pond appears to have created deliberately with a line of large blocking stones (flat faces) a few metres up the hill from the mound to slow the rate of water as it flows down the steep slope. At the edge of the crest opposite where one arm of the burnt mound rests, more large stones block the stream aiding the creation of the pond, by preventing the water from flowing rapidly off the brow. These too may have been deliberately placed, though the evidence is not as clear. At the time of site visit, landscape cover consisted of turf, heather and bracken. See photographs and drawings in GGAT 85 digital archive. (CT/GGAT). Unusually set on a steep hillside, this mound, 12.5m by 10.7m and 0.9m high, opens on to a stream immediately below a spring (CT, GGAT 85, 2006)..

Unusually set on a steep hillside, this mound, 12.5m by 10.7m and 0.9m high, opens on to a stream immediately below a spring (source Os495card; SS49SW34). J.Wiles 08.07.02. (Information obtained from RCAHMW ENDEX data as of 11/09/06 by CT).

Crescentic turf covered mound on the brow of the N slope of Rhossili Down. It lies beside a spring which is the source of a small stream-the classic situation for such monuments. The mound is about 12.5m N-S by about 10.7m E-W, and about 1m high, rising to two low mound-like features on each horn of the crescent. The hollow part of the crescent opens towards the spring, which lies to the west. There are about 12-14 burnt mounds in Glamorgan, of which 5 are in Gower.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Intact
<b>HISTORY</b>	This burnt mound is hearth No 93 in Cantril and Jones' list of prehistoric cooking places in S.Wales
<b>PARISH</b>	Rhossili
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Llangennith, Llanmadoc and Cheriton
<b>UA</b>	Swansea
<b>COUNTY</b>	West Glamorgan
<b>ALTITUDE</b>	105m
<b>LANDUSE</b>	Heath
<b>COMMENTS</b>	JA
<b>AREA</b>	
<b>STATUS</b>	
<b>SCIENTIFIC</b>	

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### 3.2 00137w



**Plate 2: 00137w, Burnt Mound on Druid's Moor facing southwest. Mound 05864w begins on the north side of the tape near the reeds, on the right-hand side of the photograph (GGAT 85 photographic catalogue - 00137w. Mound 1. Concave area on SE side. Pole marks centre and base, no.7. Facing SW).**

**Index No** 1711  
**PRN** 00137w  
**RELATED PRNs** 05864w  
**NPRN** 305526  
**SAM Ref** 0  
**NAME** Burnt Mound on Druid's Moor  
**NGR** SS43898998  
**BROADCLASS** Domestic  
**TYPE** Burnt mound  
**FORM** Earthwork

**SUMMARY** A site visit revealed two circular shaped mounds. The first, Mound 1(00137w), is approximately 20m in diameter and exhibits a slight crescentic shape. Mound 2 (05864w) is to the north of Mound 1 and is now listed separately in the SMR. Directly to the west of the mounds running north to south is a well defined, deep, stream approximately 1.5m in depth. Shallow trowelling of the areas revealed evidence of burnt stone.

#### **ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION**

**FULL DESCRIPTION** Gail Higginbottom and Caroline Thomas of GGAT made a site visit on 21/08/06. The description of the burnt mound produced for the original data entry refers to a circular turf covered mound with a central hollow and two horns. At the identified grid reference there is a turf covered mound (Mound 1) approximately 20m in diameter that exhibits a slight crescentic shape (NGR SS4390389975). However, the mound appears to be slightly concave on both the NW and SE slope. Shallow trowelling over the surface of the mound revealed widespread evidence of burnt stone. Directly to the west of the mound running north to

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south is a well defined, deep, stream approximately 1.5m in depth. The site visit also identified a second mound (Mound 2) directly to the north of mound 1 at NGR SS4390289991. The mounds are separated by what appears to be a human/animal-worn path (but may refer the relic stream mentioned below). Mound 2 is also circular in shape and defined by a fairly prominent bank approximately 0.5m in height. The burnt stone identified in this area is small in size giving the mounds a 'gravelly' texture. See photographs and drawings in GGAT 85 digital archive. (CT and GMH, GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds Survey, 2006)

Two burnt mounds, 2m apart, set either side of a relict stream channel. The northern mound is c.30m in diameter and 0.6-1.5m high and opens to the NW. The S mound is 18m by 14m and 0.2-1.0m high and opens to the NE. (Source Os495card; SS48NW35).

On Druid's Moor, south of Hardings Down in Gower, at 75m above OD on ground falling gently to the SE. An approximately circular grass grown mound about 21.3m in diameter. It has a slightly dished central and opens to the northwest between two rather vague horns about 6.7m apart; just outside the opening on the west is a small pond (J.Wiles 04.07.02; RCAHMW ENDEX database).

<b>CONDITION</b>	Near Intact
<b>HISTORY</b>	A small excavation of the mound showed it to be composed of burnt stone and blackened earth (RCAHMW Glam 1, 1976, pt 1, 126).
<b>PARISH</b>	Llangennith
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Llangennith, Llanmadoc and Cheriton
<b>UA</b>	Swansea
<b>COUNTY</b>	West Glamorgan
<b>ALTITUDE</b>	75m O
<b>LANDUSE</b>	Pasture
<b>COMMENTS</b>	0
<b>AREA</b>	
<b>STATUS</b>	
<b>SCIENTIFIC</b>	

3.3 00182s



**Plate 3: 00182w, Cooking mound east of Ty'n-T-Pwll, Pendoylan: The ranging pole originally marked a possible place for the mound due to its upstanding state. However, a second visit confirmed the place for the mound actually to the right of the electricity pole, much of it marked by reeds. immediately to the right of the ranging rod. (see sketch and notes below). Darkness overtook the second visit, thus a new site shot was not possible. (GGAT85 photographic catalogue - 00182s View of Valley to the north, mound in foreground, no.2. Looking N.)**

<b>Index No</b>	1917
<b>PRN</b>	<b>00182s</b>
<b>RELATED PRNs</b>	0183s
<b>NPRN</b>	0
<b>SAM Ref</b>	GM365A
<b>NAME</b>	COOKING MOUND EAST OF TY'N-Y-PWLL, PENDOYLAN
<b>NGR</b>	ST07077561
<b>BROADCLASS</b>	Domestic
<b>TYPE</b>	Burnt mound
<b>FORM</b>	Earthwork
<b>SUMMARY</b>	Cooking mound reportedly 9.1m EW by 7.6m by 0.6m high. Due to the changes in the environs and the sites themselves over time the site is no longer easily seen. Visit identifying relic stream to the east of the site, a mound shape via probing and possible burnt stone offers evidence of the sites continued existence.
<b>ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION</b>	Cooking mound, 9.1m EW by 7.6m by 0.6m high. Although the turf is unbroken it has the characteristics of a nearby disturbed cooking mound.
<b>FULL DESCRIPTION</b>	Site Visit made by Gail Higginbottom (GGAT), Tony Brown (University of Exeter) and Shirley Wyn (University of Exeter) in November 2006 to sites 00182s and 00183s). Previously 00183s and 00183s were not located with any definiteness due to the changes in the environs and the sites themselves over time.

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With Tony Brown's and Shirley Wyn's help defunct/realigned water-courses, relic streams and spring lines were located and a greater understanding of the monument and landscape was produced, along with the likelihood of each site's location. For site 00182w there appears to be a relic stream to the east of the NGR. The site was covered quite deeply in turf from approximately 20 cm at the shallowest until 60 cm or greater either side of a roughly circular diameter. At the base of this was mostly stoney, impenetrable material. . Thus we have confirmation of a monument and possible monument type in this location (GMH, GGAT 85, 28/11/06).

A site visit was undertaken on the 16/08/2006 by Gail Higginbottom and Caroline Thomas of GGAT. PRNs 00182s and 00183s are reportedly located within close proximity to each other, to the east of Ty'n-y-Pwll. However, neither mound could be identified. See photographs and drawings in GGAT 85 digital archive. (CT, GGAT 85, 2006).

A circular mound, 11m in diameter and 0.5m high, set against a relict stream channel (source Os495card; ST07NE25)

Associated with:

Ty'n-y-Pwll, mound II (Nprn307708). RCAHMW AP955171/56-7; J.Wiles 28.01.03.  
(Taken from RCAHMW ENDEX database)

Cooking mound, 9.1m EW by 7.6m by 0.6m high. Although the turf is unbroken it has the characteristics of a nearby disturbed cooking mound.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Damaged
<b>HISTORY</b>	Sources suggest that this site and PRN 00183s are similar to the burnt mounds excavated by M. J. O'Kelly at County Cork.
<b>PARISH</b>	Pendoylan
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Pendoylan
<b>UA</b>	Vale of Glamorgan
<b>COUNTY</b>	South Glamorgan
<b>ALTITUDE</b>	40m O
<b>LANDUSE</b>	Scrub
<b>COMMENTS</b>	0
<b>AREA</b>	
<b>STATUS</b>	
<b>SCIENTIFIC</b>	

3.4 00183s



**Plate 4: 00183w, Cooking mound east of Ty'n-T-Pwll, Pendoylan:** The ranging pole originally marked a possible place for the mound due to its upstanding state. The second visit confirmed this location. (GGAT85 photographic catalogue 00183s Proposed location of mound, marked by pole. Rise in ground in middle distance, no.5. Looking E, see also panoramic shot of 00183w taken from the top of this mound)

**Index No** 1921  
**PRN** 00183s  
**RELATED PRNs** 0182s  
**NPRN** 93239  
**SAM Ref** GM365B  
**NAME** COOKING MOUND EAST OF TY'N-Y-PWLL, PENDOYLAN  
**NGR** ST071857655  
**BROADCLASS** Domestic  
**TYPE** Burnt mound  
**FORM** Earthwork  
**SUMMARY** The mound is reportedly grass-covered, but a site visit on 16/08/06 revealed no evidence of a burnt mound.  
**ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION** The mound is grass-covered, but a few fragments of burnt stone were visible where the turf had been disturbed, the mound is not a typical crescentic shape  
**FULL DESCRIPTION** Site visit made by Gail Higginbottom (GGAT), Tony Brown (University of Exeter) and Shirley Wyn (University of Exeter) in November 2006 to sites 00182s and 00183s). Previously 00183s and 00183s were not located with any definiteness due to the changes in the environs and the sites themselves over time. With Tony Brown's and Shirley Wyn's help defunct/realigned water-courses, relic streams and spring lines were located and a greater understanding of the monument and landscape was produced, along with the likelihood of each site's location. This site location was further supported when possible burnt stone was also identified at the sites for 00182w and 00183w. Both sites were covered quite deeply in turf from

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approximately 20 cm at the shallowest until 60 cm or greater either side of a roughly circular diameter. At the base of this was mostly stoney, impenetrable material. Thus we have confirmation of a monument and possible monument type in these two locations. The original NGR of the SMR was ST07177565; this has now been replaced by the NGR ST071857655 to reflect the proposed position of the mound, which incidentally is closer to that provided by the NMR and the sketch on the 1:10,000 map (though the site's relationship to a main water course has changed (GMH, GGAT 85, 2006).

Gail Higginbottom and Caroline Thomas of GGAT undertook a site visit on the 16/08/2006. PRNs 00182s and 00183s are reportedly located within close proximity to each other, to the east of Tyn y Pwll. However, neither mound could be identified. See photographs and drawings in GGAT 85 digital archive (CT, GGAT 85, 2006).

A circular mound, 7.0m in diameter and 0.4m high, where fragments of burnt stone have been noted, having a stream running close by on the W (source Os495card; ST07NE25).

Associated with:  
Ty'n-y-Pwll, mound I (Nprn307707).  
RCAHMW AP955171/56-7; J.Wiles 28.01.03  
(RCAHMW ENDEX database)

The mound is grass-covered, but a few fragments of burnt stone were visible where the turf had been disturbed, the mound is not a typical crescentic shape.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Damaged
<b>HISTORY</b>	Sources suggest that this site and PRN 00182s are similar to the burnt mounds excavated by M. J. O'Kelly at County Cork.
<b>PARISH</b>	Pendoylan
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Pendoylan
<b>UA</b>	Vale of Glamorgan
<b>COUNTY</b>	South Glamorgan
<b>ALTITUDE</b>	40m
<b>LANDUSE</b>	Scrub
<b>COMMENTS</b>	0
<b>AREA</b>	
<b>STATUS</b>	
<b>SCIENTIFIC</b>	

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### 3.5 00191w



Plate 5: 00191w, Burnt Mound, Penrice. (GGAT85 photographic catalogue possible site 00191w, along stream bed no.39. Facing NE)

<b>Index No</b>	1947
<b>PRN</b>	00191w
<b>RELATED PRNs</b>	0
<b>NPRN</b>	0
<b>SAM Ref</b>	0
<b>NAME</b>	BURNT MOUND, PENRICE
<b>NGR</b>	SS491893
<b>BROADCLASS</b>	Domestic
<b>TYPE</b>	Burnt mound
<b>FORM</b>	Earthwork
<b>SUMMARY</b>	Site visit by GGAT on 09/08/06 found possible burnt mound at NGR SS4910789378. The mound is of a vague crescent shape, aligned east to west at a minimum length of 49m. See GGAT 85 digital archive for photos of possible mound and nearby stone (GGAT 85).
<b>ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION</b>	Cooking mound (burnt mound) found during field survey in the Gower peninsula.
<b>FULL DESCRIPTION</b>	Gail Higginbottom and Caroline Thomas of GGAT undertook site visit on 09/08/06. Possible burnt mound was identified at NGR SS4910789378. The mound is of a vague crescent shape, aligned east to west at a minimum length of 49m. At its widest the mound measures 9m north to south and is approximately 0.75m in height. The vague eastern edge of the mound is covered in tall gorse bushes. The mound is situated adjacent to a dry streambed that runs east to west on the northern side of the monument. A number of sub-angular, conglomerate stones were found in the streambed that appear to be soot blackened or burnt. See GGAT 85 digital archive for photos of dry stream bed and stream blockage, utilising burnt stone. No tree in evidence. (CT and GMH, GGAT 85, 12/09/06).

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A cooking mound (burnt mound) discovered at Penrice during a field survey of the Gower peninsula. A horseshoe-shaped mound on the north bank of a stream; the diameter measures approximately 5-6m and has a height of approximately 80-120cm. There is an opening towards the stream c.1.5m wide. There is a tree in the central hollow. The mound itself is located on heath, on the south side of Cefn Bryn and presumed not to be threatened.

**CONDITION** Not known  
**HISTORY** Survey/GGAT/1976.  
**PARISH** Penrice  
**COMMUNITY** Penrice  
**UA** Swansea  
**COUNTY** West Glamorgan  
**ALTITUDE** 95m O  
**LANDUSE** Heath  
**COMMENTS**  
**AREA STATUS**  
**SCIENTIFIC**

## GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales

### 3.6 00272w



Plate 6: 00272w, Burnt Mound, Nicholaston. (GGAT85 photographic catalogue - 00272w Duplicate of Photo 32 no.33). The ranging rod stands on the inner edge of the raided centre. Notice pile of stone to the left of the photograph.

**Index No** 2250  
**PRN** 00272w

**RELATED**

**PRNs**

**NPRN** 0

**SAM Ref** 0

**NAME** BURNT MOUND, NICHOLASTON

**NGR** SS5140788752

**BROADCLASS** Domestic

**TYPE** Burnt mound

**FORM** Earthwork

**SUMMARY** All that is left of the original mound is a slight bank forming a quarter (NW quadrant) of a ring, with a properly defined outer edge but the inner side obviously dug away. Form suggests a burnt mound as opposed to a cairn. GGAT 72

**ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION** All that is left of the original mound is a slight bank forming a quarter (NW quadrant) of a ring, with a properly defined outer edge but the inner side obviously dug away. There are piles of stone within the ring, against the E-W bank which cuts across the N side. There is no compelling reason why it should be regarded as a cairn, and the presence of burnt stones make the interpretation as a burnt mound more likely (GGAT 72)

"(1956) A mutilated, partly grass covered cairn situated well below the crest of the hill on land which falls gently to the south - west. It is rather pear shaped and is orientated SW - NE. By its shape, size, orientation and siting in marshy ground, it is similar to the chambered long cairn at GLAM. 31NE 1. The cairn is in the process of being destroyed by Mr. WG Harry of Parsonage Farm, Penmaen, who is removing it for road material. At the point where his excavation has reached traces of burning are quite clear on the stones of

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the cairn at a depth of between 0.4m and 0.9m below its top. Mr Harry said that he had not encountered anything unusual, such as a buried chamber, during his excavations except for traces of burning throughout the layers of clay ( Source 02 )

(1965/1976) Near Nicholaston Hall in S Gower, at 116m above OD on very wet ground falling gently to the S. Recorded by RCAHMW at SS 5138 8877. A roughly circular grass grown mound, about 13.7m in diameter and 0.9 - 1.2m high. Most of the S half has been dug away, revealing it to be composed of limestone and breccia rubble, with burnt earth in places. The location, the lack of internal features and the proximity to water all suggest a cooking mound rather than a cairn. Land common to six parishes. ( Source 01 )

(1969) Condition unchanged. Mr Harry stated that no material had been removed from the mound since 1956, and no finds had been made. As already stated , it compares closely with the chambered long cairn some 600m to the west, though to date no burial or chamber has been uncovered. It is actually oriented N - S , is some 30.0m long , 18.0m across at its widest point, and rises 1.0m above then surrounding area. ( Source 02 )

(1972) This antiquity has been mutilated since surveyed by AO Division. The slopes on the eastern side and the southern part of the interior no longer exist. The position has been resurveyed as the well appears to be an old error. ( Source 03 )

(1982) This feature with a diameter of 18.0m is situated at SS 5139 8875 . Recently it has all but been destroyed for its stone content and only a rim of small stones remains with a ( modern ) break through the south side. An old field bank running east - west abuts onto the north side. An extension to the mound northwards beyond the field bank, surveyed in 1969, is a residual mound between two areas dug for peat or for stone and gravel and so is not part of it. The amorphous mound to the east is of doubtful antiquity and has not been surveyed. ( Source 04 )"

### FULL DESCRIPTION

Gail Higginbottom, Andy Sherman and Caroline Thomas of GGAT undertook site visit on 09/08/06. At this time of year it is surround by bracken, heather and gorse, with much of the same covering the banks of the monument. The mound measured 19.9 m (NE to SW) and 23.16 -25 m (SE to NW; 130°N and 350° N). It was not clear exactly where the bank ended along this latter orientation. All that is left of the original mound is a bank running from 120°N through north to 235°N (at its most narrow ends). The largest parts of the bank run north-easterly to north-westerly; with the former containing erosion ditches or perhaps they are the remains inner side that was dug away. Basically then, the stone that has been removed has left a concave area off-set from the centre towards the SE. Within this is a bank, and the concave section within this measures 8m by 7.5m. In the north western section of the bank, burnt stone, which included conglomerate stone with quartz inclusions, was noted and photographed. Having returned to consider this monument after visiting the rest listed in the SMR at this time, there is some concern expressed by the team as to the nature of the monument. When considering the various observations of the monument the evidence remains vague in relation to its main function. To review: 'the point where (Mr. WG Harry's, of Parsonage Farm, excavation has reached traces of burning are quite clear on the stones of the cairn at a depth of between 0.4m and 0.9m below its top' and there were 'traces of burning throughout the layers of clay' (Source 2). There is also some burnt stone remaining; the usual setting of a spring-head with the stream running along side, and reports that stone was removed to make a road. Paths have been seen nearby and photographed made up of what appears to be large burnt stone or possibly degraded sandstone and burnt stone, though there has been no evidence collected that states this is the stone from monument. The concern comes about when the observation is made that there is a lot of large cracked stone as part of the monument and lying about inside, none of which is burnt, and from the description of Source 2, a large amount of stone that it was not burnt sat on top of that which was. The large white stones are generally too unwieldy to have been placed there to contribute to a walkers' cairn. The monument is also 'neat' in appearance (ephemeral note). Thus somebody/ies deliberately placed a large amount of clean stone onto and/or near the burnt stone to create this mound. The question that remains for this team as to whether the monument may well be a burnt mound that had not yet run its course or life use or, perhaps, another kind of monument altogether. Only excavation will assist us in answering this question (GMH, GGAT 85, 2006).

All that is left of the original mound is a slight bank forming a quarter (NW quadrant) of a ring, with a properly defined outer edge but the inner side obviously dug away. There are piles of stone within the ring, against the E-W bank which cuts across the N side. There is no compelling reason why it should be regarded as a cairn, and the presence of burnt stones make the interpretation as a burnt mound more likely (GGAT 72).

"(1956) A mutilated , partly grass covered cairn situated well below the crest of the hill on land which falls gently to the south - west. It is rather pear shaped and is orientated SW - NE. By its shape , size , orientation and siting in marshy ground, it is similar to the chambered long cairn at GLAM. 31NE 1 . The cairn is in the process of being destroyed by Mr. WG Harry of Parsonage Farm, Penmaen, who is removing it for road material. At the point where his excavation has reached traces of burning are quite clear on the stones of the cairn at a depth of between 0.4m and 0.9m below its top. Mr Harry said that he had not encountered anything unusual, such as a buried chamber, during his excavations except for traces of burning throughout the layers of clay ( Source 02 )

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(1965/1976) Near Nicholaston Hall in S Gower, at 116m above OD on very wet ground falling gently to the S. Recorded by RCAHMW at SS 5138 8877. A roughly circular grass grown mound, about 13.7m in diameter and 0.9 - 1.2m high. Most of the S half has been dug away, revealing it to be composed of limestone and breccia rubble, with burnt earth in places. The location, the lack of internal features and the proximity to water all suggest a cooking mound rather than a cairn. Land common to six parishes. ( Source 01 )

(1969) Condition unchanged. Mr Harry stated that no material had been removed from the mound since 1956, and no finds had been made. As already stated , it compares closely with the chambered long cairn some 600m to the west, though to date no burial or chamber has been uncovered. It is actually oriented N - S , is some 30.0m long , 18.0m across at its widest point, and rises 1.0m above then surrounding area. ( Source 02 )

(1972) This antiquity has been mutilated since surveyed by AO Division. The slopes on the eastern side and the southern part of the interior no longer exist. The position has been resurveyed as the well appears to be an old error. ( Source 03 )

(1982) This feature with a diameter of 18.0m is situated at SS 5139 8875 . Recently it has all but been destroyed for its stone content and only a rim of small stones remains with a ( modern ) break through the south side. An old field bank running east - west abuts onto the north side. An extension to the mound northwards beyond the field bank, surveyed in 1969, is a residual mound between two areas dug for peat or for stone and gravel and so is not part of it. The amorphous mound to the east is of doubtful antiquity and has not been surveyed. (Source 04 )"

<b>CONDITION</b>	Destroyed
<b>HISTORY</b>	0
<b>PARISH</b>	Ilston
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Ilston
<b>UA</b>	Swansea
<b>COUNTY</b>	West Glamorgan
<b>ALTITUDE</b>	110m
<b>LANDUSE</b>	Heath
<b>COMMENTS</b>	Recorded by RCAHMW at SS 5138 8877. Rejected as Religious, Ritual and Funerary site
<b>AREA STATUS</b>	
<b>SCIENTIFIC</b>	

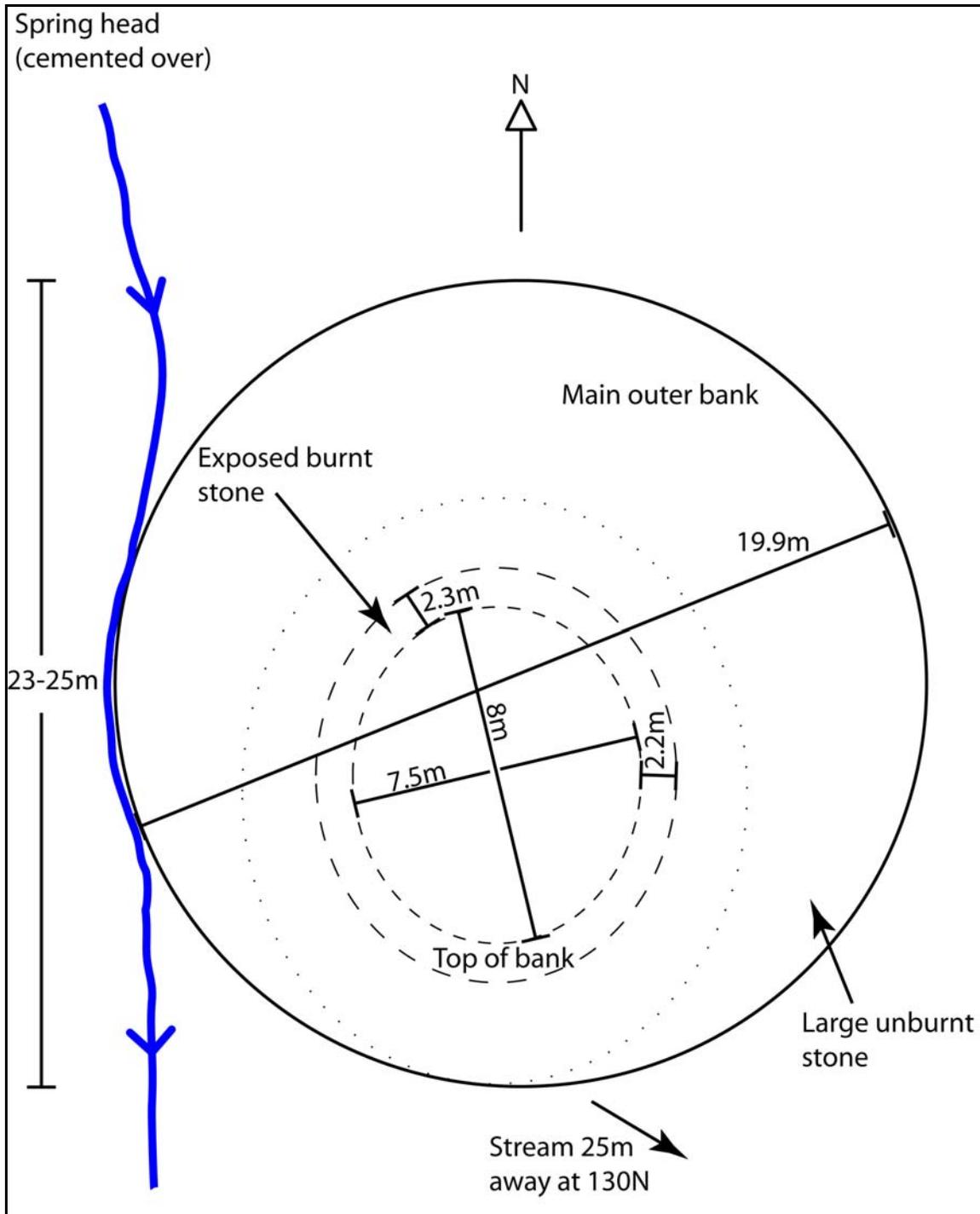


Figure 6: 00272w is quite a large circular, robbed-out mound. It measures 19.9 m (NE to SW) and 23.16 -25 m (SE to NW; 130° N and 350° N). It was not clear exactly where the bank ended along this latter orientation. All that is left of the original mound is a bank running from 120° N through north to 235° N (at its most narrow ends). The stream hugs the bank of the mound, as is the case for many others such as 0284w, 02144w, 0342w and possibly 02238w.

3.7 00284w



**Plate 7: 00284w, Cefn Bryn Burnt Mound.** Due to its upstanding nature, the bracken densely covering the monument and its location towards the bottom of what becomes a gentle slope, this burnt mound stands out in the landscape. (GGAT85 photographic catalogue - 00284w East bank marked by pole, no.12.Facing SE.CT.)

**Index No** 2296  
**PRN** 00284w  
**RELATED PRNs** 4788w, 00269w  
**SAM Ref** 300047  
**GM543**  
**NAME** CEFN BRYN BURNT MOUND  
**NGR** SS51898922  
**BROADCLASS** Domestic  
**TYPE** Burnt mound  
**FORM** Earthwork  
**SUMMARY** 00284w represents the crescent-shaped burnt mound that is located on a slight shelf on the north facing side of Cefn Bryn. It measures 16m (NE-SW) by 13m and stands up to 1m high.  
**ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION** This crescent-shaped burnt mound is located on a slight shelf on the north facing side of Cefn Bryn. It measures 16m (NE-SW) by 13m and stands up to 1m high. The crescent is open on the NW where it faces towards a small stream (now mostly clogged up with peat). Although covered with grass, gorse and bracken some burnt material, ie fire cracked stones, burnt earth and charcoal, is still visible on the surface. These mounds generally date from the Bronze Age, being created from debris produced at cooking sites where fire heated stones were used to heat water. A second possible burnt mound and a suspected ring cairn is also included within the scheduled area.  
**FULL DESCRIPTION** Caroline Thomas and Andrew Sherman undertook a site visit on 17/08/2006. This site comprises two burnt mounds and a circular feature located at the base of a north-facing slope on Cefn Bryn. A heavily peated

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stream separates the mounds. The monuments are easily distinguishable in the landscape. The RCAHMW describe 00284w as a crescent shaped mound, on inspection the mound appeared more kidney shaped. The measurements taken by the RCAHMW were accurate; the monument measures 16m by 13m and stands up to 1m in height. Visibility of the surface of the mound was extremely poor due to a dense covering of bracken. However, a small amount of burnt stone was evident on the outer edges of the monument and in the adjacent stream. Interestingly, the monuments do not appear to be located in a natural boulder field. Closest possible zone is to the south of Cefn Bryn. Its relationship to the stream is similar to that of 2144w. See GGAT 85 digital archive for photos of possible mound and nearby stone. (CT, GGAT 85, 12/09/06).

PRNs 00284w and 04788w are part of the same SAM No GM543, which also includes 00269w (a Bronze Age ring cairn). GM543 comprises a crescent shaped burnt mound, a small oval mound (possibly part of the same mound) and a circular ring feature. 00284w represents the crescent-shaped burnt mound which is located on a slight shelf on the north facing side of Cefn Bryn. It measures 16m (NE-SW) by 13m and stands up to 1m high. The crescent is open on the NW where it faces towards a small stream (now mostly clogged up with peat). Although covered with grass, gorse and bracken some burnt material, ie fire cracked stones, burnt earth and charcoal, is still visible on the surface (Cadw/SAM Information Section 1/General Information/2000). These mounds generally date from the Bronze Age, being created from debris produced at cooking sites where fire heated stones were used to heat water. This PRN is located within the Gower Historic Landscape HLW (WG1) 1.

**CONDITION** Near Intact  
**HISTORY** All sites within the scheduled area GM543 were visited in 1999 by members of the RCAHMW during an exercise to update their records. The features were surveyed at this time (Cadw/SAM Information Section 1/General Information/2000).  
**PARISH** Llanrhidian  
**COMMUNITY** Ilston  
**UA** Swansea  
**COUNTY** West Glamorgan  
**ALTITUDE** 120m  
**LANDUSE** Heath  
**COMMENTS** Scheduled July 2000  
**AREA STATUS** Historic Landscape HLW (WG1) 1  
**SCIENTIFIC**

3.8 00342w



**Plate 8: 00342w. Graig Fawr Burnt Mound 1 is a very clear mound, though primarily easily visible from the northern and eastern approaches. This photograph faces southerly with the reeds indicating the line of the stream. Though we have labelled this as crescentric, due the opening on the mound's northern side, essentially the mound is very circular in nature. Surrounded by looming hills on three sides, whilst sitting on the edge of a gentle slope before the slope rapidly a change to a greater incline creates the site's very dramatic setting (see Plate 9). (GGAT85 photographic catalogue - 00342w (Mound 1) NW horn in foreground.)**

**Index No** 2554  
**PRN** 00342w  
**RELATED PRNs** 0343w  
**NPRN** 0  
**SAM Ref** 0  
**NAME** Graig Fawr Burnt Mound 1  
**NGR** SN62190721  
**BROADCLASS** Domestic  
**TYPE** Burnt mound  
**FORM** Earthwork  
**SUMMARY** Two burnt mounds were identified on the west bank of Graig Fawr, northeast of Pontarddulais. Both mounds are crescentric (sic) in shape. 0342w is the larger of the two mounds and is located at NGR SN6210907206  
**ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION**  
**FULL DESCRIPTION** Gail Higginbottom and Caroline Thomas of GGAT undertook a site visit on 22/08/06. Two burnt mounds were identified on the west bank of Graig Fawr, northeast of Pontarddulais. Both mounds are crescentric in shape, situated next to a stream and separated from each other by roughly 1m. The site is close to cairns

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and a large enclosure in the north. To the north of the site is a large area of bracken and to the east, approximately 70m away, is a walker's cairn. 00342w is the larger of the two mounds and is located at NGR SN6210907206, at an approximate altitude of 257.6m above OD. 00342w is open to the stream on its northern side; the opening is approximately 3m across. At its maximum, the northwest horn of the monument measures approximately 0.8m. In contrast, the southeast horn of the mound has a much less steep gradient and at its most easterly point almost flattens out, leading the way to 00343w. Despite its crescentic nature, the mound is geometrically based on the shape of a circle, in comparison to other crescentic mounds that are more kidney shaped. The mound is turf and moss covered and at the time of the site visit was easily distinguishable from the surrounding moorland. The northwest horn of the mound has been disturbed and shows clearly a section of burnt stone through the mound; stones are small to medium in size. See GGAT 85 digital archive for photos (CT, GGAT 85, 12/09/06).

No description is available in the RCAHMW ENDEX database (CT/GGAT 12/09/06).

Two cooking mounds on Graig Fawr, northeast of Pontarddulais, at 260m above OD, on a shelf in moorland falling to the NW. This site is close to cairns and stands on the south bank of small marshy stream. On the NW is a crescentic mound, open to the stream on the NE. It measures 10m long from NW to SE by 8.2m wide, and reaches a maximum height of 0.8m in the NW horn. The central hollow is about 3m across.

**CONDITION** Near Intact  
**HISTORY** Surveyed at SN62100720 at 1:2500 on M.S.D (Master Survey Documents) 1982.  
**PARISH** Loughor  
**COMMUNITY** Pontarddulais  
**UA** Swansea  
**COUNTY** West Glamorgan  
**ALTITUDE** 260m  
**LANDUSE** Heath  
**COMMENTS**  
**AREA STATUS** SSSI  
**SCIENTIFIC**

3.9 00343w



**Plate 9: 00343w.** Whilst it is in the same location as Graig Fawr Burnt Mound 1, mound 2 is neither distinctive from the distance nor does it sit on the edge of the apparent precipice. Nevertheless, its gentle, low crescent moon is clearly marked out in purple heather in late summer. This photograph faces westerly with mound 1 directly opposite (field worker on mound 1). (GGAT85 photographic catalogue - 00343w (Mound 2) looking west at crescent opening.)

**Index No** 2558  
**PRN** 00343w  
**RELATED PRNs** 0342w  
**NPRN** 0  
**SAM Ref** 0  
**NAME** Graig Fawr Burnt Mound 2  
**NGR** SN62190721  
**BROADCLASS** Domestic  
**TYPE** Burnt mound  
**FORM** Earthwork  
**SUMMARY** Almost adjacent on the SE a crescentic mound, open to the east, measuring 6.7m long from N to S by 00343w is the smaller of the two mounds, situated adjacent to and to the west of 00342w.

**ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION**  
**FULL DESCRIPTION** Gail Higginbottom and Caroline Thomas of GGAT undertook a site visit on 22/08/06. Two burnt mounds were identified on the west bank of Graig Fawr, northeast of Pontarddulais (now newly named Graig Fawr Burnt Mound 1 and Graig Fawr Burnt Mound 2). Both mounds are crescentic in shape, situated next to a stream and separated from each other by roughly 1m. The site is close to cairns and a large enclosure in the north. To the north of the site is a large area of bracken and to the east, approximately 70m away, is a

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walkers cairn. 00343w is the smaller of the two mounds, situated adjacent to and to the west of 00342w at NGR SN6211607204, at an approximate altitude of 258m above OD. The mound is aligned north-south, opening to the east. The northwest horn of the mound reaches a maximum height of 0.4m . The horns of the monument are considerably less defined than those of 00342w but are more open, reflecting a half moon shape. As 00342w, the mound is turf and moss covered and at the time of the site visit was easily distinguishable from the surrounding moorland. See GGAT 85 digital archive for photos (GGAT 85). (CT/GGAT 12/09/06)

No description is available in the RCAHMW ENDEX database (CT/GGAT 12/09/06)

Two cooking mounds on Graig Fawr, northeast of Pontarddulais , at 260m above OD, on a shelf in moorland falling to to the NW. This site is close to cairns and stands on the south bank of small marshy stream. Almost adjacent on the SE a crescentic mound, open to the east, measuring 6.7m long from N to S by about 0.3m high. The central hollow and the ends of the horns are ill defined. (RCAHMW)

<b>CONDITION</b>	Near Intact
<b>HISTORY</b>	Surveyed at SN62100720 at 1:2500 on M.S.D (Master Survey Documents) 1982.
<b>PARISH</b>	Loughor
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Pontarddulais
<b>UA</b>	Swansea
<b>COUNTY</b>	West Glamorgan
<b>ALTITUDE</b>	260m
<b>LANDUSE</b>	Heath
<b>COMMENTS</b>	0
<b>AREA STATUS</b>	SSSI
<b>SCIENTIFIC</b>	

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### 3.10 00344w

**Index No** 2562  
**PRN** 00344w  
**RELATED PRNs** 0  
**NPRN** 91,873  
**SAM Ref** 0  
**NAME** Graig Fawr Burnt Mound  
**NGR** SN62950727  
**BROADCLASS** Domestic  
**TYPE** Burnt mound  
**FORM** Earthwork  
**SUMMARY** It is an almost circular grass grown mound with some visible stones, 10m across by 9m. It is 0.3m in height except at the SE where it reaches 0.6m due to a fall in the ground in that direction.

#### ORIGINAL

#### FULL

#### DESCRIPTION

**FULL DESCRIPTION** Gail Higginbottom and Caroline Thomas undertook a site visit on 22/08/2006. The area was intensively studied but no burnt mound was clearly identified during this visit. Nevertheless, at SN6300307297 (taken at centre of a monument) was a mound that looked very much like a large circular cairn in overall shape rather than a burnt mound: the top of upstanding section of the monument was rather flat. However, burnt mounds have shown to be very variable in form and much of it may well be hidden below ground as the ones at 00182w and 00183w. Also, the monument's situation, on a slope, with a high slope behind it and the way the form melded with the uphill slope is typical of a burnt mound. As well as this, the monument has a relatively steep bank falling away from the monument down the slope, again typical of many burnt mounds. No burnt stone was seen on the monument or in the immediate vicinity, though stone was. The NMR NGR was SN 63000728 very similar to our own and our measurement of about 10 metres across matches that found in the NMR (see below). A number of small cairns were visible in the vicinity of the suggested SMR grid reference and are those cited in the NMR as the Graig Fawr (East) Cairnfield at SN 62500695. Our SMR has the NGR just to the east for these same cairns and lists them as clearance cairns. Also note that on the way to this monument, walking along the northern side of the track-way from a westerly direction, burnt stone was clearly noted at NGR SN6315107307 along a small stream (stream width 18"). The stream was a few metres away from the track-way. This mound name is now changed from Graig Fawr Burnt Mound to Graig Fawr Burnt Mound (East) in line with the NMR. GMH and CT, GGAT 85, 12/09/06).

An almost circular grass-grown mound measures 10m across (NW-SE) by 9m. It is 0.3m high except on the SE where it is 0.6m above falling ground. A central hollow 1.8m across opens to the SW through the side of the mound. The site is close to a group of small cairns; visited DKL 2 February 1992 (NMR ENDEX database).

A cooking mound is located on the N side of a minor stream on the E side of Graig Fawr. It remains as described by RCAHMW when visited in 1963, and as located by OS in 1982 (NMR, ENDEX database; note that the ENDEX database did not have the 1963 visit described).

**CONDITION** Damaged  
**HISTORY** Surveyed at SN63000728 at 1:2500 on M.S.D's (Master Survey Documents) 1982.  
**PARISH** Mawr  
**COMMUNITY** Mawr  
**UA** Swansea  
**COUNTY** West Glamorgan  
**ALTITUDE** 275m  
**LANDUSE** Heath  
**COMMENTS** 0  
**AREA STATUS** SSSI  
**SCIENTIFIC**

3.11 00361w



**Plate 10: 00361w.** This photograph shows the low sage grass, moss-covered mound sitting on a low slope facing a field boundary. Located between the two is the stream. This photograph also clearly highlights the different land usages or pasture and moorland. (GGAT85 photographic catalogue - 00361w View of both horns from behind. Looking NW, no.20.CT.)

**Index No** 2673  
**PRN** 00361w  
**RELATED PRNs** 005865w  
**NPRN** 303994  
**SAM Ref** 0  
**NAME** SITE NAME NOT KNOWN  
**NGR** SN68300857

**BROADCLASS** Domestic  
**TYPE** Burnt mound  
**FORM** Earthwork

**SUMMARY** A large kidney shaped mound was identified on moorland between Pontardawe and Ammanford. The monument measures 13m by 9m and approximately 1.5m in height. The monument opens to a stream on the east.

**ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION**

**FULL DESCRIPTION** Andrew Sherman and Caroline Thomas of GGAT undertook a site visit on 01/09/06. A large kidney shaped mound was identified on moorland, adjacent to the road between Pontardawe and Ammanford. The mound was located towards the base of a gentle slope that leads down to a stream that runs along the field boundary. The monument measures 13m by 9m and is covered with low sage grass and moss; gorse

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bushes are situated on the northwest horn. The stream runs to the north past the monument, before curving to the east. The monument opens to the stream in the east, approximately 2m away from it. The stream has eroded the northwest horn of the mound to reveal sections of burnt stone through the mound. The mound falls to a gentle slope on the north and east side (facing the road) but has a much steeper incline to the south and west, approximately 1.5m in height. Directly to the north of the monument, approximately 5m away at NGR SN6831508565, is a circular feature. This may be a pond, it has a sunken middle covered with reeds; steep slopes lead down to the middle. The circular feature has a diameter of 5m. The description produced in the original data entry mentions a bank identified by Cantril and Jones. The site visit identified this bank approximately 27m northwest of 003613w at NGR SN6824908616. The bank is located within an area of natural depression, roughly 10m across, which contains a springhead. On the west side of the bank runs a small stream leading down to a large pond in the east. In addition, on the opposite side of the stream appears a bank, parallel to that of Cantril and Jones. This bank is approximately 5m north to south and 1.5m east to west. There is no sign of stonework on either bank; it is possible that these are entirely natural. A second sunken circular feature exists at NGR SN6825508599. This measures 1.5m in diameter. To the southeast of 00361w, approximately 40m away, is a circular, low grass, covered mound. It is possible that this is a second burnt mound. The mound has a diameter of 4m, gently slopes on the east flank but much steeper on all other sides. The mound has a height of roughly 1m on the east slope but only 0.10m on the opposite side. This second mound is also located adjacent and to the east of the streambed, which is heavily peated. Small patches of exposed burnt stone can be seen on the mound. See GGAT 85 digital archive for photos (CT/GGAT 12/09/06).

One of two 'hearths' noted in the vicinity in 1906. The second 'hearth' may be located 27m to the north (J.Wiles 21.02.02, Os495card; SN60NE4; RCAHMW ENDEX database).

Located on the moorland road between Pontardawe and Ammanford, at 265m above OD, east of Banc John (a Bronze Age ring cairn 00350w) . In 1906 T.C. Cantril and O.T. Jones listed two hearths 46m apart with a line of 4 circular hollows to the NW. The sites are difficult to identify, it is possible that small hollows are visible but these may be associated with peat cutting and natural subsistence. Approximately 46m to the SE is a mound that, according to the RCAHMW, is clearly one of the hearths. This is oval, 13m by 9m, standing 0.6m in height on the south and 1.5m high on the north overlooking the stream. There is a slight depression in the centre that opens northwards to the stream. The location of the other hearth is uncertain. Approximately 27m NW of this mound is a bank about 5.2m long from north to south, 2.8m wide and 0.6m in height with large stones visible in its west face. It is claimed that this is evidently part of a larger structure and could possibly be the other hearth (Arch Cambrensis, 1906, p26).

<b>CONDITION</b>	Near Intact
<b>HISTORY</b>	0
<b>PARISH</b>	Ryndwyglach
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Pontardawe
<b>UA</b>	Neath Port Talbot
<b>COUNTY</b>	West Glamorgan
<b>ALTITUDE</b>	256m
<b>LANDUSE</b>	Moorland
<b>COMMENTS</b>	0
<b>AREA</b>	
<b>STATUS</b>	
<b>SCIENTIFIC</b>	

3.12 02144w



**Plate 11: 02144w.** A very attractive, large crescentic mound from the distance: distinctive shape covered in bracken surrounded by reeds, grasses and bog cotton sitting within a small local valley heading down the slope. The ranging rod in the photograph indicates the centre of the inner curve of the mound at the base of the bank. (GGAT85 photographic catalogue - 02144w as Photo 81. No.83.GH.)

**Index No** 9850  
**PRN** 02144w  
**RELATED PRNs** 0  
**NPRN** 300056  
**SAM Ref** GM544  
**NAME** SITE NAME NOT KNOWN  
**NGR** SS48989087  
**BROADCLASS** Domestic  
**TYPE** Burnt mound  
**FORM** Earthwork  
**SUMMARY** The burnt mound is crescent shaped and measures 16m(NE-SW) by 10m, rising to a maximum height of 1.4m. The crescent is open on the SE side facing a small stream tributary.  
**ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION** This site was originally recorded as a 'cooking mound' identified by A M Ward in 1982. In July 2000 it was scheduled by Cadw as a 'burnt mound' who recorded the site as a prominent, apparently well preserved, example of a burnt mound located on the north facing slope of Cefn Bryn, a short distance north of 'Arthur's Stone' burial cairn, often Bronze Age in date, and of crescentic shape measuring 16m x 10m to a height of 1.4m; the latter details as also noted by Ward. Seemingly in 1991 this site was recategorised as a 'midden' on the SMR although without either explanation in this entry field or supporting evidence in the PRN's further information file. It has therefore been amended back to its original entry.  
**FULL DESCRIPTION** The site visit on the 10/08/2006, undertaken by Gail Higginbottom, Andrew Sherman and Caroline Thomas, confirms the general site description given by Cadw in 2000 and recorded below. The following should be

## GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales

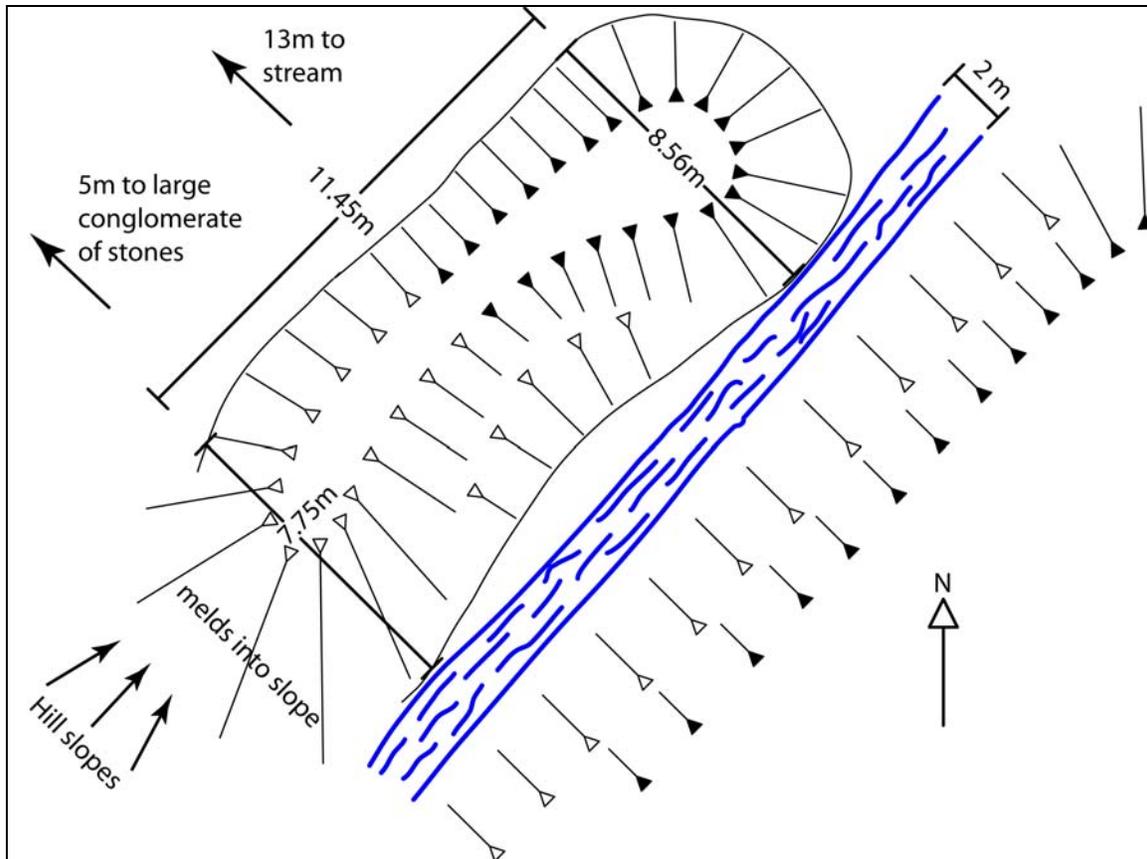
added: the mound is very distinctive within the landscape as confirmed by photographs taken. Five metres uphill from the mound was a mass of large conglomerate stones, one metre in length, some were under the peat. 13 m to the WNW of the mound was another stream. The mound itself is covered by bracken. Photographs were also taken of the exposed burnt stone (GMH, GGAT 85, 2006).

The burnt mound is crescent shaped and measures 16m (NE-SW) by 10m, rising to a maximum height of 1.4m (as viewed from downhill on the northern side). The mound is located on a north facing slope which rises quite steeply so that it merges with the slope on its southern (upslope) side. The crescent is open on the SE side facing a small stream tributary. The mound is surrounded by boggy ground. The top of the mound has suffered some disruption from the actions of burrowing animals which has resulted in visible charred material and fractured stones being present on the surface. However, this affects only a few areas of the mound, with most of it remaining apparently intact (Roberts, K/2000/Cadw/Full Management Report).

This site was originally recorded as a 'cooking mound' identified by A M Ward in 1982. In July 2000 it was scheduled by Cadw as a 'burnt mound' who recorded the site as a prominent, apparently well preserved, example of a burnt mound located on the north facing slope of Cefn Bryn, a short distance north of 'Arthur's Stone' burial cairn, often Bronze Age in date, and of crescentic shape measuring 16m x 10m to a height of 1.4m; the latter details as also noted by Ward. Seemingly in 1991 this site was recategorised as a 'midden' on the SMR although without either explanation in this entry field or supporting evidence in the PRN's further information file. It has therefore been amended back to its original entry.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Damaged
<b>HISTORY</b>	0
<b>PARISH</b>	Llanrhidian Lower
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Llanrhidian Lower
<b>UA</b>	Swansea
<b>COUNTY</b>	West Glamorgan
<b>ALTITUDE</b>	104m
<b>LANDUSE</b>	Heath
<b>COMMENTS</b>	'Type' amended back to original entry 12/6/01 – JM
<b>AREA STATUS</b>	
<b>SCIENTIFIC</b>	

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**Figure 11: 02144w.** The narrow ridge on the top of this mound and the ridge's up-standing nature is what gives this site its crescentic shape, with the mound as a whole being more kidney-shaped. Its northern horn measures approximately 8.5 m at its widest and 7.75 at the southern horn before it becomes part of the natural uphill slope. The latter merging is a feature shared with other mounds such as 00021w.

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### 3.13 02238w



**Plate 12: 02238w.** This is the course of the stream that runs along side the possible burnt mound. It heads northwest and then proceeds north downhill and finally curving to the east. Burnt stone was visible along the course of the spring for an approximate length of 12m. (GGAT85 photographic catalogue - 02238w Upstream facing SW towards stream head no.42. CT.)

<b>Index No</b>	10208
<b>PRN</b>	<b>02238w</b>
<b>RELATED PRNs</b>	02239w, 02240w
<b>NPRN</b>	0
<b>SAM Ref</b>	0
<b>NAME</b>	<b>SITE NAME NOT KNOWN</b>
<b>NGR</b>	SS47659075
<b>BROADCLASS</b>	Domestic
<b>TYPE</b>	Burnt mound
<b>FORM</b>	Earthwork
<b>SUMMARY</b>	Along this ridge the RCAHMW notes a number of piles of burnt stones, each of which are situated alongside a stream or spring
<b>ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>FULL DESCRIPTION</b>	Gail Higginbottom, Caroline Thomas and Andrew Sherman undertook a site visit on the 10/08/2006. A spring-head was identified at NGR SS4767390713. The course of the stream heads northwest and then proceeds north downhill and finally curving to the east, around what is thought to possibly be a burnt mound. Burnt stone was visible along the course of the spring for an approximate length of 12m. In the streambed, there are concentrated areas of burnt material. Due to the density of reeds, bracken cover and gorse it was not possible to detect the shape of the mound easily, and, as permission was not granted from the representative of the owner for intrusive works absolute confirmation of this mound as a burnt mound was not possible. See GGAT 85 digital archive for photos (CT and GMH, GGAT 85, 28/11/06).

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Along this ridge the RCAHMW notes a number of piles of burnt stones, each of which are situated alongside a stream or spring. (RCAHMW: Inventory of Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan II: The Stone and Bronze Ages, 1976).

<b>CONDITION</b>	Damaged
<b>HISTORY</b>	0
<b>PARISH</b>	Llanrhidian Lower
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Reynoldston
<b>UA</b>	Swansea
<b>COUNTY</b>	West Glamorgan
<b>ALTITUDE</b>	0
<b>LANDUSE</b>	0
<b>COMMENTS</b>	PRNs 02238w, 02239, 02240w and 02241w are all located on Cefn Bryn.
<b>AREA STATUS</b>	
<b>SCIENTIFIC</b>	

## GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales

### 3.14 02239w



**Plate 13: 002239w.** Unfortunately, this photograph does not clearly show the vague crescent shaped mound . It does show the fairly large sub angular, sub rounded material contained by the apparent inner crescent of the mound. (GGAT85 photographic catalogue - 02239w Stones and monument no.46. Facing S.GH.)

<b>Index No</b>	10212
<b>PRN</b>	<b>02239w</b>
<b>RELATED PRNs</b>	02238w, 02240w
<b>NPRN</b>	0
<b>SAM Ref</b>	0
<b>NAME</b>	<b>SITE NAME NOT KNOWN</b>
<b>NGR</b>	SS48249057
<b>BROADCLASS</b>	Domestic
<b>TYPE</b>	Burnt mound
<b>FORM</b>	Earthwork
<b>SUMMARY</b>	Along this ridge the RCAHMW notes a number of piles of burnt stones, each of which are situated

## GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales

alongside a stream or spring.

**ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION**  
**FULL DESCRIPTION**

Gail Higginbottom, Caroline Thomas and Andrew Sherman undertook a site visit on the 10/08/2006. Possible burnt mound identified on the base of north facing slope of Llanrhidian Lower. A vague crescent shape measuring approximately 13m east/west and 2.5m north/south was distinguishable. The mound measured approximately 0.75m in height. The mound was located at the head of a stream valley; a number of streams were present in the vicinity. Fairly large sub angular, sub rounded material, between 0.15m-0.25m in thickness, appeared to be contained by the inner crescent of the mound. Some intermittent heat cracked stone was also visible in this area. See GGAT 85 digital archive for photos (CT, GGAT 85, 28/11/06).

Along this ridge the RCAHMW notes a number of piles of burnt stones, each of which are situated alongside a stream or spring. (RCAHMW: Inventory of Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan II: The Stone and Bronze Ages, 1976). NOTE: This mound sits on the outskirts of the Historic Landscape HLW (WG1) 1.

**CONDITION** Damaged  
**HISTORY** 0  
**PARISH** Llanrhidian Lower  
**COMMUNITY** Llanrhidian Lower  
**UA** Swansea  
**COUNTY** West Glamorgan  
**ALTITUDE** 0  
**LANDUSE** 0  
**COMMENTS** PRNs 02238w, 02239, 02240w and 02241w are all located on Cefn Bryn..  
**AREA STATUS**  
**SCIENTIFIC**

GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales

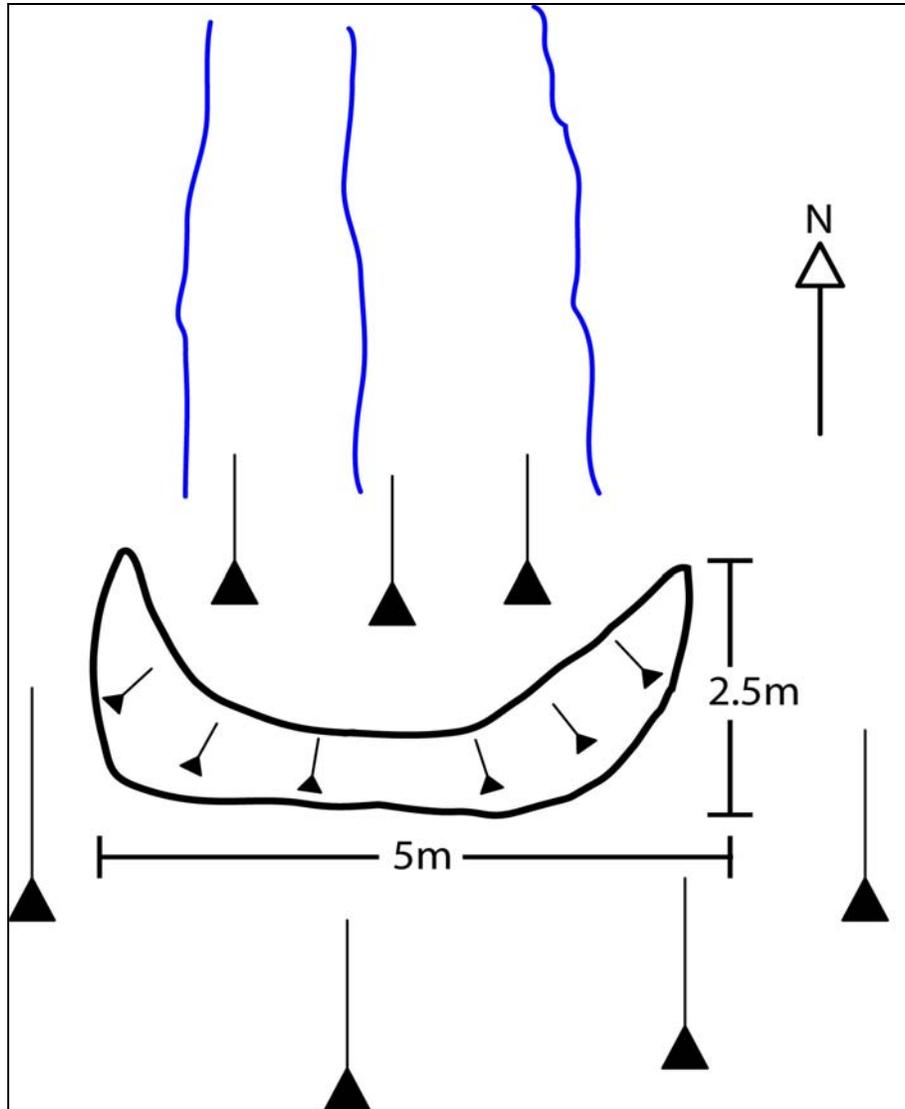


Figure 12: 02239w. This vague crescent facing north down the slope is a possible candidate for a burnt mound. Its shape, measuring approximately 13m east/west and 2.5m north/south, was quite distinguishable and the mound was located at the head of a stream valley. The surrounding area was exceptionally boggy and wet and attempts to walk around it for further inspection were severely hindered even in summer.

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### 3.15 02240w



**Plate 14: 02240w.** Here the ranging rod marks out the base of the steep northwestern bank of the mound, at the curve where the stream heads towards the east. Boulders that were strewn across this area can be seen in the middle and far distance on the right hand-side. (GGAT85 photographic catalogue - 02240w Mound no.85. Facing SW.GH.)

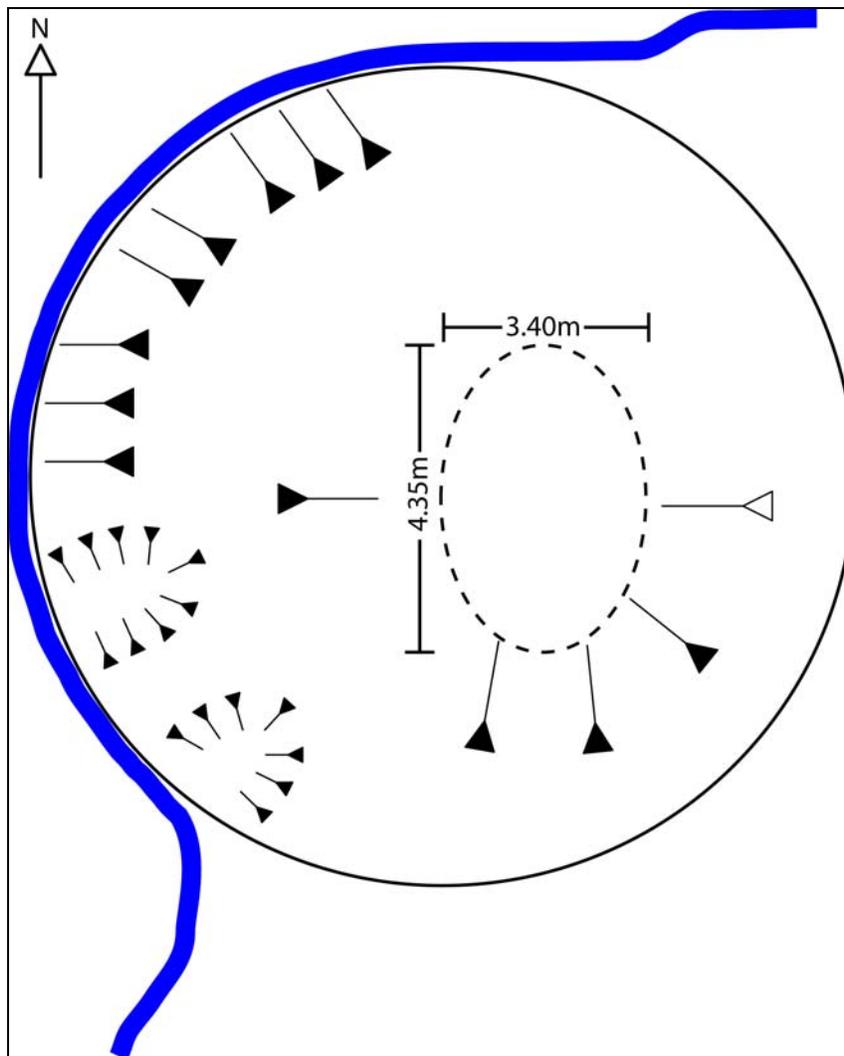
**Index No** 10216  
**PRN** 02240w  
**RELATED PRNs** 02238w, 02239w  
**NPRN** 0  
**SAM Ref** 0  
**NAME** SITE NAME NOT KNOWN  
**NGR** SS50348987  
**BROADCLASS** Domestic  
**TYPE** Burnt mound  
**FORM** Earthwork  
**SUMMARY** This is a circular burnt mound with a stream running along its western and northern flanks. It is located halfway down on an east-facing bank on the slope. The mound composed of sub-angular and sub-rectangular conglomerate stones between 0.07 m and .25m in length. Burnt stone was clearly observed along a large eroded section. LOCATED WITHIN THE HLW (WG1)1.  
**ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION**  
**FULL DESCRIPTION** This is a circular burnt mound with a stream running along its western and northern flanks. It is located halfway down on an east-facing bank on the slope. The mound composed of sub-angular and sub-rectangular conglomerate stones between 0.07 m and .25m in length. This mound has a small inner bank probably formed by 'robbing out'. The eastern side of the mound is approximately 2 m high and western slope is 0.75 m. Burnt stone was clearly observed along a large eroded section. This mound is surrounded on the northern, southern and western sides by areas of large, naturally occurring outcrops of

## GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales

conglomerate boulders. See photographic catalogue for evidence of burnt and other stone (GMH and AS, GGAT 85, 2006).

Along this ridge the RCAHMMW notes a number of piles of burnt stones, each of which are situated alongside a stream or spring. (RCAHMMW: Inventory of Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan II: The Stone and Bronze Ages, 1976). NOTE: This mound sits within the Historic Landscape HLW (WG1) 1.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Damaged
<b>HISTORY</b>	0
<b>PARISH</b>	Llanrhidian Lower
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Llanrhidian Lower
<b>UA</b>	Swansea
<b>COUNTY</b>	West Glamorgan
<b>ALTITUDE</b>	0
<b>LANDUSE</b>	0
<b>COMMENTS</b>	PRNs 02238w, 02239, 02240w and 02241w are all located on Cefn Bryn.
<b>AREA STATUS</b>	Historic Landscape HLW (WG1) 1
<b>SCIENTIFIC</b>	



**Figure 13: 02240w.** This very round looking mound has a scooped out area in the south-eastern side of the monument as well as some worn areas southwest. The northern bank was quite dominant overlooking the stream in the north and west (see Plate 14).

## GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales

### 3.16 02241w

**Index No** 10220  
**PRN** 02241w  
**RELATED PRNs** 0  
**NPRN** 0  
**SAM Ref** 0  
**NAME** SITE NAME NOT KNOWN  
**NGR** SS50398906  
**BROADCLASS** Domestic  
**TYPE** Burnt mound  
**FORM** Earthwork  
**SUMMARY** Along this ridge the RCAHMW notes a number of piles of burnt stones, each of which are situated alongside a stream or spring.

**ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION**  
**FULL DESCRIPTION** Gail Higginbottom, Andrew Sherman and Caroline Thomas of GGAT undertook a site visit. No burnt mound could be identified. (CT, GGAT 85, 12/09/06).

Along this ridge the RCAHMW notes a number of piles of burnt stones, each of which are situated alongside a stream or spring. (RCAHMW: Inventory of Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan II: The Stone and Bronze Ages, 1976). NOTE: A telephone pole has been raised apparently without damaging the mound but raising the prospect of future damage through maintenance or replacement. This mound sits within the Historic Landscape HLW (WG1) 1.

**CONDITION** Damaged  
**HISTORY** 0  
**PARISH** Common to six  
**COMMUNITY** Ilston  
**UA** Swansea  
**COUNTY** West Glamorgan  
**ALTITUDE** 0  
**LANDUSE** 0  
**COMMENTS** PRNs 02238w, 02239, 02240w and 02241w are all located on Cefn Bryn.  
**AREA STATUS** Historic Landscape HLW (WG1) 1  
**SCIENTIFIC**

## GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales

### 3.17 02903m

**Index No** 12870  
**PRN** 02903m  
**RELATED PRNs** 0  
**NPRN** 0  
**SAM Ref** 0  
**NAME** SITE NAME NOT KNOWN  
**NGR** ST17358700  
**BROADCLASS** Domestic  
**TYPE** Burnt mound  
**FORM** Cropmark  
**SUMMARY** Taken from the Gwern-y-Domen assessment (A012 21) undertaken by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust. The RAF air photographs of 1946 revealed a circular crop mark, approximately 15m in diameter at NGR ST17358700, which is possibly a burnt mound.  
**ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION** Gwern-y-Domen assessment A012 21  
**FULL DESCRIPTION** Gail Higginbottom and Caroline Thomas undertook a site visit on 16/08/2006. No burnt mound could be identified during the visit. The field in which the burnt mound was thought to be located was comprised of a number of bracken-covered mounds heavily covered in bracken and bramble making it impossible to examine them in any detail. Probing of the vegetation was done with ranging rods and auger; it is possible that they be a natural characteristic of the area. No burnt material was identified. (CT and GMH, GGAT 85, 28/11/2006).  
  
Taken from the Gwern-y-Domen assessment (A012 21) undertaken by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust. The RAF air photographs taken in 1946 revealed a circular crop mark, approximately 15m in diameter at NGR ST17358700, which is possibly a burnt mound.  
**CONDITION** Not known  
**HISTORY** Gwern-y-Domen assessment A012 21  
**PARISH** Van  
**COMMUNITY** Van  
**UA** Caerphilly  
**COUNTY** Mid Glamorgan  
**ALTITUDE** 0  
**LANDUSE** 0  
**COMMENTS** 0  
**AREA STATUS**  
**SCIENTIFIC**

3.18 04788w



Plate 15: 04788w. This is the smaller oval mound located next to 0284w. The landscape is quite flat compared with many other locations, and, as with other photographs, the current dual land-use can be seen: grazing and moorland. (GGAT85 photographic catalogue - 04788w View of small oval mound adjacent to crescent (00284w).)

**Index No** 19174  
**PRN** 04788w  
**RELATED PRNs** 04788w; 0284w; 0269w;  
**NPRN** 300048  
**SAM Ref** GM543  
**NAME** CEFN BRYN BURNT MOUND  
**NGR** SS51888922  
**BROADCLASS** Domestic  
**TYPE** Burnt mound  
**FORM** Earthwork  
**SUMMARY** PRN 04788w represents the smaller oval mound 6.5m (NE-SW) by 4m and 0.6m high and is located on the opposite (west) side of the stream from the main mound (0284w); possibly originally part of it, though separately recorded on the NMR. The 2006 visit concluded that the mounds were in fact two separate monuments.  
**ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION** 1 of 3 possible features scheduled in July 2000. This feature consists of a small mound 6.5m (NE-SW) by 4m and 0.6m high and is located on the opposite (west) side of the stream from the main mound; possibly originally part of it, though separately recorded on the NMR. At the time of scheduling it was quite overgrown with bracken and gorse. The RCAHMW probed it and found a gravelly texture very similar to that of the main mound.  
**FULL DESCRIPTION** Caroline Thomas and Andrew Sherman undertook a site visit 17/08/2006. This site comprises two burnt mounds and a circular feature located at the base of a north-facing slope on Cefn Bryn. A heavily peated stream separates the mounds. The monuments are easily distinguishable in the landscape. It was

## GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales

suggested by the RCAHMW that 04788w, the smaller oval mound, was part of the larger crescent shaped mound, further investigation during the site visit indicated that the mounds were in fact two separate monuments. The smaller mound was measured accurately by the RCAHMW, although, as with 00284w, dense bracken meant visibility was extremely poor. Burnt material was visible in the adjacent eastern stream, and the surface of the mound revealed a gravelly texture. Interestingly, the monuments do not appear to be located in a natural boulder field. See GGAT 85 digital archive for photos of possible mound and nearby stone. (CT and GMH, GGAT 85, 12/09/06).

PRNs 00284w and 04788w are part of the same SAM No GM543, which also includes 00269w (a Bronze Age ring cairn). GM543 comprises a crescent shaped **burnt** mound, a small oval mound (possibly part of the same mound) and a circular ring feature. PRN 04788w represents the smaller oval mound 6.5m (NE-SW) by 4m and 0.6m high and is located on the opposite (west) side of the stream from the main mound; possibly originally part of it, though separately recorded on the NMR. At the time of scheduling it was quite overgrown with bracken and gorse. The RCAHMW probed it and found a gravelly texture very similar to that of the main mound.

<b>CONDITION</b>	Intact
<b>HISTORY</b>	All sites within the scheduled area GM543 were visited in 1999 by members of the RCAHMW during an exercise to update their records. The features were surveyed at this time (Cadw/SAM Information Section 1/General Information/2000).
<b>PARISH</b>	Llanrhidian
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Ilston
<b>UA</b>	Swansea
<b>COUNTY</b>	West Glamorgan
<b>ALTITUDE</b>	126m
<b>LANDUSE</b>	Heath
<b>COMMENTS</b>	This site has related PRNs 0284w and 0269w. However, as it is located on Cefn Bryn Common it is within relatively close proximity to PRNs 02238w, 02239, 02240w and 02241w.
<b>AREA STATUS</b>	Historic Landscape HLW (WG1) 1
<b>SCIENTIFIC</b>	

## GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales

### 3.19 05864w

**Index No** 1711  
**PRN** 05864w  
**RELATED PRNs** 00137w  
**NPRN** 305526  
**SAM Ref** 0  
**NAME** Burnt Mound on Druid's Moor  
**NGR** SS4390289991  
**BROADCLASS** Domestic  
**TYPE** Burnt mound  
**FORM** Earthwork  
**SUMMARY** A site visit revealed two circular shaped mounds. The first, Mound 1, is approximately 20m in diameter and exhibits a slight crescentic shape. Mound 2 is to the north of Mound 1. Shallow trowelling of the areas revealed evidence of burnt stone.

#### ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION

**FULL DESCRIPTION** Gail Higginbottom and Caroline Thomas of GGAT made a site visit on 21/08/06. On visiting mound 00137w this mound was seen and is likely to be the pair referred to on Druid's Moor in the NMR, though the grid reference places the two burnt mounds in a different field. This mound, 05864w, is directly to the south of mound 00137w found at SS43898998. The mounds are separated by what appears to be a human/animal-worn path (but may refer the relic stream mentioned below). Known as Mound 2 in the field notes, this mound is also circular in shape and defined by a fairly prominent bank approximately 0.5m in height. The south of the mound gives way to form a sort of entrance way. Enclosed within this mound is a well-defined hollow, located slightly off centre at NGR SS4390289995. Long grass and reeds define the hollow suggesting it may have been a pond. Trowelling within this area and across the surface of the mound revealed plentiful evidence of burnt stone. The perimeter of Mound 2 is clearly outlined from south to northwest by reeds. Directly to the west of the mound running north to south is a well defined, deep, stream approximately 1.5m in depth (spring head in the north). Outside and to the west of Mound 2 is a second hollow that sits between the mound and the hedgebank; this is oval in shape and is again defined by reeds. The burnt stone identified in this area is small in size giving the mounds a 'gravelly' texture. See photographs and drawings in GGAT 85 digital archive. (CT and GMH, GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds Survey, 2006).

Two burnt mounds, 2m apart, set either side of a relict stream channel. The northern mound is c.30m in diameter and 0.6-1.5m high and opens to the NW. The S mound is 18m by 14m and 0.2-1.0m high and opens to the NE. (Source Os495card; SS48NW35).

On Druid's Moor, south of Hardings Down in Gower, at 75m above OD on ground falling gently to the SE. An approximately circular grass grown mound about 21.3m in diameter. It has a slightly dished central and opens to the northwest between two rather vague horns about 6.7m apart; just outside the opening on the west is a small pond (J.Wiles 04.07.02; RCAHMW ENDEX database).

**CONDITION** Near Intact  
**HISTORY** A small excavation of the mound showed it to be composed of burnt stone and blackened earth (RCAHMW Glam 1, 1976, pt 1, 126).  
**PARISH** Llangennith  
**COMMUNITY** Llangennith, Llanmadoc and Cheriton  
**UA** Swansea  
**COUNTY** West Glamorgan  
**ALTITUDE** 75m O  
**LANDUSE** Pasture  
**COMMENTS** 0  
**AREA STATUS**  
**SCIENTIFIC**

3.20 05865w



**Plate 16: 05865w.** This low grass, covered circular mound lies to the southeast of 00361w, approximately 40m away. It is possible that this is a second burnt mound. The mound has a diameter of 4m, gently slopes on the east flank but much steeper on all other sides. The mound has a height of roughly 1m on the east slope but only 0.10m on the opposite side. (GGAT85 photographic catalogue - 00361w Small circular mound.Looking E.No.33.CT)

<b>Index No</b>	0
<b>PRN</b>	05865w
<b>RELATED PRNs</b>	00361w
<b>NPRN</b>	303994
<b>SAM Ref</b>	0
<b>NAME</b>	SITE NAME NOT KNOWN
<b>NGR</b>	SN68300857
<b>BROADCLASS</b>	Domestic
<b>TYPE</b>	Burnt mound
<b>FORM</b>	Earthwork
<b>SUMMARY</b>	A circular, low grass, covered mound. It is possible that this is a second burnt mound. The mound has a diameter of 4m, gently slopes on the east flank but much steeper on all other sides. The mound has a height of roughly 1m on the east slope but only 0.10m on the opposite side. This second mound is also located adjacent and to the east of the streambed, which is heavily peated. Small patches of exposed burnt stone can be seen on the mound.
<b>ORIGINAL FULL DESCRIPTION</b>	A large kidney shaped mound was identified on moorland, adjacent to the road between Pontardawe and Ammanford. The mound was located towards the base of a gentle slope that leads down to a stream that runs along the field boundary. The monument measures 13m by 9m and is covered with low sage grass and moss; gorse bushes are situated on the northwest horn. The stream runs to the north past the monument,

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before curving to the east. The monument opens to the stream in the east, approximately 2m away from it. The stream has eroded the northwest horn of the mound to reveal sections of burnt stone through the mound. The mound falls to a gentle slope on the north and east side (facing the road) but has a much steeper incline to the south and west, approximately 1.5m in height. Directly to the north of the monument, approximately 5m away at NGR SN6831508565, is a circular feature. This may be a pond, it has a sunken middle covered with reeds; steep slopes lead down to the middle. The circular feature has a diameter of 5m. The description produced in the original data entry mentions a bank identified by Cantril and Jones. The site visit identified this bank approximately 27m northwest of 003613w at NGR SN6824908616. The bank is located within an area of natural depression, roughly 10m across, which contains a springhead. On the west side of the bank runs a small stream leading down to a large pond in the east. In addition, on the opposite side of the stream appears a bank, parallel to that of Cantril and Jones. This bank is approximately 5m north to south and 1.5m east to west. There is no sign of stonework on either bank; it is possible that these are entirely natural. A second sunken circular feature exists at NGR SN6825508599. This measures 1.5m in diameter.

**FULL DESCRIPTION** Andrew Sherman and Caroline Thomas of GGAT undertook a site visit on 01/09/06. To the southeast of 00361w, approximately 40m away, is a circular, low grass, covered mound. It is possible that this is a second burnt mound. The mound has a diameter of 4m, gently slopes on the east flank but much steeper on all other sides. The mound has a height of roughly 1m on the east slope but only 0.10m on the opposite side. This second mound is also located adjacent and to the east of the streambed, which is heavily peated. Small patches of exposed burnt stone can be seen on the mound. See GGAT 85 digital archive for photos (CT and GMH, GGAT 85, 12/09/06).

One of two 'hearths' noted in the vicinity in 1906 (0036w). The second 'hearth' may be located 27m to the north  
(J.Wiles 21.02.02, Os495card; SN60NE4; RCAHMW ENDEX database).

Located on the moorland road between Pontardawe and Ammanford, at 265m above OD, east of Banc John (a Bronze Age ring cairn 00350w) . In 1906 T.C. Cantril and O.T. Jones listed two hearths 46m apart with a line of 4 circular hollows to the NW. The sites are difficult to identify, it is possible that small hollows are visible but these may be associated with peat cutting and natural subsistence. Approximately 46m to the SE is a mound that, according to the RCAHMW, is clearly one of the hearths. This is oval, 13m by 9m, standing 0.6m in height on the south and 1.5m high on the north overlooking the stream. There is a slight depression in the centre that opens northwards to the stream. The location of the other hearth is uncertain. Approximately 27m NW of this mound is a bank about 5.2m long from north to south, 2.8m wide and 0.6m in height with large stones visible in its west face. It is claimed that this is evidently part of a larger structure and could possibly be the other hearth (Arch Cambrensis, 1906, p26).

**CONDITION** Near Intact  
**HISTORY** 0  
**PARISH** Ryndwyglach  
**COMMUNITY** Pontardawe  
**UA** Neath Port Talbot  
**COUNTY** West Glamorgan  
**ALTITUDE** 256m  
**LANDUSE** Moorland  
**COMMENTS** 0  
**AREA**  
**STATUS**  
**SCIENTIFIC**

## 4. Burnt mounds in southeast Wales overview

Broadly speaking, until the great roads and gas pipeline excavations, it can be said that the burnt mounds that were found, were those easily spotted in the landscape: grazing or moorland type locations and in areas that other monuments inhabited. Also the last ten years the classic vision of the burnt mound as the upland crescentic shaped monument is fading in the literature. Nevertheless, where the numbers of mounds are reaching into the upper 100's to 1000's, such as in Ireland, to offer generalised divisions of various monument types is also possibly inappropriate as the majority have not been excavated and many new and various things have been found at each. Perhaps, at most, one could say there are burnt mounds with wood-lined or stone-lined troughs, and then the rest (Personal communication, Jim Parry).

We would like to offer the generalised picture that has been found by visiting and considering the sites in southeast Wales with the proviso that the numbers are few. As with all other archaeological sites, burnt mounds are the result of physical and social processes. They have a practical element that clearly had a multitude of functions, running from the mundane (the need for water, perhaps for cooking) to perhaps the more spiritual (water for washing/cleansing). How we can separate these elements is not clear and from previous interpretative experience, it is perhaps wise not to do so. However, to try to create some unified picture by the end of this section it is necessary to consider some of the elements of burnt mounds separately.

### Water

Whilst the majority of these sites we examined were currently on moorland or pasture, they were always situated in the vicinity of actual or potential running water. In the same manner as suggested by Brown and Davis (2006) they were often located in a 'backwater' in the sense they were not positioned up against major or larger streams. The streams with which they were associated usually issued from a small local springhead, sometimes not far above the mound and in three cases these were possibly deliberately blocked to slow the course of the water to create a more backwater-like situation or effect. Above 00021w, for example, there were squared-off blocking stones and parallel with the mound just before the edge of the crest were more large stones also deliberately placed. These actions have both slowed the rapid water movement down the slope and created a pool or pond alongside the mound.

Site 00137w is a site that is well-worth revisiting for there are a few other confusing features that need to be given time to re-assess how the site worked, including calculating where relic streams were possibly positioned in the area as suggested by the NMR database, Source Os495card. The mound next to 00137w, for instance, has an oval-like scoop on one side full of reeds suggesting a pond. This now pond-like feature has much burnt stone on its bank opposite the burnt mound. As well, the deeply-cut stream nearby is much shallower where it is parallel with this mound and it is from here the spring-head appears with drainage ditches cut behind it (see photographic archive for photograph of the stream). As well as these things there is a 'path' that runs between the two mounds, which ends up at the stream. Cattle and people are now wearing down this path further, especially as you make your way to the stream edge, but it is possible that this may have originally been created for water diversion towards the mounds or for access between stream and mound. The diversion, of course would allow for the control of the water by slowing down its approach. The OS card suggests this is a relict stream, without explanation.

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The interesting observation regarding those sites located very closely to streams, is that the stream beds were often dry or the water was very slow that ran in them, especially those stream beds that ran alongside. Those beds with slow water were often very wet and boggy, and/or full of plants. Those that were dry were often stony and may have had dry moss in them. It would be important to research the climate in the British Isles during the periods across the Bronze Age to determine whether it is possible this information supports the palaeo-environmental evidence of Brown and Davis that these sites were used indeed used during the autumnal months. It was witnessed on the second visit to site 00021w in autumn, that the once summer-dry stream bed was now flowing with water issuing forth from the spring and the pond full.

The fact that a burnt mound needs a water source obviously places them near water; also it is running water that is chosen and not completely still, like a lake which could easily be diverted via channels, so the water's association with springhead and freshness must be important. Further, though the water has to flow we know that fast water is not the likely choice both from the palaeoenvironmental evidence to date and the location strategies we have seen in southeast Wales and burnt mounds around the British Isles. If the slow water is not naturally occurring, like at the steep slopes of 00021w, strategies are enforced. Such strategies tell us that the location has relevancies other than a desire for slow water and reinforces the importance of a spring and other locational factors.

### **Location and visual aspects:**

Most obviously the sites afford views that take the eye out to a far horizon, either across rolling hills and valleys or they look out over steep valleys with apparent sudden drops. Most of the sites we visited had a view to the sea. These variables were the most conspicuous nature of their location. However, it was a combination of factors that seem to connect to the choice of their location. These were (refer to Plates 17 and following):

- i) a distant horizon, often only as a small window of the entire horizon, excepting 02239w where nearly 50% of the view had distant views;
- ii) a very high and enclosing horizon on the opposite side;
- iii) the sea view was always located at the most distant point that the land could be seen from the monument;
- iv) as expected, the most distant horizons were usually associated with the sea, however, they did not always end with the sea (00021w, 00272w, 00361w, 02144w, 02240w; see plates);
- v) surrounding slopes were either strewn with rocks and/boulders or large stones were often identified on the floors, or in the banks of, local drainage channels or streams. For instance in the vicinity of 00182w and 00183w were large sub-angular stones all along the newly cut drainage ditches and above the banks where they had been thrown.

This combination occurred whether they were in an upland or lowland areas, grazing or moorland, or their association with a constantly active or seasonal stream.

## GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales

The fact that there was the need for water that was not obtained from a still source but that had to be running might imply the need for a slope. However, it was not only its running qualities as discussed above, but again, a combination of qualities that the water had to have. Thus the fact that there was often a looming slope nearby was not necessarily the outcome of the need for running water, but of running water with a certain nature. As well as this, springs can be located in flat areas, so again, the idea of for-shortened horizons in one direction and distant in the other along with the views and the nature of those views means that these locations fulfil complex requirements of the users and go a long way beyond the practical. Added to these things might be the fact that these springs arise from a particular area that may hold some relevance. With this in mind, it can be seen to be difficult to unravel the nature of these places somewhat and the consideration of variables suggests that all the monuments in these areas were likely placed here because of the landscape's relevance and that these acts of creation and monuments added complex and even deeper value(s) to these places, with each subsequent variable adding more and more depth to the places themselves until it likely became impossible to derive which factors had the most importance or value to the users of the landscape, their natures being so entangle and each a part of the other.

### **Situation and association:**

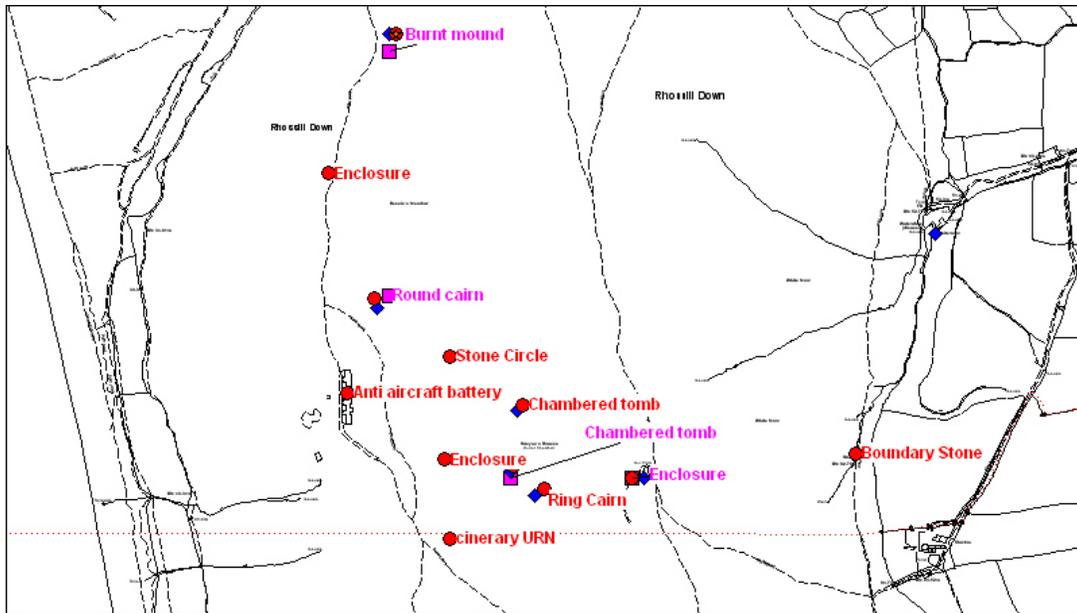
Though landscape setting is a difficult thing to consider, especially in a small project such as this, it is hypothesised that practical and aesthetic qualities dominate and interplay, providing some sites, perhaps, with a spiritual connection. It is curious, for instance, why many sites are indeed in placed in upland locations during the Bronze Age in possibly very exposed positions, notably 00021w, 00342w, and 00343w. It is possible, that such sites are connected to either the funerary or agricultural upland landscapes (possible clearance cairns), whether for the purposes of connection or appropriation.

### Cemeteries:

Just about all of the sites that are on Cefn Bryn lie near or amongst bronze age burials of different forms. Others, notably 00342w and 00343w, and 00021w, are located near Neolithic tombs and cairn cemeteries. 00342w and 00343w sit near cemeteries and below a Neolithic Tomb that dominates the horizon behind, whereas 00021w is in very easy walking distance from tombs situated on the top of and further over, the same hill it is located upon.

Strikingly, it is at some of these same sites that the sublime nature of the view dominates the senses (see plates in "Individual site assessments" above and Plate 17). These sites are also exposed, sometimes extremely, in a manner similar to the funerary sites. At 00021w, though very exposed, is a slightly less so than the funerary sites on the other side of the hill at Rhossili Downs, or indeed the hilltop. It is possible that 00021w, is a place that offers some shelter from the winds, at which people could possibly gather near the funerary monuments. Here the nearby monuments, the partial shelter, the sea and the arresting views were the likely reasons for site placement here: a place that also offered the necessary springhead and mammoth conglomerate stones strewn across the landscape that could be used at the site for the creation of heat.

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**Figure 16: 00021w and prehistoric sites in the vicinity. Based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd 100017916 (2006). Annotations are the copyright of GGAT and Cadw.**

Perhaps at sites such as these the functional and the spiritual conjoin, here they may take on a spiritual purpose in their association with the many social elements. Perhaps, too, at this place, at the apparent edge of the slope above the downs or valleys, cleansing rituals or saunas were in operation: a place and time for visiting and reflecting or gathering.

### Upland grazing:

The possibility of using some of the sites in association with animal husbandry has been considered, such as the need for washing on the mountain tops, but with the evidence so far tending towards autumnal and later seasons, animal grazing in the uplands, ethnographically a spring/summer activity, is not being considered further at this stage.

### Where other burnt mound sites could be found

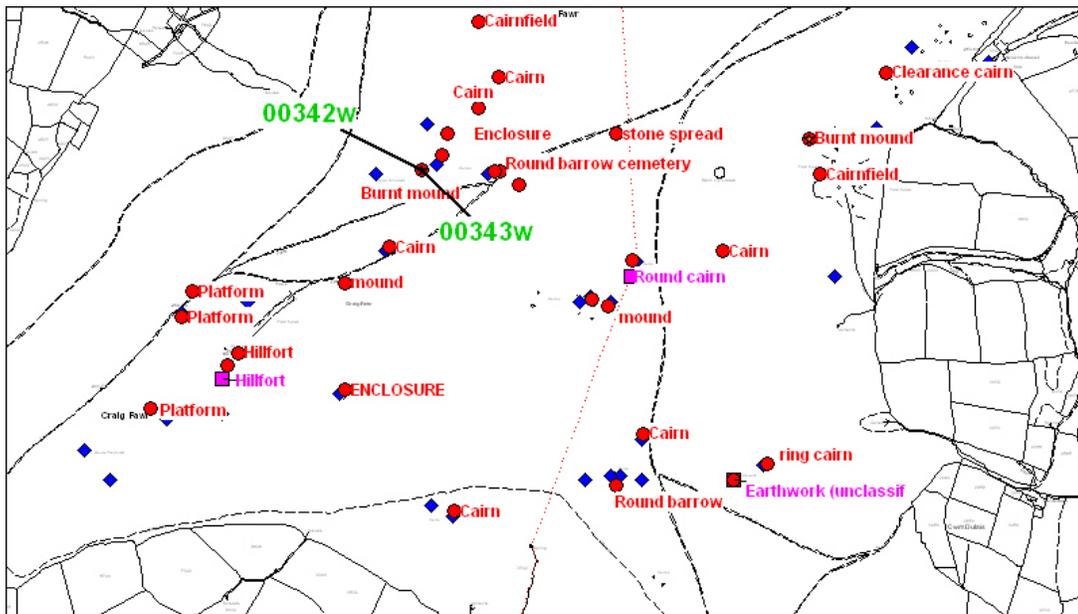
Burnt mounds appear to operate as common single sites across the landscape or exist in pairs to massive complexes in the British Isles. With the latter in mind variables at a few sites that were visited suggested that other mounds might well be in the vicinity. The variables were as follows:

- i) a large number of local streams and spring heads (like 00224w);
- ii) landscapes with burnt stone across them in small streams (on way to 00342w – 00343w from a north-easterly direction alongside the dyke and associated pathways).
- iii) with burnt mounds having been identified as multi-functional and commonplace as well as being heavily embedded in busy archaeological landscapes (even landscapes

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previously thought to be fairly devoid of archaeology), areas such as the Gower, the ridges running across from Graig Fawr to Pentwyn Mawr and the area around and south of Bryn Mawr are very likely to provide the bases of such future discoveries themselves.

- iv) areas with relic stream systems and potential protective co-alluvial covering, such as that provided for 0182w-00183w are possible prime target areas for further investigation for landscape re-construction and burnt mound discoveries.
- v) these, of point v above, along with a number of unidentified mounds in the area could possibly result in more burnt mounds being 'unearthed' (0182w, 00183w). Or just the consideration of other mounds in the vicinity, which are not yet tested for burnt mound qualities, like those near 00361w.



**Figure 17: Location of 00342w and 00343w and prehistoric sites in the vicinity. Based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd 100017916 (2006). Annotations are the copyright of GGAT and Cadw.**



## 5. Scheduling and management recommendations

From the various explanations provided above, the following conclusive scheduling and management recommendations are given:

### **00182w+00183w**

These sites' status should be maintained as they are currently offered protection by co-alluvial material and might therefore be, in the short-term at least, stable. As well as this, the surrounding environment is that which could offer good palaeo-environmental information if excavation did take place in the future. The sites themselves, however, are and have been under threat through agricultural, related and other land improvements. An electricity pole was erected directly alongside 00183w and would have damaged the edge of the site and certainly disturbed any archaeological or palaeo-environmental evidence on that side of the mound. The streams and the drainage ditches in the local areas have been redirected and the same may happen in the future. Therefore it seems important that the owner and the various utility companies be clearly notified by Cadw of these sites and their position on this land.

### **00342w+00343w**

A pair of well-defined, seemingly undamaged sites in a prominent position located near a walking path and a number of other prehistoric sites including a number of ring cairns (00340w, Graig Fawr Cairn Group) and Graig Fawr Chambered Tomb (00924w), as well as an enclosure. These sites obviously form part of a rich prehistoric landscape and a bronze age landscape in particular. As you stand at these sites other prehistoric sites can actually be seen nearby and as to move from these to another, you can espy another and so on through the area. Thus for the curious walker these sites have the potential to be visited with some regularity.

00342w situation right along side the stream with the stream pooling within the side of the mound means that monitoring of potential erosion should be begun and maintained (naturally this holds for all such monuments like 02240w).

### **00021w**

This scheduled site is located within a few metres of a walker's path and is indeed a good stop off point to admire the view or for a rest. Given the site's fairly thin covering and its exposed location there is little physical protection for this site, and with a path of sorts wearing down on one side of the mound, erosion is likely to be increased here (see figures above for this site in the section labelled 'Individual site assessments'). On-going monitoring of the depth of coverage for this site suggested as it is definitely under threat from the elements, sheep and walkers.

### **00361w**

The clear nature of this mound and the many possible related archaeological features surrounding this monument make this monument and its surrounding features worthy of further study and scheduling. It appears that some form of complex may well have been in operation here and thus a richer source of information is potentially available. As such, they are of more value together, than singly.

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**Plate 17: 00021w.** High on a crest this mound looks out over the downs and out to the sea and is surrounded by obvious outcroppings of boulders on three sides. Whilst this site demonstrates the main location variables of being placed on slope, usable stone nearby and being next to a stream, this position is not entirely practical: the water runs too fast and has to be blocked to slow the water down and the site is very exposed, though not as much as the near-by burials. Might there be some connection to the other more ritual sites near-by? The monument's position is located left and right of the photograph, highlighting the concatenated nature of this plate.



**Plate 18: 00361w.** Similar to many of the burnt mounds observed, from this site a great distance can be observed in one main direction with a sea view and a contrasting foreshortened horizon in the opposite direction. This photograph was taken standing away from the monument. The monument's position is located left of the bright strip in the left-hand side of the photograph.

## GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales



**Plate 19: 00137w:** Though the views are less dramatic than the sites in the uplands, the basic landscape cues are the same. Some of the most obvious a foreshorten horizon and a distant one, factors of being located on slope. To discover if these particular views are significant in any way would require a full comparative GIS assessment of each site.



**Plate 20: 00183s.** A gentler landscape in the autumn lowlands. However, through the gap of trees (to the right of the blurry de-nuded tree) are rolling valleys across the distance. This is much more noticeable from its sister site about a 100 m away on the other side of the stream at 00182w. Photograph taken on top of site.

## GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales



**Plate 21: 00272w.** Once more we can see the closely foreshortened horizon up against the site in one direction and distant views out to the sea on the other. It seems no matter where a site is on the varied landscapes of the Gower, the majority have a view of the sea. This photograph was taken standing on bank of site.



**Plate 22: 02144w.** Again we have the typical scooped out shaped of the horizon offering distant views from the site and a very close horizon in the opposite direction.

**GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales**



**Plate 23: 02239w. The dampness of the soil near the site illustrated by the number of reeds and bog cotton surrounding the area. Here an attractive view of the sea and valleys can be observed from this site.**



**Plate 24: 02240s. Almost calming, the smooth horizon at this site rolls up, over and down towards the sea. The hills here are strewn with boulders.**

**GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales**



**Plate 25: Looking up towards 00182s, located just left of the electricity pole in the distance, with the high, immediate horizon behind it.**



**Plate 26: Looking away from 00182w out across the valley in autumn.**



**Plate 27:** Unlike Plate 9, this photograph does not do justice to the sublime views from this site near Graig Fawr. However, it does highlight the visual illusion of being on the edge of a cliff. Like 00021w, this site is located on a bluff creating both the appearance and sensation of a very steep drop next to the monument.

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**Appendix I: Southeast Wales Burnt Mounds GGAT  
Methodological Overview**

### GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales

TASK	METHOD/NOTES	PRODUCT/DISCOVERY
<b>Database extraction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Searched for TYPES 'burnt mounds' and 'cooking mounds' on current SMR DB.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification and information gathered of known sites on SMR.</li> </ul>
<b>Contacting local sources re burnt mounds (once identified)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A search for appropriate local societies was carried out, including phone calling, consulting GGAT staff, address searches for societies or contacts, including councils, libraries, other societies, yellow pages and the internet; some addresses or contacts for the societies had become defunct, with returned mail etcetera and so contact could not be made;</li> <li>• A cover letter was produced introducing the project and contact details given;</li> <li>• An informative leaflet was produced for the archaeologically-minded public;</li> <li>• Letters sent to all feasible local sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new list of societies with up to date addresses was constructed</li> <li>• Letters with leaflets sent to all feasible local sources.</li> </ul>
<b>Awaiting information from other local sources (no cost-just extends the time of the project)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No information came in before site visits began;</li> <li>• Some came in later, all said no information that they knew of, except for one contact who referred us to a publication after all main field work completed.</li> </ul>
<b>Identification and contacting of owners of SMR and new sites (4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land registry was contacted and asked for advise on all sites, because we didn't have the information or to compare any data we had with that of the registry;</li> <li>• Cover letters were written for the various commons;</li> <li>• A cover letter was produced introducing the project and contact details given</li> <li>• An informative leaflet was produced for the general public;</li> <li>• 16 of the 19 SMR sites were registered with the incorrect landowner (discovered after 1<sup>st</sup> mail out), which caused the need much research via telephoning and so forth;</li> <li>• A new mail out was launched;</li> <li>• To speed up the process, once no reply was gained for 14 sites (same owner), contact was gained via telephone just as field</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permission for all works to be carried out and site visits for 3 sites via letter and phone contact (owner and commons);</li> <li>• Permission granted for 2 sites by visiting farmstead next to fields to determine owner as land registry incorrect (2 mail outs and a phone call by the people at the home to which the letter was addressed confirmed no such person lived there nor owned property);</li> <li>• Permission for all works to be carried out and site visits for 14 sites via letter and phone contact (commons);</li> <li>• No permissions granted for intrusive works to be carried out at the same 14. Contact made by letter and phone contact (owner); Owner wanted reassurances that the project work would not result in the scheduling of sites, naturally no such reassurances were given and the appropriate procedures for such scheduling explained in as much that this responsibility lay with Cadw;</li> </ul>

**GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales**

<b>TASK</b>	<b>METHOD/NOTES</b>	<b>PRODUCT/DISCOVERY</b>
	work was to begin on the 3 sites we had permissions for.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14 sites could be visited for purposes of photography, tape survey and sketching only.</li> </ul>
<b>Database enhancement from other sources (7)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was decided that this would include any data or information that would enhance the interpretation and understanding of sites and/or recognition of sites in different states of preservation in the field;</li> <li>Searched for TYPES 'burnt mounds' and 'cooking mounds' on current NMR database.</li> <li>Contacting and eliciting information from researchers in the field of burnt mounds;</li> <li>Further reading (including documents sent by above people);</li> <li>Visit to burnt mound sites along *** pipeline;</li> <li>New site TYPE searches on RCAHMw and Cadw and SMR as suggested by further reading, namely 'mound' and 'hearth' (done towards end of field visits).</li> <li>New data from RCAHMw added to enhance database;</li> <li>New data from GGAT SMR added to enhance database;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit to burnt mound sites along Milford Haven to Aberdulais gas pipeline.</li> <li>Cadw site numbers remained the same after search of Cadw DB</li> <li>NMR (TYPE = mound) 4 extra possible burnt mounds out of 20 'mounds'; NPRN 228363, 305711, 24477, 400441</li> <li>NMR DB (TYPE = hearth), none out of none;</li> <li>NMR DB (TYPE='burnt mound') 8 out of 22 which were not the same sites as GGAT SMR DB;</li> <li>SMR (TYPE = mound) 4 possible burnt mounds out of 80 'mounds'; PRN 01282s, 01000m, 02056m/84727, 01075m/NPRN 84694;</li> <li>SMR (TYPE = hearth) 9 possible burnt mounds out of 46 'hearths';</li> <li>Any new data was added to the database of known burnt mounds as it came in (on-going).</li> <li>The enhanced DB was also supplemented from published sources and material held in the further information files. The most useful material was that which was contained in the Stone and Bronze Ages volume of the Inventory (RCAHMW 1976) and Cantrill and Jones survey of the burnt mounds in Dyfed (Cantrill and Jones 1906), which covered a number of the sites located in the northwest of the modern county Neath Port Talbot. Data for other sites was compiled as well as possible from other sources. Informative and detailed written descriptions were added to the DB where possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Site visits (11 days)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 19 SMR sites were visited</li> <li>As intrusive work was not allowed it was deemed important to at least carry out detailed earth-work surveys at approximately half of these sites to better inform us of the monuments.</li> <li>A series of panoramic shots were taken (as weather permitting).</li> <li>5 monuments were chosen to be revisited with specialists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This project attempted to find and verify all the sites on the SMR as stated as the desired product outcome in the management plan</li> <li>Of the 18 sites visited, 15 are deemed to be found with three possible, with a further two offering no evidence. Two 'new' sites were visited for the SMR.</li> <li>Confirmation of burnt stone at 8 sites: 7 where burnt stone was apparent without intervention and one site (00021w) where a small rectangular piece of turf was removed to reveal such.</li> </ul>

**GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales**

<b>TASK</b>	<b>METHOD/NOTES</b>	<b>PRODUCT/DISCOVERY</b>
	<p>from Exeter University in order to establish suitability for future excavation and future gathering of palaeo-environmental evidence. The latter would help to reveal function, site activity and dating sequences, and the environment prior to, during and after the monuments were used and built. Naturally these are the 5 upon which permission had been given for intrusive work to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of these 5, 3 were visited as the rain had affected fields for one site (00137w – only 1 recorded on SMR but in fact 2 mounds) to such an extent the farmer asked us to come again next year if we could.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting the other three (00021w, 00183s and 00183s) with the specialists proved to be exceptionally helpful. Previously 00183s and 00183s were not located with any definiteness due to the changes in the environs over time (see Product). With their help defunct/realigned water-courses and spring lines were located and a greater understanding of the monument and landscape was produced (see specific monument discussion/description). Confirmation of a monument in these two locations.</li> <li>• Possible burnt stone was identified at sites 00182w and 00183w. Both sites (shallow mounds) were covered quite deeply in turf from approximately 30 cm at the shallowest until 60 cm or greater either side of a circular diameter. At the base of this was mostly stoney, impenetrable material.</li> <li>• Site 00021w was shown to be very shallowly covered by turf, as were the monuments surroundings, especially the monument and the water course.</li> <li>• A series of panoramic photographs for 8 sites were created.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Database enhancement from field notes (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photographs download and labelled</li> <li>• Detailed notes from field visits added to burnt mounds database including the following descriptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Site</li> <li>○ Immediate environs</li> <li>○ General visual impact of entire view</li> <li>○ Other monuments in the vicinity noted</li> <li>○ Examination of field descriptions for site interpretation</li> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Database enhanced, much more information than first envisaged.</li> </ul>
<b>Preparation of main report (10)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrations (3 days);</li> <li>• Panorama photographs concatenated and examined;</li> <li>• Map creation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General region(s)</li> <li>○ Area Groupings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main report completed.</li> </ul>

**GGAT 85 Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales**

<b>TASK</b>	<b>METHOD/NOTES</b>	<b>PRODUCT/DISCOVERY</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Close ups;</li> <li>• Consideration of individual site interpretations for main report;</li> <li>• Consideration of patterns and apparent anomalies in the record</li> <li>• Write report sections:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Summary</li> <li>○ Introduction based upon literature research and informants.</li> <li>○ Methodology.</li> <li>○ General topography and geology</li> <li>○ Present land use</li> <li>○ Individual site assessments</li> <li>○ Illustration and photographic catalogue for report (Figure Table)</li> <li>○ Burnt mounds in southeast Wales overview</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Preparation of Annexe on scheduling and/or further scientific recommendations (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annexe on scheduling and/or further scientific recommendations completed.</li> </ul>
<b>Preparation of Annexe on reports from the public on locations of possible burnt mound mounds. (4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As little was gained from this exercise an annexe was not required. The days were easily absorbed by the preparation of the main report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No annexe required</b></li> </ul>
<b>Entry of new and revised data onto SMR (6)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary holding databases created for uploading of new site information into the SMR once HMS GGAT (TOAD) is launched.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All new information on burnt mounds entered into temporary GGAT databases</li> </ul>