



Trannon Moor stone row and cairns

Walk Information:

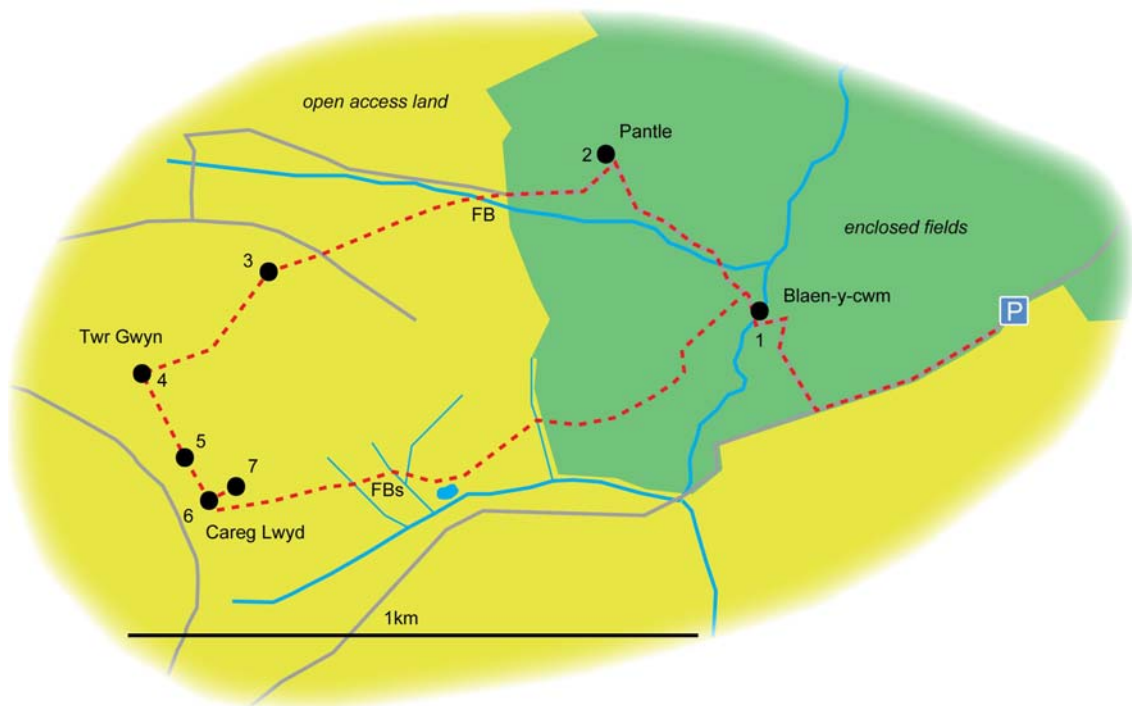
Maps: OS Explorer 215

Distance: 2.5 miles / 4.2 kilometres

Duration: Allow around 2.5 hours

Difficulty: medium. Some sections are boggy and the path is indistinct. A map is essential and a compass and/or GPS might be useful.

Start and finish: Carno Windfarm Substation **SN 93359603**.



Walk summary

The walk takes advantage of public footpaths, permissive paths and open access land within and around the Carno Windfarm. From the car park the walk follows a road and then a track across farmland to the deserted farms of Blaen-y-cwm and Pantle. On reaching open access land the route is initially waymarked, leading between the wind turbines to visit an important group of prehistoric burial and ritual monuments.

The return route is not waymarked and can be boggy, crossing moorland before returning to Blaen-y-cwm and following the track and road back to the start point.

Introduction

Trannon Moor, to the west of Carno, is now the site of the Carno Windfarm, which consists of 56 wind turbines and was opened in 1996. The area is dominated by the Twr Gwyn ridge which descends from Bryn Amlwg in the north to Bryn Oerfa in the south and acts as a watershed between the upper reaches of Afon Cledan to the east and Afon Trannon to the west. The moorland is an important wildlife habitat and is used by over 30 bird species including Red Kite, Hen Harrier, Buzzard, Red Grouse, Curlew and Golden Plover.

The area was the subject of a thorough archaeological survey before the windfarm was granted planning permission to ensure that no historic features were disturbed by the construction works. The site contains an important group of prehistoric monuments, including a stone row and several burial cairns, and parts of the complex were the subject of excavations by CPAT in 2000.

As well as the prehistoric sites there are also traces of later activity. The moorland was, and still is used as summer grazing and there is also extensive evidence for the cutting of peat for fuel.

The Walk

There is parking for several cars next to the substation, which is at the end of a narrow road, 2 miles west of Carno. Continue along the road for 350 metres and take the second gate on the right to follow a grassy track, with a fence on the right, which leads down and across a stream to Blaen-y-cwm **(1)**.

Continue along the track as far as Pantle **(2)**, turning left onto a rising track just before reaching the farm. Follow the track, through a gate and up the hill until reaching a footbridge on the left. Cross the bridge and head towards the nearest turbine on the right (no path), passing the first marker post, until you reach the turbine.

Cross the access track and head WNW towards a small group of wooden posts which mark the site of a small **Bronze Age burial cairn (3)** (SN 9204296104). This was one of the sites excavated in 2000, revealing a small ring of stones around 3.5 metres in diameter and 1 metres wide surrounding the open central area. There was no sign of any burial, although it is possible that a cremation could have been placed beneath the stone ring bank.



One of the cairns **(3)** under excavation



The disturbed burial cairn at Twr Gwyn **(4)**

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From the cairn head towards another marker post to the SW, which is visible on the skyline. Continue onwards as far as the fence, which bisects a large **Bronze Age burial cairn (4)** at Twr Gwyn, with a sheepfold built onto its southern side (SN 9182095930). The cairn is around 26 metres across and was excavated in 1855 when a stone-lined chamber, or cist, was uncovered containing a cremation and several flint artefacts. There are good views to the SW towards Pumlumon (Plynlimon).



Do not cross the fence, but follow it southwards to reach a pair of **small cairns (5)** (SN 9189895786) around 25 metres from the fence, partly hidden by reeds. The more northerly cairn has a distinct kerb of larger boulders. These are part of an important group of prehistoric burial and ritual monuments which are concentrated in this part of Trannon Moor. Views to the NNE from here include the Berwyn ridge in the distance.

The northern of two small cairns near Careg Lwyd (5)

From the cairns continue towards the corner of the fence and then turn left to the **Careg Lwyd stone row (6)** (Careg Lwyd means grey stone). This is another site which was excavated in 2000, at which time it was thought that this might have been a double row of stones. However, the excavation proved that there was just a single row, with stones having fallen in opposite directions, creating the appearance of two rows. The row consists of a large recumbent stone at the southern end and six smaller stones, forming a row around 21 metres in length.



Careg Lwyd stone row (6)

A further 50 metres along the fence, downslope to the east, there is a roughly circular earthwork which is marked as an enclosure on Ordnance Survey maps. This is actually a **Bronze Age ring cairn (7)**, within which there is a low burial cairn with an exposed central cist, or stone lined chamber, which would have held a cremation.



The central cist in the small burial cairn within the ring cairn (7)

Follow the fence back to the corner and cross the stile. Note the time capsule nearby which was placed there in 1998 and is marked by an inscribed slab. There is no visible path across the next

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section. Head E towards a pond 400 metres away, downslope. Eventually you will see a series of three wooden footbridges, each with a handrail (first bridge at SN 9219795730). Parts of this section can be boggy. Cross the bridges and on reaching the pond, follow the fence along the N side.

From the corner do not descend but head ENE to a stile (SN 9252595850). Cross the stile and then a drainage ditch before following along the N side of a contouring ditch. Follow the ditch as it starts to descend and then bear to the left, with rising ground to your left, to an old gateway at SN 9277995982. Continue through the gate and straight ahead to return to Blaen-y-cwm. Follow the outward route along the track to return to the carpark.



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Maps Ordnance Survey Explorer 215

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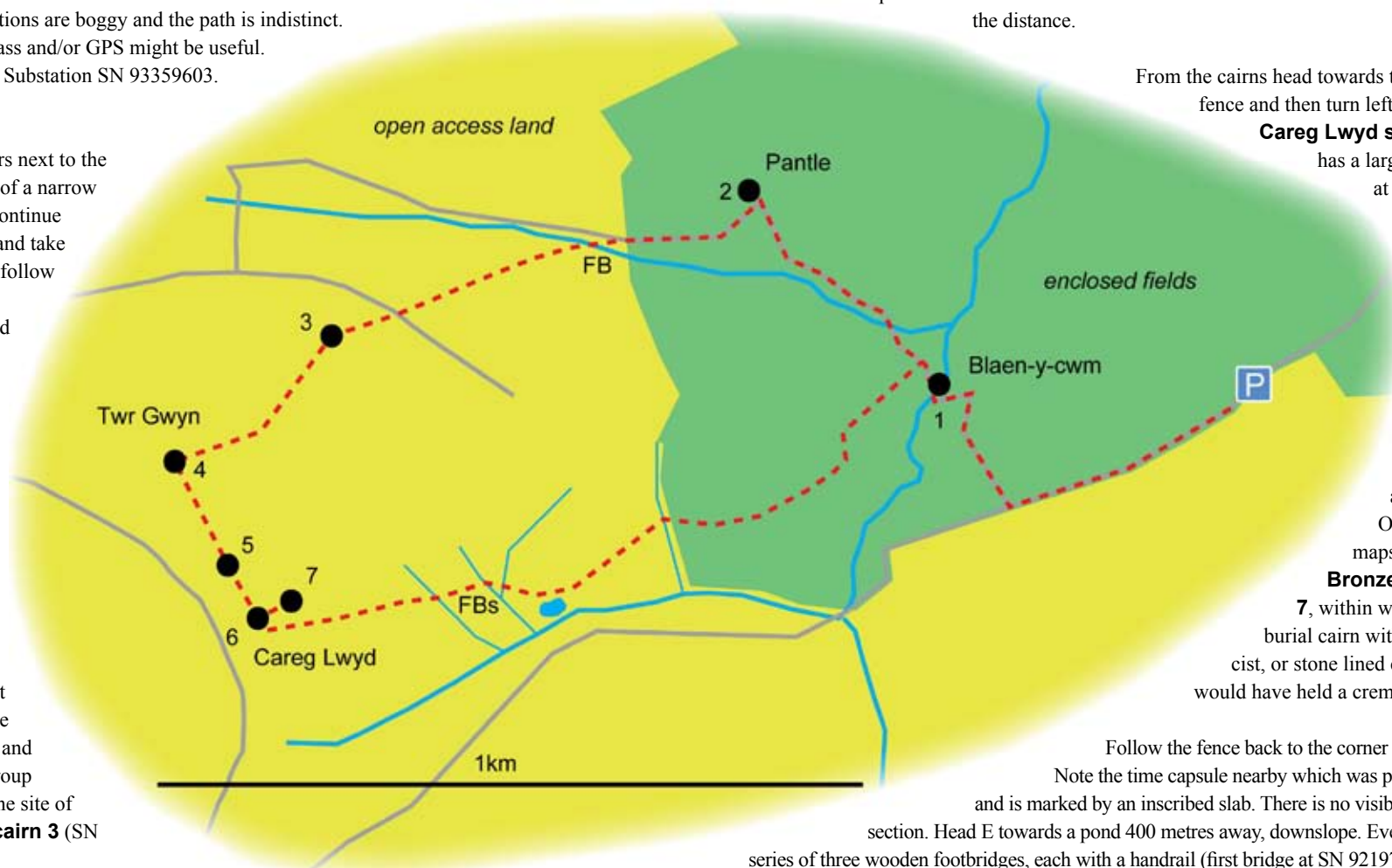
Start/finish Carno Windfarm Substation SN 93359603.

There is parking for several cars next to the substation, which is at the end of a narrow road, 2 miles west of Carno. Continue along the road for 350 metres and take the second gate on the right to follow a grassy track, with a fence on the right, which leads down and across a stream to **Blaen-y-cwm 1**.

Continue along the track as far as **Pantle 2**, turning left onto a rising track just before reaching the farm. Follow the track, through a gate and up the hill until reaching a footbridge on the left. Cross the bridge and head towards the nearest turbine on the right (no path), passing the first marker post, until you reach the turbine. Cross the access track and head WNW towards a small group of wooden posts which mark the site of a small **Bronze Age burial cairn 3** (SN 9204296104).

From the cairn head towards another marker post to the SW, which is visible on the skyline. Continue onwards as far as the fence, which bisects a large **Bronze Age burial cairn 4**, with a sheepfold built onto its southern side (SN 9182095930). The cairn is around 26 metres across and was excavated in 1855 when a stone-lined chamber, or cist, was uncovered containing a cremation and several flint artefacts. There are good views to the SW towards Pumlumon.

Do not cross the fence, but follow it to the south to reach a pair of **small cairns 5** (SN 9189895786) around 25 metres from the fence, partly hidden by reeds. The more northerly cairn has a distinct kerb of larger boulders. These are part of an important group of prehistoric burial and ritual monuments which are concentrated in this part of Trannon Moor. Views to the NNE from here include the Berwyn ridge in the distance.



From the cairns head towards the corner of the fence and then turn left to the Bronze Age **Careg Lwyd stone row 6**, which has a large recumbent stone at the southern end and six smaller stones forming a row 21 metres long.

50 metres further along the fence, to the east, there is a roughly circular earthwork which is marked as an enclosure on Ordnance Survey maps. This is actually a **Bronze Age ring cairn 7**, within which there is a low burial cairn with an exposed central cist, or stone lined chamber, which would have held a cremation.

Follow the fence back to the corner and cross the stile. Note the time capsule nearby which was placed there in 1998 and is marked by an inscribed slab. There is no visible path across the next section. Head E towards a pond 400 metres away, downslope. Eventually you will see a series of three wooden footbridges, each with a handrail (first bridge at SN 9219795730). Parts of this section can be boggy. Cross the bridges and on reaching the pond, follow the fence along the N side.

From the corner do not descend but head ENE to a stile (SN 9252595850). Cross the stile and then a drainage ditch before following along the N side of a contouring ditch. Follow the ditch as it starts to descend and then bear to the left, with rising ground to your left, to an old gateway at SN 9277995982. Continue through the gate and straight ahead to return to Blaen-y-cwm. Follow the outward route along the track to return to the carpark.