

Key Sites

Northwest Wales - Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

PALAEOLITHIC

Upper Kendrick's Cave, Llandudno, Conwy.

Two large caves, upper and lower, in the face of a south-facing limestone cliff. The contents of the lower cave and part of the upper cave were removed in 1879 to create a workshop during which various artefacts were recovered including a decorated horse lower jaw and bones of at least three humans, recently dated to the Late Glacial. Archaeological excavations of the upper cave took place in 1977 and 1979 by Davies, producing artefacts of Upper Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Romano-British date. About half of the contents of the upper cave remain *in situ*.

Dawkins 1880; Sieveking 1960; Davies 1989, 98-9; & 1991; Richards *et al* 2005.

Ogof Tan y Bryn, Llandudno, Conwy.

Small cave in limestone. Small scale trial excavation by Davies produced Upper Palaeolithic style worked flint and animal bone fragments. Considerable deposits remain.

Davies 1989, 95.

EARLY MESOLITHIC

Trwyn Du, Aberffraw, Anglesey.

Worked flint and chert scatter first revealed on buried surface during excavation of a Bronze Age burial cairn by Houlder on a small coastal headland overlooking the mouth of a small river estuary. Further work by White showed the lithic scatter to extend much further. Excavation of part of this scatter produced a very large assemblage of worked flint and chert dominated by large obliquely backed points of Early Mesolithic style, as well as hammer stones.

Houlder 1957; White 1978.

Llanaber, Meirionnydd.

Coastal erosion of peat beds exposed in the intertidal zone has produced various casual finds including an antler 'mattock' and red deer bones and antlers. The deposits continue to erode and more finds are likely.

Guilbert 1981; Kelly 1982a.

Ogof Pant y Wennol, Llandudno, Conwy.

A small cave in limestone. Small scale excavations by Davies in 1974-7 showed a glacial fauna with later use during the Earlier Mesolithic and Neolithic periods.

Some *in situ* deposits still remain.

Davies 1989, 97-8.

Pencilan Head, Llanengan, Llŷn.

Extensive surface scatter of worked flint on a prominent coastal headland.

Diagnostic pieces of obliquely blunted points indicate an Earlier Mesolithic date but further investigation is needed.

Grimes 1951, 137, No. 9.

LATER MESOLITHIC

Penrhosfeilw Common, Anglesey.

An extensive area producing surface scatters of worked flint on a coastal headland overlooking a bay. Plotting and study of all available material indicates a number of localised scatters of different periods, some clearly of Later Mesolithic date, others probably Early Neolithic.

Kelly 1982b; Smith and Kenney 2014.

Bardsey Island (Ynys Enlli), Llŷn.

An extensive surface scatter of worked flint and chert on a coastal headland by a small stream. Controlled collection and trial excavations in 2002, 2003 and 2004 produced a large assemblage of worked flint and other materials with diagnostic pieces of Later Mesolithic type and a few possibly earlier, awaiting analysis.

Edmonds 2004; Edmonds *et al* 2004.

Boncyn Ddol, Dolwyddelan, Conwy.

An inland area close to the shores of a former lake and river, producing a widespread scatter of worked lithics with at least three localised concentrations. These include diagnostic objects of Early and Later Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic date. A rare example of inland resource exploitation within the upland of Snowdonia.

Smith 2001; Smith 2005.

Trwyn y Penrhyn, Aberdaron, Llŷn.

An extensive surface scatter of worked lithics on a coastal headland. The assemblage includes pieces of Later Mesolithic type. In need of further investigation.

Chitty 1974.

Garreg Hyldrem, Llanfrothen, Gwynedd.

A rock shelter close to the edge of a former estuarine coast with a shell midden producing radiocarbon dates of the Later Mesolithic period as well as lithic evidence of Bronze Age activity.

Robinson 2012.

Snail Cave, Llandudno, Conwy.

A rock large rock shelter below a coastal limestone cliff. Trial excavation produced lithics, animal and bird bones, marine mollusca and radiocarbon dates within the Later Mesolithic period, as well as evidence of use during the Early Neolithic period.

Smith and Walker 2016.

Bryn Refail, Bwlchtocyn, Llŷn.

A large assemblage of worked flint and chert on an inland part of a coastal headland. Investigated by excavation but in need of further investigation.

Ridgeway and Leach 1946.

Bryn Llwyd, Newborough, Anglesey.

Casual surface collection on a rocky knoll close to the coast edge produced a scatter of worked flints including pieces of Later Mesolithic type as well as a scatter of Beaker pottery. Now hidden by forestry. In need of further investigation.

Pape 1928.

Pared Llechymenyn, Uwchmynydd, Aberdaron, Llŷn.

A scatter of pieces of worked flint on coastal slopes above a cove. Includes pieces of Later Mesolithic type. Continuing to erode out of coastal colluvium, probably indicating a more significant concentration of activity further upslope. In need of further investigation.

Maltby *et al* 1938.