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## Celtic Heritage

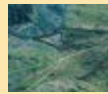
Go back in time to the Iron Age when the Celts built forts and settlements all over this region. Visit the remains which form some of the most significant historic sites of the period.

- **Send us** your own tales and photographs of the region's Iron Age history.



### Bryn Euryn

There are stunning views from this hillfort site near Colwyn Bay.



### Bryn y Castell

Some reconstruction has been done on this hillfort near Ffestiniog.



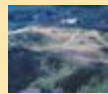
### Caer y Twr

Holyhead Mountain provides natural defences for this fort.



### Castell Bryn Gwyn

A bank defended this site on level ground at Brynsiencyn.



### Castell Caer Lleion

This Conwy Mountain hillfort site has great views of the coast.



### Din Lligwy

A well-preserved complex of stone houses on Anglesey.



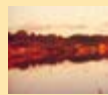
### Dinas Emrys

Fascinating legends relate to this Nant Gwynant landmark.



### Garn Boduan

This Iron Age fort stands on a volcanic hill on the Llyn Peninsula.



### Llyn Cerrig Bach

An amazing collection of artefacts was discovered at RAF Valley.



### Pen y Gaer

Standing stones and a hillfort in the lower Conwy Valley.



### Tre'r Ceiri

The Town of the Giants is perhaps the best Iron Age site in Wales.



### Ty Mawr

Holyhead Mountain is the site of these numerous stone huts.



### Garn Fadryn

An imposing hillfort site in the centre of the Llyn Peninsula.



### New attraction

Replica Iron Age roundhouses have been built on Anglesey.



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This Iron Age hillfort originally occupied two summits and the hollow of an impressive and naturally defended hilltop. The northern summit, which is higher, forms the site's main stronghold.

There are slight traces of ramparts (defensive walls) to be seen on the site, especially on the east side. Possible building outlines are marked by stone within the enclosure, including a scrub-filled oval outline. Beneath the scrub there is a hut circle, but it is hidden from view.

### Directions

Take B5115 exit from the A55 westbound at Colwyn Bay. Turn right at the next two sets of lights, heading for A547. Take the B5115 on the right at the roundabout. Cross A55, go straight on at lights and at next roundabout. Turn left at the next set of lights into Rhos Road. Continue to the next crossroads. There's space to park down a lane opposite. At the right hand bend, take the path to the left and keep climbing to the top.



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## Bryn y Castell



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Well worth a visit, this small hillfort near Ffestiniog was excavated in 1979-85 and subsequently the rampart and certain buildings in the interior have been partially reconstructed, giving a good impression of how it might once have looked.

Because of this, Bryn y Castell is well worth visiting. As you enter the fort, note the stones which mark the postholes which once supported substantial gateposts. During the Iron Age, the fort interior would have been crowded with various buildings.

Excavations at the site have uncovered valuable evidence of iron smelting, within the fort and in a round hut. Look for the snail-shaped roundhouses archaeologists believe that this was the iron smelting and working smithy. Other buildings are marked by cobbling and the former wooden stake walls are now indicated by upright stones.

Evidence demonstrates that the site was actively producing iron in the late Iron Age and the period soon after the Roman occupation. The Celts would use bog iron ore from beneath the peat that surrounds the hill for smelting and working iron.

### Directions

Take the B4391 towards Bala from Ffestiniog. After 1.9km, turn left at crossroads into gated lane. You can park the car beyond the waterworks, at the junction of tracks. Follow the track that bears right to Bryn y Castell, and access is on the north side.

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## Caer y Twr

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An Iron Age hillfort on the summit of Holyhead mountain in Anglesey. The fort's good natural position meant it scarcely needed any additional defences but it nevertheless has a large stone rampart (defensive wall) on the north and east sides - which has survived to a height of 3m in places. The area enclosed is about 7ha.

The site is also well defended by the rocky terrain surrounding the entrance, which is at the north-east corner. The fort's defences have been broken down, perhaps by the Romans who subsequently used the site for a Roman watchtower intended to provide advance warning of Irish sea raiders. From here signals would have been sent by semaphore via a series of signal towers to the Roman legionary fortress at Chester. The base of the watchtower is still visible today. Managed by Cadw.

### Directions

From Holyhead town centre, follow the road to Outer Harbour, then follow signs to South Stack (4.75km). From café car park, follow track to summit.

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Castell Bryn Gwyn is a fort defended by a high bank and, unusually, occupies level ground. Excavations in 1959 and 1960 showed that the rampart and now filled-in ditch were similar in form to hillfort defences.

Excavations have shown that Castell Bryn Gwyn has a long and complex history of occupation. Neolithic flints and pottery finds from beneath the defensive bank suggest that there may have been an enclosure here around 2000BC. Subsequently and during the Iron Age the defences were rebuilt. The circular bank is very well preserved - a clay and gravel bank 10m wide and 2m high surrounds a level area 17m in diameter, now revetted by stone walls.

The site was originally surrounded by a deep ditch, which is no longer visible. There's been some damage to the site by the building of a farmhouse.  
Managed by Cadw.

### Directions

Take the A4080 west of Brynsiencyn. The site is signposted about 1.5km down the road. Leave cars in lay-by and walk to the site.

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## Castell Caer Lleion - Conwy Mountain

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An impressive and accessible hillfort with stunning views along the coast. Its a strongly defended site due to its excellent natural location, right on the summit of Conwy mountain.

On the north side the hill is so steep that the fort needed no additional, manmade defence. Towards the south-west you can see a simple gap which formed the original entrance.

Today you can still see the remains of about 50 stone huts and levelled house platforms. The huts were located to the south within a thick stone wall. The citadel was originally constructed on the rocky summit of the ridge and was defended by an earthen rampart and ditch. Excavations at the site have found slingstones, querns, stone pestels and mortars but no datable remains.

There is a path for walkers that takes you right up the mountain to the site but visitors are asked to take care not to dislodge historic remains. Most walks take at least 30 minutes to reach the hillfort, but are worth it for the views alone.

### Directions

There are several public footpaths that could take you to this site. You can access them from Mountain Road off Cadnant Park; from Sychnant Road and from Sychnant Pass car park (probably the best option so you can park).



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## Din Lligwy Hut Group, Anglesey

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Worth visiting, this well-preserved and well-known complex of stone houses is located within a stone enclosure on Anglesey. Its an interesting combination of round and rectangular huts, which some historians have suggested is indicative of an Iron Age villa.

The houses stone walls and defences comprise limestone slabs, standing up straight on their edges. Some of these buildings would have been domestic, others were workshops. Finds including metalwork, pottery and glassware indicate a settlement which continued into the Roman period.

The site stands on a low cliff and is worth a visit for the view alone. Entry to the site is through a rectangular building on the east side a barn which doubled as a gatehouse.

Din Lligwy has many striking features. In one corner are the remains of a large and impressive house, a well-built circle of large limestone slabs with steps up to the entrance. This was the principal domestic building and finds here include a silver ingot, pottery and glassware.

Historians suggest that the other round building in the south-east corner was also domestic, whereas the two largest rectangular buildings, in the north-east corner and against the south wall, were workshops with rows of iron-working hearths and dumps of slag.

The site, as it stands, is probably the result of a lengthy period of development even the enclosure wall may have been built in two stages for there are clear changes in building style.  
Managed by Cadw.

### Directions

Take road signposted Din Lligwy from roundabout on A5025 south-west of Moelfre. After passing a Neolithic tomb, the

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road widens and theres room to park here (about 1km from A5025). Follow footpath past Capel Lligwy.

## your comments

### **Cheryl Marney, Manchester**

Absolutely fantastic! You can actually envisage the history and the movement of this settlement. It's like a great little secret protected by its landscape of woodland. The Llygwy Burial Chamber is a short walk from this site, less than 1/2 mile. It has got wow factor!

Thu Jul 23 15:10:37 2009

### **Peter & Rona, Darlington**

We visited the site in July 2008 - well worth visiting for the stunning views and peaceful setting. The burial chamber nearby is fascinating and gives a real sense of the history of this land.

Tue Aug 26 10:39:28 2008

### **Lionel Joynson Ynys Mon**

The island has always been prone to attacks from the sea and the settlement at Din Llygwy provide good seaward views of approaching invaders while being quite hidden themselves. In the event of discovery, with the thickness of the surrounding walls, I would think it could have been easily defended, and as to the height of the remaining walls, it must have proved rather successful. I have often wondered as smelting took place there, if this was the place where Parys mountain copper was smelted by pre Roman people, we know copper has been mined for up to 4000 years, yet to date no bronze age smelters have been discovered in the vicinity of the mountain itself.

Mon Aug 4 09:31:21 2008

### **Steve Parish, Northampton**

Why - I wonder has no one linked this megalithic site to the DRUIDS? The buildings are obviously a training centre for a priesthood and the island was thier spiritual home? Show me a comparative site?

Tue May 6 10:45:00 2008

### **steve parish northampton**

the stunning druidic site has made such a profound impression upon me that i am in the process of building my own celtic tribute site. at wells next the sea in norfolk

Tue May 6 09:35:57 2008

### **Steve Parish**

To me it is obviously a druidic site. Perhaps an oratory. Massive stonework, only the best for the gods! Megaliths, not any sort of ordinary dwelling. Druids needed many years of training, this is one of the important sites where learning was by rote.

Thu Feb 28 09:48:05 2008

### **Margaret Roth, California, USA**

I used to attend the local school, many years ago. I would love the teacher taking us for "rambles". We would walk down Lligwy road and end up at this site, which was quite a

distance. On the way, we would pick up leaves and such to take back to school. A report was required of our trek.

Mon Nov 20 10:10:58 2006

**Derek Carr from Birmingham**

I loved the site, and really want to get back there when I can. One of the things that really struck me was that the square "tower" with the thick walls was slightly offset from the surrounding wall, suggesting that the orientation of this square building was very important.

Thu Oct 5 12:23:41 2006

**Gaenor Williams Devon**

I was born near this site, and I have very fond memories of playing house here. My sister once told her son that her pet dinosaur was buried under the cromlech near the road. On a visit to the site with his primary school class he told his teacher that the cromlech marked the site of his mother's pet. Imagine his embarrassment now that he is 22 and is an engineer working in North Wales, especially on Anglesey.

Tue Sep 5 09:10:17 2006

**Andrea from Macclesfield**

I have visited this site on several occasions and it has never failed to impress. On reaching the settlement through the dense trees you are amazed by how open and bright the site is. It has a calmness about it which leaves everyone wanting to explore in silence. The earth feels hollow beneath your feet perhaps a sign of more history buried below. It's a treat to just sit and listen and take in the atmosphere. Well worth a visit!

Wed Aug 9 10:11:58 2006

**A Cummins from Warrington**

this site has a peacefulness about it that feels unreal, but pleasant. It's a fascinating spot, both the church and the site being a beautiful reminder of the days of our forefathers. Well worth a visit if 'old' interests you.

Tue Jul 18 09:56:23 2006

**David Marshall, Penmachno**

Went to Din Llugwy via the coastal path from Moelfre. The remains of the buildings and wall are impressive. I was puzzled by the two metre thick walls with very big stones to enclose small spaces. Why expend so much effort for no apparent advantage? I enjoyed sitting within the remains of a building and looking through its door as the inhabitants must have done.

Fri May 5 14:31:19 2006

**Julie Osborne from Stoke-on-Trent**

This is a very interesting site. I have been coming to Anglesey since I was 5 and I never tire of visiting it. In the summer the church is a fantastic place to have a picnic. Every time I go to this site I find something new to look at. It is well worth a visit, even if you just look at the fantastic views you can see.

Fri May 5 11:40:35 2006


**David Hazeldine from Warrington**

This a fascinating site. It is well preserved and safely set back from a minor road leading down to Lligwy Bay so it is

relatively unspoilt. There is a woodland surrounding the site which is likely to contain additional archaeological sites but these are obscured by dense undergrowth. Not far from the site is a burial chamber dating back 3,500 years so there is a depth of settlement history. Views across Lligwy Bay are stunning. Well worth a visit.

Thu Mar 16 23:40:44 2006

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Dinas Emrys is a rocky, steep-sided and partly tree-covered hill, rising to over 76 metres on the south side of the Nantgwynant valley. It overlooks Llyn Dinas and is a dominating landmark in the area.

There is evidence of human occupation on Dinas Emrys dating from the late Iron Age. Three lines of stone ramparts can, with difficulty, be seen today, each broken by an entrance. Excavations in 1954-56 focused on the entrances and suggest that the inner rampart, which forms an almost separate summit fort, dates to post-Roman times.

The place name Dinas Emrys was identified as early as the 12th century and the site itself has played a key role in Medieval Welsh tradition. Some believe the name identifies with Ambrosius, known as Emrys Wledig in Welsh, who challenged Vortigern, known in Welsh as Gwrtheyrn, leader of the Britons in the 5th century.

The historian Nennius, in his 9th century *Historia Brittonum*, describes a pool in which a red and a white dragon were hiding - symbols of the Romano-Celtic and Saxon powers. Some believe this is the pool within Dinas Emrys. The dragons reappear in the *Mabinogion* story of Lludd and Llefelys. In other medieval versions related by Giraldus Cambrensis (Gerallt Gymro) and Geoffrey of Monmouth (Sieffre of Fynwy), Emrys is synonymous with Merlin.

There are traditions of searches for buried treasure at the site, but the first recorded exploration was undertaken by Major C E Breeze in 1910. He cleared out the base of the square tower and amongst his finds were 12 gold-plated bronze studs and a gold-plated bronze bar. In the area of the pool, he found one part of and one complete bronze coated iron terret (a kind of buckle) dated as a 1st century AD type.

Stretches of rampart can still be seen at the site as well as



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the base of a square tower, thought to be 12th century, and a circular platform from the 9th century or earlier, linked with the pool.

### Directions

Dinas Emrys is situated a little over a mile north east of Beddgelert on the A498. The site is accessible from the National Trust property of Craflwyn about a mile north-east of Beddgelert on the A498 where parking and toilets are available.

Dinas Emrys is a very fragile and vulnerable site, owned and managed by the National Trust. Visitors are strongly advised to contact the warden at Craflwyn beforehand on 01766 510120, or email [keith.jones@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:keith.jones@nationaltrust.org.uk).



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## Garn Boduan, Llyn Peninsula

Last updated: 24 February 2006



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One of a line of volcanic hills forming the backbone of the Llyn Peninsula, Garn Boduan is a 10ha promontory hillfort where the lines of three stone-walled defences can still be seen.

Worth visiting as the remains of over 100 stone-walled structures, roundhouses and round and rectangular buildings can be seen today. The remains of 170 round huts are visible as collapsed rings of stone.

No complex defences were really needed here Garn Boduan's natural location on a steep, isolated hill made it a well-defended site. There is some evidence of duplication of defences, however, which can especially be seen to the north-east. The lower stone rampart is the original defence, while the upper rampart is more well-built and larger.

The inner defensive wall may have been built in the centuries immediately after the Roman occupation. Could this be the castle of Buan, who is referenced as an important figure in AD600?

The main entrance stands at the north-eastern corner. A small fort or citadel at one end of the site may be later in date. There are also two freshwater springs on the site, which supplied the forts residents with water throughout the year.

### Directions

Access the site on the B4354 road, about 300m from the junction with A497. You'll see a forestry gateway on your left. There is room to park, but take care not to block access. A path takes you from the forestry gateway to the site. At the second hairpin bend on the track, take the upper path straight ahead. Beware of the rough terrain.



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## Garn Fadryn, Llyn Peninsula

Last updated: 27 November 2005



Garn Fadryn, in the centre of the Llyn Peninsula, Gwynedd, is a five-hectare Iron Age hillfort on a steep 371m hill overlooking Garn Fadryn village.

The main ramparts enclose some 10 hectares of the hilltop, and an inner defence encloses foundations of round huts.

**Directions:** Best accessed from Garn Fadryn village on the western slopes of the hill. Take the A497 from Pwllheli, two miles along that road turn left in the village of Efailnewydd towards Aberdaron, continue past Rhyd-y-Clafdy (still heading towards Aberdaron) and about two miles on, turn towards Llaniestyn and then a mile or so along that road, turn right towards Garn Fadryn village.

There are public footpaths skirting the hill and the track to the summit is in the process of being designated a public right of way.

*Suggested by Martyn Croydon*

### your comments

**dave Collinson, Durham**

Saw three hawks/buzzards/eagles on Garn Fadryn a couple of weeks ago. Looked at a British birds book and the nearest I could get was a hen harrier. Anyone know if I'm anywhere close?

Wed Apr 22 14:46:19 2009

**John Morris Williams Porthmadog**

Does anyone have a map of the layout of this hillfort at

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Garn Fadryn? would love to compare with the one on Moel y gest, where to date its just a few wall



Mon Sep 3 10:22:05 2007

**martyn huws from tudweiliog, gwynedd**

On arriving at the very summit of Garn Fadryn, you immediately find yourself marvelling at the condition of the remains of the iron age round huts. The spectacular panoramic views of Pen Llyn and the surrounding lands of Eryri (Snowdonia), Mon, Meirionnydd and beyond are truly breathtaking on a clear day, and even when the weather is not so clear one cannot fail to be impressed by the fresh air and beauty of this special place guarded by the ever-present crows.

Mon Dec 18 09:34:46 2006

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## Llyn Cerrig Bach, Anglesey



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A very important Iron Age site, Llyn Cerrig Bach has been the source of the largest hoard of Iron Age objects yet to be discovered in Wales. The amazing collection was found during World War II during the construction of an RAF Valley airfield when workmen recovered over 150 bronze and iron objects from the peat which had formed in a former lake.

The hoard includes iron swords, shield fragments, spears, horsegear, a bronze plaque, iron chariot wheels, fragments of cauldron and two iron gang chains (many of these items can be seen in the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff today). It is believed that these valuable objects were thrown into the lake as offerings to the tribal goddess.

A small quantity of animal bones collected by the workmen may indicate additional sacrifices. The Iron Age practice of sacrificing high value items, as well as animals and humans, involved significant ritual. Some of the metal objects had been deliberately damaged. The iron swords were bent, thus making it impossible for them ever to be used again.

The finds have been dated between 2nd century BC and AD 60 which suggests that the lake's importance as a place to offer sacrifices to the gods developed in the later half of the Iron Age. We do not know why this lake was chosen but archaeologists have speculated that perhaps an important event took place here which gave the site its significance. Could this event have occurred on the eve of the Roman attack on Llyn Cerrig Bach?

Its also believed that Llyn Cerrig Bach was a major centre of ritual activity. The Roman historian Tacitus described Mona (Anglesey) as a centre of druidical power and even described the sacred oak groves of the island. Discoveries similar to Llyn Cerrig Bach have been made on the continent and are evidence of a pattern of ritual activity which was widespread in Iron Age times. In visiting the site today all that remains of the lake is a small expanse of water. A plaque stands at the site to identify the discoveries.

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Worth visiting, this stone-walled fort takes advantage of a naturally well-defended hill in Llanbedr y Cennin (south of Conwy). Its a particularly fascinating site which holds the ruins of two stone ramparts. In addition to the ramparts, theres a complex of short standing stones *chevaux de frise* - the equivalent of dragons teeth used in World War II. Presumed to be additional defences against an infantry/cavalry attack, they are well worth seeing as they are very rare in Britain.

Its also worth a visit to see the house sites in the interior, where youll see the foundations of 12 huts. On the south side, there are circular platforms levelled into the hillside where wooden houses once stood.

Both west and south sides of the hill are surrounded by up to three ramparts. The inner rampart is made of stone while the middle one is partly stone but becomes an earthen bank on the south side. Theres also an outer bank and ditch to the south. Historians have suggested that the complexity of the defences point to a long history of occupation, during which the fort would have been transformed more than once. Its a natural defensive site with amazing views and is still quite accessible as the climb is not too steep.

### Directions

From Llanbedr y Cennin village, turn left at the Old Bull Inn, then bear right up the steep hill for 1km. Take the narrow road on your left about 200m after the sharp bend, and head for the top, where there is a car park and a path taking you from the car park to the fort site. Do not cross the fence that divides the fort all features of interest lie on the accessible west part.



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## Tre'r Ceiri hillfort, Nefyn



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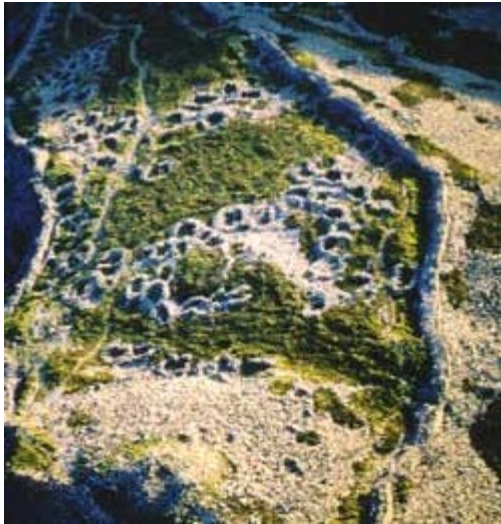
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If you only visit one Iron Age site in Wales, perhaps it should be the spectacular hillfort of Tre'r Ceiri, meaning 'Town of the Giants'. Often said to be the most impressive hillfort in north Wales, there are significant stone ramparts surrounding its entire circuit, and in places still standing to over 3m in height.

The views are amazing too the fort occupies one of the peaks of the Rivals (Yr Eifl). The interior is packed with walled stone buildings and the remains of 150 huts can be seen with some walls still standing over 1m high. Some are roundhouses, others are rectangular and oval. The huts are grouped together in four or five bands across the fort. They vary in size and shape some of the round ones are 8m across, others less than 3m.

Set on the narrow summit of the hill, the site encloses about 2.5ha with the main entrance at the lower, west end. Another entrance can be found on the north and both entrances have been conserved. The site is topped by a Bronze Age cairn.

### Directions

Take the A499 north of Pwllheli. At Llanaelhaearn, take B4417 towards Nefyn. Less than a mile from the junction for the B4417, there is a footpath on your right, taking you up the hill to Trer Ceiri. Be aware that parking space is extremely limited. Be careful not to dislodge any stones on the site.

### your comments

#### **Bryan Powell, Llanaelhaearn**

I moved to Llanaelhaearn in 2009. I have been to the top of Tre Ceiri twice. It is so poorly publicised, no brown



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signposts, no advertisement. When you get to the top it is magnificent. Water on three sides and a view to Ireland. The people who constructed this must have been amazing. The remains of the huts are enormous. I can see the fort from my cottage it is brilliant, and needs more public profile.  
Thu Jun 11 09:24:51 2009

**Joel Charles from Tucson, AZ USA**

My brother Jack and I visited our ancestral homeland in May, 1994 and were graciously hosted by our "long lost" cousin Beryl and her husband Elwyn. I had a crazy dream of writing a novel about people like our Welsh ancestors who emigrated to the Utica, NY area in the early 1800's. To do so with justice, I felt it needful to visit as many parts of the countryside as possible. Since our ancestry originated in the Llyn, we had a strong desire to go there.

Our cousins drove us through Carnarvon and down the road to Aberdaron, with a stop at Tre'r Ceiri on our way at my request. Jack, Elwyn and I hiked up to the fort where, winded and cold on a bright blue skied Welsh May day, we stood where the ancients once played, traded and walked down for water. What a view! Unfortunately, the battery on my camera died early, and I have few good photos, but what memories...

We went on down to Aberdaron, stopped at Ciarl Mark's grave and the church he helped found, and the church in which he was married in Aberdaron. We looked out on Enlli in the misty sea, and then returned to their home. We hired a car and returned a few days later, to stay in Aberdarn.  
Tue Feb 17 09:23:52 2009

**Paula Blackburn from Blackburn (originally from Tr**

I remember going up all three of the mountains with my school back in late 1980s and nearly falling off. And picking all the berries of the hillside. You can see my mum's house from the top.  
Fri Jan 23 14:16:53 2009

**Dave Hill, Criccieth.**

I'm up here sheltering behind some rocks from the cold daggers of the gusting Welsh wind. The sky is clear and I can see for ever in every direction. Ferries on one horizon chugging over to Ireland. The islands down at the end of the Llyn. The snowy top of Snowdon & its accompanying peaks. Anglesey over to my right. This place is amazing. Totally. After I puffed my way up here, & with the endorphins making my brain buzz, I'm imagining a 'living' village 2000 years old. Kids shouting whilst playing, smoke rising from the roofs of the humble huts, people building walls & repairing the defences & all that vast amount of time has passed. It really does help to put life into perspective. Right, off back down for a brew.  
Mon Nov 3 09:56:11 2008

**Ian Cottom from York**

I remember the hill fort with some trepidation. Way back in the 60s my family took a holiday cottage in Llanaelhaearn and one day I casually decided to climb up (in my sandals!) to the top via the quarry side. As I slowly edged my way up

voice heard.

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the gaping chasm of the quarry loomed up out of the falling mist - I was terrified, needless to say and followed a sheep track to the summit clutching tufts of grass. To my relief the stone circles loomed up in the failing light. I edged my way to an obvious path and putting the eerie scene behind me. I scurried down to the village remarking that I'd just been for a little stroll - Phew! some stroll which taught me never to do anything so daft again. I never did really see the fort at Trei Ceiri - shame!

Mon Jul 14 10:10:18 2008

**Rowena Thomson, Glasgow**

We recently had an archaeology trip to Wales. The round drilled holes show which stones were reconstructed or put bk up in place

Thu Mar 27 10:06:25 2008

**Steve Jones, Aberdaron**

I've just moved home to Wales and took two mates up there. It was a first for us all and what a fantastic place to visit. We had great weather and views were splendid. I see another visitor has asked this question, what are the small circular drill holes in many of the stones on the ramparts? Are they modern (they seem perfectly made) or old? What are they for? It puzzled the three of us.

Mon Mar 17 11:33:46 2008

**Sarah Clarke from Pontefract, West Yorkshire**

We walked up to Tre'r Ceiri this August one bright and breezy morning. We had parked in the second (smaller) lay-by on the Llanaelhaearn to Llithfaen road which is only 20 yards from the public footpath sign. The climb up took about 50 minutes; our 5 year old virtually ran up whilst his mum staggered some distance behind. Views from the top were stunning. The 3 signboards on the site had illustrations of how the fort might have looked, which helped with our son's appreciation. Purple heather and yellow gorse filled the hut circles and fingers turned purple with bilberry juice. Highly recommended!

Wed Aug 15 09:30:28 2007

**James from Y Felinheli!**

I don't know if you are aware but Tre'r Ceiri means Town of the Forts and not giants, which is 'cewri.'

Tue Jul 10 09:17:19 2007

**Stuart Buchan**

I visited this impressive hill fort recently with friends. i was suprised how little it is publicised locally. no signs.i was half expecting a few stones on top of a hill. i was amazed how much there was on this site when i got there. i wasn't able to explore the whole site as the heavens opened and we had to hastily leave. if you do visit check the weather reports first!!

Mon Jul 9 09:39:26 2007

**Helen Kent from Swansea**

We were visiting family in Nefyn over the school holidays and found this site about Tre'r Ceiri which made it sound rather interesting and unlikely to be crowded. It was a manageable walk up for my daughters of 4 and 7 on a

warm hazy day, but it took only an hour, with fantastic, unhindered views. The site linked in with the current topics at school and helped to make history more real. (With the impressively wide views from above, we covered a bit of local economy too.) I recommend it if you like a your exercise away from the masses, combined with discovering history in the environment. The book we had with directions referred to the start of the walk being a kissing gate on a lay-by, but that is now closed and a newer gate is about 200m up the road towards the brow of the hill.

Fri Apr 20 09:46:43 2007

**Matt Luxford from Essex England**

I visited Tre'r Ceiri as a child and saw through a child's eyes the wonder of an ancient human settlement, bathed in the evening golden dazzle of sunset over the sea. I remember my mum asking us all to be still and quiet and to listen to the silence of the place. The visit has always remained with me. Truly a magnificent site that breathes the past straight into your lungs. We also swam in fairy glen, it was cold and when we got out, the wind that blew through the gorge was warm on our chilled skin. We walked around Snowdonia and had a few splendid days at Porth Nefyn.

Mon Feb 12 10:42:10 2007

**Keith Barratt from Abersoch**

How jealously the knowledge of Tre'r Ceiri Iron Age hill fort seems to be guarded! I found it many, many years ago before the excellent and sensitive conservation work was done on it. I simply walked up Yr Eifl, with no concept of what I would find on top. What I saw and how I felt about that reminder of an element of my Celtic ancestor has stayed with me ever since. It is not the cold stones of the place alone that excite, but the sense of a place where people lived out their lives and the real presence of a human habitation. Of all our ancient monuments, from the unfathomable mysteries of Avebury and Stonehenge, to the bleak inner walls of our castles, nowhere brings you closer to wanting to understand the everyday lives of those who lived in the small hut circles of Tre'r Ceiri. You want to know because enough remains to give you a feeling that the human presence is still there, if only you could get a glimpse of it through a brief lifting of time's mist. It was in mist that I visited it for a second time. The result was dramatic. The moving light and shade that shrouded the place gave it a shadowy life that made me pleased that I had my collie dog along with me as a companion. It is a wonderful site and so little visited and so little known for the quality of its preservation and the dramatic nature of its high position between sea and plains and mountains. It can afford a few more visitors without suffering the consequences of some of our more popular archaeological sites. It is best seen in a mood when you do not just look at, but can also feel, the nature of the place.

Mon Mar 6 15:26:34 2006



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## Ty Mawr hut group, Holyhead



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Iron Age settlement at the foot of Holyhead Mountain near South Stack. Worth a visit as substantial remains can be seen of 20 out of the 50 original circular huts. They consist of the remains of 10 large, round stone huts, which are scattered along the hillside, as well as numerous smaller rectangular buildings, which excavations suggest were used as workshops. Evidence of metal-working was found in these buildings.

At the east end of the site there is another group of huts. The round stone huts are about 7m in diameter with thick, low walls. They would have had a high, conical roof supported on a ring of posts and thatched with straw or reeds. There is evidence of a long history of settlement from the Middle Stone Age, Neolithic and Bronze Age, to the Iron Age. Managed by Cadw.

### Directions

Easy access. From Holyhead town centre, follow the road to Outer Harbour, then follow signs to South Stack (4.75km). Park in the car park on the left, just over 0.6km after right hand turn. The huts remains are signposted and visible all year round but bracken hides the field system in summer.

### your comments

#### Dafs from Holyhead

Most of the hut circles are actually reconstructed and are fakes they were redone in the 40's  
Mon Jun 1 09:19:36 2009

#### Graeme from Preston

I visited this site on 12/08/07. It is well preserved and easy to get to. I found it very reminiscent of Skara Brae on



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### Celtic Heritage

- Bryn Euryn, Mochdre
- Bryn y Castell
- Caer y Twr
- Castell Bryn Gwyn, Brynsiencyn
- Castell Caer Lleion - Conwy Mountain
- Din Lligwy Hut Group, Anglesey
- Dinas Emrys, Beddgelert
- Garn Boduan, Llyn Peninsula
- Garn Fadryn, Llyn Peninsula
- Llyn Cerrig Bach, Anglesey
- Pen y Gaer, Llanbedr y Cennin
- Tre'r Ceiri hillfort, Nefyn
- Ty Mawr hut group, Holyhead

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Mainland Orkney. It is an excellent site and well worth a visit.

Tue Aug 14 14:00:21 2007

**Keith Alexander, Penysarn, Anglesey**

I visited the hut circles earlier this week on 10th July 2007. They are fascinating but is there any detailed information as to what was found when they were last excavated?

Mon Jul 16 09:23:38 2007

**Hannah from Holyhead**

I went to the hut circles when I was 10 with my class from school. It really brings history alive, you can imagine how they must have lived. A great place to take the children to ignite interest in their studies!

Sun Jan 29 10:43:31 2006



building legions got up to.

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