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## Dublin Core

### Title

Carn Wnda Prehistoric Chambered Tomb | Beddrod Siambrog Cynhanesyddol Carn Wnda

### Subject

Prehistoric Archaeology

### Creator

Claire Nolan

Gary Jones

### Publisher

Ports, Past and Present Project

### Date

2023

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### Relation

<https://perma.cc/JDE8-7Z8G>

### Format

Curatescape story

### Language

English

Welsh

## Coverage

52.01192922378838, -5.0110623679024

# Curatescape Story Item Type Metadata

## Lede

Carn Wnda (Garnwnda) earth-fast chambered tomb, located near the village of Llanwnda, approximately 4 kilometres northwest of Fishguard, is just one of many prehistoric sites located along the Pembrokeshire coast.

## Lede (Welsh)

Mae beddrod siambrog daear sefydlog Carn Wnda (Garnwnda), a leolir ger pentref Llanwnda, tua 4 cilomedr i'r gogledd-orllewin o Abergwaun, yn un o nifer o safleoedd cynhanesyddol ar hyd arfordir Sir Benfro.

## Story

Set high up in the Pencaer peninsula to the east of Strumble Head, Carn Wnda is one of six surviving prehistoric chambered tombs located along this headland. To the east of Carn Wnda are the megalithic sites of Parc y Cromlech (Penrhiw), and the Garn Wen cemetery, which today incorporates the visible remains of three separate tombs. To the west lies the tomb of Garn Gilfach. Gary Jones took the Ports, Past and Present team to visit this 5000-year-old monument and explore the ancient landscape that surrounds it.

Carn Wnda is classified as an 'earth-fast' chambered monument, in that it is comprised of a large stone slab or capstone propped up by a single stone upright, with the southern end of the capstone resting on the earth, thus forming a chamber. The chamber encloses a deep, rock-cut depression and was most likely never covered by a mound.

Richard Fenton's antiquarian investigation of the chamber in the nineteenth century uncovered evidence of pottery, ash and fragments of burnt bone, suggesting that it once contained a burial. It is possible that, in addition to having a funerary function, monuments like Carn Wnda may well have been used for a variety of purposes, such as seasonal gatherings or markers of astronomical events. Nevertheless, based on its form, orientation and location in the landscape, George Nash proposes that, akin to its neighbouring tombs, Carn Wnda was primarily a place of burial or ritual mortuary activity.

Similar to other prehistoric chambered tombs, such as portal dolmens like the well-known example at Pentre Ifan, Carn Wnda was probably constructed during the Neolithic Period (*c.* 4000-2500 BC). However, while portal dolmens tend to be early Neolithic in date (*c.* 4000-3300 BC), earth-fast tombs are of a different building tradition thought to date to the late Neolithic (*c.* 3000-2500 BC).

Today, as Gary Jones relates in the recording above, Carn Wnda sits peacefully in its beautiful landscape setting as a reminder of the past peoples who made their life in this area 5000 years ago or more.

## Story (Welsh)

Lleolir Carn Wnda i fyny yn uchel ar benrhyn Pencaer i'r dwyrain o Ben-caer, ac mae'n un o chwech beddrod siambrog cynhanesyddol sydd wedi goroesi ar hyd y pentir hwn. I'r dwyrain o Garn Wnda, gwelir safleoedd megalithig Parc y Cromlech (Penrhiw), a chladdfa Garn Wen, sy'n cynnwys olion gweladwy tri beddrod ar wahân heddiw. I'r gorllewin, gwelir beddrod

Garn Gilfach. Aeth Gary Jones â thîm Porthladdoedd, Ddoe a Heddiw, i weld yr heneb hon sy'n 5,000 o flynyddoedd oed, gan archwilio'r tirlun hynafol o'i hamgylch.

Dosbarthir Carn Wnda fel cofeb siambrog 'daear sefydlog', gan ei fod yn cynnwys slab carreg mawr neu faen capan sy'n cael ei gynnal gan un garreg, ac mae pen deheuol y maen capan yn gorffwys ar y ddaear, gan ffurfio siambr. Mae'r siambr yn cynnwys pant dwfn wedi'i dorri yn y graig, ac mae'n debygol nad oedd fyth wedi cael ei orchuddio gan domen gladdu.

Dadorchuddiodd ymchwiliad hynafiaethol Richard Fenton o'r siambr yn ystod y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg dystiolaeth o grochenwaith, lludw a darnau o esgryn wedi'u llosgi, sy'n awgrymu ei fod wedi cynnwys claddedigaeth ar un adeg. Yn ogystal â chyflawni swyddogaeth angladdol, mae'n bosibl bod cofebau fel Carn Wnda wedi cael eu defnyddio at amrywiaeth o ddibenion, megis cynulliadau tymhorol neu er mwyn nodi digwyddiadau seryddol. Fodd bynnag, ar sail ei ffurf, ei ogwydd a'i leoliad yn y tirlun, mae George Nash yn cynnig mai lle claddu neu le er mwyn cynnal gweithgarwch angladdol defodol oedd Carn Wnda yn bennaf, yn debyg i'r beddrodau cyfagos.

Yn debyg i feddrodau siambrog cynhanesyddol eraill, megis cromlechi porthol megis yr enghraifft adnabyddus ym Mhentre Ifan, mae'n debygol yr adeiladwyd Carn Wnda yn ystod y Cyfnod Neolithig (tua 4000-2500 CC). Fodd bynnag, er bod cromlechi porthol yn tueddu i ddyddio o'r cyfnod Neolithig cynnar (tua 4000-3300 CC), mae beddrodau daear sefydlog yn perthyn i wahanol draddodiad adeiladu, y credir eu bod yn dyddio'n ôl i'r cyfnod Neolithig hwyr (tua 3000-2500 CC).

Heddiw, fel y mae Gary yn sôn yn y recordiad uchod, mae Carn Wnda yn eistedd yn heddychlun yn ei thirlun prydferth, gan ein hatgoffa o bobl y gorffennol a fu'n byw yn yr ardal hon 5000 o flynyddoedd neu fwy yn ôl.

### **Factoid**

### **Related Resources**

Cummings, V. 2009. *A View from the West: The Neolithic of the Irish Sea Zone*, Oxbow Books: Oxford.

Cummings, V. and Whittle, A. 2004. *Places of Spiritual Virtue: Megaliths in the Neolithic Landscapes of Wales*, Oxford: Oxbow.

Daniel, G. E. 1950. *The Prehistoric Chambered Tombs of England and Wales*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Fenton, R. 1848. 'Cromlech at Llanwnda, Pembrokeshire', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 2, 283-284.

Nash, G. 2008. 'Encoding a Neolithic Landscape: The Linearity of Burial Monuments along Strumble Head, South-west Wales', *Time and Mind: The Journal of Archaeology, Consciousness and Culture*, 1(3), 345-362.

### **Official Website**