

Flooding in Dolgellau, Saturday 15 January 2011

The sequence of photographs below, taken around 11am, demonstrate flood routing:

Figure

- 1 Confluence at Pandy'r Odyn
- 2 The Park from Bont Fawr
- 3 Streets in the town from Bont Fawr
- 4 Flood routing at Bont Fawr
- 5 Afon Wnion downstream of Bont Fawr
- 6 Water leakage through river walls at the Bont Fawr car park
- 7 Flooding around the Fire Station
- 8 Overbank incursion at the rear of the Fire Station
- 9 Overbank incursion at the Leisure Centre
- 10 Afon Arran at Arran Road



Figure 1: Confluence at Pandy'r Odyn.

Floodwater is seen to be entering the Marian Mawr fields from the western end. Flow volume is enormous.



Figure 2: Afon Wnion upstream from Bont Fawr.

The high river walls are very adequately protecting the park from flooding.

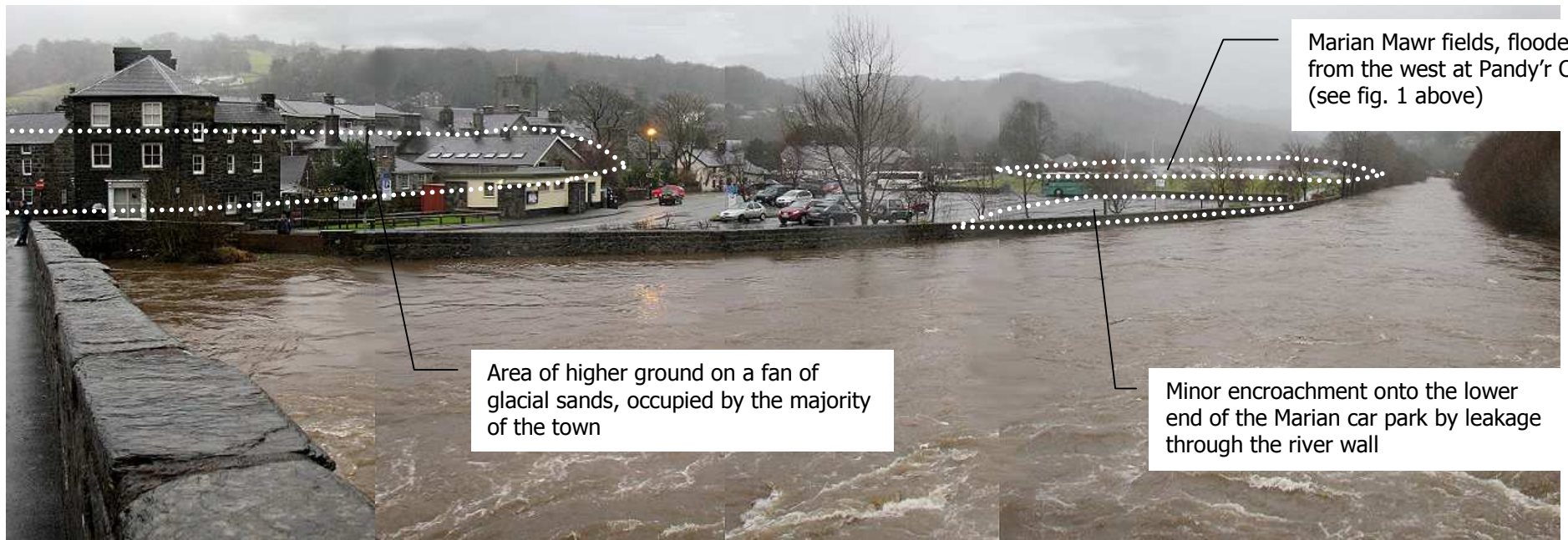


Figure 3: Streets leading into Dolgellau from Bont Fawr.

It is noticeable from the orientation of building features that Ffos y Felin (to the left) slopes upwards from this point, whilst Bridge Street (to the right) initially slopes downwards following a presumed former course of the Arran stream.



Figure 4: The route of highest risk for flooding of properties in Dolgellau is shown above. This involves water breaching the wall at the end of Bont Fawr and flowing down hill past the Court Building into Bridge Street. Indeed, as these pictures were being taken, a Council lorry loaded with sand bags arrived to reinforce this section of wall.



Marian Mawr fields, flooded from the west at Pandy'r Odyn (see fig. 1 above)

Area of higher ground on a fan of glacial sands, occupied by the majority of the town

Minor encroachment onto the lower end of the Marian car park by leakage through the river wall

Figure 5: The Afon Wnion, looking downstream from Bont Fawr



Figure 6: Leakage of flood water through the river wall at the Marian car park



Figure 7: Extensive flooding around the Fire Station, Arran Road



Figure 8: Flood waters overtopping the riverbanks upstream from the Fire Station



Figure 9: River encroachment at the Leisure Centre. This building is at risk of flooding from the river, and also through inland water routing from flooded land around the Fire Station.



Figure 10: Arran Road bridge. Some flood risk exists because of the very low clearance below the bridge, which in turn is due to extensive gravel accumulation at this point. Downstream of the immediate bridge area, substantial high flood walls protect properties in the town.