



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD

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REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED WATER-
MAINS RENEWAL AT AMBLESTON, PEMBROKESHIRE

Client: Dwr Cymru

Project Officer: Neil Ludlow

Report by: Neil Ludlow & Richard Ramsey

Dated: 15 July 1994

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SMR Amendments and Additions to Ambleston Report

New PRN's

28219 Project Record

28220 The village of Ambleston, mediaeval and post-medieval

26th September 1994

REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED WATER-MAINS RENEWAL AT AMBLESTON, PEMBROKESHIRE

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1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS (prepared by Curatorial Section)

1.1 It is considered that the Report gives a full indication of the setting and significance of archaeological, architectural and historic landscape features in the area of the proposed watermain. Provided that its content is duly noted, we do not consider it necessary for there to be an archaeological watching brief on the scheme, apart from:

1.2. Wallis Rath , Appendix 4.2.

We are concerned that the line is passing very close to the bank of this Iron Age earthwork and probably traversing a length of its ditch. (see Report no. 5689 (Drawing 20102721/2)). The Trust **recommends** that consideration be given to re-routing the pipe=line closer to the road. We would be happy to meet on site to discuss the matter.

If it is impossible to re-route the line, we **recommend** that an watching brief be maintained in this area.

Heather James, BA, FSA.
Principal Archaeological Officer (Curatorial)
Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Details of a proposed water main renewal at Ambleston, Pembrokeshire, were forwarded by Teifion Rees of Dwr Cymru to Dyfed Archaeological Trust for comment on 28 April 1994.

Following an initial assessment of the scheme by the Curatorial Section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Dwr Cymru were advised of the need for a detailed archaeological desk-top assessment of the project to be prepared in order for detailed mitigatory measures to be drafted. Subsequently, in a letter dated 20 May 1994, Dwr Cymru confirmed that it wished the Trust to undertake the detailed assessment of the scheme.

This report, prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Field Section, is intended to provide Dwr Cymru with sufficient information to assess the likely impact of the proposed works upon the archaeological resource and to take this into account as a material consideration in the determination of appropriate mitigatory measures.

The Trust's Curatorial Section provided a standard brief for this report and will advise Dwr Cymru on its findings and recommend further action if deemed necessary.

2.1 Methodology; content and scope of archaeological assessment

The primary stage of assessment of the archaeological implications of any scheme involves consultation of Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Sites and Monuments Record for the area affected by the proposed scheme.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Sites and Monuments Record is designated as a County Sites and Monuments Record in the Welsh Office Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16).

Consultation of the Sites and Monuments Record will establish whether any known sites or monuments are affected by the scheme. However it is important to appreciate that the Record is not and cannot ever be a complete record of all traces of human activity in the landscape. It is rather a record of past archaeological work.

Consultation of the Record is therefore followed up by a rapid search of relevant map and documentary sources, both published and manuscript. All assessments carried out by Dyfed Archaeological Trust contain a full list of sources consulted.

All available aerial photographic collections held by the Trust are consulted and, if judged necessary, collections held by other bodies will be consulted. If sites or landscapes with special interest are affected the Trust would wish to consult the appropriate period or site type specialists or societies.

All desk-top assessments involve a field visit or visits to the scheme area by a professional archaeologist to check whether any previously unknown sites or monuments are affected by the scheme and to assess the overall landscape history of the area.

2.2 List of sources consulted

unpublished

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Sites and Monuments Record.

Pembrokeshire Record Office, DB/13/158, Estate Map of Hook Demesne, 1769.

Pembrokeshire Record Office, D/RTP/5/27/6, A Plan of Lower Wallis, 1842.

Pembrokeshire Record Office, D/RTP/misc/2/16, Wallis, 1905.

'The Parish of Ambleston', Tithe map and apportionment, 1843.

'The Parish of Walton East', Tithe map and apportionment, 1839.

Ordnance Survey, 'Original Survey Drawings', sheet 181, 1809-10, revised 1836, 2" to the mile.

aerial photographs

Copies held by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. Film 4083, Line 16, Frames 129-135; Line 17, Frames 208-209. Film 5392, Line 101, Frames 284-289; Line 102, Frames 220-221.

published

Charles, B.G., 1992 *The Place-names of Pembrokeshire*.

Conway Davies, J., 1946, *Episcopal Acts Relating to the Welsh Dioceses*, Vol. I.

Mytum, H., 1985, *Pembrokeshire Graveyard Survey*, Archaeology in Wales, Vol. 25.

Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 First Edition, Pembrokeshire, Sheets XVII. 14, XXIII. 2, 1887.

Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 Second Edition, Pembrokeshire, Sheets XVII. 14, XXIII. 2, 1906.

Ordnance Survey, c.1855, *Index to Tithe Survey*, Old Series, Sheet 38, 1" to a mile.

RCAHMW, 1925, *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire*, County of Pembroke.

Rees, W., 1932 *South Wales and the Borders in the XIV Century*, SW Sheet.

Rural Surveys Research Unit, 1988, *The Common Lands of England and Wales*, Pems. 50.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGY

3.1 Summary

Almost throughout its entire length the pipeline route follows pre-existing roads and tracks. This minimises its disturbance of potential archaeological deposits in these areas. Areas where archaeology may be threatened will be highlighted.

The area crossed by the pipeline route is part of a former plateau incised by a number of watercourses. It is fertile and well-drained lying between 100-150m above sea level. The area is notable as displaying what appear to be a number of elements of relict landscape. From an area of still largely unenclosed common land, Wallis Moor (13835), extends a system of strip fields characteristic of the enclosure of a medieval open field system (6428). Wallis Moor occupies a roughly central position within Ambleston parish, adjacent to the village of Ambleston, and it appears that an early division of the land into arable and common is represented here. A similar situation is seen in the neighbouring parish of Castlebythe where a central block of common next to the parish church is again the focus of a medieval field system. There is still a good deal of arable farming within the field strips, as much as if not more than in the 19th century ('The Parish of Ambleston', Tithe map and apportionment, 1843); otherwise the area is predominantly given over to grazing. It must also be noted that recent ploughing will have effaced archaeological evidence, had any been formerly present, within these fields.

The historical record suggests that Ambleston is a planted village of the early 12th century. A charter of 1231 (Conway Davies, 1946, 362 no. D.499) confirms the 12th century grant of Ambleston church to the Knights Hospitaller, citing a grant of the same church earlier in the century to Worcester Abbey. The village lay within the lordship of Daugleddau, controlled by the Fleming Wizo and his sons, who apparently planted settlements at a number of sites. The division of the landscape may be coeval with the village foundation.

The other main archaeological feature on the route is the large Iron Age fortification, Scollock Rath (1344), further S in Walton East parish.

3.2 Register of archaeological sites and areas of archaeological interest

The reference numbers in the following catalogue are those allocated in the Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record. These numbers are shown on the following annotated engineer's maps.

Ambleston Village. The village of Ambleston is historically important in its own right, its origins lying in the early 12th

century (see above). Its morphology is now one of ribbon development along 2 roads meeting at the churchyard and there appears to be no evidence for any former, differing plan. The village also displays a number of buildings of architectural interest, the central area containing a number from the late 18th-early 19th century. (Drawing 20102721/1)

1285. St Mary's Church. Parish church for Ambleston. The pipeline route follows the road which in turn skirts the churchyard of St Mary's Church, Ambleston. The church was a possession of the Knights Hospitaller of Slebech, granted along with others in the lordship of Daugleddau in the 12th century (see above). The churchyard is subrectangular, offering little evidence for an early Christian origin and the whole is probably a *de novo* foundation of the early 12th century. No fabric appears to have survived from this early date, however; the present church is a simple 3-cell construction of the 13th century with a late Perpendicular tower at the W end. It has been the subject of a recent churchyard survey by Earthwatch, recording memorials and related churchyard 'furniture' (Mytum, 1985, 8). (Drawing 20102721/1)

6428. Field System. Ambleston village lies within an axial system of regular field boundaries which trend roughly N-S over a considerable distance. Short E-W boundaries demarcate small rectangular strip fields. The whole has the appearance of the later enclosure of a medieval open field system but the date of the origin of this pattern at Ambleston is not known. The boundaries do not appear to continue into the village where the property boundaries are on different alignments. However, taken in conjunction with its association with the common land of Wallis Moor (below, 13835) the evidence would appear to suggest that the whole represents the initial medieval laying out of the manor of Ambleston. The present day pattern is largely unchanged from that shown on the Tithe map and apportionment for the parish of Ambleston of 1843, although there has been some coalescing of fields. Many of the field strips are still under arable cultivation. (Appendix 1)

Between Ambleston and Wallis Moor the pipeline trench cuts the boundaries of several strip fields permitting the examination of their form and construction (see below). The boundaries display a number of tree species here implying a not too recent date for their construction. (Drawing 20102721/1)

27953. Kiln Park. Name of 2 fields recorded on 'The Parish of Ambleston', Tithe map and apportionment, 1843. There is no visible trace of a kiln in the vicinity today. (Drawing 20102721/1)

13835. Wallis Moor. Common Land. The pipeline route passes through an area of early common land around the headwaters of Spittal Brook occupying a central position within the parish of Ambleston. Though the area is not marked as common in the medieval period by Rees, 1932, this may be an omission and it was certainly in existence by 1769 (Pembrokeshire Record Office,

DB/13/158, Estate Map of Hook Demesne, 1769) and is termed 'Wallis Common' on the Ordnance Survey Original Survey Drawings of 1809-10. It is now an area of scrub with some rough grazing but predominantly bracken, gorse, rush and alder, designated Grade 5 land. Common rights include pasture for sheep, cattle, horses and pigs, and turf-digging ('turbary'); there are a number of limestone outcrops, some of which have been quarried (Rural Surveys Research Unit, Pembs. 50). There has been some later piecemeal enclosure of the common to the S around Wallis farm where 3 fields display sycamore and chestnut trees in their hedgebanks; these are however shown on the Tithe Map for Ambleston parish of 1843 on which the common is shown as almost identical with its present day form. The group of fields extending into the N part of the common are likewise later and are termed 'encroachments' on the Tithe map. (Drawing 20102721/2)

27954. Garn. House shown on 'The Parish of Ambleston', Tithe map and apportionment, 1843. Now competely rebuilt and all original features lost. (Drawing 20102721/1)

18294. Quarry. The pipeline route skirts one of a number of limestone quarries in a fairly intensively quarried area of Wallis Moor. Evidence of these quarries is now largely obscured. (Drawing 20102721/2)

5689. Wallis Rath. The pipeline route follows 2/3 of the circumference of the exterior edge of the ditch of Wallis Rath, a prehistoric fortification of probable Iron Age date. The enclosure lies on a knoll. It is now U-shaped, the original entrance probably to the N but the whole is heavily oivergrown and now not visible on the ground. However it is an area of prime archaeological significance; the proximity of the proposed pipeline trench renders this a sensitive area of the scheme and evidence for contemporary features and possible outlying enclosures may be revealed in the trench section. The site is not scheduled. For plan see Appendix 4.2. (Drawing 20102721/2)

18298. Smithy. Building labelled 'smithy' on Ordnance Survey 1/10560 of 1964 and shown in the same location on 'The Parish of Ambleston', Tithe map and apportionment, 1843. Now gone, replaced with a new house 'Glan-yr-Afon'. (Drawing 20102721/2)

27955. Wallis. The pipeline skirts the N end of Wallis, a mid 18th century estate complex (Pembrokeshire Record Office, DB/13/158, Estate Map of Hook Demesne, 1769). Wallis formed part of the Hook Estate, and Wallis Farm with its estate cottages for the labourers still forms an interesting group. Of particular interest is the late 18th-early 19th century terrace of single-storey cottages occupying a central position within the group, and the estate lane leading S to Wallis Lodge (see below); both are shown on the Ordnance Survey original drawings of 1809-10 and 'The Parish of Ambleston', Tithe map and apportionment, 1843. (Drawing 20102721/2)

The pipeline route leaves the road to follow the line of a former

axial N-S field boundary, now gone, of field system 6428. Both fields are now pasture. (Drawing 20102721/2)

18280. Wallis Lodge. Early 19th century house shown on 'The Parish of Ambleston', Tithe map and apportionment, 1843 but not apparently on the Ordnance Survey original drawings of 1809-10. Belonged to the Wallis estate though probably not a formal lodge. Single storey main house with an adjoining annexe to the E. Main house rendered, with slate gable roof and masonry end chimney; facade with 3 windows, square-headed with raised surrounds. The main door is in the annexe. The proposed pipeline route skirts the yard. (Drawing 20102721/2)

27956. Park Felin. Field name, 'Mill Park', noted on 'The Parish of Ambleston', Tithe map and apportionment, 1843. No building is marked, however, and this is unlikely to be the site of a former watermill in the absence of any adjacent watercourse. Windmill site? (Drawing 20102721/2)

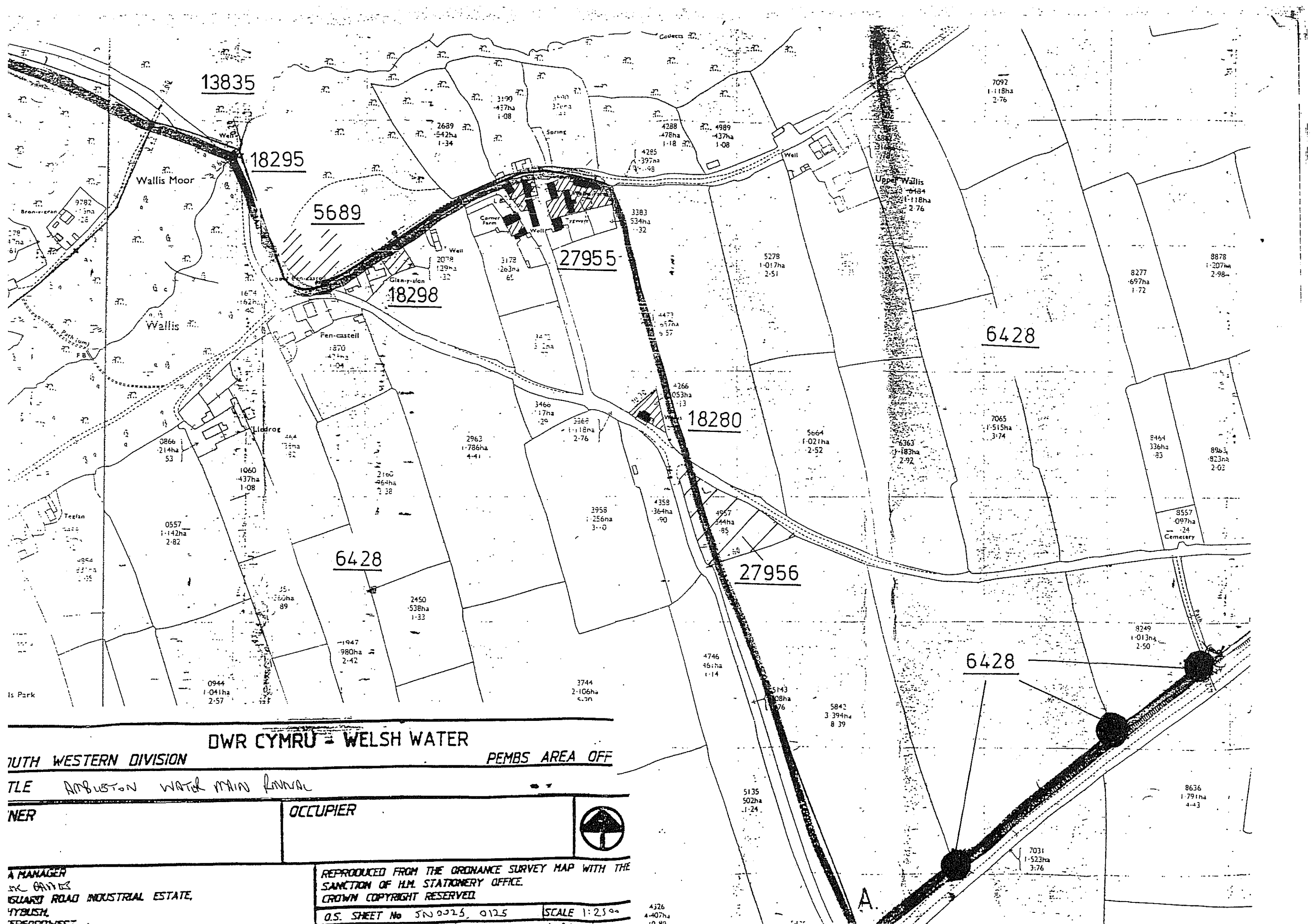
The pipeline follows a line just within strip fields to the N and S of Woodstock Cross. The adjacent road respects the field boundary and may thus be an old route. At Woodstock Cross a branch of the main pipeline route follows the main road eastwards (shown as a medieval route on Rees, 1932). This branch will truncate 3 (formerly 4) strip field boundaries permitting examination of their construction. At present the hedgebanks display a variety of trees and shrubs (Drawing 20102721/2). The fields affected are all now pasture, but have been ploughed in the recent past; any surface archaeology has been erased. At Longstone, the line enters an area of larger, ?later enclosures (Drawing 20102721/3).

27957. Park Longstone. Name of several fields (and a farm) recorded on 'The Parish of Ambleston', Tithe map and apportionment, 1843. This place-name element generally signifies the former presence of a standing stone but there is no evidence on the ground today. (Drawing 20102721/3)

27958. Longstone. Farm, shown on 'The Parish of Ambleston', Tithe map and apportionment, 1843. Survives today as a rendered masonry building, slate gable roof, 5 square headed windows in facade and single window and door in rear elevation. Probably mid 19th century. The pipeline route passes close by. (Drawing 20102721/3)

1344. Scollock Rath. Large hillside fortified enclosure, from the Iron Age. Now lies in pasture. Univallate. A roughly circular main enclosure, 150m in diameter, displays banks that are still up to 2m high in places but grazed and suffering from cattle erosion. However, it appears that the main entrance was to the W, from a smaller annexe 80m by 40m. The external ditch still survives around the E circumference (see RCAHMS, p404, no. 1142). The pipeline route passes W of the enclosure but through an area of archaeological potential that may yield evidence of further contemporary enclosures, possible field systems and similar features. Scheduled Ancient Monument, Pemb. no. 244. (Drawing 20102721/4)

27959. Ty Newydd. The pipeline route passes W of Ty Newydd farm. Named 'Newhouse' in 1964. Whitewashed masonry construction, slate gable roof with brick end chimney. Facade displays 5 windows and a central door, all segmental headed. Probably mid 19th century; not marked on 'The Parish of Ambleston', Tithe map and apportionment, 1843. (Drawing 20102721/4)



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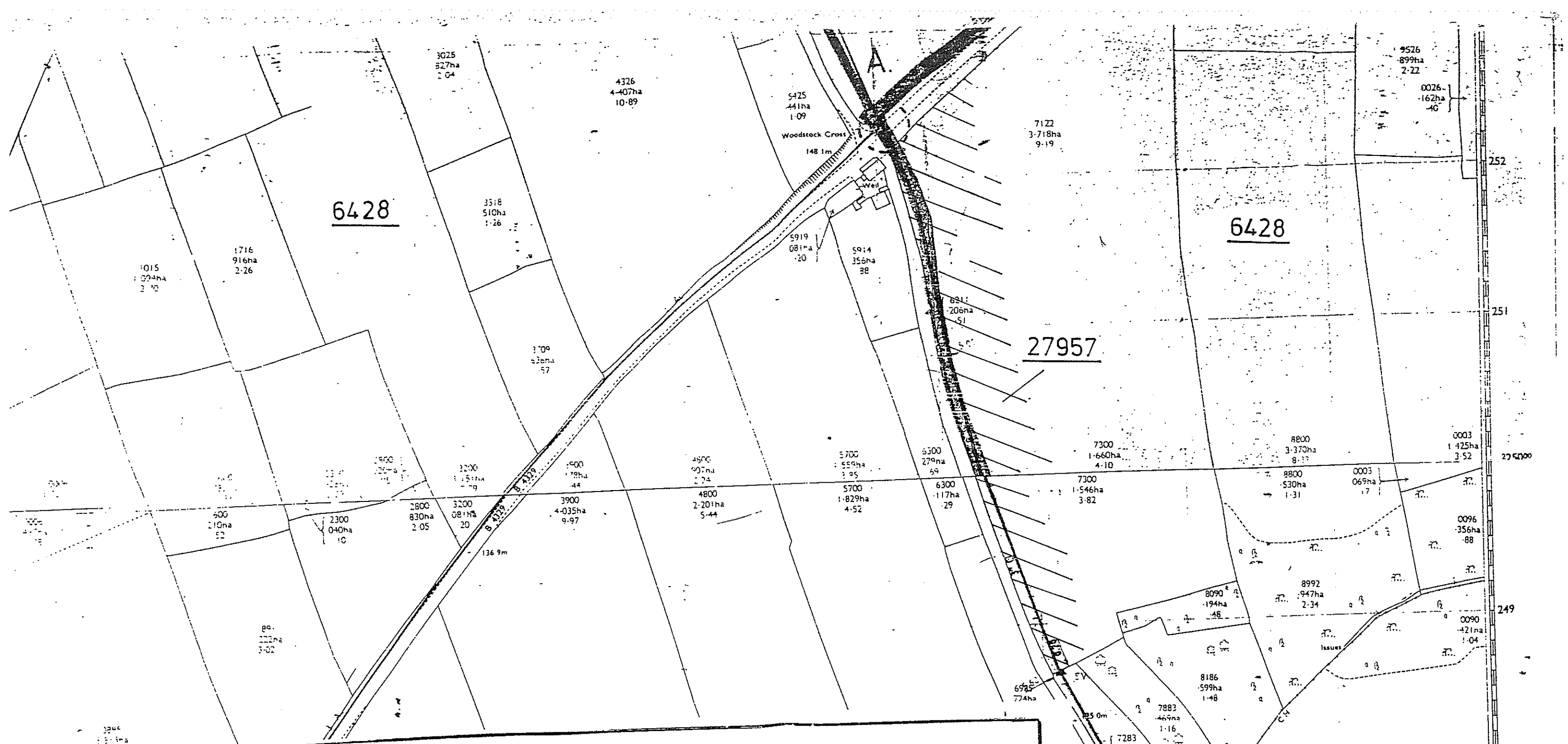


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IN CHARGE
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DWR CYMRU - WELSH WATER

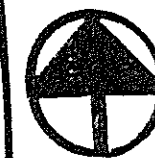
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DWR CYMRU - WELSH WATER

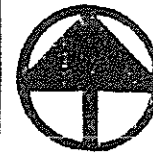
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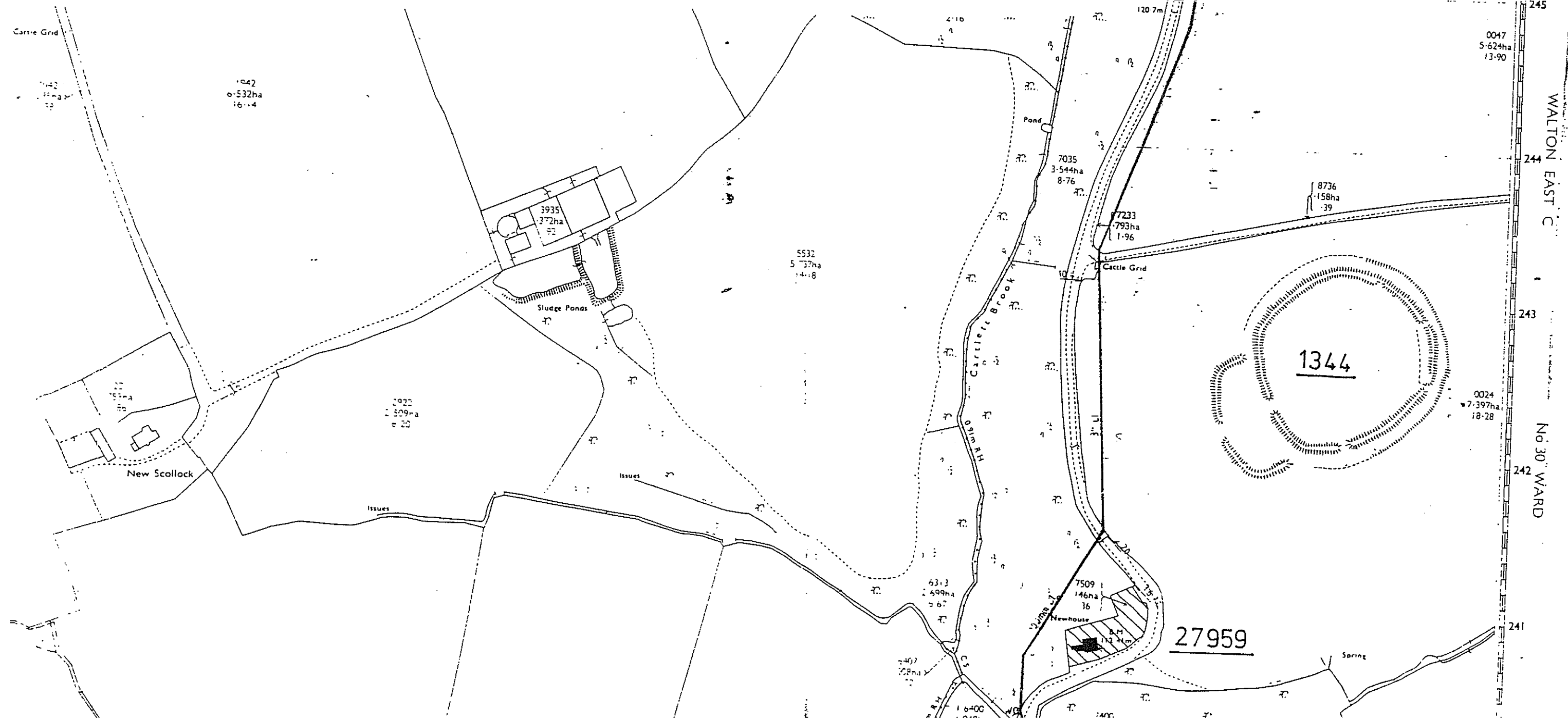
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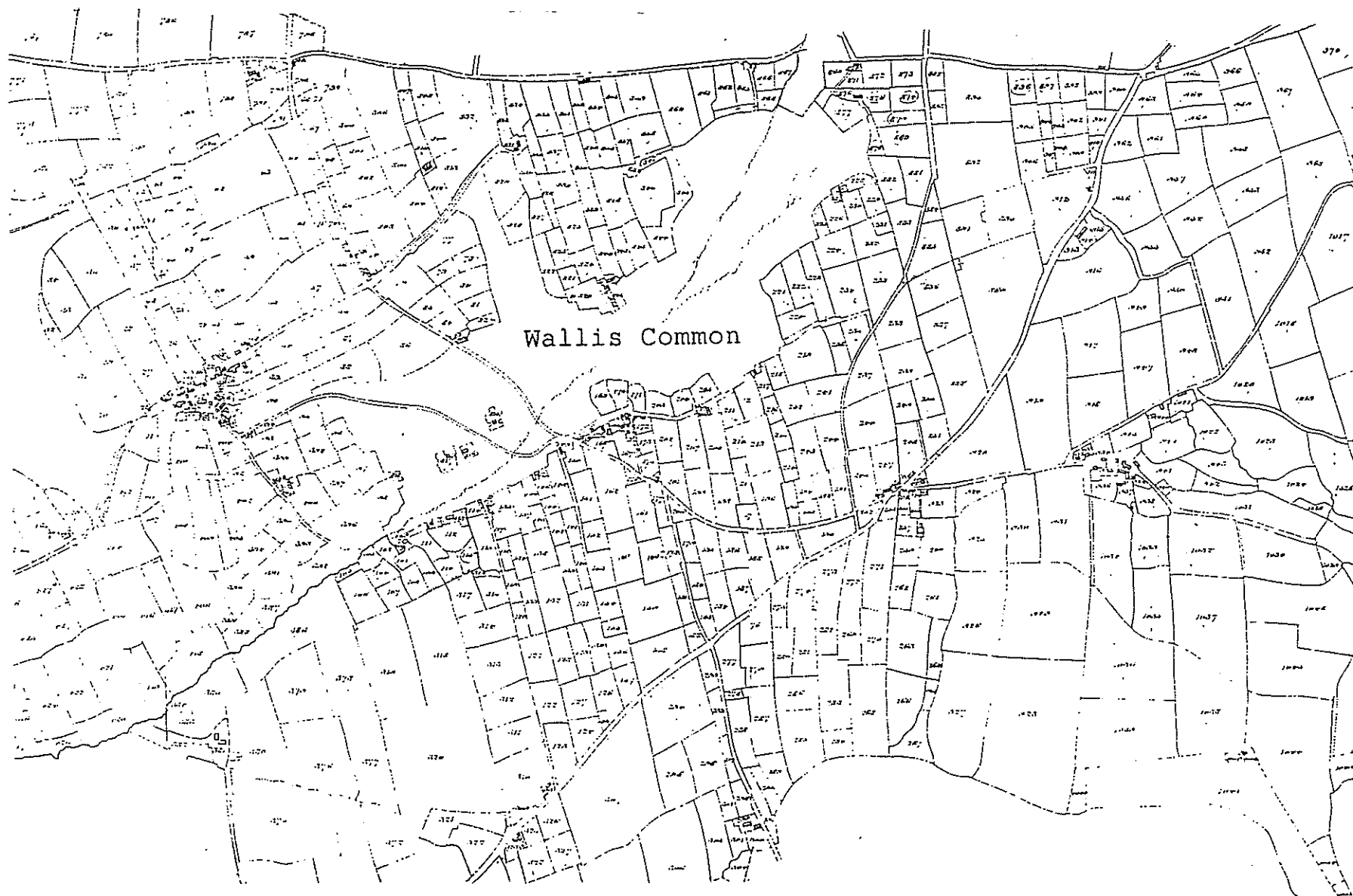
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4.1 Copy from 'The Parish of Ambleston', Tithe map, 1843,
showing relationship between Wallis Common and strip
fields



4.2 Plan of Wallis Rath (based on Ordnance Survey 1:2500,
and Ordnance Survey Site Card 1:10560, revised 1974)

