

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD

REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED PONTARDULAIS TO AMMANFORD GAS PIPELINE, CARMARTHENSHIRE (HPW 66)

Client: British Gas (Wales) plc

Project Officer: N D Ludlow

Report by: N D Ludlow

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SMR Amendments and Additions to Pontardulais to Ammanford Report

New PRN's

| 28221 | Project | Record | |
|-------|---------|--------|--|
| | | | |

28272 Maes-y-llan, farmstead, p.12

28273 Waum-rhyd-y-gaer, farmstead, p.14

28274 Hendre Road, Coopers Road, bridge, p.15

7 October 1994

REPORT ON THE PROPOSED PONTARDULAIS TO AMMANFORD GAS PIPELINE, CARMARTHENSHIRE (HPW 66)

1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS (prepared by Curatorial Section)

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Methodology; content and scope of archaeological assessment
- 2.2 List of sources consulted

unpublished

aerial photographs

published

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGY

- 3.1 Summary
- 3.2 Register of archaeological sites and areas of archaeological interest
- 3.3 Annotated engineer's plans (reduced from 1:2500 scale) indicating areas of archaeological interest.

4.0 APPENDIX

- 4.1 Detail from Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition, Carmarthenshire, Sheet LV.10 (1879).
- 4.2 Detail from Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition, Carmarthenshire, Sheet XLVIII.14 (1880).
- 4.3 Detail from Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition, Carmarthenshire, Sheet XLVIII.10 (1879).
- 4.4 Detail from Ordnance Survey 1:10560, Carmarthenshire, Sheet XLVIII NE (1891).
- 4.5 Detail from Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Second Edition, Carmarthenshire, Sheet XLVIII.7 (1906).
- 4.6 Detail from Tithe Map, Parish of Llanedy, 1841.
- 4.7 Mynydd Bach, from Llanedy Enclosure Award Map, 1843.

- 1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS (prepared by the Curatorial Section, Dyfed Archaeological Trust).
- 1.1 The Assessment Report and the marked up route maps should be used as constraint maps by the Project Engineer and Contractors to ensure that the sites, buildings and landscape features in the immediate vicinity of the route are **protected** and **preserved** from any needless or unwitting damage or removal by any access service or storage-area works ancilliary to the Pipe Line Corridor. Particular attention is drawn to the Scheduled Ancient Monument, standing stone no. 676 Map 3.
- 1.2 The Action recommended to achieve this aim, in addition to the full use of the Assessment Report, is to provide for site visits by a qualified archaeologist to advise the project engineer and also to identify and mark out features, if required.
- 1.3 Where the pipeline cuts through historic landscape features such as boundaries, routeways or linear features of industrial archaeological interest, an archaeological watching brief should be maintained to make a record of any significant finds or features.

The action recommended is to allow access to a professional archaeologist during and immediately after the initial topsoil strip within the route corridor on Maps 1, 2 & 3 - i.e. from SN594052 - SN588094. A watching brief should be maintained on the digging of the pipeline trench only if, in the opinion of the archaeologist, the topsoil strip has suggested the presence of archaeological features.

- 1.4. Over the remainder of the route it is recommended that contingency provision be made for the project engineer to request a site visit or visits by a professional archaeologist, should any unexpected finds or features be revealed, in order to make a record.
- 1.5 Dyfed Archaeological Trust (Curatorial Section) will prepare more detailed specifications for British Gas on the recommended archaeological monitoring and watching briefs if they are required.

Heather James, BA, FSA, Principal Archaeological Officer (Curatorial). Dyfed Archaeological Trust 18.02.94.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Details of a new gas pipeline scheme from Pontardulais to Ammanford were forwarded by Mr Jargisa of British Gas (Wales) to Dyfed Archaeological Trust for comment on 3 December 1993.

Following an initial assessment of the scheme by the Curatorial Section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust, British Gas (Wales) 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, on 26 January 1994 British Gas (Wales) 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 British Gas (Wales) 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 British Gas (Wales) 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

Glamorgan and Gwent Archaeological Trust Sites and Monuments Record

Carmarthenshire Record Office, Cawdor Vaughan Map Book, circa 1782

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Carmarthenshire Record Office, Dynevor Map Book 5, p 8, circa 1775-1785

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Thomas, B., Days of Old; Llandybie Notes and Memories, 61. Carmarthen.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGY

3.1 Summary

A fairly wide corridor either side of the proposed pipeline route has been studied, allowing for possible changes of route while at the same time setting sites of archaeological importance within their wider context.

The southern terminus of the proposed pipeline crosses an early 19th century railway line, passes a mid 19th century colliery (GGAT 01321W, 01322W, 1323W) and close to a probable 17th century farmstead (GGAT 01007W). The landscape S of the River Loughor here is an irregular patchwork of fields, which, like the roads and tracks, have altered little from those shown in 1840.

The pipeline crosses the Loughor flood plain and ascends a steep valley slope characterised by small wooded areas, possible remnants of the medieval Gellyfeisant forest (11718), and small fields with boundaries aligned parallel to the contours of the slope, unchanged since the mid 19th century.

The pipeline emerges onto a plateau of large enclosures and poorer agricultural land, again unchanged since 1841. It passes close to a scheduled Bronze Age standing stone (676). To the N of the stone, the route crosses the corner of a relict medieval field system (11719), and attains its highest altitude of 150m.

Skirting Pen-Crug-Uchaf farm (28155) the pipeline joins a road which like the surrounding tracks and field system is shown in 1841.

The route follows the road and will thus cause little interference to archaeological deposits. However, it passes close to Greynor-Uchaf farm (28160) and, on the corner where the route turns follows Hendre/Coopers Road, a 19th century public house (24320). The landscape to the E has been entirely effaced by modern opencast mining. Just to the W of its line the pipe passes a farm with possible medieval origins, Waun-Rhyd-y-Gaer (13171).

The route crosses a stream, Fferrws Brook, continuing along Coopers Road to Capel Hendre village, where, at the chapel (16875), it turns E along the road before turning NE across country.

The pattern of field boundaries and tracks for the entire area between Capel Hendre and Glyntai Fawr (see below) was, until the opencast coal extraction of the late 1970s-1980s effaced the landscape, the same patchwork of small irregular fields shown in 1841. The extensive coal mining activity here hardly altered the field boundaries. However, this area may have been unenclosed common land - Mynydd Fferrws - in the medieval period.

The area is characterised by a number of early coal pits and

larger mid-late 19th century collieries - the pipeline in fact crosses several shafts. Coal was being dug in the area at least as early as the 16th century but such early workings are impossible to identify. However, several of these pits are from the pre-1830 coal industry expansion period and some were operational during the early 18th century.

With the termination of the opencast coalfield the pipeline enters a landscape unchanged from 1841 (when, however, much of it was arable), passing close by Glyntai Fawr farm (28185) and through a medieval landholding (11868). Skirting the former Tir-y-dail colliery (4875) the pipeline again crosses the River Loughor to pass through a former gasworks (28174), terminating at the site of the Aberlash Tinplate Works (28175).

3.2 Register of archaeological sites and areas of archaeological interest

The reference numbers in the following catalogue are those allocated on Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Sites and Monuments Records; those prefixed GGAT are from the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust's Sites and Monuments Record. These numbers are shown on the following annotated engineer's maps.

GWR Railway line. A very early line. The Llanelly Railroad and Dock Co recieved its Act of Parliament for the construction of a line from Llanelli to Pantyffynnon, near Ammanford, on 19 June 1828; it was opened on 1 June 1839. The line is now single-track and forms part of the 'Heart of Wales' route (see below, 28176).

GGAT 01007W. Talyfan-fach. An early 2-storeyed farmhouse with the chimney backing on the entry, features which are characteritic of the 17th century in Glamorgan (Smith 1988). The house has been abandoned, supplanted by a house built early in the present century, but still stands. Constructed of limestone rubble, it carries a low first floor. Many of the openings are 19th-20th century. The pipeline bypasses the farmhouse itself but cuts the associated enclosures which may be at least as early as the house; the pattern is unchanged from the 1840 Tithe Map for Llandeilo-tal-y-bont parish.

Tal-y-fan-fach Colliery. A small colliery in the side of an isolated hillock, probably dateable to the period of mining expansion of 1830-70 and not marked on the 1840 Llandeilo-tal-y-bont Tithe Map. It was working in 1879 when an air shaft (GGAT 01321W), a smithy (GGAT 01322W) and an engine house (GGAT 1323W) were present on the site. The colliery was disused by 1906, although the buildings were still standing. These had gone by the 1940s but a spread of limestone rubble still marks the site of the engine house. The drift and spoilheap are still present. Like most small-scale collieries in the area it did not disrupt the pre-industrial pattern of field boundaries.

Pillbox. Concrete pillbox from the Second World War, pentagonal

in plan. Set into the SE slope of the hillock just below the summit. The small square loops have a field of fire from the NE to the S, ie. the railway line and valley floor.

Coal pit. A pit probably from before the expansion of the coal industry here of 1830 onwards, though not marked on the 1840 Llandeilo-tal-y-bont Tithe Map. Disused by 1879. Directly below the proposed pipeline route - re-route? However, it is no longer visible on the ground. See Appendix 4.1.

Field Gate and 19th century sign. The pipeline passes directly through a gate on Tal-y-cynllwyn Farm adjacent to a public footpath leading to a crossing over the railway line. The 5-bar gate is of good timber construction, though much weathered, and appears to be contemporary with the iron plaque fastened to it. The plaque reads - 'British Transport Commission. Notice. By 8 Vic. Cap. 20. S. 75. Any person not fastening this gate after having passed through it is liable to a penalty of (rest obscured).' From its location, the gate is apparently in situ.

The pipeline route crosses the River Loughor. There is neither 19th century map evidence, nor evidence on the ground, for deliberate banking or drainage.

11718. Gellyfeisant Forest. The pipeline passes up a steep valley with pockets of woodland unchanged from the 1841 Tithe Map for Llanedy parish. This is the area of the medieval Gellyfeisant Forest, one of 2 forests formerly in Llanedy parish. The forest is described, as 'Kelly visach', as being 12 acres in extent by 1609-13 (Rees 1953), bounded to the east by the River Loughor. The woodland here is undoubtedly of great age - there is a high species diversity and an abundance of holly - and may be a remnant.

28152. Cwm. Small farm. The pipeline passes immediately adjacent to the former Cwm farm. Marked on the Ordnance Survey original drawings of 1812. By the 1960s it was being shown as derelict. Very little now remains - 1 corner of the farmhouse survives almost to full height, and part of 1 side and 1 end wall. The associated barn/byre is reduced to footings. Both are of dry limestone constuction. The site is now heavily wooded, though all maps show it as formerly open.

The surrounding area may also be one of dispersed early medieval settlement.

28178. Glyn Wallis. Farm. The pipeline route passes 100m W of a farm that was in existence by 1812 when it is shown as 'Clun Wallis'. A fine brick late 19th century farmhouse is present but the farm has in recent years become derelict.

28179. Pen-y-fedw-fach. Farm. The pipeline passes 20m E of a farm that was in existence by 1812. It has very recently become derelict.

28180. Pen-y-fedw-fawr. Farm. The pipeline passes 30m E of a farm that was in existence by 1812 when it is shown as 'Penfedw'. The farmhouse is marked in a slightly different location on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st edition - curiously, as like the barn it is apparently an early 19th century construction.

12256. Maes-y-llan. Farm. The 'llan' element, recorded in 1812, was once thought to suggest early medieval activity, but there is no evidence for this. The pipeline passes 120m to the E of the farmhouse which was in existence by 1812, as was Pentre-hardd to the E (see below, 28153). However, it cuts through the enclosures of both holdings, unchanged since 1841.

28181. Coal pit. A coal pit, probably early, existed 70m E of the pipeline. Nothing can now be seen but its presence was noted by the farmer, Mr G Jenkins, Pentre-hardd, and it is noted on British Gas (Wales)' engineers drawings.

28153. Pentre-hardd. Farm, 60m W of the pipeline route. In existence by 1812. Well preserved complex of buildings of a fine construction that does not seem to have survived elsewhere in the area. The farmhouse itself has been recently renovated and rendered, but the outbuildings, 3 ranges around a yard, preserve their construction of well-coursed thin muddy limestone with limestone ashlar quoins. Much fine limestone dry walling is also present.

28182. Coal drift. A drift, probably early, existed 20m E of the pipeline route. Nothing can now be seen but its presence was noted by the farmer (as above).

The area of unenclosed rough pasture to the N here is also as in the mid 19th century; examination of aerial photographs, and fieldwalking, show that a substantial bank and ditch, following a sinuous E-W line, formerly divided the area in two. This was evidently removed prior to 1841. The feature may be a very early field boundary, or a former trackway.

28154. Limestone quarry. Small disused quarry. Not marked on the 1841 Llanedy Tithe Map, but was disused by 1879. Lies 70m to the W of the pipeline route.

676. Bryn-y-Rhyd Standing Stone. A Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Cm 193, scheduled in 1961), but the scheduled area is not affected by the pipeline which does not enter the field. This is a large standing stone being 2.8m tall, 2.2 m wide and 0.5m deep. Faces and sides are irregularly flat, while the flat top rises to a slight point. A class of field monument of great archaeological importance, standing stones are however notoriously difficult to date; some may have been erected in the medieval period as boundary stones, others during the Neolithic period. However, evidence suggests that the majority were erected during the Bronze Age (Murphy, 1992) and associated with ritual activity. Excavation of standing stone sites has demonstrated that they did not stand alone but were part of a complex of

features - pits, post-holes and cremations can be present. This makes the immediate environs of the stone of great archaeological importance.

11719. Waun Fawr. Field System. The NW corner of a possible relict medieval open field system is cut by the pipeline route. The pattern of long thin open strips is characteristic of medieval fields though their enclosure is secondary. This system displays 2 distinctive halves - to the SE an area with sinuous boundaries shown as enclosed on the 1841 Tithe Map, and an area to the NW which is first shown partially enclosed, with straight boundaries, in 1907 and which is still partly open. Non-physical property divisions of the latter area are shown on the Llanedy 1841 Tithe Map and the axial pattern, resulting from different crops, is still faintly visible. The apportionment schedule accompanying the map makes it clear that each strip, or group of strips, was under separate ownership and occupation; the occupiers represented farms distributed throughout the parish of Llanedy - the characteristic situation. The medieval strip field system denotes arable farming, and in this case suggests its survival; the land here is indeed fairly level, well-drained and still comparitively fertile and appears to have been ploughed as recently as the present century. Unfortunately the 1841 Tithe Schedule for Llanedy parish does not include information on contemporary land use. Ploughing here may have effaced a further characteristic feature of medieval strip agriculture - ridge and furrow. Medieval ploughing was performed so as to give rise to a series of parallel ridges, which are often still discernible (see below, 11868), but none is visible here. See Appendix 4.6.

11867. Earthwork. The pipeline route passes directly over a low, rather amorphous earthwork feature in a former open field (see above, 11867). Oval-oblong in shape, and approx. 4m by 2m, the flat summit stands 0.2-0.3 from ground level which is otherwise regular here. The date and function is unknown, but it may be medieval or post-medieval and associated with the open field. An earlier feature would probably have been ploughed out.

28155. Park Farm. Shown in 1812 as 'Penycrug'. Called Pencrig Uchaf in 1841 and Pen-y-graig-uchaf in 1880. Until recent years carried the name Pen-crug-uchaf. No buildings of great interest. Lies 60m W of the pipeline route.

28156. Pencrug. Farm, marked on 1841 Llanedy Tithe Map as 'Pencrig Issaf' Called Pen-y-graig-isaf in 1880 and until recently was Pen-crug-isaf. A probable early 19th century farmhouse has been abandoned for one built recently. Lies 60m E of the pipeline route.

28177. Coal pit. Lies 100m W of the pipeline route. A pit probably from the pre-1830 period though not marked on the 1841 Llanedy Tithe Map. Disused by 1880. In recent years subsidence has occurred here.

28157. Coal pit. Directly below the proposed pipeline route -

reroute? A pit probably from the pre-1830 period though not marked on the 1841 Llanedy Tithe Map. Disused by 1880. In recent years considerable subsidence has occurred here and although backfilled, the material is of an unstable consistency. See Appendix 2.

28158. Limestone quarry, 25m E of the pipeline route. Not marked on the 1841 Llanedy Tithe Map, but was disused by 1880. No longer visible.

The pipeline route runs along a road the course of which is shown the same on the Ordnance Survey original drawings of 1812 but since widened. The presence of the road here will have removed the archaeological evidence.

28159. Greynor-isaf. Farm, shown in 1812, as 'Crinor Issa'.

28160. Greynor-uchaf. Farm, shown in 1812, as 'Crinor Ucha'. Alongside the road is a large probable 18th century barn.

24320. 'Coopers' House'. Building, shown as a Public House on the 1841 Llanedy Tithe Map and on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition of 1880. Apparently a private dwelling, 'Coopers' House', in 1907, it was demolished in the 1980s for road widening.

The pipeline follows Hendre Road as far as Fferrws Brook. Again, the archaeology affected will be minimal.

28161. Field System. The boundaries of a strip to the W, and a large area to the E of Hendre Road as far as Fferrws Brook are the result of the Parliamentary Enclosure Act of 1812. The area was common land, 'Mynydd Bach', from the medieval period although a Survey of 1609-13 (Rees, 1953) indicates that some enclosure was already taking place - 'Howell ap Ieuan David, Griffith John and Rees Thomas Howell have enclosed 3 acres out of the said mountain'. The Ordnance Survey original drawings of 1812, however, make it clear that it was still mainly common with some coal extraction taking place. By 1841 it had been fully enclosed, and the land was awarded in 1843. The entire area to the E of Hendre Road has been obliterated by the opencast operations of the late 1970s. See Appendix 4.7.

28162. Pen-y-rhiw. Cottage, on roadside. Marked, as 'Pen Rhiw', on 1841 Llanedy Tithe Map. Now derelict.

13171. Waun-rhyd-y-gaer. Farm, 70m W of pipeline route. The 'gaer' element of the name suggests a former fortification, in particular of the Iron Age and Roman periods, and although there is no further evidence of this the environs are of great archaeological significance. A landholding may have existed here 1609-13 when the location is named as Rhyd y Karr (cf. 'gaer') and used as a boundary marker. The farm is marked, as 'Waun rhyd 28273 y car', in 1812.

28163. Troed-y-rhiw. Cottage. Marked, but not named, on the 1841

Llanedy Tithe Map. Still present.

Hendre Road crosses Fferrws Brook where its name changes to Coopers Road. The name Fferrws - by which the brook has been known since at least 1609-13 (and the area to the N and E was a common, Mynydd Fferrws) - suggests the presence of iron and possibly early ironworking, but there is no further evidence for this. The brook was a very early landmark and the boundary between the early medieval Cantref Cydweli and Cantref Bychan.

28183. Bridge. Hendre/Coopers road, and a bridge at the crossing of Fferrws Brook, are marked on the Ordnance Survey original drawings of 1812. The present bridge is a 1980s construction as a result of road widening.

16875. Capel Hendre. Calvinist-Methodist chapel, built in 1900 with a good quality neo-classical facade, a late example of the 'Classic' chapel facade (Hilling 1976). The chapel hall to the E is somewhat later. The village is not named on the Ordnance Survey original drawings of 1812, though a Meeting House may be marked on the site of the present chapel - the map is unclear (see below, 28164). On the Tithe Survey Index Map of 1825-8 the village is called Capel 'r Hendre. The Tithe Map for Llandybie parish of 1841 shows no building here and the field name, Cae Garw, has no connotations. Neither is a building marked here on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition of 1879 on which the village was called just 'Hendre', although an earlier Calvinist-Methodist chapel is shown to the N on the opposite side of the road (the Meeting House?). This has since disappeared and the area is now a cemetery. The 'Capel' element of the village name returned with the construction of the present chapel.

28164. Hendre College. Property name comprising several former fields, mainly to the E of the road. First recorded in Dynevor Map Book 5, c.1775-85. The remnant of the property on Hendre Road still carries the name and displays an early 19th century barn. Its origins are unknown. In 1841 it is termed merely 'house and garden' with several insignificant field names; However, this may be a third contender for the 1812 'Meeting House' (see above, 16875).

The pipeline route crosses Nant Arw.

7681. Coal pit/shaft. The pipeline passes 15m E of a probable pre-1830 coal pit, disused by 1879. Not marked on the 1841 Llandybie Tithe Map; however, few early workings are. Still visible on the ground. The banks of Fferrws Brook are rich in early coal workings, some of which may be as early as the early 18th century when references are made to 'Wagenni Mawr' bringing wheat to Cwm Fferrws to trade for coal - a reminder of the essentially rural nature of the industry during this period. See Appendix 4.3.

The landscape between this point and Nant-y-Ci brook has been totally effaced by the opencast activity of the late 1970s/early 1980s. Deeper mining features should therefore pose no threat to pipeline construction.

30166 £11. 28169. Air shaft. The pipeline passes 40m to the S of the site of a former air shaft of the disused Hendre Colliery (see below, 28166), now opencast.

28165. Coal level. The pipeline passes over the site of a former possibly pre-1830 coal level, disused by 1879 and now opencast. See Appendix 4.3.

28166. Hendre Colliery. 80m to the N of the pipeline lies the site of the former Hendre Colliery. Now opencast. Working in 1879, with a tramway from Gors-fach, it is typical of the small collieries of the mid-late 19th century. The origins of most of the 19th century collieries in the area between Capel Hendre, Saron and Pantyffynnon lie in the purchase of this coalfield by D Lloyd & Sons Ltd in the 1860s. Hendre Colliery was disused by 1906, the tramway and most of the buildings dismantled. The site was later landscaped/levelled; an aerial photograph of 1947 shows that its spoil had been spread over a large area to the S.

28167. Coal pit. The pipeline passes 20m S of the site of a former probable pre-1830 coal pit, disused by 1879. Now opencast. See Appendix 4.3.

28168. Hendre-isaf. Farm. In existence by 1812, survived until subsumed by Rhos Colliery and spoilheap (see below, 7680), 1921-47. Now opencast.

7680. Rhos Colliery. The pipeline passes directly over the site of a former air shaft of Rhos Colliery, an early mine. Now opencast. Possibly marked as 'coal pit' on the Ordnance Survey original drawings of 1811-12, Rhos Colliery was described as still working in 1840 but is not marked on the 1841 Llandybie Tithe Map. By 1866 a rail link from the colliery to the main line at Pantyffynnon had been established. In 1879 it was a complex extending E along Fferrws Brook, while this W Section is shown with an engine house and a number of railway sidings. It had expanded further by 1906; more sidings and additional buildings are marked on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd edition. By 1921 the rail link had been extended N to Nant y Ci Colliery (see below, 7684), but Rhos closed during the big closure in the coal industry of 1923-47. An aerial photograph of 1947 shows the disused buildings and that the railway track had been lifted.

28170. Coal pit. The pipeline passes approx. 10m to the W of the site of a probable pre-1830 coal pit, disused by 1880. Now opencast.

The course of the former rail link between Rhos and Nant y Ci is crossed by the pipeline.

The pipeline briefly passes out of the opencast coalfield.

28171. Dogsbrook Farm. Farm. In existence by 1828. The pipeline passes 40m from the late 18th/early 19th century farmhouse and attached byre.

The pipeline route passes back into the opencast coalfield.

7684. Nant y Ci Colliery. Former colliery, now opencast. Coal extraction at Nant y Ci was of 2 phases. To the S of the pipeline are 2 pits marked on the Ordnance Survey original drawings of 1811-12 and thus from the pre-1830 expansion period. They were disused by the 1870s. Reworking of the seam began 1890-1907; a drift is marked on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd edition immediately to the N of the pipeline. By 1921 the workings had been formalised as the 'Nant y Ci Colliery' and connected by rail to Rhos Colliery (see above, 7680). One of the 2 slants marked on this edition of the Ordnance Survey 1:10560 lies below the pipeline route. The colliery closed down 1923-47.

28172. Nant-y-ci. Farm. Former farm, possibly of medieval origins. In 1609-13 David Thomas David Lloyd was paying 2d freehold for 'Nant y Ki' (Rees 1953). The farm was certainly in existence by 1812. Still standing in the 1870s, Nant-y-ci had been demolished by 1906 probably as a result of colliery activity.

The opencast coalfield terminates at Nant y Ci brook.

7685. Colliery. Another former colliery of 2 phases. The Ordnance Survey 1:10560 1st edition shows a disused probable pre-1830 coal pit directly beneath the pipeline. In 1906 some reworkings were under way, and an air shaft is marked near Bryn-hyfryd approx. 15m to the W of the pipeline. Before 1947 it had become an extensive concern linked with Park Colliery and connected to its tramway. The spoilheap is still present and lies over the early pits. See Appendices 4.4 and 4.5.

28173. Park & Blaina Colliery. Colliery from the post-1860 period. In the 1870s it was a small scale operation some way to the SE of the pipeline. By 1906 it was a large concern connected to the neighbouring Park Colliery by a tramway later extended to 7685. The colliery was involved in the anthracite riots of 1925. The shafts, slants, buildings and an extensive spoilheap over the pipeline route are shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd edition. The colliery had closed by 1947 and the whole site was levelled by the 1960s.

The pipeline passes into and out of an area of 1980s opencast mining.

28184. Spoilheap and building. The pipeline passes through a colliery spoilheap not marked on any Ordnance Survey map and for which no recorded evidence has been encountered. Within the spoilheap area lies a 20th century brick and concrete stucture of unknown function. The possibility exists that a shaft may be present here.

The pipeline route passes into farmland with field boundaries and tracks much the same as those shown on the 1841 Llandybie Tithe Map.

28185. Glyntai Fawr. Farm. Probably the remnant of a medieval landholding; it lies within an area of ridge and furrow (see below, 11868) while the 'houses' element of the name suggests a settlement of some form. The farm itself was in existence by 1812 when named 'Glunta' (Clun Tai in 1828, until recently Glyn-tai). The farm was a holding of some considerable status, the drystone field boundaries being of substantial construction and with an element of landscaping. The farmhouse is a large building of 2 wings at right angles, both of fine construction. The longer N-S wing has been extended, rendered, and many openings replaced but is fundamentally of the late 18th century, still displaying 2 handsome round-headed windows with original frames and possibly contemporary 2-leafed doors. The shorter, E-W wing is an addition of the mid 19th century, of well coursed, squared, reddish limestone rubble beneath a half-hip roof. The openings have yellow brick surrounds. Surrounding farm buildings are of comparable date - the limestone rubble barn carries a pantile roof. Glyntai Fawr was abandoned with the commencement of the adjacent opencast operations and now lies derelict.

11868. Ridge and Furrow. 2 fields adjacent to Glyntai Fawr display traces of ridge and furrow, axial ridges of soil that are evidence for medieval ploughing. In both cases the ridges are very faint, presumably as a result of later ploughing, but can be seen to run at right angles to the slope; those to the W run N-S, partly interrupted by a former hedgebank, removed by 1906, while those to the E run E-W. The feature is evidence for a medieval landholding/settlement on the site, of which Glyntai Fawr was the successor (see above, 28185).

4875. Tir-y-dail Colliery. Morgan (1958) shows pre-1830 workings at Tir-y-dail but nothing is marked on any 19th century Ordnance Survey map. The colliery officially opened in 1890 and in 1906 was a large operation; a number of buildings are marked on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd edition as is a complex of railway sidings from the main line. In 1926 it was owned by the Valleys Anthracite Collieries Ltd; it closed down, however, the next year. Only one building remained by 1946, in a landscaped site. The wooded spoilheaps are currently being reclaimed.

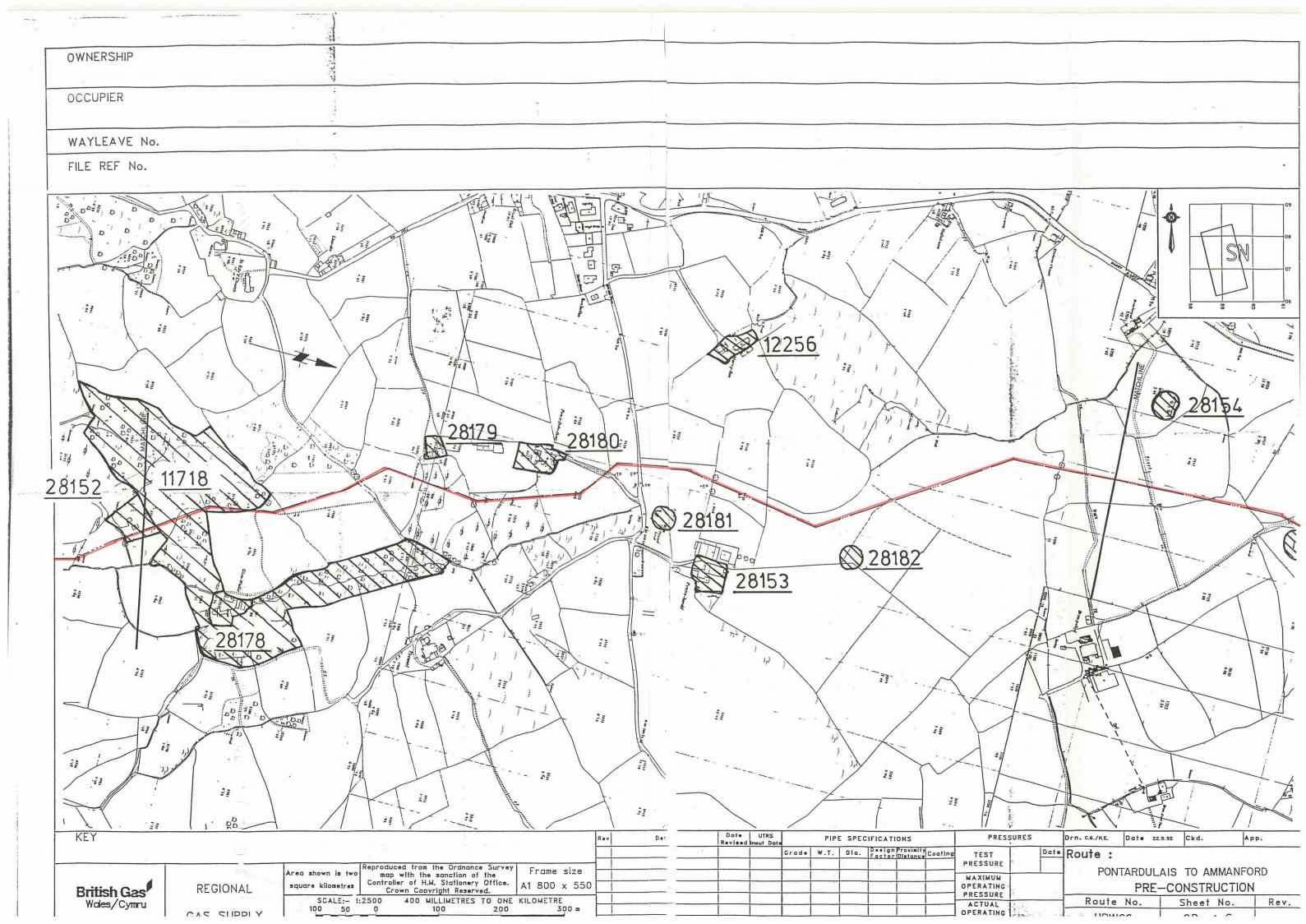
2 small buildings are marked in the field to the S of the colliery on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd edition. The pipeline passes directly over the site.

28174. Gasworks. Former gasworks, built between 1906 and 1921. The gasholders and ancillary buildings still stood into the 1970s but have since been removed.

28175. Aberlash Tinplate Works. Tinplate works of 3 mills. The works was begun in December 1889 by Messrs. Elias, Phillips and

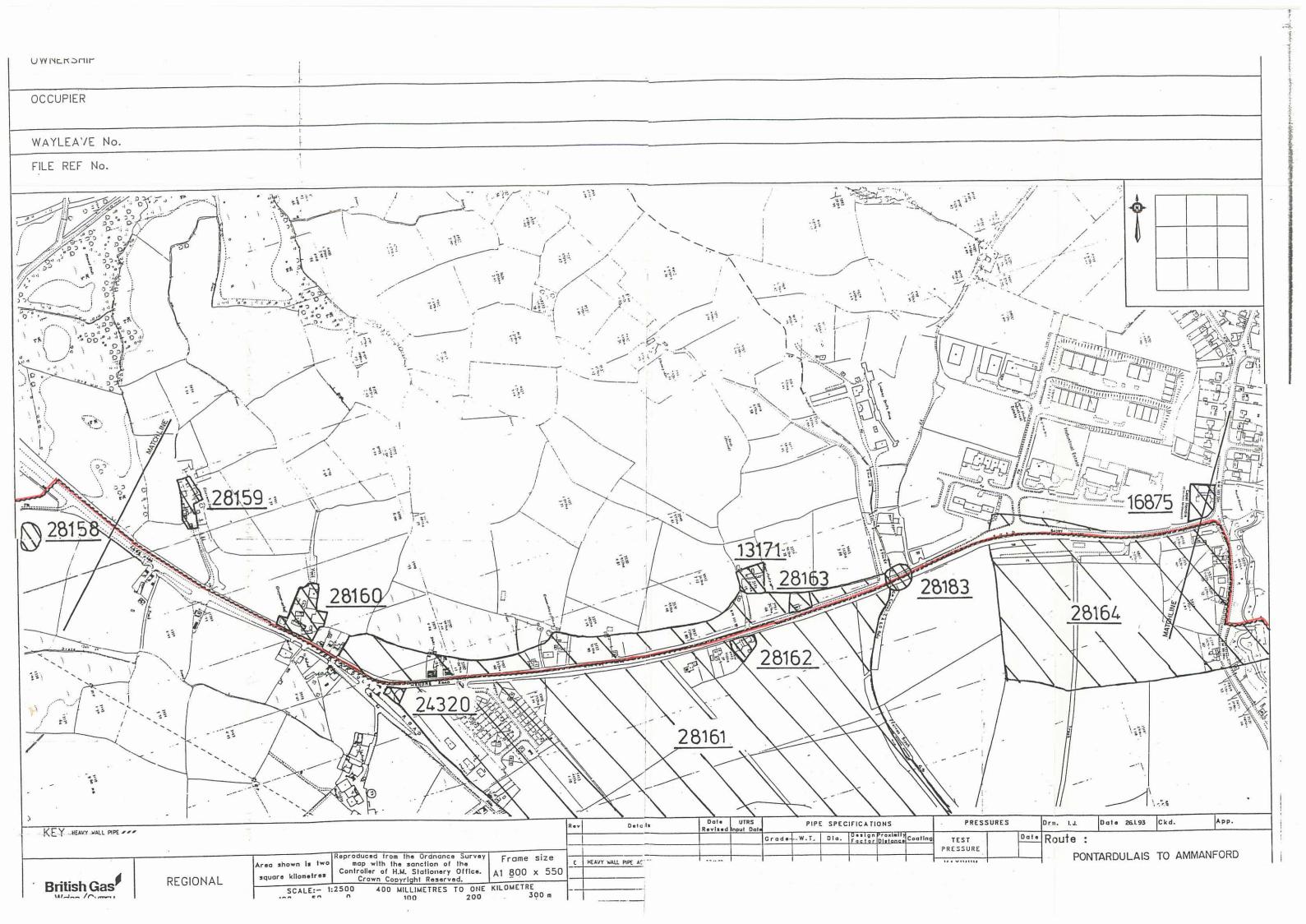
Jones. In May 1898 the 'Tir-y-dail Tinplate Co.' closed down, but in October of the same year the works reopened as the 'Aberlash Tinplate Co'. In 1902 sheet mills were added, and the works is shown in 1906 as a large block with a spur from the railway line and a number of ancillary buildings. It was acquired by the 'Raven Tinplate Co' in June 1908, but like so many at this time it closed down in 1912 and was dismantled. The bulk of the rolling mill, however, still stands and is of rubble construction with yellow brick detail. Where a parallel adjoining block to the W has been removed the infill is now of corrugated sheets. The whole lies under a slate gable roof, the timberwork of which is now largely exposed.

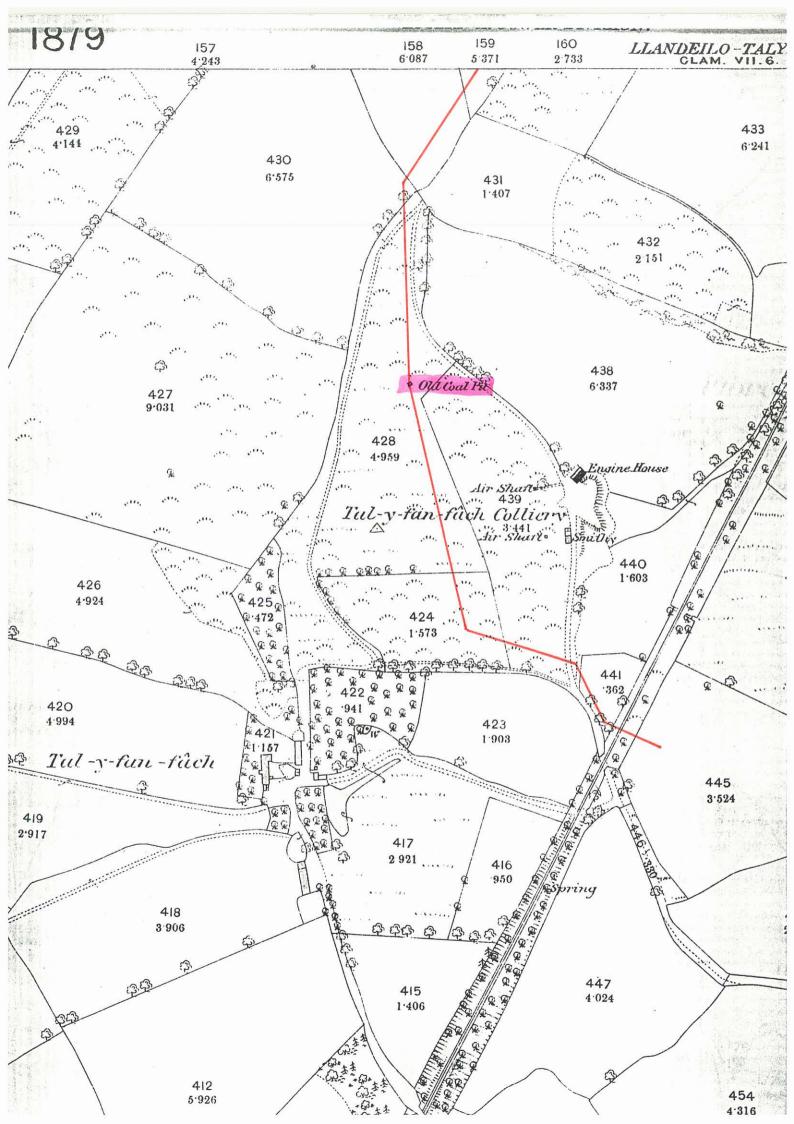
28176. GWR railway line. A former line, now gone. The Llanelly Railroad & Dock Co. line from Llanelli to Pantyffynnon was extended NE along the Amman Valley to Garnant in 1840 (see below, p 10). A branch N to Llandeilo was begun and opened as far as Tir-y-dail in 1841 but not completed until 1857. Meanwhile, a spur from Tir-y-dail to Gors-goch, near Pen-y-groes, was under construction. A report in 'The Cambrian' newspaper in 1839 claims that the terminus 'will soon be in hand', but the line in fact did not open until 1850. It remained single track until its removal in the 1960s.

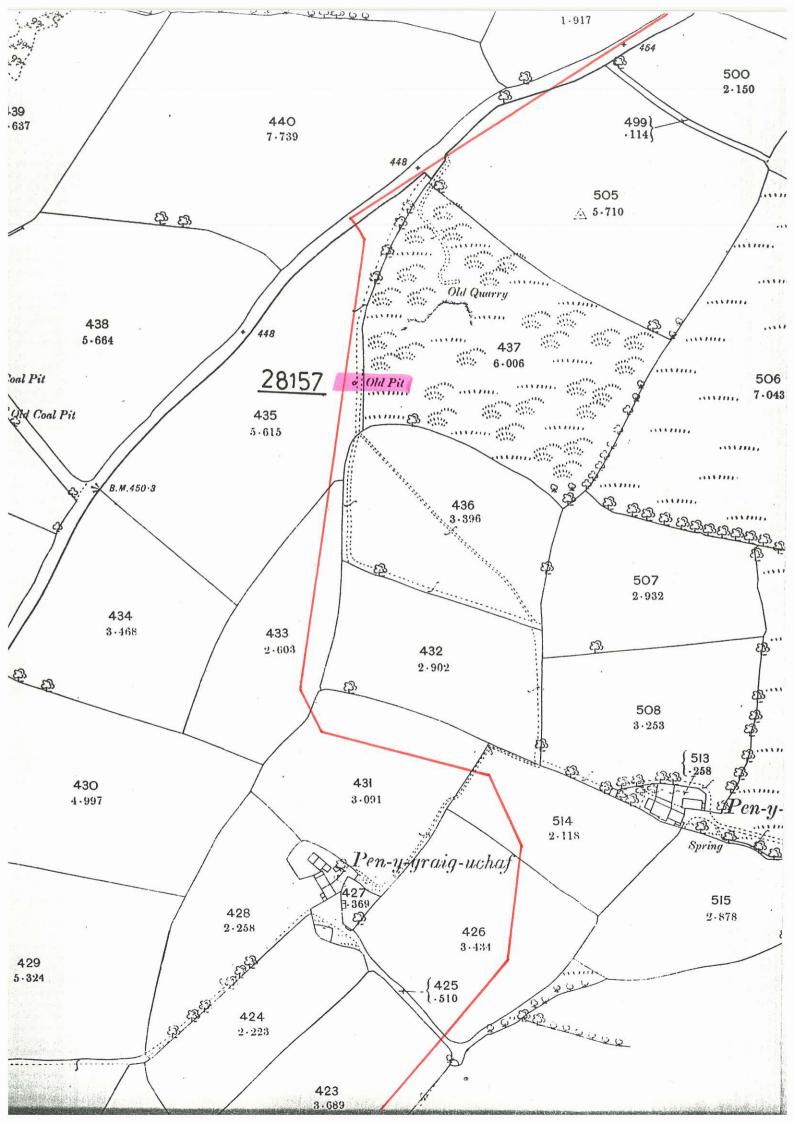


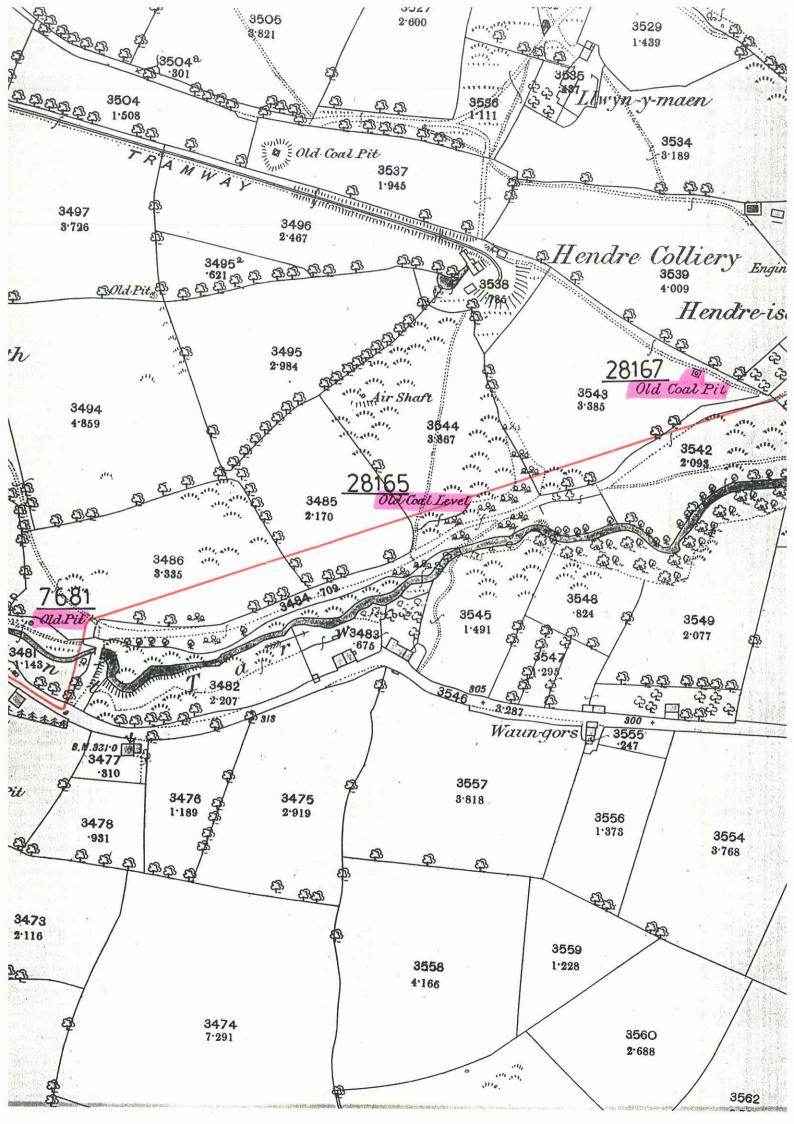
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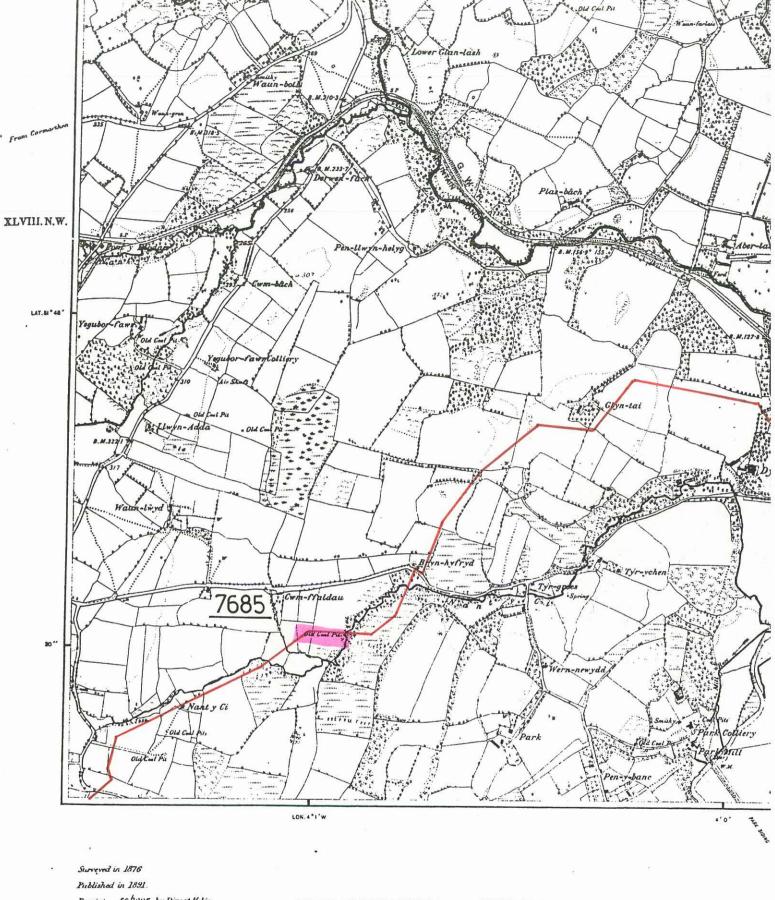
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CHARACTERISTICS AND SYMBOLS.

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For other information see Characteristic Sheet.

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