

MYNYDD Y FFYNNON PROJECT REPORT IV

*ADAS/FE SURVEY 1998
(ACA PRN35915).*

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Mynydd y Ffynnon Project: Background.

1.1.1 The area which is termed the Mynydd y Ffynnon survey area occupies part of a large block of upland in the heart of the Cambrian Mountains in central Wales between the Castell valley on the north, the Ystwyth Valley on the south, the Rheidol Valley on the west and the Wye Valley to the east (see Project Design: The Archaeology and Historic Landscapes of the Mynydd y Ffynnon Area, prepared by Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology and the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 1997). The larger 'Landscape Study Area' is defined by these rivers and the A44 trunk road, which links Aberystwyth with east Wales. The area is bisected by the Ceredigion/Powys county border.

1.1.2 The area consists of open hill land and forestry plantations to a maximum height of 573m OD, and is a land block that falls within the Cambrian Mountains ESA. ADAS and Forest Enterprise, as large landowners and land agents in the region, have developed a joint project for Mynydd y Ffynnon which is termed 'a new Welsh upland vision for the restoration of upland ecosystems' and is defined as:

"a pilot scheme for the uplands aimed at restoring indigenous upland habitats and their wildlife conservation whilst ensuring that there are true economic returns for forestry and agriculture and hence the rural economy of the same area."

1.1.3 Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology (ACA) and the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT), after discussion with ADAS, Forest Enterprise and Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW), have conducted a joint archaeological survey of the Mynydd y Ffynnon area. In 1996, an Archaeological Survey Area in the centre of the Mynydd y Ffynnon uplands was designated for initial archaeological field survey work, and a detailed desk-top survey of the landscape history of the whole area was carried out (see Sambrook & Silvester, 1997). As a continuation of the 1996 study programme, the detailed survey of blocks of upland adjacent to the main valleys was carried out during the early summer of 1997, providing valuable contextual, distributional and site-specific information for the Mynydd y Ffynnon project and assisting considerably in building a picture of past land-use and activity in the area between the Wye and the Ystwyth (Silvester, 1997; Sambrook & Darke, 1997). This was followed during the autumn of 1997 with a detailed survey and assessment of known archaeological sites within the afforested portions of the Mynydd y Ffynnon study area (Sambrook, Hankinson & Thomas, 1998).

1.1.4 In the spring of 1998 the fourth and final phase of fieldwork was carried out. This involved the survey of ADAS owned land outside the Phase 1 survey area. It also included limited prospecting for new archaeological sites in select areas of Forest Enterprise owned land, focusing on afforested areas where few or no recorded sites were previously known, in the belief that closer examination would elucidate new discoveries. This report presents the findings of the latter survey carried out by ACA and CPAT during the months of April - June, 1998. It is the final report on survey work in the Mynydd y Ffynnon area but will be followed by a further report providing site specific management prescriptions for each site recorded on ADAS and FE owned property within the survey area (Sambrook, forthcoming).

1.2 The Survey Area.

1.2.1 The survey area considered by this study includes all ADAS owned land within the wider Landscape Study Area, which had not been previously surveyed. It also included selected areas of Forest Enterprise land (both afforested and unplanted), especially aimed at afforested stream valleys distributed across the study area where it was believed that further evidence of settlement may survive. The interior and perimeter of the Bwlchgwallter Forest compartment, south of Hafod, was also examined as it had not previously been visited, though no further work was carried out in the area already surveyed by ACA around the core of the Hafod estate (Murphy, 1996).

1.2.2 The recorded archaeology of the area, much of which has been derived from the surveys recently funded by ADAS, Forest Enterprise and the RCAHMS, is predominantly related to the settlement history of this upland block and includes numerous deserted rural settlements (including upland farmsteads, smaller cottages and shepherding huts) as well as associated features such as enclosures and field systems. Another important element in the archaeological resource is related to the metal mining tradition of the area, with several small or medium-scale lead mines being found within the study area. Most of these workings date to the later 19th century, but some are known to have been worked before the mid-18th century. The southern part of the survey area borders on the heart of the historic Hafod estate and includes the areas of some of Thomas Johnes' 18th century plantation boundaries, as well as other estate features.

The forest plantations of the Mynydd y Ffynnon survey area mask an historic landscape which varies in character from the flanks of the Castell, Wye and Ystwyth river valleys, to the flood-plains and steep sides of deeply incised river valleys such as those of the Myherin, Rhuddnant and Diliw, and areas of higher, former moorland dissected by these valleys.

1.3 Methodology.

1.3.1 Desktop

The background of detailed study within the wider Landscape Study Area accrued during the three previous Mynydd y Ffynnon projects provided a valuable source of information and experience which could be drawn upon in approaching the field survey of the remaining areas of ADAS owned land.

It also allowed for the identification of afforested areas where little or no archaeology was known and which, in the judgement of those involved in the project, merited further prospecting to identify new archaeological sites.

1.3.2 Fieldwork

Fieldwork was carried out by two persons (one CPAT and one ACA staff member) during May and June, 1998. The objective of the field survey was to locate new sites on previously unsurveyed ADAS land (for which 11 days were allocated) and to search selected portions of the afforested area for new archaeological sites (for which 8 days were allocated). With regard to limitations of funding and time, it was not thought likely that forays into the main forest compartments would be likely to produce worthwhile results, by virtue of their sheer size and the difficulties of access in many cases. Only in a few locations, such as on the fairly broad, afforested valley floors of the Myherin and Nant Syddion was survey attempted within forest plantations.

Fieldwork on the open moorlands of Central Wales in previous years suggests that the sheltered tributary valleys of the main rivers in the study area, such as those along the Wye valley and the feeder streams of Nant Rhys, in the centre of the study area, might repay field examination in the search for evidence of settlement. Within the forest plantations, the sheltered stream valleys were targeted in particular, as it was evident that relatively broad strips of unplanted ground often exists either side of the streams.

One day was also allocated to re-examine aerial photographs of the study area, with the benefit of experience, to help identify features or areas of potential interest in unsurveyed areas.

1.4 Results.

Both elements of this fourth stage of the Mynydd y Ffynnon project met with some success. Each new site identified by the field survey has been given a unique Primary Reference Number (PRN) and its details entered into the relevant SMR databases held by the two archaeological trusts involved in the project.

1.4.1 Within the FE owned afforested areas, a 21 new features were recorded, including deserted settlement sites found along stream valleys and mining features at several locations. Some of these sites remained in very good condition, despite afforestation of their immediate area; the best examples were the Foel Ddu long hut (CPAT PRN13237) and a series of long huts and ancillary structures along Nant Cwm Gau, particularly long hut PRN35937. These examples all retained the foundation walls of probable shepherding cottages which are likely to have been abandoned before the beginning of the 19th century and for which we have little understanding of their origins. On the open moorland owned by FE above Nantycreiau Mine, an extensive leat system built to carry water to a number of local lead mines was observed as well as evidence for undated trial workings associated with Nantycreiau.

1.4.2 It is evident that the number of sites identified by prospecting within the afforested areas was relatively low, although the importance of some of these sites is felt to have made the exercise worthwhile. The relatively low return in this aspect of the field survey should be put in the context of being complimentary to the earlier prospecting carried out by the previous stage of fieldwork (Sambrook, Hankinson & Thomas, 1998).

The total number of new sites discovered in 1998 should be added to those located in 1997 to assess the true impact of the prospecting survey on the enhancement of the archaeological record. When it is considered that only 37 sites were recorded in the Mynydd y Ffynnon forests before 1997, the addition of a further 35 sites in the autumn of 1997 and another 21 in the spring of 1998 shows that there has been a considerable increase in the number and range of archaeological monuments identified. The benefit of this extra information in informing our understanding of the landscape history of the area is considerable. But it is also an important reminder of the archaeological potential of afforested land. It cannot be assumed that historic maps and documentary sources will alone give an accurate picture of the archaeological resource of any afforested area. There are clearly archaeological sites surviving in afforested areas which are not recorded in any form and can only be identified through field survey. While there is no denying that forest fieldwork is more difficult and less comprehensive than fieldwork on open ground, these results demonstrate that properly targeted examination in afforested areas can prove extremely useful.

1.4.3 The work carried out on ADAS owned land around Pwllpeiran and on the higher moorland around Penygarn produced significant results. Most of the sites newly recorded were deserted settlement sites of great interest to the study of the settlement history of the district. A group of shooting butts was recorded on the open slopes of Bryn Perfedd, Cwmystwyth, a reminder of the leisure pursuits of another age.

1.4.4 In summary, it can be said that each stage of the Mynydd y Ffynnon survey has added valuable information to expand our understanding of the settlement and land-use history of the district. The fieldwork component of the project in particular has added information which could not possibly be gleaned from other sources. A picture emerges of mediaeval and post-mediaeval settlement across the whole area, focused particularly on sheltered river and stream valleys and associated mostly with the use of the mountain pastures for pastoral farming. The search for and exploitation of metal ores has also contributed greatly to the archaeological resource of the area, with metal mine sites and associated features such as water leats and trial workings commonly encountered. Little identifiable trace remains of earlier historic and prehistoric activity in the district, although the handful of bronze age cairns found on higher ground are concrete reminders of the possibility that earlier evidence survives obscured beneath the moorland peats.

Such is the value of the results of this series of projects, both to local and regional archaeology, it is anticipated that the material gathered by the Mynydd y Ffynnon archaeological survey between 1996-98 will form the basis of a contribution to an academic journal in the future.

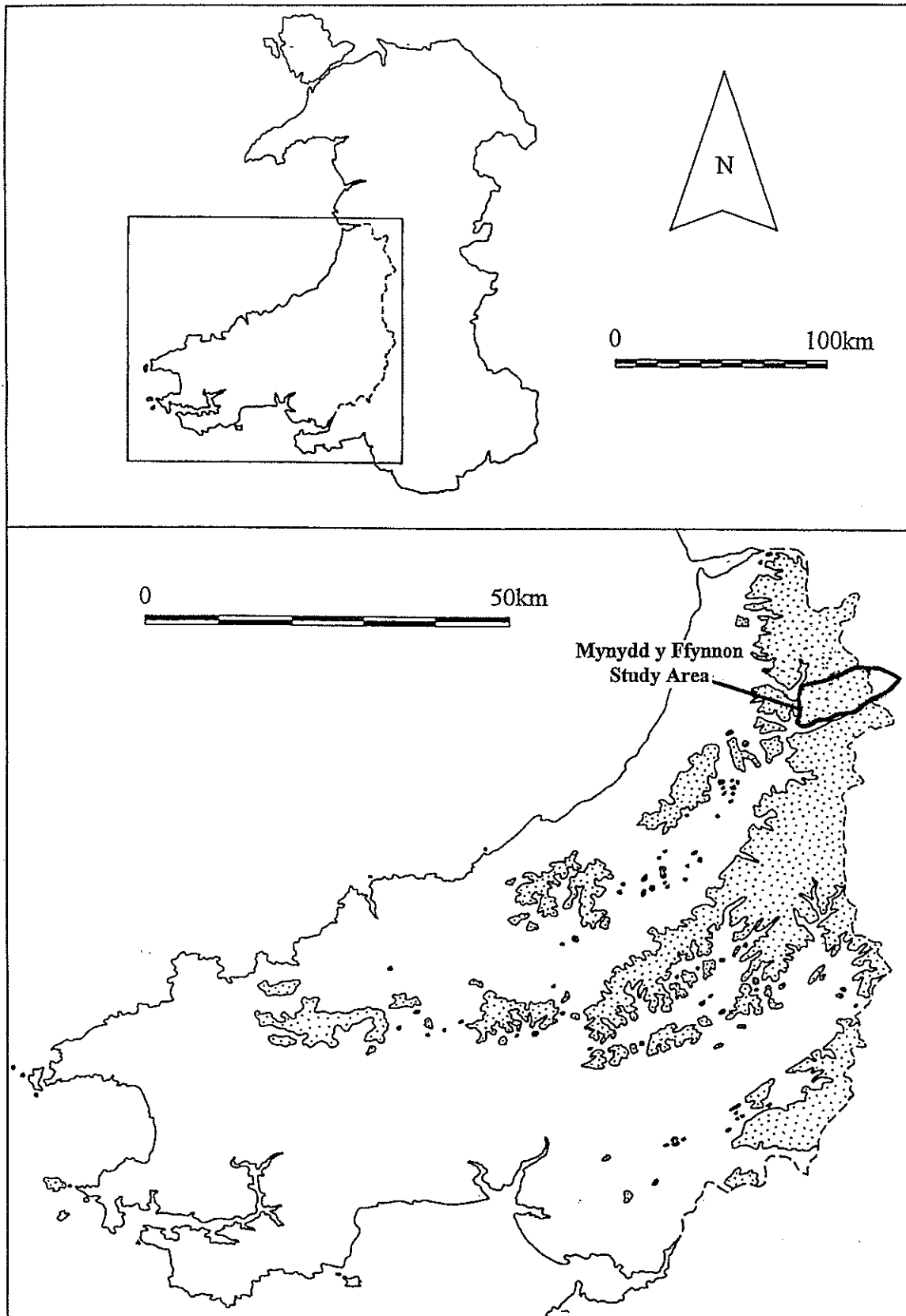


Fig.1; Location of the Mynydd y Ffynnon Study Area

TABLE 1: PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SITES ON ADAS LAND

PRN	NGR	NAME	DESC.	PERIOD
8619	SN79847708	Penygarn: Carn Nantillys	Cairn	Bronze Age
9355	SN79317569	Llethr Brith I	Cottage	Post Mediaeval
9356	SN79247573	Blaen Dyffryn	Cottage	Post Mediaeval
9357	SN79307555	Llethr Brith II	Cottage	Post Mediaeval
9358	SN79317548	Abernant Cwta Uchaf	Cottage	Post Mediaeval
19755	SN77607469	Pwllpeiran	Aqueduct	Post Mediaeval
25914	SN75107535	Brignant Mine	Metal Mine	Post Mediaeval
33182	SN77297490	Pwllpeiran	Dwellin?	Post Mediaeval
33202	SN750754	Brignant Uchaf	Farmstead	Post Mediaeval

TABLE 2: NEWLY RECORDED SITES ON ADAS LAND

PRN	NGR	NAME	DESC.	PERIOD
35280	SN75257554	Brignant Mine	Shaft	Post Mediaeval
35281	SN75497556	Brignant Uchaf	Platform	Med?; Post Med?
35282	SN75487556	Brignant Uchaf	Platform	Med?; Post Med?
35283	SN75587566	Brignant Uchaf	Long Hut?	Med?; Post Med?
35284	SN75617559	Rhos y Gell	Long Hut?	Med?; Post Med?
35285	SN75527545	Rhos y Gell	Long hut; Platform	Med?; Post Med?
35286	SN75557546	Rhos y Gell	Mining Feature	Post Mediaeval
35287	SN75587546	Rhos y Gell	Platform	Med?; Post Med
35288	SN75507542	Rhos y Gell	Platform	Post Mediaeval?
35289	SN75677529	Rhos y Gell	Long Hut?	Med?; Post Med
35290	SN75737551	Rhos y Gell	Quarry	Post Mediaeval?
35291	SN76607474	Bwlch yr Oerfa	Long Hut	Med?; Post Med?
35292	SN77037483	Allt Gron	Long Hut?	Post Mediaeval
35293	SN76817473	Allt Gron	Stone	Unknown
35916	SN78437514	Chatham	Ring Cairn?	Bronze Age?
35917	SN78447510	Chatham	Boundary Bank?	Post Mediaeval?
35918	SN78347508	Chatham	Clearance Cairn	Post Mediaeval
35919	SN79547660	Banc Myheryn	Unknown	Post Mediaeval?
35920	SN79297644	Banc Myheryn	Enclosure? Long Hut?	Med?; Post Med?
35921	SN79577672	Banc Myheryn	Long Hut?; Shelter?	Med?; Post Med?
35922	SN79457587	Llethr Brith	Shooting hides	Post Mediaeval
35923	SN79507565	Llethr Brith	Shooting hides	Post Mediaeval
36241	SN79237591	Nant Perfedd	Cottage	Post Mediaeval
36242	SN79207547	Abernant Cwta	Cottage	Post Mediaeval
36243	SN76387502	Bwlchyroerfa	Enclosure	Med?; Post Med?
37045	SN75477530	Brignant Uchaf	Dwelling?	Post Mediaeval
37046	SN77577444	Pwllpeiran	Reservoir	Post Mediaeval
37047	SN77577444	Bryn Bach	Enclosure	Med?; Post Med?
37048	SN77567444	Bryn Bach	Platform	Med?; Post Med?

TABLE 3: PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SITES ON FE LAND

PRN	NGR	NAME	DESC.	PERIOD	COMP. No.
5492	SN77497173	Bwlchgwallter Grotto	Grotto	Post Mediaeval	2021
25925	SN75957191	Bryn	Shaft	Post Mediaeval	2018
25927	SN75987182	Bryn	Level	Post Mediaeval	2018

TABLE 4: NEWLY RECORDED SITES ON FE LAND

PRN	NGR	NAME	DESC.	PERIOD	COMP. No.
35924	SN794804	Nantycreiau Trials	Trial workings	Post Mediaeval	3002
35925	SN8377	Diliw Field Boundaries	Boundary banks	Med?;Post Med?	4015;4016
35926	SN77917780	Dol Rhuddnant	Building	Post Mediaeval	3021
35927	SN79307796	Rhuddnant Platform	Platform	Med?;Post Med?	3033
35929	SN79918120	Llynnoedd Ieuan	Dam	Post Mediaeval	3057
35930	SN79988109	Llyn Newydd	Dam	Post Mediaeval	3057
35931	SN79918120; SN78207978	Llynnoedd Ieuan	Leat	Post Mediaeval	3002
35932	SN79918120; SN79448092	Llynnoedd Ieuan	Leat	Post Mediaeval	3001;3002; 3057
35933	SN79988109; SN79288032	Llyn Newydd	Leat	Post Mediaeval	3001;3002; 3057
35934	SN77067211	Nant Bwlchgwallter	Sheep wash?; Dam?	Post Mediaeval	2019
35935	SN77217198	Nant Bwlchgwallter	Sheep wash	Post Mediaeval	2021
35936	SN77337188	Nant Bwlchgwallter	Long hut?; Fold	Post Mediaeval	2021
35937	SN77757227	Cwm Nant Gau	Long Hut	Post Mediaeval?	2021
35938	SN77987175	Cwm Nant Gau	Long Hut?; Shelter?	Post Mediaeval	
35939	SN77997173	Cwm Nant Gau	Sunken Shelter?; Shelter?	Post Mediaeval	2021
35942	SN78467108	Blaen Cwm Nant Gau	Long hut?; Shelter?	Post Mediaeval	2018
35943	SN75957191	Bryn	Mining feature	Post Mediaeval	2018
35944	SN75767209	Bryn	Leat	Post Mediaeval	2018
37049	SN7880;7980; 7982;8082	Llynnoedd Ieuan	Leat System	Post Mediaeval	3001;3002; 3057
Sites in Powys.					
13236	SN88148007	Hendy Barn	Barn? Dwelling?	Post Mediaeval	4046
13237	SN85648010	Foel Ddu	Long Hut	Med?;Post Med?	4010

2. GAZETTEER OF SITES

2.1 SITES ON ADAS LAND (All in Ceredigion)

PRN	NGR	NAME	DESC.	PERIOD
9355	SN79317569	LLETHR BRITH I	Cottage	Post Mediaeval

Cottage, probably late 18th or early 19th century in origin. Not apparently shown on the 2":1mile OS map surveyed in 1833-34. Ruinous, but walls relatively intact.

9356	SN79247573	BLAEN DYFFRYN	Cottage	Post Mediaeval
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Ruinous cottage, probably late 18th or early 19th century in origin. Not apparently shown on the 2":1mile OS map surveyed in 1833-34. Ruinous, but walls relatively intact.

9357	SN79307555	LLETHR BRITH II	Cottage	Post Mediaeval
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Ruinous cottage, but walls relatively intact. Probably late 18th or early 19th century in origin. Not apparently shown on the 2":1mile OS map surveyed in 1833-34.

9358	SN79317548	ABERNANT CWTA UCHAF	Cottage	Post Mediaeval
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Ruinous cottage, probably late 18th or early 19th century in origin. Not apparently shown on the 2":1mile OS map surveyed in 1833-34. From the parish tithe map of 1848, it seems that there were two dwellings here (parcels 147 & 155-56). Ruinous, but walls relatively intact.

19755	SN77607469	PWLLPEIRAN	Aqueduct	Post Mediaeval
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Aqueduct marked on 19th century OS maps. No longer survives.

25914	SN75107535	BRIGNANT UCHAF	Metal Mine	Post Mediaeval
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Site recorded as an old mine on the 2nd edition 1:10560 OS map of 1906 on which a single amorphous spoil tip is shown. Spoil tips alone now mark the site and there is at present no trace of a level or shaft associated with these tips.

33182	SN77297490	PWLLPEIRAN	Dwelling?	Post Mediaeval
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The remains of a building of unknown purpose was noted here by the CPAT during the initial Mynydd y Ffynnon AP search. The area has been built over in recent years and an agricultural building now stand in the same location.

33202	SN750754	BRIGNANT UCHAF	Farmstead	Post Mediaeval
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Brignant Uchaf is an abandoned farmstead, including a house and outbuildings. It remains roofed and is used as an animal shelter.

35280	SN75257554	BRIGNANT MINE	Shaft	Post Mediaeval
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Small, probably unsuccessful prospecting shaft. Presumably associated with the nearby Brignant Mine (PRN25914). Small spoil tip downslope, but no mineral content seen. Site composed of partly water filled shaft and nearby spoil tips.

35281	SN75497556	BRIGNANT UCHAF	Platform	Med?; Post Med?
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Easternmost of a pair of platforms situated alongside the trackway between the main road at the Arch and Brignant Uchaf farmstead (see PRN35282 also). Although now faint, the characteristics of the platform are unmistakable. There is no evidence of any structure on the platform. The trackway has partially damaged the south-eastern corner of the platform, but it is otherwise intact.

35282	SN75487556	BRIGNANT UCHAF	Platform	Med?; Post Med?
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Westernmost of a pair of platforms situated alongside the trackway between the main road at the Arch and Brignant Uchaf farmstead (see PRN35281 also). Smaller than the adjacent platform. No trace of any structure visible. Intact.

35283	SN75587566	BRIGNANT UCHAF	Long Hut?	Med?; Post Med?
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Rectilinear earthwork structure, defined by wall bases standing up to 1m high. The northern wall base appears to extend several metres further than the southern and is then curved around to create the NW end wall, with an entrance left between the terminal of the southern wall base and the NW wall. This distinctive shape is shared by two similar structures in the locality (PRNs 35284; 35289). The site has been inadvertently damaged by vehicle tracks and some silage fodder has also been dumped inside the structure.

35284	SN75617559	RHOS Y GELL	Long Hut? Mining Feature?	Med?; Post Med?
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A sub-rectangular depression measuring 9 x 5m, with traces of an earthwork structure comparable in form to PRN35283. Possibly an eroded long hut, but may be a minor trial excavation associated with mining in the area. Faint earthwork site.

35285	SN75527545	RHOS Y GELL	Long hut; Platform	Med?; Post Med?
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Platform measuring overall 20m long x 10m wide, on a N-S axis. Sheltered by a low rock outcrop on western side. The fan at the northern, negative end of the platform shows possible traces of a drainage hood in the form of a very denuded earth bank around its upper side. Definite traces of a rectilinear structure also survive on the platform itself in the form of earth and stone wall bases. This long hut measures c.13 x 5.5m. It is also possible that faint traces of an associated enclosure can be seen to the eastern side of the platform.

35286	SN75557546	RHOS Y GELL	Mining Feature	Post Mediaeval
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A linear trial excavation, c.20 x 6m and between 1 - 2m deep. Probably associated with a search for mineral ores in association with the nearby Brignant Mine.

35287	SN75587546	RHOS Y GELL	Platform	Med?; Post Med
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C.25m E. of PRN35285, and possibly associated with it, is a small scoop or platform cut into a gentle slope, measuring 6 x 5m. Intact, but a post of a modern boundary fence has been driven into the middle of the levelled area.

35288	SN75507542	RHOS Y GELL	Platform	Post Mediaeval?
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Grassy, L-shaped platform at edge of field, maximum length 14m x maximum width 14m. Appears to be man-made but may be a relatively recent feature.

35289	SN75677529	RHOS Y GELL	Long Hut?	Med?; Post Med
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Earthwork structure similar in form to PRN35283. NW - SE axis. Measures 9 x 4.5m overall.

35290	SN75737551	RHOS Y GELL	Quarry	Post Mediaeval?
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Minor excavation in slate outcrop which may be a trial working associated with a slate quarrying activity at Cynau Mawr, south of Brignant Mine, intended to prove the quality of slate at this point.

35291	SN76607474	BWLCH YR OERFA	Long Hut	Med?; Post Med?
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Long hut, measuring 17 x 7.25m overall, on a ENE-WSW axis. Earth and stone wall bases survive, up to 2m wide in places and as much as 1m high. Displays three compartments, with a possible cross-passage between the central cell and that at the ENE end of the structure. Stands on a small natural terrace and alongside a minor stream. Faint traces of a possible triangular enclosure occupying the rest of the terrace, south of the long hut, were noted.

35292	SN77037483	ALLT GRON	Long Hut?	Post Mediaeval
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An apparent long hut, measuring c.8 x 5m overall. Appended to an old field boundary bank on its western side. There is a possibility that the long hut is of recent origin. Very eroded with low earth wall bases. A drainage trench appears to have been cut parallel to the boundary at some time (shown on Forest Enterprise Stock Map 410YST06)

35293	SN76817473	ALLT GRON	Stone	Unknown
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Small standing stone, measures 1.1m long on a E-W axis, by 0.3m thick and stands 0.7m high. Origin unknown.

37046	SN77577444	PWLLPEIRAN	Reservoir	Post Mediaeval
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A small water tank or reservoir in woods east of Pwllpeiran. Largely intact, though silted up and disused, no longer holding water. Rectilinear in shape, the tank appears to have a stone faced earth dam and measures c.33 x 16m. The dam stands over 1m high at present. Water was fed into this reservoir by a riveted steel or iron pipe, parts of which survive; tapping into Nant Peiran just below a ford immediately east of the farm complex at Pwllpeiran. An outlet pipe was also traced, apparently taking water downslope to the SW, to the direction of Nant Peiran.

37047	SN77757488	BRYN BACH	Enclosure	Med?; Post Med?
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Faint outline of a denuded, rectilinear, earthwork enclosure measuring c.13 x 13m on a NE-SW axis. Banks have been long ploughed over and survive at 0.3m high x 3m wide. A shallow gully is seen outside at NE end. Probably associated with the platform PRN35296.

37048	SN77757490	BRYN BACH	Platform	Med?; Post Med?
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Faint platform of undetermined size, being a minimum of 10m long, or a maximum of 20m, x c.7m wide. On NW - SE axis, with the NW (negative) end best preserved. Sheltered by Bryn Bach hill. Probably associated with the enclosure PRN35295.

35916	SN78437514	CHATHAM	Ring Cairn?	Bronze Age?
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Possible bronze age ring-cairn, comprising a ring of stones protruding no more than 0.5m through land surface, sub-circular in form, measuring 7m ENE-WSW x 6m WNW-ESE. May be a land clearance feature or associated with the reduction of the nearby boundary bank PRN35917.

35917	SN78447510	CHATHAM	Boundary Bank?	Post Mediaeval?
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A 15m long single row of as many as 12 aligned stones on a WNW-ESE axis, which disappear into a boggy area at the edge of the field. They are presumed to be the surface remains of a major but now ploughed out boundary bank which is visible in this area on aerial photographs. The bank originated from the direction of the forest compartments around Gelmast (to the NW) and continued eastwards through this field, turning south towards Cwmystwyth. It may be associated with the enclosures made by Thomas Johnes of Hafod in the late 18th/early 19th centuries when creating his experimental farm at Gelmast and surrounding woodland plantations.

However, there is some doubt as to whether this alignment actually follows the line of the boundary described above, which may actually have passed a short distance to the south. This feature may represent an earlier boundary of unknown purpose.

35918	SN78347508	CHATHAM	Clearance Cairn	Post Mediaeval
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A small clearance cairn, 4m in diameter.

35919	SN79547660	BANC MYHERYN	Unknown	Post Mediaeval?
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Line of stone slabs, 3m long along a N-S axis, clearly deliberately placed but purpose unknown. Recent road building has disturbed the land surface to the north and may have removed associated features, however, it is also possible that the stones were placed here at the time of the construction of the road. They seem well set, however, and may represent the remains of a stone structure, such as a hut, peat-stacking platform or shooting butt (in terms of size, this feature does compare with the shooting butts further to the south - PRNs 35922-23).

35920	SN79297644	BANC MYHERYN	Enclosure? Long Hut?	Med?; Post Med?
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The drystone wall bases of a small enclosure or long hut protruding through the grass. The precise character of the site is unclear from surface evidence (it is not possible to ascertain whether or not the structure is rectilinear or sub-circular in plan), but it is certainly a man-made structure, c.8 x 7m in overall size.

35921	SN79577672	BANC MYHERYN	Long Hut? Shelter?	Med?; Post Med?
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Small earth and stone structure, maximum of 5 x 3m, scooped into slope on rise at edge of boggy depression. Possibly the site of an old shelter.

35922	SN79457587	LLETHR BRITH	Shooting hides	Post Mediaeval
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A group of four shooting hides arranged along the break of slope at the top of the steep slope of Llethr Brith, overlooking the head of the Nant Gorlan valley below. Each stands at the western end of a levelled area and survives in the form of ruinous, low drystone walls averaging up to 1.5m high x 3 - 4m long.

35923	SN79507565	LLETHR BRITH	Shooting hides	Post Mediaeval
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Another group of shooting hides comparable with PRN35922. This group has six hides facing south-west over the confluence of the Nant Gorlan valley with its tributary, Nant Cwta. Amongst the group is a 14m long drystone wall base of unknown association and purpose.

36241	SN79237591	NANT PERFEDD	Cottage	Post Mediaeval
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Ruinous cottage, probably 19th century in origin. Not shown on the 2":1mile OS map surveyed in 1833-34. Ruinous, but walls relatively intact.

36242	SN79207547	ABERNANT CWTA	Cottage	Post Mediaeval
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Ruinous cottage, probably late 18th or early 19th century in origin. Named on the 2":1mile OS map surveyed in 1833-34. Ruinous, but walls relatively intact.

36243	SN76387502	BWLCHYROERFA	Enclosure	Med?; Post Med?
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This enclosure is visible some 30m NW of the scheduled area at Bwlchyroerfa. The enclosure is rectilinear, measuring 33m long along its NNW-SSE axis, and varies in width from 18m wide at its N end to 15m wide at its S end. It is possible that the N end was left open (or the bank has been ploughed out). Ploughing has levelled the enclosure boundary, which is now 0.3m high x up to 3.5m wide. Between the enclosure and the scheduled area is a small cut or unfinished platform 6m x 3.5m with a mound of earth at its downslope (SW) end. A second unrecorded feature lies 50m east of the scheduled area at Bwlchyroerfa, in the form of a small platform, 6m E-W x 3m, presumably an ancillary feature to the farmstead.

2.2 SITES ON FE LAND

Sites in Ceredigion

5492	SN77497173	BWLCHGWALLTER	Grotto	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No. 2021

Not found by survey and believed to have been incorrectly located by an earlier survey. The original record probably refers to Level Lampwll grotto, 1km due north.

25925	SN75957191	BRYN	Shaft	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No. 2018

Shaft marked on 2nd edition OS 6" map of 1906. Not visible in the field, but a spoil heap on the east bank of Nant Ffin is probably derived from this working. Presumably infilled.

25927	SN75987182	BRYN	Level	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No. 2018

Disused mine level. Remains open but is very wet, being flooded to half its height and issuing water into the Nant Ffin stream.

35924	SN794804	NANTYCREIAU TRIALS	Trial workings	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.3002

DESCRIPTION: A series of excavated pits NE of the head of the Nantycreiau valley. Some 7 pits were identified, each 1m or more deep x 2 or 3m wide and up to 10m long. Probably associated with the search for mineral deposits by the Nantycreiau Mine. Date not known. Intact and easily visible in upland moorland environment.

35925	SN8377	DILIW FIELD BOUNDARIES	Boundary banks	Med?;Post Med?
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Compartment No.4015;4016

DESCRIPTION: Along the southern side of the Diliw Fechan, a number of earthwork field boundaries survive in dense plantations, presumably associated with settlements around the confluence of the Diliw Fechan and Afon Diliw. Extent of boundaries not determined due to dense plantation.

35926	SN77917780	DOL RHUDDNANT	Building	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.3021

DESCRIPTION: Ruinous remains of a small rectilinear stone building, possibly associated with the nearby Mynach Vale mine complex. Traces of drystone walling evident. Disturbed by planting and partly obscured by vegetation and fallen tree debris. Very ruinous.

35927	SN79307796	RHUDDNANT PLATFORM	Platform	Med?;Post Med?
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Compartment No.3033

DESCRIPTION: Bare platform, roughly 5m x 5m, cut into fairly steep slope overlooking Afon Rhuddnant. No associated structures noted in immediate vicinity.

35929	SN79918120	LLYNNOEDD IEUAN	Dam	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.3057

DESCRIPTION: Undated earthwork dam associated with supplying water to mines in the Nantycreiau or Castell mines.

35930	SN79988109	LLYN NEWYDD	Dam	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.3057

DESCRIPTION: Stone revetted dam between two natural rock outcrops. A rock cut spillway exists a short distance to the south. Associated with supplying water to mines in the Nantycreiau or Castell mines. The reservoir is not shown on 1834 2":1mile OS map.

35931	SN79918120; SN78207978	LLYNNOEDD IEUAN	Leat	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No. 3002

DESCRIPTION: Undated leat which supplied the Nantycreiau and Castell mines. Originates from the westernmost of the Llynnoedd Ieuan reservoirs, outside FE boundary. Crosses FE land towards Nantycreiau, uniting with leat PRN35932; a single leat then proceeding westwards past Nantycreiau. Substantially intact. Runs across open moorland and also through forestry towards its south-western end.

35932	SN79918120; SN79448092	LLYNNOEDD IEUAN	Leat	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.3001;3002;3057

DESCRIPTION: Undated leat associated with supplying water to the Nantycreiau or Castell mines. Flows from the central of the three reservoirs at Llynnoedd Ieuan. See PRN35931. Substantially intact. Runs across open moorland and also through forestry towards its south-western end.

35933	SN79988109; SN79288032	LLYN NEWYDD	Leat	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.3001;3002;3057

DESCRIPTION: Undated leat, flows from Llyn Newydd, the easternmost and latest dating of the three reservoirs at Llynnoedd Ieuan. This leat is probably mid-19th century and was associated solely with supplying water to Nantycreiau mine. Substantially intact.

35934	SN77067211	NANT BWLCHGWALLTER	Sheep wash?; Dam	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.2019

DESCRIPTION: Site of a probable sheep wash on Nant Bwlchgwaller shown on 19th century OS maps. Alternatively, there may have been a small reservoir or pond created here by damming the stream, associated with water management or landscaping by the Hafod estate. Area now afforested and no evidence of any feature found.

35935	SN77217198	NANT BWLCHGWALLTER	Sheep wash	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.2021

DESCRIPTION: Shown on the 1964 OS 1:10560 map. A probable sheep wash on the Nant Bwlchgwaller stream. Fragmentary traces of a stone structure were noted at this point in the field.

35936	SN77337188	NANT BWLCHGWALLTER	Long hut?; Fold	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.2021

DESCRIPTION: Site consists of a rectilinear drystone structure, measuring 9.9m x 5.4m. The walls display evidence of repair and rebuilding and stand up to 1.5m. Although likely to have been used as a sheepfold, the origins of the structure may have been as a dwelling. In recently felled area but relatively clear of brash.

35937	SN77757227	CWM NANT GAU	Long Hut	Post Mediaeval?
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Compartment No.2021

DESCRIPTION: On a spur in a meander of Nant Gau, now within the forest plantation. Remains of a single cell rectilinear long hut, measuring 8m x 5.2m. Traces of drystone walling visible. Largely obscured by vegetation and fallen trees but apparently in fairly good condition.

35939	SN77997173	CWM NANT GAU	Sunken Shelter?; Shelter?	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.2021

DESCRIPTION: Ruins of a narrow and elongated drystone structure on the west bank of the Nant Gau stream. Compares with 'sunken shelters' recorded in other districts and may represent a storage building associated with neighbouring settlements. Ruinous and partly obscured by brash from within the deforested area to the west.

35942	SN78467108	BLAEN CWM NANT GAU	Long hut? Shelter?	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.2018

DESCRIPTION: Remains of a rectilinear structure, with a drystone wall base 7m x 3m, generally less than 0.4m high. Within forest plantation, but relatively undisturbed.

35943	SN75957191	BRYN	Mining feature	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.2018

DESCRIPTION: Within the forest plantation, near the site of a recorded mine shaft (PRN25925) is a small, undated opencut mine working, c.30m x 8m x up to 2m deep. 100m to the NNE, at the end of a forest ride, is a smaller trial excavation pit. Substantially intact and unplanted.

35944	SN75767209	BRYN	Leat	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.2018

DESCRIPTION: At this point an old leat emerges from the forest. It can be seen to continue NNE towards an old mine shaft and level outside the FE boundary (PRN25992). It must have tapped into Nant Ffin in the vicinity of the mine workings described above (PRN25925). Little evidence survives within forestry.

35933	SN79988109; SN79288032	LLYNNOEDD IEUAN	Leat System	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.3001;3002;3057

DESCRIPTION: Post mediaeval leat system which carried water to the Nantycreiau and Castell Mines. See PRNs 35929-35933

SITES IN POWYS

13236	SN88148007	HENDY BARN	Barn? Dwelling?	Post Mediaeval
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Compartment No.4046

DESCRIPTION: Rectangular building depicted on the 1846 Llangurig parish tithe map. An adjacent field was named Cae Ysgubor, a name which suggests that the building was being used as a field barn. No surface evidence of this structure now survives, although the land where it stood is now open ground.

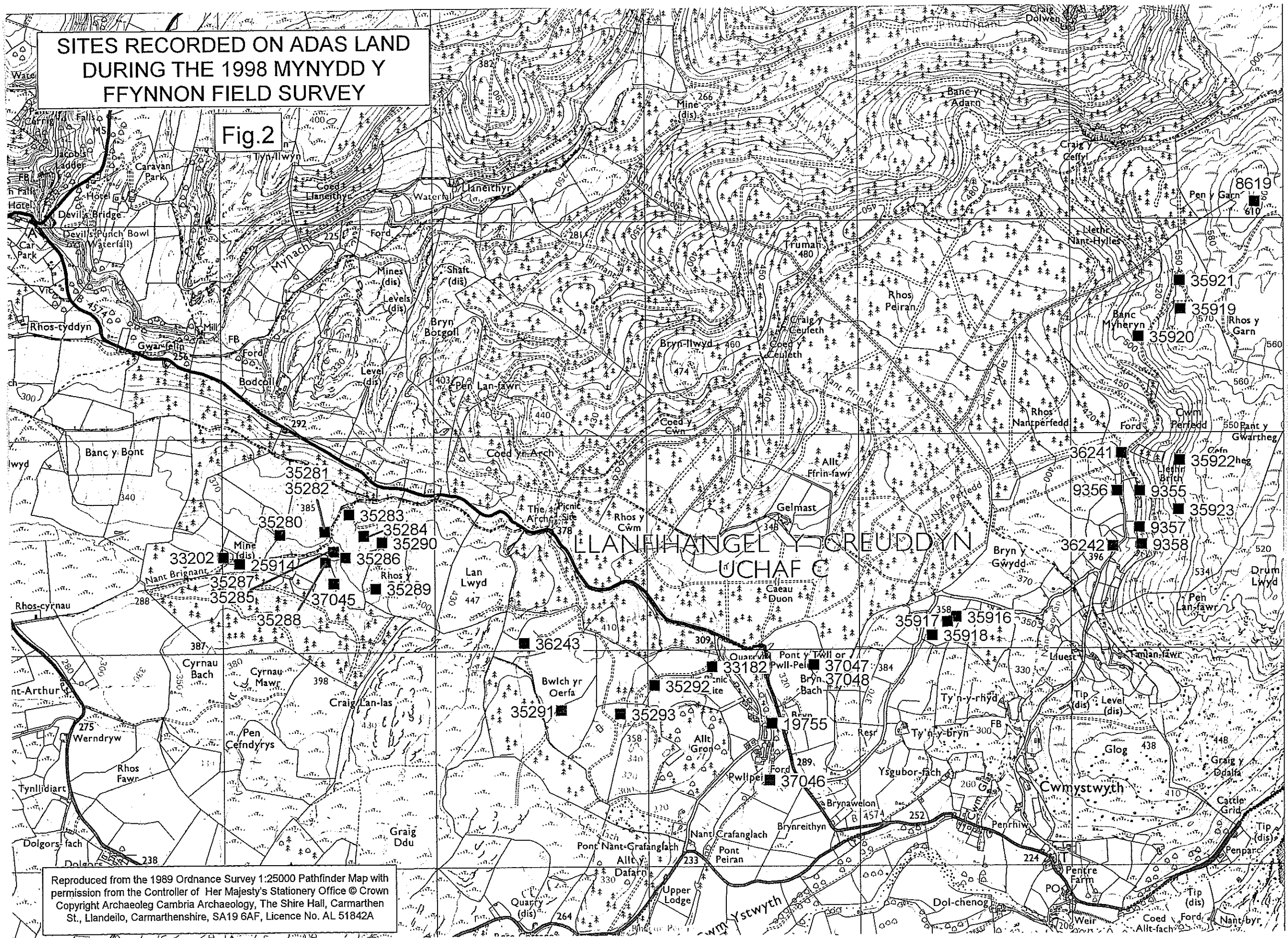
13237	SN85648010	FOEL DDU	Long Hut	Med?; Post Med?
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Compartment No.4010

DESCRIPTION: Well preserved remains of rectangular building measuring 12m x 7m. Defined by turf covered wall bases c.2m wide, up to a maximum of 0.75m high, containing some stone. No internal features noted on surface. Situated in open forest ride on dry natural terrace. Very well preserved and partially grassed over.

SITES RECORDED ON ADAS LAND DURING THE 1998 MYNYDD Y FFYNNON FIELD SURVEY

Fig.2



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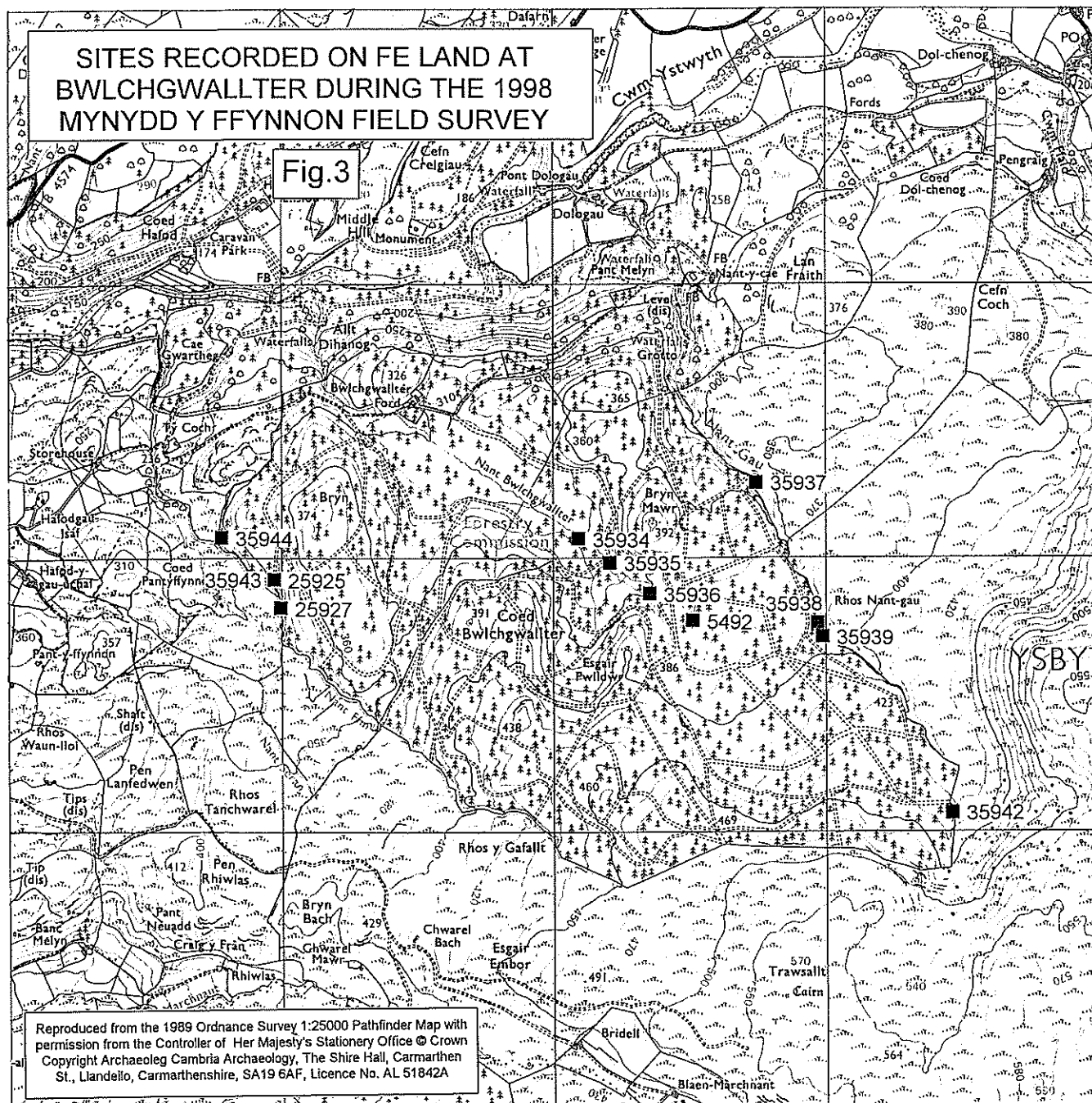
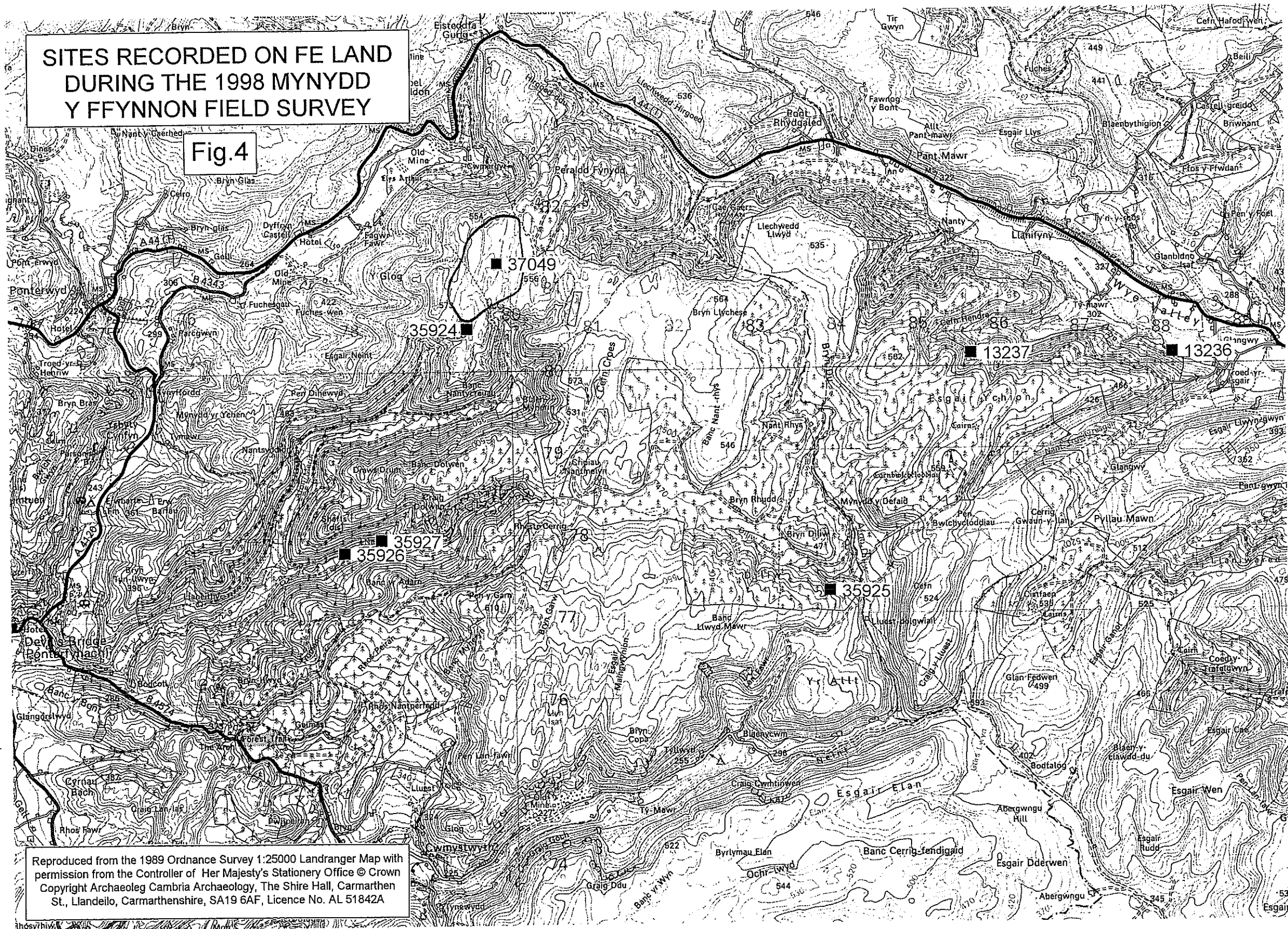
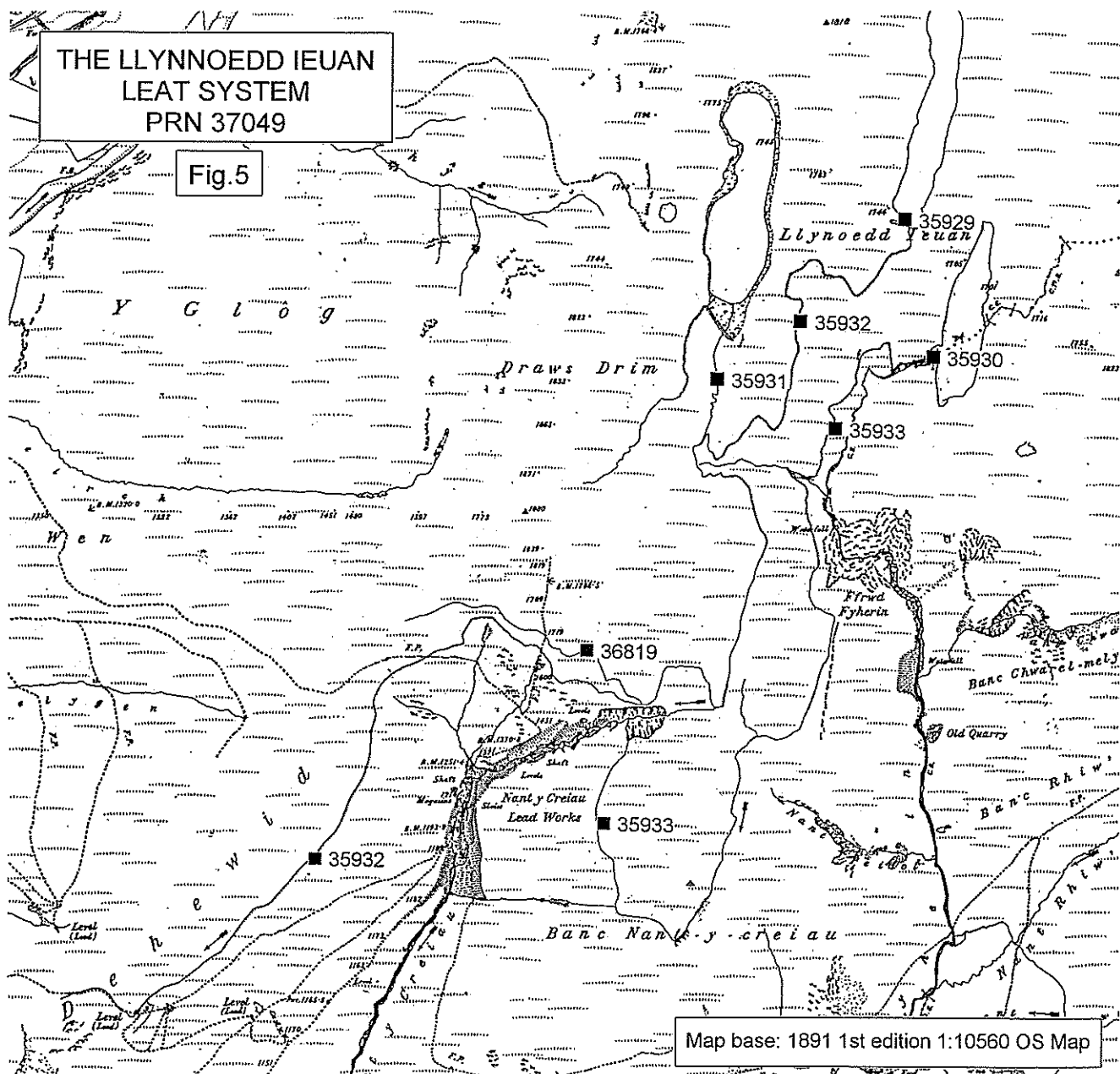


Fig.4



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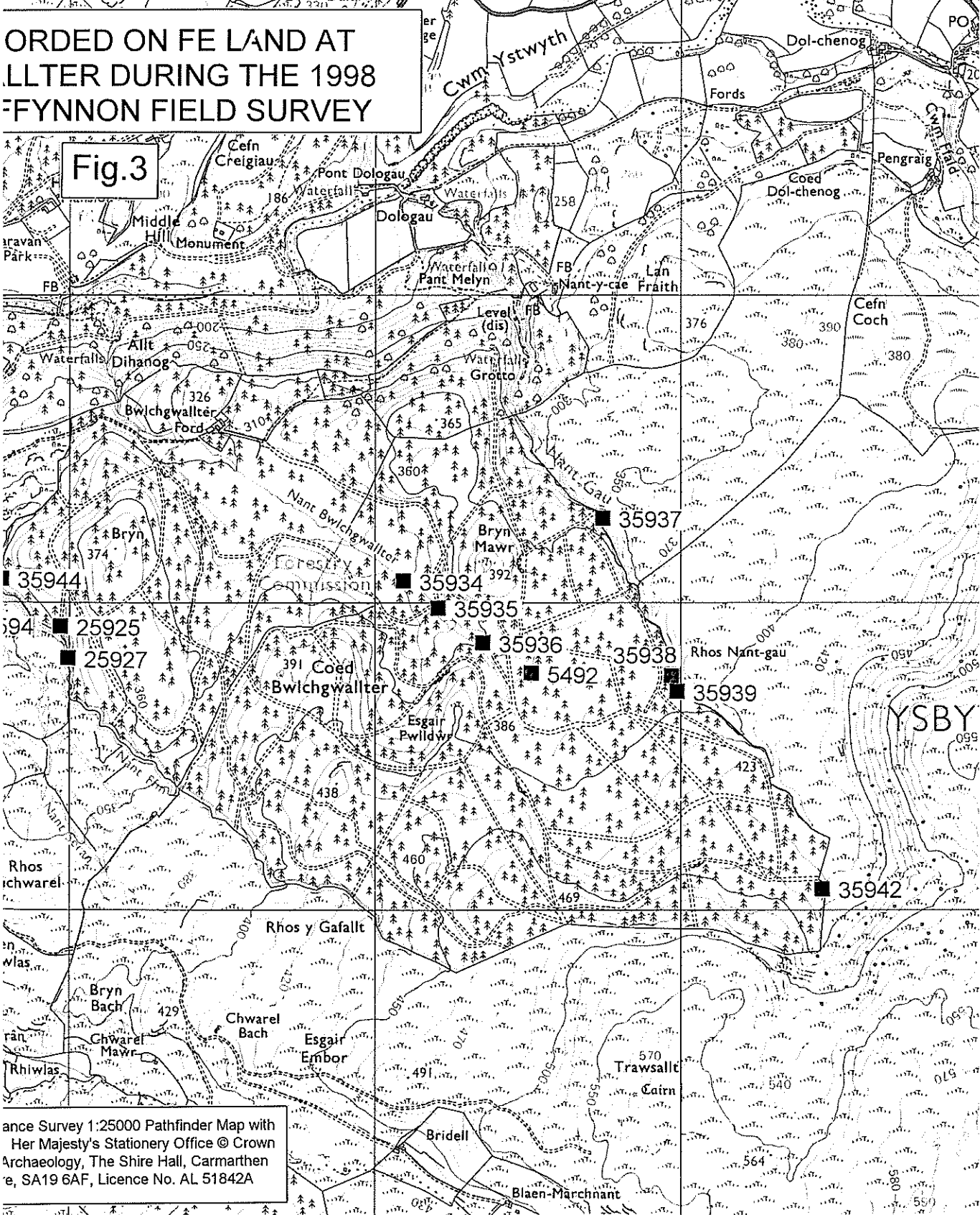
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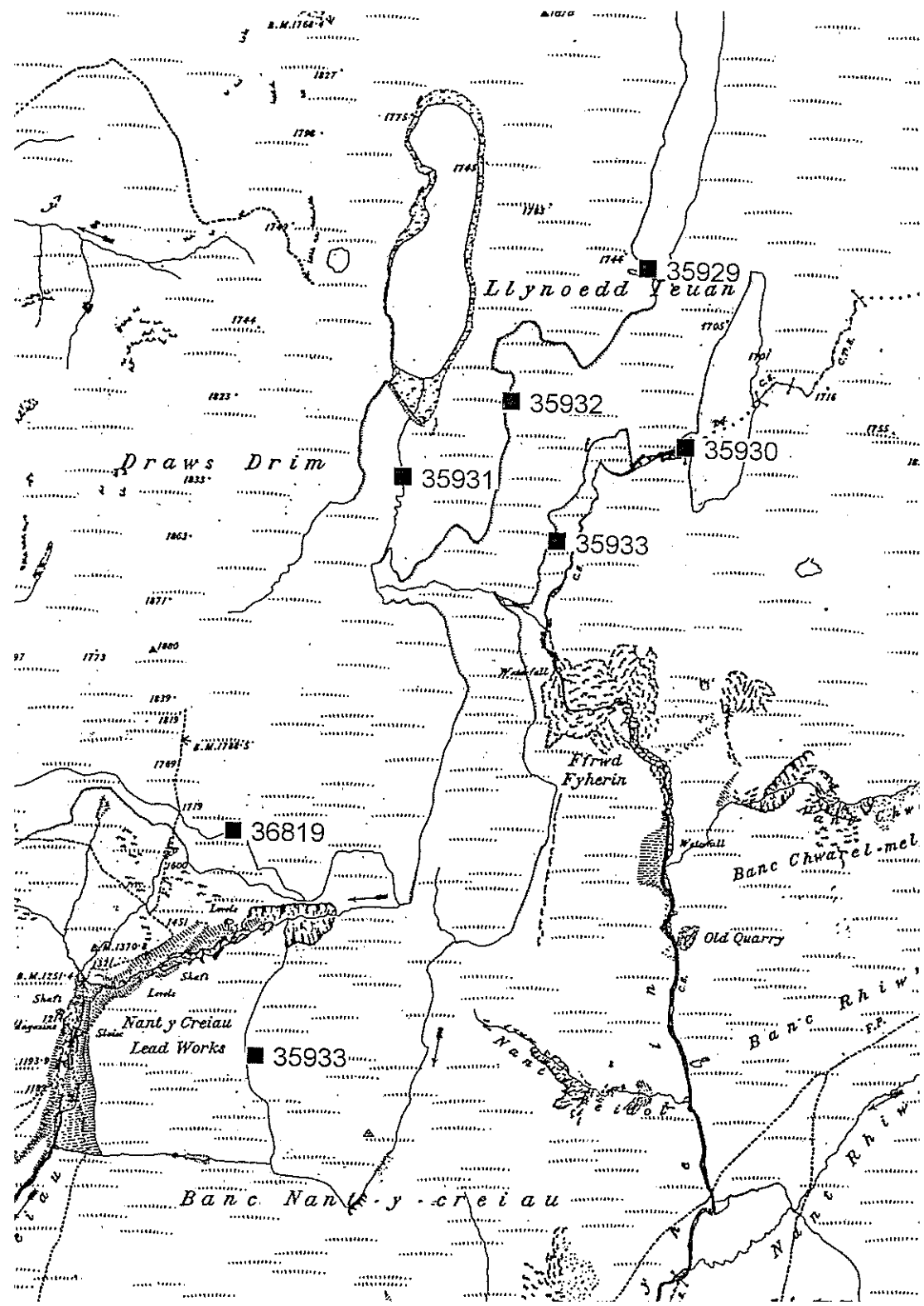
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RECORDED ON FIELD AND AT
ALTER DURING THE 1998
FYNNON FIELD SURVEY

Fig.3

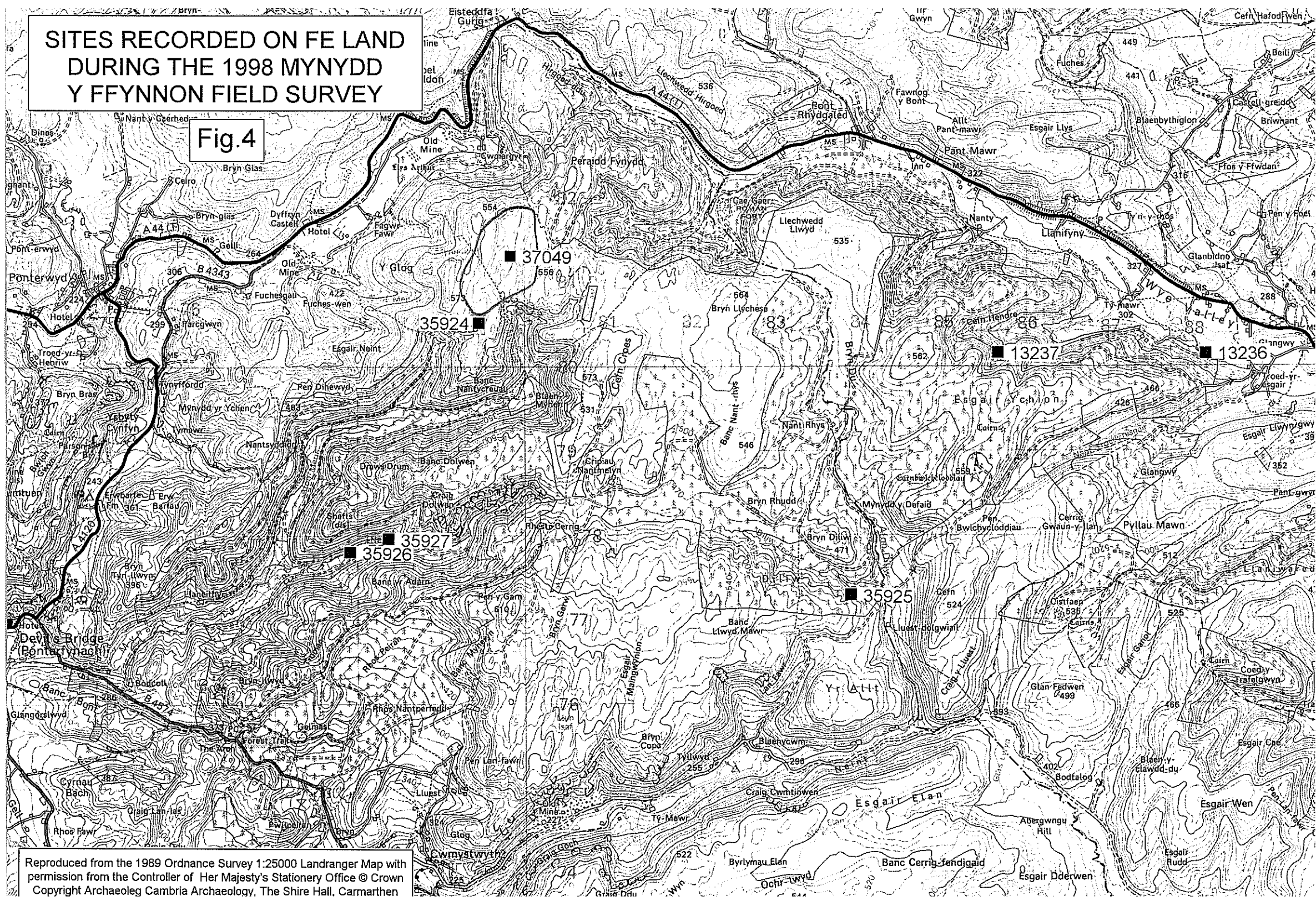


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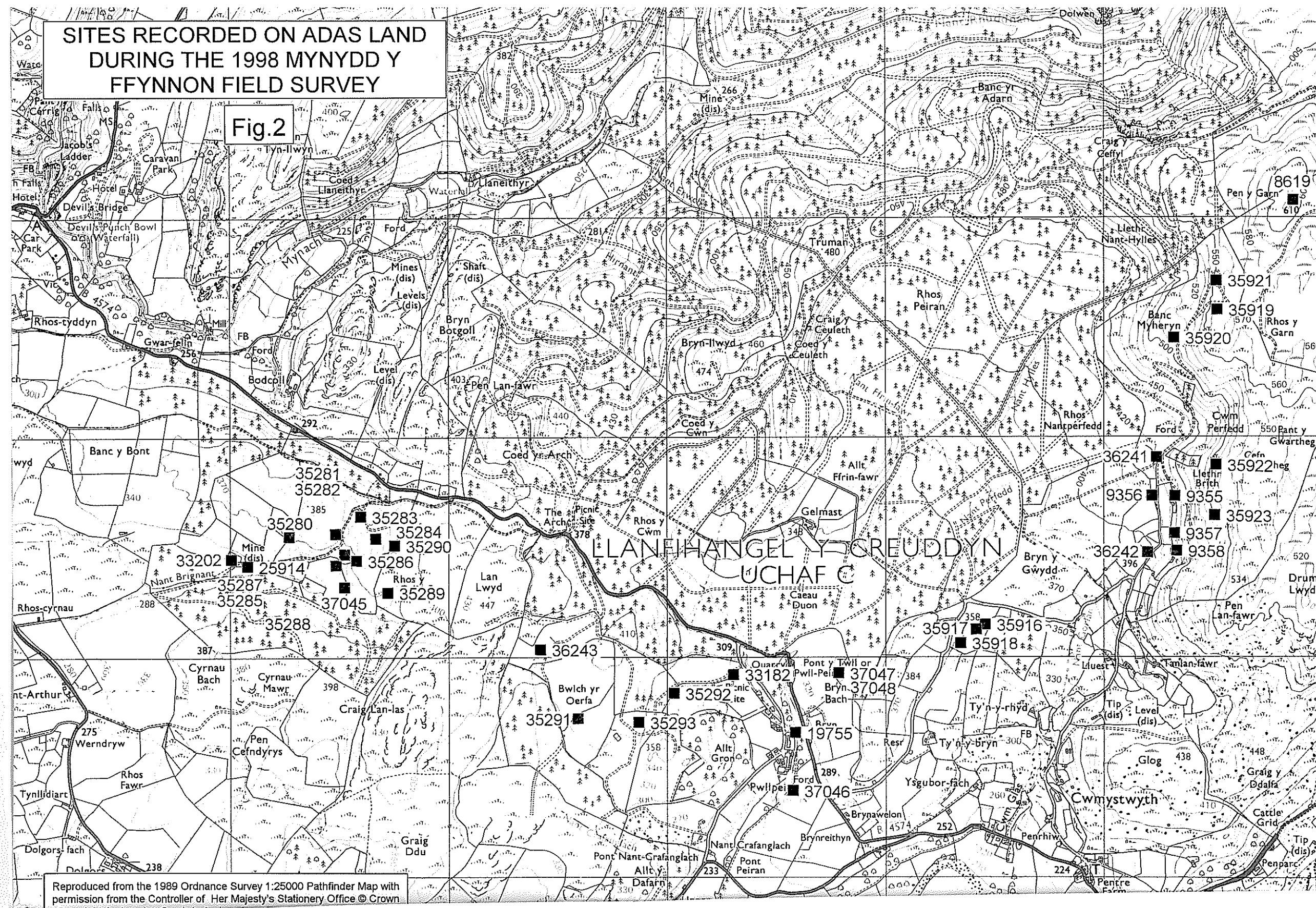
SITES RECORDED ON FE LAND DURING THE 1998 MYNYDD Y FFYNNON FIELD SURVEY

Fig.4



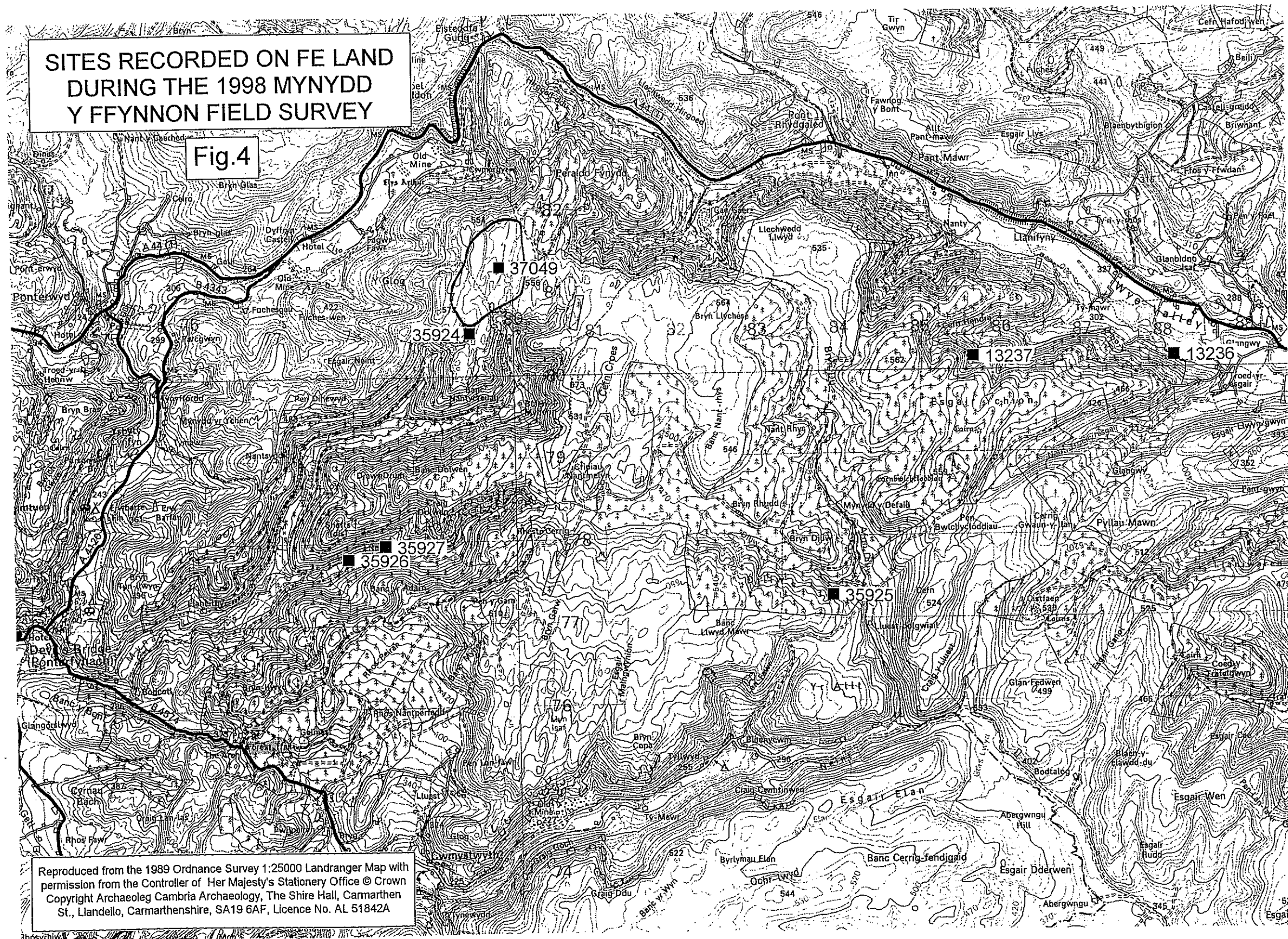
SITES RECORDED ON ADAS LAND DURING THE 1998 MYNYDD Y FFYNNON FIELD SURVEY

Fig.2



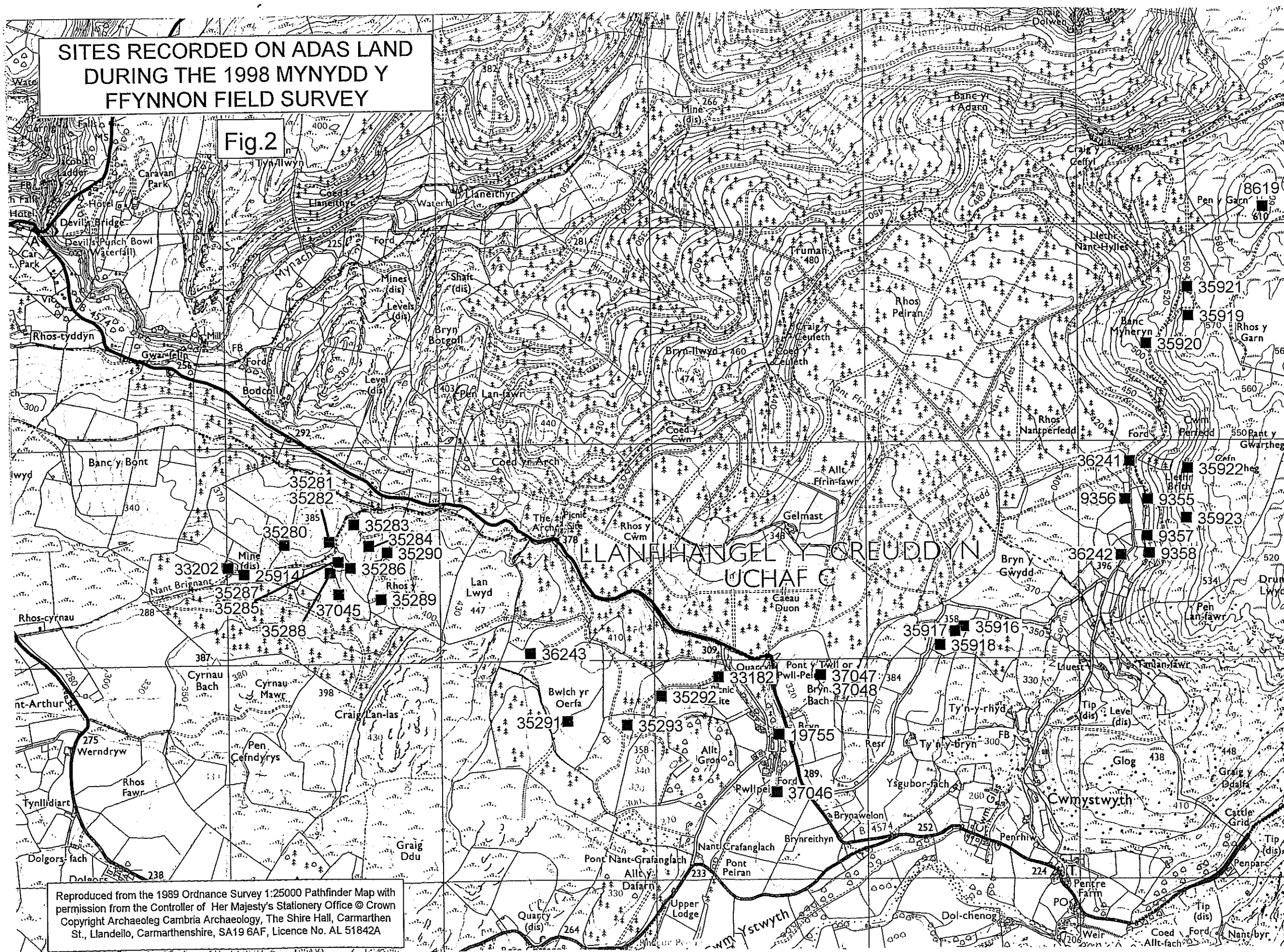
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Fig.4



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Fig.2



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