

PENLAN WOOD

HEATHLAND AND NATIVE WOODLAND RESTORATION PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

Project Record No. 41474

Report Prepared for:
PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY



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PROJECT RECORD NO. 41474

SEPTEMBER 2000

PENLAN WOOD

By

K Murphy BA MIFA

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Introduction

Penlan wood consists of a 70 hectare coniferous forestry plantation on the north side of the Gwaun valley, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN 0435). The plantation lies between 190m and 290m on slopes with a south-facing aspect (Fig. 1). Open moorland lies on higher ground to the north, and enclosed fields and farms on lower-lying land to the south. The forestry was established in 1971. The site lies within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and is owned by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority. The National Park now wishes to remove the coniferous plantation, and with this view in mind commissioned a draft environmental statement. A statement on the archaeological resource and the potential impact on the resource by the removal of the plantation was included in the draft environmental statement, but as no supporting archaeological study had been undertaken no sites of interest had been identified in the plantation apart from redundant field boundaries. This study provides extra archaeological information to supplement that already given in the draft environmental statement, plus data on the landscape history of the area.

Record numbers referred to in this text are the Primary Record Numbers (PRNs) assigned on the Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology.

Methodology

The objectives of this study are to:

- collate and assess the gathered information in order to aid the identification of areas of high archaeological potential

- provide a detailed assessment of areas of known archaeological sensitivity and archaeological potential based on the above research

- assess the potential state of preservation for any archaeological deposits that may exist on site and where possible model these deposits

- assess the possible level of ground disturbance associated with these proposed works

- identify the potential impact of proposed works on archaeologically sensitive areas

- identify mitigation options to ensure the protection of archaeologically sensitive areas

For the desk-based element of the study several sources of potential information were consulted:

the Regional Sites and Monuments Record, held by Cambria Archaeology

the National Monuments Record held by RCAHMW

aerial photographic evidence held by the NMR

historic maps held by the National Library of Wales and the county Record Office

A site visit was undertaken prior to the desk-top study by Louise Austin of Cambria Archaeology.

Desk-based study

The archaeological sites identified during the desk-based study are indicated on a modern 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5).

A search of the National Library of Wales's collections and the Pembrokeshire Record Office's collections failed to identify any large-scale manuscript maps of the late 18th- or early 19th-century.

The earliest large-scale map is the Ordnance Survey 2" to a mile surveyors' drawings, dating to 1810. The usefulness of this map is questionable; it is schematic and not all farms and other buildings then known to be in existence are shown. However, it does show that the area of Penlan Wood was then divided into fields. Large, well established farms such as Sychpant and Penlan are shown, but no dwellings in the area subsequently occupied by the plantation are recorded on the map.

The earliest useful maps for the purposes of this study are the tithe survey maps and apportionments of Llanychlwydog parish, 1844 (Fig. 2), and the neighbouring parish of Newport parish, 1845. The field pattern shown on the Llanychlwydog map is virtually identical to that which existed prior to afforestation, and indeed to that which still exists below the tree cover. A farmstead called Gochel Sythi is marked immediately outside afforested area on the Newport map (PRN 6463), and an unnamed cottage (PRN 41475) is shown on the Llanychlwydog map a few metres to the west within the afforested area. A very small enclosure shown on the Llanychlwydog map at the southern end of the study area may also be the site of a cottage (PRN 41476), but if so it had been abandoned by the tithe survey. The land-use on the tithe apportionments is recorded as a mixture of pasture and arable, with pasture the dominant element.

The Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map is the next large-scale survey. These maps were photographically reduced to 6" to a mile. The 6" version of 1888 is reproduced here as Figure 3. There was very little change in the field pattern between the tithe survey and

this Ordnance Survey map. However, the land-use depicted on the OS map across the study is exclusively moorland. The un-named cottage (41475) is marked by a small open rectangle. The enclosure that surrounded the possible cottage site (41476) is not shown. Gochel Sythi farm (6463) is shown abandoned.

In 1908, the second edition of the Ordnance Survey 6" map was published (Figure 4). This shows a virtual identical situation as the first edition, except that a hint of the enclosure around the possible cottage site (41476) is shown.

A useful source of information on land-use and archaeological site condition are aerial photographs taken immediately after World War 2. Two sorties were consulted, both flown in 1946. Land-use on these photographs is exclusively moorland. The stony boundary banks can be clearly made out, but there are no hedges on these banks and it would appear that stock was free to roam across the former fields of the study area from the open moor of Carn-Ingli Common to the north. Former arable cultivation is attested by cultivation ridges. These cultivation ridges are most pronounced in the small paddocks close to Gochel Sythi, including those now afforested. Here the ridges are narrow, approximately 0.5m wide, suggesting hand-cultivation. Less pronounced cultivation ridges are present across just about the whole of remainder of the study area. These are approximately 0.5m - 1.5m wide and run the whole length of fields, down-slope, which is generally north to south. The height of the ridges is not easy to estimate, but it is probably no more than 0.2m. The rectangular foundations of Gochel Sythi abandoned farmstead (6463) are clearly visible on the aerial photographs. There is no indication of the cottage (41475), and there is no trace of the other possible cottage (41476). A possible prehistoric site (41477) is recorded on the aerial photographs. This is a small, roughly circular, earthwork enclosure, approximately 10m in diameter, with the defining bank standing to perhaps 1m. It is most likely to be a hut circle, but could potentially be a Bronze Age ritual or funerary site.

According to the draft environmental statement, prior to 1971 the eastern section of the study area comprised small fields of unimproved pasture. The western and northern parts were open moorland. In 1971 and 1972, the area was ploughed and planted with stika spruce. The plantation has not been managed since the planting.

Summary of the historic landscape

It is clear that the field system present beneath forestry cover had been established by 1810. It seems likely that the settlements - Gochel Sythi, an un-named cottage and a possible cottage - recorded on the later tithe map had also been established by this date. The date and context of the establishment of the settlements is not known. However, the location of the dwellings on the fringes of open moorland is suggestive of late 18th-century or early 19th-century 'tai-unnos' or squatter settlements that characterise much of upland Wales. Founded in a time of rapidly rising population, tai-unnos were founded by land-hungry but land-less individuals on common land. Once established, land around the settlements was enclosed into paddocks and fields carved out of the common. The whimsical name Gochel Sythi - 'Beware of freezing' (Charles 1992, 164) - is perhaps

most likely to be a late coinage and supports a late 18th-century or early 19th-century date for its foundation. As well as fields carved out around newly founded settlements, in the 18th- and early 19th-century farmers of old established farms were pushing out the boundaries of their cultivated land and creating new fields out of moorland bordering their holdings. It is in this context and this date that the fields and settlements of the study area were probably formed.

As the Welsh rural population declined from a high point in c. 1850, those farms and settlements on the margins of cultivation - usually those that had the latest foundation date - were abandoned. This was the case in the study area - all dwellings present in the mid 1840s had been deserted by the mid 1880s. Following desertion the fields in the study area slowly reverted to moorland until planted with coniferous woodland in 1972.

Field visit

A field visit was undertaken by Louise Austin of Cambria Archaeology prior to the desk-top study. Historic landscape elements, such as boundary banks, were examined, but individual sites identified in the desk-top study were not examined. Owing to the very dense tree cover it was considered that a second field visit would not add to our knowledge of these individual sites for the purposes of formulating mitigation strategies.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites (Fig. 5)

PRN 6463. GOCHEL SYTHI FARMSTEAD - immediately outside afforested area
NGR SN 04873631

This farm/dwelling is first recorded on the Newport parish tithe survey of 1845. It was abandoned by the time of the publication of the OS 6" First Edition map of 1888. On 1946 aerial photographs it is marked by rectangular foundations, with foundations of a second square building close by. These buildings are located in a series of small paddocks. Evidence of cultivation ridges can be detected on aerial photographs within these paddocks. This site has not been examined in the field. In one of the paddocks to the west, dwelling 41475 is located.

PRN 41475 DWELLING

NGR SN 04843629

This dwelling is first recorded on the Llanychlwydog parish tithe survey of 1844. It was abandoned by the time of the publication of the OS 6" First Edition map of 1888. Later large-scale OS maps locate this site with a small rectangle. This site has not been examined in the field.

PRN 41476 POSSIBLE DWELLING

NGR SN04863560

This possible dwelling is first recorded on the Llanychlwydog parish tithe map of 1844 as a small rectangular paddock or field with a symbol. The paddock had gone by the time of the publication of the OS 6" First Edition map of 1888, but traces of the paddock appear on later large-scale OS maps. This site has not been examined in the field.

PRN 41477 POSSIBLE HUT CIRCLE

NGR SN 04543612

On aerial photographs this is a small, roughly circular, earthwork enclosure, approximately 10m in diameter, with the defining bank standing to perhaps 1m. It is most likely to be a hut circle, but could potentially be a Bronze Age ritual or funerary site. Photograph: housed with the NMR: 106G/UK/1472 4302-4301 (1946). This site has not been examined in the field.

Potential impacts on the archaeological resource and suggested mitigation strategies

The draft environmental statement compiled by the National Park Authority addresses the problem of the impact of the new access routes and harvesting methods on field boundaries (Section 14, in particular paragraphs AR2-AR6). This study strongly supports this mitigation strategy.

This study has identified three previously unrecorded archaeological sites (41475-77) lying within the afforested area. None of these sites has been examined in the field. It is likely that at all three sites buried archaeological deposits survive, even though there may be no visible presence. These three sites should therefore be treated as archaeologically sensitive. The use of heavy vehicles on or very close to these sites should therefore be discouraged, and preferably no felling should take place on the sites during periods of wet weather.

Site 41477 is potentially of national importance. It lies under dense forestry cover. It is recommended that a visit is made by a qualified archaeologist to examine the site during or after felling should upstanding remains be found.

Sources consulted

Aerial photographs housed with the NMR: 106G UK 1424 4302-04 (1946);
106G/UK/1472 4302-4301 (1946)

Charles, B G, 1992, *The Place-Names of Pembrokeshire*

Llanychlwydog parish tithe map and apportionment, 1844. Original in the National Library of Wales

Newport parish tithe map and apportionment, 1845. Original in the National Library of Wales

Ordnance Survey, 1810, 2" to 1 mile Surveyors' Drawings, Sheet 185

Ordnance Survey, 1888, 6" First Edition, Pembrokeshire X.NE

Ordnance Survey, 1908, 6" Second Edition, Pembrokeshire X.NE

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, 2000, *Penlan Heathland and Native Woodland Restoration Project: Environmental Statement: Deforestation Proposal*

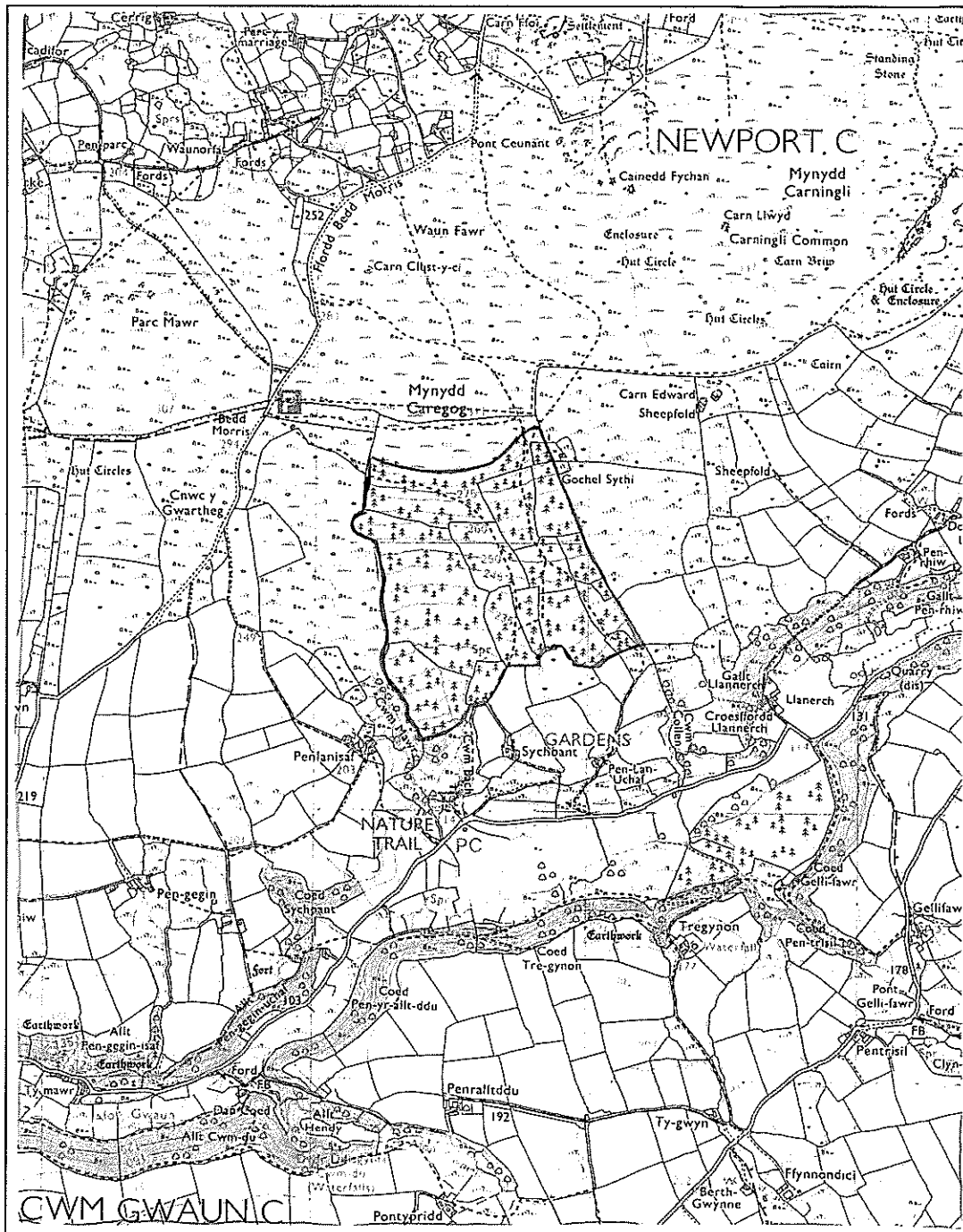


Figure 1. Location map of Penlan Wood. Scale 1:25,000

Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Outdoor Leisure map
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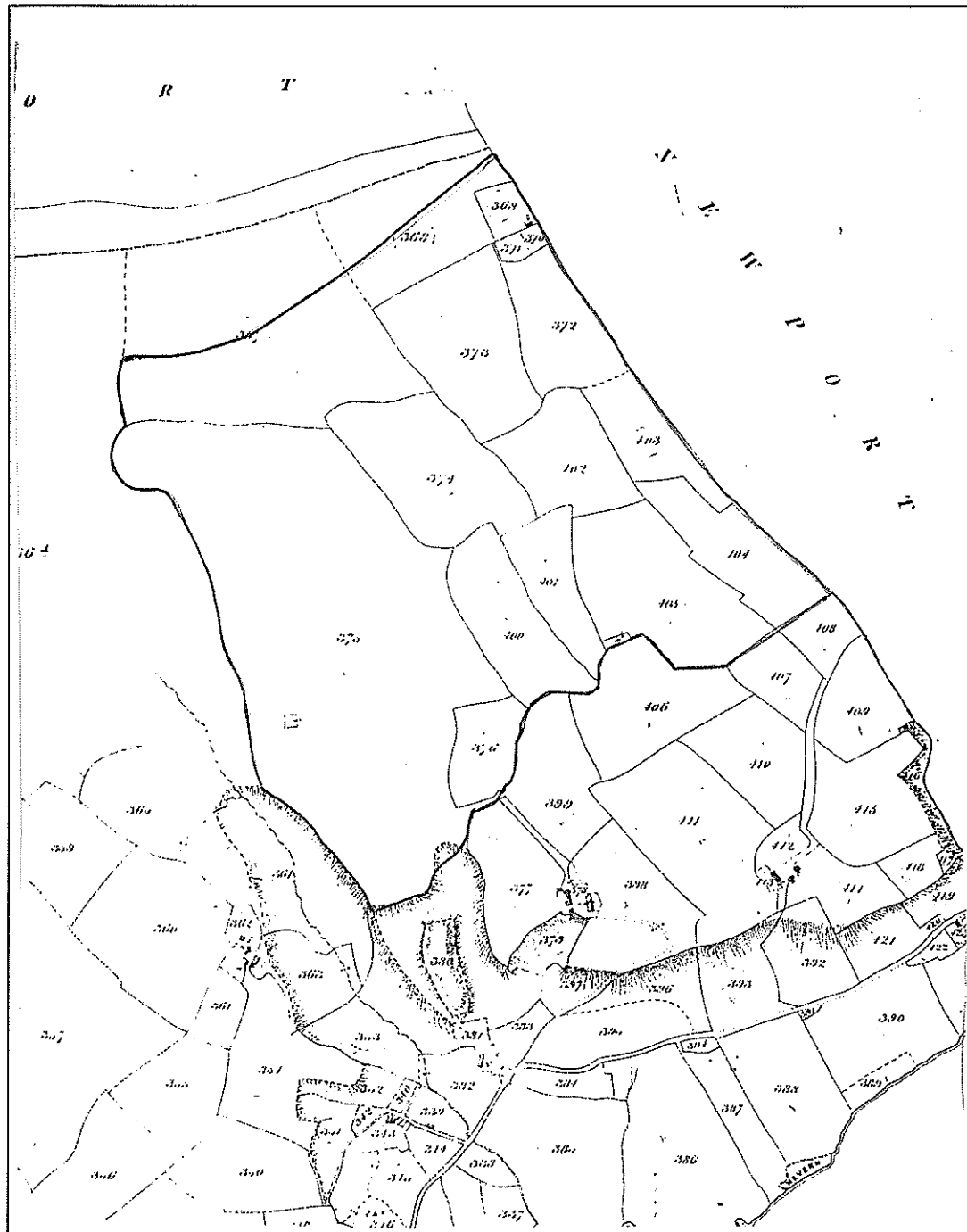


Figure 2. Extract from the Llanochlwydog parish tithe map, 1844

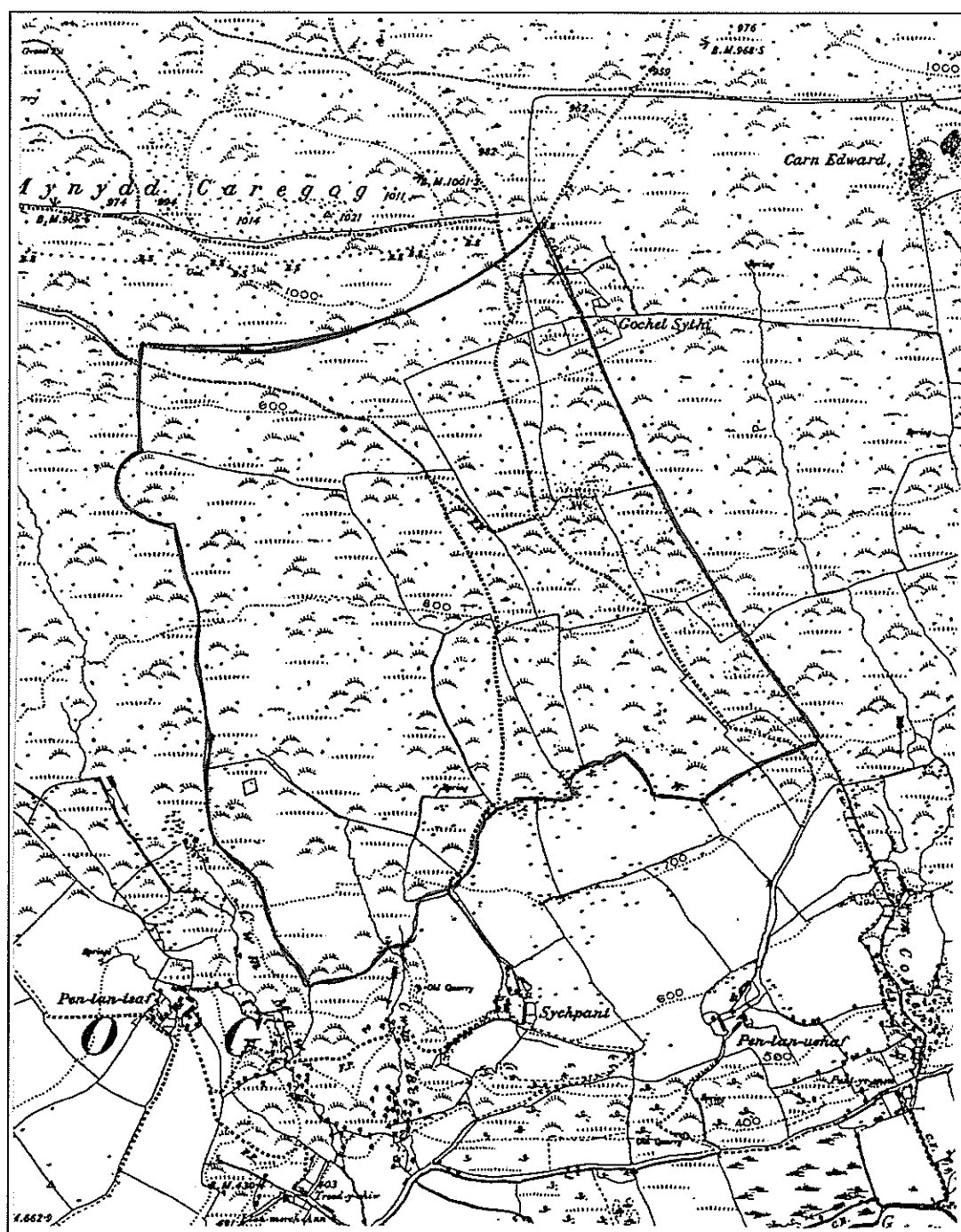


Figure 3. Extract from the Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" map, 1888

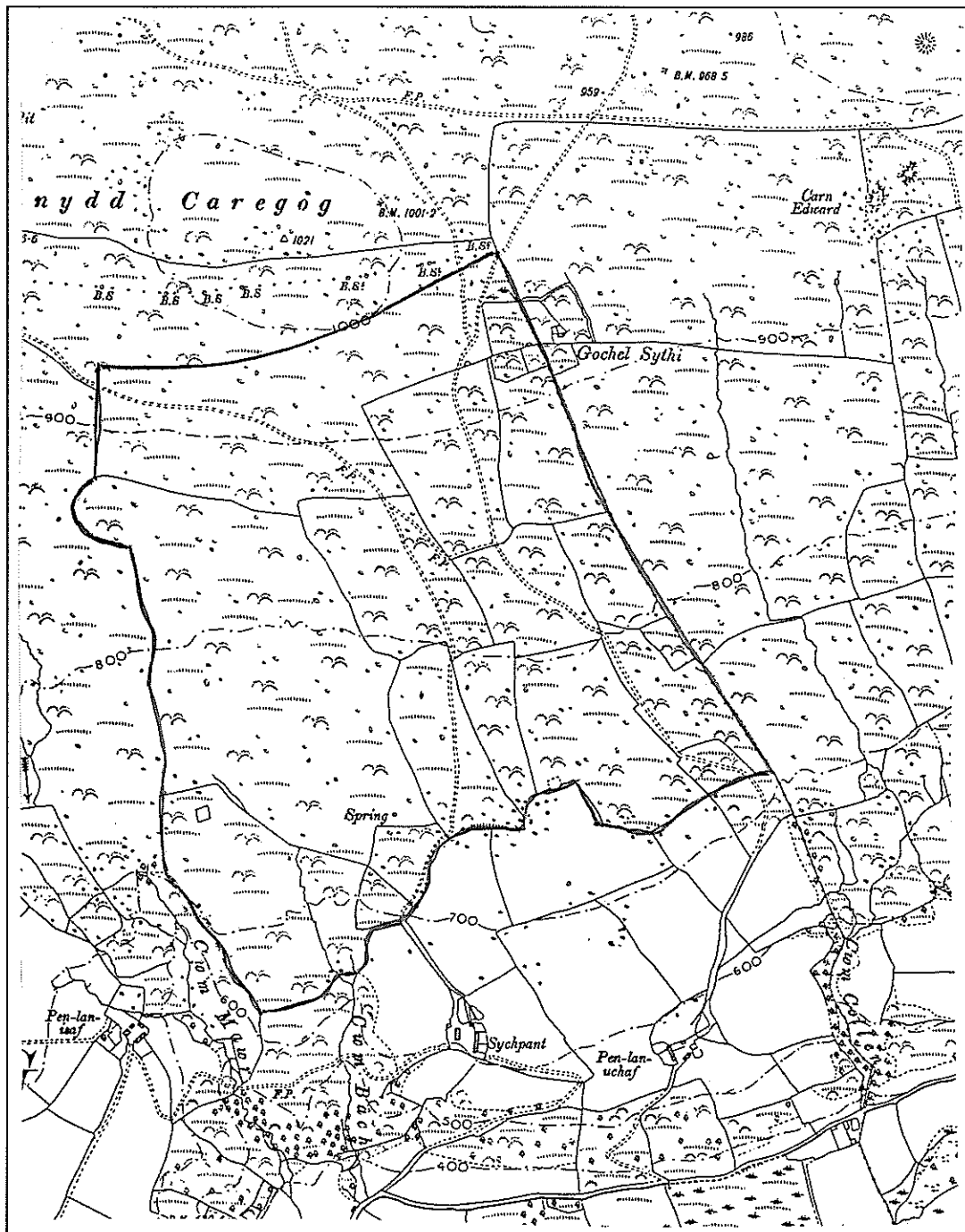


Figure 4. . Extract from the Ordnance Survey Second Edition 6" map, 1908

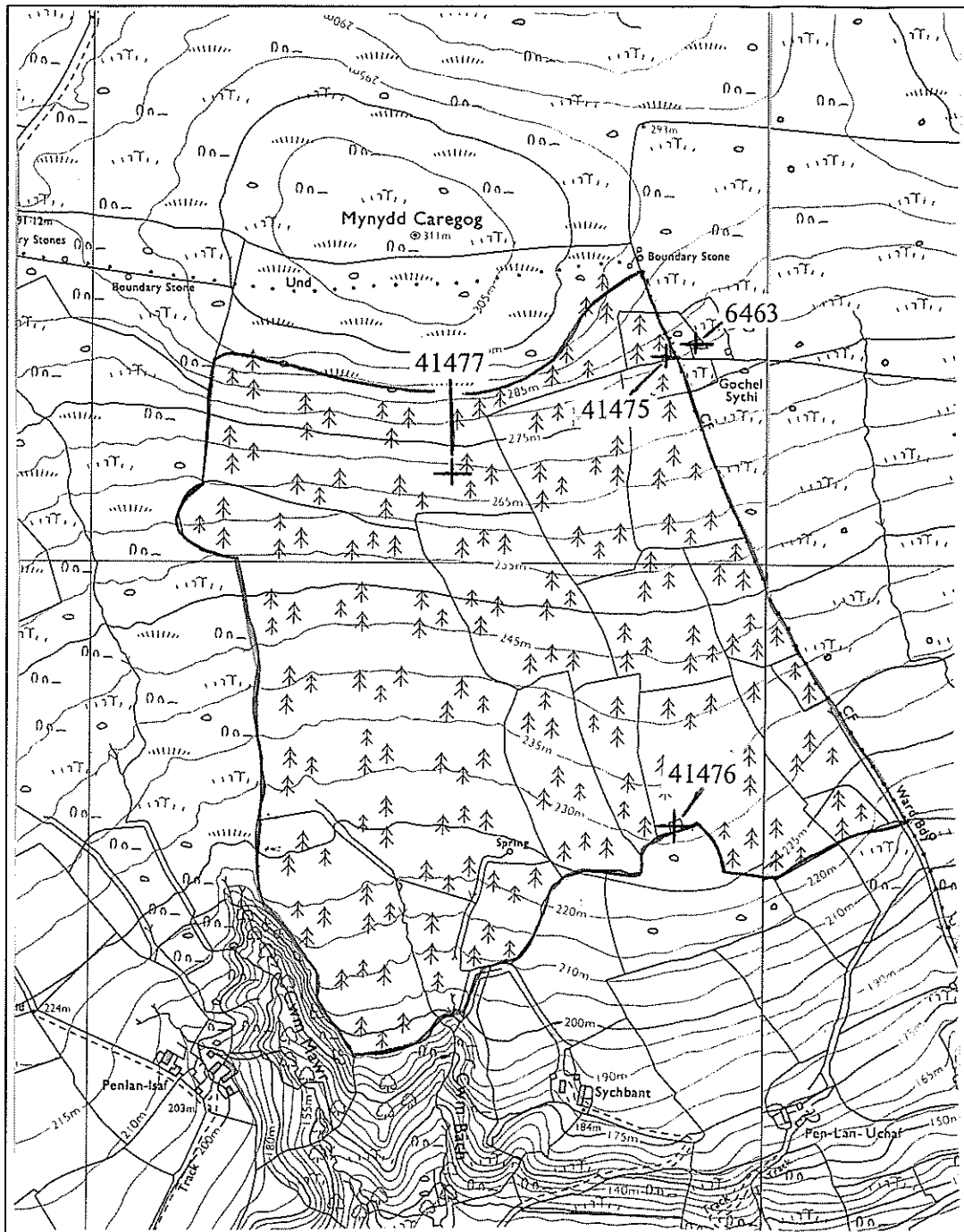


Figure 5. 1:10,000 map showing sites referred to in the text

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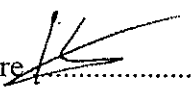
PENLAN WOOD

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SEPTEMBER 2000

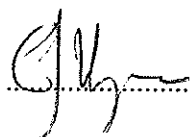
This report has been prepared by K Murphy

Position Principal Archaeological Officer - Field Operations

Signature  Date 30/8/00

This report has been checked and approved by G Hughes on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position Trust Director

Signature  Date 30/9/00

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have
on the content or presentation of this report

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Summary of the historic landscape

It is clear that the field system present beneath forestry cover had been established by 1810. It seems likely that the settlements - Gochel Sythi, an un-named cottage and a possible cottage - recorded on the later tithe map had also been established by this date. The date and context of the establishment of the settlements is not known. However, the location of the dwellings on the fringes of open moorland is suggestive of late 18th-century or early 19th-century 'tai-unnos' or squatter settlements that characterise much of upland Wales. Founded in a time of rapidly rising population, tai-unnos were founded by land-hungry but land-less individuals on common land. Once established, land around the settlements was enclosed into paddocks and fields carved out of the common. The whimsical name Gochel Sythi - 'Beware of freezing' (Charles 1992, 164) - is perhaps

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Field visit

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Gazetteer of archaeological sites (Fig. 5)

PRN 6463. GOCHEL SYTHI FARMSTEAD - immediately outside afforested area
NGR SN 04873631

This farm/dwelling is first recorded on the Newport parish tithe survey of 1845. It was abandoned by the time of the publication of the OS 6" First Edition map of 1888. On 1946 aerial photographs it is marked by rectangular foundations, with foundations of a second square building close by. These buildings are located in a series of small paddocks. Evidence of cultivation ridges can be detected on aerial photographs within these paddocks. This site has not been examined in the field. In one of the paddocks to the west, dwelling 41475 is located.

PRN 41475 DWELLING
NGR SN 04843629

This dwelling is first recorded on the Llanychlwydog parish tithe survey of 1844. It was abandoned by the time of the publication of the OS 6" First Edition map of 1888. Later large-scale OS maps locate this site with a small rectangle. This site has not been examined in the field.

PRN 41476 POSSIBLE DWELLING
NGR SN04863560

This possible dwelling is first recorded on the Llanychlwydog parish tithe map of 1844 as a small rectangular paddock or field with a symbol. The paddock had gone by the time of the publication of the OS 6" First Edition map of 1888, but traces of the paddock appear on later large-scale OS maps. This site has not been examined in the field.

PRN 41477 POSSIBLE HUT CIRCLE

NGR SN 04543612

On aerial photographs this is a small, roughly circular, earthwork enclosure, approximately 10m in diameter, with the defining bank standing to perhaps 1m. It is most likely to be a hut circle, but could potentially be a Bronze Age ritual or funerary site. Photograph: housed with the NMR: 106G/UK/1472 4302-4301 (1946). This site has not been examined in the field.

Potential impacts on the archaeological resource and suggested mitigation strategies

The draft environmental statement compiled by the National Park Authority addresses the problem of the impact of the new access routes and harvesting methods on field boundaries (Section 14, in particular paragraphs AR2-AR6). This study strongly supports this mitigation strategy.

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Site 41477 is potentially of national importance. It lies under dense forestry cover. It is recommended that a visit is made by a qualified archaeologist to examine the site during or after felling should upstanding remains be found.

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106G/UK/1472 4302-4301 (1946)

Charles, B G, 1992, *The Place-Names of Pembrokeshire*

Llanychlwydog parish tithe map and apportionment, 1844. Original in the National Library of Wales

Newport parish tithe map and apportionment, 1845. Original in the National Library of Wales

Ordnance Survey, 1810, 2" to 1 mile Surveyors' Drawings, Sheet 185

Ordnance Survey, 1888, 6" First Edition, Pembrokeshire X.NE

Ordnance Survey, 1908, 6" Second Edition, Pembrokeshire X.NE

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, 2000, *Penlan Heathland and Native Woodland Restoration Project: Environmental Statement: Deforestation Proposal*

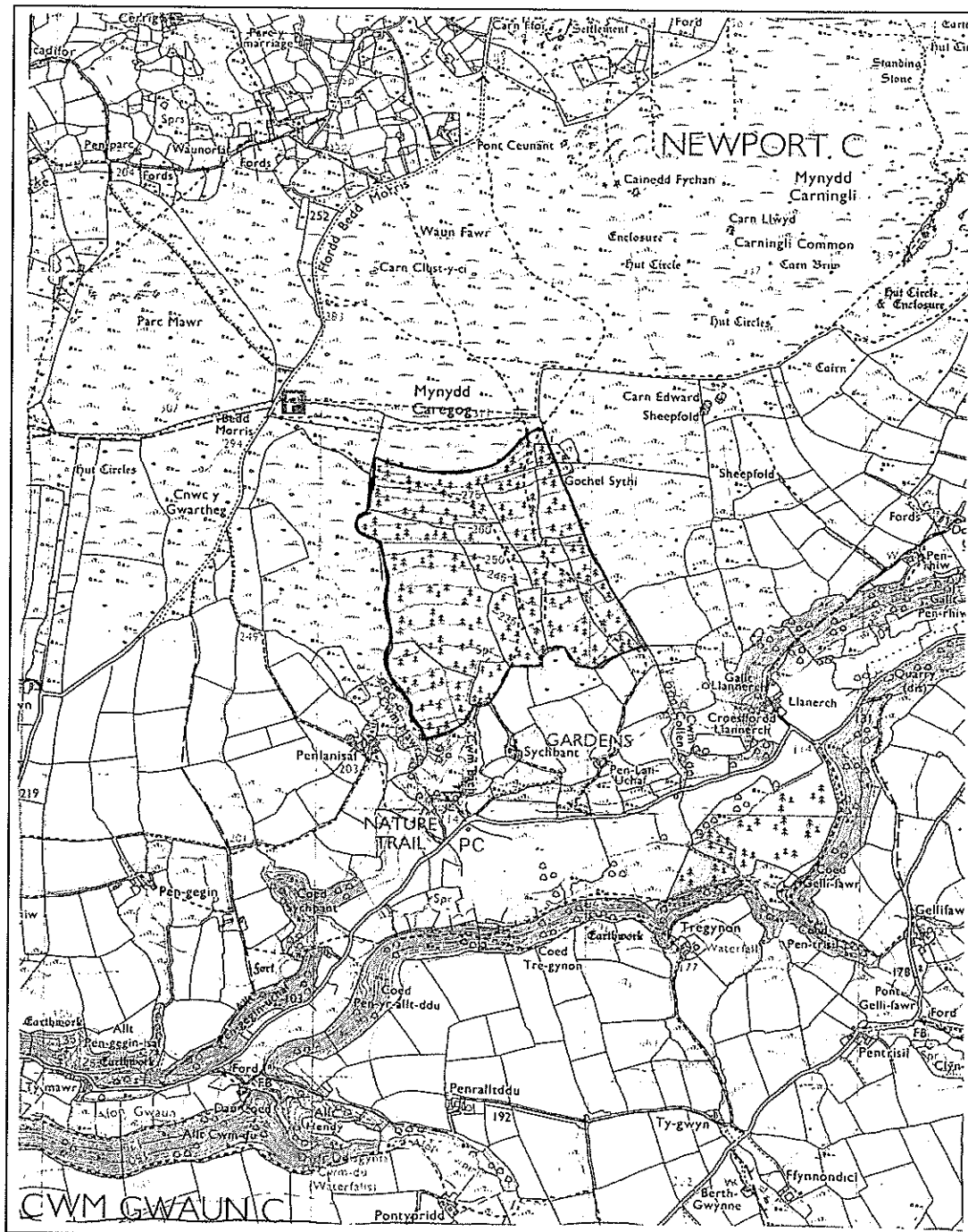


Figure 1. Location map of Penlan Wood. Scale 1:25,000

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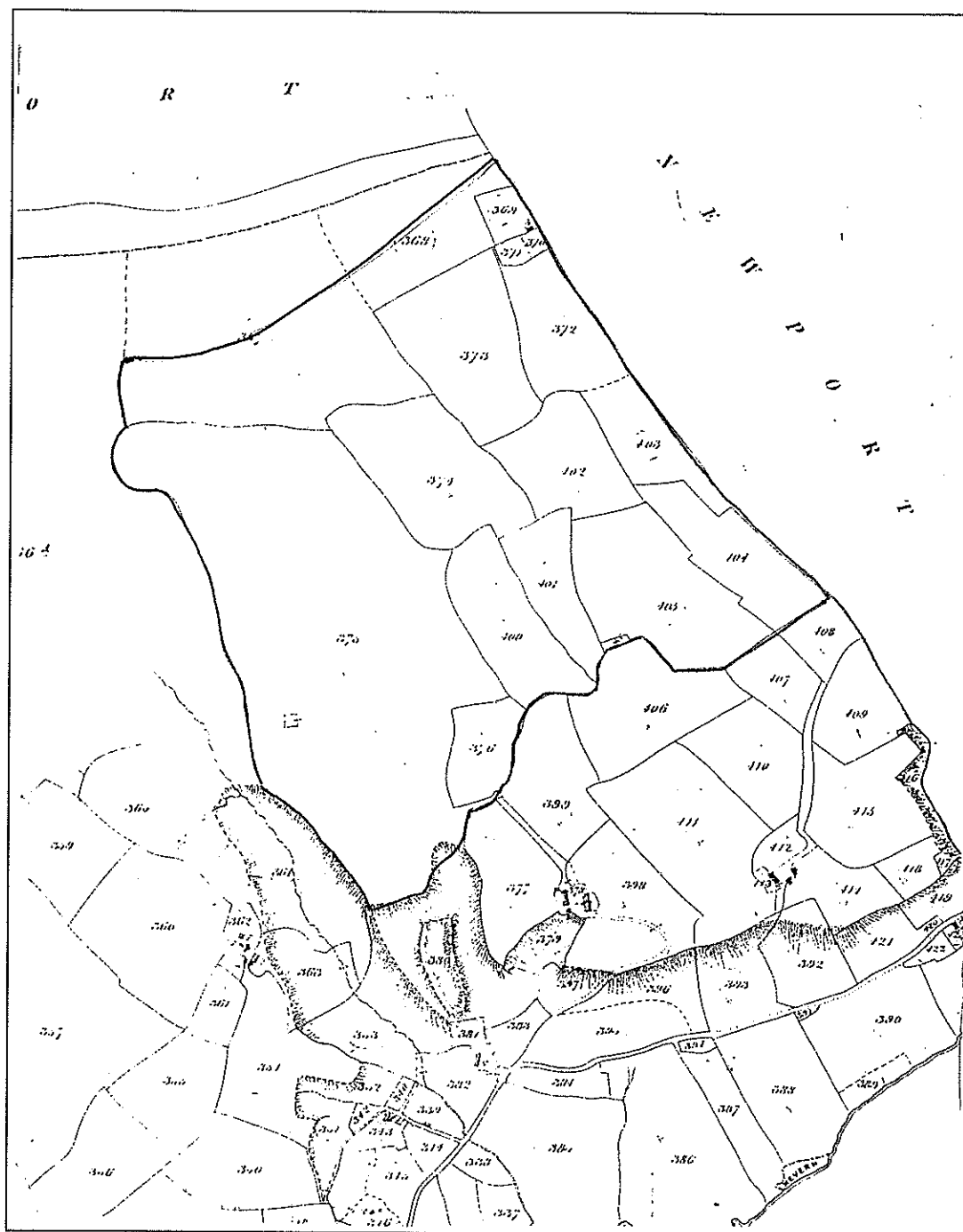


Figure 2. Extract from the Llanychlwydog parish tithe map, 1844

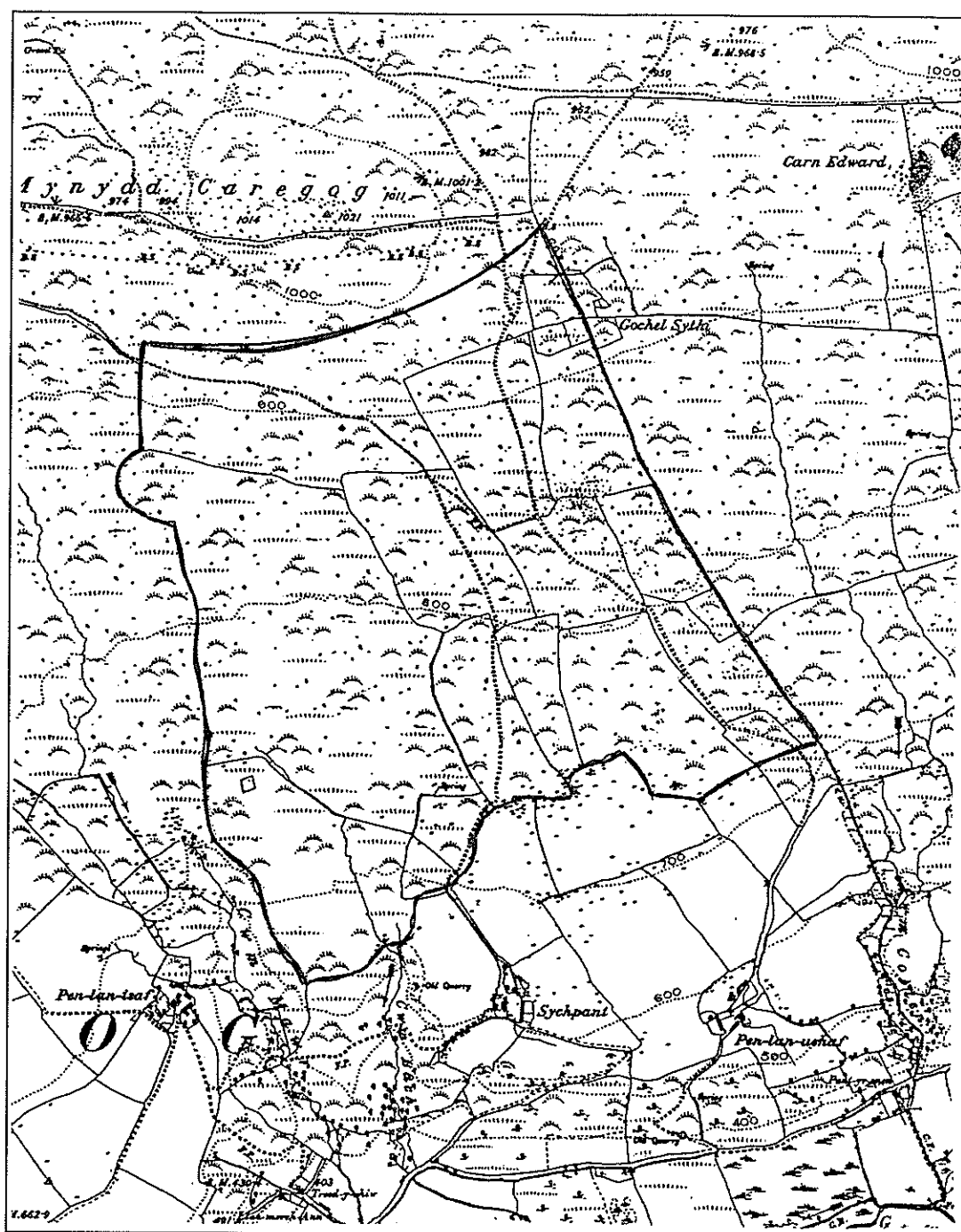


Figure 3. Extract from the Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" map, 1888

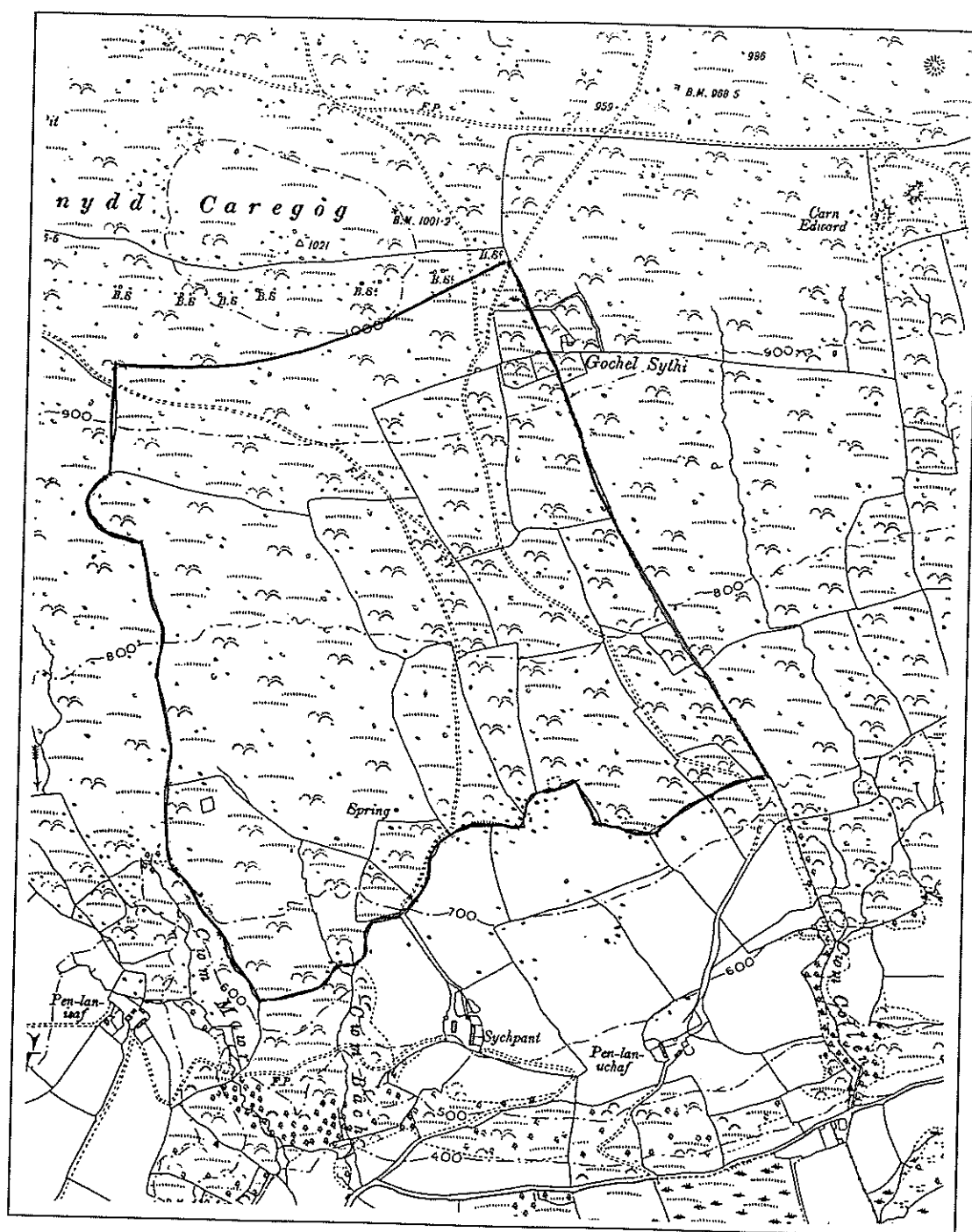


Figure 4. . Extract from the Ordnance Survey Second Edition 6" map, 1908

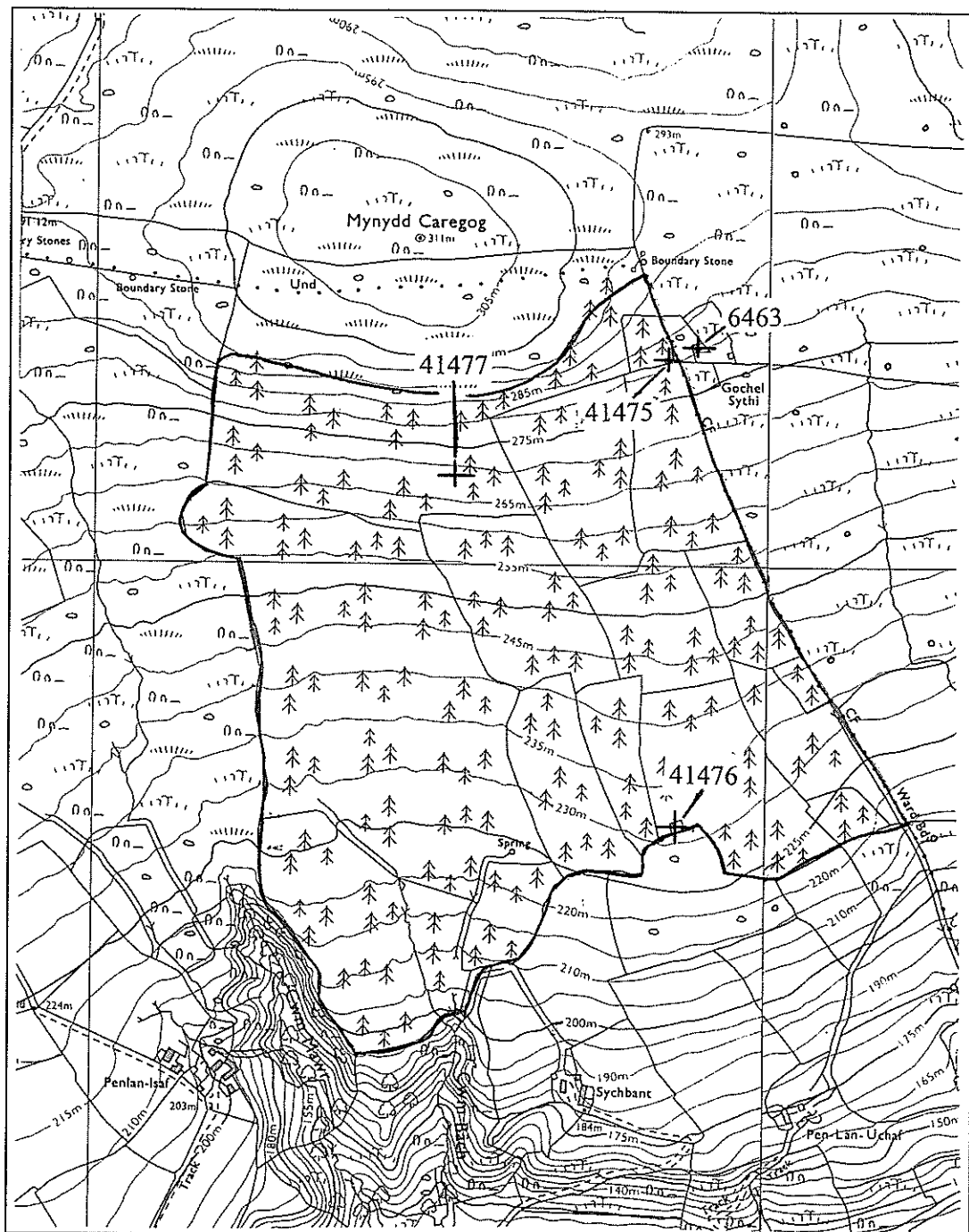


Figure 5. 1:10,000 map showing sites referred to in the text

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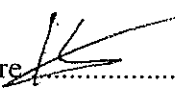
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PROJECT RECORD NUMBER 41478

SEPTEMBER 2000

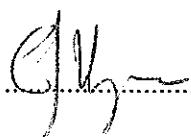
This report has been prepared by K Murphy

Position Principal Archaeological Officer - Field Operations

Signature  Date 30/8/00

This report has been checked and approved by G Hughes on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position Trust Director

Signature  Date 30/9/00

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have
on the content or presentation of this report