

# **A SURVEY OF DEFENDED ENCLOSURES IN CEREDIGION, 2006: GAZETTEER OF ORDNANCE SURVEY GRID SQUARE SN44**



Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg  
Cambria  
Ar gyfer Cadw  
Prepared by Cambria  
Archaeology

# ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2006/20  
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 54269

Mawrth 2006  
March 2006

## A SURVEY OF DEFENDED ENCLOSURES IN CEREDIGION, 2006: GAZETTEER OF ORDNANCE SURVEY GRID SQUARE SN44

Gan / By

K Murphy, R Ramsey and M Page

*Archaeoleg Cambria yw enw marchnata Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyfyngedig.  
Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.*

*Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan Archaeoleg Cambria am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys*

*The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. Cambria Archaeology can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.*



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA  
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19  
6AF  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131  
Ffacs: 01558 823133  
Ebost: cambria@acadat.com Gwefan: www.acadat.com

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited  
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire  
SA19 6AF  
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121  
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131  
Fax: 01558 823133  
Email: cambria@acadat.com Website: www.acadat.com

Cover: Aerial photograph of Pencoed y Foel. Cambria Archaeology.

For ease of handling the site gazetteers have been arranged into Ordnance Survey 10km grid squares. Each gazetteer consists of one or more 1:50,000 maps showing the overall location of each site followed by the individual entries for each site. Each entry comprises: a printout from the Historic Environment Record, including a site description; a 1:500 map; and where available a ground photograph and an aerial photograph.

The map displays the study area along the Gulf of Mexico coast, with a grid overlay. Sampling locations are marked with red dots, and sampling stations are labeled with codes: SN14, SN15, SN24, SN25, SN34, SN35, SN44, SN45, SN46, SN54, SN55, SN56, SN57, SN58, SN64, SN65, SN66, SN67, SN68, SN69, SN75, SN76, SN77, and SN78. A scale bar indicates distances up to 10 kilometers (0 to 5 miles), and a north arrow is present in the upper right corner.

*Index to the gazetteers of defended enclosures and related sites. Gazetteers are arranged by 10km grid squares.*





1:50,000 Distribution map of sites in 10km grid square SN44.

This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution and civil proceedings. Licence No. GD 272221



# 1822 PENCOED Y FOEL

PRN 1822 NGR SN425428

SITE NAME PENCOED Y FOEL

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS SAM;ACK

## DESCRIPTION

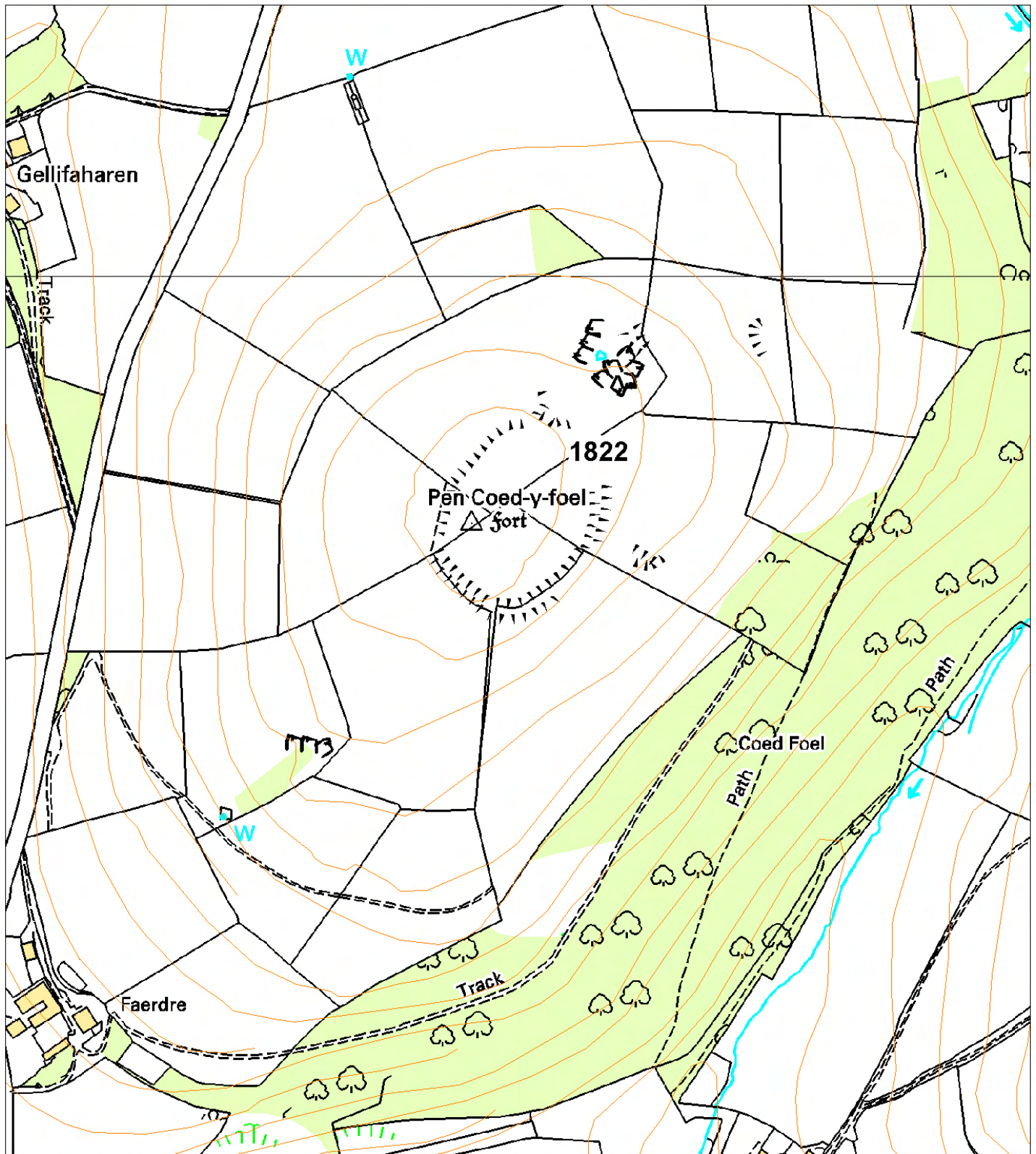
Pencoed y Foel is a univallate defended enclosure lying on the summit of a rounded hill at 250m above sea level. The defensive circuit consisting of a bank, ditch and slight counterscarp bank is 11m wide in total and with an overall height of 2.5m, and encloses a roughly oval area 160m north - south and 125m east - west. The crest of the bank has been robbed. The entrance lay on the north, but here the bank has been destroyed. The interior of the fort is covered with small, shallow stone quarries, mistaken by Evans for huts. A bronze half collar, probably of the 1st century BC was found here in the late 19th century during quarrying. Aerial photographs and maps show field boundaries concentric to the fort's defensive circuit. These may lie on an outer defence, defining a large concentric annexe. These boundaries have not been checked in the field. The interior of the fort and the ramparts are under improved pasture with a little scrub.

K Murphy 16 December 2005 - compiled from various sources.



Aerial photograph Cambria Archaeology.





This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution and civil proceedings. Licence No. GD 272221

Scale: 1:500

# 1827 CASTELL GWYNIONYDD

PRN 1827 NGR SN42394205

SITE NAME CASTELL GWYNIONYDD; COEDFON

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE?; CASTLE? FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age?; Medieval? CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

## DESCRIPTION

This defended site lies on the edge of a steep valley side at 90m above sea level, 25m above the floodplain of the Teifi. It is naturally well defended on the south side by the valley side. Here a slight bank supplements the natural defence. On other sides a curving length of bank and ditch encloses a semi-circular area approximately 55m across. The defences are substantial with the bank rising 2m - 3m above the interior and 5m above the bottom of the ditch. A simple gap on the north side forms the entrance. The site is under deciduous woodland.

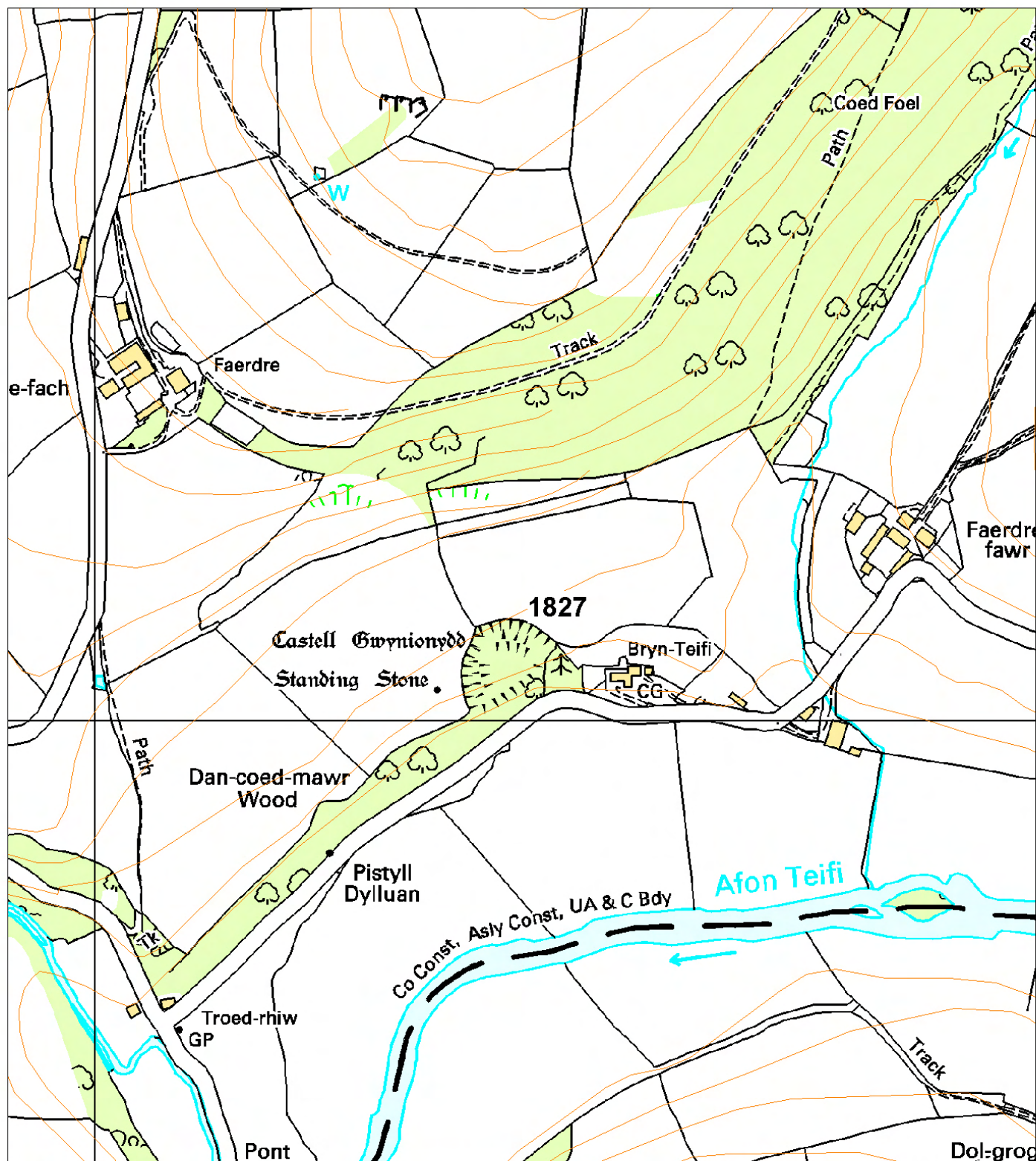
The date of this site is uncertain. King records a castle in the commote of Gwynionydd in 1216, but it is not firmly identified with this site. Given the size of the defences and the small internal area a medieval date is most likely, but an Iron Age date cannot be ruled out.

K Murphy 16 December 2005 - compiled from several sources.





Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 2002-cs-1572.



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.  
 Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution and civil proceedings.  
 Licence No. GD 272221

Scale: 1:500



## 5695 GAER

PRN 5695 NGR SN419458

SITE NAME GAER

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE?;CASTLE? FORM Documents

PERIOD Iron Age?;Medieval? CONDITION E

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

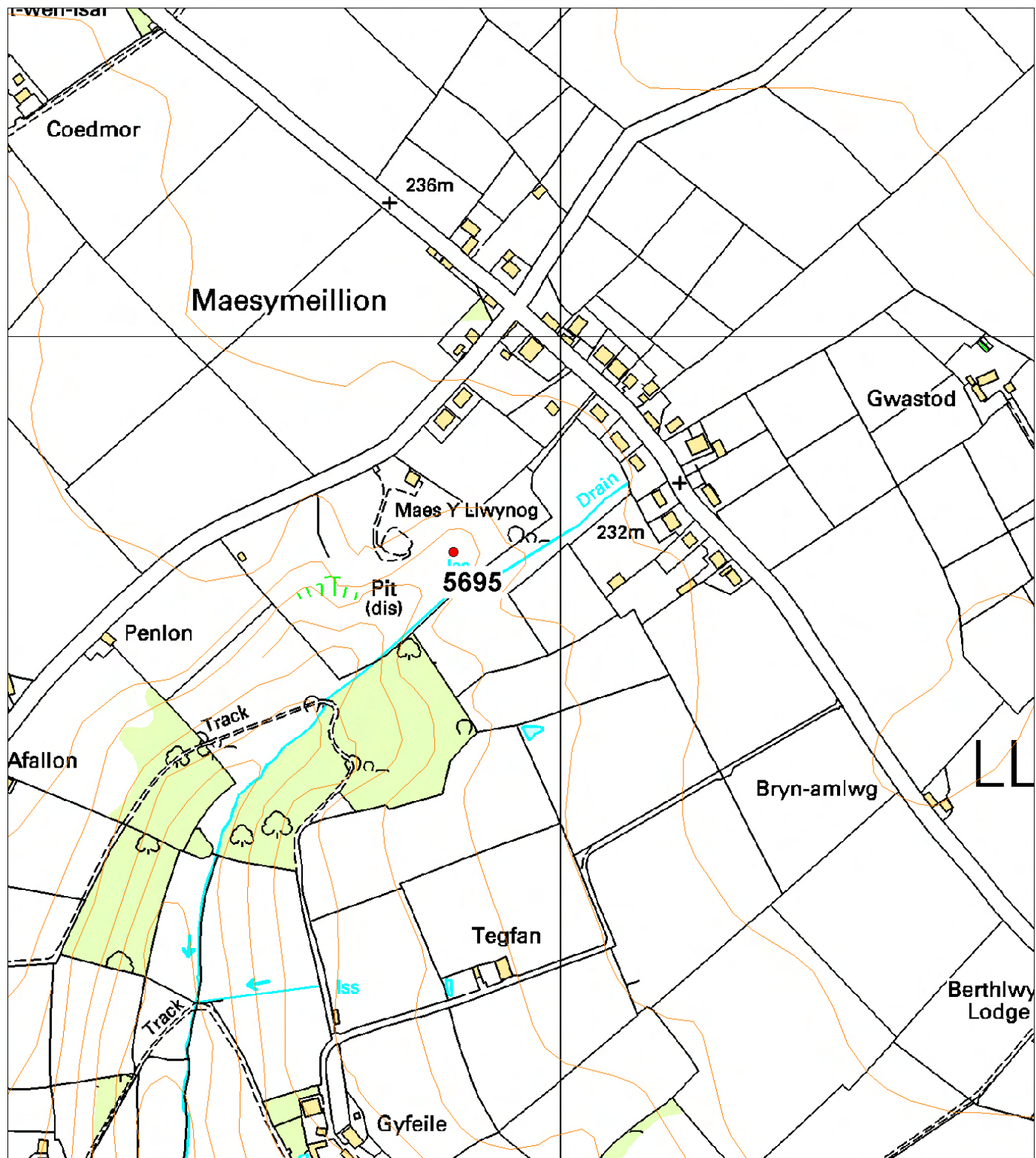
This site is marked on the 1st Edition of the Ordnance Survey one-inch map of 1834. It is an unusual location for a defensive site, lying on a slope towards the head of a small valley. The 1994 County History records nothing here. The site, on the fringe of a hamlet, has been considerably altered in recent years. Several metres of hardcore had been dumped across the location of the site to form a level platform. It must be assumed that the site has been destroyed.

K Murphy 17 November 2005



Ground photograph - distant view to location of destroyed site.





This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.  
Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution and civil proceedings.  
Licence No. GD 272221

Scale: 1:500

# 7658 CASTELL GWILYM

PRN 7658 NGR SN40854180

SITE NAME CASTELL GWILYM:CASTELL BWILLIM

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age?; Roman? CONDITION D

## SITE STATUS

## DESCRIPTION

The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1831 places Castell Gwilym (called Castell Bwillim on the map) immediately to the south of Castell Gwilym cottage in what is now a small field or paddock surrounded by earth and stone hedge-banks. The owners of the cottage and paddock remember removing a curving section of earth bank from this paddock a few years ago. This was presumably the bank mentioned by Hogg in the 1994 Cardiganshire History. There is now no trace of the bank and the paddock is used for pony grazing, with a small area of hard standing. However, a section of curving bank with ditch lies in a pasture field 50m to the west and northwest of the cottage. If this were part of the site, then the defended enclosure would be c. 100m diameter, with the cottage at its centre.

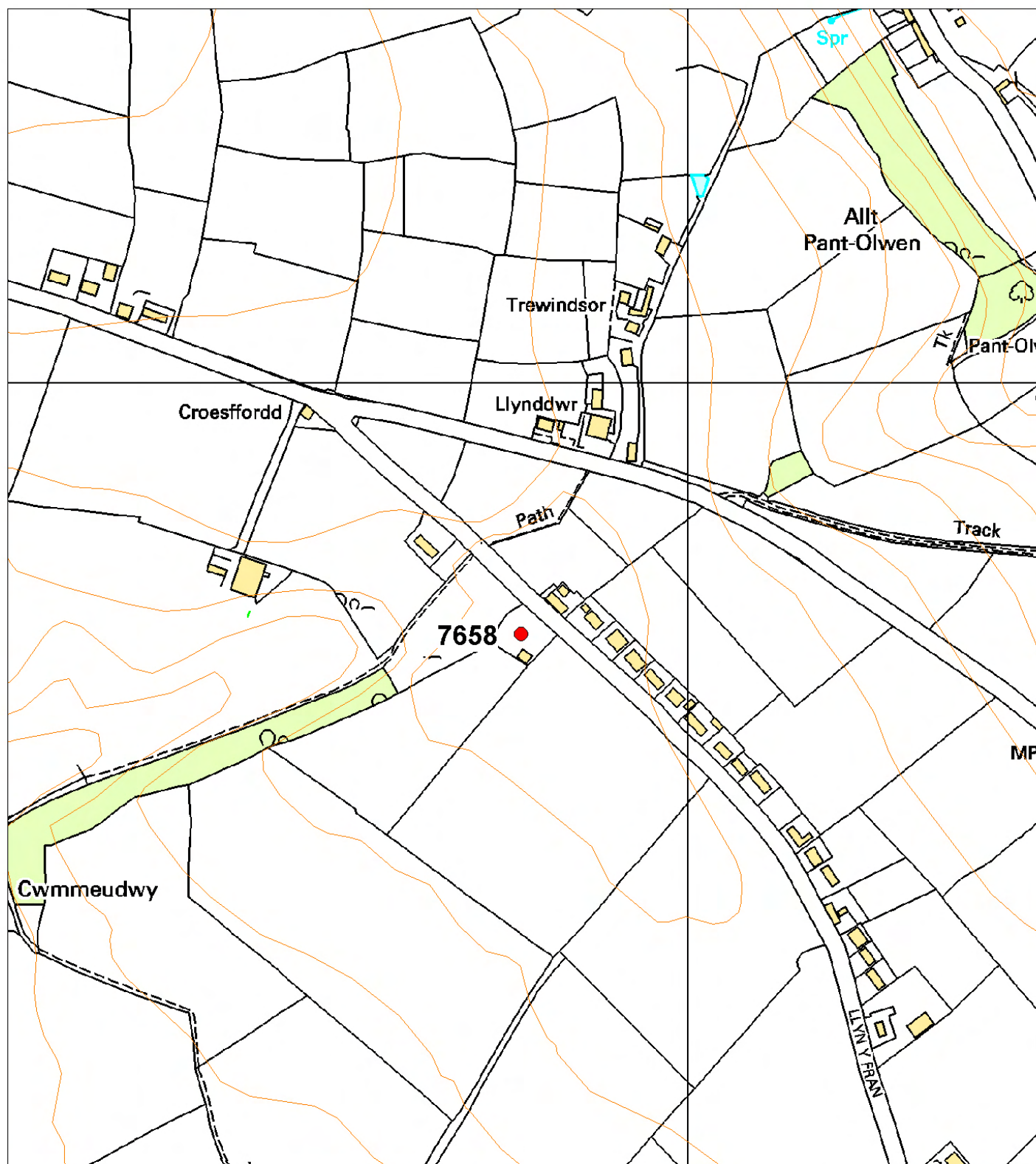
The site is located on level ground, towards the northwest end of a rounded hill, at 175m above sea level. To the northwest and west land falls away into a small valley.

K Murphy 16 November 2005



Ground photograph - looking over location of site.





This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.  
 Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution and civil proceedings.  
 Licence No. GD 272221

Scale: 1:500

# 7668 CAE PERTH CAERAU

PRN 7668 NGR SN433435

SITE NAME CAE PERTH CAERAU

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age?; Roman? CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

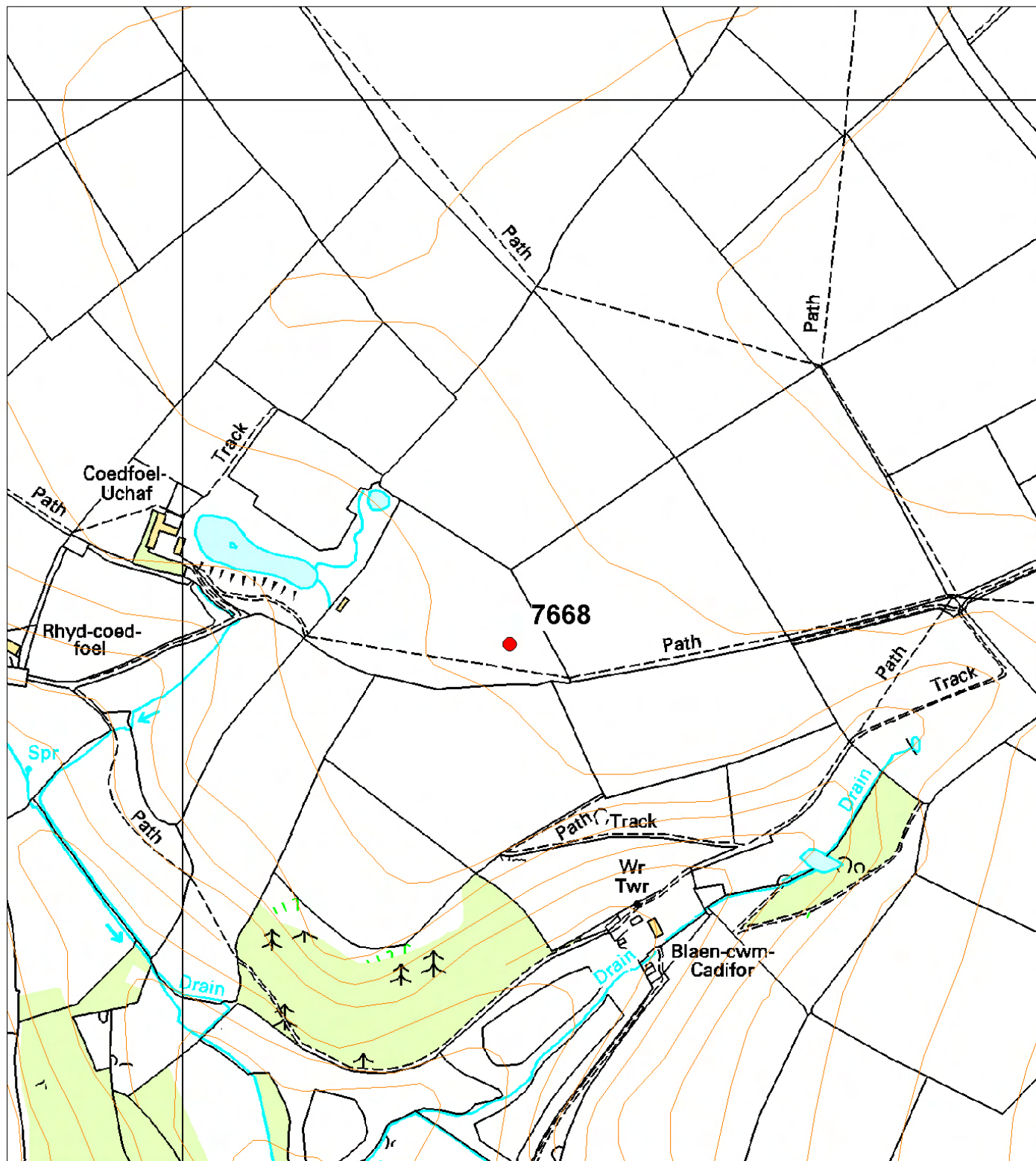
Located on a gentle southwest-facing slope at 215m above sea level, Cae Perth Caerau is a rectangular earthwork enclosure. The enclosure is sharp-cornered and approximates to an 80m square. A bank approximately 10m wide and up to 0.7m high forms three sides of the enclosure - south, east and west. The bank fades to the north, and, indeed, is hardly visible on the northern side. There is no trace of a ditch outside the bank. A lower section of bank to the west end of the south side may mark an entrance, but this is not certain, and it could equally well as lie on the reduced northern side. In 2005, the site was under improved pasture.

K Murphy 22 November 2005



Ground photograph showing slight earthworks of site.





This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.  
 Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution and civil proceedings.  
 Licence No. GD 272221

Scale: 1:500

## 8214 PEN Y CWRT

PRN 8214 NGR SN49184309

SITE NAME PEN Y CWRT

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT? FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age? CONDITION E

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

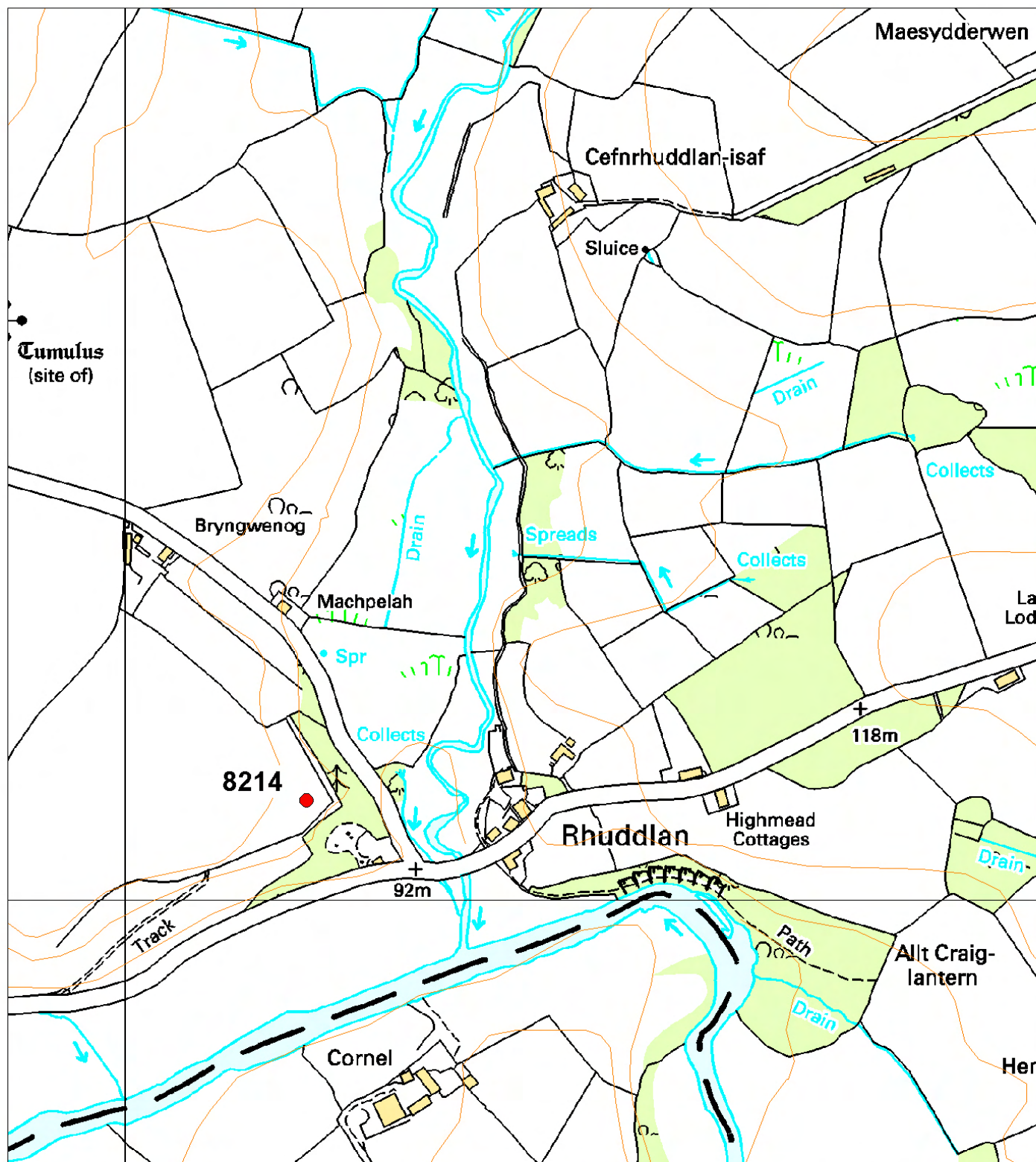
There seems to be some confusion about the exact location of this site. Its proper location seems to be at SN49184309. This is on level ground at 105m above sea level, on an inland promontory formed by steep slopes to the south and east. A quarry has taken away the point of the promontory, and the steep slopes are tree covered. The level area is under improved pasture. There is no trace of earthworks to indicate a defensive site as recorded by earlier authorities.

K Murphy 2 March 2006



Ground photograph looking over location of site.





This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.  
 Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution and civil proceedings.  
 Licence No. GD 272221

Scale: 1:500

# 11818 LLANFAIR FARM

PRN 11818 NGR SN43164093

SITE NAME LLANFAIR FARM

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE; SETTLEMENT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Medieval; Post Med CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

A sub-circular earthwork enclosure lies on a terrace of the River Teifi at 70m above sea level, a few metres above the floodplain. On aerial photographs it shows as a sub-circular enclosure, approximately 60m diameter, defined by a bank and ditch, with a west facing entrance. On the ground it is clear that the enclosure occupies a slightly elevated position above the rest of the terrace. The defensive bank is low, perhaps no more than 0.5m, and seems to incorporate the rising natural ground in its circuit. The ditch is hardly detectable. A slightly higher area within the centre of the otherwise flat interior may indicate the site of a building.

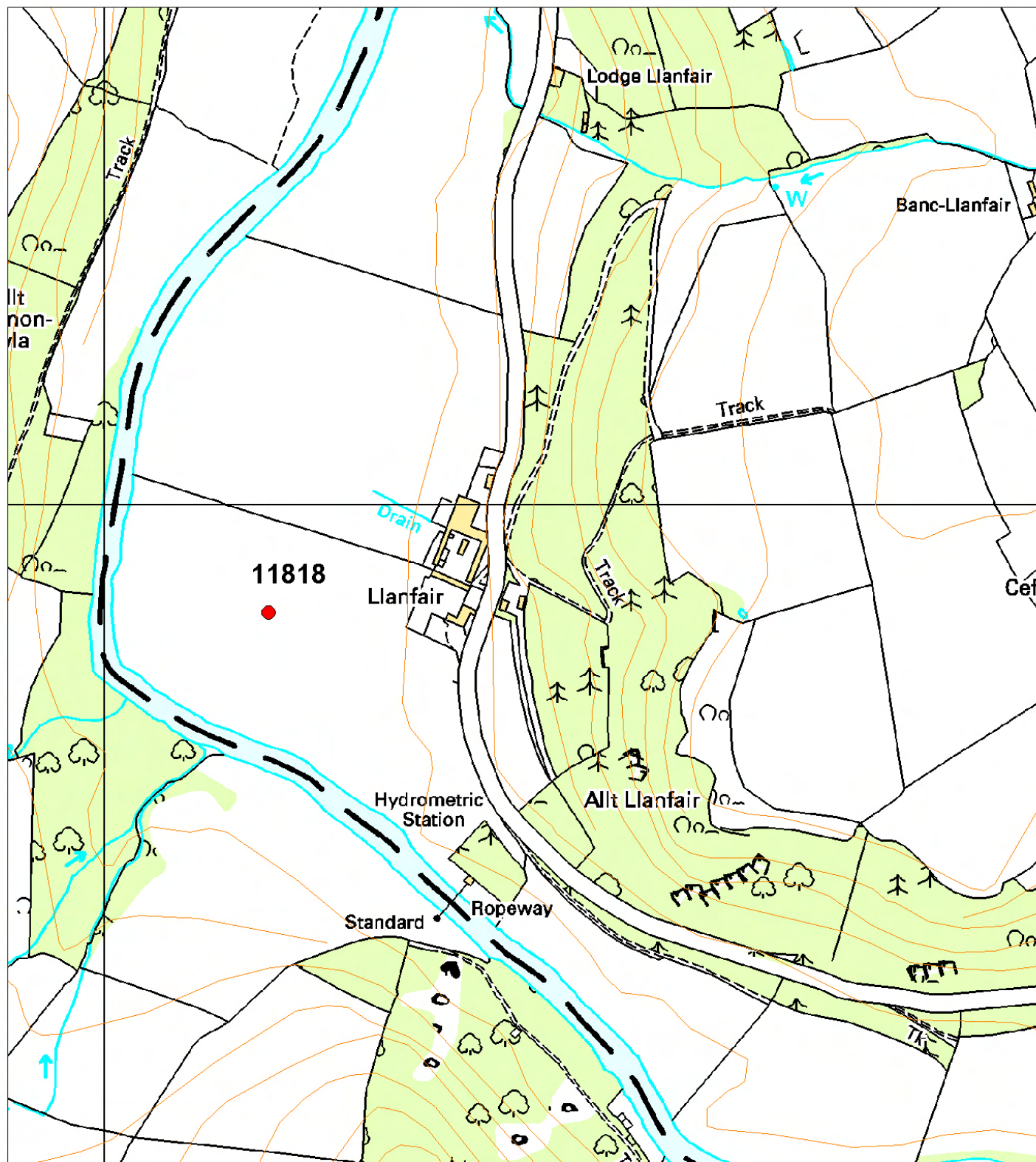
A geophysical survey by Gemma Bezant in 2005 confirmed the nature of the site, although the survey indicated a pear-shaped enclosure, rather than a sub-circular one. The survey also indicated the presence of a rectangular building in the centre of the enclosure. Excavation followed on from the survey - the results are awaited, but initial results suggest that this was a medieval/post medieval site. In 2005, the site was under improved pasture.

K Murphy 29 November 2005



Ground photograph looking over earthworks.





This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.  
 Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution and civil proceedings.  
 Licence No. GD 272221

Scale: 1:500

# 12127 GWAR FFYNNON

PRN 12127 NGR SN44834093

SITE NAME GWAR FFYNNON

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE?: BOUNDARY BANK? FORM Earthwork

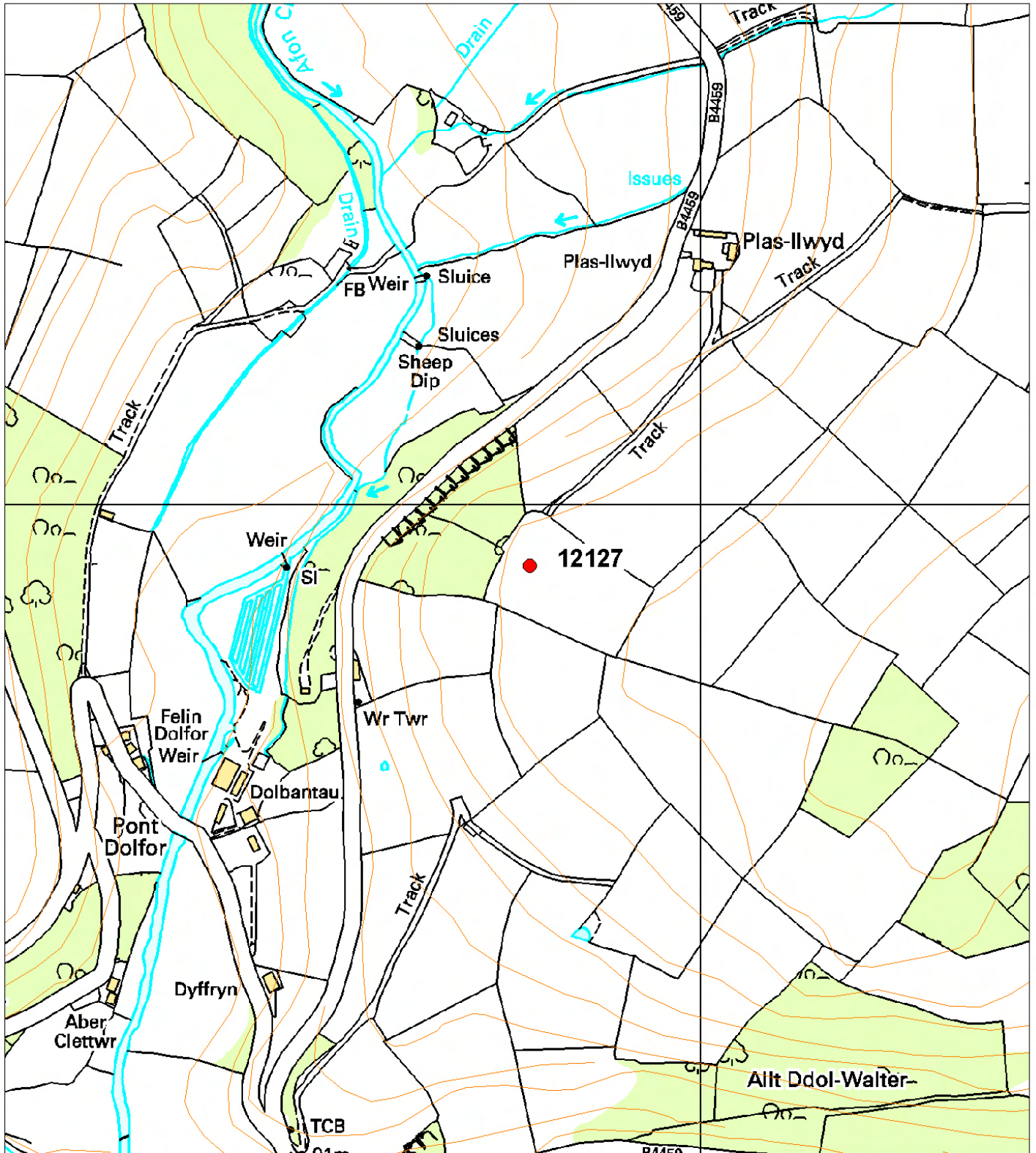
PERIOD Iron Age?; Roman?; Post Med CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

This site is located on level ground. To the west the land falls away steeply into a narrow valley. Land rises gently to the east. Vertical aerial photographs show an earthwork bank running across a field from north to south, continuing in the field to the south for a few metres before turning sharply to the west and then fading. It is possible that this is the remains of an enclosure measuring 85m north - south and 60m east - west, but this is not entirely certain as the earthworks have the appearance old field boundaries. Under improved pasture.

K Murphy 24 November 2005



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.  
 Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution and civil proceedings.  
 Licence No. GD 272221

Scale: 1:500

# 13341 CRUG Y CHWIL

PRN 13341 NGR SN48564244

SITE NAME CRUG Y WHIL; CRUG U CHWIL

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE? FORM Documents

PERIOD Iron Age; Medieval CONDITION U

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

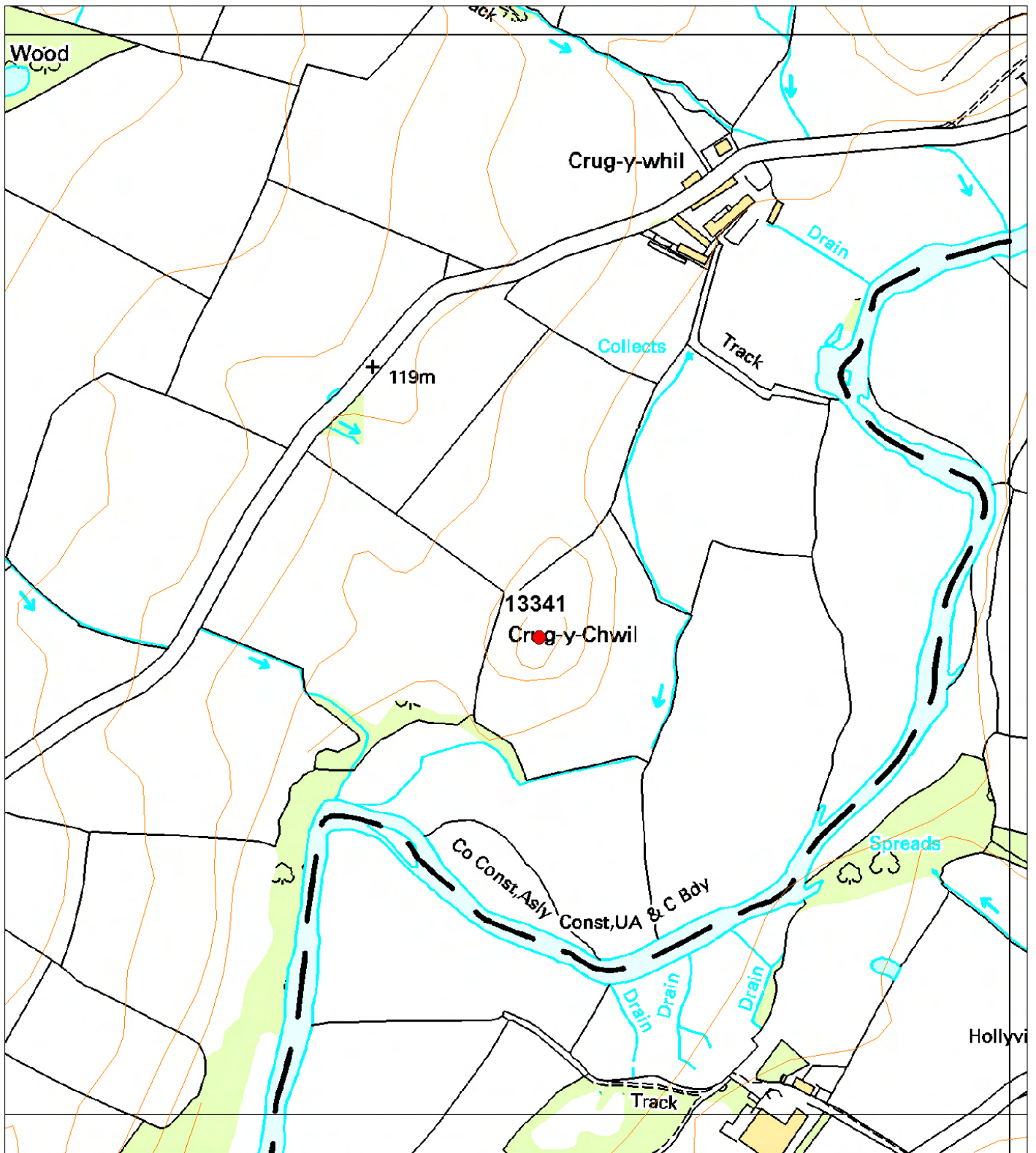
Myrick mentions a site of uncertain form in 1810. The exact location is uncertain, but an elongated conical hill, a distinctive landscape feature, called Crug-y-Chwil is the most likely position. Crug-y-Chwil rises 20m from surrounding farmland to the north, west and south and 30m from the Teifi floodplain to the east. The summit is oval in shape, 60m by 30m, and round-topped. Apart from a slight stepped break of slope along the eastern side of the summit, which may be the remains of a bank, there is nothing to indicate any constructed elements to the hill. Staff and students from Lampeter University excavated a trench on the west site of the summit a few years ago - the results are not currently known. The hill is under improved pasture with a little gorse scrub on the eastern slopes.

K Murphy 17 November 2005





Ground photograph - distant view of site.



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.  
Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution and civil proceedings.  
Licence No. GD 272221

Scale: 1:500

## **REJECTED SITES**

Three sites originally recorded as defended enclosures or similar on the Historic Environment were rejected:

13342 recorded as a possible defended enclosure, this site was classified as a natural feature following a field visit.

8215 recorded as a defended enclosure, this site was reclassified as a natural landform/field following a field visit.