

A SURVEY OF DEFENDED ENCLOSURES IN CEREDIGION, 2006: GAZETTEER OF ORDNANCE SURVEY GRID SQUARES SN56, SN57 AND SN58



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A SURVEY OF DEFENDED ENCLOSURES IN CEREDIGION, 2006: GAZETTEER OF ORDNANCE SURVEY GRID SQUARES SN56, SN57 AND SN58

Gan / By

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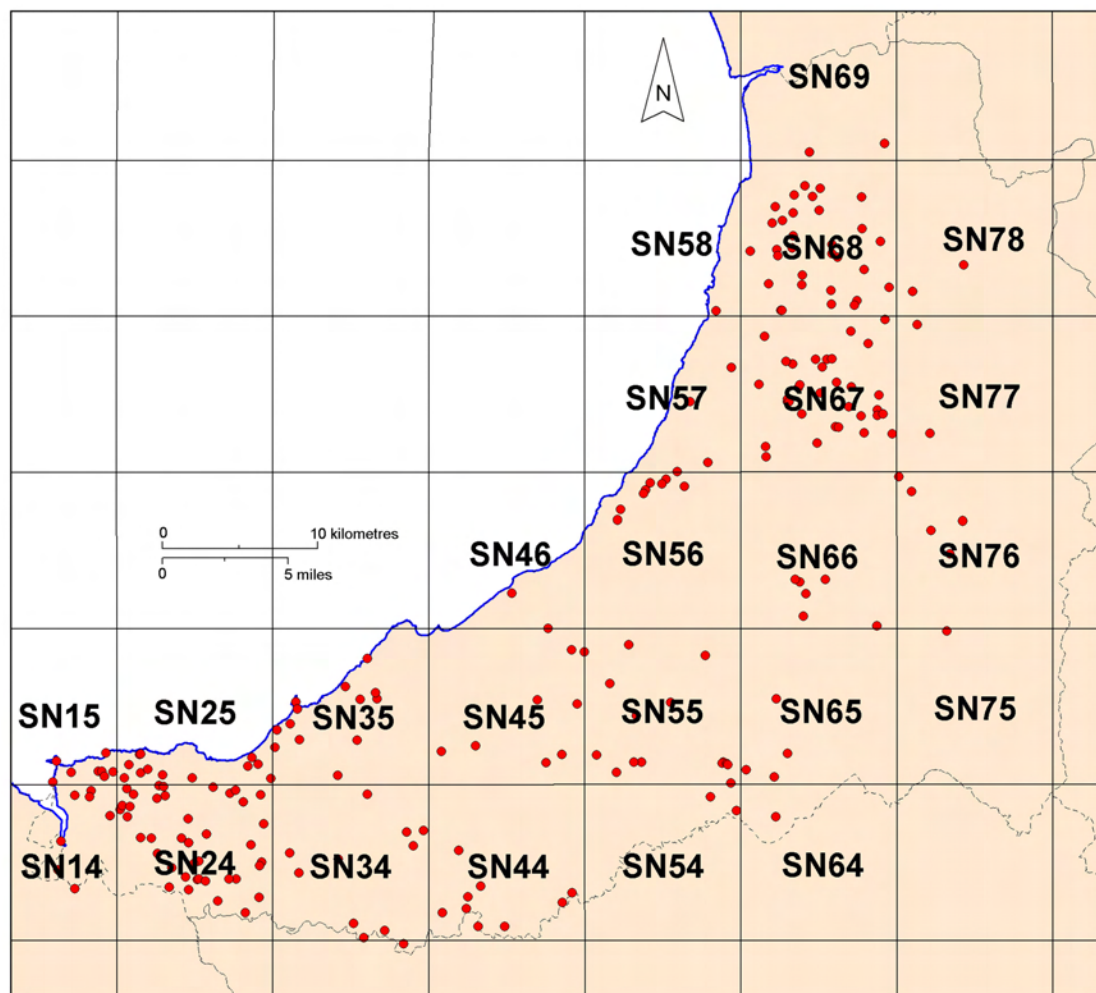
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SITE GAZETTEER OF 10KM GRID SQUARES SN56, SN57 and SN58

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.

Many of the 1:500 maps show details of the site plotted from cropmarks shown on aerial photographs. These plots are supplied by RCAHMW Crown Copyright ©.



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 SN56.

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1:50,000 Distribution map of sites in 10km grid square SN57.

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1:50,000 Distribution map of sites in 10km grid square SN58.

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734 GAER

PRN 734 NGR SN55907005

SITE NAME GAER; GILFACH HAFEL

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS SAM

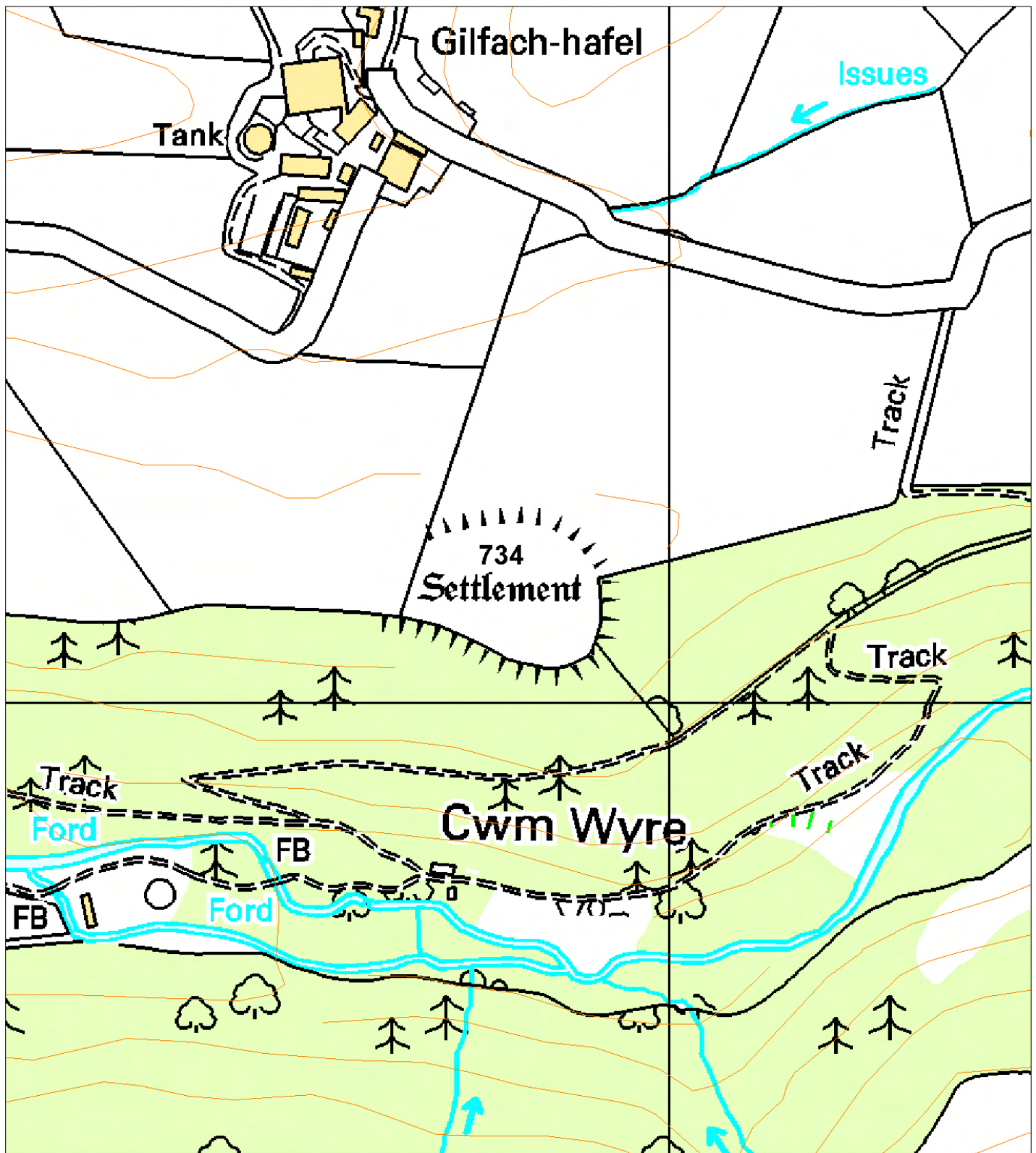
DESCRIPTION

Gaer is a defended enclosure located on a hilltop at 130m above sea level. It is naturally well defended on the south side by a steep valley side that falls away to the Wyre 70m below. The other sides are defended by a bank up to 2m high externally, but level with the internal area. There is little trace of a ditch. The entrance is presumed to lie on the west side. The sloping oval internal area measures 160m east - west and 70m north - south and is under improved pasture. The banks are under scrub.

K Murphy 16 December 2005 - compiled from several sources.



Aerial photograph Cambria Archaeology.



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Scale: 1:500

756 CASTELL BACH

PRN 756 NGR SN53886887

SITE NAME CASTELL BACH; CASTELL GWARFELIN

SITE TYPE HILLFORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Castell bach is located on the flat summit of a hillock at 100m above sea level. It is a naturally very well defended site. To the north and west the land falls steeply away from the site onto the coastal plain. On other sides the land falls sharply away from the summit by c. 10m before levelling out, and then to the south rising gently. The fort is overlooked from the south. There are no obvious built defences on the naturally well-defended northwest side (but one suspects the steep slope has been artificially steepened), but on the other sides a bivallate rampart protects a roughly oval area 90m by 40m. The bivallate character of the defences can only be detected on aerial photographs, where an outer ditch shows in parching on the south and eastern side of the fort. A substantial earthwork represents the inner, main defence. This bank is partly formed by scarping of the steep natural slope and is partly built up. On the NE, E and S sides the bank rises to over 0.5m above the flat interior, and is up to 3m high. It achieves its greatest height at the south end. The outer face is eroding - soil creep owing to the steepness of the slope, and sheep scraps - revealing the stony character of the bank. In several areas on this external face one or two courses of dry-stone revetment wall have been exposed. The entrance is a simple east-facing gap through the bank. No ditch is visible on the surface, but aerial photographs show a ditch to this bank in parched conditions, with a second ditch as described above. A shallow hollow towards the NE end of the otherwise featureless interior may mark the site of a round-house. In 2005, the site was under improved pasture.

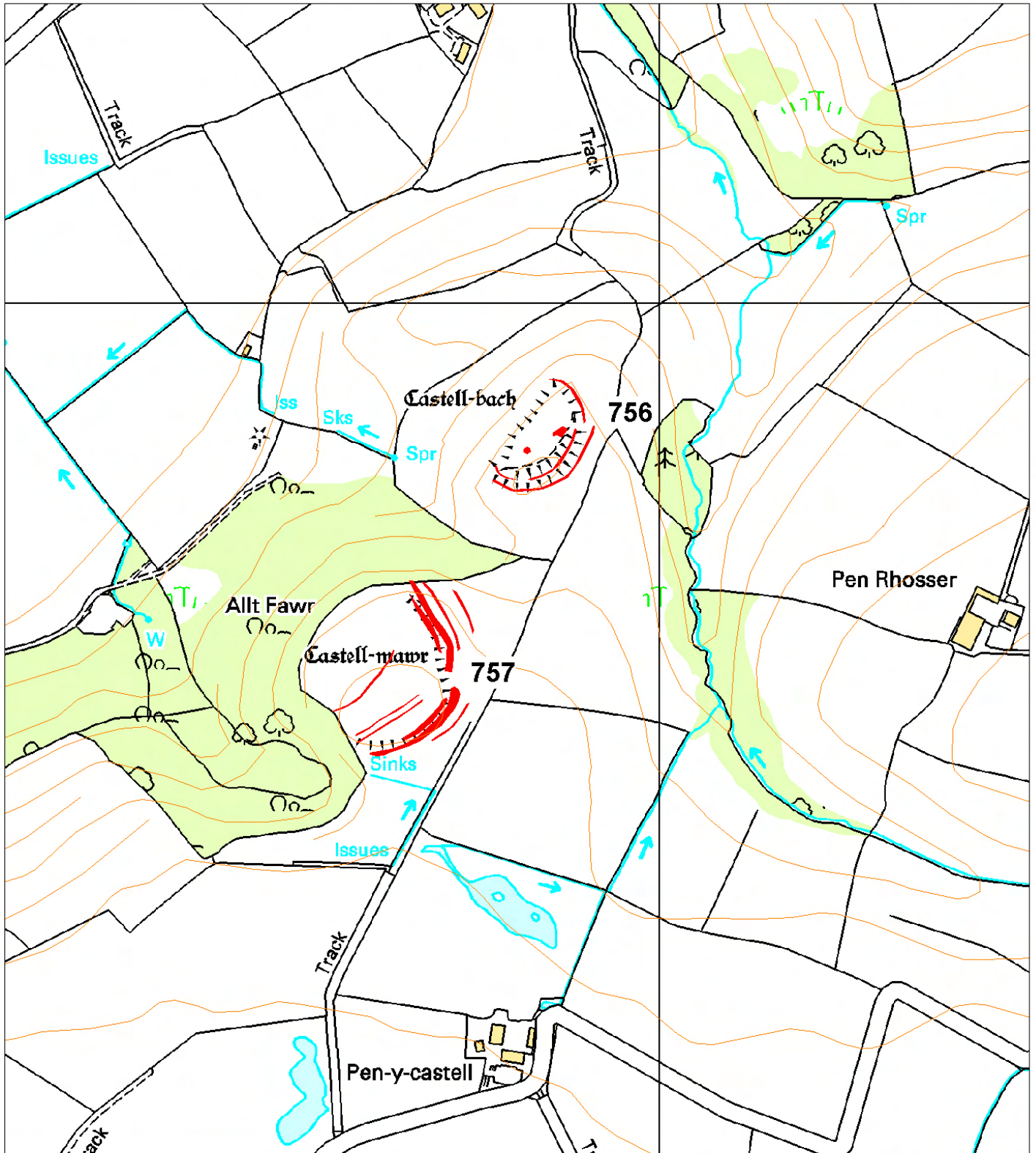
K Murphy 22 November 2005



Aerial photograph Cambria Archaeology.



Ground photograph looking at Castell Bach.



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Scale: 1:500

757 CASTELL MAWR

PRN 757 NGR SN53756864

SITE NAME CASTELL MAWR

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Castell Mawr is a fort located on an inland promontory at approximately 120m above sea level. To the north, west and southwest land falls steeply away from the site onto the coastal plain. To the southeast the land falls away from the site by just a few metres before rising gently by c. 30m onto a rounded summit located over 500m away. The site is overlooked on this side.

Ieuan Hughes described this site as originally a roughly circular camp in 1926, but he notes it had been almost obliterated. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1888 shows this circular camp, approximately 120m diameter.

On the ground the site now has the appearance of a promontory fort, using the steep natural slopes as part of the defensive circuit, rather than a hillfort located on a promontory, as the historical documentation suggests. A curving earthwork bank up to 2m high externally (but making use of a natural break of slope) but rising only 0.5m above the fort's interior, runs from the edge on the steep natural on the north side of the fort to the steep slope on the south side. On the southeast side the defence is clearly bivallate, with a ditch outside the bank followed by a second ditch and an outer bank up to 0.5m high. A simple gap mid-way along the main, inner bank marks the site of an entrance. There is no trace of a defence on the west side of the fort above the steep natural slope. Given the configuration of the surviving earthworks it is difficult to envisage how such a circuit would have functioned on this side. The interior of the fort is roughly circular, approximately 120m diameter, and slopes gently down from a high point on the southeast side of the defensive circuit.

On aerial photographs this fort is clearly much more complex than is visible on the ground. It is a multivallate fort, with three lines of ditch on the northeast and southeast side. Slight in-turning of the inner ditch at the entrance suggests a more complex arrangement than indicated by the earthworks. A line of a thinner ditch running across the centre of the interior may possibly mark the course of an earlier defence. There is no trace on aerial photographs of the defensive circuit on the west side as shown on the OS 1st Edition. In 2005, the site was under improved pasture.

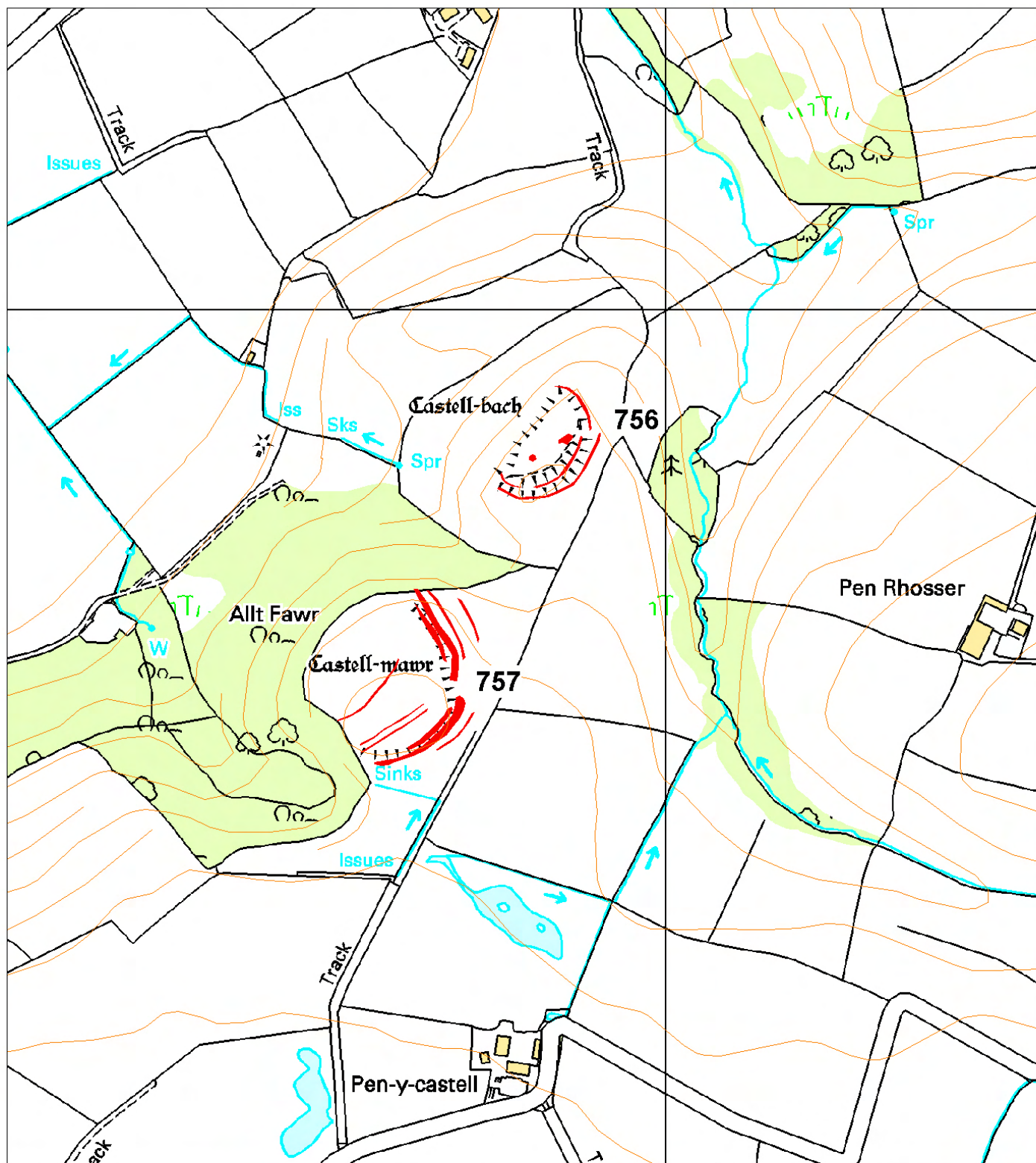
K Murphy 27 November 2005



Aerial photograph Cambria Archaeology.



Ground photograph looking at earthwork defences.



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Scale: 1:500

763 TROEDYRHIW

PRN 763 NGR SN52276763

SITE NAME TROED-Y-RHIW

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Troed-y-Rhiw enclosure is situated on towards the end of a rounded inland promontory at 90m above sea level. The site itself occupies a hollow or concavity on the otherwise sloping ground. On aerial photographs it shows as an oval cropmark bank and ditch, the internal area approximately 72m by 57m. The Ordnance Survey in 1973 recorded a simple south-facing entrance, but no break here is visible on aerial photographs. Two cropmark ditches approach the enclosure from the northeast, possibly indicating the site of an entrance. On the ground a bank up to 0.25m high is visible on the west side of the enclosure. The east side is marked by a sharp break of slope. In 2005, the site was under improved pasture. It had last been ploughed in the late 1990s.

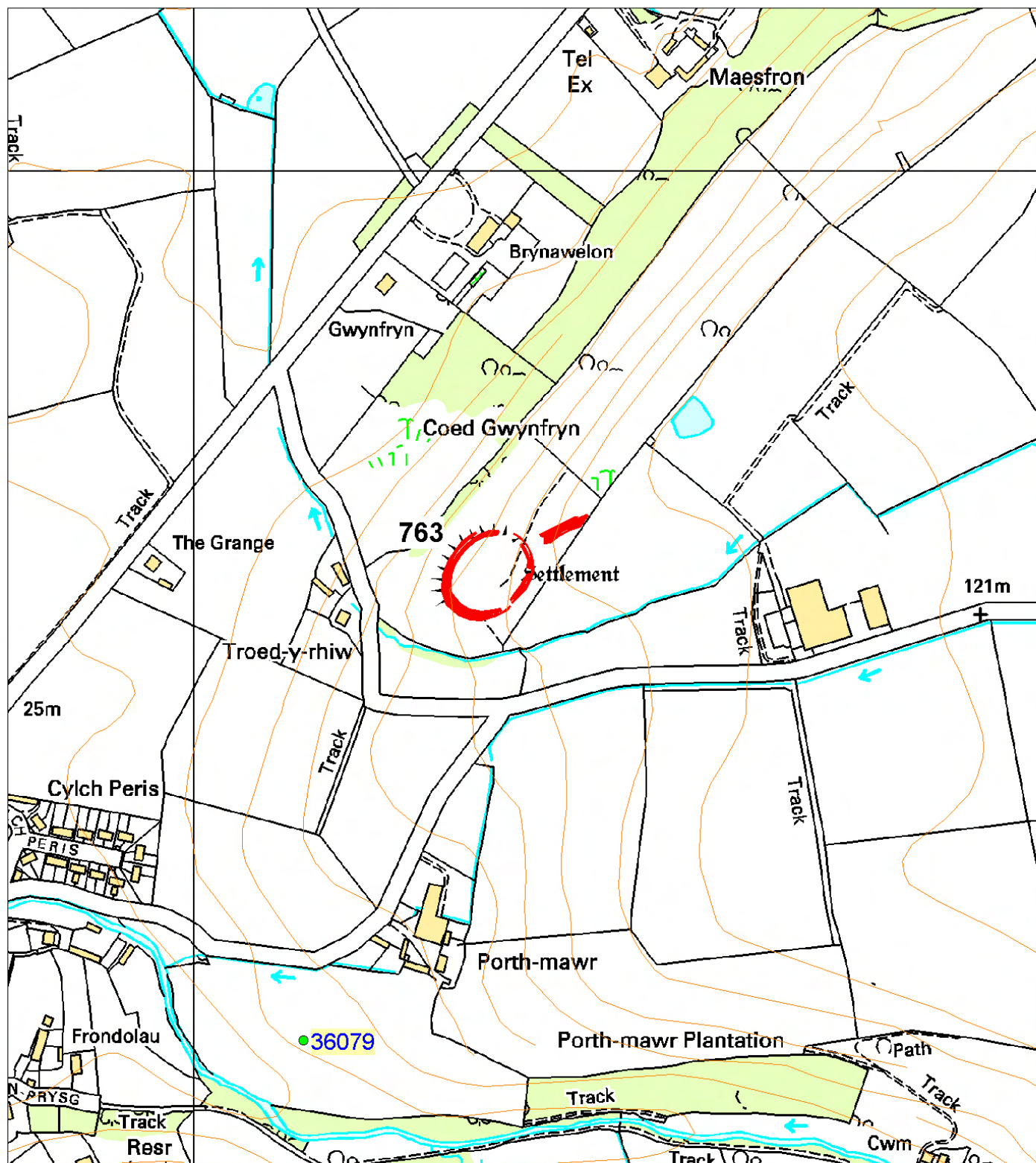
K Murphy and R Ramsey 6 January 2006



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 2003-cs-1436.



Ground photograph showing slight surviving earthworks.



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Scale: 1:500

778 BANC Y GAER

PRN 778 NGR SN56757454

SITE NAME BANC-Y-GAER

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

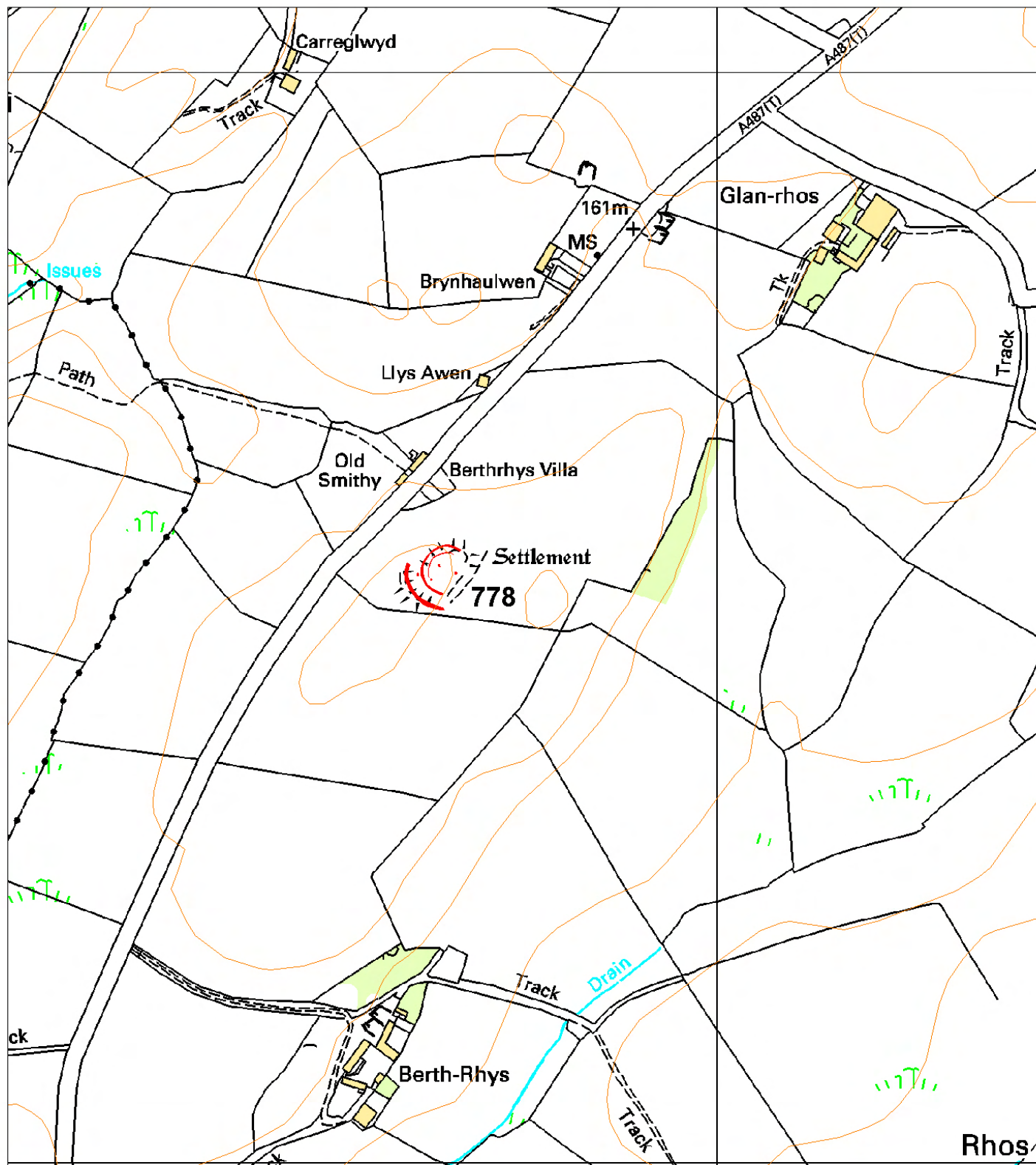
DESCRIPTION

Banc-y-Gaer enclosure lies at the northern end of a low flat-topped ridge at 170m above sea level. Land falls away from the site to the west and north, but is fairly level to the east and south. Aerial photographs show a concentric, roughly circular enclosure defined by cropmark ditches. The diameter of the inner enclosure is about 42m. The cropmarks are not complete, and therefore the position of the entrance is uncertain. On the ground there is no trace of the inner enclosure (but the site visit was conducted in heavy, driving rain), but the line of the outer defence is marked by a c. 30m long and 0.5 high section of curving bank on the south side. In 2005, the site was under improved pasture.

K Murphy 11 November 2005



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 955142-50.



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Scale: 1:500

1196 CAER PENRHOS

PRN 1196 NGR SN55206955

SITE NAME CAER PENRHOS

SITE TYPE HILLFORT;CASTLE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age;Medieval CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

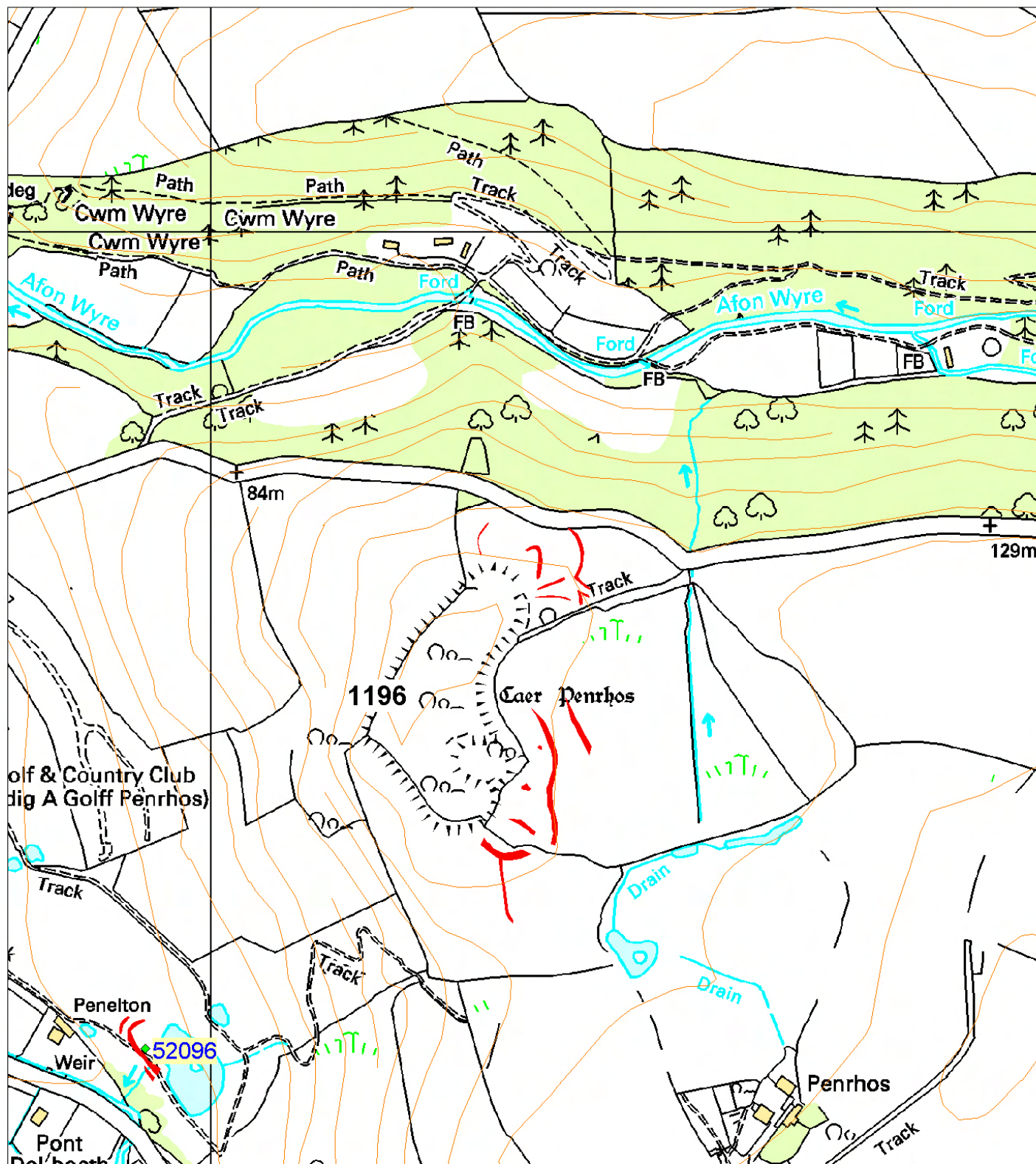
DESCRIPTION

Recorded as a medieval castle built by Cadwaladr ap Gruffydd in 1148, Caer Penrhos is a complex site consisting of a ringwork possibly built over an Iron Age fort. It lies at 140m above sea level on a rounded hill. The presumed Iron Age fort is irregular in shape, 230m north - south and 80m east west, with a simple entrance at the northeast tip. It is defended by a bank and ditch with evidence on aerial photographs of a partial outer ditch on the east side. Aerial photographs also show a possible cropmark annexe at the northern end of the fort. The medieval ringwork is more massive and is built across the defences of the fort. It is bounded by a rock-cut ditch on its south and west sides. It measures approximately 44m by 26m internally. The relationship between the two elements is not entirely clear. If the large enclosure is Iron Age in date, then it is very large for the region. The character of its defences is however consistent with known Iron Age sites. It is likely that the Iron Age defences were modified in the medieval period. For a full description see T Driver. The site is mainly under improved pasture, but with scrub in some areas, particularly on the banks.

K Murphy 16 December 2005 - compiled from several sources.



Aerial photograph Cambria Archaeology.



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3993 PEN DINAS

PRN 3993 NGR SN58418036

SITE NAME PEN DINAS

SITE TYPE HILLFORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

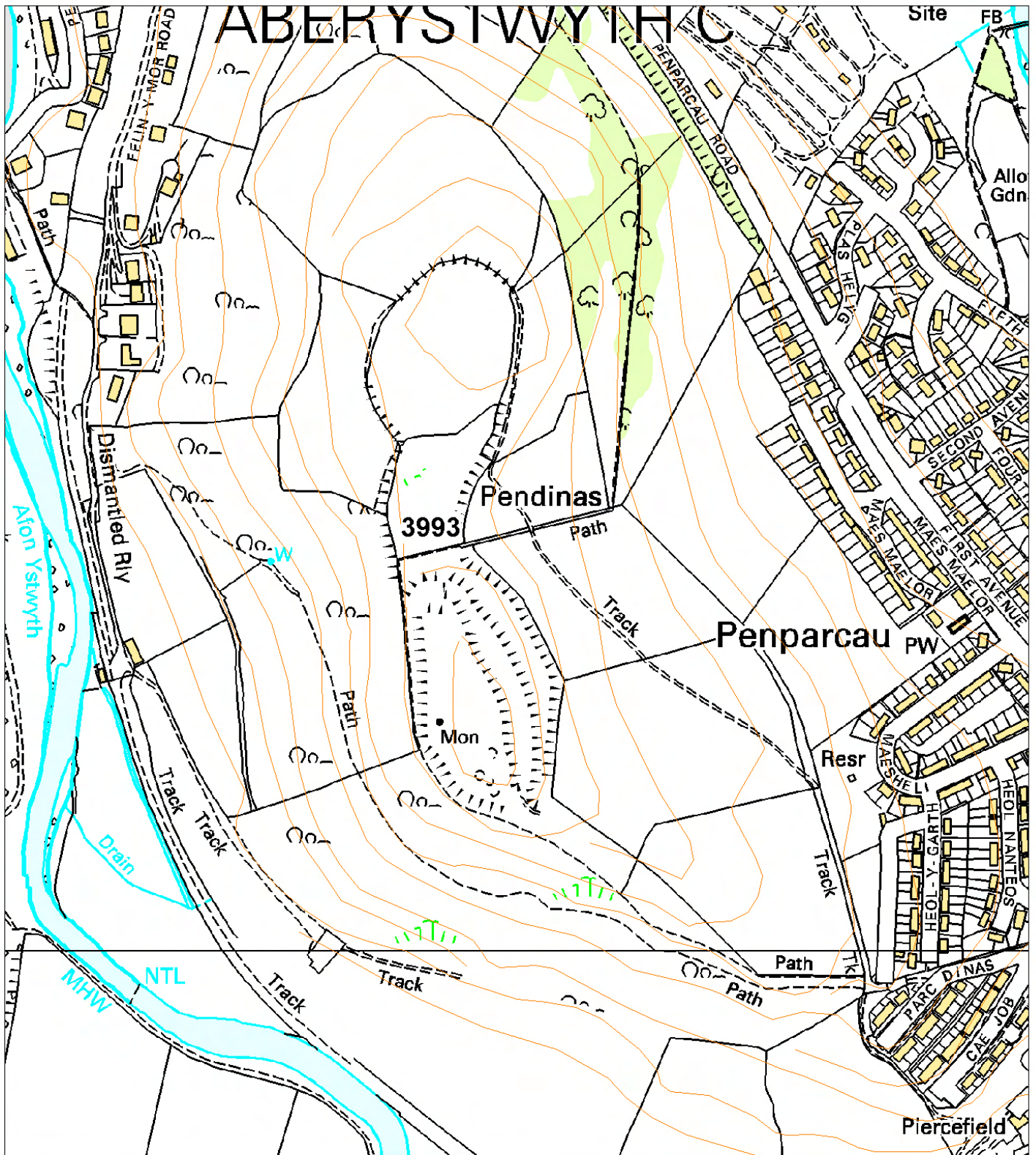
DESCRIPTION

Pen Dinas is a hillfort occupying a strong position overlooking Aberystwyth and Cardigan Bay. It is 6.0ha in total. The main enclosure is multivallate, with a univallate annexe to the north. Excavations in the 1930s by Darryll Forde revealed complex phasing.

K Murphy 16 December 2005 - from various sources



Aerial photograph Cambria Archaeology.



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14245 PANT WILOG

PRN 14245 NGR SN52096698

SITE NAME PANT-WILOG

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

This is a cropmark site, with no earthwork or other surface evidence. It is located on sloping ground on the edge of a steep valley side at 70m above sea level. To the south the land rises gently by 10m from the site to a rounded summit 220m away. It is a concentric enclosure, with the sub-rectangular inner enclosure 60m north - south and 40m east - west represented by an incomplete cropmark ditch. Cropmark splodges within the enclosure may indicate pits. The ditch marking the limits of the concentric outer enclosure is narrower than the inner and lies 55m from it, to the west and south. A public road follows this ditch, indicating the its course must have been visible when the road was laid out. In 2005, the site was under improved pasture.

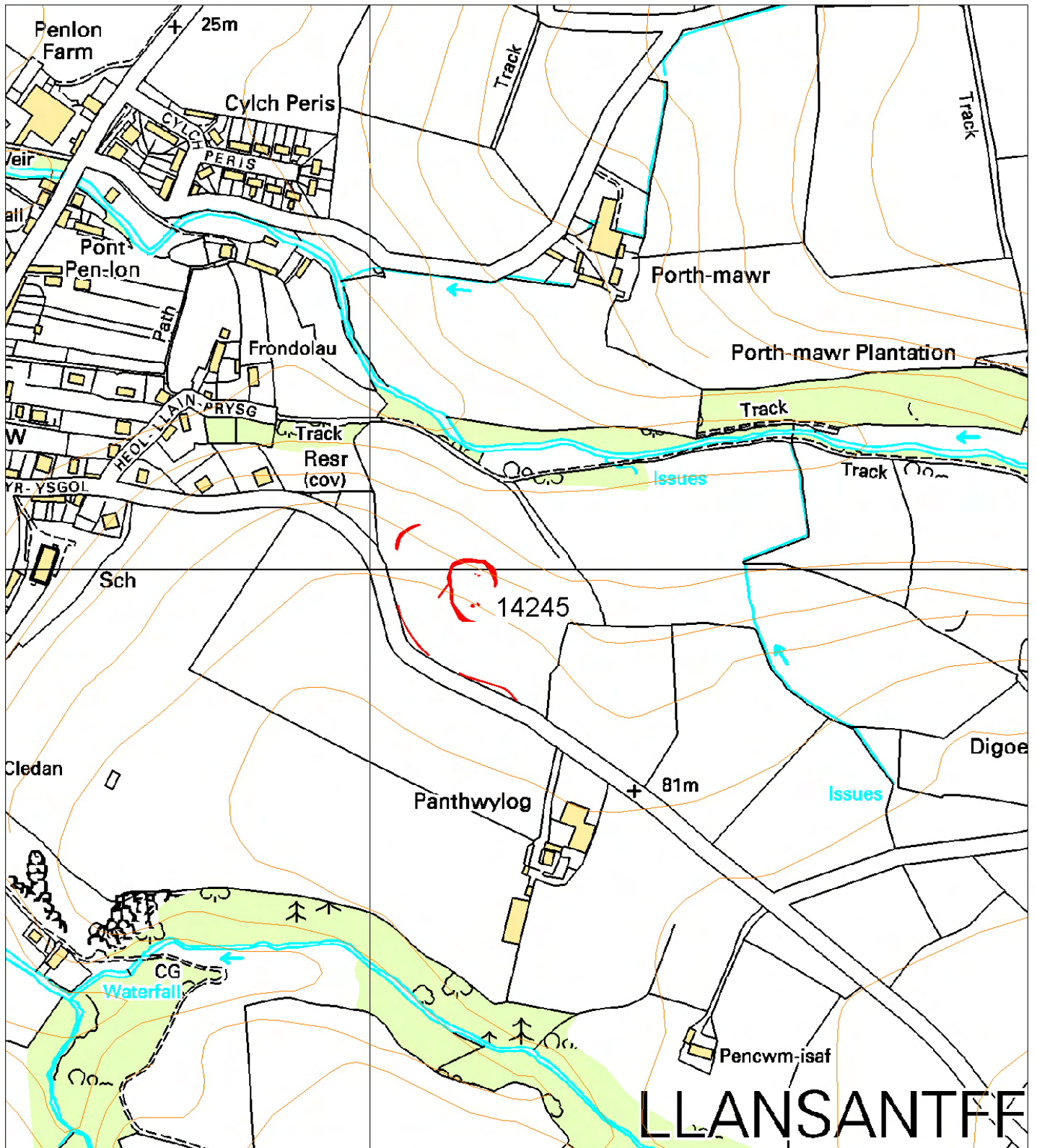
K Murphy 23 November 2005



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 89-cs-757.



Ground photograph looking over site of cropmark enclosure.



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Scale: 1:500

52070 Y FOEL

PRN 52070 NGR SN54196932

SITE NAME Y FOEL

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

A small cropmark enclosure occupies a saddle between two local summits. Land falls away steeply from the site to the north, south and west. It is a cropmark site, with only slight surface undulations hinting at buried remains. Aerial photographs show two close-set concentric ditches enclosing a roughly circular internal area 26m diameter. A wide break in the cropmarks on the north side probably indicates the location of the entrance. In 2006, the site was under improved pasture.

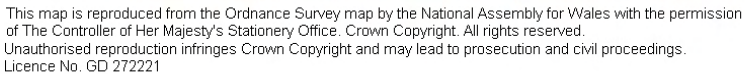
K Murphy and R Ramsey 6 January 2006



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 99-cs-1941.



Ground photograph looking towards site of cropmark enclosure.



Scale: 1:500

52075 TYNBEILI

PRN 52075 NGR SN56376910

SITE NAME TYNBEILI

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

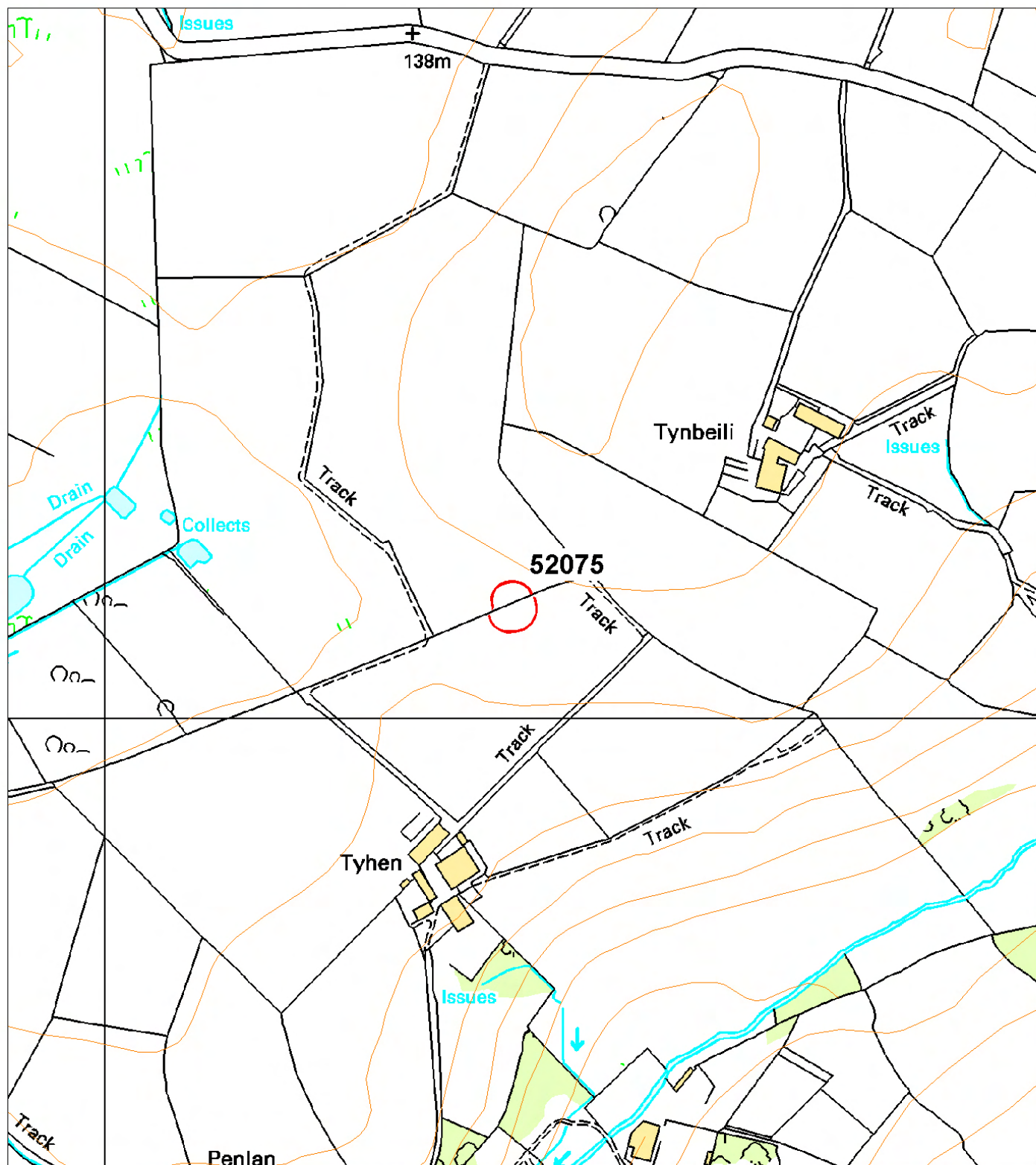
DESCRIPTION

This is a cropmark enclosure lying on a gentle southwest-facing slope at 140m above sea level. Aerial photographs show an almost circular cropmark ditch with an internal diameter of c. 42m bisected by a field boundary. There is no obvious entrance. On the ground the southern half of the site is marked by a very slight rise in the ground - no more than 0.25m. Otherwise there is no trace of the enclosure on the ground. In 2006, the site was under improved pasture.

K Murphy and R Ramsey 5 January 2006



Ground photograph looking over site of cropmark enclosure.



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52095 COED Y GRIP

PRN 52095 NGR SN57897063

SITE NAME COED Y GRIP

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age; Roman CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

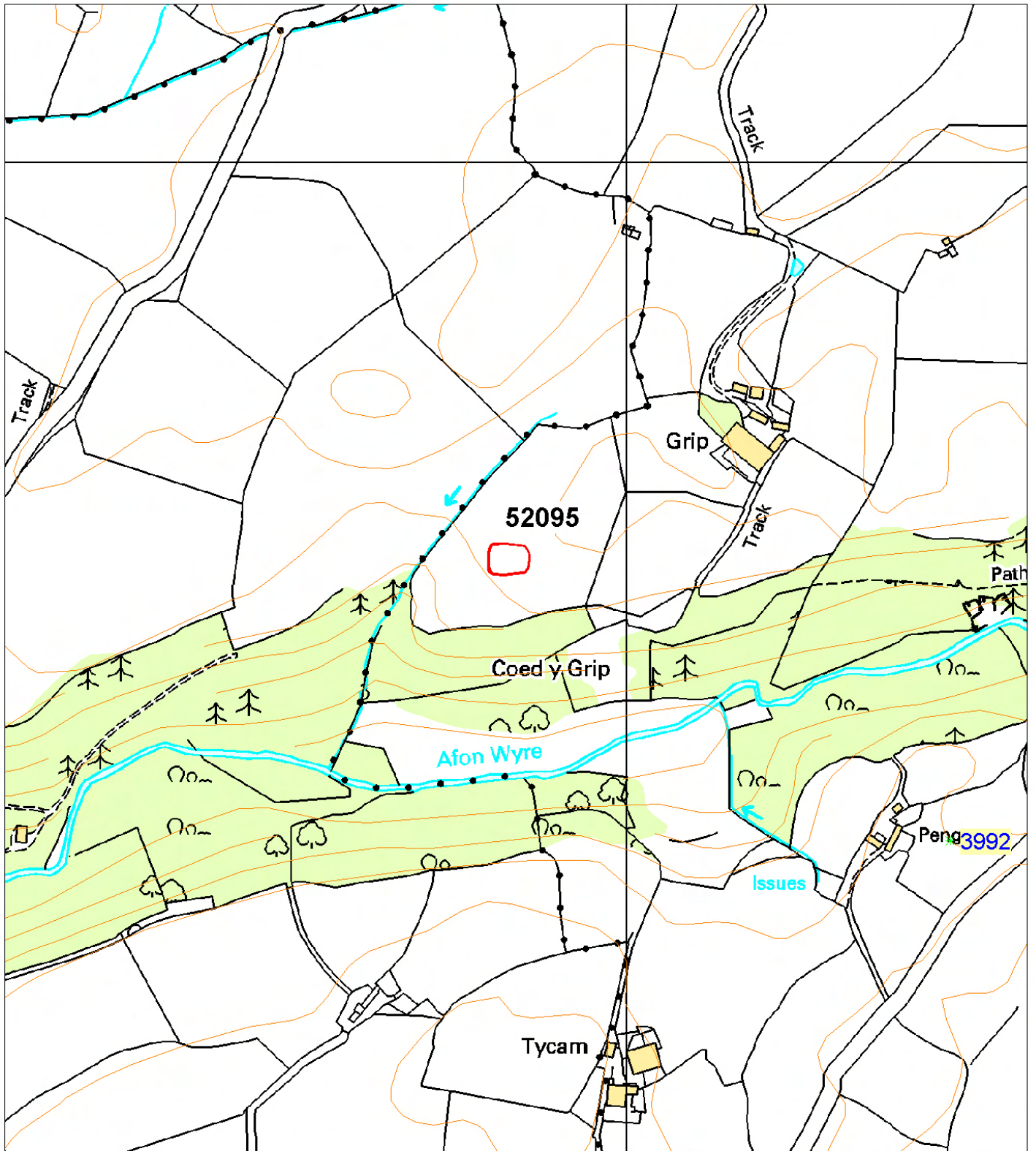
DESCRIPTION

This cropmark enclosure lies on a very gentle southwest-facing slope at 150m above sea level. Immediately to the southwest the land falls steeply away into the Wyre valley. The site is overlooked from higher ground to the northeast. It is a cropmark site only, with no earthwork or other surface evidence. Vertical aerial photographs show cropmark ditch surrounding a round-cornered rectangular area, c. 36m by 25m internally. The location of the entrance is unknown. In 2006, the site was under improved pasture.

K Murphy and R Ramsey 5 January 2006



Ground photograph looking over site of enclosure.



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52096 PONT DOL-BOETH

PRN 52096 NGR SN54946925

SITE NAME PONT DOL-BOETH

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE? FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age? CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

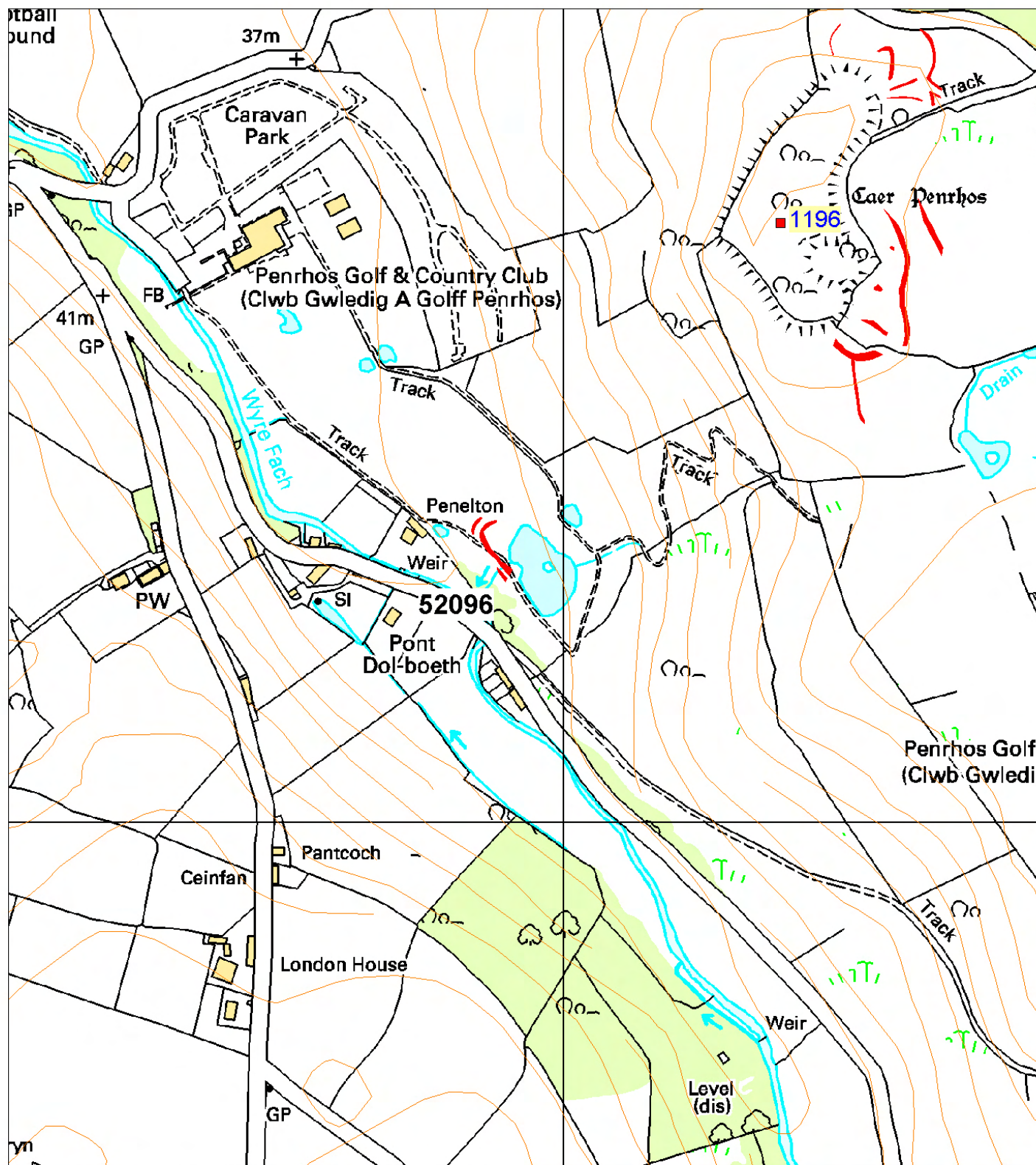
DESCRIPTION

A partial cropmark of a bivallate defended enclosure was noted on vertical aerial photographs (CUCAP RC8kn ca 78) by T Driver. The western and north corner of a possible rectangular enclosure with close set ramparts were noted. The site lies towards the foot of a valley, on a west-facing slope at 50m above sea level. The site is now part of a golf course, and the whole area was landscaped in about 1990, including the creation of ponds. There is no surface trace of this site.

K Murphy and R Ramsey 5 January 2006



Ground photograph looking at site of cropmark.



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Scale: 1:500

52100 ALLT-MAI

PRN 52100 NGR SN59377673

SITE NAME ALLT MAI

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE? FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age? CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

A possible cropmark enclosure. It is located on a slight rise, with a fairly steep north face, on an otherwise fairly flat area, c. 20m above the River Ystwyth. It is a cropmark only, with no earthwork or other surface evidence. Aerial photographs show a faint, thin curving cropmark ditch along the south side, and a separate more substantial ditch on the west side. Projected, these ditches produce an oval enclosure of c. 120m by 65m. A small quarry (abandoned) has been dug into the slope within the enclosure. Apart from trees on the steep north slope, the site is under improved pasture.

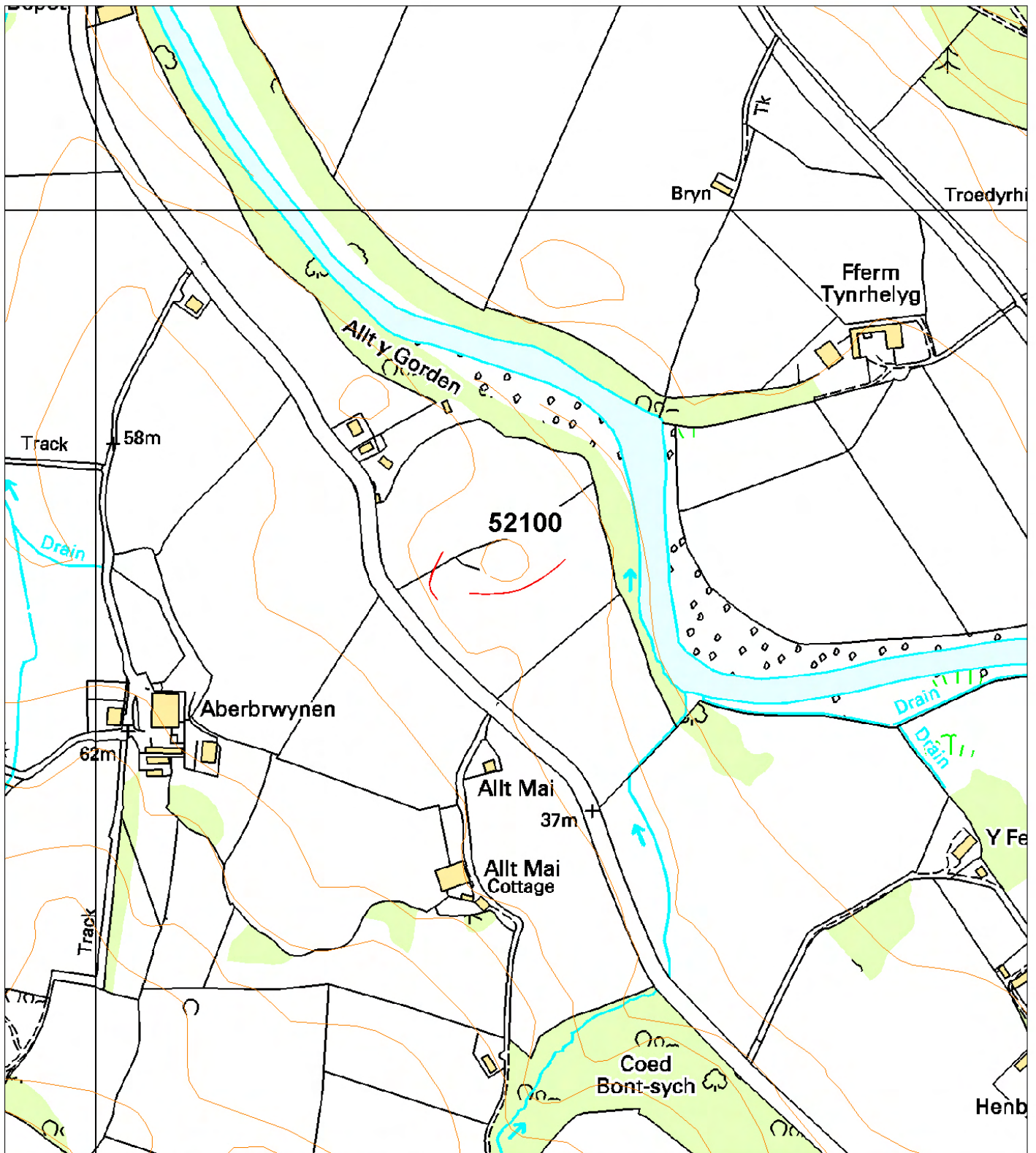
K Murphy and R Ramsey 5 January 2006



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 9-cs-1899.



Ground photograph looking towards site of cropmark.



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REJECTED SITES

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

36079 recorded as a possible enclosure from aerial photographs, downgraded to a natural feature following a site visit.