

A SURVEY OF DEFENDED ENCLOSURES IN CEREDIGION, 2006: GAZETTEER OF ORDNANCE SURVEY GRID SQUARES SN75, SN76, SN77 AND SN78



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A SURVEY OF DEFENDED ENCLOSURES IN CEREDIGION, 2006: GAZETTEER OF ORDNANCE SURVEY GRID SQUARES SN75, SN76, SN77 AND SN78

Gan / By

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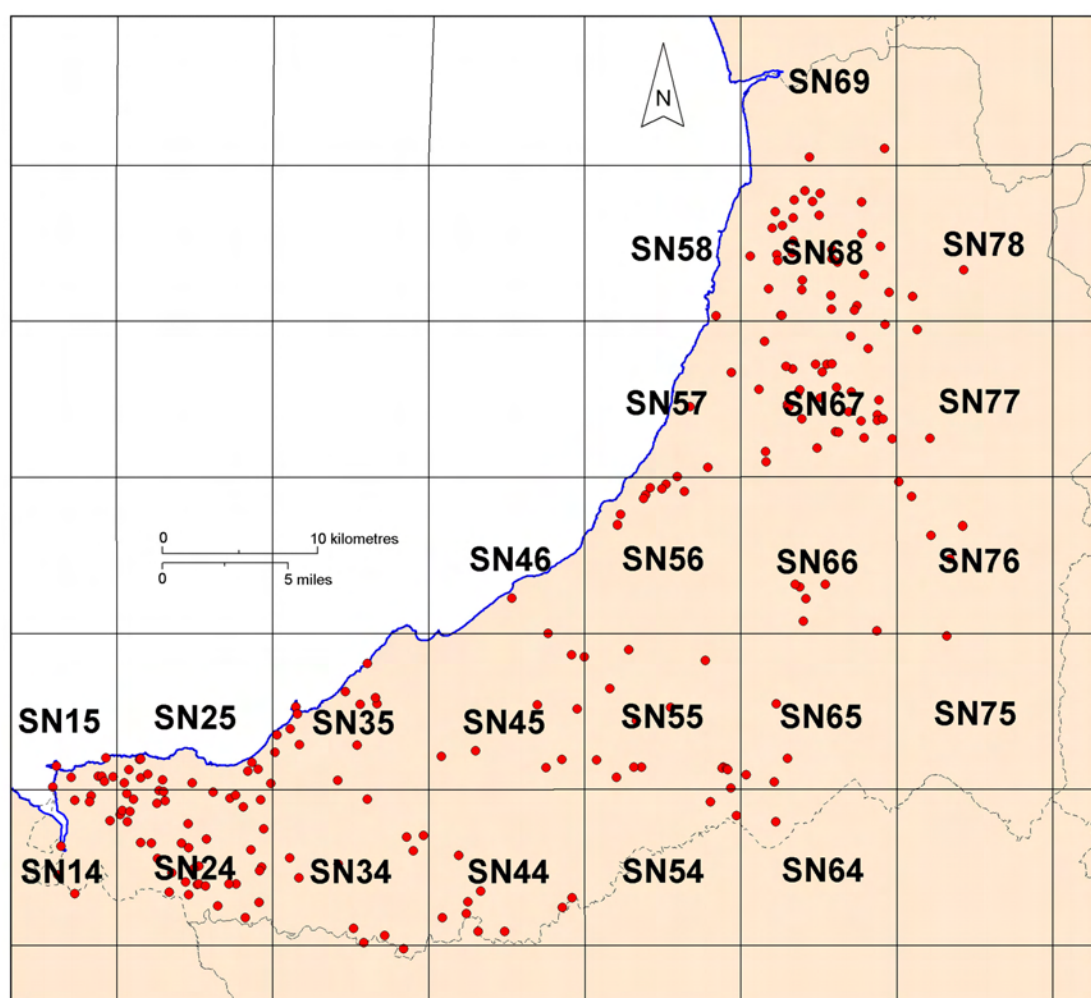
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SITE GAZETTEER OF 10KM GRID SQUARES SN75, SN76, SN77 AND SN78

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 ©.

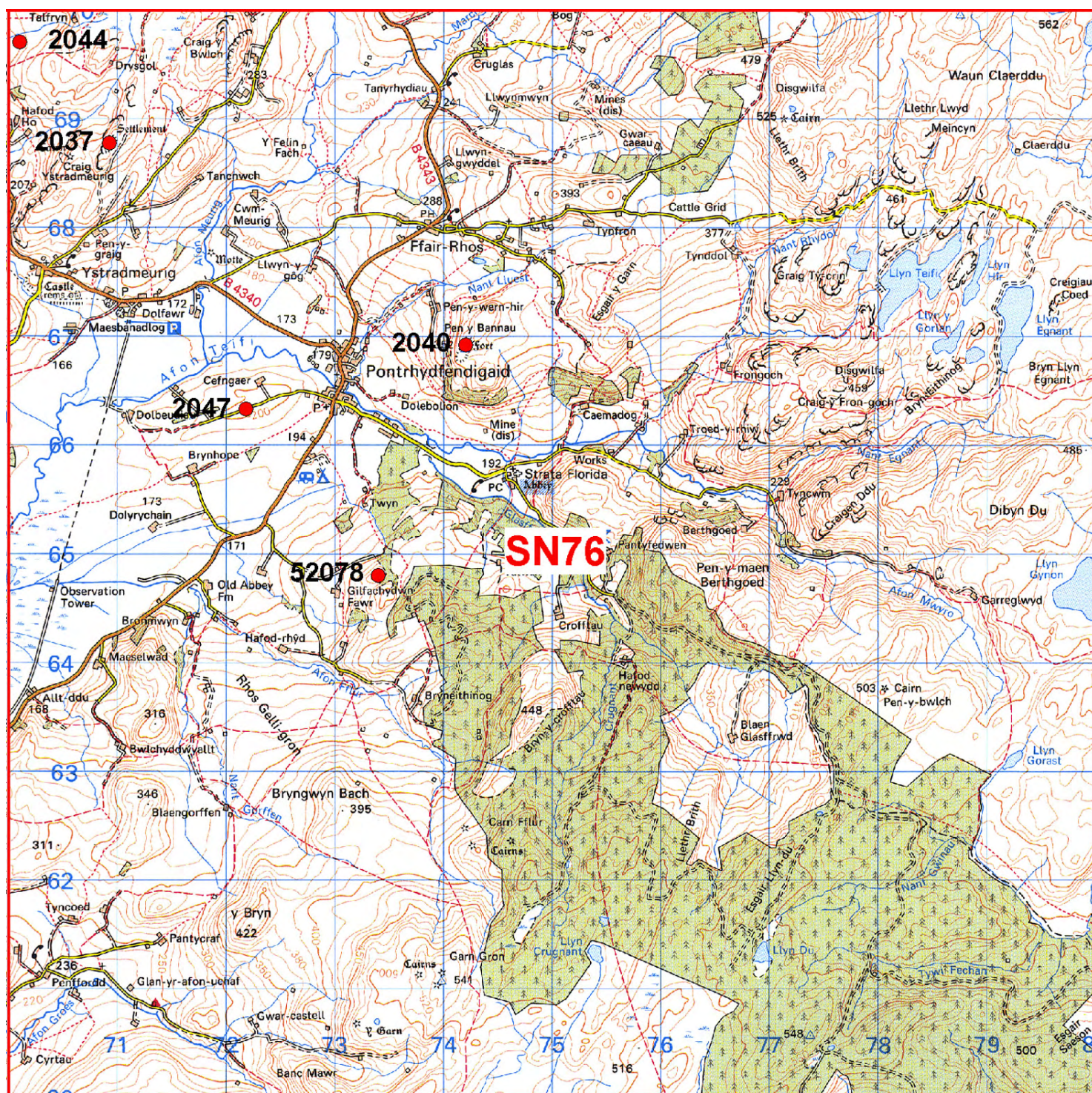


Index to the gazetteers of defended enclosures and related sites. Gazetteers are arranged by 10km grid squares.



1:50,000 Distribution map of sites in 10km grid square SN75.

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1:50,000 Distribution map of sites in 10km grid square SN76.

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1:50,000 Distribution map of sites in 10km grid square SN77.

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2031 CASTELL RHYFEL

PRN 2031 NGR SN73185987

SITE NAME CASTELL RHYFEL

SITE TYPE HILLFORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS SAM

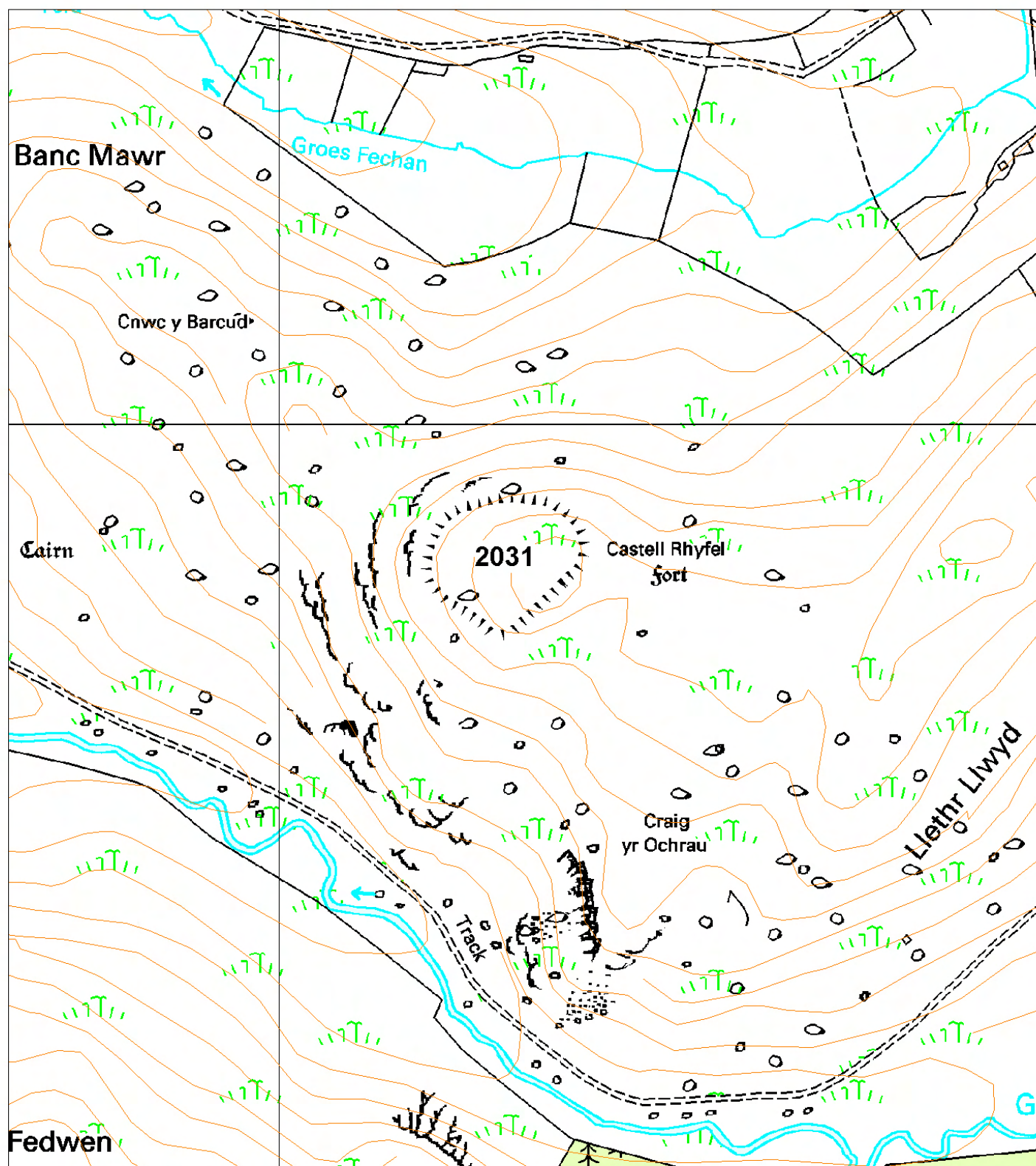
DESCRIPTION

Castell Rhyfel occupies a strong naturally defensive location on the summit of a steep-sided hill on the margins of the Cambrian Mountains at 500m. It is naturally extremely well defended to the north, west and south. It is a univallate fort. The defences are slight and consist of a low bank 4m wide and between 0.4m and 1m high externally. They are most coherent on the southeast side. The rampart has been formed from quarry pits dug immediately inside the bank - these can clearly be seen on aerial photographs. The entrance is on the eastern tip of the fort, with a slightly in-turned south bank terminal. Aerial photographs show what seems to be a second, outer bank on the eastern, most easily approachable side. Also on this side there is also a natural 'chevaux-de-frise', which may have played a role in the defences. The interior is domed, pear-shaped, and with dimensions of 133m southwest - northeast and 119m southeast - northwest. The site is on moorland.

K Murphy 15 December 2005 - compiled from various sources.



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Scale: 1:500

2037 PEN Y FFRWYD BANNAU CAMP

PRN 2037 NGR SN70926878

SITE NAME PEN-Y-FFRWYD LLWYD CAMP

SITE TYPE HILLFORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

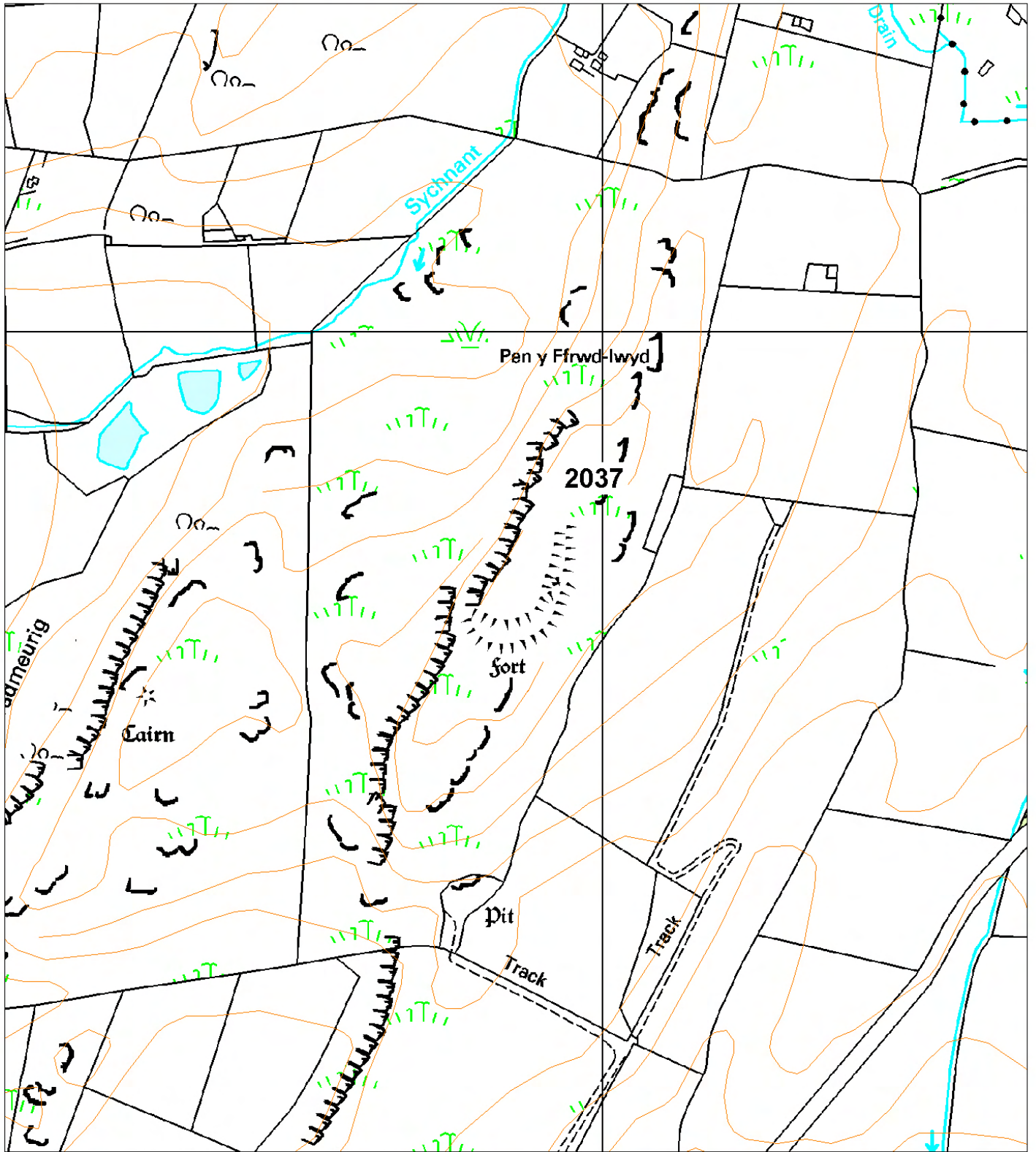
DESCRIPTION

Pen-y-Ffrwyd Llwyd Camp is a scarp edge bivallate fort lying on a rocky hill at 330m above sea level. The site is naturally strongly defended on the western edge by low cliffs. Ramparts defend the other sides, forming a roughly semicircular enclosure with internal dimensions 100m north - south and 42m east - west. The two lines of rampart are quite closely spaced at the northern end, but become increasingly widely spaced to the south. The inner rampart is the slighter of the two, about 5m wide and 1m high with only slight traces of a ditch. The outer rampart is up to 10m wide and 2m high and is accompanied by a silted ditch. On the south side the bank follows a low crag with the ditch rock-cut. A postern entrance may lie here. The entrance is a simple gap through both ramparts at the north end. A further bank and ditch protect a small annexe at the north end. A track running diagonally up the defences on the east side may mark the line of another entrance. The interior is undisturbed and one and possibly three round-house platform can be made out. The fort is on open moorland.

K Murphy 15 December 2005 - compiled from various sources.



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Scale: 1:500

2040 PEN Y BANNAU

PRN 2040 NGR SN74206692

SITE NAME PEN Y BANNAU CAMP

SITE TYPE HILLFORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

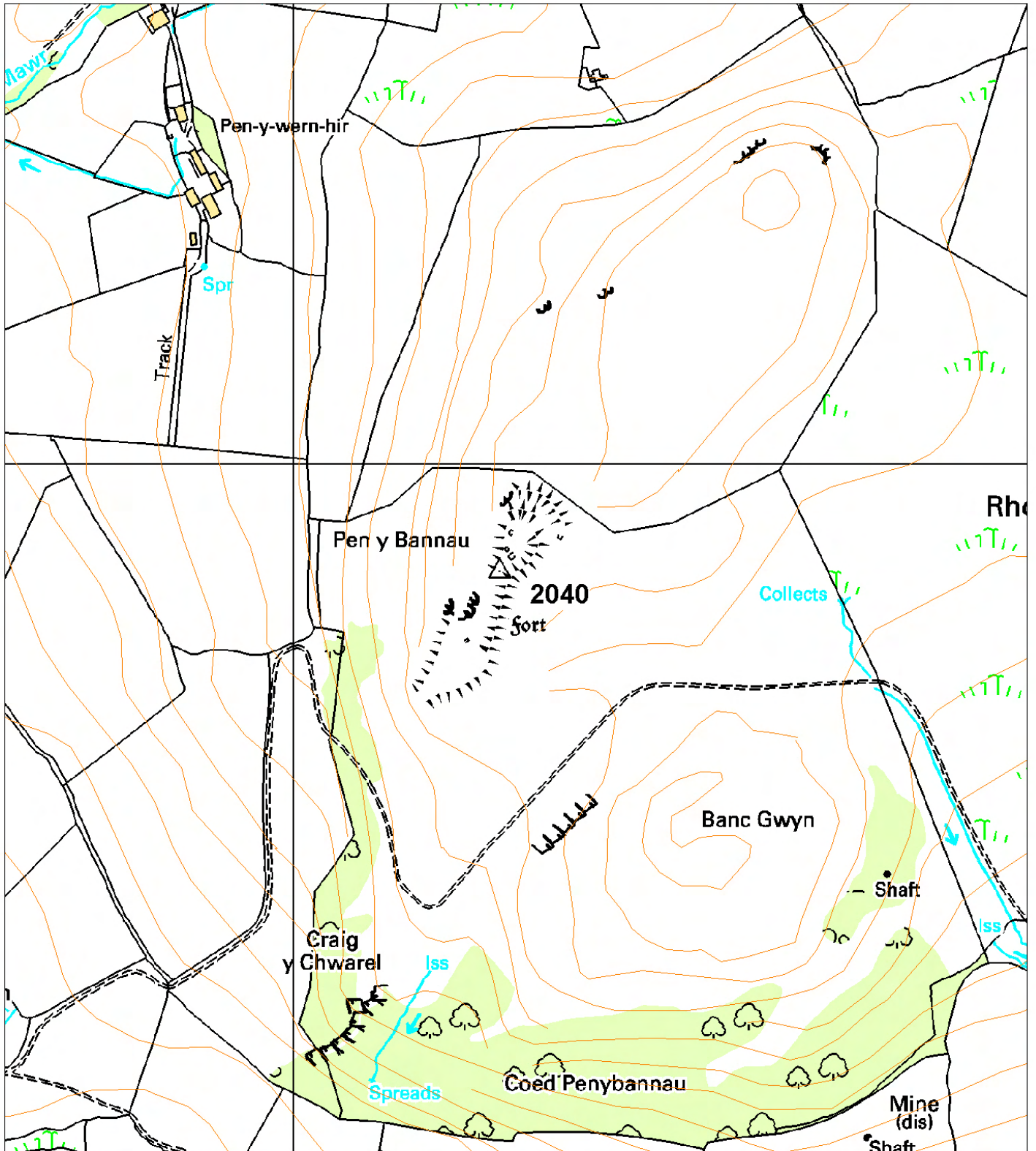
DESCRIPTION

Pen-y-Bannau is a univallate hillfort in a strong naturally defensive location. Its northern end lies at 340m above sea level, but the interior slopes down to the south to below 310m. Steep slopes provide a good natural defence to the west, south and east; these are augmented by ramparts. The built defence on the east and south side is provided by a wall (now rubble) and to the west by a scarped slope. At the northern end the wall increases into a substantial bank. Two further substantial banks, 1m - 2m high internally and up to 4m externally both with ditches, protect the northern, most easily approachable side. The entrance is gained round the eastern end of these two outer banks, and obliquely through a gap mid-way along the inner bank on the northern side. This is quite a complex entrance. On aerial photographs the east end of the middle bank is clearly club-ended and there is an in-turn to the inner bank on the east side. The interior is long and narrow, 190m north - south and 50m east - west. There is a natural step down within the interior 60m south of the entrance dividing the fort in two. This is so distinct that the 1st Ed Ordnance Survey 1:2500 of 1888 depicted only the northern part of the fort, and on aerial photographs the northern part seems to form the main defended area with the lower section to the south an added annexe. The site is under improved pasture.

K Murphy 15 December 2005 - compiled from several sources.



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 2001-cs-0341.



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Scale: 1:500

2044 CAREG-LWYD

PRN 2044 NGR SN70106971

SITE NAME GAREG-LWYD

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

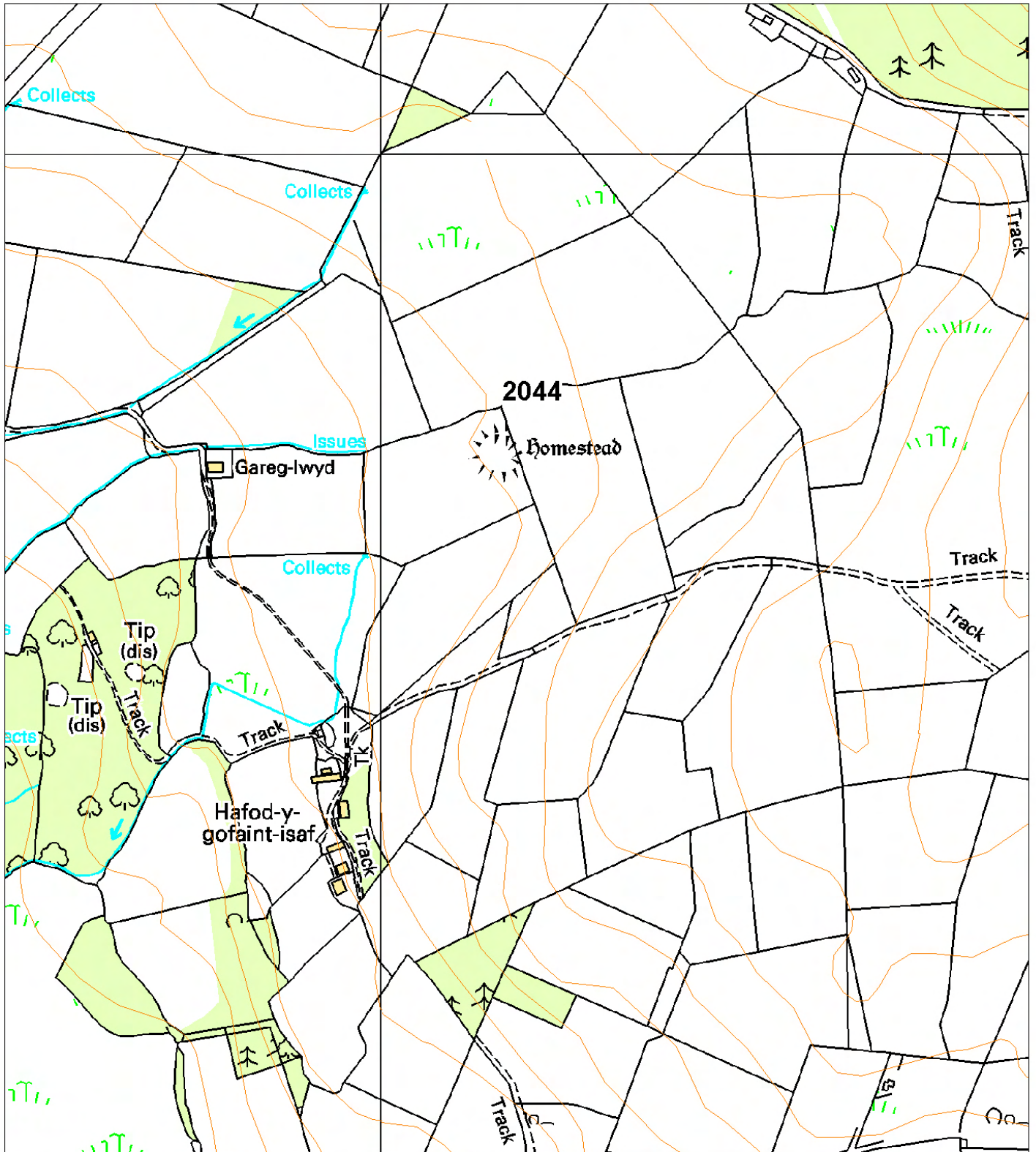
DESCRIPTION

This small defended enclosure lies on a west-facing slope at 260m above sea level. An almost circular area, c. 35m diameter, is surrounded by a stony bank up to 1.4m high and spread in places to 9m wide. Agricultural encroachment has lowered the defences on the west side. The bank is covered with scrub and brambles, and the interior overgrown. No clear entrance can be identified.

K Murphy and R Ramsey 22 December 2005



Ground photograph looking towards site.



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Scale: 1:500

2047 Y GAER

PRN 2047 NGR SN72186633

SITE NAME GAER Y

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Located on the highest point of a low, rounded east - west aligned ridge at 200m above sea level, Y Gaer is a small defended enclosure of which virtually no surface evidence now remains. To the north and south of the site the flanks of the ridge fall gently away by 20m - 30m. Along the crest of the ridge the land is almost level, but with a slight falling away to the east and west. In 1974, the Ordnance Survey reported that a 100m length of curving scarp on the north side and a change of slope on the south side clearing represented an oval enclosure c. 90m long and perhaps 50m wide. Since then the site has deteriorated, and all that is now visible are the natural breaks of slope on the north and south sides and some very slight earthworks on the southeast side, possibly part of a bank. On the ground there is now nothing to firmly indicate the presence of an enclosure, however, an aerial photograph taken in low winter light shows a possible curving length of bank on the south side. In 2005, the site was under improved pasture.

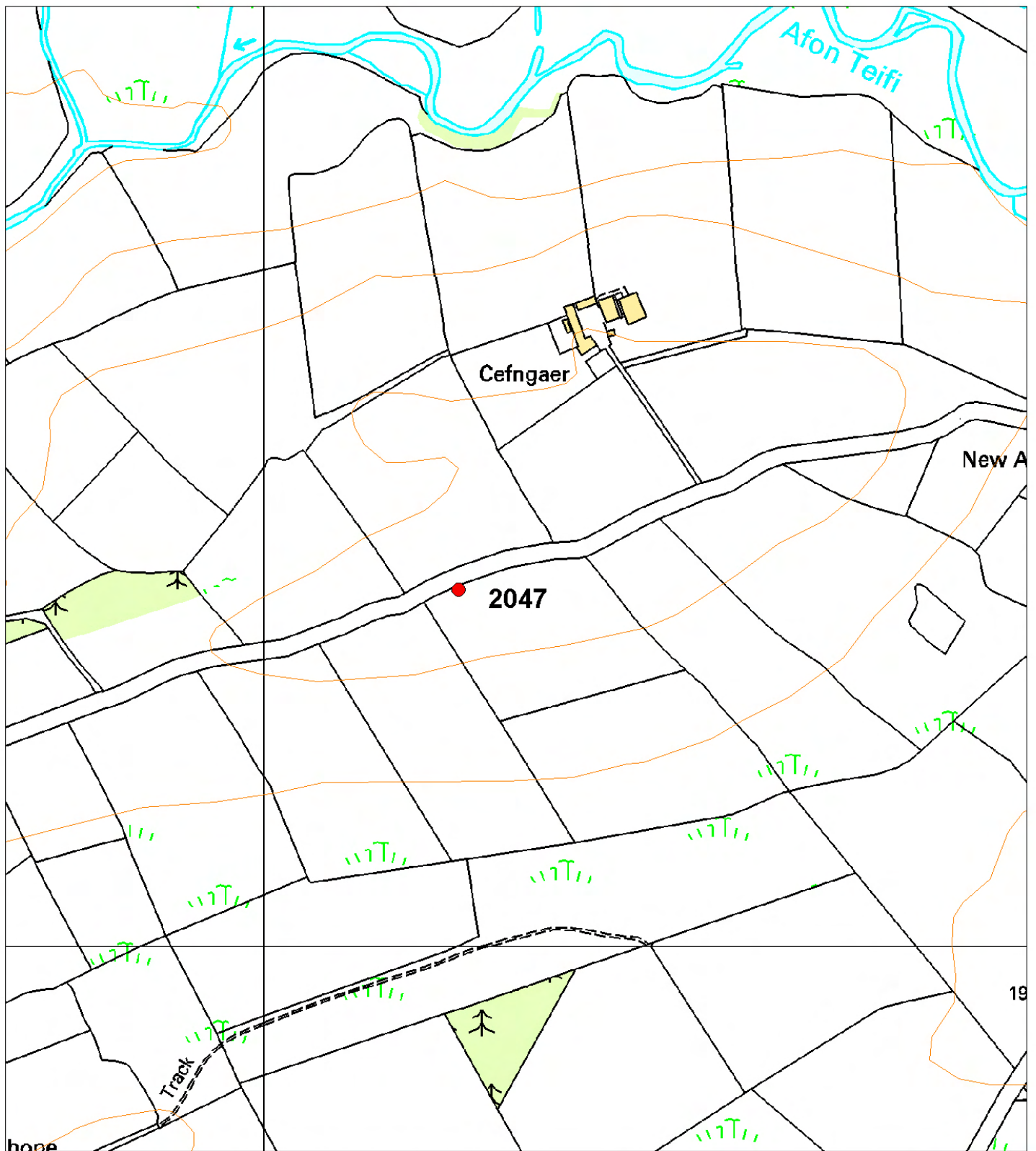
K Murphy 30 November 2005



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 2001-cs-1944.



Ground photograph looking across site.



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Scale: 1:500

2056 CASTELL BWA-DRAIN

PRN 2056 NGR SN71307946

SITE NAME CASTELL BWA-DRAIN

SITE TYPE HILLFORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

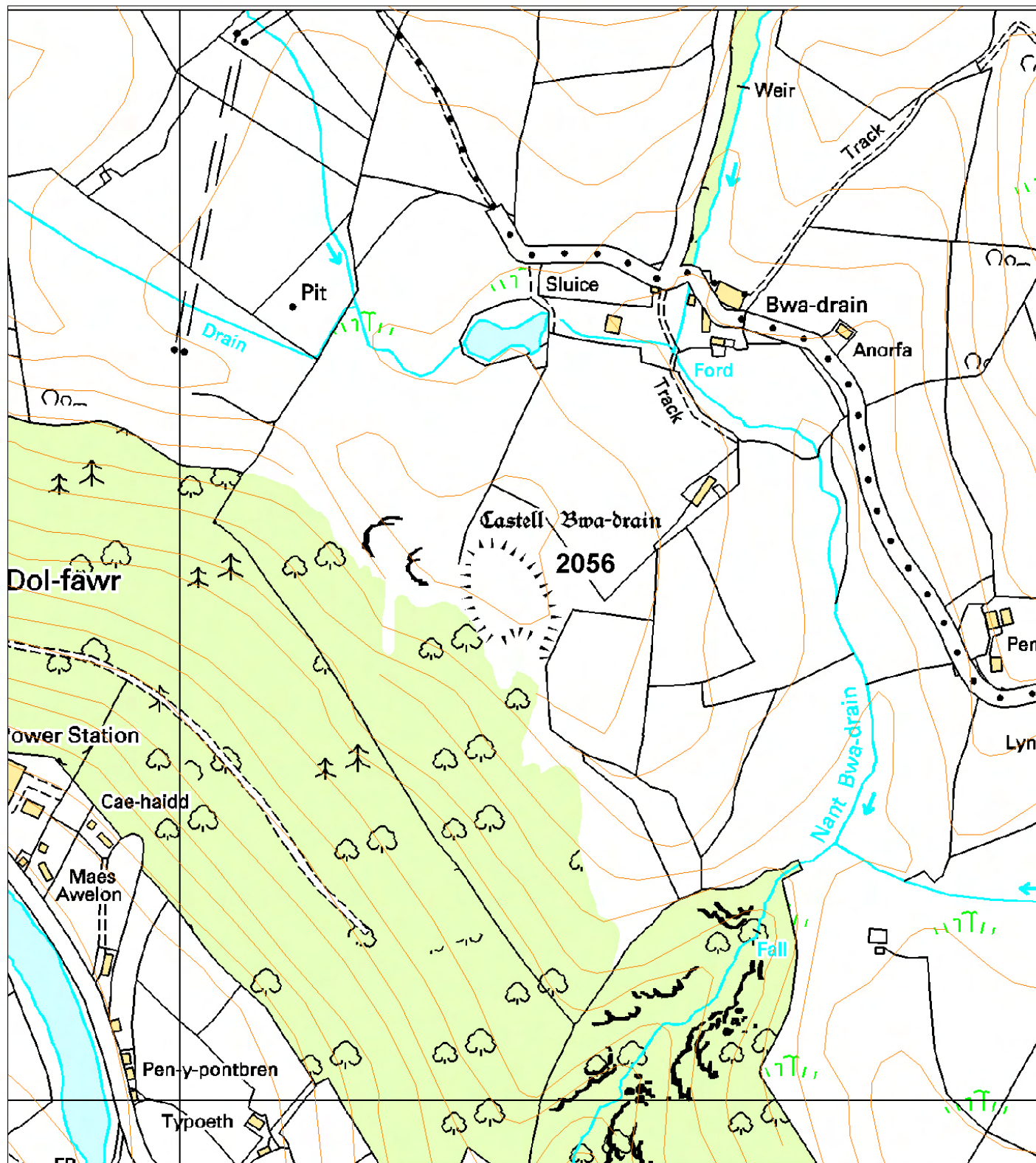
DESCRIPTION

Castell Bwa Drain is located in a strong naturally defensive position on the summit of a hill. On the western side there are no built defences as a steep valley sides that falls away precipitously to the Afon Rheidol some 130m below provides a defence. On other sides a stony bank up to 3m high protects the site. There are traces of a rock-cut ditch on the east. The bank is set out in a series of straight sections and encloses an area approximately 90m by 60m. There is a modern gap in the defences midway along the northeast side, but the original entrance is a simple gap about 5m wide at the northeast corner. The internal area contains a rocky hummock. Near it in the centre of the enclosure there seems to be a house platform 6m diameter. The site is under improved pasture.

K Murphy 16 December 2005 - compiled from several sources.



Aerial photograph Cambria Archaeology.



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2066 CASTELL GROGWYNION

PRN 2066 NGR SN72107249

SITE NAME CASTELL GROGWYNION

SITE TYPE HILLFORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

DESCRIPTION

Castell Grogwynion is located in a strong naturally defended position on a rocky hill at 270m above sea level. The south side of the fort has no built defences as here the steep valley side of the Afon Rheidol falls sharply away to the river 180m below. The north side is defended by two banks. The west and east ends are univallate. The interior measures approximately 145m east - west and 60m north - south and is roughly rectangular, corresponding to the shape of the hill. There is a fall in a series of natural steps within the fort's interior by almost 30m west to east. Some of these steps have been artificially shaped to create divisions within the fort. At least one house platform is apparent. The entrance at the east end is complex, with a bastion. A possible lookout point lies at the southwest tip of the fort commanding views down the Rheidol valley and beyond. The site is under improved pasture.

This is a complex site - see T Driver's full description for detail.

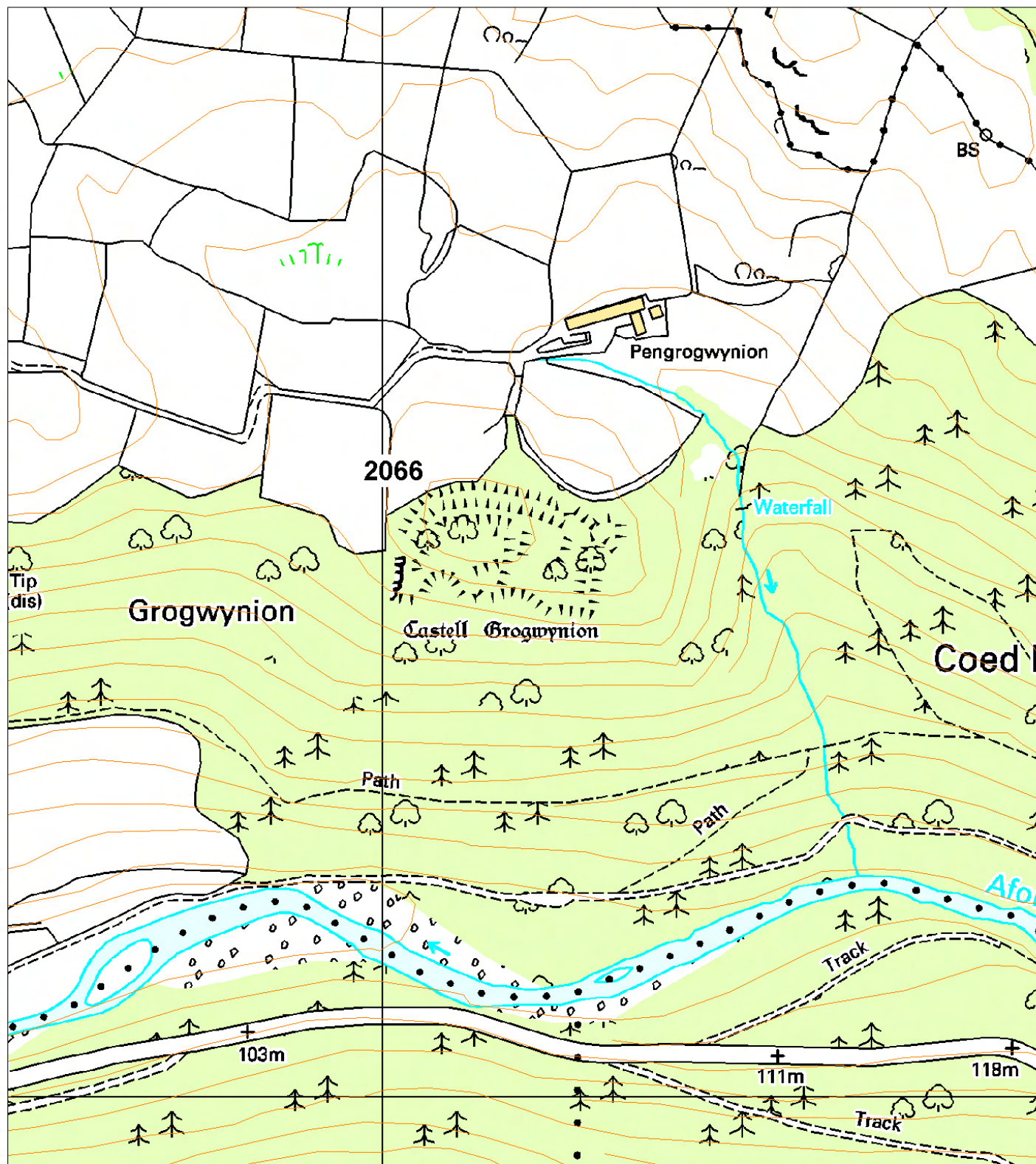
K Murphy 16 December 2005 - mostly a summary of T Driver's account.



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 983534-1.



Ground photograph within the hillfort looking towards the entrance.



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Scale: 1:500

4136 ESGAIR NANT YR ARIAN

PRN 4136 NGR SN710816

SITE NAME ESGAIR NANT YR ARIAN

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

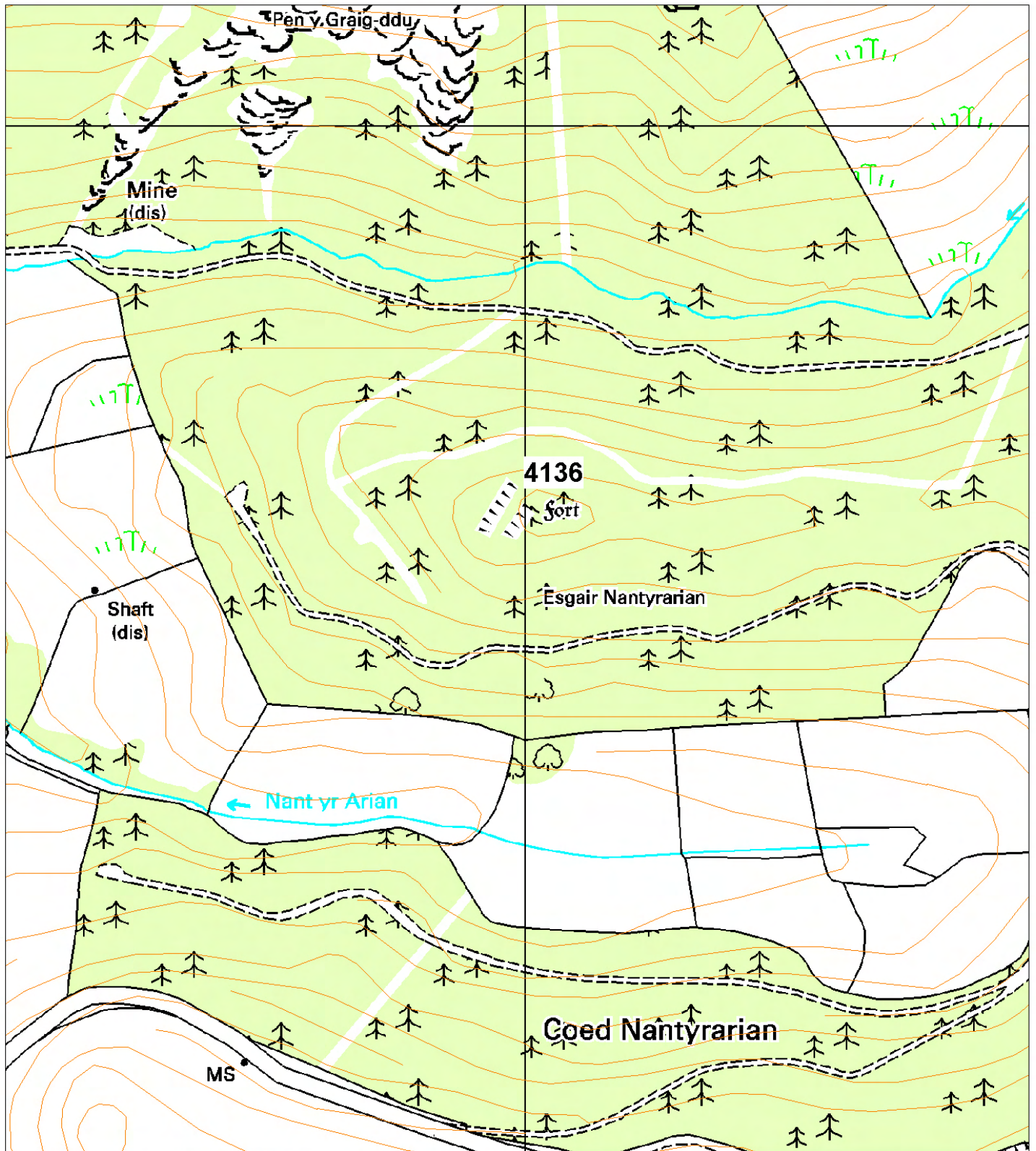
PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Well-preserved earthworks mark the site of this fort. It is situated at the western end of a ridge-top; this slopes steeply down from the site to the north, west and south - the approach from the east along the ridge is fairly level. Two lines of widely spaced rampart run across the ridge forming what is essentially a promontory fort, although a ridge-end fort is probably a better descriptive term. Both ramparts take advantage of rising ground. The outer rampart runs for c.30m across the ridge. It begins at the north steep slope, but stops short of the south steep slope. Overall it is about 13m wide, with the c. 6m wide bank rising 1m above the interior side of the fort and up to 5m above the base of the ditch. The ditch is up to 4m wide and 2m deep at its deepest. A 1m high and 3m wide counterscarp bank lies on the outer lip of the ditch. A modern 3m gap has been driven through this rampart towards its northern end. The inner rampart lies some 20m west of the outer and consists of a c.8m wide bank rising 1m above the fort's interior and 2m - 3m above the ditch. The ditch is not so marked as that on the outer rampart and is very overgrown - it is about 6m wide and 1m deep. This rampart is about 50m long and as with the outer one starts on the north steep slope. A gap about 2m wide close the south steep slope marks a simple entrance. The interior of the fort is about 100m long east - west and 40m-50m north to south. There is a hint that the inner rampart curves around to the west at its northern end before fading in the steep slope. Apart from this there is no trace of defences to the north, west and south. The land in the interior is fairly level immediately behind the inner rampart but then rises on to a rocky knoll at the west end before falling sharply away. The fort including the ramparts and environs is under a mature coniferous plantation with a dense bramble ground cover; this undoubtedly obscures many subtle features.

K Murphy 21 February 2006



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Scale: 1:500

5614 DINAS

PRN 5614 NGR SN74268332

SITE NAME DINAS

SITE TYPE HILLFORT FORM Earthwork

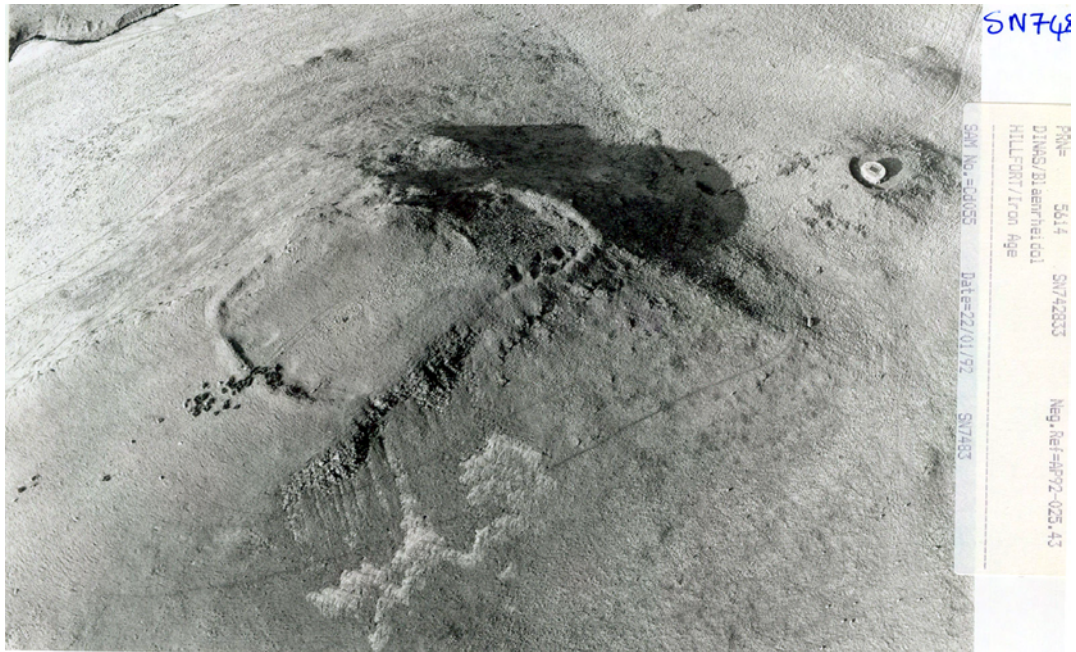
PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

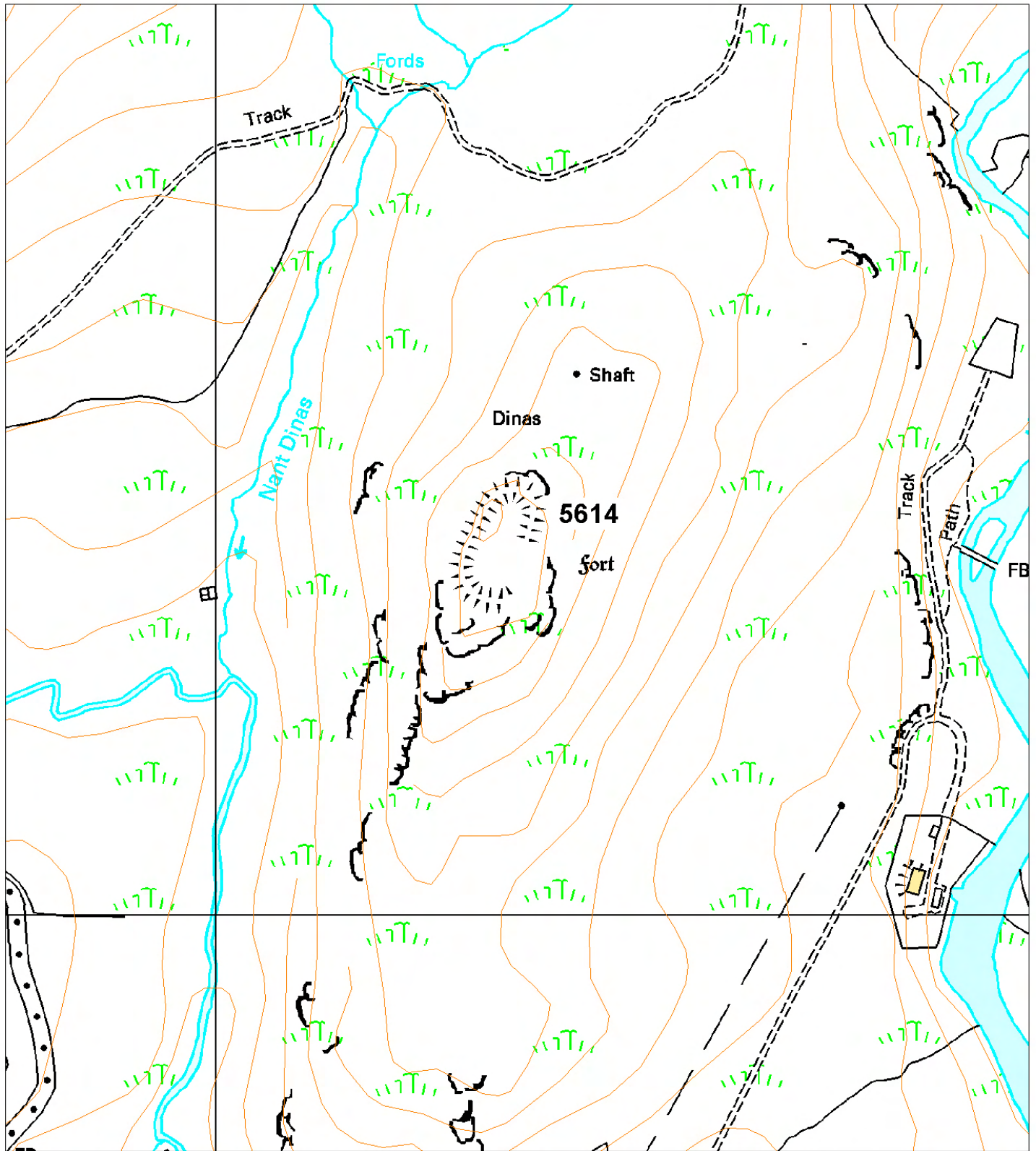
DESCRIPTION

Dinas is a univallate hillfort located in a strong naturally defensive position on the summit of a steep-side hill at 380m above sea level on open moorland. The oval fort roughly corresponds to the shape of the summit and measures approximately 100m north - south and 47m east - west, internally. It is defended by a stony bank c. 5.5m wide and up to 1m high. There is a simple entrance on the north side. There is a 5m diameter house platform within the fort, and Hogg reports three other possible sites (one destroyed).

K Murphy 16 December 2005 - compiled from various sources.



Aerial photograph Cambria Archaeology.



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52078 GIFACH Y DWN FAWR

PRN 52078 NGR SN73406480

SITE NAME GILFACH Y DWN FAWR

SITE TYPE HILLFORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

This is a hillfort occupying an oval shaped rocky hillock or knoll, measuring 190m east-west and 110m north-south, that rises c. 20m above the surrounding landscape to a maximum of 290m above sea level. The site is well defended by the steep natural slopes. Artificial defences consist of a rampart to the foot of the knoll around the weaker naturally defended south side. A second rampart lies higher up the slope with a slightly in-turned entrance on the southeast end of the knoll. This rampart rapidly fades on the steep slopes on the north and south sides of the knoll. The northeast side of the knoll is protected by a substantial terrace. This inner rampart encloses an oval area on the crest of the knoll of c. 110m by 50m. A second entrance may lie at the east end of the enclosure. Slight erosion has revealed stonework on the south side of the west gate. T Driver recorded at least nine house platforms on the between the main entrance and the highest, bare rock point of the interior.

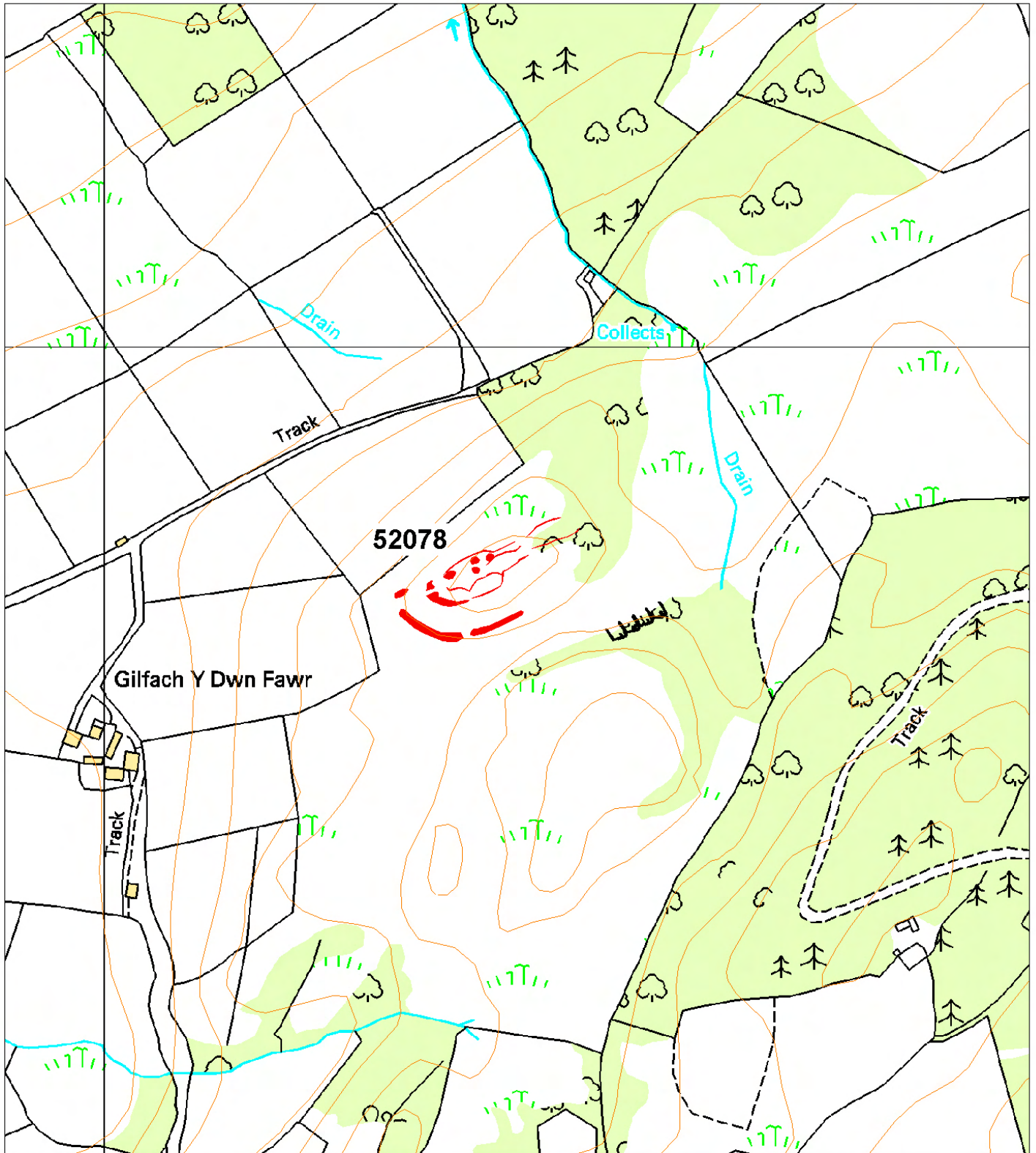
K Murphy and R Ramsey 22 December 2005



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 2001-cs-0336



Ground photograph looking towards the site.



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REJECTED SITES

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

2057 was known as a place-name 'Castell'. A site visit showed substantial earthworks of a medieval motte survive.

37173 was recorded by aerial photography as a hillfort. However, a site visit demonstrated that the earthwork banks and hut circles were purely natural.