

EVENT PRN 54449
JAN - APRIL 1998



**A477 TRUNK ROAD IMPROVEMENT
RED ROSES TO LLANDDOWROR : EXTENDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCOPING
STUDY**

1. Scope and Nature of Study

10/03/1998

1.2. This is a further scoping study of an extension to the original corridor to from Llanddowror to the roundabout west of St Clears.

1.3. The study is a desk-top study based on examination of records held in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Sites and Monuments Record. No fieldwork has been undertaken and the study does not comprise a Stage 1 Assessment as defined in the DMRB.

1.4. The following records and sources have been examined: records of individual sites and monuments held in the Dyfed SMR; historic map sources (OS 1st and 2nd editions 25", 1889 & 1905; 1st and 2nd editions 6", 1891 & 1907), the 1810 St Clears Enclosure Award map, the 1821 Westmead Estate Sale Catalogue maps, Tithe Award maps for St Clears (1838), Llanddowror (1845) and Laugharne (1841)); air photographs (1946 RAF verticals, the 1955 Meridian Airmap verticals, and oblique photographs held by the Trust).

1.5. Whilst part of the defined extended corridor impinges on the north-eastern limit of the existing village settlement of Llanddowror, sites and buildings of historic interest in this area were covered in the previous scoping study and have not been repeated in this present study.

1.6. Individual archaeological sites, features and areas of historic landscape significance are defined on two separate maps accompanying this study. The numbering utilised on these maps relate to the paragraph numbers used in this written statement. Where quoted, PRN relates to the Primary Record Number already allocated to recorded sites and features listed in the Dyfed SMR.

2. Archaeological Content (Figure 1).

Scheduled Sites

2.1. The corridor contains one **Scheduled Ancient Monument**: PRN 3884; SAM no. Carmes 252. This is a defended earthwork enclosure sometimes known from the name of the meadow in which it stands, as Ddol Garn. This site, which is bisected by the present A477, is of uncertain date: it could be of Iron Age, Romano-British, or Early Medieval, or Medieval origin.

Unscheduled Sites

2.2. **Presumed Bronze Age burial mound** ("Eithin Fach"). PRN 3878, marked as a "mound" on OS maps to the south of the roundabout at St Clears and still extant.

2.3. **Site of former farmstead of Craigwen**, dating from at least the 17th-century. Following the construction of the new road (present A477) in 1834 and sometime after 1838, the farmstead was re-sited on the south side of this road and was subsequently converted into the present Savoy Hotel. The outbuildings of the former farmstead became Craigwen Ucha, later amalgamated into the nearby Gelli farmstead.

2.4. **Possible Bronze Age standing stone site** from field name "Tyr Maenllwyd" (1810AD).

2.5. Possible medieval/early post-medieval mill site, from field name “Park Melin” (1810AD). The site may be to the south-west corner of the field where there is a deep channelled stream; alternatively, on early 19th-century maps there is a building marked lower down the stream on its western side (NGR:SN27031549).

2.6. Bridge PRN 15068 “New Bridge/Pont Newydd”. Built 1834 as a new crossing of the river Taf as part of the Turnpike route (see 3.6 below). The 1810 name of the field immediately to the south-east of the present bridge, “Park y Pompren” suggests there may have been an earlier, wooden bridge in this area. In addition, a field name to the south west suggests an early ford in this area (“Park glan y rhyd”). The area of the present bridge is within the tidal limits of the Taf. Prior to the construction of the turnpike this may have provided a convenient landing place for lighters from vessels at St Clears delivering and loading goods from the Backe settlement. The field name “Waun y bad/ boat meadow” south west of the bridge re-inforces this suggestion. The area thus has considerable potential for discovery of earlier river crossing and waterfront structures, whether in timber or stone.

2.7. River/meadow defence earthworks, probably post-medieval, PRNs 29973, 29972.

2.8. Farmstead, possible medieval settlement. Great Bishop’s Court PRN 25557..

2.9. Farmstead, possible medieval settlement. Little Bishop’s Court PRN 25558.

2.10. Possible Bronze Age standing stone site from field name “Park maen”, PRN 11742.

2.11. Presumed Bronze Age standing stone PRN 3904.

2.12. Area of ridge and furrow cultivation PRN 13305. See 3.2.4 below.

2.13. Two areas of ridge and furrow cultivation separated by earthwork former field boundary. The southern area was known as Rugland Meadow; the northern area was part of Hooks Common. See 3.2.3. below.

2.14. Farmstead, possible medieval/early post-medieval settlement, Maes-ly-lan. PRN 11860

3. Historic Landscape and early Communication Routes (Figure 2)

3.1. Area of enclosed medieval former open strip fields, formerly part of the open fields of the town of St Clears. PRN 7382.

3.2. Former medieval and post-medieval common meadows of St Clears:

3.2.1. Gors Fawr Common

3.2.2. Gors Fach Common

3.2.3. Hooks Common

3.2.4. Morfa Bach Common

3.3. Historic meadows - Tithe free shared meadow land.

NB in some cases the meadows along the Taf including some of the meadows listed above, may have been deliberately managed as water meadows. This would need further investigation of the map and topographical evidence.

3.4. Field patterns to the south of the River Taf, centred on the holdings of Great and Little Bishop's Court and Maes-y-lan are indicative of early enclosure, based on late mediaeval or early post medieval farmsteads. Maes-y-Lan place name indicative of possible former medieval open field system.

3.5. Historic coach road. This is the precursor of the A4777. It ran through lower St Clears, thence to Llanddowror and up over Brandy Hill to Tavernspite. Prior to 1834 this was part of the major coaching route from London to the south-west of Wales - the equivalent of the M4 of its day.

3.6. Turnpike road, completed by the Main Trust by about 1834. Following the enclosure of St Clears' commons after 1810, this completely new route was surveyed by Telford in 1827 as part of a commission by a parliamentary select committee into improvement of communications to Milford Haven. The road was reputedly built by the engineer Macadam. As indicated in the earlier scoping survey, surviving details of the turnpike road's construction, bridging points, road furniture (eg milestones) are thus of significance in terms of British transport and engineering history.

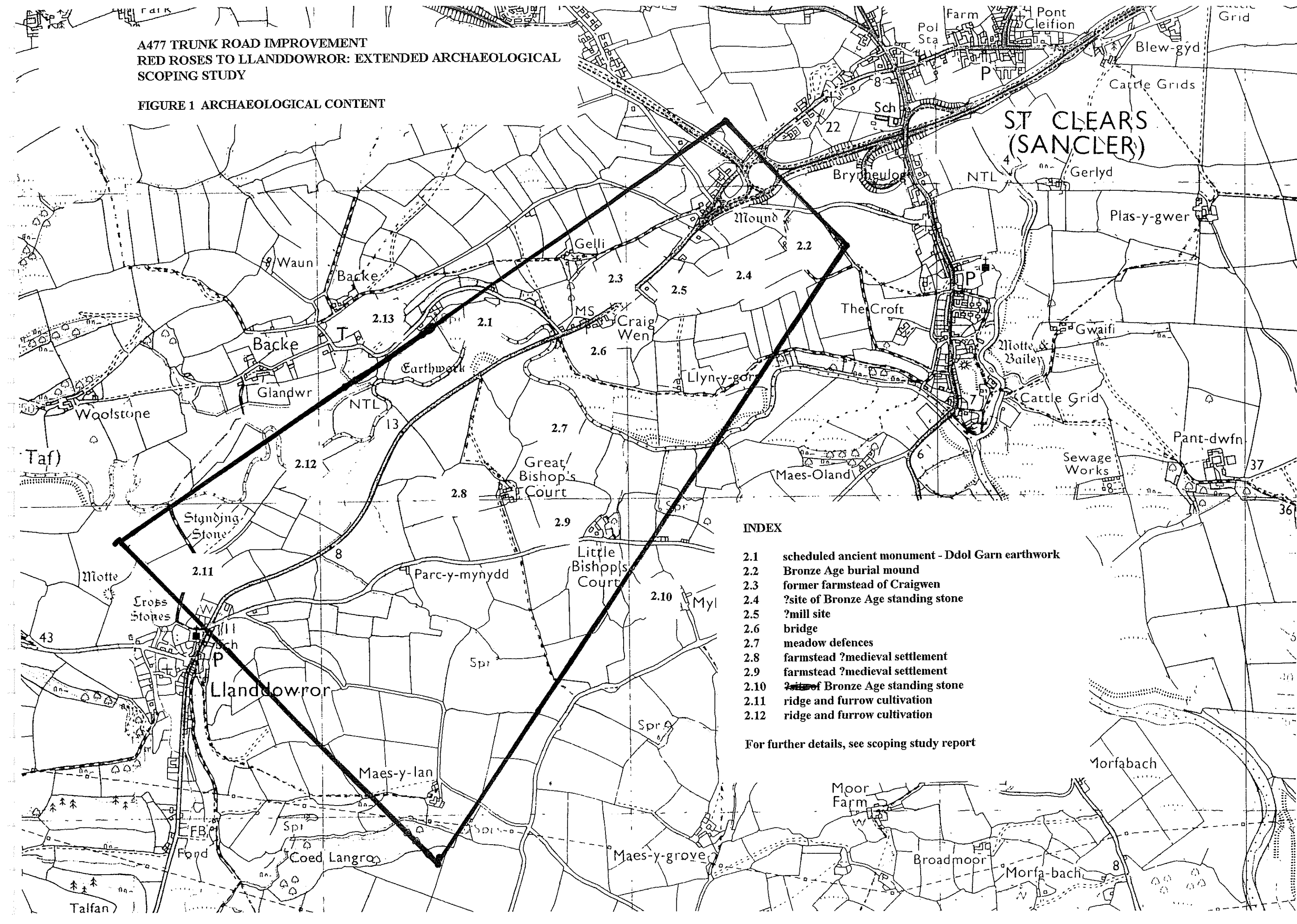
3.7. Pre-Turnpike historic routeway. Within the corridor, this ran from the former common of Waunfach (in the approximate area of the present St Clears roundabout) through Gelli Common and to the river in the area of the New Bridge (see 2.6 above). This route whether by ford or wooden bridge may have progressed through to Llanddowror via the Ddolgarn earthwork and Great Bishop's Court to the old coach road.

3.8. Historic parish boundary. Within the corridor, this is the historic parish boundary between Laugharne and Llanddowror, likely to have been established early in the medieval period.

D G Benson
Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology
February 1998

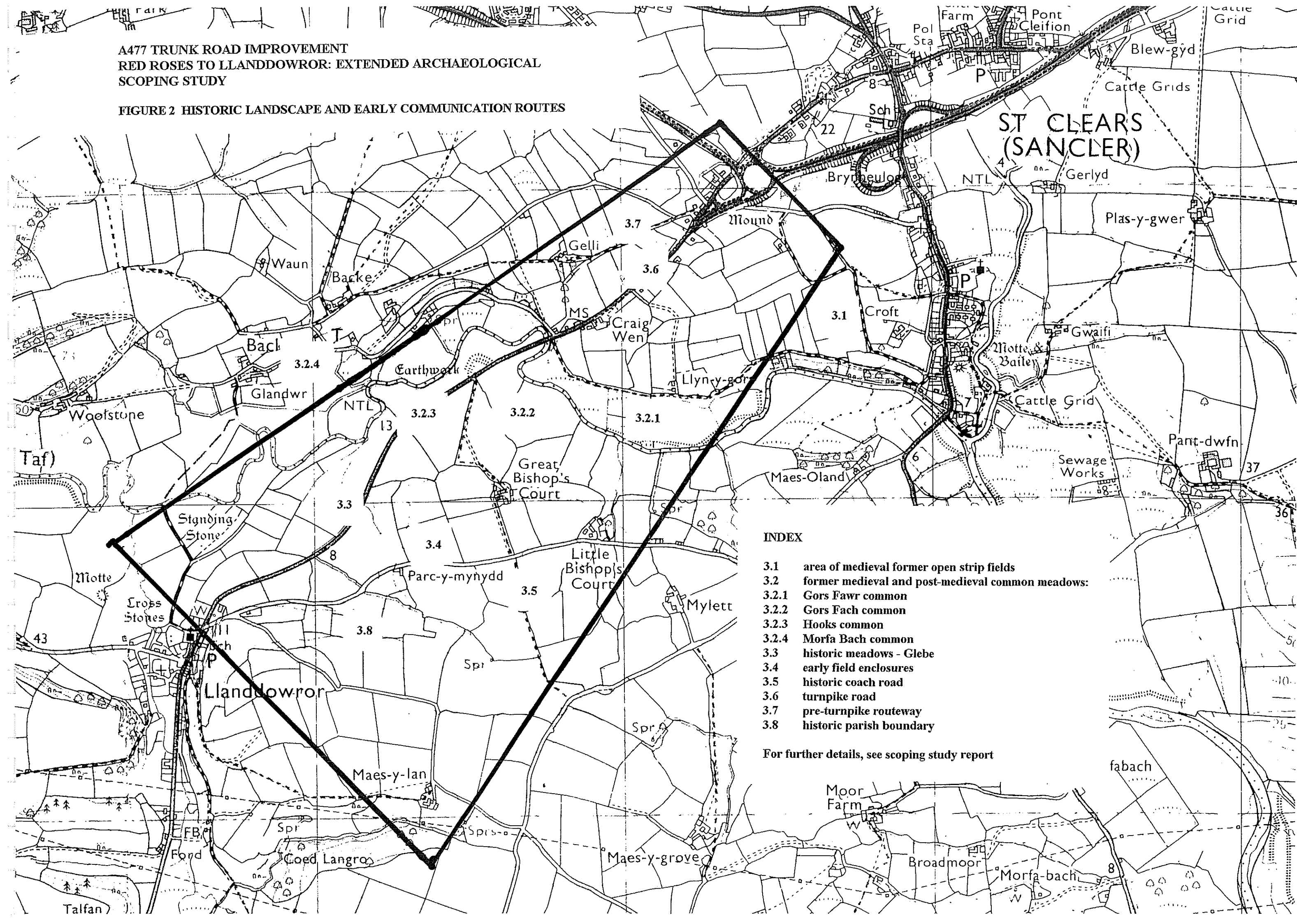
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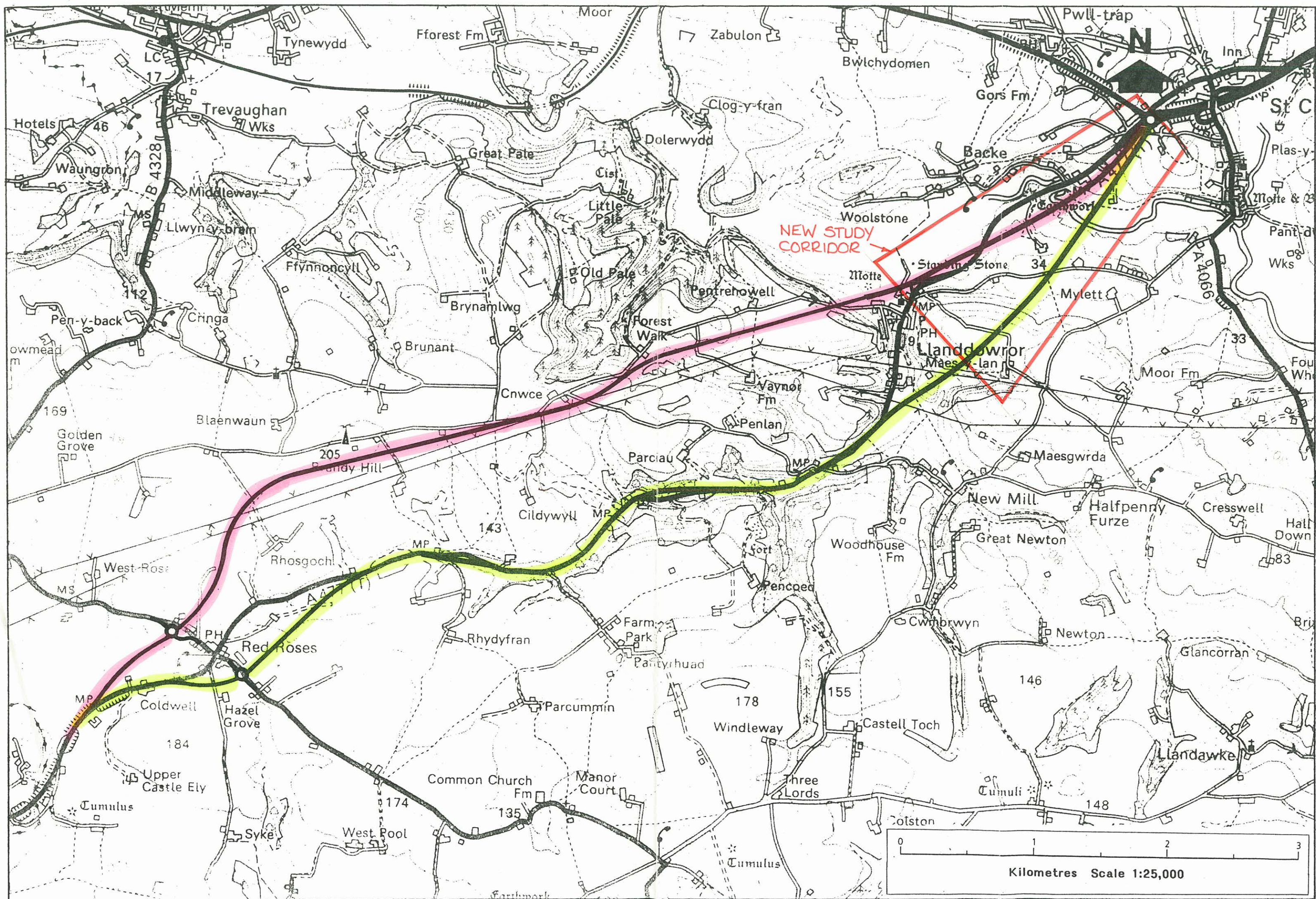
FIGURE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTENT

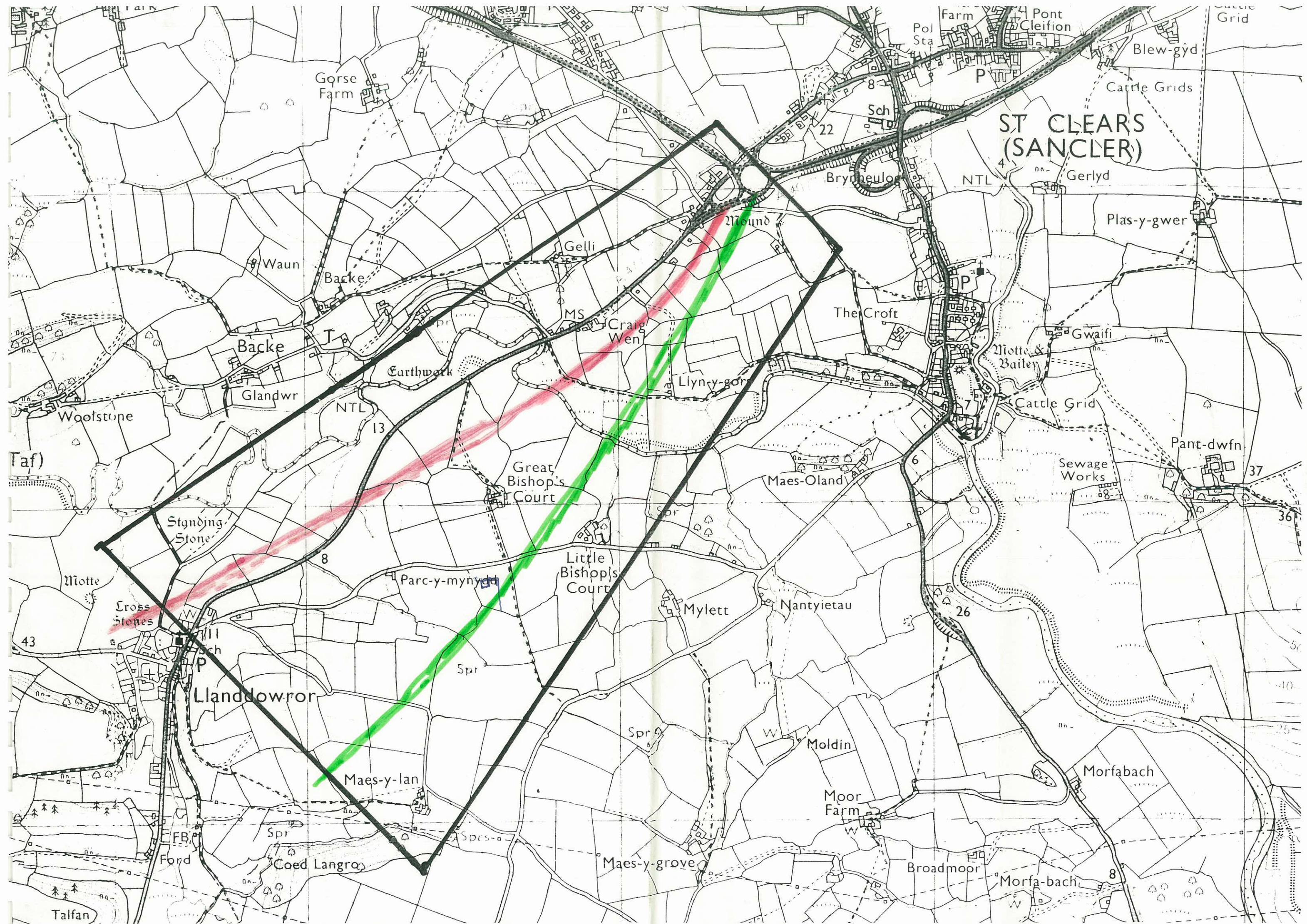


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FIGURE 2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EARLY COMMUNICATION ROUTES







R & F with separating field boundary, sketched from the median APS 220/210, 26983-4.

In 1810, the ploughed part nearest the river was called "Rugland meadow" (no 339 on schedule), separated from the land to the north by the boundary showing on APS.

The land N (and E) of Rugland meadow was part of Hooks Common.

Rugland was part of Woolston land, owned by Chas Allen Phillips, occ. by John Hughes.

Some Notes on meadowland on the North side of the Taf in St. Cl. Parish.

D. Benson 31/12/97

1810
Gors Fach
Common

1810
"Park y
Pompren"

1810: "Land
mead"
(340). Woolston
land, owned by
Chas Allen Phillips,
occupied by John
Hughes

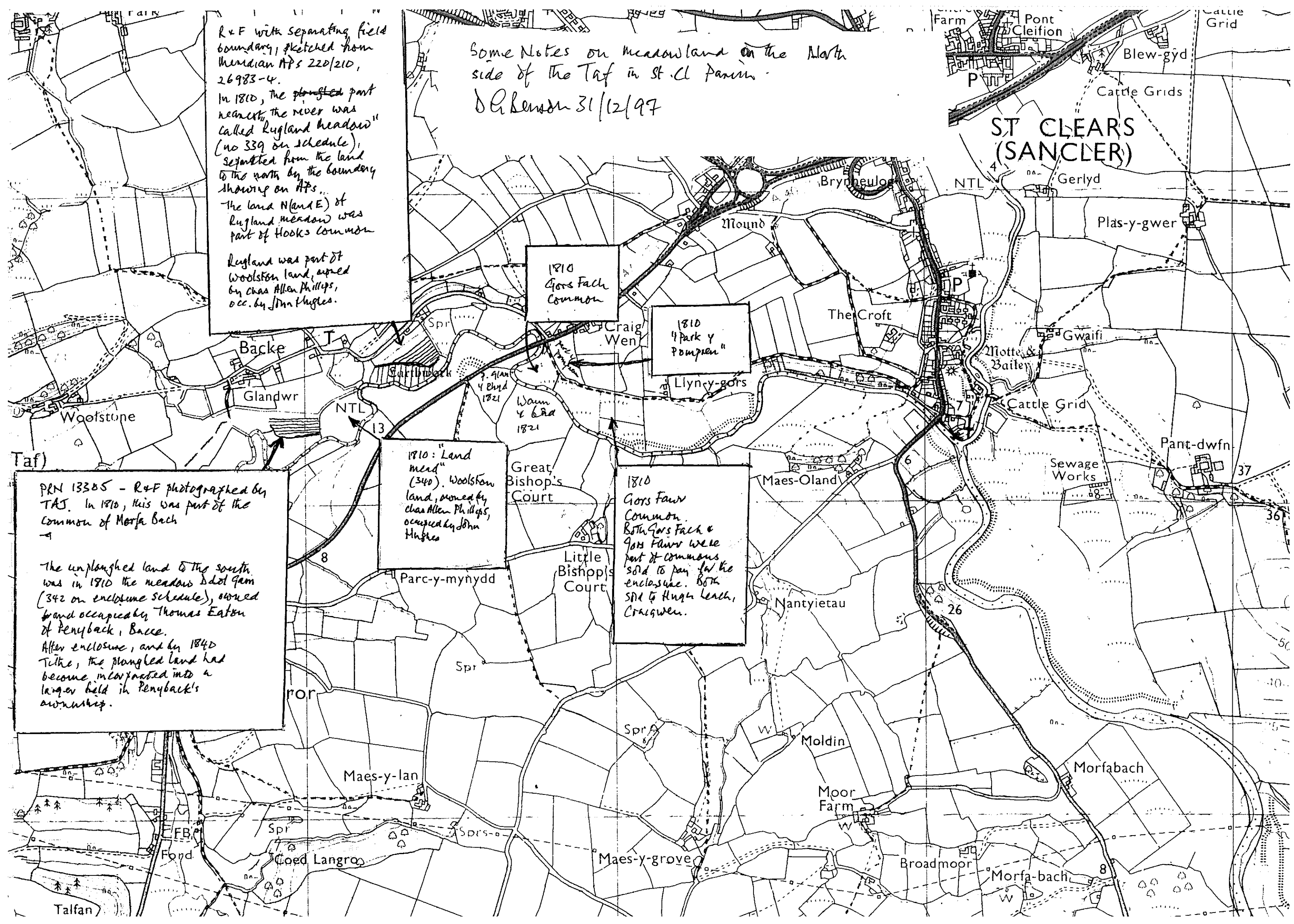
1810
Gors Fawr
Common.
Both Gors Fach &
Gors Fawr were
part of commons
sold to pay for the
enclosure. Both
sold to Hugh Leach,
Craigwen.

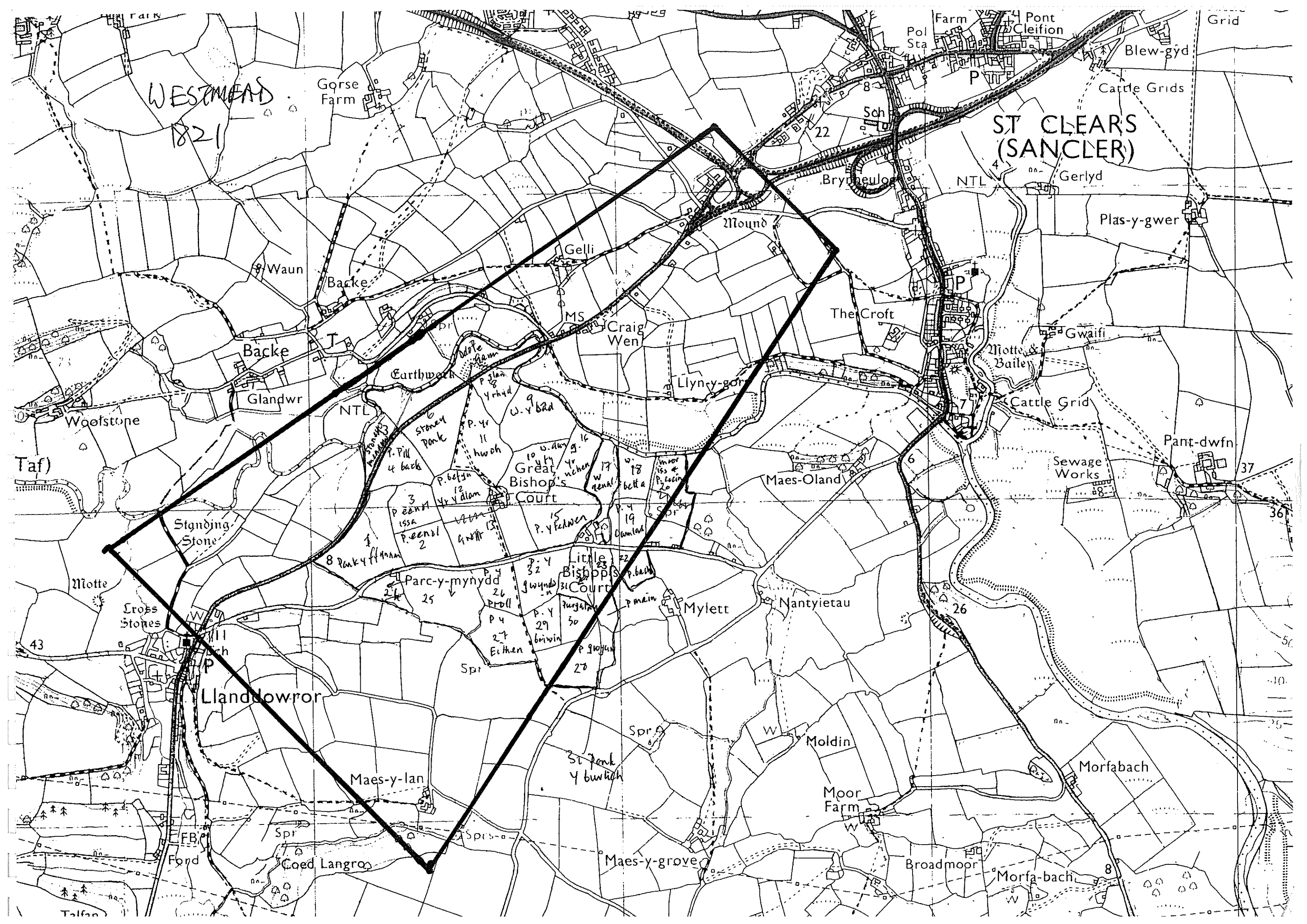
PRN 13385 - R & F photographed by
TAS. In 1810, this was part of the
common of Morfa Bach

The unploughed land to the south
was in 1810 the meadow 340 Gam
(342 on enclosure schedule), owned
and occupied by Thomas Eaton
of Penybach, Bace.

After enclosure, and by 1840
title, the ploughed land had
become incorporated into a
larger field in Penybach's
ownership.

ST CLEARS
(SANCLER)





WESTMEAS
1821

ST CLEARS
(SANCLER)

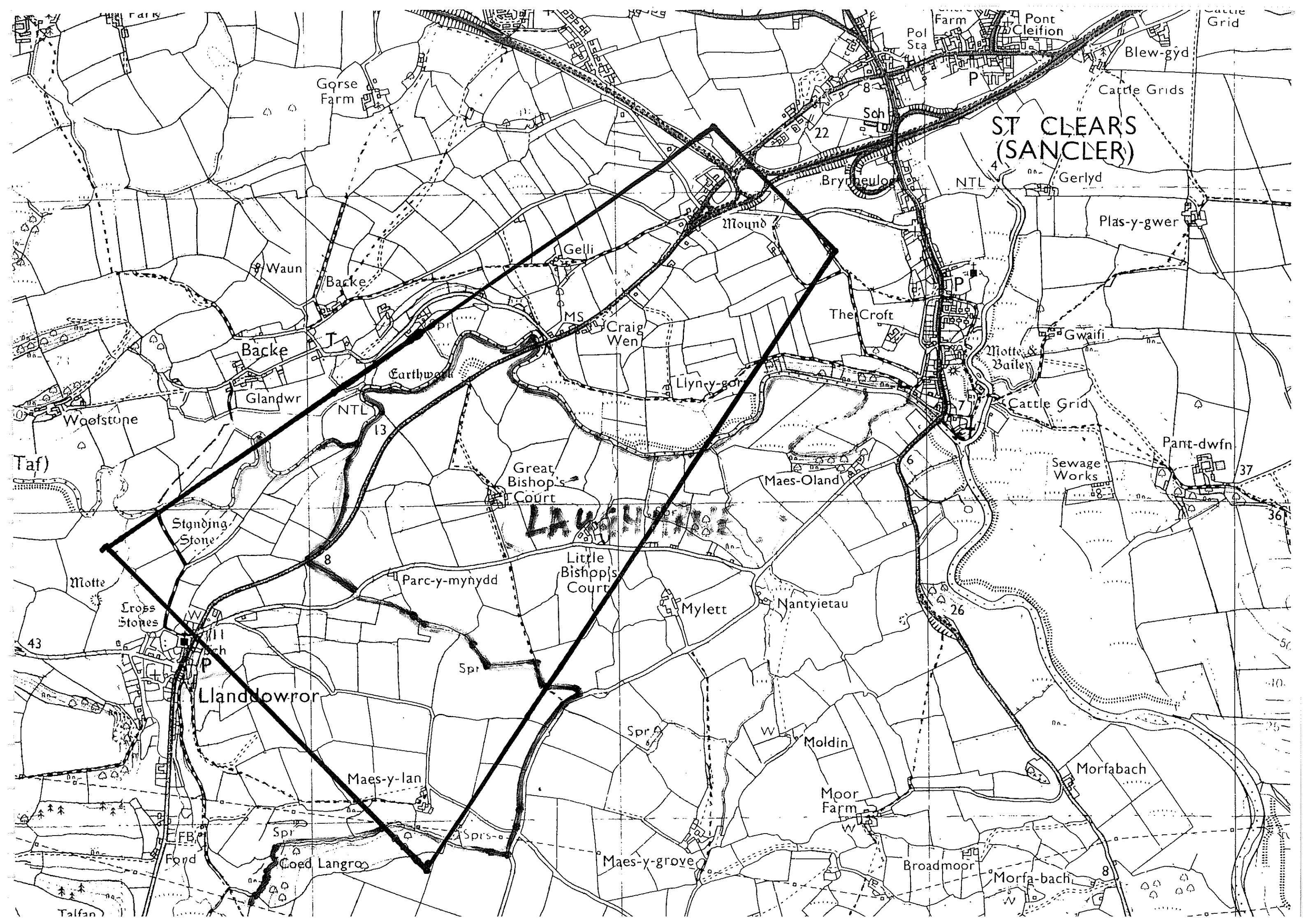
Taf)

Llanddowror

Great
Bishop's
Court

Little
Bishop's
Court

Morfa-bach



ST CLEARS
(SANCLER)

LAUGHAN

Llanddowror

Gorse Farm

Sch

Bryneulog

Mound

Gelli

Craig Wen

The Croft

Motte & Bailey

Backe

Glandwr

Earthwork

Llyn-y-gor

Woelstone

Taf)

Standing Stone

Great Bishop's Court

Maes-Oland

Sewage Works

Pant-dwfn

Little Bishop's Court

Mylett

Nantvietau

Parc-y-myhydd

Cross Stones

43

Maes-y-lan

Moldin

Moor Farm

Morfabach

Maes-y-grove

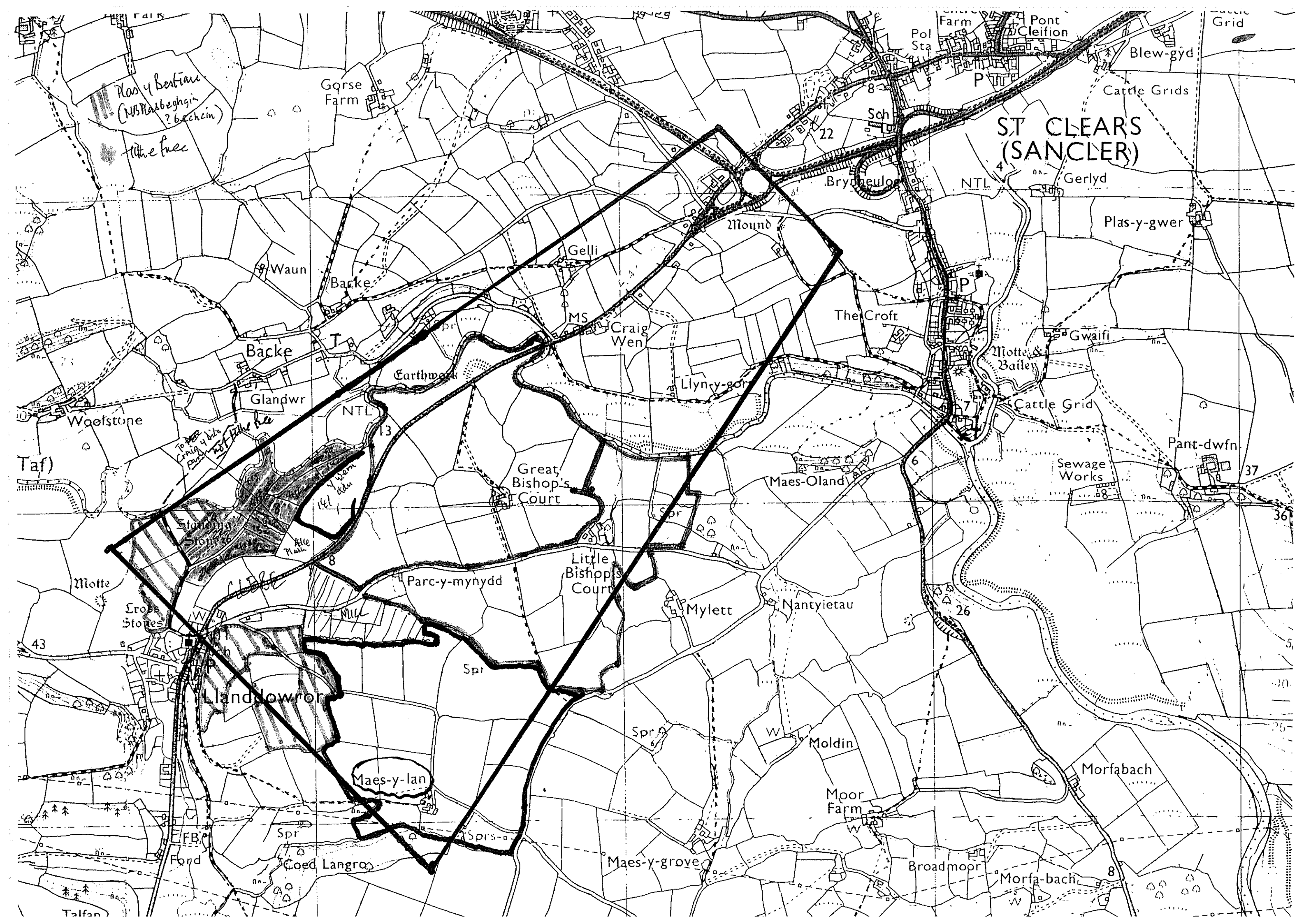
Broadmoor

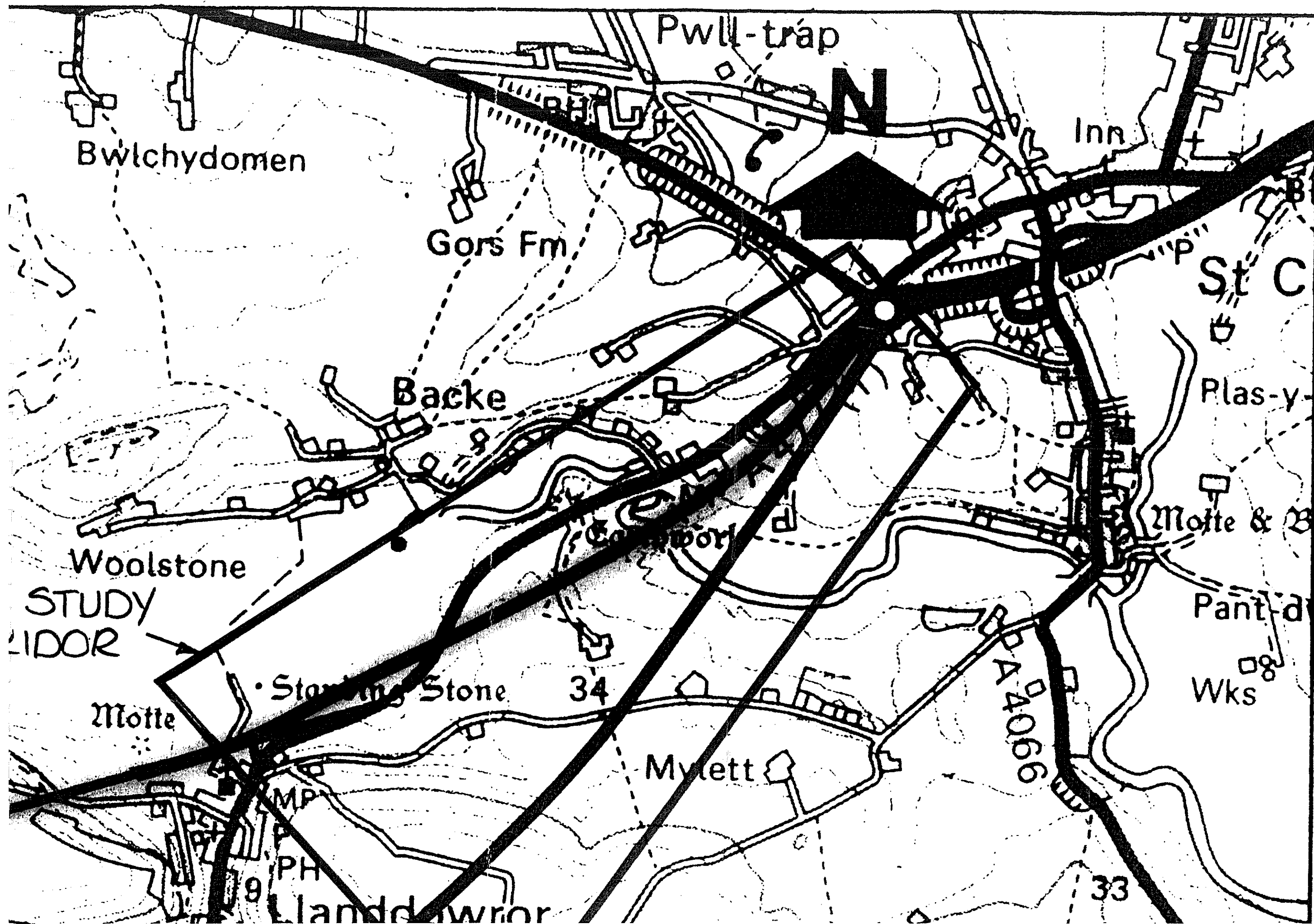
Morfa-bach

Coed Langroo

Ford

Talfan





Pwll-tráp



Bwlchydomen

Inn

Gors Fm

St C

Backe

Plas-y-

Woolstone

STUDY
IDOR

Motte & B

Pant-d

Starting Stone

34

PA 4066

Wks

Motte

Mylett

33

Llanddwror