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HAFOD: PROPOSED FELLING ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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**Report commissioned by: Forest Enterprise
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HAFOD: PROPOSED FELLING ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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HAFOD: PROPOSED FELLING - ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This survey of five areas or coupes was commissioned by Forest Enterprise in order to formulate Harvesting Plans that take account of archaeological constraints.

Archaeolog Cambria Archaeology undertook the commission. The existence of the Hafod Archaeological Database - a survey previously commissioned by Forest Enterprise and Hafod Trust - was of utmost importance in identifying the archaeological and cultural heritage remains, in helping place these remains in a local, regional and national context and in formulating recommendations for the management of the remains. Because of the existence of the archaeological database, no new documentary and cartographic research was required for the current project. Fieldwork was undertaken to evaluate in detail the possible impact of the felling programme on the known archaeology and to identify sites not recognised in the course of compiling the database. Several new sites were identified - these have been allocated Primary Record Numbers (the number that precedes the description of individual sites). This is a sequence of numbers used by the Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record and by the Hafod Archaeological Database.

Each site has been allocated a value in accordance with national criteria. Five classes are employed:

1. Sites of national importance, usually Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings, or sites worthy of listing or scheduling
2. Sites of regional or county importance
3. Sites of district or local importance
4. Minor sites or sites that are so badly damaged that too little now remains to justify their inclusion in a higher grade
5. Unknown

Recommendations have been made for the management of individual sites during felling. When formulating these proposals a presumption in favour of preservation is assumed.

The archaeological/cultural heritage remains in the five coupes are of limited type; they mostly comprise paths/walks/tracks and boundaries (walls and banks). The paths, walks and tracks are important elements in the historic Hafod landscape and should be preserved. Generally, the boundaries are of less value. Nevertheless several good examples of boundary walls presumed to have been built in the late 18th-century or early 19th-century will potentially be affected by the felling programme; every effort should be made to ensure that damage to these is minimised.

YELLOW COUPE 14402

General observations: This coupe is on a very steep south-east facing slope above Hafod Mansion. There are rocky outcrops on the higher slopes. The coupe's eastern boundary is formed by a small stream, a further stream bisects the area to towards its western edge. Rhododendron undergrowth is present in patches, particularly on the lower slopes. Cultural heritage remains comprise boundaries (walls and banks), paths and quarries:

32971. Path (*Photo 1. Showing path running to the south out of the coupe*). This is traceable as a clear earthwork hollow-way to the south of the coupe, but is not readily detectable in the coupe on the higher slopes, though it is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st Edition map in this area. There are linear earthwork hollows following the line of the path in the coupe, but these seem to be the result of former extraction/felling processes.

Value: 3.

Recommendations: None.

33079. Path (*Photo 2. At A showing the path round a spur. Photo 3. The path on a terrace to the east of A*). This path runs gently up-slope from north-east to south-west. Its course is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st Edition map. There is no surface evidence for this path for much of its course across the coupe, but towards the south-west (to the east of A) it runs on a distinct earthwork terrace c.2m wide. At A, immediately to the east of a dry stream-bed, the path rounds a spur on clearly created terrace before descending to the former stream. There is no evidence for a bridge. This method of terracing is indicative of the work of Thomas Johnes, and it is possible that this is a previously unrecorded example of one of his picturesque paths.

Value 3.

Recommendations: Care should be taken to protect this path where it is visible on the ground as a terrace (at A and for c.50m to the east of A) from damage. These terraces are generally quite robust, but their outer lips are susceptible to damage, particularly if logs are dragged across them.

33617. Wall (*Photo 4*). Dry-stone wall alongside public road. The wall is now in poor condition, mainly collapsed but not breached, and standing to a maximum of 0.8m high. Broadleaf trees have been planted at regular intervals alongside this wall; some of these are still in evidence. Probably built by Thomas Johnes.

Value: 3

Recommendations: Given its location it is unlikely that this wall will be affected by felling, but care should be taken not to cause further damage.

35414. Quarries. A series of small pits amongst craggy outcrops represent former stone quarries or prospecting metal mines.

Value: 3

Recommendation: None.

33548. Wall (*Photo 5*). Dry-stone wall on the boundary of the coupe. In fair condition, standing up to 1.2m high with cap-stones surviving, though breached in several places. Should not be affected by felling.

Value: 3

Recommendations: None

33549. Wall (*Photo 6. Wall, looking west showing beginning of breach at B*). Dry-stone wall built on a steep slope. The wall is in very poor condition, mostly collapsed and breached in several areas. Where breached it is represented by a spread of rubble. There is a large breach in this wall at B.

Value: 3

Recommendations: As this wall is in poor condition, it is unlikely that the felling programme will greatly affect it. However, so as to cause as little damage as possible, any access across this wall should be via the large breach already created at B.

33555. Bank (*Photo 7*). Earth-built boundary bank, c.3m wide, 0.5m high, with a rounded profile. There are now breaches in the bank. Conifers have been planted on it.

Value: 3

Recommendations: Machinery and extracted timber should be taken over this bank via a single access point. It may not be necessary to create a breach in the bank, but if this is necessary it should be as narrow as possible.

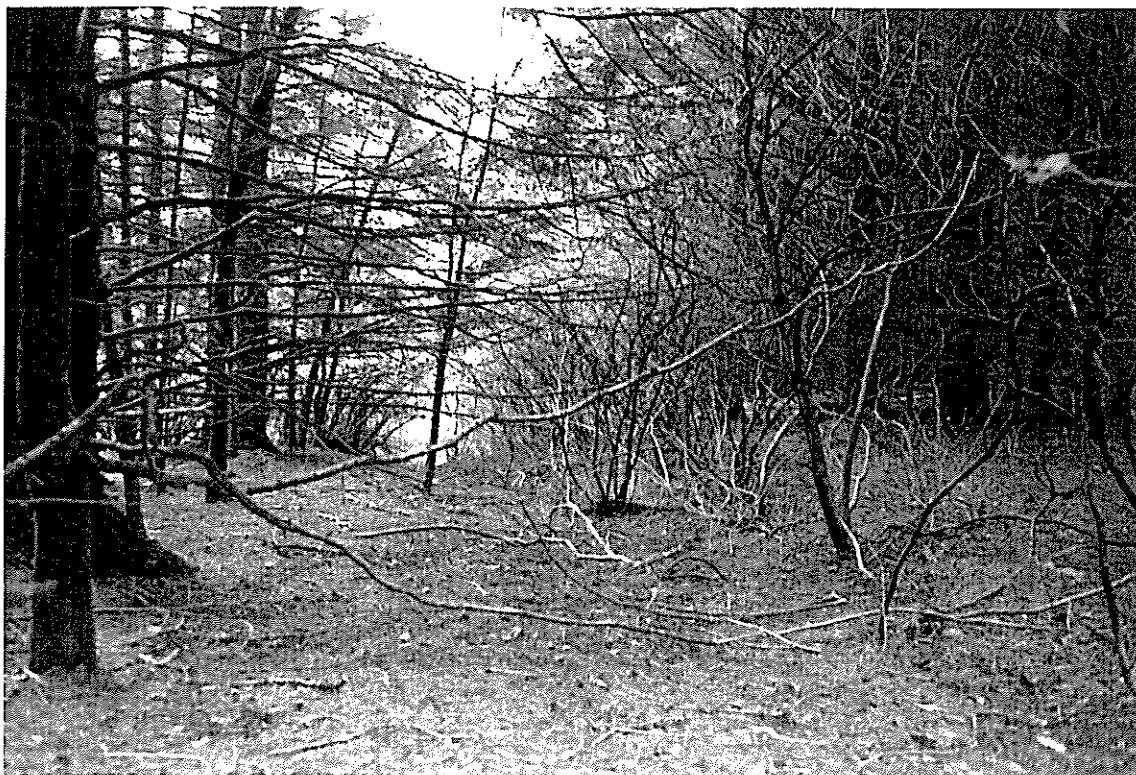


Photo 1.

boundary of coupe (approximate only)

COUPE 14402
scale 1:2500

33617

33548

35414

33555

32971

33549

B

A

33079

Hafod Wood

Hafod House



Photo 2.



Photo 3.



Photo 4.



Photo 5.



Photo 6.



Photo 7.

YELLOW COUPE 14404

General Observations: Situated mainly on gently sloping ground, but with steep slopes on the northern edge down to the River Ystwyth and rising ground to the south. Surface disturbance caused by machinery has probably obliterated many ephemeral archaeological features in the centre of the coupe. Historical sources indicate that the Gentleman's Walk follows a course close to the eastern bank of Nant Ffin, and therefore must cross this coupe. There is no surface evidence to indicate the exact route of this walk. Cultural heritage remains comprise paths/tracks, boundary walls and a stone dump.

32946. The Nant Ffin track (*Photo 8. Track looking east with wall 32947 to south*). To the east of the coupe this track runs on a clear terrace cut into the hillside. The levelled ground within the coupe makes its exact course less obvious, but its line is quite clear.

Value: 2

Recommendations: Because the level course of the track within the coupe, the potential for damage is slight. The track is an important element in the Hafod landscape, and conservation proposals should be formulated to ensure that no damage occurs.

32947. Wall (*Photo 8. The wall is to the south, left, of the track and is indicated by a low vegetation-covered rubble bank*). A ruined dry-stone wall. Mostly represented by a low rubble bank with hardly any upstanding masonry. There is a breach/low point in the rubble bank at A adjacent to a small stream. This may have been a route used for extraction in the past. The wall encloses a roughly rectangular area which may have been a garden.

Value: 3

Recommendations: Action should be taken to avoid further damage to the wall. The breach at A should be used as the access point across this wall. No new breaches should be made.

33543. Modern extraction track.

Value: 4

Recommendations: None

32958. Path/track (*Photo 9*). This track runs diagonally up a steep slope on a c.3m wide terrace. The terrace is revetted on the down-slope side by dry-stone walling. Surface disturbance at the lower end suggests that this track may have been used for extraction in the past.

Value: 3

Recommendations: This track should not be used for extraction purposes. Care must be taken not to damage the vulnerable outer lip of the terrace during felling and extraction.

32959. Path (*Photo 10. Slight earthwork of the path looking south-west as it enters the coupe*). Shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st Edition map as running across the coupe, this path is now only traceable towards the north-east corner of the area (B to B). Here it exists as a linear hollow some 2m wide and 0.3m deep with a low bank

to the west. As it runs towards the centre of the coupe this linear earthwork is lost amongst ruts and hollows caused by extraction. It seems likely that the course of the path in this central area is followed by an extraction track.

Value: 3

Recommendations: The surviving earthwork section of this path should be protected from further damage during felling and extraction.

35415. Wall. A band of rubble along the crest of a steep slope seems to represent the remains of an boundary - a boundary that predates the dry-stone walls and earth banks of Hafod. The rubble is very spread. Felling and extraction will not cause further damage.

Value: 3

Recommendation: None

33547. Wall (*Photo 11*). A well-built dry-stone wall which survives to its full height complete with capping stones in several lengths, but in general it is beginning to collapse and stands to less than 1m high. At B it has been breached for access. To the south-west of B it has been mostly destroyed or buried beneath a forestry drive.

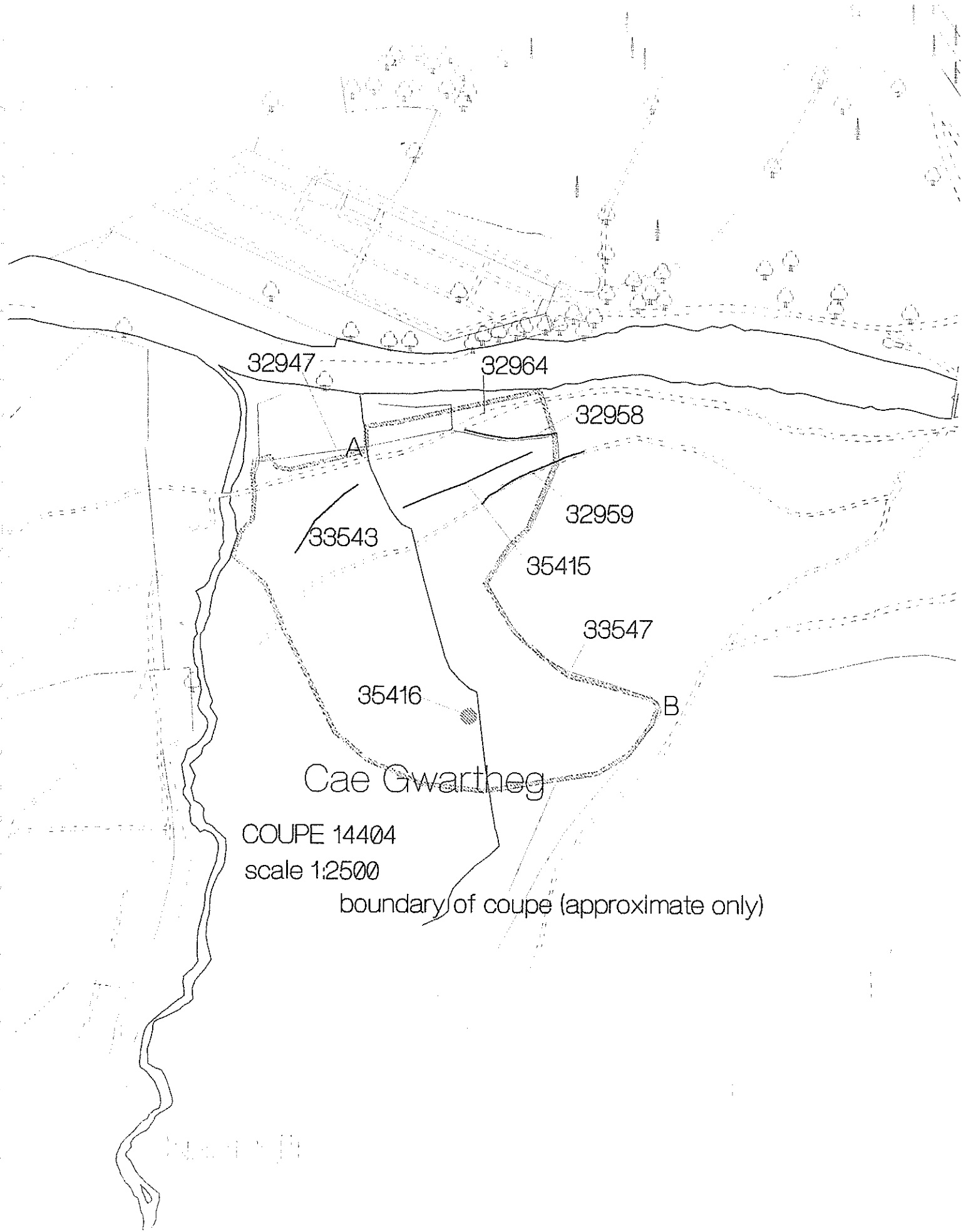
Value: 3

Recommendations: Access across/through this wall should be via the already created breach at B. Creating further breaches in the wall should be avoided, but if necessary these should be made where the wall in its most collapsed state.

35416. Stone dump. A massive dump of stone, c.30m by 30m and 4m high. There is no obvious structure to this dump. Its date is unknown, but it may be the result of clearance of the wall 33547 in association with the construction of the forestry drive, and therefore of recent date.

Value: 4

Recommendations: None



32947

32964

32958

A

33543

32959

35415

33547

35416

B

Cae Gwartheg

COUPE 14404

scale 1:2500

boundary of coupe (approximate only)

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Photo 8.



Photo 9.

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Photo 10.



Photo 11.

YELLOW COUPE 14435

General observations: The highest, southern area of this coupe is on fairly level ground. This gives way to a very steep, north-facing, craggy slope. There are many fallen trees present with bramble and bracken undergrowth; these features render the identification of archaeological features more difficult. Cultural heritage remains consist of boundaries (walls and banks):

33563. Wall (*Photo 12*). A long dry-stone boundary wall with broad-leaf trees planted at regular intervals alongside. The wall is in good condition and survives to full height with intact cap-stones. There are a few short stretches of partial collapse. This wall was built by Thomas Johnes. It is the best surviving of his estate walling at Hafod.

Value: 3

Recommendations: This boundary is an important element in the Hafod landscape. It should not be damaged.

33566. Bank. A very insubstantial bank and ditch boundary. It is only visible for c.30m close to the wall 33563.

Value: 4

Recommendations: None

33564. Bank. An insubstantial bank only visible close to wall 33563.

Value: 3

Recommendations: None

0200

32958

32959

35415

COUPE 14435
scale 1:2500

boundary of coupe (approximate only)

wartheg

33566

33564

33563

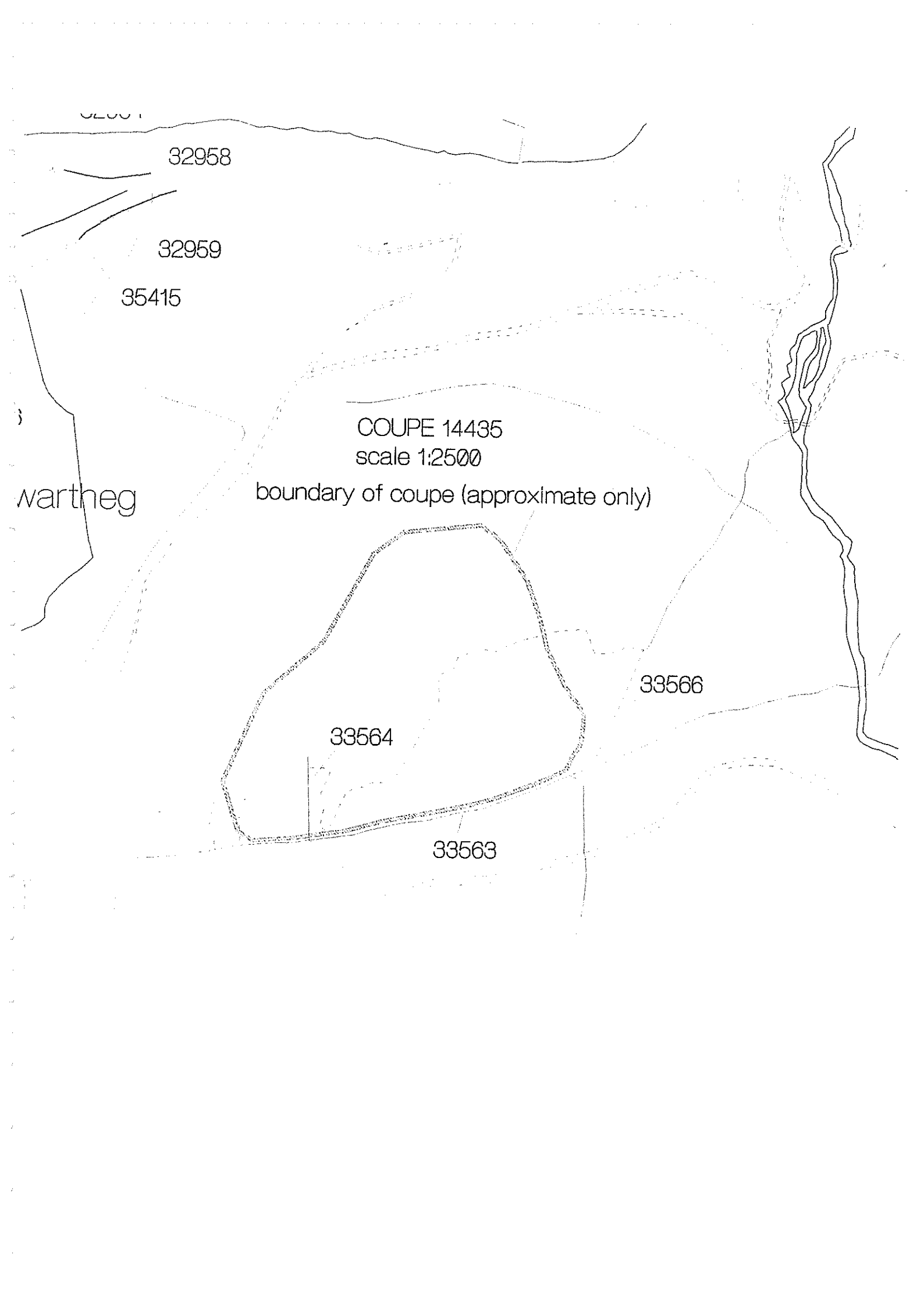




Photo. 12

YELLOW COUPE 14434

General observations: This coupe lies on a very steep north-facing slope. Level ground is present close to the forestry drive at the north side of the coupe towards the River Ystwyth, and less steep slopes at the extreme southern end. Apart from the Gentleman's Walk which crosses this coupe from east to west, the only other cultural heritage interests comprise boundaries:

33602. Bank. A short length of boundary bank, up to 0.8m wide and 3m wide. It is has been damaged and is partially overlain by a forestry drive at its eastern end. It lies just outside the coupe boundary.

Value: 4

Recommendations: None

33008. Gentleman's Walk (*Photo 13. The terrace of the walk looking west*). The Gentleman's Walk which crosses this coupe from east to west is located on a distinct linear terrace some 2m wide mid-way up a very steep slope. This walk is an important element in the Hafod landscape. It must not be damaged.

Value: 2

Recommendations: It is vital that this feature is not damaged. The most vulnerable part is the outer lip of the terrace on which the walk is located. Damage can occur here if logs are dragged up or down the slope. It is therefore recommended that a single route across the terrace for log extraction is selected. The terrace on this route can then be protected by positioning logs along the line of the walk, over which the extracted logs are dragged.

33563. Wall (*Photo 14*). This is a continuation of the boundary wall present in coupe 14435. Here the wall is moss-covered and is beginning to collapse. Nevertheless, it stands up to 1m high. There are no major breaches in it.

Value: 3

Recommendations: Damage to this wall should be avoided. Any breach through this wall - should it be found necessary to create on for extraction - should be narrow, and should be restored following the felling programme.

33570. Wall (*Photo 15*). This wall is generally in good condition and stands to its full height with cap-stones. It has been breached by a track just outside the coupe to the south. There is no reason why this wall should be damaged by felling operations.

Value: 3

Recommendations: Care should be taken not to damage this wall.

33579. Boundary. Apart from a very slight earthwork, this boundary is now hardly detectable on the ground. It is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st Ed.

Value: 3

Recommendations: None

COUPE 14434
scale 1:2500

33602

boundary of coupe (approximate only)

33008

33579

33563

33570

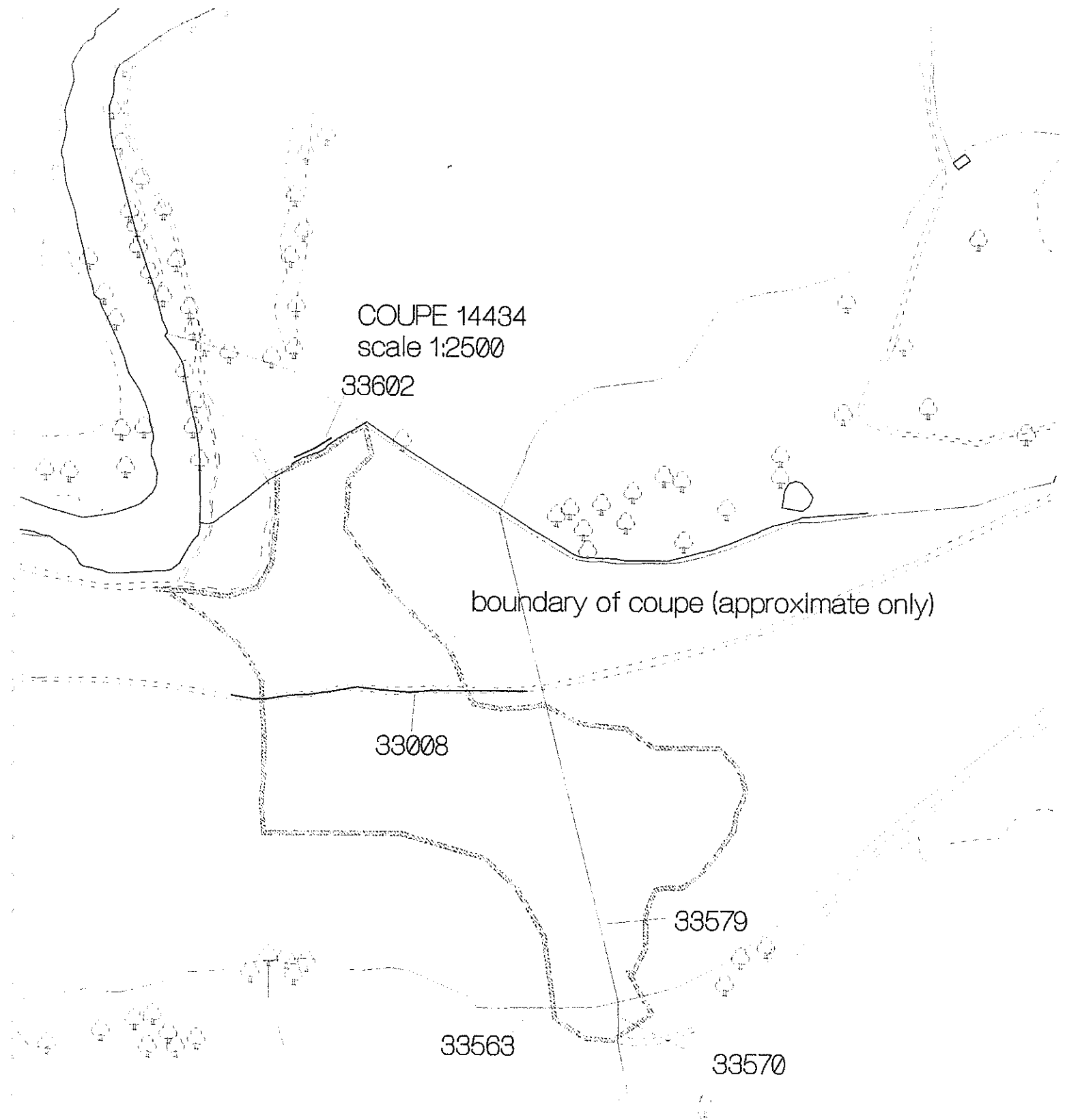




Photo 13

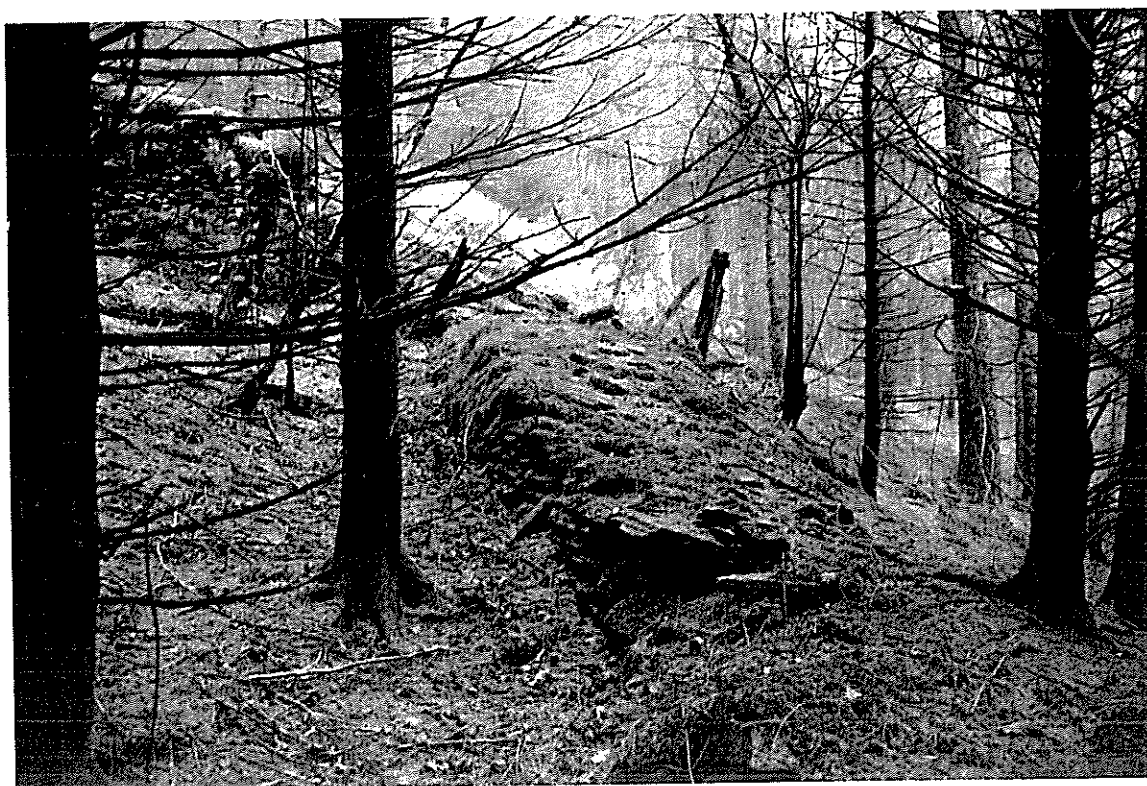


Photo 14



Photo 15.

YELLOW COUPE 14407

General observations: This coupe is on high ground outside what may be considered the historic 'core area' of the Hafod estate. Many of the slopes in this coupe are steep and craggy, though the highest point consists of a rounded plateau. The forestry plantation is particularly dense rendering the detection of minor archaeological features difficult, if not impossible. The cultural heritage remains comprise boundaries:

33573. Wall (*Photos 16, 17*). A good example of a dry-stone wall, probably built by Thomas Johnes. It stands to its full height with cap-stones set at 45 degrees. Collapse of this wall is not severe and does not detract from its overall character. There are no breaches in the wall. At its eastern end, at the boundary of the coupe, this wall has been truncated by a forestry drive.

Value: 3

Recommendations: This is one of the best examples of a late 18th-century or early 19th-century wall on the Hafod estate. Damage to it should be avoided. Any breach (or breaches) created through this wall for extraction purposes should be narrow, and should be restored subsequent to the felling programme.

33574. Wall (*Photo 18*). This dry-stone wall has suffered collapse and has been breached in several places. Nevertheless, there are stretches where it survives to its full height with cap-stones present. The severest area of damage is at its north-east end, where it meets wall 33573 (above).

Value: 3

Recommendations: it is recommended that further damage to this wall is avoided. The current breaches in the wall should be used for access and no new breaches created.

35417. Boundary bank (*Photo 19*). This earth-built and stone boundary bank stands to 0.6m high and is up to 3m wide with a spread, rounded profile. Trees have been planted over this boundary, and it has been further damaged by drainage gullies and machine ruts. Its course is difficult to trace towards the centre of the coupe.

Value: 3

Recommendations: Even though damaged, action should be taken to ensure that this boundary does not suffer further degradation. For extraction purposes, one or two crossing points over this boundary should be identified; this should ensure that the remainder of the bank survives in its present condition.

35418. Boundary bank (*Photo 20*). Earth-built with some stone. 0.5m high, 2m wide, with a rounded spread, rounded profile. This boundary lies outside the coupe and should not be damaged by felling.

Value: 3

Recommendations: None

GOUPE 14407
scale 1:2500

33573

33574

35417

35418 (approximate position)

boundary of coupe (approximate only)



Photo 16.



Photo 17.

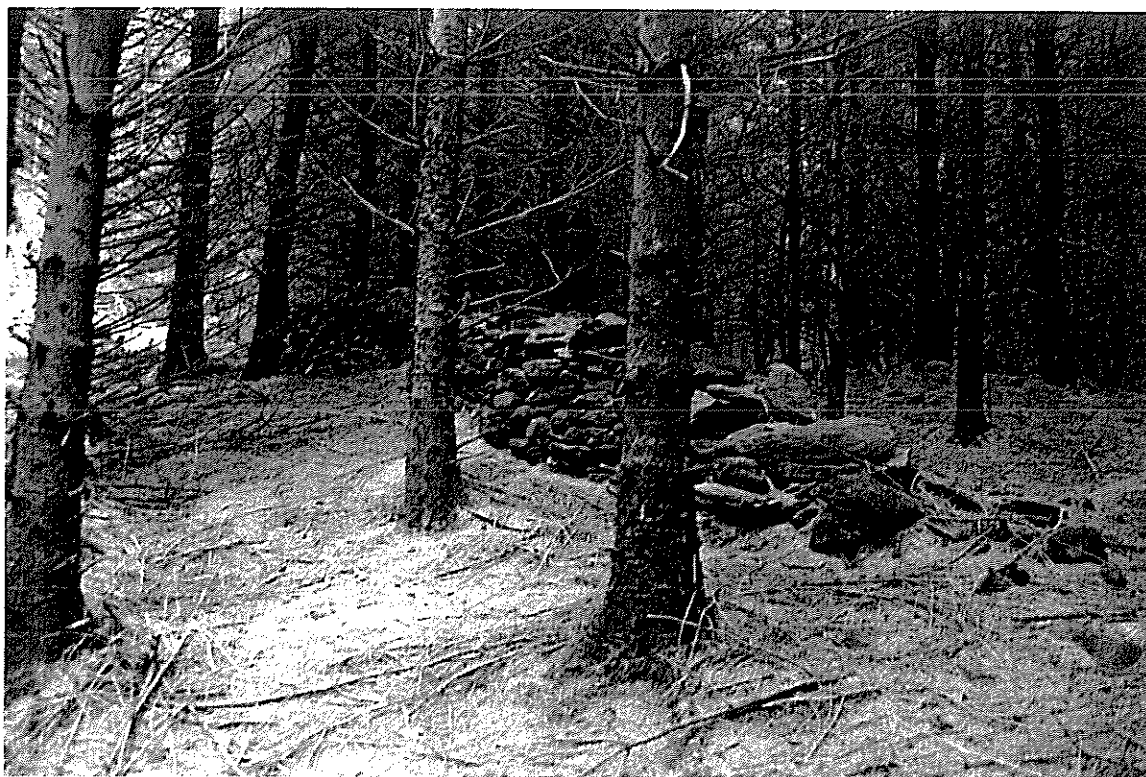


Photo 18.



Photo 19.



Photo 20.