

PARC Y BORTH
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

G1764

Report number : 484

Prepared for
Gwynedd Council

MAY 2003

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

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By
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Parc y Borth is an area of mature broad-leaved woodland just to the north-west of Borth y Gest. The Ynyscynhaearn tithe map of 1842 records the area simply as Y Coed (Fig. 1). It was owned by William Ormsby-Gore Esq. of Brogyntyn, who was MP for Sligo then for Caernarfon Boroughs and finally for North Shropshire. He was also the father of both the 1st and 2nd Lords Harlech. The tithe map dates from before the construction of Borth y Gest and harbour, showing the original line of the coast.

The 1900 25 inch OS map (sheet XXXIV.16) shows Parc y Borth in greater detail (Fig. 2) with the boundaries unchanged since 1842 and a network of footpaths running through the woods. A small rectangular building and a length of relict field boundary are also shown on the map. The field boundary is still visible as a substantial bank. This feature may well date from before the woodland was planted, marking one of the boundaries within an earlier field system. The remains of the rectangular building can also be seen sitting on a natural terrace in sloping ground. The original function of the building is unclear. It is possible that it was connected with the management or use of the woodlands although it could be contemporary with the field boundary and reflect the earlier agricultural use of the area.

Later OS maps record an enclosed Iron Age or Romano-British hut group in the centre of Parc y Borth. Fig. 3 shows the 1971 survey at 1/2500. The site was resurveyed using a total station as part of this assessment. Additional details were added by hand. The results of the survey are depicted in Fig. 3

The site occupies a small terrace in a north-east facing slope and consists of three huts within a roughly oval enclosure. The features are visible as rounded banks and terraces with occasional exposed facing stones. The enclosure has dimensions of 36m x 42m and is defined by a low bank which is most pronounced where it is terraced out onto the slope to the north-east.

The hut at the north-west end of the group is fairly well defined. It has an internal diameter of about 7.5m with walls visible as well spread banks. Exposed facing stones define an entrance at the south-east. A further, less well defined, platform with a diameter of 5 to 6m just to the south probably marks the site of another hut. The south-eastern side of the hut is obscured by material deposited from the bank above where an 8m x 5m terrace has been excavated into the slope. The status of the terrace is unclear. It could be interpreted as the remains of a rectangular building, presumably post-dating the partially obscured hut, although it could be relatively recent, perhaps reflecting an earlier alignment of the path.

A third hut stands at the south-eastern end of the enclosure. This is defined by a low bank forming a rough oval with internal dimensions of 6m x 4m. A flint nodule, a pot boiler and some fragments of iron ore are recorded as having been found in this hut group in the 1920s (Breese 1922, RCAHM 1964).

References

- Breese C E 1922, Cytiau Gwyddelod in the Ville of Gest, *Arch Camb* LXXVII pt 2
RCAHM 1964, *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Caernarvonshire Vol. III West*



Fig .1 Ynyscynhaiarn Tithe Map 1842 (Parc y Borth is field 930)

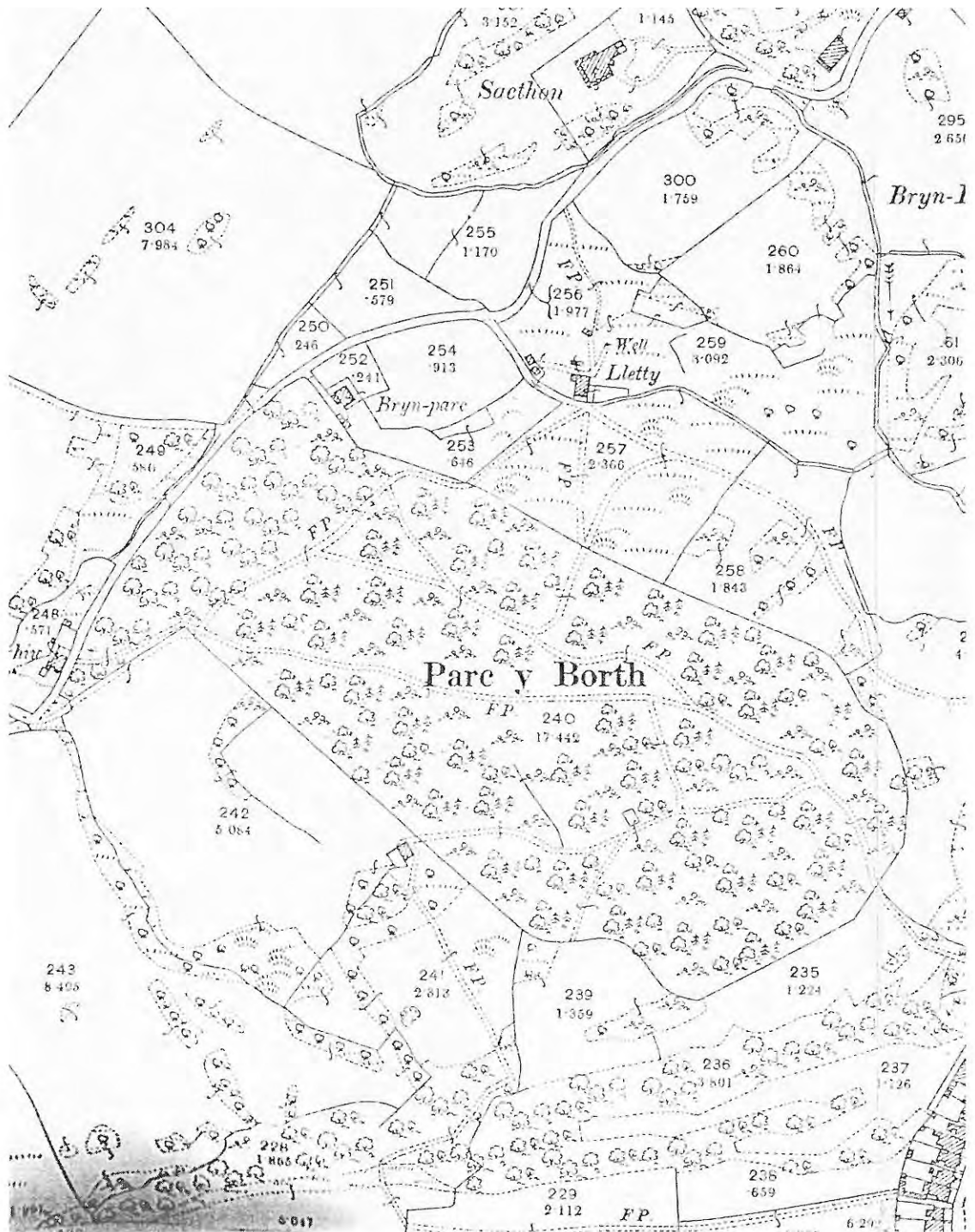


Fig. 2 OS map 25 inch 1900 (sheet XXXIV.16)

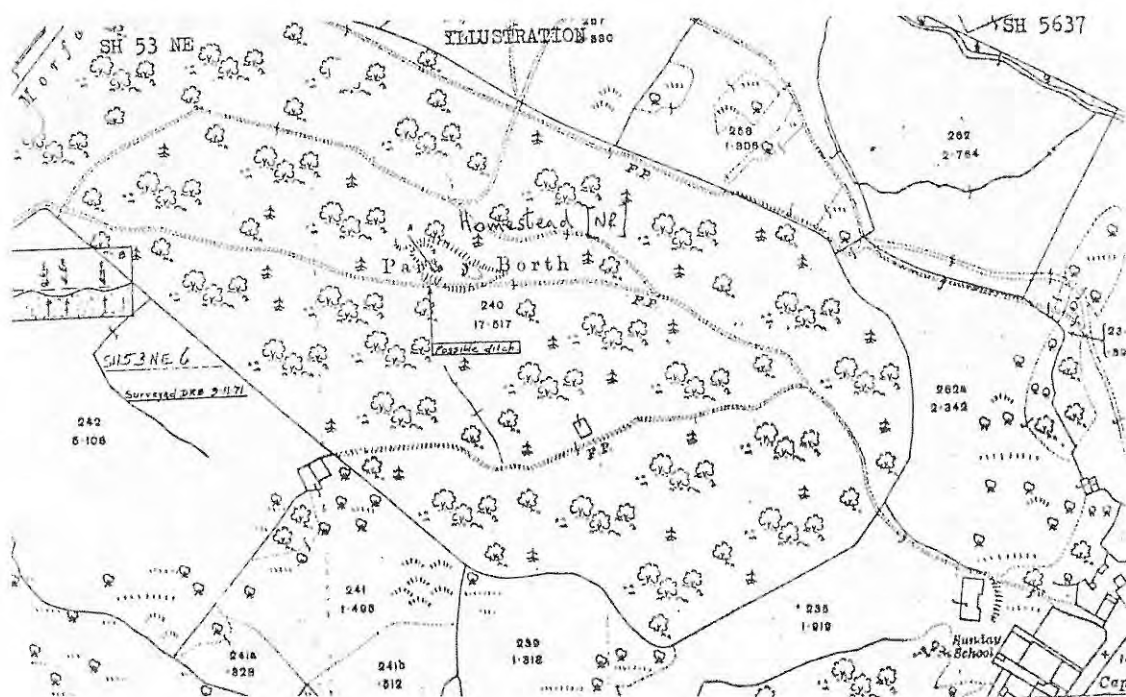


Fig. 3 Parc y Borth hut group (OS survey SH53 NE 6 1971)

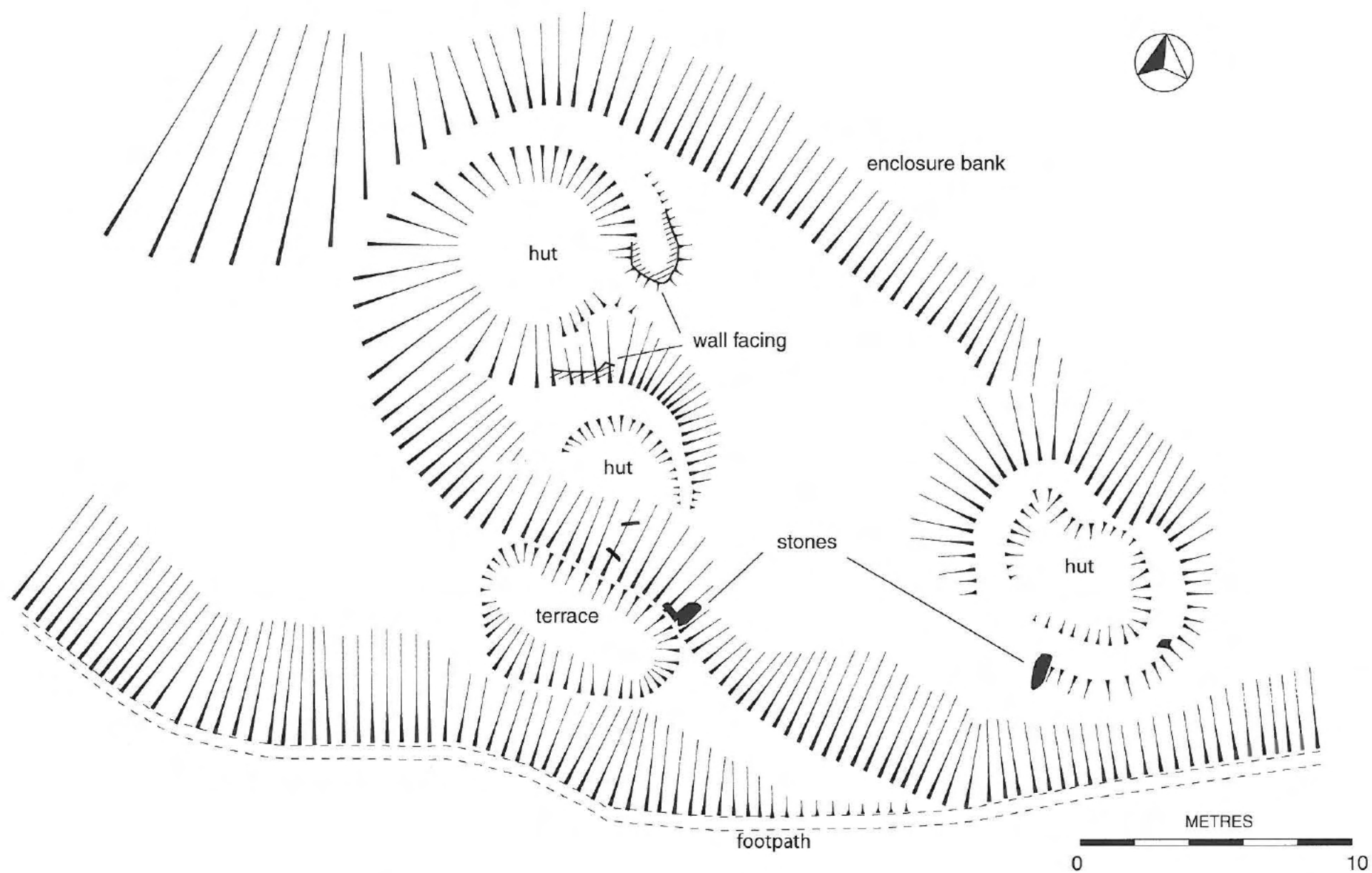


Fig. 4 Parc y Borth hut group (total station survey by D. Hopewell and G. H. Smith 2003)



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