

A SURVEY OF DEFENDED ENCLOSURES IN CEREDIGION, 2006: GAZETTEER OF ORDNANCE SURVEY GRID SQUARES SN14 AND SN15



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A SURVEY OF DEFENDED ENCLOSURES IN CEREDIGION, 2006: GAZETTEER OF ORDNANCE SURVEY GRID SQUARES SN14 AND SN15

Gan / By

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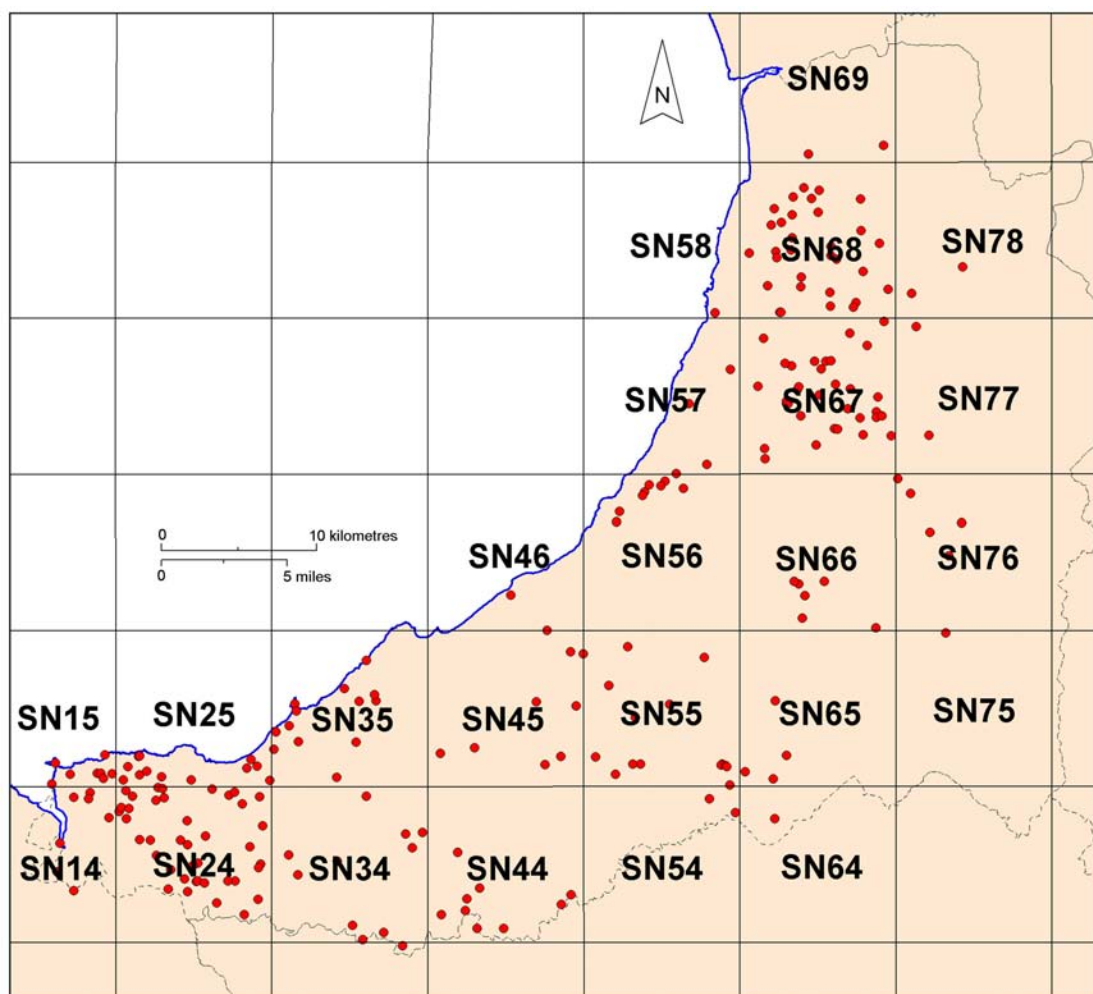
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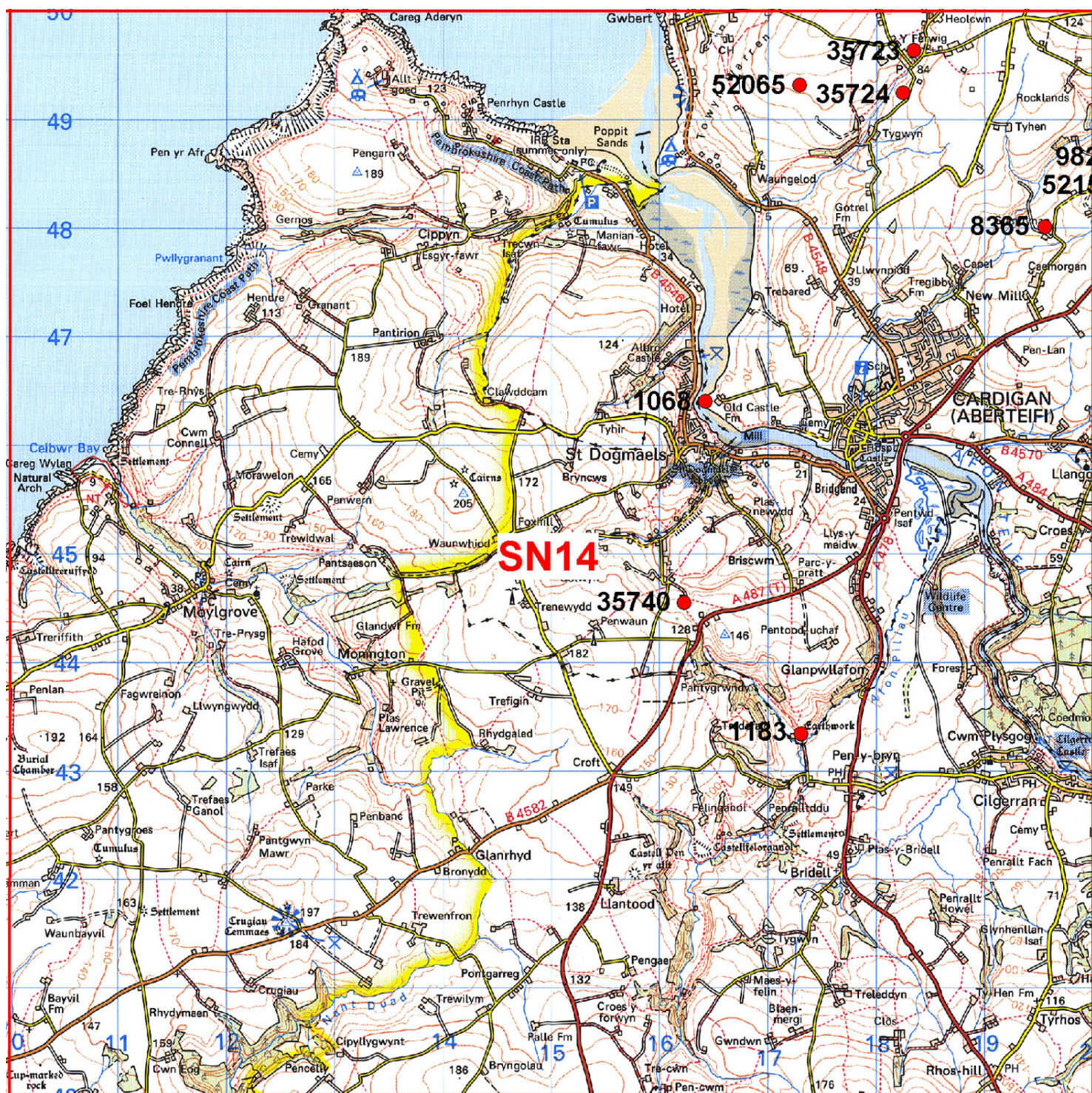
SITE GAZETTEER OF 10KM GRID SQUARES SN14 AND SN15

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 ©.

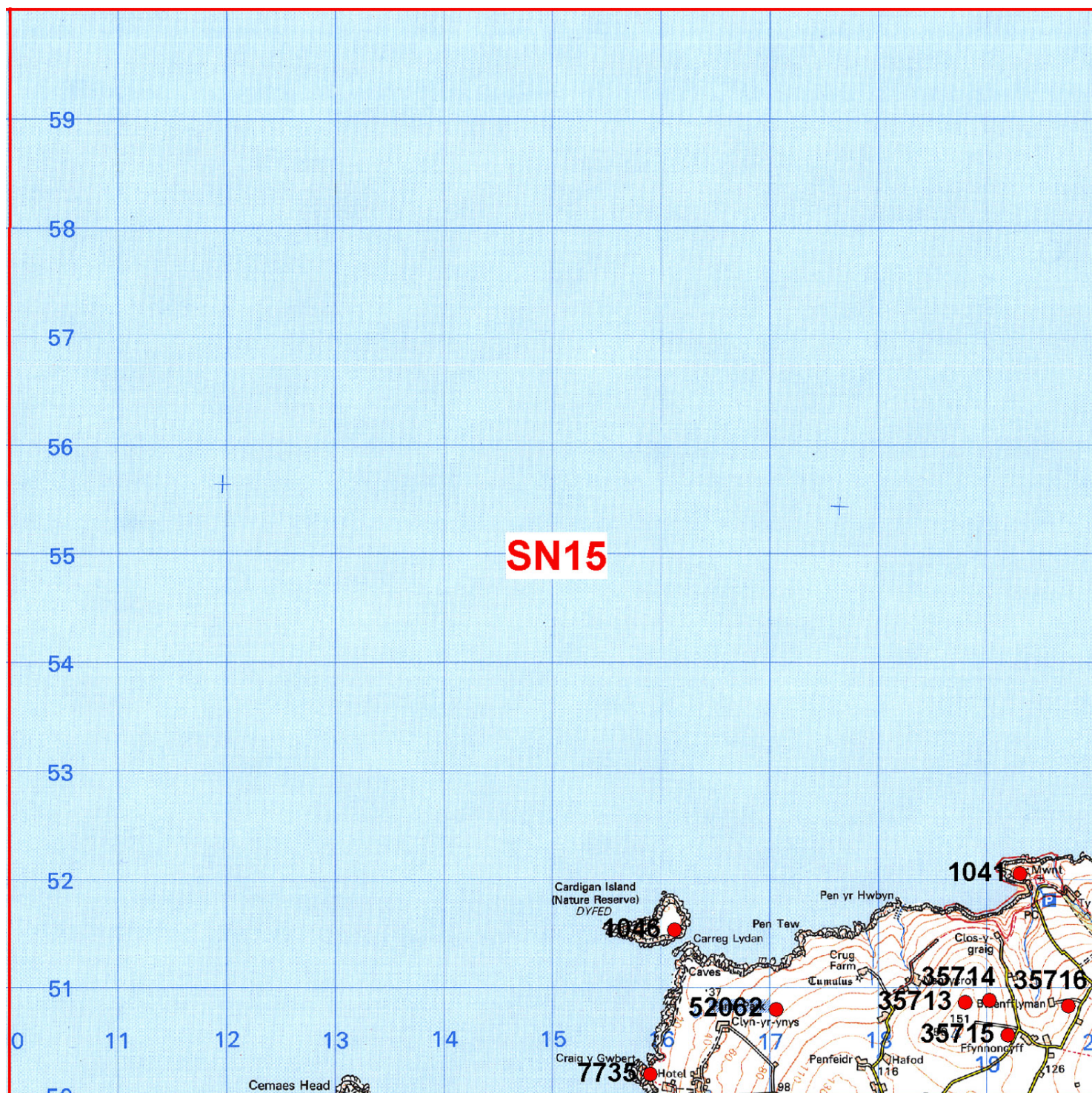


Index to the gazetteers of defended enclosures and related sites. Gazetteers are arranged by 10km grid squares.



1:50,000 Distribution map of sites in 10km grid square SN14.

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1:50,000 Distribution map of sites in 10km grid square SN15

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1041 FOEL Y MWNT

PRN 1041 NGR SN19305205

SITE NAME FOEL Y MWNT

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Foel y Mwnt is a rocky promontory that rises to over 60m above the sea. On the landward side it rises steeply from a saddle in which is located Mwnt Church and a National Trust car park. The main line of defences runs across this steep slope, about one-third of the way up. This defence consists of a low earth or earth and stone bank up to 1m high and 3m wide on the outside (east and downslope) of which are indications of a ditch. The overall impression is that the bank has eroded back into the ditch. A simple entrance marked by a gap in the bank and ditch lies along the northern section of this defence. The edge of what seems to be a natural terrace at the base of the steep slope has been artificially steepened to form a second, outer line of defence. This is not so clear as the main line, and its course at its northern end is unclear.

The main line of defence closes off approximately 6ha. On the landward side this is land is very steep with exposed bare rock. However, on the seaward side slopes are more gentle (although still steep) and grass covered. Here there are numerous hollows which may be house platforms. These slopes are very exposed to sea winds. The second line of defence at the foot of the slope enclosed an extra area of approximately 0.6ha.

There seems to be very little coastal erosion occurring. However, a path leading up the steep landward facing slope is deeply rutted, particularly where it crosses the main defence. Here the bank is exposed revealing earth construction of stones of a possible revetment.

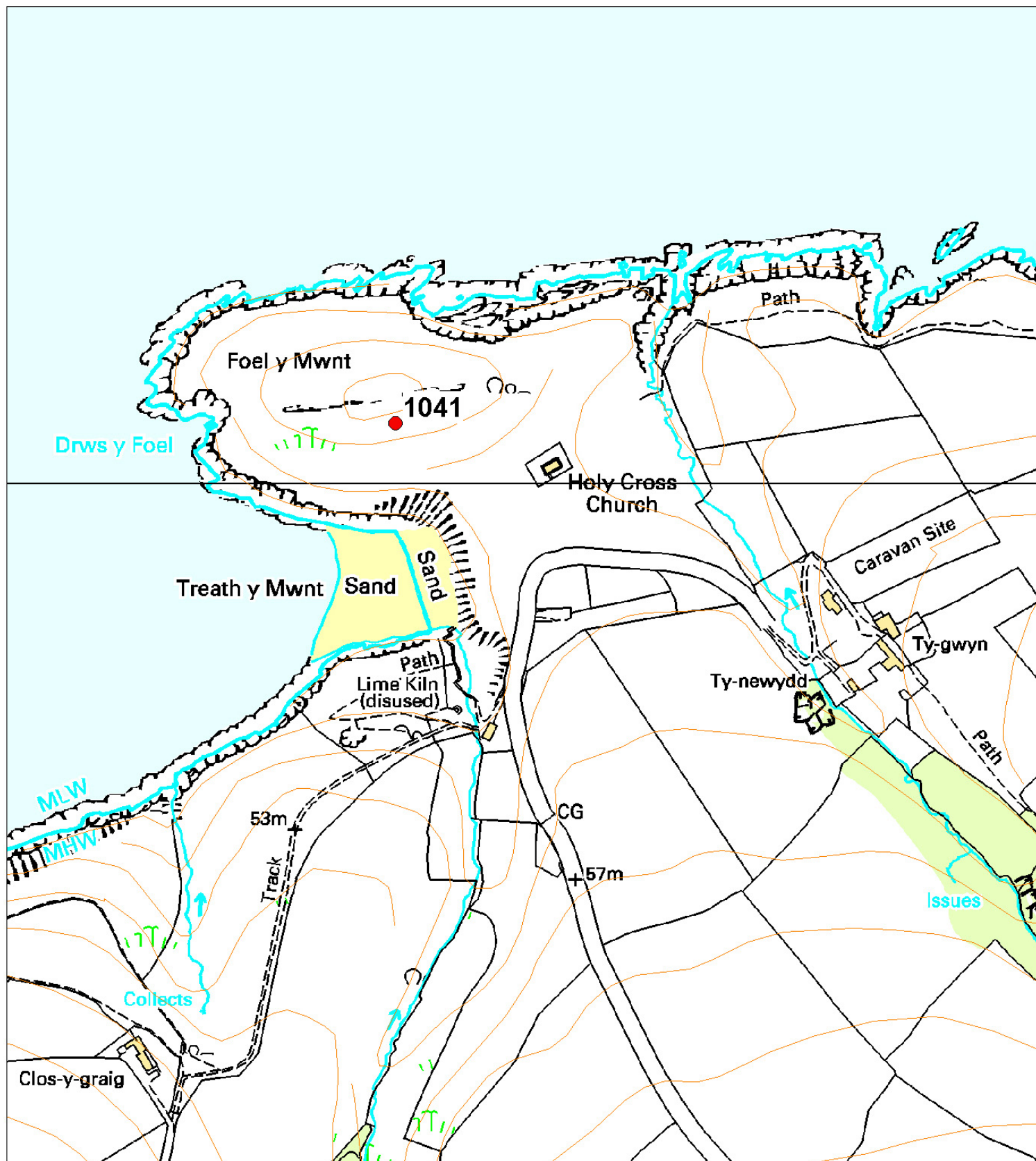
K Murphy 11 May 2005



1041 Foel y Mwnt. Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 2002-cs-1042



1041 Foel y Mwnt. Ground photograph looking along the line of the defensive bank.



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Scale: 1:500

1046 CARDIGAN ISLAND

PRN 1046 NGR

SITE NAME CARDIGAN ISLAND

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE; ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT?; ENCLOSURE?; RABBIT WARREN FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age; Roman; Medieval?; Post Med? CONDITION B

SITE STATUS

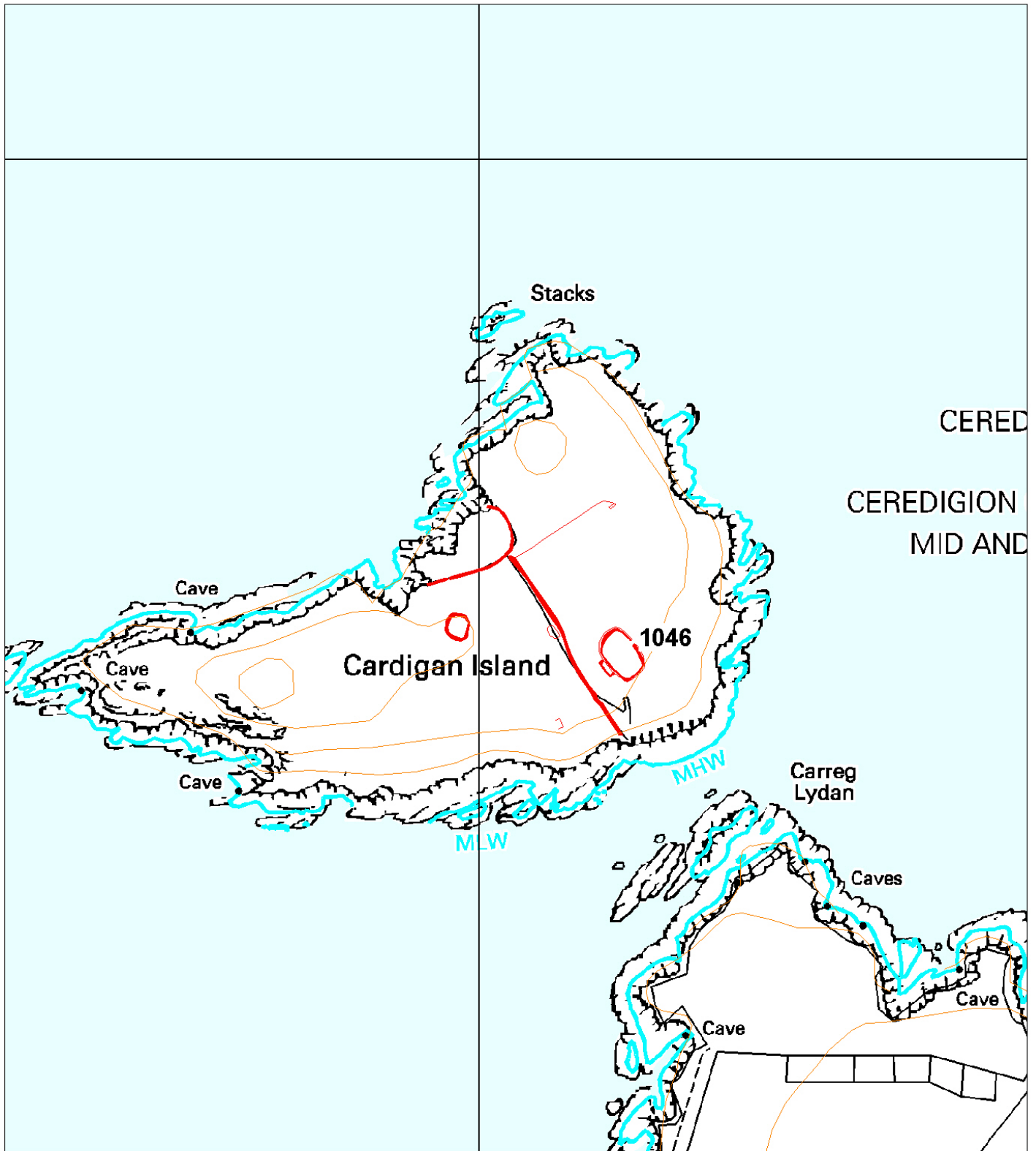
DESCRIPTION

This is a sub-rectangular earthwork enclosure lying on a gentle southeast-facing slope on Cardigan Island at 30m above sea level. The enclosure is defined by a bank, which is nowhere more than 1m high and averages 3m wide, and external ditch, approximately 2.5m wide and 0.5m deep. There are several small gaps in the bank, but the only one sufficiently wide enough for an entrance is in the southeast corner. Within the enclosure against the bank are four circular platforms varying from 6m to 8m diameter - possible round-houses. In the centre of the enclosure a sub-rectangular mound 12m by 8m could mark the site of a rectangular stone building. The external ditch on the west side is interrupted by a rectangular annexe 12m by 7m.

K Murphy 8 March 2006, based on P Bowers 1994



Aerial photograph Cambria Archaeology.



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1068 OLD CASTLE

PRN 1068 NGR SN16424640

SITE NAME OLD CASTLE; DIN GERAINT

SITE TYPE RINGWORK; PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Medieval; Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

DESCRIPTION

This site has long been associated Din Geriant, the first castle founded by the Anglo-Normans at Cardigan. However, it is possible the Din Geriant lies on the present Cardigan Castle site, and that this site - Old Castle - is an Iron Age promontory fort. Alternatively it could be an Iron Age site later reused as a medieval castle.

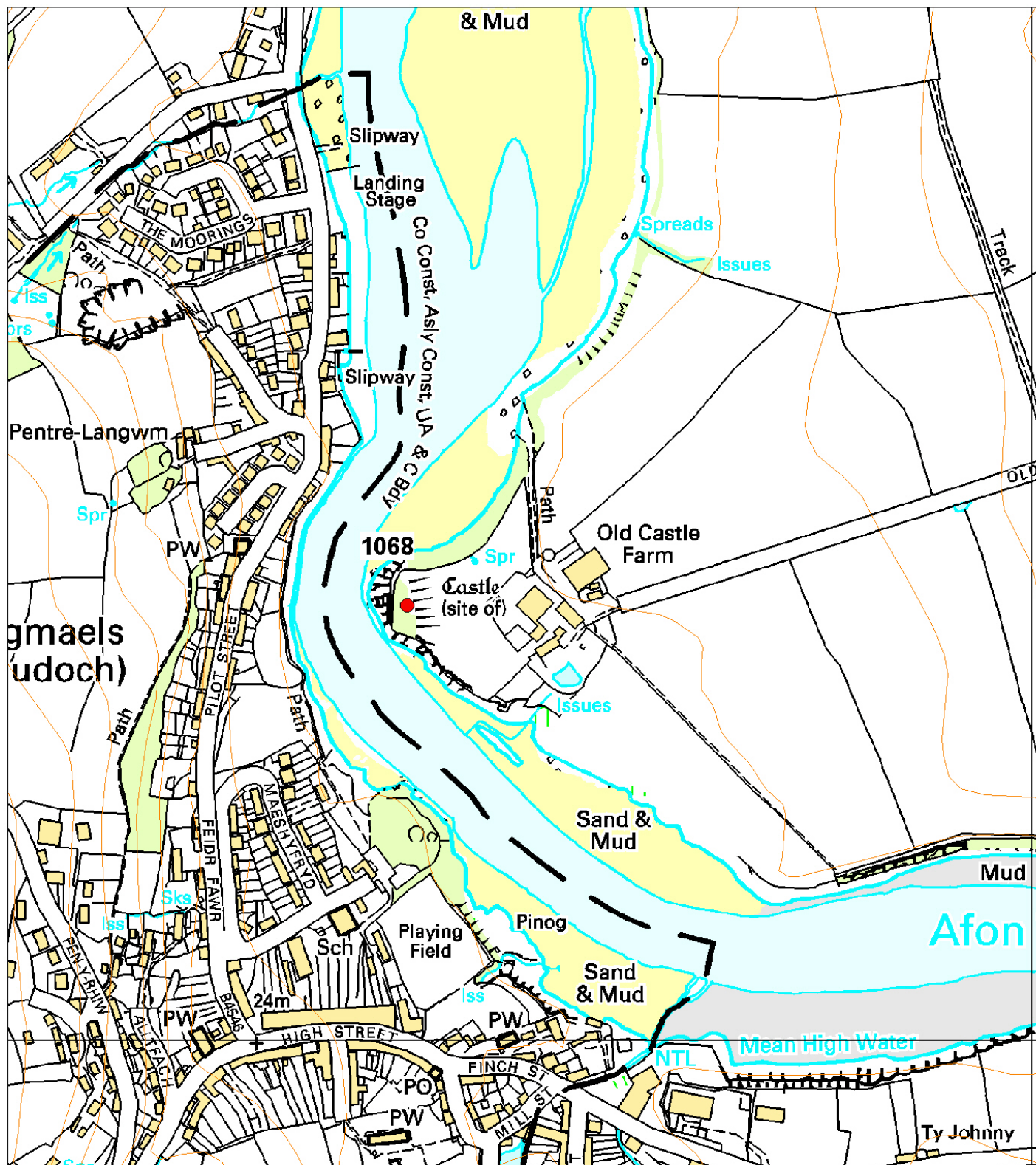
K Murphy 6 March 2006



Aerial photograph Cambria Archaeology.



Aerial photograph Cambria Archaeology.



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1183 NANTPERCHELLAN

PRN 1183 NGR SN17304333

SITE NAME NANTPERCHELLAN

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT;RINGWORK? FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age;Medieval CONDITION C

SITE STATUS SAM

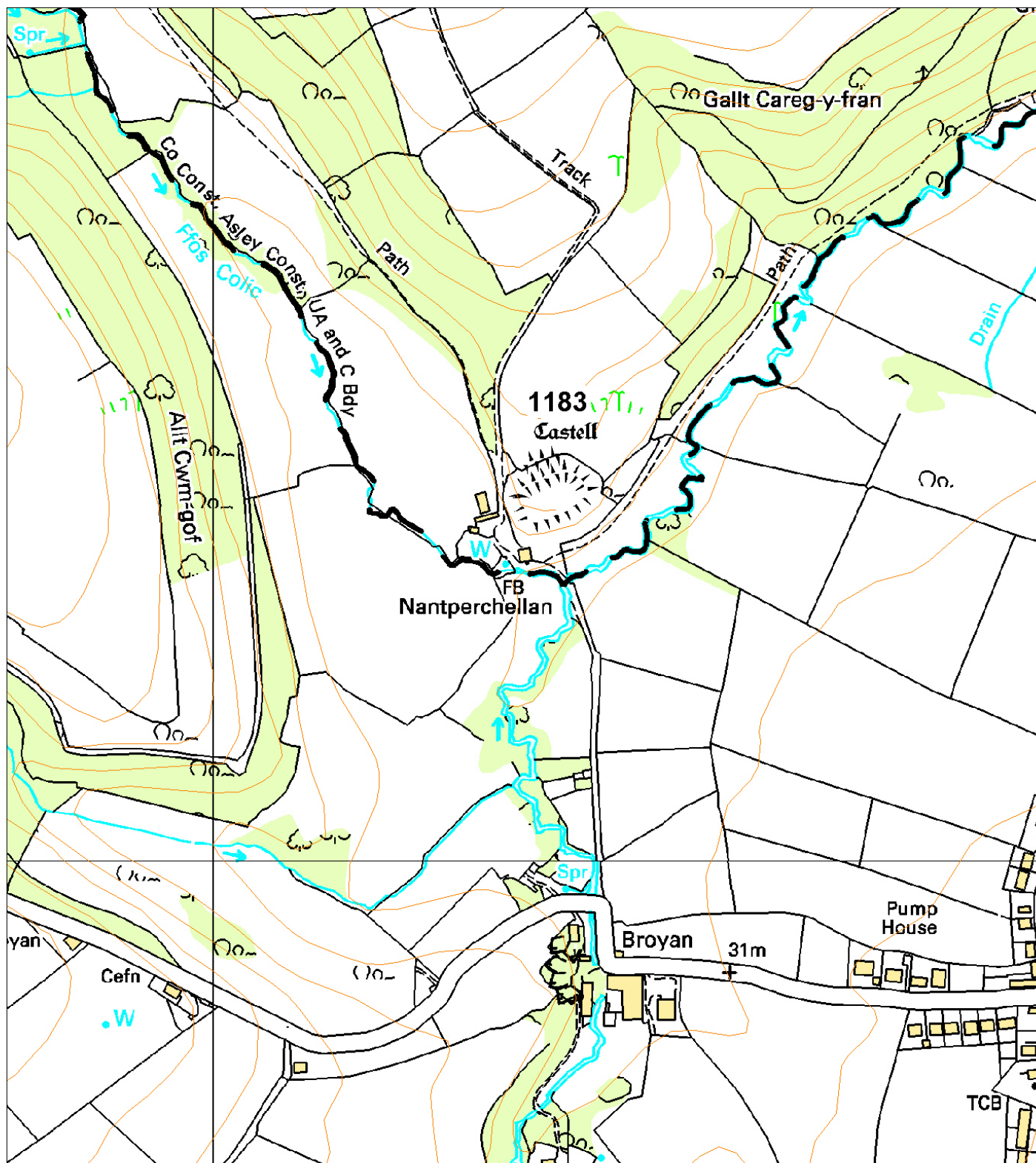
DESCRIPTION

Located on an inland promontory, Castell Nantperchellan is most likely to be an Iron Age fort, although medieval origin and/or use cannot be ruled out. It is located at 40m above sea level. To the west, south and east of the site land falls away steeply into a narrow valley. To the north the land rises steadily to a rounded summit some distance away. A bank and ditch cut off the easily accessible north and east sides. The bank rises up to 1.7m above the interior and over 5m above the base of the rock-cut ditch. A short length of outer (counterscarp), slighter bank lies on the north side. On the south and west a cliff naturally defends the fort. The site of the entrance is uncertain, but probably on the west side against the steep slope. The sloping interior is approximately rectangular, 55m by 40m. The site is covered with dense scrub

K Murphy 13 December 2005 - from Cadw descriptions.



1183 Nantperchellan. Aerial photograph, Cambria Archaeology reference no. DAT89-95.13



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7735 GRAIG Y GWBERT

PRN 7735 NGR SN159502

SITE NAME GRAIG Y GWBERT

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Craig y Gwbert is an Iron Age promontory fort superbly located on an isthmus on the eastern side of the mouth of the River Teifi. The isthmus is attached to the mainland by a narrow neck of land. The hard-rock sea cliffs are here only 10m high, but they form a virtually unassailable barrier to the fort around 95% of its circuit, thus only a short length of built defences were required. The fort entrance is approached via the narrow neck. The entrance is a simple gap through the defensive bank. Because of the fort's defensive location there is only a need for a bank for approximately 20m - 25m either side of the entrance. The bank is up to 2.5m wide and 15m wide. Natural ravines running up to the narrow natural neck have been artificially deepened and widened to create ditches in front of the bank adjacent to the entrance. There is a counterscarp bank up to 1m high on the outer lip of the ditches. The present interior of the fort is approximately 1.5ha, but it is unknown how much has been lost to the sea. The interior of the fort is fairly level.

The fort is being affected by several different agencies. Firstly, the interior of the fort and immediately outside is now a golf course, part of the Cliff Hotel. There are greens, tees and bunkers within the fort, but construction of these does not seem to have involved large-scale groundworks, and therefore little damage to below ground archaeology has been caused. A path through the fort's entrance has been gravelled, stabilising this part of the site and preventing erosion through the passage of feet. Second, a limekiln was built into the defensive bank to the south of the entrance in the 19th century (PRN 7736). A small part of the defensive bank adjacent to this kiln is eroding, revealing earth and stone make-up. It is uncertain whether this is original Iron Age bank material or is associated with the limekiln. Third, sea spray has eroded a 10m - 20m band of topsoil along the cliff edge revealing archaeological features cut into bedrock. Pete Bewers has noted a four-post structure, round-house gullies and post-holes (some with their original fill), but in August 2005 only several post-holes were recognised.

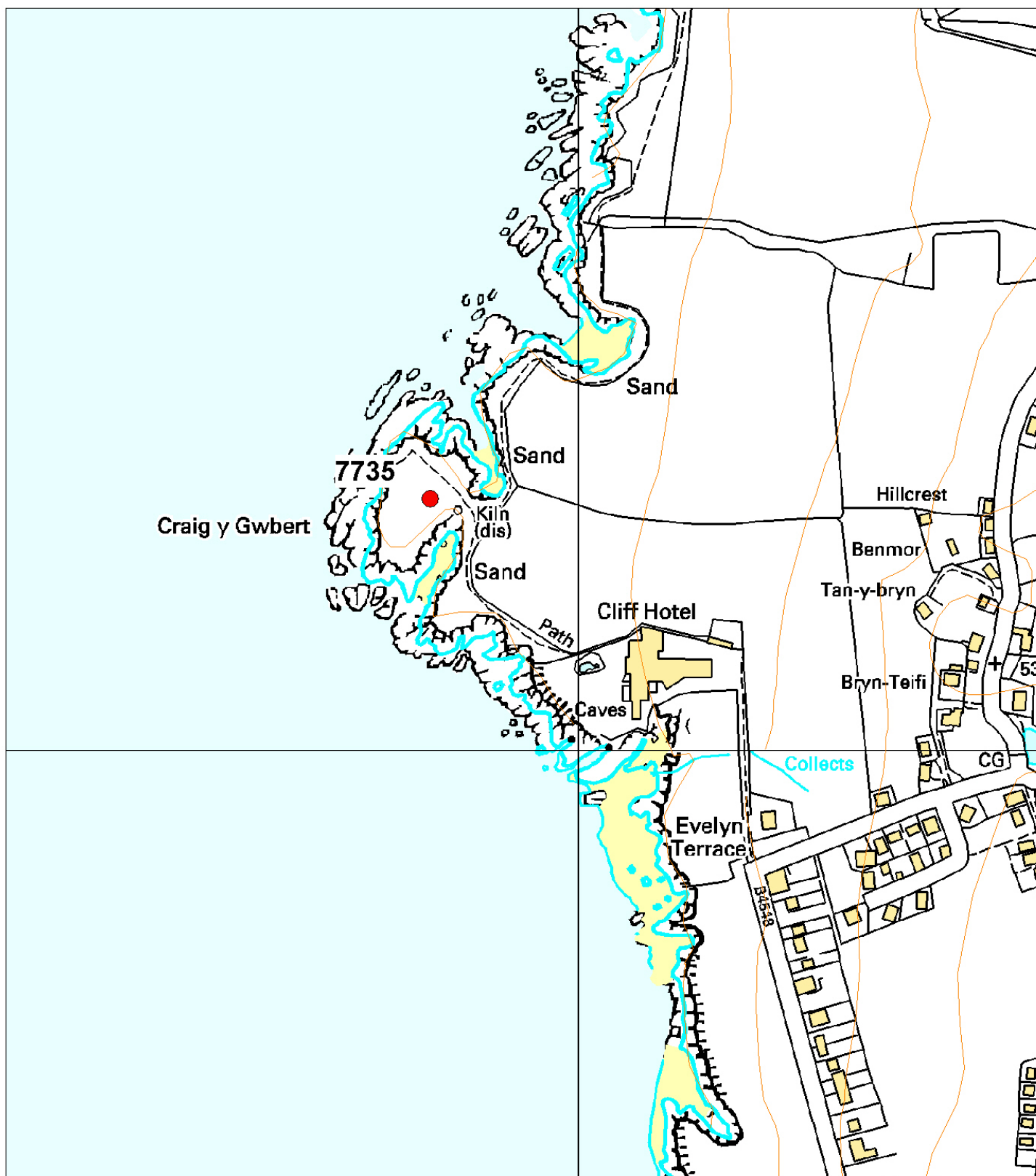
K Murphy 1 August 2005



Aerial photograph RCAHMMW Crown Copyright © reference 2005-cs-1060



Ground photograph showing defensive banks and entrance.



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NO

8365 GLANLLYNNAN

PRN 8365 NGR SN19554801

SITE NAME GLANLLYNNAN

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age; Roman CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Glanllynan defended enclosure is a cropmark site with no earthwork or other surface evidence. It is located at approximately 70m above sea level on a small hillock or knoll, with the cropmark ditch encircling the summit area. To the north of the site the land is undulating, but to the southwest and southeast the land falls gently but steadily away giving wide ranging views. In 2005 the land was partly under improved pasture and partly under arable.

The cropmark ditch encloses a sub-circular area approximately 30m across. There is a southeast facing entrance and a hint of a slight outer ditch concentric to the main ditch on the northwest side.

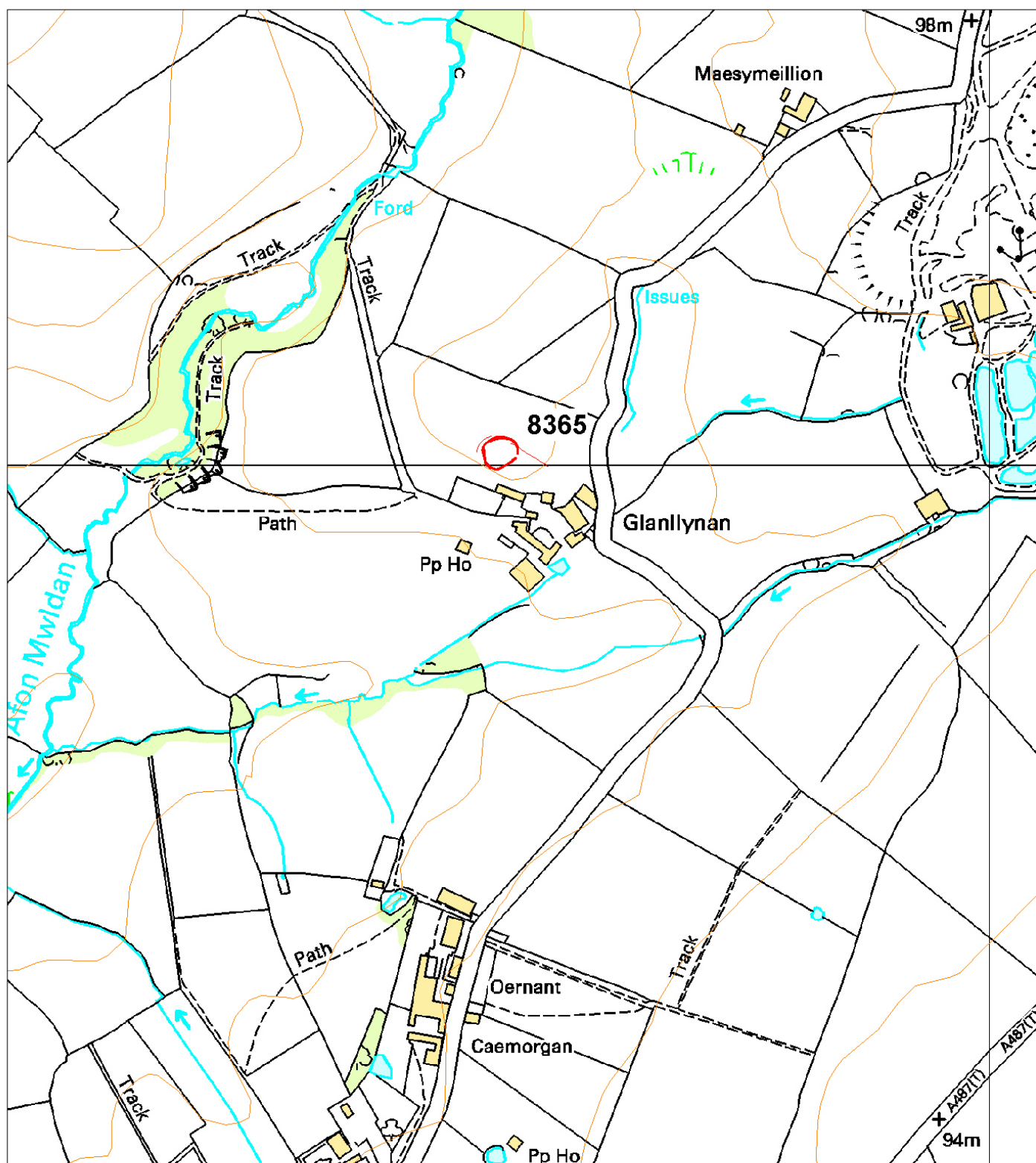
K Murphy 30 September 2005



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 95-cs-1721



Ground photograph looking over site of cropmark.



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35713 NANTYCROY

PRN 35713 NGR SN18799508

SITE NAME NANTYCROY

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

This site is located just off the highest point of a flat hilltop at 150m above sea level. Wide-ranging views are obtained from the site in all directions except to the south - the direction of the highest point - with particularly good views over Cardigan Bay and Cardigan Island. Aerial photographs show a roughly circular cropmark ditched enclosure approximately 60m diameter internally, with possible opposing entrances to the west and east. On the ground the site is marked by a slight saucer-shaped depression approximately 20m across. A hedge-bank that ran through the centre of the site has been removed.

In 2005, a geophysical survey showed that the enclosure was sub-circular, rather than circular. On the west side the enclosure is interrupted or cut across by a more rectilinear ditch at the entrance. Other anomalies hint at a complex entrance on this side. A slighter ditch approaches the entrance from the northwest. A simple gap marks the entrance on the east side. There is a trace of a concentric ditch on the south side of the enclosure, closely set to the main ditch. A signal from the removed hedge-bank masks detail in the interior, nevertheless, anomalies indicate internal divisions, pits and possible structures. The site is under improved pasture.

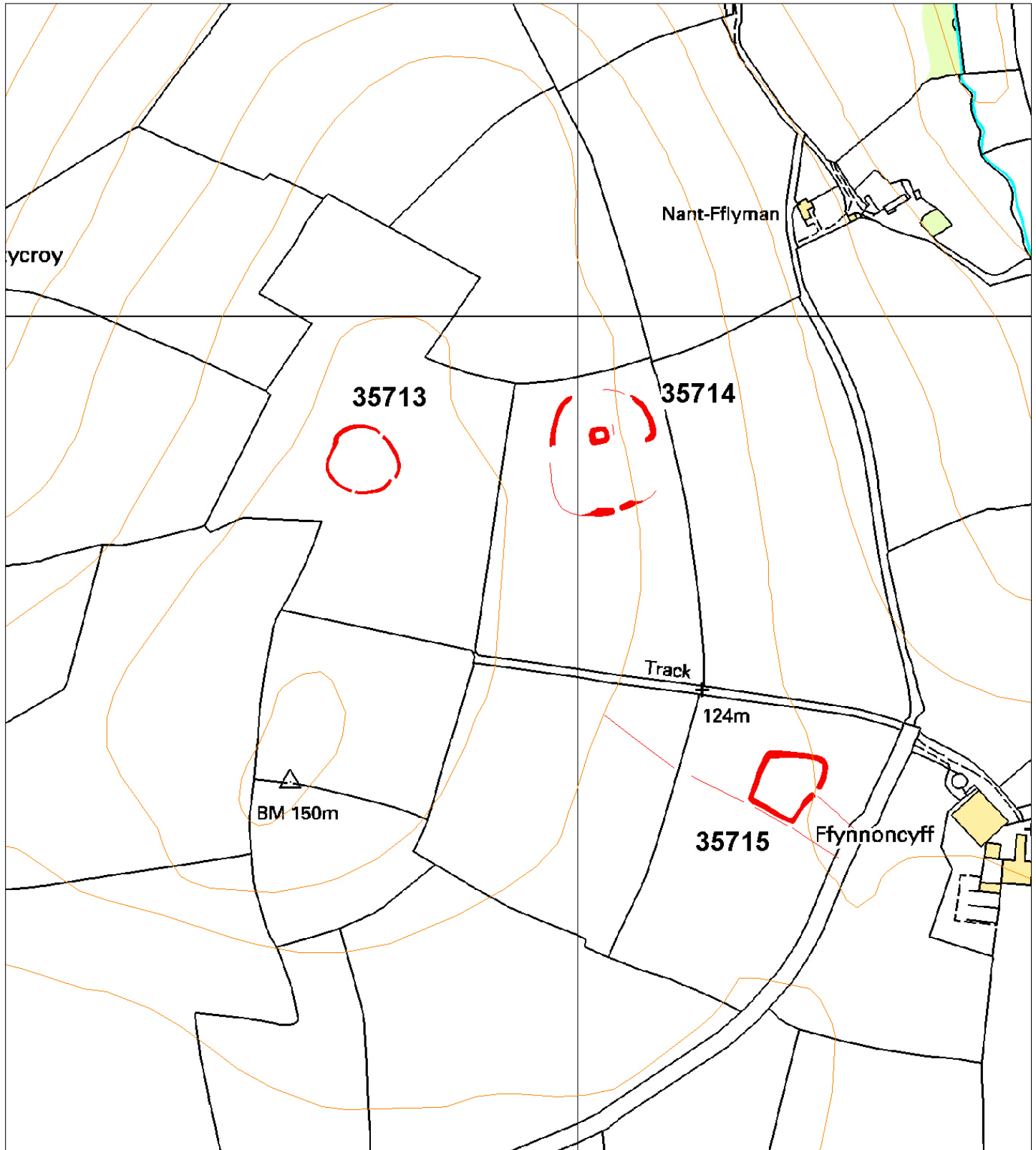
K Murphy 26 January 2006



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 89-cs-742



Ground photograph during geophysical survey.



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NO

35714 NANT FFLYMAN II

PRN 35714 NGR SN19025088

SITE NAME NANT FFLYMAN II

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Located at approximately 130m above sea level on a east-facing slope, this a cropmark site with no earthwork or other surface evidence. In 2005 it was under a barley crop. In 2004 it was under a root crop. Aerial photographs taken in 2005 show a cropmark ditch enclosing a sub-rectangular area measuring 110m north - south and 90m east - west.

An entrance lies on the centre of the north side. Here the ditch widens into expanded terminals. Aerial photographs taken in 1990 seem to show a rectangular cropmark in the centre of the photographs, but this is faint (as is the rest of the site on the 1990 photograph) and does not show on the very clear 2005 photograph.

K Murphy 14 October 2005



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 2005-cs-1586



Ground photograph looking over site of cropmark in 2004.

35715 FFYNNONCYFF

PRN 35715 NGR SN19195056

SITE NAME FFYNNONCYFF

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age; Roman CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

A strongly marked, ditched, sharp-cornered trapezoid crop-marked enclosure measuring internally approximately 50m north to south and 47m east to west, 0.23 ha in area. The ditch is between 4m and 5.5m wide. A 5.4m wide entrance lies in the centre of the east side. There are no internal features visible, but a slight ditch runs east from the south terminal ditch, and a second, similar ditch runs approximately east - west immediately adjacent and parallel to the southern side of the enclosure. This ditch continues into the field to the west. Both these ditches seem to belong to field systems contemporaneous with the enclosure. The enclosure is located towards the foot of a southeast-facing slope at 120m almost at the watershed of a stream flowing to the north and one flowing southwest. Land within the enclosure slopes down 2.5m from west to east. The land is very well drained, with bedrock close to the surface.

K Murphy 4 February 2006



Hawlfraint y Goŕon:CBHC
Crown Copyright:RCAHMW

Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 89-cs-659

35716 BLAENFFLYMAN

PRN 35716 NGR SN19755083

SITE NAME BLAENFFLYMAN

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age; Roman CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Aerial photograph and geophysical survey - a well defined ditched enclosure, almost square, internally measuring approximately 44m east-southeast to west-northwest and 45m north-northeast to south-southwest, giving an internal area of 0.19 ha. The ditch is sharp-cornered with an average width between 3.2m and 4m, but up to 5.8m wide on the northern side. The single entrance through the ditch in the centre of the eastern side is 2.5m wide. There is no trace of a bank.

The enclosure lies at approximately 118m O.D., on land that gently slopes down from east to west, towards the head and on the east side of a small valley.

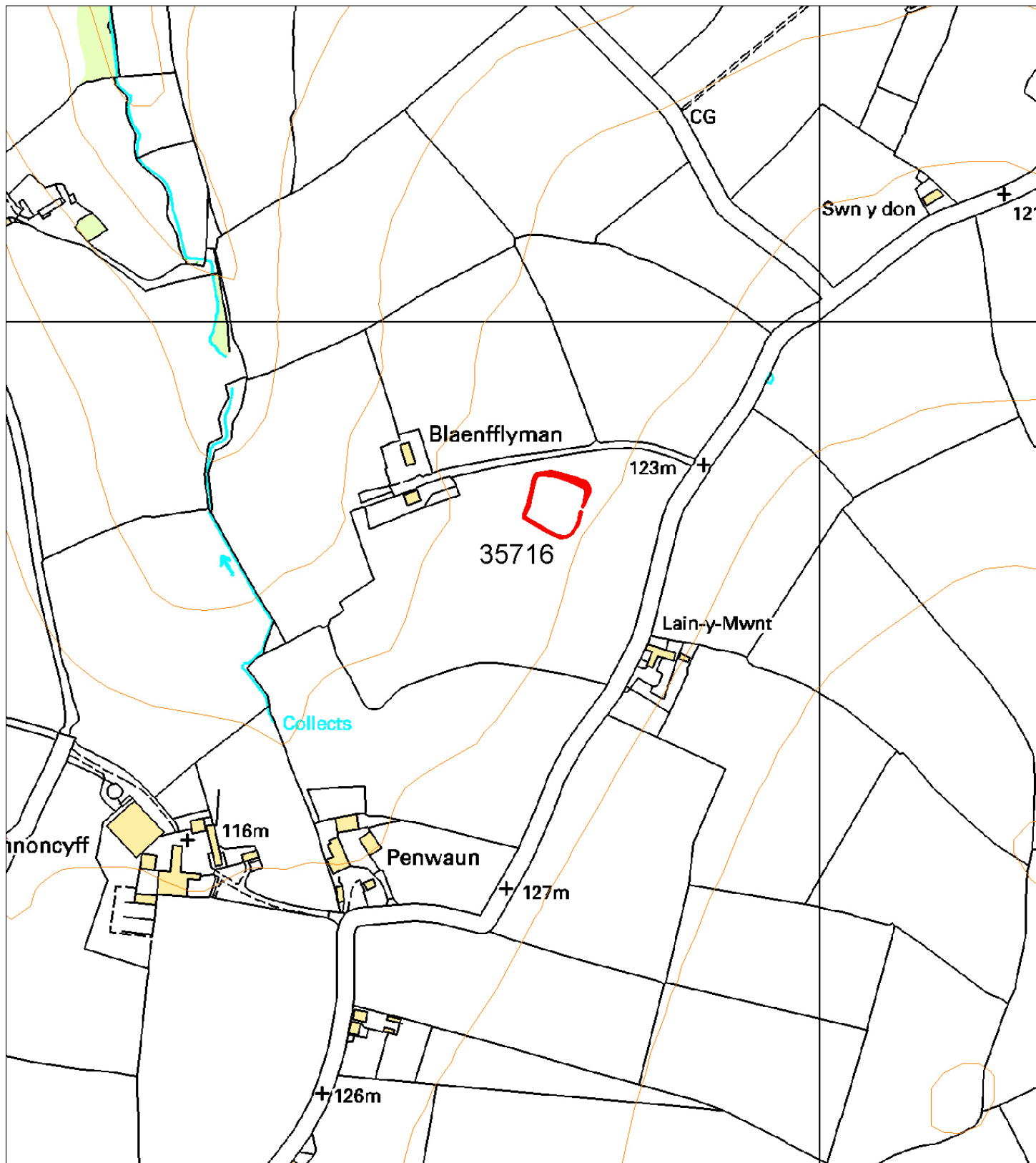
K Murphy 4 February 2006.



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 89-cs-649



Ground photograph looking over site of cropmark.



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NO

35723 VERWIG

PRN 35723 NGR SN18344964

SITE NAME VERWIG

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age; Roman CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Aerial photographs show what seem to be an enclosure and other cropmarks close to the parish church at Verwig. The enclosure shows as a cropmark ditch and is partial only, and is in an unusual location. Its northwest corner lies on level ground at approximately 100m, but immediately to the south and east of this corner the land falls away steeply into a shallow valley. It is on this steep slope that most of the enclosure is located.

Only the northern side of the enclosure survives; this measures 60m from east to west. If projected the current Verwig parish church would lie within in the enclosure. On level ground to the north a series of linear cropmarks may mark buried archaeological features, or they may be of geological origin. In 2005, the land outside the churchyard was under improved pasture.

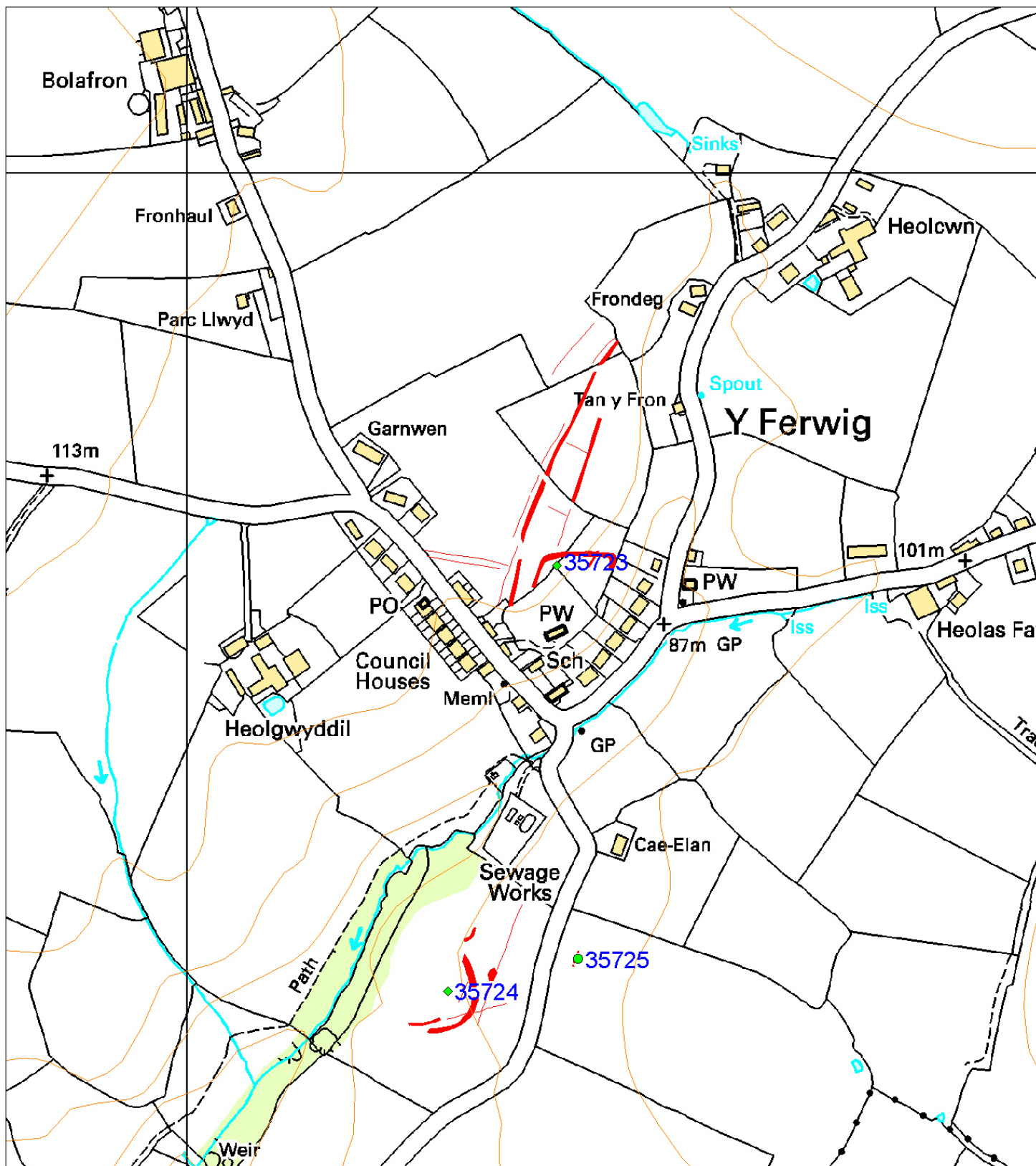
K Murphy 29 September 2005



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 35723



Ground photograph looking over site of cropmark.



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35724 TY GWYN

PRN 35724 NGR SN18244925

SITE NAME TY-GWYN

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

This is a cropmark enclosure with no earthwork or other surface evidence. The site lies on a gentle west-facing slope, towards the head of a small valley, at approximately 90m above sea level. To the west the land falls away by 5m - 10m to a stream in the valley floor. The slope is undulating, and the southern side of the site occupies a small subsidiary valley or hollow a few metres deep. The site is overlooked from most sides. Aerial photographs show a curving arc of a cropmark ditch defining the eastern and southeastern sides of an enclosure, with a possible concentric ditch inside on the southeast side and splodges outside the ditch possible marking the site of pits. However, much of the field is marked by unresponsive vegetation which masks the site.

In 2005, a geophysical survey detected the curving line of ditch visible on aerial photographs with an entrance mid-way along its eastern side. The northern corner of this ditch turns a sharp right angle to the west, the southern corner is a gentle curve. Within the ditch a second (concentric) ditch springs from its northern side. This, too, has an entrance in its east side. Its south corner turns a sharp right angle to the west. This then is a bivallate enclosure, possibly of two phases, sub-rectangular in plan, approximately 60m by 60m. The site is under improved pasture.

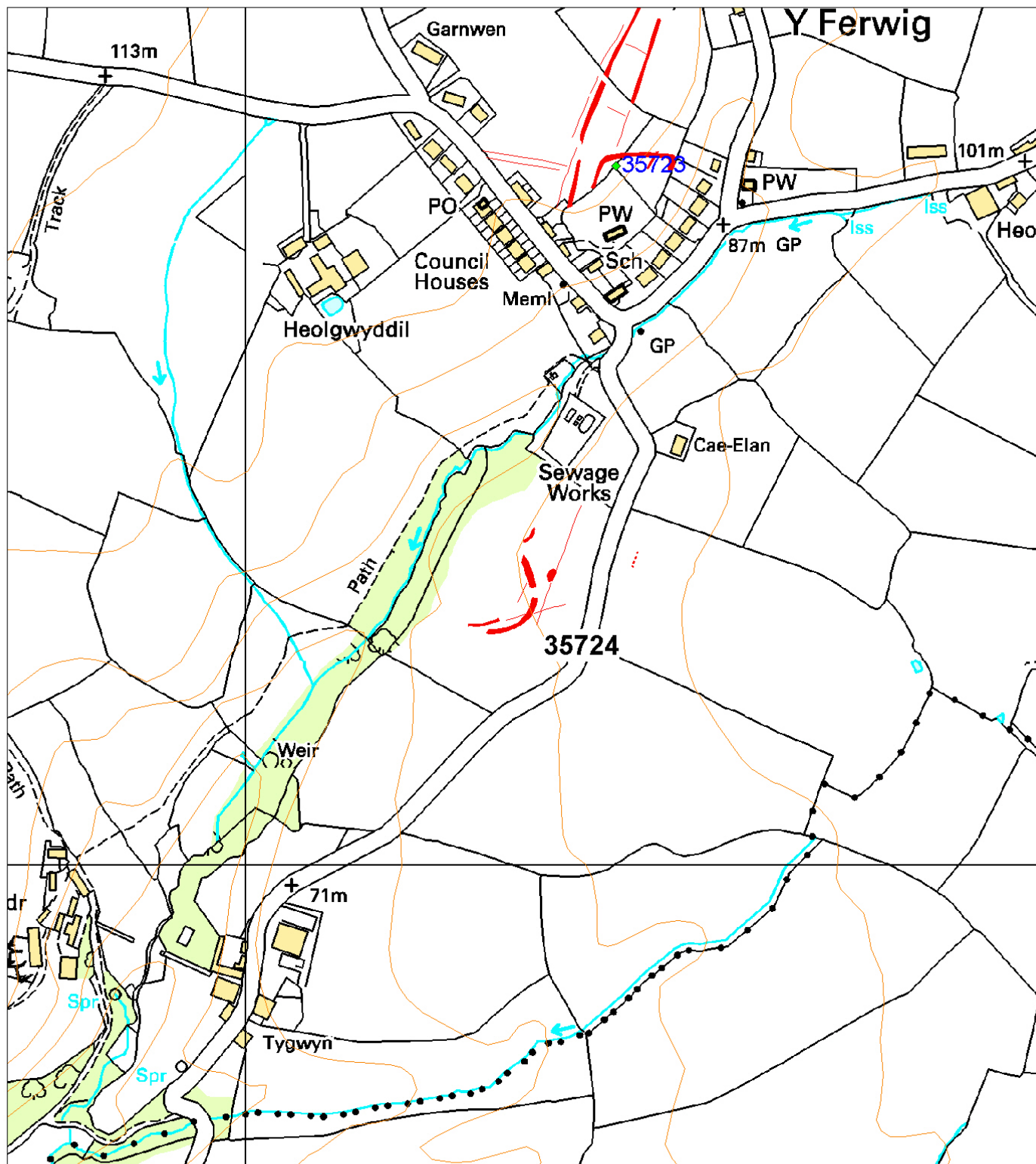
K Murphy 26 January 2006



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Ground photograph looking over site of cropmark.



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35740 PLAS-WAUN

PRN 35740 NGR SN16224454

SITE NAME PLAS-WAUN

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

In 2005 this site was seen only from public roads/footpaths. This is a defended enclosure recognised as a cropmark on aerial photographs but with earthworks surviving. It is sited on a hill slope at approximately 130m above sea level. To the east the land falls away steeply by c.10m into a shallow valley and to the north land falls away more gently. The land rises gently to the south and west. The enclosure is located to take advantage of the steep slope, incorporating it into the defensive circuit.

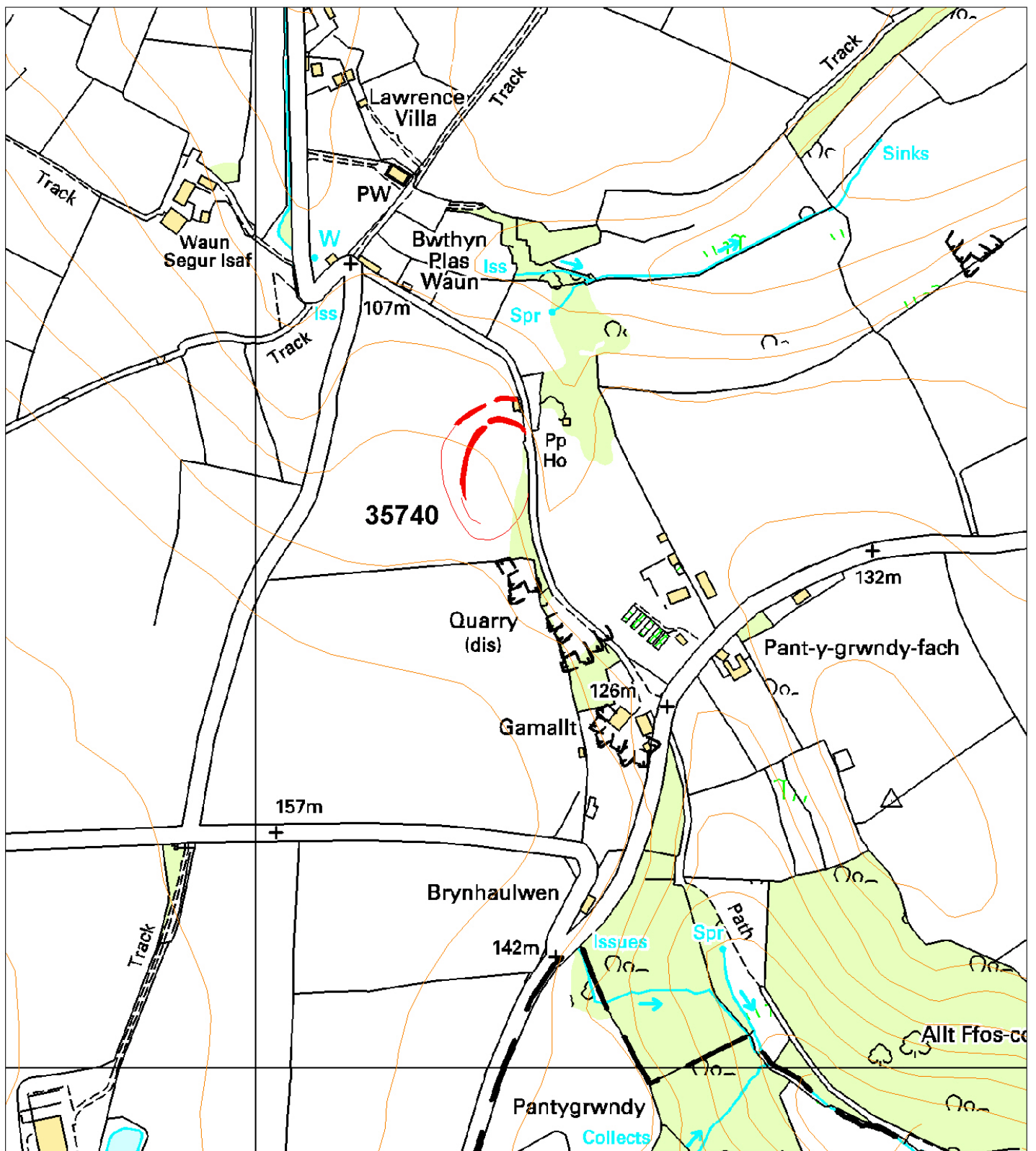
Aerial photographs show cropmark ditches of a bivallate, concentric, elliptical enclosure, with the inner enclosure measuring approximately 100m north - south and 60m east - west. The outer ditch lies approximately 20m outside the inner one. Both ditches are very well defined on the north and northeast sides, but gradually fading to the south. On the east side (in scrubby woodland), against the steep slope no ditches are visible on the photographs. Simple gaps through the ditches on the north side mark the entrance to the enclosure. Rather unusually the entrance faces down the slope.

On the ground the defences survive as earthworks, with both the ditches and banks visible. There is a high difference of approximately 1m between the bottom of the ditch and the top of the bank close to the entrance where earthwork survival is best. Away from the entrance the earthworks rapidly fade away. They are not visible on the east, west or south sides. In 2005, the site was under improved pasture.

K Murphy 29 September 2005



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NO

52062 CLYN-YR-YNYS

PRN 52062 NGR SN17065080

SITE NAME CLYN-Y-YNYS

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age; Roman CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Located at approximately 60m above sea level on a gentle northwest-facing coastal slope with views over Cardigan Island and the Irish Sea, Clos-y-Ynys defended enclosure is a cropmark site with no earthwork or other surface evidence. At the time of the site visit the land was under barley stubble.

Aerial photographs show a concentric ditched enclosure. The inner enclosure is circular approximately 40m in diameter. Owing to geological/crop conditions it is not a continuous cropmark. However, the entrance may lie on the southeast, up-slope, side. The cropmark of the outer ditch only shows on the south and west sides. It is concentric to the inner enclosure, c. 30m - 40m distant from it. It has a west-facing entrance.

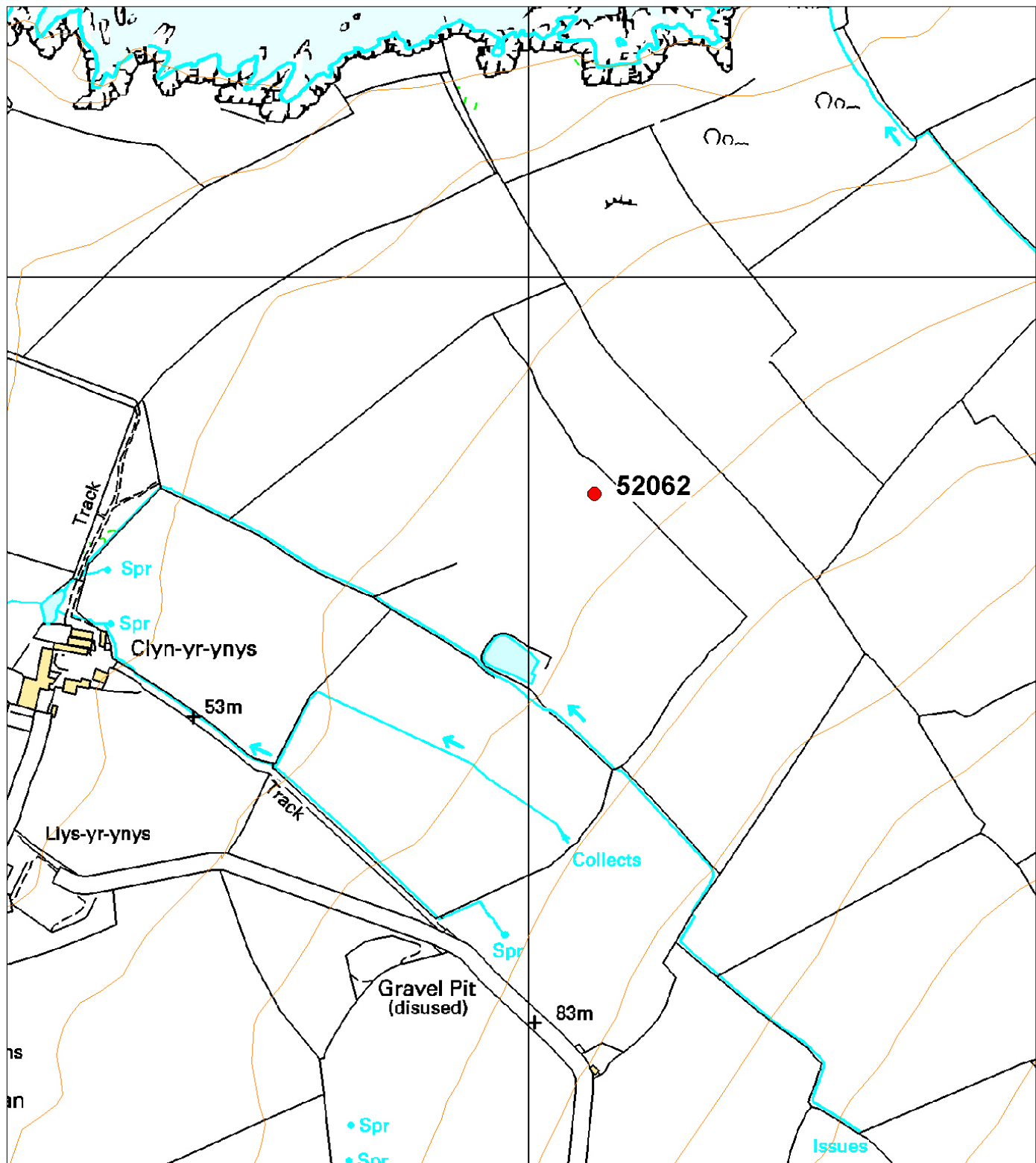
K Murphy 29.09.2005



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 2003-cs-1458



Ground photograph looking over site of cropmark.



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NO

52065 TOWYN WARREN

PRN 52065 NGR SN17294932

SITE NAME TOWYN WARREN

SITE TYPE ENCLOSURE?FIELD SYSTEM? FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age?;Roman?Unknown CONDITION D

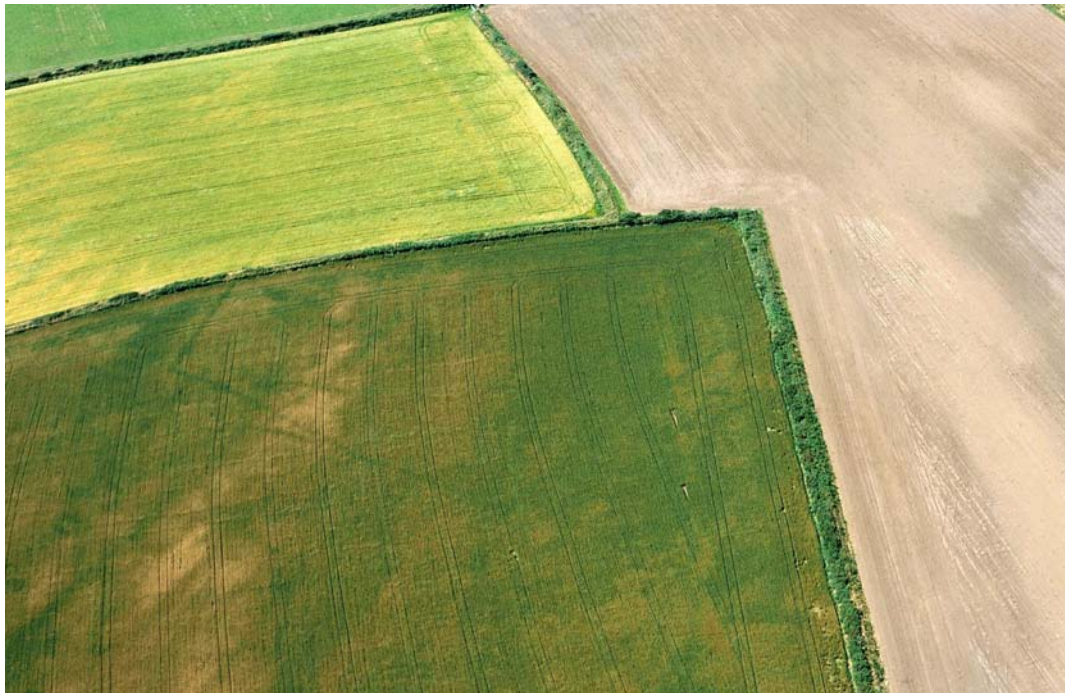
SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Enclosure - not a defended enclosure. Aerial photographs show what may be the ditch of a cropmark enclosure on a gentle south-facing slope at approximately 105m above sea level. Three sides of a polygonal enclosure are visible, measuring c. 70m - 80m across and underlying the present field system. No earthwork evidence of the enclosure survives. Given the size of the enclosure it is unlikely to be a settlement site, and is perhaps more likely to be a field system pre-dating the present fields.

In 2005, part of the enclosure was under improved pasture and part under arable (ploughed). Wind blown sand was evident in the ploughed fields.

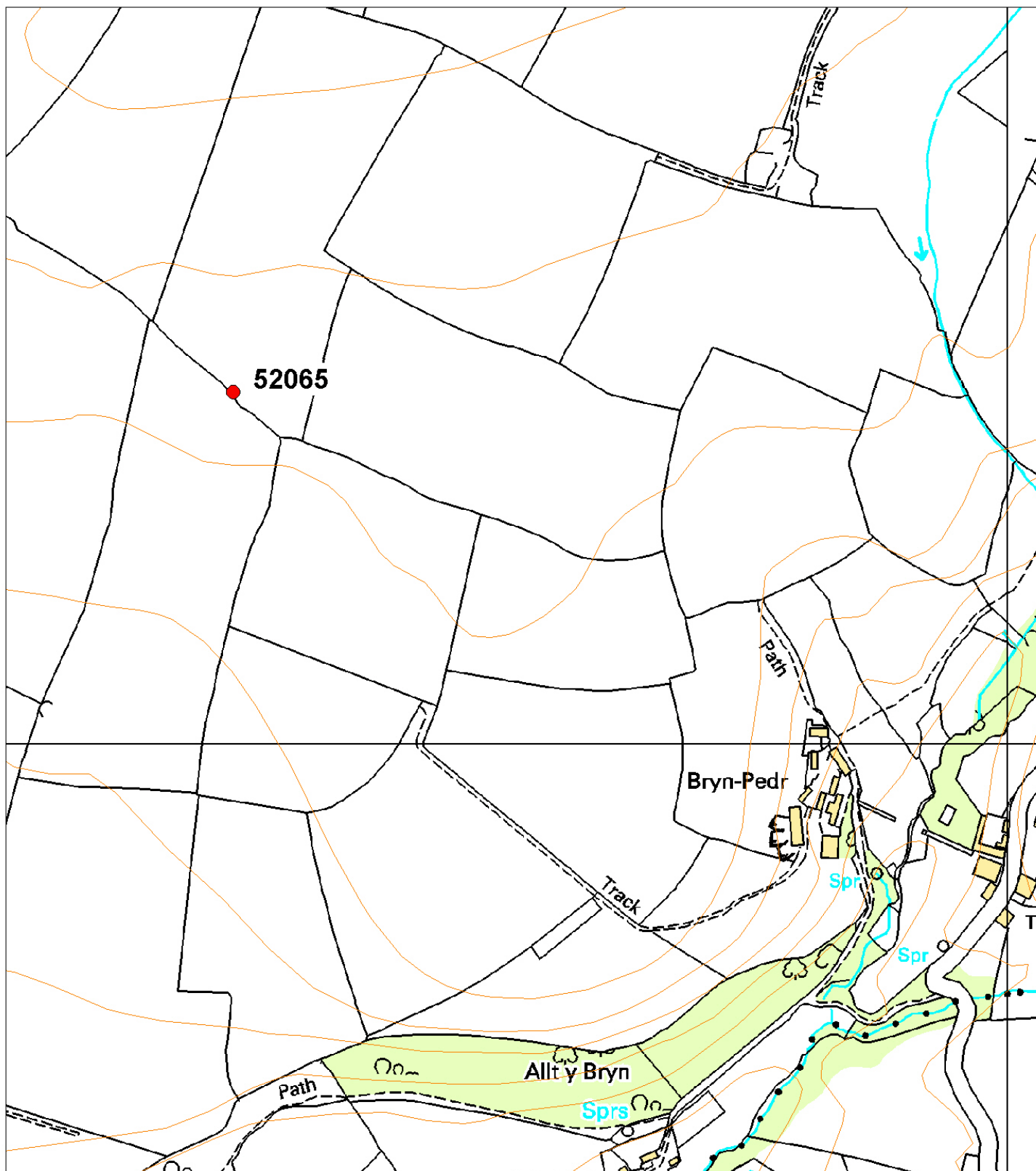
K Murphy 29 September 2005



Aerial photograph RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 2003-cs-1585.



Ground photograph looking over site of cropmark.



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Scale: 1:500

NO

REJECTED SITES

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

5325 was a double entry; the true site 52062 is recorded in this report

8899 was found to be a natural feature

35712 following geophysical survey this doubtful site was reclassified as a natural feature