

Montgomeryshire Historic Settlements

PART ONE



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by R J Silvester

October 1992

Report prepared for: Cadw:Welsh Historic Monuments
Montgomeryshire District Council

The Clwyd-Powys Archeological Trust

7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL
tel (0938) 553670, 552179

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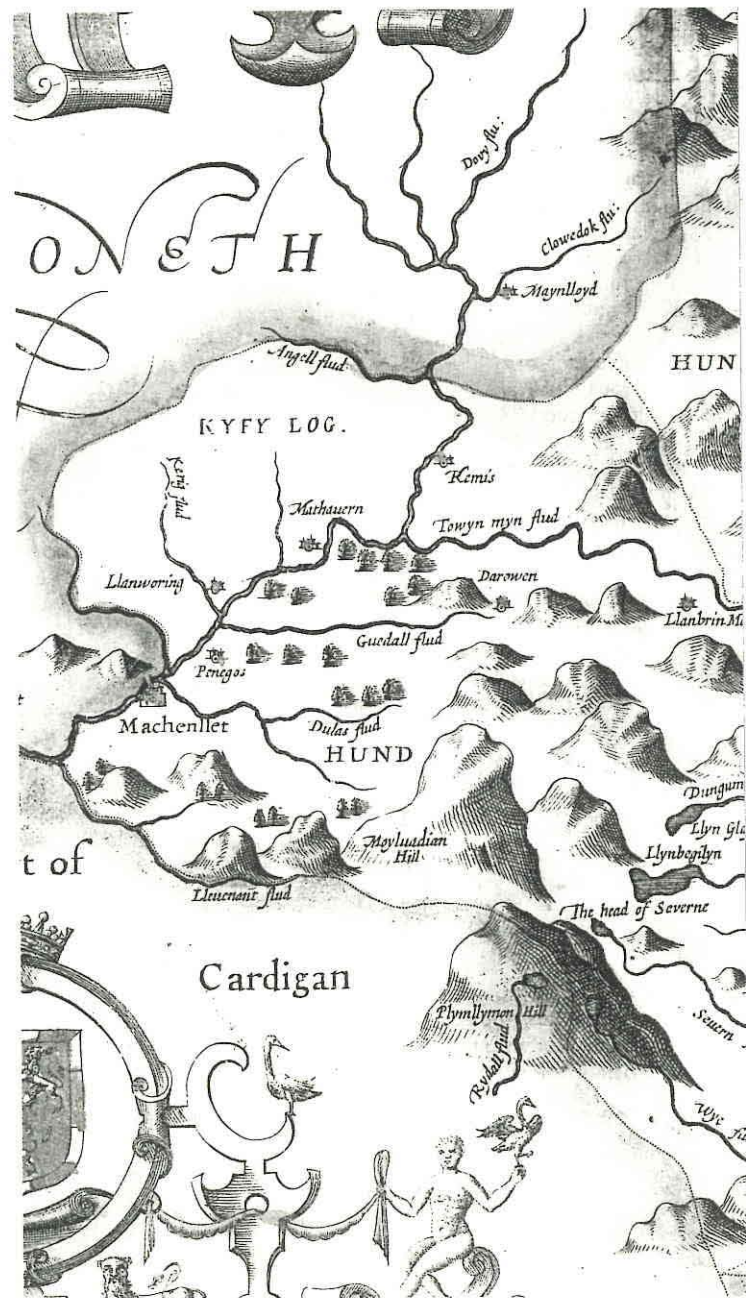
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Introduction

This report examines the historical background of nearly one hundred settlements in the old county of Montgomeryshire. The third in a series of historic settlement surveys conducted by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT), following similarly designed reports on the Brecon Beacons National Park and Brecknock Borough, it has been commissioned by Cadw/Welsh Historic Monuments in conjunction with Montgomeryshire District Council. It is essentially a tool for planning purposes rather than an academic exercise, as the objectives and methods of study outlined below make clear.

It has long been recognised that development within town or village may disturb or obliterate significant information about the past, yet an appropriate response to the threat posed by a particular project has generally been instigated, if at all, on an ad hoc basis. A more structured approach to the understanding of historic settlements and the preservation and management of their fragile remains is clearly required and this has been given a greater urgency by the publication in 1991 of the Welsh version of the Planning and Policy Guidance Note: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16). This emphasises the responsibilities of Local Planning Authorities in the conservation of the archaeological heritage and confirms that archaeological remains are a material factor in the determination of planning applications. The relationship between planning and archaeology in Powys is examined in more detail in Annex 1 which copies a document, currently in draft form, prepared by CPAT.

Objectives of the Study

Historic settlements are defined here as those nucleated groupings which are believed to have emerged during the early medieval and medieval periods (i.e. from AD 450 to 1500), giving rise to the hamlets, villages and towns that exist in the modern landscape. In some cases, these historic settlements are and perhaps always were little more than isolated churches accompanied by only a single dwelling. This study is concerned with the remains of the historic heritage that have survived from this one thousand year period, whether they be earthworks and other upstanding features or remnants buried beneath the surface of the ground. The remains of earlier and later phases of history are recorded where they fall within the compass of a particular settlement study but they are largely incidental to the main argument. Further it should be stressed that the study does not deal with those modern settlements that have no roots in the past, or with the modern suburbs of towns which undoubtedly overlie the fields and farms of earlier days.

Three principal objectives of the study were defined in the initial project design:

- i) to produce a general picture of historic settlement in Montgomeryshire
- ii) to identify, in as far as the evidence allowed, those areas within the historic settlements that could be termed archaeologically sensitive, in order to assist in the day-to-day and long-term planning processes initiated by the local authority
- iii) to define areas of potential archaeological significance where developers might be required to undertake an archaeological evaluation as part of the planning process

Methods of Study

Based on the experience gained in compiling previous historic settlement reports, a dual approach to the study of individual settlements has been adopted, integrating on-site identification work and documentary research. The results are based on a consistent methodology which provides some value in an assessment of the relative significance of the settlements in Montgomeryshire. To establish the strengths and more importantly the weaknesses of this dual approach, it may be useful to detail the practical aspects of the methods involved.

Fieldwork focused on the identification of open areas within and around the settlements and the examination of those areas for any evidence of earthworks that might signal earlier habitation or land-use. In general it has to be assumed that the church represented the original focus of activity in the past and attention was paid to the churchyard, the form of which may well have changed through time. Observations were made from public roads and paths and no attempt was made to investigate thoroughly those fields and other open areas that appeared archaeologically interesting: arranging access would have taken up time that was not available. In the field large-scale Ordnance Survey map copies were annotated with information relevant to the study.

Documentary research centred on the more easily accessible records and maps. These included:

- i) the Sites and Monuments Record for Powys held by CPAT at Welshpool
- ii) early printed maps (primarily Ordnance Survey editions, but also Ogilby, Bowen and Kitchin etc) and manuscript maps (Tithe Maps, Estate Maps etc) at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth
- iii) Data on listed buildings held by Montgomeryshire District Council
- iv) Secondary sources including relevant works on the archaeology and historical geography of the region

Original research into manuscript records held at Aberystwyth was not thought feasible within the time constraints of the project nor was consultation of the numerous calendars of state papers published by the Public Record Office and its predecessors.

Place-names pose one of the fundamental problems in the study of Welsh settlement. Fortunately, Montgomeryshire names were covered comprehensively in a University of Wales dissertation prepared by D.M.Ellis in 1935, and a copy of this was made available by Mr G.G.Evans, one of the co-ordinators of the on-going Montgomeryshire Place-Names Project.

An Overview of Historic Settlements in Montgomeryshire

The distribution of historic settlements in Montgomeryshire as shown on the general map demonstrates considerably higher densities in the eastern part of the district. In the west the paucity of settlement is striking and a high proportion of those depicted are in fact post-medieval in origin. The attractiveness of the Severn and its major tributaries highlights the fact that lines of communication in upland regions frequently depend on river valleys. Historical geographers such as E.G.Bowen have stressed the importance of these major valleys for the movement of people and ideas during the

formative centuries after the Roman withdrawal.

In contrast to the current situation in England where settlement studies have made rapid progress in recent years, the study of Welsh historic settlements is still in its infancy. Yet in this undifferentiated pattern it is still possible to distinguish very different settlement groupings on the basis of chronological or morphological criteria.

The earliest stratum of settlements or at least the churches at their centre are those founded by holy men - the so-called 'saints' - and their followers in the early medieval period from the 6th century AD through to the Norman invasions. Often distinguished by the llan prefix in the place-name linked to the name of a British saint and by a curvilinear churchyard conforming to the enclosure around the early church, these foundations represent a substantial number of the historic settlements in the district. Dorothy Sylvester noted that of 23 llan parishes, 19 have retained their British dedication and there are undoubtedly others where an early medieval church foundation has been rededicated in a later settlement. Welshpool may be one such example. Some of these churches achieved more than local importance. There were several clas foundations, monastic or collegiate establishments which subsequently developed as mother churches. Llandinam, Llangurig, Llanrhaeadr and Meifod are the known examples, others are suspected. Meifod adjacent to Mathrafal, seat of the princes of Powys, may have had a pre-eminent position. But conventionally the Welsh church is viewed as a spiritual rather than physical focus for dispersed homesteads across the parish; and it remains an unanswered question as to how many of these early churches actually attracted settlement around themselves in the Middle Ages, let alone the early medieval era. Today, churches such as Llangyniew in isolated hill-top locations reveal no indications that they were ever the centre of a settlement nucleus and it is as difficult to confirm that villages such as Llanerfyl or even Llanfair Caereinion had medieval precursors.

A second phase of settlement establishment came in what has been termed 'The Marcher Period' when Norman lords attempted to exert their domination over the Welsh Border. Towns were deliberately created as plantations with regular street layouts and royal grants enabling markets and fairs to be held. Montgomery, Machynlleth, Welshpool, Newtown, Llanidloes, Llanfyllin and less certainly Caersws fall within this category. Not all were Norman foundations. Indeed all but Montgomery appear to have been Welsh creations, and it possible that all had settlements or at least churches already in existence. In addition, it is likely that other settlements came into existence during the post-Conquest period. Trefeglwys, Hyssington, Carno and Mochdre may be examples of an on-going tradition that witnessed the foundation of churches in more remote regions.

The industrialisation of Britain produced a new crop of settlements, which strictly speaking are outside the scope of this report. Many relate to new or improved lines of road communications and water transport. On the Montgomeryshire canal, Pool Quay, Garthmyl and Aberbechan emerged, while existing settlements such as Llanymynech and Newtown also benefitted. Derwenlas appeared as the port for Machynlleth on the Dyfi. The construction of turnpike roads and the bridging of rivers produced such places as Sarn, Llanbrynmair and Bontdolgadfan.

Finally, essentially local conditions led to the appearance of small, often out of the way places such as Aberhosan and Esgairgeiliog, while exceptional circumstances - the flooding of Lake Vyrnwy - necessitated the construction of the new village of Llanwyddyn.

Settlement Reports and Recommendations

The individual reports on the settlements in Montgomeryshire District are ordered alphabetically, regardless of their historic or demographic importance. Each report summarises the current state of knowledge under a consistent set of sub-sections, although for some settlements the historic background has had to be limited to an outline.

The accompanying maps are all at a scale of 1:2500, except for the general location map which is scaled at 1:200,000.

Listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments are defined on the maps but it should be noted that their depiction is for guidance only. For the definitive representation of the extent of a particular scheduled ancient monument or listed building, the reader should refer to the official schedules produced by Cadw/Welsh Historic Monuments.

The definition of the historic core of a village or town utilises a range of evidence as outlined above, but the lack of substantive data on the earlier layout of a settlement frequently precludes an objective determination of its limits and hence of its cartographic representation. New discoveries, whether archaeological or documentary, may necessitate a revision of the historic core 'envelope' around a settlement and it should certainly not be assumed that the historic core envelope is exclusive and immutable.

Some areas in a settlement are considerably more sensitive than others. The churchyard and the ground immediately surrounding it, the earthworks of a moat or motte, the platforms of dwellings long since abandoned, a street frontage site in the middle of an historic town are all locations where the preservation of the heritage should be a consideration in determining planning permission. A pre-planning evaluation may be required to demonstrate the significance of the archaeology and demonstrate whether it should be preserved in situ or preserved by record (i.e. excavated). Only major areas for evaluation are marked on the settlement maps. Many smaller and equally sensitive areas will no doubt come up for development (or re-development) in time.

Elsewhere within the putative historic core, a watching brief may be a more appropriate course of action during a development. This is particularly the case where there is uncertainty about the nature or extent of medieval activity. The results from a watching brief may necessitate the subsequent evaluation of an adjacent development, while conversely an evaluation may suggest a watching brief on future developments in a specific area.








In only a few instances is the above-ground archaeology sufficiently significant to warrant a recommendation to Cadw/Welsh Historic Monuments that it be given statutory protection by being scheduled as an ancient monument. Much more frequently, recommendations are advanced that further, more detailed work is required to establish fully the importance or survival of a particular historic feature.

Symbols and Abbreviations

The following standard abbreviations have been used in the reports:

| | |
|--------|---|
| CPAT | Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust |
| NLW | National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth |
| OS | Ordnance Survey |
| RCAHMW | Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales |
| SAM | Scheduled Ancient Monument |

The following symbols have been used on the settlement maps:

| | |
|---|---|
| Archaeological Feature/Earthwork |  |
| Area for Preservation |  |
| Area for Evaluation in advance of development |  |
| Historic Core of Settlement |  |
| Scheduled Ancient Monument |  |
| Listed Building |  |
| Unlisted Building with text reference |  |

Location and Topography

1.1 Aberbechan lies beside the B4389, 4km north-east of Newtown.

1.2 The River Severn passes less than 200m to the east and its tributary, the Bechan Brook, even closer to the south. The settlement occupies slightly elevated ground beside the brook and some housing is now appearing on the opposite bank.

History

2.1 The name is translated as the 'mouth of the Bechan' and this in turn means 'Little River'. The earliest reference to Aberbechan is in 1338.

2.2 As far as can be ascertained, the settlement owes its existence to the Montgomeryshire Canal cut in 1794-7. In the middle of the 19th century, a public house, a fulling mill, lime kilns and a coal wharf and yard were recorded. Activity continued here into the 1930s.

2.3 Any settlement pre-dating the Industrial phase is as likely to have occurred higher up the Bechan valley.

Buildings

3.1 Industrial remains survive here, including the fulling mill-house, now known as Minhafren (PAR 20569).

Archaeology

4.1 Evidence of the origin of the B4389 survives in the name 'Turnpike Bridge'. A predecessor of the turnpike road (PAR 1811) may be indicated by a hollow way (PAR 7703) running just to the east of the modern road, immediately south of Bechan Brook.

4.2 Other earthworks (PAR 7703) in the same field probably have an industrial significance, a view strengthened by the presence of a branch in the canal. Further earthworks survive in the field north of the brook.

Recommendations

5.1 Within the terms of reference of this report, no recommendations need be made because of the absence of any obvious historic core pre-dating the Industrial era. However, there are clearly features of industrial significance here which would require attention if under threat of development.

References

Ellis 1937, 13
Hughes 1983
PMFWI 1989, 9



Location and Topography

1.1 A hamlet in the hills of western Montgomeryshire, Abercegir is 6km east of Machynlleth.

1.2 The settlement has grown up at the bottom of a small valley just below the confluence of Nant Cegir and Nant Gwydol, the northern slope occupied by the houses being rather steeper than the opposite face.

1.3 The settlement has expanded little during the 20th century, with no more than two new houses being constructed during the last few years.

History

2.1 The earliest reference to the location, glan kegyr dates from 1573, while Aber-y-Ceccyr is first encountered in 1757. In translation the name means 'mouth of the Cegir', with the second element being Welsh for hemlock.

2.2 Abercegir has little known history. It was in the ecclesiastical parish of Darowen, but its development probably resulted from the availability of water power in the late 18th or early 19th century. By the middle of the 19th century there were at least twenty houses, a factory and a chapel.

Buildings

3.1 Two former fulling mills functioned within a short distance of the hamlet. The derelict remains of Pandy (PAR 8296) can still be seen, while Factory Isaf lies a few hundred metres downstream from the village. Both are probably mid-19th century. A mill of uncertain date lies just below Pont Aber-cegir.

Archaeology

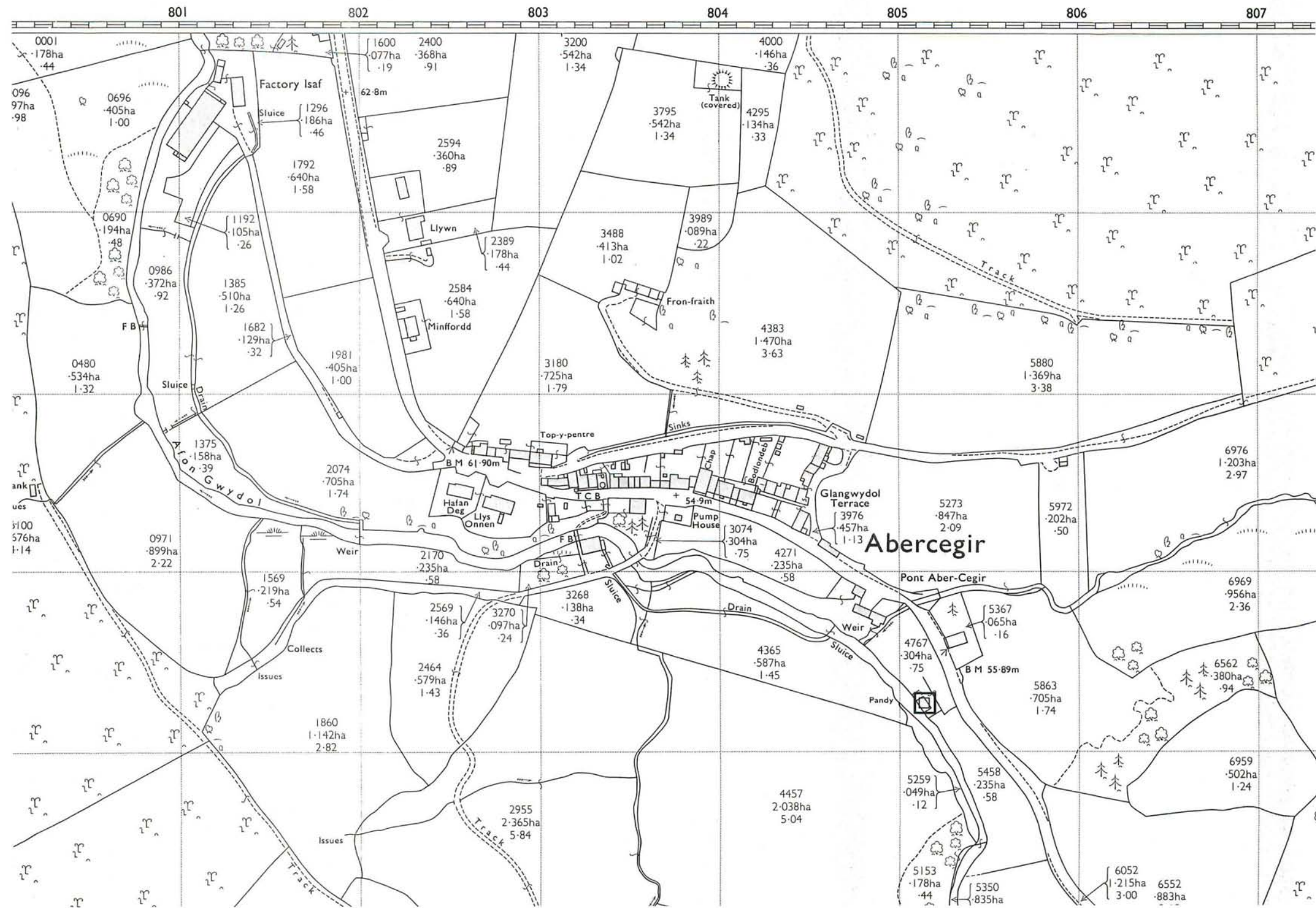
4.1 The industrial archaeology apart, there is nothing of interest here.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of the relatively recent history of Abercegir, no recommendations are proposed, although there may be some interest in the industrial remains.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1937, 15
Haslam 1979, 73
Tithe survey, Darowen, 1846



Location and Topography

1.1 Aberhafesp is situated beside the B4568, 4km west of Newtown.

1.2 Church and hall occupy the lower northern slopes of the Severn valley, facing each other across the Aberhafesp Brook. The road below follows the edge of a river terrace.

1.3 The church is an isolated structure, accompanied until recently only by Aberhafesp Hall. New housing developments are now spreading around and to the west of the hall.

History

2.1 The first reference is to Aberafh in 1254. The name means the 'mouth of the Hafesp' and presumably refers to the Aberhafesp Brook, west of the church. 'Hafesp' can be translated as 'summer dry'.

2.2 Nothing is known of Aberhafesp's early history, though it was the centre of an ecclesiastical parish.

Buildings

3.1 St Gwynog's church (PAR 7551) was rebuilt about 1857. The roof is 15th century and some 18th-century monuments remain inside.

3.2 Aberhafesp Hall (PAR 20517) is a Grade II listed building of later 17th-century date.

Archaeology

4.1 Two hundred metres south of the church, a mound once considered to be a barrow is now viewed as a glacial feature.

4.2 The churchyard (PAR 7552) was originally sub-rectangular and its former boundary can still be detected south of the church where the burial ground has been extended in the last century and a half.

4.3 No obvious earthwork traces exist in the vicinity of the church.

Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development

5.3 The remains of the earlier churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

Ellis 1937, 15
Haslam 1979, 73
Tithe Survey 1839



ABERHOSAN SN 8197

Location and Topography

1.1 Aberhosan is set in the hills of western Montgomeryshire, 7km south-east of Machynlleth.

1.2 The settlement spreads along a back road which traverses a spur between two small valleys and drops down to one of the streams, Nant Cymdu, just above its confluence with Nant Blaen-y-cwm.

History

2.1 The place-name appears first as Aber Rhossan in 1573, meaning the 'mouth of the Rhossan'. This is presumably an alternative name for one of the two streams.

2.2 There is no history attached to Aberhosan. At the time of the tithe survey it consisted of a few cottages and a couple of farms.

Buildings

3.1 There are no listed buildings. Cefn Rhosan (PAR 21126) is a reconstructed cruck-framed house of post-medieval date.

Archaeology

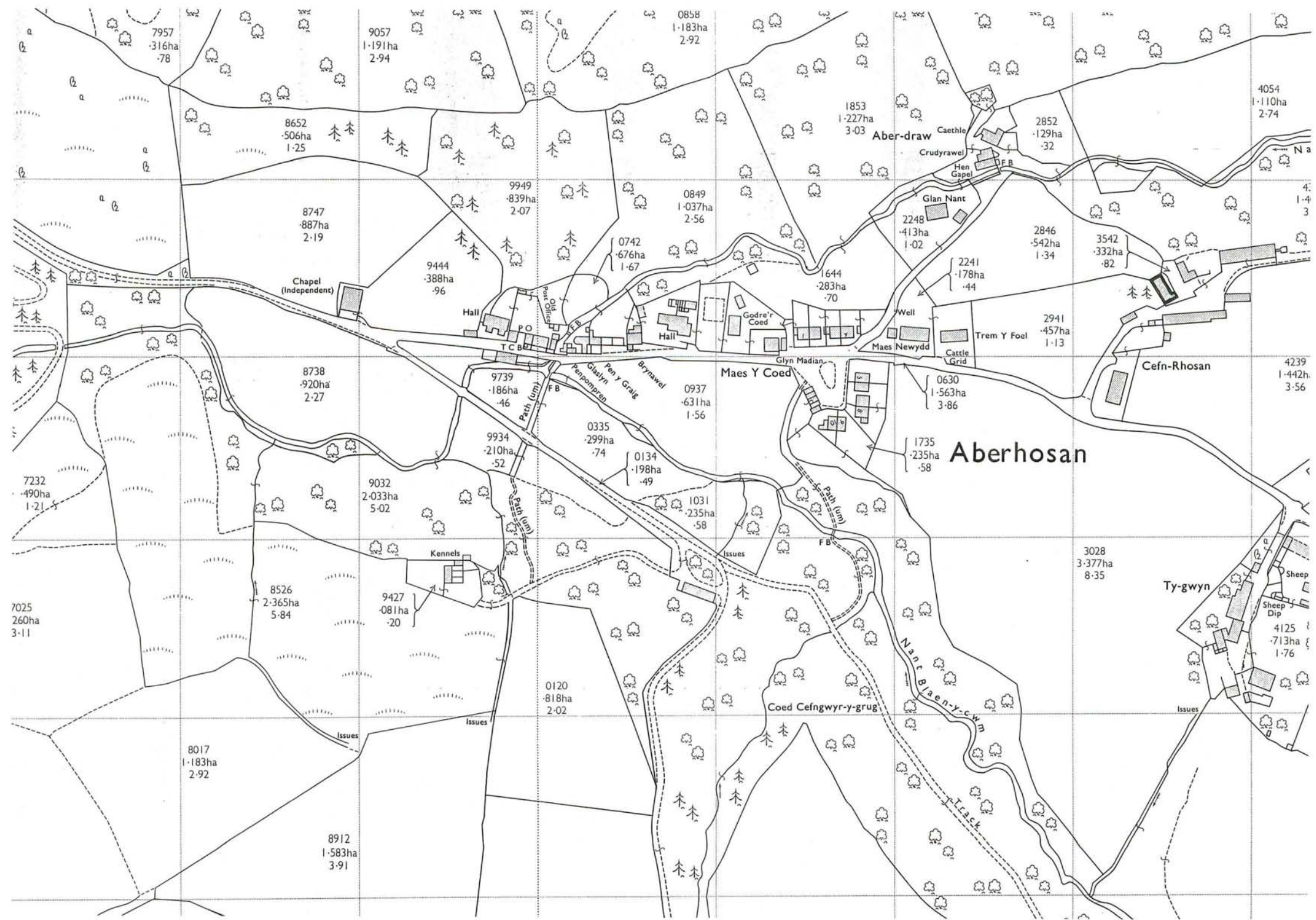
4.1 Nothing of archaeological interest has been recorded here.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of the relatively recent history of Aberhosan, no recommendations are proposed.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1937, 18
Tithe survey, Penegoes 1839



Location and Topography

1.1 Abermule lies just off the A483(T) at the junction of the B4386 and B4368, 6km north-east of Newtown.

1.2 In its lower reaches Afon Miwl forms the parish (now community) boundary between Llanmerewig and Llandysul. Abermule straddles this boundary, the village occupying a part of the Severn's valley floor. The Mule joins the Severn about 300m west of the village.

History

2.1 Abermyol is first recorded as a topographical name in 1291 and simply means the 'mouth of the Mule'. No satisfactory interpretation of the name 'Mule' has been proposed.

2.2 The motte and bailey castle at Brynderwen (PAR 154; SAM Montgomery 54), 500m to the north, and the medieval monastic grange belonging to Strata Florida at The Court (PAR 7737), 400m to the south-west, represent the historic foci in the vicinity of Abermule. Scheduled earthworks survive at the former, and while there are no traces now of the grange, a 'great barn' there was noted in 1263. The monastic lands farmed from the grange extended to the site of the present village and beyond.

2.3 In the village itself only a scatter of houses existed in the early 19th century. Some industrial development occurred in the neighbourhood when the Montgomeryshire canal was extended to Newton in the early 19th century, but the major impetus for development was provided by the construction of the railway in 1862.

Buildings

3.1 There are no buildings of interest in the settlement.

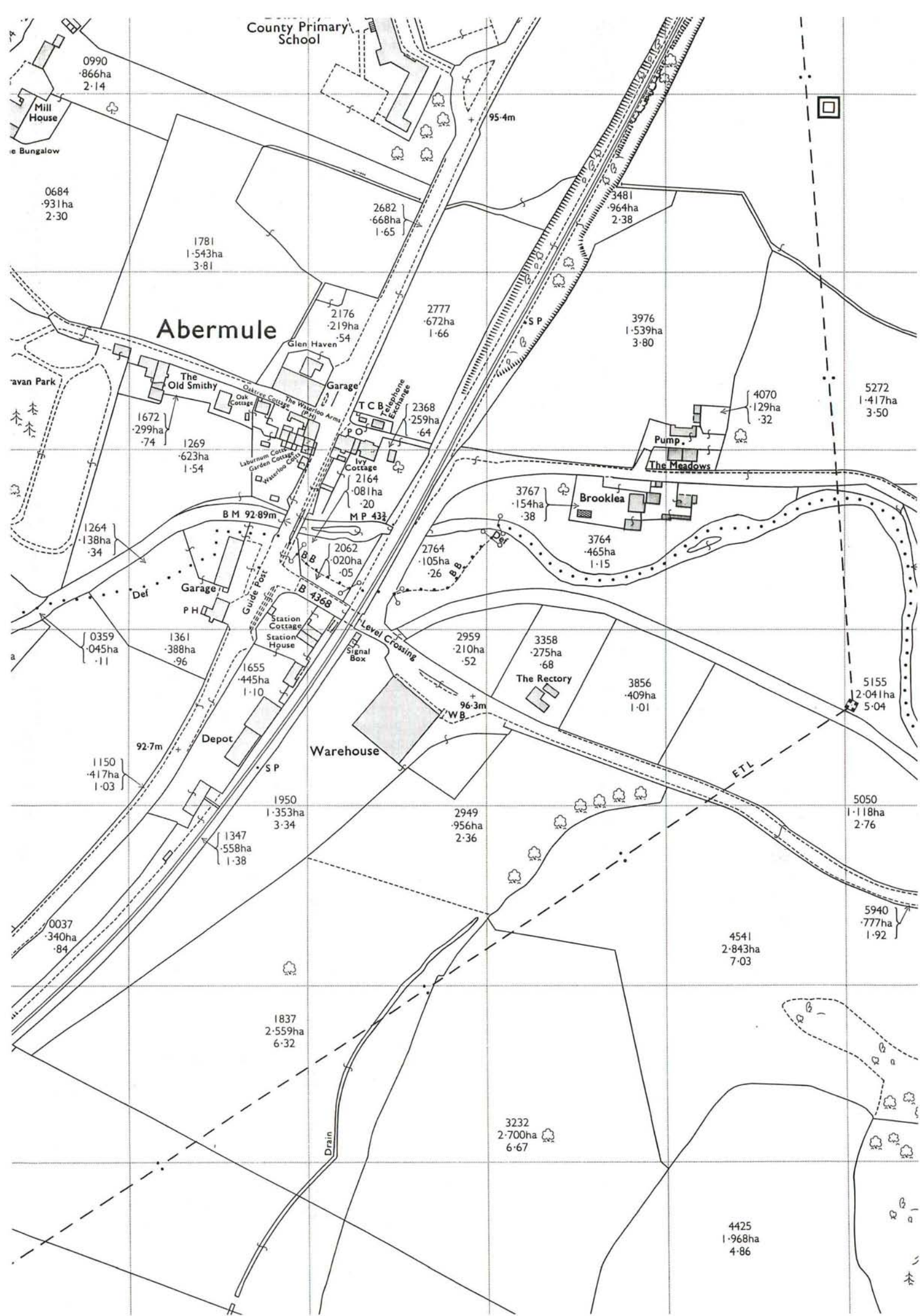
Archaeology

4.1 Minor landscape changes have occurred in recent centuries. The river's course has altered (or been altered) slightly where it passes beneath the road, and the line of the B4368 has been shifted a few metres to the north, perhaps at the time when the railway was constructed.

4.2 Ridged cultivation traces, of uncertain date, survive in field OS5700, south-east of Brynderwen, together with a small mill-mound (PAR 4569).

Recommendations

5.1 The main historic areas lie just outside the village. No recommendations need be made for the village itself, but any planned developments near Brynderwen or The Court should be scrutinised carefully.



References

Ellis 1938, 190
Hughes 1983
PMFWI 1989, 16
Williams 1990, 57

ABERTRIDWR SJ 0319

Note: this settlement has not been investigated during the current programme of fieldwork.

Location and Topography

1.1 Abertridwr is a modern community in north-west Montgomeryshire at the junction of the B4396 with the B4393. It is 11km west of Llanfyllin and a short distance from the tip of Llyn Efyrrwy.

1.2 A small stream entering Afon Efyrrwy from the east provides the gentle valley slopes, overshadowed by steep hills, which are utilised by Abertridwr's housing estate and school.

History

2.1 The name, presumed to be a modern invention, can be translated as the 'confluence of three wares (streams)'.

2.2 A Civil War garrison was reportedly housed at Aber-marchnant in 1645 (PAR 1223), but information on this is sparse.

Buildings

3.1 None.

Archaeology

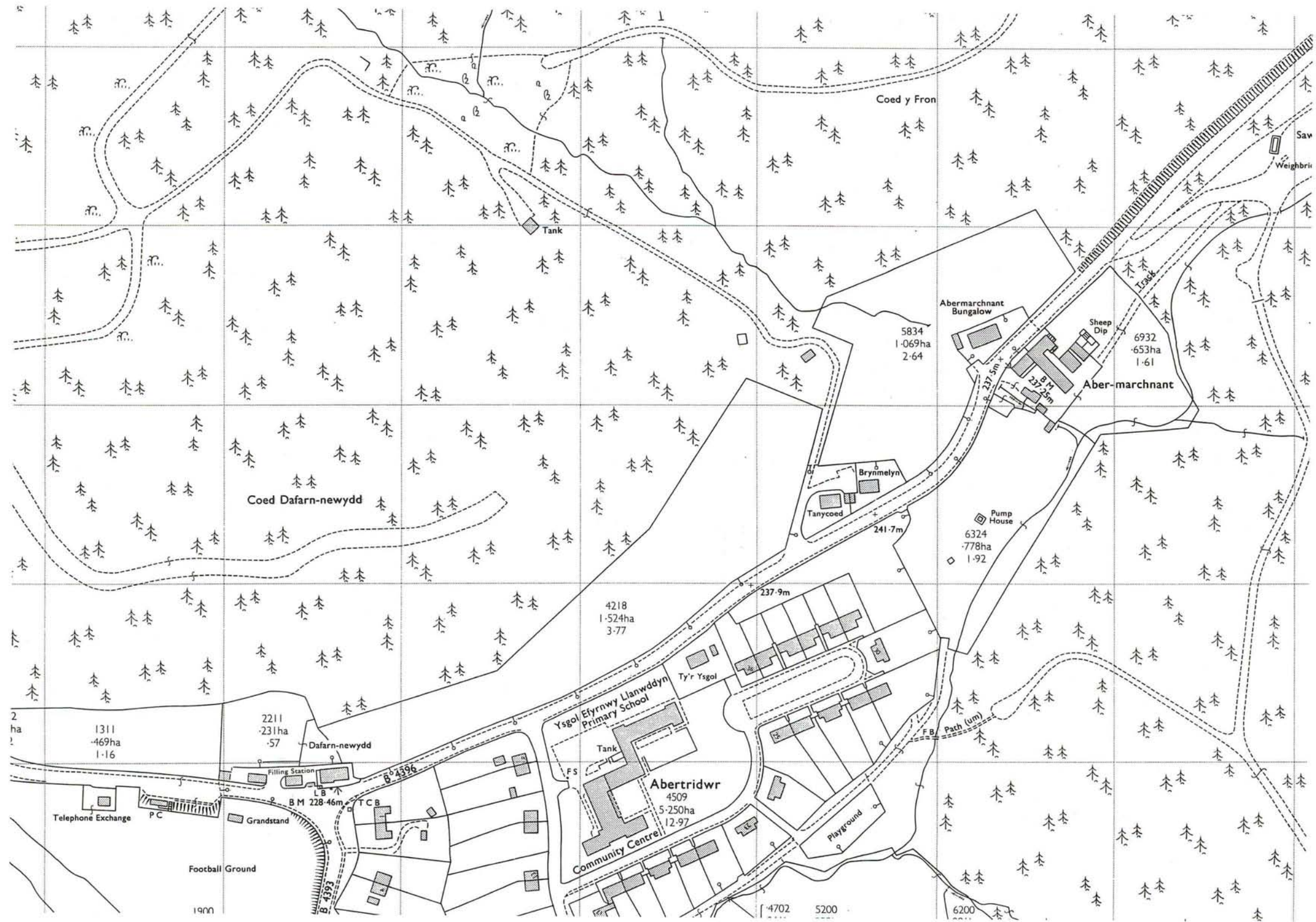
4.1 Nothing.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of the recent creation of Abertridwr, no recommendations are proposed.

References

County SMR
Tithe survey, Llanwddyn 1846



Location and Topography

1.1 Adfa lies on a minor road in the community and former ecclesiastical parish of Llanwyddelan, about 11km north-west of Newtown.

1.2 The settlement sprawls along a ridge with gently falling slopes to north and south.

History

2.1 The earliest documentary reference to Adfa is as recent as 1811. The name may be a derivation from 'Adfan' used in the sense of 'extremity, border, region, district', etc

2.2 In 1843 Adfa consisted of a chapel and a few houses.

Buildings

3.1 There are no buildings of architectural interest within the settlement.

Archaeology

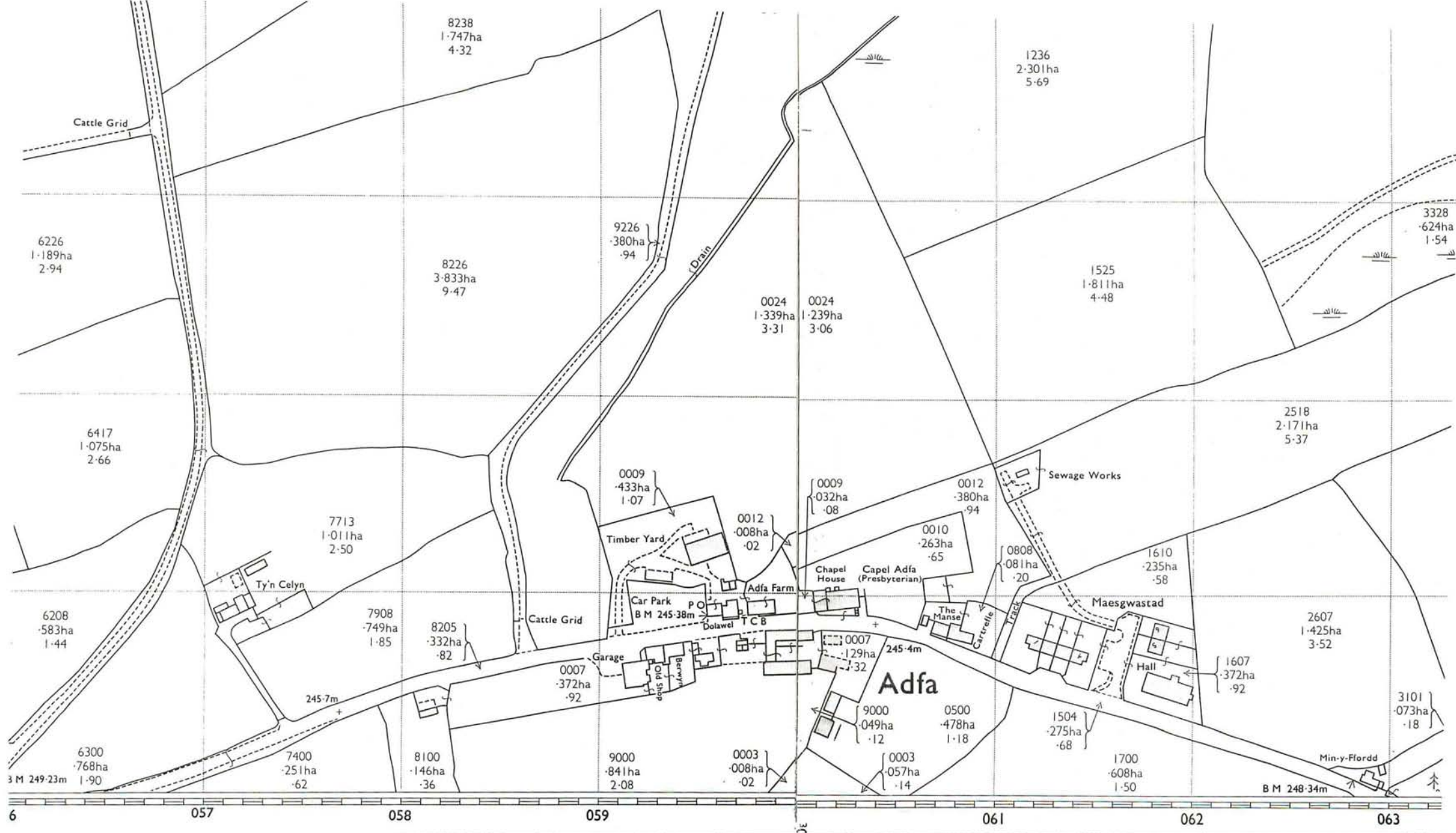
4.1 No features of archaeological significance have been recorded here.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of the absence of any indicators of a historic settlement, no recommendations need be proposed.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1938, 190
Tithe Survey, Llanwyddelan, 1843



Location and Topography

1.1 Nine kilometres north-east of Welshpool, Arddleen (or Ardd-lin), lies at the junction of the B4392 with the A483(T) between Welshpool and Oswestry. The village has now been bypassed.

1.2 Arddleen is another of the eastern Montgomeryshire settlements that has emerged precisely where the hills edging the Severn meet the valley floor. Canal and railway (now dismantled) following the valley edge pass within two hundred metres of the village centre.

History

2.1 The earliest record of the place-name is in 1688 in the form Arthleen. The derivation is from Yr Ardd Lin meaning 'the flax plantation'.

2.2 No early recorded history exists, and an estate map from the end of the 18th century reveals the main farms - Trederwen House, Trederwen Hall, and Arddleen Grange - and extensive systems of strip fields particularly to the east below Gwyfer Brook, but virtually no cottages in what is now the village.

2.3 Fifty years later the road junction was beginning to adopt its present built-up appearance.

Buildings

3.1 Trederwen House (PAR 7706) on the periphery of the village is a half-timbered Grade II structure of uncertain date and the only listed building.

Archaeology

4.1 The long-term attractiveness of the valley side is demonstrated by two double-ditched enclosures of Iron Age or Roman Date. PAR 4267 lies in the middle of the village, surrounded on all sides by houses and partly obliterated by the bypass. Trial excavations in 1979 produced Roman material. On the ridge above Arddleen Grange, PAR 2446 remains unexcavated. Other enclosures detected from the air provide a fairly dense pattern of early settlement in the surrounding area.

4.2 A medieval well, the Trinity Well (PAR 1251), was in the field on the opposite side of the road to Arddleen Grange. This was a holy well which retained its traditions into this century.

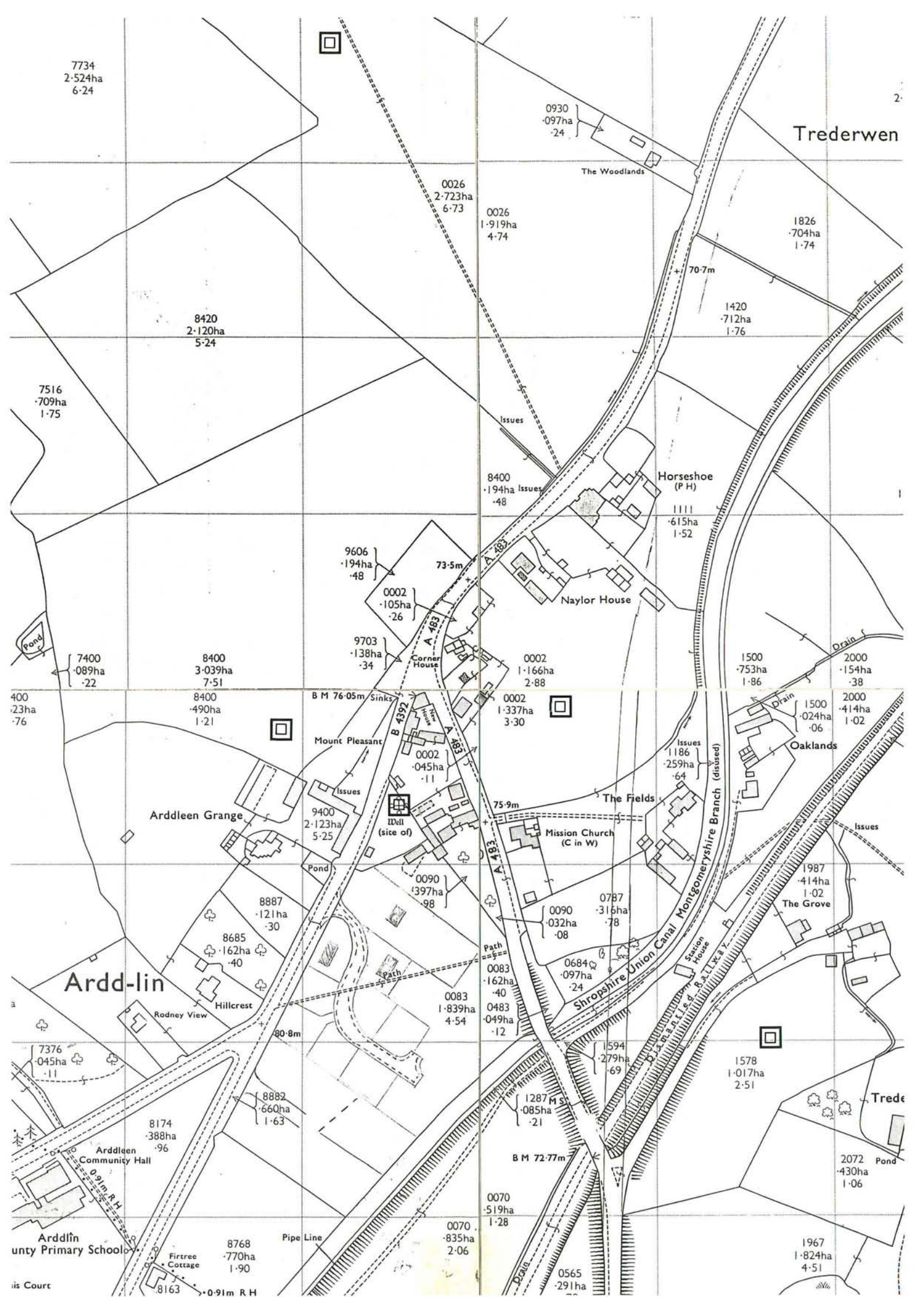
4.3 The systems of strip fields around Arddleen have been referred to (para 2.2), and additionally traces of ridge and furrow cultivation have been noted in several locations around the village (e.g. PAR 4638 and 7609). The strip fields almost certainly have their origin in the Middle Ages, the ridge and furrow could be later.

Recommendations

5.1 There is definable historic core to Arddleen; with the exception of the well, which in itself does not signify settlement, there is no tangible evidence of medieval occupation. Nevertheless, the farming landscape in and around Arddleen does contain significant traces of earlier activity, and evaluations could be requested for developments that appear to affect any recorded remains.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1938, 191
Estate map, c.1792: Powys Castle Archives (NLW)
RCAHMW 1911, 74
Tithe survey, Llandrinio, 1841



Location and Topography

1.1 Berriew lies between Welshpool and Newtown at a crossroads where the B4390 intersects the B4385.

1.2 Established at the point where Afon Rhiw leaves its valley and enters the flood plain of the Severn, the historic centre of the village occupies a spur where the higher ground projects slightly into the valley. The southern side of the valley has generally proved too steep for building purposes.

1.3 Subsequent expansion has infilled the lower ground as far as the Montgomeryshire Canal, and now the village is expanding westwards beside the Rhiw.

History

2.1 The earliest form of the name, Eberrw, dates to around 1100 and refers to the mouth of Afon Rhiw. The element, 'rhiw' can be translated as 'ascent' or 'slope'.

2.2 Berriew is traditionally cited as the birthplace of St Bueno, and although the churchyard is far from curvilinear it is likely that the church was an early medieval foundation.

2.3 The nature and appearance of the settlement during the medieval era is unknown, though it became the focus of a parish around 1200, and the church came under the control of Strata Marcella in 1254.

2.4 The Tudor period was one of prosperity based on the wool trade and there was a market hall beyond the west end of the churchyard until 1875. West of Berriew was the large Vaynor Estate which may also have had an effect on the development of the village.

2.5 An industrial element was added to Berriew in the early 19th century with the development of facilities along the Montgomeryshire Canal. Nevertheless, the Tithe Map reveals that even by the middle of the 19th century, the village clustered around the church and had spread westwards only as far as The Elms and The Hollies.

Buildings

3.1 The church (PAR 7587), dedicated to St Bueno, was built in 1803-4 and victorianised in 1876, replacing a smaller, medieval, single-chamber building with a west bellcote. Its rubble may still be visible as a slight mounding beneath the present church. Apart from a brass of 1597, there are no internal fittings which pre-date the 19th-century structure.

3.2 The village forms a Grade I group on account of the timber-framed buildings around the church, though most were restored by the Vaynor Estate in the 1880s. The timber-framed Vicarage (PAR 31090) is dated to 1660 and has a Grade II listing, as do a number of other properties.

Archaeology

4.1 Prehistoric and Roman occupation is well attested in the neighbourhood. Maen Bueno (PAR 137; SAM Montgomery 42), a Bronze Age standing stone lies about 1.5km closer to the Severn and is perhaps the most obvious indicator of extensive prehistoric activity on the gravels beside the Severn, as well as a folk link with the local saint. On a ridge top a few hundred metres to the south-west of the village, a homestead enclosure (PAR 7056) of Iron Age or Roman-British origin has been recognised beneath the modern gorsedd stone circle.

4.2 The churchyard (PAR 4583) has almost certainly had slight modifications to its outline over the centuries, the construction of cottages cutting back on several sides, most noticeably on the east.

4.3 Speculatively it can be suggested that the triangle formed by three lanes, just to the north-west of the churchyard, may originally have been an open space, subsequently infilled.

4.4 A ford has been claimed near where an aqueduct now carries the canal over Afon Rhiw. A paved setting of large slabs (PAR 8547) was recorded, though some could have been washed from further upstream during flooding.

4.5 Ridge and furrow cultivation (PAR 4476) of unknown date has been recognised on the north side of the B4390 opposite Laburnum House and there are other earthworks in adjacent fields to the east. A relic of earlier land divisions may also survive in the narrow strips running down to the river to the south of the church.

4.6 Industrial remains including limekilns (PAR 7677) lay due east of the church beside the canal, in itself an industrial monument. How many of these now survive has not been investigated.

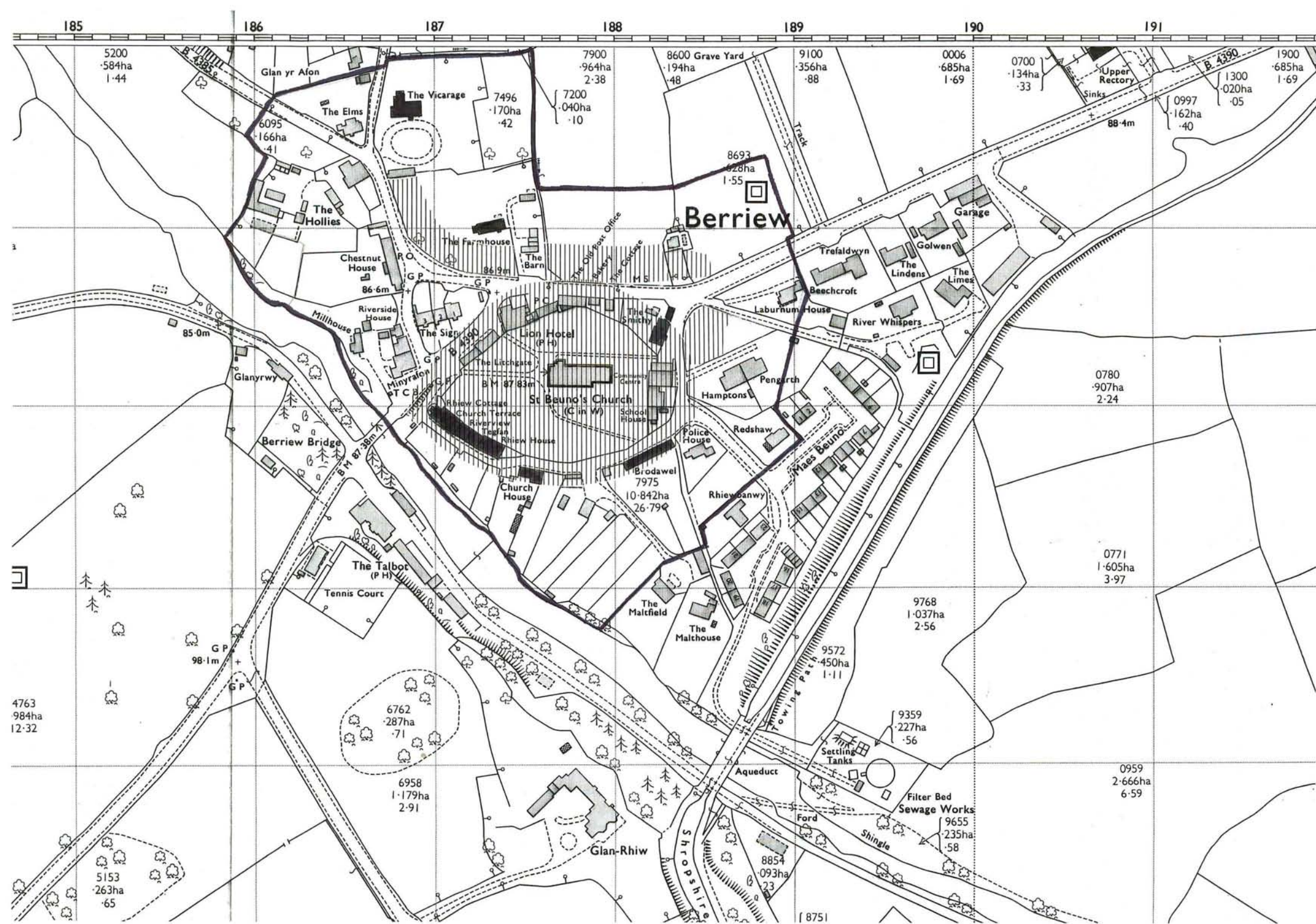
Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1938, 194
Haslam 1979, 76
Hughes 1983
Lewis 1833
Smith 1992
Tithe survey 1840



Location and Topography

1.1 Bettws lies on the B4389 in the hills to the west of the Severn. It is about 5km north-east of Newtown.

1.2 In an area where narrow valleys are the norm, several small streams converging on the Bechan Brook, a tributary of the Severn, have created a broader bowl and it is on an adjacent spur with a shallow valley on its west that the church was constructed. This overlooks most of the dwellings which have been built at lower levels in the valley. Behind the church the ground rises steeply. Similarly on the far side of the stream gentle slopes now populated with modern houses give way to increasing steep hillslopes.

1.3 The historic centre of Bettws is well-defined, but modern estates are growing up on its periphery to south and west.

History

2.1 The name 'Bettws' appears first in c.1253, and as betws Kydewain in 1560x1590. The first element is a borrowing from Old English bed-hus meaning an oratory, the second a personal name, perhaps Cedewing.

2.2 The shape of the churchyard and the dedication leave little doubt that this was an early medieval foundation. Little, however, is known of its subsequent history.

2.3 In the mid-19th century, dwellings were set around the church particularly on the west, but all to the north of the stream.

Buildings

3.1 St Bueno's church (PAR 7678) has a 19th-century nave with a west tower, probably 15th century. Most of the fittings are also 19th century, but there is a fine brass of 1531, the only pre-Reformation example in the district.

3.2 The only other listed building is the Regency vicarage (PAR 7682), although amongst the small houses in the valley bottom, the Post Office (PAR 7685) and a dwelling on Mill Street (PAR 7686) were both listed as Grade III when that category was current.

Archaeology

4.1 The Brynteg housing estate covers the site of a mound known as Maes y Domen (PAR 1029). This may have been a Bronze Age barrow but it was not examined before the development.

4.2 The raised churchyard (PAR 7679) is distinctively circular, apart from on the north-west where topographical considerations dictated its form, and reveals no modifications over the centuries.

4.3 On the spur above the village less than 1km to the north-east is the motte known as Car Siac (PAR 1028).

4.4 There is little to suggest that the village was ever any larger, but a single earthwork platform (PAR 7680) was noted adjacent to the road running eastwards towards Welshpool.

4.5 The former course of the road from the south, prior to the works of the local turnpike trust, can be seen as a terraced track (PAR 7687).

4.6 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation has been noted at two places on the south-facing hillside near the church (PAR 7681; PAR 7684).

4.7 The mill (PAR 8023) was last used around 1930. In the mid-19th century it was supplied by a large mill pond (PAR 7683) to the east of the church which was fed by a small stream running off the hills.

Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 Although beyond the confines of the village, the motte of Caer Siac has suffered considerably since the Royal Commission visited it at the beginning of this century. A thorough assessment with an appropriate level of recording should be initiated for this earthwork.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 60
Haslam 1979, 80
Lewis 1833
Roberts 1992, 44
Spurgeon 1966, 33
Tithe survey 1840



Location and Topography

1.1 Bontdolgadfan is situated in western Montgomeryshire, just off the B4518. It is 14km east of Machynlleth.

1.2 The small bridge that crosses Afon Twymyn, a tributary of the Dovey, acts as a focus for this settlement. Dwellings have spread up the steeper, eastern slopes of the valley adjacent to the road, but the densest concentrations exist close to the valley floor and on the gentler western slope.

History

2.1 Dolgadfan Bridge is first referred to in 1683x7. Translated, the Welsh name means 'the bridge at Cadfan's flat field'.

2.2 The bridge lay on the old drovers' route from Machynlleth to Welshpool. About 1800 a factory was built here by John Howell, reinforcing its significance as a centre for the already existing flannel weaving industry. By the end of the 19th century the industry had died out.

Buildings

3.1 There are no records of important buildings in the settlement.

Archaeology

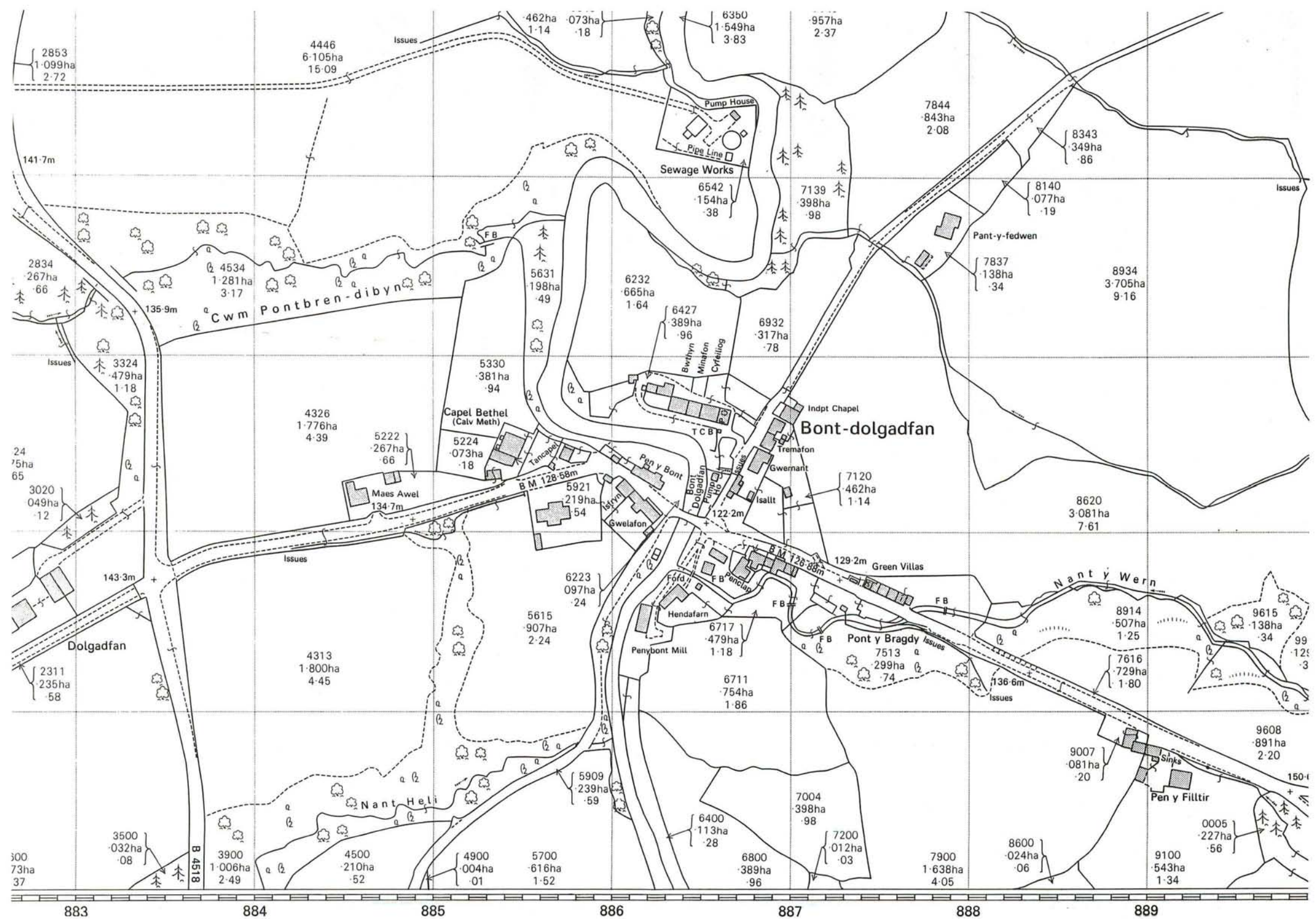
4.1 A large pebble with a carved human face (PAR 1310), perhaps of Iron Age date, was found in the river close to the bridge over twenty years ago. Otherwise nothing of archaeological significance has been noted in the area.

Recommendations

5.1 No recommendations need be made in view of the relatively recent history of this settlement.

References

Colyer 1984, 135
County SMR
Ellis 1935, 65
Tithe Survey, Llanbrynmair, 1841



Location and Topography

1.1 Buttington lies beside the main A458(T) road, less than 3km from Welshpool. It consists of a church, vicarage, public house and a small group of houses.

1.2 Little more than 300m from the River Severn, the settlement occupies a spot where the ground sloping down from Long Mountain levels out and projects on to the valley floor, producing a slight elevation when viewed from the south and west. An ancient ford known as Rhyd-y-groes crossed the Severn just to the west, the same place marking the point where Offa's Dyke met the river.

History

2.1 The first reference to Buttingtun comes in 893, the name being translated as 'the place of Butt's folk'. In that year, according to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, a Viking army was besieged in a fortification at Buttington. However, it is by no means clear that the battle can be equated with this place for another candidate appears to be Buttington on the Severn Estuary.

2.2 In 1039 a battle between Welsh and English took place at the ford.

2.3 Buttington's church was regarded as a chapel in the 14th century, but apart from sparse references to this, Buttington does not seem to have excited the interest of the chroniclers during the Middle Ages.

Buildings

3.1 All Saints' Church (PAR 30801) retains its medieval masonry and some windows, together with a 17th-century porch. Limited restoration took place in 1876.

3.2 There are two Grade II listed buildings in the village in addition to the Grade I church, namely The Vicarage (PAR 30803) and the Green Dragon (PAR 30807) which are of 19th and 18th-century date respectively.

Archaeology

4.1 The outline of the raised churchyard (PAR 7565) has altered since the mid-19th century when it appeared as sub-triangular with curving sides. Whether an early medieval origin is indicated, however, cannot be established.

4.2 In 1838, 400 skulls and many long bones were unearthed from three pits in the churchyard (PAR 6083). It has always been assumed that these were a legacy of one of the two battles in the vicinity.

4.3 A rectilinear earthwork (PAR 6082) enclosing upwards of 3ha, within which most of the present buildings are located, was described in the 19th century. No traces can now be identified. It has been argued that this was the fortification occupied by the Vikings in 893 though not necessarily constructed by them. This hypothesis and indeed the existence of the earthwork still requires confirmation.

Recommendations

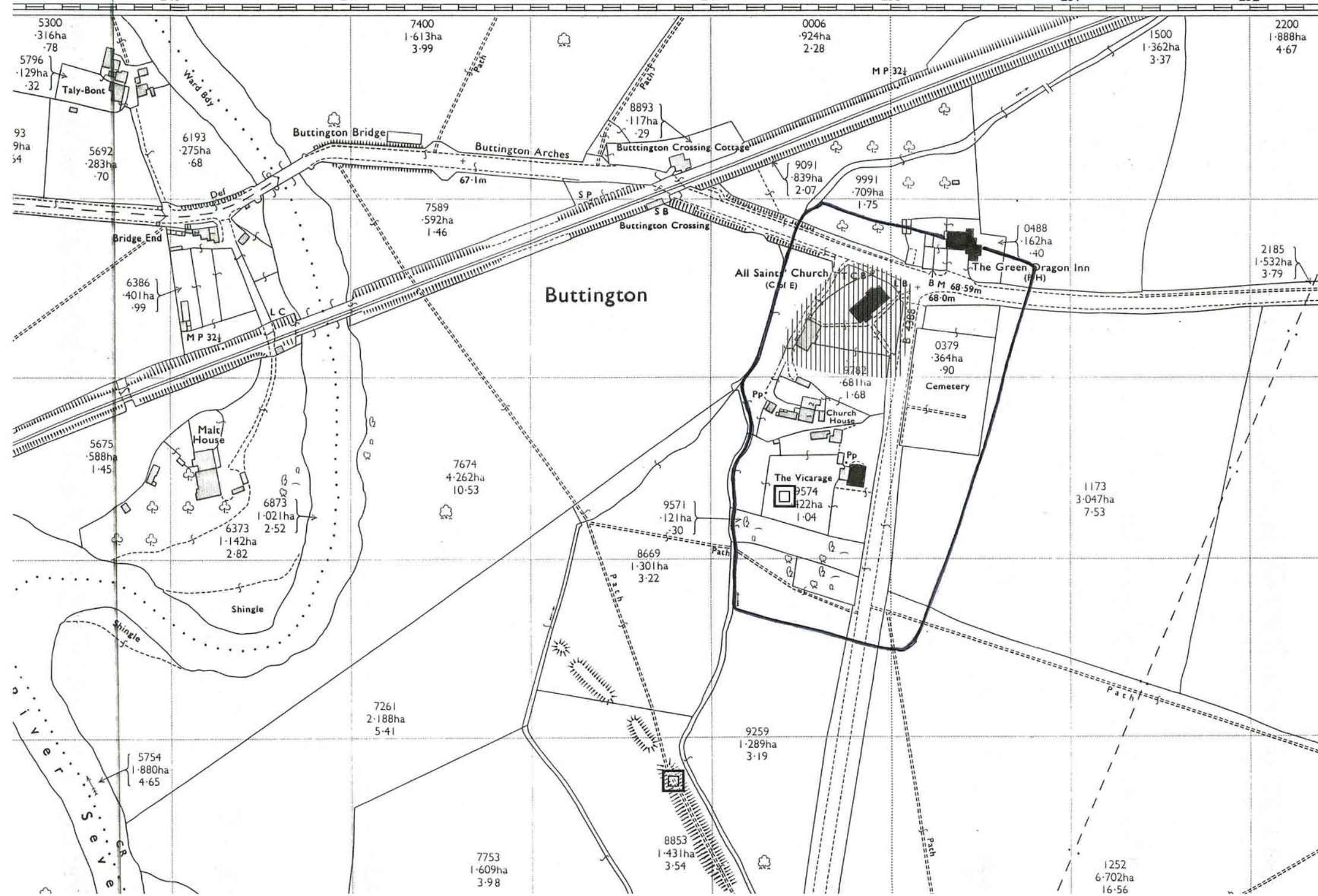
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 Evaluation would be particularly apposite for the putative earthwork fortification and in view of its potential importance, appropriate work should be conducted to confirm or refute its existence.

References

Arnold 1990, 75
County SMR
Ellis 1935, 67
Haslam 1979, 83
Lewis 1833
Musson and Spurgeon 1988, 106
Rees 1933
Tithe survey 1841



Location and Topography

1.1 Bwlch-y-cibau straddles the A490 linking Welshpool with Llanfyllin, approximately 4km south-east of the latter.

1.2 As its name suggests the settlement occupies a saddle of land between two hills which provides the easiest access from the valley of Afon Vyrnwy to that of Afon Cain.

History

2.1 Ellis cites no chronological references for the place-name which can be translated as 'the pass of the husks'.

2.2 The boundary between Meifod and Llanfyllin cuts through the centre of the settlement and this together with the late date of the church and the absence of early documentation confirms this as a relatively recent growth point.

Buildings

3.1 Christ Church was raised in 1862-4 (PAR 7707).

Archaeology

4.1 On the edge of the village is a small earthwork (PAR 62; SAM Montgomery 210), probably a defended farmstead of Iron Age or even Roman date.

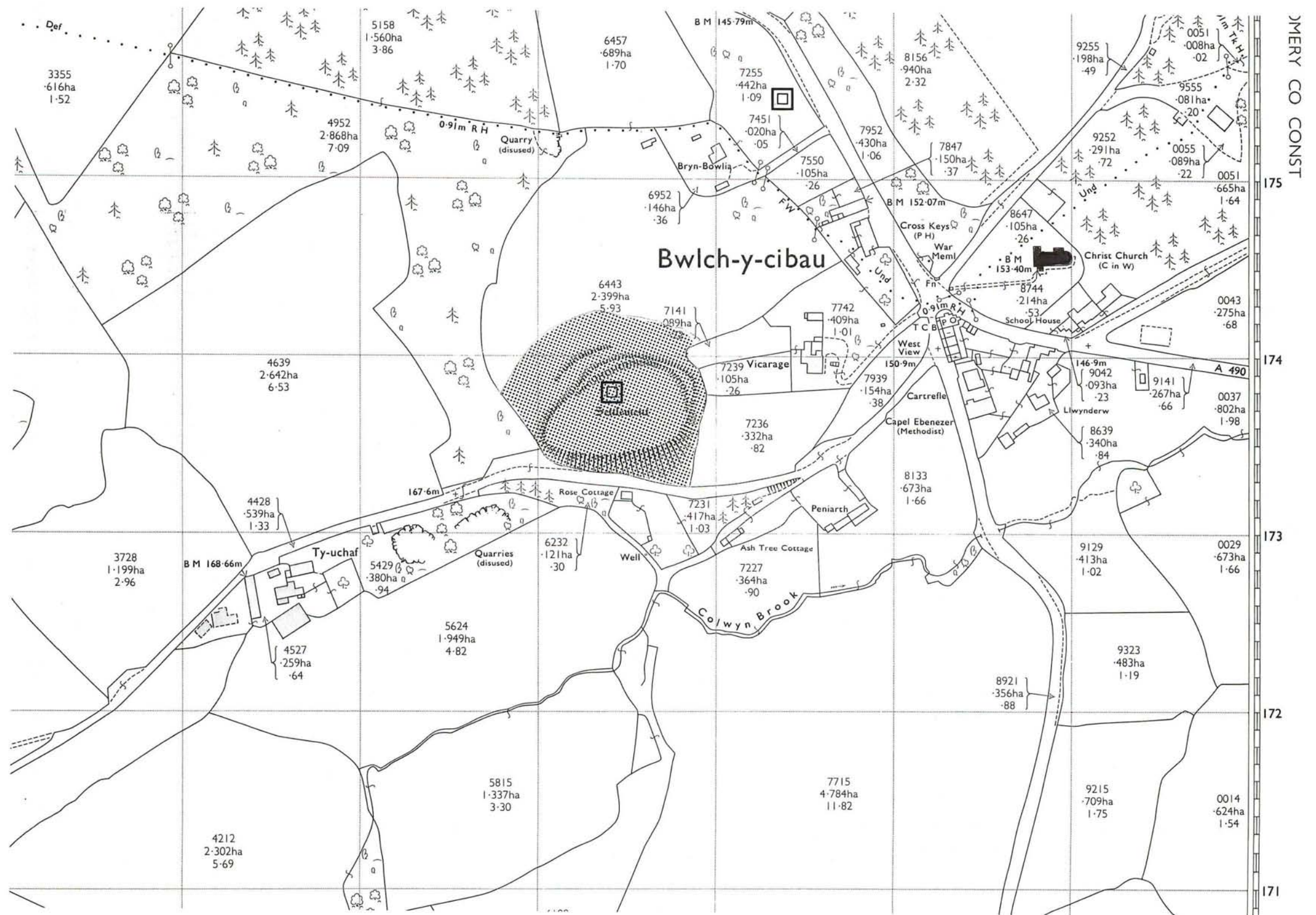
4.2 Minor earthworks (PAR 7616) of uncertain significance were recorded in a field beside the main road on the northern edge of the hamlet.

Recommendations

5.1 No recommendations are proposed in view of the relatively recent history of Bwlch-y-cibau, although there are features of archaeological interest which would require appropriate action if threatened by development.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 71
Haslam 1979, 84
Tithe surveys: Llanfyllin 1850; Meifod 1842



Note: this settlement has not been investigated during the current fieldwork programme.

Location and Topography

1.1 Caerhowel, a modern community on the bank of the Severn between Newtown and Welshpool, is less than 3km north-west of Montgomery.

1.2 The estate development occupies what is probably a level gravel terrace less than 100m from the river.

History

2.1 As a settlement, Caerhowel does not have a history, although the name is suggestive of a fortification. Historically the surrounding landscape is one of the most significant in Montgomeryshire. The motte and bailey castle of Hen Domen (Old Montgomery) lies one kilometre to the east, the major Roman fort of Forden Gaer (PAR 162; SAM Montgomery 12) a similar distance to the north. Rhydwhymán (PAR 176), a few hundred metres downstream, was an important ford throughout the historic era and probably before. It was the meeting place of Henry III and Llewelyn in 1267.

Buildings

3.1 A number of Grade II listed buildings exist in the immediate neighbourhood: Caerhowel Hall itself is mid to late 18th century (PAR 30567), its outbuildings slightly more recent, Smithy Cottage (PAR 30576) is a 17th-century timber-framed structure, the Lion Hotel (PAR 30572) is of later 17th/early 18th century build and Caerhowel farmhouse (PAR 30566) is about a century later.

Archaeology

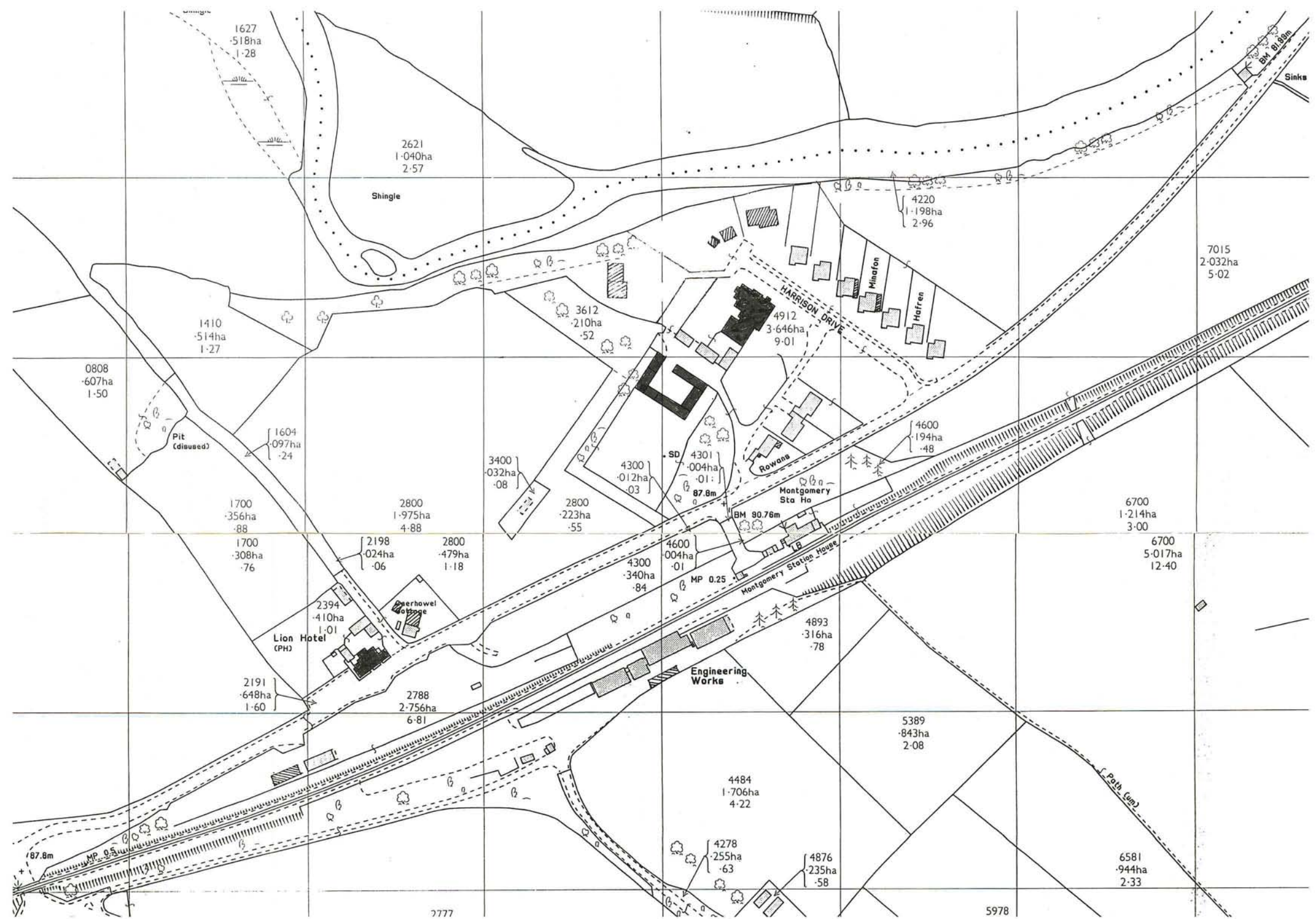
4.1 Nothing of archaeological interest has yet been recorded in and around the modern estate.

Recommendations

5.1 No recommendations are proposed for this settlement.

References

County SMR
Haslam 1979, 85
Tithe survey, Montgomery 1839



Location and Topography

1.1 Caersws lies on the A470(T) in central Montgomeryshire, just under 8km east of Newtown.

1.2 The village occupies a low-lying spot beside the Severn, a short distance below its confluence with a tributary, Afon Carno. Modern housing development extends over a finger-like spur of slightly higher ground protruding south-westwards from the valley slopes, but this is separated from the earlier village by the Manthrig Brook. This village core appears to occupy a gravel terrace just above the flood plain of the river and the presence of a flood defence bank on the west, south and east testifies to the problems inherent in the location.

History

2.1 The modern village overlies an important Roman military complex (SAM Montgomery 1) and a nodal point for several Roman roads. Several phases of activity covering the 1st-3rd centuries AD have been revealed by an excavation programme extending over many years. The Roman military presence undoubtedly encouraged local farming. Several Roman-period enclosed farmsteads have been recognised in the vicinity, with the possibility of earlier, Iron Age settlements also.

2.2 The name reportedly means the 'defended place of Swys', an otherwise unknown figure who presumably made use of the Roman defences here. Although the modern form of the name does not appear until 1783, the earliest reference, in 1470/1, is to Kairesosse.

2.3 Lewis claimed both a castle and a church at Caersws in earlier times, as this was the residence of the lords of Arwystli. No traces of the castle have ever been recognised in the village, nor is there confirmatory evidence of the church. Assuming the castle reference to be authentic, one of the two motte-and-bailey castles on the further side of the Severn might be a candidate.

2.4 It is assumed that a medieval town existed here, the regular pattern of streets suggesting a planned borough, but the date of its foundation is unknown and no charter survives. An origin in the late 12th-early 13th century has been postulated. That no medieval church is evidenced and that Caersws lay within the ecclesiastical parish of Llanwnnog argues against an early origin. This is reinforced by the location adjacent to the parish boundary.

2.5 In common with other towns in the Marches Caersws must have gone into decline in the later medieval period. Leland in the 1530s called it 'poor Caersws', where the weekly market had already been abandoned, but throughout the 16th century it was still referred to as a borough.

Buildings

3.1 No buildings have been listed within the built up area, but there are two or three half-timbered structures, perhaps of 17th or early 18th-century origin, including the Buck Hotel and some cottages off Bridge Street. The church of St Mary (PAR 7708) was constructed during the 19th century.

Archaeology

4.1 Despite considerable archaeological activity in Caersws in recent years very little information on the medieval settlement has been recovered and artefacts relevant to the period have been sparse. A possible explanation is that there is little correlation between those areas targeted for excavation because of their Roman potential and the most likely areas of medieval usage.

4.2 The flood alleviation banks (PAR 7709) are assumed to be post-medieval but there is no direct evidence of this and the possibility of a medieval precursor should be considered.

4.3 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation traces have been noted in a field to the north of Meini-Cochion on the northern periphery of the settlement.

Recommendations

5.1 The potential impact of future developments on Roman Caersws have been considered in a recent draft report prepared Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT Report no.11 [1991]) and submitted to Montgomeryshire District Council. It must be stressed that the recommendations in that draft refer to an earlier phase of activity at Caersws, separate from that considered here, and are not repeated in this report.

5.2 Medieval Caersws remains an enigma and only archaeological investigation is likely to clarify the picture. Any development within the historic core should be subject to a watching brief and some areas, particularly those on street frontages, will require evaluation. It should be stressed that the historic core 'envelope' has been defined only in relation to putative medieval activity and has no significance for the earlier, Roman period.

References

County SMR
Davies n.d., 8
Ellis 1935, 77
Haslam 1979, 85
Lewis 1833
Soulsby 1983, 93
Tithe survey, Llanwnnog 1846



Location and Topography

1.1 Carno lies on the A470(T) road between Newtown and Machynlleth, about 16km north-west of the former.

1.2 A village of several parts is the fairest way to describe Carno, with the Laura Ashley complex at the western extremity more than a kilometre from the historic centre around the church. Village and church sit on the south side of Afon Carno, raised above the valley floor on a gravel terrace. A stream, Afon Cerniog, flows eastwards to join the main river just east of the village. Southwards, the valley slopes rise, though not steeply, to the heights of Waun Garno.

1.3 New housing is gradually making its mark on the historic part of Carno. A new estate opposite Caer Noddfa (para 4.2) is now accompanied by new bungalows behind the Aleppo Merchant Hotel, and the construction of a new road east of Post Office Lane points to further development on the ground between the converging watercourses. Long-term pressure on Caer Noddfa may be envisaged.

History

2.1 Carno is reputedly the location of two battles, first in 948 between the sons of Edval Voel and those of Hywel Dda for the sovereignty of North Wales, and later in 1077x1082 between local princes.

2.1 In the late 12th or early 13th century the manor of Carno came into the possession of the Knights Hospitallers, a holding of their border estate of Halston.

2.3 The earliest reference to Carno is in 1254, the name being cognate with 'carnedd' meaning 'cairn'.

2.4 Its subsequent development is not recorded. By the early 19th century, buildings surrounded the churchyard on three sides and a small group clustered together on the south bank of Afon Cerniog in Frankwell.

Buildings

3.1 The present church of St John the Baptist (PAR 7619) was erected in 1863, replacing the 1807 successor of the medieval church. The mounded platform around the west end of the church probably indicates the rubble of an earlier building. Inside is a cross-inscribed slab (PAR 918; SAM Montgomery 146) of the 7th-8th century which was found serving as a gate-post near the Laura Ashley factory.

3.2 Although many of the existing buildings in the village appear to be depicted on the 1802 manuscript map, none has been considered sufficiently important to warrant listing.

Archaeology

4.1 A series of imprecisely located finds (eg PAR 1422) made during the 19th century imply a reasonable level of prehistoric and Roman activity in the neighbourhood.

4.2 Excavations in the rectilinear enclosure known as Caer Noddfa (PAR 919; SAM Montgomery 52) beside the church uncovered a medieval building, possibly the hospitium (hospice) of the Knights Hospitaller. Despite the form of the ditch, the anticipated Roman military origins of the earthwork has yet to be realised.

4.3 The layout of the village prior to the improvements of the 18th-century turnpike trust invites speculation. Possibly the main thoroughfare was along Post Office Lane on the north-south axis of the bridges (or fords) across the two rivers.

4.4 Ridge and furrow cultivation (PAR 7620) overlies Caer Noddfa.

Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map), or Caer Noddfa.

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 80
Estate Map of Lordship of Carno 1802: lost original, copy in NLW
Haslam 1979, 87
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey 1849



CASTLE CAEREINION SJ 1605

Location and Topography

1.1 Castle Caereinion lies on the B4385 some 6km west of Welshpool.

1.2 The village occupies a flat saddle between relatively steep-sided hills to east and west. Northwards, the ground drops away gently to a valley holding a small tributary of the Banwy, though both this river and Afon Rhiw to the south are several kilometres distant.

1.3 Until relatively recently the dwellings grouped around the churchyard represented the core of the village. A major new development, the Maesgarmon estate to the east has now altered the pattern of settlement in Castle Caereinion.

History

2.1 Recorded as Castell in 1254, and as Castell Kaer einion in 1699, the second element refers to the commote which incorporated the surrounding area.

2.2 There is no unequivocal evidence for an early medieval foundation here. Documentary records state that Madawc, prince of Powys built a castle in Caereinion in 1156, and it has been forcefully argued that the mound in the churchyard (see below) is the earthwork castle referred to. Records indicate that the castle itself was destroyed in 1167 and it is not clear whether it was subsequently refurbished.

2.3 The medieval development of Castle Caereinion is unchronicled, although it did emerge as the centre of an ecclesiastical parish. An estate map of 1766 implies a fundamental alteration in the layout of the village since that date. The only dwellings in the village were cottages on the west side of the churchyard and some of these fronted on to a large, open triangular area, perhaps a green, to the north of the church. The main road through the village ran round the west side of the churchyard and then bifurcated, one branch running eastwards, the present Cwm Lane, the other striking off in a south-westerly direction. The present B4385 around the east side of the churchyard and down to Berriew did not exist. Quillets were in evidence in Maes Llan to the west of the church.

Buildings

3.1 The church of St Garmon (PAR 7649) was completely rebuilt in 1866 and 1874. Its predecessor was 15th century.

3.2 Brookside and Orchard Cottage (PAR 7651) to the west of the church have a Grade II listing. It is probable that with Ivy House which is of 18th-century date, these buildings are depicted on the 1766 estate map.

3.3 Tynllan (PAR 7652) has a date stone of 1786 and is listed as a Grade II building, as is the Red Lion Inn (PAR 7653).

Archaeology

4.1 The castle mound (PAR 104; SAM Montgomery 117), also known as Twmpath Garmon, survives in a somewhat mutilated condition. It has been argued that the outline of its accompanying bailey is fossilised in the churchyard perimeter on the north-west and north-east, and less convincingly in four small mounds on the south-west and south-east. On this premise St Garmon's church was originally established within the castle defences. However, an alternative interpretation of the tump as a preaching mound associated with St Garmon (cf Llanfechain) has also been advanced in the past.

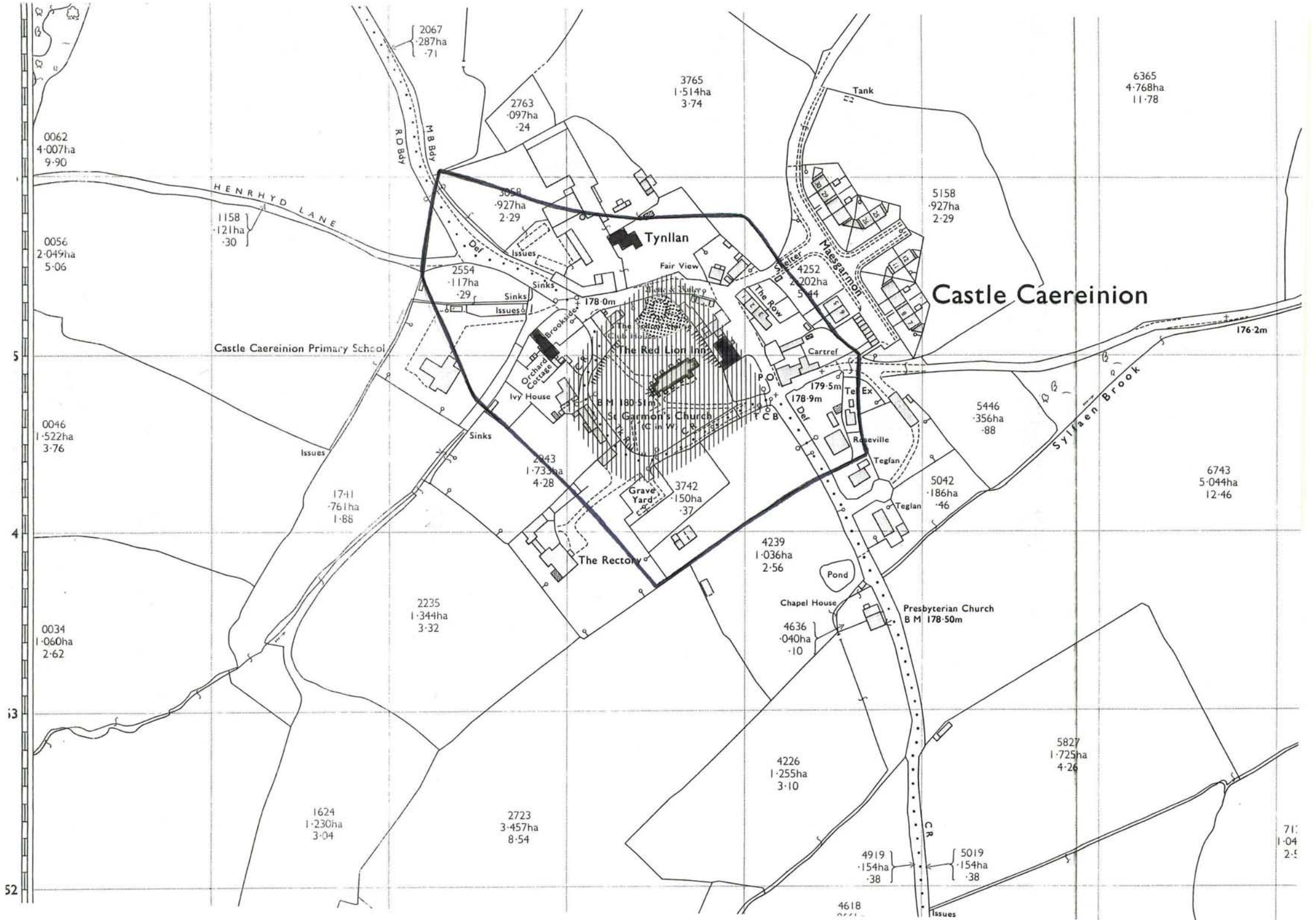
Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 83
Estate map of 1766 in Powys Castle archives in NLW
Haslam 1979, 89
O'Neil 1935
Tithe survey, 1839



Note: this settlement has not been investigated during the current fieldwork programme.

Location and Topography

1.1 Cefn Coch is situated in the hills of central Montgomeryshire on a minor road between Llanfair Caereinion, some 7km to the north-east, and Carno.

1.2 The hamlet is scattered along a gently ascending ridge at a height of around 300m OD, with the two branches of Afon Rhiw to north and south.

History

2.1 There are no pre-19th century references to this place. The element 'cefn' means 'mountain back', 'coch' is 'red' referring either to dry or burnt land, or perhaps to the colour of bracken on the hill.

2.2 During the medieval era, these hills were part of the lands attached to the nunnery of Llanllugan.

2.3 Only the inn and two farms existed here in the mid-19th century, though it lay on the main drovers' road from Machynlleth to Welshpool.

Buildings

3.1 No buildings have been listed in Cefn Coch.

Archaeology

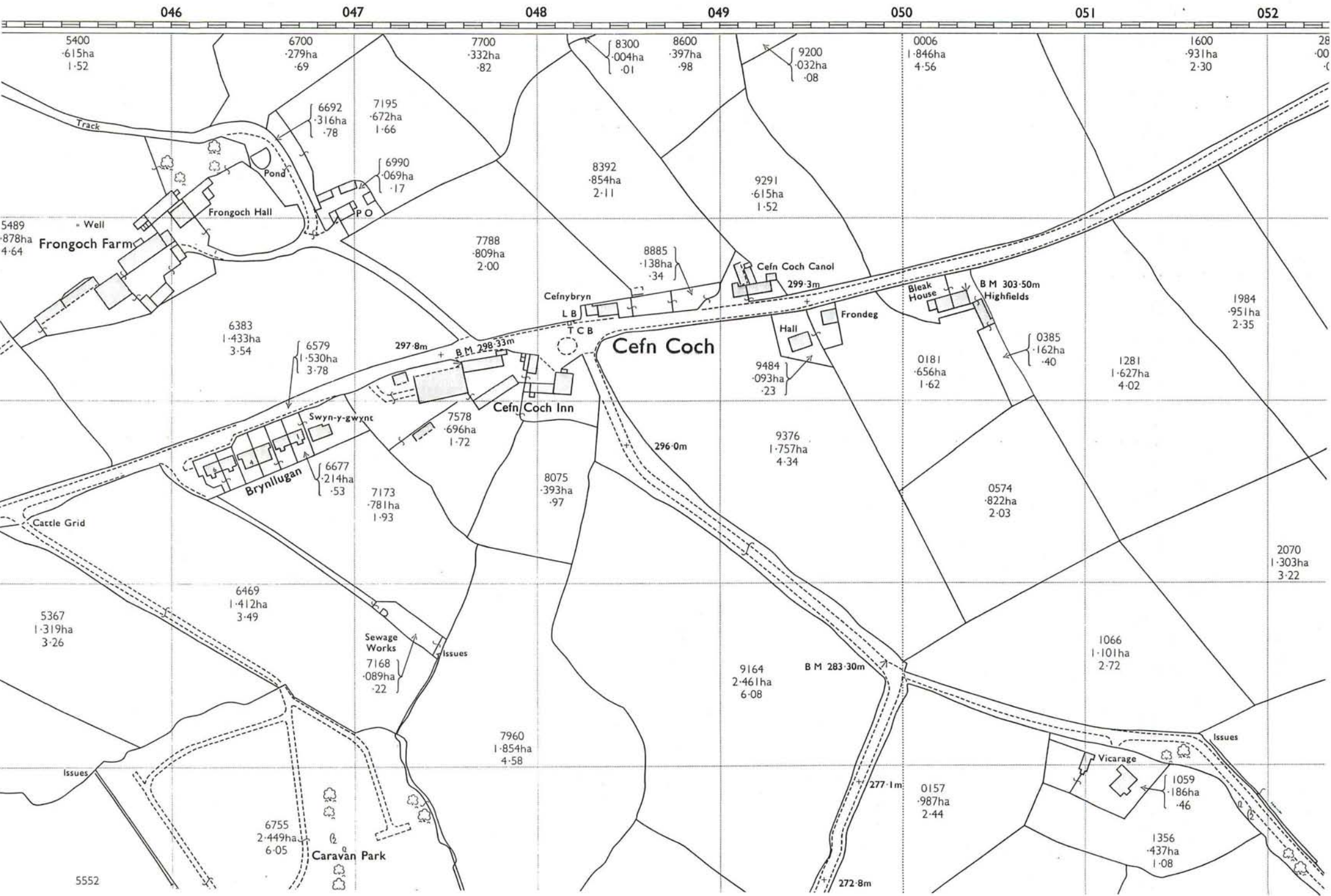
4.1 Nothing of archaeological interest has been recorded here.

Recommendations

5.1 No recommendations are proposed for Cefn Coch in view of its recent history.

References

Colyer 1984, 138
Ellis 1935, 86
Tithe survey, Llanllugan 1850
Williams 1990, fig 14b



Location and Topography

1.1 Cemmaes lies in Dyffryn Dyfi, astride the A470 trunk road linking Welshpool with Machynlleth. It is about 11km north-east of the latter.

1.2 The village has grown up just to the north of where a small stream, Nant Coegen, enters the Dovey, but well above the valley floor. A very steep scarp drops down from the churchyard edge to the river which here passes close to the eastern edge of the valley.

1.3 The village is compact with all past development occurring south of the church. This has resulted in fairly complete street frontage development as far as Pont y Cemmaes, and the most recent housing has extended the village on to the further side of the stream.

History

2.1 The earliest form of the name, kemeys, was recorded in 1254. Though not straightforward, the favoured derivation is from 'cam feis' meaning 'crooked fords'.

2.2 The curvilinear churchyard and the British dedication to a local saint favour an early medieval origin for the church, but little is known of its subsequent history.

2.3 As late as 1842, the church was accompanied by less than ten houses, although Lewis recorded that three annual fairs were held here.

Buildings

3.1 St Tydecho's church (PAR 31087) is a single-chamber edifice with a west bellcote, perhaps datable to the 14th or 15th century. All the windows were replaced in the 19th century and the interior was restored at the beginning of the present century. Apart from a fragment of a 15th-century screen, none of the internal fittings survived the restorations.

3.2 The only listed building (other than the church) is Gorffwysfa (PAR 7673). This late 18th or early 19th-century dwelling has a Grade II listing.

3.3 Away from the main road and beside the church, Dovey Terrace and adjacent cottages (PAR 7674) represent good examples of later 19th-century workers' accommodation.

Archaeology

4.1 The churchyard (PAR 7672) is semi-circular as a result of its location above the river scarp. Its plan does not appear to have been modified at any time.

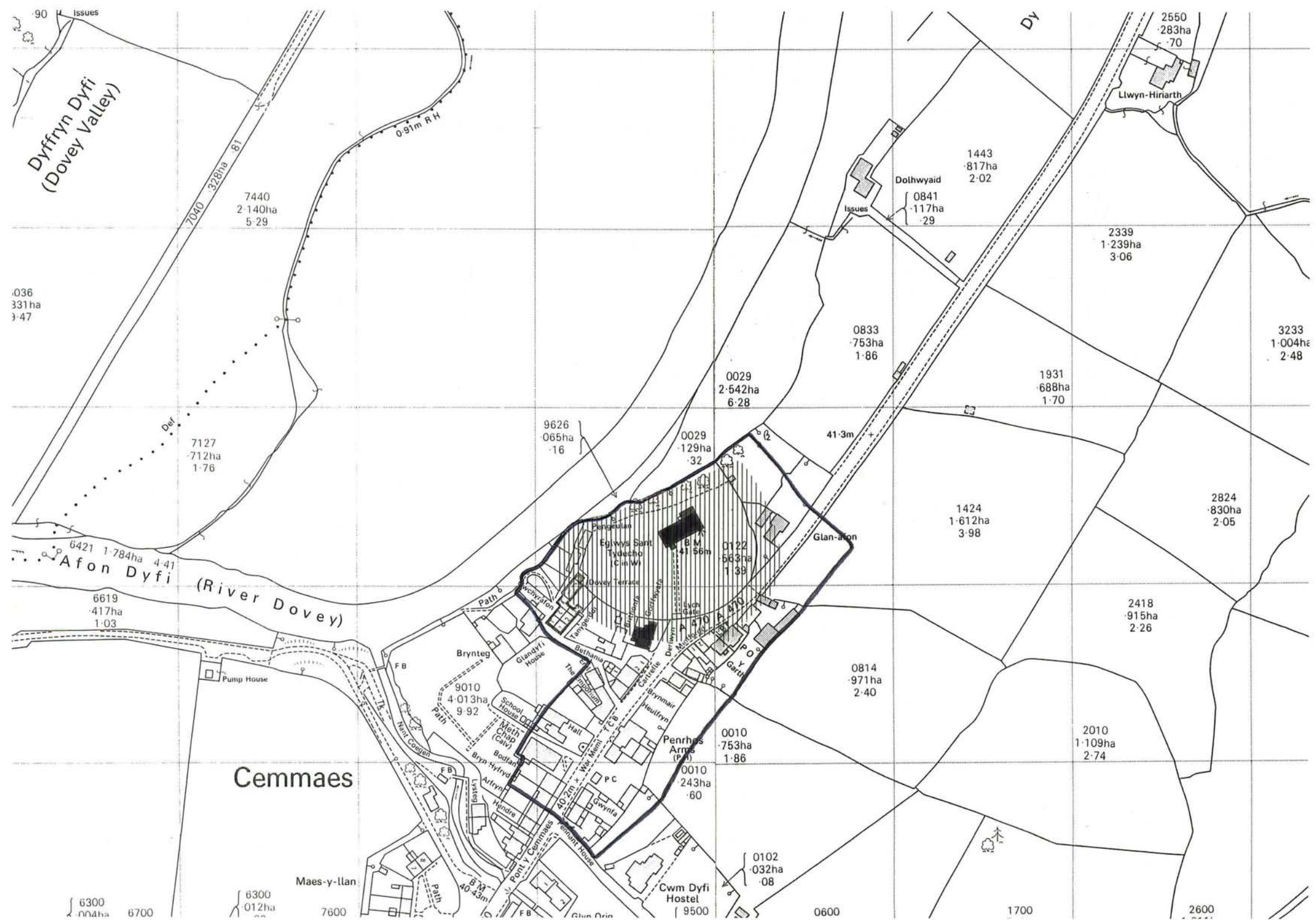
Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 89
Haslam 1979, 92
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey 1842



Location and Topography

1.1 Churchstoke lies at the junction of the A490 and A489 in the extreme east of Montgomeryshire. It is just over 5km south-east of Montgomery and one of the few settlements east of Offa's Dyke.

1.2 The village has grown up on a spur of dry land projecting towards the confluence of the Caebitra and the Camlad, with the church itself on the edge of the shelf above these small rivers. With broad flood plains to the south-west and south-east, the steep-sided valley of the Camlad to the north and the heights of Corndon and Roundton to the north-east, Churchstoke lies at the interface of several topographical zones.

History

2.1 Churchstoke is recorded in Domesday Book (1086) as Cirestoc, the Old English 'stoc' meaning 'place'. The Welsh name, recorded in 1556x64 was probably Yr Ystog.

2.2 On the evidence of the Domesday survey, the manor of Churchstoke was certainly in existence before the Norman Conquest and the church may even have been an early medieval foundation: the churchyard evidence is best classed as equivocal.

2.3 The development of the village in the Middle Ages is unchronicled, although the church became a dependency of nearby Chirbury Priory (in Shropshire). By 1840 it had expanded northwards from the church with several dwellings along what is now Castle Road, but rather more on the opposite bank of the Camlad both at Green and further west.

2.4 More than most, Churchstoke reveals a mixture of Welsh and English influences resulting from its border location. Its fieldnames, for instance, show a predominance of English terms but with a few Welsh examples.

Buildings

3.1 The church of St Nicholas (PAR 7541) was built in 1815 and remodelled around 1870. Only the base of the tower - 13th century in date - survives of the medieval structure.

3.2 Only one building predates 1600. Churchstoke Hall (PAR 20588) was erected in 1590 and has a Grade II listing. Other Grade II buildings are Fir Court (PAR 20582) with an inscription of 1685, a nearby stable block (PAR 30467) of 18th-century origin and the Court House Inn (PAR 7702).

Archaeology

4.1 The raised churchyard (PAR 7542) has a curved outline on the east, while the Tithe map and the natural fall of the ground suggest more curved sides on the north and west respectively than are now apparent.

4.2 The subsidiary hamlet of Green took its name from the tract of ground in the valley bottom which also included land around the Court House running as

far as the churchyard edge. Termed Churchstoke Green in the tithe survey but not a village green in the conventional sense, this was common land and had probably witnessed earlier encroachments including the cottages known as Cambrook and the Willows and also perhaps the Court House itself.

4.4 Ridge and furrow cultivation (PAR 4550) has been recognised in the field west of Churchstoke Hall.

Recommendations

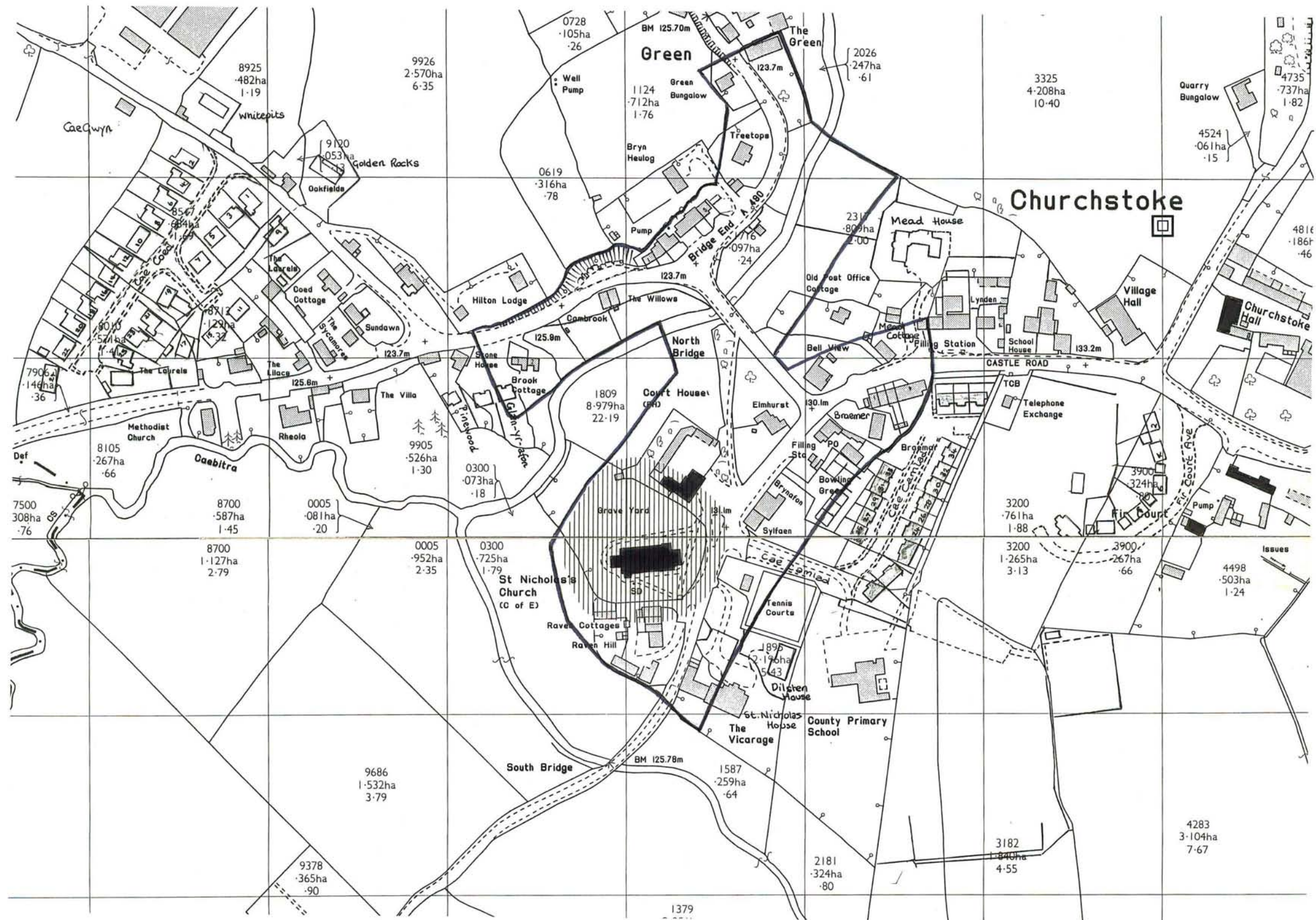
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The remains of the sub-circular churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 98
Haslam 1979, 93
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey 1840



Location and Topography

1.1 The A470(T) from Newtown towards Machynlleth passes through Clatter, an insignificant and totally uninteresting hamlet 11km north-east of Newtown.

History

2.1 Ellis speculated that the place-name might be derived from the Welsh 'cletwr' (= caled-ddwr), meaning 'hard water'. There are no early forms documented.

2.2 At the time of the Tithe survey there were no more than six buildings here, at least two of which may have been barns in the middle of fields.

Buildings

3.1 There are no buildings of merit.

Archaeology

4.1 Nothing of interest has been recorded here.

Recommendations

5.1 None.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 100
Haslam 1979, 94
Tithe survey, Llanwnnog, 1846

Location and Topography

1.1 Coedway lies in the extreme east of the district, a small spur of Wales projecting into England. Welshpool is some 14km to the south-west.

1.2 Northwards, the River Severn meanders its way towards Shrewsbury with Coedway lying back a little from the edge of the flood plain. A small valley carrying an inconsiderable stream provided the shelter for the earliest dwellings in the hamlet.

History

2.1 On the basis of present knowledge, Coedway has no history. Ellis claimed that the place-name was an anglicisation of 'coedwig' meaning 'woodland'.

2.2 Most of the older dwellings in the settlement were depicted on the mid-19th century tithe map: a group west of the public house and a second group around Bank House.

Buildings

3.1 There is no information on buildings of architectural interest here.

Archaeology

4.1 Nothing of archaeological interest has been recognised in that part of Coedway lying in Wales, but it should be noted that the records for Shropshire, at one point only 60m away, have not been consulted.

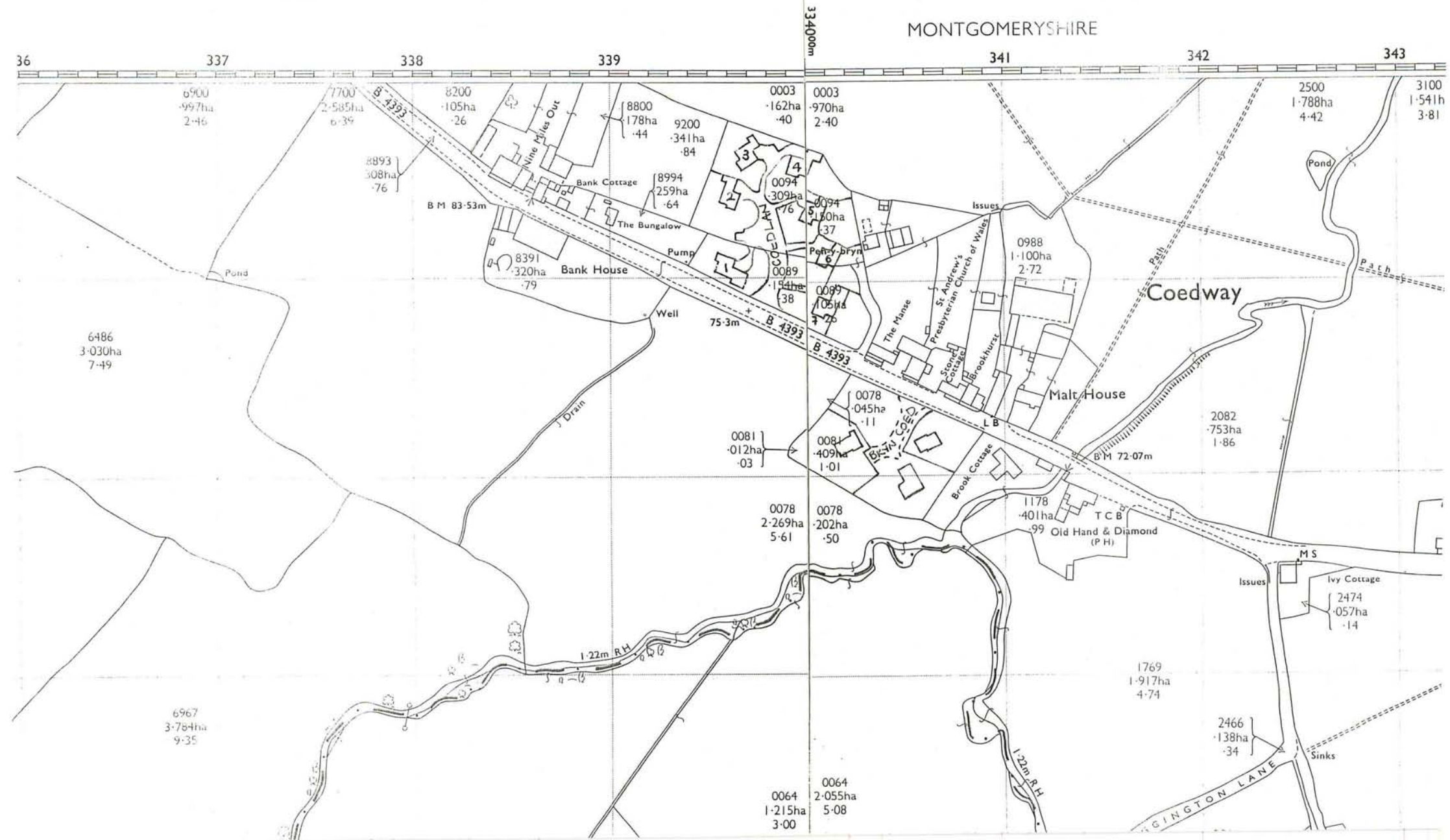
Recommendations

5.1 No recommendations are made for Coedway.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 102
Tithe survey, Alberbury 1840

MONTGOMERYSHIRE



COMMINS COCH SH 8403

Note: this settlement has not been investigated during the current fieldwork programme.

Location and Topography

1.1 Approximately 10km east of Machynlleth in western Montgomeryshire, Commins Coch has developed on the A470(T) which links Newtown with the west coast of Wales.

1.2 Both sides of the steep-side valley of Afon Twymyn have been utilised by housing where the road and railway cross from one bank of the river to the other. Most of the built-up area is on or close to the valley floor, but some dwellings have been constructed beside a lane ascending the steep eastern slope of the valley.

History

2.1 The hamlet has taken its name from the adjacent hill, the first element being the Welsh equivalent of 'commons' while the second means 'red'. No early references have been discovered.

2.2 In the mid-19th century, there were about seven dwellings and a Methodist chapel centred on the road bridge, and recorded under the names Tyddyncochwalciog and Melinpenybontbren. The river represented the boundary between the parishes of Cemmaes and Darowen.

Buildings

3.1 There are no buildings of architectural interest here.

Archaeology

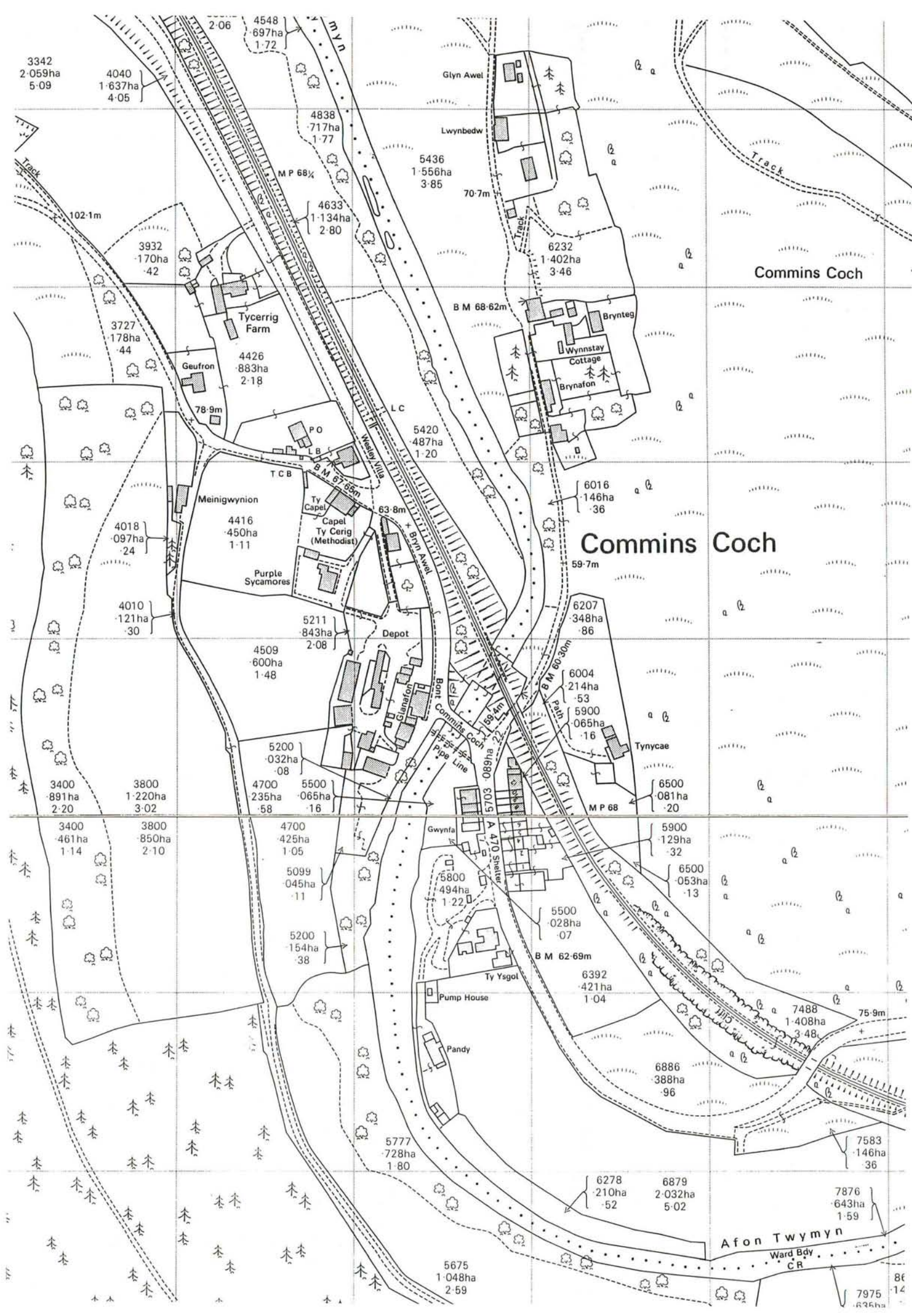
4.1 Nothing of archaeological significance has been recorded.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of the relatively recent history of Commins Coch, no recommendations are proposed.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 101
Tithe survey: Cemmaes 1842; Darowen 1846



Location and Topography

1.1 Crew Green sits on the B4393 between Shrewsbury and Four Crosses, 6km south-east of the latter.

1.2 The settlement lies a few hundred metres south of the Severn on the tail of the range of hills that includes the Breidden and Middletown Hill. Houses have spread over an extensive area, with the Bryn Hafren housing estate on the slopes of Pritchard's Hill.

History

2.1 Crew Grene is recorded in 1583. Ellis argues that 'Crew' may be cognate with Welsh 'cryw' meaning a ford or causeway, and that the second element is the Old English grene in the sense of 'a grassy piece'. The apparent absence of anything resembling a village green or common might be taken as confirmatory evidence of the suggested derivation.

2.2 Three farms - The Malt House Farm, The Firs and Crewgreen Farm - and a couple of other buildings reflect the extent of development in the mid-19th century.

Buildings

3.1 None, other than the Manor House which is a Grade II, Regency period house.

Archaeology

4.1 Nothing of interest has been recognised to date.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of its short history, Crew Green does not merit any recommendations.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 247
Tithe survey, Alberbury, 1840



Location and Topography

1.1 Criggion lies on a back road in the Severn Valley, 11km north-east of Welshpool.

1.2 Breidden Hill towers over this hamlet which occupies flat ground less than one kilometre from the Severn.

History

2.1 The earliest reference to Criggion is in 1545. The name probably derives from Welsh 'crugyn' meaning 'small heap', used perhaps in the sense of cairn.

2.2 There was a chapel here in the 14th century, the earliest record dating from 1343. It lay in the ecclesiastical parish of Alberbury, and did not itself achieve this status until 1846.

2.3 Today, the hamlet consists of no more than the church, the Hall and a few cottages.

Buildings

3.1 St Michael and All Angel's church (PAR 7567) was built in 1774, presumably to replace the medieval chapel. Nothing of the earlier edifice survives.

3.2 The Hall (PAR 7569), a Grade II listed building, is dated to around 1670.

Archaeology

4.1 The churchyard (PAR 7568) is D-shaped, slightly raised and ditched, presumably as a defence against flooding.

4.2 East of the hall, the pattern of closes and watercourses may disclose the former existence of associated gardens.

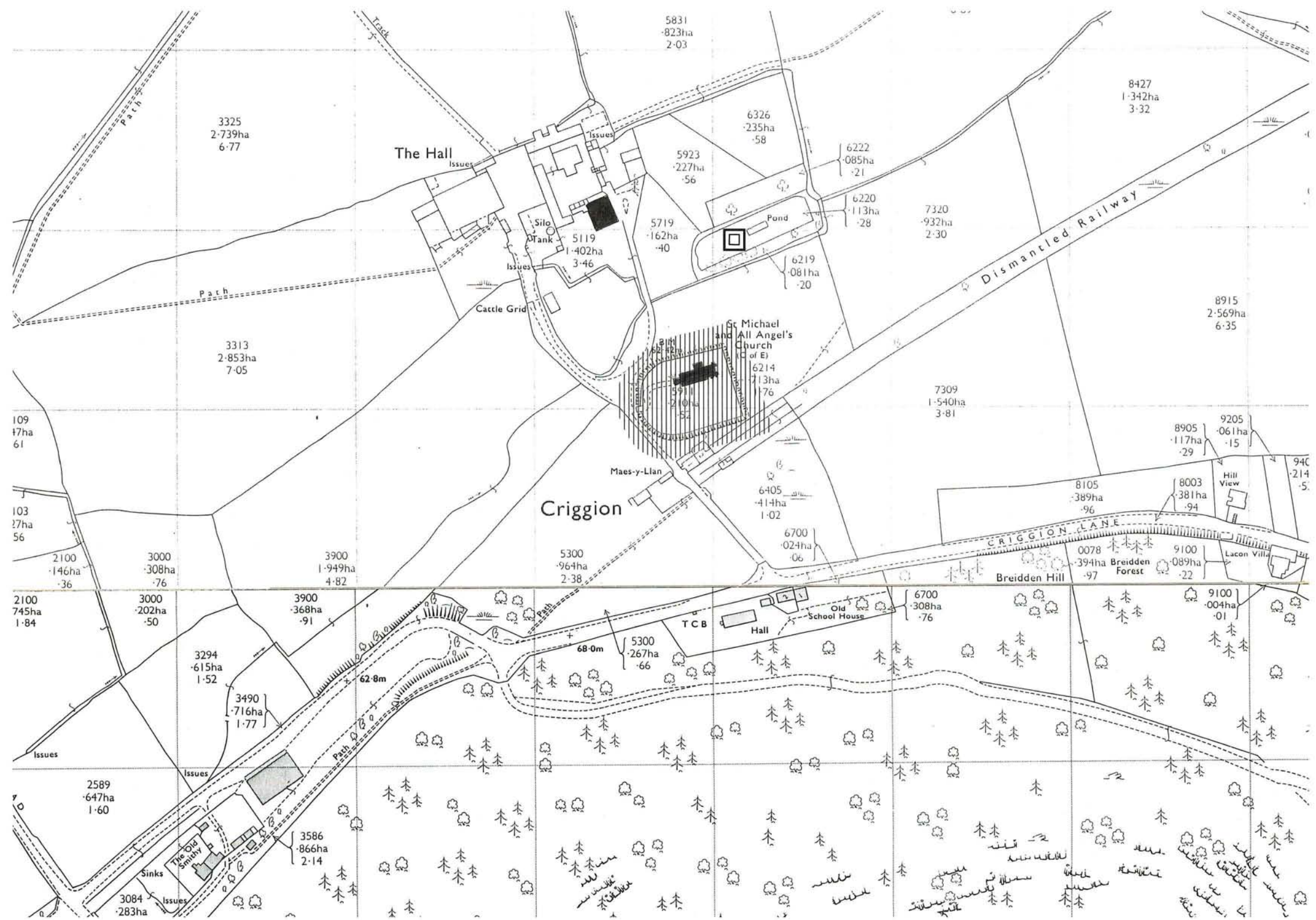
Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be requested for any proposals involving the current churchyard and its perimeter (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 The possible presence of historic garden remains at the Hall should be assessed through a combination of earlier cartography and fieldwork. Recording at an appropriate level should be considered.

References

Church history sheet
Ellis 1935, 102
Haslam 1979, 95
Lewis 1833
Rees 1933
Tithe survey, Alberbury, 1838



Location and Topography

1.1 Cwmbelan is situated just off the A470(T) in southern Montgomeryshire, some 3km south of Llanidloes.

1.2 The valley of Nant Gynwydd provides the setting for this hamlet, the stream feeding into Afon Dulas, itself tributary to the Severn just above Llanidloes. Near precipitous scarps edge the road and valley on the north, but the slopes are more gentle south of the stream. Almost all the houses are set within a few metres of the watercourse.

History

2.1 Ellis is unable to offer any evidence for the early occurrence of this place-name. It incorporates two elements, the first meaning a combe or deep wooded valley, the second an artificial mound.

2.2 In the mid-19th century, the settlement appears to have consisted of about three houses and the factory (see 3.1) at the eastern end of a block of common land running beside the stream. This cartographic depiction is, however, inconsistent with the date of 1827 on the Zion Baptist Chapel.

Buildings

3.1 The only building of note is the factory, a now disused woollen mill (PAR 21227).

Archaeology

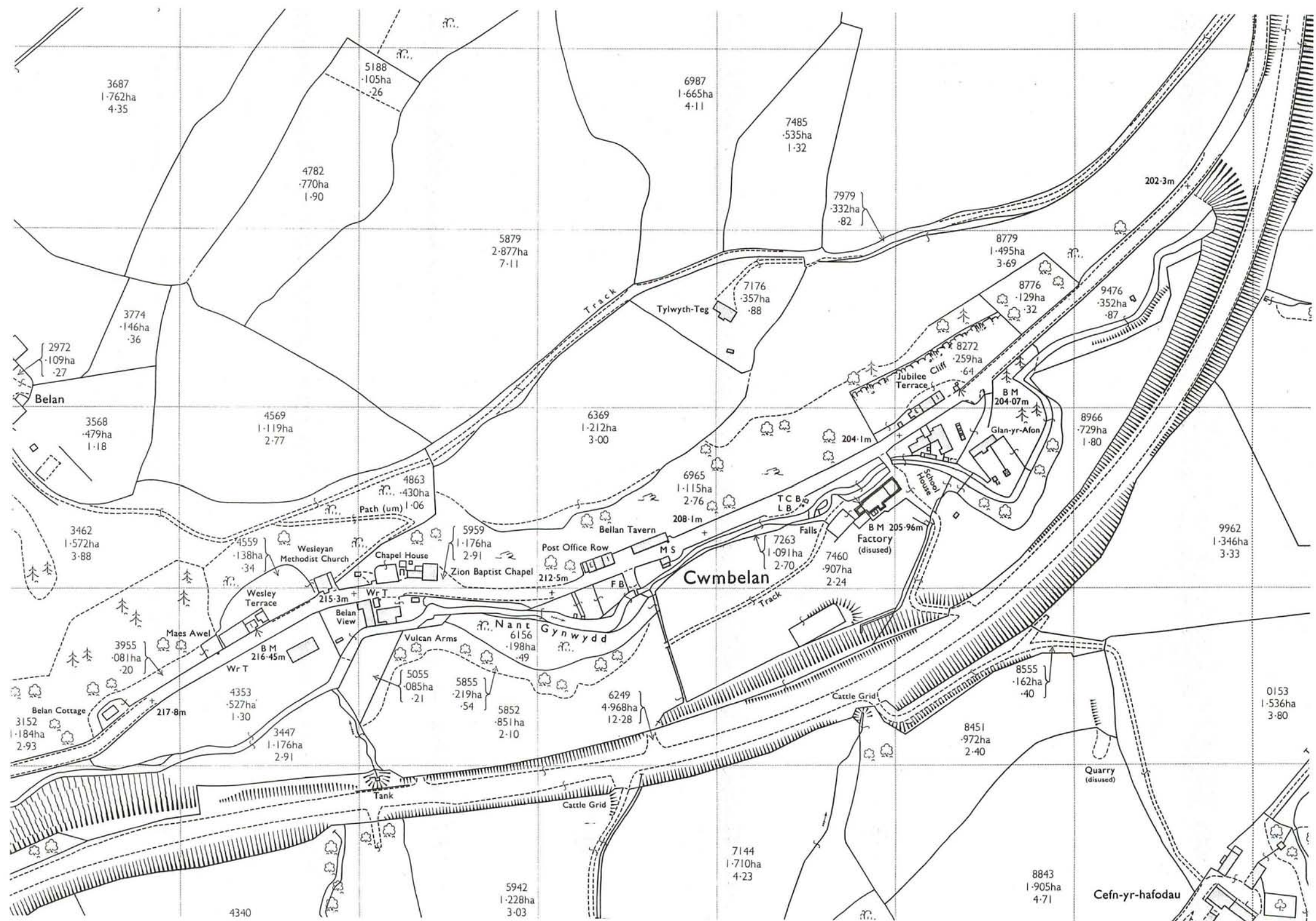
4.1 Archaeologically, there does not seem to be a great deal of interest here, but a leat and perhaps other industrial elements associated with the factory remain.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of the relatively recent history of Cwmbelan, no recommendations are proposed, although there may be some interest in the industrial remains.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935,
Haslam 1979,
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey, Llangurig 1845



CWM LLINAU SH 8407

Cwm Llinau was not subjected to field examination

Location and Topography

1.1 Cwm Llinau lies just off the A470(T) in western Montgomeryshire. It is about 12km north-east of Machynlleth.

1.2 The hamlet lies just to the east of the confluence of Afon Llinau with the Dovey, on the lip of the tributary valley. Ribbon development occurs on the south side of a lane running into the hills. Only recently have buildings encroached on ground to the north of the road.

History

2.1 Cwm Llinau is a 19th-century creation, although the topographical term Cwm Llyney referring to the valley of the River Llinau, appears as early as the late 16th century.

2.2 At the time of the tithe survey in 1842, the whole block of land north of Afon Llinau was common grazing and devoid of buildings. Only a few fields associated with the Dol-y-bont holding lay on this side of the river.

Archaeology

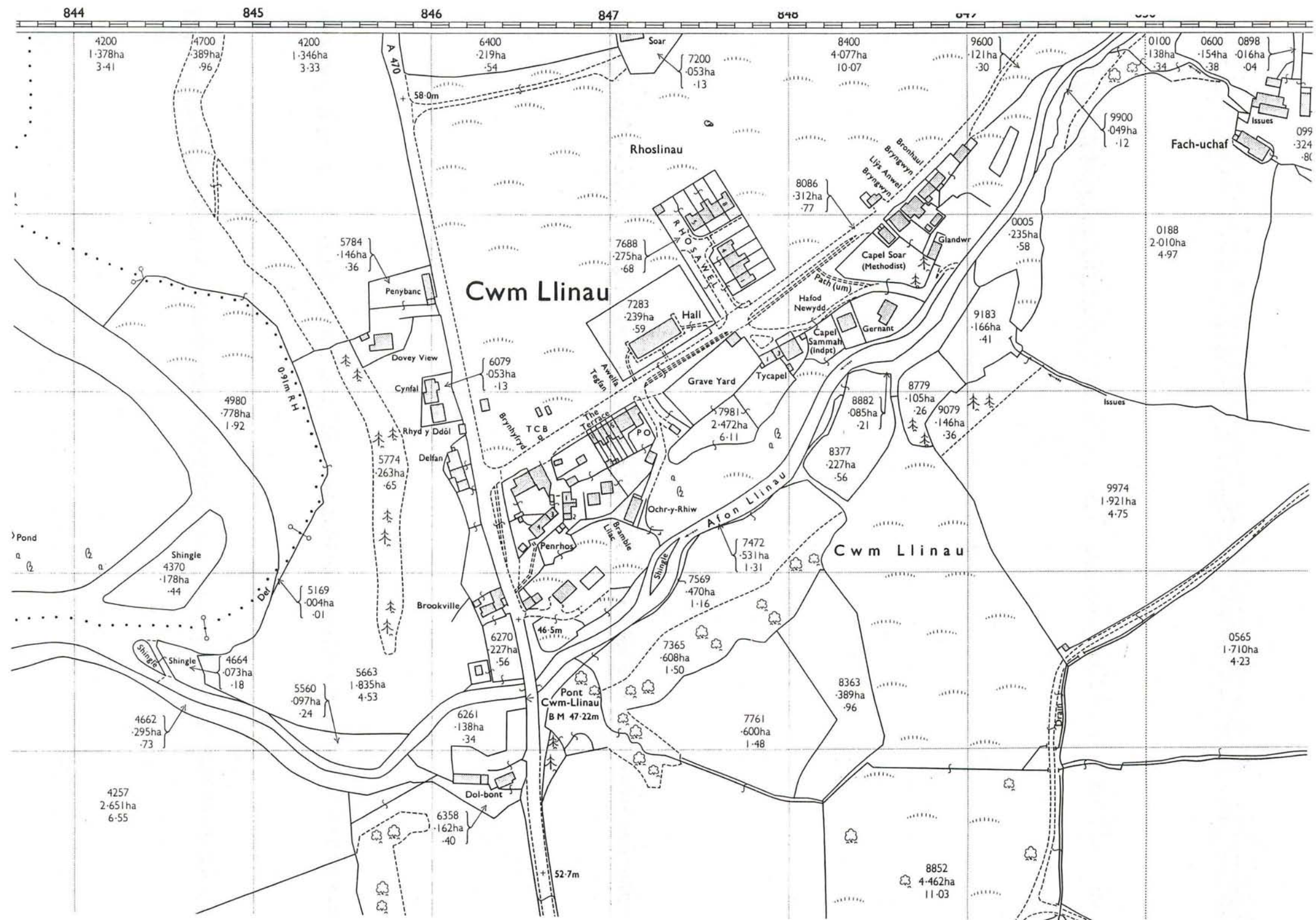
3.1 Nothing of archaeological significance has been recorded here.

Recommendations

4.1 No recommendations need be made in view of the recent emergence of Cwm Llinau.

References

Ellis 1935, 105
Tithe survey, Cemmaes 1842



Location and Topography

1.1 Darowen lies in the hills south of the Dovey valley in western Montgomeryshire. It is some 9km east of Machynlleth.

1.2 The settlement occupies a saddle with higher ground to east and west and the church perched above the steepest slope which drops to a secluded valley.

1.3 Very little growth has taken place here during the last one hundred and fifty years and only a single new house has been added to the village in the last decade.

History

2.1 The place-name appears in the form Dareweyn around 1253, and refers to 'Owen's oaks'.

2.2 The shape of the churchyard and the dedication would suggest an early medieval foundation, but nothing is known of this or its subsequent history. St Tudyr is said to have been interred here in the 7th century.

2.3 At the time of the tithe survey in 1846, the village was not dissimilar in appearance to the present.

Buildings

3.1 St Tudyr's church (PAR 7694) was completely rebuilt in 1864 and apart from a brass plate of 1627 there is nothing internally of earlier origin.

3.2 There are no listed buildings, nor any of obvious age in the village.

Archaeology

4.1 The oval churchyard (PAR 7695) appears to have remained largely unaltered over the centuries, though a section may have been sliced off the southern edge during road modifications. There is also at least one anomaly in the north wall. Nearly a quarter of the churchyard is overgrown testifying to the changing circumstances of this hill-top village. The church itself rests on a platform, definable on three sides. Though wide, it seems reasonable to interpret this as rubble from the previous church rather than the course of an early churchyard.

4.2 Ffynnon Dadur (PAR 1725), an alleged holy well not classified by Francis Jones, lies just outside the churchyard wall.

4.3 Minor earthworks on the south-west of the village do not appear to be of archaeological interest but do require further examination.

Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The churchyard should be examined thoroughly and if necessary recorded at an appropriate level.

5.4 The minor earthworks referred to in para 4.3 should also be scrutinised more closely.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 106
Haslam 1979, 98
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey 1846

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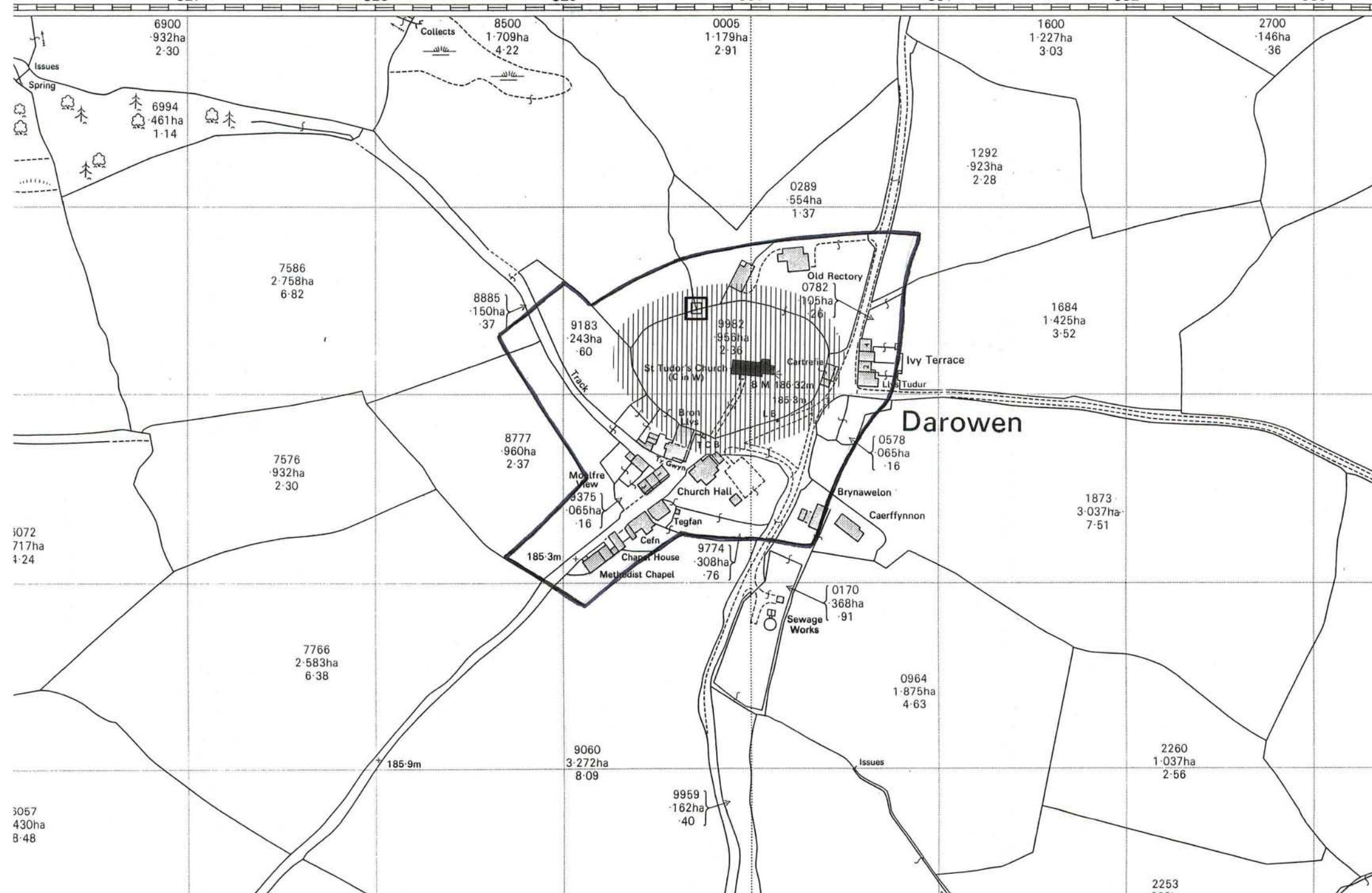
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Location and Topography

1.1 Derwenlas lies in the valley of the Dovey in the extreme west of Montgomeryshire. On the A487(T) between Machynlleth and Aberystwyth, it is less than 3km from the former.

1.2 The Dovey in its lower reaches meanders from one side of the broad valley to the other. Though most of the houses in this straggling settlement lie at the bottom of the hillside, several hundred metres from the river, a major part of the industrial complex that brought it into being lies further west where the river runs close to the upland edge.

History

2.1 The name means 'green oak', and was supposedly derived from an old tree standing on the river bank close to the entrance to the port. Ellis was unable to provide early references: it seems that the name was applied first in the industrial era.

2.2 Derwenlas emerged as the port for Machynlleth, certainly in the early 19th century if not before. Ships were built here from at least 1816, and the railway was extended past it in 1863/4. Lime kilns and a smithy are attested on the south bank of the river.

Buildings

3.1 There are no listed buildings, but Bryn-odyn (PAR 21080) carries a re-set datestone of 1685.

Archaeology

4.1 No pre-industrial archaeology has been recognised in the vicinity of the settlement.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of the relatively recent origin of Derwenlas, no recommendations are proposed. However, attention is drawn to the industrial heritage of what was clearly a significant element in the regional economy and it would be worth considering whether satisfactory records have been compiled of the surviving industrial archaeology.

References

- Colyer 1984, 133
- County SMR
- Ellis 1935, 108
- Evans 1949
- Haslam 1979, 98
- Tithe survey, Machynlleth 1844



Location and Topography

1.1 Dolanog lies beside the B4382 in central Montgomeryshire, 10km south-west of Llanfyllin.

1.2 Sited just above the valley floor of Afon Vyrnwy and overlooked by the heights of Allt Dolanog to the north, the settlement is spread out around the junction of several tracks and roads that converge on Pont Dolanog.

History

2.1 The name is recorded for the first time in 1633. One translation would be 'woolly meadow'! Alternatively, it could mean a meadow used as a gathering or meeting place.

2.2 The history of Dolanog seems to be set firmly in the post-medieval era. At the time of the Tithe survey, there was a scatter of houses but no church. Indeed, the mill, Felin Dolanog, may have been instrumental in the initiation of settlement beside Afon Efyrynwy. Less than one kilometre higher up the river, Plas Dolanog was a home to the Williams-Wynn family from at least 1664.

Buildings

3.1 St John's Church (PAR 7643) was erected in 1853.

3.2 There are no listed buildings in the village, but both the Vicarage (PAR 7644) and the Post Office (PAR 7645) were included in the now obsolete Grade III category. Neither was standing in 1847.

Archaeology

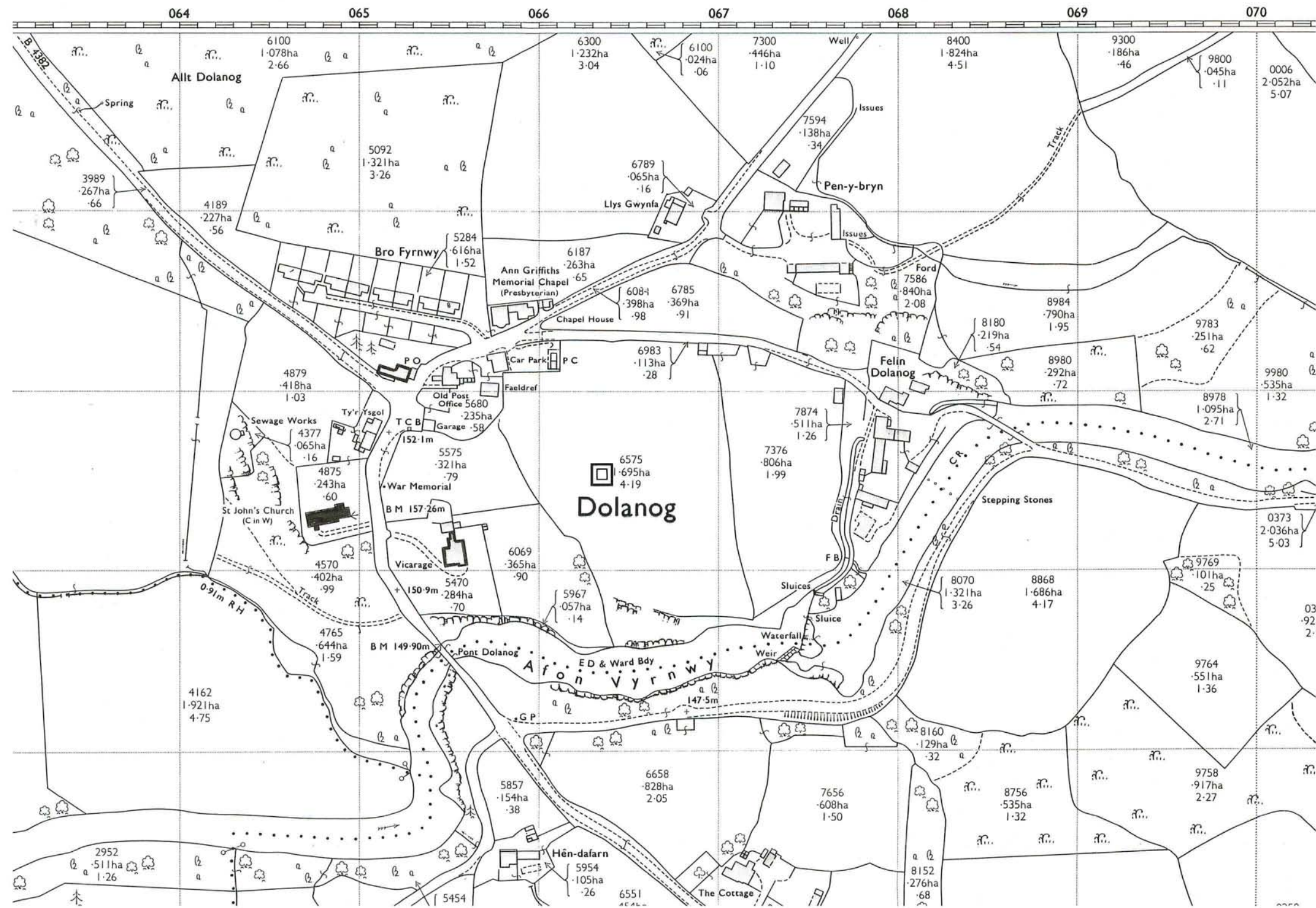
4.1 Traces of ridge and furrow cultivation (PAR 7610) are recognisable in at least one field east of the Vicarage.

Recommendations

5.1 No recommendations are made for this settlement.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 112
Haslam 1979, 99
Tithe survey, Llanfihangel, 1847



Location and Topography

1.1 Dolfor lies on the A483(T), 5km south of Newtown.

1.2 The group of houses occupies the northern side of a shallow valley which drops down south-westwards to meet the Mochdre Brook.

History

2.1 There is no record of when the name was first committed to paper. It is assumed to mean 'big meadow'. The settlement lay in the ecclesiastical parish of Kerry and remains in the modern community of the same name.

2.2 Prior to the mid-19th century, only three or four buildings were scattered along what is still termed the Upper Dolfor Road from Newtown. These included the Dolfor Ale House, now Dolfor Inn.

2.3 The construction of Telford's road - the Dolfor Road - looping round to the west and its meeting with the Upper Dolfor Road may have encouraged development, including the construction of church and school.

Buildings

3.1 St Paul's Church (PAR 7646) dates to 1851, having been constructed in Shop Meadow.

Archaeology

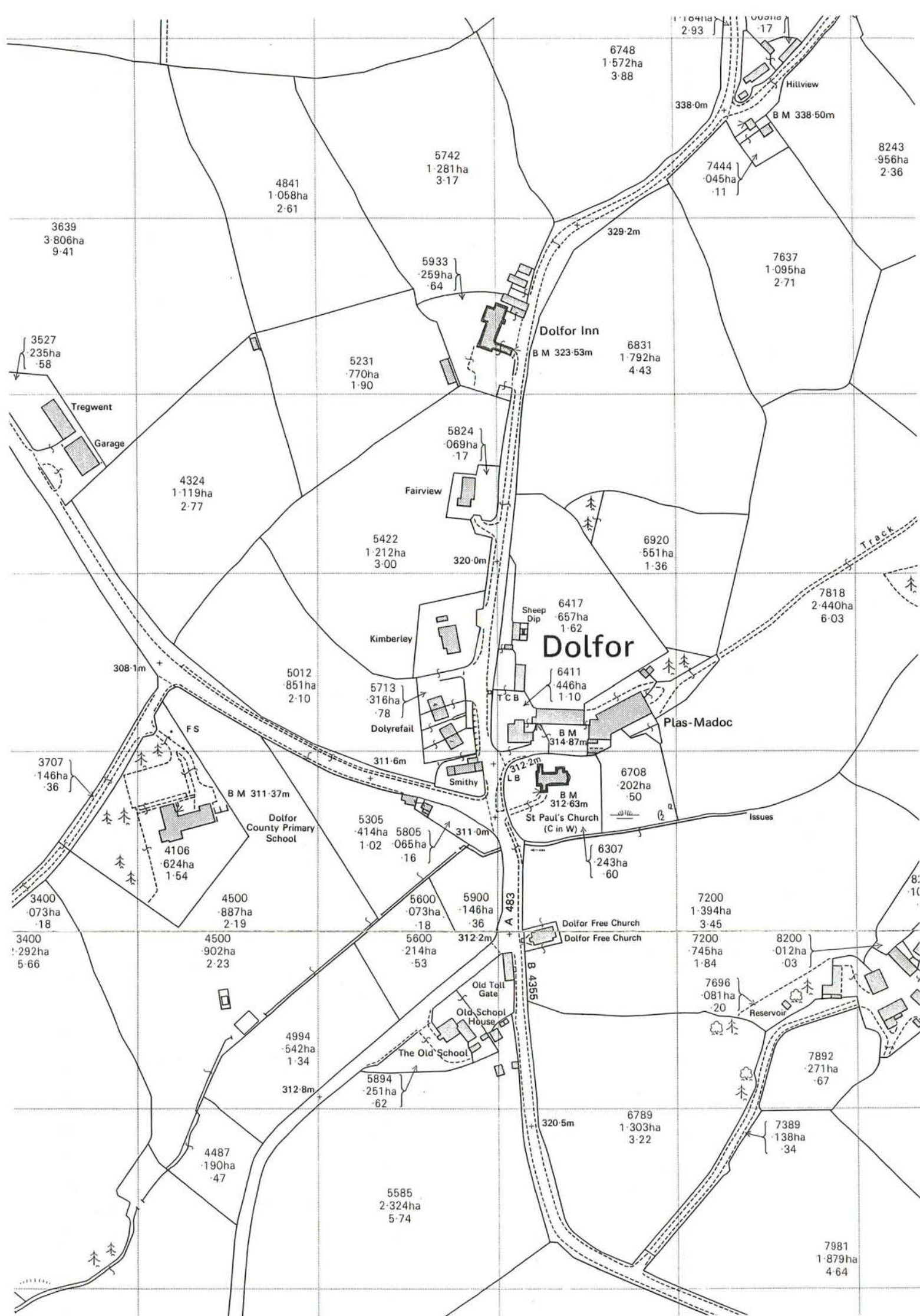
4.1 Nothing of archaeological interest has been recorded here.

Recommendations

5.1 There is no evidence that Dolfor has an historic background and consequently no recommendations are made.

References

Davies n.d, 15
Haslam 1979, 100
Tithe Survey, Kerry, 1842



ESGAIRGEILIOG SH 7505

Note: this settlement has not been investigated during the current fieldwork programme.

Location and Topography

1.1 Also referred to as Ceinws, this settlement lies in the extreme north-west of Montgomeryshire on the A487(T) between Machynlleth and Dolgellau.

1.2 The houses in Esgairgeiliog sit close to Afon Dulas in the bottom and on the lower slopes of a particularly steep-sided valley where a smaller river, Aber Glesyrch, cuts through from the north-east. The Dulas here represents the county boundary with Gwynedd.

History

2.1 The earliest place-name reference is to Eskergeylioc in 1542. This is partly topographical in form meaning 'mountain in the commote of Cyfeiliog'.

2.2 By the second quarter of the 19th century, a few dwellings had emerged by the river bend. Esgairgeiliog was the name of a farm, now lost, north of Heulfryn, while Ceinws is derived from the small farm of Ceinwsbach higher up the valley of Aber Glesyrch.

Buildings

3.1 No buildings of interest have been recorded here.

Archaeology

4.1 No archaeology has been recorded here.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of its perceived recent origin, no recommendations are made.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 116
Tithe survey, Llanwrin 1839



Location and Topography

1.1 Foel is situated on the A458(T) in western Montgomeryshire, some 12km north-west of Llanfair Caereinion.

1.2 Occupying the eastern side of Cwm Twrch just above the river's confluence with the Banwy, Foel is a ribbon development on the main highway and to a lesser extent beside a minor road than drops down from the hills to the north.

History

2.1 The earliest reference dating from the early 17th century is to Moelveliarth, the first element meaning 'hill', the second less convincingly translated as 'honeyed ridge'.

2.2 Foel does not have a determinable historical background.

Buildings

3.1 There are no buildings of architectural or historic significance here.

Archaeology

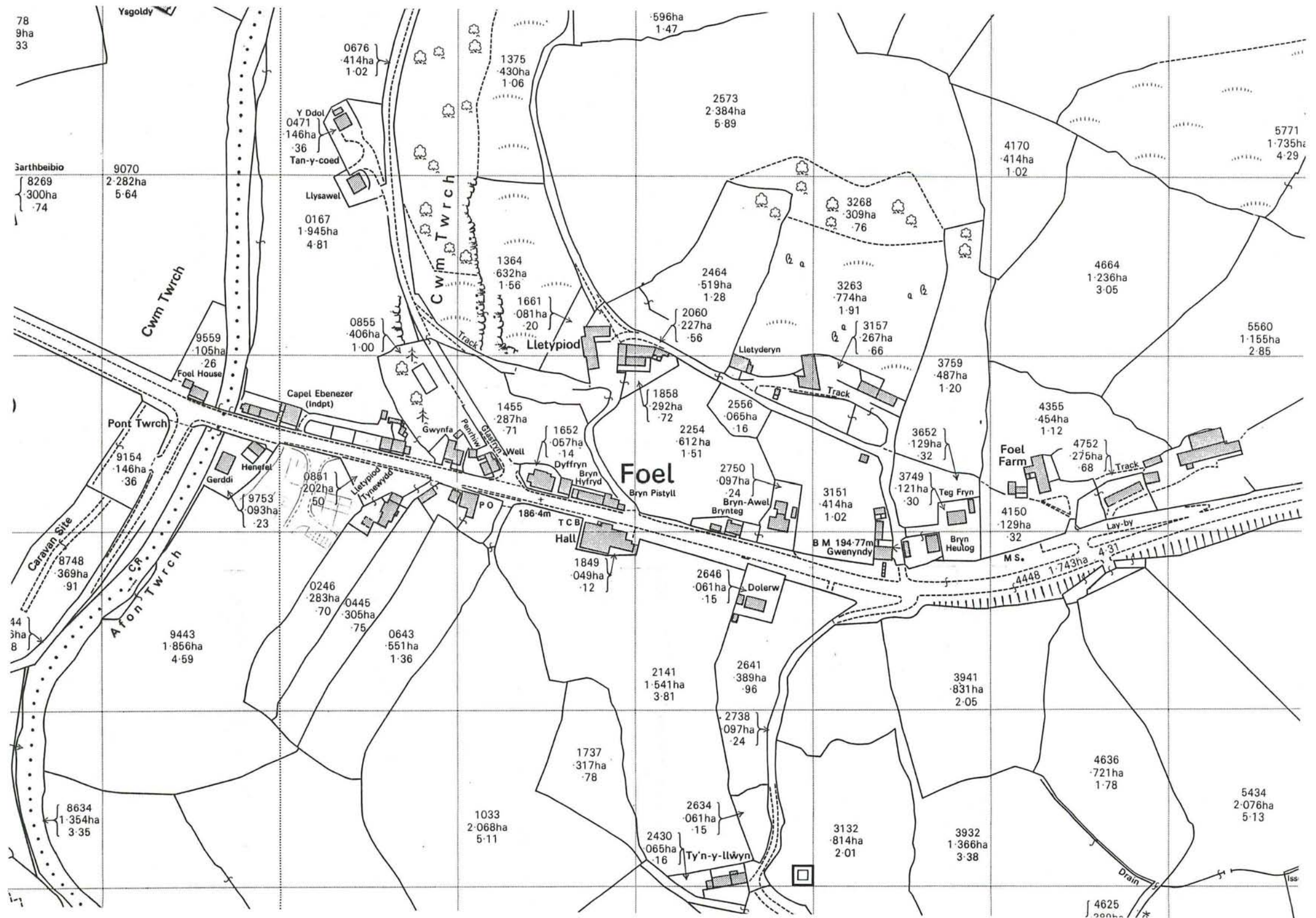
4.1 Early reports of an earthwork (PAR 1215) at Ty'n-y-llwyn that might be part of an Iron Age or later defended settlement have not been confirmed by more recent commentators.

Recommendations

5.1 The absence of a credible history for Foel obviates the need for recommendations.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 117
Tithe survey, Llangadfan, 1841



Location and Topography

1.1 Forden lies just off the B4388 from Welshpool to Montgomery, some 7km south of the latter.

1.2 The church and surrounding dwellings lodge on a flattish spur between twin branches of a stream which run down westwards to the Camlad, itself a tributary of the Severn less than 2km away. The church is perched on the lip of the more northerly stream.

1.3 Buildings around the church are sparse, although there is some infilling beside the road below the church. A more concentrated housing development, St Michael's Crescent, has been placed on the next spur to the north.

History

2.1 The name, distinguishing an estate in existence since at least late Saxon times, appears as Fortune in Domesday Book (1086). This Old English term can be translated as 'ford-place'.

2.2 Much of the subsequent history is centred on Forden's role as the demesne of a lord, the caput being Nantcribba, one kilometre away on the further side of the Welshpool to Montgomery road.

2.3 At the time of the Tithe survey, Forden consisted of the church accompanied by only Church House and the farm of Quabbs.

Buildings

3.1 The church of St Michael (PAR 7586) was rebuilt in its entirety in 1867.

3.2 There are no listed buildings in the vicinity of the church.

Archaeology

4.1 The Forden area set in the gentle hills to the east of the Severn has yielded a number of Iron Age and Romano-British farmstead enclosures through aerial photography. Some have come from around Hem a little further south (eg PAR 2489, PAR 2500), and there is one near Nantcribba (PAR 3597). It is probably only a matter of time before one is discovered near Forden itself.

4.2 Neither the church dedication nor the shape of the churchyard signal an early medieval foundation. The churchyard area has, however, been enlarged in the last century, though the original line can still be determined (PAR 7588).

4.3 Offa's Dyke (PAR 10000; SAM Montgomery 36) passes 600m east of the church.

4.4 Nantcribba Gaer (PAR 139; SAM Montgomery 148), although some distance from the church, is of importance to Forden. An igneous rock outcrop supports an earlier motte with a later stone castle of the 1260s perched upon it. Around the base of the outcrop is a ditch enclosing nearly 2ha. The hypothesis that this may be a Late Saxon fortification has yet to be tested. Beyond it is a moated enclosure of medieval date (PAR 140; SAM Montgomery 102)

4.5 An alternative site for the Domesday manorial centre is the motte at Lower Munlyn (PAR 138; SAM Montgomery 130) on the bank of the Severn, some 1.6km west of the church.

4.6 Opposite the church on the south side of the road, a low curving earthwork (PAR 7589) is visible under pasture. Its significance is not known.

Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard (as shown on the accompanying map), the area around Nantcribba Gaer and the moat beyond it, and the earthwork opposite the church.

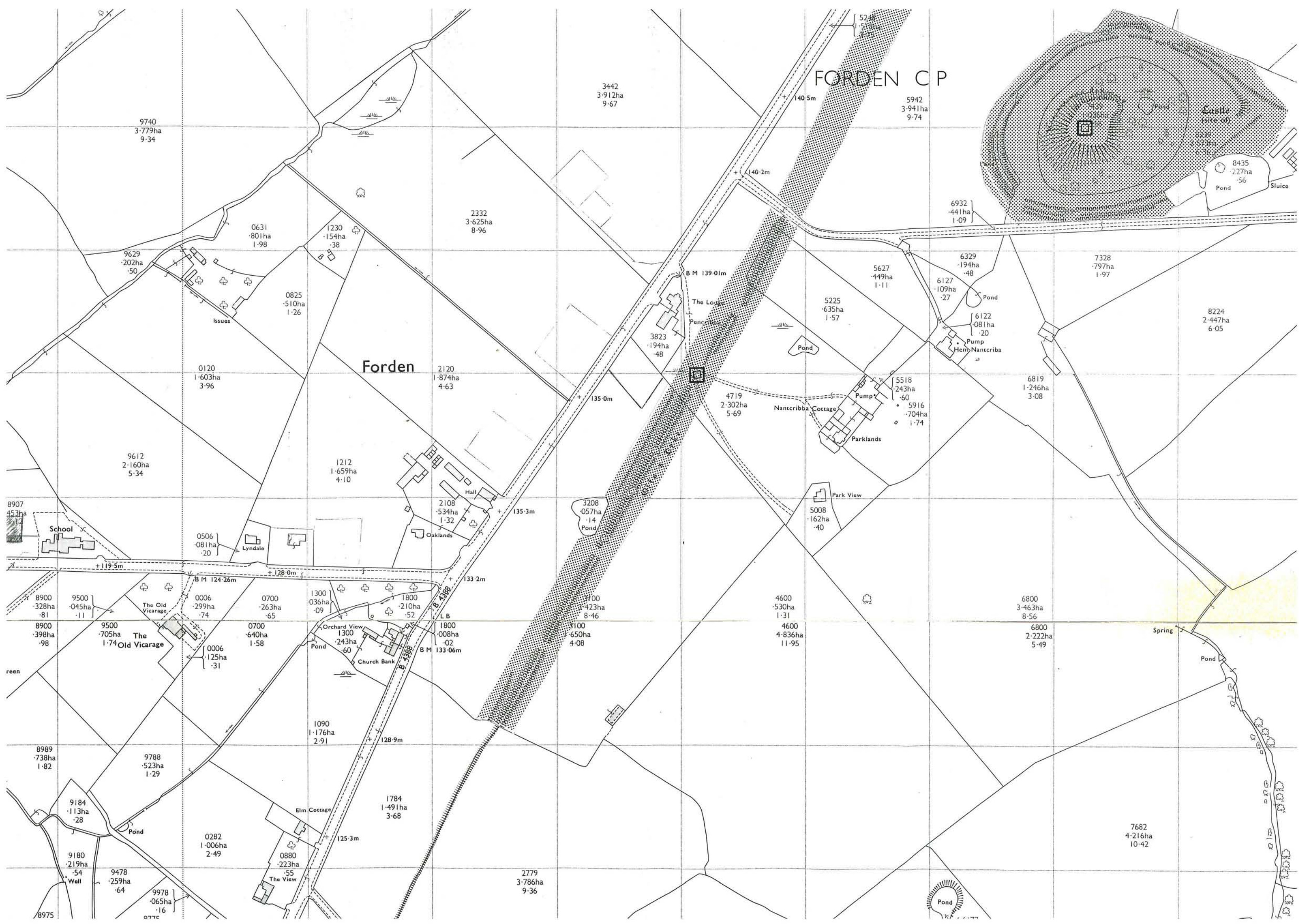
5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The density of monuments in this area highlights its importance in comprehending the development of manorial power against the background of physically surviving centres. Drawing on specialist expertise, a full assessment of the Forden area is recommended with a view to defining avenues of further research.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 119
Haslam 1979, 102
Lewis 1833
Musson and Spurgeon 1988, 104
Rees 1933
Spurgeon 1966, 32, 35
Tithe survey, 1843





FORGE SN 7699

Note: this settlement has not been investigated during the current fieldwork programme.

Location and Topography

1.1 Forge lies 2km south-east of Machynlleth on a minor road in western Montgomeryshire.

1.2 Afon Dulas forces its way through a narrow valley before the ground levels out on the approach to the Dovey. Forge lies at the entrance to the valley, the houses in the settlement lying, almost without exception, beside the Dulas, and the road crossing from one bank to another by means of Pont Faen.

History

2.1 Pontfaen was the original Welsh name for the village. The English term is self-explanatory. No early references have been discovered.

2.2 At the time of the tithe survey Forge consisted of a few well-spaced buildings strung out, not unlike today.

Buildings

3.1 No buildings of interest have been recorded.

Archaeology

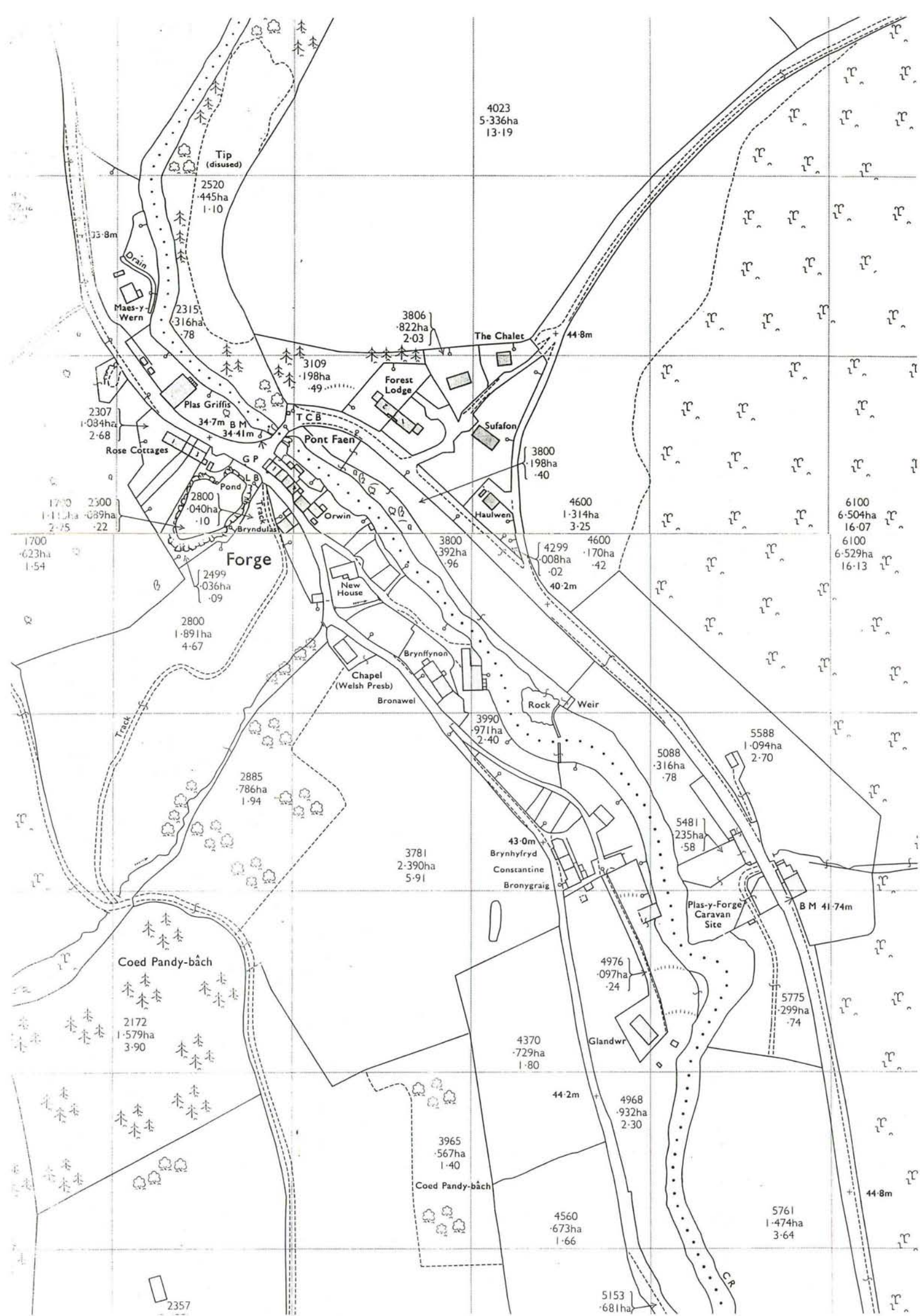
4.1 As far as we aware no archaeological survey has been conducted here and its industrial archaeology is unresearched.

Recommendations

5.1 No recommendations are proposed for Forge.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 120
Tithe survey, Machynlleth, 1844



Location and Topography

1.1 Four Crosses exists where the B4393 crosses the A483(T), the main road linking Welshpool, 15km to the south, with Oswestry.

1.2 This low-lying gravel terrace, covered by brown-earth deposits on the wide flood plain where Afon Efyrrwy converges on the Severn, has been exploited for millennia. Both housing and industry are accommodated here.

History

2.1 At the time of the tithe survey in 1842, Four Crosses consisted of a few houses at the road junction near Domgay Chapel and others beside The Street towards Llandysilio. Ellis, however, was unable to find any early references and the place-name itself signals a relatively modern origin for the settlement.

Buildings

3.1 There is a single Grade II listed building - the Golden Lion Public House (PAR 7710) - which is of late 18th or early 19th-century build.

Archaeology

4.1 Aerial photography over many years has demonstrated the presence of extensive archaeological remains showing primarily as cropmarks, but largely undetectable as surface features. Part of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery has been excavated (PAR 3596; 3604 etc), providing incidental evidence of Mesolithic (PAR 6424), Iron Age and Roman activity (PAR 6419). Though there are no irrefutable signs of enclosed farmsteads of Iron Age and Roman date at Four Crosses itself, such sites have been recorded elsewhere on the Severn flood plain (eg PAR 7065). An iron spearhead and javelin (PAR 50528) found during the excavation of one ring-ditch, together perhaps with some nearby graves, are attributable to the post-Roman centuries. Pit alignments (eg PAR 50521), again visible only from the air, may be as late as the medieval or even post-medieval era on the basis of limited excavation.

4.2 Offa's Dyke (PAR 100000; SAM Montgomery 33) has had a fundamental effect on Four Crosses, the alignment of The Street being dictated by the Dyke's invisible presence. Further south in the village it survives as a substantial earthwork.

4.3 The corrugations of ridge and furrow cultivation (PAR 4628) are prominent in the field due south of the war memorial and also in fields west of Street Farm (PAR 5022).

Recommendations

5.1 There can be no doubt as to the archaeological significance of the fields surrounding Four Crosses and any developments should be assessed on the basis of what has already been recognised and of those places where archaeology is suspected. However, Four Crosses is not an historic settlement and in view of its relatively recent origin, no recommendations are made here.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 120
Tithe survey, Llandysilio 1842
Warrilow et al. 1986



Note: this settlement has not been investigated during the current fieldwork programme.

Location and Topography

1.1 Fron Bank is essentially a modern settlement, set into the steep east face of the Severn Valley which the A490 traverses 4km south of Welshpool.

History

2.1 Ellis does not record any early references to this place, and the name itself is a topographical one meaning the slope or side of a hill.

2.2 In the mid-19th century a series of farms and no more than one or two houses lay off the road.

Buildings

3.1 There are no listed buildings.

Archaeology

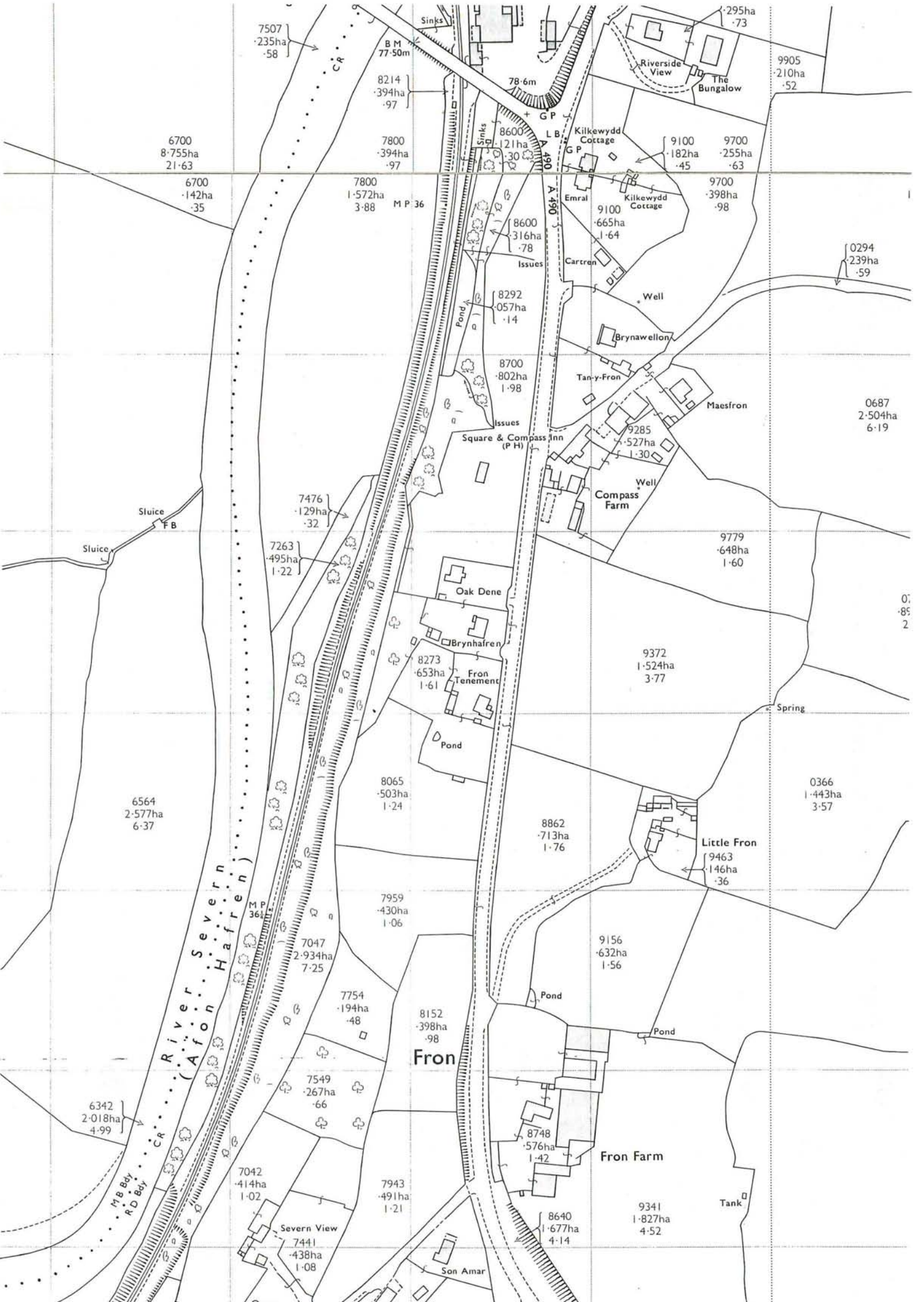
4.1 Nothing of archaeological interest has been recorded here.

Recommendations

5.1 It is not proposed to make any recommendations for Fron Bank.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 120
Tithe survey, Forden, 1843



Location and Topography

1.1 Garthbeibio church lies above the A458(T), 13km north-west of Llanfair Caereinion. It was the religious if not the geographical centre of a large, predominantly upland ecclesiastical parish.

1.2 The church overlooks Afon Banwy at its confluence with Afon Twrch and occupies a rocky spur projecting slightly from the northern side of the valley. A network of tracks and footpaths focus on this spot. Behind the church, the rising ground of Y Fron was common land in the 19th century and though reduced in area remains so today.

History

2.1 The name, first recorded in c.1253 as Garthbey boau, is derived from 'garth' meaning a hill, promontory or ridge and 'Peibio', a personal name.

2.2 Its past history is obscure, but it seems likely that the church has always been the focus for dispersed farmsteads in this hilly part of western Montgomeryshire.

Buildings

3.1 The church, dedicated to St Tydecho, was restored in 1862 but some of the remaining fabric is certainly medieval (PAR 7579).

3.2 Maes-Garthbeibio in the valley below originally had a Grade III listing (PAR 7712).

Archaeology

4.1 There is evidence of prehistoric activity in the valley below: an excavated barrow (PAR 1206) and a now destroyed standing stone (PAR 1679).

4.2 A scarp bank within the present churchyard suggests that the original enclosure may have been rather more curvilinear (PAR 7580).

4.3 Ty'n-y-llan is the only occupied dwelling in the vicinity of the church, other than those at lower altitude in the valley bottom. Several others (eg PAR 7581) can be recognised on 19th-century maps though none is necessarily earlier than the post-medieval era. However, there is no evidence of a nucleated settlement here.

4.4 Two holy wells, one known as St Tydecho's Well (PAR 1217), the other as Fynnon Ddu (PAR 1218) were located within a few hundred metres of the church. A third, Fynnon Rhigos (PAR 3883) seems to have existed near Maes-Garthbeibio.

Recommendations

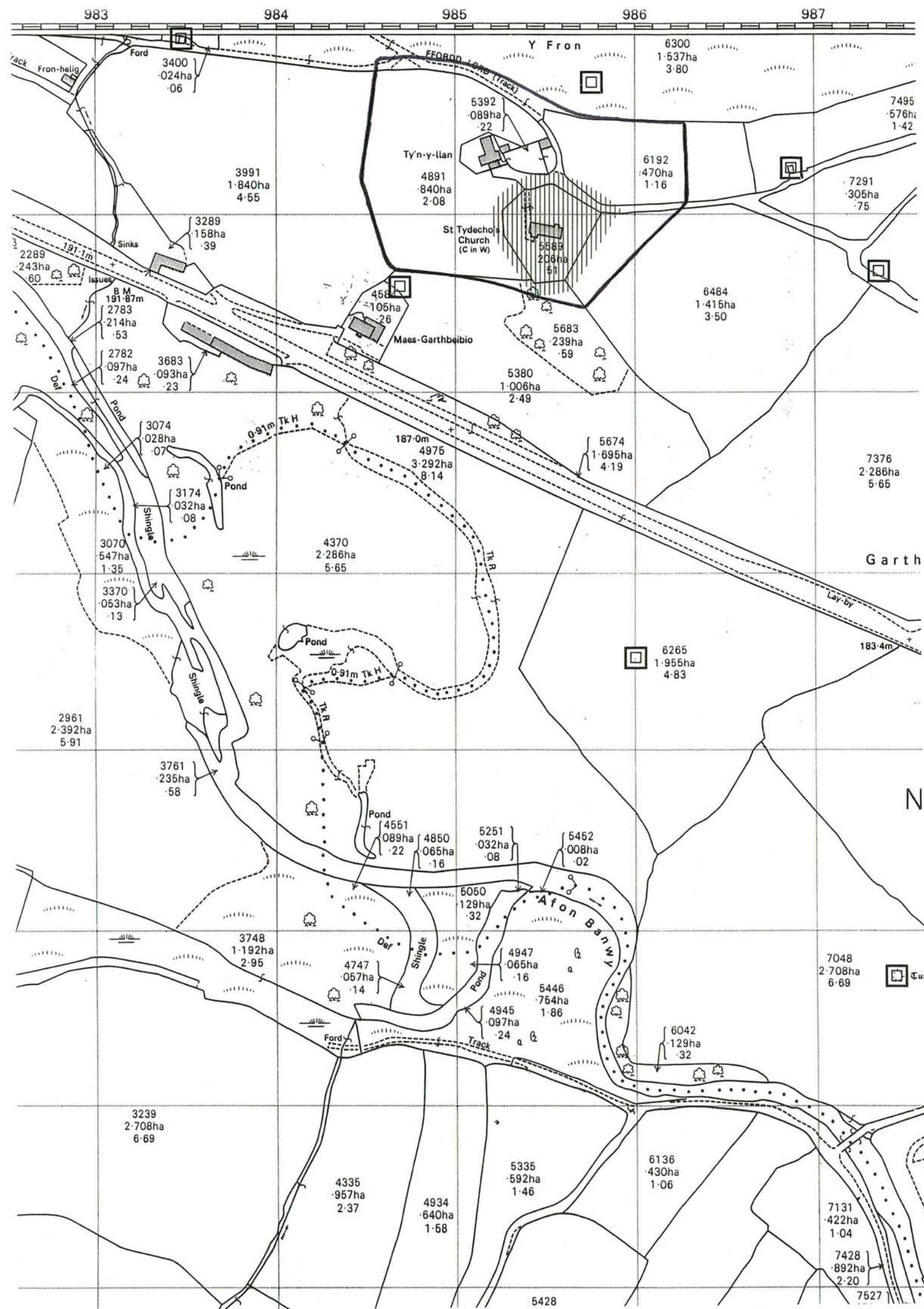
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The remains of the earlier churchyard should be recorded at an appropriate level.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 121
Haslam 1979, 102
Jones 1954, 199, 200
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey 1841



Location and Topography

1.1 Garthmyl sprawls along the A483(T) between Welshpool and Newtown, about 9km south of the former.

1.2 It sits on level ground where the upland edge dips to the flood plain of the Severn.

History

2.1 Ellis has no entry for this settlement.

2.2 For about twenty years from 1797 Garthmyl was the terminus of the Montgomeryshire Canal. It went into decline as a canal port after the canal was extended to Newtown.

Buildings

3.1 Garthmyl House has 17th-century origins with subsequent remodelling, while Garthmyl Hall is late 18th century. The Nag's Head Hotel (PAR 20544) is late 18th century. All are Grade II listed.

Archaeology

4.1 Fishponds and a connecting leat system (PAR 4590) have been recorded in the vicinity of Garthmyl House. In the same general area traces of earthworks were noted during the current survey.

4.2 Like other canal-side settlements (such as Pool Quay) Garthmyl has features of considerable interest dating from the Industrial Age, including surviving limekilns (PAR 20553) and a warehouse.

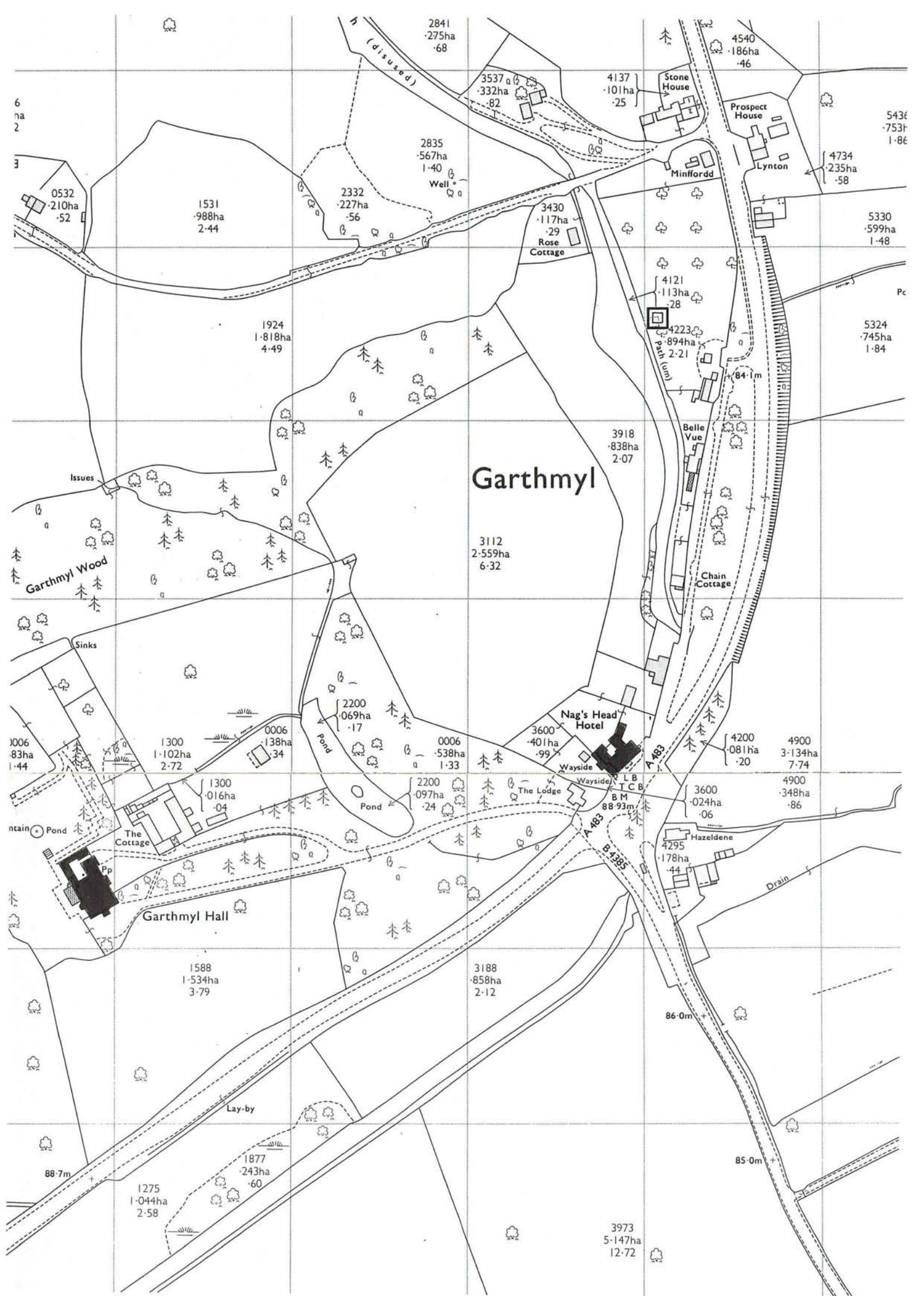
Recommendations

5.1 There is no substantive evidence that as a settlement Garthmyl goes back further in time than the industrial era, and consequently no recommendations relating to it are made in this report.

5.2 However, the area surrounding Garthmyl House appears to have potential interest in terms of its grounds and would merit further examination and if necessary an appropriate level of survey.

References

County SMR
Hughes 1983, 112
Tithe survey, Berriew 1840



Note: this settlement has not been investigated during the current fieldwork programme.

Location and Topography

1.1 Glantwymyn, otherwise known as Cemmaes Road, lies at the junction of two trunk roads, the A470 and the A489. It is approximately 8km north-east of Machynlleth.

1.2 The settlement has developed on the south-east side of the Dovey valley, between Afon Twymyn to the east and a small stream on the west.

History

2.1 This is very much a modern development and its alternative name of Cemmaes Road signals its emergence during the railway era. Only Gwastad-goed existed here in 1846.

Buildings

3.1 There are no buildings of interest.

Archaeology

4.1 Nothing of archaeological significance has been recorded in the immediate area.

Recommendations

5.1 No recommendations are proposed for Glantwymyn.

References

County SMR
Tithe survey, Darowen 1846

Location and Topography

1.1 Groes-lwyd lies less than 1km west of Guilsfield where the B4392 from Guilsfield towards Llanfair Caereinion crosses the A490 from Welshpool to Llanfyllin.

1.2 The group of houses accorded the name Groes-lwyd are on the south side of Guilsfield Brook which here gives form to a boundary, previously between townships now between communities. The houses occupy the valley bottom straggling along the B class road and a converging lane.

History

2.1 The translation favoured by Ellis is 'the holy, blessed cross' and the place is first recorded in 1545 as the 'The Holy Cross in Strata Marcella'.

2.2 It can be assumed that Groes-lwyd's development occurred during the post-medieval era, the crossroads location probably providing an impetus after the establishment of the turnpike road from Welshpool.

Buildings

3.1 There is no church here and only a solitary listed (Grade II) building. Groes Holding (PAR 7738) is a cruck-frame structure attributed to the 17th century or even earlier.

Archaeology

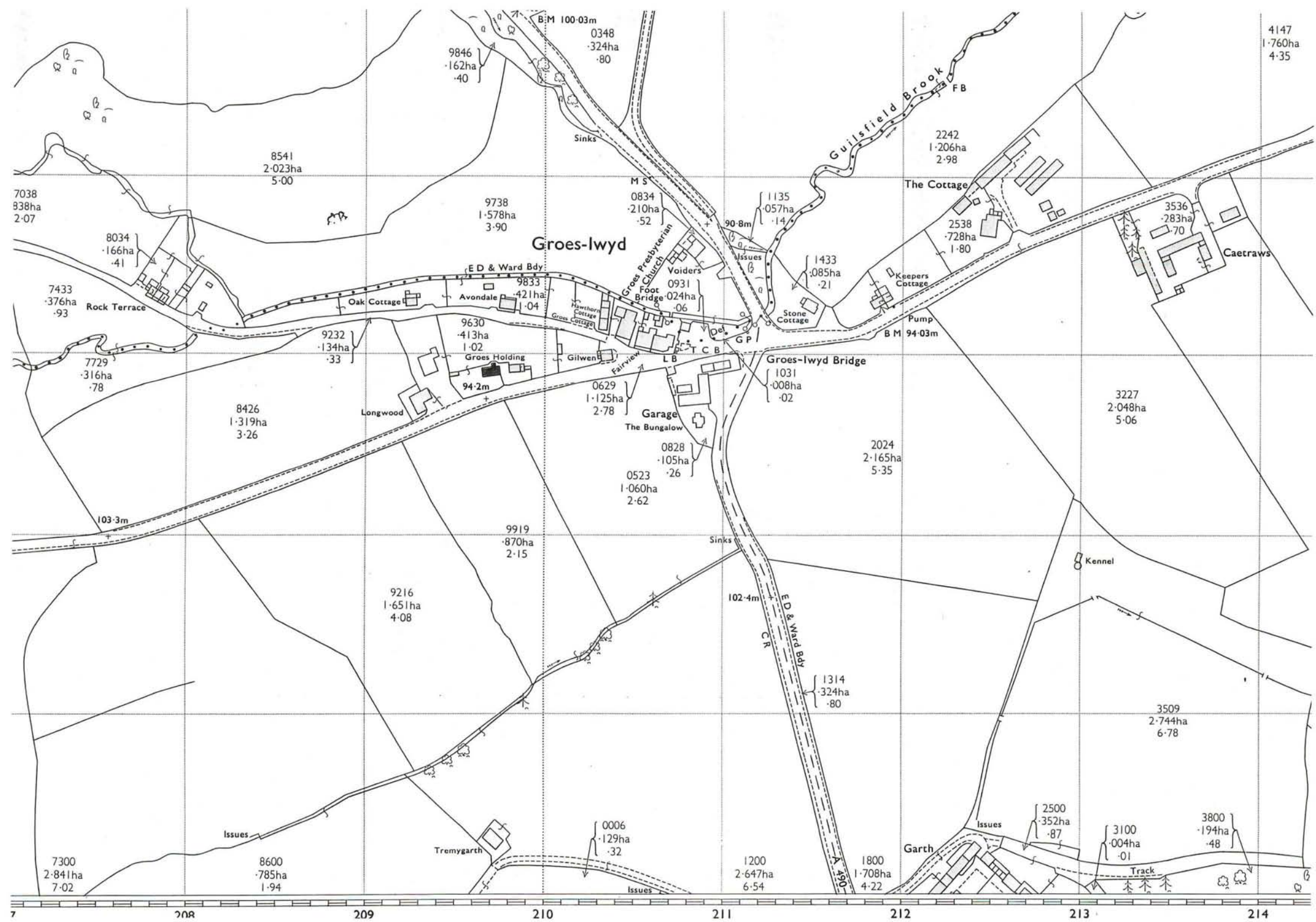
4.1 Nothing of archaeological or historic landscape significance has been recognised here.

Recommendations

5.1 No recommendations are made for this hamlet in view of the apparent lack of history attached to it.

References

Ellis 1935, 125
Tithe survey, Guilsfield 1843



Location and Topography

1.1 Guilsfield lies on the B4392 in eastern Montgomeryshire. It is 4km due north of Welshpool.

1.2 The village occupies flat ground on the south side of the Guilsfield Brook, a stream which meanders its way along an increasingly broad plain towards the Severn. The church was founded higher up where it begins to narrow and where the stream has created a visible cutting.

1.3 Guilsfield has expanded enormously since the Second World War, with new housing developments spreading out on three sides from the historic centre.

History

2.1 The alternative name for Guilsfield is Cegidfa. This appears as Kegidva in c.1253 and incorporates the elements 'cegid' meaning 'common hemlock' and 'fa', a place.

2.2 The dedication of the church and the shape of the churchyard indicate an early medieval foundation. St Aelhaearn was a follower of St Bueno, a Powysian saint said to have been born in Berriew.

2.3 Its development through the medieval era is obscure. In the 18th century the road through the village received the attention of a turnpike trust and by the middle of the following century, houses clustered around the church and on the north and south sides of the block of land to the west of the churchyard.

Buildings

3.1 The church of St Aelhaiarn (PAR 5769) has a complicated history: a west tower of c.1300, a nave, a porch and south aisle of c.1400, a north aisle a little later and further additions into the 16th century. Haslam further states that it has one of the richest medieval church interiors in the county.

3.2 For its size, Guilsfield has one of the largest number of listed buildings in Montgomeryshire. In the region of eleven are Grade II dwellings dated from the 17th to the 19th centuries. In addition, White Ash (PAR 30798) has been dated to 1521 though remodelled in the 18th century, The Square (PAR 30790) is considered to be 16th or early 17th century and Belan Cottage (PAR 30769) is said to have been dated to 1542. These are also Grade II listings.

Archaeology

4.1 The churchyard (PAR 7675) is essentially rectangular with rounded corners, raised above the surrounding street level. It does not appear to have been modified during its long history.

4.2 The pattern of settlement as depicted on the Tithe map and on the earlier but less precise enclosure map suggests that originally two tracks left the lane girdling the churchyard. One was the predecessor of the present B4392 and it is possible that in the vicinity of The Square and the now levelled Garden Cottage the lane broadened out into an open triangular area. The other track curved round to cross the Guilsfield Brook by a ford which is still

functioning and up to Cae-felin Wood, a modern footpath continuing into the hills to the north where originally the track led to Trawscoed-hen.

4.3 A D-shaped moated enclosure (PAR 94), its ditch partly infilled, lies to the south of the village.

4.4 Traces of ridge and furrow cultivation (PAR 7676), between the moat and the village, are visible on aerial photography but have not been checked on the ground.

Recommendations

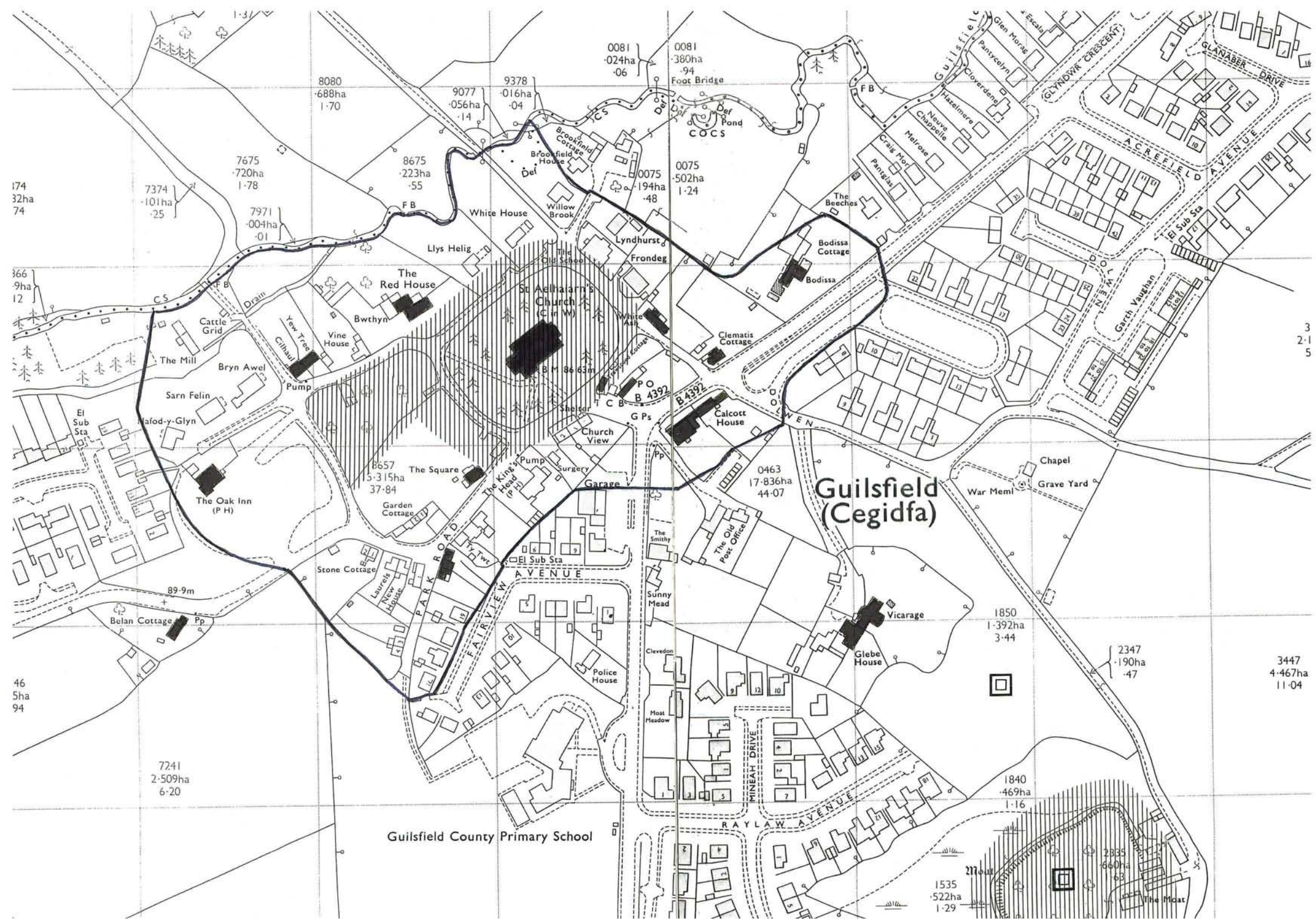
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it, and also the moated site (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The moat was not examined during fieldwork, but given that the number of such earthworks in Montgomeryshire is small, it is recommended that Cadw give further consideration to scheduling the remains.

References

Bowen 1956, 84
County SMR
Ellis 1935, 87
Enclosure Award Map 1787-1800
Haslam 1979, 105
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey 1845



Location and Topography

1.1 The few houses grouped around the church lie on the B4396 from Penybontfawr to Abertridwr in the north-west of the county. Hirnant is approximately 10km north-west of Llanfyllin.

1.2 The valley of the Hirnant, a tributary of Afon Tanat, provides shelter for this settlement which, with its southerly aspect, is set back against the base of the steep northern valley slope. The stream passes little more than 60m from the churchyard.

History

2.1 Hirnant first appears as a place-name in c.1253 in the form Hyrnant, which translated means 'long stream'.

2.2 The church's British dedication and the shape of the churchyard (see below, 4.1) point to an early medieval genesis but the exact date at which this occurred and the subsequent history of the place are unknown.

2.3 The present distribution of houses mirrors the layout of a century and a half ago, and there is nothing to suggest that in previous centuries the population of the settlement was any higher.

Buildings

3.1 St Illog's church (PAR 7632) consists of a single chamber with a bellcote at the west end. Largely rebuilt between 1886 and 1892, it retained its late medieval north wall. A 13th-century font survives from an earlier building and woodwork from the old church at Llanwddyn, now beneath Lake Vyrnwy, has been reused here.

3.2 There are no listed buildings in the vicinity. The rectory (PAR 7633) was rebuilt in 1749, re-using 16th-century beams from the earlier structure. The adjacent farm of Ty Mawr (PAR 8364) has disappeared.

Archaeology

4.1 The sub-circular churchyard (PAR 7631) was modified, perhaps when the rectory was re-built. The impossibility of developing a garden behind the house led to a new wall across the churchyard, the north-western section being adapted for domestic use. The original course on the north-east may also have been modified with faint earthworks outside the present wall defining a more circular perimeter.

4.2 The configuration of roads and fields reveals a degree of landscape reorganisation over the last two or three centuries. The B4396, south of the Hall (300m SW of the church), is a relatively recent construction, while a track running past the church on a north-west/south east axis may once have been of local importance. A quillet, surviving opposite Ty'n-y-llan at the time of the Tithe survey, reflects a different alignment from the present boundaries, but one that is paralleled by a field bank opposite the now demolished Capel Hebron.

Recommendations

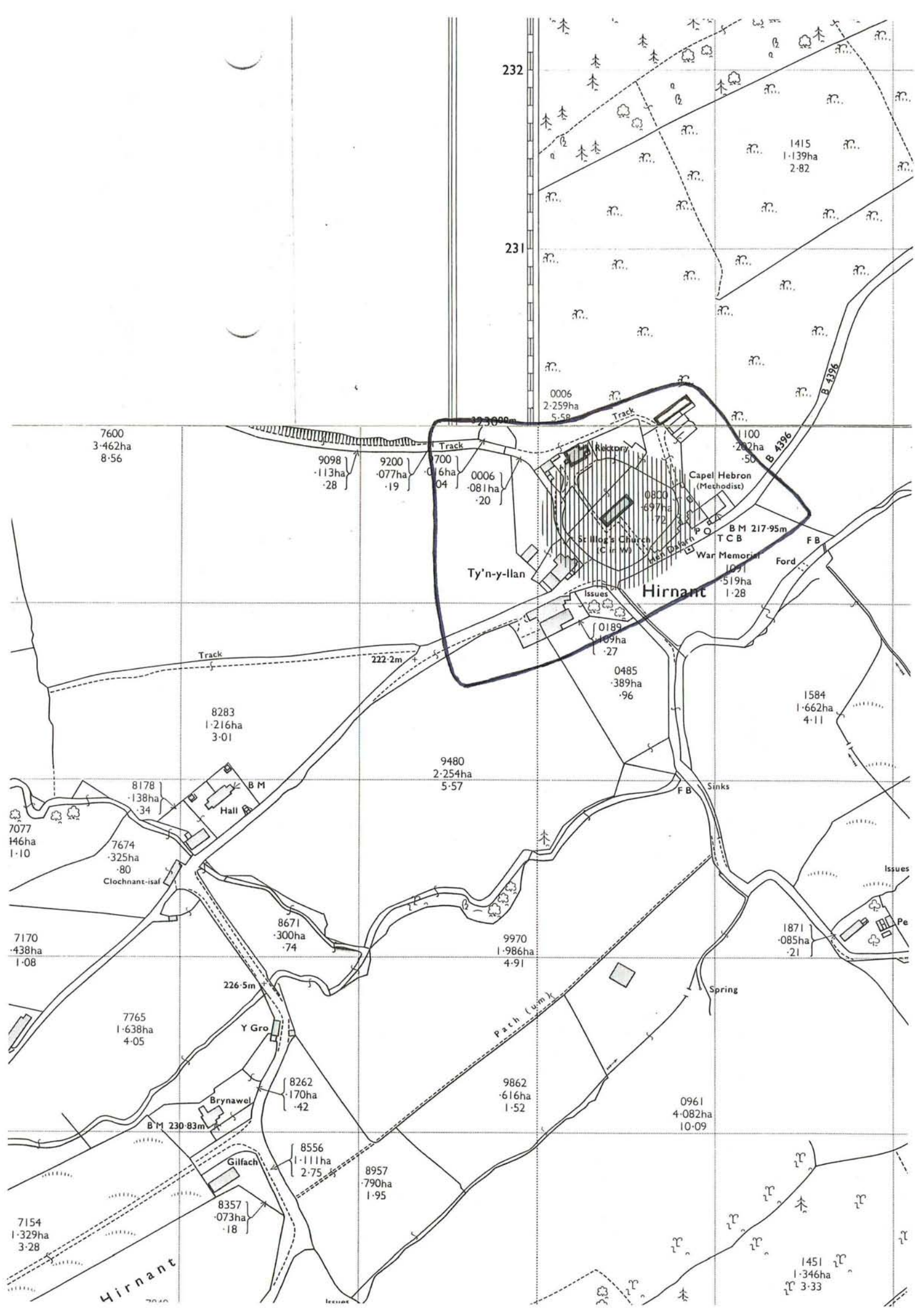
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it, and also the moated site (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The remains of the circular churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 127
Haslam 1979, 112
Tithe survey 1840



Location and Topography

1.1 Hyssington occupies a quiet spot of eastern Montgomeryshire below Corndon Hill, about 10km south-east of Montgomery.

1.2 Village and church are detached. The latter is placed on a low-lying spur running off Castle Hill which is crowned by a motte and bailey. Four hundred metres to the south the village has sprung up around the intersection of the lane running from north to south and a trackway which now links only farms. Beyond, the ground drops away further to the distant valley of the Camlad.

1.3 Several new houses have been constructed recently beside the lane running back past the church, but Hyssington otherwise remains largely unspoilt.

History

2.1 The earliest place-name is to Husinton in 1227. The name can be broadly interpreted as 'the place of Husa's people'.

2.2 The history of the village remains obscure, and the Tithe survey for the village area is not available. However, the archaeological evidence might indicate that the church was founded next to the castle earthwork which functioned as a manorial centre, and that the village as seen today has developed at a more convenient nodal point.

Buildings

3.1 St Etheldreda's Church (PAR 7540) was rebuilt in 1875, but contains an early 17th-century pulpit. There is no substantive evidence for a circular churchyard.

Archaeology

4.1 The motte and bailey on Castle Hill (PAR 224; SAM Montgomery 119) is a well-preserved earthwork conforming to the contours of the summit. Rectangular building foundations and platforms visible in the bailey, some perhaps post-dating the earthworks, and there are the remains of what may be a stone tower on the motte. Little information exists as to when the castle was constructed or the duration of its occupation.

4.2 Earthworks (PAR 7539) in the field south-west of the church are difficult to interpret, and on present evidence it is not possible to determine whether they result from an earlier, deserted focus. It should be noted, however, that local tradition has it that the village school lay in what is now rough ground just below the west wall of the churchyard, and that Pinfold was originally a pub called 'The Maypole'.

4.3 Narrow ridge and furrow (PAR 4472) has been noted east of Maypole Bank and east of the castle (PAR 4556) and further traces may be distinguishable in the field between Pinfold and the village. A cockpit has also been recorded here (PAR 225). The track leading from the church past Maypole Bank may be the original thoroughfare.

Recommendations

5.1 Hyssington is significant in that the historic nucleus lies at a distance from the later village. Only more detailed work around the church and castle will demonstrate whether the village has shifted during its history, but this possibility should be taken into account if any future developments proposals affect this area.

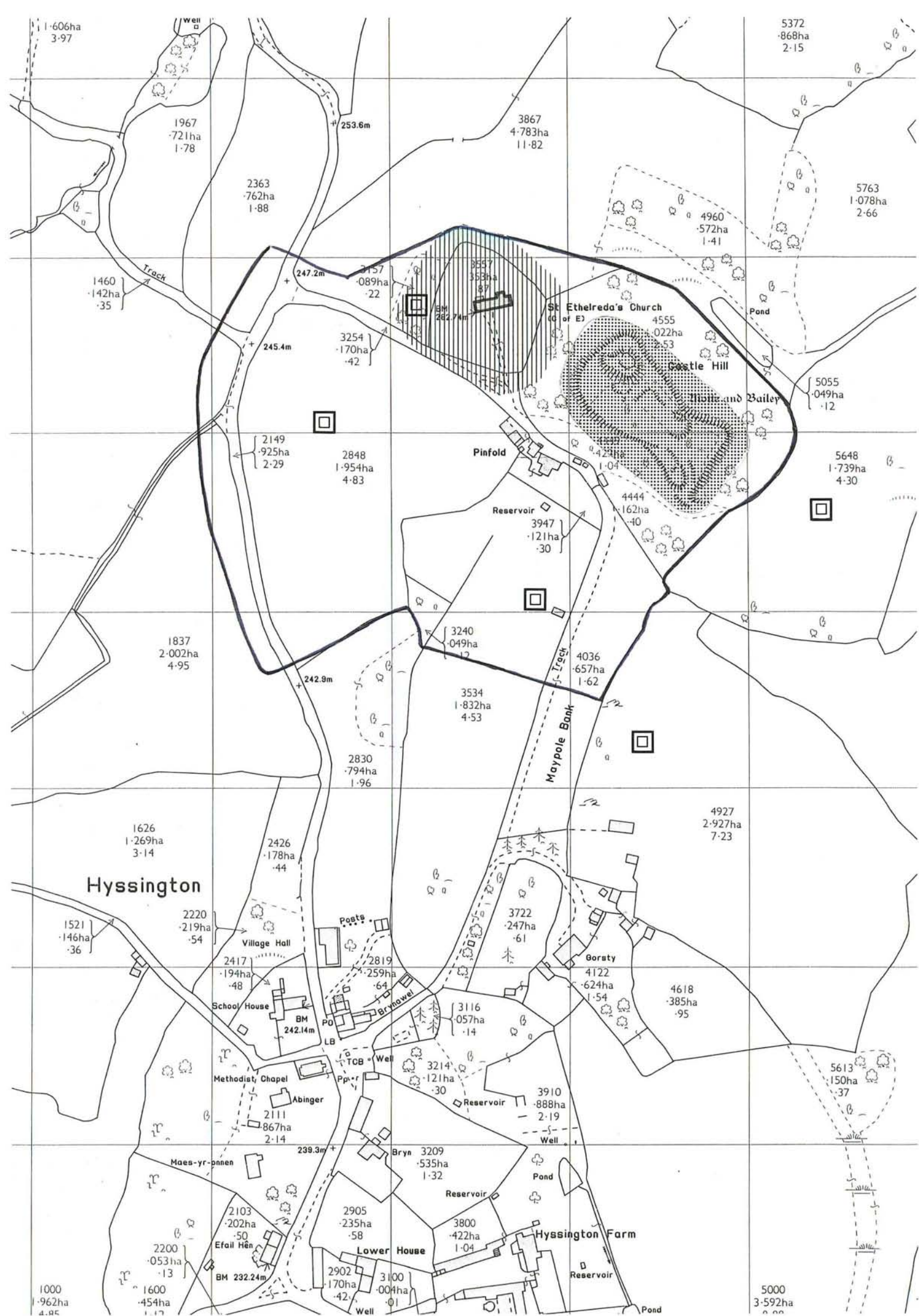
5.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it, and also the moated site (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.3 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.4 A more detailed examination of the earthworks in the vicinity of the church is recommended and if necessary these should be the subject of measured survey.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 129
Haslam 1979,
Lewis 1833
Spurgeon 1966, 37



Location and Topography

1.1 The A489 linking Caersws with Craven Arms in Shropshire passes through Kerry some 5km east of Newtown.

1.2 High above the village, the Kerry Hills sweep down towards the Severn valley, interrupted only by a valley containing the headwaters of the Mule. Kerry occupies a north-facing shelf above the valley, the church sitting on a spur projecting towards the river. Most of the settlement is on level or gently sloping ground, but the motte-and-bailey castle tops an isolated hillock 600m south of the church.

History

2.1 The earliest reference in c.1250 is to Ceri, the name of the local commote, which refers to either mountain ash or medlar [a small tree similar to the apple]. The anglicised version of Kerry appears in 1278. An alternative title, Llanfihangel-yng-Ngheri, is still printed on Ordnance Survey maps. No information on its earliest citation is available, though Rees claimed it was in current use during the 14th century.

2.2 Neither the shape of the churchyard (though see para 4.2) nor the dedication inspire confidence in an early medieval origin for Kerry.

2.3 The medieval development of Kerry is unchronicled though it was at one time the centre of a large cloth industry. The layout of the settlement as depicted on the mid-19th century Tithe map is of a compact village strung along the main road with what is either a small green or market place in front of the church [still distinguishable as a parking area today].

Buildings

3.1 St Michael's church (PAR 7544) has had a complicated history including a rededication by Giraldus Cambrensis in 1176. Its west tower has 14th-century features, but some of the nave is certainly 12th century. The chancel and roofs are 14th century like the tower. A thorough renovation took place in 1881-3.

3.2 The church apart, there are no listed buildings in the village. Two Grade II Regency houses, Dolforgan Hall and The Moat (PAR 7714) both lie on the periphery.

Archaeology

4.1 Two large, rather fine, barrows (PAR 1045 and 1046), said to be called Brynar and Riddle, rise from the flood plain of the Mule, less than 300m from the church.

4.2 The shape of the churchyard (PAR 7545) has altered in recent times. A low scarp is visible inside the present northern perimeter which links with the boundary of The Nook on the north-east and represents the line of the original enclosure. This implies a rather more curvilinear outline, and speculatively it can be argued that the east side has been shaved back to a straight line.

4.3 The generally well-preserved motte and bailey (PAR 996; SAM Montgomery 50) may have been thrown up as the caput of the commote of Ceri by Madog ap Idnerth who died around 1140. It has been partially affected by subsequent activity associated with the former vicarage, but is presently too far from the village for housing development to pose a general threat.

4.4 Minor earthworks of uncertain nature, about 130m west of the church, have recently been destroyed during housing development.

4.5 Distinctive ridge and furrow cultivation is visible on the hill slopes to the south of the village (PAR 7546 and 7547).

Recommendations

5.1 Current development in the village is having a marked effect on the potential archaeological and historical heritage of Kerry. For example, recent earthmoving behind Haulfyrn has created a 3m drop beside the churchyard wall.

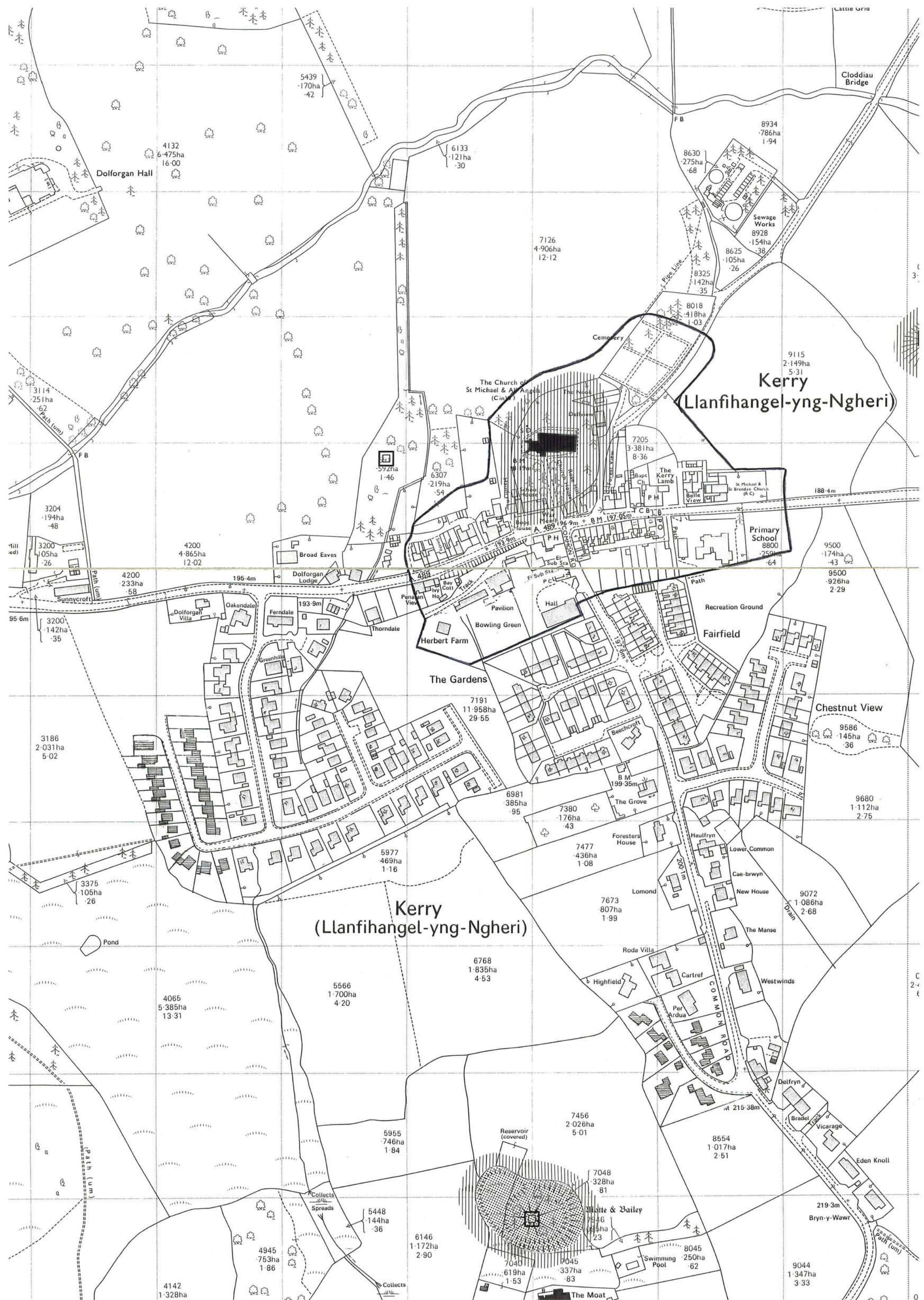
5.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be necessary for any future proposals involving the churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map). The same requirements should be emplaced for any development around the motte-and-bailey earthwork.

5.3 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.4 The line of the earlier churchyard (PAR 7632) should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 95
Haslam 1979, 111
Lewis 1833
Rees 1933
Spurgeon 1966, 28
Sylvester 1969, 461
Tithe survey, 1842



Location and Topography

1.1 Llan lies astride the B4518, 2km south-south-west of Llanbrynmair and about 14km to the east of Machynlleth.

1.2 The church and the older houses surrounding it occupy the summit of a small hill that rises above the valley of Afon Twymyn, a tributary of the Dovey. Modern housing beside the road southwards utilises the most gentle of the hill's slopes.

History

2.1 The origin and subsequent history of the settlement are obscure. The shape of the churchyard (below, 4.1) suggests an early medieval origin.

2.2 Up to the end of the 19th century this settlement was known as Llanbrynmair, a name now transferred to the village around the crossroads 2km to the north. The name of the original settlement was consequently shortened to Llan.

2.3 The name can be loosely translated as 'the church of St Mary (Magdalen) on the hill' and first appears as Ecc. a de Brenmeyr in 1253.

Buildings

3.1 St Mary's church (PAR 7617) is a single-chamber structure of 14th/15th-century type with an added north transept and porch and a wooden bell turret. The only earlier feature is a 13th-century font.

3.2 Opposite the church is a dwelling, formerly perhaps a school, with a date stone of 1856. Almost certainly earlier is Hafod y Llan (PAR 8784) on the north-east of the churchyard. This previously had a Grade III listing.

Archaeology

4.1 The original oval shape of the churchyard (PAR 7618) can still be detected, particularly on the south side where the burial ground has been extended to the road in the last one hundred and fifty years.

4.2 An undated quernstone (PAR 1728) was found in a grave in the churchyard, probably in the 19th century.

Recommendations

5.1 The hill top location of Llan may have restricted settlement development in the past and much of the area surrounding the church is either built over or looks topographically unsuitable for dwellings.

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it, and also the moated site (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.3 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.4 The remains of the earlier sub-circular enclosure (PAR 7618) contained within the present churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 135
Haslam 1979, 119
Tithe survey, Llanbrynmair, 1842



Location and Topography

1.1 Llanbrynmair, on the A470(T) in western Montgomeryshire, is 15km east of Machynlleth.

1.2 The settlement stands on the east bank of Afon Rhiwsaeson, just above its confluence with Afon Twymyn. Dwellings have spread down onto the present valley floor from the terrace above and onto the far side of the Rhiwsaeson as well as towards Pont Byrn-coch which bridges the Twymyn.

History

2.1 The name was until recently applied to the old village, just over 2km to the south-east, which is now simply called Llan (q.v.).

2.2 This stretch of the main road was constructed by a turnpike trust in the later 18th century. The Wynnstay Arms was erected on this route, Lewis stating in 1833 that the inhabitants of Llanbrynmair (now Llan) "obtain their letters from the Wynnstay Arms, a posting house on the road to Newtown".

2.3 In 1841, only the inn and a single building opposite were depicted on the Tithe map.

Buildings

3.1 The Wynnstay Arms (PAR 7696) is an early-19th century, Grade II listed building.

Archaeology

4.1 Although prehistoric implements have been recorded from the parish, there is no recognisable archaeological interest in the vicinity of the settlement.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of Llanbrynmair's relatively recent history, no recommendations are proposed.

References

County SMR
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey 1841



Location and Topography

1.1 The village sits beside the River Severn and the A470(T), 9km west-south-west of Newtown.

1.2 The church is in a commanding position, occupying the western end of a pronounced ridge that juts out above the Severn to the west and a dry valley to the east. The village lies in this dry valley, expanding down to the edge of a river terrace, just west of the main road. A more recent expansion of settlement further south is now spreading up the eastern slopes above the river.

History

2.1 The earliest reference to Llandinam is found in 1253. The name links the term for 'enclosure' or 'church' with 'dinam' meaning 'stronghold' or 'fort'.

2.2 The origins of the settlement almost certainly go back to the early medieval period when the foundation of a clas (mother church) established it as one of the more important religious sites in the region (PAR 965). It had an abbot until the 13th century.

2.3 The subsequent development of Llandinam is unrecorded, but by the mid-19th century, there was a cluster of dwellings in the valley below the church.

Buildings

3.1 The church of St Llonio has a 13th-century tower and the body of the church retains some 14th-century details, but the building was much restored in 1864/65.

3.2 There are no buildings considered to be sufficiently significant to warrant listing in the village, although mention should be made of the first iron bridge to be built in the county (in 1846), just below the church.

Archaeology

4.1 There is no evidence of the former presence of a circular churchyard. However, a substantial bank across the ridge represented the north-east edge of the churchyard until recently. Limited excavation of the bank (PAR 6031) during the construction of a new access road in 1985 were uninformative.

4.2 The mid-19th century pattern of small lanes and dwellings that constitute the core of the village is suggestive of a green, though there is no concrete evidence for it.

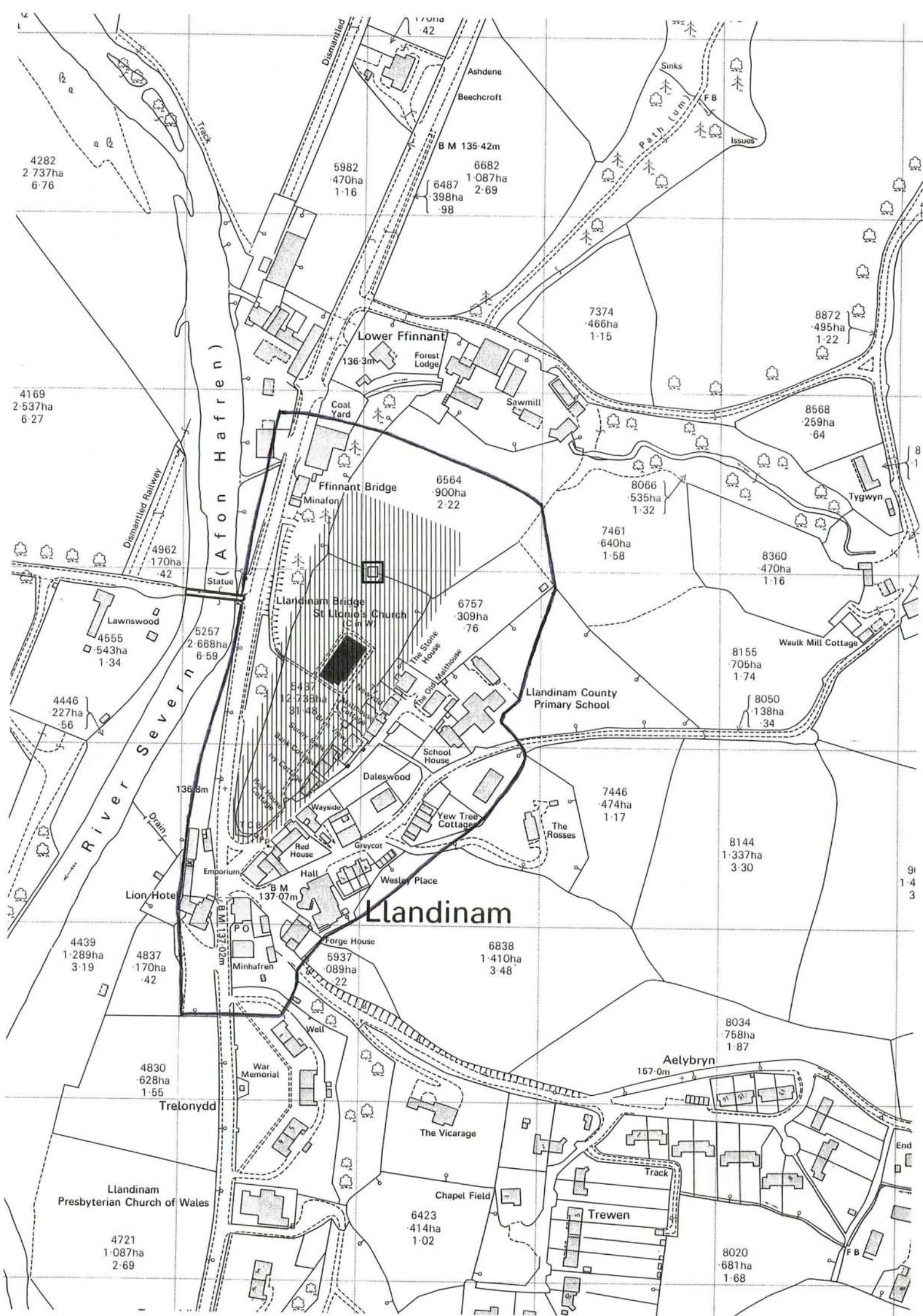
Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it, and also the moated site (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 136
Haslam 1979, 120
Tithe survey 1847



Location and Topography

1.1 Llandrinio lies in the valley of the Severn and on the B4393, 12km north-east of Welshpool.

1.2 The settlement core is less than 400m from the river, but though the valley floor is generally both broad and flat there are minor fluctuations in height resulting from alluvial or gravel deposits and it appears that Llandrinio may occupy one such raised 'platform', most obviously apparent on the approach from west and north.

1.3 The main road passing through Llandrinio on an east/west axis has the appearance of a turnpike road and Llandrinio Bridge, a scheduled ancient monument (PAR 6417; SAM Montgomery 46) dated to 1775, indicates the age of the road. However, an earlier track undoubtedly existed and a charter of 1309 apparently refers to a ferry (PAR 1249) in the vicinity of the later bridge.

History

2.1 The name refers to the church of St Trinio and is first referenced as Llantrineu in 1254.

2.2 The church may have been established in the early medieval period as a clas (or mother church) foundation. The size of the churchyard is in keeping with such an establishment although there is no documentary evidence for its existence. The unconfirmed tradition of a sanctuary or place of refuge here might also point to such a foundation.

2.3 The charter of 1309 granting a weekly fair and two annual markets suggests an importance to Llandrinio not paralleled today.

2.4 The construction of the flood embankment or Argae (PAR 7636) beside the Severn in 1790 is said to have limited flooding in the village.

Buildings

3.1 St Trinio's church (PAR 6418) which is dedicated also to SS Peter and Paul has surviving Norman architectural features, remnants of the first stone building on the site. Much of it was replaced in the later medieval period and the 19th century saw some reconstruction. Fragments of a 9th/early 10th-century cross (PAR 6038) are in the porch and built into the north wall.

3.2 Yr Henblas, the former rectory, is of 17th-century date (PAR 7637). A poem of 1430-70 refers to both the parson of Llandrinio and his stone-built hall with a moat, bridge and gateway.

3.3 New Hall (PAR 7638) to the north of the church may have originated in the late 17th century.

Archaeology

4.1 Aerial photography has revealed putative prehistoric settlements a few hundred metres to the west of the village (PAR 2447), and from further to the north-west (PAR 3647). Generally there is a high density of prehistoric and Roman settlement in this stretch of the Severn Valley, and the possibility of such activity on the slightly higher ground occupied by the early medieval settlement should be considered.

4.2 Domen Castell (PAR 1243), a small motte and bailey, much disturbed by the construction of the flood embankment, lies 400m south-west of the church. Its presence points to an adjacent ford and presumably an earlier routeway.

4.3 No trace of the moat around Yr Henblas remains, although Thomas claimed a surviving section between the house and church at the beginning of the 20th century.

4.4 The present churchyard (PAR 7570) does not reflect its original layout: both the Tithe Map of 1841 and an earlier estate map of c.1792 indicate a larger and more curvilinear enclosure and the former gives the name of the field on the opposite side of the main road as 'The Old Churchyard'. This appears to be confirmed in a terrier of 1683 which refers to two acres "enclosed heretofore out of the church".

4.5 Low earthworks, particularly on the west side of the churchyard appear to indicate former enclosures (PAR 7571), some of which are depicted on the late 18th-century map. A track and perhaps ridge and furrow have also been recognised (PAR 7572).

Recommendations

5.1 The earlier history of Llandrinio reveals a considerably more important focus than is apparent today.

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be requested for any proposals involving the current churchyard and its larger predecessor (as shown on the accompanying map), and also around Yr Henblas.

5.3 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.4 A more detailed ground survey involving thorough search of all the fields around the historic core is recommended, and fieldwalking should also be conducted on the cultivated land directly behind New Hall.

References

- County SMR
- Dodd 1925, fig.
- Ellis 1935, 144
- Haslam 1979, 123
- Llandrinio Church Guide n.d.
- Nash-Williams 1950, 178
- Thomas 1904
- Tithe survey 1841



Location and Topography

1.1 Llandysilio lies beside the A483(T) almost equidistant from Welshpool and Oswestry, and a short distance south of the Shropshire border.

1.2 The confluence of the Severn and the Vyrnwy has created a broad low landscape north of the Breidden Hills where there are only minor changes in altitude. Llandysilio church is little more than 200m from the Vyrnwy but, perched on the edge of a gravel terrace, it is raised above the flood plain.

History

2.1 The earliest form of the name, Llantesilyau, occurs in c.1253, and refers to the church of St Tysilio.

2.2 The combination of 'llan' name and sub-circular churchyard suggests an early medieval origin. St Tysilio is said to have been a hermit here for seven years.

2.3 The subsequent history of Llandysilio is unclear, but there is no convincing evidence that the church lay at the centre of a nucleated settlement. The main trunk road that passes it is a creation of the turnpike era and prior to its construction it seems probable that the settlement's main links were with the higher ground to the west.

Buildings

3.1 The church of St Tysilio (PAR 7607) was built anew together with all its internal fittings in 1867-8. Only a brass of 1674 and a later-18th century tablet survive from the earlier building.

3.2 Old Church Cottage (PAR 7639), the former National School, incorporates medieval and later windows from the old church in its walls.

Archaeology

4.1 The environs of Llandysilio together with Four Crosses (q.v.) just to the south, have a rich prehistoric heritage of both occupational and burial monuments, though without exception these are visible only from the air. The nearest, a potentially Bronze Age field system (PAR 3601F), lies about 300m south-west of the church. A double-ditched enclosure of Iron Age or Roman date (PAR 7107) has been recorded a similar distance to the north.

4.2 A Roman road beneath the modern trunk road and running due north towards the high ground around Llanymynech has been postulated by Bowen. While there is clear evidence of Roman activity in the Four Crosses area, the road itself remains unproven, though there is an unconfirmed report of a 'pavement' near the public house in Four Crosses.

4.3 The churchyard (PAR 7608) is sub-circular, the straight northern side being due to the edge of the gravel terrace.

4.4 Offa's Dyke (PAR 10000) which is visible as a substantial earthwork in

Four Crosses must have passed close to the church but has presumably been levelled during road building.

Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The opportunity for fieldwalking the land immediately around the church to the south and west should be taken to assess whether medieval settlement traces are distinguishable through the recovery of artefact scatters.

References

Bowen 1956, 137, 155
Ellis 1935, 145
Haslam 1979, 125
Henken 1987, 270
Tithe survey 1842



Location and Topography

1.1 Llandyssil lies in the hills on the east side of the River Severn. It is less than 3km south-west of Montgomery.

1.2 The modern village occupies a fairly broad flat-bottomed valley containing a stream which debouches into the Severn. On the south and east the valley is hemmed in by steep-sided hills and it is on the lower slopes of the hill to the south-east that the site of the original church is to be found, some 25m above the valley floor, with a dry dingle on its northern edge.

1.3 Llandyssil is now undergoing a major phase of expansion. The ribbon development along the valley that was a feature of the 19th and early 20th century has been modified by housing schemes around the road junction in the valley and the old church is now enveloped by housing on three sides.

History

2.1 The name first appears as Llandesuil in c.1253, and refers to the church of St Tyssil.

2.2 The dedication of the church and the sub-circularity of the churchyard point to an early medieval foundation.

2.3 The subsequent history of the settlement is not known. By the beginning of the 19th century dwellings were spreading along the valley floor with a small green towards the southern end. A new church was constructed in 1863. Prior to the recent spurt of house building the old church represented an isolated structure on the hill.

Buildings

3.1 The single-chamber medieval church of St Tyssil (PAR 160) was demolished in the 19th century, leaving only a 15th-century stone porch with an 18th-century doorway in the churchyard. The porch stands on a mound which presumably covers remains and debris of earlier buildings on the site.

3.2 Phipps Tenement (PAR 20558), two small box-framed former almshouses built in 1630 a little to the north of the village centre, is a Grade II listed building.

3.3 Other buildings on the valley floor - The Old Rectory built around 1800-1810 and Oak House - were listed as Grade III, prior to the abolition of that category.

Archaeology

4.1 The bank of the early churchyard (PAR 7600) is still recognisable as a scarp within the later wall of old St Tyssil's. Part of the perimeter is marked on modern Ordnance Survey maps.

4.2 In the field opposite the old church site are faint traces of earthworks (PAR 7601), perhaps the remnants of earlier settlement.

4.3 Lynchet banks, a hollow way and perhaps other earthworks (PAR 5034) lie on the hillslope between Pentre farm and the village.

Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the old churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

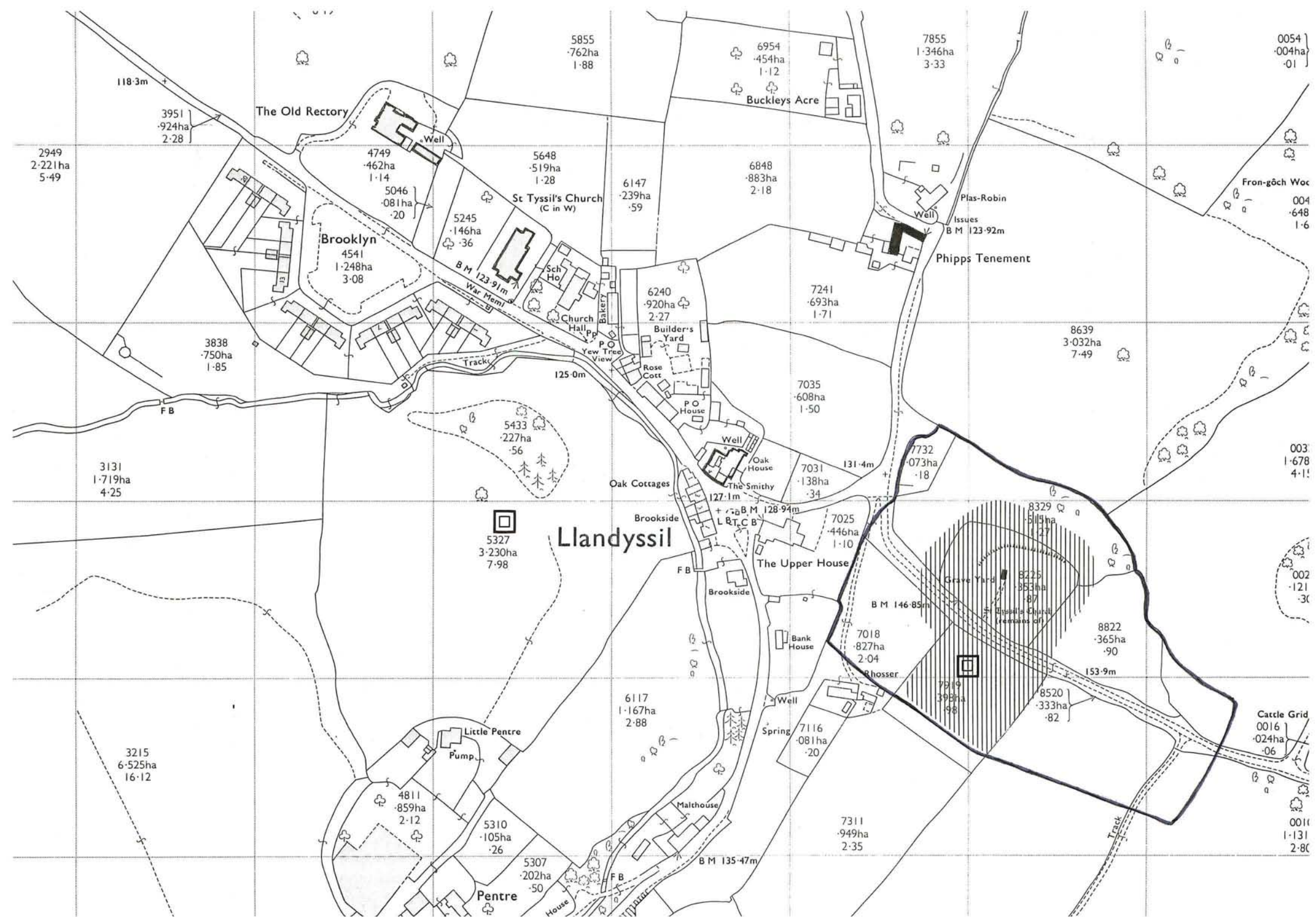
5.2 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The remains of the sub-circular churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

5.4 A more thorough examination of the field to the south of the old church should be conducted with a view to understanding and, if appropriate, recording the earthworks therein.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 147
Enclosure Award Map 1803 (NLW)
Haslam 1979, 126
Tithe survey 1839



Location and Topography

1.1 Llanerfyl lies in the valley of the Banwy where the A458(T) crosses the river. It is 8km north-west of Llanfair Caereinion.

1.2 The church and the settlement that grew around it occupy the edge of flattish ground above the Banwy valley, a small dingle to the east effectively creating a spur to the north of the village. Modern housing is gradually spreading over the eastern slope of the valley within the triangle of roads south-west of the church.

History

2.1 The name appears first as Llanvruyl in c.1253 and refers to the church of St Erfyl. This is apparently the only dedication to the saint in Wales although another has been recorded in Brittany.

2.2 The dedication of the church and the sub-circularity of the churchyard point to an early medieval foundation.

2.3 The subsequent development of the settlement is unrecorded. It must have benefitted from the creation of the Welshpool to Machynlleth turnpike road in the second half of the 18th century. A hundred years later the Tithe map shows a concentration of dwellings on all sides of the church but the north.

Buildings

3.1 St Erfyl's church (PAR 7573) was rebuilt in 1870, using some of the medieval roof trusses. Both a shrine and a reliquary from the 15th century are preserved in the church, and the font is of slightly later date. In addition there is an early medieval gravestone (see 4.2).

3.2 There are no listed buildings in the village but Caer Fynnon (PAR 7642) originally had a Grade III listing.

Archaeology

4.1 The churchyard (PAR 7574), raised above the adjacent road, has been extended eastwards in recent times, but the former bank of the oval enclosure can still be detected just beyond the church. Downslope was Fynnon Erfyl (PAR 4289), a holy well now dry.

4.2 In the church is a late 5th/early 6th century early Christian gravestone (PAR 1741), one of the earliest examples from Wales. Although it is reasonable to assume that it is directly associated with the early church at Llanerfyl, there is no definite evidence to support this contention.

4.3 A small motte and bailey castle (PAR 756) surmounts a natural knoll on the valley floor at Llyssun, just over the river from Llanerfyl.

4.4 In 1966, excavations were undertaken on earthworks (PAR 1328) in the field (OS 2266) above the river in the belief that these were of Roman military construction. They proved to be of natural origin.

4.5 Other nebulous earthworks (PAR 7575) whose significance is uncertain survive in a field opposite the Bethel Chapel.

4.6 A cockpit (PAR 1744), presumably of post-medieval date, formerly existed close to the modern house called 'Noddfa'.

Recommendations

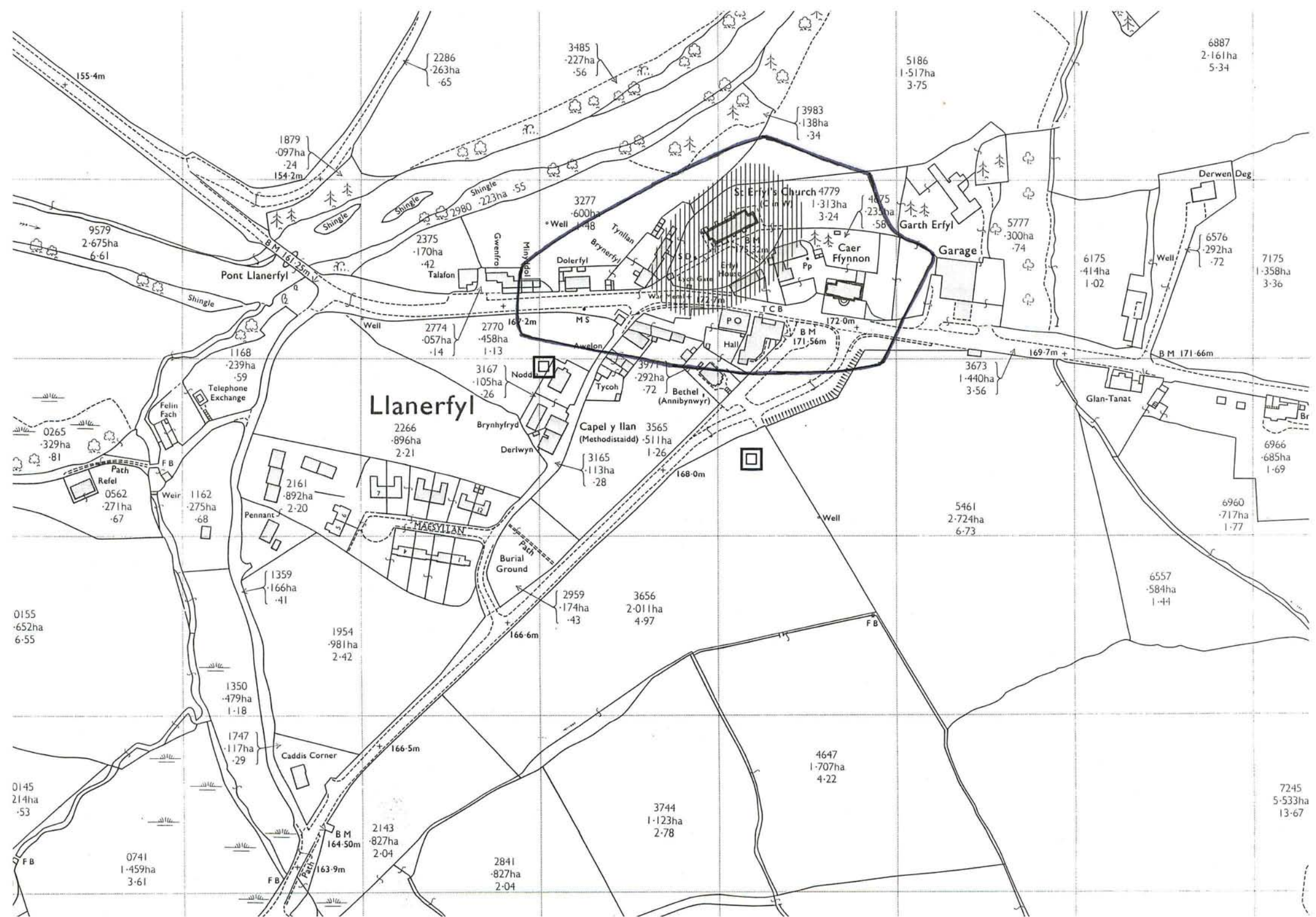
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the early churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The remains of the sub-circular churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

Bowen 1956, 68, 79
County SMR
Ellis 1935, 147
Haslam 1979, 127
Jones 1954, 197
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey 1850



Location and Topography

1.1 Llanfair Caereinion lies on the A458(T) in central Montgomeryshire, some 12km west of Welshpool.

1.2 The small town has developed up on the south side of Afon Banwy where a small stream enters the river from the south. The church occupies a low spur above the river, and the village has grown around this, spreading into the stream valley and in recent times up the steep hillsides on both sides of the Banwy.

History

2.1 The settlement appears first as Llanveyr in c.1253, and as Llanvayre in Kerenion in 1588. Translated, this signifies the church of St Mary Magdalen in the commote of Caereinion.

2.2 The church is said to have been founded from the clas at Meifod and the churchyard shape and location though not the dedication imply an early medieval foundation. In 1239 it was granted to the Cistercian nunnery at Llanllugan.

2.3 Nothing is known of the town's subsequent history and it never achieved borough status, although it emerged as a market centre, servicing the surrounding rural communities. At an earlier period in its history it became the centre of an ecclesiastical parish, but unusually it was divided between two townships, the boundary running down Bridge Street.

2.4 Probably as a result of the construction of the turnpike road on the north side of the valley in the 18th century, Llanfair bridge was built together with Bridge Street adjacent to the small stream entering the Banwy. In the post-medieval era if not before, this was dammed to provide a pond (PAR 7693) behind the cottages on the west side of the street, for the woollen factory on the river's edge. The construction of the bridge also opened the way for expansion of settlement on to the north bank.

Buildings

3.1 The church of St Mary (PAR 31089) was completely rebuilt in 1868 and the only architecture surviving from the earlier, medieval church is the south doorway. Inside are a font of around 1300 and the effigy of a knight from a century later.

3.2 Given its size, surprisingly few buildings of architectural interest remain in Llanfair, but this may be attributed to a major fire in 1758. Apart from the church the only building listed (Grade II) is no.1 High Street (PAR 7689), which is 19th century in date. The Old Mill House (PAR 7690) and the Coach House (PAR 7691), both on the north side of the Banwy, were given Grade III listings when that category was in force.

Archaeology

4.1 The churchyard (PAR 7688) now appears as an irregular four-sided area. It has clearly been extended downhill on the north while the former boundary followed the edge of the scarp. More speculative is the proposal that originally the boundary on the east was Parson's Bank, a large portion of the churchyard having been alienated at some point. This would have resulted in a large semi-circular churchyard, not dissimilar from Meifod. Against this view, however, is the consequence that a valley would have been incorporated within the churchyard, altogether a rare occurrence.

4.2 On the northern slope below the churchyard is Ffynnon Fair (PAR 758), a holy well still believed to possess curative properties at the beginning of this century. This was entirely rebuilt in 1975.

4.3 The plan of the town indicates organic growth. The market place is a focus for several roads with the town hall, now demolished and replaced, built in the middle of it in the late 18th century. There are, however, few signs of the long narrow tenements normally associated with urban centres.

4.4 Ridge and furrow cultivation traces (PAR 7692) are visible in the neighbourhood including one survival just to the south of the town.

Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 149
Haslam 1979, 127
Jones 1954, 197
Pryce 1991
Pryce and Edwards 1979
Tithe survey 1842



Location and Topography

1.1 Llanfechain lies close to the B4393 in north-eastern Montgomeryshire. It is about 5km east of Llanfyllin.

1.2 The village has grown up in the broad valley of Afon Cain, a tributary of Afon Efyrynwy. The church and the historic core occupy a gravel terrace position on the south side of the river, the motte and bailey a steep-sided spur overlooking it.

1.3 Modern housing expansion is fundamentally altering the appearance of this village, most dramatically to the south of the church and on the east side of the motte.

History

2.1 The name Llanvectheyn is first encountered in c.1253 and means the enclosure (or church) in the commote of Mechain.

2.2 An early medieval origin can be assumed on the basis of the church dedication and the morphology of the churchyard. The pre-Conquest llys (or court) of the local lord is believed to have lain in the vicinity of Llys farm less than one kilometre to the west and recent research may have located the physical remains of the enclosure around it.

2.3 After the Norman Conquest, a strategically sited earthwork castle was built to oversee the valley.

2.4 The subsequent development of the settlement can only be guessed at. By the middle of the 19th century it consisted of dwellings on three sides of the churchyard and small groups of houses running down to Llanfechain Bridge over Afon Cain as well as almost all the cottages now nucleated just beyond the bridge.

Buildings

3.1 St Garmon's church (PAR 7602) is a single-chamber, 12th-century structure, claimed by Haslam to be 'in some respects the most complete Norman church remaining to Montgomeryshire'. There are some Victorian alterations including the west bell turret. The roof is of the 15th century, the font from c.1500.

3.2 Ty Coch (PAR 7698) is a restored 15th-century farmhouse with 17th-century modifications. Plasyndinas Inn (PAR 7697) is a Grade II listed building variously attributed to around 1600 and the late 17th century.

Archaeology

4.1 The raised churchyard (PAR 7603) appears to retain its original form. In addition there is a mound (PAR 1487) behind the church traditionally interpreted as a preaching mound associated with St Garmon, though just possibly a prehistoric round barrow.

4.2 Domen Gastell, the motte and bailey earthwork (PAR 1486; SAM Montgomery 5), is currently in excellent condition.

4.3 A hollow way, the course of a former track on the south side of the river, and ridge and furrow (PAR 7604) are visible in fields just west of the motte.

Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately around it, and also the land around the motte and bailey (see accompanying map).

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

References

Bowen 1956, 137
County SMR
Ellis 1935, 154
Haslam 1979, 129
Spurgeon 1966, 7
Tithe survey 1839



Location and Topography

1.1 Llanfihangel lies in the hills of central Montgomeryshire on a cul-de-sac off the B4382. It is some 7km south-west of Llanfyllin.

1.2 The church surmounts the crest of a small hill isolated from the main ridge to the east by a shallow valley. The village has expanded along the side of this valley, but modern housing has been confined to the sides of the main road further south.

History

2.1 The name Llanvihagel is first recorded in c.1253 and Lamvyhangell in Gwunva appears in 1375. Loosely translated this means 'St Michael's church in Gwynfa' which is a district of Mechain.

2.2 The early history of the settlement is unknown; the dedication and perhaps the hill-top location might argue for a foundation late in the early medieval period or even perhaps after the Norman Conquest.

2.3 By the middle of the 19th century, the settlement consisted of no more than the church, the adjacent farm of Penisarllan and a handful of cottages, rather smaller even than today.

Buildings

3.1 St Michael's church (PAR 7612) was rebuilt in 1862, but houses two cross fragments, one of the early 14th century, and part of a grave slab to Madog ap Celynin dated to around 1340.

3.2 There are no listed buildings here, although the Rectory (PAR 7700), modernised from its original 17th-century form, was earlier listed as Grade III.

Archaeology

4.1 The present churchyard incorporates the scarp bank of its diminutive predecessor (PAR 7613), the complete circuit of which can still be established.

4.2 At least three holy wells have been noted in the vicinity of the village (PAR 1226; 1689; 1690) but none can now be accurately located.

Recommendations

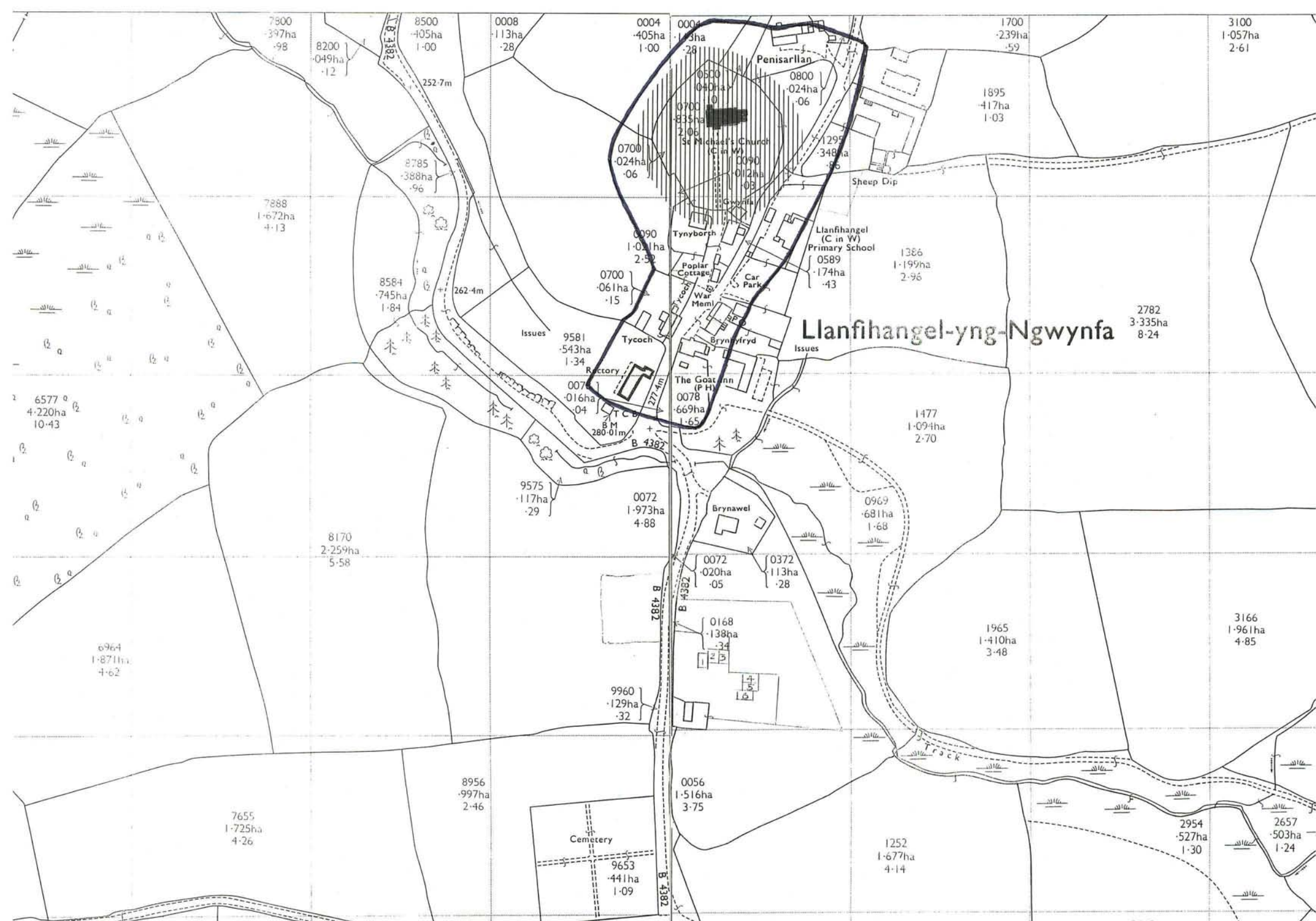
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and its perimeter (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The line of the earlier churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 158
Haslam 1979, 131
Jones 1954
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey 1847



Location and Topography

1.1 Set in the hills of northern Montgomeryshire, Llanfyllin is the terminus of the A490 from Welshpool, 15km to the south-east.

1.2 This small town has expanded along the southern edge of the valley along which Afon Cain flows towards its confluence with the Vyrnwy. The shallow valley carved by the River Abel running down from the west proved attractive: the church was founded on a slight rise above it and the settlement developed along the valley and beyond it, the Abel flowing down Brook Street and High Street until culverted in the 19th century.

1.3 The 20th-century expansion of Llanfyllin has focused on the road from Welshpool, with housing estates, a large school complex and some industry all set close to it.

History

2.1 The place-name Llanvelig appears in c.1253 and Llanvyllyn in the 1291 Taxatio of Pope Nicholas. The name means the 'church of St Mylling', the Welsh version of the Irish Saint, Moling.

2.2 An early medieval origin for the church seems assured, although to what extent it acted as a focus for settlement before the late 13th century is unknown.

2.3 Llanfyllin is recorded as a Welsh borough founded between 1293, when a weekly market and annual fair were granted to the Lord of Mechain, and 1295. It was of no great size. There were only 30 burgages, supposedly laid out along Bridge Street, the main axial road in the town.

2.4 It remained no more than a small town throughout its later history, although Speed listed it as one of the principal market towns in Montgomeryshire at the beginning of the 17th century.

2.5 The 18th century appears to have been a period of expansion. Brickworks produced the materials for many of the buildings in the town centre including the church. Maltings and tanneries were located here and in the later 19th century the railway arrived.

Buildings

3.1 St Myllin's church (PAR 7614) was rebuilt soon after 1706 and restored around 1863. Nothing seems to have survived from the medieval church.

3.2 A number of buildings have acquired a Grade II listing. Most are no earlier than the 18th century and only The Hall (PAR 57) with a date of 1599 carved on a lintel can evidently be taken back further.

Archaeology

4.1 There is no unequivocal evidence of Roman activity in the area, but Dol-y-felin Blwm, south-east of Pen-dre Mill and now covered by an industrial estate, reputedly produced Roman coins and quantities of lead waste (PAR 55) in the 19th century.

4.2 The present churchyard encloses the unmistakable traces of a small, circular enclosure, undoubtedly the earlier 'llan' (PAR 7615).

4.3 The street pattern in Llanfyllin merits further attention. Soulsby claimed Bridge Street as the main thoroughfare while Haslam believed Narrow Street fulfilled this function. Both are incorporated in a rectangular network that also includes High Street, Market Street and the alley opposite Narrow Lane. Interestingly the Market Place together with the now demolished town hall which replaced a (?medieval) timber hall, is off centre from both Bridge Street and Narrow Lane. In essence, it is currently impossible to determine the major medieval streets in Llanfyllin!

Recommendations

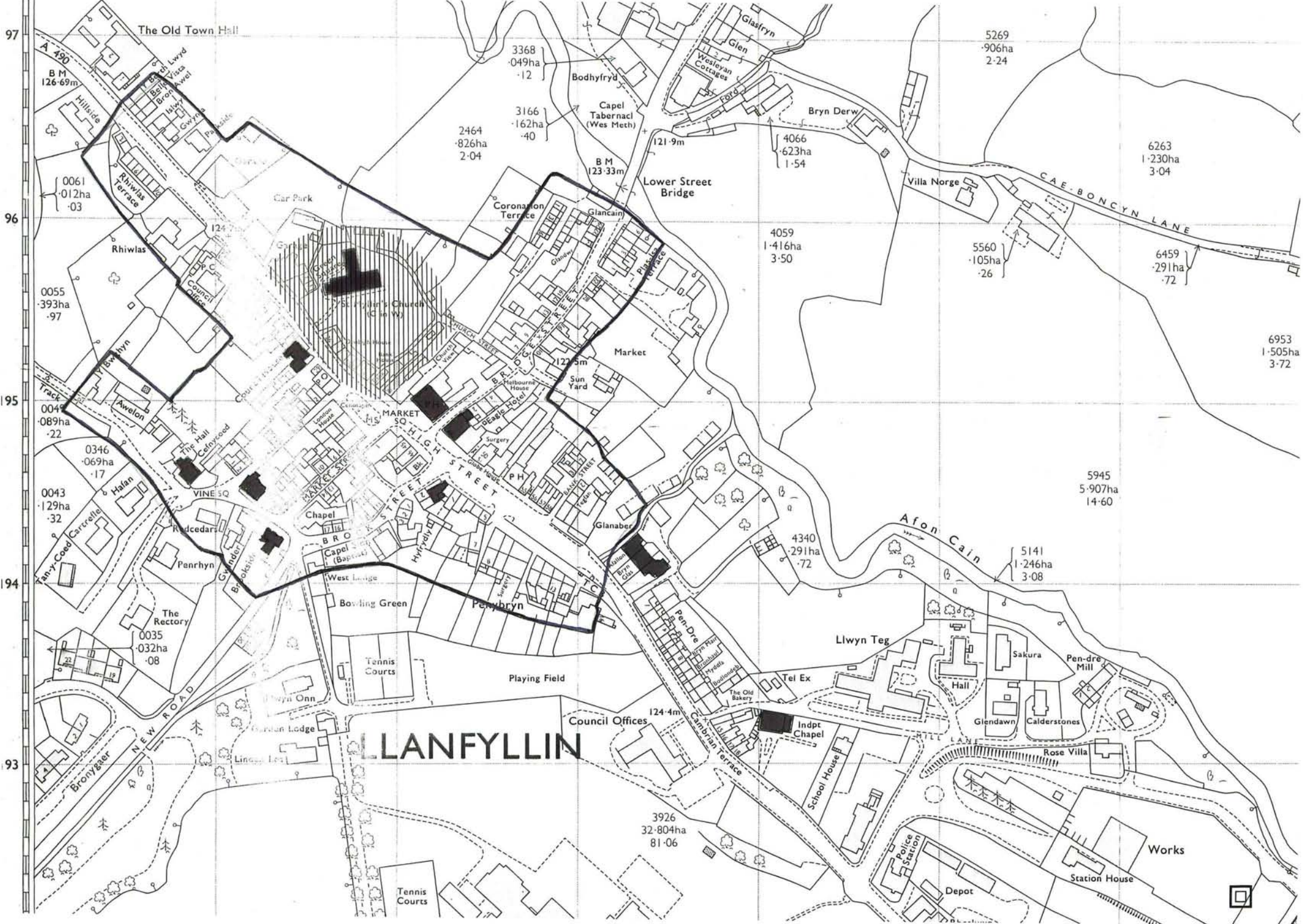
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and its perimeter (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The remains of the sub-circular churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

Beresford 1988, 563
County SMR
Ellis 1935, 161
Haslam 1979, 132
Soulsby 1983, 167
Tithe survey 1850



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Location and Topography

1.1 Llangadfan is a settlement of two parts. Cann Office with Pen-y-bont, the more northerly, lies on the A458(T) between Welshpool and Dolgellau, while the church occupies the opposite bank of Afon Banwy linked by means of Pont Llangadfan. The village is about 10km north-west of Llanfair Caereinion.

1.2 Both the church and Cann Office occupy flattish ground with the valley sloping away quite sharply from their respective positions. Pen-y-bont is closer to the river and consequently lower.

1.3 Until recently there was little new development in this part of Llangadfan parish, but this situation has now changed with houses springing up adjacent to the lane running along the west side of the river and planning applications for dwellings opposite the church.

History

2.1 An early reference is to Llankadvan in 1254, the meaning being the obvious one of St Cadfan's church.

2.2 The Breton saint, Cadfan, is said to have had a direct association with this place, establishing a cell here soon after 550. Certainly, the dedication and churchyard shape imply an early medieval origin but the extent and progress of settlement during the pre-Conquest centuries remain unknown.

2.2 The construction of the motte and bailey at Cann Office could have occurred any time after earthwork fortifications of this type were introduced by the Normans into Wales at the end of the 11th century. This castle, however, was of Welsh build and O'Neil has argued that it was still in use in 1277.

2.3 The subsequent development of Llangadfan is likely to have been restricted. Cann Office Hotel emerged in the early 19th century as a posting station on the turnpike road westwards, and Pen-y-bont is unlikely to have come into existence much before the 19th century, unless there was an earlier farm on the spot. Pont Llangadfan is also recent: in the mid-19th century the only track southwards from Cann Office led to the now disused corn mill beside the river.

Buildings

3.1 The church of St Cadfan (PAR 7576) is perhaps basically 15th century with one surviving Perpendicular window, but subsequent restoration beginning in 1867 has disguised the fabric of the building.

3.2 The church apart, there are no listed buildings, but Cann Office Hotel (PAR 7701; see 2.3) was once given a Grade III listing.

Archaeology

4.1 In 1931, a shale object (PAR 754), perhaps a blank for producing the clay moulds used in the manufacture of Bronze Age flat axes was discovered in Pen-y-bont, just east of the main road.

4.2 The churchyard has been almost doubled in size since the mid-19th century, the early 19th-century lychgate set in the still visible, former enclosure bank. The former churchyard (PAR 7577) was thus small and sub-circular.

4.3 St Cadfan's Well (PAR 1230) is a short distance below the church beside the road down to Pont Llangadfan. Unlike many holy wells this one is arched over and there is a descriptive notice.

4.4 The Cann Office motte and bailey (PAR 1228) has suffered considerable degradation since the installation of the hotel. Only half the motte survives and the outline of the atypical rectangular bailey is intermittent. It comes as no surprise that it is not a scheduled earthwork.

4.5 A rectangular earthwork (PAR 6094) lies in a field to the east of Cann Office Hotel. Its origin remains uncertain despite limited excavation in 1962 which failed to confirm its Roman date but did produce medieval pottery.

4.6 There are a few insubstantial banks west of the churchyard (PAR 7578), but nothing that can be cited to support the argument for a shrunken village around the church.

4.7 The large field north of Rhiwlas (formerly the Rectory) was termed 'Cae hwl y Gaer' in the tithe apportionment. The 'gaer' element is potentially significant, often relating to a defensive earthwork. Nothing has yet been noted here.

Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and its immediate surroundings, the Cann Office motte and bailey and the rectangular earthwork (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic cores, depending on the scale and type of proposed development, with a watching brief as a minimum response.

5.3 The remains of the former, sub-circular churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

Bowen 1956, 94
County SMR
Davies 1991
Haslam 1979, 136
Jones 1954, 198
Lewis 1833
O'Neil 1932
Tithe survey 1841



Location and Topography

1.1 Llangurig, some 6km south-west of Llanidloes in the extreme south of the district, sits at the junction of the A44(T) with the A470(T) on one of the few through routes in the Cambrian Mountains.

1.2 The church stands out above the northern edge of the Wye flood plain where the river swings southwards. A backdrop of high, but only moderately steep hills to the north, incised with small stream valleys, contrasts with the flat plain of the river which is marked by palaeochannels and gravel fans left by the changing course of the river.

1.3 The village core around the church is only now being extended by housing set into the northern hillside, and more noticeably on flattish ground beside the old A470, which has now been superseded by a bypass.

History

2.1 In 1254, the place appears as Llankiric, referring to St Curig's church.

2.2 It is generally accepted that there was a clas (mother church) here (PAR 1515) in the early medieval period, but its relationship to the similar establishment at Llandinam, at no great distance, is unknown. Knowles and Hadcock have suggested it was founded in the 6th century and survived until sometime soon after 1175. From c.1180 it came under the control of the Cistercian house of Strata Florida.

2.3 The medieval appearance of Llangurig is unknown. A hoard of medieval silver coins was found in a churchyard grave here about 1753 (PAR 1518).

2.4 The mid-19th century picture is of only a handful of houses around the church, the river bifurcating in this section of the valley with one arm looping around just below the churchyard wall. Its earlier links to the south had been restricted for the road to Rhaeadr along the valley was built only in 1830.

Buildings

3.1 St Curig's church (PAR 7536) has a west tower with 15th-century features but perhaps an origin three hundred years earlier. The nave is on a slightly different axis and also appears to be 15th century. Restoration occurred in 1877-78.

3.2 There are no listed buildings in Llangurig other than the church.

Archaeology

4.1 The irregularly shaped churchyard (PAR 7537), partially terraced into the slope and with its church well below the adjacent road, has seen some modification: an earlier line is clearly evident due west of the church. There are thus indications of circularity, but it does not conform to the typical early medieval layout.

4.2 A field 250m west of the church was termed 'Cae Castell' in the Tithe survey, and a similar name has been recorded slightly to the north (PAR 3707). There is no obvious explanation for these appellations.

Recommendations

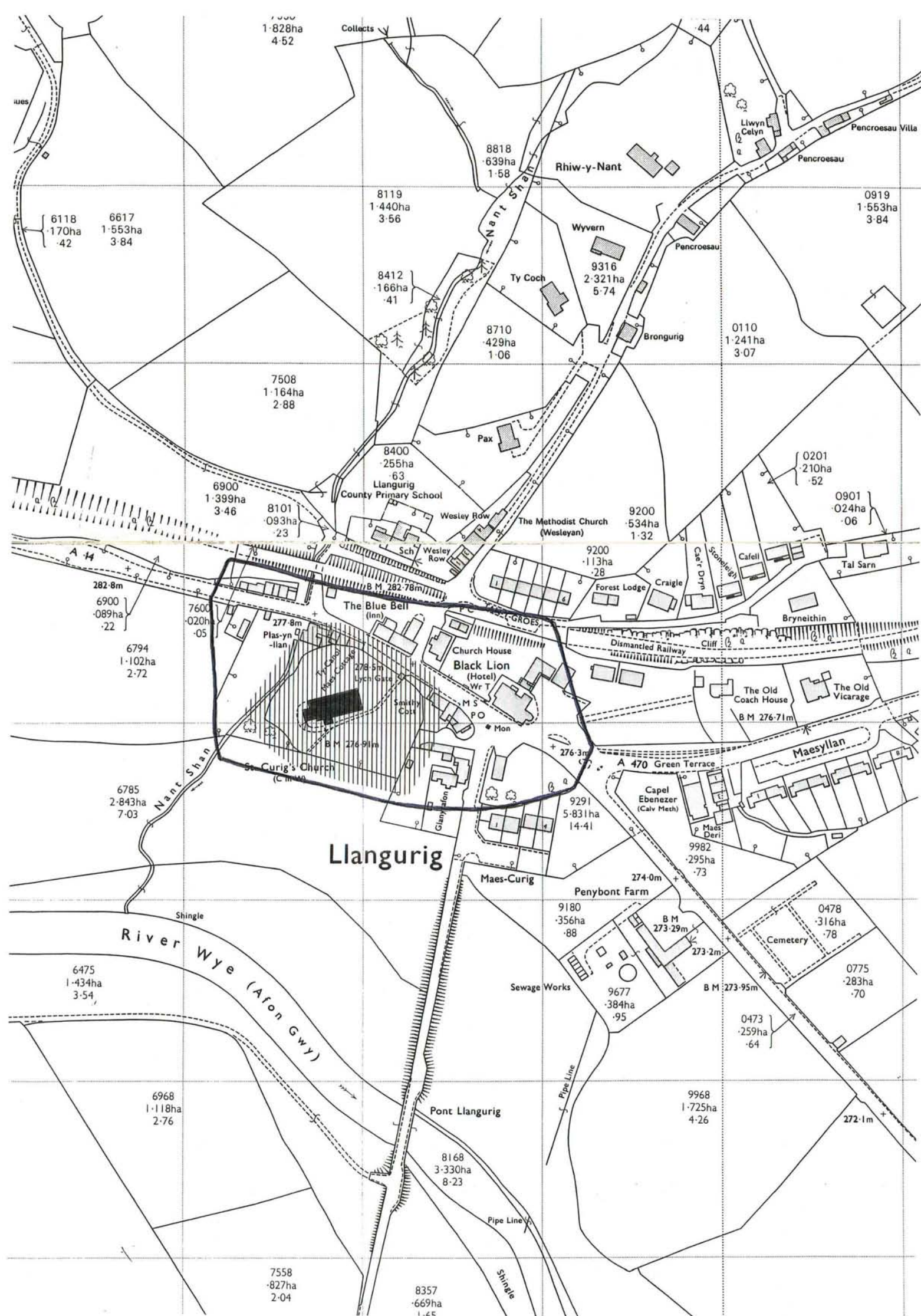
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The earlier course of the churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

County SMR
Church guide n.d.
Ellis 1935, 165
Haslam 1979, 136
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey, 1845



Location and Topography

1.1 Llangynyw lies on a minor road leading north from the A458(T) between Welshpool and Llanfair Caereinion.

1.2 The church is set high into the eastern flank of one of a group of hills girdled by Afon Banwy, which at its closest is some 600m away. This is a reasonably sheltered location and one enjoying an excellent aspect to east and south.

1.3 The church is accompanied only by the former rectory. Three hundred metres to the south, the old school lies at a T-junction and apart from a new bungalow built between the two spots, the overall pattern of settlement is one of dispersed farms.

History

2.1 The place is first recorded as Llankenwy around 1253, while Llangyniewe appears in 1588. The name refers to the church of St Cynyw.

2.2 It can be assumed that with its British dedication and the shape of the churchyard, Llangynyw emerged as a religious focus in the early medieval period. Other than the fact that it became the centre of an ecclesiastical parish, nothing is known of its later history.

2.3 Even at the time of the Tithe survey, church and rectory were isolated. There were, however, several other buildings in the vicinity of the road junction to the south.

Buildings

3.1 Much of the simple, single-chamber church dedicated to St Cynyw (PAR 7647) dates to the 15th century, including the timber porch. Internally, too, there are features of that period, together with some Victorian additions. The building is terraced into the slope.

Archaeology

4.1 The churchyard, raised by up to a metre on its east side, now displays a most irregular shape (PAR 7648). Nevertheless, its original line on the west side can still be recognised, despite damage by 19th and 20th-century graves. The original course on the north side is obscure.

4.2 There are no incontrovertible signs of former habitation sites around the church, but 100m to the south and at a slightly lower altitude contiguous pasture fields contain ground irregularities (PAR 4783) beside a well.

4.3 Small tracts of ridge and furrow cultivation have been tentatively identified in several places in the neighbourhood.

Recommendations

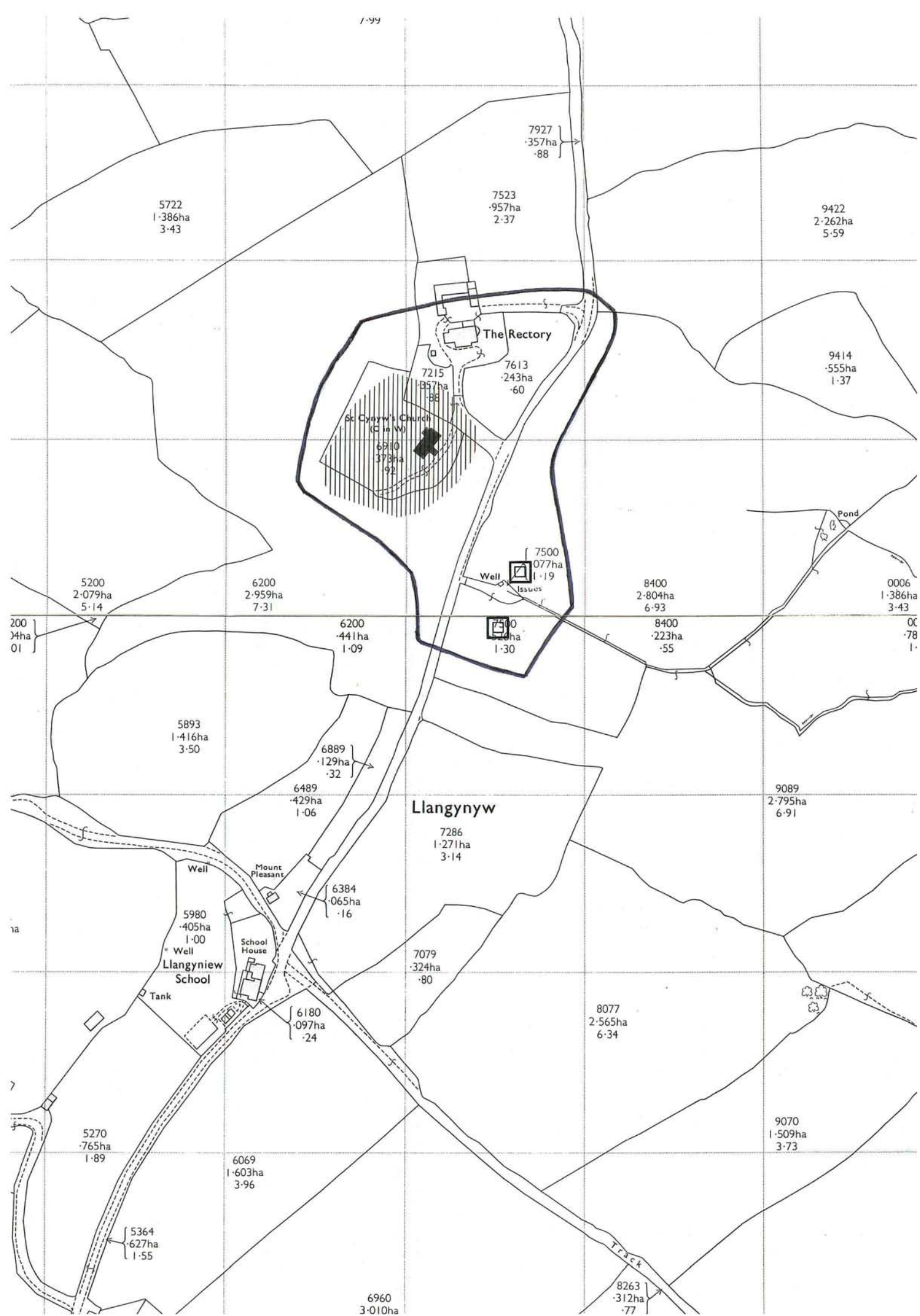
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The earlier course of the churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 167
Haslam 1979, 138
Tithe survey 1850



Location and Topography

1.1 Llangynog is situated in northern Montgomeryshire on the B4391, about 12km north-west of Llanfyllin.

1.2 The village has emerged at the confluence of Afon Tanat and Afon Eirth. Surrounded by steep-sided valleys and overshadowed by the crags of Craig Rhiwarth, the spur between the rivers flattens out as it closes on the valley floor. The church was established on the tip of the spur, no more than 3m above the level of the river.

1.3 Settlement has expanded from this focus along Berwyn Street which crosses Afon Eirth, spreading around the lowest slope of Craig Rhiwarth; and beside the bridge over Afon Tanat, less than 200m away, the subsidiary community of Pentre has grown up.

History

2.1 Llangynog is first referred to as Lankenau - a variant of Kynauc (Cynog) - in 1294 and in its current form as late as 1623. The name refers to the church of St Cynog.

2.2 The date of origin of the church and the subsequent development of settlement around it are obscure. St Cynog himself was a 'saint' firmly associated with Brecknockshire, the elder son of Brychan, the eponymous founder of that region. It seems unlikely, therefore, that the church was established in person by St Cynog.

2.3 Rich veins of lead on Craig Rhiwarth were exploited from 1692 and slate quarrying started about 1775. Both industries provided an impetus to the expansion of the village.

Buildings

3.1 The single-chamber church of St Cynog (PAR 7629) was rebuilt at the end of the 18th century and renovated in 1894. Only a few fragments of reused stone survive from the earlier church.

3.2 The earliest structure in the village appears to be the New Inn, opposite the church, which is dated to 1751 (PAR 7634).

Archaeology

4.1 Craig Rhiwarth is crowned by an important hill-fort consisting of a drystone-walled enclosure that contains at least 170 hut sites (PAR 1465).

4.2 Llangynog church is set in a small raised sub-rectangular churchyard (PAR 7628). There is no visible evidence that it was originally more circular.

4.3 Ridge and furrow (PAR 4993) of unknown date is recognisable on the side of the spur, just south of Bank House.

4.4 A number of occupied houses cluster at the base of the Craig Rhiwarth scarp and in addition the remains of stone-walled enclosures and platforms on both sides of the road past Glan-hafon point to former dwellings from the 18th/19th-century industrial expansion (PAR 7630).

Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The post-medieval industrial activity centred on Llangynog was of considerable importance locally. An assessment of the current state of knowledge would demonstrate the extent to which the surviving industrial remains have been recorded and whether further survey is required.

References

Bowen 1977, 107
County SMR
Ellis 1935, 168
Haslam 1979, 137
Henken 1987, 178
Tithe survey 1840



Location and Topography

1.1 The southern Montgomeryshire town of Llanidloes lies in the upper Severn valley where the A470(T) and B4518 intersect.

1.2 The town has expanded to fill an unusually broad part of the valley where Afon Clywedog and Afon Dulas debouch into the Severn, and several small streams run down to the river from the south-east. A terrace on the east side of the river was utilised and this rises gently eastwards, interrupted by the courses of two of the streams, Lletty Coch-nant and Nant Cwm du, creating a spur location for the settlement. Both the Severn and the Clywedog were fordable in the vicinity, and two trackways, almost certainly earlier than the town itself, converge on this spot.

History

2.1 The name derives from the church of St Idloes and appears as Lanidloes in 1254.

2.2 The origin of Llanidloes is obscure but it can perhaps be assumed that the church on the bank of the Severn is an early medieval foundation. It was a daughter church of the clas at Llandinam.

2.3 In the second half of the 13th century, a borough was deliberately planted at Llanidloes, presumably on the site of a pre-existing manorial centre which may or may not have had a castle at its centre. The first mention of the town is in 1263 and the local lord was granted weekly markets and twice-yearly fairs in 1280. Growth was substantial over the next twenty years with 13 taxpayers in 1292 and 66 burgesses in 1309. At the same time trade thrived: in 1293 market revenues brought in three times the amount from burgage and other rents, an unusual state of affairs at a time when market revenues in towns were generally lower. The first borough charter does not seem to have been granted until 1344.

2.4 It has been argued that defences were erected by the end of the 13th century.

2.5 During the later Middle Ages the size of the population may have remained fairly stable, living within the medieval limits of the town.

2.6 Only with the growth of the textile industry at the end of the later 18th century did Llanidloes expand, and this put it among the top forty towns in Wales. At this time gardens and open land behind the main streets began to be infilled and groups of small houses, often arranged in courts, added to its distinctive character. Lead mining around Van, 3km to the north, followed in the second half of the 19th century.

Buildings

3.1 St Idloes' Church (PAR 1856) has a 14th-century tower, and a 13th-century arcade, hammerbeam roof and other architecture taken from Cwmhir Abbey after the Reformation. Restoration took place in 1881-2. There is no convincing evidence of a circular churchyard (PAR 7556).

3.2 The Old Market Hall (PAR 3570; SAM Montgomery 3), the only half-timbered example in Wales, is thought to have been built around 1600.

3.3 A number of buildings within the town, including several public houses (e.g. the Crown and Anchor, the Royal Head), are considered to be of 17th-century date, but the church apart there is apparently nothing in Llanidloes pre-dating 1600.

Archaeology

4.1 A motte-and-bailey castle (PAR 1538), perhaps constructed to defend the new town, is claimed for the south end of China Street and its layout has been determined in some detail. The evidence is circumstantial if reasonably convincing: significant changes in ground height, the loop described by Smithfield Street, the local topography and the name Mount Street. Against this, no traces were recognised during a watching brief in the area of the putative bailey a few years ago, and the bailey would have been at a higher level than the motte. Nor are there any documented references to it.

4.2 The layout of the town is typical of planted towns, with roads set at right-angles to each other defining rectangular blocks and the main focus being the market cross which was replaced by the Old Market Hall. At least one medieval street, no longer in existence, has been posited between Great Oak Street and Mount Street. The church was tucked away in an unimportant part of the plantation, though linked to the main plan by several small streets.

4.3 The course of the borough defences (PAR 1537) utilising natural scarps in places has been detailed by O'Neil. It is assumed that the artificial defences comprised a wooden palisade and, in places, a wide ditch. There were two gateways known by name, High Gate on the west and Severn Porte on the north, and probably a third on the south-east, the site of which is lost.

4.4 Idloes' Well (PAR 1539) located on the Lower Green, north-east of the town, has disappeared this century, as a result of the provision of piped water.

Recommendations

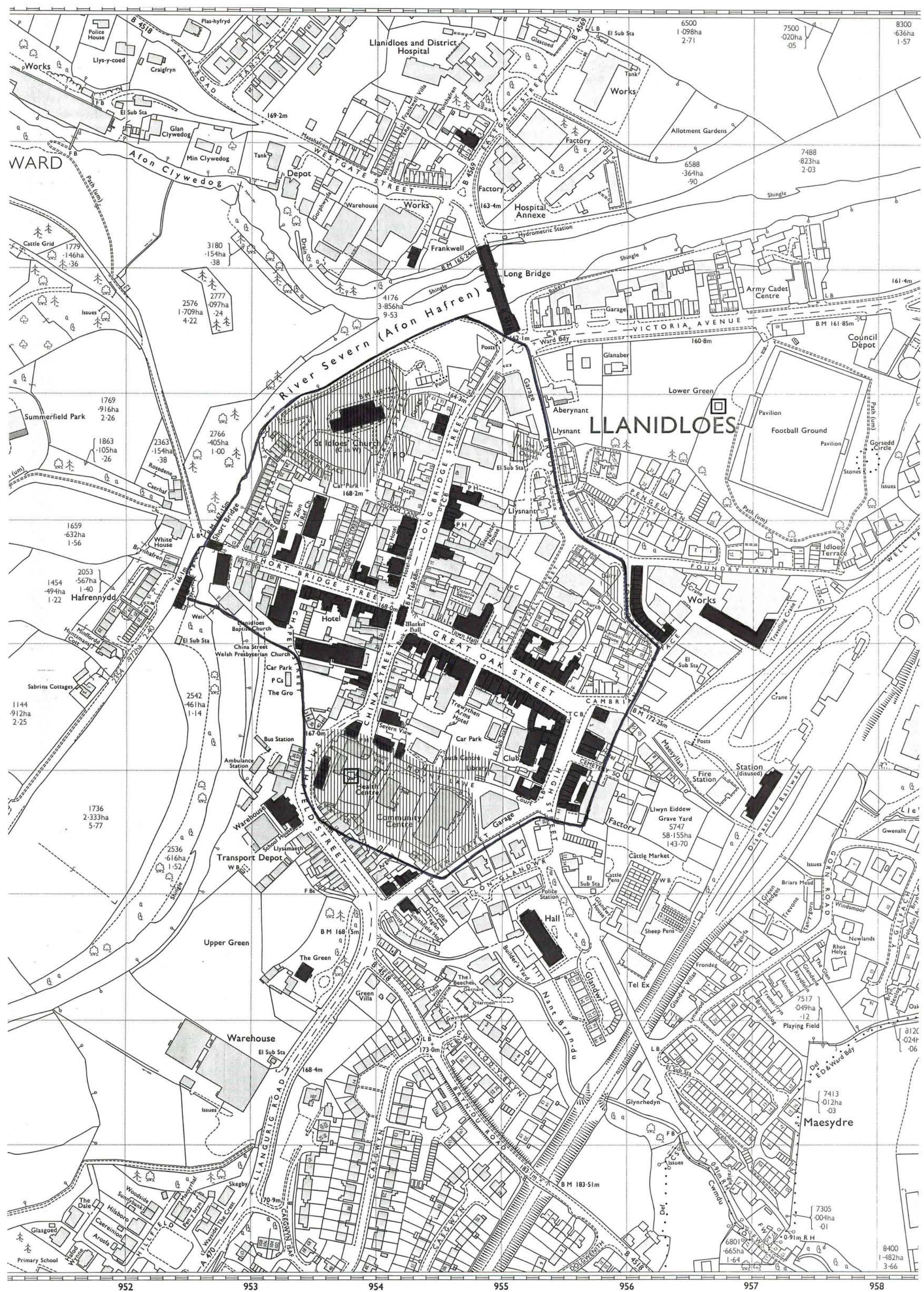
5.1 Llanidloes is a small but important town with a range of archaeological features contributing to its historic heritage. A number of these features are, however, either poorly identified on the ground or ill understood, and their elucidation and where possible, preservation, should be recognised as an important contribution to an understanding of the development of the town and its hinterland. A detailed survey and assessment of the history and topography of the town should be conducted in order to establish priorities for future work in the town.

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it, the town defences and the putative motte and bailey as well as any significant street-frontage sites.

5.3 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

References

- Beresford 1988, 65; 563
Cadw Listed Building Schedule 1989
Carter 1965, 53; 173; 197
Church Guide, n.d.
County SMR
Ellis 1935, 169
Haslam 1979, 139
Jones 1954, 198
O'Neil 1934
Soulsby 19
Spurgeon 1966, 26
Tithe survey 1840



Location and Topography

1.1 Llanllugan lies on back roads in the heart of Montgomeryshire. It is just over 6m south-west of Llanfair Caereinion.

1.2 Set on a slight spur overlooking the southern branch of Afon Rhiw, a tributary of the Severn, Llanllugan's church is accompanied only by the farm of Tynllan. One hundred metres and more to the south-west and at a slightly lower altitude, the small number of houses that go to make up the village front onto lanes that amalgamate to cross the flood plain of the river.

History

2.1 The place-name is recorded as Llanllugan in 1239 and in its present form as late as 1754. The first element is the usual prefix to so many placenames incorporating a saint's name, but the second poses a problem. No 'Llugan' is referenced in the Calendar of Welsh Saints, nor is it recognised as a personal name. Ellis speculates that it might be derived from the Irish 'Llorcan'.

2.2 The early churchyard and perhaps the placename suggest an early medieval foundation, though this remains unproven. The medieval history of Llanllugan is equally obscure, but for the presence of a Cistercian nunnery (PAR 1334), in existence by c.1217 when a charter granting land both around Llanllugan itself and beyond was drawn up for the local lord of Cydwain. In all probability, it was ever a small community: in 1377 there was an abbess and four nuns, and a chaplain. Leland termed it 'a very poor little nunnery' and within a couple of years, in 1536, it was dissolved.

2.3 In the middle of the 19th century, the village looked much as it does today. Only the new house behind Lower Mill has been added in the last 150 years.

Buildings

3.1 St Mary's church (PAR 20107) is a single chamber building, probably of 15th-century date, though the walls could be older. The roof is of similar date, but the font is earlier, perhaps around 1200.

3.2 The church is the only listed building here, but Tynllan (PAR 20229) was once a Grade III listing.

3.3 A holy well (PAR 1335), supposedly close to the church, can no longer be recognised.

Archaeology

4.1 The present churchyard encapsulates a smaller, near circular enclosure showing as a scarp bank up to one metre high (PAR 7621). This is surely an early medieval feature.

4.2 Nothing of the Cistercian nunnery remains, although a carved beam over the fireplace at Gwernfyda, just over 1km to the south-west, is believed to have come from it. Suggestions that the conventual buildings were closer to the Rhiw seem unlikely and it is more probable that Tynllan overlies the site. The field to the east is recorded as Maes y cwrt ucha (PAR 1759).

4.3 Earthworks probably signify that the village was once larger. Just below the west churchyard wall is a platform (PAR 7623) on the natural spur, a sunken track (or dry stream bed) runs across the field opposite the church, while the field east of Ebrandy has tracks and perhaps platforms (PAR 7622).

Recommendations

5.1 Llanllugan is one of the very few settlements in Montgomeryshire with relict earthworks suggestive of a shrunken village. These should be examined more closely and appropriate survey work carried out. If of sufficient merit, they should be recommended for scheduling by the statutory authority. Every effort should be made to resist developments that would have an adverse effect on them.

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.3 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.4 The remains of the earlier churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

5.5 Consideration should be given to a programme of work to establish the location of the Cistercian nunnery.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 171
Haslam 1979, 146
Jones 1954, 203
Lewis 1833
Morgan 1985
Tithe survey, 1850
Williams 1975, 157ff



Location and Topography

1.1 Llanllwchaiarn lies beside the B4568, some 2km north-east of Newtown.

1.2 The meandering Severn, just below Newtown, curves around a spur projecting from the upland slopes. Rock Farm utilises this spur, and the church lies behind it, a small stream creating a shallow valley on the eastern edge of the churchyard. Northwards, the ground rises steadily into the hills.

1.3 Llanllwrchaiarn is currently undergoing rapid change. Opposite the church on the north side of the road to Newtown, a housing estate is springing up, altering completely the character of this small historic settlement.

History

2.1 The place-name appears as Llanlocharen in 1254 and in its present form at the beginning of the nineteenth century. It refers to St Llwchaiarn's church.

2.2 The history of settlement here from early medieval beginnings through to the post-medieval era is unchronicled. In the mid-19th century the church was still relatively isolated, accompanied only by Rock Farm and two houses.

Buildings

3.1 St Llwchaiarn's church (PAR 31051) is a brick construction of 1815, replacing a medieval predecessor.

3.2 A large proportion of the older buildings in Llanllwchaiarn have a Grade II listing. The church apart, Church House (PAR 31053) is 17th century though its adjacent barn cannot be readily attributed, and Rock House (PAR 31054) is mid-18th century.

Archaeology

4.1 The churchyard has been enlarged considerably since the mid-19th century. The Tithe map depicts an oval yard and this is still visible on the ground (PAR 7716).

Recommendations

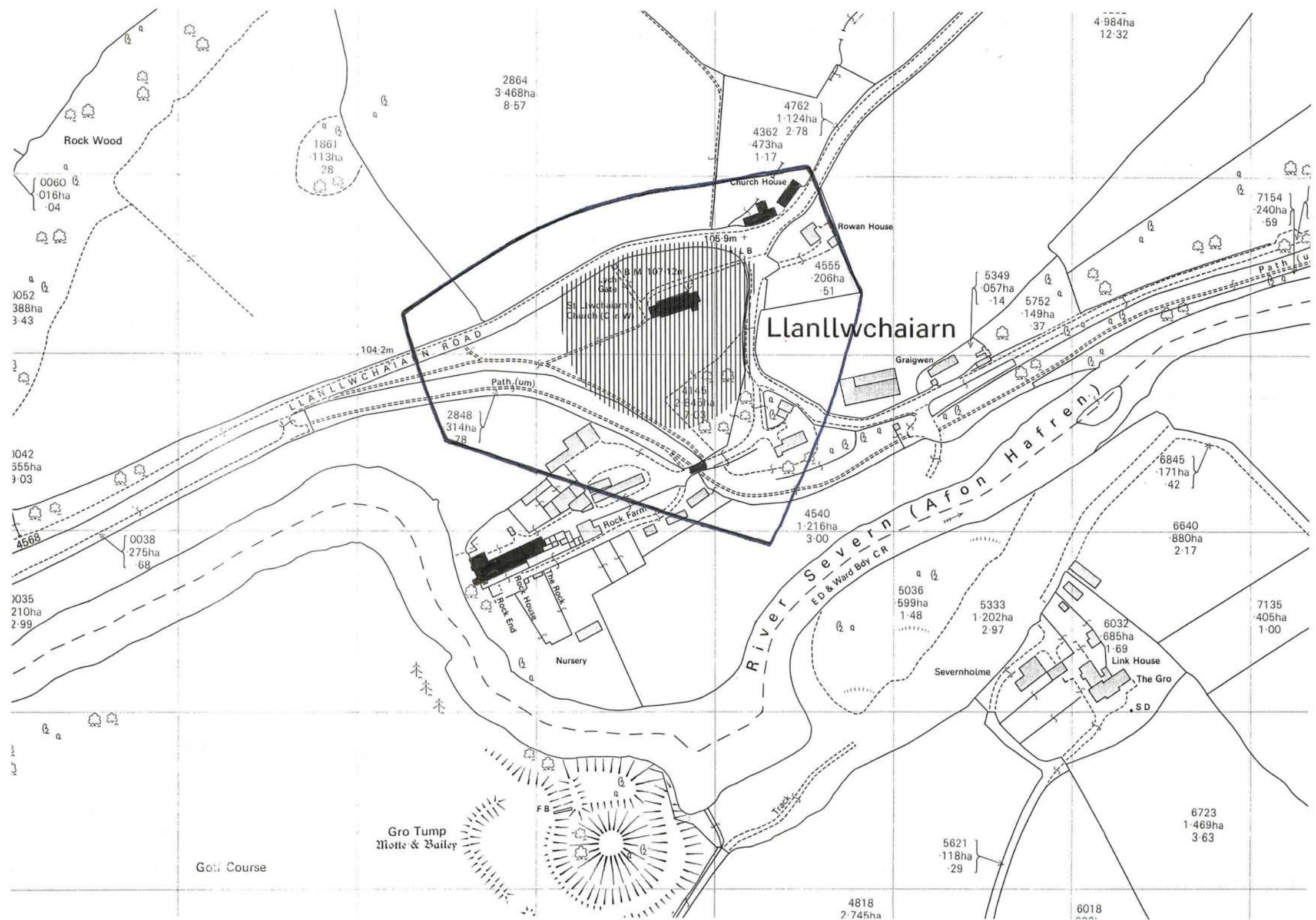
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The earlier course of the churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 173
Haslam 1979, 146
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey, 1842



Location and Topography

1.1 Llanmerewig lies in the hills above the Severn valley, some 5km east-north-east of Newtown.

1.2 The isolated church and adjacent farm, Church House, occupy a saddle separating two slightly higher crests on a ridge between the Severn and the Mwl. To the south the ground drops away suddenly towards the modern hamlet of Llanmerewig which is developing around a crossroads, 400m away.

History

2.1 The name means the 'leap of the hind', referring to a legend associated with St Llwchaearn. The earliest form - Lamerewic - appears in 1254.

2.2 Traditionally, the church was founded by St Llwchaiarn about 575 and he was subsequently buried here.

2.3 The subsequent history of the settlement, if one ever existed here, has not been recorded. The church is said to have formerly been a chapelry within the parish of Llanllwchaiarn.

Buildings

3.1 St Llwchaiarn's church (PAR 7560) was rebuilt almost completely in the second quarter of the 19th century. Surviving from earlier periods are roof beams of the 15th century and some reused fragments of the contemporary screen. The early 14th-century east window of the former structure has been set up against the eastern wall of the churchyard.

Archaeology

4.1 The church sits slightly eccentrically in a sub-circular churchyard (PAR 1818). The presence of a distinctive bank around much of the perimeter - now faced in part by a stone wall - has led to the suggestion that this was originally a prehistoric enclosure, reused in the early medieval period. It is perhaps more likely that the earthwork is the original 'llan', contemporary with the earliest church.

4.2 Much of the land is down to improved pasture, and there is no evidence of earlier settlement activity around the church.

Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the churchyard and the area immediately around it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 174
Haslam 1979, 148
Henken 1987, 191
Lewis 1833
RCAHMQ 1911, 122
Tithe survey 1838

LLANMEREWIG C



Location and Topography

1.1 Llanrhaeadr lies at the junction of the B4580 and several minor roads, about 7km north of Llanfyllin. Astride the county boundary between Montgomeryshire (Powys) and Clwyd, the major portion of the historic core lies in Clwyd, east of Afon Rhaeadr.

1.2 In its lower reaches, Afon Rhaeadr, a tributary of Afon Tanat, occupies a shallow valley, but at the place where Llanrhaeadr has emerged, the valley sides are steeper, particularly the southern slopes. The church and market place lie on the valley floor east of the river, and from this focus the community has expanded along the gentle eastern slopes of the valley and less densely across the river onto the rather steeper terrain.

1.3 While it is not possible to consider the historic importance of Llanrhaeadr without reference to that part of it in Clwyd, but the comments and recommendations are directed at that part of the settlement in Montgomeryshire.

History

2.1 The name Llanraeader appears first in 1253, with the Mochnant suffix appended three centuries later. Elements incorporated in the name are Llan (church) + Rhaeadr (the river) and Mochnant (the commote in which it lies).

2.2 A clas (or mother church), perhaps originating as a monastic establishment, existed here in the early medieval period. During the medieval period if not earlier, settlement may have developed around it, with a market place created just to the north of the church.

2.3 The spread of houses on to the west (Montgomeryshire) bank cannot be dated but may well have been a feature of the post-medieval era. The bridge dated to around 1770 and the road to Penybontfawr, which may have opened up this side of the river, have the appearance of turnpike trust work.

Buildings

3.1 There are no listed buildings in the Montgomeryshire part of Llanrhaeadr. The now-closed public house on the south side of Market Street originally had a Grade III listing (PAR 7635).

3.2 The two chapels in this area are dated 1822 and 1892, reinforcing the 19th-century development west of the river.

Archaeology

3.3 A monolith (PAR 3953), about 1.3m high and with 'Cae Waterloo 1815' engraved on it, stands in a field beside to the river. Whether this is a genuine prehistoric monument in its original location has never been ascertained. It may have been re-sited in recent years.

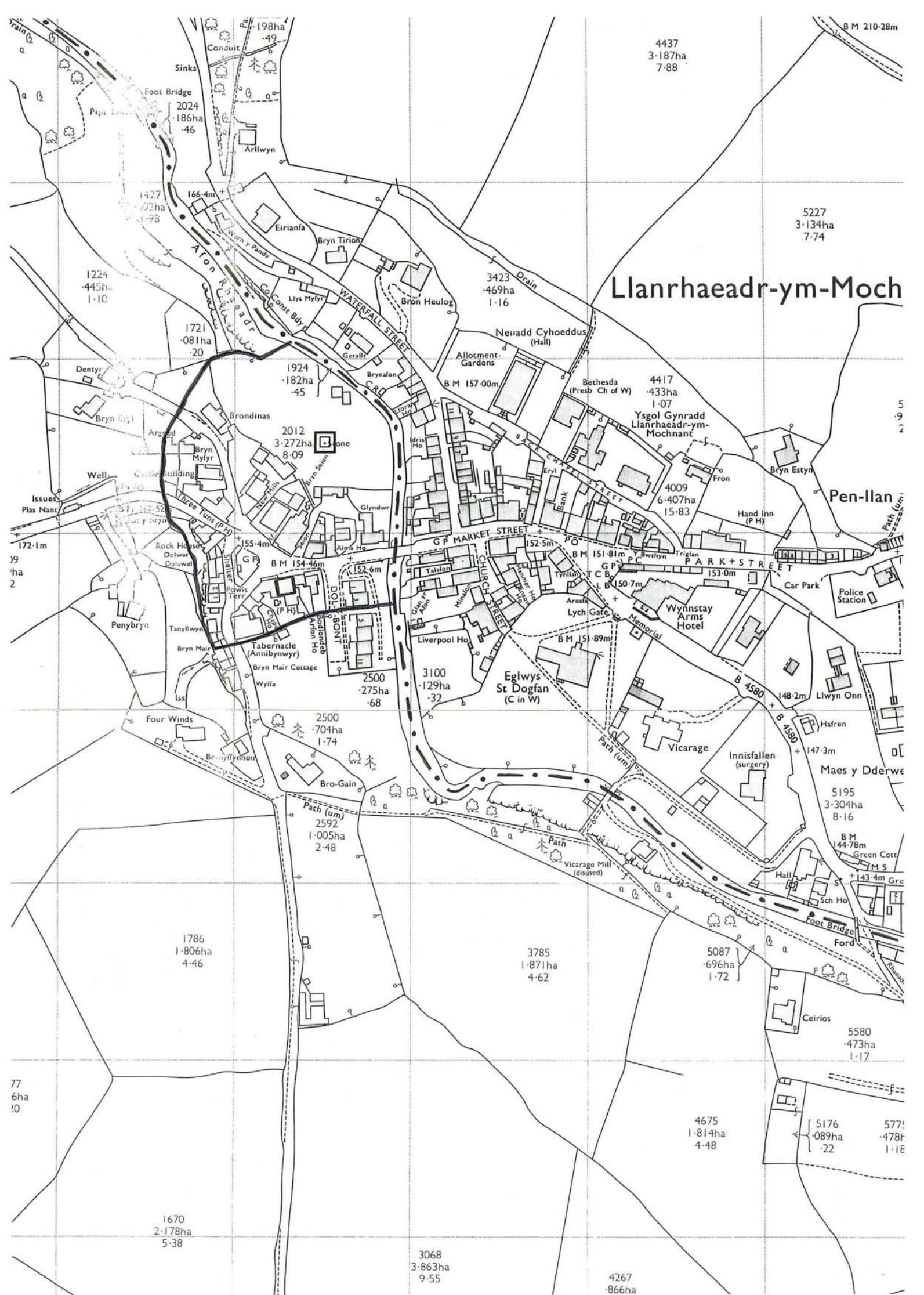
Recommendations

5.1 Although current evidence does not favour historic development west of the river, this possibility cannot be wholly overruled. The historic core perimeter has thus been extended to the Montgomeryshire side of the river and pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within this area, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The field containing the standing stone (PAR 3953) might merit more detailed scrutiny with recording at an appropriate level.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 176
Haslam 1979, 149
Rees 1972, pl 27
Tithe surveys 1841



Location and Topography

1.1 Llansantffraid lies at the intersection of the A495 and B4393 in north-eastern Montgomeryshire. It is approximately 13km north of Welshpool.

1.2 The settlement has grown up at an important river confluence, Afon Cain joining Afon Efyrrwy just to the south and Afon Tanat debouching into the main river 2km to the east. Llansantffraid straggles along the north edge of the Cain valley with steep hills to the north and west, and the flood plain to the south. At the eastern end of the village, houses have spread to the lip of a steep scarp above the Vyrnwy.

1.3 Very much a linear development beside the main street, the eastern end of the village is largely Victorian and later, while the church occupies gently sloping land at the west end. Here, too, modern estates are expanding to fill a shallow valley, and the church is no longer surrounded by open fields.

History

2.1 In 1254, the church was recorded as Llansanfret. 'Ffraid' is the Welsh version of Brigid, the name thus referring to St Brigid's church in Mechain.

2.2 The original sub-circular churchyard (below para 4.2) and its location suggests an early medieval foundation. However, direct information on both the early phase and the settlement's development in the medieval era is lacking.

2.3 In the late 18th century, Llansantffraid was very much smaller than today with a small group of houses scattered around the church and others well spread out along the road to the east. Most of the latter were probably of recent construction at that time.

Buildings

3.1 St Fraid's church (PAR 31154) has a complicated structural history revealed in its fabric. A small Norman window signals a 12th-century date for part of the nave, but Haslam notes that 'the whole building is made of odds and ends of repairs'. Certainly there is 14th, 15th and 17th-century work visible. There is also a good range of internal fittings but with the exception of the possibly 13th-century font, they are 17th century or later.

3.2 There are several Grade II listed buildings in Llansantffraid, including the Lion Hotel (PAR 7720), Bridge House (PAR 7719) and Bodwen (PAR 7717), but without exception these are either late 18th/early 19th century or undated.

Archaeology

4.1 The village is overlooked by the large, well-preserved hillfort of Soldier's Mount, without doubt an Iron Age fortification (PAR 22; SAM 116).

4.2 As depicted on the tithe map, the raised churchyard (PAR 7605) appeared circular. The original course on the north side can still be distinguished but in the area of the primary school it has been erased. Nevertheless, there are minor earthworks (PAR 7718) in the adjacent field which would require

investigation in advance of development.

4.3 That the west end of the village around the church was the original focus of settlement might be suggested by the narrow lane leading past the Lion Hotel to the church, except for the fact that none of the adjacent houses are shown on the tithe map. The pattern here is disrupted by the road leading northwards along the valley which seems to be a 19th-century insertion. The pattern of lanes around the church has also changed for originally the track from Bronhyddon cut through what is now the vicarage garden.

4.3 Llansantffraid bridge at the east end of the village is late 18th-century in date.

Recommendations

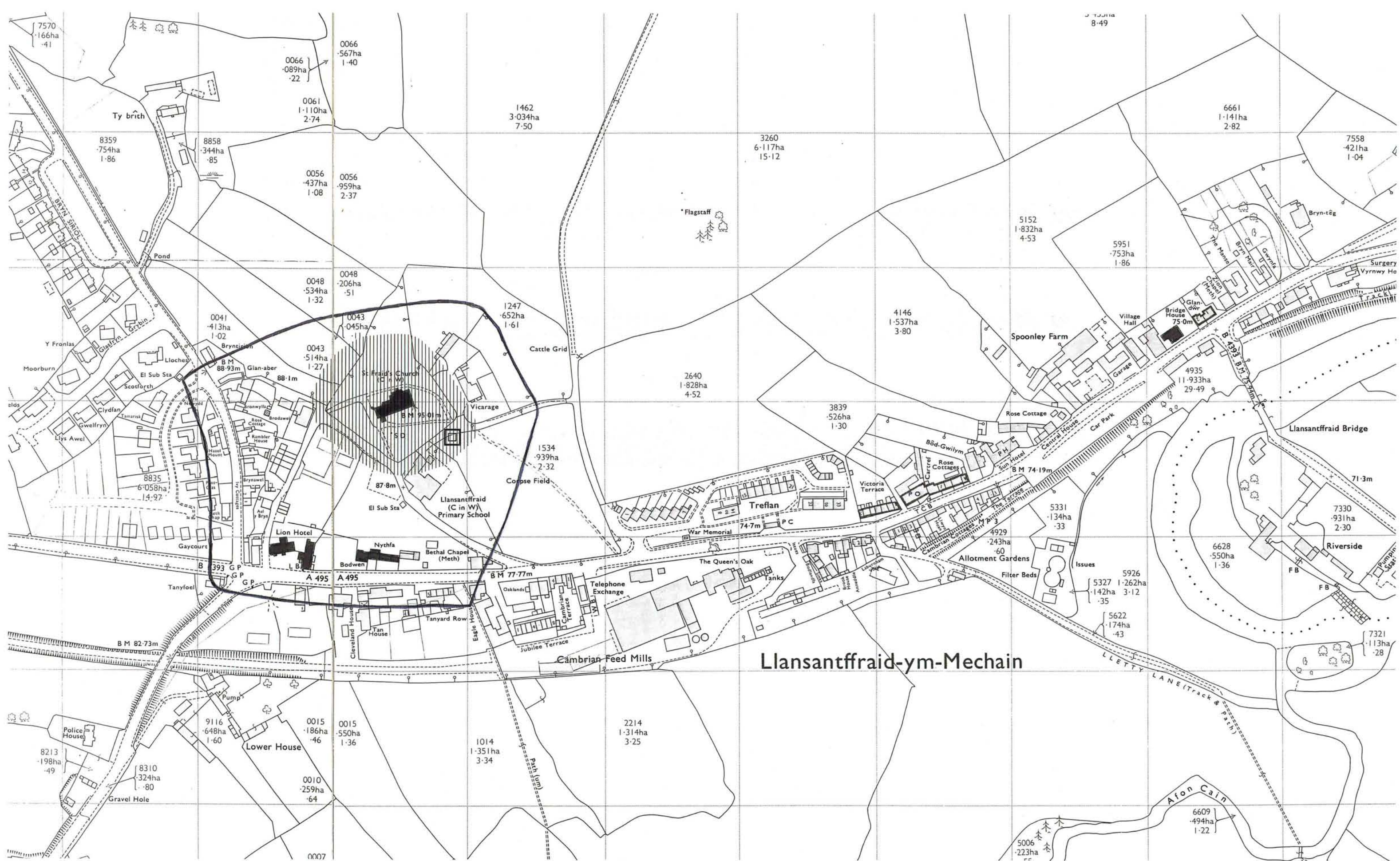
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be requested for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The line of the original churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 182
Enclosure Award map 1788/98
Haslam 1979, 149
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey, 1840



LLANWYDDYN SJ 0119

Note: this settlement has not been investigated during the current fieldwork programme.

Location and History

1.1 The present village of Llanwyddyn is a modern creation replacing the earlier settlement of the same name (centred at SH 999212) which was drowned by the waters of Lake Vyrnwy when the reservoir was filled in 1888.

Recommendations

2.1 No recommendations are proposed for this modern settlement.

Location and Topography

1.1 Llanwnnog is situated on the B4568, 9km west-north-west of Newtown.

1.2 The settlement lies near the base of the slope rising northwards from Afon Carno. The main road follows flattish land, but the churchyard beside it rises gently and until recently most of the dwellings in Llanwnnog clustered around it.

1.3 Current housing development is extending the village up the hill north-eastwards.

History

2.1 The name refers to the church of St Gwnnog and the earliest reference is to Llanwenauc in c.1253.

2.2 Although the centre of an ecclesiastical parish that included Caersws, nothing is known of its early history or subsequent development, other than the fact that it was a daughter church of the clas foundation at Llandinam.

2.3 Its history during the Middle Ages is also unknown. In the mid-19th century, houses were grouped around the church (including two buildings now incorporated in the southern half of the churchyard), with the Vicarage and one cottage as outliers.

Buildings

3.1 St Gwnnog's church (PAR 7553) was heavily restored in 1863 but contains medieval stonework and reused Roman brickwork in its walls. Surviving medieval details include the Perpendicular east window, stained glass of c.1500, and a screen and roof loft of about the same date, reportedly the best surviving example in the county.

3.2 There are no obviously early buildings. Gwyneira (PAR 7721) on the west side of the churchyard has the date 1664 below a first floor window and was formerly classified as a Grade III listed building.

Archaeology

4.1 The raised churchyard (PAR 7554) has been extended downhill in the last century and a half. The northern side retains its curvilinearity, and the original southern side, similarly curved, remains visible.

4.2 The road pattern has almost certainly undergone modification in recent centuries. The B4568 is probably a late creation, and it is likely that the lane running north and east of the churchyard has also been realigned.

4.3 No obvious settlement earthworks survive in the vicinity of the church. There are some minor undulations south of the main road, but none is sufficiently distinctive to warrant preservation.

Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be requested for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The remains of the earlier churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 185
Haslam 1979, 151
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey, 1846



Location and Topography

1.1 Llanwrin sits beside the B4404 in the extreme west of Montgomeryshire, 5km north-east of Machynlleth.

1.2 The B4404 follows the northern edge of the Dovey valley floor, a gravel terrace being visible just to the south of the road in the vicinity of the village. The church is set a few metres higher than the road and indeed, the building itself is terraced into the base of the steep valley slope and much of the churchyard is on a pronounced incline.

1.3 The distribution of buildings around the churchyard is very much as it was one hundred and fifty years ago. The imposition of a new road behind the Smithy on the eastern edge of the village implies that a new group of houses will alter the appearance of this delightful village in due course.

History

2.1 The place-name first appears as Llanuril in c.1253 and in its present form in 1608. It refers to the church of St Gwrin (Gwyrin).

2.2 Nothing is known of the settlement's history. The B4404 is probably a turnpike road, though whether it replaced an existing valley-edge track is unclear. It is possible, however, that there was a ford across the Dovey in the neighbourhood as implied by the footpath running from the village south-eastwards to the river and that this linked to hill tracks from the north which converged on the village.

Buildings

3.1 Supposedly dedicated to St Gwrin, the church is given an alternative dedication to SS Ust and Dyfrig on the large-scale Ordnance Survey map. The building (PAR 7658) is essentially later 15th century, but was restored in 1864. Some internal features are also of late medieval date.

3.2 Plaswrin (PAR 7660) is a Grade II listed building with 18th century features, but rebuilt in the late 18th or early 19th century.

Archaeology

4.1 The churchyard in its present irregular shape is not wholly convincing as an early medieval foundation, yet it does appear that the construction of buildings around its perimeter has led to some flattening out of what may once have been a more curvilinear course. A track, now fenced off and abandoned, followed the churchyard wall on the north-west, indicating modifications to the overall village pattern.

4.2 Minor earthworks in the field to the south of Ty-isaf do not appear to be the remnants of former habitations, but merit further examination.

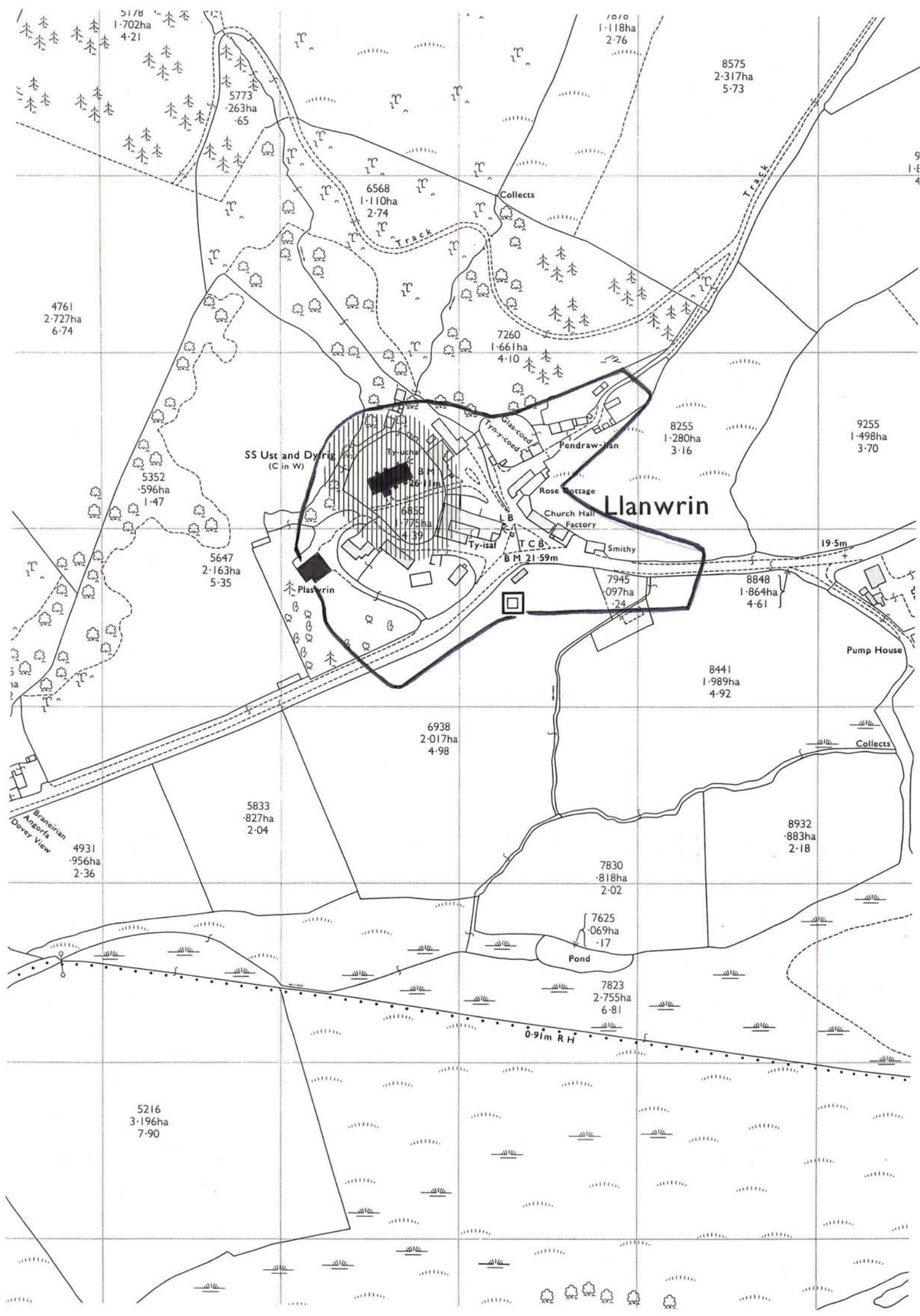
Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be requested for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 187
Haslam 1979, 153
Tithe survey 1839



Location and Topography

1.1 Set on a back road in central Montgomeryshire, Llanwyddelan is about 6km south of Llanfair Caereinion.

1.2 The church crowns the end of a ridge, the ground rising gently to the south-west but dropping away more sharply eastwards. Afon Rhiw, the nearest river, is nearly one kilometre away.

1.3 Llanwyddelan remains an exceptionally small settlement, although the number of houses has doubled in the last few years.

History

2.1 Appearing as Llanoedelan in 1254, the name refers to the church of an Irish holy man, St Gwydellan.

2.2 The history of the settlement is obscure, although an early medieval date for the foundation of the church may be assumed on the basis of the dedication and the shape of the churchyard. Even in the mid-19th century there were only four houses in the village.

Buildings

3.1 St Gwyddelan's church (PAR 7585) was rebuilt in 1865, perhaps on the old foundations of the older structure.

3.2 There are no other noteworthy buildings.

Archaeology

4.1 The churchyard (PAR 7586) has been extended in recent times. Originally oval, its earlier course can be seen on the south-east side, commencing at a point where the churchyard retaining wall beside the road gives way to a grassy bank.

Recommendations

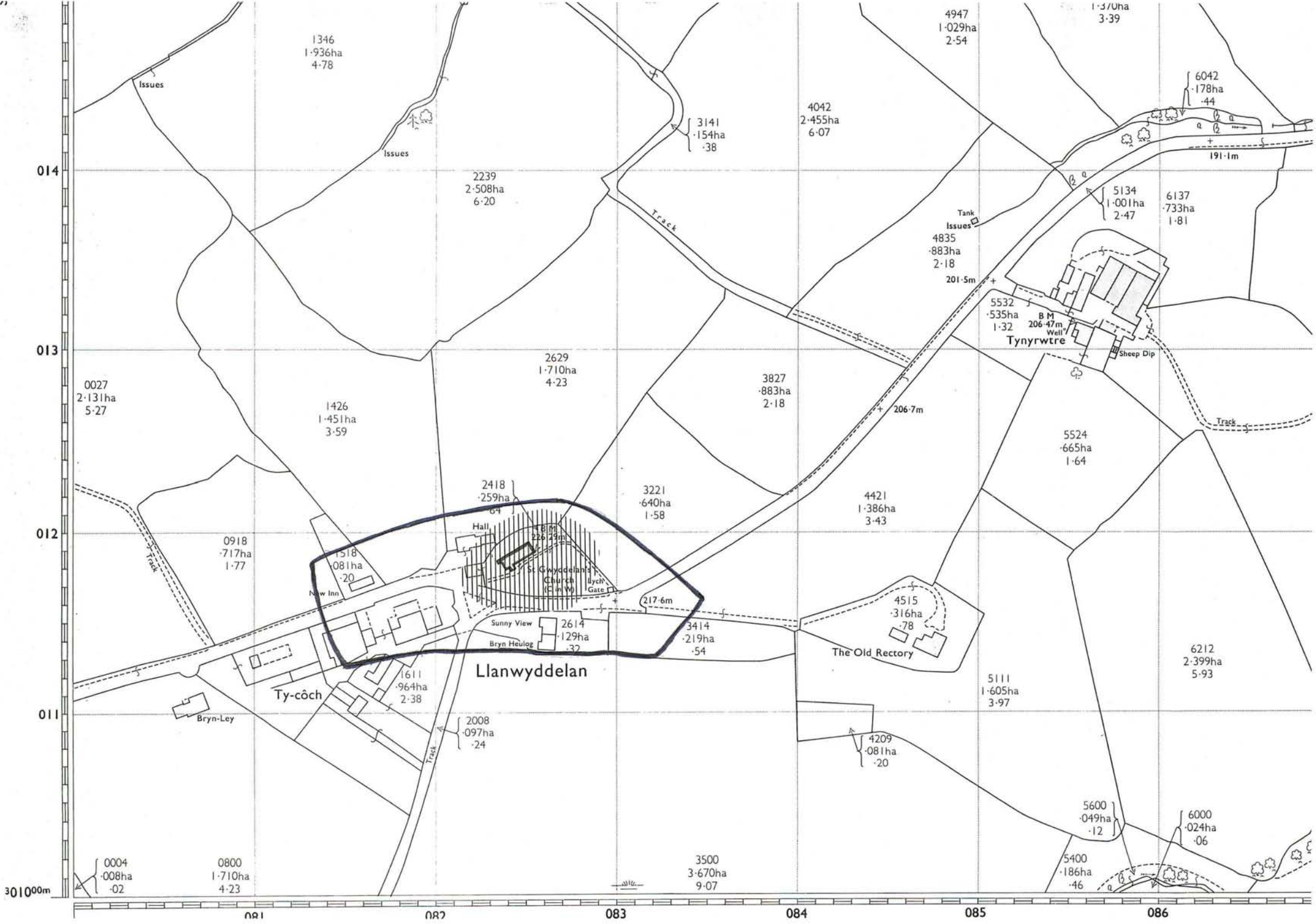
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be requested for any proposals affecting the churchyard and its immediate surroundings (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The earlier course of the churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 189
Haslam 1979, 154
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey, 1843



1346
1.936ha
4.78

4947
1.029ha
2.54

1.3/0ha
3.39

6042
1.178ha
.44

4042
2.455ha
6.07

3141
1.154ha
.38

2239
2.508ha
6.20

5134
1.001ha
2.47

6137
1.733ha
1.81

4835
1.883ha
2.18

5532
1.535ha
1.32

5524
1.665ha
1.64

3827
1.883ha
2.18

2629
1.710ha
4.23

1426
1.451ha
3.59

0027
2.131ha
5.27

2418
1.259ha
.64

3221
1.640ha
1.58

0918
1.717ha
1.77

1518
1.081ha
.20

4515
1.316ha
.78

2614
1.129ha
.32

3414
1.219ha
.54

6212
2.399ha
5.93

5111
1.605ha
3.97

4209
1.081ha
.20

5600
1.049ha
.12

6000
1.024ha
.06

5400
1.186ha
.46

3500
3.670ha
9.07

0800
1.710ha
4.23

0004
1.008ha
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082

083

084

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086

Location and Topography

1.1 Llanymynech lies on the border with Shropshire, 14km north of Welshpool and on the trunk road, the A483, which links mid-Wales with the north.

1.2 The settlement lies on a bluff above Afon Efyrynwy. The churchyard is perched on the edge of the scarp and Chapel Lane also follows its sinuous course. Possibly a shallow valley ran between the two for the main road is at a lower level. Northwards, the ground slopes gently upwards towards Pen y Foel while behind rise the quarried crags of Llanymynech Hill.

1.3 The boundary between England and Wales follows the eastern edge of the main street, before diverging slightly to take in a very small segment of the churchyard and then cutting across the street tangentially to pick up a stream course. It is not possible to consider the historic importance of Llansantffraid without reference to that part of it in Shropshire, but the comments and recommendations are directed at that part of the village in Montgomeryshire.

History

2.1 Lanmenagh is recorded about 1272, and can be translated as 'church of the monks'.

2.2 The shape of the churchyard and its location point to an early medieval foundation, but confirmation is lacking and the later history, too, is obscure.

2.3 In the mid-19th century, there were few houses on the west side of the road. Chapel Lane ran down to St Bennion's Well and the ground north of Tan-y-foel was an open field sub-divided into strips.

Buildings

3.1 The church of St Agatha, a complete Victorian rebuild, is wholly in Shropshire.

3.2 The only listed building is The Gardd (PAR 7722) erected perhaps in the 17th century.

Archaeology

4.1 A considerable range of archaeological sites is known from the environs of Llanymynech. A ring-ditch (PAR 3641), believed to be of Bronze Age date, was subject to trial excavation recently, and on the northern side of Elmtree Farm aerial photography has revealed pit alignments (PAR 2456) whose chronology will emerge only through excavation. On the valley floor close to a palaeochannel another ring ditch (PAR 3642) has been recognised south-west of St Bennion's Well, and nearby is a small rectilinear ditched enclosure (PAR 3640), probably of Iron Age or Roman date. A larger, double-ditched example was set on the side of Pen y Foel (PAR 3594; SAM Montgomery 175). Llanymynech Hill (PAR 28; SAM Montgomery 30) sports one of the largest hillforts in Britain. Copper ore has been mined here, perhaps over many centuries. Roman

activity is evidenced on the hill, and rescue excavations some years ago produced the residue from metalworking in the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. Offa's Dyke runs up to and utilises the hillfort ramparts.

4.2 St Agatha's churchyard (PAR 7606) is curvilinear in outline.

4.3 St Bennion's Well (PAR 29) lies 250m to the south-west of the church and was used for charms as late as 1878.

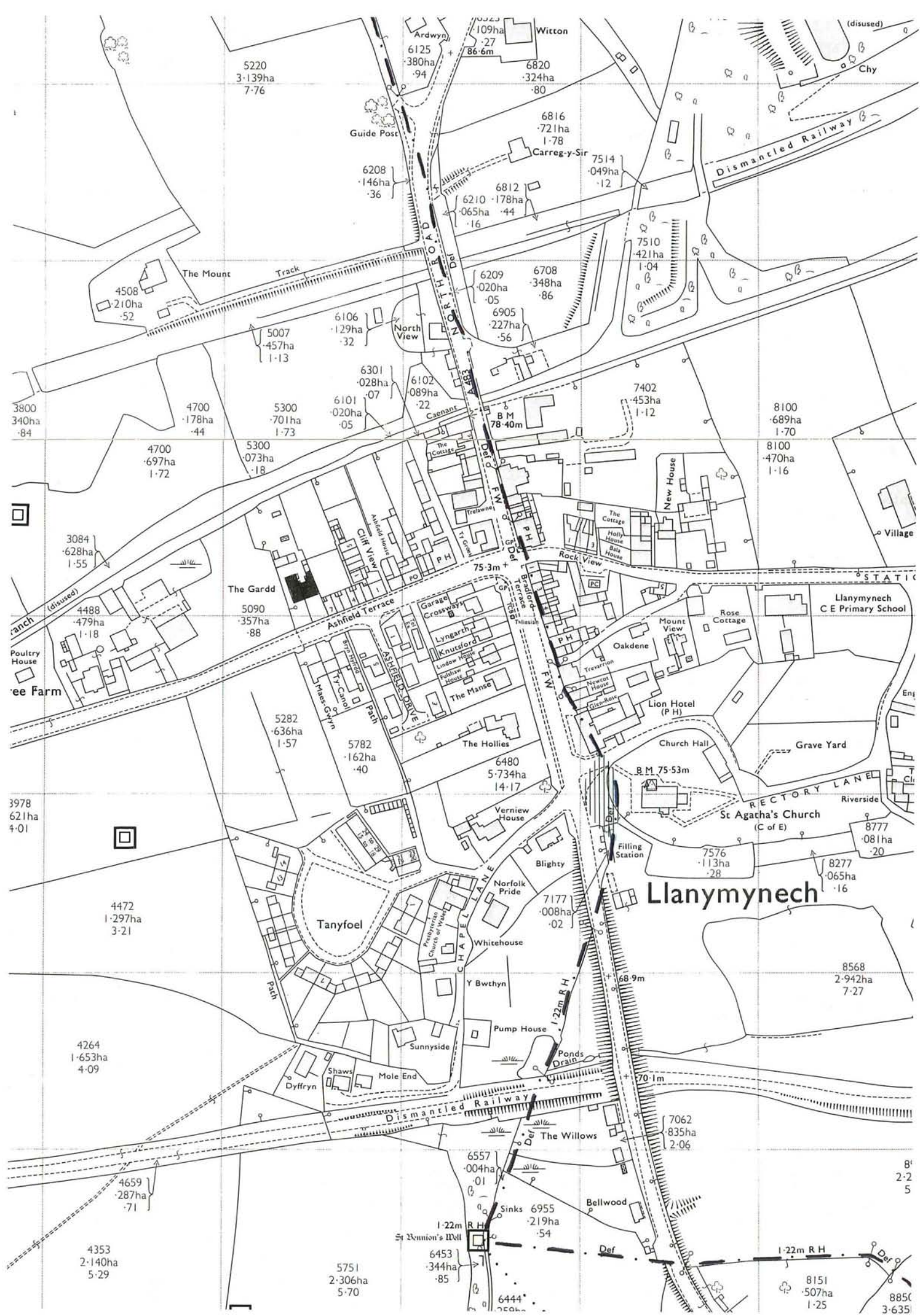
Recommendations

5.1 The small part of the proposed historic core lying in Montgomeryshire is largely built over. Nevertheless, any proposals affecting that part of the churchyard in Wales or its immediate surroundings should be subject to a pre-planning evaluation (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 On the evidence available it is impossible to determine whether any settlement in the historic era lay to the west of the main road or whether it was confined to the spur on which the church stood. For this reason no historic core is defined on the accompanying plan.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 190
Haslam 1979, 154
Jones 1954, 197
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey, 1838



Location and Topography

1.1 Llawr-y-glyn lies in the hills of southern Montgomeryshire, about 7km to the north-east of Llanidloes.

1.2 The houses making up this hamlet sit beside a small stream, Nant Cwmgwernog, just above its outfall into Afon Trannon. At this point the river follows a moderately narrow valley, but a few kilometres downstream at Trefeglwys it broadens into a distinctive flood plain.

1.3 There is very little modern housing development in Llawr-y-glyn.

History

2.1 The translation of the topographical term is 'floor of the valley', but Ellis was unable to discover any early references to this place.

Buildings

3.1 There are no listed buildings here, although the row of timber-framed cottages, Penypound, Ty-canol and perhaps Ty-gwyn are probably at least as early as the 18th century.

Archaeology

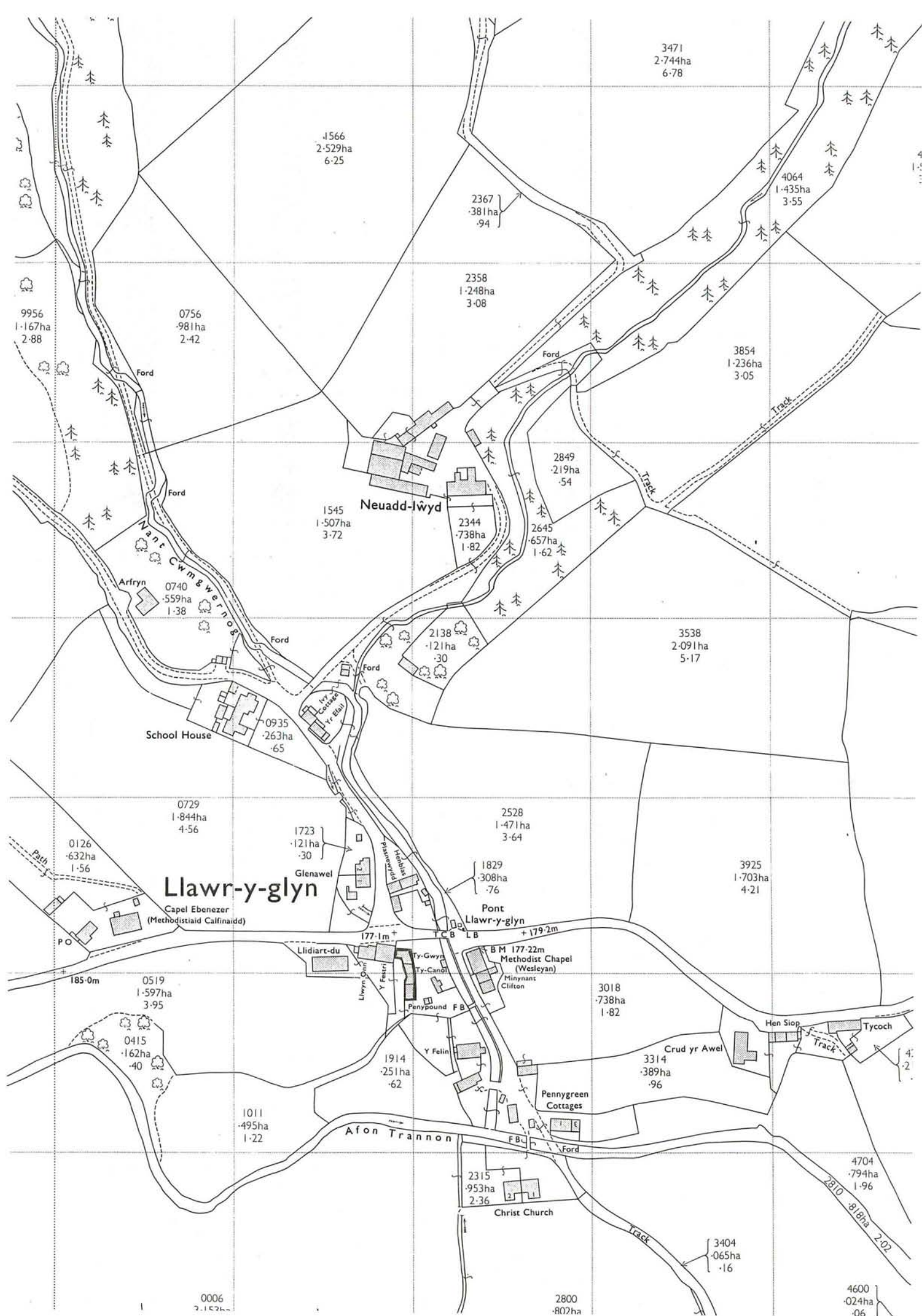
4.1 Nothing of archaeological interest has been recorded here.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of the absence of a perceivable historical background to Llawr-y-glyn, no recommendations are proposed.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 184
Tithe survey, Trefeglwys, 1848



Location and Topography

1.1 Machynlleth lies at the junction of two trunk roads, the A487 and A489, at the western edge of Montgomeryshire. It has grown up close to the lowest bridging point of the River Dyfi.

1.2 Established on slightly higher ground adjacent to where the bottom of the Dyfi valley broadens out, the town has expanded eastwards along a shallow valley that nurses several small streams. Northwards the isolated crags of Pen yr Allt have inhibited expansion, but during this century housing developments have started to encroach on rising ground on the south and also towards Afon Dulas on the east. It is now the fourth largest town in Montgomeryshire.

History

2.1 The earliest form of the name is Machenleyd found about 1253. It means a 'place' or 'land' in the commote of Cynllaith.

2.2 The town was founded by the Welshman, Owain de la Pole, late in the 13th century, though some settlement may already have been in existence at that date. In 1291 he was granted the right to hold a weekly market and two annual fairs and by the end of the century there were 61 tax payers. However, there is no evidence that the town ever achieved borough status.

2.3 The basic layout of the new town was T-shaped with an east-west road (Maengwyn Street) meeting a north-south road at a market place. The former was the principal thoroughfare.

2.4 Owain Glyndwr called a parliament here in 1404.

2.5 That Machynlleth declined in the late medieval period like so many other towns is suggested by the fact that in 1545 there were only 51 tax payers. Nevertheless, Leland classed it as the second town of Montgomeryshire, and with both market and Assizes it was amongst the most important twenty-five towns in Wales in the 16th and 17th century. It seems to have had a strong commercial base and as the Dyfi was navigable to within a mile and a half of the town water-borne transport was of signal importance.

2.6 The Dyfi was bridged in 1533 (PAR 4090; SAM Montgomery 2) providing easy access to the north and the bridge was apparently the site of a minor Civil War battle in 1644 (PAR 4323)

2.7 In the droving era between the 17th and 19th centuries, Machynlleth emerged as one of the most important collecting centres for stock making the journey to England. A coach link with Shrewsbury was established in 1798 and the railway reached Machynlleth in 1864.

2.8 Around 1770 Plas Machynlleth was constructed at the southern end of the town, necessitating the diversion of Heol Pentrerhedyn and presumably the destruction of houses along it to make way for house and grounds.

Buildings

3.1 The church of St Peter (PAR 7669) was probably built soon after the foundation of the town. Nothing of this early structure survives. The west tower has 15th-century fabric with later additions; the rest of the building was replaced in 1827 with subsequent modifications in 1866. Internally the font is 15th century but other fittings are largely Victorian.

3.2 Owain Glyndwr's Parliament House, a Grade I listed building (PAR 1270), is the traditional setting of the 1404 parliament. The building itself is later than the event though still 15th century. However, it was extensively rebuilt at the beginning of this century.

3.3 The Court House (PAR 20203) towards the eastern end of Maengwyn Street is probably a late medieval half-timbered hall house refaced in stone in 1628. It has a Grade II* listing.

3.4 The Royal House (PAR 7670) on Heol Penrallt has been attributed to the medieval period, but appears to be 17th century with later additions. It is listed Grade II.

3.5 Formerly the home of the Marquis of Londonderry, Plas Machynlleth (PAR 7671) is essentially Georgian with 19th-century additions. It replaced a house called Greenfields, the 1653 datestone from this being reused in the new building. Plas Machynlleth has been the local council offices since 1947, and is a Grade II* listed building.

3.6 There are some other 17th and 18th-century buildings but as Haslam notes the appearance of the town is essentially Victorian.

Archaeology

4.1 Limited prehistoric activity is attested in the area. A polished stone axe (PAR 712/1274) is variously recorded as having come from house foundations in 1885 opposite the Chest Hospital or from Gallt y Gog, north of the town.

4.2 A standing stone, Maen Llwyd (PAR 715), now lying on a traffic island, may have been a Bronze Age standing stone though its original position is unknown. A supposed Iron Age hillfort, Gallt y Gog (PAR 711) overlooks the town.

4.3 The polygonal churchyard (PAR 7668) was expanded on the north-east between 1763 and 1844. The original perimeter can still be recognised.

4.4 The pattern of long narrow tenements leading off the two main streets is still clearly represented on the ground. Beyond this zone, artisans' and workers' dwellings had sprung up by the later 19th century. In 1763, for instance, the site of Brickfield Street below the church was represented by a linear sheet of water, perhaps a mill pond.

4.5 The early course of Heol Pentrerhedyn prior to its diversion about 1770, is depicted on an estate map of 1763. The road ran south from the Market House at the T-junction and had dwellings along both sides. Just to the north of Greenfields (now Plas Machynlleth), on the basis of a recent assessment, the road turned through a right-angle and then some 200m on it broadened out where the town pound was sited. The estate map shows some housing on the north side of the road near the pound. Excavations in advance of the Bro Ddyfi Leisure Centre scheme revealed the plans of three buildings on either side of the street which were demolished by the owner of Greenfields in 1845.

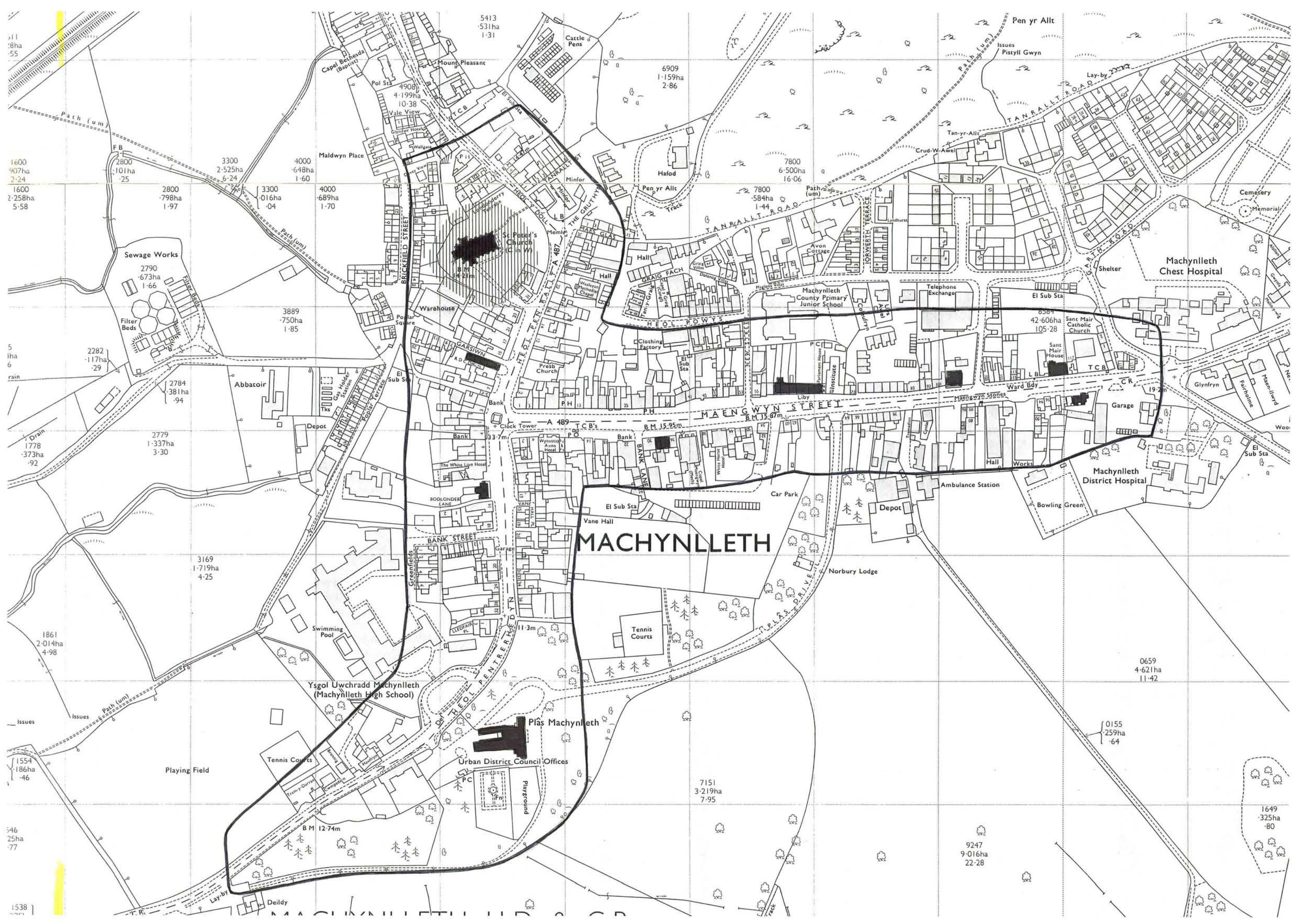
Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be requested for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development. This may be particularly appropriate in the area around the market place which represents the early core of the town.

References

Barfoot 1991
Cadw listed building schedule 1990
Carter 1965, 35
Colyer 1984, 133
County SMR
Estate Map 1763 in Wynnstay Deposit, NLW
Haslam 1979, 155
Smith 1906, 12
Soulsby 1983, 180
Stone 1989, 62



Location and Topography

1.1 Manafon lies on the B4390 in the hills of central Montgomeryshire. It is about 4km south of Llanfair Caereinion.

1.2 Afon Rhiw, a tributary of the Severn, follows a valley whose floor is never much more than 300m wide. Manafon lies on the valley floor, the church little more than 100m north of the river. Ridges in neighbouring fields signal the channels of earlier watercourses and fluvial deposits, and beyond the valley sides slope steeply upwards.

1.3 This is a small settlement but there has been recent infilling of the historic core, some of it in the last couple of years. A large caravan park covers the ground between the church and motte.

History

2.1 In its earliest form in c.1253, the place-name appears as Manaon, with Manavon in 1393-4. The two elements are 'man' meaning 'place' and 'afon' for 'river'.

2.2 Little information is available on Manafon's origin and development. The church dedication does not herald an early medieval foundation, but the earlier churchyard shape is more suggestive. A pre-Conquest origin thus remains unproven. In the mid-19th century there were little more than half a dozen cottages spread along the road, together with Moat Farm on the far bank of the Rhiw.

Buildings

3.1 St Michael's church (PAR 7582) is a single-chamber building with a timber bell-turret at the west end. The original building is probably 14th century and three windows survive from this period, but it was heavily restored in the Victorian era. The restored 15th-century roof apart, there is little in the interior of any age.

3.2 There are now no listed buildings but Church Cottages (PAR 7723) formerly had a Grade III listing.

Archaeology

4.1 The churchyard as depicted on the tithe map was considerably more curvilinear than today, and this is reflected within the western part of the present yard, by a curving bank (PAR 7583).

4.2 The small motte (PAR 108), created from a natural hillock, lies beside a small stream feeding into the Rhiw. Nothing of the bailey survives above ground and the motte has also suffered from the proximity of Moat Farm. Its history is unknown.

4.3 Earthworks in the fields around the settlement are primarily natural in origin resulting from fluvial activity, though at least one former fieldbank was also noted.

Recommendations

5.1 Some but by no means all of the historic core has been developed. Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

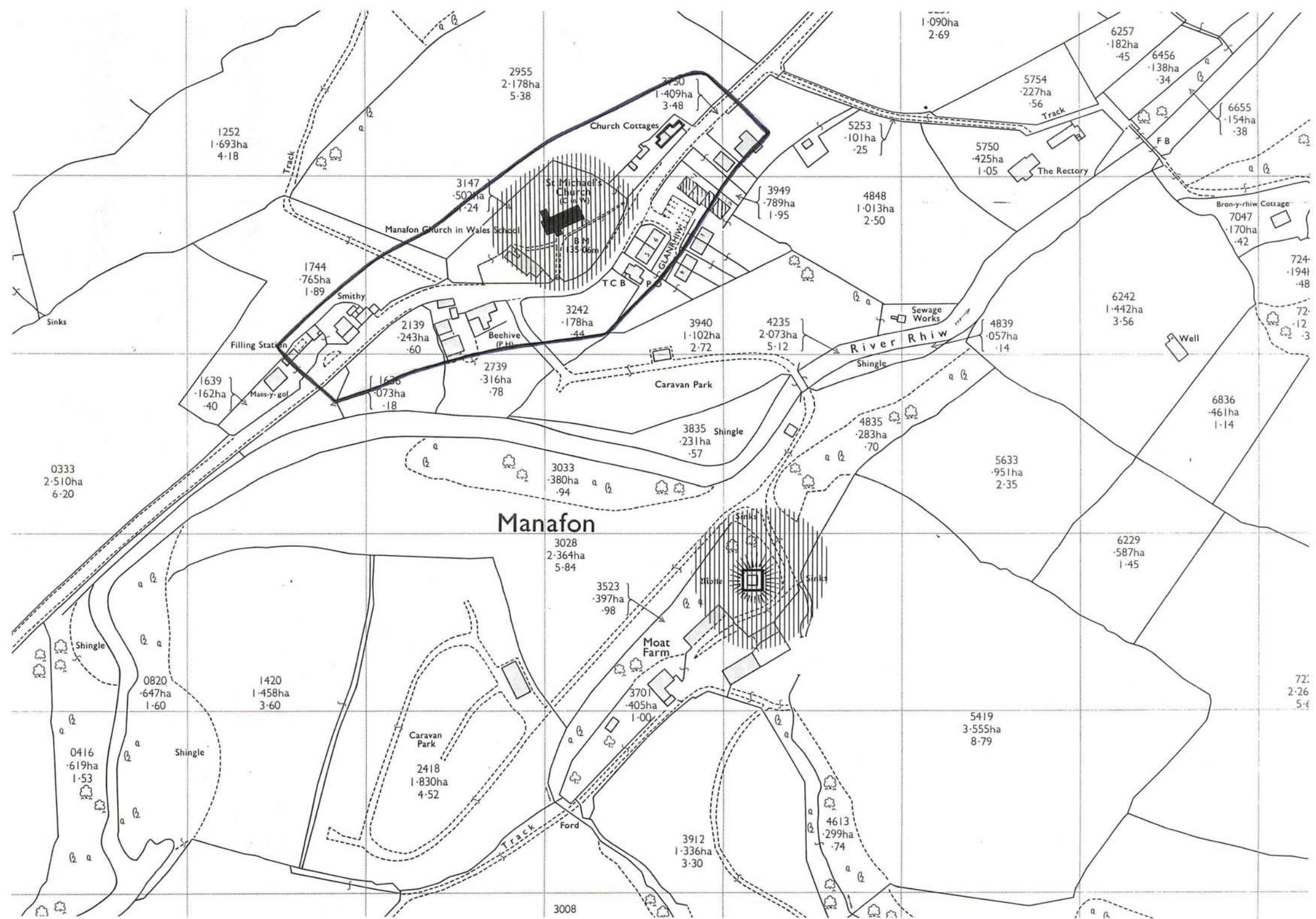
5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development

5.3 The remains of the sub-circular churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

5.4 The condition of the motte should be monitored and if necessary appropriate steps should be taken to record any archaeology exposed by farm works.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 200
Haslam 1979, 157
Spurgeon 1966, 32
Tithe survey 1848



Location and Topography

1.1 Meifod lies on the B4389 which follows the Vyrnwy as it flows along Dyffryn Meifod, through central Montgomeryshire. Llanfair Caereinion lies 9km to the south-west.

1.2 For much of its course the valley is rather less than one kilometre wide, its palaeochannels, gravel fans and terraces obvious particularly from the air. Meifod occupies the valley floor less than 300m from the river, the churchyard edge appearing to follow the scarp of a gravel terrace. The presence of a flood embankment encircling the village is testimony to the problems of this low-lying location.

1.3 The focus for settlement in past centuries has been along High Street and around the church. The pattern is now changing. There is current development north-east of the church, but a substantially larger spread of housing is covering the northern edge of the valley floor beyond the primary school.

History

2.1 The name appears first as Meyvot in 1239, but there is uncertainty as to its meaning. Ellis considered that it could be a derivative of either hafod or hendre!

2.1 The earliest church is supposed to have been built here by St Gwyddfarch in c.550 and later Meifod became the cult centre of his pupil, St Tysilio. With its vast 9-acre churchyard, it comes as no surprise that Meifod was a clas or mother-church in the early medieval period. Traditionally, it was the burial place of the princes of Powys whose seat was at Mathrafal, 3km away, though this view may simply be a back-projection of a practice that occurred in the 12th century.

Buildings

3.1 The parish church of SS Tysilio and Mary (PAR 50460) may be the one recorded as having been consecrated in 1156. This would fit with the surviving Romanesque architecture at the west end of the present building which reveals a relatively complex history. The rest is 14th and 15th century with some rebuilding in the first half of the 19th century. Internal fittings are predominantly post-medieval in date, but there is a fine cross slab (PAR 6049), variously dated to the 9th/10th or 12th century.

3.2 Most buildings in the village are later than 1825, but the King's Head (PAR 7661) and Vyrnwy House (PAR 7662) are both Grade II listed buildings attributed to the late 18th century; and the Old Vicarage with a similar listing is considered to date from around 1720.

Archaeology

4.1 A polished stone axe (PAR 5922), presumably of Neolithic date, was found near the Vicarage in 1879; and, perhaps more significantly, a fragment of Roman pottery (PAR 5984) was found during grave-digging in 1985.

4.2 The churchyard is semi-circular (PAR 7663), its southern edge beside a small stream draining across the valley floor. A scarp bank just within this boundary is certainly a natural terrace but a case can be made for it being the line of an earlier churchyard. Encroachment on the original enclosure has occurred on both the north-east beside the main road and more significantly on the west.

4.3 A chapel dedicated to St Gwyddfarch (PAR 50458) is claimed to have lain in the western part of the churchyard and may still have been visible in 1631 when it was referred to in a terrier. Its outline was recorded during the construction of the Congregational Chapel in the 1880s and glazed floor tiles were recovered. References to a church dedicated solely to St Tysilio add to an unresolved question as to how many churches were accommodated in this churchyard. Views differ as to whether there was once a separate church of St Mary (PAR 50459) nearby, or whether it was added to the Norman church of St Tysilio (PAR 75).

4.4 A long strip of land on the north side of the churchyard may have formed a green or market place through which the main thoroughfare passed. In 1769 a few dwellings lay on its edge, revealed today in the outbuildings behind the King's Head Hotel. The implication is that all the houses now butting on to High Street are late 18th or early 19th century in origin.

4.5 A fine moated enclosure, Cwrt y Person (PAR 74; SAM Montgomery 166) lies back from the road and closer to the valley slopes. Low banks, now barely visible, may have defined an outer court. The enclosure is presumably medieval in date.

4.6 Traces of ridge and furrow cultivation show up on aerial photographs in several fields around the village, but these require confirmation from fieldwork (PAR 7664, 7665, 7666)

Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the original churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

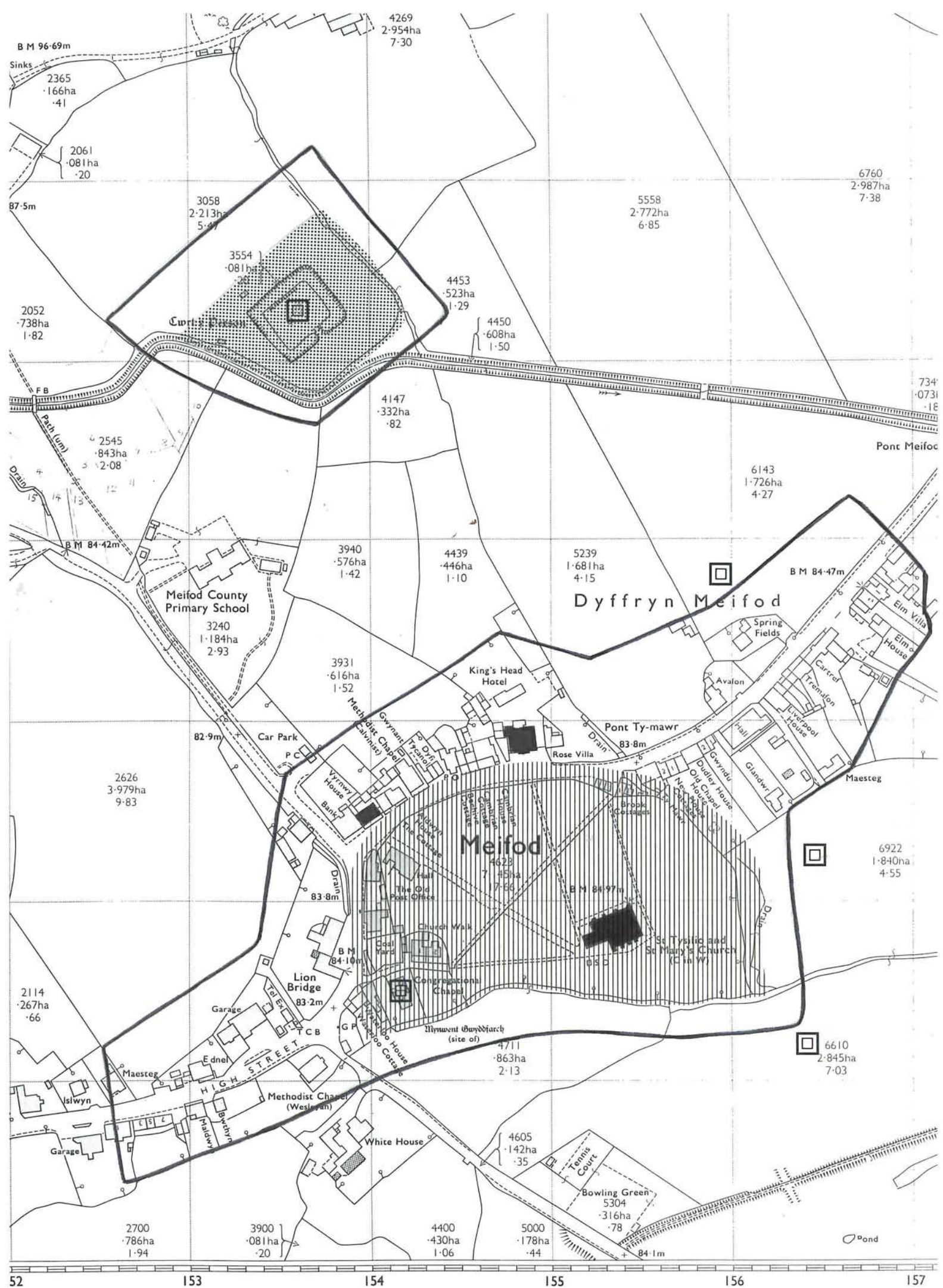
5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The remains of the semi-circular churchyard (PAR 7632) should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

5.4 Cwrt y Person is afforded protection through its Scheduled Ancient Monument status, but in view of the possibility of outworks (above, 4.4) and the spread of new housing in the area, a full assessment should be undertaken as a matter of some urgency.

References

Bowen 1956, 78
Church guide 1984
County SMR
Ellis 1935, 203
Estate Map, 1769 (Dugdale Deposit, NWL)
Haslam 1979, 159
Musson and Spurgeon 1988, 104
OS records
Tithe survey 1842



Location and Topography

1.1 Middletown lies just within Wales on the A458(T) between Welshpool and Shrewsbury.

1.2 The settlement shelters on the lower slopes of towering Middletown Hill. Two streams, Pwll Trewern to the south-east and Pwll Bychan running off the hill just beyond the built-up area, cut shallow valleys south of the settlement.

History

2.1 In the form Middelton, the place-name appears as early as 1322, with the obvious meaning of 'middle settlement'.

2.2 Other than this early place-name reference, there is nothing to suggest that Middletown's history goes back into the Middle Ages.

2.3 In the mid-19th century virtually all the houses were spaced along the lane from The Mount in the north, past the Breidden Hotel to The Coppice in the south. The southern lane was the original road eastwards, the present main road having been constructed in the (?) early 19th century.

Buildings

3.1 The only listed building in the vicinity is Ivy House (Grade II; PAR 7724), an early to mid-19th century structure.

3.2 All Saints' Church (PAR 7725) was built in 1871 on a virgin site. It does, however, incorporate a 17th-century doorway from Alberbury in Shropshire.

Archaeology

4.1 Minor earthworks were noted in the field due north of the Methodist Chapel, but their nature is unclear. These apart, neither the present survey nor previous work in this border region has revealed anything other than the hillfort crowning Middletown Hill (PAR 1704; SAM Montgomery 7).

Recommendations

5.1 In view of Middletown's perceived history, no recommendations are made.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 208
Haslam 1979, 162
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey, Alberbury (Salop) 1849



Location and Topography

1.1 Approached by minor lanes, Mochdre is in a remote valley of southern Montgomeryshire, although it is only 5km south-west of Newtown.

1.2 Church and vicarage occupy a shelf on a moderately steep western hillside above Mochdre Brook. Further buildings lie in the valley bottom.

History

2.1 The name is variously interpreted as 'pig town' or the 'hamlet on the Moch'. Mochtref appears as the earliest form of the name in the 13th century.

2.2 In the 12th century, it fell within the Lordship of Kerry, and for a time may have been in Kerry parish. There is no evidence to take Mochdre back before this time and neither the dedication nor the morphology of the churchyard point to an early medieval foundation.

Buildings

3.1 All Saints' Church (PAR 7549), largely rebuilt in 1867, has only an early 16th-century roof from the earlier building. Two wooden medieval rood figures found during the restoration are now in the National Museum of Wales.

Archaeology

4.1 The rectilinear outline of the churchyard (PAR 7726) has witnessed minor modifications on the north side, but there is little to indicate any element of curvilinearity.

4.2 Houses beside the Mochdre Brook are the survivors of a slightly larger group including a mill (PAR 7550) which were distinguishable in the mid-19th century. An estate map of 1805 also depicts up to four dwellings (PAR 7727) beside the track leading down to the stream. None of these now survives.

4.3 A network of narrow trackways running both along and across the contours reveal a pattern of communications that undoubtedly stretches back into the medieval era and perhaps earlier (eg PAR 8617).

4.4 Some traces of ridge and furrow cultivation (PAR 4850) have been recorded in the vicinity of Cae-Colley.

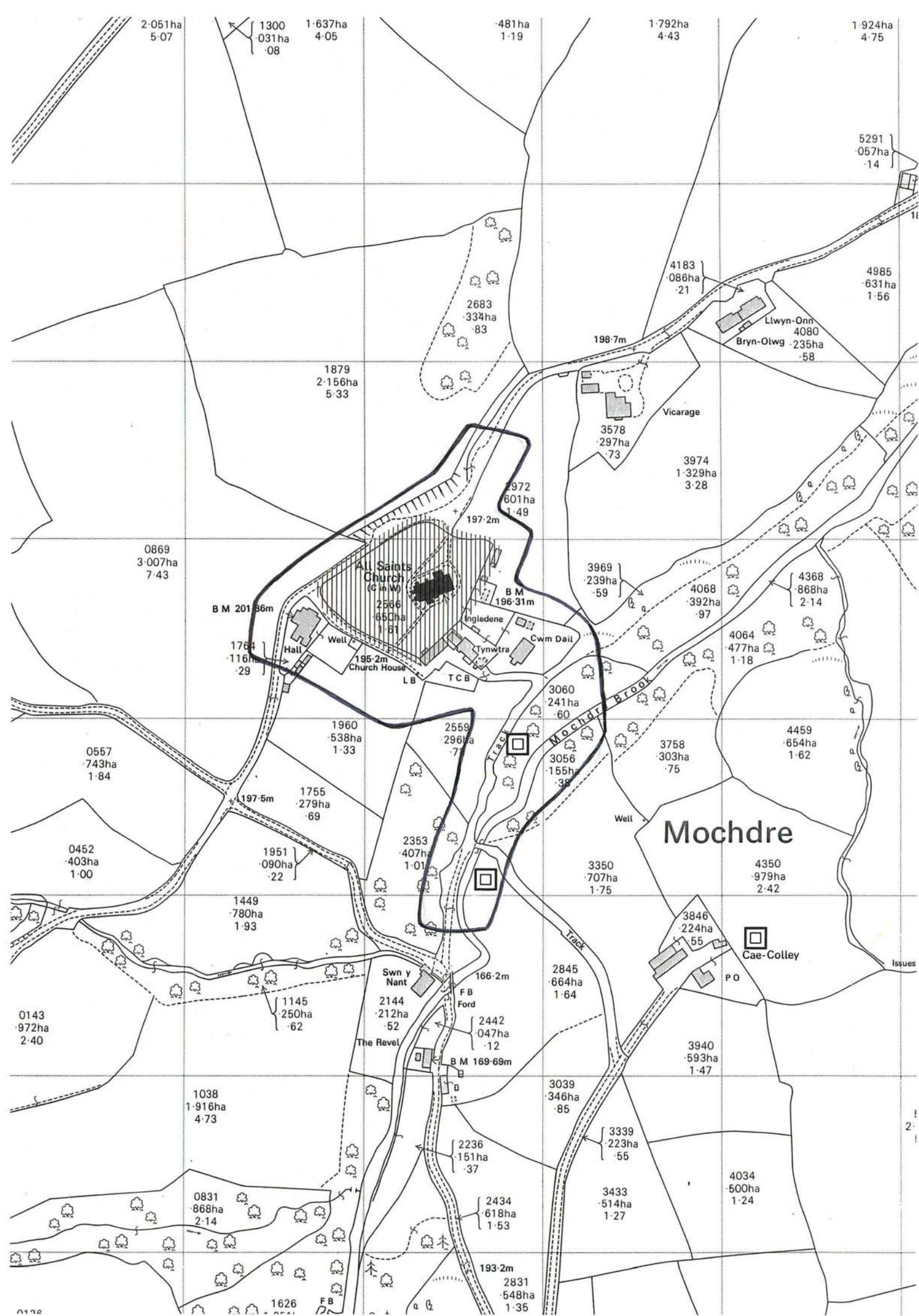
Recommendations

5.1 Uncertainty exists as to when Mochdre originated as well as how it developed as a settlement. The archaeological resource is consequently important as it offers the only means of clarifying these issues. A pre-planning evaluation should be required for any proposal involving the churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 209
Estate Map, 1805: NLW
Haslam 1979, 163
Mochdre Bygoners 1988
Tithe survey 1839



Location and Topography

1.1 Montgomery lies a little over 10km south of Welshpool, just beyond the valley of the Severn. Three B class roads converge on the town.

1.2 The local topography is the key to both the origin and form of the town. The castle occupies a pronounced rocky ledge projecting from the rolling hills to the west and commands both the important crossing of the Severn at Rhydwhiman and the low lands that offer access from the valleys eastwards into England to the valley of the Severn and the important crossing of the Severn at Rhydwhiman. The pattern of the town is dictated by the dry valley below the castle ridge and the parallel spur beyond. The Severn at its nearest is over 2km north-east, its tributary, the Camlad, 2km to the north.

History

2.1 Known in Welsh as Trefaldwyn, the twin names were given successively to Hen Domen (or Old Montgomery), the motte and bailey closer to the Severn, and to the present town of Montgomery. In Domesday Book the motte is called Castrum Muntgumeri from its lord, Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury whose French base was Montgommery in Normandy. Gastell baldwin and hence Trefaldwyn is recorded in c.1170, a reference to Baldwin de Bollers who was granted Montgomery in the early 12th century.

2.2 Montgomery (or New Montgomery) was constructed by Henry III as a strategic stronghold on the Welsh border in 1223, its location commended by Mathew Paris as ideal 'for the erection of an impregnable castle'. The spot was less suitable for a town, however, but the king issued a safe conduct to all who would bring victuals for sale to the castle, promising the liberties enjoyed by the burgesses of Shrewsbury to those who would stay and live there. Montgomery was thus conceived as a plantation and received its charter in 1227.

2.3 The castle's strategic importance declined in the 14th century and it fell into decay although it was subsequently restored as a private residence.

2.4 The population of the borough expanded through the 13th and into the 14th century. A weekly market was held in Broad Street and there were four annual fairs. However, its strategic location hindered its commercial development for it was at a distance from the Severn. The rise of Welshpool created a rival market town in a superior location and in 1279 Welshpool's market and fairs were temporarily removed by royal charter because of the damage they were doing to Montgomery's prosperity.

2.5 Not surprisingly, Montgomery went into decline in the late medieval period. Large areas of the town, particularly in the northern part, were devoid of buildings by the early 17th century when John Speed published his plan of the town, although it was still ranked as one of the more important settlements in the Principality.

2.6 Unlike the other towns of Montgomeryshire it did not develop an industrial base during the post-medieval centuries and as a consequence its growth was stunted.

Buildings

3.1 St Nicholas' church (PAR 30519; Grade I Listing) was first mentioned in 1227 and may have been started at much the same time as the castle, initially as a chapel dependent on the priory at nearby Chirbury. It is a single-chamber edifice with transepts and a tower off the north transept. The nave is the original early 13th-century structure, the transepts added later in the same century. The fine roofs are 15th and 16th century. The internal furnishings are amongst the most interesting in Montgomeryshire and include two screens together, misericords, and effigies of the 15th and 16th centuries. Tradition has it that many of the wooden carvings were brought from Chirbury priory. Restoration took place in 1816 when the tower was replaced, with further works in 1877-8

3.2 The castle (PAR 169; SAM Montgomery 22) was a royal castle and as such is particularly well-documented. It consisted of a massive tower, strong gatehouse and a curtain wall. Substantial masonry remains together with earthworks of two baileys.

3.3 Montgomery boasts a large number of Grade II listed buildings, many dated from the 17th century, a few from the previous century. The list includes not only public houses such as The Chequers in Broad Street (PAR 30501) and the Dragon Hotel (PAR 30544) but also a number of private dwellings including nos 9 and 11 Arthur Street, a hall house of 16th-century origin (PAR 30486; 30487), Rock House (PAR 30489) and White House (PAR 30494) also both in Arthur Street, and White Croft on School Bank (PAR 30560). All in all, the town has the richest urban heritage in Montgomeryshire.

3.4 Other, later buildings of note include the brick-built Town Hall of 1748 (PAR 30541) and the County Gaol of c.1830-32 (PAR 20597)

Archaeology

4.1 The hinterland of Montgomery is rich in settlement sites of earlier periods. The hill-top to the west is surmounted by the ramparts of Ffridd Faldwyn (PAR 168; SAM Montgomery 15), a major late prehistoric hillfort with Neolithic antecedents. Town Hill, about one kilometre south of the town has a small earthwork enclosure (PAR 167), perhaps of Iron Age date, on its eastern lip, and north of the built up area and south-east of the sewerage works are further earthworks that might represent another enclosure (PAR 172), although an alternative view that it is part of a relict field system has also been advanced. Several other enclosed farmsteads of late prehistoric and Roman date have been recognised within a radius of three kilometres of the town.

4.2 The town defences (PAR 170; SAM Montgomery 23) survive intermittently as a ditch or scarp on the north, east and south, and more completely on the west as a considerable bank and ditch linked in with the castle defences. An in-depth study was published in 1940, confirming that formerly a stone wall existed, although it has been argued that initially there was a wooden palisade which was replaced by the wall in 1279. Towers were constructed at various points along the perimeter and the positions of four gates are known with varying degrees of precision. It is generally considered that these defences had reached their final form by the end of the 13th century. Limited excavations in the grounds of Crogbren have recently revealed the line of the town ditch in the south-west corner of the town.

4.3 The grid pattern so typical of a planted town is recognisable only at the southern end of Montgomery in the vicinity of the church and market. Further

north the landform necessitates a less regular layout.

4.4 The nature of the medieval buildings and their accompanying plots is little known. Typically, long narrow burgage plots are still distinguishable in some parts of the town, notably off Princes Street and Broad Street. Excavations on a plot beside Pool Road (PAR 5412) in 1984 and 1987 revealed the superimposed plans of two timber houses with a yard behind. Occupation began in the 13th century and seems to have ceased early in the 15th century after which the plot remained empty. Work in Bunner's Yard off Arthur Street in 1991 uncovered a possible building platform, but also a line of stakes which may have formed a division between plots or sub-divided a single plot.

4.5 Platforms on a large plot west of Greenfields have recently been shown to support the foundations of medieval buildings. The area has been recommended for scheduling.

4.6 Extra-mural settlement south of the town has recently been identified, consisting of what appears to be a substantial platform enclosure (PAR 7728) and several house platforms (PAR 7729) beside a well-defined hollow way. This runs above a small valley and there are reasons for believing it may have been the medieval approach to the town from the south, the main gate known as the Ceri Gate being further east than earlier research implied.

Recommendations

5.1 Arguably, Montgomery is the most important historic settlement in northern Powys. Every attempt should be made to preserve the historic resource from adverse developments and appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological and historical implications of all proposals effecting the historic core. The settlement also contains both scheduled ancient monuments and listed buildings and the relevant legislative procedures must be observed in all planning matters.

5.2 The town defences represent an extremely significant element of the townscape. Where they survive above ground, their preservation should be considered of paramount importance. Where sub-surface traces only are suspected, full examination should be considered a necessity.

5.3 A pre-planning evaluation should be required for any proposal involving the churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it, and also any major street frontage site.

5.4 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

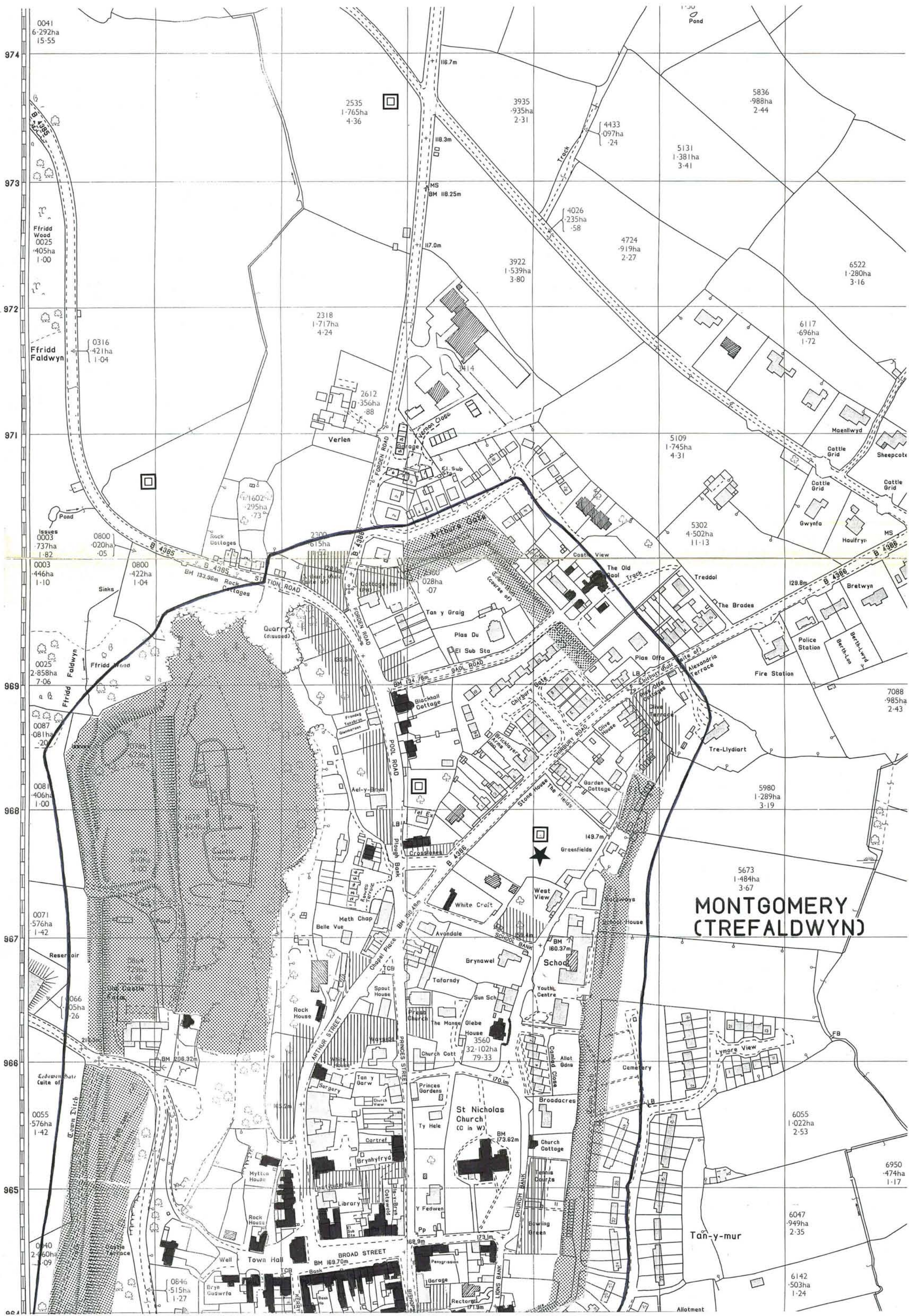
5.5 The medieval earthworks south of the town (PAR 7728; 7729) should be the subject of a full survey and should be protected from future adverse development by being scheduled as ancient monuments.

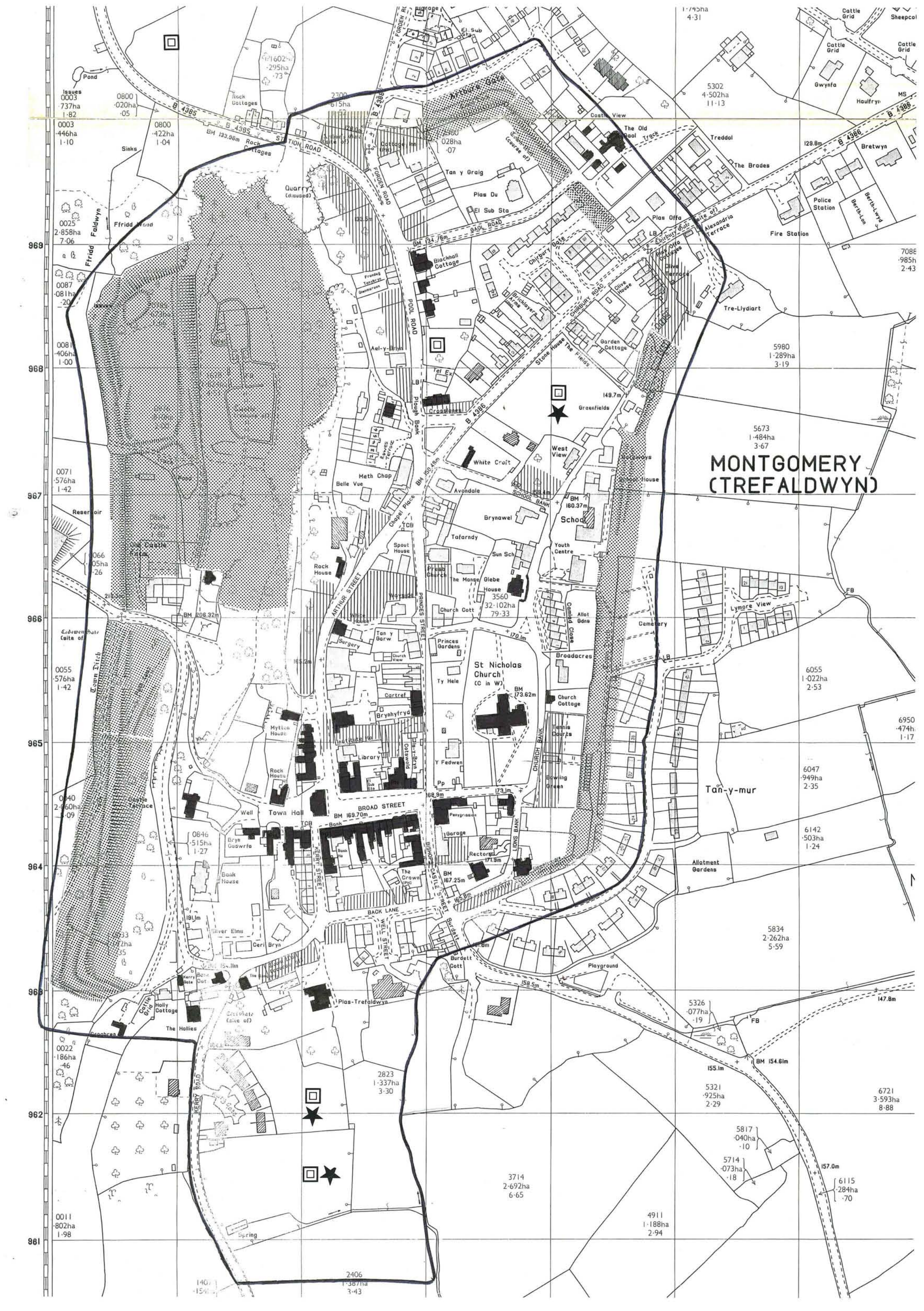
5.6 The earthworks to the north of the town (PAR 172) should be the subject of an appropriate level of investigation and record.

5.7 More than anywhere in the district, Montgomery requires an in-depth topographical and historical survey at a level which has not been attainable in the present survey. It is recommended that such an assessment should be initiated as soon as resources permit.

References

- AIW 31 (1991) 49-50
Beresford 1988, 564
Britnell and Jones 1989
Cadw (Welsh Office) Schedule of Listed Buildings 1983
Carter 1965, 28ff
Church Guide Book 1984
County SMR
Ellis 1935, 227
Haslam 1979, 163
O'Neil and Foster-Smith 1940
Soulsby 1983, 185
Spurgeon 1966, 20; 42
Tithe survey 1839





MONTGOMERY
(TREFALDWYN)

Location and Topography

1.1 New Mills lies in the central Montgomeryshire hills where the B4389 intersects the B4390. Llanfair Caereinion is nearly 6km to the north.

1.2 This settlement is a modern ribbon development along the secondary road that runs along the base of a steep hill above the valley floor of Afon Rhiw.

History

2.1 Ellis considers that the placename may be a direct English translation of Melin Newydd which is referred to in 1323.

2.2 New Mills has no known history. In the mid-19th century there was a scatter of dwellings here, not significantly different from today.

Buildings

3.1 No buildings of architectural interest have been recorded, although No.3 Sunnyside sports an inscription referring to the birth of Dr John Pugh, the founder of the Welsh Presbyterian Movement.

Archaeology

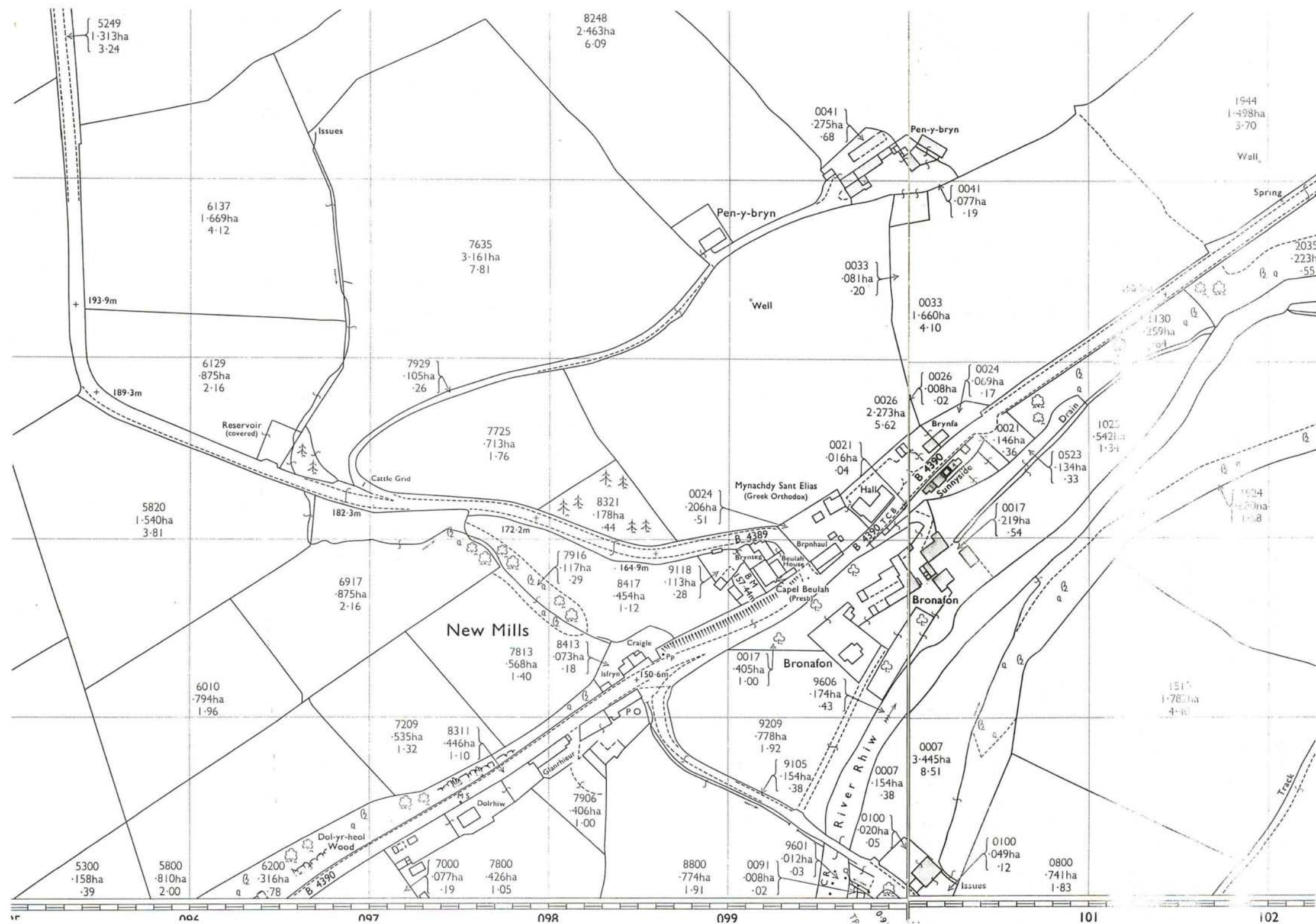
4.1 Nothing of archaeological interest has been recorded here. Earthworks on the valley floor have in the past been considered as a deserted settlement (PAR 4778), but they are more likely to have a fluvial origin.

Recommendations

5.1 No recommendations are proposed for New Mills.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 210
Tithe survey, Manafon 1848



Location and Topography

1.1 Newtown, the largest urban centre in Montgomeryshire, lies in the Severn Valley where the A489 meets the A483(T).

1.2 Above Welshpool the valley of the Severn narrows to around 500-700m in width, the river meandering from one side to the other. The historic centre of Newtown developed on level ground in one such loop with a shallow valley running into the river on the south-east side, effectively creating a promontory location, though one prone to flooding until the construction of embankments in 1973. Subsequently, the town grew along the southern side of the valley in both directions and onto the lower slopes of the hills overlooking the river. The need for workers' housing in the last century encouraged development of the steep northern slopes on the far side of the river, the area known as Penygloddfa.

1.3 With its designation as a 'new town' in the 1960s, the rapid expansion of housing and industrial estates associated with the growing population has had, whether directly or indirectly, a detrimental effect on Newtown's historic heritage.

History

2.1 Previously known as Llanfair-yng-Nghedewain, the term Llanweyr appeared first around c.1253, referring to the chapel of St Mary, and continued in use intermittently into the 16th century. With the foundation of the borough, an alternative was introduced, Drenwyth in Kedewen being recorded in 1394, and the English equivalent with its literal meaning was recorded first in the Patent Rolls of 1460.

2.2 The strategic significance of this location on the major riverine route into the Welsh hills is suggested by two motte and bailey castles: Newtown Hall, just to the west of the later town though it has been argued that this was a late construction contemporary with the new town; and Gro Tump little more than a kilometre downstream.

2.3 In 1280, Roger Mortimer was granted the right to hold a weekly market and annual fair on his newly acquired manor. It seems likely that the borough was established during the next ten years: by 1291 St Mary's had become independent of the church at Llanllwchaiarn. However, no charter is known and there are no documented references to the town until the second quarter of the 14th century.

2.4 The growth of the medieval town is likely to have been steady rather than dramatic. Leland's comments in the 1530s do not suggest a town in decline, in contrast to other border towns, and in 1545 there were 55 taxpayers.

2.5 The development of the flannel industry in the early 19th century led to renewed growth, assisted by the extension of the Montgomeryshire Canal to Newtown in 1819, the population quadrupling between 1801 and 1831.

Buildings

3.1 St Mary's church (PAR 1037; SAM Montgomery 56) was abandoned in the 1840s

because of flooding. Its remains consist of a west tower, perhaps 13th century with 15th-century windows, and the skeleton of the nave, the stonework of which may be in part 14th century. It contains the monument to Robert Owen, the humanitarian manufacturer, who died here in 1858.

3.2 That there are ostensibly so few buildings that pre-date the 18th century is testament to the post-medieval development of Newtown. Those that do survive all appear to be 17th century and are Grade II listed: the Black Boy Hotel (PAR 30943), Bank Place (PAR 30987) and the Bank Antiques (PAR 30988) both in Gas Street, The Buck in High Street (PAR 30990), the Silver Buck Restaurant in Parker's Lane (PAR 31018), and No.8 Severn Square (PAR 31030) and Transport House (PAR 31031) in the same square which is described by Haslam as the one pre-industrial pocket in the town.

3.3 Though late in date attention should be drawn to Penygloddfa where the regular layout of streets began in the 1790s to accommodate the workers from the adjacent factories.

Archaeology

4.1 Inevitably in this attractive valley location which has seen so much development in the recent past, there are records of prehistoric and Roman activity; artefacts include a flint axe and flake (PAR 1044) and another Neolithic axe (PAR 1796). Of a later period, either Iron Age or Roman, are the farmstead enclosures overlooking the town and valley. At least three are known including that at Bryn Bank which is also scheduled (PAR 1038; Montgomery 211) and another on a hill-top beside a housing estate (PAR 3720).

4.2 Newtown Hall motte (PAR 1034; SAM Montgomery 160) is much mutilated, half the mound having been removed and the bailey landscaped almost completely beyond recognition. It remains to be confirmed that this was a remarkably late example of an earthwork fortification type long superseded elsewhere which was designed to protect the new borough at the end of the 13th century. An attempt was made to refortify it by the Parliamentarians in 1642.

4.3 Gro Tump (PAR 1035; SAM Montgomery 59), the motte to the east of Newtown, is in a stronger natural location and in a considerably better state of preservation. It is likely that it was built early during the Anglo-Norman expansion into Wales, perhaps in the late 11th century.

4.4 The rectilinear layout of the town (PAR 1808) is typical of medieval planned settlements. Broad Street was the main axis with a wooden bridge (replaced in stone in 1827) across the Severn at the northern end, and a series of lanes running off at right angles. A court-house lay in the middle of Broad Street, opposite Turner's Lane, and was replaced by a brick town hall around 1570 which was itself demolished in 1852. The extent to which the side lanes were utilised by tenements can only be ascertained through excavation. Together, the Glansevern Map (1798) and the Tithe Map (1843) reveal significant alterations to the street plan of Newtown: the disappearance of a lane curving from east to west, south of Market Street; the extension of Back Lane north of Wesley Street; the construction of New Road; perhaps the infilling of a wide eastwards extension to High Street; and the creation of Severn Street and Parker's Lane.

4.5 Spurgeon has speculated about defences in the form of a wall or bank around the town, but there is no substantive evidence for its presence.

4.6 South-west of the town was an area of common land, probably known as The

Green. Here was the Lady Well (PAR 1801), which provided fresh water until the beginning of the 20th century and has given its name to buildings in the vicinity.

4.7 Along the road towards Welshpool was St Giles which no longer survives. This presumably was a chapel, but the Glansevern map suggests a circular enclosure - perhaps a churchyard? - to the east.

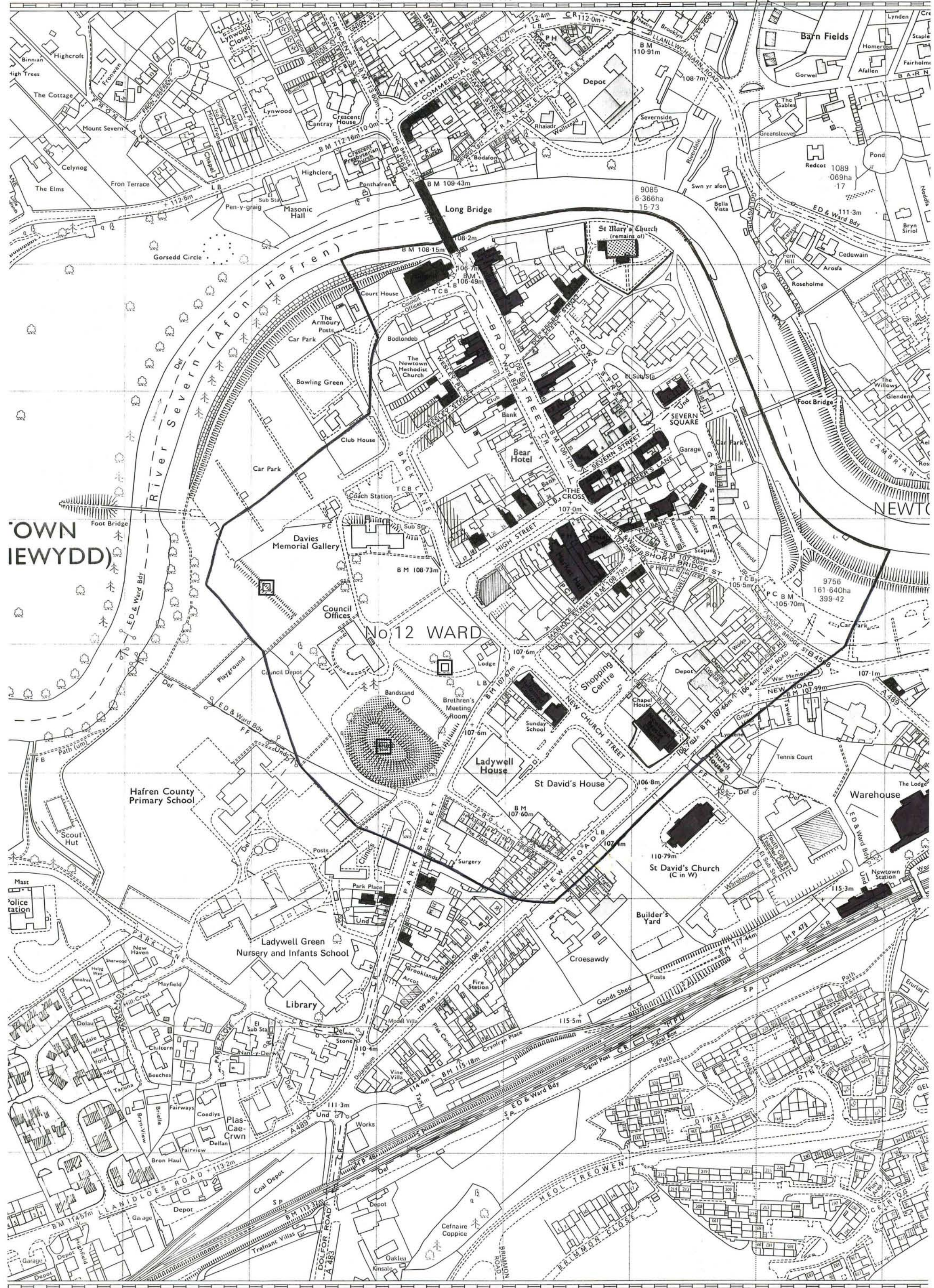
Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving St Mary's churchyard, the Newtown Hall motte and any street frontage sites.

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

References

- Beresford 1988, 565
- Cadw: Schedule of Listed Buildings 1988
- County SMR
- Ellis 1935, 236
- Estate Map, 1798: Glansevern Collection (NLW)
- Haslam 1979, 175
- Hughes 1983, 126
- Lewis 1833
- Soulsby 1983, 209
- Spurgeon 1966, 16, 18
- Tithe surveys: Llanllwchaiarn 1842; Newtown 1843



Location and Topography

1.1 Penegoes lies on the A489(T) in the extreme west of Montgomeryshire, less than 3km from Machynlleth.

1.2 Afon Crewi, one of several streams feeding into Afon Dulas, itself a tributary of the Dovey, provides a fairly broad and flat valley. Penegoes church is on the level northern side of the valley with the ground sloping down gently to the stream, 200m away.

1.3 The church represents the focus of a dispersed settlement. Only a single habitation, Llwyn, adjoins it but others lie off the main road at regular intervals to west and east, and new housing is springing up on the lane leading to the bridging point of the stream. Six hundred metres eastwards, modern Penegoes is expanding where the Turnpike road and the old drovers' road separate.

History

2.1 The name, Penegoes, is first recorded in c.1253 and can be translated as 'head or upper part of the ridge or spur'. Occasionally, the church has been termed Llangadfarch.

2.2 An assumption that this may be an early medieval foundation is based on the British dedication of the church and the oval churchyard (see below).

2.3 Nothing is known of the settlement's subsequent history, other than that it became the centre of an ecclesiastical parish. It lay beside the main drovers' route from Machynlleth (q.v.) to the English border, and in the 18th century the road was improved by a turnpike trust. The dispersed pattern of holdings along the road in the mid-19th century was similar to today though sparser; but an estate map of a century earlier suggests that the church was isolated with only mills in the vicinity.

Buildings

3.1 The church is dedicated to an obscure saint, St Cadfarch (PAR 7654). The present church was constructed in 1877, replacing a medieval structure.

3.2 The rectory with its outbuildings are dated to around 1800 and has a Grade II listing (PAR 7656).

3.3 Llawr-Penegoes (PAR 7657), 250m east of the church, had the now obsolete Grade III listing.

Archaeology

4.1 The western extension of the churchyard embraces the original curvilinear course (PAR 7655) which can still be detected as a scarp bank amidst the tightly packed graves.

4.2 Two adjacent wells on the opposite side of the road to the church are reputed to have curative properties (PAR 1276; PAR 5158).

Recommendations

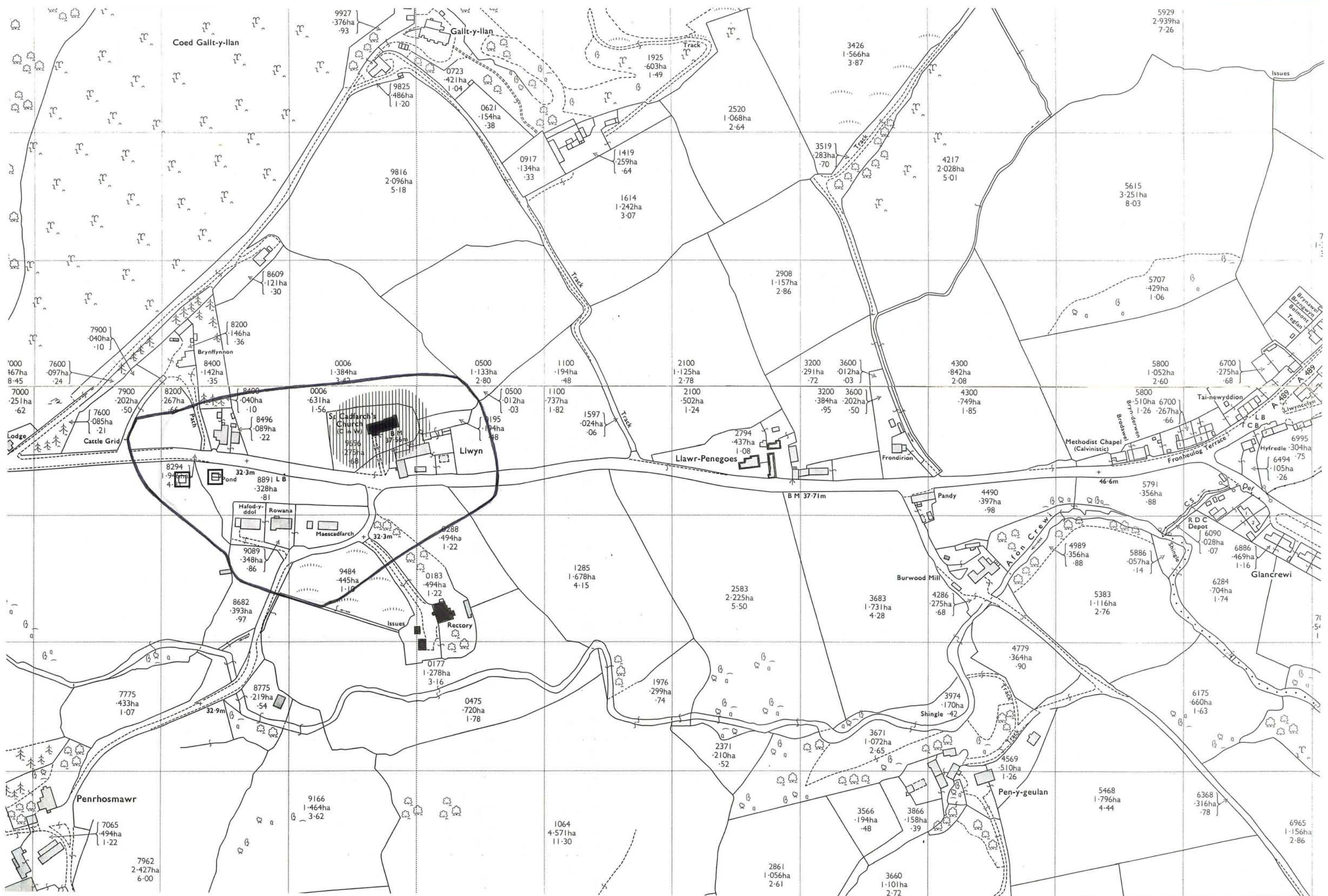
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the original churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The remains of the oval churchyard should be surveyed and recorded at an appropriate level.

References

- Colyer 1984, 135
- Ellis 1935, 212
- Estate Map, 1763, in NLW
- Haslam 1979, 179
- Jones 1954, 198, 202
- Lewis 1833
- Tithe Survey 1839



Location and Topography

1.1 Pennant Melangell occupies the remote Tanat valley cut into the eastern flank of the Berwyn, a few kilometres from the county boundary with Clwyd. It is 14km north-west of Llanfyllin.

1.2 Consisting now of no more than a church and two houses, Pennant Melangell lies on the valley floor where a stream, Nant Ewyn, enters Afon Tanat. Behind the churchyard, the ground rises steeply for nearly 300m to the heights of Pen Cerrig. Former house sites (see below) are restricted to the valley floor and higher up Cwm Nantewyn.

History

2.1 The name first appears in 1291 in the form Penant Mellangel. The first component means 'head of stream', the second refers to St Melangell.

2.2 Traditionally, Melangell, a princess of Irish origin, established a nunnery here in the later 8th century, having been given the land by Brochwel, Prince of Powys. Even if the tradition has a factual basis it seems improbable that the nunnery survived into the medieval era. However, Melangell's shrine became a place of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages, a Cell-y-bedd surviving at the eastern end of the church.

2.3 The church became the focus of an ecclesiastical parish in the Middle Ages, but there is little to suggest the growth of a nucleated settlement here.

Buildings

3.1 The church of St Melangell (PAR 14) has a complicated architectural history, currently being reassessed as a result of recent reconsolidation and archaeological excavations. The mid 12th-century church was reconstructed in the 15th century, the nave and chancel were amalgamated into one chamber, and the apse containing the saint's shrine was sealed off from the church. The west tower was built in the 17th century, replacing an earlier structure. There is an important but fragmentary screen, two 14th-century effigies and the shrine has been claimed as the most delicate piece of Romanesque sculpture in Powys.

Archaeology

4.1 Pits found during excavations within the church produced Bronze Age pottery, though the extent of this prehistoric occupation is unknown.

4.2 The distinctive circularity of the churchyard (PAR 7624) is interrupted on the eastern side, suggesting a later modification to the perimeter, although the earlier course cannot be determined.

4.3 Two cockpits (PAR 15 and 16), one inside the churchyard, the other in the area of the present car park to the east, are shown on late 19th-century maps. Only the carpark example now survives as a slight earthwork.

4.4 The main routeway along Cwm Pennant in past times on the north side of Afon Tanat is now a farm track and footpath. At least two house sites, occcupied in 1842, can be positively identified (PAR 7626 & 7627) and there are suggestions of others. It is these in all probability that have generated records of a shrunken medieval settlement at Pennant (PAR 3774). There is, however, no tangible evidence of nucleation.

4.5 Other structures, not necessarily dwellings, lie in Cwm Nantewyn and at the confluence of the stream with Afon Tanat.

Recommendations

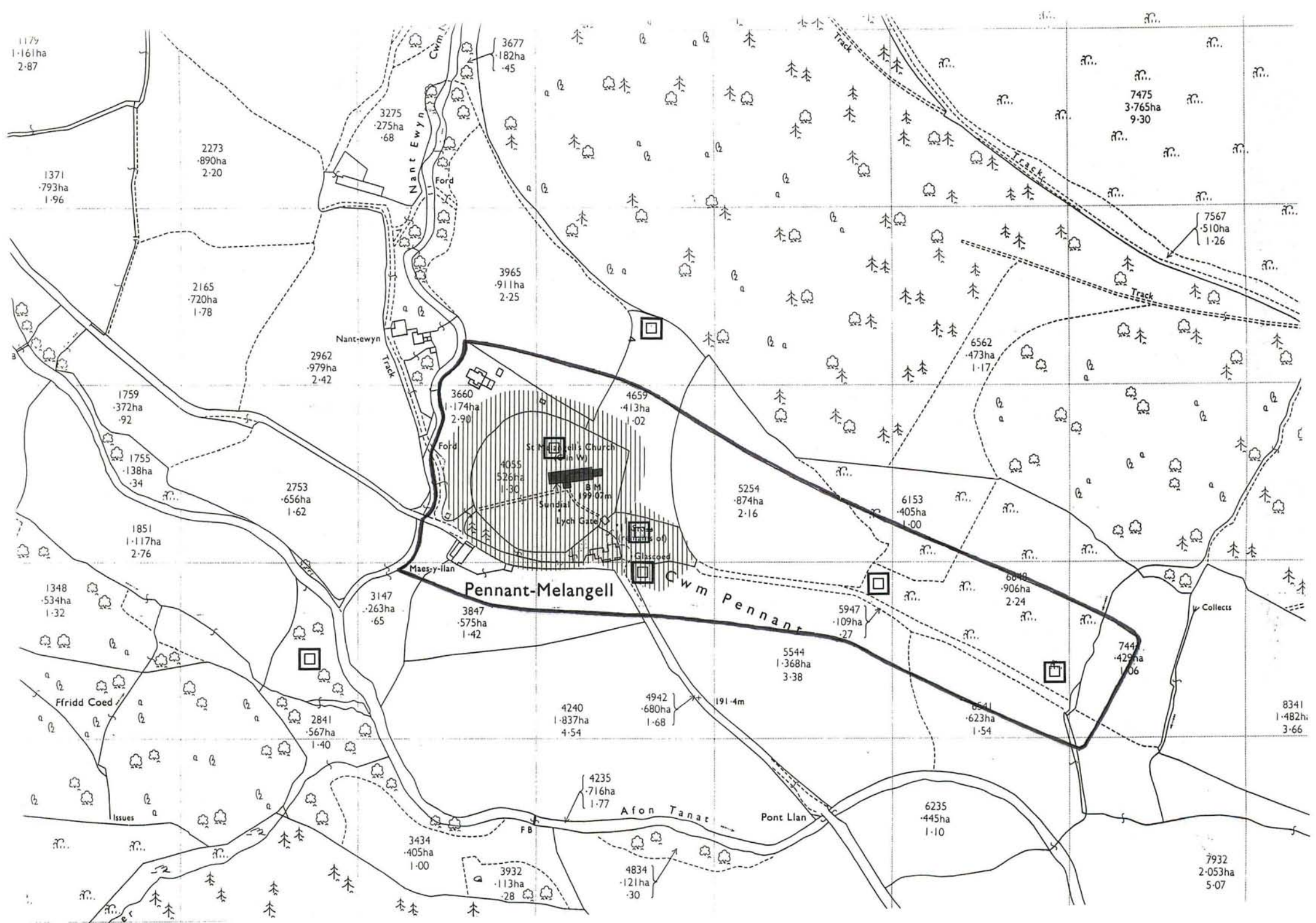
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the original churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The remains of the former dwellings beside the trackway to the east of the church and in Nant Cwmewyn should be examined more thoroughly and, if appropriate, surveyed and recorded.

References

- Archaeology in Wales 29 (1989), 63
County SMR
Ellis 1935, 215
Haslam 1979, 180
Henken 1987, 217
Tithe survey, Pennant, 1842



Location and Topography

1.1 Penybontfawr sits at the crossroads where the B4396 intersects with the B4391, 8km north-west of Llanfyllin.

1.2 The settlement lies on the south side of Afon Tanat where it is joined by the Hirnant. The confluence has created fairly gentle slopes in the immediate vicinity in contrast to the more pronounced valley upstream.

1.3 The original core of the village focused on Pont Farrog, the bridge across the Hirnant, but in recent years there has been expansion eastwards with a new school and housing estate.

History

2.1 The earliest form of the name is benn y bont in 1641. Translated this means 'end of the bridge', to which the adjective 'large ' has been appended at some subsequent stage.

2.2 Lying in the eastern part of Pennant parish, the village seems to be largely a 19th-century development. Penybont Farm beside the Hirnant is earlier (see para 3.1), but church, vicarage and houses are all of the last century and it is likely that the development of the local turnpike system assisted its growth.

Buildings

3.1 Penybont Farm (PAR 20240), a listed Grade II building, is considered to be 16th century or even earlier. The farm buildings opposite have a similar grading but are not dated.

3.2 St Thomas' church (PAR 31085) was a new foundation erected in 1855 on the edge of the village.

3.3 The pre-1840 terrace of houses opposite Penybont Farm was at one time given a Grade III listing. A similar grade was awarded to the later block of houses immediately to the east of the church.

Archaeology

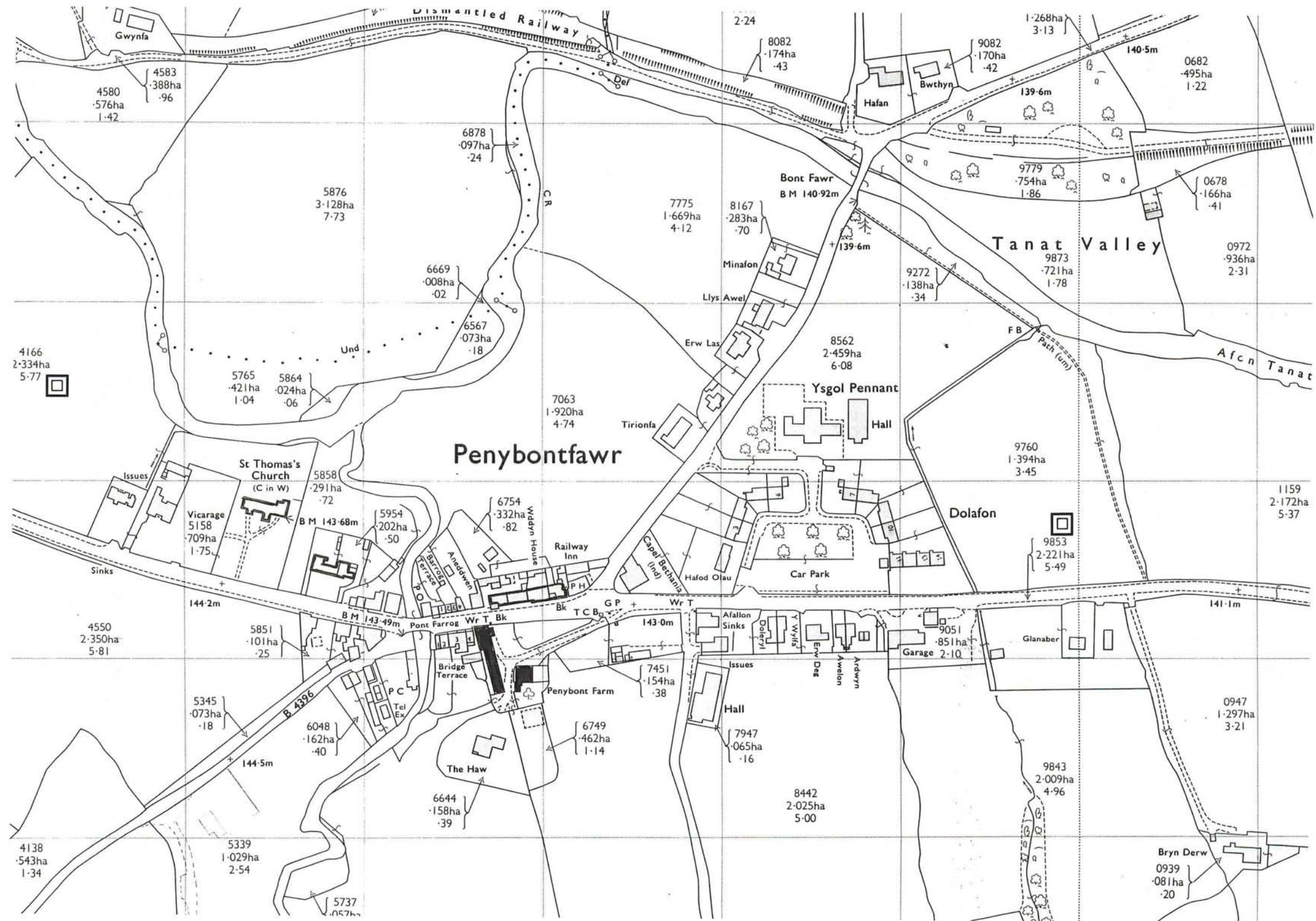
4.1 Faint ridge and furrow (PAR 4996) has been detected in one field to the west of the village, and there may also be some ridging in the field to the east of Ysgol Pennant. In neither place can a date be attributed to these agricultural features.

Recommendations

5.1 Dispersed farmsteads apart, there is little evidence of settlement growth prior to the 19th century. Consequently it would be inappropriate to make any recommendations.

References

County SMR
Davies n.d. 37
Ellis 1935, 219
Haslam 1979, 184
Tithe survey, Pennant, 1842



Location and Topography

1.1 The A470(T) passes through Pontdolgoch on its passage from Newtown to Machynlleth. The settlement is little more than 3km north-west of Caersws.

1.2 Pont dol-goch carries the main road across Afon Carno, and most of the houses group in the valley bottom, with a few including the Presbyterian chapel on the western slopes above.

History

2.1 The name can be translated as 'the bridge by the red (burnt) meadow', but there are no early forms known.

2.2 A dispersed community existed here in the mid-19th century. East of the river were the public house, the mill and two houses, while to the west was another house and a saw mill, with a second mill on the opposite bank.

Buildings

3.1 No buildings of architectural interest have been listed in Pontdolgoch.

Archaeology

4.1 A Neolithic perforated mace-head (PAR 776) was found here sometime before 1961. It is unlikely to be significant in settlement terms.

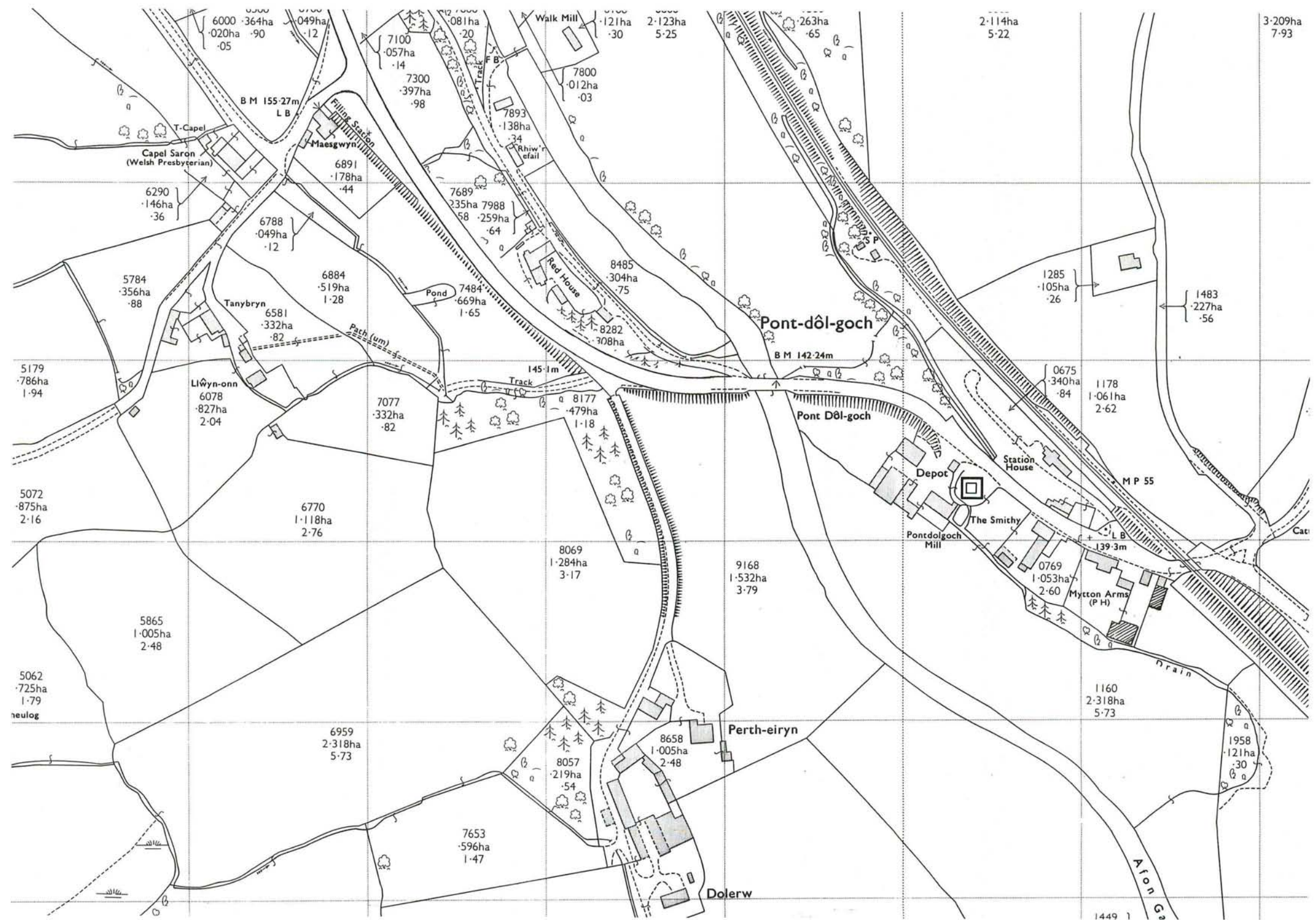
4.2 Otherwise, there is little of archaeological interest recorded in the settlement. It is possible that the mills may have features of industrial significance and, indeed, the mill pond of Pontdolgoch survives as a distinctive road-side feature.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of the relatively recent history of Pontdolgoch, no recommendations are proposed,

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 219
Tithe survey, Llanwnnog, 1846



Location and Topography

1.1 Pont Llogel takes its name from the bridge carrying the B4395 across Afon Efyrrwy, a few kilometres to the south-east of Lake Vyrnwy in western Montgomeryshire.

1.2 The buildings that constitute this settlement occupy the northern lip of the river valley where converging streams have cut back into the hillside. The church sits on an adjacent spur.

History

2.1 Llogell in Meghen is referenced in 1588, but whether this indicates a settlement here is unclear. 'Pont' means bridge, 'llogail' can be translated as coping or eaves-beam.

2.2 In the early part of the 19th century, a group of around five buildings lay at the road junction on the lip of the valley and a further two just north of the river in the valley itself.

Buildings

3.1 There are no buildings of historic significance in Pont Llogel. The church of St Mary (PAR 7612) was constructed in 1854.

Archaeology

4.1 Two cairns of Bronze Age date (PAR 1221; 6081) which were destroyed in the late 18th century have been associated with Pont Llogel, but there is no reason to think that they fell within the confines of the settlement.

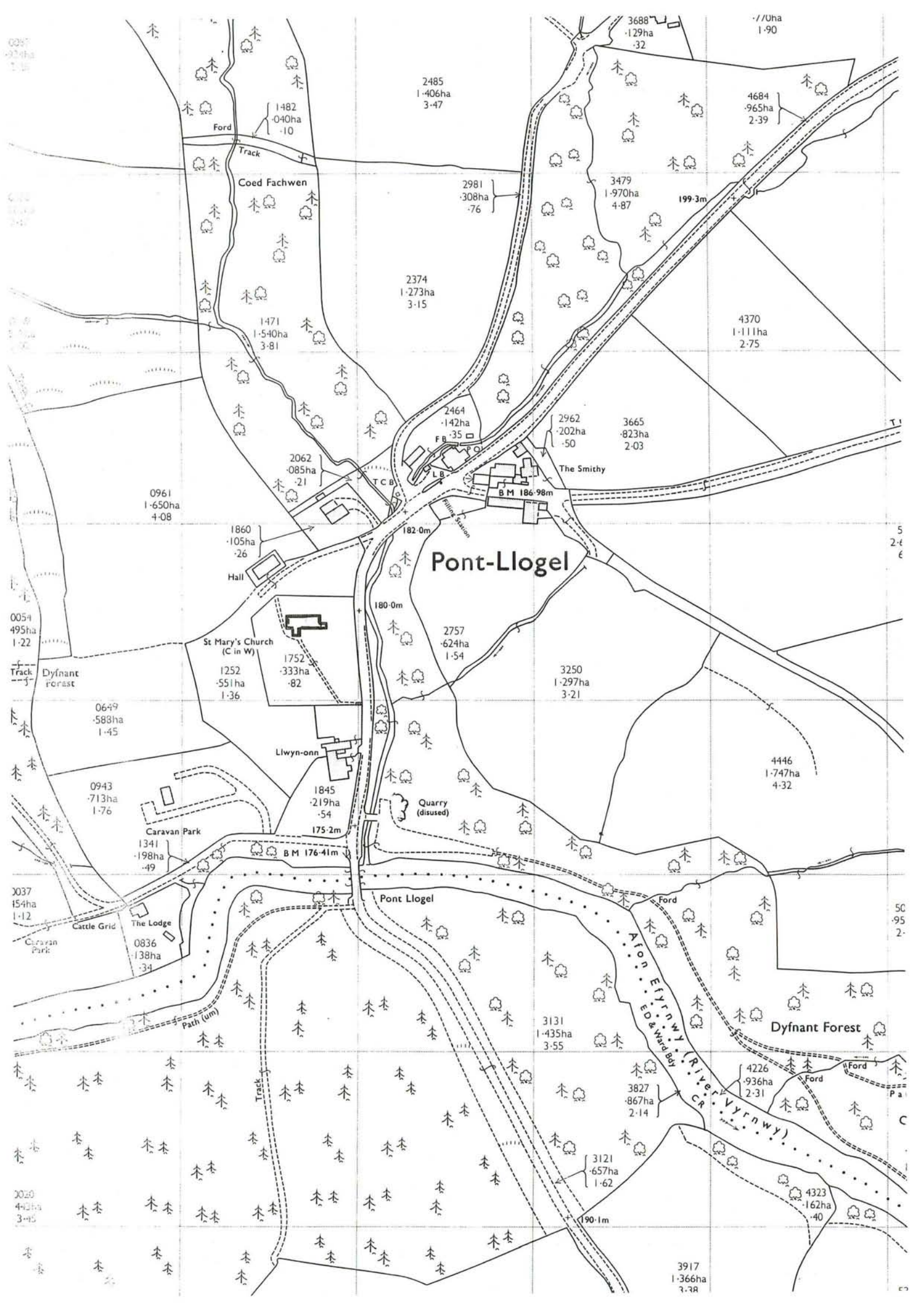
4.2 No other features of archaeological interest have been recorded.

Recommendations

5.1 No recommendations are proposed for Pont Llogel.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 220
Estate map, 1817 (Wynnstay Papers, NLW)
Haslam 1979, 185
Tithe survey, Llanfihangel-yr-Ngwnfa 1847



PONTROBERT SJ 1012

Note: this settlement has not been investigated during the current fieldwork programme.

Location and Topography

1.1 Pontrobert is situated in central Montgomeryshire, about 7km north of Llanfair Caereinion.

1.2 The settlement occupies gently sloping ground on the north bank of Afon Efyrrwy.

History

2.1 The bridge is named after Robert ap Olifer de Kenhinva, who sometime after 1633 rebuilt the bridge across the river. On the tithe map it is called Pont Robert ab Oliver.

2.2 In the mid-19th century a scatter of houses formed the settlement, but it does appear to have had a strong industrial presence with three grain mills, two forges and a woollen factory.

Buildings

3.1 St John's church (PAR 7730) was erected in 1853. The bridge (PAR 7731) was formerly listed as a Grade III structure.

Archaeology

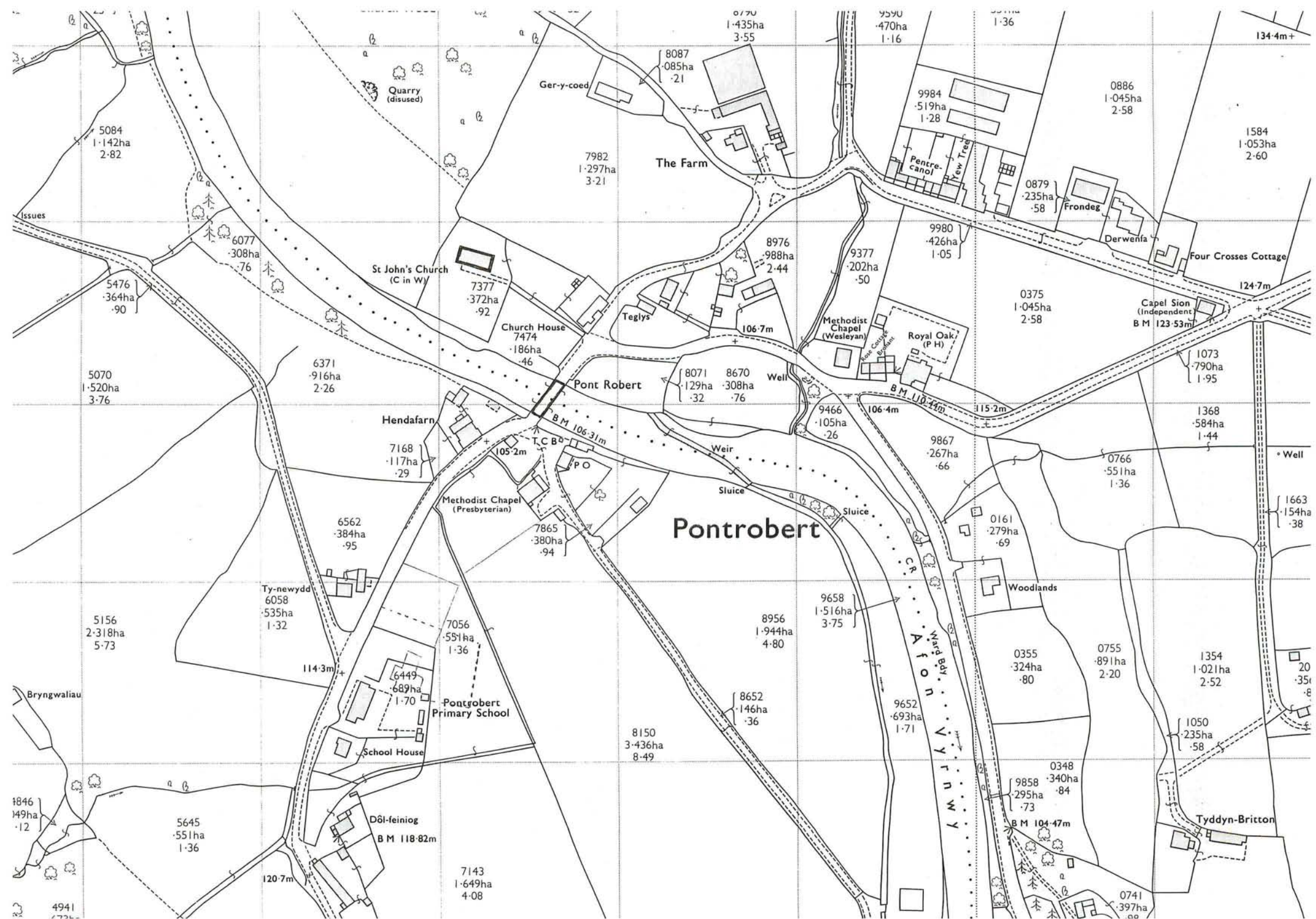
4.1 Nothing of archaeological significance has been recorded here, but the industrial remains have not been assessed.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of the relatively recent history of Pontrobert, no recommendations are proposed.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 220
Haslam 1979, 186
Lewis 1833
PMFWI 1989, 166
Tithe survey, Meifod 1841



Location and Topography

1.1 Pool Quay is in the Severn Valley, 5km north-east of Welshpool, on the A483(T) which links that town with Oswestry.

1.2 Settlement spreads along the roadside where the river runs closest to the dry land edge and the road that follows it. The valley floor is a maze of palaeochannel courses and fluvial deposits, apparent not only around the Severn itself but also at slightly higher levels as around the church. Thus, even the topography highlights the original function of the settlement.

History

2.1 This location was referred to as 'New Quay' in 1608 and the 'quay of Welsh Poole' in 1774.

2.2 Deriving its name from the nearby town of Welshpool, Pool Quay emerged as an important waterway settlement, probably in the 17th century, at the head of navigation of the River Severn. The construction of the Montgomeryshire Canal in 1797 reinforced its importance.

2.3 There may be an earlier history, too. Strata Marcella Abbey's landing stage is reputed to have been here, and there is a record of rafts being floated from here in 1285. This, however, does not necessarily imply settlement at the spot.

Buildings

3.1 The church of St John Evangelist was a late construction in 1863.

3.2 Several buildings of more than passing interest, including an 18th-century warehouse, survive from the industrial age.

Archaeology

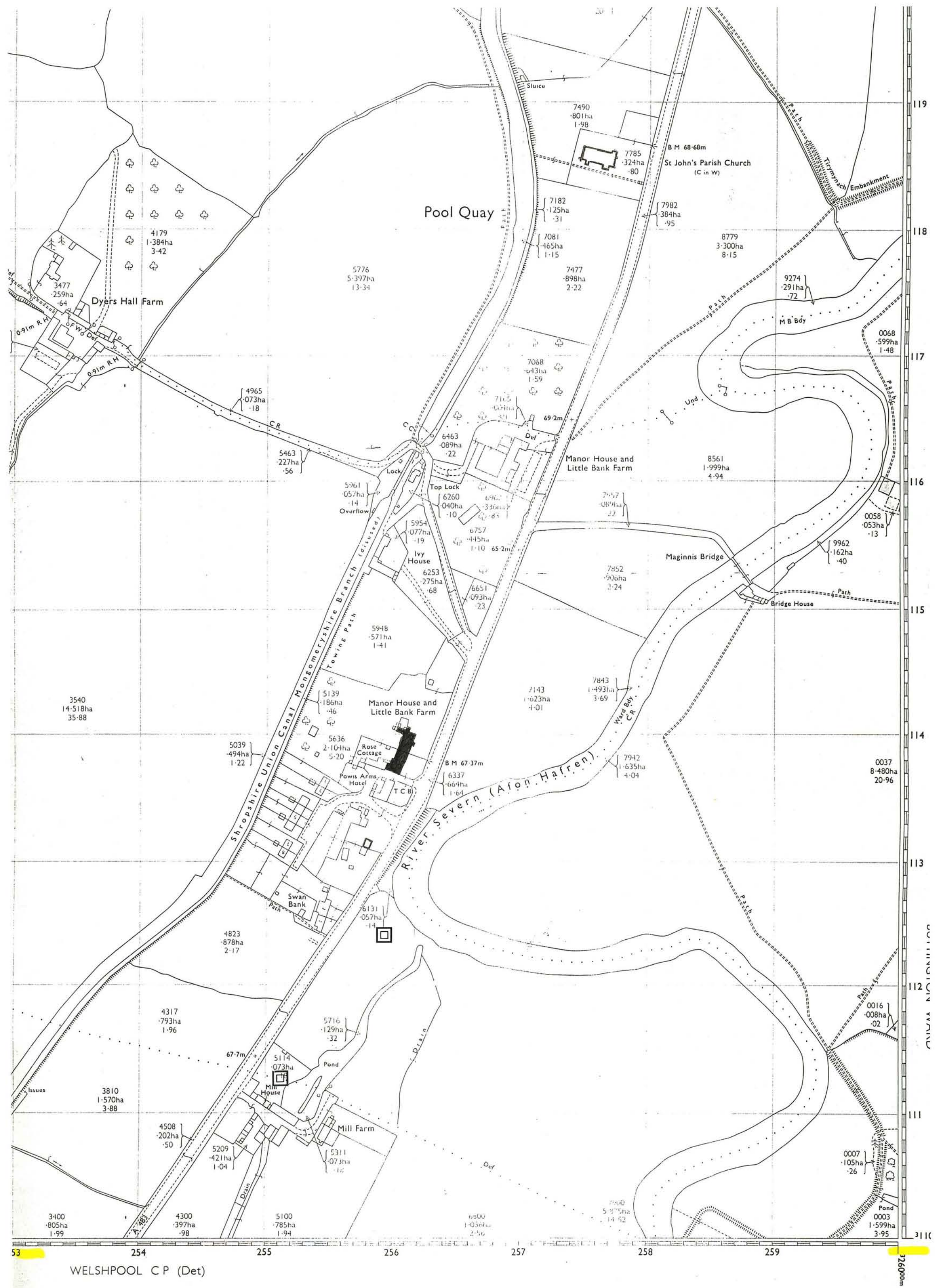
4.1 The area with greatest potential interest appears to be from the river loop close to the road where the wharfs were to the Mill Farm complex (PAR 2891), 200m away. The remains relating to post-medieval trade aside, this is likely to be the location of any medieval activity.

Recommendations

5.1 Pool Quay is significant in the annals of Montgomeryshire's water transport and industry during the Industrial Age and in this context its future development should be sympathetically managed. There is no direct evidence that its settlement history stretches back beyond the post-medieval era and because of this it is not possible to define an historic core.

References

- Ellis 1935, 220
Enclosure Award map, 1787-1800 (Powys Castle Archives, NLW)
Haslam 1979, 187
Hughes 1983, 109
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey, Guilsfield 1845
Williams 1990, 59



WELSHPOOL C P (Det)

REFAIL SJ 1900

Note: this settlement has not been investigated during the current fieldwork programme.

Location and Topography

1.1 Refail is a small agglomeration of buildings on the A483(T) Welshpool to Newtown road, about 8km south of the former.

1.2 It has grown up beside the Montgomeryshire Canal as this follows the edge of the Severn valley, having crossed the River Rhiw just below Berriew.

History

2.1 The history of Refail is wholly tied to the history of the canal from the late 18th century until its abandonment.

2.2 In 1840 it consisted of the Glansevern Arms, a smithy (hence the name of the settlement), a timber yard, a few cottages and some lime kilns.

Buildings

3.1 There are no listed buildings here.

Archaeology

4.1 Industrial remains apart, there is no archaeological interest, although the Severn Valley has always been a significant focus for past activity.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of the relatively recent history of Refail , no recommendations are proposed, although there may be some interest in the industrial remains.

References

County SMR
Tithe survey, Berriew, 1840

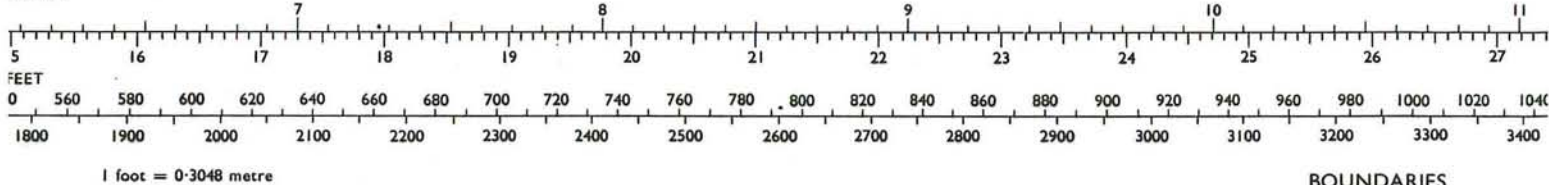


CO CONST

-1999

1 SCALES

ACRES



LS

- Slopes
- Cliff
- Cave entrance
- Rock
- Boulders
- Sloping masonry
- Site of antiquity
- Culvert
- Direction of water flow
- Electricity pylon
- ETL Electricity Transmission Line
- Triangulation station

BOUNDARIES

England & Wales

- Geographical County
- Admin County
- County Borough
- London Borough
- County Districts
- Civil Parish
- Rural Borough
- Borough Const & Ward Bdy
- Co Const Bdy
- Parly Constituency & Ward
- Burgh Bdy
- Dist Bdy
- Burgh Const
- Co C

Where the boundary of an Admin Co, County Borough or Co of City is coincident with that of a County two boundary is usually coincident with civil parish boundary and the symbols for both a

Location and Topography

1.1 Sarn lies on the A489, just over 9km east of Newtown.

1.2 Sarn occupies a dry valley which opens out into the valley of the Caebitra a little way to the east. The inn sits on the valley floor while adjacent dwellings lie on the gentle slope behind. The church, too, utilises slightly higher ground on the north side of the valley.

History

2.1 The name 'Sarn' means a paved way, but there are nearly references to the settlement.

2.2 In 1842, the only buildings here were the Sarn Inn, the Baptist Chapel (built in 1827) and a row of three cottages. Its location on a township boundary within the ecclesiastical parish of Kerry argues for a relatively recent origin with the inn being the focal point.

Buildings

3.1 There are no buildings of significant interest within the settlement. The church of Holy Trinity (PAR 7562) was constructed in 1859, but contains a medieval font from a lost chapel, 2km away.

Archaeology

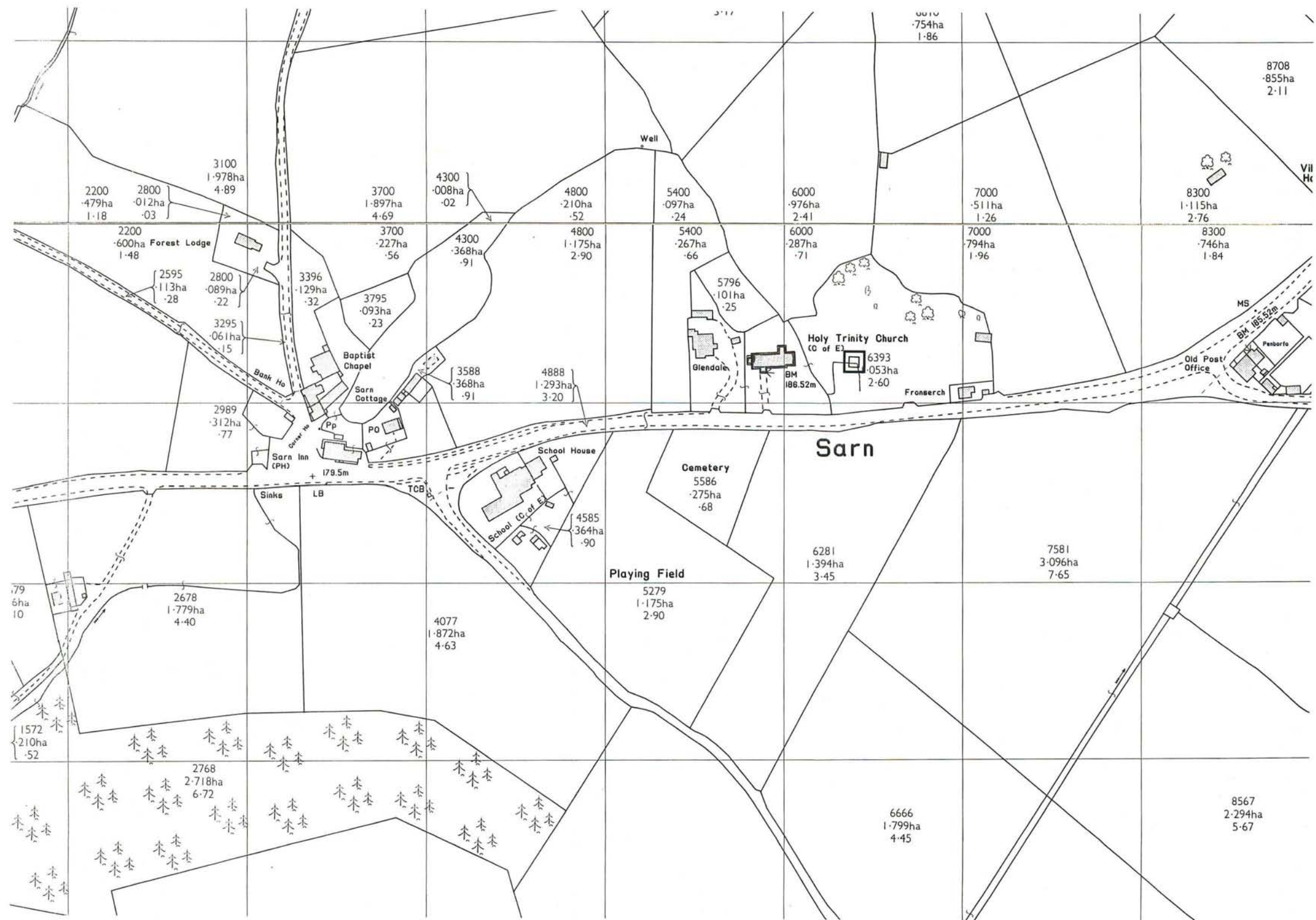
4.1 There is no significant archaeology associated with this settlement. However, in the vicinity of the church there are a few earthworks of uncertain origin and function (PAR 7561), notably in the field immediately to the east, where a large quarry is also recognisable.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of its apparently recent origin, no recommendations need to be made, although further examination of the fields around the church would be useful if land-use change was proposed.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 222
Haslam 1979, 196
Tithe Survey, Kerry 1842



Location and Topography

1.1 Sarnau is a hamlet in the hills west of the Severn, just over 8km north of Welshpool.

1.2 A network of small streams combine to form the Sarnau Brook which runs across low boggy ground towards the Severn. The hamlet has grown up on flattish ground where several of these streams meet.

History

2.1 Ellis notes that the place-name is the plural of 'sarn' meaning 'paved way', but does not give any early references to this place.

2.2 The boundary separating two ecclesiastical parishes, Meifod and Llandrinio, passes through the hamlet. At the end of the 18th century there were no more than two farms and two other dwellings at Sarnau; the chapel was erected in 1829.

Buildings

3.1 There are no listed buildings.

Archaeology

4.1 Nothing of archaeological interest has been recorded here.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of the relatively recent history of Sarnau, no recommendations need be made.

References

County SMR
Estate map, c.1792: Powys Castle archives (NLW)
Ellis 1935, 222
Tithe surveys: Llandrinio, 1841; Meifod 1841

233

234

235

236

HEIFOD C
FYLLIN RURAL No 3 ED
No 29 WARD3400
5.456ha
13.485000
1.392ha
3.446100
.906ha
2.246600
.631ha
1.567600
.178ha
.447100
.053ha
.137293
.558ha
1.385586
.134ha
.336086
.129ha
.326584
.526ha
1.307384
.514ha
1.27

Sarnau Farm

5081
.676ha
1.675681
.081ha
.2083.5m
Independent
Chapel5978
.372ha
.926478
.251ha
.626880
.283ha
.707678
.186ha
.46

Sarnau

B M 82.68m

Edgebold

7171
.854ha
2.116166
2.672ha
6.60

Well

4465
2.146ha
5.303754
2.409ha
5.954753
.077ha
.197350
3.684ha
9.105444
4.817ha
11.902942
.563ha
6.33

Bryn Ffynon

use Farm

2942
.563ha
6.33

STAYLITTLE (PENFFORDD-LAS) SN 8892

Note: this settlement has not been investigated during the current fieldwork programme.

Location and Topography

1.1 Staylittle lies close to the B4518 roughly half-way between Llanidloes and Llanbrynmair. It is also at the head of the Clywedog Reservoir system.

1.2 This much dispersed settlement consists of discrete clusters of houses, one on the eastern side of the valley in which the infant Afon Clywedog runs down to the reservoir, others on gently rising southern slopes higher up the valley. Much of the housing here is recent in date.

History

2.1 The place-name Staylittle came into common usage only in the early 19th century, the Quakers adopting the Welsh name Esgair-goch or 'red mountain' at an earlier date.

2.2 In the Middle Ages much of the area west of Afon Clywedog and its tributary Afon Bachog belonged to the Cistercian abbey of Strata Marcella. During this period, perhaps, and certainly in the post-medieval era Staylittle lay on one of the main drovers' routes through central Wales.

2.3 In the early 18th century, the Society of Friends established themselves here. There was a burial ground dated to 1711 (PAR 4405) and a meeting house at Esgair-goch, the Quakers' Garden still being shown on Ordnance Survey maps.

2.3 By the middle of the 19th century it was no more than scattered farms.

Buildings

3.1 There are no buildings of significant interest.

Archaeology

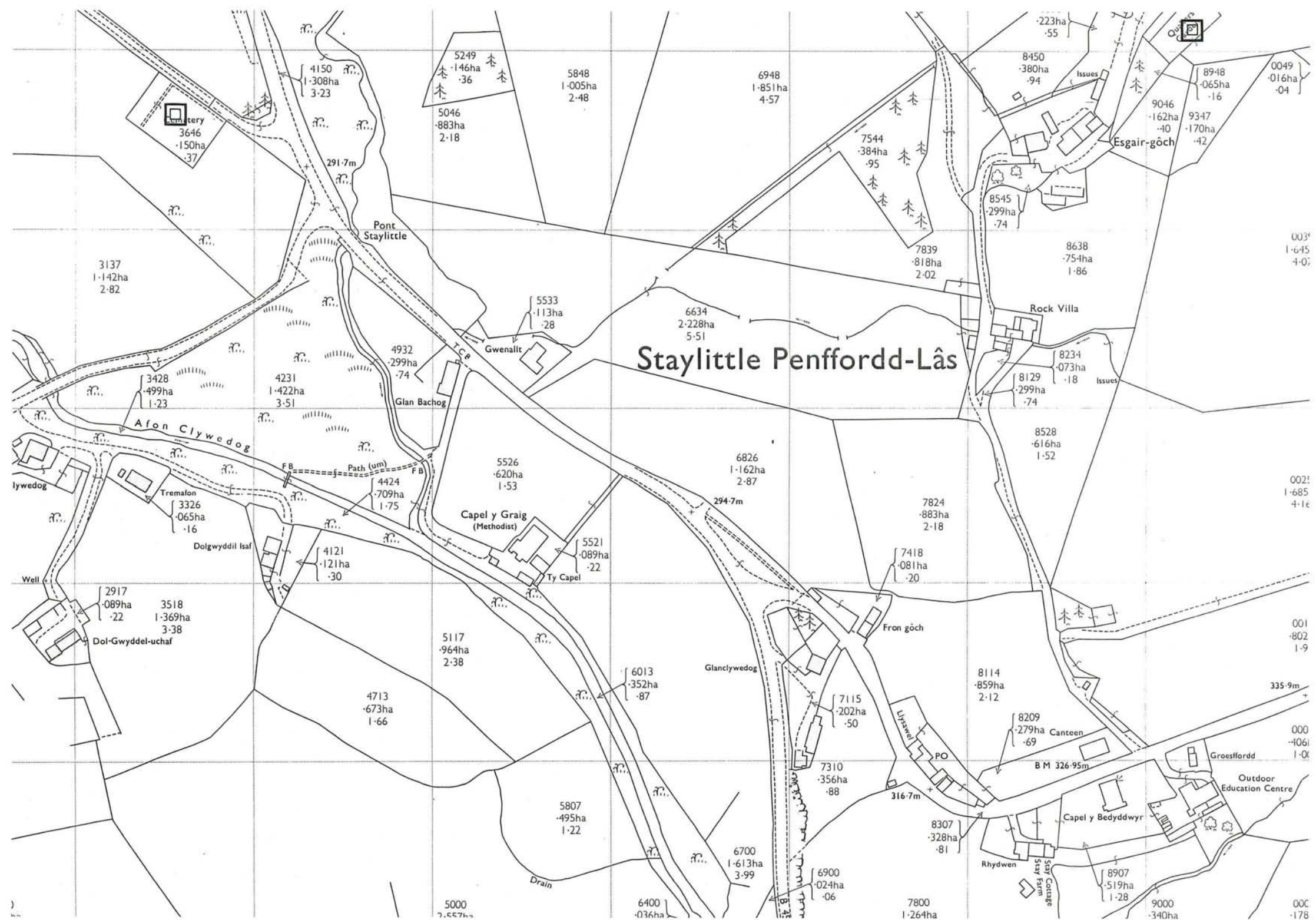
4.1 There are prehistoric and medieval sites of some interest in the surrounding hills but, with the exception of an unproven Bronze Age round barrow (PAR 6166) in Staylittle Cemetery, nothing in the immediate vicinity of Staylittle.

Recommendations

5.1 In view of the relatively recent history of this settlement, no recommendations are proposed.

References

Colyer 1976, 101
County SMR
Ellis 1935, 224
RCAHMW 1911, 173
Williams 1990, fig 14b



Location and Topography

1.1 Stepside lies 3km south-west of Newtown.

1.2 The hamlet occupies a sheltered spot on the western slopes above Mochdre Brook, from which it is separated by a knoll.

History

2.1 At the end of the 18th century this was known as Talwrn Green, the present name coming into common use by the 1820s. Ellis posits a Quaker derivation.

2.2 In 1839 the hamlet consisted of two groups of cottages and a detached house, and it seems likely, though by no means certain, that these had been constructed during the last forty years.

Buildings

3.1 There are no buildings of historic interest here.

Archaeology

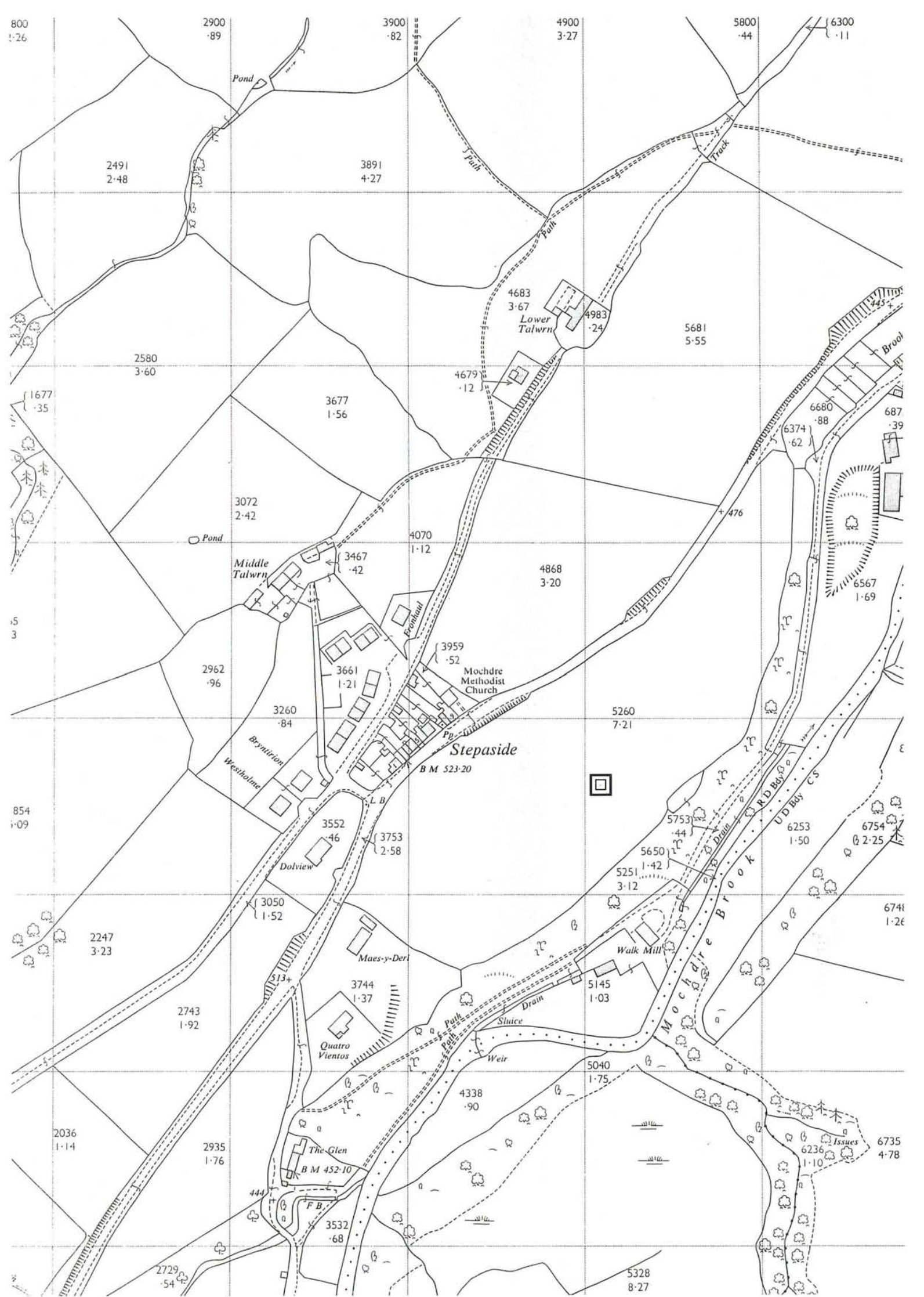
4.1 Nothing of archaeological significance has been recognised in the vicinity.

Recommendations

5.1 There is no obvious historical interest in Stepside and no useful recommendations can be made, although an aerial photograph (CPAT/88/MB/636) does indicate a substantial curving bank, perhaps a relict field boundary, on the further side of the knoll, which might merit further examination.

References

Mochdre Bygonies 1987, 3
Ellis 1935
Tithe Survey 1839



Location and Topography

1.1 Talerddig lies on the A470(T) between Newtown and Machynlleth, about 19km east of the latter.

1.2 The confluence of Afon Laen and Afon Tyn-y-rhos has created a spur on which the settlement developed. A few buildings also occupy valley floor locations.

History

2.1 Talerddig emerged close to the south-eastern edge of the vast ecclesiastical parish of Llanbrynmair. The earliest reference is to Talerdig in 1185, and the name may mean 'the head of a small hill'.

2.2 A chapel of ease, known as 'Capel Maine' (PAR 1320) existed here in the Middle Ages and is depicted on Speed's map of Montgomeryshire (1610). By 1833 it had disappeared completely.

2.3 Talerddig also appears to have been the centre of a medieval estate belonging to the Cistercian Abbey of Strata Marcella.

2.4 In the early 19th century Talerddig consisted of a woollen mill, inn, Sunday school and dwellings. It had, however, a large catchment area, for a school room built in 1812 for 247 children proved to be too small.

Buildings

3.1 There are no buildings of historic interest in the village.

Archaeology

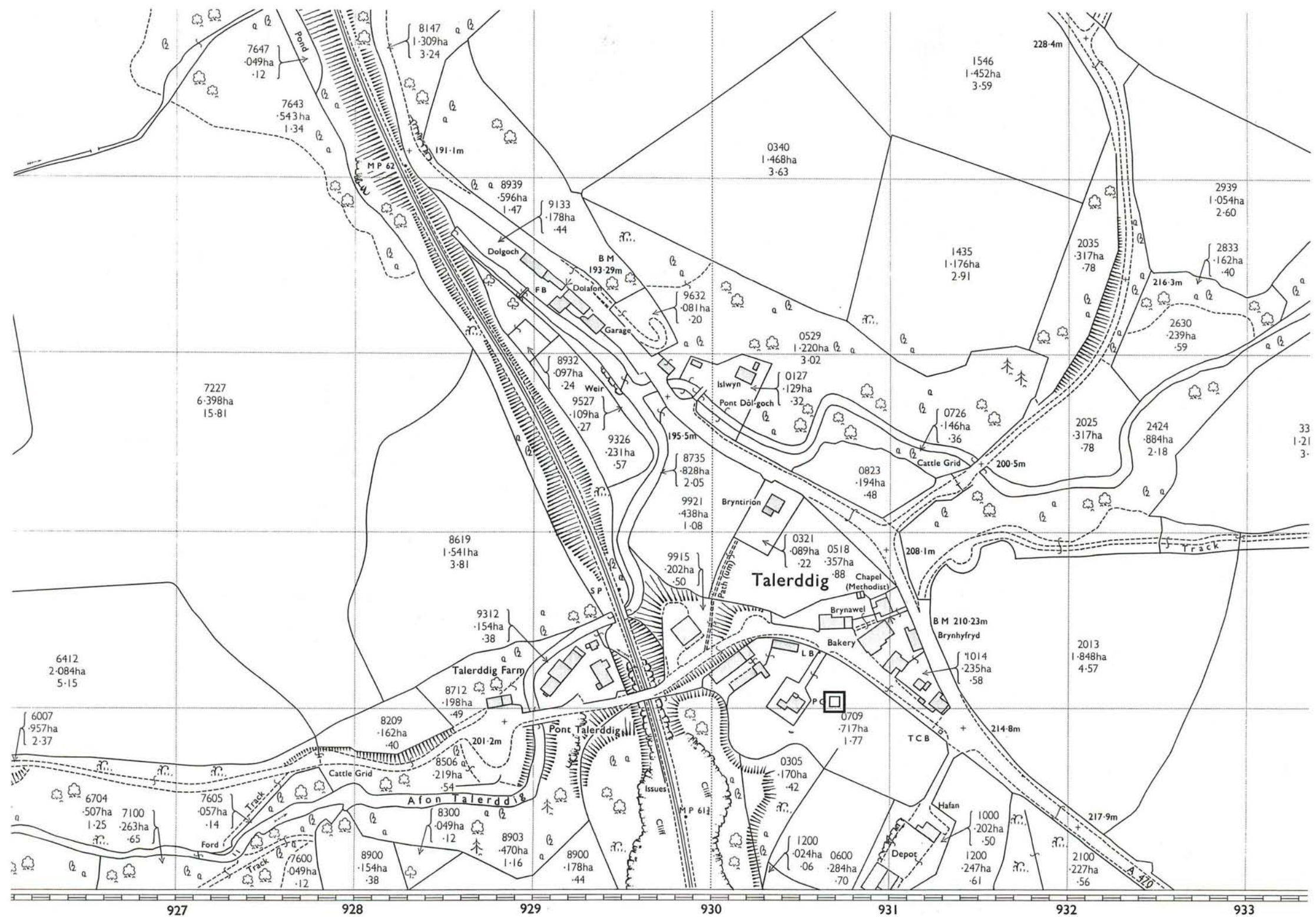
4.1 The site of the chapel is not known, but local tradition has it that an associated burial ground lay in a flat field opposite Brynawel.

Recommendations

5.1 For Talerddig, there is no evidence of a historic settlement in the conventional sense, but the putative presence of a medieval chapel demands an archaeological response to any development on the spur top. Whether this would take the form of a pre-planning evaluation would have to be determined according to the nature of that development.

References

- Colyer 1984, 136
- County SMR
- Ellis 1935, 254
- Lewis 1833
- Tithe Survey, Llanbrynmair, 1841
- Williams 1990, 60



Location and Topography

1.1 Trefeglwys is located on the B4569 linking Caersws and Llanidloes, some 7km north of the latter.

1.2 The village occupies the bottom of a south-facing slope above Afon Trannon where its narrow valley broadens into a flood plain. The church is virtually the lowest-lying of the buildings in the village.

1.3 The historic core lies at the southern end of the modern village, more recent development being further north.

History

2.1 The earliest form of the place-name, appearing in c.1253, is Treveglos, amalgamating the elements 'tref' for 'town' and 'eglwys' for 'church'.

2.2 Recent research signals a mid-12th century foundation for Trefeglwys. Neither the church dedication to St Michael nor the shape of the churchyard would contradict this view.

2.3 The settlement's medieval history is not recorded, but a manuscript map suggests that as late as 1769 there were few houses here. Only Church Farm, the Red Lion Hotel (or their predecessors) and two cottages were depicted in addition to the church. By the middle of the 19th century most of the houses around the church were in existence.

Buildings

3.1 St Michael's Church (PAR 7558) was rebuilt in 1864-5 with two medieval windows reused.

3.2 No buildings have been listed in Trefeglwys, but attention has been drawn above to several buildings that were standing in the 18th century.

Archaeology

4.1 Two standing stones (PAR 1781), apparently removed from the churchyard are now in the farmyard of Church Farm. Whether these have any prehistoric significance cannot be ascertained.

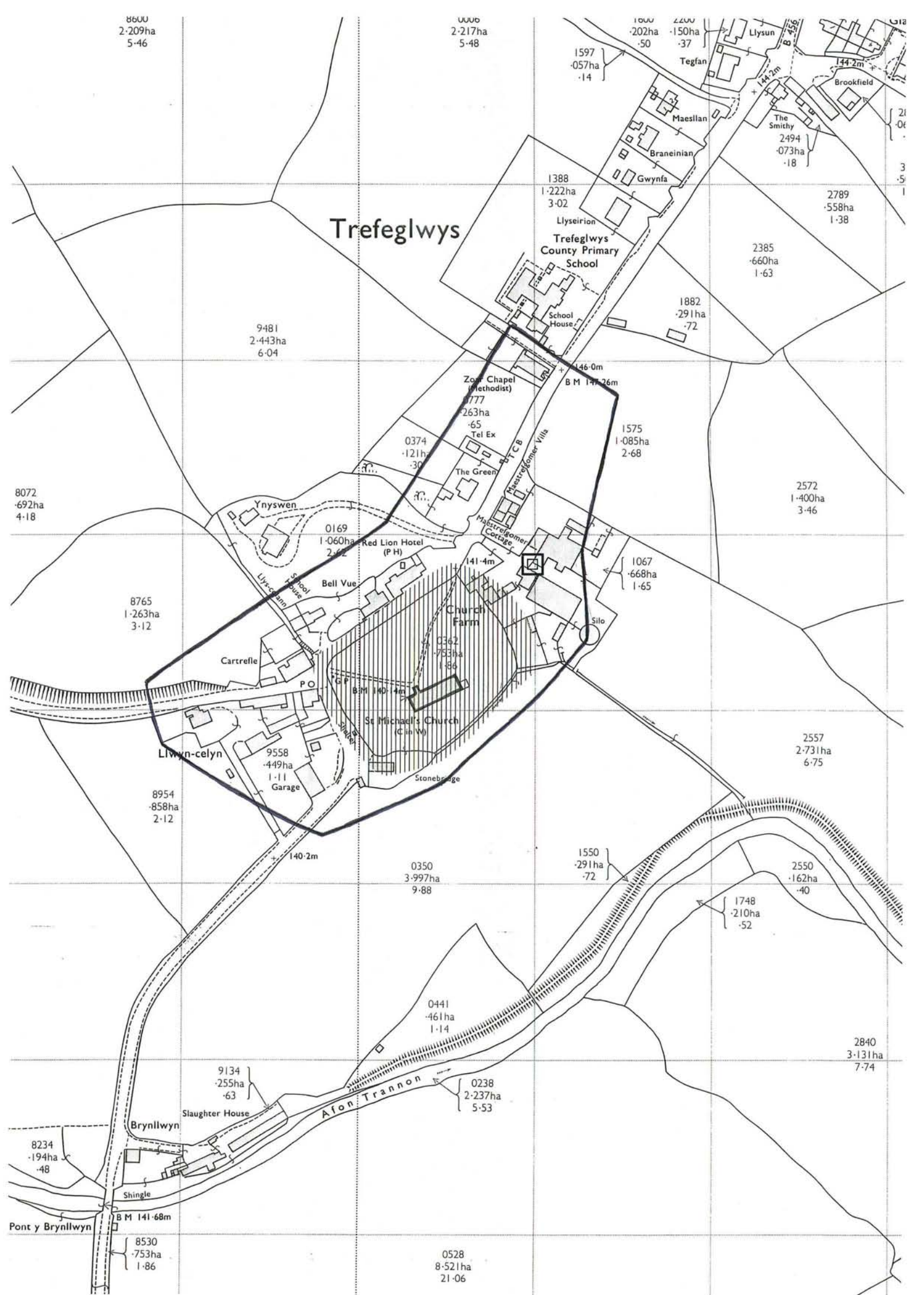
Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard and its perimeter (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 232
Estate map, 1769: Dugdale Deposit (NLW)
Haslam 1979, 198
OS Records
Price: forthcoming
Tithe survey 1848



Location and Topography

1.1 Tregynon is situated in the hills west of the Severn. It is on the B4389, some 8km south of Llanfair Caereinion.

1.2 South-east of the village several streams converge on the Bechan Brook in what is effectively a bowl in the hills. The church lies on a spur formed by the valleys of two of these streams, the southerly being considerably more pronounced than its northern counterpart. The early village appears to have spread eastwards from the church beside the northern stream.

1.3 New housing developments have extended the village in all directions except the north, so that the modern village is considerably larger and more spread than its predecessor.

History

2.1 Tref kenon is recorded in c.1253 and the modern form, Tregynon, soon after 1580. The 'tref' element means town or settlement, linked here with the name of the saint to whom the church is dedicated.

2.2 On the basis of the dedication and perhaps the shape of the churchyard, an early medieval origin might be postulated, but there is no substantive evidence for this assertion. The later, medieval history of Tregynon is equally obscure, though it formed part of the Knights Hospitallers' Halstone estate.

2.3 The village comprised the church, Church House Farm and a few cottages strung out along the lane in the 19th century. These did not extend as far as the present crossroads, but a large building, now gone, was depicted adjacent to where Llys Derw is named on modern OS maps.

Buildings

3.1 St Cynon's church (PAR 7732) is a single-chamber building with a bell turret at the west end. Rebuilding occurred in 1787 and 1892, but the roof could date back to the 15th century. Most of the internal fittings are 19th century, though some 18th-century funerary monuments remain.

3.2 The Cottage (PAR 7734) beside the churchyard is a undated, half-timbered building which formerly had a Grade III listing, while the neo-Tudor School House of c.1870 (PAR 30479) is classed as Grade II.

3.3 Cottages beside the moated enclosure south of the village have been converted from a tithe barn (PAR 1175).

Archaeology

4.1 A mound on the valley floor near the Sewage Works, tentatively identified as a Bronze Age round barrow (PAR 4751), has been dismissed as a natural tump by an OS field investigator.

4.2 The raised churchyard exhibits curvilinear traces only where the road swings around the wall. Elsewhere it is distinctly angular.

4.3 There are traces of earthworks (PAR 7735) on the opposite side of the road to the church, but their nature is unclear.

4.4 Four hundred metres south-east of the church and close to the Bechan Brook is a fine moated enclosure (PAR 765 SAM Montgomery 204), perhaps with platforms or outworks on the north-east.

4.5 Rising ground north of the crossroads (OS field no.8081) has the name Castle Hill (PAR 4749), but no evidence of a fortification has been detected here.

Recommendations

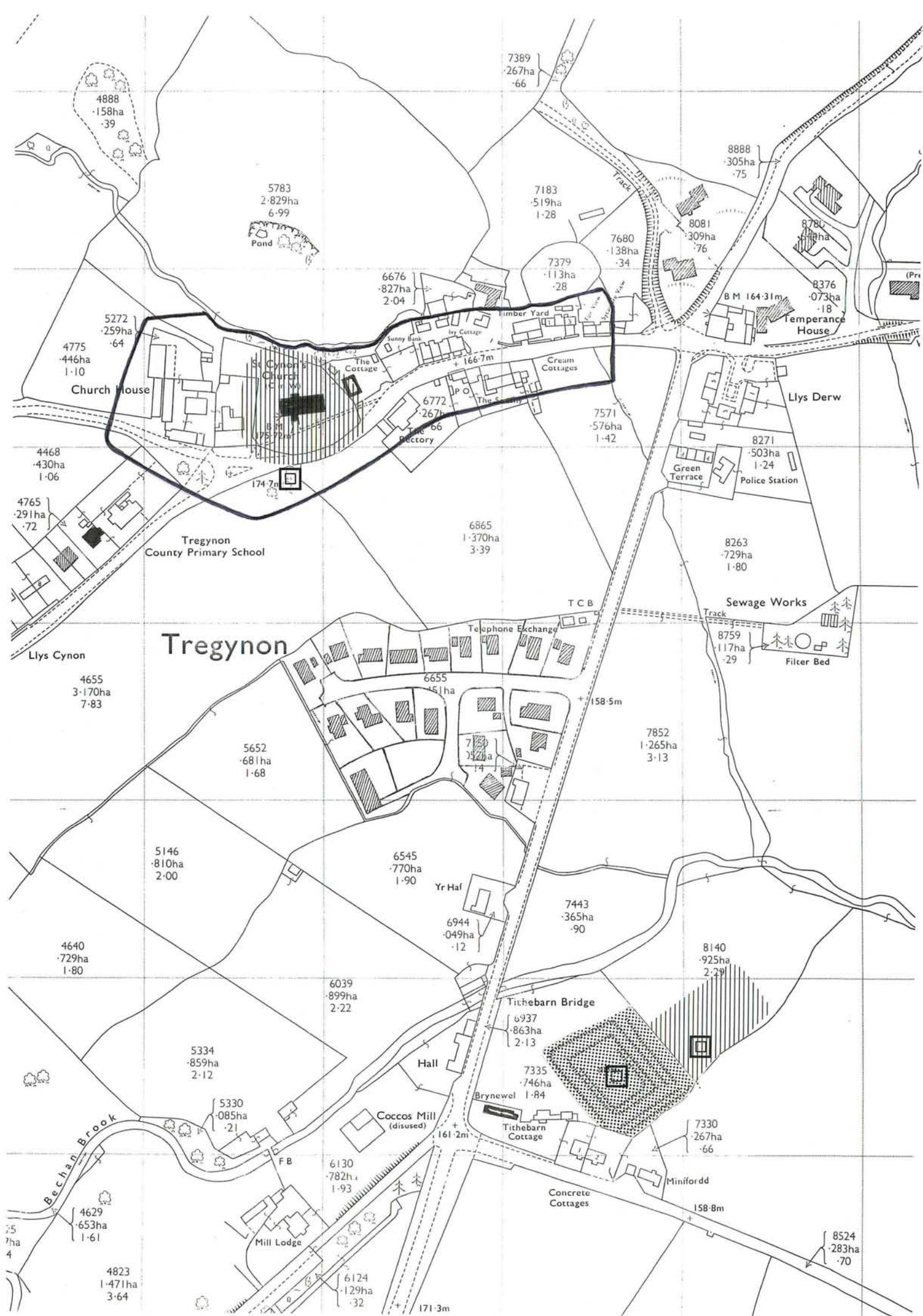
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be requested for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development

5.3 The area around the scheduled moated site should be examined for further earthworks and, if necessary, appropriate steps should be taken to record and protect them.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 233
Haslam 1979, 200
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey, 1840



Location and Topography

1.1 Trelystan lies on the eastern slopes of Long Mountain, extremely close to the Shropshire border. It is approximately 6km south-east of Welshpool.

1.2 The church is perched by itself on a remote east-facing spur formed by two small valleys converging on Trelystan Dingle. The nearest habitation is 400m away.

History

2.1 The place-name appears in the form Trelistan in c.1570, linking the element, 'tref' meaning town or settlement with the personal name Elystan. There is also a reference in Domesday Book to Ulestanesmude which may be relevant.

2.2 The church is traditionally associated with the Welsh prince, Elstan Glodrudd (c.1010-1040), who is said to have been buried at 'Chapel Trest Elistan'.

Buildings

3.1 All Saints' church (PAR 7736) is unique in the district in that it is timber-built. Of 15th-century date, the single-chamber structure was restored in 1856. It appears to sit on a slight mound, perhaps the remnants of an earlier building.

Archaeology

4.1 The rectangular churchyard encompasses a sub-circular enclosure (PAR 4500) showing as a very slight bank. It is assumed that this is the line of an early 'llan', though its date is unknown.

4.2 There are no traces of settlement earthworks around the church.

4.3 Ridge and furrow cultivation (PAR 4470) has been identified in a field 200m to the south of the church

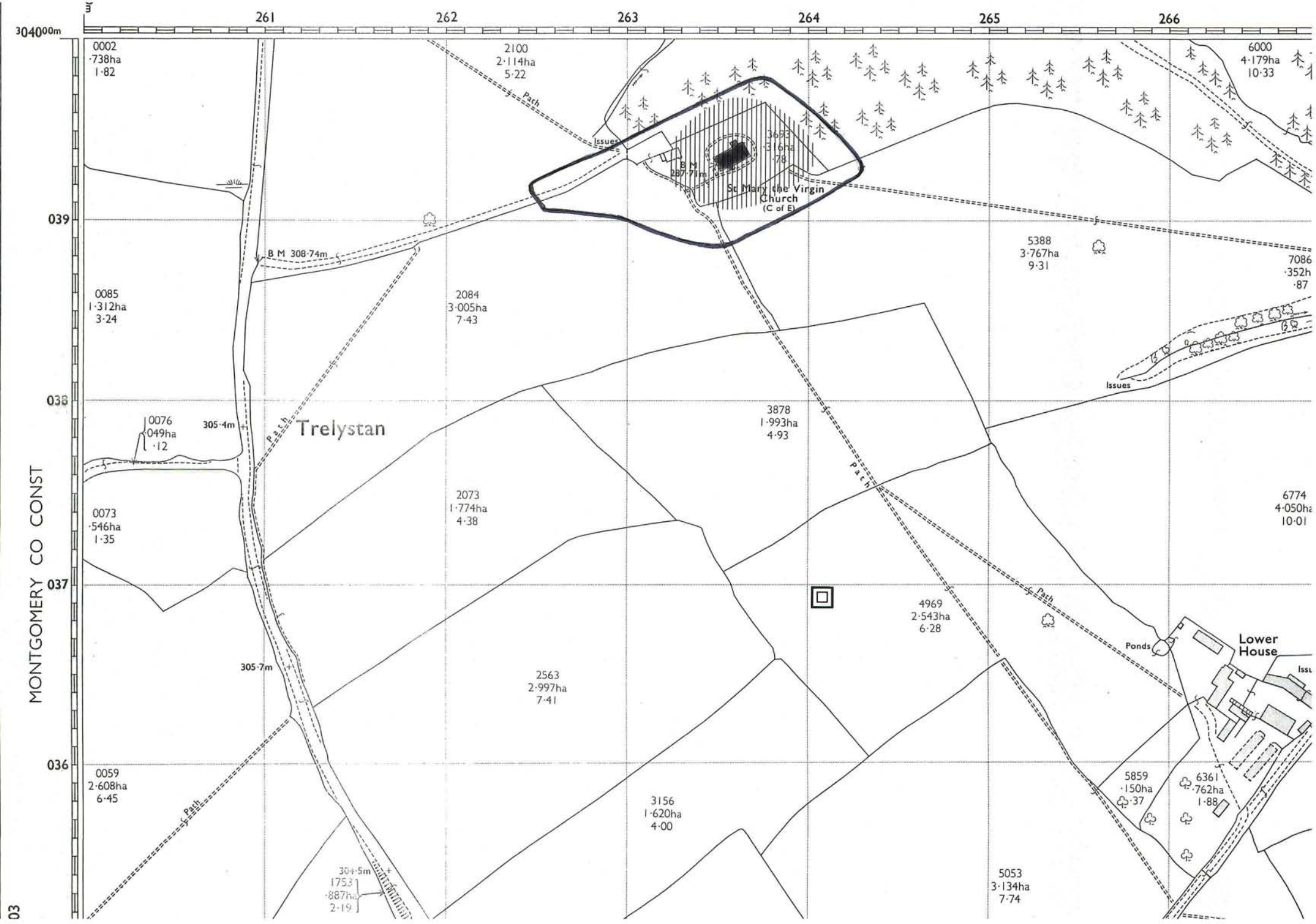
Recommendations

5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be requested for any proposals involving the current churchyard and the area immediately surrounding it (as shown on the accompanying map).

5.2 Within the remainder of the defined historic core, a watching brief should be considered a minimum response to any development and a pre-planning evaluation could be advocated, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

References

AIW 26 (1986), 56
County SMR
Ellis 1935, 235
Haslam 1979, 204
Lewis 1833



Location and Topography

1.1 The A458(T) passes through Trewern some 5km to the north-east of Welshpool.

1.2 Trewern, which on some maps is shown as Garreg Bank, sprawls across the extreme south-western tip of the Breidden Hills. Southwards the ground flattens out where two streams join on their way to the Severn. Northwards the ground rises steeply, but not too steeply to prevent the construction of housing.

History

2.1 The place-name is first recorded in 1311. It combines 'tref' meaning town or settlement, with 'gwern' which can be translated as swamp or marsh. Ellis also suggests, however, that the second element could be a personal name.

2.2 There is little obvious history to Trewern as a settlement, although Trewern House goes back into the medieval period. By the mid-19th century a number of houses already existed on Garreg Bank, but there is no recognisable focus to the settlement.

Buildings

3.1 Trewern House, a Grade II* property (PAR 20412), is thought to have been a 15th-century open hall-house, altered in the 16th century. Grade II listings include Upper Farm (PAR 20413) dated to 1658, and Maesfron (PAR 30810), an 1830s villa.

3.2 Trewern Church (PAR 7566) was built as a chapel-of-ease in 1837.

Archaeology

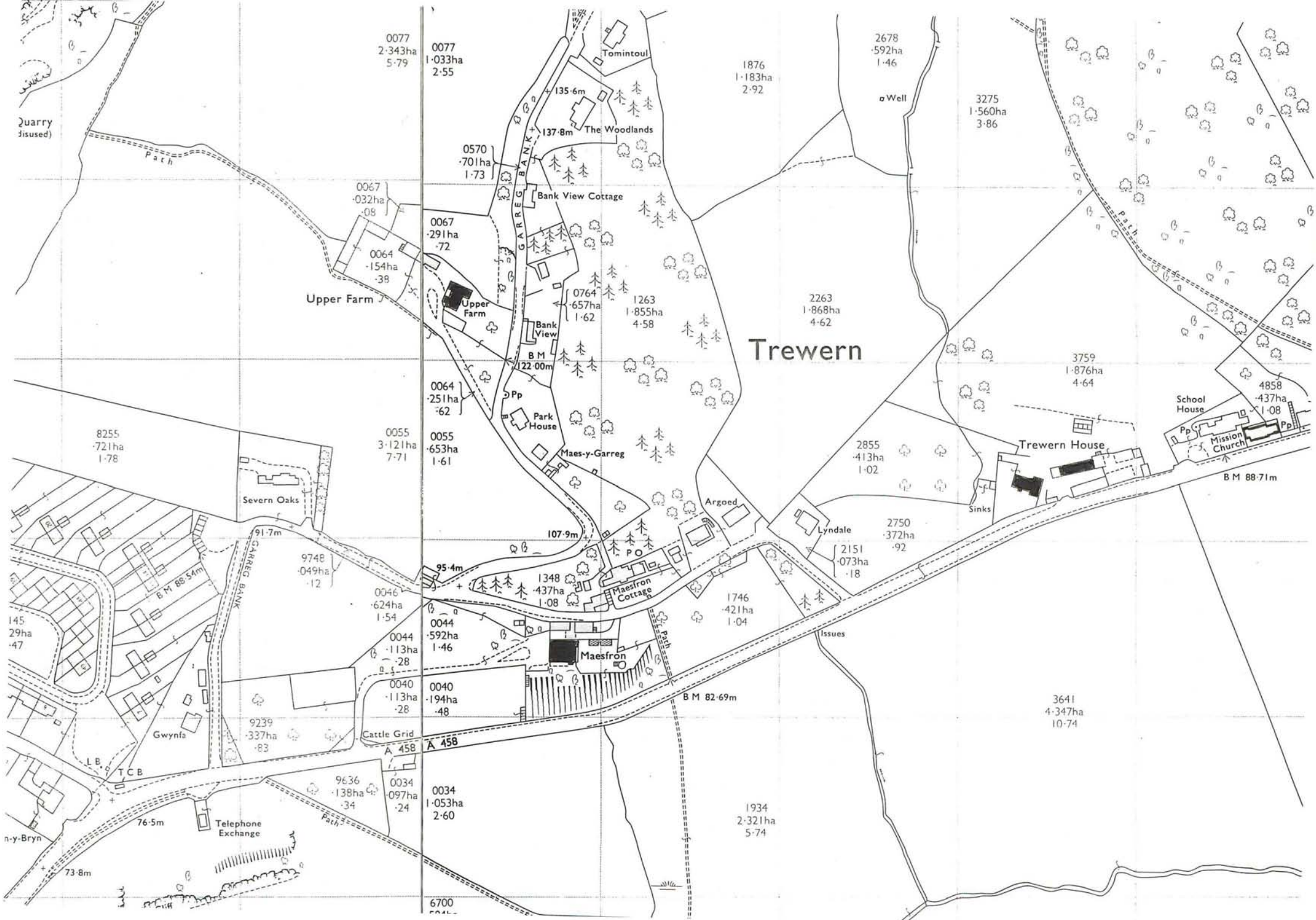
4.1 Nothing of archaeological significance has been recognised here.

Recommendations

5.1 No recommendations are proposed for Trewern.

References

County SMR
Ellis 1935, 236
Haslam 1979, 205
Lewis 1833
Tithe survey, Buttington n.d.



Location and Topography

1.1 Welshpool functions as a nodal point on the edge of the Severn Valley with three main roads intersecting here including two trunk roads, the A483 and the A458.

1.2 Set on the western slopes above the Severn flood plain at the point where the Nant-y-caws Brook (also described as the Lledan Brook) converges on the river, Welshpool's historic core is enveloped by 19th and 20th-century housing on the west, south and north, and by a lower-lying industrial zone to the east.

History

2.1 Records of 1253-4 provide the earliest names for the town. Capella de Trallu'g means 'pool town' and the latinised form Pola also appeared. Leland is credited with the first reference to Welshpool around 1530. The Pool was a large sheet of water, now much reduced in size, in Powis Park.

2.2 Welshpool is said to have been the site of churches founded by St Cynfelyn and his brother Llywelyn in the 6th century. The location and nature of these churches and any accompanying settlement remains unknown.

2.3 Domen Gastell, a motte and bailey castle was thrown up closer to the flood plain, but at what date is uncertain. The earliest reference which seems to relate to this earthwork comes in 1196, but it is possible that it was constructed as early as 1111. It may have continued in use into the later 13th century, but at this time and possibly even earlier Powis Castle became the major stronghold in the neighbourhood. Thus, the reference to houses surrounding a castle at Welshpool being razed for defensive purposes unfortunately cannot be attributed to a specific fortification although it seems more likely that dwellings would have grown up around Domen Gastell than Powis Castle.

2.4 The borough of Welshpool may have been established by the Prince of Powys as early as the 1240s when the burgesses received a foundation charter. A market was recorded in 1252 and forty years later there were 106 taxpayers in the town, a total which had risen to 225 by 1322.

2.5 In 1253 a documentary record confirms two ecclesiastical buildings in the town (Ecclesia de Pola and Capella de Trallug).

2.6 The Glyndwr rebellion and the general decline apparent in many Welsh border towns in the 15th and 16th centuries, seem to have had a restricted effect on Welshpool, to judge from the picture of the town on an estate map of 1629. Leland termed it the best market in Powysland in the 1530s, replacing Montgomery as the regional centre because of its better location.

2.7 The growth of the flannel industry during the late 18th century added fresh impetus to the development of the town, though it has been argued that it failed to become a predominant urban focus in Wales because of competition from towns higher up the Severn Valley. The construction of the Montgomeryshire Canal at the same time added to its importance, and the railway arrived in 1862.

Buildings

3.1 The church of St Mary has a complicated architectural history. Haslam suggests it was refounded in c.1250 and that much of the tower dates from that century. The rest of the building appears to have been added to during nearly every subsequent century, and was restored twice in the Victorian era. Inside there is little that predates the 19th century.

3.2 A considerable number of the buildings in the centre of the town have been listed, invariably Grade II apart from St Mary's church which is the sole Grade I structure. There is nothing to be gained from cataloguing all of these, but it is worth drawing attention to the earliest buildings. Nos 5 and 6 Mount Street (PAR 30699 & 30700) are thought to be 15th-century timber-framed cottages, while The Mermaid (PAR 30684), no.1 Mount Street (PAR 30697) and no.38 Mount Street (PAR 30707) are attributed to the 16th century. It is no coincidence that all of these lie at the top of the town away from the commercial centre where the demands for refurbishment are always likely to have been greater. In this respect the recent uncovering from beneath its later veneer of a timber-framed first-floor hall-house lying back from Broad Street in Hopkin's Passage is instructive.

3.3 Powis Castle also has a Grade I listing.

Archaeology

4.1 A second-century Roman burial (PAR 119) in the area of the Smithfield was discovered in 1959, and stray Roman coins have also come to light within the town (e.g PAR 117 at the Town Hall).

4.2 The 'Old Church' (PAR 4438) lay at the junction of Mill Lane with Salop Road. Traditionally associated with Llywelyn's church, the building that was still standing as a ruin in the 18th century was erected in 1587, but badly damaged by fire in 1659. However, Capel Sainte Llew'n which stood south of the present church and Salop Road was referred to in a will of 1545. The discovery of human remains in 1986 attests the presence of an adjacent graveyard.

4.3 Domen Gastell (PAR 120; SAM Montgomery 19) is a well-preserved motte, but the bailey has suffered from re-use as a bowling green.

4.4 St Mary's church (PAR 5504) is generally considered to have been founded with the borough in the 13th century. However, it lies on the opposite side of the Lledan Brook from the borough. Its position on a spur above a watercourse is typical of early medieval foundations and Soulsby has commented on the fact that an estate map of 1629 has the statement 'Welshe towne' printed adjacent to the church. The map also implies an oval churchyard - in contrast to the rectangular area today - but this could be no more than a stylistic device employed by the cartographer. Overall, a strong case can be made for this being an early church and by extension the earliest settlement at Welshpool should be in the Salop Road/Mill Lane area, previously favoured by the Romans.

4.5 The layout of the town is essentially linear with the main axis, Broad Street lying on the southern edge of the Lledan Valley. By 1629 both the town hall and the market house as well as the market cross were located in the centre of this thoroughfare. Several lanes run off Broad Street to north and south with a road intersection (now Berriew Street and Church Street) at its eastern end. Narrow burgage plots remain clearly defined on Broad Street and Berriew Street, and it is evident from the estate map of 1629 that at that time (and by implication in previous centuries) Broad Street was the main

focus. A feature of this urban pattern is the numerous narrow alleys, many of them named, which ran off the main street.

4.6 The agricultural dimension to medieval and early post-medieval Welshpool is largely lost. Sub-divided fields once covered a substantial area of lower ground between the town and the Severn and are depicted as such on an estate map of 1663 but these have been almost completely erased by the modern industrial development. Depicted on the map was 'the Ould Field' near a later farm called Henfaes which is probably the earliest area of cultivation. Nevertheless, ridge and furrow cultivation has been recognised in various places, both in Powis Park and in the hills surrounding Welshpool and it may be that some of this is of medieval origin.

4.7 Powis Park contains other significant earthworks including an enclosure (PAR 5643), just above the Oldford Estate, which is probably medieval, though it bears a passing similarity to a Roman military site.

Recommendations

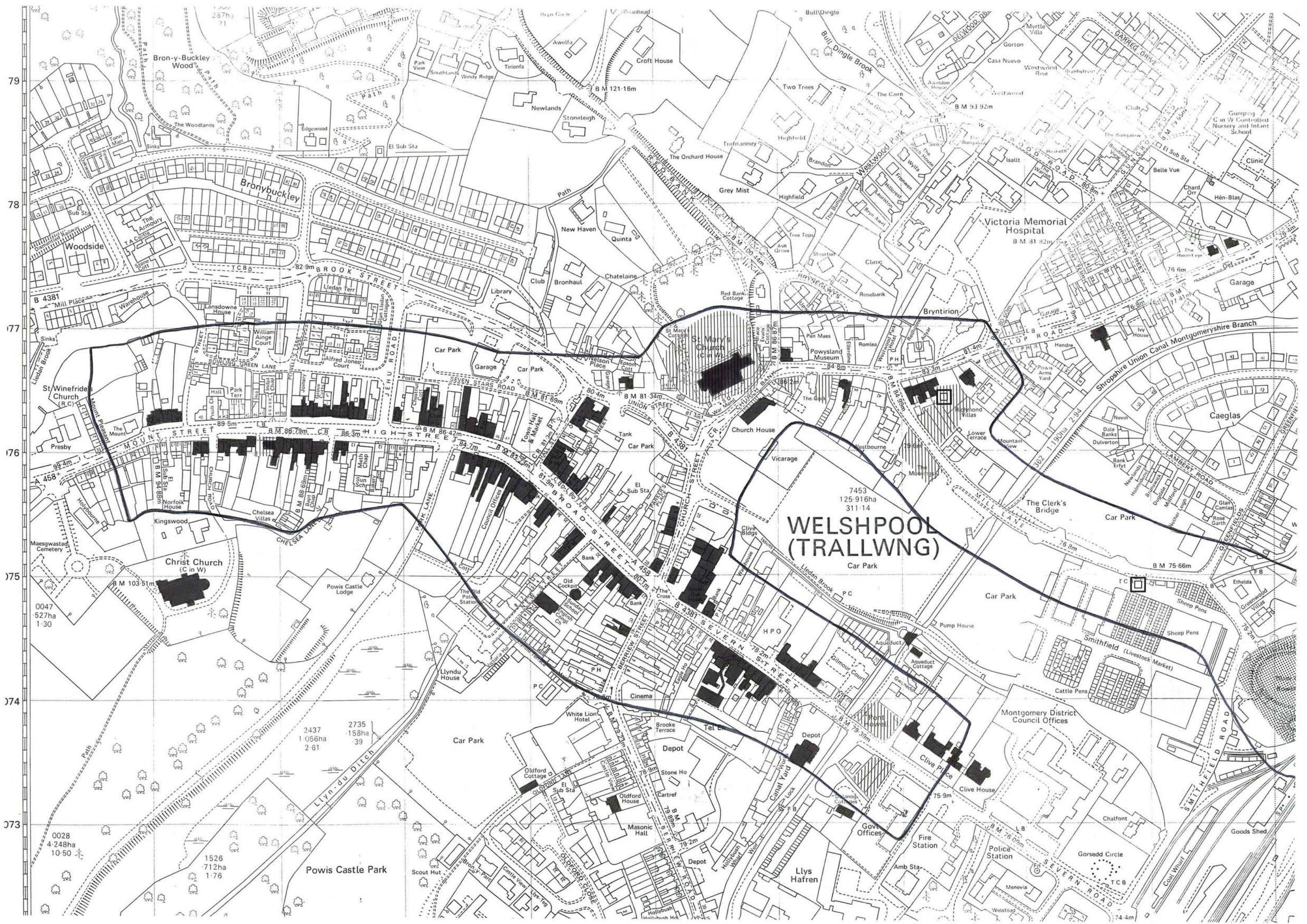
5.1 Pre-planning evaluations should be required for any proposals involving the current churchyard, the site of the Old Church and Domen Gastell (as shown on the accompanying map).

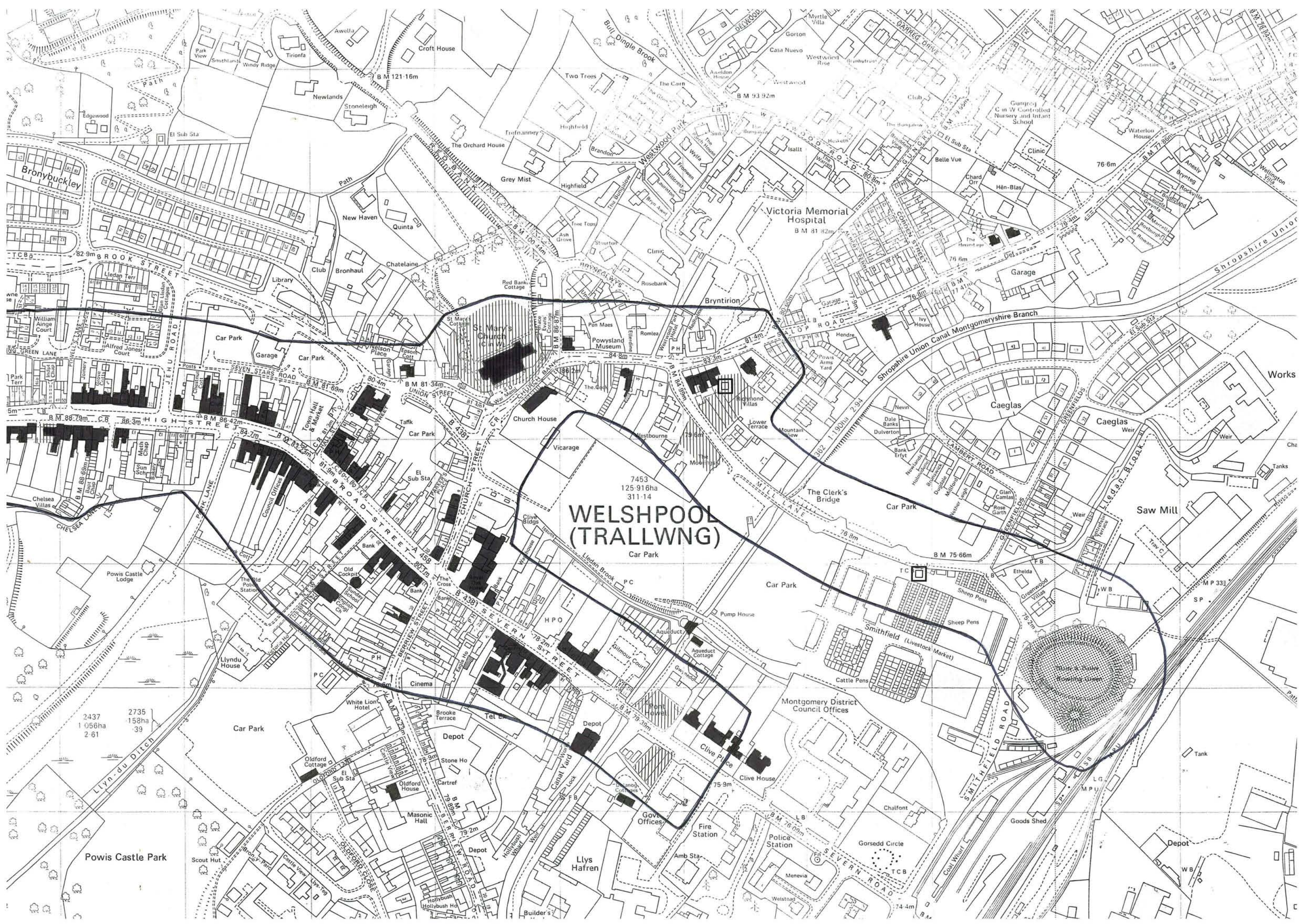
5.2 Pre-planning evaluations may be advocated within the remainder of the defined historic core, depending on the scale and type of proposed development.

5.3 The discovery of the hall-house in Hopkin's Passage highlights the hidden architectural heritage in central Welshpool. The possibility of a thorough internal survey of the buildings in the centre should be considered.

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WELSHPOOL
(TRALLWNG)

Victoria Memorial Hospital
B M 81 82m

St Mary's Church
(in W)

Montgomery District
Council Offices

Powis Castle Park

Saw Mill

Sheep Pens
Smithfield (Livestock Market)

Car Park

Car Park

Car Park

Car Park

Depot

Amb Sta

Police Station

Llys Hafren

Depot

Oldford Cottage

Scout Hut

Goods Shed

Gorsedd Circle

Fire Station

Govt Offices

Canal Yard

Masonic Hall

Oldford House

White Lion Hotel

Sheep Pens

Smithfield

Car Park

Car Park

Car Park

Car Park

Car Park

Car Park

Car Park

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ARCHAEOLOGY AND PLANNING IN POWYS

INTRODUCTION

The following notes are designed to provide guidance to Planning Authorities and Developers in Powys on procedures relating to the implementation of ***Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning*** (PPG 16 Wales). Advice is given within the framework of PPG 16.

PPG 16 places much of the responsibility upon Planning Authorities for ensuring that due weight is given within the planning process to the preservation of sites of archaeological importance. It is therefore recommended that Local Planning Authorities should consider appointing archaeological staff to provide in-house advice on the impact of proposed developments on the archaeological resource, particularly with regard to the implementation of PPG 16. Where this is not considered appropriate, Planning Authorities are advised to continue to seek advice from The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. CPAT recognises a number of codes of practice relating to archaeological matters (see Appendix 3).

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, established in 1975, is an independent charitable trust which receives funding from Cadw/Welsh Historic Monuments (an Executive Agency within the Welsh Office) and the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales. It is one of the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts covering different regions of Wales which carry out a broad range of archaeological activities including planning control work on behalf of Planning Authorities. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust employs staff offering a broad range of archaeological expertise and undertake complementary roles in securing the preservation and interpretation of the archaeological heritage. Historically, The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has taken a leading role in the establishment of the County Sites and Monuments Record, rescue excavation and fieldwork recording, research excavation, monument conservation and interpretation.

PPG 16 recognises that CPAT provides advice and guidance to Planning Authorities, property owners and developers on the handling of archaeological matters. Because of its role in rescue archaeology, the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust may also be contracted to carry out archaeological assessments, field evaluations or investigations which arise from this advice.

PPG 16 pulls together and expands existing advice from central government on the handling of archaeological matters in the planning process and sets out a number of new procedures that might be followed. This document is intended to clarify and streamline the role of CPAT within the framework provided by PPG 16. These procedures will need to be revised as and when archaeological staff are appointed to Planning Authorities or in the event of the establishment of Unitary Authorities in Wales. CPAT will for the time being take a leading role in certain aspects of handling individual planning applications and will continue to provide advice on planning applications and will also take a leading role in the development of the regional Sites and Monuments Record in conjunction with the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales.

ADVICE ON THE HANDLING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATTERS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

The following section is intended to be read in conjunction with the relevant parts of PPG 16, as indicated, and to provide guidance upon procedures which are appropriate in the local context. See also flowchart on page 4.

Summary of standard archaeological procedures

In considering the impact of proposed developments upon archaeological sites it is advised that the response of Planning Authorities should normally take one of the following forms, either singly or in combination, as and when appropriate. Definitions of a number of the terms used in these guidance notes are given in Appendix 1. Model conditions designed to meet these various circumstances are given in Appendix 2. These may be found appropriate in circumstances where a voluntary or 106 Agreement is not entered into.

- refusal of the planning application on archaeological grounds
- that a watching brief should be maintained during the course of development in order to record archaeological remains
- that (particularly in the case of buildings or other above-ground structures) a photographic or drawn record should be made in advance of proposed works
- that a site of archaeological interest should be fenced or marked to avoid disturbance during the course of development
- that the proposed development should be amended to remove or lessen the impact on archaeological remains
- that a field evaluation should be carried out in order to provide further information upon which the impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains can be assessed
- that archaeological excavations should be carried out in advance of the proposed development
- advice that Scheduled Monument Consent is or may be required (in the case of Scheduled Ancient Monuments)

Development Plans PPG 16, paras 15-16

CPAT will continue to provide advice 'on policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and on their settings'. Cadw is also ready to advise on the archaeological content of policies proposed for inclusion in draft plans.

Sites and Monuments Records PPG 16, para 17, Annex 1, paras 4-6

This is a dynamic record of all known archaeological sites and finds and buildings and industrial monuments etc of historic interest maintained by CPAT. About 10000 sites are currently listed in the County record, which is constantly updated and expanded as new information becomes available. The record held by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust is one of four regional records maintained by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts and forms part of a national record being developed by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales. As well as its role in planning, the Record also plays an important function in the positive management and presentation of the historic landscape for the purpose of education and recreation and as a source for input to local history, conservation and tourism projects. Since in many instances the records consist of a summary or index of information recorded elsewhere, it will often be necessary to call upon the experience of a trained archaeologist to gauge the full significance of particular sites listed in the record. See also flowchart on page 5.

Archaeology and Planning PPG 16, para 18

CPAT reaffirms that 'the desirability of preserving an ancient monument and its setting is a material consideration in determining planning applications whether that monument is scheduled or unscheduled.'

Pre-planning consultations PPG 16, para 19

Prospective developers should be encouraged to consult CPAT at an early stage in order to assess whether their site is known or likely to contain archaeological remains. Access to information from the County Sites and Monuments Record will be according to the *Code of Practice - Access and Charging for Sites and Monuments Records* (Association of County Archaeological Officers). In the event of a proposed development affecting the site or setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the prospective developer should be advised by the Planning Authority of the need to apply for Scheduled Monument Consent from Cadw.

Archaeological Assessment PPG 16, para 20

Where appropriate, prospective developers should be encouraged to commission their own archaeological assessment. The names of appropriate individuals or organisations working in this field may be obtained from CPAT.

Archaeological Field Evaluations PPG 16, paras 21-22

Field evaluation, to be carried out in advance of a planning decision, should be considered in cases where early discussions with developers indicate that important archaeological remains may exist. CPAT will provide advice to the Planning Authorities on the scope of the archaeological field evaluation and the archaeological factors which should be taken into account. This advice will normally take the form of a written brief. The Planning Authority should notify the developer of the course of action which should be followed and it will then become the responsibility of the prospective developer to commission evaluation work from a professionally qualified organisation or consultant. The names of appropriate individuals or organisations working in this field may be obtained from CPAT. The brief will indicate whether a detailed specification is required, and whether monitoring should be carried out. Copies of a report on the field evaluation should be submitted to the Planning Authority. In due course copies should be made available to CPAT for the purposes of providing further advice to the Planning Authority and in order to up-date the Sites and Monuments Record.

Consultations by Planning Authorities PPG 16, para 23

When planning applications are made without prior discussion, CPAT will continue to liaise and to offer their services in identifying applications which have archaeological implications. In cases where it appears that the proposed development affects or might affect important archaeological CPAT will draw this to the attention of the Planning Authority, and suggest possible courses of action. In the event that a pre-planning field evaluation is recommended a similar course of action to that outlined in the previous paragraph should be followed.

Excavations in advance of development PPG 16, para 24-26

Where a Planning Authority deems that it is not feasible to preserve archaeological remains, an acceptable alternative may be to arrange for archaeological excavations in advance of development. In these circumstances it will be appropriate for Planning Authorities to request CPAT to prepare a brief giving outline details of the work to be undertaken. This might form part of a voluntary agreement between the developer and the Planning Authority, as for example under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In the absence of such an agreement Planning Authorities should consider imposing planning conditions which enable excavations to be carried out in advance. Procedures for preparing a brief for excavation and the developer's responsibility for engaging the services of an archaeological body to undertake the work will follow a similar course to that outlined in previous paragraphs. It is the policy of central government that under most circumstances developers will be expected to bear the costs of archaeological work. In some instances, however, it may be appropriate for a developer to apply to the Secretary of State for Wales for financial assistance, either directly or in consultation with the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

Planning decisions PPG 16, paras 27-28

Planning authorities should attempt to take account of the intrinsic importance of individual archaeological sites in order that they may weigh these considerations against the need for proposed developments. CPAT will, as and when required, continue to provide Planning Authorities with advice on these matters.

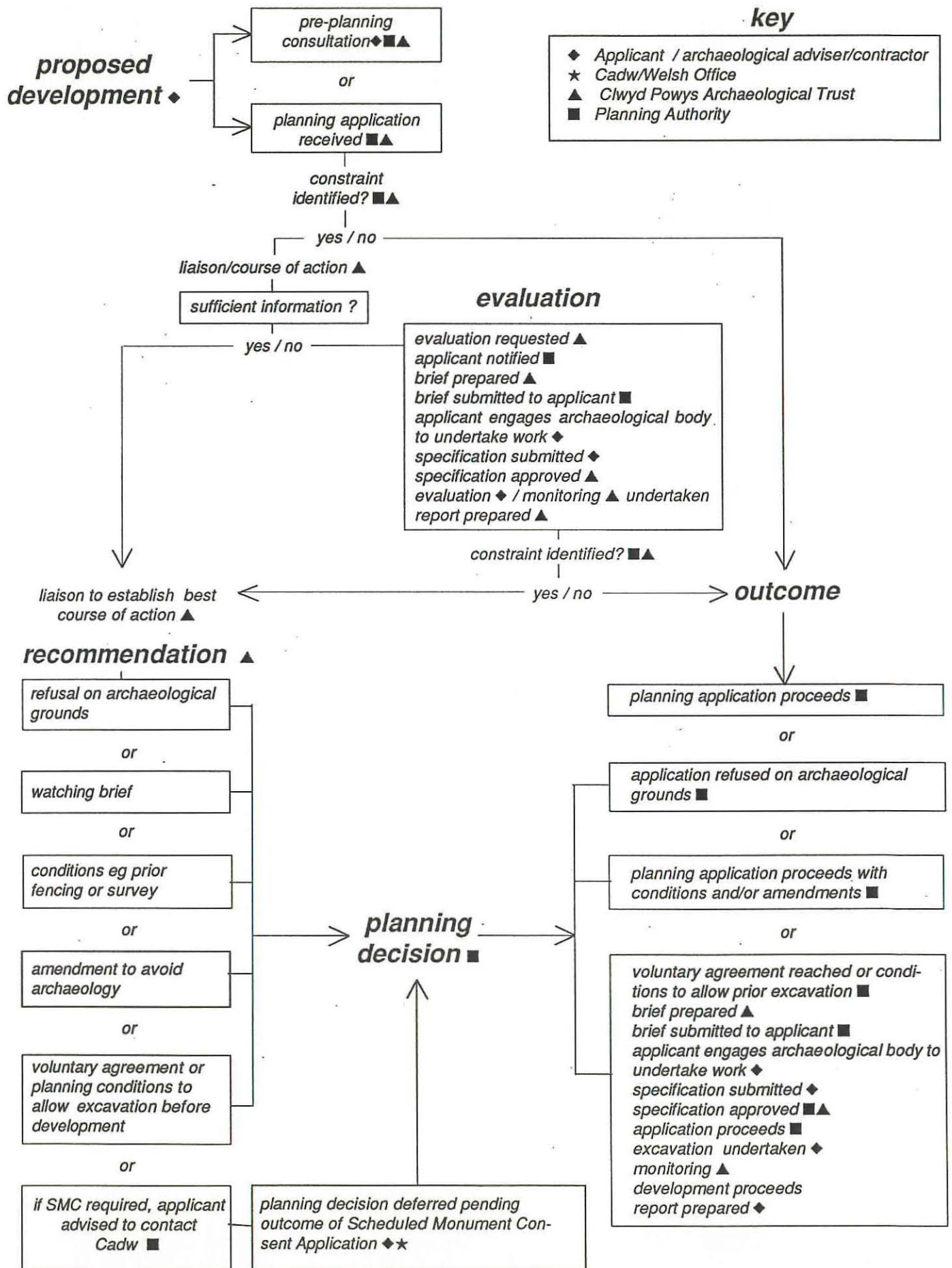
Planning conditions PPG 16, paras 29-30

CPAT will continue to advise local authorities in circumstances where they consider it is appropriate that a watching brief should be maintained during the course of development for the purpose of recording archaeological remains. Limited pieces of work of this kind may be undertaken at no cost to the developer. It will be helpful if the body to undertake the work is either identified in a note attached to the planning consent or if there is a condition requiring the applicant to submit for approval to the Planning Authority, well in advance, the name of the body to carry out the work. If a significant amount of work is anticipated it will be appropriate for CPAT to prepare, on behalf of the Planning Authority, a brief to cover this work, and for the developer to engage the services of an archaeological organisation to undertake the work. In any event, the condition applied by a Planning Authority should state the amount of notice that the developer should give of the commencement of on-site work.

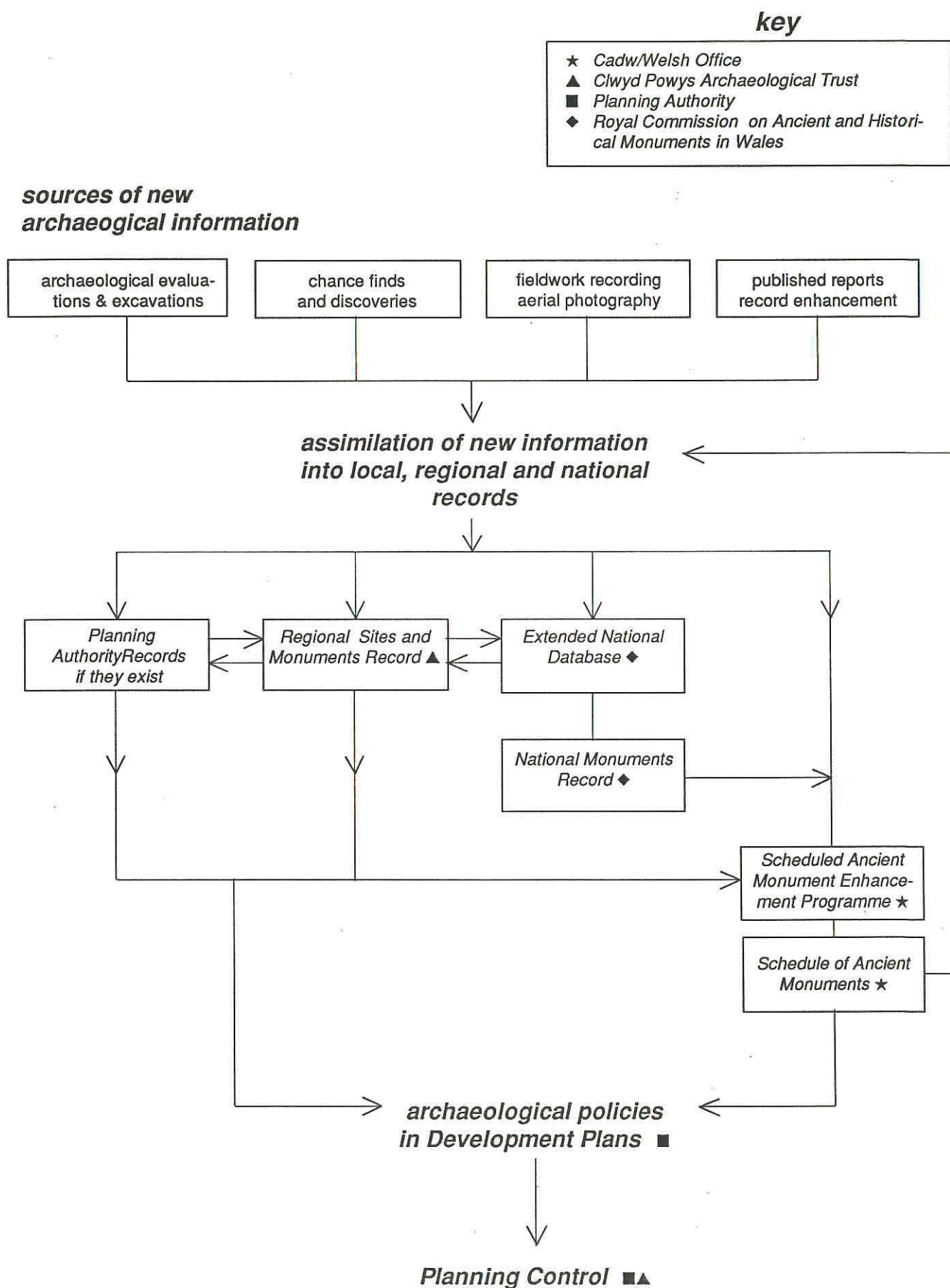
Discovery of archaeological remains during development PPG 16, para 31

The Planning Authority should be notified of any unexpected archaeological remains which only become apparent once a development has commenced. CPAT will provide advice on the best means of dealing with unexpected problems of this kind.

Recommended procedures for handling archaeology and planning



Relationships between Local, Regional and National Archaeological Records, Development Plans and Planning Control



APPENDIX 1

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED

ASSESSMENT

An assessment aims to determine the likely effects of a proposed development on archaeological sites. It may or not form part of an Environmental Assessment (WO Circular 23/88; Statutory Instruments 1988 no. 1 199), concerning relevant aspects of the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage. In either case the objective is to act as a guide. An assessment is usually only necessary for larger development projects or where a range of archaeological responses are envisaged.

BRIEF/SPECIFICATION

An archaeological *brief* is the outline or framework for assessment, excavation, fieldwork or recording work. A *specification* is a detailed statement of work to be undertaken which meets the objectives outlined in the brief. In many instances it may be appropriate for this to be prepared by a contractor undertaking work on behalf of a developer, and might also form the basis for contractual arrangements made between a developer and archaeological organisation engaged to undertake the work. In these circumstances it will be appropriate for the specification to be approved in advance of the work being undertaken. There are as yet no nationally recognised guidelines for archaeological briefs or specifications, but factors to be taken into consideration will include the following: the location of the proposed development; details of the proposed development and an assessment of their potential affect upon archaeological remains; the aims and objectives of the proposed archaeological work; the advisable scale and scope of the work; the timetable for carrying out the work; the techniques or methods to be adopted; the staffing levels and expertise required to undertake the work; permissions that might need to be sought; the codes of practice or conduct to be adopted by the organisation carrying out the work; the monitoring procedures to be adopted (including funding arrangements to cover the cost of this, where appropriate); the amount of notice required of the commencement of work; the nature of the report which should be prepared and whether, in the case of assessment work, the archaeological organisation undertaking the work is expected to provide recommendations; guidelines or procedures for archiving site records, finds conservation and reporting; site reinstatement.

EVALUATION

An evaluation aims to locate archaeological deposits, normally by selective partial excavation, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability, quality, setting and amenity value. This is for the purpose of establishing their significance and to enable an appropriate response to be formulated by the Planning Authority to a proposed development.

MONITORING

In the case of field evaluations or excavations in advance of development it may be appropriate for visits to be made to a site whilst works are being undertaken, to ensure that the aims and objectives of the archaeological recommendations are being satisfied.

RESCUE EXCAVATION

Rescue excavation aims to produce a total archive of an archaeological site, and thus to 'preserve by record'. It entails the identification, investigation, recording and ultimately the complete removal of all archaeological deposits in advance of development. It will normally only be considered a satisfactory response if all else fails. All proposals for rescue excavation should include provision for the preparation and publication of a report on the results, and provision for the long-term storage and curation of finds and records.

SALVAGE RECORDING

Salvage recording aims to produce an archive of an archaeological site (for which rescue excavation or other forms of archaeological response were not deemed appropriate), by investigating and recording deposits exposed during the process of development. Exposure of deposits will normally be determined by the development programme.

SURVEY

Archaeological survey aims to quantify and record the surviving physical remains of archaeological sites, and thereby enable further analysis and interpretation. It will normally involve recording visible 'above-ground' features, but might include, for example, aerial photography or geophysical prospecting techniques. Survey work is non-destructive and although in this context would normally be carried out either as part of an evaluation or in advance of excavation, it might also be used to record areas of lesser archaeological value prior to their destruction (which would normally then be accompanied by salvage recording or a watching brief).

WATCHING BRIEF

An archaeological watching brief aims to identify the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and thereby to produce a minimal archive of an archaeological site during the course of development in circumstances where prior excavation is not deemed an appropriate response. Exposure of the deposits will normally be wholly governed by the development programme.

APPENDIX 2

SUGGESTED PLANNING CONDITIONS

The following conditions might be used either singly or in combination in circumstances where a voluntary agreement has not been entered into by a developer.

To afford protection to archaeological deposits during the course of development.

No development shall take place within the area indicated [the area of archaeological interest] until it has been [clearly or securely fenced or marked] according to a scheme to be approved in advance by the Planning Authority and no works shall take place within the demarcated area without the further written approval of the Planning Authority. Advice on the area to be [fenced or marked] might be sought from [name, address and telephone number of nominated body].

The purpose of this condition is to protect a site of archaeological interest within or adjacent to a development site during the course of on-site works.

To advise on the potential need to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent prior to development

The applicant shall take steps to determine the precise boundaries of Scheduled Ancient Monument [county number and site name] in order to ensure that the proposed development does not affect the site or setting of the Scheduled Monument. Information and advice about Scheduled Ancient Monuments and the Scheduled Monument Consent procedures may be obtained from [name and address and telephone number of nominated body].

Under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, no works of any sort will normally be permitted within the scheduled area of a Scheduled Ancient Monument without Scheduled Monument Consent having been granted by the Secretary of State for Wales.

To ensure sufficient advance notice is given of the date of commencement

A minimum of 21 days notice of the commencement date of development shall be given in writing to the Planning Authority and [name, address and telephone number of nominated body].

Advance notice may be needed in the case of maintaining a watching brief, to allow recording work to be carried out, or in the case of an evaluation or excavation in order to allow the work to be monitored.

To allow a watching brief to be maintained during development

The Developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to [name, address and telephone number of nominated archaeological organisation], in order to enable the observation and recording of any archaeological remains revealed during the course of the development.

The purpose of this condition is to enable archaeological deposits to be recorded during the course of the development. As an alternative the Planning Authority might nominate a body to carry out the watching brief in notes attached to the planning consent, or to require the developer to submit for approval to the Planning Authority, well in advance, the name of the body to carry out the work.

To enable archaeological investigation prior to development

No development shall take place within the area indicated [the area of archaeological interest] until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

The purpose of this condition is to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to carry out excavation or recording in advance of development in circumstances where a voluntary agreement has not already been entered into.

To enable recording work prior to development

No development shall take place within the area indicated [the area of archaeological interest] until the applicant has undertaken [photographic and/or drawn] recording of [the existing buildings or structures] in accordance with a written scheme which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

The purpose of this condition is to ensure that an appropriate record can be made in advance of development. The scheme should stipulate the nature and detail of the proposed survey and should make provision for lodging plans and/or photographs with a body of record.

APPENDIX 3

CODES OF PRACTICE

Clwyd Archaeology Service and the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust recognise the following codes of conduct or practice:

The Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct

Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology (The Institute of Field Archaeologists)

Archaeological Investigations Code of Practice for Mineral Operators (Confederation of British Industry)

The British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice (British Property Federation & Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers)

Archaeologists and Developers Code of Practice (Confederation of British Industry)

Code of Practice - Access and Charging for Sites and Monuments Records (Association of County Archaeological Officers)

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust also recognises the following code of practice:

Curators' Code of Practice (The Welsh Archaeological Trusts)

APPENDIX 4

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF BODIES MENTIONED IN THE TEXT

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
7a Church Street
Welshpool
Powys
SY21 7DL
tel 0938 553670, 552179

Principal Curatorial Officer: C H R Martin
Development Control Officer: M Walters

Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments
Brunel House
2 Fitzalan Road
Cardiff
CF2 1UY
tel 0222 465511

The Institute of Field Archaeologists
Minerals Engineering Building
University of Birmingham
PO Box 363
Birmingham
B15 2TT
tel 021 471 2788

The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales
Government Building
Plas Crug
Aberystwyth
Dyfed
SY23 2HP
tel 0970 624381

These notes are available in both Welsh and English language versions. Further copies are obtainable from the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust at the above addresses.