

**GLAMORGAN GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST  
CONTRACTS SECTION**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPRAISAL  
NEW MAIN, PANT-YR-EOS,  
HENLLYS, GWENT**

**JANUARY 1994**

**REPORT NO. 94/006  
PROJECT NO. A169**

NEW MAIN, PANT-YR-EOS, HENLLYS, GWENT

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## **Summary**

Dwr Cymru intends to construct a new main from Pant-yr-eos Reservoir to Garth Fach, west of Bettws. **GGAT Contracts** was commissioned to undertake an appraisal of the archaeological impact of the proposal. The study comprised a review of the sites listed on the County Sites and Monuments Record, and other documentary sources and a site visit.

The appraisal indicated that, other than in the section adjacent to St Peter's Church, the proposed route of the water main has no known archaeological implications. An intensive watching brief on the construction of the main adjacent to the church is recommended, with a watching brief on the rest of the site.

## **Acknowledgements**

This report was prepared by D J Maynard BSc (Project Officer, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust), with the assistance of other GGAT staff.

The author is grateful to K Bowen of Welsh Water, the staff of the Gwent County Record Office and the staff of Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (Curatorial Section) for their assistance in the preparation of this report.

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## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Development proposal and commission**

Dwr Cymru proposes to construct a new main between Pant-yr-eos Reservoir, north of Risca, and Garth Fach west of Bettws. **GGAT Contracts** was commissioned to carry out an appraisal of the archaeological impact of the proposal, in order to identify any mitigatory measures necessary.

### **1.2 Specification for the project**

The study comprised a review of information on the County Sites and Monuments Record, other documentary sources held in the Gwent County Records Office and a site visit. The specifications are given in full in Appendix One.

### **1.3 Layout of the report**

The report describes the location of the study area (Section 2) and summarises the archaeological resource (Section 3). The probable impact of the proposal is then assessed (Section 4) and recommendations for any mitigatory measures are presented (Section 5). Detailed information is provided in a series of Appendices.

### **1.4 Abbreviations used**

Sites previously recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record are referred to by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and National Grid Reference (NGR). References to documents and published works are given in brackets: the full titles will be found in the bibliography. Documents held in the Gwent County Records Office are prefixed GCRO.

## **2. Physical environment**

### **2.1 Topography**

The highest point on the proposed route of the pipeline is at Pant-yr-eos Reservoir, approximately 130m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The route follows a minor, unnumbered, road down a southeast facing hillside, falling to a height of approximately 40m aOD at Garth Fach. The north end the route passes through Coed Pant-yr-eos; the remainder crosses farmland. At the time of the site visit the fields in the study area were under grass.

### **2.2 Surface geology**

The underlying geology consists mainly of marls of the St Maughan's Group (Old Red Sandstone) with ridges of sandstone running north-south in the area of St Peter's Church and to the east of Park Farm. Superficial deposits of alluvium occur at the south end of the route, on the course of the Nant Henllys (GSGB 1969).

### **3. Summary of archaeological resource**

There are no known sites within the proposed pipeline easement.

#### **3.1 Known sites**

##### Prehistoric

There are no documented prehistoric sites or finds on the route of the pipeline. The nearest recorded site is a group of possible Bronze Age barrows 400m to the south of Pant-yr-eos reservoir (PRN 152g). The 'barrows' may be the result of field clearance.

##### Roman

There is no record of Roman activity in the study area.

##### Medieval

In the medieval period the area was probably farmed from a series of individual farmsteads rather than a nucleated settlement. The post-medieval buildings of Cwrt Henllys (PRN 142g) and Pant-yr-eos (PRN 145g) both incorporate portions of medieval structures. The church, sited close to the southern end of a low sandstone ridge, was a chapelry under Bassaleg parish. The shaft of a churchyard cross stands on the south side of the church (PRN 151). It has been suggested that a mill (PRN 144) was located on the Nant Henllys at the site of the post-medieval mill.

##### Post-medieval

The Tithe Survey of 1842 shows a landscape that had largely taken on its current form. The majority of the land on the route of the pipeline formed part of either Pant-yr-eos Farm or Church Farm and was largely arable land.

#### **3.2 Potential sites**

Previously-unrecorded archaeological remains may be encountered in the vicinity of the church; either from a farmstead or settlement neighbouring the church, or from burials outside the present limits of the churchyard. No trace of earthworks associated with settlement were seen during the field visit, but the fields either side of the church were both recorded as arable land on the Tithe Survey and continued ploughing would have removed surface traces of buried features. OS Field 7907, lying between the church and the road, may formerly have been part of the churchyard, and may contain burials. However, it was recorded in the Tithe Survey as a garden attached to Church Farm and may have been chosen because it was conveniently close to the house.

#### 4. Impact of development proposals on archaeological resource

##### 4.1

The route proposed for the pipeline will have minimal impact on the known archaeological resource.

##### 4.2

There may be deposits relating to unidentified medieval or other sites within the pipeline corridor.

## 5. Recommendations

### 5.1 OS Field 7907 (see Figure Two)

It is our opinion that the probability of encountering human remains during groundworks in this part of the route is not high enough to require archaeological evaluation prior to laying the main. The possibility cannot be entirely dismissed, and we therefore recommend an intensive watching brief on the construction of the section of the pipeline marked on Figure Two.

### 5.2 Remainder of route

The archaeological potential of the remainder of the route is low and we recommend a watching brief to be carried out on the topsoil strip.

### 5.3 Personnel

This work should be carried out by qualified archaeological personnel.



## Appendix One: Specification

### Archaeological Appraisal Specifications

NEW MAIN, PANT-YR-EOS, GWENT

#### Definition of Study

The project will conform to the Standard in British Archaeology for Archaeological Desk-Based Studies, issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in September 1993, and will be carried out in accordance with the GGAT Contracts Guidelines for the Execution of Assessment Projects.

#### 1. Objectives

- 1.1 Assessment of existing information to determine the extent, character and significance of archaeological interests, in local, regional, and wider contexts, and the likely effects of the proposed development on such interests, by means of documentary study and field visit.
- 1.2 Identification of areas or features requiring further assessment where present archaeological knowledge is insufficient for informed decisions to be made during the planning process.

#### 2. Documentary Searches

- 2.1 Collation of information about sites recorded in County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).
- 2.2 Search of cartographic sources held by Gwent County Record Office for additional archaeological information, and collation of information relating to archaeological interests.
- 2.3 Analysis of relevant primary historic documents and published sources held by Gwent County Record Office for additional archaeological information, and collation of information relating to archaeological interests.
- 2.4 Analysis of borehole data, geotechnical studies, etc., for additional information, and collation of information relating to archaeological interests.

3. Fieldwork

- 3.1 Site visit to check the present condition of archaeological features identified by 2.1 - 2.4, and to assess factors that may have influenced the condition or visibility of these features.
- 3.2 Identification of previously-unknown archaeological features.
- 3.3 Rapid recording of archaeological features (e.g. sketch plotting and photographs).

4. Assessment

- 4.1 Assessment of the information acquired from the execution of 2 and 3.
- 4.2 Assessment of the impact of the development proposals on the defined archaeological interests.

5. Report

- 5.1 Client - A report comprising a synthesis of data gathered through the execution of 2-4, with supporting evidence in appendices, and identification of features of archaeological interest onto scale drawings, or listing of such features by eight figure National Grid References. The identification of legal constraints (e.g. scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings) relating to archaeological interests.
- 5.2 Academic - A digest report of significant archaeological information in an appropriate outlet (e.g. regional/national academic journal).

6. Archive

- 6.1 Preparation of an ordered archive of records made during the assessment in accordance with NMR cataloguing procedures.
- 6.2 Deposition of the assessment archive with an appropriate organisation (usually **GGAT Contracts** records).
- 6.3 Submission of a copy of the report for inclusion in the county SMR, within 6 months of the completion of the work.

7. Staff

7.1 The project will be managed by the Principal Archaeological Officer (Contracts), AG Marvell BA MIFA, and Projects Manager (Assessments), M Locock BA AIFA, and carried out by one of GGAT Contracts' Project Officers, who have wide experience of such work.

8. Insurance

8.1 GGAT Contracts holds insurance cover for all risks involved in this type of project, including substantial Professional Indemnity cover.

9. Scope of the work

9.1 The work outlined in this specification will be carried out to the highest professional standards, and the conclusions drawn will be based on a considered review of the evidence available. However, the archaeological resource is unpredictable, and the encountering of unexpected archaeological deposits on the site cannot be ruled out.

**Appendix Two: Sites listed on the County Sites and Monuments Record, held at GGAT, Swansea (see Figure One)**

The following SMR sites occur within 1km of the pipeline:

PRN	NGR	Type	Period	Reference
142g	ST 2570 9210	Dwelling	M/PM	Fox and Raglan 1951, 107; 1954, 114
144g	ST 2695 9153	Water-mill	M	Rees 1932 (doc. only)
145g	ST 2626 9141	Dwelling	M/PM	Fox and Raglan 1951, 103; 1953, 114
151g	ST 2676 9101	Churchyard cross	M	Mitchell 1893, 30
152g	ST 2547 9109	?Round barrow	?BA	OS Record card
3702g	ST 2686 9105	Dwelling	PM	RCAHMW 1975, map 29
3703g	ST 2722 9175	Dwelling	PM	RCAHMW 1975, map 29

BA - Bronze Age  
M - Medieval  
PM - Post-medieval

## Appendix Three: Documentary and cartographic evidence

### Prehistoric

There are no documented prehistoric sites or finds on the proposed route of the pipeline. The group of barrows of possible Bronze Age date (PRN 152g), south of Pant-yr-eos reservoir, were undetectable in 1957 (OS Record card). The 'barrows' may only have been groups of stones recovered in post-medieval field clearance and awaiting removal.

### Medieval

Although much modernised, St Peter's Church is originally of medieval date; the oldest of its three bells is dated 1350 (Guy and Smith 1979, 24-5). The largest of the five Yew trees in the churchyard is estimated to be approximately four hundred years old (Evans 1988, 94). The shaft of a churchyard cross survives to the south of the church (Mitchell 1893, 30), although the base appears to be post-medieval. The possibility exists that the plot between the church and the road (OS Field 7907) was formerly part of the graveyard which has since contracted. Both Cwrt Henllys and Pant-yr-eos include medieval features in post-medieval structures (Fox and Raglan 1951, 1953). The name 'Melin' (PRN 144g) was assumed by Rees (Rees 1932) to derive from a medieval mill on the Nant Henllys, but this may be incorrect; the population of the parish was still largely Welsh-speaking in the late nineteenth century (Bradney 1993, 127) and the name may refer to the post-medieval mill.

### Post-medieval

The current field boundaries are largely the same as those shown on the Tithe Survey of 1842 (GCRO D917.13). At the time of the survey most of the fields on the route of the pipeline were cultivated as arable land. Repeated ploughing of the fields would remove surface traces of any buried archaeological features. Most of the fields crossed by the proposed route of the pipeline were part of either Pant-yr-eos Farm or Church Farm. OS Field 7902, to the northeast of the church, is listed as a garden in the Tithe Survey; no name is given for the field. Field names neighbouring the church offer no evidence for a settlement: OS Field 6800 is named Cae'r Eglwys (Church field), OS Field 8300 is named Cae Berthdu (Field of the black hedge). A building appears on the Tithe Plan at NGR ST 2680 9123; this was a cottage with a small garden. The cottage does not appear on the OS 6" Survey First Edition (1887), although the site of the garden still exists as a small enclosure in the corner of OS Field 8121.

#### **Appendix Four: Site visit**

Undertaken by D J Maynard and M Locock on 24/1/94.

Other than a low ridge crossing OS Field 7907, no previously unrecorded features were observed during the site visit. The ridge is not on the line of any recorded boundary and may result of the use of the plot as a garden. The ridge runs northeast from the churchyard boundary to the roadside hedge. No other apparent archaeological features were seen in the vicinity of the church, although surface features may have been effaced by ploughing. The road surface is noticeably lower than the fields to either side and may have formerly been a hollow way.

## **Appendix Five: Sources consulted**

The following sources were consulted:

County Sites and Monuments Record, GGAT, Swansea (see Appendix Two)

Published sources (see Bibliography)

Documentary and cartographic sources

Gwent County Records Office

D917.13                    Tithe Map and Award, Parish of Henllys 1842

1882                      OS 25" Survey (First Edition) Sheet XXVIII.10, 11

1884                      OS 1" Survey (First Edition)

1887                      OS 6" Survey (First Edition) Sheet XXVIII

Sources not consulted:

Documentary and cartographic sources

Collections held by the Public Record Office, National Library of Wales (Aberystwyth) and other record offices were not consulted, since sufficient data was obtained from the Gwent County Record Office and published works.

Pictorial sources

No unpublished pictorial sources were examined.

Geotechnical information

No geotechnical data could be obtained.

Secondary sources

No further secondary sources were consulted, since sufficient primary data was obtained to allow conclusions to be drawn.

## **Appendix Six: Catalogue of research archive**

The research archive is held at GGAT, Swansea, classified according to the NMR archive material categories, and includes the following:

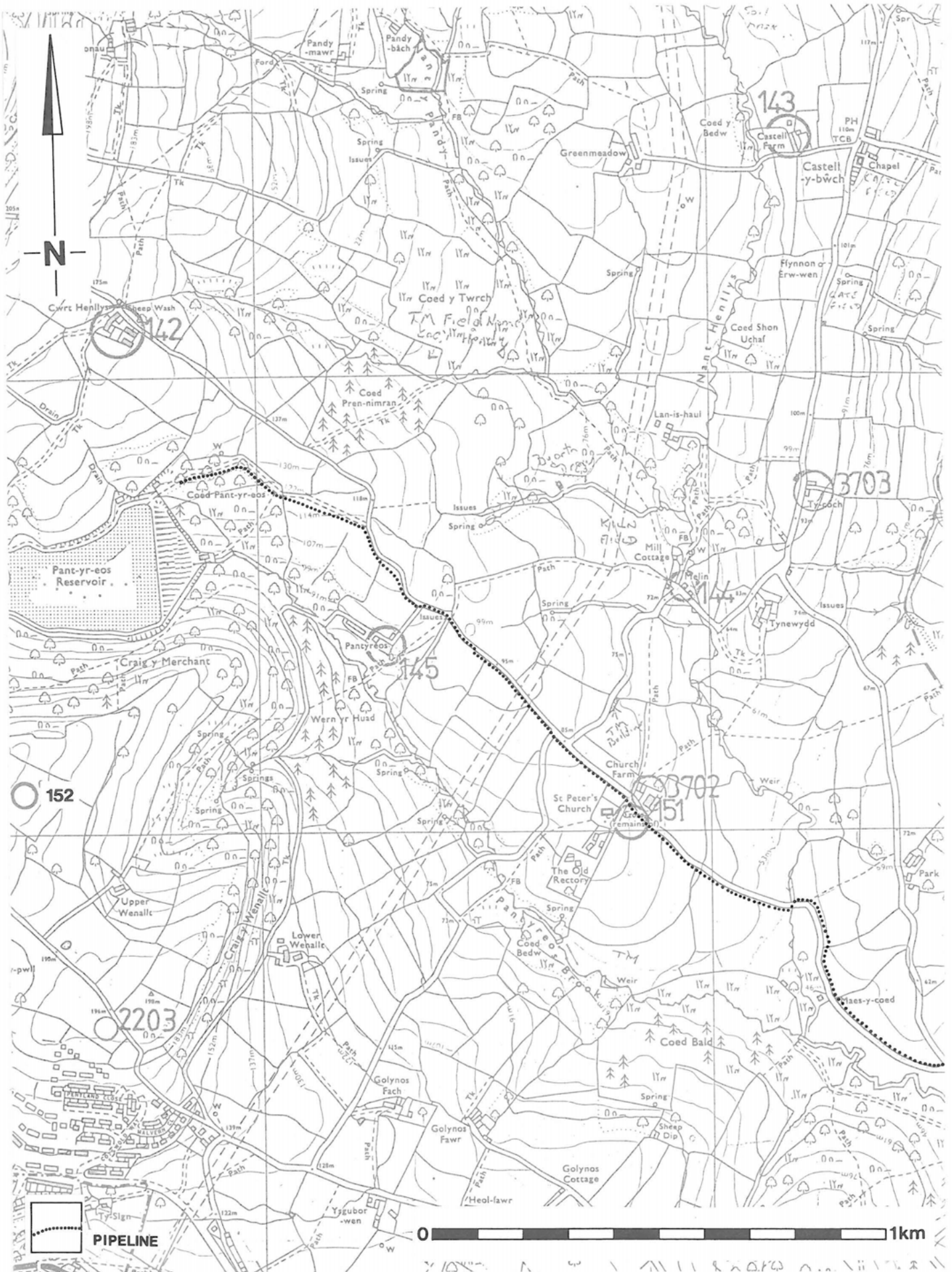
- A. Copy of the report
- B. Notes from site visit
- C. Photocopies of OS maps at various scales, annotated by researcher
- G. Notes made during research, including transcripts of relevant documents and notes from secondary sources
- I. Annotated drafts of the report
- L. Brief and specification for the report
- M. Correspondence and notes from meetings with specialists

There is no material for classes D, E, F, H, J, K and N.

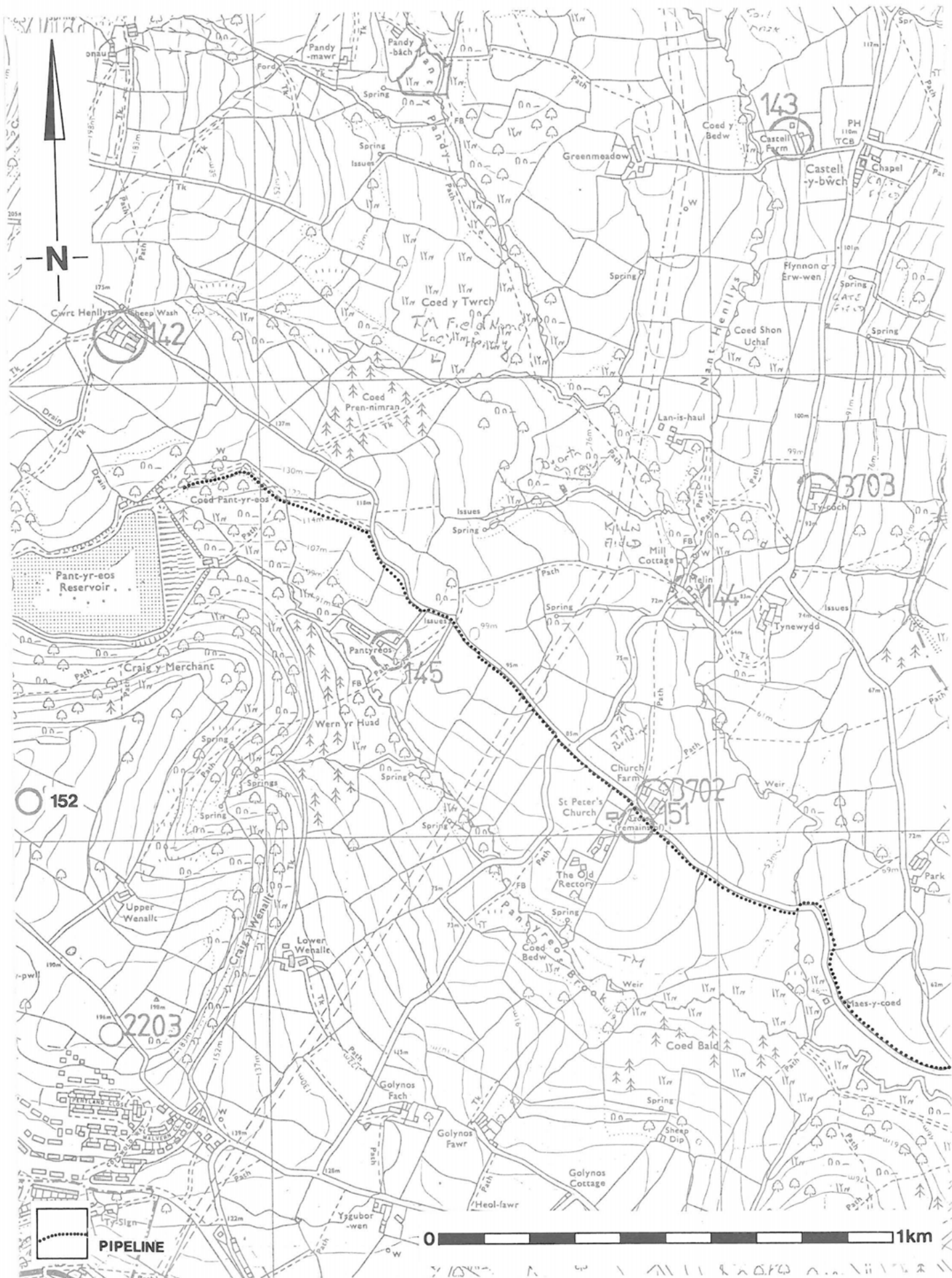


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**Figure One:** Proposed route of pipeline with location of PRNs



**Figure One:** Proposed route of pipeline with location of PRNs