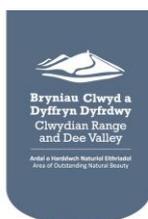


CPAT Report No. 1739

# Castell Dinas Brân, Llangollen, Denbighshire

Condition Survey



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS  
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Denbighshire County Council  
 CPAT Project No: 2457  
 Project Name: Castell Dinas Brân  
 Grid Reference: SJ 2225 4306  
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| Prepared by:  | Checked by:   | Approved by:  |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| Nigel Jones<br>Principal Archaeologist  | Paul Belford<br>Director  | Paul Belford<br>Director  |
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Cover photo: Aerial view of Castell Dinas Brân from the east. Photo Mark Walters



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS  
 CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

The Offices, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 8RP, United Kingdom

+44 (0) 1938 553 670

[trust@cpat.org.uk](mailto:trust@cpat.org.uk)

[www.cpat.org.uk](http://www.cpat.org.uk)

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## Summary

A condition survey was conducted by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in 2020, on behalf of Denbighshire County Council, to assist with the future management of Castell Dinas Brân, near Llangollen. The hilltop is occupied by a late prehistoric hillfort and a medieval masonry castle.

The survey identified a number management issues, most of which were associated with visitor erosion, although few were considered to have any impact on archaeological remains. Recommendations included improvements to the access paths, the provision of further information for visitors and a programme of regular visits to monitor the issues against the baseline data provided by the survey.

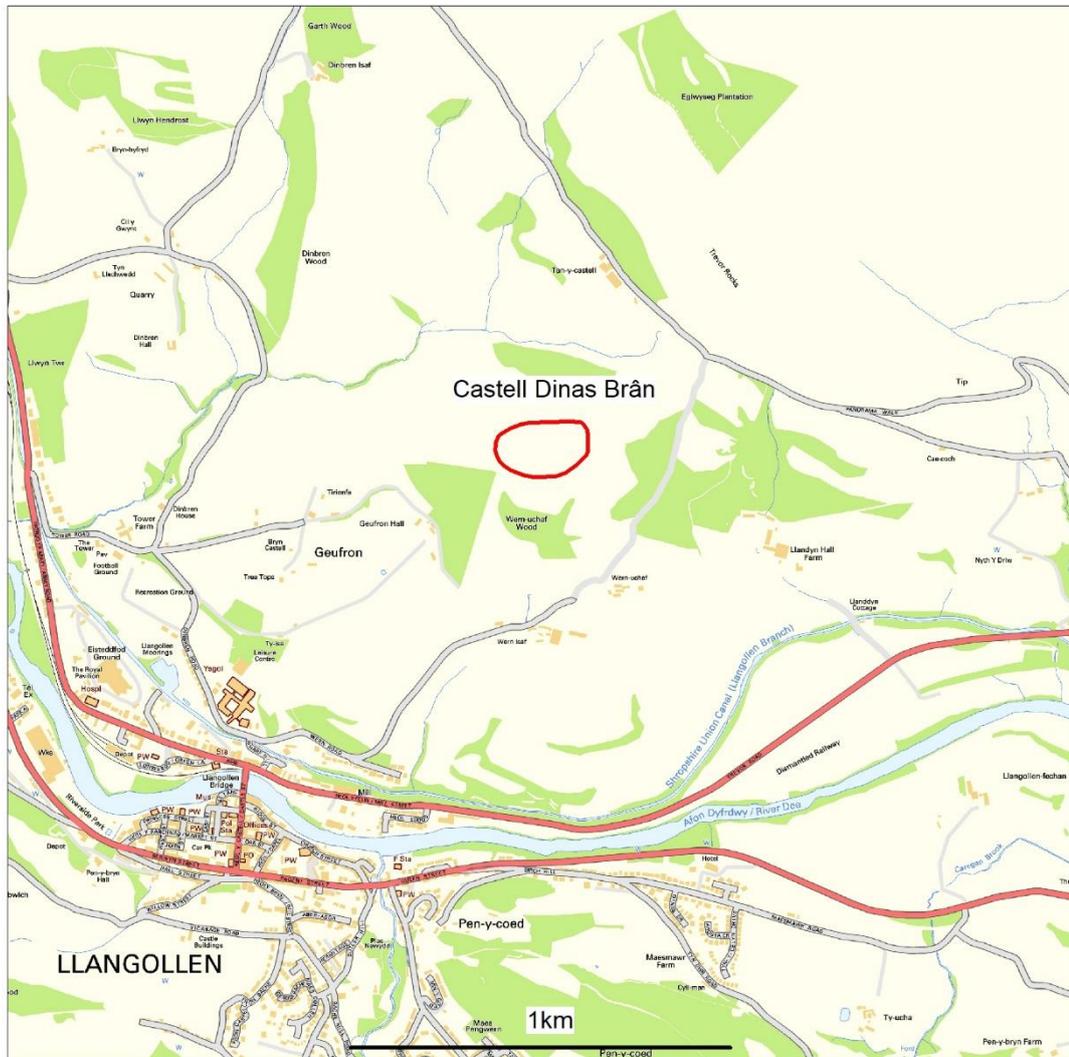
## Crynodeb

Bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn cynnal arolwg cyflwr yn 2020, ar ran Cyngor Sir Ddinbych, i gynorthwyo â rheoli Castell Dinas Brân, ger Llangollen, yn y dyfodol. Mae yna fryngaer o ddiwedd y cyfnod cynhanesyddol a chastell cerrig canoloesol ar ben y bryn.

Nododd yr arolwg nifer o faterion yn ymwneud â rheolaeth, y mwyafrif ohonyn nhw'n gysylltiedig ag erydiad o ganlyniad i ymwelwyr, er mai dim ond rhai ohonyn nhw yr ystyriwyd eu bod yn cael unrhyw effaith ar weddillion archaeolegol. Roedd argymhellion yn cynnwys gwella'r llwybrau mynediad, darparu rhagor o wybodaeth i ymwelwyr a rhaglen o ymweliadau rheolaidd i fonitro'r materion o'u cymharu â'r data sylfaen y mae'r arolwg wedi'u darparu.

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1. In March 2020 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) were invited by Denbighshire County Council to undertake a condition survey of Castell Dinas Brân, location a little over 1km north-east of Llangollen (Fig. 1; SJ 2225 4306). The hilltop is occupied by a late prehistoric hillfort and, within it, a medieval masonry castle both of which are scheduled (DE021).



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Fig. 1 location of Castell Dinas Brân

- 1.2. The condition survey formed part of the 'Our Picturesque Landscape Partnership Scheme', a project focusing on the landscape of the Dee Valley and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site. It takes as its theme the inspirational journeys that have and continue to be a feature of the area which is cut by the canal, Telford's A5 and the River Dee. Visitors have drawn inspiration from this beautiful valley in art and poetry since the 18th century.
- 1.3. The partnership project, which is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, commenced in 2018 and will finish in 2023. The main aims of the project are to:
- Protect the natural and historic heritage features through conservation and access management.

- 
- Reinstate the iconic and defining views of the picturesque movement.
  - Interpret the heritage significance of the picturesque landscape to people.
  - Engage with target audiences to share and increase awareness and understanding of the special qualities of the landscape.
  - Connect and reconnect local communities with the landscape.
- 1.4. The project has been developed by the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site, Wrexham County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, The Canal and River Trust, Shropshire Council, Natural Resources Wales, Cadw, Cadwyn Clwyd, and the Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.
- 1.5. The condition survey provides baseline data and recommendations to assist with the future management of the monument, which is one of the iconic sites within the Dee Valley.

## 2 Methodology

- 2.1. The survey encompassed both monuments, following an approach developed by CPAT in 2004 during a survey to record the condition of six hillforts in the Clwydian Hills as part of the Heather and Hillforts Project. The resulting report (Jones 2004) identified a number of erosion issues affecting each of the hillforts and made recommendations regarding their future management. In 2012 CPAT re-surveyed all six hillforts to determine the effectiveness of the management regimes that had been designed to address the issues identified eight years previously (Jones 2012).
- 2.2. The boundary of the study area encompassed the main access paths, the ramparts of the hillfort and the whole of the interior, including the medieval castle. Although earthworks were recorded outside the confines of the hillfort, these were not included in the condition survey.
- 2.3. The survey was based on a detailed photographic survey and digital terrain model undertaken by Mark Walters in May 2016, with the use of a drone. The resulting imagery was used to produce hachured plans of the earthworks and structural remains (Figs 5-7), with overlays mapping the areas where management issues were identified (Fig 8-10).
- 2.4. The main purpose of the survey, however, was to record the individual management issues affecting the site, assessing their significance, stability and archaeological impact. The record included a brief description of the issue, its location, management recommendations and an assessment of the priority for remedial works. Each issue was photographed to provide a record for future comparison, with data subsequently being entered into a photographic catalogue which forms part of the project archive.

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## 4 Historical Background

- 4.1. Castell Dinas Brân lies within the Vale of Llangollen Registered Historic Landscape and the following summary is drawn from the description of the Dinas Brân character area (HLCA 1150; Britnell 2005, 70-72).
- 4.2. The earliest evidence of activity is represented by two late Bronze Age socketed axes (PRN 101176) found within several hundred metres of the summit of the hill and possibly to be associated with early woodland clearance or defence of the hilltop. The summit of the hill is crowned by the single bank and ditch of a hillfort of later Bronze Age to Iron Age date, covering an area of over 2.4 hectares, probably with a single entrance on the south-west, which from its size and setting is likely to represent an important local tribal centre in the later prehistoric period.
- 4.3. Little further is known of its history before the later 13<sup>th</sup> century, though no doubt Dinas Brân continued to form an important landmark. A Welsh medieval castle was built within the earlier hillfort during the 1260s, by Gruffudd ap Madog, lord of Powys Fadog, most probably at a period of alliance with the Welsh prince, Llywelyn ap Gruffudd. The plan of the castle is closely similar to Llywelyn's contemporary castle at Dolforwyn in the Severn valley, between Welshpool and Newtown. It was the site of a meeting between the sons of Gryffydd Maelor in 1270 when they granted the lands of Maelor Saesneg for the upkeep of their mother, Emma Audley.
- 4.4. The location is one of strategic importance, dominating the surrounding landscape from all directions and was no doubt also chosen for its symbolic significance. Occupation of the castle was relatively short-lived, however. During the wars between Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, Prince of Wales and Edward I of England the castle was burnt by the Welsh before it was captured in 1277 by Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln and though briefly held by English forces it was finally abandoned soon after the Edwardian conquest of 1282 and has had no military significance since that time. Having formally lain at the centre of Powys Fadog and acting as a symbol of its unity it then became redundant, lying on the boundary between the lordships of Chirk and Bromfield and Yale with their castles at Chirk and Holt respectively. Visited by the antiquary John Leland in about 1536 it was described as 'Now all in ruin', a sentiment also expressed late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century in an englyn by the Welsh poet Roger Cyffin.
- 4.5. From the later 18<sup>th</sup> century the hill became an important picturesque icon within the Dee valley, fuelled by associations with the principal character, an outlaw, in the Anglo-Norman historical romance Fouke le fitz Warin, which features activities within 'Chastiel Bran', and also with the 14<sup>th</sup>-century love poem by Hywel ab Einion Llygliw to the princess Myfanwy who lived the castle. The latter was retold by the Victorian poet John Ceiriog Hughes in the love-poem Myfanwy Fychan which won the Silver Crown at the 1858 Llangollen Eisteddfod and which became a model for Welsh love poetry during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The dramatic setting has continued to be an inspiration to more recent writers, the castle featuring in the earlier part of John Cowper Powys's historical novel 'Owen Glendower', published in 1940.
- 4.6. A room had been made available amongst the ruins for visitors by the 1820s and by the 1880s a cottage provided refreshments. A camera obscura (PRN 93415), housed in an octagonal metal-clad structure provided panoramas of the surrounding countryside and continued in operation until the Second World War.

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### ***The Hillfort***

- 4.7. The hillfort (PRN 101173) has a single bank and ditch enclosing an area of about 2.4 hectares. To the south and west the defences are up to 8m high in places, while the northern side relied largely on the steepness of the hillslope, and so the defences here are discontinuous. The entrance lay on the south-west side of the fort, where the defences turn inwards. A substantial inward curving bank has been interpreted as defending the entrance, although its form suggests that it is perhaps more likely to have been formed from spoil excavated from the quarry ditch surrounding the medieval castle. To the north the fort was defended by the natural steepness of the land and no earthwork defences were required.
- 4.8. A slight outer earthwork has also been identified from lidar data, extending between 20m and 50m beyond, and roughly concentric with the hillfort defences, but is markedly different at the east end, where an area around 40m across extends further. The date and function of this enclosure is unknown, although the bank appears to curve inwards opposite the hillfort entrance, suggesting an association.
- 4.9. A number of earthwork platforms are apparent within the hillfort, mostly in the north-west corner, although it is uncertain whether these were the site of roundhouses, or buildings associated with the medieval castle.

### ***The Masonry Castle***

- 4.10. A detailed description of the castle (PRN 101174) is provided by King (1974), on which the following summary is based. The substantial square keep at the eastern end of the castle may predate the other remains. The entrance was at first-floor level, via stairs rising from a walled passage on the west side. On the outside of the south wall is a wide buttress housing the chutes of a pair of latrines. A relatively shallow rock-cut ditch separates the keep from the courtyard to the west.
- 4.11. The gatehouse was in the north-east corner, flanked by round towers with hollow basements, the rough barrel-vault in the southern tower still surviving. This includes an opening through the curved wall of the tower, presumably enlarging an original arrowslit.
- 4.12. The castle courtyard had the main buildings ranged along the east end and with an apsidal tower built partway along the south curtain wall. A large rectangular building with windows looking southwards lay to the east of the tower and may have been a hall or chapel, while further buildings lay against the west wall. A narrow wall passage at the northern end of the west wall may have led to a latrine chamber.
- 4.13. The castle was defended by a deep rock-cut quarry ditch (PRN 122201) on the east and south sides, which provided stone for its construction. There is also a bank around the outside of the ditch on the east and part of the southern sides, although it is not clear whether this formed a deliberate counterscarp. A well is recorded near the south-east corner of the ditch, which was apparently still in use in the 1930s, although this is no longer obvious.

### ***Previous investigations***

- 4.14. There is no record of archaeological excavations within the castle or the hillfort, the only known investigations being a geophysical survey of the castle interior and part of the hillfort

in 2017 (Roseveare 2017). This revealed little detail within the castle, but did identify some magnetic anomalies associated with terraced hut platforms, while the rampart was found to be hugely magnetic, perhaps suggesting that it had been burnt.

## 5 Condition Survey

- 5.1. The results of the condition survey are summarised below, with a detailed gazetteer of management issues provided in Appendix 1.

### ***Condition***

- 5.2. The site is used for grazing sheep and the overall condition suggests that grazing levels are appropriate, with few stock-related management issues, none of which are significant. Some evidence for rabbit burrowing was noted, but this was not considered to be significant.
- 5.3. The management issues are almost all related to visitors and the issue types are summarised as follows:

Table 1 Summary of management issue types

| <b>Issue type</b>       | <b>No of issues</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Livestock               | 4                   |
| Livestock and burrowing | 4                   |
| Vehicle and livestock   | 1                   |
| Visitor                 | 43                  |
| Visitor and water       | 4                   |
| Water                   | 1                   |
|                         | <b>57</b>           |

- 5.4. Of the 57 issues 39 were considered to be active, although only five were seen as having medium priority, all relating to the main access routes. The potential archaeological impact was considered to be low for three issues, negligible for 29 issues, while 25 issues were seen as having no archaeological impact.
- 5.5. It should be noted that the survey was conducted immediately after the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions which had curtailed visitor numbers significantly in the preceding three months.

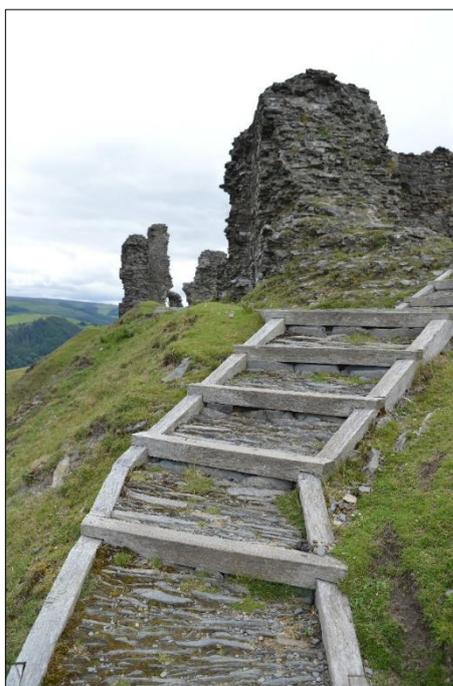
### ***Management recommendations***

- 5.6. As noted above, the majority of management issues require no more than continued monitoring. Those issues where remedial action is recommended are summarised in Table 2 and their locations depicted in Figs 8-10.

Table 2 Summary of management recommendations

| Location       | Issue no | Type          | Stability | Impact     | Priority | Action                    |
|----------------|----------|---------------|-----------|------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Eastern access | 4        | Visitor       | Active    | None       | Medium   | Monitor. New steps        |
| Eastern access | 5        | Visitor       | Active    | None       | Medium   | Monitor. New steps        |
| Western access | 6        | Visitor       | Active    | None       | Medium   | Monitor. Drainage         |
| Western access | 13       | Visitor       | Active    | None       | Low      | Monitor. Extend fencing   |
| Western access | 15       | Visitor/water | Active    | None       | Low      | Monitor. Drainage         |
| Western access | 16       | Visitor       | Active    | None       | Low      | Monitor. Fencing          |
| Hillfort       | 26       | Visitor       | Active    | Low        | Medium   | Consolidate and stabilise |
| Castle         | 39       | Visitor       | Active    | Negligible | Low      | Monitor. Reconsolidate    |
| Castle         | 40       | Visitor       | Active    | Low        | Medium   | Monitor. Fencing          |

- 5.7. The generally good condition of the hillfort and masonry castle demonstrate the successful management of the monument in recent years. Interventions which have made particularly significant contributions are the provision of new timber and pitched-stone steps (Fig. 2), which facilitate easy and safe access while controlling issues of visitor erosion.



*Fig. 2 The pitched-stone and timber steps leading to the keep from the east*

Any proposals to address the management issues must be formulated through discussion with Cadw and the resulting works are will require a formal application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC).

### ***Interpretation***

- 5.8. There are currently two bilingual information panels, one within the masonry castle (Fig. 3) and the other at the start of the western access path (Fig. 4). The former has been in place for a number of years, is damaged and consideration should be given to an updated replacement. There is currently no information associated with the eastern access path.



*Fig. 3 Interpretation panel on the west side of the keep*



*Fig. 4 Interpretation panel at the start of the western access path*

- 5.9. A bilingual guidebook is advertised on the panel within the castle, although it is uncertain whether this is still available.

## 6 Sources

### Published sources

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### Unpublished sources

Britnell, W. J., 2005. *Vale of Llangollen Historic Landscape Characterization*. CPAT Report no. 683.

Jones, N. W., 2004. *Heather and Hillforts: Archaeological Condition Survey*. CPAT Report No. 658

Jones, N. W., 2012. *Heather and Hillforts: Archaeological Condition Survey 2012*. CPAT Report No. 1162.

Roserveare, M. J., 2017. *Castell Dinas Bran, Llangollen, Denbighshire: geophysical survey report*. Tigergeo Project DBL161.

### Cartographic sources

1875 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1<sup>st</sup> edition Denbighshire 34.11

1899 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Denbighshire 34.11

## 7 Archive deposition Statement

- 7.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance* (2014). The archive is entirely digital and will be deposited jointly with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).

### Archive summary

CPAT Event PRN: 140340

131 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4771

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## Appendix 1: Management Issues

*NB Impact refers to the potential impact on upstanding or buried archaeological remains.*

### Eastern Access path

**Issue No: 01**                      **Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Location:** Eastern access path

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0001

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** none                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** Erosion of turf and soil cover around the lower of the two entrance gates, affecting an area of around 2m by 1.5m below the gate and 1.5m by 1.5m above the gate.

**Recommendations:** monitor



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**Issue No: 02****Issue type 1:** Visitor**Issue type 2:** Water**Location:** Eastern access path**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0002**Stability:** active**Impact:** none**Priority:** low

**Description:** section of path above lower access gate. Gradual erosion of turf cover, leading to broadening of path, particularly on the corner. Early stages of water erosion with a narrow gully forming in the centre of the path.

**Recommendations:** Monitor. Possible future need for drains to deflect runoff.



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**Issue No: 03**                      **Issue type 1:** Visitor                      **Issue type 2:** water

**Location:** Eastern access path

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0003 to 0005

**Stability:** stable                      **Impact:** none                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** Gradual widening of path which is stable where bedrock is exposed, although there are the early stages of water erosion and gullying where turf has been removed to expose soil beneath.

**Recommendations:** Monitor. Possible future need for drains to deflect runoff.



---

**Issue No: 04**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor****Location:** Eastern access path**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0006 to 0007**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** none                      **Priority:** medium**Description:** At the first set of timber and stone steps a new path has developed, cutting the corner and avoiding the steps. Above these steps edge-set slates have been used to form low steps, which are being bypassed by visitors. Potential for future issues with water erosion.**Recommendations:** Monitor. Extend timber and stone steps to replace edge-set slate. Install post and rail fence to prevent shortcut on corner.

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**Issue No: 05**                      **Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Location:** Eastern access path

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0008

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** none                      **Priority:** medium

**Description:** Avoidance of edge-set slat steps, broadening path with potential for future water erosion.

**Recommendations:** Monitor. Replace existing steps with timber and stone.



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## Western Access path

**Issue No:** 06

**Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Location:** Western access path

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0111 to 0113 and 0116

**Stability:** active

**Impact:** none

**Priority:** medium

**Description:** The lower section of the western access path is becoming braided, mostly as a result of visitors avoiding the main path, which is often wet and muddy and can be slippery on the decent.

**Recommendations:** Monitor. Install drains to deflect runoff.





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**Issue No: 07**

**Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Issue type 2:** Water

**Location:** Western access path

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0117 to 0118

**Stability:** active

**Impact:** none

**Priority:** low

**Description:** On the lower hairpin the path has become a narrow gully eroded further by water, while visitors are cutting the corner, leading to the loss of turf cover.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



**Issue No: 08**

**Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Location:** Western access path

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0115 and 0119

**Stability:** active      **Impact:** none      **Priority:** low

**Description:** A narrow path avoids the lower hairpin, although this was not well used at the time of the survey.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



**Issue No: 09****Issue type 1: Visitor****Location:** Western access path**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0114 and 0121 to 0122**Stability:** active      **Impact:** none      **Priority:** low

**Description:** Visitors are avoiding the lower section of the path and have created a direct line of ascent/descent to/from the second hairpin. Consideration should be given to introducing a mid-rail in the existing fence.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



**Issue No: 10**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor**

**Location:** Western access path

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0120 and 0124

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** none                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** Visitors are avoiding the second hairpin and have created a direct line of ascent/descent.

**Recommendations:** Monitor. Consideration should be given to introducing a mid-rail in the existing fence.



**Issue No: 11**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor**

**Location:** Western access path

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0050 to 0051

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** none                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** Between the second and third hairpins the path is becoming braided.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



**Issue No: 12**

**Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Location:** Western access path

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0047 and 0127

**Stability:** active

**Impact:** none

**Priority:** low

**Description:** The path around the third hairpin has widened, resulting in the loss of turf and potential for water erosion.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



**Issue No: 13****Issue type 1: Visitor****Location:** Western access path**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0045 to 0046, 0049 and 0126**Stability:** active      **Impact:** none      **Priority:** low**Description:** Visitors are avoiding the third hairpin and have created a direct line of ascent/descent.**Recommendations:** Monitor. Install fencing across the lower end of the new path and extend fencing at the upper end to deflect visitors.



**Issue No: 14**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor**

**Location:** Western access path

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0125 and 0128

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** none    **Priority:** low

**Description:** Visitors are avoiding the third hairpin and have created a direct line of ascent/descent.

**Recommendations:** Monitor. Consideration should be given to introducing a mid-rail in the existing fence.



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**Issue No: 15**                      **Issue type 1:** Visitor      **Issue type 2:** Water

**Location:** Western access path

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0044

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** none      **Priority:** low

**Description:** An old path rising from the second hairpin avoids the third hairpin and is now eroding at the upper end as a result of runoff from the main path.

**Recommendations:** Monitor. Install drain on main path to deflect runoff. Consideration should be given to introducing a mid-rail in the existing fence.



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**Issue No: 16**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor**

**Location:** Western access path

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-43, 0052 to 0053 and 0123

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** none                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** A path rising from the second hairpin avoids the third hairpin, creating a direct line of ascent/descent.

**Recommendations:** Monitor. Install fencing across the lower end of the new path, on the second hairpin, and extend fencing at the upper end to deflect visitors.





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## Outer enclosure

**Issue No:** 17      **Issue type 1:** Vehicle      **Issue type 2:** livestock

**Location:** Entrance to outer enclosure

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0009 to 0011

**Stability:** stable      **Impact:** low      **Priority:** low

**Description:** An old trackway rises through what appears to be an original entrance to the outer enclosure. The track is used for farm access by vehicles and for driving livestock.

**Recommendations:** Monitor





**Issue No: 18**                      **Issue type 1:** Livestock

**Location:** Outer enclosure bank

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0014

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** negligible                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** A narrow sheep track rises onto the outer enclosure bank adjacent to the second gate of the eastern access path.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



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**Issue No: 19**      **Issue type 1:** Visitor      **Issue type 2:** water

**Location:** Eastern access path through outer enclosure

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0013 and 0015

**Stability:** Active      **Impact:** none      **Priority:** low

**Description:** Above the second gate and within the area of the outer enclosure the path is gradually widening, eroding the turf cover and leading to the early stages of water erosion and gullying.

**Recommendations:** Monitor. Install drains to deflect water



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## Hillfort

**Issue No:** 20

**Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Location:** Hillfort rampart, east side

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0016 to 0017

**Stability:** stable

**Impact:** negligible

**Priority:** low

**Description:** The eastern access path crosses the eastern rampart of the hillfort. The stony nature of the rampart has limited the degree of erosion.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



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**Issue No: 21**                      **Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Location:** Hillfort rampart, east side

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0110

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** negligible                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** A minor path, used mostly by visitors descending the east side of the hillfort, cuts across the rampart north of the main eastern access path. This has led to the loss of some turf cover and the creation of earth steps.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



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**Issue No: 22**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor**

**Location:** Hillfort interior, east side

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0018 to 0020

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** negligible                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** The main eastern access path crosses the turf-covered slopes on the eastern side of the hillfort. This has led to the loss of some turf cover and the creation of earth steps.

**Recommendations:** Monitor





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**Issue No: 23**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor**

**Location:** Hillfort interior, east side

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0021

**Stability:** stable                      **Impact:** negligible                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** A minor path, used mostly by visitors descending the east side of the hillfort, cuts across one of the earthwork platforms on the east side of the hillfort.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



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**Issue No: 24**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor**

**Location:** Platform in north-east corner of hillfort

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0023

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** negligible                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** A platform, which in part occupies a quarry hollow, has been used by visitors as the site for a camp fire or barbeque.

**Recommendations:** Monitor. Remove evidence of burning.



**Issue No: 25**

**Issue type 1:** Livestock

**Location:** Hillfort rampart, north-east corner

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0022 and 0064

**Stability:** active

**Impact:** negligible

**Priority:** low

**Description:** A narrow sheep track follows the crest of the rampart before descending the northern side.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



**Issue No: 26****Issue type 1:** Visitor**Issue type 2:** Livestock**Location:** Western access path across hillfort rampart**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0057 to 0060**Stability:** active**Impact:** Low**Priority:** medium

**Description:** The western access path cuts through the hillfort rampart above the fourth hairpin. The turf cover has been lost and the path widened by use, although for the most part this has not affected any in situ archaeology. However, where the path cuts through the crest of the rampart there is an active erosion scar on the west side of the path, while on the interior of the rampart the turf has been lost over a wide area, exposing loose scree which is vulnerable to erosion and could expose buried archaeological deposits.

**Recommendations:** Monitor. Consolidate and stabilise erosion scar and rampart interior.





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**Issue No: 27**                      **Issue type 1: Water**

**Location:** Western side of hillfort interior

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0061

**Stability:** stable                      **Impact:** none    **Priority:** low

**Description:** A sinuous gully descends from the western side of the castle, cutting through the hillfort rampart and the outer enclosure bank. At the time of the survey the gully retained its turf cover and appeared stable.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



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**Issue No: 28****Issue type 1:** Livestock **Issue type 2:** Burrowing animals**Location:** Hillfort entrance**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0041 to 0042**Stability:** active**Impact:** negligible**Priority:** low

**Description:** The scree slope at the southern end of the large embankment of spoil which occupies the hillfort entrance is affected by active sheep scrapes and tracks, as well as rabbit burrowing, although this does not appear to affect any archaeological deposits.

**Recommendations:** Monitor

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**Issue No: 29****Issue type 1:** Livestock **Issue type 2:** Burrowing animals**Location:** Hillfort interior**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0040**Stability:** active**Impact:** negligible**Priority:** low

**Description:** The interior of the hillfort to the east of the entrance is affected by active sheep scrapes and tracks, as well as rabbit burrowing, although this does not appear to affect any archaeological deposits.

**Recommendations:** Monitor

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**Issue No: 30****Issue type 1:** Livestock **Issue type 2:** Burrowing animals**Location:** Hillfort interior**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0024 to 0025**Stability:** active**Impact:** negligible**Priority:** low

**Description:** The scree slope to the east of castle quarry ditch and counterscarp is affected by active sheep scrapes, as well as rabbit burrowing, although this does not appear to affect any archaeological deposits.

**Recommendations:** Monitor

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**Issue No: 31**                      **Issue type 1:** Livestock   **Issue type 2:** Burrowing animals

**Location:** Hillfort interior

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0030

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** negligible                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** The scree slope to the east of castle quarry ditch and counterscarp is affected by active sheep scrapes, as well as rabbit burrowing, although this does not appear to affect any archaeological deposits.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



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**Issue No: 32**                      **Issue type 1: Livestock**

**Location:** Hillfort interior

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0038

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** negligible                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** The scree slope to the south of castle quarry ditch and counterscarp is affected by active sheep scrapes, as well as rabbit burrowing, although this does not appear to affect any archaeological deposits.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



## **Masonry Castle**

**Issue No: 33**                      **Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Location:** North-east corner of quarry ditch

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0065

**Stability:** stable                      **Impact:** negligible                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** Two gullies/paths descend from the northern end of the bank/counterscarp at the north-eastern corner of the quarry ditch.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



**Issue No: 34****Issue type 1:** Visitor**Location:** Eastern visitor access to quarry ditch**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0026 to 0029**Stability:** stable**Impact:** negligible**Priority:** low

**Description:** The eastern visitor access cuts through the bank/counterscarp on the east side of the quarry ditch. Stone steps descend into the ditch and here the path is stable. Where the path cuts through the bank, the stone makeup is exposed, but stable, while on the outer side of the bank there is a broad area of stone where the turf has been removed, although this also appears stable.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



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**Issue No: 35**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor**

**Location:** Bank/counterscarp east of quarry ditch

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0034

**Stability:** stable                      **Impact:** negligible                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** The crest of the bank/counterscarp to the south of the steps into the quarry ditch has exposed stone, but appears stable.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



**Issue No: 36****Issue type 1:** Visitor**Location:** Eastern visitor access path**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0031 to 0033**Stability:** active**Impact:** negligible**Priority:** low

**Description:** The main eastern access path leads to the south-east corner of the bank/counterscarp outside the quarry ditch of the castle. On the final approach visitor erosion has removed the turf cover, although the path appears stable. to the south of the steps into the quarry ditch has exposed stone, but appears stable. As it rises onto the bank there is a slight scarp on the north side of the path.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



**Issue No: 37****Issue type 1:** Visitor**Location:** Bank/counterscarp south of quarry ditch**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0035 to 0036**Stability:** stable**Impact:** negligible**Priority:** low**Description:** A worn path leads from the eastern access path to the corner of the bank outside the quarry ditch, and then westwards along the crest of bank/counterscarp along the south side of the ditch.**Recommendations:** Monitor

**Issue No: 38**

**Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Location:** Bank/counterscarp south of quarry ditch

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0038

**Stability:** stable

**Impact:** negligible

**Priority:** low

**Description:** A slanting path descends from the crest of the bank/counterscarp outside the quarry ditch, near the south-east corner.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



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**Issue No: 39****Issue type 1:** Visitor**Location:** castle exterior, east side**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0102**Stability:** active**Impact:** negligible**Priority:** low

**Description:** From the base of the quarry ditch the eastern access path rises to the castle remains. There are four paths currently in use, of which the main, southern path, comprises a set of timber and pitched-stone steps. The central path of the remaining three is a shallow eroded gully with loose stone in the base. Geotextile membrane has evidently been used here in the past, but is now being exposed as the stone cover is eroded away. The other two paths are both minor and appear stable.

**Recommendations:** Monitor. Infill upper end of eroding path, protect with geotextile and re-establish turf cover.



**Issue No: 40****Issue type 1:** Visitor**Location:** south-west corner tower**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0069 to 0070 and 0075**Stability:** active**Impact:** low**Priority:** medium

**Description:** Beneath the western side of the castle a path leads from the main western access path directly to the site of the south-west corner tower. The path has become more evident in recent years and is actively eroding with the potential to impact on buried archaeological remains.

**Recommendations:** Monitor. Install fencing along the eastern side of the western access path to discourage visitors from using the eroding path. Protect with geotextile and re-establish turf cover.





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**Issue No: 41**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor**

**Location:** West end of castle

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0071 to 0072

**Stability:** stable                      **Impact:** negligible                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** The western access path enters the castle via a step up onto the exposed base of the curtain wall. However, although the turf cover has been eroded to expose in situ masonry and the rubble core of the wall the area appears to be stable.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



**Issue No: 42**

**Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Location:** North-east corner of castle

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-00

**Stability:** active

**Impact:** minor

**Priority:** low

**Description:** A minor erosion scar has developed in the north-east corner of the castle which has the potential to expose buried archaeological deposits should it develop further.

**Recommendations:** Monitor.



**Issue No: 43**

**Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Location:** west end of castle

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0074

**Stability:** stable      **Impact:** none      **Priority:** low

**Description:** A narrow path leads south-east from the point at which the western access path enters the castle. Minor loss of turf cover.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



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**Issue No: 44**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor**

**Location: west end of castle**

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0066 to 0068

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** negligible                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** Visitor erosion has removed the turf cover from the eastern side of an upstanding section of medieval masonry which later formed the west end of a small cottage. The wall provides visitors with some shelter from the wind.

**Recommendations:** Monitor





**Issue No: 45****Issue type 1:** Visitor**Location:** south-west corner of castle**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0076 to 0077 and 0079**Stability:** stable**Impact:** negligible**Priority:** low

**Description:** The south-west corner of the castle is a popular viewpoint and the turf has been eroded over much of the area between the postern gate and upstanding walling to the north, as well as the area formerly occupied by a camera obscura. However, despite the lack of turf the area appears to be relatively stable.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



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**Issue No: 46****Issue type 1:** Visitor**Location:** postern gate**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0078**Stability:** active**Impact:** negligible**Priority:** low

**Description:** The upstanding masonry of the postern gate attracts the attention of most visitors to the castle, resulting in the loss of turf cover on the narrow paths inside and outside the curtain wall. However, despite the visitor numbers the underlying rock and rubble are stable, with no apparent impact on archaeological deposits.

**Recommendations:** Monitor

**Issue No: 47**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor**

**Location:** exterior of postern gate

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0080

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** none    **Priority:** low

**Description:** A narrow path traverses the slope below the postern gate. It is little used and is relatively stable.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



**Issue No: 48****Issue type 1:** Visitor**Location:** exterior of postern gate**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0081 to 0084**Stability:** active**Impact:** none**Priority:** low

**Description:** Below the postern gate a short, steep path descends before dividing. The south-western branch crosses a rock outcrop, while the south-eastern branch descends more gradually. Both paths are in regular use and are actively eroding, but are not a serious issue.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



**Issue No: 49**

**Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Location:** exterior D-shaped tower

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0085 to 0086

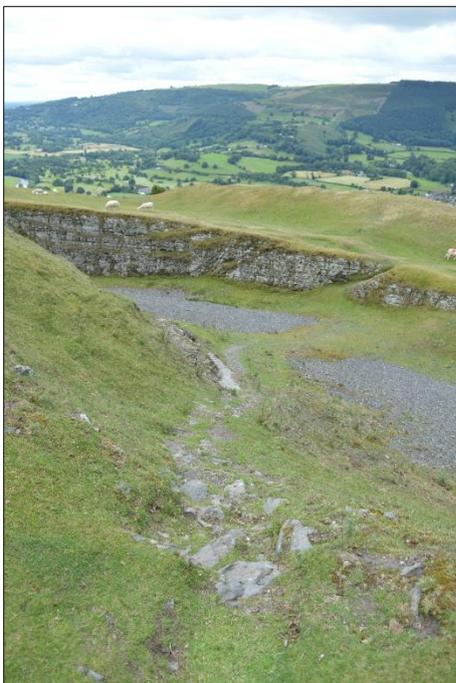
**Stability:** stable

**Impact:** negligible

**Priority:** low

**Description:** A narrow path has developed on the slope to the west of the D-shaped tower, exposing some of the corework for the curtain wall, although this is not actively eroding.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



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**Issue No: 50****Issue type 1:** Visitor**Location:** D-shaped tower**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0087 to 0088**Stability:** active**Impact:** negligible**Priority:** low

**Description:** Passage through the western arch of the tower has eroded the turf cover internally and externally, the latter being particularly noticeable owing to the change in levels and resultant erosion scar.

**Recommendations:** Monitor

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**Issue No: 51**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor****Location:** D-shaped tower**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0089 to 0090**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** negligible                      **Priority:** low**Description:** Passage through the eastern arch of the tower has eroded the turf cover internally and externally, although the underlying rubble is stable.**Recommendations:** Monitor.

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**Issue No: 52**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor**

**Location:** west of D-shaped tower

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0091

**Stability:** active                      **Impact:** negligible                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** The western window of the hall, to the east of the D-shaped tower, is a focus for visitor activity which has resulted in the loss of turf cover over a small area inside the castle, although with no obvious impact on archaeological deposits.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



**Issue No: 53****Issue type 1:** Visitor**Location:** curtain wall south-west of keep**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0092 to 0093**Stability:** stable**Impact:** negligible**Priority:** low

**Description:** A narrow path provides access for visitor between the southern side of the keep and the rest of the castle. The path crosses the line of the curtain wall and has exposed some corework, although with little archaeological impact.

**Recommendations:** Monitor

**Issue No: 54****Issue type 1:** Visitor**Location:** west side of keep**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0094 to 0095**Stability:** stable      **Impact:** none      **Priority:** low

**Description:** A path runs along the western side of the keep, crossing a short length of exposed masonry, leading to the site of the interpretation panel, where the loss of turf cover is more extensive. The area is, however, fairly stable.

**Recommendations:** Monitor

**Issue No: 55**

**Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Location:** west side of keep

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0096 to 0097

**Stability:** stable      **Impact:** none      **Priority:** low

**Description:** A narrow path follows the edge of the inner ditch northwards from the interpretation panel.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



**Issue No: 56**

**Issue type 1:** Visitor

**Location:** south side of keep

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0101

**Stability:** stable

**Impact:** none

**Priority:** low

**Description:** The path from the top of the access steps follows along the south side of the keep.

**Recommendations:** Monitor



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**Issue No: 57**                      **Issue type 1: Visitor**

**Location:** north side of keep

**Photographic references:** CPAT 4771-0098 to 0100

**Stability:** stable                      **Impact:** none                      **Priority:** low

**Description:** Two paths, one steep and the other slanting, connect the keep with the outside of the gatehouse.

**Recommendations:** Monitor





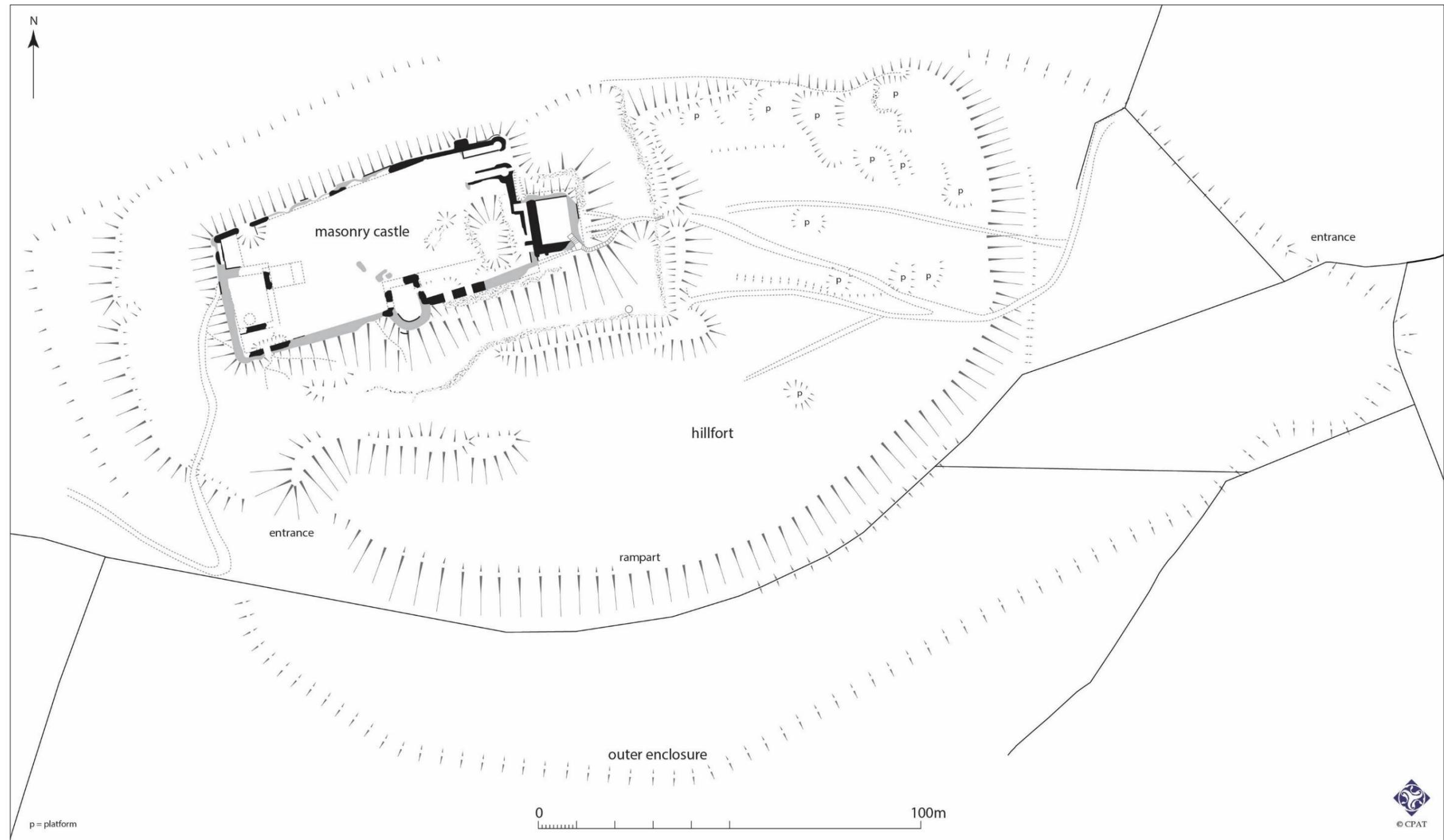


Fig. 5 Overall plan of Castell Dinas Brân, showing the masonry castle, hillfort and outer enclosure.

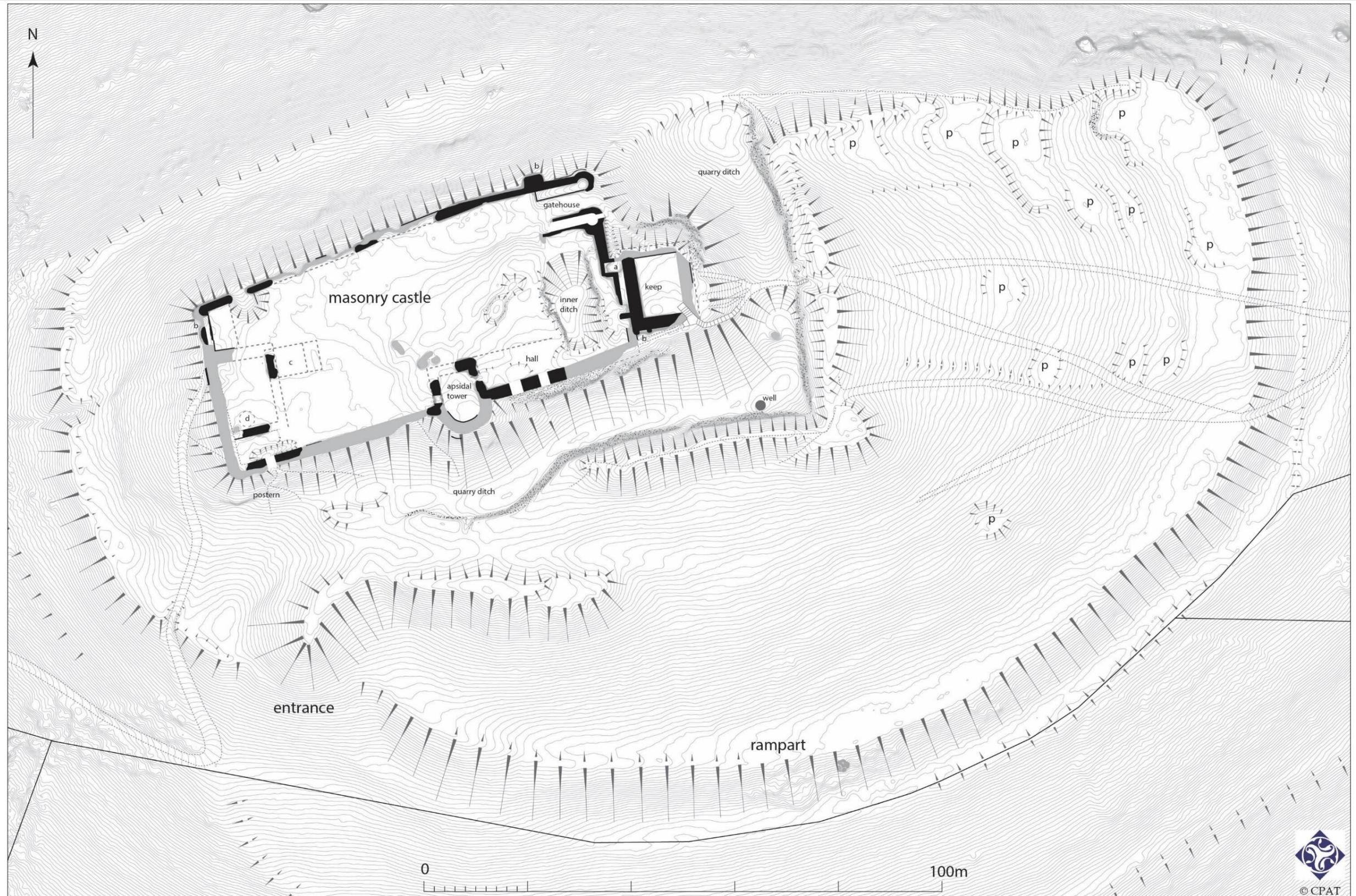


Fig. 6 Plan showing the hillfort and masonry castle, with contours derived from the drone survey, courtesy of Mark Walters. a – stair access to keep, b – latrines, c – site of cottage, d – site of camera obscura, p – platform



Fig. 7 Plan showing the masonry castle, with contours derived from the drone survey, courtesy of Mark Walters. a – stair access to keep, b – latrines, c – site of cottage, d – site of camera obscura

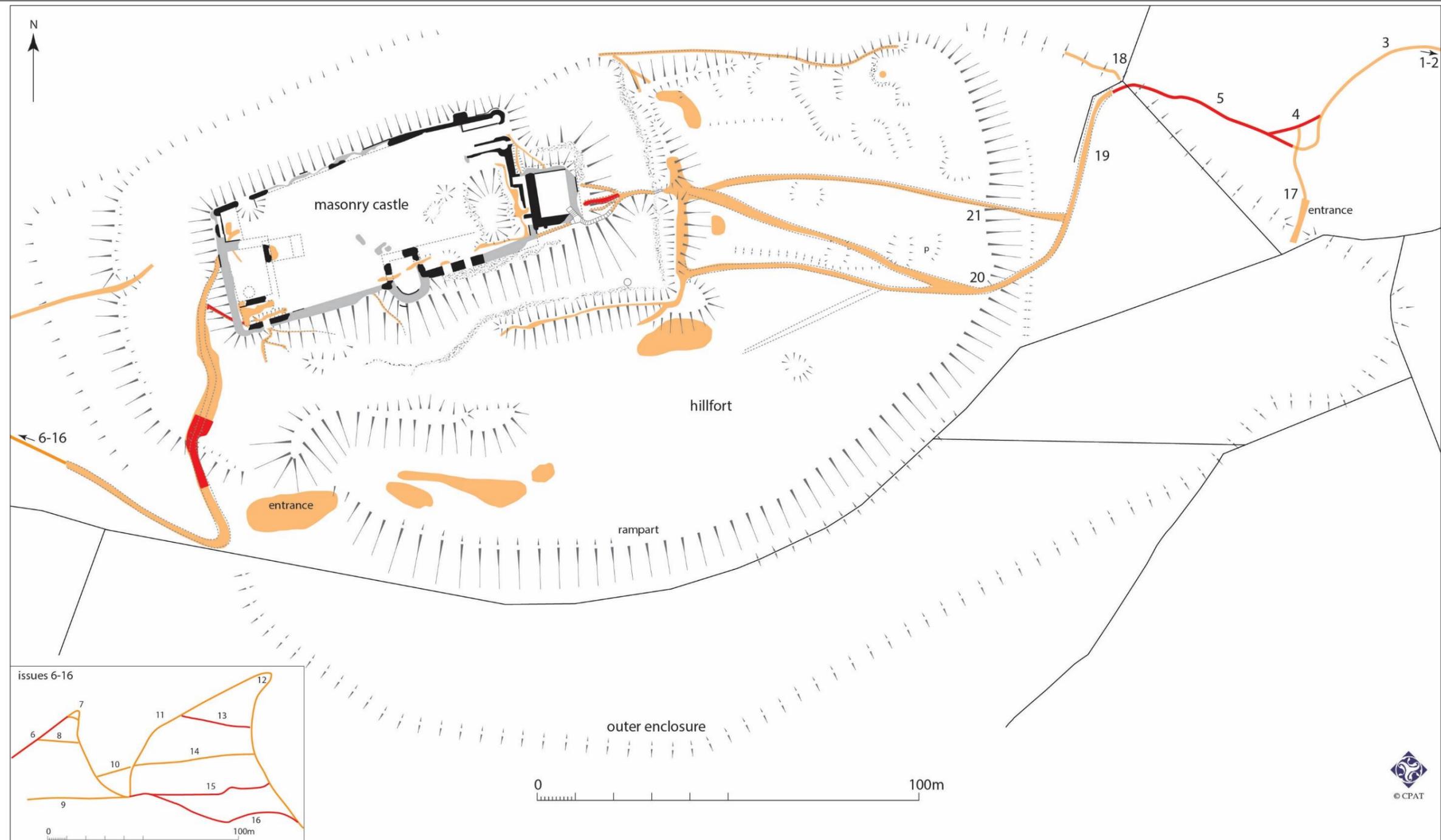


Fig. 8 Overall plan of Castell Dinas Brân, showing management issues associated with the access paths and within the outer enclosure. Issues in red require remedial action.

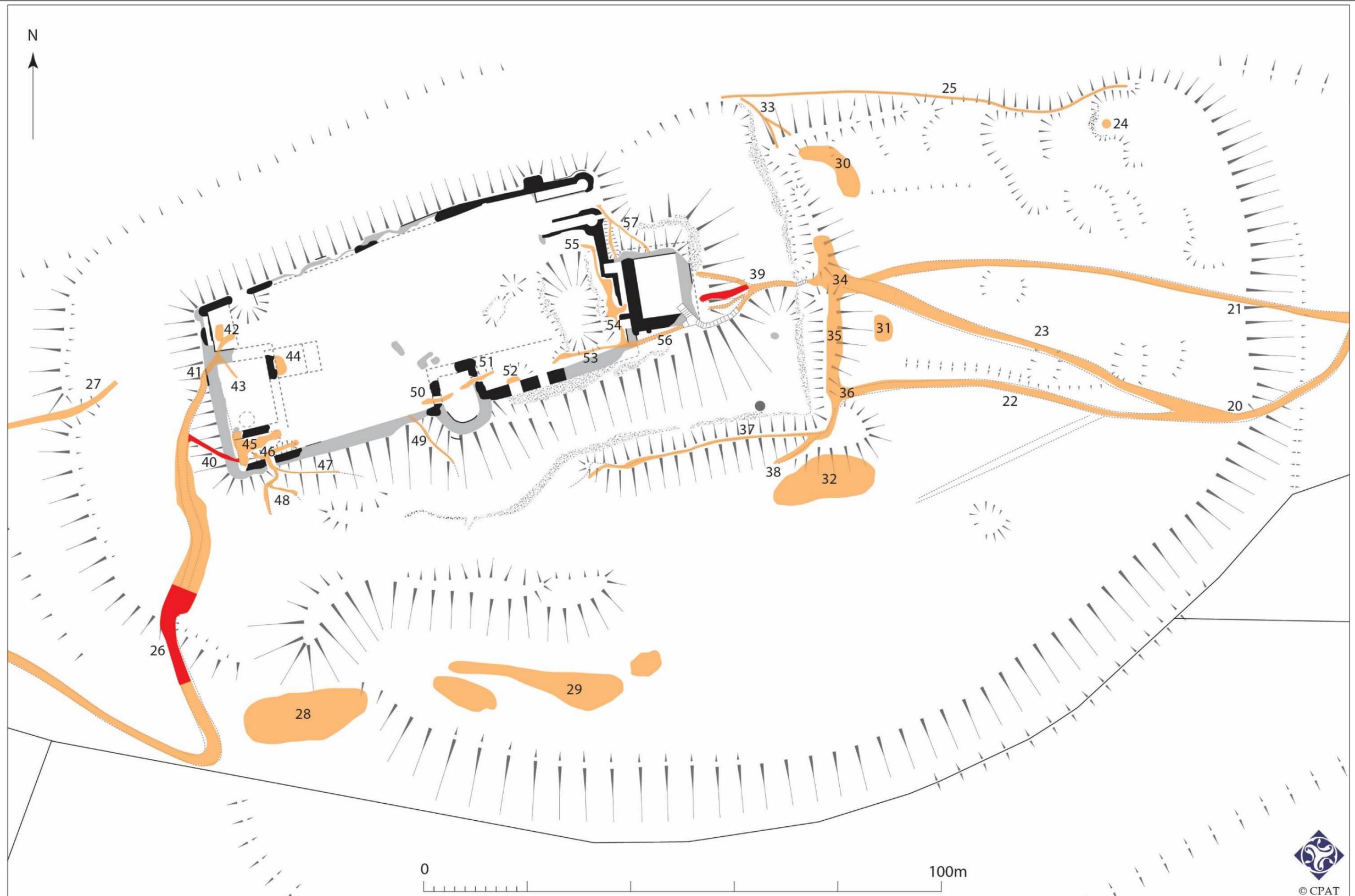


Fig. 9 Plan showing management issues within the hillfort and masonry castle. Issues in red require remedial action.



Fig. 10 Plan showing management issues within the masonry castle. Issues in red require remedial action.