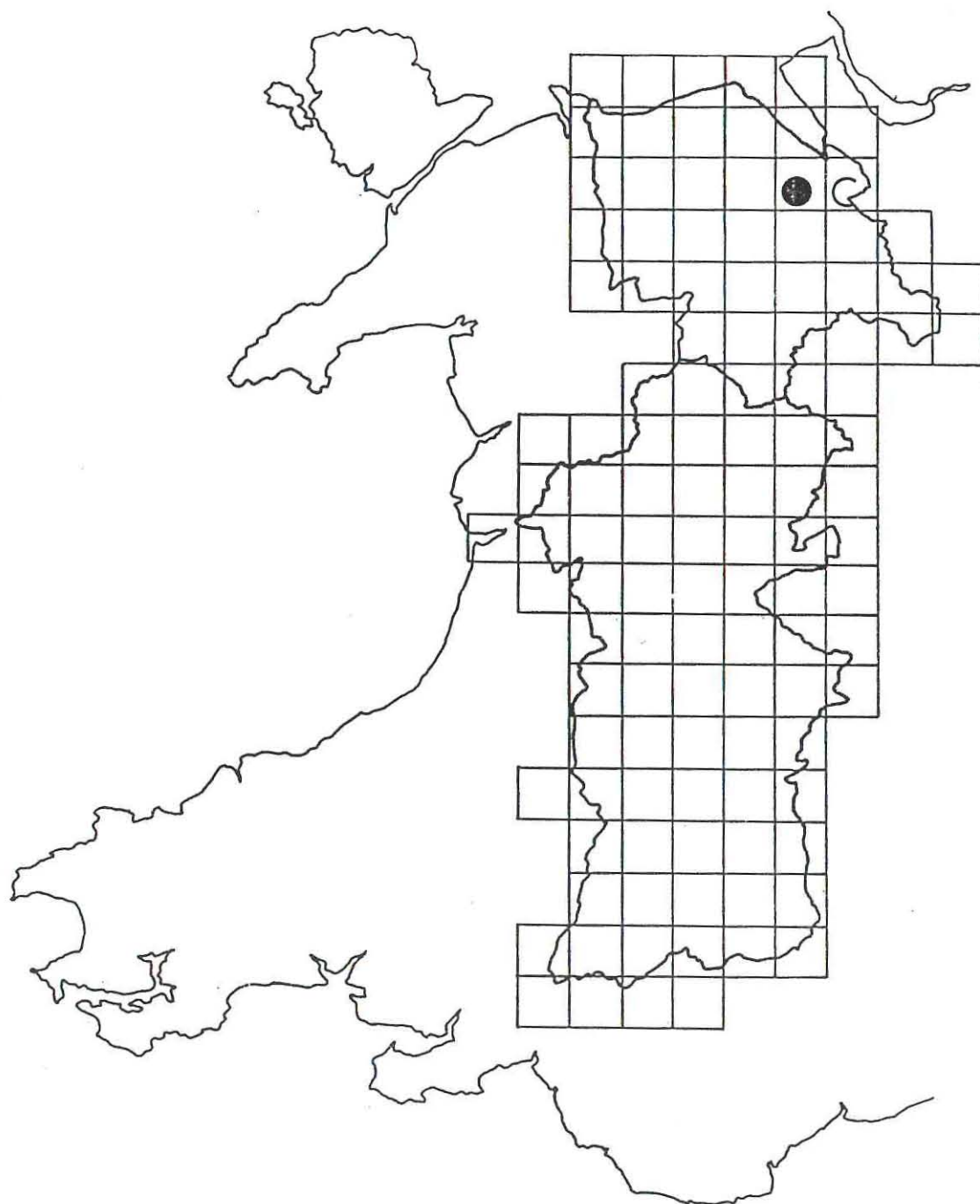


THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

*Pen-y-bont Farm, Mold, Clwyd*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



CPAT Report No 96

CPAT Report No 96

*Pen-y-bont Farm, Mold, Clwyd*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

by P Frost  
March 1994

Report prepared for Land Authority for Wales

**The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust**

7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL

tel (0938) 553670, fax 552179

© CPAT 1994

## **1 Introduction**

1.1 The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was commissioned in March 1994 by the Land Authority for Wales to carry out a desk-top assessment and a field survey to determine the archaeological sensitivity of land within the area of Pen-y-Bont Farm, Chester Road, Mold. This was recommended by the Clwyd Archaeology Service in their role as archaeological adviser to Delyn Borough Council as part of the planning application for tourism related development pertaining to the site (Planning Application ref. 0545/93).

1.2 The desk top research and field survey stipulated by the brief and outlined in the specification (see Appendix 1) was subsequently carried out in March 1994 and the report prepared immediately afterwards.

## **2 Location (see attached location map Fig.1)**

2.1 The site (Grid Reference SJ 2471 6361) lies on the south-eastern outskirts of Mold and is bordered by the Mold by-pass (A494) on its eastern side, by Woodland Road and its existing housing on its western side, the disused Mold and Tryddyn Railway track and the adjacent Bromfield Industrial Estate and Sychdyn Sewage Treatment Works on its southern perimeter and the Chester Road to the north.

## **3 Topography and Land-Use**

3.1 The site consists of an irregular shaped plot of land forming undulating pasture, part of which is occupied by Pen-y-Bont Farm. The site covers the 105m OD contour line on the River Alun valley floor. The river runs to the east of the site in a north-westerly to south-easterly flow.

3.2 The drift geology is sand and gravel with alluvium (British Geological Survey Sheet 108). The fields are of brown sandy soil within the coal measures.

## **4 Archaeological Requirement**

4.1 The aim of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent and date of any archaeological features within the area. In particular the aim of the evaluation is to establish the antiquity or otherwise of the site recorded as Clwyd Archaeology Record 76 (being CPAT PRN 100088), the 'Pen-y-Bont Cropmark' at SJ 2468 6367.

## **5 Archaeological Methodology**

5.1 The desk-top research comprised a search of all easily accessible primary and secondary records relating to the site and its environs. An examination was undertaken of the Mold Parish Records which date from the 17th century deposited in the Clwyd County Record Office, Hawarden (CROH), early manuscripts and printed maps including those produced by the Ordnance Survey. A search was made for vertical and aerial photographs of the site from the CPAT archives. Other sources used include the County Sites and Monuments Record for Clwyd held by Clwyd County Council and CPAT.



5.2 The field survey was carried out by walking the area systematically and recording any features of archaeological interest observed.

## 6 Documentary Evidence

6.1 The earliest map located of the site was a map of the Mold and Northop Estates of Robert Davies dated 1757 (Fig 2). The map, with no attached terrier shows a dwelling on the Pen-y-Bont Farm site and fields of pasture to the south of this and the Pentre Turnpike. The fields appear to have hedged boundaries and are bordered to the west by the already established Woodland Road and to the north and east by the River Alun.

6.2 The Tithe map of 1839 for Mold Township (Fig 3) shows the site of Pen-y-Bont Farm (3700) as a house, garden and yard and the fields south and west of it (3699, 3704, 3702, 3709, 3708, 3707 and 3703) having a change in field pattern since 1757. The apportionment of land 3701 forms Coitia Pant, being the field containing the 'Pen-y-Bont Cropmark' CAR 76. 'Pant' can be translated as 'hollow' so presumably the hollow feature identified in the field survey (para 6.2) pre-dates the tithe map.

6.3. An 1853 map (Fig 4) of land belonging to P. Davies Cooke in the parish of Mold shows Pen-y-Bont Farm and out-buildings with enclosed wall and garden and the field system as it appears today and the field names as on the tithe map. Field 8 is Coitia Pant, the field cut by the hollow. The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25" map published in 1899 also depicts the present field boundaries.

## 6 Archaeological Features

6.1 CAR 76 is recorded as the cropmark of a possible ploughed out bronze age barrow. It was first recorded by Clwyd County Council's Archaeology Section in 1964 as a dark green patch of vegetation. As no aerial photographic evidence was located for the site, it must be presumed that this is a cropmark observed from the ground rather than from the air. The source of the original observation is not recorded, but a visit recorded by Clwyd Archaeology Service in 1979 describes "a darker patch of vegetation which dips considerably in running in a NW-SE direction".

6.2 The site of recorded barrows in this area of Mold and in particular CAR 45 some 500m to the north-west of the site, being the site of a barrow where a gold peytrel, which is now deposited in the British Museum, was discovered in 1833 (Davies, 1949) accounts for the barrow connotation. The Pen-y-Bont site is not mentioned by Davies (1949) and no other documentation refers to any features on this site.

6.3 There is no visible evidence to suggest a barrow at this site. There was no visible change in the colour of the vegetation to suggest an archaeological feature. The grid reference given for the feature, SJ 2468 6357, forms part of a particularly deep cut which crosses the most northerly field in a north-west to south-easterly direction and continues eastwards into the field originally bordered on the east by the River Alun. This particularly deep undulation dips to c.5m deeper than the field level on the Woodland Road side and slopes away towards the River Alun. It appears to be a natural feature. Although there is a considerable presence of sand and gravel and fairly large round stones in the soil composition which could have been used for road making, the scooped



appearance of this cut eliminates any suspicion of quarrying.

6.4 The close proximity of colliery workings, particularly the large-scale 19th-century coal mines in the area allows for the interpretation of this hollow as subsidence caused by underground mining activity. The old field boundaries as they appear on the 1757 map (Fig 2) dividing field L2 and L3 and L2 and L14 appear to cross the flanks of the hollow. The appearance of this field today would suggest the unlikelihood of constructing a hedge-line on such a down-slope. Since these particular hedges are only part visible on the Tithe map (Fig 3) and no longer present by 1853 (see Fig 4), it is possible that subsidence has taken place in the interim period.

6.5 No field evidence remains of the old hedgelines as depicted on the early maps. The present field boundaries, which are also hedgelines have been in existence for over 150 years, since they appear on the 1853 map (Fig 4).

6.6 The south-western field (see Fig 5) was examined without success for evidence of lime burning. The Tithe map of 1839 and the 1853 map document this field name as Coitia Adyn or Coitia'r Odyn. Since 'odyn' can be translated as kiln or oven, it could be a possible site for burning lime for agricultural purposes.

6.7 To the extreme south-east of the site, the pond at SJ 2470 6330 is the natural feature referred to in field named Merllyn (3707) on the tithe map, 'llyn' being translated as 'lake'.

6.8 A farmstead and outbuildings has occupied the site of the present Pen-y-Bont farmhouse since 1757 at least. The house and outbuildings remain in a state of dereliction. They are typical of the area and contain no particularly outstanding architectural features.

6.9 Field walking over areas previously disturbed in the construction of a pipeline revealed sherds of 19th-century pottery and brick, with no evidence to suggest earlier occupation.

## 7 Conclusions

7.1 The site encompassed by this planning application seems to be typical of fields of agricultural use. There is no archaeological or documentary evidence to suggest other land use.

7.2 Fieldwork and documentary research fail to corroborate the presence of the archaeological feature CAR 76.

## 8 References

### a) Printed

Davies, E., 1949, The prehistoric and Roman remains of Flintshire

### b) Manuscript

1757 Map of Mold & Northop Estates belonging to Robert Davies Esq. (CROH D/GW/654)

1839 Township of Mold Tithe Map (National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth)

1853 Map of land belonging to P.Davies Cooke in the Parish of Mold (CROH D/GW/718)

1899 OS 2nd edition 25" Flintshire Sheet 13.12

1899 OS 2nd edition 25" Flintshire Sheet 13.8

1961 OS 1:2500 Flintshire Sheet SJ2463

British Geological Survey Sheet 108

## **9 Acknowledgements**

9.1 CPAT would like to thank the Land Authority for Wales for facilitating this evaluation and Mr Bletcher of Argoed Farm, Mold for permission to enter the land; Ms Karen Chambers and Clwyd Archaeology Service for information from their SMR; and the staff at the County Record Office, Hawarden and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth for their assistance.





Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey  
1: 25,000 map of 1991 with the permission  
of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office  
© Crown Copyright.

Fig 1 Location Map of site at Pen-y-Bont Farm

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust  
7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DI  
Licence No AL 50529A



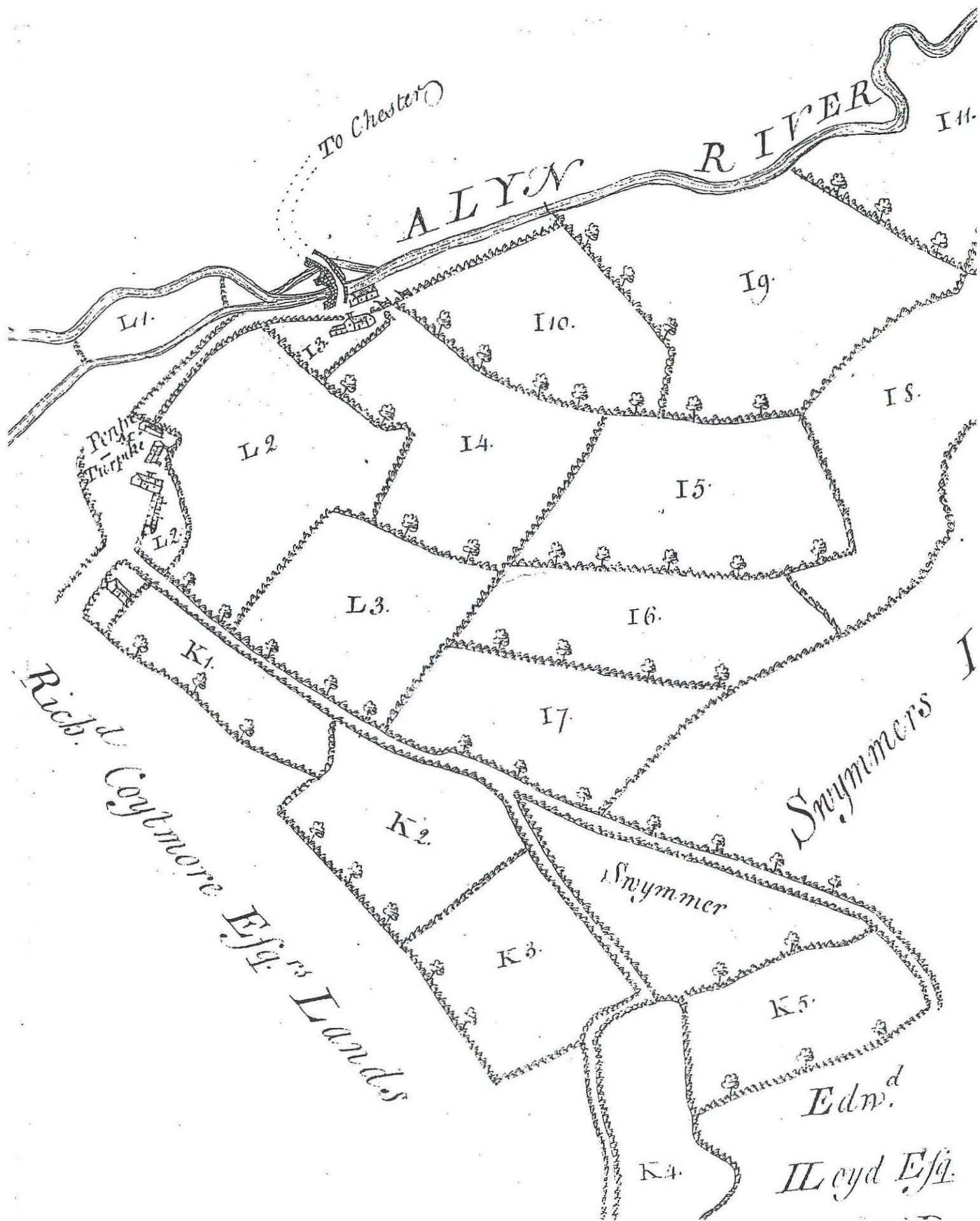


Fig 2 1757 Map (CROH D/GW/654)



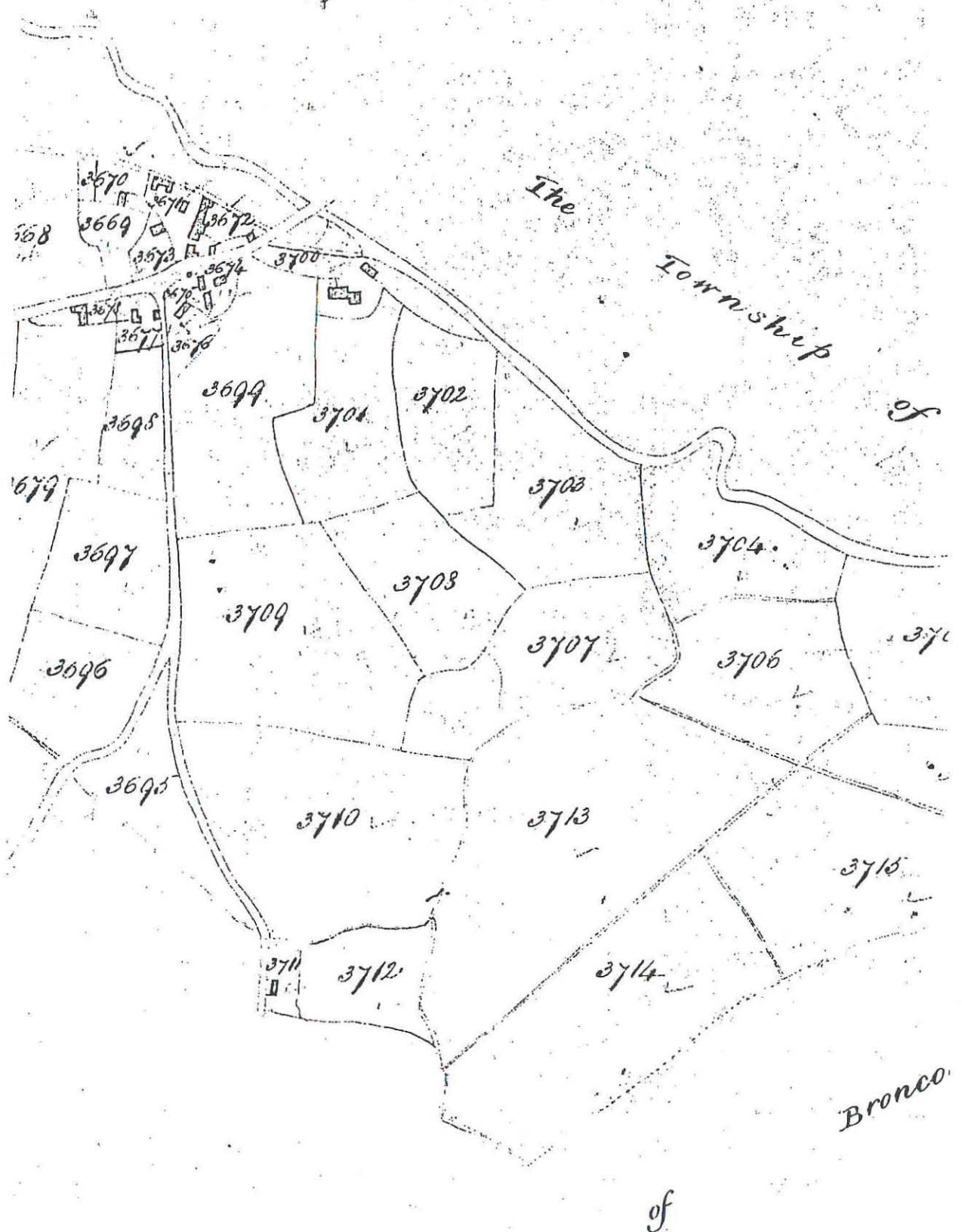
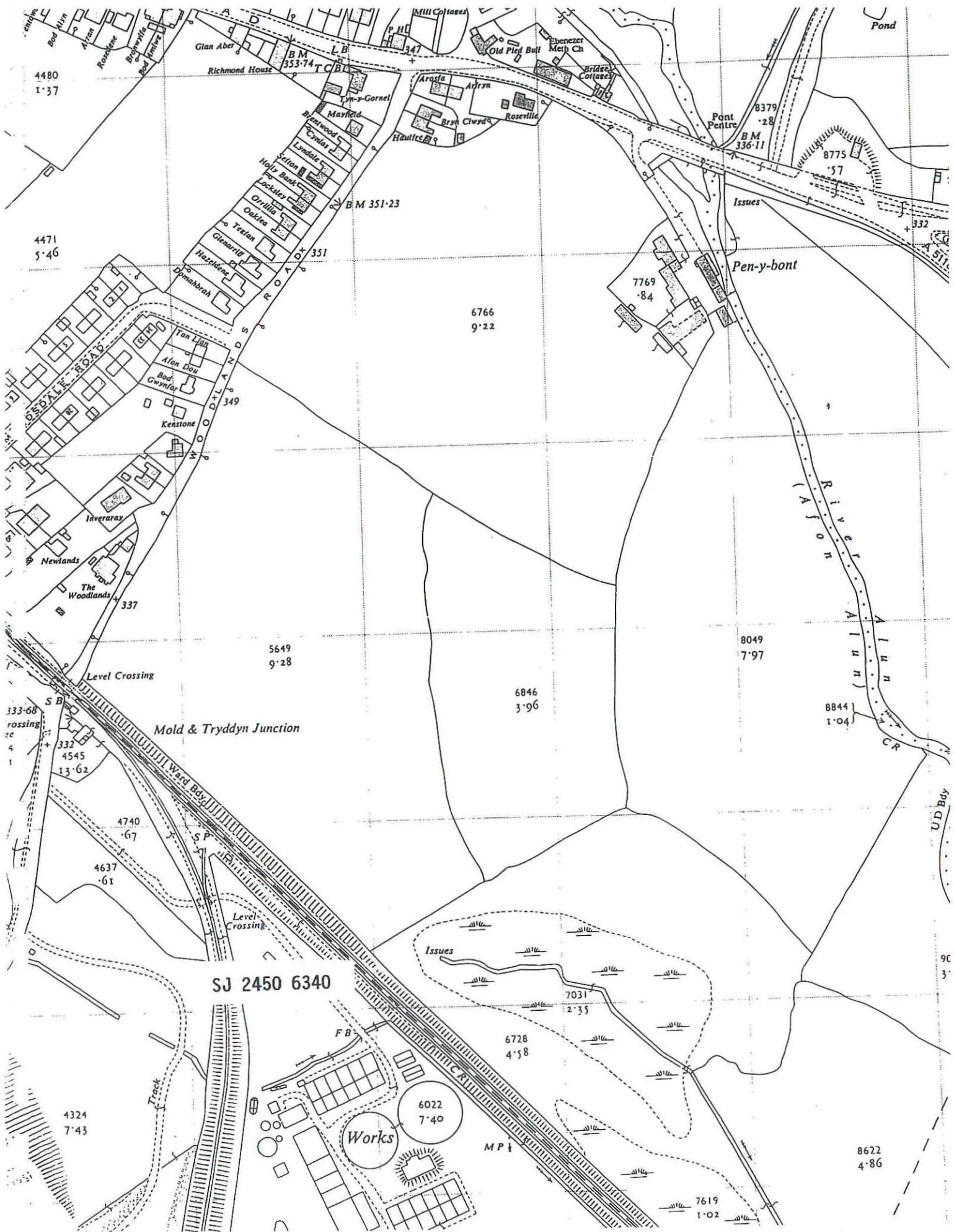


Fig 3 1839 Township of Mold Tithe Map (National Library of Wales)



Fig 4 1853 Map (CROH D/GW/718)





Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's  
1: 2500 map of 1961 with the permission  
of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
© Crown Copyright.

Fig 5 1961 1:2500 Flintshire Sheet SJ 24 63

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust  
7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL  
Telephone 01691 505204

## **Appendix 1**

### **LAND AT PEN-Y-BONT FARM, MOLD, CLWYD SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

#### **1 Introduction**

1.1 The Land Authority for Wales propose to develop an area of land at Pen-y-bont Farm (at SJ 2471 6361) on the south-eastern outskirts of Mold and have applied to Delyn Borough Council to renew their outline planning permission (application ref. 0545/93).

1.2 The local authority have decided on the advice of the Clwyd Archaeology Service that an evaluation is necessary to assess the implications of the planning application on the archaeological resource in order that these can be taken into account during the determination of that application. Accordingly a brief has been prepared by the Clwyd Archaeology Service which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

1.3 The brief requires both a desk-top assessment and a field survey to be undertaken on the site, with the possibility that further work may be necessary which would be the subject of a separate brief and specification. Presently, one site is known in the area of the development: a cropmark (CAR 76).

#### **2 Objectives**

2.1 The objective of the evaluation is to gather as much information as is readily available to establish the likelihood of archaeology in the area proposed for development. This will be presented in a report detailing the archaeological resource, in as much as this can be determined, to enable the planning authority to assess the implications of the development.

2.2 Special attention will focus on the cropmark referred to in Section 1.3 in that the elucidation of its formation represents a significant element of the brief.

#### **3 Methods**

3.1 The readily available documentary resources will be examined, to include the regional Sites and Monuments Record, published and unpublished archaeological reports on the area, early cartography and any relevant aerial photography.

3.2 A rapid field survey will assess whether there are any ground remains of significance in the development area.

#### **4 Resources and Programming**

4.1 The desk-top assessment will be undertaken by an experienced archaeologist who will also be responsible for the preparation of the report. Overall



supervision will be by the deputy director of CPAT who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

4.2 It is anticipated that the assessment may take up to one and a half weeks to complete and this will include the preparation of the report. The research will commence within one calendar month of CPAT receiving written confirmation of the acceptance of their tender.

R. J. Silvester  
14 February 1994