

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

**Abergele to Rhyd-y-foel Overhead Powerline
Replacement, Conwy
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

CPAT Report No 530

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March 2003

Report for Power Systems Ltd

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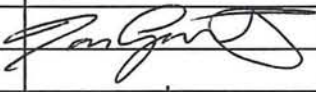


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Fig. 1 Powerline location and archaeological sites

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) were approached by John Wilson, Power Systems Ltd, to investigate the archaeological potential of the route corridor relating to a proposed overhead powerline replacement between Abergele and Rhyd-y-Foel, Conwy, a distance of approximately 4km. No curatorial design brief had been prepared for the proposals, although following discussions with Mr Mark Walters, Curatorial Section, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, it was agreed that the specification of works provided by CPAT Contracts Section would provide sufficient assurance that the works undertaken to the required standard.
- 1.2 An initial search of the Regional Sites and Monuments Record, undertaken by Power Systems Ltd, revealed a number of archaeological sites within 150m of the proposed route, including Pen y Corddyn and Castell Cawr hillforts.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The proposed powerline replacement runs for a distance of 4.8km to the south of Abergele, from Rhyd-y-foel (SH 91757575) eastwards to Hendre Uchaf (SH 96007658).
- 2.2 The majority of the area is agricultural, with pasture predominating.

3 DESK-BASED STUDY

- 3.1 Stage One of the assessment consisted of a desk-based study involving the examination of the Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd edition 1:2,500 maps, together with the Tithe Survey and any other readily available cartographic sources. Repositories consulted included the following: County SMR, CPAT, Welshpool; the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth; and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.
- 3.2 Only 9 sites were recorded in the Regional SMR within 100m of the powerline route, 6 of which related to buildings and farms which will be unaffected by the proposals, while the desk-based study added a further 4 sites.

4 FIELD SURVEY

- 4.1 The second stage of the archaeological assessment involved a field survey of the route corridor, undertaken on 19 March 2003, to record the condition and significance of all known sites and prospect for previously unrecorded sites which might be impacted on by the proposals. As a result of the field survey a further 3 sites were identified.
- 4.2 The whole of the proposed wayleave corridor was visually inspected. Identified sites were recorded on standard pro-forma sheets, and located by means of a hand-held GPS. Additionally, a 35mm photographic record was made of each identifiable site in black and white and colour slide format.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- 5.1 Each site of archaeological interest, identified during the desktop and field surveys, has been classified according to its perceived significance. The categories are those given in the Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments draft *Archaeology and the Trunk Road Programme in Wales: a Manual of Best Practice*.

Category A sites of national importance. It is presumed that sites in this category will be preserved and protected *in situ*.

Category B sites of regional or county importance which are of particular importance within the region. Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for these sites, but if loss or damage is unavoidable, appropriate detailed recording should be undertaken.

Category C sites of local importance which are not of sufficient importance to justify preservation if threatened, but which merit adequate recording in advance of loss or damage.

Category D minor and damaged sites which do not merit inclusion in a higher category, and for which rapid recording should be sufficient.

Category E sites whose importance could not be fully determined as a result of the assessment and may warrant further evaluation.

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Condition	Category	NGR
18138	Nant Uchaf	Mine (iron/manganese)	19th century	Near destroyed	E	SH93307570
18150	Pant Idda	Mine (haematite)	19th century ?	Unknown	E	SH92307580
41066	Hendre-uchaf	House	16th century	Intact	A	SH9575776279
41067	Lodge to Bryngwenallt	Lodge	19th century	Intact	A	SH9439076493
64513	Kinmel Brickworks	Brickworks	19th Century	Destroyed	E	SH96007656
64514	Kinmel Brickworks Well	Well	19th Century	Unknown	D	SH96047652
64515	Greenlands house	Building	Post Medieval	Unknown	E	SH94927639
64516	Siambr Wen Milestone	Milestone	19th Century	Intact, recumbent	C	SH9427876288
64517	Ty 'n-y-coed	House and outbuilding	Post Medieval	Damaged	C	SH93807588
64518	Bron Y Berllan	Ridge and Furrow	Post Medieval?	Near intact	C	SH95457630
64519	Afon Gele Ford I	Ford and associated thoroughfare	Early Post-Medieval?	Intact	C	SH94657648
102677	Ty Ucha spindlewhorl	Find	Unknown	Unknown	D	SH957764
102824	Tyn Y Caeau Isaf House	House	Post Medieval	Unknown	B	SH91857565
104552	Nant Fawr House	House	Post Medieval	Unknown	A	SH9287475651
104560	Hendre Uchaf House	House	16th century	Unknown	B	SH95807628
104562	Pant Idda House	House	Post Medieval	Unknown	A	SH9205475654

5.2 Of the 16 sites identified, six are buildings or farms which will be unaffected by the proposals, four of which are Listed Buildings. The two mine sites have no visible remains and are unlikely to be affected by the proposals due to their location. The Kinmel brickworks appears to have been completely destroyed, although remains may possibly survive below the modern overburden. The site listed as 'Greenlands' (PRN 64515) could not be located and therefore should not affect the proposals.

5.3 Those sites identified which would appear to be potentially affected by the proposals are listed below.

Kinmel Brickworks (PRN 64513)

5.3.1 The brickworks are depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1880. No visible trace survives and the electricity sub-station has been constructed on part of the site. Although buried remains may survive, it seems unlikely that they would be affected by the proposals.

Kinmel Brickworks Well (PRN 64514)

5.3.2 Located on the north-west side of the existing sub-station, the well is not visible due to dense vegetation but is probably situated at the head of a free-flowing spring (SH 96047652).

Greenlands House (PRN 64515)

5.3.3 The site of a house depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1880. The site lies on the south side of the road and no surviving trace could be identified. The powerline route lies to the north of the road and the site should therefore be unaffected.

Siambr Wen Milestone (PRN 64516)

5.3.4 Located in a field adjacent to the A548 road (SH 9427876288), the milestone is now recumbent lying on its side, west of the road in the hedgeline, and may therefore have been moved. The road junction leading to Bryngwenallt lies 6m to the east. Given the powerline route, the milestone possibly falls just outside the immediate impact area.

Ty'n-y-coed Farmhouse (PRN 64517)

- 5.3.5 Adjacent to the existing powerline route, the farmhouse is located 60m north of the roadline on the slopes of a pasture field (SH93807588). The building is of post-medieval origin, and is now derelict and unroofed. It appears on the Tithe Survey as a farmhouse with outbuildings, terracing and associated trackways and probably pre-dates the farmhouse of the same name, located 130m to the south-west.

Bron Y Berllan Ridge and Furrow (PRN 64518)

- 5.3.6 Located in the fields immediately east of Bron Y Berllan farmhouse are the remains of a field system traditionally referred to as ridge and furrow (SH 95457630). The earthworks consist of a series of parallel plough marks, 3-4m apart, orientated east to west. They are fairly well defined, surviving to a greater extent on the central and upper slopes of the field. On the Tithe Survey the field is noted as field no. 841, for which the boundaries have little altered. The field system is probably of post-medieval origin, though an earlier, medieval date should not be discounted. The existing powerline route traverses the upper slopes of the field.

Afon Gele Ford I and associated thoroughfare (PRN 64519)

- 5.3.7 The ford and lane (SH 94657648) is one of a number of fords recorded on the Tithe Survey. Sited along one of the earlier post-medieval thoroughfares into Abergele, the ford now has a modern foot-bridge in place. The associated lane, a fine example of a traditional pack route that is deeply cut with a high hedgeline and remains of cobbling in situ, is traversed by the existing powerline.

6 MITIGATION

- 6.1 The significance of the known archaeological sites has been considered above and appropriate mitigation measures are outlined below.

Terminology

- 6.2 The following standard archaeological terms are used below as recommended mitigation measures

Evaluation: where insufficient information exists regarding a site for a decision to be made regarding its future management a programme of investigative work may be proposed. Such investigation may include geophysical survey, topographical survey and trial excavation.

Preservation by record: where proposals will inevitably lead to the loss of a site sufficient recording should be undertaken to provide a full, accurate and permanent record of its nature, form, significance and dating. Preservation by record can take a number of forms, depending on the nature of the site in question, and may be achieved with or without excavation and could include any or all of the following: written record; drawn record; photographic record; artefactual record; survey; and environmental sampling.

Preservation in situ: where a site is considered to be of sufficient significance it may be considered appropriate to preserve the site in its present form, condition and location.

Watching brief: a watching brief may be recommended to include archaeological monitoring of all relevant groundworks, including topsoiling, in order to identify and record any previously unknown archaeological remains which may be revealed. Sufficient time must be allowed for adequate recording of any remains that are encountered.

Site-specific Mitigation

- 6.3 The assessment has identified 5 sites which may potentially be affected by the proposals, each of which should be preserved in situ through avoidance by any groundworks. All other sites identified during the assessment are assumed to be unaffected by the proposals.

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Condition	Mitigation
64514	Kinmel Brickworks Well	Well	19th Century	Unknown	Preservation in situ
64516	Siambur Wen Milestone	Milestone	19th Century	Intact	Preservation in situ
64517	Ty'n-y-coed	House	Post Medieval	Damaged	Preservation in situ
64518	Bron Y Berllan	Ridge & Furrow	Post Medieval	Near intact	Preservation in situ
64519	Afon Gele Ford I	Ford and lane	Post-Medieval	Intact	Preservation in situ

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 I would like to thank the following for their assistance and co-operation: Nigel Jones, CPAT; John Wilson, Power Systems Ltd; Medwyn Parry, RCAHMS, Aberystwyth; Jeff Spencer, SMR Officer, CPAT; and the staff of both the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth and the Denbighshire Record Office, Ruthin.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Documentary Sources

Frost, P, 1994. *Clwyd Mine Survey*, CPAT Report No. 88

8.2 Cartographic Sources

1840 Tithe Survey and Apportionment for Abergele parish

1872-5 Ordnance Survey 6 inch first edition map of Denbighshire (published 1880)

1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map (Sheet 2 - Wales) and Legend (1:250,000 scale)

1994 British Geological Survey map of Wales (Solid edition at 1:250,000 scale)

APPENDIX 1 SPECIFICATION

ABERGELE TO RHYD-Y-FOEL POWER LINE REPLACEMENT, CONWY SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Power Systems are proposing to rebuild the overhead powerline between Abergele and Rhyd-y-Foel, Denbighshire, a distance of approximately 4km. The Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust have been approached to develop a strategy for assessing the potential impact on the archaeological resource and implement appropriate mitigation measures. No curatorial design brief has been prepared for the proposals, although following discussions with Mr Mark Walters, Curatorial Section, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, it has been agreed that, subject to his approval, the following specification of works will provide sufficient assurance that the works undertaken to the required standard.
- 1.2 An initial search of the Regional Sites and Monuments record has already been undertaken by Power Systems Ltd, which has revealed a number of archaeological sites within 150m of the proposed route, including Pen y Corddyn and Castell Cawr hillforts.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological assessment are:
 - 2.1.1 to reveal by means of a combination of desk based study and field survey, the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of the archaeology within the area of the proposed development in so far as these aims are possible;
 - 2.1.2 to record any archaeological sites identified during the field evaluation;
 - 2.1.3 to identify those known archaeological sites which may be impacted upon by the proposals and develop a mitigation strategy for their future management regarding the proposals;
 - 2.1.4 to prepare a report outlining the results of the assessment, incorporating sufficient information on the archaeological resource for a reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the future management of the archaeology;
 - 2.1.5 to undertake a watching brief, if required following consultation with the curator, to record the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of any archaeological deposits and/or features revealed during any specific groundworks which may be considered to have a likely and unavoidable impact on the archaeological resource, in so far as these aims are possible.

3 Methods

- 3.1 Stage one of the assessment will comprise a desk-based study involving the examination of the Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd edition 1:2,500 maps, together with the tithe survey and any other readily available cartographic sources. Repositories consulted will include the following: County SMR, CPAT, Welshpool; the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth; the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.
- 3.2 On completion of the desk-based study the route will be walked in order to check those sites already identified and record any new sites revealed. Some sections of the route can be adequately investigated from adjoining roads and other rights of way, although other sections may require negotiated access. CPAT has assumed that Power Systems Ltd will be responsible for obtaining any permissions which may be required. The presumption will be for preservation of the archaeological

resource *in situ* wherever possible, and in mitigation avoidance will be recommended, reinforced by the above marking-out of sites.

- 3.3 An illustrated and bound report will be prepared summarising the results of the assessment. This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Catalogue of sites identified with notes on their condition and significance, Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives.
- 3.4 Provision has been included for undertaking a watching brief during the construction work, should this be required by the curator following the submission of the assessment report. Any watching brief is likely to be limited to specific locations where the archaeological resource is considered to be under an unavoidable threat.
- 3.5 Any watching brief will comprise a photographic record in 35mm black and white and colour print, and colour slide, together with a written, and where appropriate, a drawn record.
- 3.6 Should any significant archaeological deposits be revealed sufficient opportunity must be allowed for adequate recording and excavation as appropriate. All contexts will be recorded on standard individual context forms and drawn in section and/or plan as appropriate. All features will be tied-in to the Ordnance Survey as accurately as possible.
- 3.7 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991).
- 3.8 An agreement will be reached with the client regarding the deposition of any artefacts.

4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 All archaeological works will be undertaken by a skilled and experienced archaeologist. Overall supervision will be by Mr R J Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.2 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist who conducted the assessment and potential watching brief.
- 4.3 The duration of any watching brief will be entirely dependant on the client's/contractor's programme of work and that the subsequent report will be prepared immediately thereafter. The cost of archive preparation, reporting and deposition is included within the given costings.
- 4.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

N.W. Jones
4th March 2003

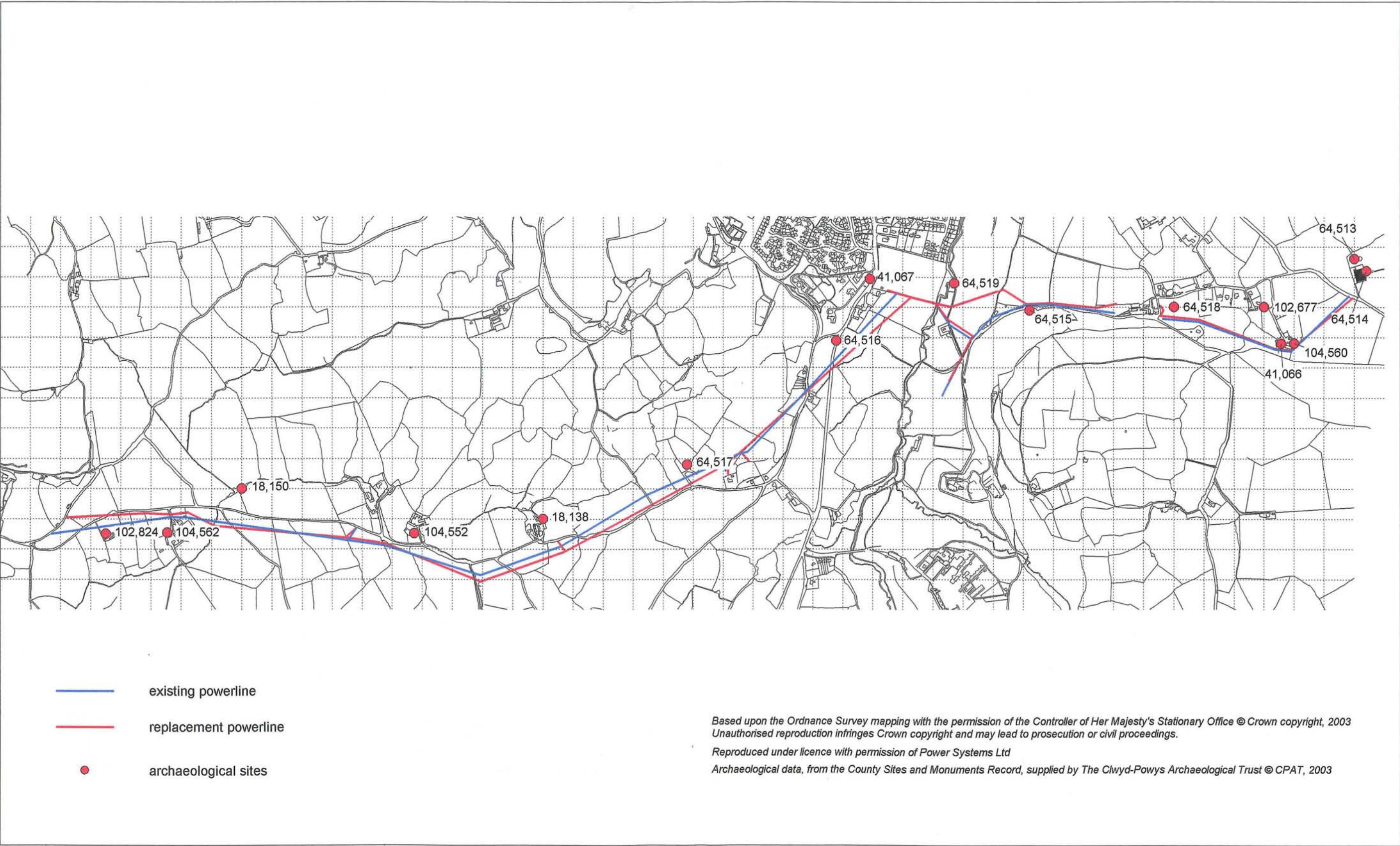


Fig. 1 Abergele to Rhyd-y-foel Overhead Powerline: Archaeological Sites