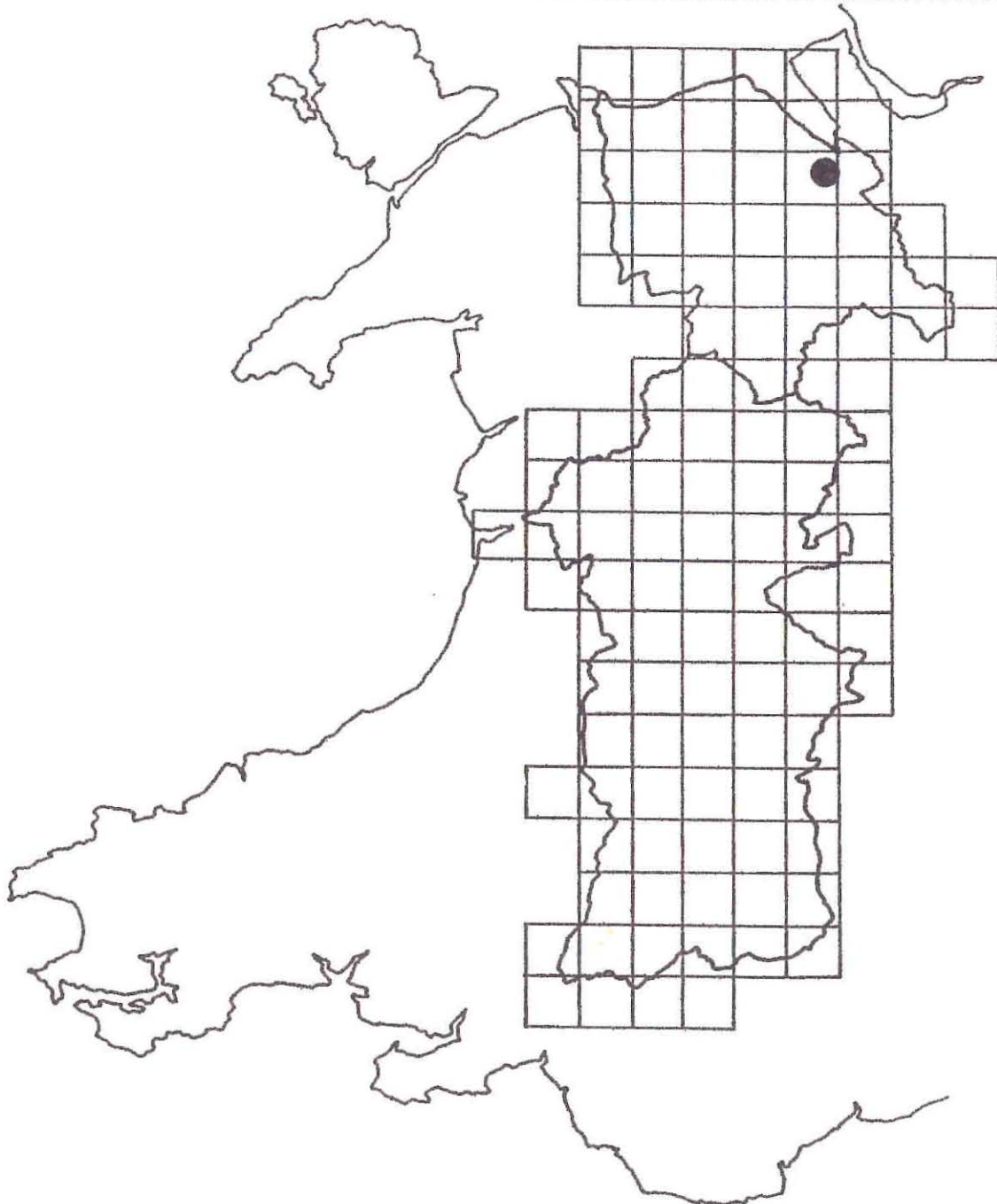


*A55/A494 Ewloe Interchange Improvement
and A55 Ewloe to Northop Widening, Clwyd*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Report prepared for Welsh Office Highways

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1 Introduction

1.1 The A55 expressway is the main access route through North Wales. The archaeological assessment described below covers an approximately triangular area surrounding the A494/A55 Ewloe interchange in Clwyd (formerly Flintshire) and a corridor 100m wide on either side of the carriageway of the A55 from the interchange to the vicinity of Halkyn village (Fig 1). The assessment has been conducted at the behest of the Welsh Office to determine the archaeological resource of the road corridor described above, prior to a proposed road widening and interchange improvement scheme.

1.2 The list which accompanies the assessment Brief prepared by Cadw/Welsh Historic Monuments and provides the background for the assessment is based on the archaeological sites contained within the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for the area. It also incorporates sites in the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMS) and Scheduled Ancient Monuments, historic buildings, parks and gardens, and landscapes listed by CADW/Welsh Historic Monuments.

1.3 A study of readily available documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic sources has been carried out, the sites thus revealed being combined with those previously recorded in the gazetteer below (Section 7).

1.4 On completion of the desk-top study, site visits were carried out in an attempt to determine the nature and condition of the sites and monuments which had been revealed. These visits were combined with a rapid fieldwalk survey of the corridor to prospect for other, unrecorded sites and to attempt to evaluate the potential impact of the scheme on the archaeological resource of the area.

2 Desk-top Study

2.1 Sites already contained within the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) are numbered in the gazetteer below. Those sites not yet integrated in the SMR can be differentiated as they are numbered from a batch beginning at PRN 19500. Where it is available, additional information from the NMR is incorporated within the site descriptions.

2.2 The area encompassed by the proposed road scheme is notable in terms of the number of maps available which date to the period preceding the preparation of the 1:10560 first edition Ordnance Survey maps (surveyed between 1869 and 1874). The majority of these 18th and 19th-century cartographic sources are housed in the Clwyd Record Office in Hawarden (denoted as CROH in the gazetteer). The remaining cartographic sources referred to are the Tithe maps for the parishes of Northop (1838) and Hawarden (1839) available at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth and the first edition Ordnance Survey maps.

2.3 A review of two aerial photographic collections was also undertaken; these were the 1:10000 RAF vertical aerial

photography taken between 1946 and 1951, and the Geonex 1:10000 vertical aerial photography taken for the Countryside Council for Wales in 1993. The Consulting Engineers also hold aerial photographic cover, but during discussions with their representative, it was learnt that this was at a scale of 1:20000. Past experience suggests that such small-scale photography infrequently yields substantive data, so it was decided (pace the Brief) to concentrate on larger scale (and more easily available) vertical photography.

2.4 The majority of the sites recognised on the aerial photographs are areas of ridge and furrow cultivation; it is however possible that some of these areas will have been confused with marks left by the agricultural activities being carried out when the photographs were taken (eg stripes left by hay harvesting). The pattern of fields shown on the RAF photography has also been much altered by more recent developments.

2.5 Two areas contained within the CADW/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest in Wales that are in or adjacent to the assessment corridor are included in the gazetteer (signified by PGW (C)). Information on the nature and extent of these areas has been provided in draft form by CADW.

2.6 The conservation areas in the locality occur outside the area considered by this assessment.

2.7 A number of documentary sources relating to the assessment area locality were consulted. These included a recent placename study (Owen 1994) and two reports of archaeological excavations (Guilbert 1975 and Glenn 1934). The Transactions of the Flintshire Historical Society were consulted, but no significant information that was specific to the assessment area was found.

3 The Field Survey

3.1 Following discussions with the Consulting Engineers, it was decided that direct access to every field in the corridor would be difficult to achieve in the limited time available, given the current state of interplay between the Welsh Office, their Consulting Engineers and the landowners along the route. Regrettably, therefore the area was viewed from the present road corridor and from public rights of way. It should be noted that much of the data on sites not already in the SMR, both those first recognised in the desk-top study and those discovered during the field survey, are approximate in nature: this is due to limitations of access preventing the viewing and precise location of these sites.

3.2 As has been previously mentioned, the primary role of the field survey was to ascertain the present nature of the sites recorded in the desk-top study. Sites were examined, where access was possible, for surviving features. However, as can be seen from the gazetteer, many of the sites have been subsequently disturbed or obliterated by recent activity, most notably housing construction, modern farming practice and road improvement work.

3.3 In combination with the examination of sites recorded by the desk-top study, a field search was made for new, previously unrecorded, sites. The sites where possible were described, measured, photographed and sketched as appropriate. These sites are denoted in the gazetteer by an * before their record number.

4 Archaeological Background to the Study Area

4.1 The archaeological background to the area is dealt with by period, and incorporates knowledge gained from its wider surroundings.

4.2 Present evidence suggests that the area has been occupied from at least the Neolithic period and throughout succeeding prehistoric phases. However, with the exception of artefact finds, there are few sites which can be ascribed to this period and the majority of these require further archaeological input before their nature can be conclusively determined. One factor which is likely to prejudice the survival of prehistoric sites in the area is the subsequent degree of land improvement, as a result of reasonably good quality land and the number of significantly sized local estates present in the post-medieval period.

4.3 Neolithic occupation of the area is suggested by stray finds of polished axes in the area of Llys Edwin (PRNs 100291 and 100313) and outside the area at SJ 237 686, near Celyn Farm (PRN 102928). However, at present, no habitation sites of the period have been discovered in the area. Structures of this period tended to be ephemeral in their nature and leave few traces of their existence.

4.4 Bronze Age activity is also suggested by various artefacts found in the area (eg PRN 103037). The scattered nature of the possible funerary barrows recorded in the SMR suggests that isolated communities perhaps existed during this period. No direct evidence of the locations of these communities exists in the immediate area: any sub-surface traces which may remain, have yet to be found.

4.5 Local activity during the Iron Age has left little evidence in the study area, the only site which is likely to belong to this period (PRN 100315) is no longer extant and its location has been lost. That there were significant levels of activity during the period can be deduced from the nearby hillfort of Moel y Gaer, near Rhosesmor. Excavations carried out on Moel y Gaer between 1972 and 1974 (Guilbert 1975) showed that the area supported a significant population, and one can assume a settled hinterland providing economic support. Moel y Gaer is some 2km to the south-west of the northern terminal of the proposed road improvements.

4.6 No evidence of any Roman occupation has been recognised in the immediate area, but this is unlikely to be a realistic picture. The Roman road from Chester to North Wales is thought to pass through the area and a stray find of a Roman coin (dated AD 81-96) is recorded at SJ 254 674. A possible section of the road was seen in a ditch at SJ 2344 6897 (PRN 17876), but

further exposures would be needed in the vicinity before it could be definitely confirmed that the proposed road improvements will impinge on its course.

4.7 The Dark Age/Saxon period is unusually well represented in this area, this is best shown by Llys Edwin (PRN 100289/90), a fortified house originally constructed in the Saxon period, and Wat's Dyke, a defensive structure perhaps constructed by the Mercian King Ethelbald who reigned between 716 and 757 (Fox 1955). The possible Dark Age burial site (PRN 19508) to the north-east of Llys Edwin, if confirmed, is particularly rare and could perhaps be related to a late 6th-century church (PRN 100308) reputed to have occupied the site of the present church at Northop. The only examples of Dark Age burials in Clwyd which are known to the writer were located at Tandderwen, near Denbigh and excavated in 1987-88 by CPAT.

4.8 The study area in the medieval period, fell within the townships of Ewloe and Northop. It has been convincingly argued (Owen 1994) that the Ewloe district was covered by vast tracts of woodland in this period, with a sporadic scattered community dwelling therein; this is supported by the paucity of evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation. Land-use in Northop seems to have been more developed, possibly due to the village and its church, with the rebuilt Llys Edwin acting as a focus for settlement. This is further suggested by the large tracts of putative ridge and furrow extant until recent years.

4.9 The medieval period also saw the commencement of the industrial activity in the locality, which occurred as a result of the readily available raw materials (coal, timber, clay etc) found throughout the district. It has been suggested that coal mining in the region was instigated during the 12th century by the monks of Basingwerk Abbey, Holywell (Boyd 1991). However, the most readily datable evidence comes from the pottery industry, whose centre is generally considered to have been located at Buckley. A finds scatter of medieval pottery found in 1975 at SJ 282 656 (PRN 102717) suggests the former presence of a kiln site, while within the study area the site of the Ewloe Green Pottery (PRN 103755) produced pottery of the 13th century onwards when excavations were carried out in 1986.

4.10 The post-medieval period shows a continuation in patterns of land-use and settlement, with the exception of the progressive diminution, perhaps begun in the medieval period, of the forested land in Ewloe; the 18th-century maps in the Clwyd Record Office, Hawarden show the level of afforestation and the pattern of enclosed land very little different to that visible on the RAF aerial photography of the 1940s and 1950s. Reduction of the forest most probably resulted from an increase in industrial activity and the introduction of more modern farming techniques associated with the landed estates of the area. The increase in industrial activity is evidenced, among other factors, by a "brisk traffic in coal between Flintshire and Ireland" (Dodd 1971) during the time of the Civil Wars. It is interesting to note that evidence of this trade is apparent on the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map where the eastern part of Northop Hall is named "Dublin". A few buildings which may date to this period are still extant within the study area (eg PRNs 19551 and 19563), but the only well documented house

which survives is Coed y Cra Uchaf, built in 1636.

4.11 As suggested above, the early modern period is substantively little different to the post-medieval, with the same pattern of enclosed agricultural land interspersed with areas of industrial activity. The industrial element most probably reached its zenith at this time and has been declining ever since to its present, much reduced, level.

5 Recommendations for the Preservation and Recording of Sites within the Study Area (See Gazetteer - Section 7)

5.1 It is probable that the constructional works associated with the road improvement and widening scheme (eg earth moving, borrow pits, depot sites and machinery access) will spread beyond the proposed line of the road and possibly also beyond the corridor considered in this report. It is impossible to assess the impact on the archaeological resource of these additional works without further information and the attention of Welsh Office Highways and their Consulting Engineers is therefore drawn to the potential impact on the archaeology of these additional elements of the scheme.

5.2 cursory field examination suggests that the majority of fields in the assessment corridor are under permanent pasture. We believe, assuming this situation continues to obtain, that there will be few timing constraints on any evaluation work.

5.3 The sites included in this section are those within the assessment corridor for which some mitigation strategy is considered necessary. Sites of minor interest or sites which have been confirmed as being no longer extant are not generally dealt with in this section.

5.4.1 Sites and areas which must be avoided by the proposed road improvement works. It should be noted that none of these sites is a new discovery, and that all have a statutory or non-statutory designation.

- a) PGW (C) 68
- b) PRN 31307
- c) PRN 100343
- d) PRN 106612
- e) PRN 100289/100290
- f) PRN 103081
- g) PGW (C) 25 and its "Essential Setting"

5.4.2 Sites and areas which will be affected by the proposed road improvement, for which further archaeological recording prior to the commencement of site works is considered appropriate

- a) PRN 19547 - The ridge and furrow recognised should be recorded prior to its potential destruction.

5.4.3 Sites and areas which should be subject to an

archaeological watching brief during site works

- a) PRN 103755
- b) PRN 100315
- c) PRN 19277
- d) PRN 19513
- e) PRN 19515
- f) PRN 19520
- g) PRN 19534
- h) PRN 19544
- i) PRN 19550

j) All topsoil stripping or excavation of undisturbed ground, due to the possibility of sites existing for which there are no surface indications.

5.4.4 Sites and areas which require evaluation under Stage 3 (see Brief: section 4.4.3)

a) The road improvement corridor once the wayleave is marked out. Owing to the restrictions on access, it has been impossible to observe satisfactorily all areas likely to be affected by the proposals. It would therefore be preferable for a rapid fieldwalk survey to be conducted prior to the commencement of site works.

b) PRN 100324 - The nature of this site has not been confirmed. An evaluation of the remains of the mound, consisting of the archaeological excavation of a selected area, is required before it can be assigned a category of importance.

c) PRN 19506 - Determining the location of the battle site is a matter of some archaeological interest. The location ascribed to the battle in the gazetteer cannot be relied upon and some further work seems necessary. One possibility would be a metal detector survey of the area in an attempt to discover concentrations of related artefacts. If it is determined to be the most favoured response, the survey should be undertaken with archaeological supervision.

d) PRN 19508 - The bridge to the south of this field will presumably be altered to accommodate the increased width of the A55; if this occurs it seems likely that some disturbance to possible sites located in the field may result. In view of their potential importance, an archaeological evaluation designed to assess the putative funerary monuments recognised on the aerial photography should be carried out. This should consist of an initial geophysical survey, followed by archaeological evaluation trenching.

e) PRN 19548 - An archaeological excavation, consisting of a trench across the embankment, should be carried out to determine its nature and dating.

f) PRN 19549 - A site visit should be carried out in order to record and evaluate the nature of this feature.

g) PRN 19551 - A preliminary structural examination of the house is required before it can be ascertained whether a programme of

building recording is necessary.

h) PRN 19558 - Detailed examination of the field and, if it is then deemed necessary, limited excavation may provide further information on the nature and dating of this site.

i) PRN 19563 - A preliminary structural examination of the buildings is required before it can be ascertained whether a programme of building recording is necessary.

5.4.5 Sites and structures within the study area which will not be directly affected by the current proposals, but for which further archaeological input would be required if later adjustments to the scheme caused them to come under threat

a) PRN 101848 - The present proposals do not impinge upon the area of this site, but any movement of the road to the north-east will cause some disturbance. This would necessitate an evaluation in order to determine the importance of the site.

5.4.6 Structures which could be removed prior to the commencement of site works and replaced in the nearest permissible location to their present position

a) PRN 103088 - It would be preferable for the milestone to be preserved as near to its original location as possible.

6 Summary of the Assessment Results

6.1 The review of sites already contained in the various archaeological records shows that whilst there are a number of nationally important sites and areas within the assessment corridor, the present proposals are unlikely to affect them or their settings to a greater degree than the existing road layout. The only site already within the SMR which may be affected is PRN 100324; this is unlikely to prove to be of national importance due to the degree of previous disturbance which it has suffered.

6.2 A significant number of previously unrecorded sites have been brought to light as a result of the assessment; in general these are of local or minor importance. However, the possible battle site and putative cropmark burials, which are in need of further archaeological input prior to their categorisation, are potentially sites of significant importance and it is to be hoped that sufficient time and resources can be found to properly evaluate their nature in advance of the implementation of the road improvement scheme.

6.3 The writer is of the opinion that the field search conducted at the time of the visits to sites discovered during the desk-top study has not been sufficiently comprehensive to ascertain whether all sites within the area have been revealed. This is due to the restrictions on access, and it is felt that a rapid field search of the marked out wayleave area prior to the commencement of site works may be necessary.

6.4 It should be noted that additional construction works may necessitate further mitigation strategies under section 5. Mitigation for such works, which impinge on recorded sites within the assessment corridor or areas outside the corridor, should be considered once detailed site planning has taken place.

7 Acknowledgements

7.1 The writer would like to thank the staff of the following organisations for their help and assistance:

the Clwyd Record Office, Hawarden

the Architects Technical Planning Library, Clwyd County Council, Mold for allowing access to their aerial photographic collection.

the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

the National Monument Record, RCHAMW, Aberystwyth

the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust

8 Gazetteer of Sites within the Assessment Corridor

8.1 The sites in the following gazetteer have been arranged in order of their Primary Record Number (PRN). Following the location and descriptive data for each site is a highlighted category designation; the categories assigned follow the guidelines set out in section 4.4.3 of the project brief which are described below:-

Category A - Sites designated as being of national importance which meet the criteria for scheduling or listing. It is presumed that sites in this category will be preserved and protected in situ.

Category B - Sites of regional or county importance which do not meet the criteria for scheduling or listing, but which are nevertheless 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 will be undertaken.

Category C - Sites of district or 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, for which rapid recording should be sufficient.

Category E - Sites whose importance could not be fully determined from the desk-top assessment and field search. These sites are to be subject to evaluation in Stage 3, before they can be assigned to Categories A-D.

PGW (C) 25 Soughton Hall Park (SJ 248 674 - Fig 3). The north-eastern corner of the park associated with the Hall is adjacent to the assessment corridor. The corridor impinges on part of the "Essential Setting" marked on the accompanying site plan. The hall dates to the early 18th century and was substantially remodelled in the 19th century. The medium sized landscape park is thought to be contemporary with the earliest phase of construction, although certain tree specimens are said to provide evidence of much earlier planting.

Registered Historic Park and Garden

Category A

PGW (C) 68 Halkyn Castle Grounds (SJ 209 709 - Fig 5). The south-eastern section of the grounds, in the vicinity of the Lower Lodge (PRN 31307), is within the assessment area. The house was built c.1824-27 for the Grosvenor family as an occasional residence, and originally a drive led from the Lower Lodge through woodland and landscaped parkland to the house. This entrance to the grounds was blocked by the modern A55 road improvements and is no longer in use. Registered Historic Park and Garden

Category A

17556 Wat's Dyke (SJ 232 698 - Fig 4). An area on the line of Wat's Dyke which was excavated in 1986. It was backfilled after building remains were found. No evidence of the dyke or its ditch was recognised.

Category D

19277 Wrexham, Mold and Connahs Quay (Buckley) Railway (Crossed by road at SJ 2750 6710 - Fig 2). Railway originally constructed in 1862 to transport various manufactures and minerals from Buckley to Connah's Quay on the Dee estuary, passengers were first carried in 1866. In its later years it was once again used solely as a goods line until it closed in July 1965 and was subsequently dismantled in 1966/7 (Boyd 1991). Within the area of the study, one branch track can be seen on the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map. This leaves the main line at SJ 2764 6685, en route to the nearby Castle Brickworks (PRN 103711); the brickworks are no longer extant. The course of the railway can still be seen as an earthwork to the south of the A55, but has been lost in the immediate vicinity, and for 200m to the north of the road.

Category D

19500 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2260 7010 - Fig 4). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 30/7/1948, but no longer visible.

Category D

19501 Field boundary (SJ 2293 6993 - Fig 4). Redundant field boundary recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 10/6/1946, but no longer visible.

Category D

19502 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2304 6980 - Fig 4). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 11/5/1951, but no longer visible.

Category D

19503 House (SJ 2324 6983 - Fig 4). Depicted on a map of 1805 (CROH-D/SH/826). It appears to be called "Flint Mountain", but this may only refer to the area in which the holding is located. This site could well be the "building remains" discovered in the Wat's Dyke excavations (SMR No 17556 - see below) carried out at this location in 1986. No visible remains.

Category D

19504 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2338 6977 - Fig 4). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 10/6/1946, but no longer visible.

Category D

19505 Well (SJ 2352 6973 - Fig 4). Depicted on the 1878 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, surveyed in 1870-71, where it is located adjacent to a field boundary. Also shown on the modern Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map.
Category D

19506 Possible site of the battle between Henry II and Owain Gwynedd in 1157 (SJ 2370 6950 - Fig 4), discussed in the 1934 excavation report for Llys Edwin (Glenn 1934). The first engagement occurred in the woods of Ewloe and that Henry "moved forward in the direction of Northop, entering, finally, a wooded valley leading to the hamlet of the vill of Coleshill". Local tradition is said to give the site of the battle as "in the pass or meadow between Llys Edwin and Bryn Edwin, on the border of the vill of Coleshill, a field yet known as 'Battle'". It is not known where this information was obtained, but there is a record of the battle in the Welsh Brut y Tywysogion or Chronicles of the Princes (Jones 1952). This is not as specific, but records that "the king and an innumerable armed host, came through the wood that was between them, which was called the wood of Hawarden. And there Cynan and Dafydd, sons of Owain, encountered him, and there they gave him a hard battle. And after many of his men had been slain he escaped to open country." A further reference to the battle in Pennant (1784) suggests two successive engagements, first at Ewloe (5km to the south-east) and then at Coleshill, near Flint (4km to the north).

It is difficult to determine the location of the battle, and it would, in any case, have occupied a fairly large area. However, it seems possible that a defensive structure like Llys Edwin could have been a focus for the combatants, particularly as Ewloe castle may not have been in existence in the middle of the 12th century (SMR information). In the absence of more detailed documentary research one likely location could be at the grid reference given above.

Category E

19507 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2390 6942 - Fig 4), spread over several fields. Perhaps related to Llys Edwin. Recognised on RAF aerial photographs taken on 10/6/1946, 30/7/1948 and 11/5/1951. Some elements of the ridge and furrow are also visible on the Geonex aerial photographs taken on 18/10/1993. No extant remains were seen in the field survey, but observations were restricted.

Category D

19508 Cropmarks (SJ 2405 6932 - Fig 4). A group of faint cropmarks visible on a Geonex vertical aerial photograph taken in 1993 (126-93-039), centred at the above location. Further work is required to confirm their authenticity. One cropmark appears to be circular with an approximate diameter of 25m, although its eastern side is poorly defined. Another cropmark has a rhomboid shape and is located approximately 20m to the south of the circular cropmark, this site is approximately 15m north-south by 15m east-west and has a mark at its centre. There appear to be further cropmarks in this field but they are insufficiently well defined on the photographs for their shapes

to be accurately determined.

The two cropmarks recognised have similarities with the cropmark burial sites excavated at Tandderwen, near Denbigh in 1987-88. Their proximity to Llys Edwin may be of some significance.

Category E

19509 Clay pit (SJ 2423 6905 - Fig 4). Depicted on the 1878 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, surveyed in 1870-71. Located adjacent to the A55 on the modern Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map and still extant. It is approximately 50m long x 30m wide x over 2m deep and overgrown with substantial trees.

Category D

19510 Possible clay pit (SJ 2433 6893 - Fig 4). Appears to be depicted on map of 1717 (CROH-D/DM/540/1). Site not visible from nearest point of access.

Category D

19511 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2437 6927 - Fig 4). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 11/5/1951; no longer visible.

Category D

19512 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2440 6895 - Fig 4). Recognised on RAF aerial photographs taken 10/6/1946 and 11/5/1951; no longer visible.

Category D

19513 Possible building (SJ 2452 6908 - Fig 4). Depicted on map of 1718 (CROH-D/SH/832). Site is likely to have been destroyed by the construction of the interchange on the A55 to the north of Northop.

Category D

19514 Road (SJ 2452 6889 to SJ 2457 6862 - Fig 4). The previous line of road from Northop to Flint depicted on maps of 1717 (CROH-D/DM/540/1) and 1718 (CROH-D/SH/832), it is approximately Z-shaped between the two given points. Now lost under road improvements and housing at the northern end of Northop village.

Category D

19515 Possible building (SJ 2466 6886 - Fig 4). Square-shaped building or stock fold depicted on map of 1805 (CROH-D/SH/826). Site now within area of modern road improvements.

Category D

19516 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2475 6905 - Fig 4). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 11/5/1951. Also visible on a Geonex aerial photograph taken on 18/10/1993, not visible on the ground.

Category D

* 19517 Clay pit (SJ 2476 6877 - Fig 3). A 30m-diameter, approximately circular, hollow which was probably used for clay extraction. Now waterlogged.

Category D

19518 Clay pit (SJ 2511 6842 - Fig 3). Depicted on the 1878 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, surveyed in 1870-71. Site now lost under a modern housing development.

Category D

19519 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2522 6828 - Fig 3). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 10/6/1946; no longer visible.

Category D

19520 Roman road from Chester to St Asaph (SJ 2529 6835 - Fig 3). The suggested line of the road crosses the A55 at this grid reference. The nearest likely section of road discovered was PRN 17876 at SJ 2344 6897, which consisted of a pebbled surface on top of a clay foundation, seen in a drainage ditch.

Category D

19521 Turnpike gate (SJ 2530 6820 - Fig 3). Depicted on the Northop Tithe map of 1838. A modern building now occupies the site.

Category D

19522 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2540 6850 - Fig 3). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 10/6/1946. Also recognised on a Geonex aerial photograph taken 18/10/1993, but not visible on the ground.

Category D

19523 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2550 6825 - Fig 3). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 11/5/1951. Also recognised on a Geonex aerial photograph taken 18/10/1993, but not visible on the ground.

Category D

19524 Possible ridge and furrow (SJ 2563 6800 - Fig 3). Recognised on a Geonex aerial photograph taken 18/10/1993. Not recognised in the RAF aerial photographic collection or seen on the ground.

Category D

19525 Clay pit (SJ 2567 6787 - Fig 3). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 10/6/1946. The field is referred to as "The Marl Field" on the Northop Tithe map of 1838, which corroborates the aerial photographic evidence. Still extant.

Category D

19526 Bridge (SJ 2585 6760 - Fig 3). Depicted on a map of 1805 (CROH-D/SH/826) on the north-western boundary of a field called "Coitia'r Bont" (translated as Bridge Field). Modern Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map shows foot bridge in this location, but this is a recent replacement.

Category D

19527 Bridge (SJ 2590 6760 - Fig 3). Depicted on a map of 1805 (CROH-D/SH/826) on the north-eastern boundary of a field called "Coitia'r Bont" (translated as Bridge Field). Modern Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map shows foot bridge in this location, but this is a recent replacement.

Category D

19528 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2605 6765 - Fig 3). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 11/5/1951. Also recognised on a Geonex aerial photograph taken 18/10/1993, but not visible on the ground.

Category D

19529 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2636 6755 - Fig 3). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 30/7/1948.

Category D

19530 Clay pits (SJ 2637 6752 - Fig 3). Two adjacent clay pits depicted on the 1881-2 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, surveyed in 1869-74. The modern Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map only shows the eastern one; the other has probably been backfilled. Not visible from nearest point of access.

Category D

19531 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2657 6760 - Fig 3). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 30/7/1948.

Category D

19532 Brookside House (SJ 2668 6753 - Fig 3). A stone-built cottage depicted on the Northop Tithe map of 1838. Also shown on the 1881-2 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map surveyed in 1869-74. Still extant.

Category C

19533 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2682 6757 - Fig 3). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 30/7/1948. Part of the area was recognised on a Geonex aerial photograph taken 18/10/1993. Not visible on the ground.

Category D

19534 Building (SJ 2685 6745 - Fig 3). Depicted on the Northop Tithe map of 1838. Also shown on the 1881-2 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map surveyed in 1869-74. Has since been lost, most probably due to road improvements.

Category D

19535 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2685 6734 - Fig 3). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 30/7/1948. Not visible on the ground.

Category D

19536 Cropmark (SJ 2700 6742 - Fig 3). A disc-shaped cropmark, probably a former clay pit, recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 30/7/1948. No surface remains visible.

Category D

19537 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2738 6725 - Fig 2). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 30/7/1948. Not visible on the ground.

Category D

19538 Clay pit (SJ 2775 6693 - Fig 2). Probable clay pit, recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 10/6/1946. No longer visible.

Category D

19539 Clay pit (SJ 2780 6694 - Fig 2). A pit first evident on the 1881-2 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map. It appears to be shown in use on an RAF aerial photograph taken 10/6/1946, when it was probably being used by the putative brickworks (PRN 19540) nearby. Still extant, although probably partly backfilled.

Category D

19540 Possible Brickworks (SJ 2784 6690 - Fig 2). A line of buildings parallel to Magazine Lane, which are visible on an RAF aerial photograph taken 10/6/1946. A chimney is marked on the modern Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map at this location, which may be suggestive of a small brickworks, particularly in view of the two clay pits nearby (PRNs 19538 and 19539). Apart from the chimney, which stands to its original height, and a mound of ash the site is only visible as a level platform, approximately 67m north-west/south-east by 10m north-east/south-west, overgrown with trees.

Category C

19541 House and garden (SJ 2793 6682 - Fig 2). Depicted on map of 1757 (CROH-D/GW/651) and noted in accompanying reference book (CROH-D/GW/652), but not evident on subsequent map of c.1780 (CROH-D/GW/671). No visible traces remain.

Category C

19542 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2817 6626 - Fig 2). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 10/6/1946, but no longer visible.

Category D

19543 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2820 6655 - Fig 2). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 10/6/1946. Some sections are still visible on a Geonex aerial photograph taken on 18/10/1993. Not evident on the ground.

Category D

19544 Dyers Hall (SJ 2820 6625 - Fig 2). Hall first mentioned in documents dating to 1609, the final reference is dated 1840 (Owen 1994). No longer extant.

Category D

19545 Two buildings (SJ 2822 6654 - Fig 2). Depicted on map of 1757 (CROH-D/GW/651), the area is described in the accompanying reference book (CROH-D/GW/652) as:- house, garden and ?oven?. A building is also shown at this location on a map of 1780 (CROH-D/GW/673) and the Hawarden Tithe map of 1839. The first edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, surveyed in 1869-72, shows a building in this location denoted "Magazine". Two possibilities exist to explain the name, one is that it was simply a house name, although the number of collieries within the district may perhaps suggest that it was used as a centralised explosives store. The documentary evidence suggests very strongly that there was more than one phase of activity on this site. No apparent surface traces remain.

Category C

19546 House (SJ 2828 6637 - Fig 2). Depicted on map of 1757 (CROH-D/GW/651) and noted in accompanying reference book (CROH-D/GW/652). Also shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, surveyed in 1869-72. Since lost to road improvement work.

Category D

* 19547 Ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2828 6624 - Fig 2). An area of slight ridge and furrow identified during the field survey. It is located to the south of the A55 immediately to the east of the house called "Homestead".

Category C

* 19548 Tramway (SJ 2834 6626 - Fig 2). A probable tramway located to the south of the A55. It is an embanked earthwork approximately 5m wide x 0.7m high which can be seen running in a north-south direction towards a mound, possibly an old coal heap, marked on the modern Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map. Its northern end terminates at the embankment which carries the A55/A494 Ewloe interchange.

Category E

* 19549 Mound (SJ 2841 6611 - Fig 2). A mound seen, at a distance, during the field survey. Its function is impossible to determine without closer scrutiny, but it may be a prehistoric barrow or an abandoned waste heap resulting from coal extraction.

Category E

19550 Coal Shaft (SJ 2858 6627 - Fig 2). "Old shaft (coal)" depicted on the 1914 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map (reproduced in Boyd 1991). A group of indistinct cropmarks in the same field recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken on 10/6/1946, may have been caused by spoil tipping when the shaft was in use. No surface traces visible.

Category D

19551 Cross Tree Farm (SJ 2872 6607 - Fig 2). House first depicted on a map of 1780 (CROH-D/GW/673), on which it is called "Cross Hill". The building is now called "Cross Trees Restaurant" and appears to have been recently modernised; it is impossible to ascertain how much of the original structure remains without closer scrutiny.

Category E

19552 Possible ridge and furrow cultivation (SJ 2890 6590 - Fig 2). Recognised on an RAF aerial photograph taken 10/6/1946, but no longer visible.

Category D

19553 Field's Farm (SJ 2905 6585 - Fig 2). Depicted on map of c.1800 (CROH-D/DM/110). Also shown on first edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, surveyed in 1869-72. Subsequently lost, most probably due to opencast mining.

Category D

19554 Milestone (SJ 2909 6645 - Fig 2). A milestone made of limestone situated to the south of the Mold Road, depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, surveyed in 1869-72. It is semi-circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.4m and is 0.6m high. The inscription is somewhat weathered, but can be distinguished and reads:- To Mold 4 Miles To The Ferry 2 Miles.

Category C

19555 Well (SJ 2915 6980 - Fig 2). Situated to the west of Fields Farm on the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, surveyed in 1869-72. Subsequently lost to opencast mining.

Category D

19556 Owlets Hole (SJ 2926 6546 - Fig 2). House depicted on map of c.1800 (CROH-D/DM/110). Named on the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, surveyed in 1869-72. The site is now occupied by a modern house called "The Owlets".

Category D

* 19557 Coal shafts (SJ 2927 6556 - Fig 2). A group of at least 6 former coal shafts alongside a 170m-length of public footpath, recently diverted to the west of a modern housing development. Substantial trees are growing on the earthworks, which are hollows up to 5m in diameter x 1m deep, and some of the resultant coal waste can be seen in their vicinity. A reference to coal shafts in this area (Cropper 1923, quoted within Owen

1994) relates "That district [the Dinghouse] has for two centuries or more been riddled with coal pits, ...". (cf PRN 103715).

Category C

19558 Clay Pit ? (SJ 2930 6533 - Fig 2). A circular hollow, approximately 20m in diameter, which can be seen on the modern 1:10000 Ordnance Survey map adjacent to the A55. Other unidentified earthworks are present in this field, but these could not be properly examined from the nearest point of access.

Category E

19559 Aston Tramroad (SJ 2933 6533 - Fig 2). Tramway built in approximately 1792 for their products (coal, pottery etc) by the local partnership of Rigby and Hancock, it originally used L-shaped iron rails. The line was rebuilt to standard gauge in approximately 1875 and was in operation until its closure in the 1910s; the rails were removed for scrap during the First World War (Boyd 1991). Part of the tramway is still extant at the above location but it has been significantly disturbed by the modern housing estate to the east of the A55. It is represented by a clay embankment approximately 100m in length x 10m in width x 1.5m high. Another section of the tramway may have been recorded in the SMR as PRN 19101 where it is called "The Aston Hall Colliery Tramway".

Category B

19560 Paradise (SJ 2934 6568 - Fig 2). House depicted on map of c.1800 (CROH-D/DM/110). Last shown on 1966 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map (Owen 1994). The house has since been lost; its site is now within a modern housing development.

Category D

19561 New Inn (SJ 2941 6655 - Fig 2). Noted in Owen (1994) as "Newe Inne" in 1672 and still shown on the 1914 Ordnance Survey map. Subsequently lost to road widening (Owen 1994).

Category D

19562 Brookside Cottage (SJ 2682 6750 - Fig 3). A stone built cottage depicted on the 1881-2 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, surveyed in 1869-74. Still extant.

Category C

19563 Cross Farm (SJ 2856 6605 - Fig 2). House and buildings first depicted on a map of 1780 (D/GW/673). The present house appears to be more recent in date, but the buildings may well be those shown on the map as their pattern is similar. The buildings could not be clearly seen from the nearest point of access.

Category E

31307 Lower Lodge to Halkyn Castle (SJ 218 708 - Fig 5). Two-storied castellated entrance lodge, probably built at the same time as the castle (1824-7).

Listed building

Category A

100051 Wared Wood Mound (SJ 2622 6758 - Fig 3). Elongated mound 30m long x 16.5m wide x 1.5m high. A probable bowl barrow, now destroyed by road widening. The SMR entry for this site notes that it was recorded in the RCAHMS Flintshire Inventory of 1912. The site location in the Inventory is probably incorrect; it is given in latitude and longitude and the equivalent modern grid reference would appear to be SJ 2680 6750.

Category D

100289/100290 Llys Edwin Fortified House (SJ 2370 6933 - Fig 4). The now ruinous fortified house of Eadwine of Tegeingl noted in the Domesday Book. Eadwine (or Edwin) was a descendant of Hywel Dda, and lived in the middle of the 11th century. Pennant (1784) notes that he "flourished about the year 1041". Excavations were carried out on the site in the 1930's which revealed multiple phases of construction: The earliest structure was thought to be wooden and date to the Saxon period, while in the Norman period a large stone built house was constructed on the site within a moated enclosure. Fishponds are noted as being associated with the house.

Scheduled Ancient Monument

Category A

100291 Llys Edwin Prehistoric Finds (SJ 2374 6942 - Fig 4). Polished stone axe or adze and flints found during the 1931 excavations at Llys Edwin.

Category D

100313 Llys Edwin Woodland Polished Axe (SJ 236 694 - Fig 4). Found in the corner of a field within the wood near to Llys Edwin in 1931. Possibly refers to Celyn Wood to the south-east.

Category D

100314 Llys Edwin House Site (SJ 236 693 - Fig 4). House site alluded to in the Llys Edwin excavation report. The location given above is approximate as the position of the site is now unknown.

Category D

100315 Coed Llys Enclosure (SJ 238 695 - Fig 4). Rectangular enclosure some distance NE of Llys Edwin. Since levelled, it was said in 1934 to be in the meadow on the E side of an ancient road. The land is now arable.

Category E

100324 Caeau-gleision Mound (SJ 2211 7058 - Fig 5). Low mound 50m-60m in diameter. Noted in the SMR as being situated in an undulating field and damaged on its north-eastern side, it is now surrounded by the modern A55 and the old A55 leading to Northop. The mound may be a Bronze Age round barrow.
Category E

100343 Coed-y-cra Uchaf Farmhouse (SJ 2268 7025 - Fig 4). Two-storied, stone built, sub-medieval house, dated 1636. Thought to be the latest dated example of a hammerbeam roof in Wales (RCAHMW). A stone shield over the door bears the inscription :- PAX VOBIS/P M E/1636.

Listed building

Category A

101848 Gables Barrow (SJ 2543 6809 - Fig 3). A sub-oval mound 10m x 3m x 1m high, which is thought to be a possible Bronze Age barrow in the SMR. It is still extant located in a field immediately to the north of the A55 Northop bypass.

Category E

103037 Bryn Coch Farm axe hammer (SJ 25 68 - Fig 3). A newspaper cutting of the 1950s records the find at Bryn Coch. Its whereabouts are unknown.

Category D

103050 Maes-y-llan Boundary stone (SJ 2458 6875 - Fig 4). 0.38m high x 0.33m x 0.08m. Set into the bank of a stream, 80m SE of Maes-y-llan. Eroded inscription reads:- SIR JH BRT NO.3. Perhaps the stone (or an equivalent) shown at SJ 2460 6882 on the 1878 Ordnance Survey map surveyed in 1870-71. Not readily visible from nearest point of access.

Category C

103064 Bryn Edwin Boundary Marker (SJ 2384 6955 - Fig 4). Boundary marker shown on 1964 OS map according to the SMR. First depicted on OS 1:10560 map of 1878, surveyed in 1870-71. At least two other stones are marked nearby on the 1878 map.

Category C

103078 Coed-y-cra Uchaf Limekiln (SJ 2277 7010 - Fig 4). 4m diameter x 2m high, ruined and overgrown. This site is undoubtedly that depicted on the 1878 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, surveyed in 1870-71, at the above grid reference. It appears to have been incorrectly located in the SMR at SJ 2272 7016. Now too overgrown to determine its condition.

Category C

103079 Coed-y-cra Uchaf Milestone (SJ 2245 7024 - Fig 4). Shown on 1964 OS map but no longer visible and therefore possibly destroyed.

Category D

103081 Former Maltings at Swndwr Farm (SJ 252 685 - Fig 3). These were probably built in the later 18th century and were subsequently enlarged in 1824. The long rectangular building was originally of 3 storeys, and was raised 1 storey and extended to the north-east during the 1824 enlargements. The building was constructed in stone, with the additions being in brick, which appears to mirror the construction of the nearby farm buildings. The maltings are thought to have supplied a brewery at Ewloe.

Listed building

Category A

103088 Wared Wood Milestone (SJ 2605 6758 - Fig 3). Milestone made from limestone, roughly triangular in plan with sides 0.3m wide x 0.75m high (maximum). The inscription is still clearly visible and reads:- Holywell 7 1/4 Miles on one side and Chester 10 Miles on another. Its location is adjacent to the present A55, where it was repositioned when the road was improved. It is shown in the same approximate position on the 1881-2 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, surveyed 1869-74.

Category D

103715 Burntwood Coal shaft (SJ 2938 6515 - Fig 2). No trace of the site remains; it is now located within an area of residential gardens.

Category D

103755 Ewloe Green Pottery (SJ 280 663 - Fig 2). The site of the pottery has been lost beneath a housing development. Excavations in 1986 produced large quantities of 13th to 19th-century pottery, but no kiln structures were discovered. The pottery is marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map surveyed in 1869-72.

Category D

103757 Aston Hall Brickworks (SJ 293 660 - Fig 2). The site of the former brickworks is within an area of opencast coal extraction, and has been completely destroyed.

Category D

103758 Aston Hall Colliery (SJ 293 658 - Fig 2). The site of this former colliery was within an area of opencast coal extraction, and it has consequently been completely destroyed. A reference to "Wood Colliery" in this location (at SJ 2935 6580) has been found in a document dating to 1771 (Owen 1994). The colliery is suggested on the Hawarden Tithe map of 1839 by the name "Engine Field" (used for pumping). An un-named Colliery is marked at this location on the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, the name Aston Hall Colliery is given to another colliery located at approximately SJ 298 660, outwith the study area.

Category D

106486 Coed-y-cra Uchaf Mound (SJ 2269 7025 - Fig 4). Artificial mound approximately 10m in diameter with a flat top and roughly coursed walling on one side. Considered by the SMR to be a possible motte. No evidence was found for associated earthworks.
Category B

106611 Wat's Dyke (SJ 2326 6978 - Fig 4). The suggested line of the dyke follows the break in slope between the plateau and ravine on the eastern side of the Afon Conwy valley, but there are no readily apparent remains.
Category D

106612 Wat's Dyke (SJ 2328 6896 - Fig 4). A well-preserved section located to the south of the A55. No ditch was recognised at a section cut at SJ 233 691, but evidence of a shallow scarp and counterscarp bank is recorded in the SMR.
Scheduled Ancient Monument
Category A

9 Sources

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Northop, 1718 (D/SH/834)

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b) At the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

1838 Northop Tithe map

1839 Hawarden Tithe map

c) Ordnance Survey First and Second Edition 1:10560 maps

Flintshire 9 NE (Surveyed 1870-71)

Flintshire 9 SE (Surveyed 1870-71)

Flintshire 10 SW (Surveyed 1869-74)

Flintshire 14 NW (Surveyed 1869-72)

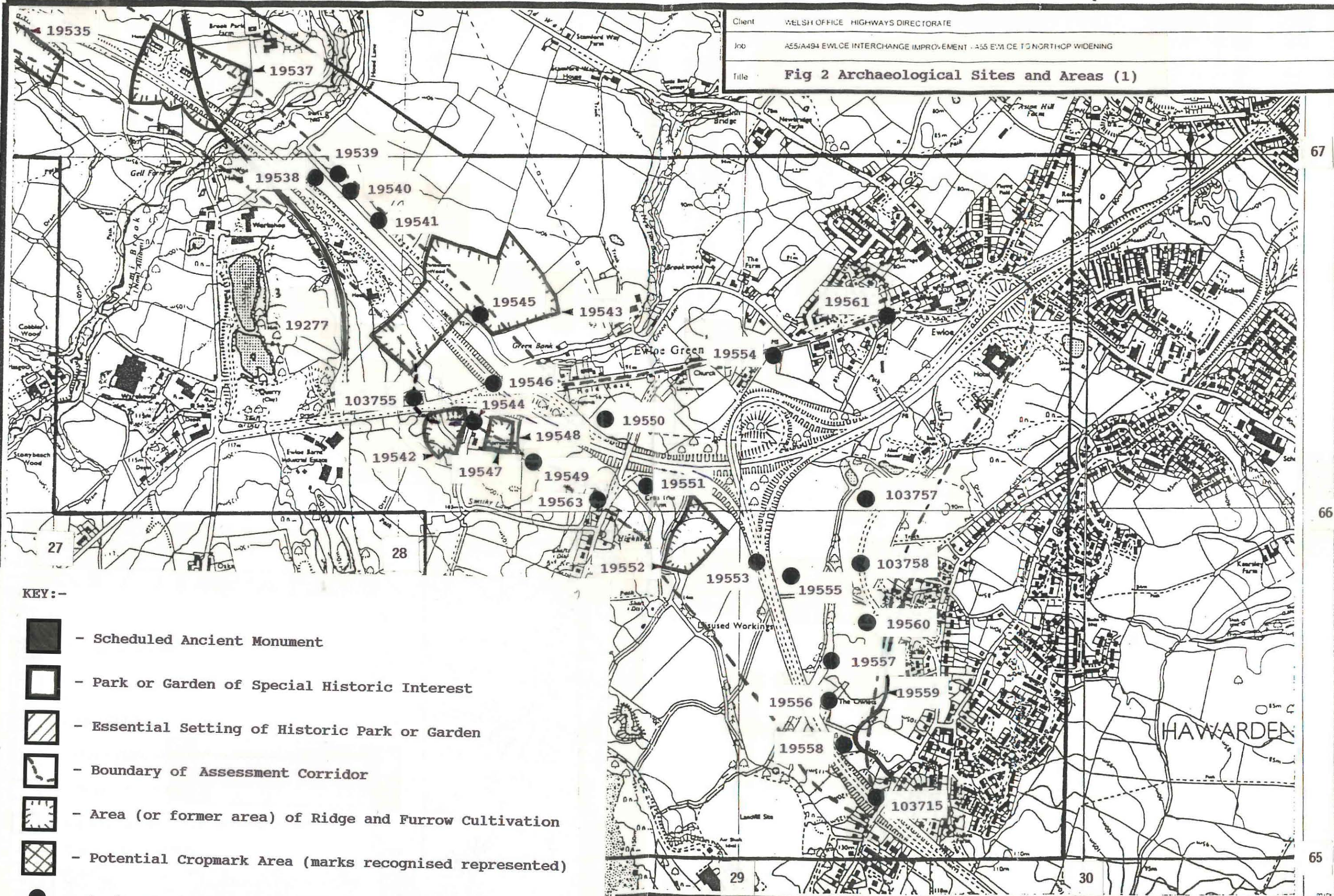
Flintshire 14 NW (1914) - in Boyd (1991)

d) Ordnance Survey Latest Edition 1:10000 maps








SJ 26 NW

SJ 26 NE

SJ 27 SW



KEY:-

-  - Scheduled Ancient Monument
-  - Park or Garden of Special Historic Interest
-  - Essential Setting of Historic Park or Garden
-  - Boundary of Assessment Corridor
-  - Area (or former area) of Ridge and Furrow Cultivation
-  - Potential Cropmark Area (marks recognised represented)
-  - Archaeological Site or Structure

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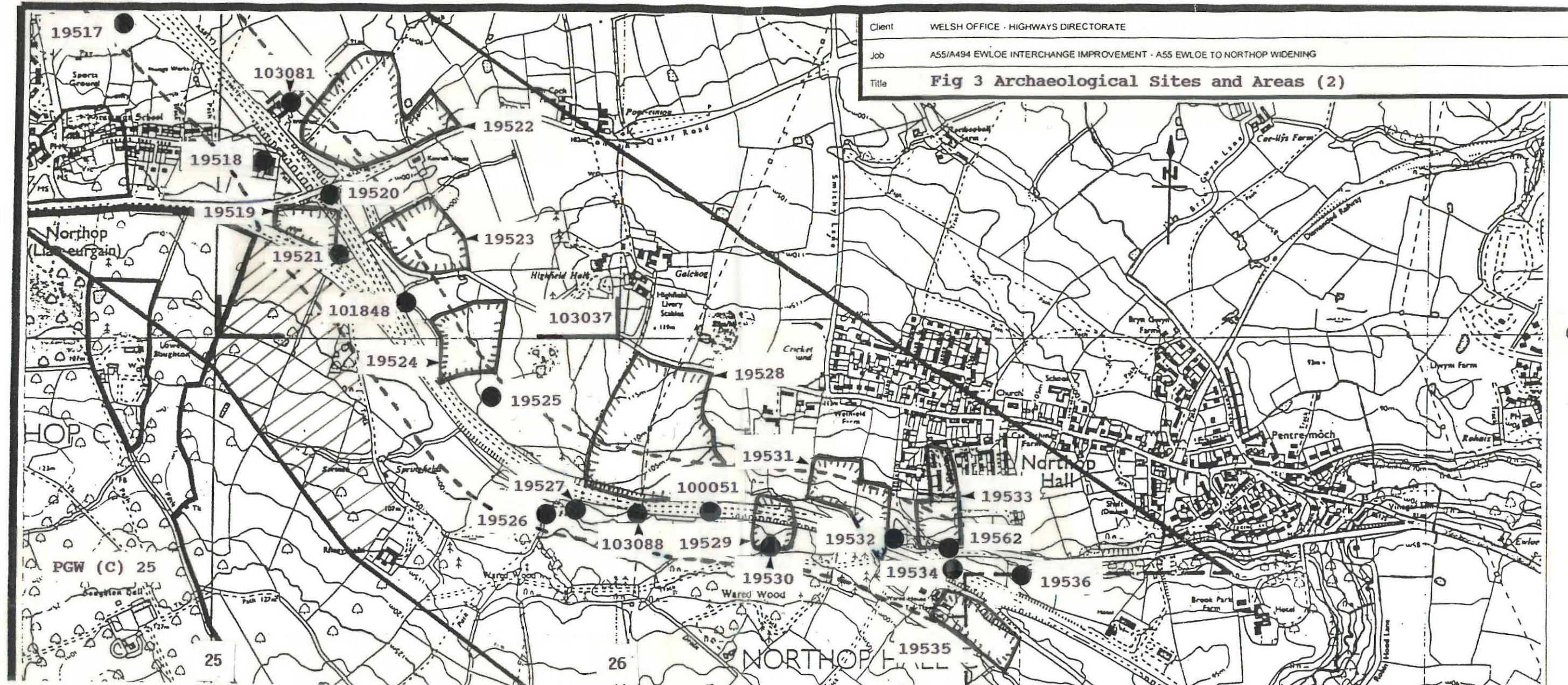
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Client WELSH OFFICE - HIGHWAYS DIRECTORATE
 Job A55/A494 EWLOE INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT - A55 EWLOE TO NORTHOP WIDENING
 Title Fig 3 Archaeological Sites and Areas (2)



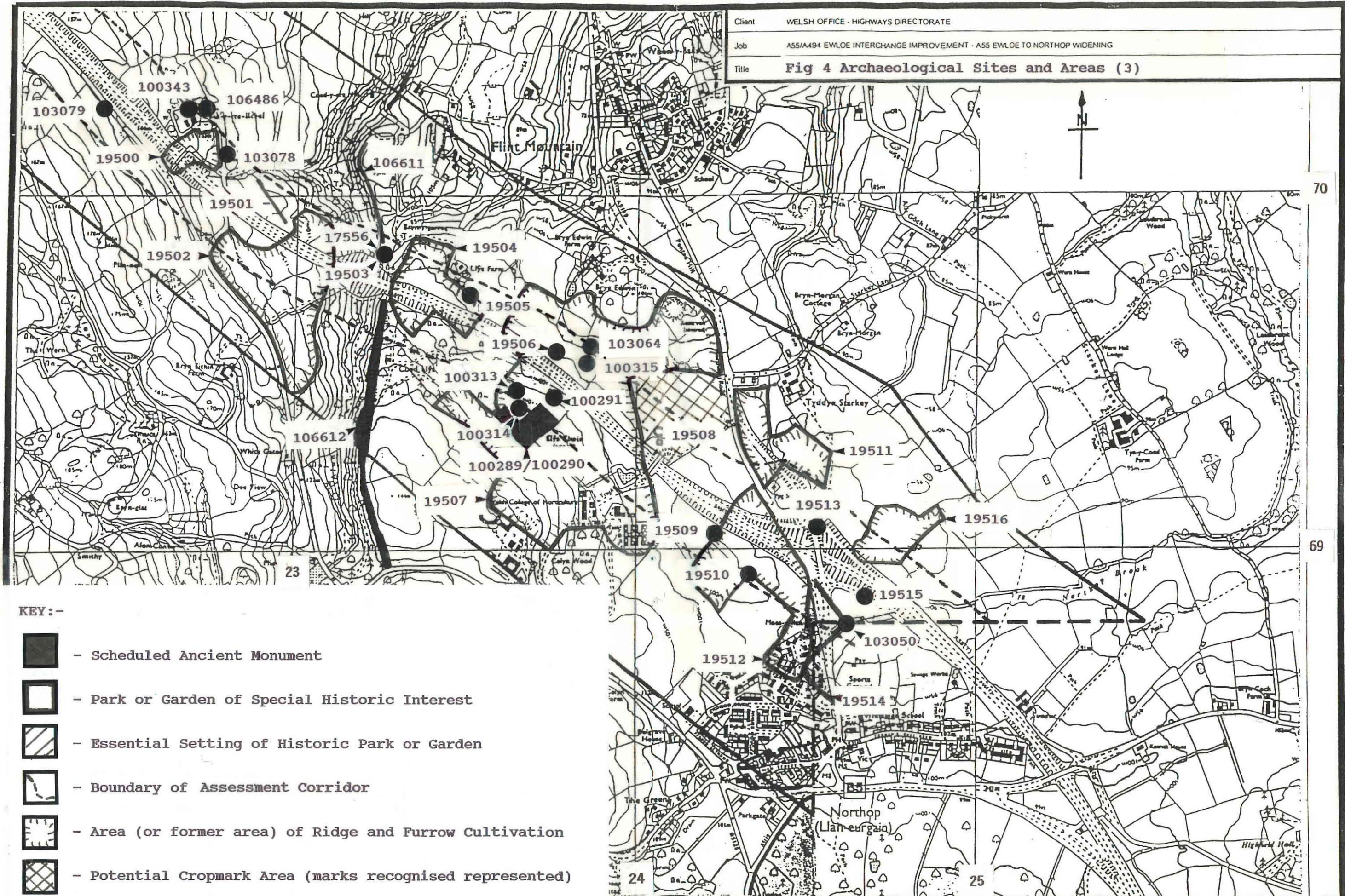
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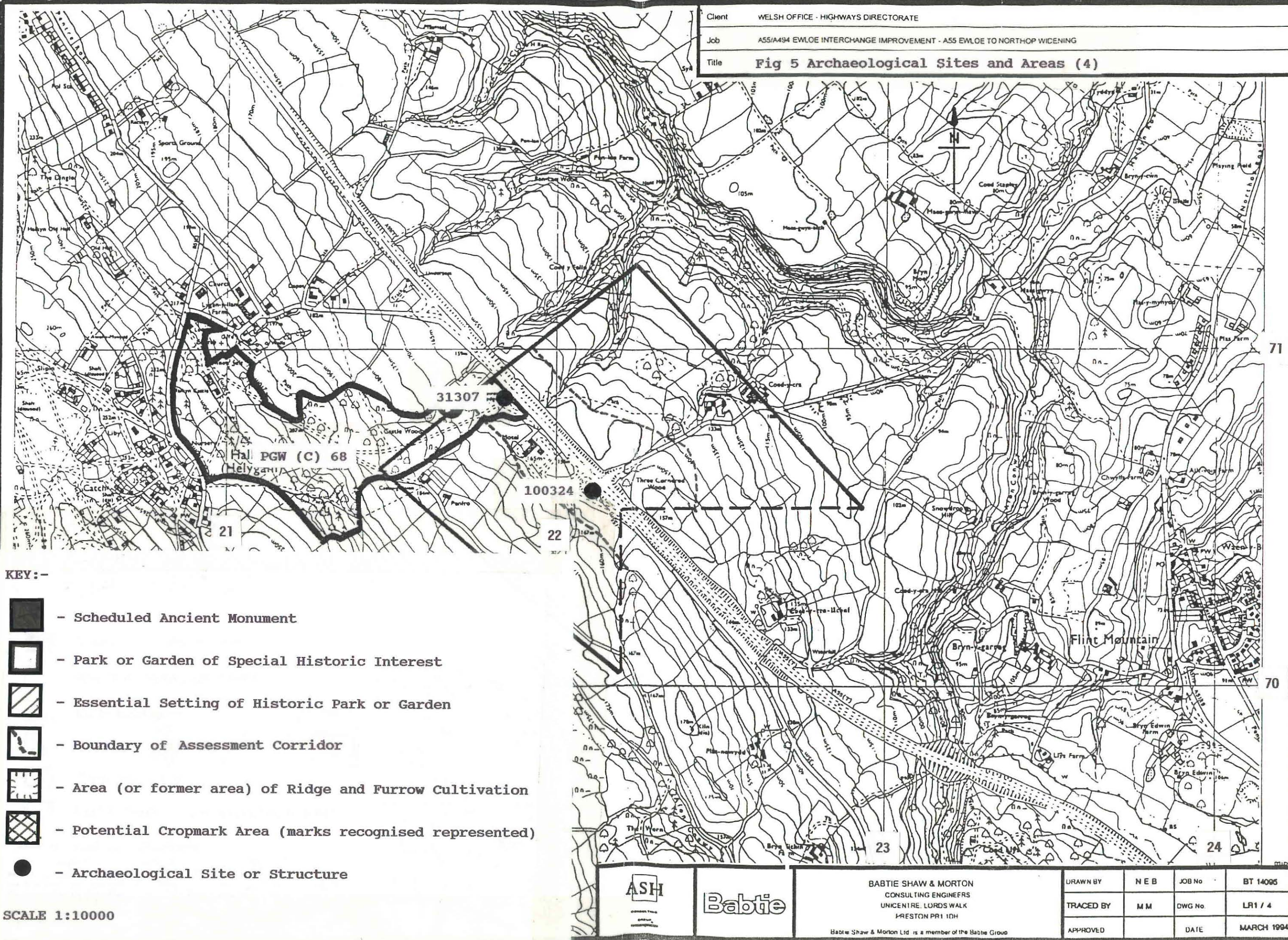
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