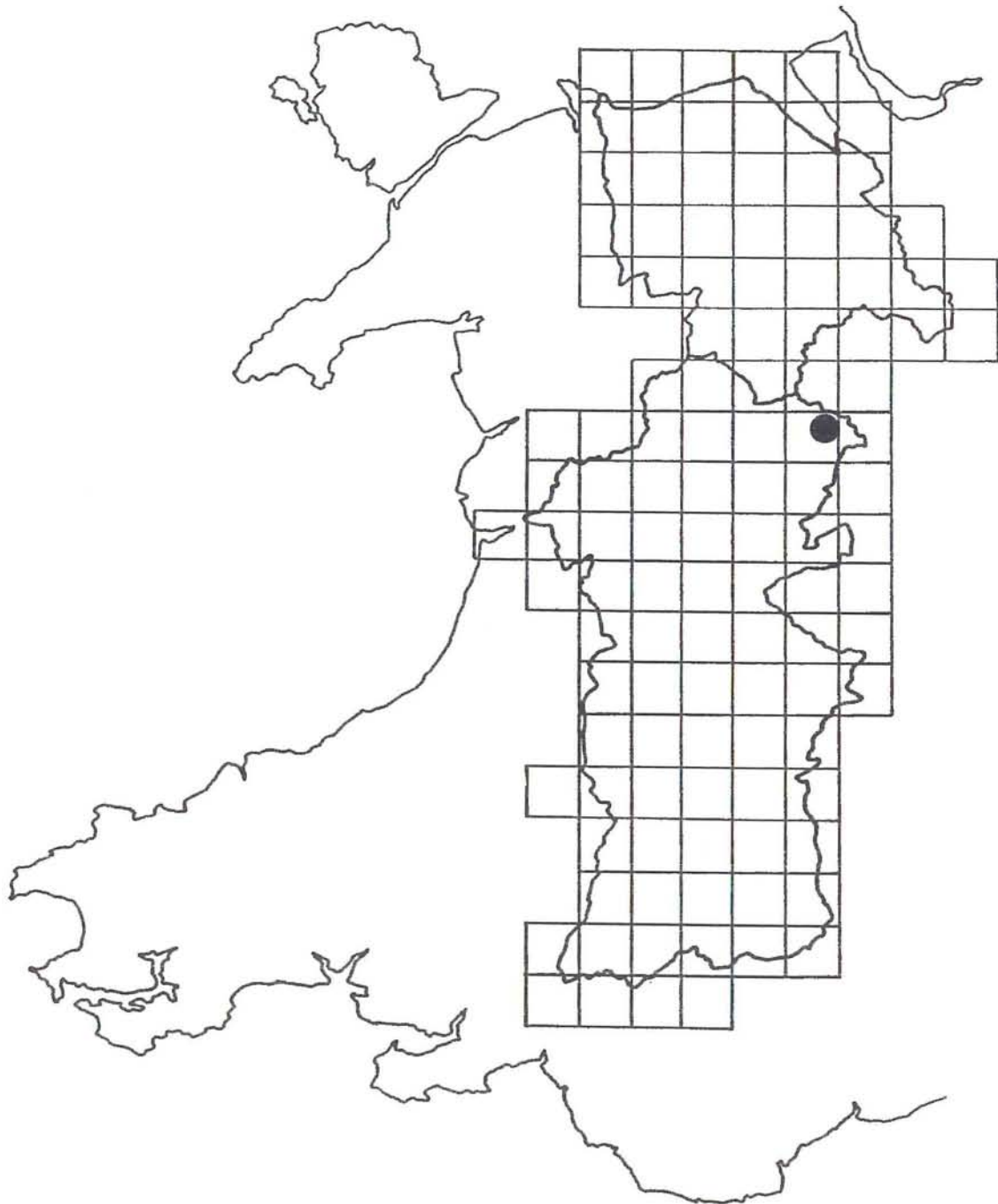


*A483 Swansea to Manchester Trunk Road,  
Improvement at Four Crosses, Powys*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

by **R. Hankinson**  
September 1995

Report prepared for Powys County Council, Dept. Highways and Transportation

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## CPAT Report Record

### Report and status

CPAT Report Title <b>A483 SWANSEA TO MANCHESTER TRUNK ROAD IMPROVEMENT AT FOUR CROSSES, POWYS</b>	
CPAT Project Name <b>FOUR CROSSES BY-PASS</b>	
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	name	signature	date
prepared by	<b>R. HANKINSON</b>	<i>R. Hankinson</i>	
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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In February 1995 the Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT), was invited by the Engineering Consultancy, Department of Highways and Transportation, Powys County Council to prepare a specification and tender for Stages 1 and 2 of an archaeological assessment of a proposed road improvement (centred at SJ 268 186) designed to bypass Four Crosses in Powys.
- 1.2 The assessment is covered by a brief (CPAT EVB 136) prepared for Powys Highways Engineering Consultancy by the Curatorial Section of CPAT, acting in their role as archaeological advisors to the Council. The work detailed in the brief to be carried out under Stages 1 and 2 comprised an initial desk-top study of readily available primary and secondary sources with field visits to all known archaeological sites (Stage 1), followed by a rapid fieldwalked survey of the proposed road corridor (Stage 2).
- 1.3 Tenders for the assessment were recalled in July 1995 due to the passage of time. The revised CPAT specification and tender was accepted by Powys Highways Engineering Consultancy at the beginning of August 1995. The work detailed in paragraph 1.2, above, was carried out in September 1995, and this report, which synthesises the results of Stages 1 and 2 was prepared immediately afterwards.

## **2 GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The proposed route corridor follows a north-south line to the west of the village of Four Crosses and the present A483, from SJ 2676 1824 to SJ 2685 1927, a distance of approximately 1km. For the purposes of this assessment, a 200m wide corridor centred on the indicative bypass alignment, as delineated on a plan within the brief, has been considered.
- 2.2 The corridor varies in elevation between 65mOD and 70mOD, and is situated on an almost level terrace of glaciofluvial and glaciolacustrine origin (Thompson 1982, p7), just above the flood plain of the Afon Vyrnwy.
- 2.3 Geologically, the terrace is divided into two areas; the northern section has a glaciofluvial gravel subsoil overlain by Brown earth soils of the Denbigh and Rheidol Soil Series, while the southern section is composed of very stony glaciolacustrine drift overlain by Stagnogley soils of the Cegin Soil Series (Thompson 1982, enclosed map). The Brown earth soils are of good quality and suitable for arable agriculture, while the Stagnogley soils are of lesser quality, but still favourable for pastoral agriculture.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Readily available documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic sources contained within the following repositories were consulted for the desk-top study: The Regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool; The National Monuments Record (NMR), Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth; The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; and The Shropshire Records and Research Centre (SRRC), Shrewsbury.
- 3.2 In addition to the above named repositories, the Powys County Record Office was contacted but had no documentary or cartographic sources relating to the route corridor not also held by the National Library of Wales. Aerial photography of the Four Crosses area taken by Prof G.D.B. Jones of Manchester University in 1976, held by the NMR, was examined, but proved to be of sites located outside the route corridor.
- 3.3 Following completion of the desk-top research, a fieldwalk survey was undertaken to determine the present condition of the recorded archaeological sites and to prospect for previously unrecorded sites. The survey was carried out using transect walking techniques, adapted to suit the local field pattern, but generally at 30m intervals. One arable field, centred at SJ 2680 1915, was fieldwalked for artefact scatters using 30m transects, but no finds pre-dating the post-medieval period were discovered.

### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The archaeological background to the area is dealt with by period, and is based on information contained within the archaeological records pertaining to the Four Crosses area, in particular the Regional SMR (as of 30/08/95). Reference has also been made to published works.
- 4.2 The earliest evidence for activity in the Four Crosses area dates to the Mesolithic period. No features of the period have been recognised, the evidence being limited to items of flintwork and residual charcoal (radiocarbon dated) found during the excavation of component sites of a barrow cemetery, situated to the east of the main road through the village, by CPAT between 1981 and 1985 (Warrilow et al. 1986). The SMR entry PRN 6424, which is based on the above evidence, suggests the possibility of a settlement site of this period within the Four Crosses area.
- 4.3 The excavation of eight sites out of the fourteen or fifteen ring ditches which make up the barrow cemetery referred to in the previous paragraph, provided evidence of continuing activity in the vicinity of the route corridor from the Middle-Late Neolithic into the Bronze Age; the nearest excavation to the route corridor is PRN 3605 (SJ 2703 1892), which revealed a round barrow (PRN 50559) dated to c.1500BC. A notable site within the cemetery is the multi-phased barrow, PRN 3600 (SJ 2753 1920), which was composed of three phases dated to the Middle-Late Neolithic, Beaker-Early Bronze Age, and Early Bronze Age periods. The concentration of funerary sites within the Four

Crosses area would seem to suggest fairly intensive occupation during the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, although habitation sites have not yet been found in the area.

- 4.4 Iron Age activity would appear to have been partly agricultural; two sites so far identified as potentially belonging to this period in the area of Four Crosses are the enclosures PRN 7107 (SJ 2672 1966), and PRN 7065 (SJ 2775 1845). PRN 7065 has an adjoining series of linear cropmarks representing an associated field system. The function of a hearth (PRN 50526) of this date which was discovered during one of the barrow excavations (PRN 3604) at SJ 2709 1881 was not conclusively proven, although metalworking activity was "suggested by the nearby discovery of several fragments of triangular bronze-melting crucible, and by a fragment of slag possibly associated with metalworking" (Warrilow et al. 1986, 60).
- 4.5 The SMR suggests that the Four Crosses area may have been the location of a Romano-British settlement (PRN 6419); it also gives a possible Roman road line heading northwards along the present main road from Four Crosses to Llandysilio (RRX 93). An east-north-east/west-south-west aligned road (SITE 18) from Mathrafal, near Meifod, to the "Street", Llandysilio is mentioned in Jones (1884, 40) which would perhaps suggest a settlement at the road junction. In support of this hypothesis, a number of pottery finds of the period were recovered during the 1981-85 barrow excavations, in particular PRN 3604, where the upper fill of the ring ditch produced numerous sherds of second to fourth century date.
- 4.6 The most obvious site in the area which relates to the Dark Age period is the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Offa's Dyke (PRN 10000; SAM Mg 33) which follows the line of the main A483 from Hafod Offa, Four Crosses towards Llandysilio. The sub-circular shape of Llandysilio churchyard (PRN 7608), the "Llan" placename, and the dedication of the church to St Tysilio who apparently lived in the 6th and 7th centuries AD (Pryce 1900 11-12), suggests that the original religious foundation on the site belongs to this period. The other known evidence of Dark Age activity in Four Crosses is more equivocal and was revealed during the excavation of the barrow PRN 3604 in 1984. A group of perhaps five inhumation burials (PRN 50527) with a general east/west alignment were discovered in the south-west quadrant of the barrow, unfortunately no conclusive proof of their age was obtained. Also an iron javelin and spear (PRN 50528) were found together during the excavation, and although they are apparently without close parallel in Britain, the javelin is thought to be almost certainly a derivation of the Roman *pilum* or throwing spear, intended to bend upon impact (Barford et al 1986, 104); suggesting that both artefacts may belong to this period.
- 4.7 Some of the main features of Medieval activity in the area are traces of ridge and furrow cultivation (eg PRN 5022, SITE 1); the earliest reference to this agricultural practice in the route corridor that was found was a bond dated 9/11/1591 (SRRC 103/1/10/98), which referred to "....8 selions or ridges of lands in a field called Maes y Groes in the township of Ryssnant"; although the document dates to the following period it seems evident that the practice was already well established. Surviving buildings of the period are rare, the most notable

being the late 15th century cruck framed hall house (PRN 32354), a listed building, now used as a cowhouse at Rhandregynwen (SJ 2690 1973). The former church at Llandysilio most probably belonged to this period as Norman masonry features were recognised when it was demolished prior to being rebuilt in 1868 (Pryce 1900, 17).

- 4.8 Activity in the post-medieval period demonstrates a continuation of open (ie unenclosed) field arable agriculture probably associated with fairly scattered dwellings; Silvester (1992, 79) considered that there was no convincing evidence for a nucleated settlement centred on Llandysilio church, and that Four Crosses was of relatively recent origin (Silvester 1992, 57). Very little of the available land appears to have been enclosed, which while unusual, probably reflects the suitability of the land for arable farming. Surviving buildings of this period include the listed building Ty Coch (PRN 32353). Also of some interest relating to the pattern of settlement in the area of Four Crosses is the late 17th century reference (SRRC 103/1/11/433) to a "messuage and tenement with smiths shop of Robert ap Humfrey in Rysnant". Although the precise location of the place referred to is not given, it seems most likely from reference to the tithe map that it was located to the north of the Golden Lion (see SITE 12), and it may, perhaps, suggest a somewhat earlier origin for settlement alongside the main road than has been previously considered.
- 4.9 The majority of the extant buildings in the route corridor were constructed in the late 18th and 19th centuries; five of these, the Golden Lion (PRN 7710), Street House (PRN 7711), the Old School, Llandysilio (PRN 32352), Domgay Chapel (PRN 32369), and Domgay House (PRN 32370) are now listed buildings. A factor which may have influenced this constructional phase was the building of the Montgomeryshire Canal in the late 18th century. During this period Four Crosses appears to have taken on its modern form, although a map of 1816 (SRRC 103/3/78) suggests that it may have been called "The Street". The enclosure award of 1799 signalled the end of the previous system of open field agriculture, with the amalgamation of individual strips (or selions) into larger fields under a single owner; these amalgamated fields form much of the present field pattern in the route corridor.
- 4.10 The only modern features which are of archaeological and architectural interest in the route corridor are the Four Crosses War Memorial (PRN 32371), dedicated to soldiers of the Great War (1914-19), and a Royal Mail letter box of Edward VII (SITE 3).
- 4.11 One other group of archaeological features within the area of Four Crosses and Llandysilio remains to be categorised by period. This group represents a field system which is delineated by a series of cropmark pit alignments and ditches (PRN 3601), first recognised by aerial photography; limited excavation was carried out on the pit alignments between 1981 and 1984 (Owen and Britnell 1989), although no conclusive dating evidence was discovered. The SMR attributes a putative Bronze Age date for the field system, but medieval and even post-medieval dates have been suggested (Silvester 1992, 56; Owen and Britnell 1989, 38). However, examination of the oblique aerial photographic cover for the route corridor demonstrates that a pit alignment crosses

the route corridor dividing at an unrelated angle a medieval/post-medieval open field. This field is identified as "Maes y Llan" on the enclosure award of 1799 (See Fig 4) and is also referred to in a 17th century terrier (SRRC 103/3/9). Accordingly, it seems most unlikely that the pit alignments can be of medieval or post-medieval date, and are probably of earlier origin.

## **5 Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites (See Figs 2 and 3)**

**5.1** All the archaeological sites within the route corridor are listed below, with previously known sites given their respective PRNs, followed by a list of newly identified sites. The boundary of the corridor has been applied rigidly, and this should be taken into account if any changes to the line are made.

**5.2** It should be noted at this point that the recognition of cropmark sites in the Four Crosses area has been due to favourable conditions for aerial photography. Warrilow, Owen and Britnell (1986, p53) considered that "the distribution of known sites [in the Four Crosses area] is probably a reflection partly of the presence of underlying gravels, and partly of the related nature of present-day landuse". From reference to the extensive aerial photographic coverage available for Four Crosses it appears that, while much of the route corridor is located within an area which is geographically suitable for cropmark sites and their recognition (ie underlain by glaciofluvial gravels), only a limited area has been subjected to intensive agriculture in the recent past. This has resulted in an artificial restriction on the area in which cropmarks could have been recognised. It is therefore possible that other sites, for which only sub-surface traces remain, may yet be found within the route corridor.

**5.3** Following the location and descriptive data for each site is a highlighted category designation; the categories assigned 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 for which rapid recording is considered to be sufficient, or sites for which the information provided by the desk-top assessment and field survey is considered to be sufficient.

**Category E** - Sites whose importance could not be fully determined from the desk-top assessment and field survey.

**5.4 PRN 3601 Four Crosses Pit Alignments (Section within route corridor from SJ 2664 1912 to SJ 2690 1913)**

A field system which is delineated by a series of cropmark pit alignments, occasionally with associated ditches, that were first recognised from the air. This section is best seen on CPAT aerial photographs 82/1/0 and 1. Limited excavation was carried out on four sections of pit alignment on the eastern side of the main A483 between 1981 and 1984 (Owen and Britnell 1989), although no conclusive dating evidence was discovered. The system remains undated (for discussion see paragraph 4.11).

**Category B**

**5.5 PRN 3979 Street Farm Placename (SJ 2694 1868)**

A placename suggestive of the presence of a Roman road. The alignment hypotheses for both of the putative Roman roads (RRX 93 and SITE 18) referred to within this report would appear to have been influenced by this placename evidence. A cluster of five buildings at this location was called "The Street" on a map of 1816 (SRRC 103/3/78).

**Category D**

**5.6 PRN 5022 Street Farm Ridge and Furrow (SJ 2685 1870)**

An area of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation generally aligned east-north-east/west-south-west with ridges 6-10m across, situated to the west of Street Farm. Probably only part of a larger area of ridge and furrow which would have originally encompassed much of the route corridor; RAF aerial photographs taken in 1947-48 suggest that the area encompassed the adjacent fields to the west and south at that time.

**Category C**

**5.7 PRN 6419 Four Crosses 'Roman Settlement' (SJ 27 18)**

Probable Romano-British settlement in the area of Four Crosses attested by pottery finds during excavations between 1981 and 1985 (Warrilow et al. 1986), and a coin find from Llandrinio. No likely site has yet been located, but it is possible that the junction of the two putative Roman roads at SJ 2700 1861, could be associated with a settlement at this location. The grid reference given above is that contained within the SMR and may have no bearing on the actual location of the site.

**Category E**

**5.8 PRN 6424 Four Crosses 'Mesolithic Settlement' (SJ 27 18)**

Finds of possible Mesolithic material and apparent Mesolithic C14 dates from barrow excavations undertaken between 1981 and 1985 (Warrilow et al. 1986) suggest some form of Mesolithic activity in Four Crosses. This may be a settlement site, although no likely candidate has yet been found. The grid reference given above is that contained within the SMR and may have no bearing on the actual location of the site.

**Category E**

5.9 PRN 7608 Llandysilio Churchyard (SJ 2677 1931)

The sub-circular shape of the churchyard for Llandysilio Church suggests an early medieval/Dark Age foundation. The present church is located immediately outside the route corridor. Sub-surface traces of this early period of Christian activity on the site may remain.

Category B

5.10 PRN 7710 The Golden Lion, Four Crosses (SJ 2694 1875)

Imposing 18th century public house, of two storeys with attic and cellar. Rendered brick construction with slate roof. Depicted on an estate map of 1780 (SRRC 103/3/77) where it is called "Lion Inn". Apparently used for Magistrates meetings from at least 1835 (Pryce 1902, p275). A Listed building.

Category A

5.11 PRN 7711 Street House, Four Crosses (SJ 2695 1866)

Large 19th century house of three storeys. Brick built with slate roof, canopy over front door with carved brackets. A Listed building.

Category A

5.12 PRN 32352 The Old School (SJ 2677 1926)

Small single storey dwelling of stone construction, built c.1835 and formerly the National School. Three of the existing windows were taken from the old church when it was demolished prior to being rebuilt in 1868. A Listed building.

Category A

5.13 PRN 32369 Domgay Chapel, Four Crosses (SJ 2697 1863)

A disused Congregational Chapel built in 1823 and rebuilt in 1854. Built of squared and coursed stone blocks with a decorative pattern slate roof. Now in poor condition. A Listed building.

Category A

5.14 PRN 32370 Domgay House, Four Crosses (SJ 2696 1862)

Two storey 19th century house of stone block construction with hipped slate roof. Incorporates a possibly early 19th century cottage of one and a half storeys. A Listed building.

Category A

5.15 PRN 32371 Four Crosses War Memorial (SJ 2685 1838)

Celtic-style cross in granite set on a plinth. Commemorates soldiers of the First World War. A Listed building.

Category A

**5.16 PRN 10000 Offa's Dyke (From SJ 2700 1862 to SJ 2687 1930)**

The Dark Age earthwork known as Offa's Dyke (SAM Mg 33) appears to run along the eastern side of the main A483 road, and may not therefore be present within the route corridor. However, the northern part of this section has been levelled, and owing to the uncertainty over its line, the possibility remains that the ditch associated with the dyke has been preserved under the present road. The southern part of this section, to the east of the A483, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

**Category A** - Southern section    **Category C** - Northern section

**5.17 RRX 93 Roman Road (From SJ 2700 1861 to SJ 2686 1930)**

The hypothetical line of a Roman road from Wroxeter to Clawdd Coch, near Llanymynech may run along the present line of the main A483 adjacent to Offa's Dyke.

**Category E**

**5.18 SITE 1 Greenwood Ridge and Furrow (SJ 2690 1854)**

An area of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation aligned east-north-east/west-south-west with ridges c.6m across, situated to the north of the garage at Four Crosses. Probably only part of a larger area of ridge and furrow which would have originally encompassed much of the route corridor.

**Category C**

**5.19 SITE 2 Maes Offa Milestone (SJ 2689 1902)**

Dressed stone milestone, 0.6m high, situated near Maesoffa. It appears to have been reset following previous road improvements. The original inscription is now obscured by later painting, the black painted lettering reads:-

Welshpool 8mls with a direction arrow below

Oswestry 7mls with a direction arrow below

**Category B**

**5.20 SITE 3 Church House Post Box (SJ 2685 1927)**

A cast iron Royal Mail post box of Edward VII, measuring 0.50m high x 0.19m wide. Raised lettering reads:- LETTERS ONLY. Set into a brick outbuilding on the roadside, to the south-east of Church House.

**Category A**

**5.21 SITE 4 Llandysilio Police Station (former) (SJ 2691 1887)**

Stone built former Police Station with some brick detailing around windows and slate roof. Cartographic evidence suggests that it was built between 1840 and 1885, perhaps as the nearby Golden Lion was used for Magistrates' meetings.

**Category B**

**5.22 SITE 5 Bryn Offa Cottage (SJ 2690 1894)**

Brick built cottage with slate roof, probably 18th century as it appears to be depicted on the 1799 enclosure award map. Formerly called Firtree Cottage.

**Category B**

**5.23 SITE 6 Street Farm (SJ 2694 1868)**

Brick built two storey house and outbuildings probably of the early 19th century. Outbuilding nearest to main road is unusual in having two circular windows; it may be a stable.

**Category B**

**5.24 SITE 7 Shaftesbury Outbuildings (SJ 2696 1857)**

Rectangular brick building with slate roof aligned north-west/south-east and with stone end wall on south-east side. Entrances and windows on north-east side, probably with hay loft above suggesting that it was used as a stable. Cartographic evidence suggests that it was built before 1840 on the site of an earlier, north-east/south-west aligned building, extant in 1799 and 1816.

**Category C**

**5.25 SITE 8 Ivy House, Four Crosses (SJ 2687 1844)**

L-shaped stone built house of two storeys with some brick detailing and slate roof. Cartographic evidence suggests it was probably built between 1799 and 1840.

**Category C**

**5.26 SITE 9 Four Crosses Inn (SJ 2685 1840)**

Rectangular brick built public house of two storeys with slate roof, located at the junction of the A483 and B4393. Cartographic evidence suggests it was built between 1799 and 1840.

**Category C**

**5.27 SITE 10 Rose Cottage (SJ 2691 1892)**

Rectangular plan house with slate roof. Probably built of brick, but hidden by rendering. First depicted on Tithe map (1840).

**Category C**

**5.28 SITE 11 Street Cottage (SJ 2693 1858)**

House depicted on 1799 enclosure award map, and still extant in 1900 according to the second edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map. Site now occupied by the modern brick built house called "Shaftesbury". Sub-surface traces of the original building may remain at this location.

**Category D**

**5.29 SITE 12 Smiths Shop (SJ 2693 1879)**

A former Smithy named on the Tithe map, surveyed in 1840. It is first depicted on an estate map (SRRC 103/3/77) dated 1780, and may well have been the smiths shop referred to in marriage settlements of 1675-6 (SRRC 103/1/11/433), and 1712 (SRRC 103/1/10/110). This site could well be one of some significance for the development of settlement in this area.

**Category B**

**5.30 SITE 13 Bryn-Offa (SJ 2688 1896)**

Large yellow brick house with slate roof, set in its own grounds slightly back from the main road. Cartographic evidence suggests that it was built between 1885 and 1900.

**Category C**

**5.31 SITE 14 Church House Outbuilding I (SJ 2681 1927)**

Rectangular stone outbuilding with sloping corrugated iron roof. First depicted on the Tithe map, surveyed in 1840.

**Category D**

**5.32 SITE 15 Church House Outbuilding II (SJ 2684 1928)**

Long rectangular brick and stone outbuilding with separate slate roof for each part. Cartographic evidence suggests that the stone built part was constructed between 1840 and 1885, with the brick built part being added between 1885 and 1900. Notable for the Edward VII post box set in its east wall near the south-eastern corner.

**Category D**

**5.33 SITE 16 Church House Gravel Pit (SJ 2683 1928)**

Gravel pit depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, surveyed in 1885. Second edition 1:2500 map, surveyed in 1900, suggests that it was disused at that time.

**Category D**

**5.34 SITE 17 Church House (SJ 2682 1931)**

Brick built house of modern design. Cartographic evidence suggests that it was built between 1885 and 1900. A previous house appears to have been located to the north of this site on the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, surveyed in 1885, but this is outside the route corridor.

**Category D**

5.35 SITE 18 Roman Road (From SJ 2700 1861 to ? SJ 2660 1861 ?)

Putative line of Roman road described in Jones (1884, p40). Apparently travelled from the "Street", Llandysilio towards Mathrafal, Meifod. It was apparently seen during agricultural work in a field called "Brook Field", Gareglwyd, Meifod in 1870.  
Category E

5.36 SITE 19 Rose Cottage Ridge and Furrow (SJ 2675 1885)

A former area of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned approximately east-north-east/west-south-west, situated to the west of Rose Cottage, which was recognised on RAF aerial photographs taken in 1947 and 1948. Probably only part of a larger area of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow which would have originally encompassed much of the route corridor.  
Category D

6 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IDENTIFIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

6.1 The broad recommendations detailed below are intended for guidance only. The preparation of a brief for any further work is the responsibility of the Curator.

6.2 Sites which should be preserved

- a) PRN 7710 The Golden Lion, Four Crosses (SJ 2694 1875)
- b) PRN 7711 Street House, Four Crosses (SJ 2695 1866)
- c) PRN 32352 The Old School (SJ 2677 1926)
- d) PRN 32369 Domgay Chapel, Four Crosses (SJ 2697 1863)
- e) PRN 32370 Domgay House, Four Crosses (SJ 2696 1862)
- f) PRN 32371 Four Crosses War Memorial (SJ 2685 1838)
- g) SITE 3 Church House Post Box (SJ 2685 1927)

6.3 Sites which should be preserved if at all possible

- a) SITE 2 Maes Offa Milestone (SJ 2689 1902)

6.4 Sites and areas which should be avoided by the proposed scheme

- a) The area of habitation situated alongside the main A483 on its western side, from the Four Crosses Inn in the south to Bryn-Offa in the north. (See Fig 2)
- b) PRN 7608 Llandysilio Churchyard (SJ 2677 1931)
- c) SITE 4 Llandysilio Police Station (former) (SJ 2691 1887)
- d) SITE 5 Bryn Offa Cottage (SJ 2690 1894)

- e) SITE 6 Street Farm (SJ 2694 1868)
- f) SITE 7 Shaftesbury Outbuildings (SJ 2696 1857)
- g) SITE 8 Ivy House, Four Crosses (SJ 2687 1844)
- h) SITE 9 Four Crosses Inn (SJ 2685 1840)
- i) SITE 10 Rose Cottage (SJ 2691 1892)
- j) SITE 11 Street Cottage (SJ 2693 1858)
- k) SITE 12 Smiths Shop (SJ 2693 1879)
- l) SITE 13 Bryn-Offa (SJ 2688 1896)

6.5 Sites for which excavation prior to implementation of the proposed scheme may be necessary

- a) PRN 3601 Four Crosses Pit Alignments (Section within route corridor from SJ 2664 1912 to SJ 2690 1913)
- b) SITE 18 Roman Road (From SJ 2700 1860 to ? SJ 2660 1873 ?) if it can be located by geophysical survey

6.6 Sites which should be subjected to measured survey prior to implementation of the proposed scheme

- a) PRN 5022 Street Farm Ridge and Furrow (SJ 2685 1870)
- b) SITE 1 Greenwood Ridge and Furrow (SJ 2690 1854)

6.7 Sites and areas which should be subjected to a watching brief during construction work

- a) PRN 10000 Offa's Dyke (From SJ 2700 to SJ 2687 1930)
- b) RRX 93 Roman Road (From SJ 2700 1860 to SJ 2686 1930)
- c) PRN 6419 Four Crosses 'Roman Settlement'
- d) PRN 6424 Four Crosses 'Mesolithic Settlement'

6.8 Sites which, if possible, should be located by geophysical survey

- a) SITE 18 Roman Road (From SJ 2700 1860 to ? SJ 2660 1873 ?)

## 6.9 Sites for which no further mitigation is necessary

- a) PRN 3979 Street Farm Placename (SJ 2694 1868)
- b) SITE 14 Church House Outbuilding I (SJ 2681 1927)
- c) SITE 15 Church House Outbuilding II (SJ 2684 1928)
- d) SITE 16 Church House Gravel Pit (SJ 2683 1928)
- e) SITE 17 Church House (SJ 2682 1931)
- f) SITE 19 Rose Cottage Ridge and Furrow (SJ 2675 1885)

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Four Crosses lies within an area of high archaeological potential, the main evidence for which has been provided by aerial photography of cropmarks; a number of these have subsequently been subject to excavation. The fact that much of the known archaeological evidence has been derived from cropmarks makes it difficult to assess the overall archaeological implications of the proposed road improvement. Unfortunately, much of the route corridor does not appear to have been subjected in the recent past to an agricultural regime which is favourable for the production of cropmarks, and consequently there may be sites, for which only sub-surface traces exist, within the corridor which have not yet been identified.
- 7.2 Based on the arguments presented in paragraph 7.1, a programme of geophysical survey might be considered along the length of the road corridor, to further assist the assessment of its archaeological potential. Any sites identified during a geophysical survey might then be suitably evaluated, and appropriate mitigation strategies developed.
- 7.3 As a further consequence of the high archaeological potential of Four Crosses, it would be preferable for a watching brief to be carried out during topsoil stripping, in order to recover further potential archaeological data from the route corridor.
- 7.4 The inhabited strip of land along the western side of the present A483 (see Fig 2), which forms the eastern boundary of the route corridor, is an area of archaeological sensitivity. The number of Listed buildings, and the possibility for sub-surface remains of earlier buildings which may assist in understanding the development of Four Crosses, make it preferable that this area be avoided by the proposed scheme.
- 7.5 Llandysilio churchyard and the dedication of the church would appear to signify that it was the site of an early Christian religious foundation. Accordingly this area is one of archaeological sensitivity, and should be avoided by the proposed scheme.

## 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

National Monument Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth

Powys County Archives, Llandrindod Wells

Regional Sites and Monuments Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool

Shropshire Records and Research Centre, Shrewsbury

Welshpool Library

## 9 SOURCES

### 9.1 References

Barford, P.M., Owen, W.G., and Britnell W.J., 1986, 'Iron Spearhead and Javelin from Four Crosses, Powys', *Medieval Archaeology* 30, 103-106.

Jones, T.G., 1884, 'Traces of Roman Roads in or Near the Valley of the Vyrnwy', *Montgomeryshire Collections* 17, 37-48.

Owen, G., and Britnell, W., 1989, 'Pit Alignments at Four Crosses, Llandysilio, Powys', *Montgomeryshire Collections* 77, 27-40.

Pryce, T., 1900, 'History of the Parish of Llandysilio', *Montgomeryshire Collections* 31, 1-64 and 209-288.

Pryce, T., 1902, 'History of the Parish of Llandysilio', *Montgomeryshire Collections* 32, 33-64 and 227-293.

Silvester, R.J., 1992, *Montgomeryshire Historic Settlements*, CPAT Report No 40, Welshpool.

Warrilow, W., Owen, G., and Britnell W., 1986, 'Eight Ring Ditches at Four Crosses, Llandysilio, Powys, 1981-85', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 52, 53-87.

### 9.2 Documentary Sources

Shropshire Records and Research Centre

Lloyd of Leaton Knolls Documents

103/1/10/98, 103/1/10/102, 103/1/10/106, 103/1/10/107,  
103/1/10/110, 103/1/10/111-2, 103/1/10/120, 103/1/11/433,  
103/3/9.

### 9.3 Cartographic Sources

Shropshire Records and Research Centre

Lloyd of Leaton Knolls Documents

103/3/77 - Survey of the Property of Francis Lloyd (1780)

103/3/78 - Survey and particular of Domgay and several other estates in the parishes of Llandysilio.....belonging to John Arthur Lloyd esq (1816)

National Library of Wales

Enclosure Award No 19 (Montgomeryshire) - dated 1799

Tithe map, Llandysilio - surveyed in 1840

#### 9.4 Aerial Photographic Sources

##### Vertical

RAF/CPE/UK/2010/4312 Taken on 16/4/1947 at a scale of 1:9840.

RAF/541/214/4060 Taken on 8/12/1948 at a scale of 1:10000

##### Oblique

Royal Commission for Historic Monuments (England)

July 1970 53/225 (SJ 2718/9)

July 1971 24/313 (SJ 2619/1)

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

Colour Slides - 77-4-18, 78/6/10, 79/CM/14

Black and White Prints - 82/1/0 and 1, 84-1-1, 84-1-8, 88-MB-520, 90-MB-1059

## Appendix 1

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### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT ON THE LINE OF THE PROPOSED FOUR CROSSES BY-PASS, POWYS.**

#### **SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

#### **1 Introduction**

**1.1** The proposed development involves the construction of a new road corridor through land primarily given to pasture to the west of the present village of Four Crosses.

**1.2** This area lies within an area of high archaeological potential as detailed in the SMR enquiry accompanying the brief supplied by the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (No. EVB136, dated 17/02/95).

**1.3** The the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in their capacity as archaeological curators for the county have determined that a field evaluation is necessary to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Accordingly a brief (No EVB136, dated 17/02/95) has been prepared by the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

#### **2 Objectives**

**2.1** The objectives of the evaluation are:

**2.1.1** to reveal by means of a combination of desk-based assessment and non-intrusive fieldwork, 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 archaeology revealed in the fieldwork;

**2.1.3** to prepare a report outlining the results of the field evaluation and incorporating sufficient information on the archaeological resource for a reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the area affected by the proposed development;

**2.1.4** to identify and recommendations options for the management of the archaeological resource, including any further provision for that resource where it is considered necessary.

### **3 Methods**

**3.1** Stage one of the evaluation will involve two elements:

**3.1.1** the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary records relating to this part of the town, including documentary and cartographic sources. Archives and repositories will include the County Sites and Monuments Record held by CPAT, the National Monuments Record held by the RCAHMW in Aberystwyth, The National Library of Wales, the County Record Office, Llandrindod Wells and the air photograph collection of Prof B Jones in Manchester.

**3.1.2** field visits to all monuments recorded within the proposed corridor to ascertain their present condition.

**3.1.3** a report will be prepared on stage 1 of the assessment in accordance with p4, para Ci-iii of the brief.

**3.2** Stage two will comprise a rapid field-walked survey along the proposed route corridor to record and identify all archaeological remains not previously recorded. Field walking will be undertaken on transects no more than 30m apart.

**3.2.1** Following the field survey, an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Evaluation Brief (p4 para 1). This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Excavation; Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.

**3.3** The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991).

### **4 Resources and Programming**

**4.1** The assessment will be undertaken by a skilled field archaeologist, who will also be responsible for undertaking the desk-based assessment. Overall supervision will be by Dr A Gibson, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

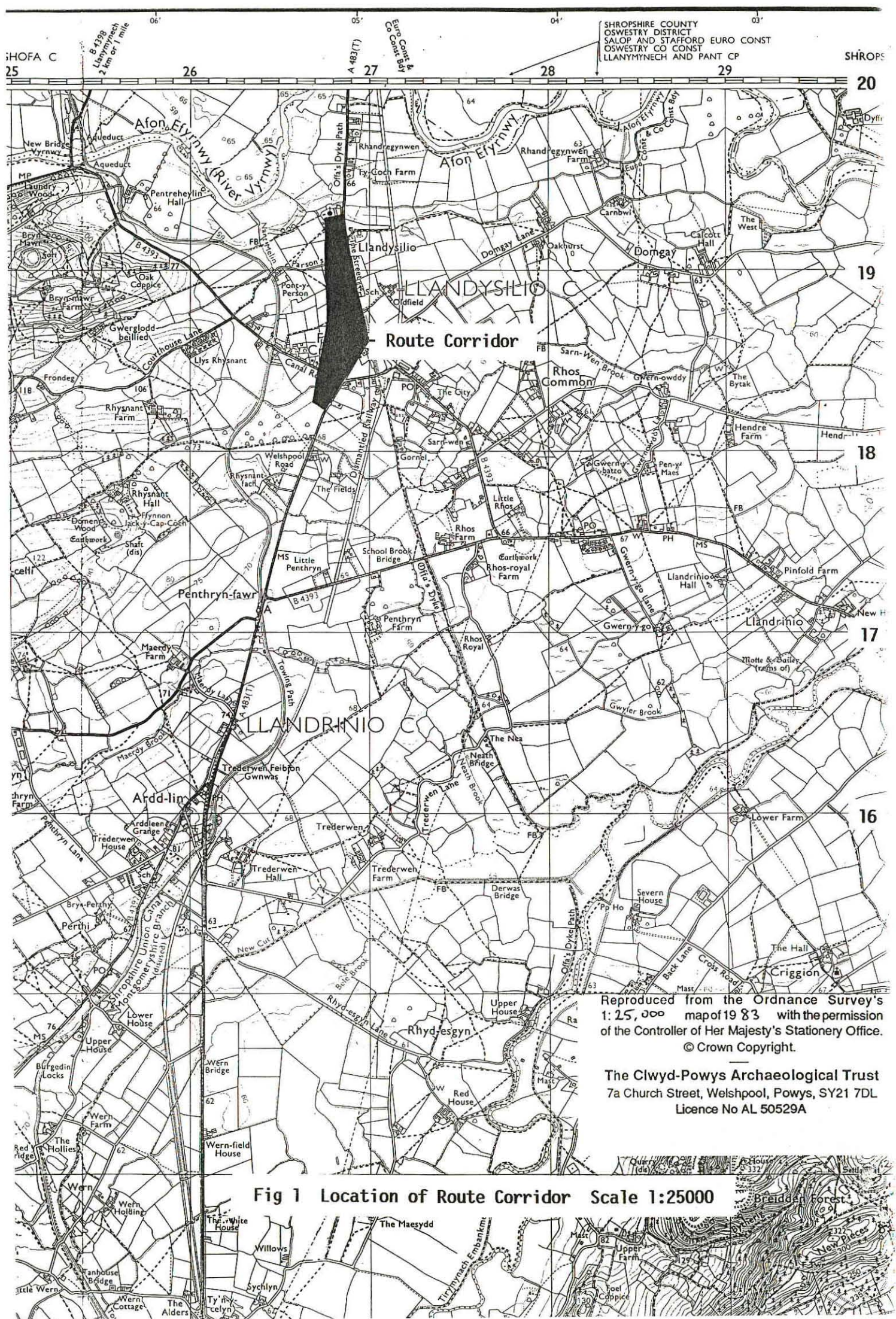
**4.2** All report preparation will be completed by the same field archaeologist who conducted the evaluation.

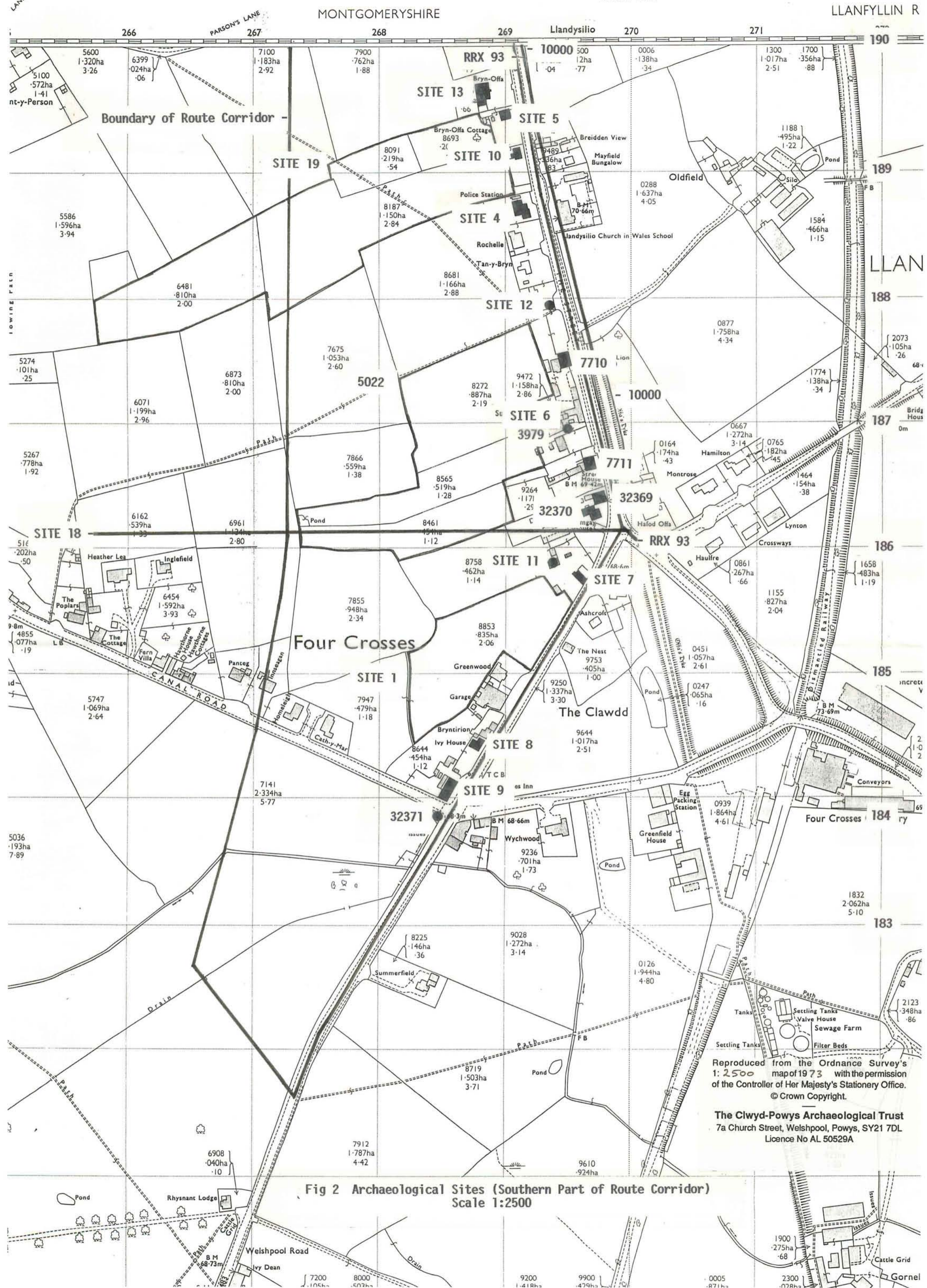
4.3 It is anticipated that the assessment and evaluation will take no more than nine days in all and that the subsequent report would be prepared immediately thereafter, dependent on the client's instructions and the arrangement of a suitable timetable. The date of commencement, at the time of writing, has yet to be agreed with the client, and will be dependent on the state of the site and arranged access. The archaeological curator will be informed of the detailed timetable and staffing levels when agreement has been reached with the client.

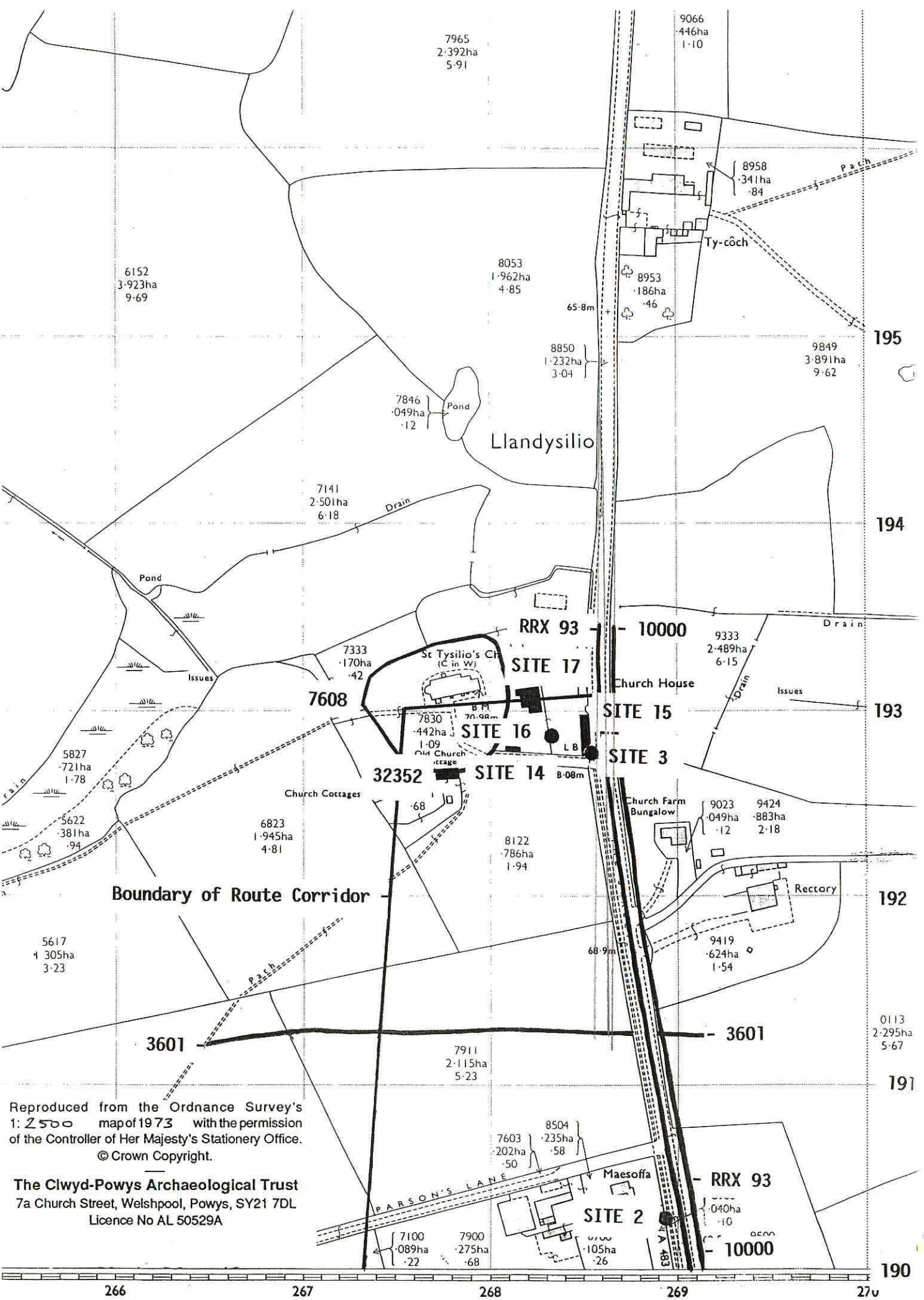
4.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.

4.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

A.M. Gibson  
26th July 1995







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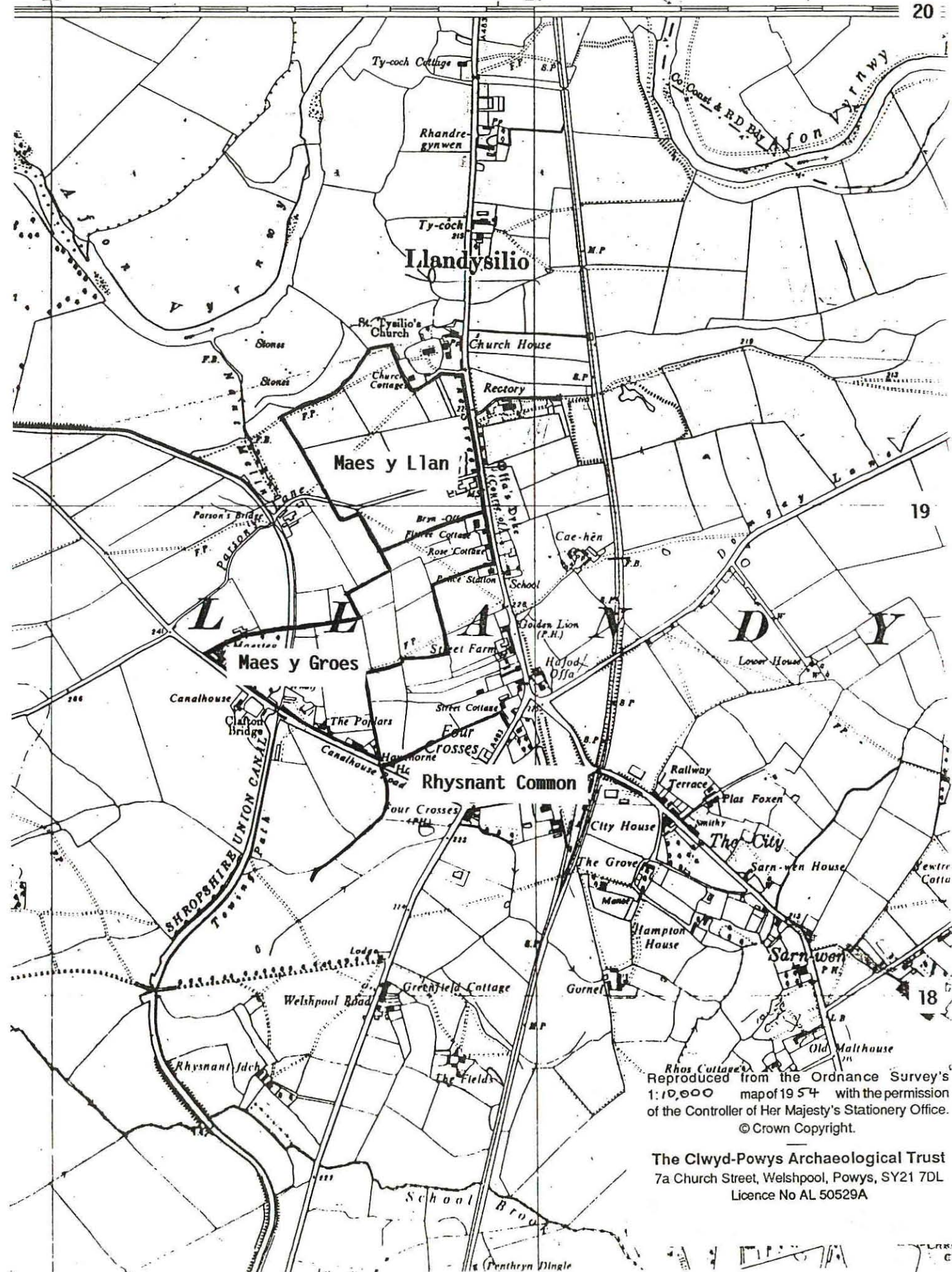


Fig 4 Medieval/Post-Medieval Fields (Evidence taken from 1799 Enclosure Award Map) Scale 1:10000