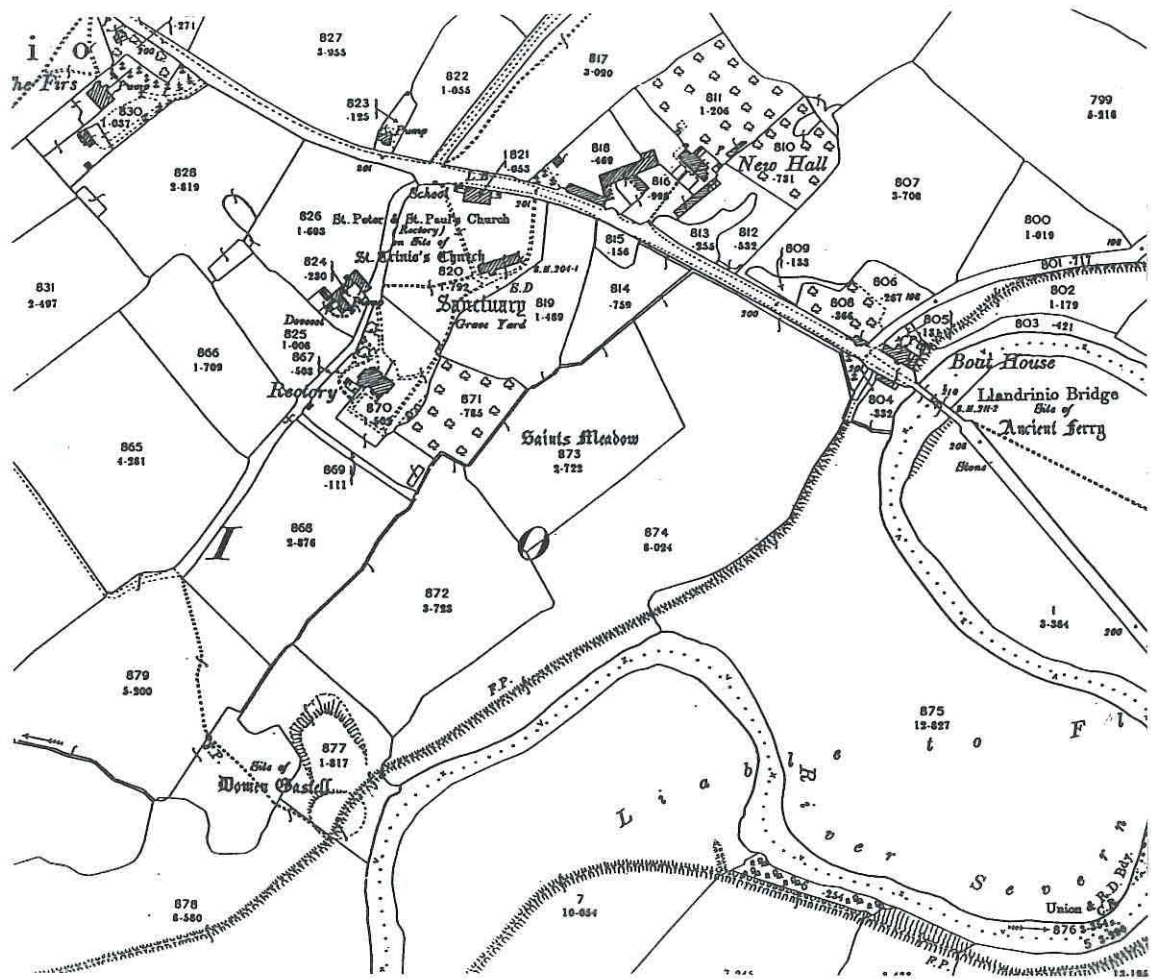


Llandrinio Argae (Domen Gastell) Excavation

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

R.Hankinson
June 2000

Report for Environment Agency



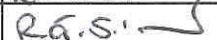
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 22nd March 2000, the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT Contracts) was asked to provide a quotation for an archaeological assessment of specific features in advance of the reconstruction of a section of the flood defence bank or argae between Llandrinio Bridge (SJ 2980 1700) and the Gwyfer Brook (SJ 2915 1660), near Llandrinio in northern Powys.
- 1.2 The archaeological assessment was the subject of a design brief prepared by the Curatorial Section of CPAT (CPAT ASB 373). The work specified by the brief consisted of an initial desk-top study, followed by a total station survey and a programme of selective trial trenching on archaeological features in the vicinity of the argae (PRN 7636). The presumed motte and bailey castle of Domen Gastell (PRN 1243; SJ 2944 1678) was the main focus of the evaluation trenches.
- 1.3 The CPAT quotation was accepted by the Environment Agency and confirmed in an order dated 17th April 2000. The fieldwork and desk-top elements of the assessment were carried out in May, and this report was written in June 2000.

2 GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The area of the assessment falls within a single field on the north-west bank of the River Severn, and is located on its flood plain at an elevation of approximately 60m OD. It is approximately 4km upstream from the confluence of the Severn and Vyrnwy, and only 7km downstream of Pool Quay which has historically been the upper limit of navigation on the Severn.
- 2.2 The underlying rocks of the assessment area are generally mudstones and siltstones belonging to the Caradoc Series of the Ordovician period (1994 BGS Geological Map of Wales), though these are concealed beneath a significant depth of alluvial deposits. The soils present in the locality are derived from the river alluvium and are deep stoneless silty and clayey soils belonging to the Conway soil association (1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales Map and legend).

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The methodology prescribed by the assessment brief consisted of three separate elements of archaeological investigation and recording, designed to locate and evaluate the archaeological resource of the assessment area.
- 3.2 The first element undertaken was a detailed desk-top study (Section 4) of the available sources, primarily those of documentary, cartographic, and aerial photographic origin. A map regression analysis was also undertaken as part of the study. Repositories consulted include the following:
Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT).
National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.
Powys Archives, Llandrindod Wells.
Shropshire Records and Research Centre, Shrewsbury.
National Monument Record, Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth.
- 3.3 The second element of the assessment was a total station earthwork survey of the visible archaeological features. This was carried out by EDM and the results are presented as Fig 6. Contours are shown at 0.5m intervals.

- 3.4 The remaining element of the assessment prescribed by the brief was a programme of strategic trial trenching (Section 5). This consisted of the excavation of five trenches centred on archaeological features within the assessment area, in an attempt to determine their nature, function, preservation and dating. Trenches were excavated in the locations of both the motte and the bailey of Domen Gastell, on the north-west side of the argae. The three remaining, 5m-long, trenches were excavated to determine the nature of a group of level "platforms" situated on the south (river) side of the argae. The trench locations are included with the earthwork survey results in Fig 6.

4 DESK-TOP STUDY

- 4.1 The first part of the study consists of a map regression analysis (4.2) of the available sources, as specified in the brief. This information is then incorporated with the other sources to provide a detailed desk-top study of the evaluation area. The history of the village of Llandrinio as a whole has not been considered as part of the study, but it is worth noting that the earliest reference to the church dates to 1254 (Silvester, 1992, 77). It has been thought likely that the church may have an early medieval origin, perhaps as a sanctuary or place of refuge; the cartographic evidence of the former extent, and ovate shape, of the churchyard tends to support this hypothesis.

4.2 Map Regression Analysis

- 4.2.1 *1901 Ordnance Survey Second edition 1:2,500 maps* (Montgomeryshire 11.14, 16.2: Fig 2)
These maps depict the argae in its existing position and name and define the "Site of Domen Gastell". The overall plan of the castle shows a motte on the south, crossed by the argae, with a bailey to its north apparently defined by a surrounding ditch. It would appear that the maps were informed by the history of the parish (Thomas, 1894), written by the former Rector of Llandrinio; a number of the historical features to which he refers (e.g. "Sanctuary", "Saints Meadow") are depicted on this map, but none of these are present on the First edition maps.
- 4.2.2 *1886 Ordnance Survey First edition 1:2,500 maps* (Montgomeryshire 11.14, 16.2: Fig 3)
The argae is also depicted on these maps, but, in contrast to the later 1901 maps, the motte of Domen Gastell is depicted as "Site of Tumulus". Evidently the original Surveyors (see 1836 1:63,360 map) had interpreted the visible remains as a prehistoric round barrow, and this was only revised in the light of the historical research of the Rector in 1894.
- 4.2.3 *1841 Llandrinio Tithe map* (Fig 4)
Neither the argae nor Domen Gastell are depicted on this map, though it was not intended to reproduce all topographical features. The apportionment of 1840 which relates to the map names the field (No 842) where Domen Gastell is sited as "Lower Belan field" in the ownership of the Bishop of St Asaph (i.e. Glebe land).
- 4.2.4 *1836 Old Series Ordnance Survey 1:63,360 map* (Sheet 60NE: not reproduced)
Domen Gastell is depicted on this map as a "Tumulus", and this appears to be the source of the reference to a tumulus on the First edition maps of 1886. It seems likely that the reference was originated by the Surveyors responsible for the production of this map. The argae is depicted crossing Domen Gastell and running south-west to meet Offa's Dyke.
- 4.2.5 *1816 Ordnance Surveyors drawing* (No 199: not reproduced)
No features are depicted on this map within the evaluation area.
- 4.2.6 *1810 Sale particulars of Estates in Llandrinio, Llandysilio etc.* (Shropshire Records and Research Centre 4175/4: not reproduced)
The plan included with these sale particulars relates to the land holding of New Hall, the farm to the north of the church, but also defines part of the glebe land of Llandrinio. It is evident that the site of Domen Gastell was included within the glebe land.

4.2.7 1799 Enclosure Award map (Powys Archives MQS/RA/19/R: Fig 5)

This map was produced to accompany the parliamentary enclosure described in an "Act for Inclosing the waste lands and common fields in the manors of Streetmarshal, Tirymynech and Deytheur" and it depicts the course of the argae. The provisions of the Act include detailed regulations for the construction, operation and maintenance of a system of flood defence works to protect the newly enclosed land; this undoubtedly relates to the argae, which can accordingly be given a potential date of 1799, though construction may have been carried out at the beginning of the 19th century. No information relevant to Domen Gastell is included, though field No 327, in which it is located, is named as "Cae mawr".

4.2.8 c.1792 estate map (National Library of Wales Powis Castle M41: not reproduced)

This map lacks evidence directly relating to Domen Gastell, though it does demonstrate that, prior to the 1799 enclosure, the fields to the north-east of the bailey were used as common arable or strip fields. This type of field is generally a feature of the landscape which has resulted from medieval agricultural practices, and suggests medieval occupation in the locality. The course of the argae is marked in pencil on the map which demonstrates that it post-dates the original date of the drawing.

4.3 Spurgeon (1966, 10) provides an early reference for Llandrinio when he mentions "...the permission given to Gruffydd de la Pole, in 1309, to have a weekly market and fairs at his manor of 'Llandrunion in Dendour'..". From this reference Spurgeon infers that the castle of Domen Gastell may have been the caput, or administrative centre (see Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales 1991, 361), of the commote of Deuddwr. The name of the commote survives as the local placename of Deytheur.

4.4 The earliest specific reference to Domen Gastell occurs in two terriers (NLW SA/TERR/224 & 225) of glebe land in the parish of Llandrinio, dated 1630 and 1683/4. The 1630 terrier describes a field "...called y domen gastell all containing by estimation three acres and half of land lying.....in breadth between.....gardd Rowland on the one side.....and a meadow called Yr Ystim on the other side and in length extending from a common field called maes y llan until a River there called Syverne (Severn)". This agrees with the modern location adjoining both the Severn and a field called Yr Ystim, which is field No 854 on the Tithe map (Fig 4). The 1683/4 terrier suggests that there was a subsequent amalgamation of fields, describing "one pasture land called Kay (Cae) Mawr and Dommen Gastell containing by estimation eight acres....", and confirms that it was on the bank of the Severn.

4.5 The name of Domen Gastell (meaning Castle mound) does not appear on any of the four subsequent 18th-century terriers, and it seems to have been lost until resurrected through the researches of Archdeacon Thomas, who refers to the 17th-century terriers in his history of the parish (Thomas, 1894). The field containing Domen Gastell is named "Cae Mawr" in the 1799 Enclosure Award (Fig 5: Field No 327), suggesting that this name was preferred following the amalgamation of fields described above.

4.6 Construction of the argae in c.1799 (See 3.2.7) would have significantly altered the landscape of the locality. Thomas (1894, 24) comments that when the argae was built the mound (motte) was used for its formation. Following this reference the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (1911), Spurgeon (1966, 10) and King (1983, 297) accept that the motte was denuded by the argae construction.

4.7 Domen Gastell was visited in the 1970's by the Ordnance Survey, whose 1978 record (recited by the SMR) suggested that the motte and bailey had been subjected to denudation by ploughing. However, this is likely to have had less impact on the site than the argae construction work.

5 EXCAVATIONS

- 5.1 The excavations comprised five trenches located to determine the nature, function, preservation and dating of visible archaeological features in the assessment area. The trenches are numbered 1 to 5, from north-east to south-west. Trench 1 was excavated in what was considered to be the bailey of Domen Gastell, while Trench 2 was situated on the motte, both on the north-west side of the argae. The three remaining, 5m-long, trenches were excavated to determine the nature of a group of level "platforms" (see Plate 16) situated on the south (river) side of the argae. The trench locations are depicted on the plans of the earthworks (Fig 6). The numbers in brackets refer to archaeological contexts, representing the deposits and features which form part of an archaeological site and the soils which lie adjacent to them.

5.2 *Trench 1 (Bailey)* (Fig 7; Plates 3-8: 59.5m x 1.7m)

The excavation commenced with the initial removal by machine of a layer, 0.3m thick, of mid grey-brown silty topsoil (1). The topsoil was seen to overlie a layer of brown clayey silt (2), which contained some sherds of medieval pottery; this layer occupied the south-east part of the base of the trench and continued past the mid-point, terminating 19m from the north-west end of the trench. At the north-west limit of layer 2, it was seen to overlie a layer of greyish-brown clayey silt (3), considered to be the remnant of the bank defining the bailey of Domen Gastell. The bank remnant continued for 7m to the north-west, where it was overlain by a grey clayey silt layer (5) representing the fill of the bailey ditch (4). The north-west side of the bailey ditch fell outside the excavation trench, but it was evident that the ditch was at least 12m in width. A possibly rectangular pit (9), measuring more than 4m x 1.5m, cut into the ditch fill and probably therefore represents late agricultural activity, perhaps an animal burial. Augering in the ditch fill demonstrated that the ditch would have been c.2.5m deep. Two features were discovered within the area generally containing layer 2; the first of these was a post-hole (12), c.0.6m diameter by 0.4m deep, with some reddening of its sides and a squared base, cut into layer 2 at the approximate mid-point of the trench; the fill (13) of the post-hole had been partially disturbed by burrowing (14), but was seen to be a mixture of brown, yellow-brown and reddish clayey silt containing two fragments of calcined bone. The second feature was approximately 4m to the north-west of the post-hole and took the form of a mixed layer (11) containing light grey and orange (possibly burnt) clayey silt, brown clay and patches of charcoal; the relationship of this layer to layer 2 was difficult to determine in the limited width of the trench but is assumed to represent an occupation layer, perhaps related to a building within the bailey.

5.3 *Trench 2 (Motte)* (Fig 8; Plates 9-12: 24.5m x 1.7m)

The excavation commenced with the initial removal by machine of a layer, 0.1m-0.2m thick, of grey-brown silty topsoil (15). At the south-east end of the trench the topsoil was seen to overlie a layer (16) consisting of dumps of light grey silty clay, with orange mottling and manganese panning, and brown clayey silt. Approximately 11m from the south-east end of the trench the layer of dumped material was overlain by a layer of light brownish-grey clayey silt (18), representing the fill of the motte ditch (17). The motte ditch was found to be approximately 8.5m wide; augering suggested that it was approximately 2m deep and had an asymmetric U-shape, with a steeper slope on the interior than the exterior. Beyond the north-west side of the motte ditch, and underlying the ditch fill, was a layer (19) of brown clay silt, which probably represented the natural subsoil at the time of motte construction.

5.4 *Trench 3* (Fig 9; Plate 13: 5.3m x 1.7m)

The excavation commenced with the initial removal by machine of a layer, 0.2m-0.25m thick, of dark grey-brown silty topsoil (22). The topsoil overlay a layer of light yellowish-brown clayey silt (23), a further 0.2m of which was removed. No evidence of any sub-surface features was revealed. The raised ground level on the river side of the argae suggests that approximately 1m of silt has built up following argae construction, and it is therefore assumed that this shallow "platform-like" feature represents a phase of subsoil removal post-dating the argae construction; the material obtained may perhaps have been used for repairs to the argae.

5.5 *Trench 4* (Fig 9; Plate 14: 4.7m x 1.7m)

The excavation commenced with the initial removal by machine of a layer, 0.2m-0.25m thick, of dark grey-brown silty topsoil (24). The topsoil was seen to overlie a layer of light yellowish-brown clayey silt (25), a further 0.15m-0.2m of which was removed. No evidence of any sub-

surface features was revealed. This "platform-like" feature is also thought to represent a phase of subsoil removal post-dating the argae construction, with the material obtained perhaps having been used for repairs to the argae.

5.6 *Trench 5* (Fig 9; Plate 15-16: 4.3m x 1.7m)

The excavation commenced with the initial removal by machine of a layer, 0.15m-0.3m thick, of dark grey-brown silty topsoil (26). The topsoil was seen to overlie a layer of light yellowish-brown clayey silt (27), a further 0.05m-0.2m of which was removed. No evidence of any sub-surface features was revealed. This "platform-like" feature is also thought to represent a phase of subsoil removal post-dating the argae construction, with the material obtained perhaps having been used for repairs to the argae.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The results of the assessment have confirmed the presence of the motte and bailey castle of Domen Gastell (PRN 1243). In-situ deposits relating to this site occur within between 0.1m and 0.3m of the ground surface, and may therefore be disturbed by machining related to the argae reconstruction work, if suitable mitigation measures are not adopted.
- 6.2 The motte of Domen Gastell is crossed by an argae (PRN 7636) or flood defence bank, approximately 7m wide x up to 2m high, proved to have been created as a result of a Parliamentary Enclosure Act dated 1799. The bank was part of a system of flood defence works in the district designed to protect the newly enclosed land and the Act provides detailed regulations for its construction, operation and maintenance. The reconstruction work may result in loss of or damage to original in-situ deposits or features relating to the argae. The group of "platform-like" features investigated by Trenches 3-5 are believed to represent evidence of subsequent repairs to the argae.
- 6.3 The desk-top study revealed 17th-century documents which name Domen Gastell, while excavations and detailed earthwork survey have demonstrated that there are both topographical and sub-surface remains. From the available evidence, the site is believed to have consisted of a motte, approximately 25m in diameter at the base, on the north-west bank of the River Severn, with an associated ditch, approximately 8.5m wide x 2m deep. The bailey, situated to the north, may originally have been sub-rectangular but now has an ovate appearance and measures approximately 45m north/south x 36m east/west. The excavations revealed evidence of occupation/structures within the bailey and the remnant of a bank, possibly with a post-hole on its crest, which appears to have defined its perimeter; the surrounding bailey ditch would have been approximately 15m wide x 2.5m deep.
- 6.4 Domen Gastell is likely to have been built in the early Norman period, and its position on the bank of the River Severn suggests that it was intended to command the upper navigable reaches of the river. It is unfortunate that there are, at present, no known references which specifically refer to the castle when it was in use. Through the grant of a weekly market and fairs at Llandrinio in 1309 it has, however, been inferred that Domen Gastell was the caput or administrative centre of the commote of Deuddwr (Spurgeon, 1966, 10).
- 6.5 The name of Domen Gastell is first mentioned as a field name in a terrier of glebe land dated 1630, though the castle would evidently have been long out of use by this time; the name was last used in a primary context in a subsequent terrier of 1683/4. The castle was not recognised in later sources until 1894, but it seems reasonable to assume that the earthworks would have remained largely intact, perhaps with occasional flood or agricultural damage, until the construction of the argae in c.1799.
- 6.6 It is evident that when the argae was constructed its course was chosen to utilise the material forming the motte, to minimise the amount of earthmoving required. The crest of the argae on either side of the motte is level, but there is a noticeable rise where it crosses the motte, and this strongly suggests that the argae at this point contains in-situ motte material, perhaps not considered to be worth reducing to the overall level of the rest of the argae. It is also possible that deposits may have been removed from the surface of the bailey to provide additional argae construction material. Subsequent to its construction, a layer of silt appears to have built up on the river side of the argae, raising the ground level by approximately 1m.

- 6.7 Domen Gastell was apparently rediscovered by the researches of Archdeacon Thomas, a former Rector of Llandrinio, when he examined the terriers of glebe land and made a plan of the visible earthworks in his history of the village (Thomas, 1894). Subsequent archaeological and cartographic references to Domen Gastell would appear to have been largely based on the work of Thomas.
- 6.8 In the course of the programme of work described above, a collection of angular stones was recognised in the bed of the river (see Fig 6; Plate 2). It is believed that this is a result of bank protection work by the Environment Agency, though there is a possibility that medieval features (wharves etc.), associated with the castle and its presumed role in controlling traffic on the upper navigable reaches of the River Severn, may have survived river erosion and still remain in-situ.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 The writer would like to thank his colleagues at CPAT, Mr Glyn Owen and Mr Nigel Jones for carrying out the earthwork survey and their help and assistance with the excavations.
- 7.2 The writer would also like to thank the tenant Mr Wigley of New Hall Farm for his co-operation and the Church in Wales, who are the landowner, for their permission to carry out the excavations. Thanks are also due to Mr Anthony Crowther of the Environment Agency for facilitating the excavations.
- 7.3 In addition to the above, the writer would also like to thank the staff of the following repositories for their help and assistance with the desk-top study:
Sites and Monuments Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.
National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.
Powys Archives, Llandrindod Wells.
Shropshire Records and Research Centre, Shrewsbury.
National Monument Record, Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth.

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Thomas, D.R., 1894, 'History of the Parish of Llandrinio', *Montgomeryshire Collections*, 28, 17-80.

8.2 Documentary Sources

8.2.1 National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

Llandrinio Glebe Terriers (Church in Wales Records - Diocese of St Asaph)
SA/TERR/224 dated 1630.
SA/TERR/225 dated 1683/4.
SA/TERR/226 dated 1730.
SA/TERR/227 dated c.1730's.
SA/TERR/228 dated 1749.
SA/TERR/229 dated 1774.

Llandrinio Tithe Apportionment, dated 1840.

8.2.2 Powys Archives, Llandrindod Wells

MQS/RA/19/R Enclosure Award and Map ("An Act for Inclosing the waste lands and common fields in the manors of Streetmarshal, Tirymynech and Deytheur"), dated 11/7/1799.

8.2.3 Shropshire Records and Research Centre, Shrewsbury

4175/4 Sale particulars of estates in Llandrinio, Llandysilio, etc. (including New Hall Farm), dated 1810.

8.3 Cartographic Sources

c.1792 National Library of Wales Powis Castle M41 "Chief part of the parish of Llandrinio with some lands in the Manor of Streetmarshal.....".

1816 Shropshire Records and Research Centre D3651/B/9/5/13 (3 of 3) (Salt Collection)
"Map of an estate at Llandrinio".

1836 Ordnance Survey Old Series 1:63,360 map (Sheet 60NE).

1841 Llandrinio Tithe map.

1886 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 First edition map (Montgomeryshire 11.14).

1886 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 First edition map (Montgomeryshire 16.2).

1901 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Second edition map (Montgomeryshire 11.14).

1901 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Second edition map (Montgomeryshire 16.2).

1983 Soils of England and Wales (Sheet 2 - Wales) map and legend: Soil Survey of England and Wales.

1994 1:250,000 Geological map of Wales: British Geological Survey.

8.4 Aerial Photographic Sources

8.4.1 *Vertical AP's held by The Central Register of Air Photography in Wales, Welsh Office, Cardiff (viewed with the assistance of The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth)*

RAF/CPE/UK/2492 Nos 4246-4249, taken 11/3/1948 at 1:9,960.

Ordnance Survey 71 495 071-073, taken in 1971 at c.1:8,000.

Ordnance Survey 71 496 090-091, taken in 1971 at c.1:8,000.

Meridian Airmaps 43 75 004-006, 009-011, taken 23/6/1975 at 1:10,000.

JA Storey & Partners 10 84 076-8, taken 24/4/1984 for Montgomery District Council at 1:10,000.

NRSC Airphoto group 14 97 143-145, taken 30 & 31/5/1997 at 1:25,000.

8.4.2 *Oblique AP's held by The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth*

965117-59, 965117-60, 975040-80.

APPENDIX 1 - SPECIFICATION

PROPOSED ARGAE REBUILD SCHEME - LLANDRINIO BRIDGE TO GWYFER BROOK SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 It has been proposed by the Environment Agency that the argae bank between Llandrinio Bridge (SJ 29801700) and Gwyfer Brook (SJ 29151660) will be rebuilt.
- 1.2 Information held on the County Sites and Monuments Record indicates that the works will directly affect the earthwork site of Domen Gastell motte and bailey castle (PRN 1243; SJ 29441678). Other earthworks potentially affected include remnants of ridge and furrow, together with a series of slight platforms to the west of the motte and bailey.
- 1.3 The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust have determined that an archaeological assessment is necessary to assess the impact of the proposed works on the archaeological resource. Accordingly a brief (No ASB 373, dated 15/03/00 has been prepared by M Walters, which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the assessment are:
 - 2.1.1 to reveal by means of a combination of desk-based assessment, total station survey and evaluation trenches, 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 evaluation trenches;
 - 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 the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, photographic and oral sources. Repositories consulted will include the following: County SMR, CPAT, Welshpool; the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth; the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; Powys County Archives, Llandrindod Wells; Shropshire County Archives, Shrewsbury.
- 3.2 Stage two will involve a total station survey of Domen Gastell and the platforms to the west, incorporating the adjacent argae bank, including a full profile, in both cases, according to the areas defined in the brief. The survey will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and will include adjacent field boundaries. The survey will be presented in the report at an appropriate scale, registered to the OS national grid, with a copy of the digital data to be included in the archive.
- 3.3 Stage three will take the form of two trenches across the motte and bailey, measuring 25m long by 2m wide and 60m long by 2m wide, together with three trenches within the area of the

platforms, each 5m long by 2m wide, according to the locations in the brief and following consultation with the curator. Where required these will be taken to a maximum depth of 1.2m below the existing ground surface. Consultation with the client and the curator will be necessary before this depth is exceeded.

- 3.4 The excavation will be undertaken using standard evaluation procedures:
 - 3.4.1 removal of modern overburden by machine using a wide toothless ditching blade;
 - 3.4.2 evaluation of the archaeological deposits by hand trowelling to establish their importance and integrity, but avoiding any unnecessary disturbance of the deposits. All features encountered will be examined as fully as appropriate to fulfil the requirements of the evaluation and within the constraints imposed by time and safety considerations.
 - 3.4.3 all archaeological contexts recorded using the standard numbered context system employed by CPAT. All significant contexts to be planned and/or drawn in section at appropriate scales (as defined in the Curatorial Brief), and photographed in 35mm format monochrome and colour print and colour slide. All drawn records will be related to control points depicted on modern maps.
 - 3.4.4 all archaeological artefacts and environmental samples recorded and processed in a manner appropriate to the material involved. Those requiring conservation or other specialist treatment will be stored in a stable environment until such times as they can be examined by a specialist. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure Trove, are the property of the landowner. It is anticipated that they will be donated to the appropriate local or regional museum, subject to agreement being reached with the landowner and the museum curator.
- 3.5 Following the completion of the excavation, all trenches will be reinstated using excavated material. The ground surface will then be levelled and reseeded using an appropriate grass mix.
- 3.6 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Curatorial Brief (section 7). 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.
- 3.7 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 evaluation will be undertaken by a small team of 2 skilled archaeologists under the direct supervision of an experienced field archaeologist, who will also be responsible for undertaking the desk-based assessment. Overall supervision will be by RJ Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.2 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist who conducted the evaluation.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the project timing will be as follows: desk-based study - 4 days; total station survey - 1 day; excavation - 5 days. 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 negotiated 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.

N.W.Jones
04/04/00

APPENDIX 2 - SITE ARCHIVE

Site Records

27 Context record forms
Digital site plans and sections
1 A4 section drawing
3 Black and white print films
3 Colour slide films
1 Colour print film
Photographic catalogue

Finds

Trench 1

Context 2 (bailey makeup)

3 sherds of medieval pottery including 1 rim fragment of a probable cooking pot
3 fragments of calcined bone

Context 5 (bailey ditch fill)

2 sherds of a probable glazed medieval jug (same vessel)

Context 13 (post-hole fill)

2 fragments of calcined bone

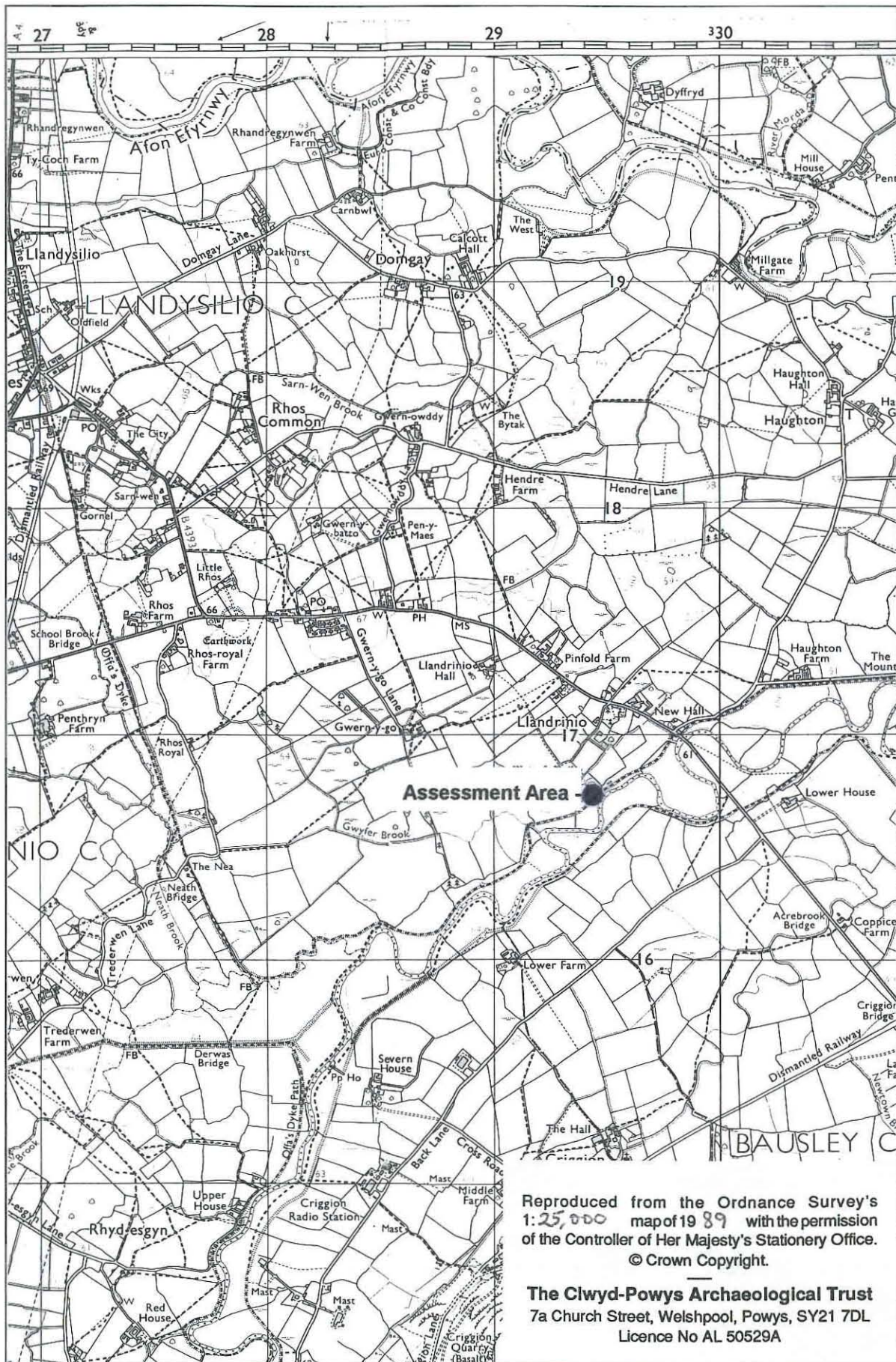


Fig 1. Location of Assessment Area. Scale 1:25,000

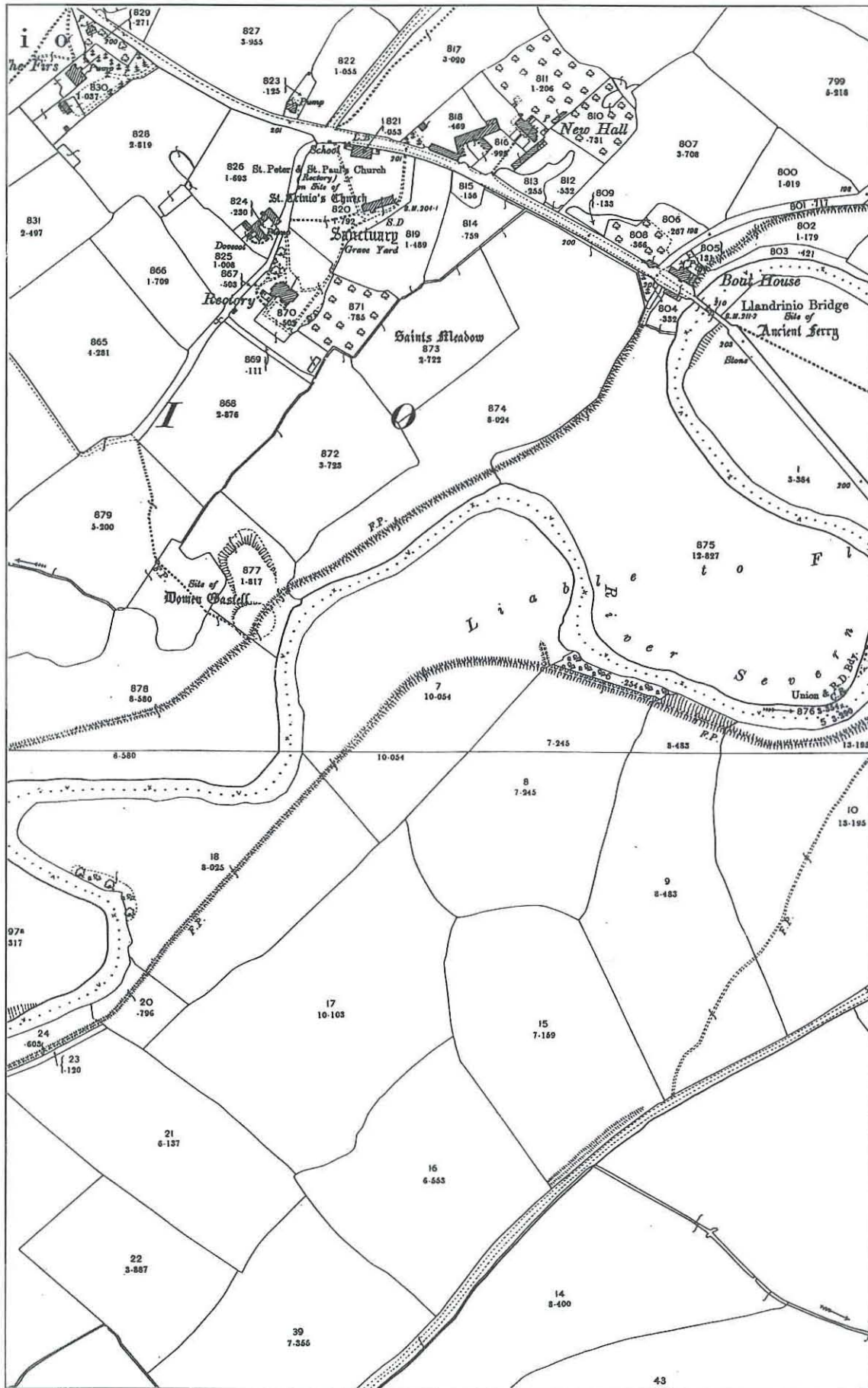


Fig 2. Composite of 1901 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Second edition maps. Scale 1:5,000

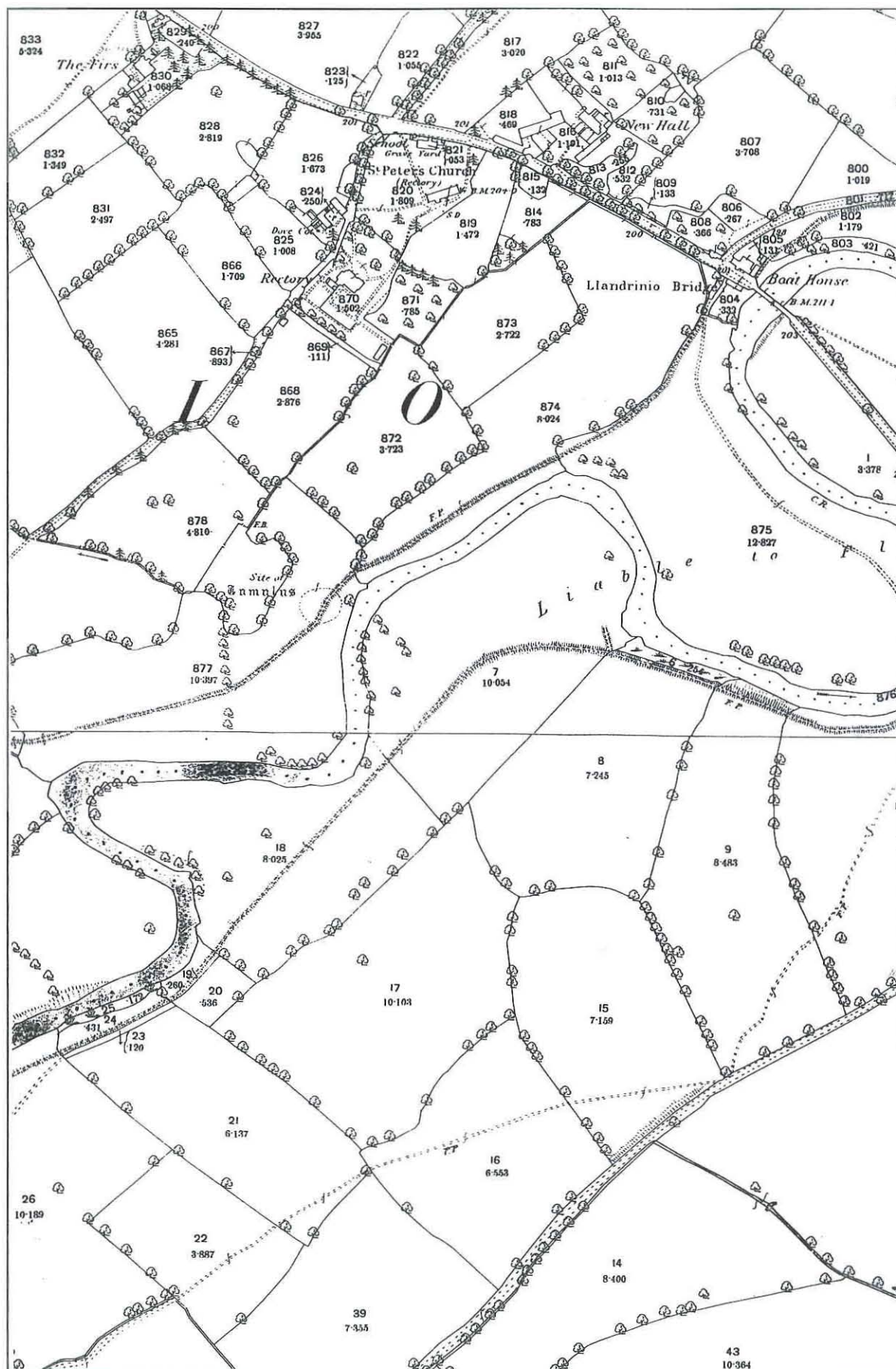


Fig 3. Composite of 1886 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 First edition maps. Scale 1:5,000

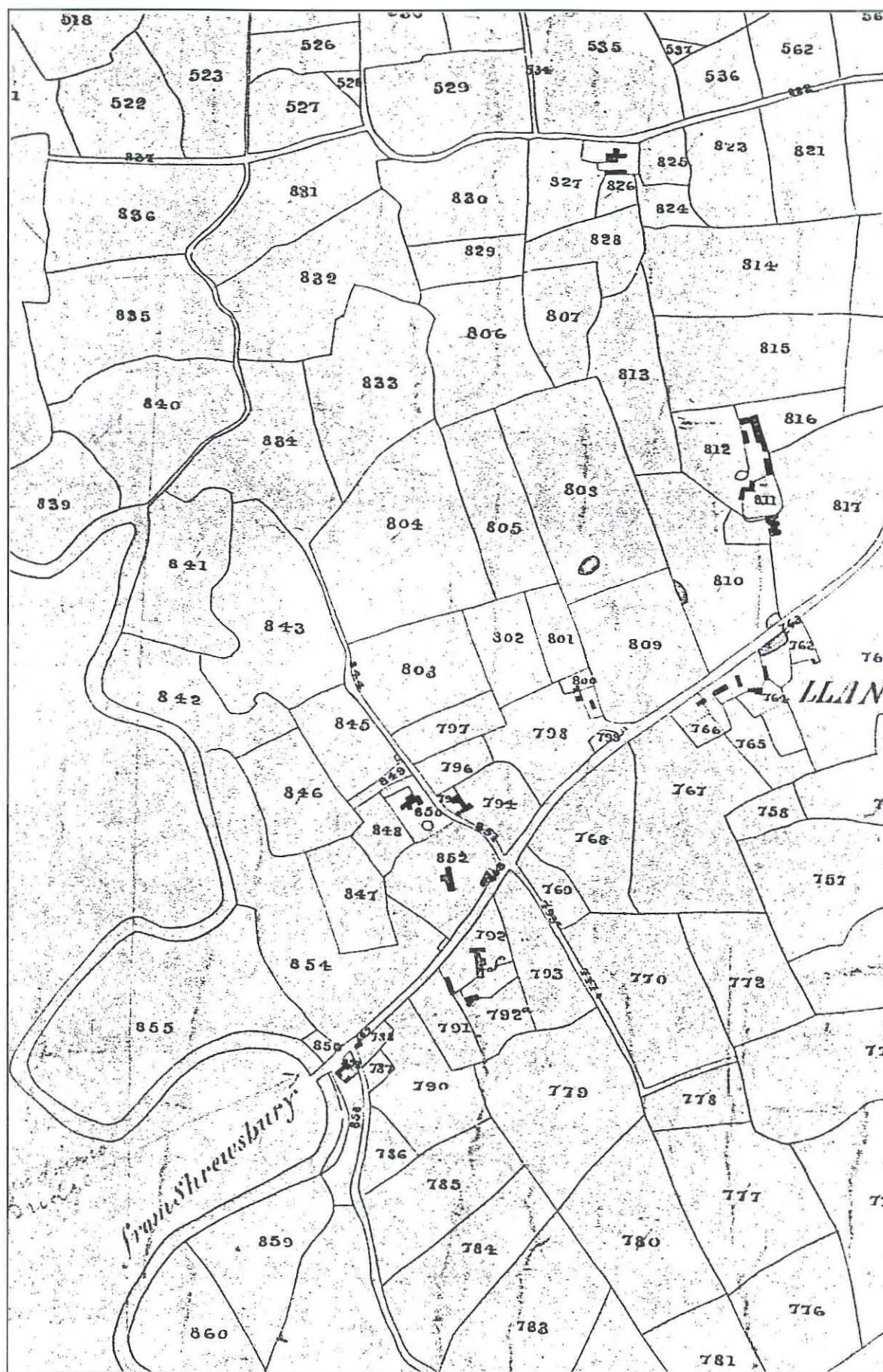


Fig 4. 1841 Llandrinio Tithe map

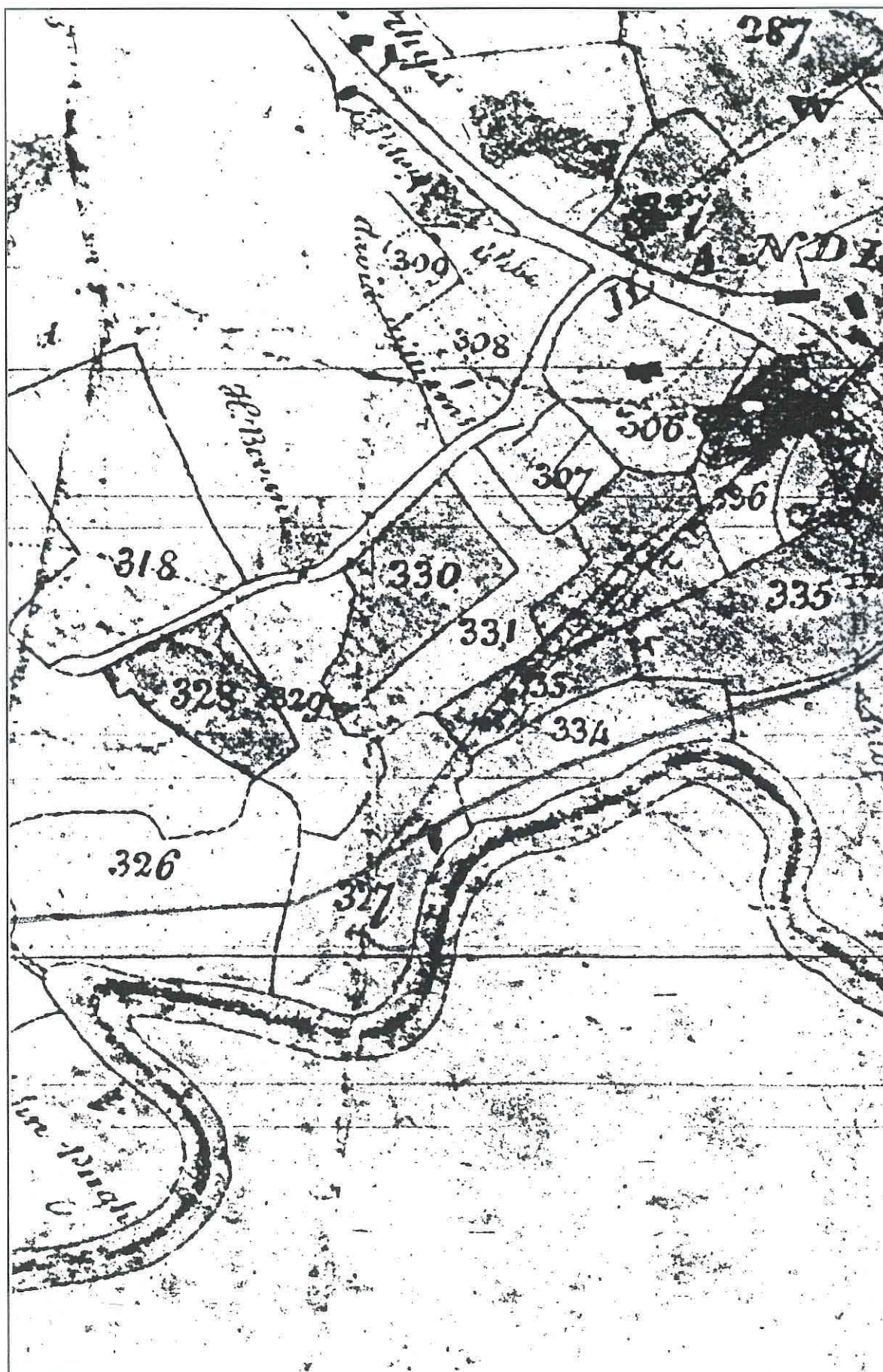


Fig 5. 1799 Enclosure Award map (Reproduced by permission of Powys Archives)

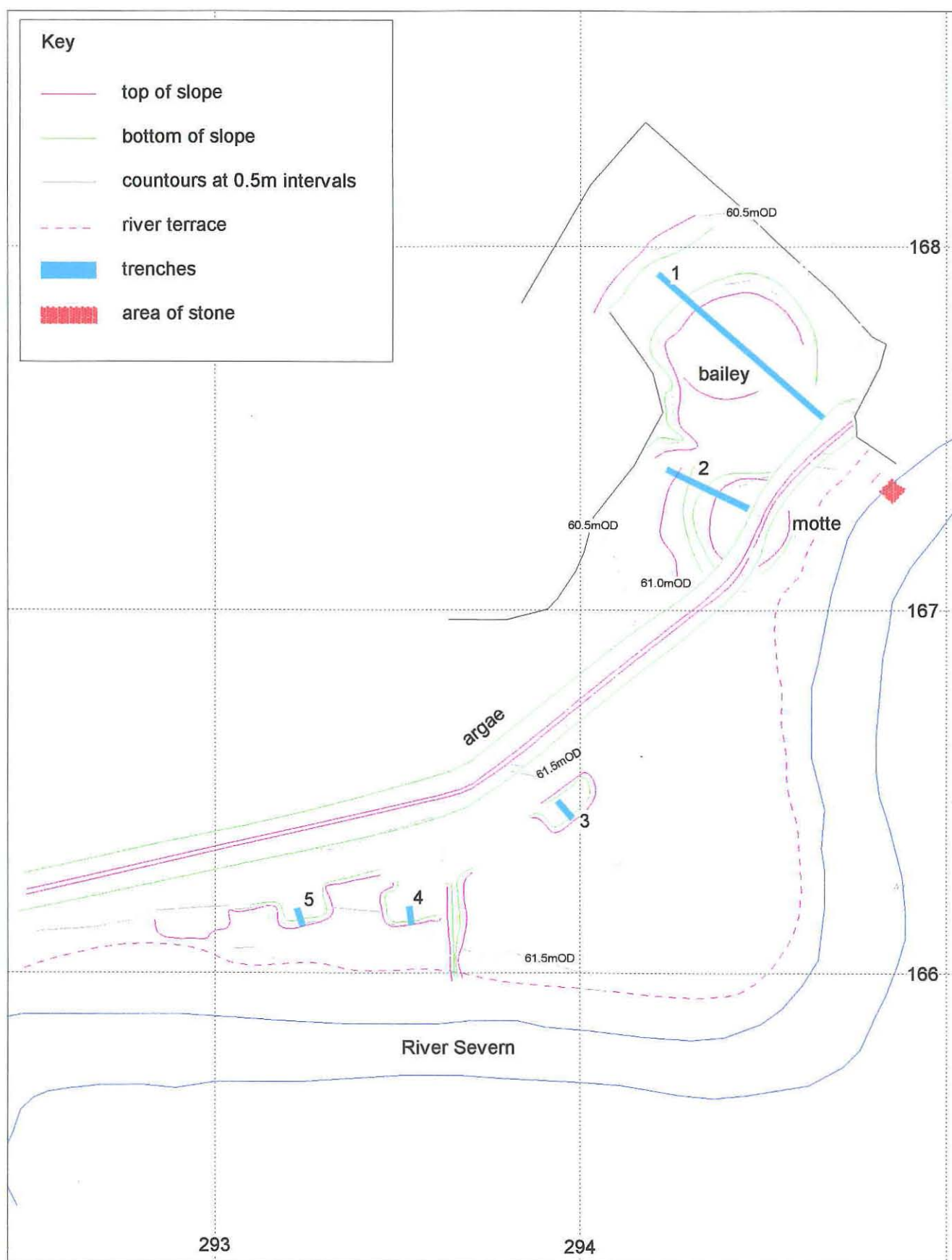


Fig. 6 Total Station Survey and Location of Trenches. Scale 1:1,500

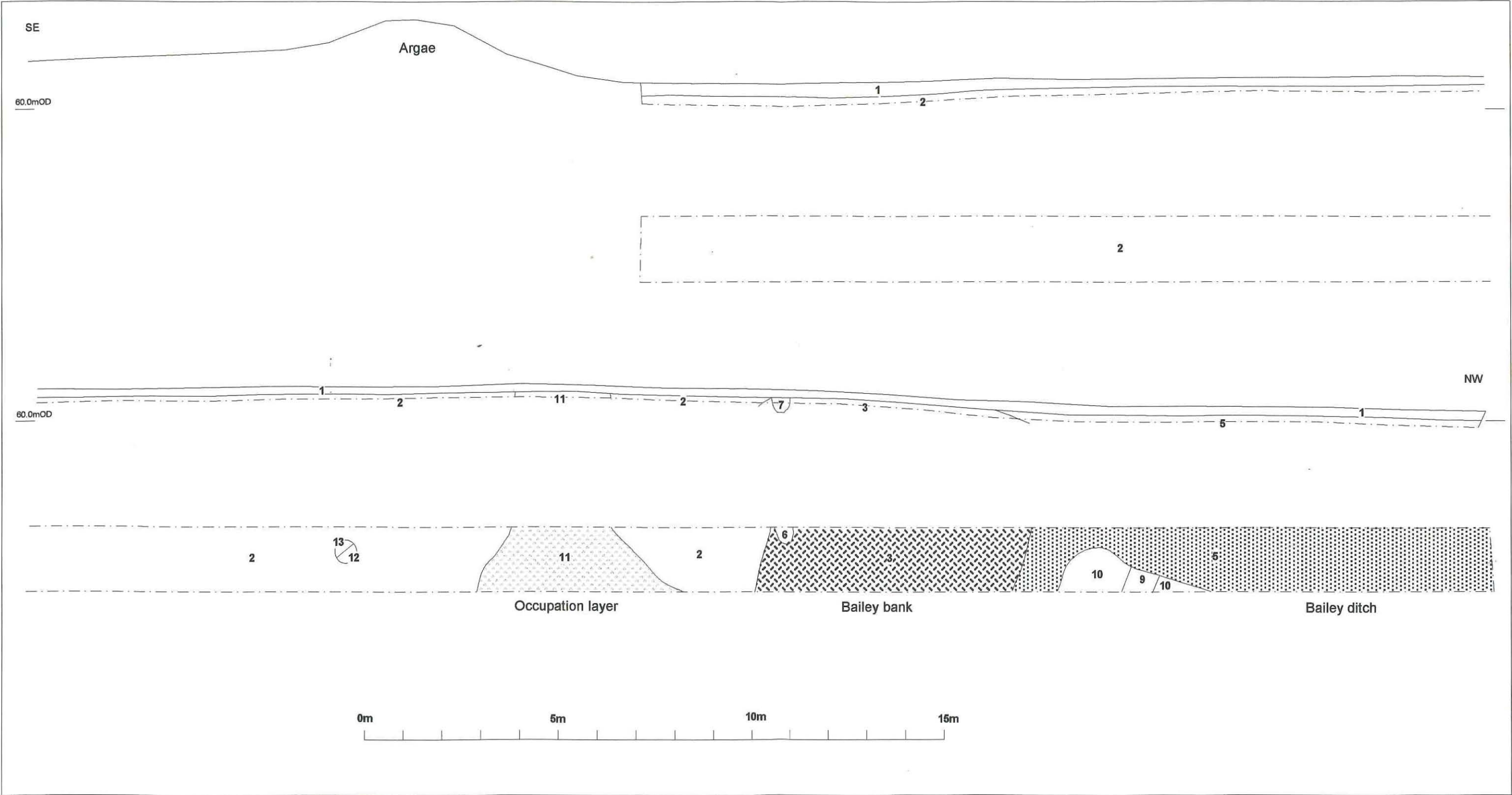


Fig 7 Plan and Section of Trench 1 including adjoining profile of Argae. Scale 1:100

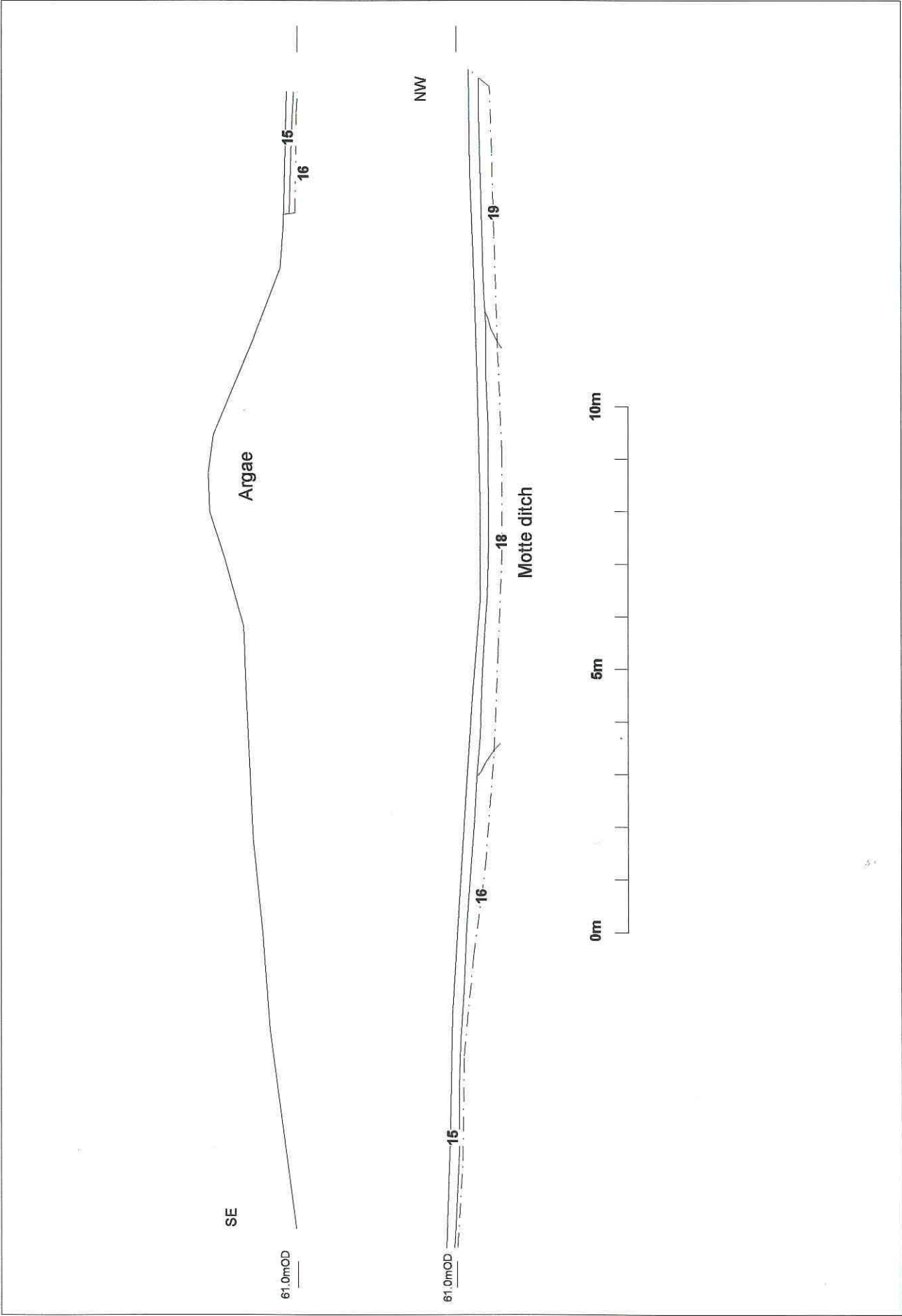


Fig 8 Trench 2 section including adjoining profile of Argae. Scale 1:100

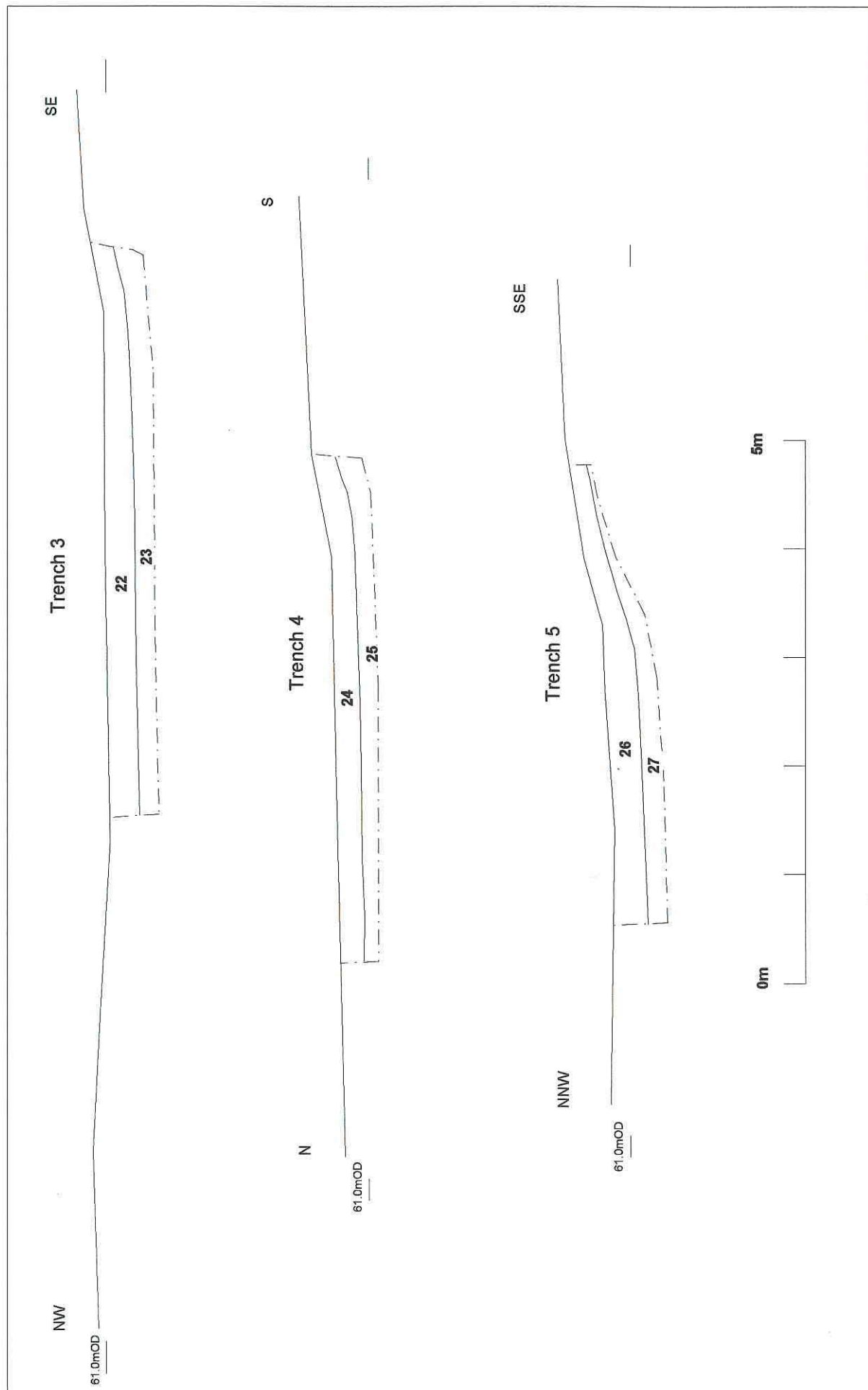


Fig 9 Trenches 3-5, sections. Scale 1:50



Plate 1. General view of excavation trenches and Argae



Plate 2. Collection of stones in riverbed (see para 6.7)



Plate 3. Trench 1 from NW, showing bailey ditch



Plate 4. Trench 1; Probable post-hole (6) on crest of bailey bank (3)



Plate 5. Trench 1; Occupation layer (11)



Plate 6. Trench 1; Post-hole (12) cut into Occupation layer (11)



Plate 7. Trench 2 from NW, showing motte and motte ditch

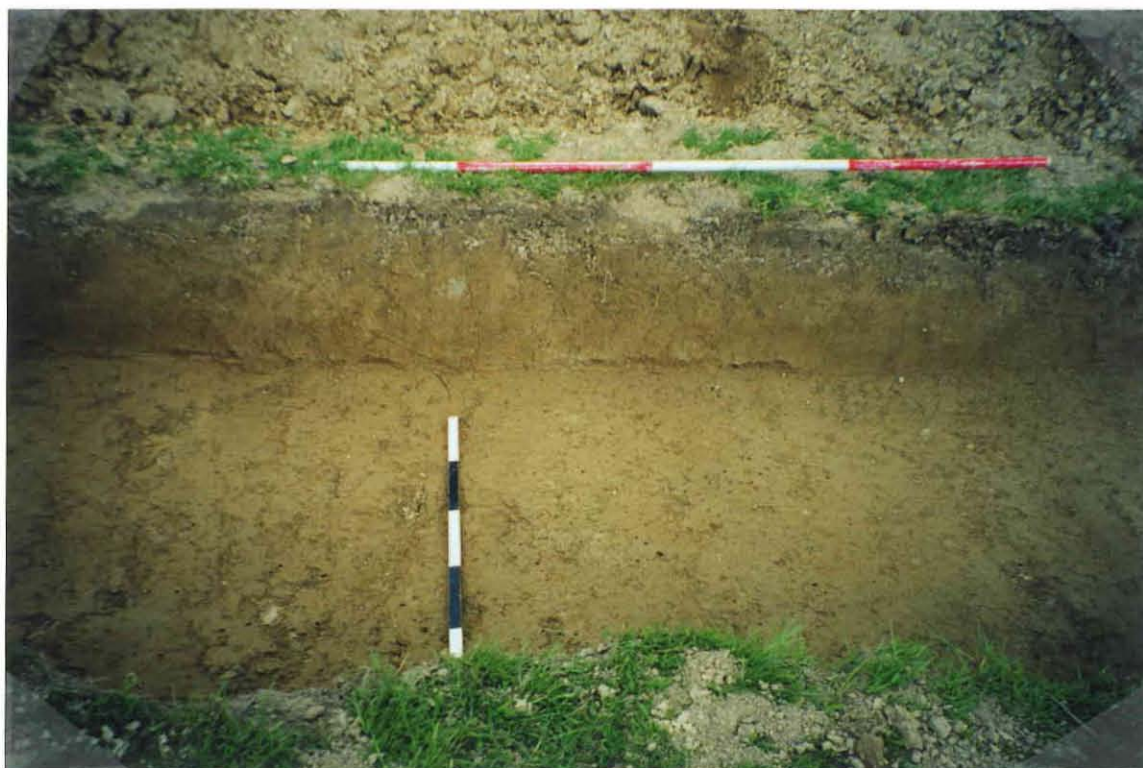


Plate 8. Trench 2; Inner edge of Motte ditch (17)

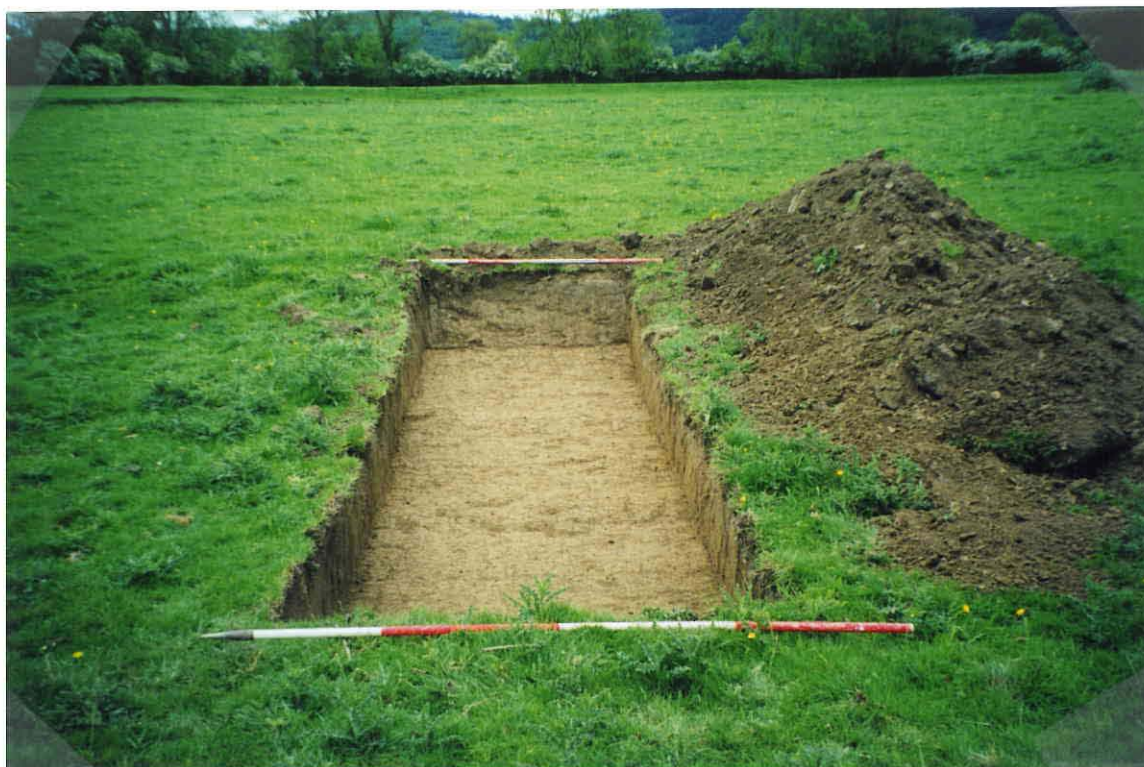


Plate 9. Trench 3 from NW



Plate 10. Trench 4 from S



Plate 11. Trench 5 from NNW



Plate 12. Trench 5 from NNW showing "platform-like" surface feature