

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

The Short Dykes of Mid and North-east Wales



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The Short Dykes of Mid and North-East Wales

PROJECT REPORT

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Report for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

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Short Dykes in Mid and North-East Wales

Results of the field survey

1 Introduction

This report forms the second and concluding part of the initial study of the short dykes in Mid and North-East Wales. While it builds on the previous report prepared in March 2002 (Silvester and Hankinson 2002), which summarised the results of desk-top assessment, it is concerned primarily with the results of field visits to the dykes identified by the first report and it should thus be seen as a complementary text. Because of this, no attempt will be made here to revise or repeat the sections dealing with the general context of the dykes and the historical background to their study. There are, however, a few cases where a field visit has raised further questions regarding the nature or function of a particular dyke or group of dykes and these are considered below.

1.1 Layout of the Report

A similar format to the original report has been followed here, for the sake of consistency. After the introduction, a section details the assessment of the results of the field survey of known and confirmed dykes, and a similar section covers the other linear earthworks which were examined as part of the project and recorded during fieldwork.

The gazetteer details each site in turn under a number of consistent headings. For ease of reference the gazetteer has been divided into confirmed dykes (Appendix 6) and other linear earthworks (Appendix 7). Each site is also provided with a revised description, which includes locational details, a morphological description, a comment on any palaeoenvironmental potential (if present) and a description of any areas of damage to the earthwork. This is accompanied by a revised plot of the earthwork (where the information is available) which also depicts through the use of symbols the areas of damage which were identified. The earthworks (Appendices 2 and 4) are ordered by Primary Record Number (PRN), but introductory concordances also provide access via dyke or linear earthwork name (Appendices 3 and 5).

1.2 Methodology

The site visits which form the basis of this report were carried out to a consistent level using a specifically designed record form which included sections to describe the location and morphology of the site, and also to note any damage to the site which was identifiable and its location. A hand-held GPS receiver was used in the field to locate significant points on the course of the earthwork, although the final plot of the earthwork which has resulted from this may, on occasion, have been slightly modified in the light of comparison with the Ordnance Survey mapping. In the absence of any detailed ground surveys for the dykes, the adoption of hand-held GPS equipment for recording purposes, with its current level of accuracy thought to lie around $\pm 5\text{m}$, was felt to be the only realistic and economic alternative. New ground surveys were clearly not an achievable option given the scale of the resource. The field records included a description of the number and form of any banks, ditches and counterscarp banks, and notes on the position of any changes in form which were identified along the length of an earthwork.

Sites were chosen for field examination on the basis of the results of the desk-top section of the study, which formed the initial report. Accordingly, all sites which were identified under

the heading of 'Known Dykes' in the original report – a total of 25 sites - were visited and assessed as a priority. A sample of the linear earthworks identified in the first report as 'Unconfirmed Dykes' but often termed 'dykes' or 'linear earthworks' in the original SMR extract, was also visited, with the selection criteria being based on the location and previous description of the relevant earthwork, and also, of course, time availability.

One of the more common elements which was recorded during the field survey was the presence of trackways and roads crossing individual dykes. These are very common, in part due to the typical siting of the dykes on ridges or across valleys, but it is often difficult to determine the relationship of a particular route to the dyke which it crosses. In most cases it can be assumed that the trackways are later features which have truncated short sections of dyke, but the presence of original routes which pass through a dyke cannot be ruled out. In only one case, that of the Crugyn Bank Dyke (PRN 1882), does it appear that a dyke cut across the line of an earlier trackway, but unfortunately, it seems unlikely that this relative dating evidence will be instrumental in providing an absolute date for the dyke.

The potential for the survival of environmental deposits was another aspect that was recorded during the field visits. Only a small number of the confirmed dykes seem to be associated with peat deposits, although it is likely that many have evidence of former ground surfaces sealed beneath their banks. In only two instances, that of the Giants Grave Dyke (PRN 3711) and the Wantyn Dyke (PRN 1053), were short lengths of dyke related to potentially significant environmental deposits. In both cases it appears that a portion of the dyke may have been masked by a subsequent accumulation of peat. The locations of these two areas are depicted on the plan of each of the aforementioned dykes in the gazetteer.

2 *Field results – the known dykes*

It will come as little surprise that the interpretation of the status of most of the well-known and long attested earthworks, which were considered to be short dykes in the original report, has been confirmed by the field survey. There has after all a long tradition of authenticating such earthworks from the beginning of the 20th century. Nevertheless, there are four linear earthworks (PRNs 5229, 19604, 19605, and 19606) whose original interpretation has been called into question. The latter three earthworks, sited on Ruabon Mountain in the former county of Clwyd (now in Denbighshire), have now been reinterpreted as linear trial workings associated with mineral extraction in the area, a not unimportant point in view of the distribution of authentic dykes. The interpretation of the fourth earthwork can only be termed as uncertain.

Twenty-one confirmed dykes have been visited during the field survey, with a total length of 13.32km, giving an average length of 0.63km. Of these, the Wantyn Dyke (PRN 1053), at 2.9km in length, is by far the longest, while both the Shepherds Well Dyke (PRN 992) and the Red Hill Cross Dyke (PRN 35471) are the shortest, being in the order of 0.08km to 0.09km long, respectively. Fieldwork also suggests that a composite dyke can be traced which consists of three separately recorded features (PRNs 1882, 4034 and 6242). Certainly, the original recorder of these sites treated them as a single entity, then known as 'The Double Dyche', and at 2.72km this rivals the Wantyn Dyke in length. However, for the purposes of this analysis, each element is considered separately.

There are a variety of different morphological features in the dykes. At their simplest the earthworks consist of a single linear bank (e.g. PRN 2145), although more often there will be a ditch on one side, and in these cases the gazetteer entry may describe the dyke as an entity as 'facing' in this direction. It can be suggested, though with some caution, that in these cases the builders of the dyke in question were occupying land on the opposite side to the ditch. There are also cases where the place of the bank element of a dyke is taken up by a scarp or

embanked scarp, and it appears that this is most often due to the utilisation of favourable natural topography. It is not uncommon for a ditch to have a corresponding counterscarp bank on the opposite side to the main bank, in some cases even rivalling the main bank in its size (see for instance PRN 3711). In this perhaps one of the suggestions in the previous report, that some earthworks may be mirroring natural features, is the most plausible explanation, for it is difficult to see what purpose the counterscarp may have served, given that a purely defensive function is unlikely in this context.

In contrast to the more common morphology of a single bank and ditch, a small number of the dykes, more particularly those at Aberbechan (PRN 1041) and Bwlch y Cibau (PRN 50449), have sections which are formed of multiple banks and ditches. Notably, the Bwlch y Cibau dyke has one section which is composed of three banks, but this is over a relatively small proportion of the dyke and lies between sections with simpler morphology. No evidence has been gathered which suggests that the complex sections of dyke represent the survival of a morphology which originally applied to the whole of the dyke in question.

The siting of short dykes is one of the key aids to their identification. While the most efficient and direct line is not always utilised, there is a tendency for these linear earthworks to cross ridge lines: e.g. Clawdd Mawr Dyke (PRN 54), Lower Short Ditch (PRN 235), Upper Short Ditch (PRN 1003) and Giant's Grave Dyke (PRN 3711) and these often link the heads of stream valleys flowing in opposite directions down the flanks of the ridge. Such locations would naturally have promoted the use of the narrowest section of a ridge, thereby minimising the amount of earth movement which would have been required in their construction. However, this is not always borne out by the physical remains as there are a number of occasions where they do not adopt the straightest, most logical, course. The linking of watercourses might also suggest that these linear earthworks were being used to define a boundary, which could be demarcated elsewhere by natural features. In a smaller number of cases (e.g. Cowlod Dyke (PRN 6871) and Red Hill Cross Dyke (PRN 35471)) the dyke crosses only part of one side of a ridge and ends on the crest. No ready explanation for this trait has been forthcoming, but it does not appear to be the simple result of subsequent erosion as no trace of any continuation was found despite careful scrutiny.

In addition to those earthworks which cross ridges, two have been found that cross valleys. Of these, Fron Hill Dyke (PRN 2145), despite its name, may form a barrier to movement along the valley of the Summerhill Brook, to the south-west of New Radnor, while Pen y Clawdd Dyke II (PRN 1986) would, in contrast, have been easy to bypass if it had functioned as a barrier. One common factor which links them, however, is the apparent lack of a ditch, and their relative proximity of just over 10km may support this hypothesis.

The main remaining group, in terms of their siting, consists of a series of dykes which could have functioned as boundary features. These dykes display a variable number of traits which include: markedly curved courses (e.g. Cefn y Crug Dyke (PRN 993)), ends which terminate on the banks of streams (e.g. Aber Naint Dyke (PRN 1479)), and courses which cross interfluvial spurs (e.g. Clawdd Llesg Dyke (PRN 78)). More than one of these features may be present in any of these dykes, and some of these features can also occur in the dykes which cross ridges and valleys. This leads on to the consideration of longer dykes (Aberbechan Dyke (PRNs 1041), Wantyn Dyke (PRN 1053), Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478), Bwlch y Cibau Dyke (PRN 50449), and the composite dyke, mentioned above, consisting of Crugyn Bank Dyke (PRN 1882), Two Tumps Dyke I (PRN 4034) and Two Tumps Dyke II (PRN 6242)), which demonstrate features of this type while extending across significant areas of the landscape. The courses of these sites seem to combine the use of the traits described above to link topographical features. The appearance of these sites suggests that their courses were not determined with a view to providing the best possible use of the available topography (particularly the south end of Wantyn Dyke (PRN 1053)), supporting the view that they are boundary features.

The previous report on the desk-top study attempted to group similar types of dyke according to their perceived function as barriers or boundaries. The results of the field survey suggest that although this may be an accurate reflection of the function of different short dykes, the definition between these two putative groups is not so clear cut as it might first appear. In part, this is a result of the lack of detail in the original Sites and Monuments Records, for features of significance in the interpretation of individual dykes have not always been recognised or recorded in the past. A good example is the case where a less topographically efficient line has been adopted, which was believed to suggest that a dyke formed a boundary feature. Similar morphological anomalies have also been found to occur in a significant number of the 'barrier dykes' (e.g. Short Ditch (PRN 1114) and Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478)). Another factor, which is discussed below, is that many of the dykes end prematurely, before reaching a natural feature which would have provided a continuous line of defence. This may argue against their function as barriers.

In the light of the results of the field survey, three alternative methods of grouping the authentic dykes are proposed. The first considers the topographical siting of the dykes, particularly the way in which the individual earthworks relate to their local landscape. The wider geographical location of the dykes within the study region also provides a method of dividing the dykes into groups which can then be examined in an attempt to understand their nature and function. The remaining method of subdividing the dykes entails their morphological characteristics, in an attempt to define common factors of construction. Unfortunately, the variable morphology of a number of the dykes (e.g. Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478)) leads to problems of classification and only the most common morphological trait of a particular dyke has been used in this regard. The results of the assessment of the dykes using these methods are summarised in the following lists.

2.1 Topographical determinants

- 1) Dykes sited on or which cross ridges
 - PRN 54 - Clawdd Mawr Dyke
 - PRN 235 - Lower Short Ditch
 - PRN 992 - Shepherd's Well Dyke
 - PRN 993 - Cefn y Crug Dyke
 - PRN 1003 - Upper Short Ditch
 - PRN 3711 - Giant's Grave Dyke
 - PRN 6871 - Cowlod Dyke
 - PRN 35471 - Red Hill Cross Dyke
- 2) Dykes which cross valleys
 - PRN 1986 - Pen y Clawdd Dyke II
 - PRN 2145 - Fron Hill Dyke
- 3) Dykes which cross interfluvial spurs
 - PRN 78 - Clawdd Llesg Dyke
 - PRN 1479 - Aber Naint Dyke
- 4) Dykes which cross complex terrain, normally including more than one of the above factors
 - PRN 77 - Bwlch Aeddau Dyke
 - PRN 1041 - Aberbechan Dyke
 - PRN 1053 - Wantyn Dyke
 - PRN 1114 - Short Ditch
 - PRN 1478 - Ty Newydd Dyke
 - PRNs 1882, 4034, 6242 - Double Dyke

PRN 50449 - Bwlch-y-Cibau Dyke

2.2 Geographical determinants

1) Mechain Cantref area dykes

PRN 54 - Clawdd Mawr Dyke

PRN 77 - Bwlch Aeddan Dyke (not thought to define the cantref, may be an opposing earthwork)

PRN 78 - Clawdd Llesg Dyke

PRN 1478 - Ty Newydd Dyke

PRN 1479 - Aber Naint Dyke

PRN 50449 - Bwlch-y-Cibau Dyke

2) Kerry area dykes

PRN 235 - Lower Short Ditch

PRN 1003 - Upper Short Ditch

PRN 1053 - Wantyn Dyke

PRNs 1882, 4034, 6242 - Double Dyche

3) Radnor Forest and adjoining Radnorshire hills dykes

992 - Shepherd's Well Dyke

PRN 993 - Cefn y Crug Dyke

PRN 1114 - Short Ditch

PRN 1986 - Pen y Clawdd Dyke II

PRN 2145 - Fron Hill Dyke

PRN 6871 - Cowlod Dyke

PRN 35471 - Red Hill Cross Dyke

4) Severn Valley dykes (excluding those in the Kerry area)

PRN 1041 - Aberbechan Dyke

PRN 3711 - Giant's Grave Dyke

2.3 Morphological determinants

1) Dykes consisting of a single bank or scarp

PRN 77 - Bwlch Aeddan Dyke

PRN 1986 - Pen y Clawdd Dyke II

PRN 2145 - Fron Hill Dyke

2) Dykes consisting of a bank and ditch

PRN 54 - Clawdd Mawr Dyke

PRN 78 - Clawdd Llesg Dyke

PRN 235 - Lower Short Ditch

PRN 992 - Shepherd's Well Dyke

PRN 993 - Cefn y Crug Dyke

PRN 1003 - Upper Short Ditch

PRN 1053 - Wantyn Dyke

PRN 1478 - Ty Newydd Dyke

PRN 1479 - Aber Naint Dyke

PRN 6871 - Cowlod Dyke

PRN 35471 - Red Hill Cross Dyke

3) Dykes consisting of a bank, ditch and counterscarp

PRN 1114 - Short Ditch

PRNs 1882, 4034, 6242 - Double Dyche

PRN 3711 - Giant's Grave Dyke

- 4) Complex dykes with sections consisting of at least two banks with associated ditches
PRN 1041 - Aberbechan Dyke
PRN 50449 - Bwlch-y-Cibau Dyke

3 *Discussion of the results of the field survey for authentic dykes*

3.1 *Terminology*

The term 'dyke' has been used widely and sometimes misleadingly in the description of a variety of linear earthworks of disparate function. Similarities in physical form notwithstanding, this does not seem to be a suitable term to use in the general recording of linear earthworks as it has specific connotations. It is our belief that a more appropriate term, perhaps related to the function of the earthwork in question, should always be sought. In direct contrast, the Welsh term *clawdd*, or its plural *cloddiau*, is appropriate – and is used by many outside the archaeological profession – for earthworks relating to a range of different activities. The normal meaning of *clawdd* is hedge or embankment but the term can also be extended to a place where digging or mining (*cloddio*) has taken place, as for instance, when the term *clawdd mawn* is used to refer to areas of peat cutting. The placename is thus potentially unreliable in the identification of linear earthworks and particularly short dykes.

As noted in our first report (Silvester and Hankinson 2002, 8) we have stuck with the term *short dyke* for those earthworks that fall within the purview of this project. It may not always be totally appropriate, but it seems to us to be better than any of the alternatives that have been suggested.

3.2 *Dating*

A, and perhaps the, major problem in establishing the context and nature of the various short dykes remains the lack of absolute dating evidence, something which field survey is not likely to resolve except in the most fortuitous of circumstances. Direct associations between dykes and other landscape features are rare, and where they occur the latter are usually of medieval or post-medieval date, as is the case with many of the boundaries that impinge on dykes. Two areas have been recorded where there could be a relationship between a dyke and peat deposits which may hold useful palaeoenvironmental data. Although these areas are relatively small in relation to the total length of the dykes affected, and the two dykes only form a small percentage of the available resource, future work on these deposits may provide important information in the furtherance of the study.

One of the main trends in the previous studies of short dykes has been in their comparison with Offa's Dyke and their piecemeal inclusion within related studies. Attempts have often been made to integrate the smaller linear earthworks into a broadly contemporary system of defence against encroachment from the uplands to the west, as was noted in the first report: 'It was inevitable that Fox's thinking should influence subsequent archaeologists. S. C. Stanford adopted a similar line of argument with the Rowe Ditch in Herefordshire and others west of Offa's Dyke as Mercian outworks of the great earthwork (Stanford 1980, 186). Trevor Rowley too, following David Hill, saw the linear dykes as broadly contemporary with Offa's Dyke (Rowley 1986, 79). Historians, too, were convinced with Glanville Jones considering that the short earthworks 'were at first designed locally as cross-ridge dykes to control upland lines of communication, or as cross-valley dykes to protect English lowland settlements' (Jones 1972, 294), his statements reminiscent of what Aileen Fox had written over twenty years before (Fox 1949, 116)' (Silvester and Hankinson 2002, 4).

We cannot claim any new and direct insights into the dating of the short dykes of Powys, but certain lines of speculation in the next section do have a bearing on the date of some of these earthworks.

3.3 Function

A major feature which has emerged from the field survey is that the present appearance of most of the short dykes brings into question the contention that they have a purely defensive function. The fieldwork has demonstrated that in most cases it would be a relatively simple and straightforward matter to outflank any of the earthworks if they were being used as purely defensive mechanisms or functioned as barriers. Many of the dykes terminate before reaching a natural feature such as a watercourse or deep gully that might have extended a continuous line of defence, and in most of the cases this is not simply a result of the subsequent degradation of lengths of earthwork. Good examples of the premature termination of a dyke appear in the Wantyn Dyke (PRN 1053), the Short Ditch (PRN 1114), Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478), Abernaint Dyke (PRN 1479), Two Tumps Dyke II (PRN 6242), Cowlod Dyke (PRN 6871 and Red Hill Cross Dyke (PRN 35471). Although Ty Newydd Dyke and Cowlod Dyke fade out gradually, perhaps suggesting that some earthworks have been lost, the others end abruptly and there is little or no evidence of a former continuation.

In the case of the dykes displaying greater complexity such as Aberbechan Dyke (PRN 1041) and Bwlch y Cibau Dyke (PRN 50449), their morphology also argues against their defensive use. Certainly, if the entire length of the respective dyke was composed of complex earthworks which ran between two substantial natural barriers, a case could be made for a defensive function, but this is not the case for any of the dykes examined in the region. On morphological grounds, the link between a complex and a simpler section of dyke would have provided a point of weakness, thereby negating the effect of the complex section of earthwork. One possibility is that more complex lengths of earthworks could be linked to their visibility from a particular direction, perhaps suggesting that an attempt was being made to present an imposing structure. What seems clear is that these intermittent lengths of more complex earthworks would hardly have been a worthwhile use of resources from a strictly defensive point of view.

It appears that the authentic short dykes in the study area are limited to the old kingdom (or *gwlad*) of Powys as defined by Sir John Lloyd (1911, I, 242). Lloyd observed that ‘...there is good evidence that the cantref is the historical successor of the *gwlad* or *tud*, (i.e. country or tribe), the body of free-tribesmen who, held sway as an independent community within bounds which clearly marked them off from their neighbours’ (1911, I, 302). This suggests that these different groups may have had well-defined boundaries, though given the resources needed to build long lengths of earthwork, it seems more likely that the boundaries would generally have been defined by natural landmarks, perhaps using some artificial features to mark key points. In this, the construction of Offa’s Dyke in the late 8th century (Jones, 1971, 11) may have provided a local precedent for a feature which would be acceptable in defining a political boundary.

One area has been identified which may provide a direct relation between a group of known short dykes and a political boundary, that of the cantref of Mechain in northern Powys (Fig. 3). The boundary of the cantref as distinguished by Melville Richards (1969, 290) lies within one kilometre of at least five known dykes: Clawdd Mawr Dyke (PRN 54); Clawdd Llesg Dyke (PRN 78); Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478); Abernaint Dyke (PRN 1479); and Bwlch y Cibau Dyke (PRN 50449). If it can be assumed that these sites are broadly contemporary and could represent the boundary of the cantref, one significant corroborative factor might be that all have a ditch on their outer side. Also, the east end of the Ty Newydd Dyke terminates at a stream which formed the boundary of the manor of Chirk and Chirkland (previously that of the cantref of Mochnant Is Rhaeadr) in a document of the 16th century (Lloyd, 1884, 41). It is reasonable to assume that Mechain, despite its relatively small size, would have been an area

of primary importance due to the presence in the cantref of the clas church of Meifod, a place of burial for the princes and dignitaries of Powys (Davies 1982, 26). A parallel can perhaps be drawn with Gwynedd, where the residents of the cantref of Arfon '...claimed it as their right to lead the van in the hostings of Gwynedd and therewith demanded many other privileges, such as the right to declare, against their neighbours of other cantrefs, the boundaries of Arfon,' (Lloyd 1911, I, 234). Lloyd argued that in Welsh law the perception of status was the main factor in the determination of boundaries and that the 'mere will of the landowner of "higher privilege" was enough to give effect to his desire to extend his boundaries at the expense of a less privileged neighbour' (Lloyd, 1911, I, 305). This may well have been a sufficient reason for the inhabitants of the cantref to have marked their boundaries by constructing lengths of earthwork. It could also explain the contradiction in the siting of the Ty Newydd (PRN 1478) and Abernaint (PRN 1479) dykes, which may represent successive definitions of the same boundary. Interestingly, the name of the stream at the end of the Ty Newydd dyke, called 'Nant Engyll', may have a relation to the word *encil*, meaning retreat. Lloyd (1911, I, 305) also quotes an observation of Giraldus Cambrensis to the effect that 'the digging-up of boundary ditches and extension of lands by hook or by crook, are a passion with this people beyond any other race.' In this context the expenditure of time and effort on the construction of substantial, easily recognisable, earthworks to define political boundaries makes rather more sense.

In view of the potential association between the five dykes considered above and a political boundary, the remaining sixteen authentic dykes were also compared to the medieval political boundaries proposed by Melville Richards (1969). Relationships were found to be possible in at least five more cases. Of these, Red Hill Cross Dyke (PRN 35471) lies in close proximity to the boundary between the Uwch Mynydd and Is Mynydd divisions of the cantref of Elfael in Radnorshire; Pen y Clawdd dyke II (PRN 1986) is only 200m distant from the boundary of the parish of Bleddfa, which is elsewhere marked by the course of the Fishpools boundary bank (PRN 21363) and is thought to represent a monastic landholding centred at Monaughty; the Shepherd's Well dyke (PRN 992) lies on the boundary between the cantrefs of Maelienydd and Llythyfnwg (later Radnor), which also passes within 400m of the Cowlod dyke (PRN 6871); and the Giant's Grave Dyke (PRN 3711), which lies within 200m of the boundary between the cantref of Arwystli and the commote of Ceri. Curiously, the boundary between the commote of Ceri in Montgomeryshire and the cantref of Maelienydd in Radnorshire, which is here aligned north-east/south-west, passes between the visible ends of PRN 4034 and PRN 6242, which together run approximately north-west/south-east.

The group of dykes in the vicinity of the Kerry Ridgeway, of which PRNs 1882, 4034 and 6242 form a part, requires specific mention. Within this group are the two longest dykes, each almost 3km long, namely the Wantyn Dyke (PRN 1053) and the 'Double Dyke'. The original recorder of PRNs 1882, 4034 and 6242 (RCAHMW, 1911) considered them to be parts of a single continuous earthwork, called the 'Double Dyke', and fieldwork suggests that this is a correct interpretation. In addition to these extensive dykes, there are two other dykes in the same area, both less than 1km in length, known as the Upper and Lower Short Ditches (respectively PRNs 1003 and 235). Although there is nothing that could relate them morphologically, the fact that all of these dykes have ditches on their west side hints at a general relationship. One possibility may be that the steep-sided stream valley of the Caebitra formed a link between the southern end of the Wantyn Dyke and the northern end of the Upper Short Ditch. Arnold (1990, 74), perhaps following Lloyd (1901, 295), suggests that this group of earthworks are part of a larger system of territorial divisions, which also utilised natural features, and that they may relate to the division of the commote of Ceri as a result of disputes during the 13th century. Examination of the courses of these dykes in relation to the map of the commote supplied by Melville Richards (1969, 255) suggests that, if true, they represent the division of the commote into three, approximately equal, parts. It is also possible that they may form successive definitions of the same political boundary, as it is unlikely on morphological grounds that either the Wantyn Dyke or the 'Double Dyke' formed defensive barriers.

It should be stressed that the methodology of the fieldwork aspect of this project has specifically been concerned with the recording of known linear earthworks. No attempt has been made to identify new sites because of the difficulties inherent in the fact that the total resource is relatively small within such a large study area. There remains the possibility that significant sites have yet to be identified and that existing sites may be explained by future work. The example of the Aberbechan Dyke (PRN 1041) might be put forward as a dyke whose function is, as yet, unexplained but which could in future be found to define the lost boundary between the Uwchcoed and Iscoed divisions of the cantref of Cedewain. Also, what should we make of Pennant's comments (1991, II, 362) at the end of the 18th century, when he described a route from Llangynog towards Llanfyllin on which he purports to 'observe in many parts the narrower passes crossed by intrenchments ...'. Only two known dykes are now present in the immediate area of this route. New dykes do emerge as was pointed out in the first report (Silvester and Hankinson 2002, 3).

There is also the related question of how much of the original resource has survived subsequent natural and agricultural degradation. The answer to this may be discovered by targeted fieldwork in the future, but will inevitably depend on the accuracy of the assumptions made regarding the perceived nature and function of the dykes themselves. Certainly, during our fieldwork we have noted many cases in which prominent natural features coincide with the ends of the known dykes, perhaps suggesting that some of these features were being used to define boundaries. It seems evident that we are dealing with a diverse resource and that only the consideration of dykes in groups, both geographical and perhaps also morphological, may shed further light on their origin and function. In this, the results of the fieldwork have confirmed the assertion in the original report that the detailed examination and study of specific groups of earthworks appears to be the most productive avenue of research.

One final result of the fieldwork has been to restrict the distribution of dykes still further. They have always been seen as very much a feature of the Welsh borderland, but the distribution pattern was slightly thrown out by the set of three 'dykes' – the Cynr-y-Brain Dykes, PRNs 19604-19606 - recorded during a rapid identification survey on Ruabon Mountain in 1995 (Silvester and Hankinson 2002, 5). Our more detailed survey now suggests that these anomalous earthworks were not, after all, dykes, but from their location and rather irregular form, were much more likely to be mineral trials. The distribution pattern now appears a little more coherent!

4 *Field results on other linear earthworks*

None of the linear earthworks which were originally grouped under this heading in the desktop assessment have turned out to be short dykes, but fieldwork has generated considerably more data on the form and function of those that have been visited. The only site which comes close to being classed as a short dyke is the Mount Pleasant Dyke (PRN 6680), which has some common features of siting and form with other dykes, yet is of relatively small height and extent.

Many of the 'unproven dykes' recorded in the original report have been reassessed as boundary banks. The anomalous siting of the Black Hill Dyke (PRN 5226) was noted previously and it now appears that this linear earthwork may be a land boundary associated with a previously unrecorded settlement site of probable medieval date, which was identified by the fieldwork. The other notable unproven site which has been classified as a boundary following fieldwork is the Fawnog y Bont Dyke (PRN 6725), which was found to be the boundary bank (head dyke) defining the upper limit of an area of enclosed land in the upper reaches of the Wye valley. In the same area as the Black Hill Dyke, the Erewillim Dyke (PRN 5225) has been reinterpreted as a leat.

Other sites which have now been confirmed as agricultural land boundaries of the type mentioned above include the Upper Wantyn Dyke (PRN 17885), which appears to define an enclosure containing evidence of lynchets and a potential settlement site of medieval date, the Llechwedd bank (PRN 35715), the Drum Ddu N bank and ditch (PRN 13434), the Sylfaen 'dyke' (PRN 4573), the Waunmarteg bank (PRN 4159) and particularly the Clawdd Mawr Dyke (PRN 497), which formed the upper limit of an earlier field system on the south side of the Banwy valley, near the village of Foel.

Several extant linear earthworks, suggested as grange boundaries, have been visited, but it is not possible to confirm their origin and function from the fieldwork alone. One factor which may have some bearing on the interpretation of these sites is that the course of both the Dolhelfa grange boundary (PRN 17790) and the Fishpools boundary bank (PRN 21363) are markedly curved. In the case of the former there could also be a relationship with settlement sites, potentially of late medieval date, which are located in close proximity to either end of the earthwork. The latter site may form part of the boundary of a monastic landholding centred at Monaughty, subsequently represented by the parish of Bleddfa.

A surprising result from the field survey has been the identification of a number of trackways which had been either recorded as possible dykes (e.g. the Kerry Hill Earthwork (PRN 4714)) or which had given rise to names suggestive of dykes. In these instances, blame may be apportioned to the term *clawdd* which appears to have been incorrectly assumed to refer to a dyke. One antiquarian reference to a dyke, namely the 'Hen Gefn' Dyke (PRN 5232) is believed to refer to an old trackway along a ridge crest; this was suggested in the earlier report and has been supported by information subsequently provided by the owner of the Pen y Clawdd dyke II (PRN 1986). The supposed site of an antiquarian reference to a dyke near Llanafanfawr (PRN 4340), in the hills of north-west Brecknock, was visited but no trace of a linear earthwork was found; it can only be assumed that the record was a result of the combination of mistaken use of place-name evidence with incorrect interpretation of natural topographic features.

The one remaining site that was visited which is worth specific mention, is the Gwar y Cae earthwork (PRN 964) on Moel Dod common in north Radnorshire. Assessment of this site suggests that it comprises the preliminary construction of a hillfort or large earthwork enclosure. The approximate size had it been completed would have been between 1.6ha and 3.8ha, depending on the overall shape. No other likely explanation for the siting and form of this earthwork has been found.

5 *Recommendations for further work*

The original report contained some recommendations for further work which might inform future study, as well as aiding the protection of selected short dykes. A brief statement of some areas where useful work could be done may be suggested, as follows:

1) It has been noted above that there are two short dyke sections which might merit palaeoenvironmental sampling and analysis. These form parts of the Giants Grave dyke (PRN 3711) and the Wantyn Dyke (PRN 1053). Of these areas, that associated with the Giants Grave dyke is probably the more suitable, because the presence of drainage gullies in the vicinity of the relevant section of the Wantyn Dyke may have an impact on the reliability of the evidence. It may be possible to determine a direct relationship between PRN 3711 and the adjacent peat deposit.

2) Geophysics or trial excavation of the Fron Hill Dyke (PRN 2145) and Pen y Clawdd Dyke II (PRN 1986) to determine whether the apparent absence of a ditch in each case is illusory.

3) Detailed survey and limited excavation of the Short Ditch (PRN 1114) to provide a baseline for the current state of erosion of the monument. This could be seen as a step towards a programme of re-instatement designed to restore the appearance of the monument.

4) Trial excavation on one of the simpler sections of either of the more complex dykes (PRNs 1041 or 50449), in order to confirm the suggestion that the complex sections are limited in length and do not represent the typical morphology of these dykes.

5) Further general work in the vicinity of the identified groups of short dykes, with a view to developing a greater understanding of their function and perhaps revealing new sites which can be related to the existing linear earthworks. This might include aerial reconnaissance, which would provide a rapid method of examining large landscape areas.

6 *Acknowledgements*

The writer would like to thank his colleagues at CPAT, Mr Bob Silvester, Mr Glyn Owen, Mr Ian Grant and Mr Ian Bapty for their assistance with the fieldwork; Mrs Daphne Woodhouse of the Powysland Library, Welshpool for allowing the use of a number of sources held in their collection. Also thanks to the many landowners who have given permission to visit the monuments recorded.

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8 Management issues and prescriptions

The desk-top assessment and fieldwork has identified a total of twenty-one short dykes in the study area. The current position regarding the statutory designation of these dykes is that 38% are scheduled *in toto*, 33% are scheduled in part, and 29% are unscheduled. Of the dykes which are scheduled in part five are almost completely scheduled, while of the remaining two, the known length of Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478) prior to the current fieldwork programme was completely scheduled.

Despite their varying forms and extents, the management issues that relate to short dykes generally follow a consistent pattern. Erosion is the main problem; it can be localised where a dyke is crossed by a trackway, or more general where grazing pressure is high. The following section considers the management and protection of the dykes under a number of basic headings, depending on whether the earthwork in question already has a statutory designation. It has not been assumed that an authentic short dyke merits scheduling as of right. Other factors, mainly condition, have also been considered.

8.1 Scheduling recommendations

As might be expected many of the short dykes which are in the best condition are already scheduled, either in whole or in part.

1) It is recommended that additional sections of two such dykes, Wantyn Dyke (PRN 1053) and Ty-Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478) are added to the existing scheduled areas. These are described below.

Wantyn Dyke (PRN 1053)

Only discrete, well-preserved sections of this dyke are scheduled at present. It is not recommended that all surviving traces are scheduled, but there is one further well-preserved section of scarp, running between SO 18999091 and SO 19079077, which could be added to the existing scheduled area on the basis of its good state of preservation.

Ty-Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478)

The existing scheduled area of this dyke consists of all of the dyke which had been recorded prior to the commencement of this project. Further sections have been revealed by the desk-top study and fieldwork at both its east and west ends. The surviving earthworks at the west end of the dyke are in a relatively poor condition and do not merit scheduling. However, at the east end of the dyke, a well-preserved section of bank and ditch, running between SJ 13602338 and SJ 13682346, was revealed by fieldwork and merits a statutory designation.

2) In addition to those dykes which are already scheduled, one further dyke which was recorded, namely Pen y Clawdd Dyke II (PRN 1986), was in sufficiently good condition to merit scheduling. This is considered below.

Pen y Clawdd Dyke II (PRN 1986)

This dyke consists of two main sections, and runs between SO 18827049 and SO 18677082. In view of the fact that the dyke has already been lost between SO 18797055 and SO 18787058, where it is crossed by a series of trackways, it may be more appropriate to schedule the dyke in two sections. These would consist of the embanked scarp which forms the south-south-east portion, between SO 18827049 and SO 18797055, and the substantial bank which forms the north-north-west portion, between SO 18787058 and SO 18677082.

3) In addition to the above sites, the existing scheduled areas of the following dykes should be adjusted to ensure that all of the extant earthworks have been included within their respective designated areas.

Aber Naint Dyke (PRN 1479)

A short section of extant earthwork between SJ 12432192 and SJ 12382195 falls outside the scheduled area. The area should be amended to include this section of the dyke.

Crugyn Bank Dyke (PRN 1882)

Parts of the extant earthwork running from SO 10138575 to SO 10588563 and from SO 10758552 to SO 10888549 fall outside the scheduled area. The area should be amended to include these sections of the dyke.

Two Tumps Dyke I (PRN 4034)

Extant sections of earthwork running from SO 11498512 to SO 11468515, from SO 11758481 to SO 11828474, and from SO 11878469 to SO 11888468 fall outside the scheduled area. The area should be amended to include these sections of the dyke.

Red Hill Cross Dyke (PRN 35471)

The scheduled area is centred correctly, but is on the wrong alignment. It should be rotated anti-clockwise by about 45 degrees around SO 15034985.

8.2 Management of scheduled dykes

The majority of the surviving earthworks in this category are situated within pasture land and this inevitably leads to various erosion pressures on the earthworks. The most common is high grazing pressure which gives rise to the loss of vegetation cover and, particularly where steep slopes are present, this inevitably leads to soil erosion from the earthwork. Variable degrees of erosion of this type have been encountered in many of the scheduled dykes, e.g. Clawdd Mawr Dyke (PRN 54), Bwlch Aeddau Dyke (PRN 77), Aberbechan Dyke (PRN 1041), Wantyn Dyke (PRN 1053), the Short Ditch (PRN 1114), Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478), Crugyn Bank Dyke (PRN 1882), Two Tumps Dyke I (PRN 4034), Two Tumps Dyke II (PRN 6242) and Bwlch y Cibau Dyke (PRN 50449). This of course should be monitored during Field Monument Warden visits, and might in selected instances lead to programmes of reinstatement and consolidation. This study should provide, albeit in general terms a dated benchmark for assessing any increase or stabilisation in the erosion of a monument.

The evidence revealed by the survey shows that fencing off large areas of a dyke is not always the most appropriate mitigation measure as this can lead to the increased use of the monument by burrowing animals (see the Aber Naint Dyke (PRN 1479), which is discussed below).

Agricultural land improvement has also led to the denudation of lengths of dykes, notable cases being Two Tumps Dyke I (PRN 4034) and Bwlch y Cibau Dyke (PRN 50449). This is reasonably easy to police, but a different form of erosive pressure which primarily results from agricultural activity and is more difficult to define, focuses on the need for access between the land on either side of a short dyke. The cutting of gaps in dykes has been a feature of the historic past, but there are circumstances on moorland sites where multiple crossings are still being used. Some method of restricting the number of crossing points should be instituted, even if this is limited to discussions with landowners to impress upon them the need to minimise the resulting erosion. Designated crossing points could be created as these would attract traffic, but some prior archaeological investigation to determine suitable areas would probably be necessary. There are also cases where public roads have cut through sections of

dyke e.g. Bwlch Aeddau Dyke (PRN 77), Clawdd Llesg Dyke (PRN 78) and Crugyn Bank Dyke (PRN 1882). In the main these are relatively minor roads, but there is still a possibility that future road improvement works will result in the loss of sections of dyke, and careful monitoring is necessary.

Other types of land-use can result in multiple crossings of a dyke. Forestry is perhaps the most common of these and some damage has occurred as a result of this and planting activity in the past, although recognition of the need to protect monuments is inherent in modern forestry policy. The identified dykes which run through forestry include Clawdd Mawr Dyke (PRN 54), Lower Short Ditch (PRN 235), Upper Short Ditch (PRN 1003), and Short Ditch (PRN 1114). In the case of these dykes, regular and close co-operation with Forest Enterprise is important to ensure that the scheduled areas are not encroached upon by planting and extraction activities. Some broadleaf planting has taken place fairly recently on the Short Ditch (PRN 1114).

Recreation is another activity which has led to disturbance of a small number of dykes. The most notable case which was encountered during the field survey was the Short Ditch (PRN 1114), which has been repeatedly crossed by people involved in motorcycle scrambling, to the extent that there are now some five tracks which have effectively removed short sections of the bank of this monument. Much of this activity is probably unofficial and as such difficult to control, particularly given the remote location of a number of the dykes.

In addition to the above factors, which are a result of human utilisation of the landscape, the effect of natural erosion forces also needs to be considered. One of the features of the short dykes which has been noted is a tendency for them to run between stream courses, and there are a small number of instances where there is the strong possibility of erosion by these streams. In particular, Clawdd Llesg Dyke (PRN 78), Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478) and Aber Naint Dyke (PRN 1479) can be identified as sites which need to be scrutinised on a regular basis to ensure that natural erosion of the earthworks is prevented.

Included in the natural factors which may result in damage to a particular dyke is the potential effect of non-domesticated animals, particularly where they are likely to use the earthworks for burrowing. A number of cases have been identified where the burrowing activities of badger and rabbit have led to disturbance of a dyke, but undoubtedly the most significant of these is Aber Naint Dyke (PRN 1479). As has been noted above, sections of this dyke have been fenced off in the past, perhaps to minimise stock erosion and provide windbreaks. Unfortunately, the resulting lack of activity in these areas has led to their use for badger setts and considerable damage to both the ditch and bank of the dyke has resulted. The possibility that fencing off sections of a dyke may encourage this sort of activity needs to be considered.

8.3 Management of unscheduled dykes

The threats are largely the same for those dykes and analogous linear earthworks which are not scheduled. In fact it might be argued in some instances that the lack of a statutory designation is, in part, a result of greater erosion in the past, suggesting that these sites are perhaps more threatened than those which are scheduled. Any management issues relating to an unscheduled dyke will have to be dealt with by agreement with the landowner and probably in an informal manner, unless the dyke falls within an area which has been designated for another purpose (see below). The difficulty of obtaining funding for any works which may be desirable would be the main barrier to the management of these sites.

Given the lack of a statutory designation, the most appropriate methods for ensuring the continued preservation of the remaining dykes, and perhaps other groups of monuments, must be as a part of a wider programme of outreach designed to highlight the potential interest of these sites to landowners and members of the public. Although it is inevitable that not all

landowners will appreciate the value of the dykes per se, the existing agri-environment scheme of Tir Gofal provides a useful method of alerting them to the usefulness of having archaeological monuments on their land. With the wider acceptance that agri-environmental schemes are a way forward for sectors of agriculture hit by the present economic conditions, it is important that the archaeological component of these schemes is continued and preferably strengthened in future.

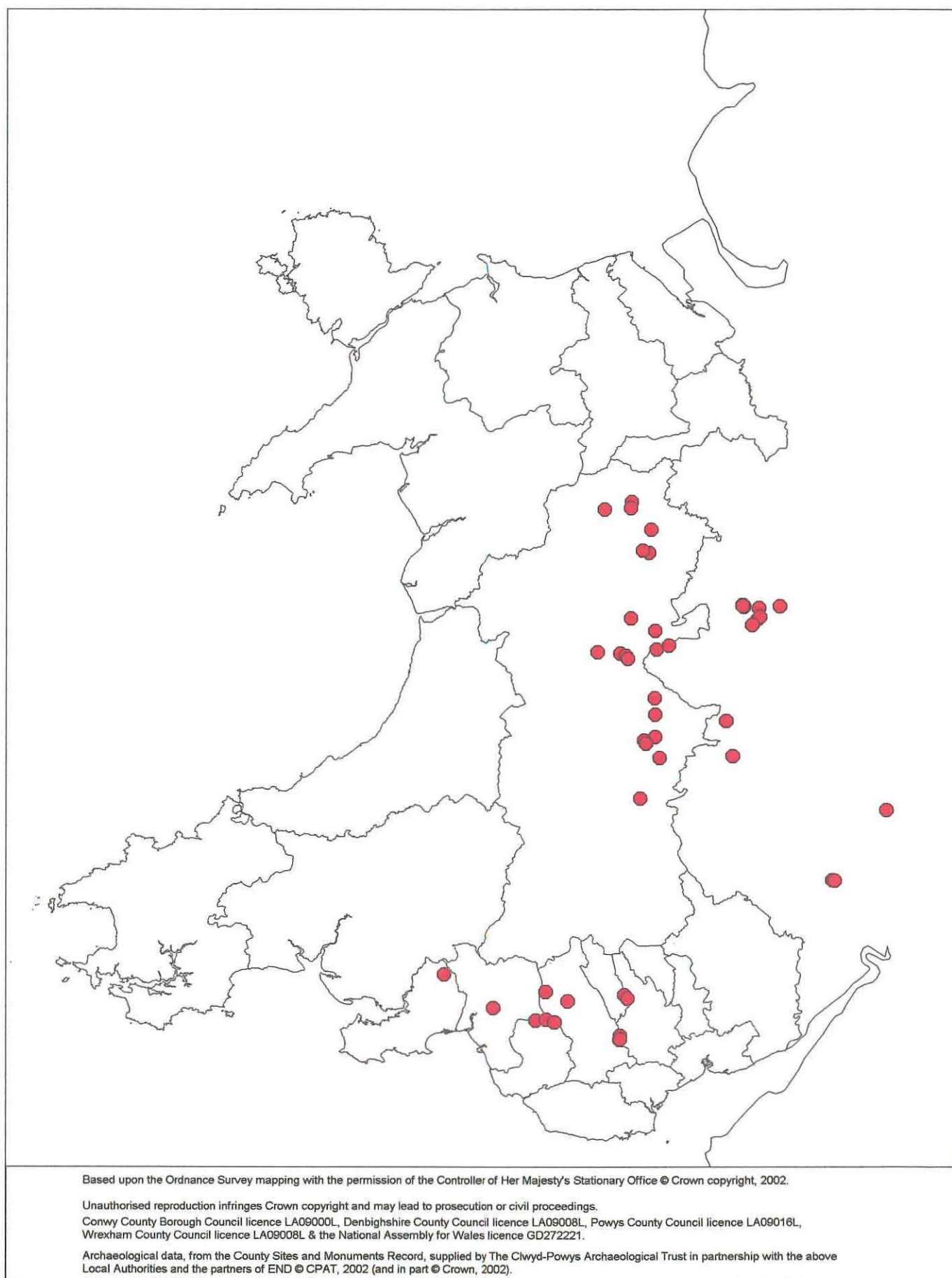


Fig 1 Dykes in the Welsh Borderland

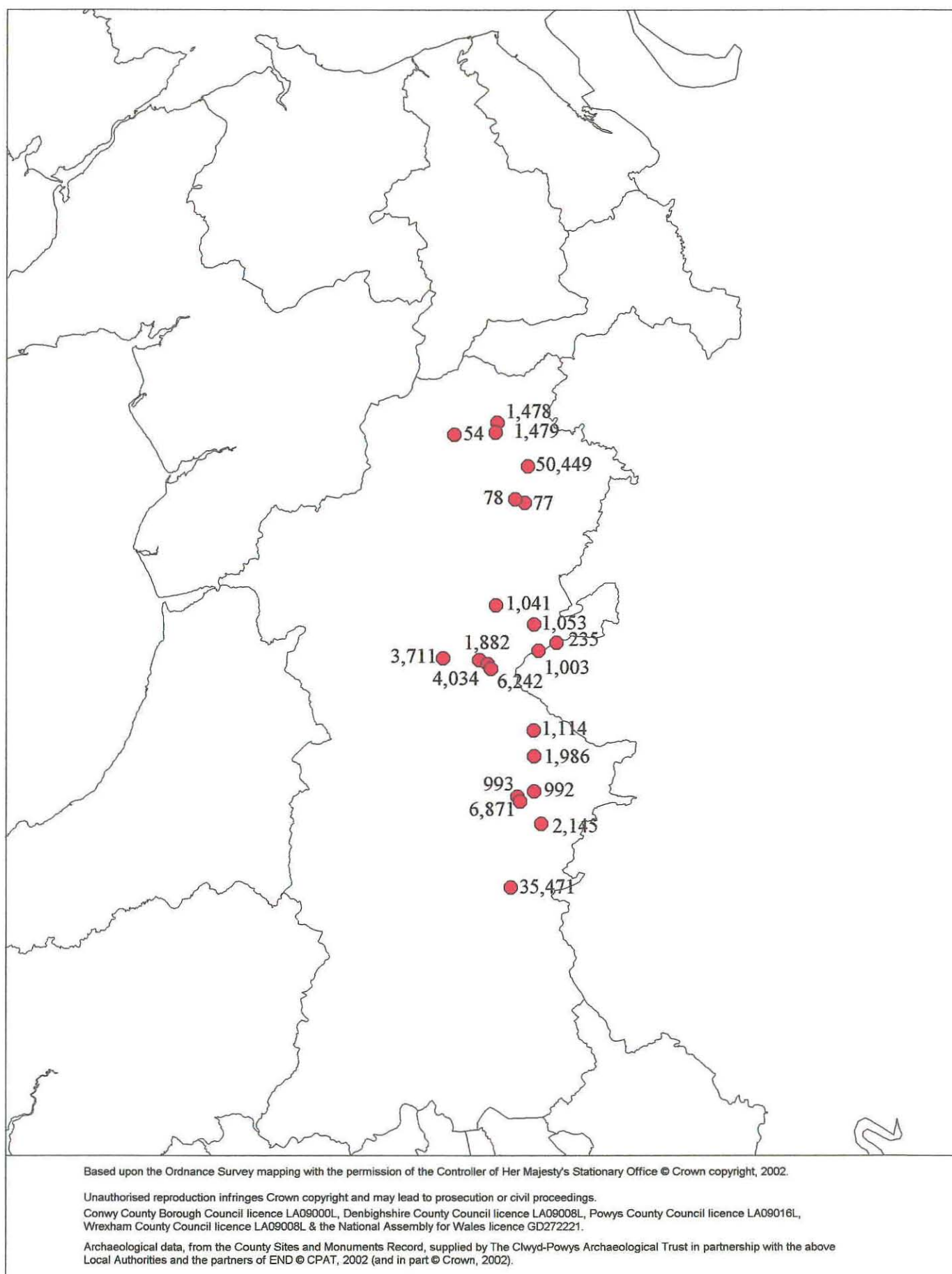


Fig 2 Known dykes in mid and north-east Wales

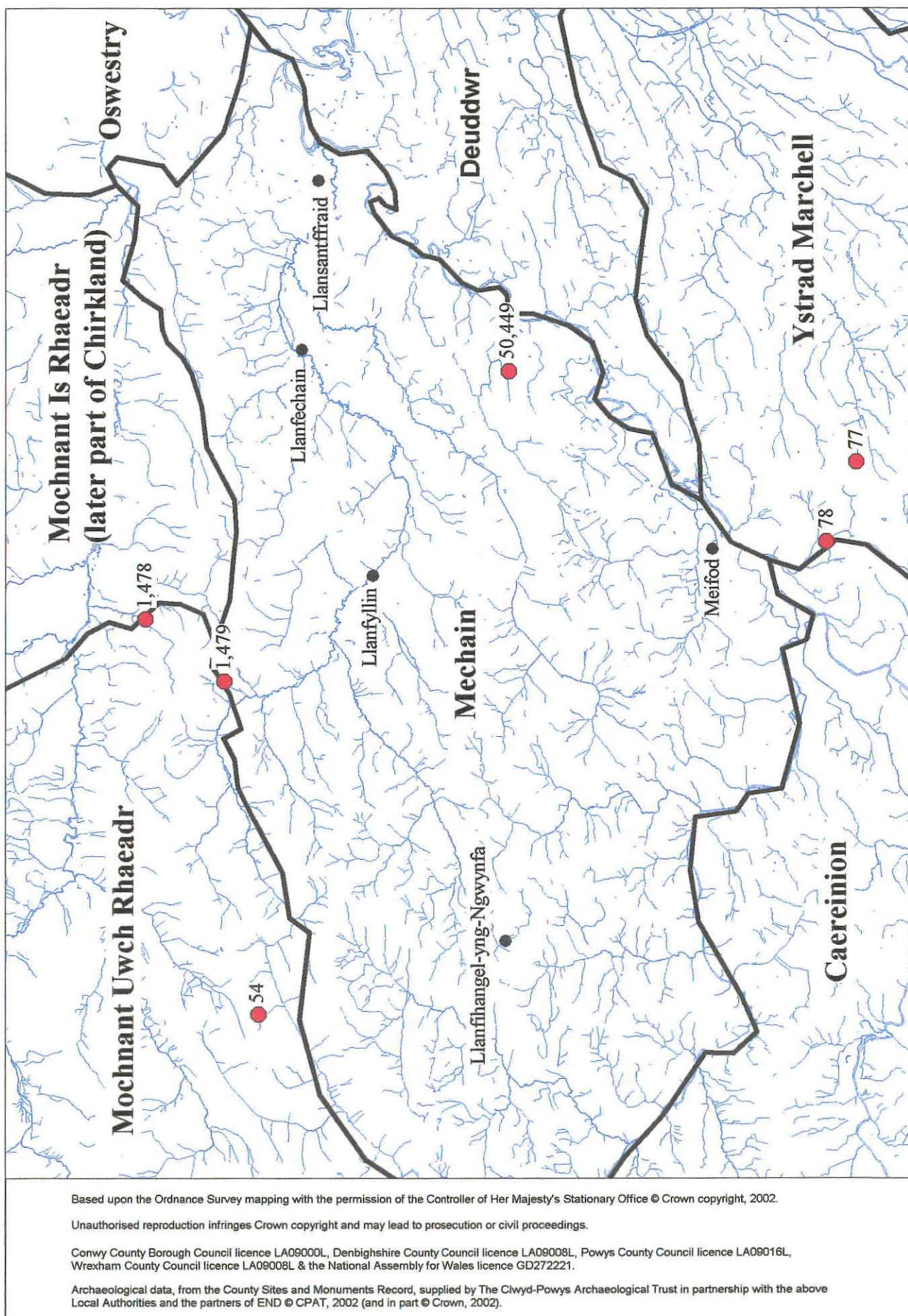


Fig 3. Short dykes near the Cantref of Mechain (as defined by Melville Richards). Scale 1:100,000.

Appendix 1

Project Design

Grant-aid programme Threat Related Assessments **Financial year** 2002/03**1 Code number and project title**

CPAT 929

SHORT DYKES AND LINEAR EARTHWORKS

2 Location: NGR, Community, SAM no/SMR no

Various

3 Summary of proposals for current/forthcoming year

The principal aims of the project in its first year (2001/02) were to develop a methodology for recording the presence, condition and state of preservation of the short dykes, with a view to enhancing knowledge and understanding of these monuments, identifying those which are being most adversely affected by erosion, and developing strategies for managing them more effectively in future.

The principal aim of the second year of the project (2002/03) is to complete the fieldwork of all certain and possible sites in the Clwyd-Powys area, recording details of form, condition, and current management problems, and to prepare a project report detailing this information, accompanied by a regional overview of dykes in the borderland area. It is anticipated that the report will include both scheduling and management recommendations.

It seems possible that fieldwork during 2002/03 will result in the identification of sites where further and more detailed study might be desirable (including map regression analysis, geophysics, detailed fieldwork recording and excavation). It is anticipated that further work of this nature, together with some form of academic publication, might form the basis of a final project application in 2003/04.

It is envisaged that fieldwork recording will follow the model provided by the Cadw-funded studies of Offa's Dyke, and at the same time taking advantage of the kind of GIS-based approach being developed for the management work on Offa's Dyke in England and Wales as part of the current Offa's Dyke Initiative.

4 Description of the site(s), area, material etc and assessment of archaeological importance

The short dykes form an important though little-studied component of the field archaeology of the Welsh borderland, particularly in Powys.

Many of the dykes still survive as earthworks, which because of their size and scale are often important visual components of the historic environment. On a more academic level it appears that some of the short dykes appear to have potential for helping to map and define the extent of some of the Welsh early medieval kingdoms, though others may be very much earlier or later in date, defining prehistoric territories on the one hand or medieval hunting estates. The project database lists about 60 certain and possible sites.

Previous studies of the short dykes of the Welsh borderland have tended to focus on small groups of sites in limited areas. It is hoped that by looking at all the known dykes in their topographic context, more general conclusions can be drawn about their morphology, siting and associations, which will have a bearing upon their function and chronology.

5 Nature of threat, the likely extent of timing and destruction

The short dykes of the Welsh borderland, particularly those in Powys, have come under considerable pressure over the last twenty years, particularly from agricultural activity, and a number of cases of damage to scheduled and unscheduled stretches of dyke have been reported.

It is envisaged that the project will in due course provide an opportunity to extend the work that Cadw has promoted in developing management strategies for Offa's Dyke and Wat's Dyke to these shorter dykes.

6 Research objectives

- Improving knowledge of the form, siting and extent of the short dykes of the Welsh borderland.
- Reviewing the cultural and historical context of these monuments.
- Assessing the vulnerability of this element of the archaeological resource, review of the scheduling criteria which might be appropriate regionally, and recommendations for future management strategies.
- Enhancement of the Regional Sites and Monuments Record and ENDEX.

7 Proposed work programme

See also Project Management Plan in section 15. The anticipated work programme includes the following elements (as numbered in the Project Management Plan):

1 Administration

Project Management; AMI monitoring; Financial statements; Audited statement; CPAT Committee Reports; Half-Year/Annual Reports; Archaeology in Wales report.

2 Fieldwork

Field visits to as many dykes as possible in listed in the project database, recording details of form, condition, and current management problems with photographic recording where appropriate.

3 Report Preparation

Report preparation to focus on an overview of the dykes in the region, and a synthesis of past research on dykes. Correlation and review of condition and management of those sites studied in detail in the field.

4 Archive

Submission of records and archive to Sites and Monuments Record.

8 Specialist requirements

Advice from Astrid Caseldine on palaeoenvironmental potential, as necessary

9 Proposed timing of work programme

To be completed during course of financial year. See Project Management Plan Timetable in section 15. A second year of fieldwork is anticipated.

10 Presentation of results

Compilation of project report in *CPAT Report* series, including the following elements: summary of the

work undertaken; background; methodology including application of techniques and approaches used for the Offa's Dyke programme; synthesis of the results; interpretation, classification and appraisal of the significance of the archaeological resource within a regional and national framework; conclusions; gazetteer of linear earthworks included in the documentary assessment and in the fieldwork. Preparation and dissemination of report, with separate paper on recommendations for scheduling enhancement, and for management of the resource; general and specific recommendations for further work in this and other areas.

11 End products

a *During the coming year*

- Project report *CPAT Report* series as outlined in section 10 and separate report on scheduling recommendations and management.
- Summary report on CPAT website www.cpat.org.uk.
- Summary report in *Archaeology in Wales*
- Project archive (field record forms, slides, prints, negatives) to be deposited with the regional SMR
- Enhanced SMR data to be fed into END in due course

b *Year by year until the completion of the project*

12 Progress

The project was initiated in 2001/02. The first year was intended to be primarily concerned with desktop work together with some initial fieldwork, though this was to some extent disrupted by the foot and mouth epidemic. By the end of the 2001/02 financial year it is anticipated that the following work will have been completed: creation of project GIS and database; SMR and NMR interrogation; assessment and record enhancement work; assessment of related earthworks in borderland area of Shropshire and Herefordshire; development of fieldwork recording methodology; assessment of cartographic and AP sources; preliminary fieldwork recording of a selected number of sites to assess the validity of recording methodology; undertaking a certain amount of oblique AP recording work; the production of preliminary project report including gazetteer with illustrations of about 60 certain and possible sites, and recommendations for further work.

13 Project supervisor

a *Name*

Bob Silvester

b *Qualifications*

BA, MIFA

c *Position in organisation*

Deputy Director

d *List of unpublished excavations*

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e *Details of other commitments during the coming year*

Anticipated commitments to Cadw projects include Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites, Roman roads, Regional Industries scoping study and Ridge and Furrow pilot study.

Appendix 2: Confirmed Short Dykes (by PRN)

<i>PRN</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>NGR</i> to <i>NGR</i>	<i>Map</i>
54	Clawdd Mawr Dyke	SJ06152138 SJ06462170	SJ02SE
77	Bwlch Aeddau Dyke	SJ17271064 SJ16901050	SJ11SE
78	Clawdd Llesg Dyke	SJ15731119 SJ15771136	SJ11SE
235	Lower Short Ditch	SO22328847 SO22248775	SO28NW
992	Shepherds Well Dyke	SO18806505 SO18846499	SO16NE
993	Cefn y Crug Dyke	SO16096413 SO16296414	SO16SE
1003	Upper Short Ditch	SO19468724 SO19168675	SO18NE
1041	Aberbechan Dyke	SO12719445 SO13549465	SO19SW
1053	Wantyn Dyke	SO18299211 SO19658959	SO19SE
1114	Short Ditch	SO18737463 SO19167505	SO17SE
1478	Ty Newydd Dyke	SJ12942327 SJ13682346	SJ12SW
1479	Aber Naint Dyke	SJ12692171 SJ12282202	SJ12SW
1882	Crugyn Bank Dyke	SO10158576 SO11238552	SO18NW
1986	Pen y Clawdd Dyke II	SO18827049 SO18677082	SO17SE
2145	Fron Hill Dyke	SO19875989 SO19626014	SO15NE
3711	Giant's Grave Dyke	SO04438607 SO04328644	SO08NW
4034	Two Tumps Dyke I	SO11498513 SO11888469	SO18NW
6242	Two Tumps Dyke II	SO11928458 SO12038423	SO18SW
6871	Cowlod Dyke	SO16526343 SO16546353	SO16SE
35471	Red Hill Cross Dyke	SO15044980 SO15024986	SO14NE
50449	Bwlch y Cibau Dyke	SJ17801638 SJ18591713	SJ11NE

Appendix 3: Confirmed Short Dykes (by name)

<i>PRN</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>NGR</i> to <i>NGR</i>	<i>Map</i>
1479	Aber Naint Dyke	SJ12692171 SJ12282202	SJ12SW
1041	Aberbechan Dyke	SO12719445 SO13549465	SO19SW
77	Bwlch Aeddau Dyke	SJ17271064 SJ16901050	SJ11SE
50449	Bwlch y Cibau Dyke	SJ17801638 SJ18591713	SJ11NE
993	Cefn y Crug Dyke	SO16096413 SO16296414	SO16SE
78	Clawdd Llesg Dyke	SJ15731119 SJ15771136	SJ11SE
54	Clawdd Mawr Dyke	SJ06152138 SJ06462170	SJ02SE
6871	Cowlod Dyke	SO16526343 SO16546353	SO16SE
1882	Crugyn Bank Dyke	SO10158576 SO11238552	SO18NW
2145	Fron Hill Dyke	SO19875989 SO19626014	SO15NE
3711	Giant's Grave Dyke	SO04438607 SO04328644	SO08NW
235	Lower Short Ditch	SO22328847 SO22248775	SO28NW
1986	Pen y Clawdd Dyke II	SO18827049 SO18677082	SO17SE
35471	Red Hill Cross Dyke	SO15044980 SO15024986	SO14NE
992	Shepherds Well Dyke	SO18806505 SO18846499	SO16NE
1114	Short Ditch	SO18737463 SO19167505	SO17SE
4034	Two Tumps Dyke I	SO11498513 SO11888469	SO18NW
6242	Two Tumps Dyke II	SO11928458 SO12038423	SO18SW
1478	Ty Newydd Dyke	SJ12942327 SJ13682346	SJ12SW
1003	Upper Short Ditch	SO19468724 SO19168675	SO18NE
1053	Wantyn Dyke	SO18299211 SO19658959	SO19SE

Appendix 4: Other Linear Earthworks visited (by PRN)

<i>PRN</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Map</i>
497	Clawdd Mawr Dyke	SH97421112		SH98011107	SH91SE
964	Gwar y Cae earthwork	SO08007687		SO07997690	SO07NE
1052	Fron Heulog Earthwork	SO17509250			SO19SE
1672	Creggin Dyke	SN97197065		SN97907061	SN97SE
3730	Clawdd Du Mawr placename	SN8569			SN86NE
4159	Waunmarteg bank	SO00907672		SO01657670	SO07NW
4198	Dol Folau Dyke I	SN91916595		SN92136595	SN96NW
4340	Llanafanfawr Dyke	SN917557		SN808512	SN95NW
4573	Sylfaen Dyke	SJ17730662		SJ18690679	SJ10NE
4714	Kerry Hill Earthwork	SO10888513			SO18NW
5179	Clawdd Du Bach placename	SN8670			SN87SE
5225	Erewillim Dyke	SO17275173			SO15SE
5226	Black Hill Dyke	SO17355199		SO17505190	SO15SE
5232	Hen Gefn Dyke	SO19137021		SO19537089	SO17SE
6243	Dol Folau Dyke II	SN92306601		SN92856600	SN96NW
6680	Mount Pleasant Dyke	SO03768638		SO03748627	SO08NW
6725	Fawnog y Bont bank	SN84248292		SN85508250	SN88SW
6862	Esgairnantau bank and ditch	SO17906184		SO18136206	SO16SE
7087	Rhiw Gam Earthwork	SO08607998		SO08638006	SO07NE
8560	Pentre Bank	SO152982			SO19NE
13434	Drum Ddu N bank and ditch	SN95956085		SN95756080	SN96SE
17785	Wantyn Dyke, Upper	SO20918843		SO20018879	SO28NW
17790	Dolhelfa Grange boundary	SN95017306		SN95167341	SN97SE
19675	Mountain Lodge boundary bank	SJ24624757		SJ24574758	SJ24NW
21363	Fishpools Boundary bank (multiple)	SO18676723		SO18506767	SO16NE
21364	Fishpools Boundary Bank II	SO18602678			SO16NE
21365	Fishpools Boundary Bank I	SO18649672			SO16NE
35324	Dancing Ground Boundary Bank	SO13054803		SO12924833	SO14NW

<i>PRN</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>NGR</i>	to	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Map</i>
35715	Llechwedd Bank	SH99192198			SH92SE
38450	Coed y Fron boundary	SJ03211996		SJ03422013	SJ01NW
81651	Rhos-swydd 'dyke'	SO12126505			SO16NW
101510	Ruabon Mountain Boundary Bank	SJ24264783		SJ24284814	SJ24NW
101625	Clawdd Collen	SJ24484025		SJ24474043	SJ24SW

Appendix 5: Other Linear Earthworks visited (by name)

<i>PRN</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>NGR</i>	to	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Map</i>
5226	Black Hill Dyke	SO17355199		SO17505190	SO15SE
101625	Clawdd Collen	SJ24484025		SJ24474043	SJ24SW
5179	Clawdd Du Bach placename	SN8670			SN87SE
3730	Clawdd Du Mawr placename	SN8569			SN86NE
497	Clawdd Mawr Dyke	SH97421112		SH98011107	SH91SE
38450	Coed y Fron boundary	SJ03211996		SJ03422013	SJ01NW
1672	Creggin Dyke	SN97197065		SN97907061	SN97SE
35324	Dancing Ground Boundary Bank	SO13054803		SO12924833	SO14NW
4198	Dol Folau Dyke I	SN91916595		SN92136595	SN96NW
6243	Dol Folau Dyke II	SN92306601		SN92856600	SN96NW
17790	Dolhelfa Grange boundary	SN95017306		SN95167341	SN97SE
13434	Drum Ddu N bank and ditch	SN95956085		SN95756080	SN96SE
5225	Erewillim Dyke	SO17275173			SO15SE
6862	Esgairnantau bank and ditch	SO17906184		SO18136206	SO16SE
6725	Fawnog y Bont bank	SN84248292		SN85508250	SN88SW
21363	Fishpools Boundary bank (multiple)	SO18676723		SO18506767	SO16NE
21365	Fishpools Boundary Bank I	SO18649672			SO16NE
21364	Fishpools Boundary Bank II	SO18602678			SO16NE
1052	Fron Heulog Earthwork	SO17509250			SO19SE
964	Gwar y Cae earthwork	SO08007687		SO07997690	SO07NE
5232	Hen Gefn Dyke	SO19137021		SO19537089	SO17SE
4714	Kerry Hill Earthwork	SO10888513			SO18NW
4340	Llanafanfawr Dyke	SN917557		SN808512	SN95NW
35715	Llechwedd Bank	SH99192198			SH92SE
6680	Mount Pleasant Dyke	SO03768638		SO03748627	SO08NW
19675	Mountain Lodge boundary bank	SJ24624757		SJ24574758	SJ24NW
8560	Pentre Bank	SO152982			SO19NE
7087	Rhiw Gam Earthwork	SO08607998		SO08638006	SO07NE

<i>PRN</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>NGR</i> to <i>NGR</i>	<i>Map</i>
81651	Rhos-swydd 'dyke'	SO12126505	SO16NW
101510	Ruabon Mountain Boundary Bank	SJ24264783 SJ24284814	SJ24NW
4573	Sylfaen Dyke	SJ17730662 SJ18690679	SJ10NE
17785	Wantyn Dyke, Upper	SO20918843 SO20018879	SO28NW
4159	Waunmarteg bank	SO00907672 SO01657670	SO07NW

Appendix 6

Gazetteer of Confirmed Short Dykes (by PRN)

Clawdd Mawr Dyke

PRN 54

SAM Mg101(POW)

Short dyke

Dark Age ?

NGR: From SJ06152138 to SJ06462170

MAP SJ02SE

Summary

A short dyke consisting of a substantial bank and ditch, up to 20m wide, which runs obliquely across an E/W aligned ridge for 0.49km. The earthwork generally faces NW.

Morphology

The NE half of the dyke lies within a conifer plantation, while the SW is within upland pasture. The NE end commences on a steep N-facing slope at SJ 06462170, from where the bank runs upslope to the crest. It continues to the S before changing direction to run SSW at SJ 06462164. There appear to be traces of a ditch on the NW for the next section, but these are hidden by conifer growth. The earthwork runs SW from SJ 06412154 and leaves the forest at SJ 06352149, where the ditch on the NW becomes obvious. The earthwork turns WSW at SJ 06312145 and gains a ditch on its SSE side between SJ 06262143 and SJ 06182140. The SW end of the dyke is at SJ 06152138, on a steep slope overlooking a stream valley.

Location

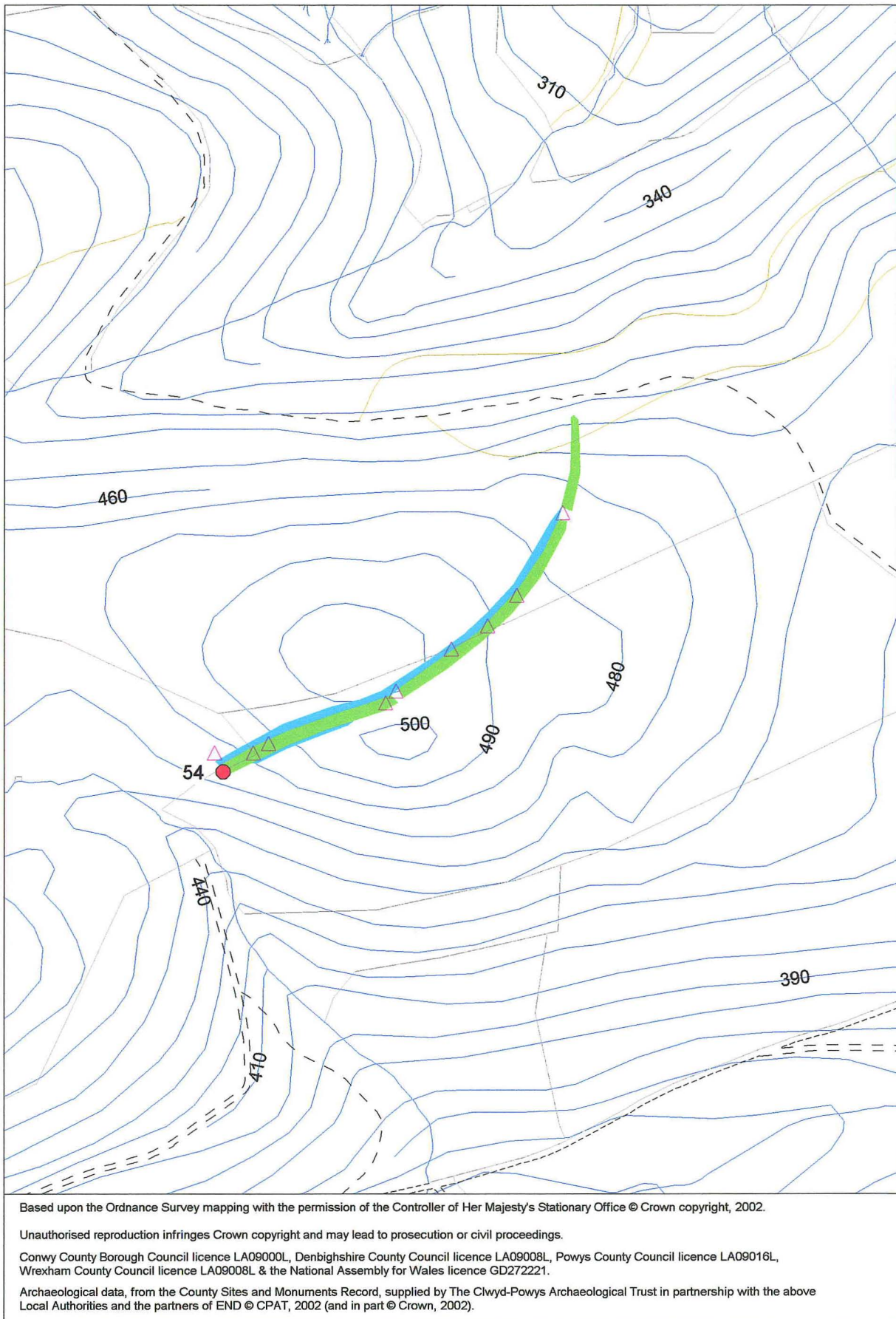
There are excellent distant views from the site in all directions, only blocked by forestry to the N.

Disturbance

The afforested section of the earthwork was formerly crossed by old access tracks/paths at SJ 06452161, SJ 06412154 and SJ 06382149. The boundary of the forest has also lowered the level of the bank where it emerges at SJ 06362149. A further access gap, still in use by vehicles cuts the earthwork at SJ 06302144. The main disturbance to the pasture section of the earthwork is represented by stock erosion scars between SJ 06332147 and SJ 06262143, and at SJ 06192141. An old slate slab boundary marker has been erected on the top of the bank at SJ 06182140.

Visit details

Visited 13/06/2002



Clawdd Mawr Dyke (PRN 54), Scale 1:5,000

Bwlch Aeddau Dyke

PRN 77

SAM Mg100(POW)

Short dyke

Dark Age ?

NGR: From SJ17271064 to SJ16901050

MAP SJ11SE

Summary

A short dyke, 0.42km long, which follows the N side of a ridge which is aligned approximately E/W. The earthwork generally faces N.

Morphology

The earthwork commences on the WSW at the base of a steep spur at SJ 16901050 and runs ENE to a minor road cutting. The cutting has removed a section of the dyke, which recommences on the ENE side of the road and runs along the N side of the ridge to SJ 17061058, where it is cut by a farm access road. The surviving parts of this section consist of a N facing scarp, 3m-3.5m high, with an artificial terrace below. On the ENE side of the farm access road, further disturbance associated with the farm has removed traces of the dyke as far as SJ 17141062, where it recommences. This section also runs in an ENE direction and has a similar form to the previous one, but with a maximum height of 4.2m. At SJ 17211064, the dyke changes alignment to run E and also loses the terrace. The E end of the dyke is at SJ 17271064, where it meets the head of a stream valley.

Location

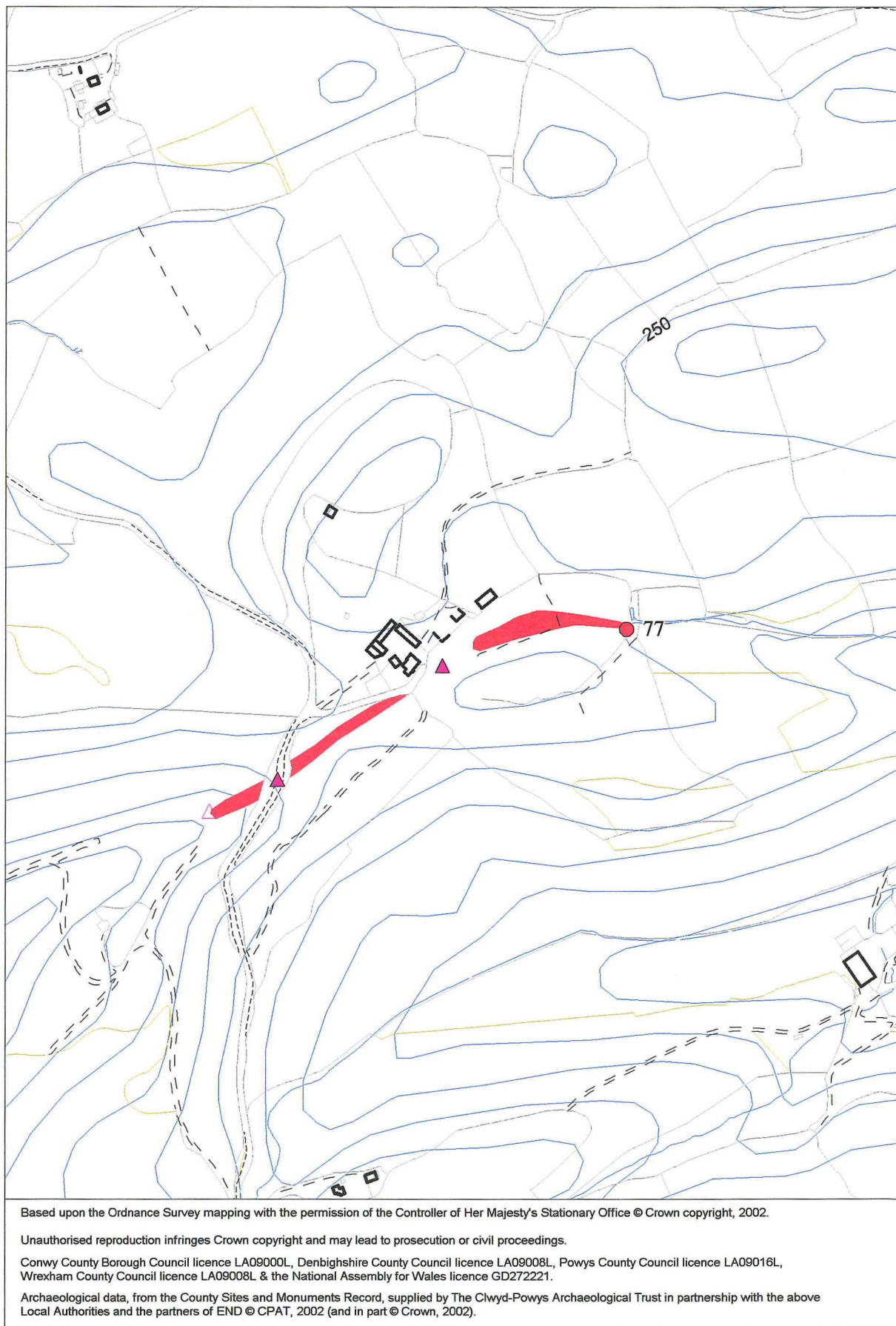
The views from the site are to both the N and S of the ridge along which it runs. Though it faces N, the best views from the ridge are to the S.

Disturbance

At its extreme WSW end, the dyke is interrupted by a farm access track, but the major damage to this section is a little to the ENE, where a road cutting through the ridge has removed a length of approximately 10m. The wooded section to the ENE of the road is in good condition, but at the approximate centre of the dyke, all traces of it have been lost as a result of activity associated with Bwlch Farm. Beyond the farm the only disturbance appears to be stock erosion of the steep N facing scarp of the dyke.

Visit details

Visited 18/04/2002



Bwlch Aeddau Dyke (PRN 77), Scale 1:5,000

Clawdd Llesg Dyke

PRN 78

SAM Mg098(POW)

Short dyke

Dark Age ?

NGR: From SJ15731119 to SJ15771136

MAP SJ11SE

Summary

A short dyke, 0.17km long, consisting of a bank and ditch crossing an interfluvial spur. The earthwork generally faces E.

Morphology

The S end of the dyke commences at SJ 15731119, on the S-facing slope of an E/W-aligned spur. It is possible that it originally continued down to the stream to the S, but there is now no surface trace of this. The dyke crosses the spur at a point where there is a minor local prominence to the W. No other part of the spur would provide a suitable location for a dyke facing E, as this does.

The morphology of the dyke is a low broad bank with a similar ditch on its E side. The first section runs N to SJ 15721125, where it is cut by a farm access route, and to the N of that, by a minor public road. On the N side of the road, the dyke recommences in a similar form and runs to SJ 15751133, beyond which it turns slightly to run NNE. This final section, as it descends steeply towards its N end at a stream (at SJ 15771136), consists of a substantial bank, up to 2m high, with a corresponding ditch on its E side; this appears to be the only part of the dyke where much of the original earthwork survives; it has a total width of 15.4m, unlike the denuded sections which are much wider, around 21m across, but also much lower.

Location

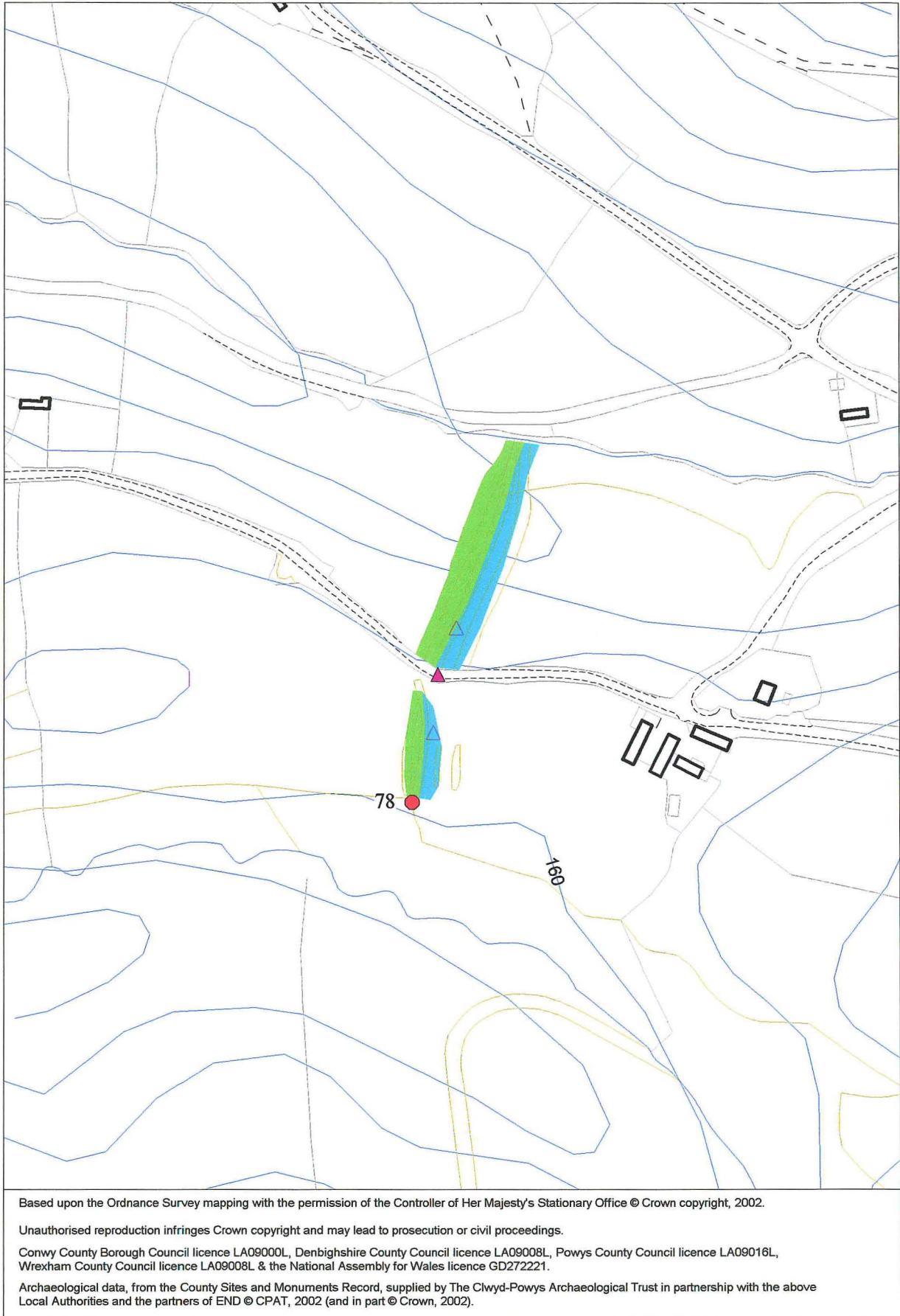
Although the dyke faces E, its location on a W sloping interfluvial restricts the views to a maximum of approximately 700m in that direction; the more distant views are to the W.

Disturbance

Apart from the N part which is well preserved, most of the dyke has been subject to land improvement and has lost its definition. In addition to this a short section has been lost, near the centre, where a minor road and farm access route cross its line. The only other disturbances are a small number of badger scrapes, but these have only affected the turf and not the underlying structure.

Visit details

Visited 18/04/2002



Clwydd Llesg Dyke (PRN 78), Scale 1:2,500

Lower Short Ditch

PRN 235

SAM Mg223(POW)

Short dyke

Dark Age ?

NGR: From SO22328847 to SO22248775

MAP SO28NW

Summary

A short dyke consisting of a bank and ditch crossing the Kerry Ridgeway, which locally forms the border between England and Wales. The short Welsh section is only 0.05km long, while that in England is 0.73km long, giving a total length of 0.78km. The earthwork generally faces W.

Morphology

At its N end the dyke commences in a forestry plantation at SO 22328847. It consists of a bank and ditch (on W), 15.4m wide overall, which runs S. Near the edge of the plantation it is crossed by a later field bank, while beyond the plantation, the first part of the dyke has been levelled where it is crossed by a farm access road. Further to the S, the dyke enters England, where the crest of the bank is initially occupied by a minor public road, though the ditch on the W is readily evident. A section of dyke is missing where the road meets a second road at a T-junction, but it continues into some recently felled forestry beyond, ending at the head of a steep-sided stream gully at SO 22248775.

Location

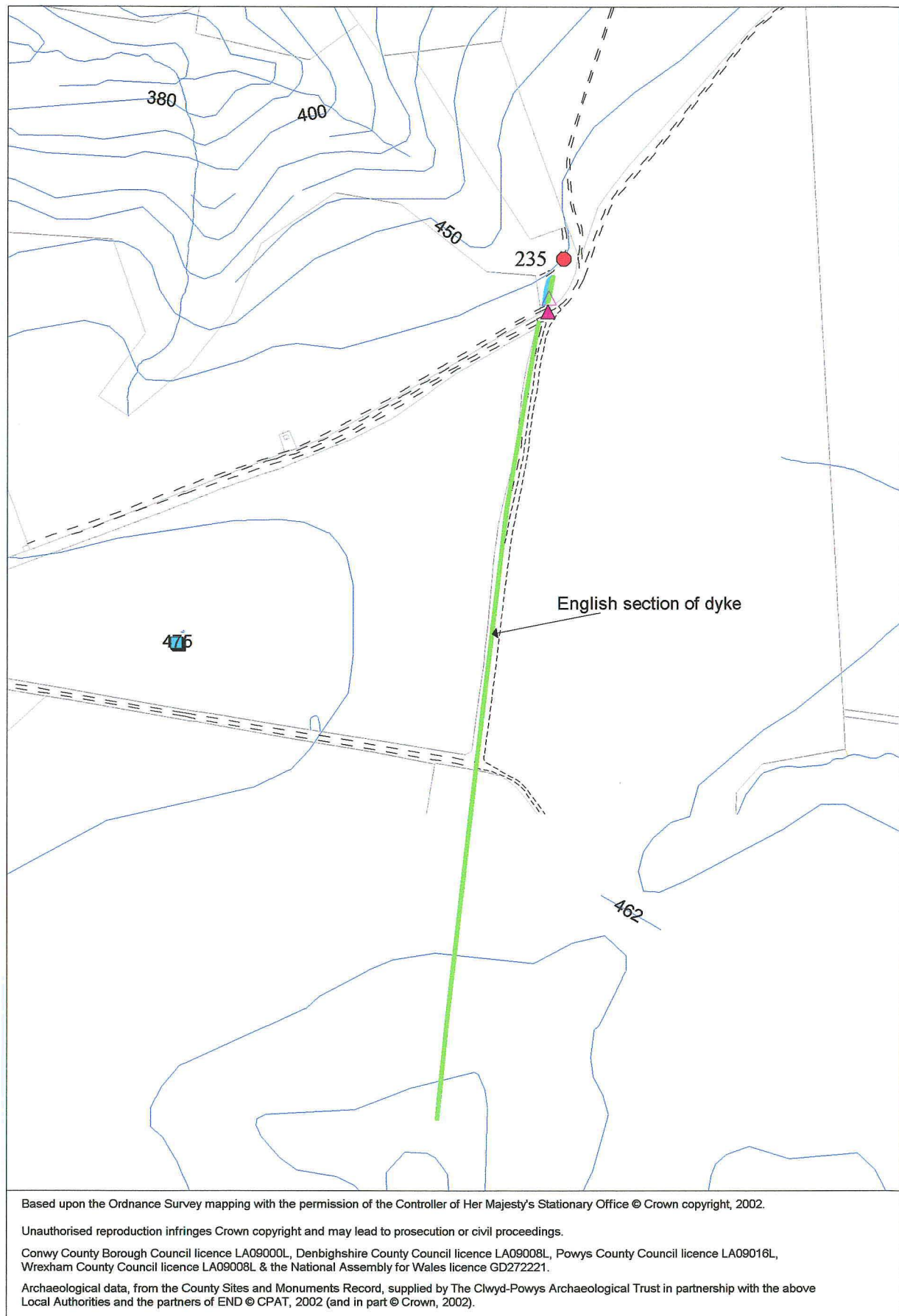
Lying on the crest of a ridge, the views from the site ought to be fairly extensive in all directions, but most views are presently obscured to some extent by forestry.

Disturbance

The Welsh section of the dyke lies in forestry and trees have been planted on the earthwork. There is a potential for further disturbance when the trees are harvested. Within the afforested section, the dyke is crossed by an old field bank which has caused minor disturbance.

Visit details

Visited 06/06/2002



Lower Short Ditch (PRN 235), Scale 1:5,000

Shepherds Well Dyke

PRN 992

SAM

Short dyke

Medieval

NGR: From SO18806505 to SO18846499

MAP SO16NE

Summary

Bank and ditch aligned NNW/SSE, running across a narrow section of the Radnor Forest plateau which here forms the watershed between Cwm y Gerwyn and the Harley Dingle. Total surviving length of dyke is 0.08km.

Morphology

SSE end of the dyke commences at the head of a steep-sided ravine at SO 18846499 and runs NNW as a bank, 6m wide by 1m high, with a ditch, 4m wide, on its WSW side. There is a small section of the reported counterscarp bank, 2m wide by 0.4m high, at the SSE end, but within about 10m this becomes covered with spoil from a recent enlargement of the ditch and is not then visible further to the NNW. At SO 18826503 the earthwork turns slightly to run almost N, before ending at the forest boundary. It seems likely that the earthwork originally continued into the forestry to the N, but has been obliterated by a combination of planting and forest road construction: there is a large turning bay to the N of the visible end of the dyke. One source has suggested that two gullies running SW from the SSE end of the dyke were related to the earthwork, but these appear to be natural and there is nothing to suggest that they represent contemporary features.

Location

The earthwork crosses a narrow watershed between the valleys of Cwm y Gerwyn and Harley Dingle. The main views are to the N and S, those to the E and W are restricted by higher ground culminating in the hill tops of Great Rhos and Black Mixen.

Disturbance

The visible section of the bank of the dyke has been cut through by a trackway at SO 18826503 and it seems likely that it has also been truncated by forestry activities at its N end and probably continued into the forestry to the N. The most significant damage to the earthwork concerns the relatively recent drainage works which have entailed the deepening of the ditch to 1.5m by machine excavation; it seems unlikely that any ditch deposits have survived this process.

Visit details

Visited 02/08/2002



Shepherd's Well Dyke (PRN 992), Scale 1:2,500

Cefn y Crug Dyke

PRN 993

SAM

Short dyke

Medieval

NGR: From SO16096413 to SO16296414

MAP SO16SE

Summary

A short dyke consisting of a curving bank and ditch crossing a ridge. The earthwork has a total length of 0.22km and generally faces S.

Morphology

An arcing bank with a silted ditch on its S side, approximately 6.5m in total width. The bank is low (up to 0.5m high) but quite broad and has little variation in height along its length. The ditch is wide with gently sloping sides and is up to 0.4m deep. There is a slight kink in the bank at SO 16176416, where the dyke is cut through by a track (4m wide); this could signify either that the break is original and has been utilised by a track which crosses the dyke, or that the break is relatively recent and the kink has resulted from earthmoving operations pushing some material southwards. The ditch is located on the inside of the curve, which would probably be disadvantageous from a defensive point of view. Perhaps if the ditch is on the 'inside' it might suggest the site is a medieval forest boundary.

Location

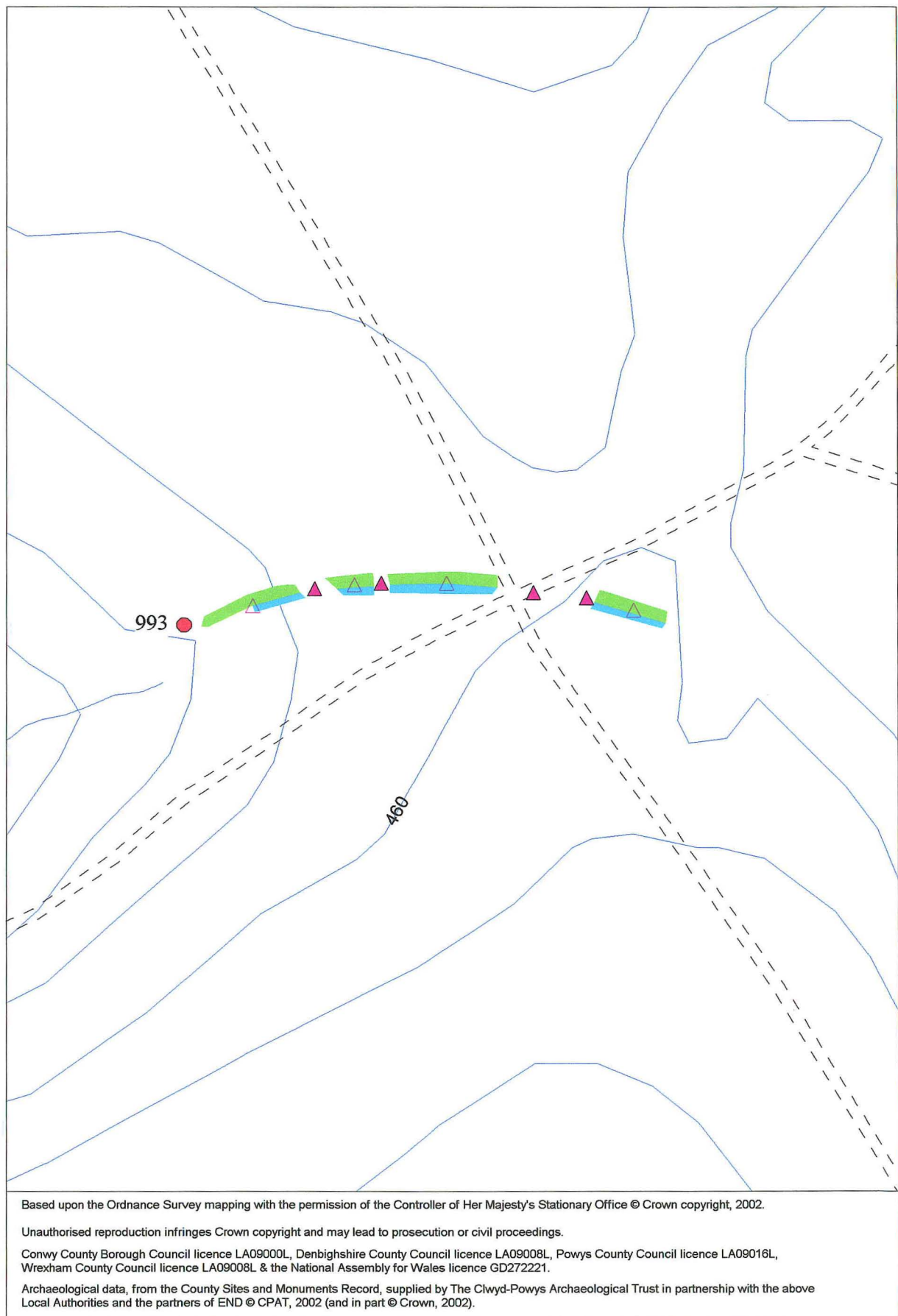
The site is located on a saddle. At its E end (SO 16296414) the dyke terminates at a steep-sided cwm, where there is a deep gully caused by landslip. From this end the dyke runs WNW, then W and finally WSW to its W end (SO 16096413). It fades out as the ground steepens with the dyke nearing, but not quite reaching, the head of a steep sided valley. The ground rises immediately though gently to the S, while to the N the ground is flat for perhaps 100m, before beginning to rise gently. There are limited views to N and S, wider and more distant views to W and E.

Disturbance

There is intermittent disturbance of varying types throughout the course of the earthwork. At its E and W ends, there has been a small amount of disturbance in the form of old sheep tracks. The major forms of disturbance consist of the recent removal of a short section of bank, probably by machine, at SO 16266415, and the almost total loss of lengths where the dyke is crossed by trackways; the most notable disturbance is between SO 16266415 and SO 16226416, where it is crossed by a wide, braided trackway. An old trackway, perhaps created by peat sledges, cuts the dyke near its W end, between SO 16156415 and SO 16136415.

Visit details

Visited 11/12/2001



Cefn y Crug Dyke (PRN 993), Scale 1:2,500

Upper Short Ditch

PRN 1003

SAM Mg201(POW)

Short dyke

Dark Age ?

NGR: From SO19468724 to SO19168675

MAP SO18NE

Summary

A short dyke crossing the Kerry Ridgeway which locally forms the border between England and Wales. The Welsh section is 0.25km long, while that in England is 0.32km long, giving a total length of 0.57km. The earthwork generally faces NW.

Morphology

The section of the dyke in Wales is situated entirely within forestry. The NE portion, beyond a forest road, was very overgrown and could not be accessed as a result. On the SW side of the forest road (at SO 19428718), the dyke continues SW as a substantial bank with a ditch on the NW side, c.10m wide overall. The end of the Welsh section of the dyke is at SO 19338707, where it is cut by a larger forestry access road along the crest of the Kerry ridge. On the SW side of the road, the dyke continues as a bank and ditch within pasture fields. It ends at SO 19168675.

Location

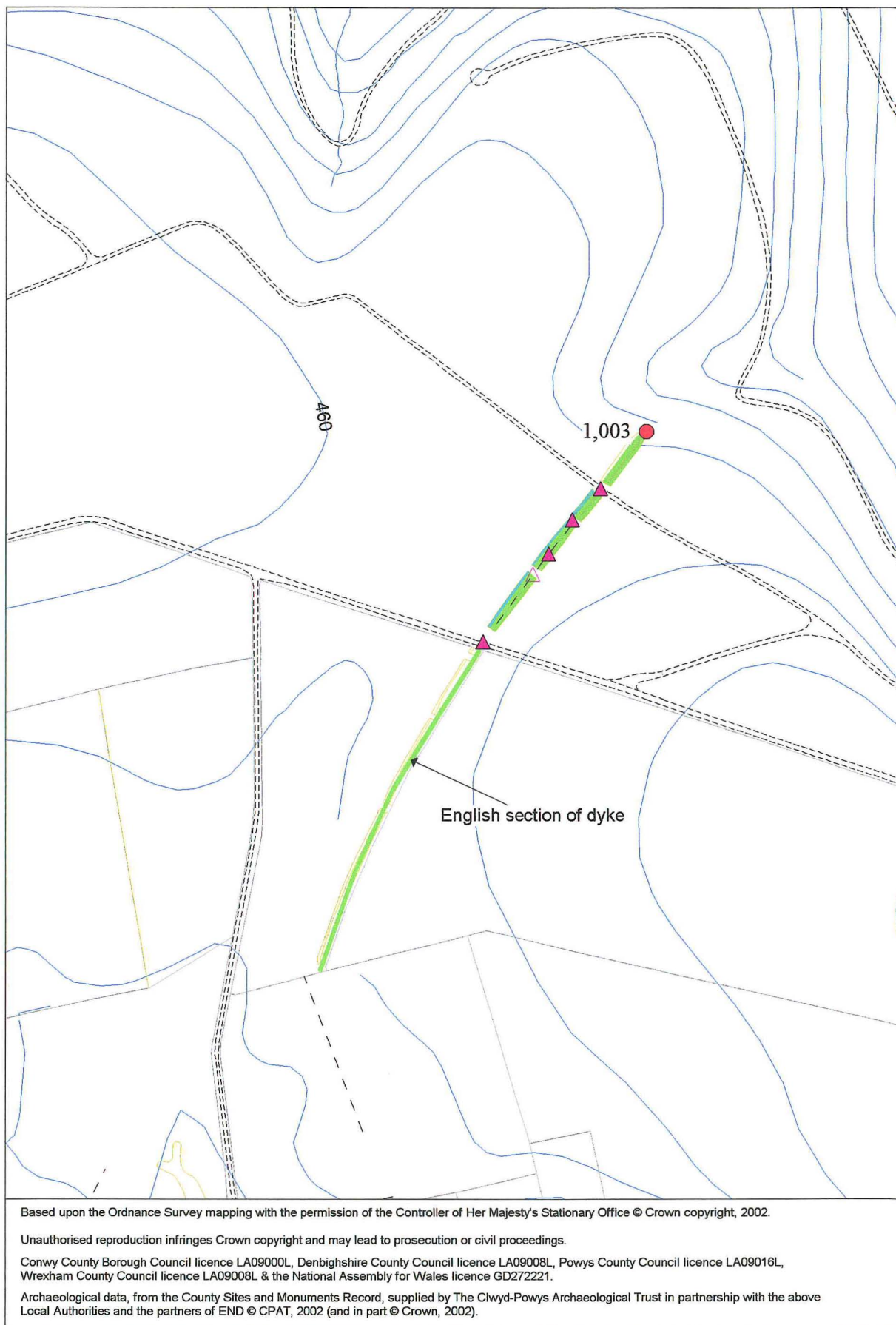
The site is located on a ridge, but the views from it are obscured by forestry.

Disturbance

The dyke is cut in two places by forest roads, namely at SO 19428718 and SO 19338707. There are also three gaps, formerly used for access, at SO 19398716, SO 19378713 and SO 19348709. Conifers encroach slightly on the NW side of the ditch.

Visit details

Visited 06/06/2002



Upper Short Ditch (PRN 1003), Scale 1:5,000

Aberbechan Dyke

PRN 1041

SAM Mg061(POW)

Short dyke

Dark Age ?

NGR: From SO12719445 to SO13549465

MAP SO19SW

Summary

A short dyke commencing on the valley floor of the Bechan Brook which ascends and then runs across the S-facing slope of the valley. The earthwork is 0.85km long and generally faces S or SE.

Morphology

The dyke commences on the floor of the valley to the NE of the Bechan Brook at SO 12719445. It initially consists of a single bank, but from SO 12749449 a second bank appears. The banks are broadly spaced (generally c.25m between crests) and continue in a NE direction up to the B 4389 road. Beyond the road the banks continue in the same form with a slight change of alignment towards the ENE; they ascend the steep WSW-facing slope as far as Little Aberbechan farmyard. Apart from a small mound which may represent a relict section of the N bank, the dyke has been completely removed in the farmyard. The earthwork recommences at SO 12979462 and continues E as a scarp on the N side, with an embanked scarp and then a ditch to the S. The ditch fades for 10m at SO 13049464 and, c.20m beyond, the N scarp fades out leaving a scarp and ditch with counterscarp bank. A further section of the N scarp is found between SO 13129463 and SO 13229462, beyond which the dyke continues as a single scarp. At SO 13269460 the scarp regains a ditch and this has a counterscarp bank on its S side. The ditch and counterscarp are lost at SO 13349461, perhaps as a result of past land improvement, and the dyke continues as a single scarp to its apparent end (SO 13549465) at Cloddiau Farm. A fence/hedge line beyond the farm may represent a former continuation of the line of the dyke. In addition, it is worth considering that the line of the dyke may be continued SW by a natural stream gully which runs up the SW side of the Bechan Brook valley towards Cefn Mawr.

Location

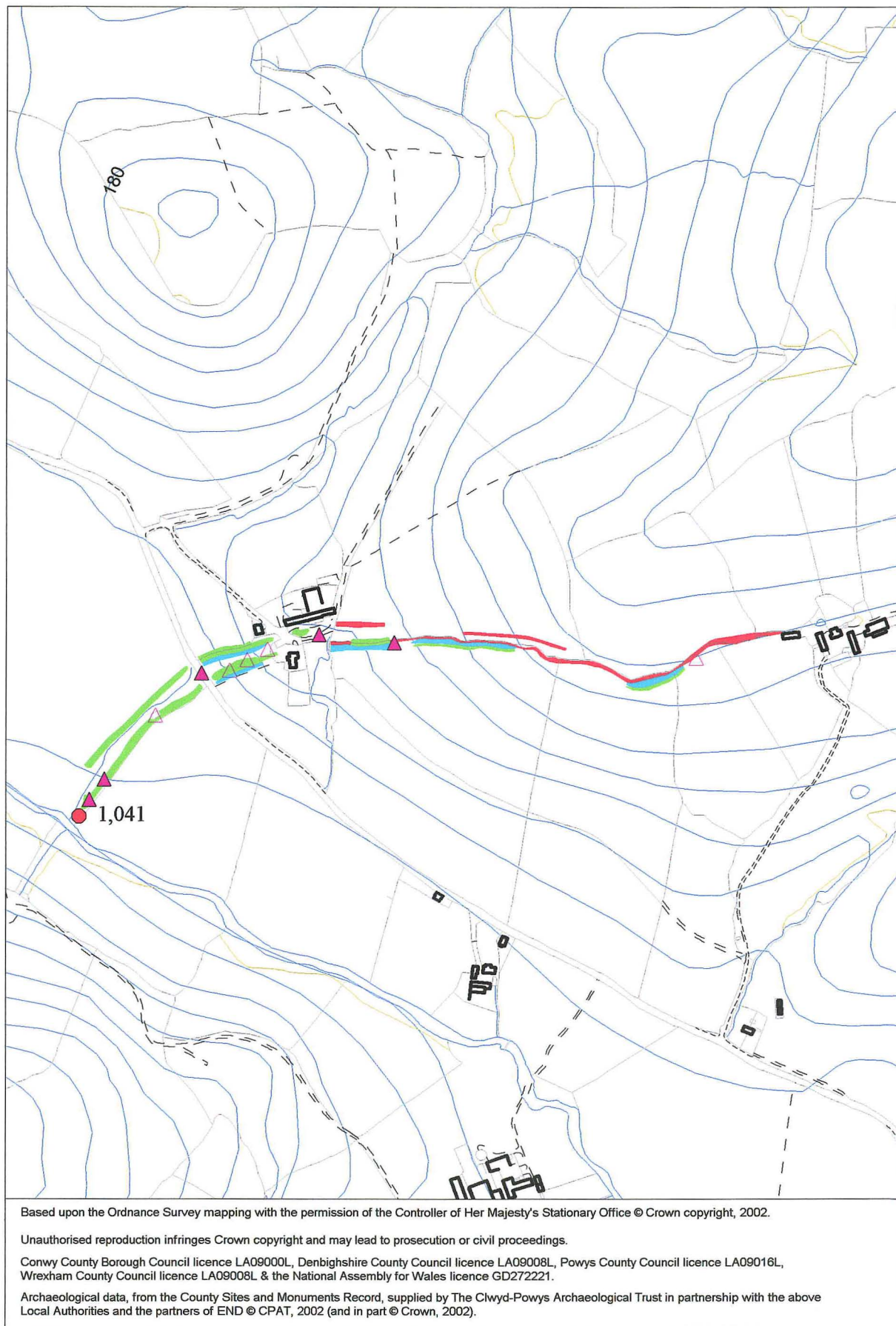
The dyke commences on the floor of the valley adjacent to the Bechan Brook. It then ascends first the crest and then the S side of a spur which runs SW from the vicinity of Bryn-rorin Farm. The E end of the dyke appears to terminate in the middle of the slope on the NW side of a minor stream valley. The main views are down the valley of the Bechan Brook, to the SE, apart from the E end where the view is to the S.

Disturbance

The W end of the dyke, beyond the B 4389, is fenced off limiting the potential for further disturbance. In this section the W end of the N bank appears to have been truncated, while the S bank has been cut through in two places, one for access and the other for an abandoned mill leat. The remainder of the dyke is subject to animal erosion, though this is generally not particularly serious, and also appears to have suffered from land improvement in the past. A number of gaps have been cut through the earthwork for access, although most of these are no longer used. The section in Little Aberbechan farmyard may be represented only by a small mound; otherwise it has been completely levelled.

Visit details

Visited 27/05/2002



Aberbechan Dyke (PRN 1041), Scale 1:6,000

Wantyn Dyke**PRN 1053****SAM Mg208(POW)**

Short dyke

Dark Age ?

NGR: From SO18299211 to SO19658959**MAP** SO19SE**Summary**

The dyke appears to face the SW, and its NW half is generally represented by a scarp or embanked scarp facing in that direction. Very little of the SE half of the dyke is extant, but those parts which do survive suggest that this part was more usually a bank, probably with a ditch on its SW side. The difference in morphology between the two halves appears to be due to changes in topography; the ground over which the NW half runs naturally faces SW and could be utilised to form a reasonably impressive feature, whereas the slope of the SE half is generally in the opposite direction and less favourable. The total length of the dyke is 2.90km.

Morphology

The visible end of the dyke to the NW is located at SO 18299211, where there is an old gateway. The morphology of the dyke at this point takes the form of a modified scarp facing SW, on top of which is an old hedge/fence line. As the dyke runs SE it becomes more pronounced below a wood and there are terraces above and below which are a result of material having been removed to produce the scarp. The total width of the earthwork is approximately 10m, with the scarp being of the order of 1.7m in height. This section ends at SO 18439201, where it has been cut by an old quarry and farm trackway. Beyond the trackway there is a fairly slight 20m length of the earthwork which descends to the base of the steep-sided stream valley and ends at SO 18459200.

The alignment on the far side of the stream follows a c.3m deep holloway, before the dyke recommences approximately 80m to the SE at SO 18529195; beyond this the crest of the dyke is utilised for a modern fence line. The initial part of this section is a simple SW-facing scarp approximately 2m high, but this changes at SO 18549185 where a bank emerges on the crest of the scarp. The embanked scarp follows the contours, becoming more substantial to the SSE and reaching a maximum height of 3m on the downslope side and 0.7m on the upslope (ENE) side. It then descends towards a stream valley and the earthworks become less pronounced before fading out and ending 5m short of the stream at SO 18649164. The dyke recommences 5m beyond the stream and runs for c.40m to SO 18669160, where it has been levelled by field improvement.

Field improvement has removed all traces of the dyke on both sides of an old trackway between Goetre and Coed-y-Brain and the dyke only recommences at SO 18739145. The next section of the dyke is a simple SW-facing scarp, 2m high, occupied by a hedge which forms the boundary between two adjacent fields. The dyke is truncated at SO 18809132 by a gateway and has been levelled in the next field. The dyke then recommences at SO 18859121, where it again forms a boundary between two fields, initially as a scarp 1.6m high. From SO 18879117 the ground on either side begins to level out and the dyke gradually becomes a bank, 1m high, which ends at SO 18899113, where there is a gateway with a stream beyond it.

To the SE of the stream, which is a tributary of the River Mule, the ground is boggy. A fence follows the alignment, but there is no trace of the dyke until it reaches drier ground at SO 18959101. A short section which could be part of the dyke runs to SO 18959100, consisting of a bank approximately 4m wide by 0.7m high with a ditch approximately 4m wide by 0.5m high on its SW side. The next trace of the dyke to the SE consists of a well-preserved SW-facing scarp, up to 2.5m high, which commences on the crest of a hillock at SO 18999091 and runs to SO 19079077, beyond which it becomes less well-defined, although there are traces up to the point where it is cut by the main A489 road.

On the S side of the A489 traces of the dyke are relatively infrequent, perhaps due to the postulated alignment following a minor road. Immediately to the S of the road and for a distance of 30m, there

is a discrepancy in ground level between the NE and SW sides of the minor road; this may indicate the continuation of the dyke, though extrapolation of the alignment from the extant section to the N suggests that the dyke itself ran down the centre of the road. The next evidence which may relate to the continuation of the dyke to the SE is found to the SE of White Gwenthriew Farm, where a slight linear anomaly can be seen between SO 19329028 and SO19359020. Beyond the fence to the SE there is a broad bank, approximately 6m wide by 0.3m high which takes up the line as far as SO 19379017. A SW-facing scarp, 0.3m high, continues the proposed line of the dyke to SO 19389014, where it ends. No further trace of the dyke can be confirmed, probably as a result of land improvement, before the road alignment is again reached at SO 19439001. There is a small bank at Cwm Earl Farm but this is not certainly related to the dyke and is more probably due to the holloway which can be seen to the NW. The alignment follows the road up to a junction at SO 19628963, although there is no definite evidence which confirms its presence. In the field beyond the road junction, there is a 30m-section of bank aligned NNW/SSE with a slight ditch on its W side; the bank is approximately 10m wide and up to 1m high and runs between SO 19648961 to SO 19658959. A search was made for any possible southward continuation, but no evidence was revealed.

Location

The probable course of the dyke runs for a total of nearly 3km, from SO 18299211 in the NW to SO 19668957 in the SE. The NW end starts on an interfluvial spur between tributaries of the River Mule and crosses two more interfluvial spurs on the E side of the valley of the Mule before descending to a major tributary near its confluence with the river. On ascending the opposite slope, the course of the dyke crosses a major spur that divides the catchment of the River Mule, which flows N to the River Severn at Abermule, from the catchment of the Caebitra stream, a tributary of the Camlad which flows into the River Severn near Berriew. The dyke crosses a further interfluvial spur prior to its terminus near the base of a steep-sided spur which leads up onto the Kerry Ridgeway. The views from the NW part of the dyke are generally excellent to the W and S, becoming localised in the region of the A489. The views from the SE section of the dyke are predominantly to the NE and E along the Caebitra valley.

Disturbance

Various types of disturbance are present throughout the course of the earthwork and this is listed, starting from the NW end, as follows:

- 1) The earthworks of the section between SO 18289211 and SO 18439201 are subject to moderate stock erosion.
- 2) Earthworks removed between SO 18439201 and SO 18449200 by an old quarry and a farm track.
- 3) No surviving trace of the section between SO 18459199 and SO 18529195, partly due to a later holloway following the alignment of the dyke.
- 4) Gap in bank on top of scarp, probably for an old access route, at SO 18579178.
- 5) Great deal of bare ground on the scarp caused by stock erosion centred on SO 18579178, extending for 30m on either side.
- 6) Gap of c.10m, where the dyke meets the stream, between SO 18649164 and SO 18649163.
- 7) Some stock erosion between SO 18649163 and SO 18669160.
- 8) Earthworks levelled by land improvement work between SO 18669160 and SO 18739145.
- 9) Small amount of stock erosion at SO 18749144.
- 10) Old gap, 3m wide, formerly occupied by a gate but now blocked, at SO 18759141.
- 11) Line of dyke cut by gateway and then lost to land improvement between SO 18809131 and SO 18859121.
- 12) Some animal burrowing at SO 18859121.
- 13) Some animal burrowing at SO 18879117.
- 14) The dyke is cut by a gateway at SO 18899113 and is not then apparent until SO 18959101.
- 15) Section of scarp between SO 19079077 and SO 19109068 lowered, perhaps as a result of ploughing.
- 16) Section along minor road to White Gwenthriew Farm lost due to its replacement by a road line and as a result of the construction of the farmstead.

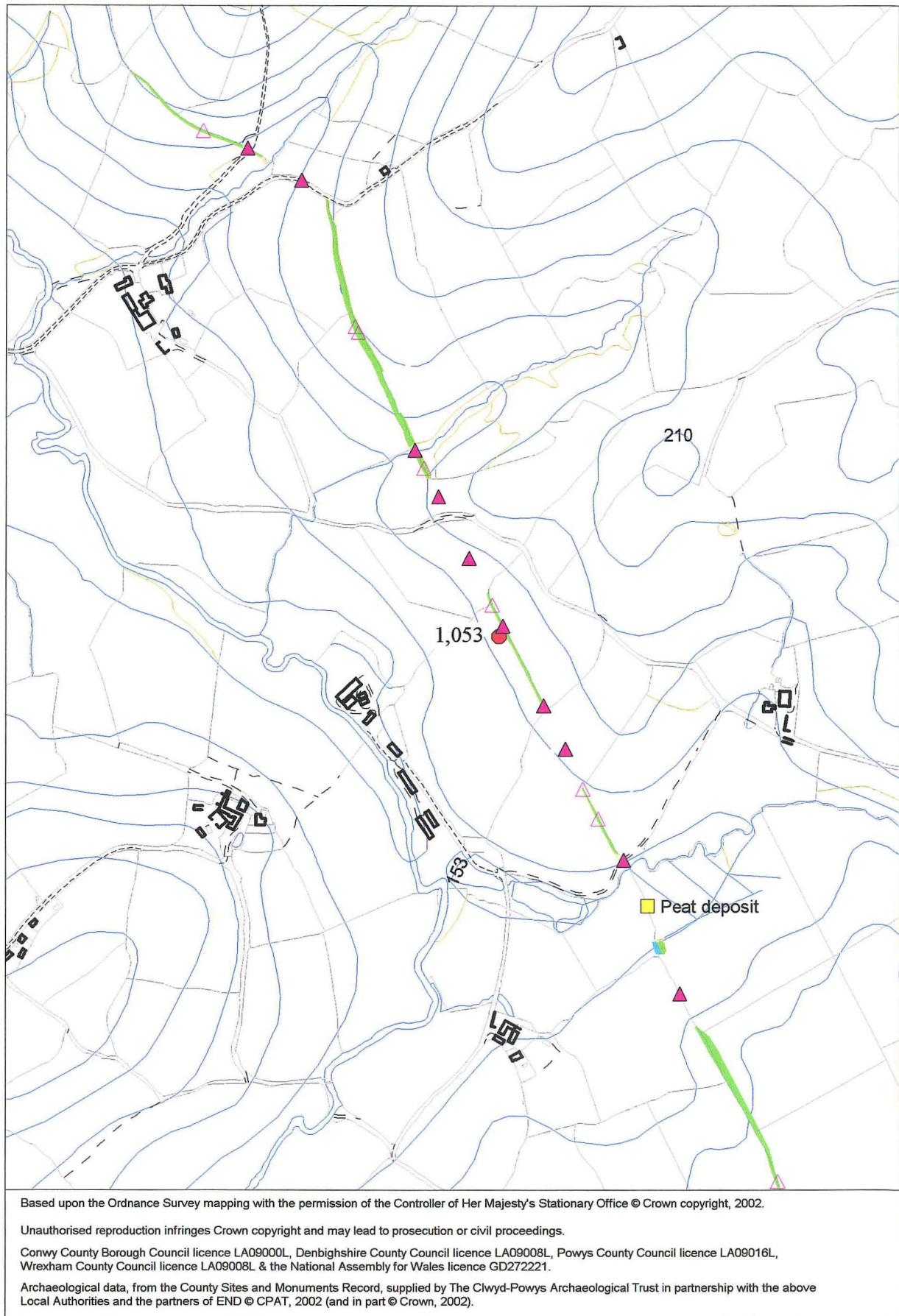
- 17) Earthwork denuded by land improvement between SO 19329028 and SO 19389014.
- 18) No surviving trace of earthwork, probably as a result of land improvement, between SO 19389014 and SO 19439001.
- 19) No certain trace of dyke as it follows the line of a road between SO 19439001 and SO 19628963.
- 20) Minor poaching of the surface of the bank by horses between SO 19648961 and SO 19658959.

Visit details

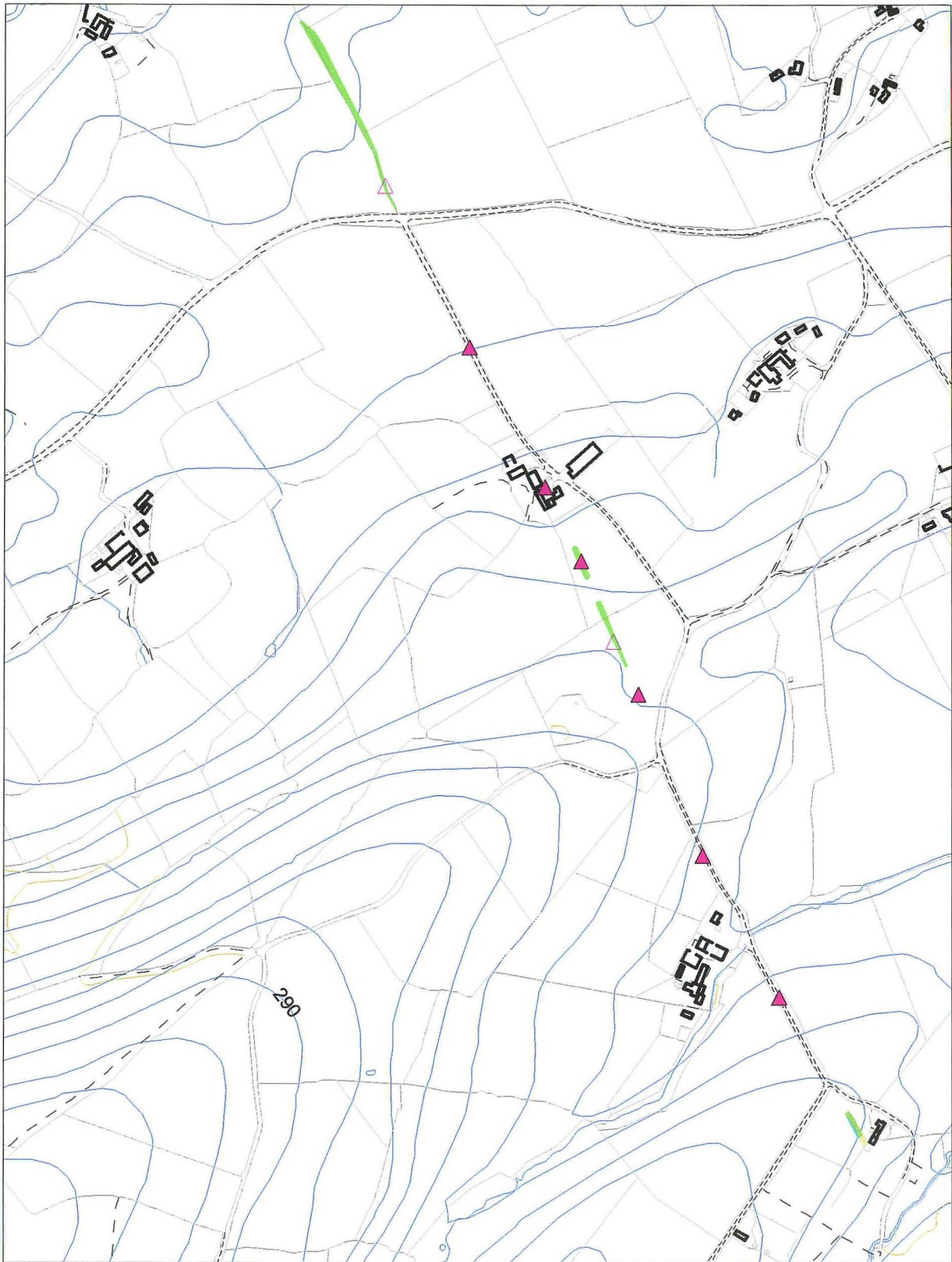
Information from landowners along the course of the dyke led to the identification of the site of at least five excavations by Manchester University, probably in the mid-1980s. These are approximately at SO182921, SO 188912, SO 189910, SO 193901, and SO 194900 and are mentioned briefly in Medieval Archaeology Vol 30 (1986).

It is known that there were other excavations as part of the same investigation by Manchester University, particularly at White Gwenthrif (SO 192903), and around Glanwantyn Farm and the owners remember these. Some of the excavations were apparently away from the probable line of the dyke, and were presumably designed to test for evidence associated with the Glanwantyn placename. The farm is probably a post-Second World War smallholding consisting of a subdivided part of Red Gwenthrif Farm; this strongly suggests that the name is not significant.

Visited 08/01/2002, 09/01/2002 and 20/02/2002



Wantyn Dyke, N section (PRN 1053), Scale 1:7,000



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Short Ditch

PRN 1114

SAM Rd089(POW)

Short dyke

Dark Age ?

NGR: From SO18737463 to SO19167505

MAP SO17SE

Summary

A linear dyke generally consisting of a bank and ditch aligned NE/SW, 12m to 13m wide overall. Its NE end starts at the head of a broad valley, from where it crosses the ridge to the SE which eventually culminates in the summit of Pool Hill, approximately 1km to the NW. On the SW side of the ridge the dyke crosses a shallow bowl forming part of a stream catchment area, before ascending and crossing the ridge of a small spur. The dyke ends on the steep NW-facing slope of the stream valley whose catchment it has already crossed. The earthwork has a total length of 0.63km and faces NW.

Morphology

The NE end of the earthwork commences at SO 19167505 and runs SW, initially as a bank, then from SO 19157504 as a bank with a narrower ditch on its NW side. The discrepancy in size between the bank and ditch are explained by the presence of a shallow linear scoop on the SE side of the bank, which was undoubtedly the source of the extra material. At SO 19097497 the linear scoop terminates and there is a corresponding change in the form of the earthwork to a bank with a ditch and counterscarp bank on its NW side. At SO 19027489 the earthwork is crossed by a trackway running along the crest of the ridge and from there it continues SW as a bank and ditch, though a short section of counterscarp bank is again visible between SO 18947480 and SO 18937479. As it continues to the SW, the earthwork descends into a shallow natural bowl where there are gaps of 10m (at SO 18897474) and 5m (at SO 18877473), between which the earthwork consists only of a bank; these may be a result of natural drainage but the change in form could suggest that they represent an original route through the dyke.

The earthwork rises up the NW slope of a local spur, beyond the natural bowl, continuing initially as a bank and ditch, then from SO 18817468 it crosses the crest of the spur as a bank and ditch with a counterscarp bank on its NW side. At SO 18747462 there is a sharp change in the direction and form of the earthwork, which runs down the SE side of a steep valley as a bank with flanking ditches, ending at SO 18737463, where it is cut by both a farm road and quarry.

Location

The dyke runs SW from the headwaters of the Lawn Brook, which is a tributary of the River Teme, then crosses a ridge and a shallow natural bowl, before ending on the E side of a tributary stream of the River Lugg. The views from the site vary according to the topography, but they are generally better to the NE and SW as a result of higher ground on the NW and SE sides of the dyke.

Disturbance

There are a variety of factors which have resulted in disturbance to the dyke. The disturbance from NE to SW is as follows:

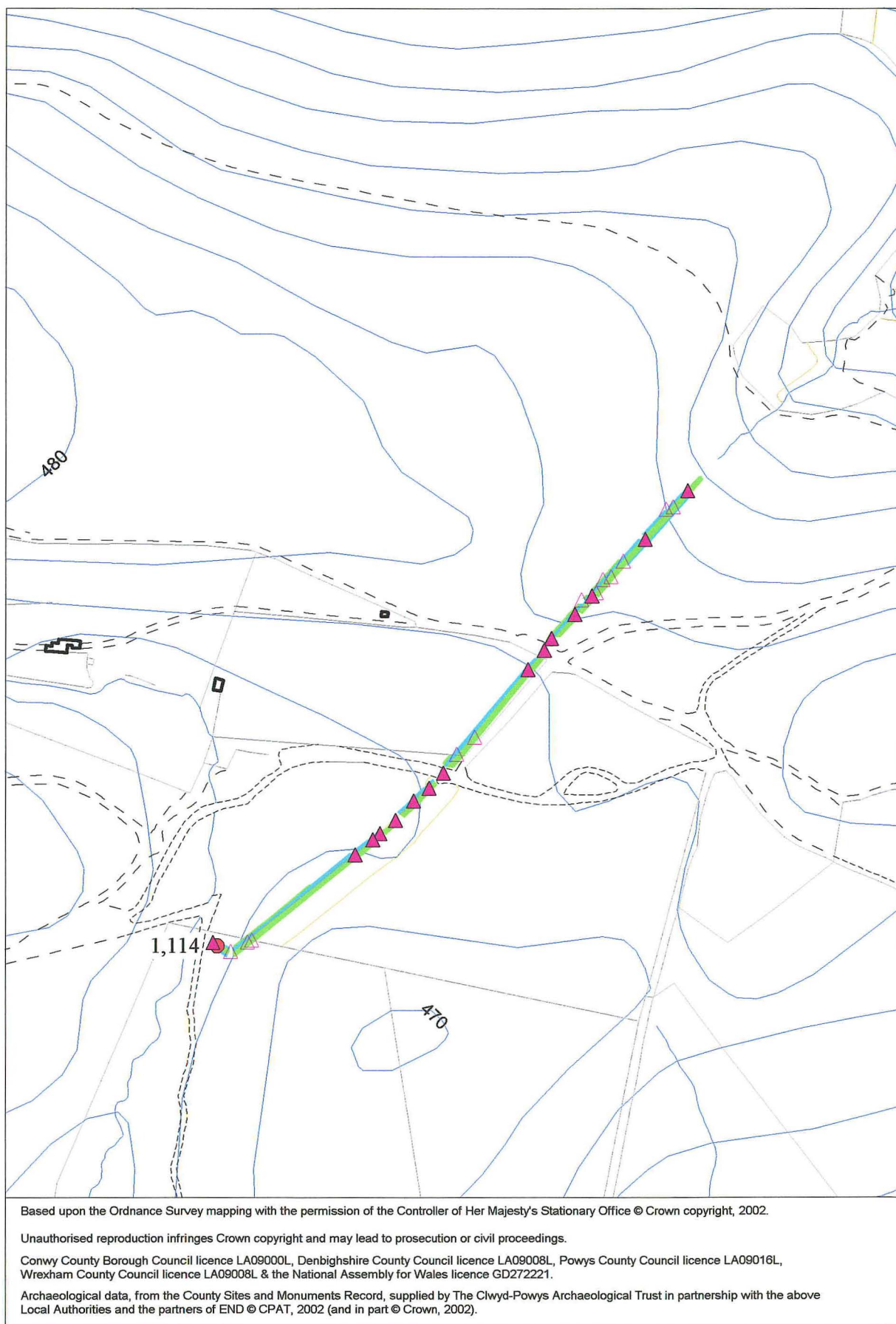
- 1) Bank is cut by a sheeptrack at SO 19157504.
- 2) Bank is partially cut by a sheeptrack at SO 19137502.
- 3) Waste material (bottles etc) dumped in ditch at SO 19127502.
- 4) 4m-wide eroded gap where a trackway has levelled the earthwork at SO 19117499.
- 5) Motorbike track crosses the earthwork at SO 19097497.
- 6) Sheeptrack crosses the earthwork at SO 19087496.
- 7) Vehicle dumped in ditch at SO 19077495.
- 8) Animal erosion on top of bank at SO 19069494.
- 9) Motorbike track has cut through bank and filled in ditch at SO 19067494; counterscarp bank also damaged.
- 10) Ditch partially filled with building rubble at SO 19057493.
- 11) Motorbike track, 4m wide, has cut through bank and filled in ditch at SO 19057492,

counterscarp bank also damaged.

- 12) Earthwork cut by two adjoining motorbike tracks at SO 19037490.
- 13) Trackway following crest of ridge has removed all trace of the earthwork at SO 19027489.
- 14) 3m-gap in bank at SO 19017487; ditch also filled in.
- 15) Plantation on top of bank from SO 19007486 to SO 18967481.
- 16) Bank partially levelled where it is crossed by a fence at SO 18967481.
- 17) Earthwork cut by a forestry road between SO 18937479 and SO 18927478.
- 18) Gap of 1.5m in bank, possibly a result of an old track, at SO 18927477.
- 19) Gap of 3m in bank, possibly a result of an old track, at SO 18907476.
- 20) 10m-gap in bank at SO 18897474, possibly an original crossing of the dyke or a result of erosion associated with natural drainage.
- 21) 5m gap in bank at SO 18877473, possibly an original crossing of the dyke or a result of erosion associated with natural drainage.
- 22) Gap of 1.5m in bank, possibly a result of an old track, at SO 18877473.
- 23) Gap of 4m in bank and ditch filled in at SO 18857471, where a forest access route crosses the dyke.
- 24) The route continues along the SE side of the bank to SO 18777464.
- 25) Earthwork crossed by boundary fence at SO 18777464.
- 26) Stock erosion on crest of bank at SO 18767464.
- 27) 2m-gap in bank, possibly as a result of a sheeptrack at SO 18757462.

Visit details

Visited 02/08/2002



Short Ditch (PRN 1114), Scale 1:5,000

Ty Newydd Dyke

PRN 1478

SAM Mg025(POW)

Short dyke

Dark Age ?

NGR: From SJ12942327 to SJ13682346

MAP SJ12SW

Summary

A short dyke, 0.83km long, with a variable morphology. It consists mainly of a bank and ditch, though its line is also represented by lengths of scarp and also by an embanked scarp with associated ditch. The dyke generally faces N towards the Tanat valley and is sited across a stretch of lower ground between the hills known as Allt Tair Ffynnon and Garth.

Morphology

The W end of the dyke commences at SJ 12942327 (W of Garth-ucha house), where it is visible as a slight scarp on the steep NNE-facing slope. It runs c.20m E towards Garth-ucha where it is cut by disturbance resulting from the construction of the house. It reappears again at SJ 13032326 where there is a N facing scarp up to 2m high. At SJ 13092326 the scarp gains a ditch on its N side, and from SJ 13132325 the scarp is gradually replaced by a substantial bank, up to 2m high. The overall width of the bank and ditch is generally 13.5m. The dyke is cut by a road at SJ 13362325, beyond which there is a 20m-section of bank and ditch, ending at a stream gully at SJ 13382325.

The dyke continues beyond the stream gully, running from SJ 13442326 as a scarp 3m high which ends where the line is crossed by a hedge at SJ 13492329. In the field beyond the hedge there are traces of the dyke surviving as a disturbed bank between 4.5m and 7.5m wide by 1m high. There are traces of a possible ditch on the SE side of the bank, but this is probably a result of disturbance by a trackway. A 15m-length of NW-facing scarp is present at the NE end of the field, but this is truncated by the buildings associated with Ty'n-y-clawdd house. The dyke recommences at a gateway beyond the house at SJ 13602338, from where it runs NE as an embanked scarp with a ditch on its NW side. The NE end of the dyke is at SJ 13682346, near Nant Engyll, where a ruined house lies on the bank of the stream.

Location

The dyke is sited across a stretch of lower ground between the hills known as Allt Tair Ffynnon and Garth. The main views are to the N, higher ground restricting the view to the S.

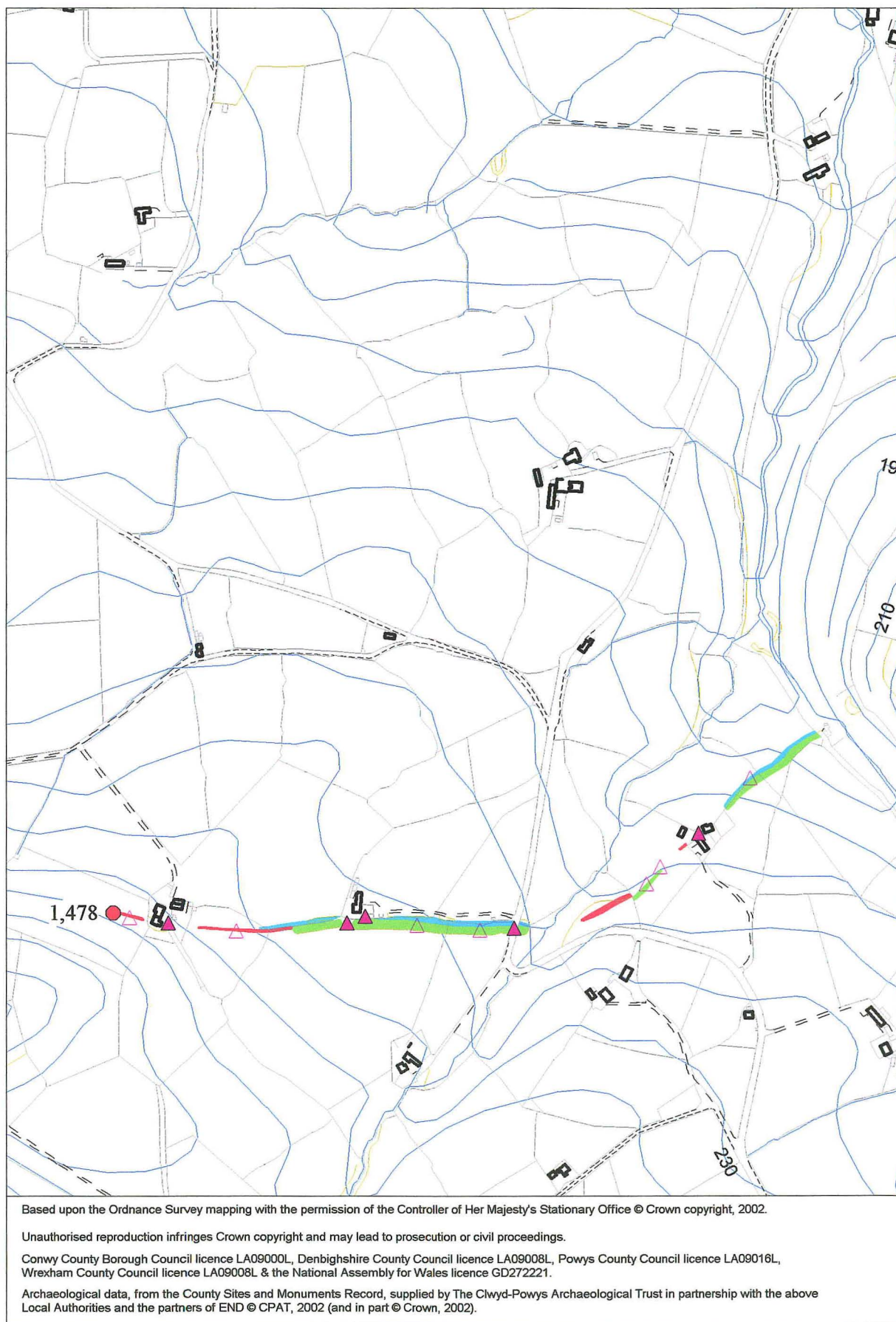
Disturbance

In order from W to E, the main areas of disturbance are:

- 1) Section between SJ 12962326 and SJ 13032326 lost where Garth-ucha house and buildings have been constructed.
- 2) Profile of scarp to E of Garth-ucha (between SJ 13032326 and SJ 13092326) has been softened by land improvement.
- 3) A 10m-section has been levelled to provide an access route at SJ 13182326.
- 4) Ty Newydd house and an associated building may have been built over the N edge of the ditch.
- 5) Stock erosion on the bank between SJ 13182326 and SJ 13302325.
- 6) Drain cut through bank at SJ 13332326.
- 7) Road cuts the earthwork at SJ 13362325.
- 8) Line is interrupted by a stream gully between SJ 13382325 and SJ 13442326.
- 9) Earthwork crossed by old trackway at SJ 13502330; also some levelling in this area.
- 10) Well on N side of earthwork at SJ 13522332.
- 11) Line of earthwork occupied by Ty'n-y-clawdd house and buildings between SJ 13552335 and SJ 13602338.
- 12) Recently recut drainage gully in base of ditch between SJ 13602338 and SJ 13652346.

Visit details

Visited 24/07/2002



Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478), Scale 1:6,000

Aber Naint Dyke

PRN 1479

SAM Mg024(POW)

Short dyke

Dark Age ?

NGR: From SJ12692171 to SJ12282202

MAP SJ12SW

Summary

A short dyke, 0.54km long, running generally NW/SE and consisting of a bank with a ditch on its NE side. It runs across an interfluvial spur, though does not reach the stream to the NW. The dyke faces NE and could perhaps be related to the Ty Newydd dyke (PRN 1478), 1.5km to the NNE. A possibility is that this site represents a defunct boundary, superseded by that represented by PRN 1478, a site that also faces roughly N.

Morphology

The SE end of the dyke commences at SJ 12692171 on the NW side of the Nant y Clawdd stream, a tributary of Nant Fyllon. It is visible here as a bank, up to 3.5m high, with a ditch averaging 7m wide on its upslope side. The dyke runs WNW to SJ 12622173, where the ditch has been filled in, beyond which it changes alignment to run NW. Some of the succeeding sections have been fenced off and animal burrows in these areas show evidence of the dumps of material that form the structure of the bank. The dyke fades out at SJ 12282202, before it reaches a second tributary stream of Nant Fyllon.

Location

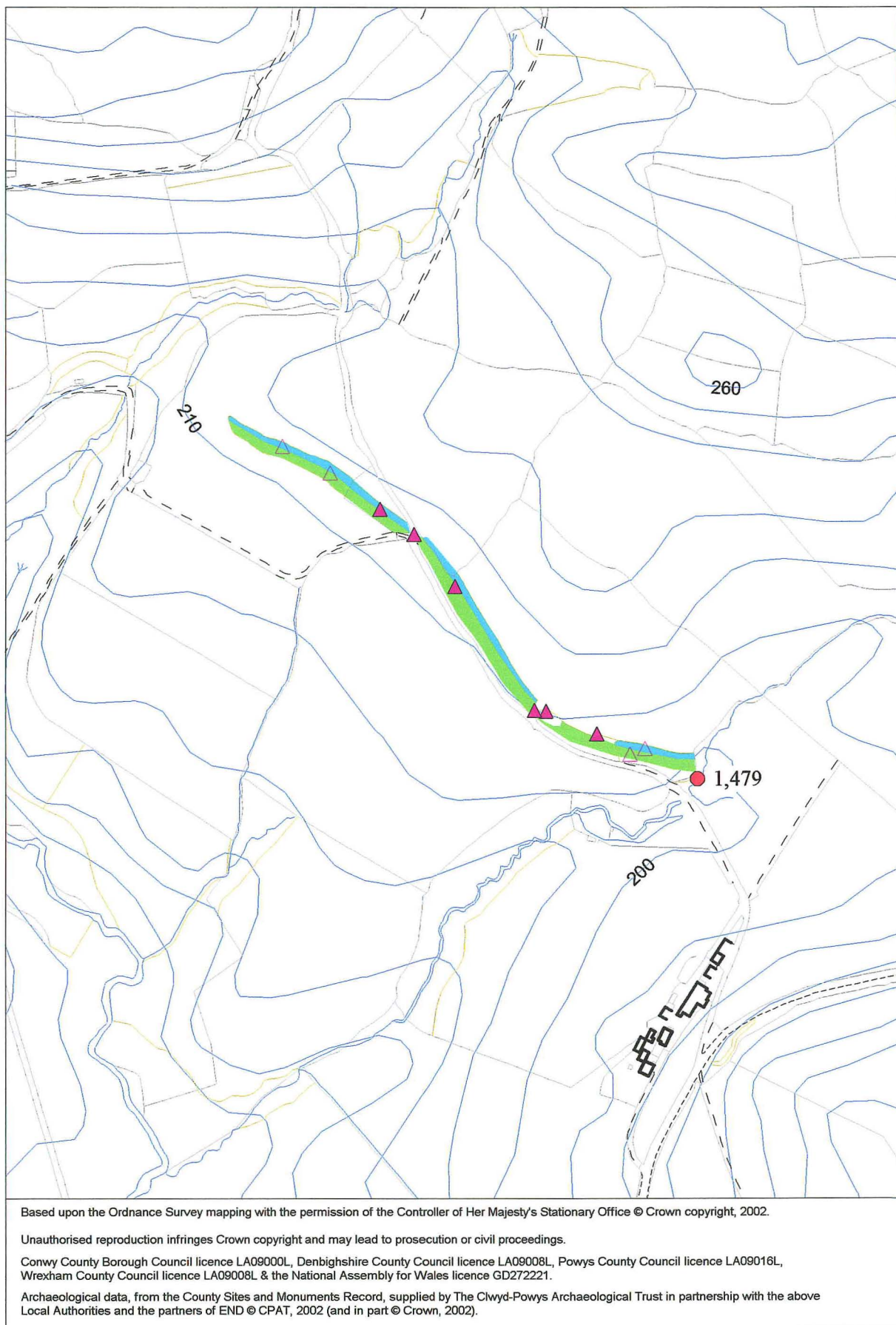
The dyke runs across the SW-facing slope of an interfluvial spur. The views from the site are mainly to the SW and are restricted to the NE by the slope.

Disturbance

The main disturbance to the dyke is a result of animal burrowing activity, and this is most noticeable in the fenced-off sections, particularly between SJ 12482186 and SJ 12452190, and between SJ 12442192 and SJ 12492196. There are areas of lesser burrowing damage at SJ 12632173, between SJ 12402196 and SJ 12352199, and at SJ 12322201. The bank has been cut by access routes at SJ 12552177 and SJ 12442192, and has been partially levelled by a silage bale store at SJ 12552177. A section of ditch has been filled in between SJ 12622173 and SJ 12552177.

Visit details

Visited 24/07/2002



Aber Naint Dyke (PRN 1479), Scale 1:5,000

Crugyn Bank Dyke**PRN 1882****SAM Mg062(POW)**

Short dyke

Dark Age

NGR: From SO10158576 to SO11238552**MAP** SO18NW***Summary***

A short dyke, at least 1.18km long, consisting of a bank with a ditch and counterscarp bank, running approximately E/W. The earthwork generally faces S. Both the morphology of the earthwork and a continuation which was revealed by a combination of fieldwork and the examination of AP sources suggest that this dyke formed part of a larger system of earthworks together with PRNs 4034 and 6242.

Morphology

The dyke commences at its W end (SO 10158576) near the crest of a steep slope leading down towards the A483 Newtown-Llandrindod road. It consists of a bank with a ditch and counterscarp bank on its SSW side and runs ESE, passing through a wood, before entering grassland. The initial section after the wood is approximately 12.5m wide but has been eroded, showing the structure of the bank; this is a mix of stones, earth and peat with some layering of the deposits. Further to the ESE a series of trackways cross the dyke. A further trackway emerges from forestry at SO 10498583 and runs generally S. This then splits into three separate elements and these appear to be cut by the dyke at SO 10498565, SO 10508565 and SO 10528565, suggesting that they predate it. The counterscarp bank ends at SO 10618561, while the bank and ditch end at SO 10648560, at the head of a stream gully. Beyond the gully there is a suggestion of a bank or scarp, up to 0.5m high, which enters a forest plantation and is then cut by the B4355 road at SO 10758553.

On the E side of the B4355, the dyke continues as a scarp, 1.7m high, with a terrace, 1.2m wide, below (on its S) on the N side of a dry gully. This continues as far as SO 10948548, where it becomes a scarp on the N side of stream gully to SO 10998548. The line of the dyke beyond is taken up by a bank with a ditch on the S. At SO 11008547, two curved arms of bank are present on the N side of the bank which appear to form an enclosure measuring c.11m E/W by 8m. The bank and ditch curves to run NE and ends at SO 11038547.

A combination of fieldwork and the examination of AP sources suggest that the dyke continues further to the E, beyond the headwaters of the River Mule, to end near the base of the stream gully which originates at the NW end of dyke PRN 4034. Initially, the line may have followed a natural scarp to the NE, but then there are the remains of an artificial scarp at SO 11098552 which runs for 20m to the stream in the base of the valley. The most likely continuation beyond the stream consists of a linear grassy 'lane' crossing rushy ground to the E of the stream, in which traces of a bank with a ditch on its S side, c.6.5m across overall, are evident at SO 11158551. There is a good section of bank and ditch, 7m across, between SO 11208552 and SO 11238552 which ends at a stream gully.

Location

The dyke crosses the NE-facing spur of Crugyn Bank, the view from the W end is mainly to the N, while at the E end it is mainly NE down the upper valley of the River Mule. The view from the central section is generally to the S.

Disturbance

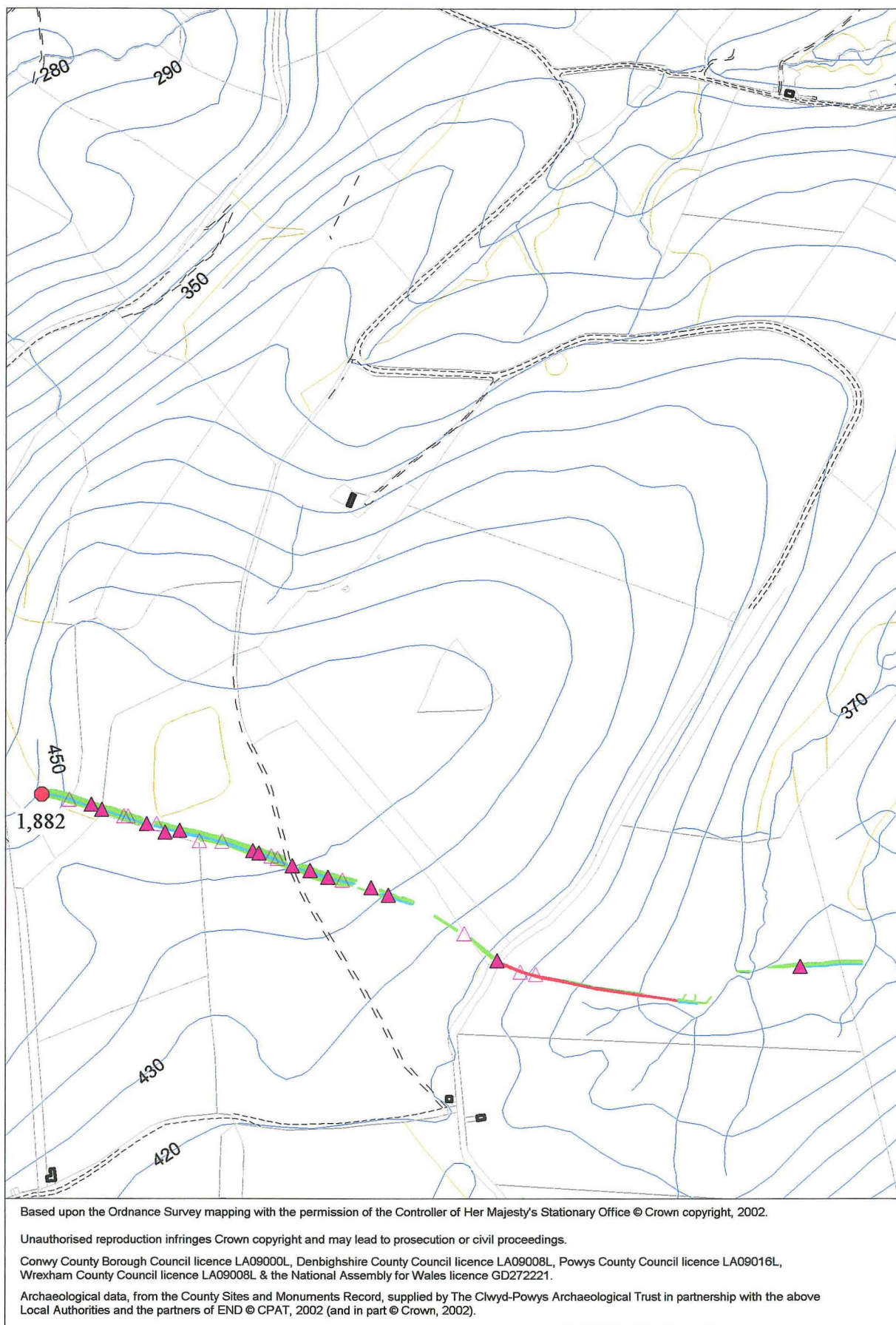
The dyke is crossed by a bank and adjacent track at SO 10188574, which forms the boundary of some woodland, with a second bank which crosses at SO 10228573. Further trackways have cut sections of bank at SO 10208574, SO 10278571 to SO 10288571, SO 10328570, SO 10428567, SO 10478565, SO 10508565 and SO 10528564. The dyke has also been cut by a road between SO 10758553 and SO 10768553, while erosion between SO 10228573 and SO 10278571, at SO 10298570, SO 10358569, SO 10388568, SO 10548564, between SO 10598562 and SO 10648560, and between SO 10768553 and SO 10808551 has been created by stock activity. Animal burrowing is present at SO 10458566. Land improvement has removed most traces of the dyke between SO

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10568564 and SO 10598562 and between SO 11108552 and SO 11208552, while at SO 10808551 an electricity pole has been erected in the top of the scarp.

Visit details

Visited 05/06/2002



Crugyn Bank Dyke (PRN 1882), Scale 1:7,500

Pen y Clawdd Dyke II

PRN 1986

SAM

Short dyke

Dark Age

NGR: From SO18827049 to SO18677082

MAP SO17SE

Summary

A short dyke, 0.37km long, consisting of both a substantial bank and an embanked scarp crossing a valley in a NNW/SSE direction. The embanked scarp suggests that the earthwork faces W.

Morphology

A linear earthwork crossing a valley in a NNW/SSE direction. The SSE end starts at SO 18827049 adjacent to a stream gully running down a steep NW-facing slope. Initially, the dyke consists of a slight bank on top of a steep scarp with the stream on its W. The scarped section ends at a junction of tracks at SO 18797055. The dyke re-appears beyond the tracks at SO 18787058 as a substantial bank and runs NNW down to the base of the valley, where there is a gap between SO 18717072 and SO 18707073, before rising up the opposite side of the valley to end at SO 18677082, where it meets a field boundary.

Location

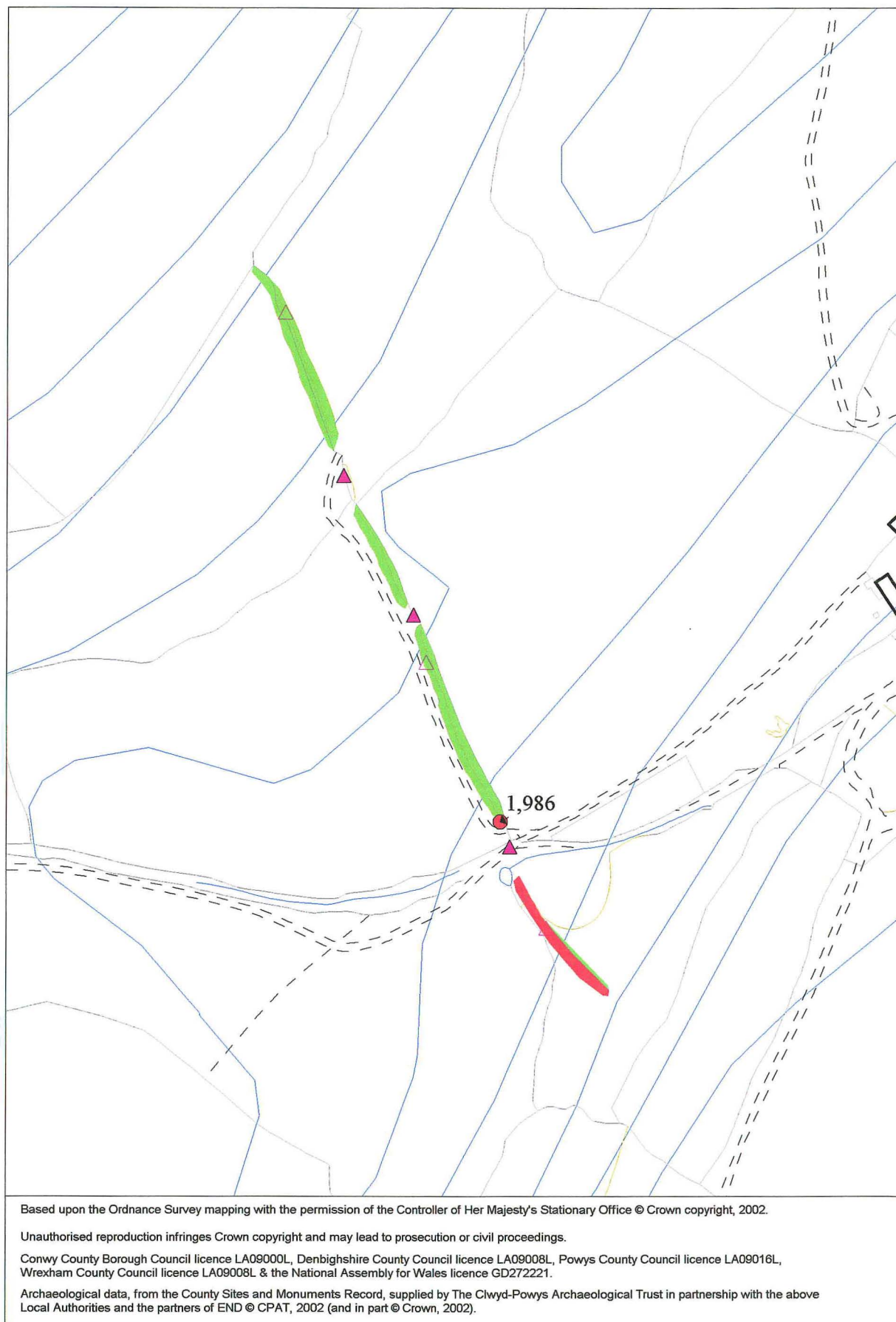
The site crosses a small valley, but the views from it are restricted as it is surrounded by higher ground in many places. The only reasonably distant view is to the W.

Disturbance

There are two areas of stock erosion at SO 18807052 and on the W side of the bank between SO 18757062 and SO 18747065. Trackways and farm access routes have removed sections of dyke between SO 18797955 and SO 18787058, and at SO 18747066. A section of dyke between SO 18717072 and SO 18707073 is missing, but there is no obvious reason for this - it may be an original gap. The only remaining disturbance is at SO 18697080, where there are some animal burrows in the bank.

Visit details

Visited 12/06/2002



Pen y Clawdd Dyke II (PRN 1986), Scale 1:2,500

Fron Hill Dyke

PRN 2145

SAM

Short dyke

Medieval ?

NGR: From SO19875989 to SO19626014

MAP SO15NE

Summary

A probable short dyke consisting of a substantial bank, 0.35km long, crossing the valley of the Summergill Brook to the SW of New Radnor. The extant sections of the monument have largely been fenced off by the owner and have some tree cover, parts of which consist of coniferous shelter belts. The state of the earthwork renders it impossible to determine which way it is facing.

Morphology

The bank is aligned NW/SE, with the NW end commencing at SO 19626014 below some open woodland where it may have been partially truncated by a leat and track. A meandering low bank (1.5m wide x 0.3m high) continues the approximate line on the upslope (NW) side of the track. The NW section runs down the lower part of a steep SE-facing slope and consists of a bank, up to c.10m wide by 1.6m high, with a ditch of perhaps 1.5m to 2m in width on its NE side. The ditch is only present in the upper portion of this section, and it could possibly be a result of surface water run-off. At the base of the steep slope there is a disturbed section, approximately 15m wide, which has been cut by a trackway, beyond which the bank runs SE across the flat valley floor. In the initial part of the valley floor, heading SE from SO 19676010, the ground level is approximately 0.8m higher on the SW side of the bank than the NE, though the reason for this is unclear and the difference in level is negligible by SO 19716006, where there is an access gap of 5m in width.

The cross-section of the main part of the bank takes the form of a truncated triangle, approximately 9m wide at the base, though of variable height. A notable feature of the bank morphology occurs between SO 19696009 and SO 19795996, where the bank becomes 0.5m higher (up to 2.5m in height) in a pronounced step. To the SE of SO 19805995 the bank becomes much lower (c.1m) with a convex profile, before being cut by a stock access gap and the main road beyond. On the SE side of the main road the monument continues as a low bank (4m wide by 0.5m high) from SO 19855991 to its SE end at SO 19875989. The Summergill Brook flows past the SE end of the bank where it runs alongside the base of the steep NW-facing slope; the valley floor is level enough for the stream to have occupied other parts of it in the past, which allows the possibility that the course of the stream was altered when the monument was constructed. The owner commented that in particularly dry summers he had seen a linear cropmark which appeared to be cut by the bank; he considered that this might represent a track, but it could also be an old stream course.

Location

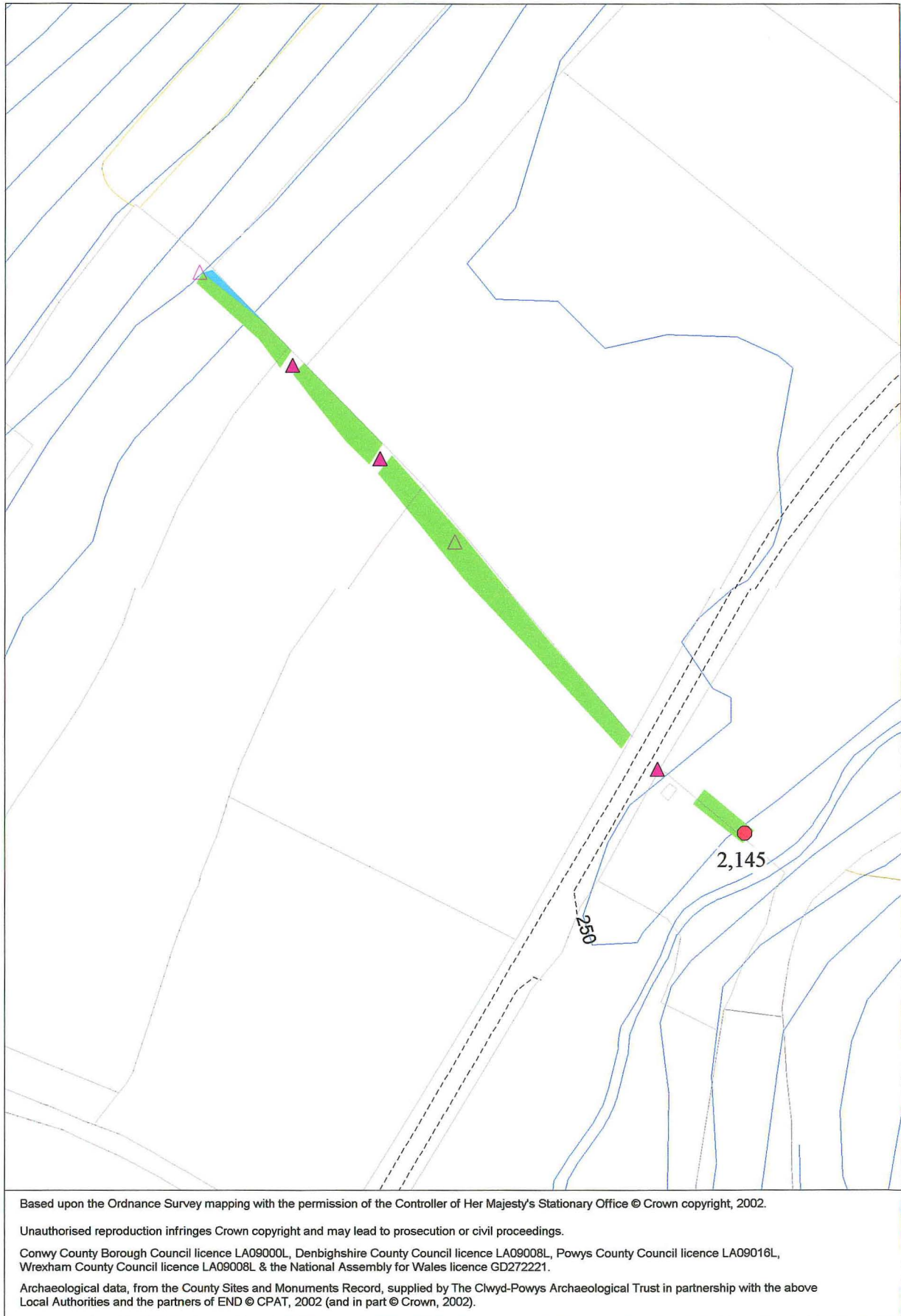
The site is located on the flat valley floor, with steep slopes forming the sides of the valley at either end. It is notable that the site is placed at the point in the valley where it has its steepest sides and is at its narrowest point prior to emerging into the Walton Basin at New Radnor. The views from the site are controlled by the steep-sided valley which it crosses, and are consequently more expansive to the NE and SW.

Disturbance

The disturbance to the site is relatively minor in relation to its scale. It has been disturbed or cut by access tracks between the fields on either side at SO 19626014, SO 19676010, and SO 19716006. There is also a major gap in the monument between SO 19835990 and SO 19855991, where the main A44 road cuts through it. Minor damage has been created by burrowing animals between SO 19726005 and SO 19835990. Almost all of the monument has some tree cover, but the fencing which has accompanied this appears to have been instrumental in preserving much of the site in relatively good condition.

Visit details

Visited 04/01/2002



Fron Hill Dyke (PRN 2145), Scale 1:2,500

Giant's Grave Dyke

PRN 3711

SAM

Short dyke

Dark Age ?

NGR: From SO04438607 to SO04328644

MAP SO08NW

Summary

A short dyke, 0.39km long, consisting of a bank and ditch crossing a low point on a ridge. The earthwork generally faces WSW.

Morphology

A possible section of bank, 2m wide by 0.3m high, starts in a small gully at SO 04438607. The earthwork proper commences at SO 04438609 as a bank with a ditch on its W side and runs to SO 04438611, where it has been cut by a trackway. On the N side of the trackway the earthwork continues in a NNW direction as a bank and ditch with a counterscarp bank on the W side. Between SO 04408620 and SO 04388625 the bank and counterscarp bank are approximately equal in size. The earthwork fades out at a boggy area (at SO 04378631), but can be traced from SO 04338640 to SO 04328644, where it appears as an embanked scarp to the E of the upper part of a stream gully. There may be some palaeoenvironmental potential in the boggy area at the N end of the dyke.

Location

The site is located on a saddle on the ridge. At its S end (SO 04438607) the dyke terminates in a small, steep-sided gully which descends to a large bowl of boggy ground forming the headwaters of the Mochdre Brook. After crossing the saddle, the earthwork ends near the head of a tributary valley which joins with others to form a stream that enters the River Severn at Llandinam.

Disturbance

There is intermittent disturbance of varying types throughout the course of the earthwork and this is considered below, starting from its S end.

- i) Cut by trackway at SO 04438611.
- ii) Cut by an old trackway at SO 04438613.
- iii) Cut by a stone-surfaced trackway at SO 04428616, and disturbed by the associated drainage works from there to SO 04428614.
- iv) Animal burrow in top of bank at SO 04428616.
- v) Crossed by vehicle tracks at SO 04418618.
- vi) Ponding of water in ditch causing erosion at SO 04398622.
- vii) Animal burrow in bank at SO 04388627.
- viii) Evidence of the dyke is masked by boggy ground from SO 04378631 to SO 04338640.

Visit details

Visited 08/08/2002



Giant's Grave Dyke (PRN 3711), Scale 1:2,500

Two Tumps Dyke I

PRN 4034

SAM Mg063(POW)

Short dyke

Dark Age

NGR: From SO11498513 to SO11888469

MAP SO18NW

Summary

A short dyke consisting of a bank with a ditch and counterscarp bank, running approximately NW/SE for 0.64km. The earthwork generally faces SW. Both the morphology of the earthwork and a continuation of PRN 1882, which was revealed by a combination of fieldwork and the examination of AP sources, suggest that this dyke actually formed part of a system of earthworks with PRNs 1882 and 6242.

Morphology

The dyke is presumed to be a northward continuation of PRN 6242, but no trace of any earthworks are apparent above Iyrchyn until the top of a precipitous gully is reached. At this point (SO 11888469) a bank, 6m wide by 1m high, appears on the NE side of the gully, before crossing it and continuing to the NW in improved pasture. At SO 11818476 the bank crosses into less improved pasture and gains a ditch and counterscarp bank on its WSW side; the total width of this section is approximately 12.5m. The earthwork continues to SO 11498513, where it ends at a recent quarry at the head of a stream gully.

Location

The site crosses a ridge and views are generally good in all directions, although restricted by higher ground to the E.

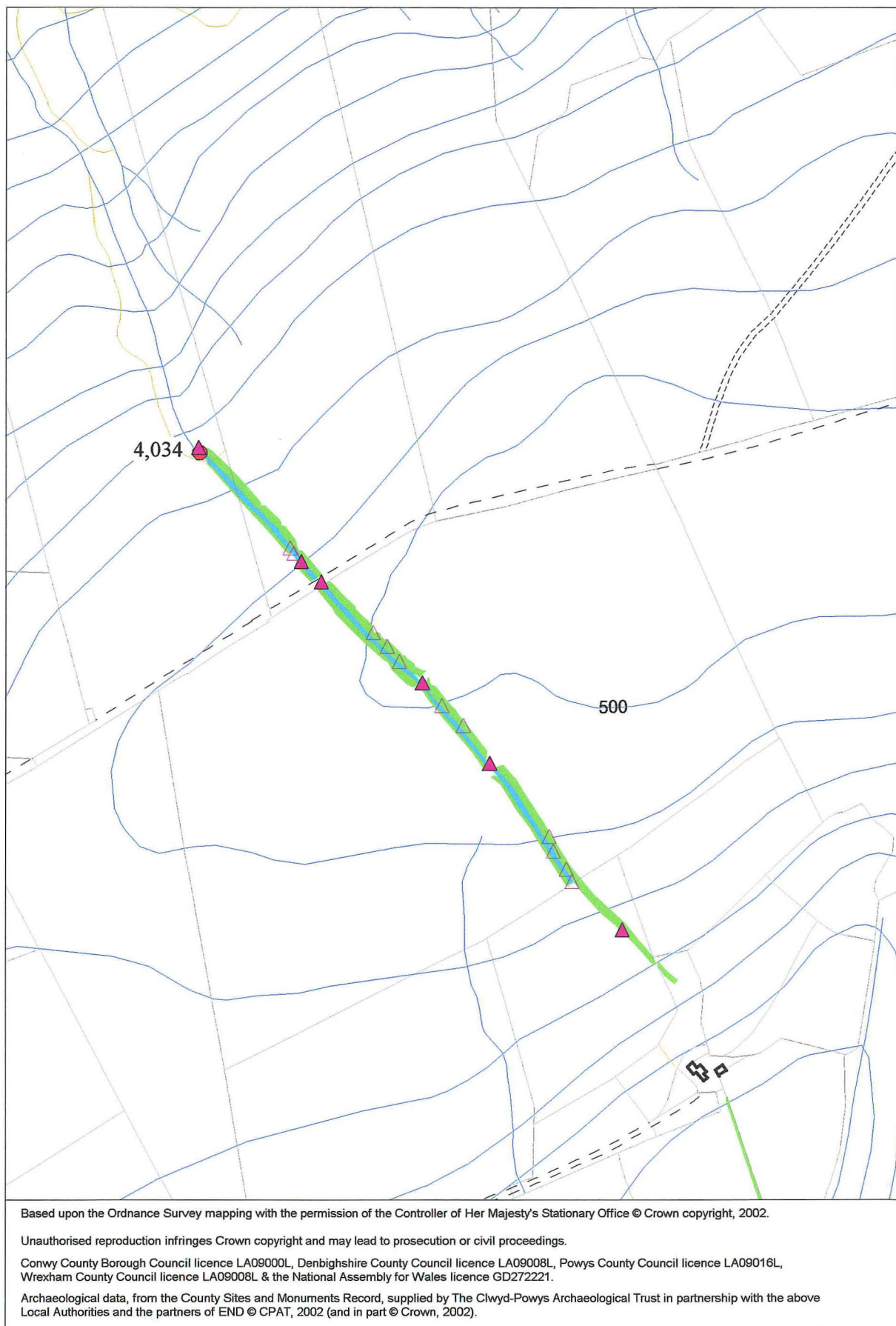
Disturbance

Some sections of the earthwork have been disturbed; these are detailed below.

- i) Pasture improvement has denuded the section between SO 11878470 and SO 11818476 and at SO 11658497.
- ii) Vehicle tracks cross the earthwork at SO 11818476, between SO 11748487 and SO 11728489, between SO 11698494 and SO 11688495, and at SO 11618501.
- iii) Trackways (mainly stock) cross the earthwork at SO 11808477, SO 11798479, SO 11718492, SO 11668496, SO 11598503, SO 11588505, and SO 11578505.
- iv) The end of the bank may have been truncated by quarrying at SO 11498513.
- v) Minor animal erosion is present throughout, and there is some burrowing at SO 11788480.

Visit details

Visited 06/06/2002



Two Tumps Dyke I (PRN 4034), Scale 1:5,000

Two Tumps Dyke II

PRN 6242

SAM Mg063(POW)

Short dyke

Dark Age

NGR: From SO11928458 to SO12038423

MAP SO18SW

Summary

A short dyke, 0.36km long, consisting of a bank with a ditch and counterscarp bank, which runs approximately N/S. The earthwork generally faces W. Both the morphology of the earthwork and a continuation towards PRN 4034, which was revealed by a combination of fieldwork and the examination of AP sources, suggest that this dyke formed part of a system of earthworks with PRNs 1882 and 4034.

Morphology

The S end of the dyke commences on the crest of a steep S-facing slope (at SO 12038423) overlooking a tributary valley of the River Teme. The bank has a ditch and counterscarp bank on its W and runs across the crest of the ridge to the N, before descending a N-facing slope. There are traces of the earthwork present on the slope, although these are intermittent. A later field bank crosses the line of the dyke at the base of the slope (at SO 12008439), but it can be seen to continue as a gully in the field to the N up to the point where it meets the stream in the valley floor (SO 11998440). Beyond the stream, the line of the dyke is continued by a slight gully and a field boundary as far as Iyrchyn farm (SO 11928458).

Location

The dyke crosses a minor spur projecting SW from Bryn Coch, but owing to the higher ground surrounding it the views are restricted to the local area.

Disturbance

The main form of disturbance to the dyke is from sheep tracks which cross the line of the dyke at SO 12028428, SO 12028430, SO 12018432, and SO 12018433. A trackway crosses the line at SO 12008437 and a later enclosure bank crosses at SO 12008439. The line beyond the stream is very faint, probably as a result of agricultural activity associated with the construction and use of Iyrchyn farm.

Visit details

Visited 05/06/2002



Two Tumps Dyke II (PRN 6242), Scale 1:2,500

Cowlod Dyke

PRN 6871

SAM

Short dyke

Unknown

NGR: From SO16526343 to SO16546353

MAP SO16SE

Summary

A probable short dyke consisting of a slightly curved bank, 0.11km long, running N/S which crosses the S side of a saddle on a spur ridge. The earthwork appears to face W.

Morphology

The S end of the earthwork commences at SO 16526343, on a steep SW-facing slope overlooking Vronlas dingle, as a slight scarp bank. At SO 16526346 the earthwork consists of a low scarp bank merging with the slope, though with a hint of a scoop on its upslope side. This runs as far as SO 16526347, where a trackway running up from Vronlas dingle cuts the line of the earthwork. On the N side of the track a bank or wedge of built-up ground follows its line upslope, to the N of which the bank continues. The next section of the bank, between SO 16526348 and SO 16526351 is the most pronounced, consisting of a scarp bank with an obvious scoop/ditch on its upslope (E) side. The total width of the earthwork is 10.4m, with the bank being up to 1.2m high. The scoop/ditch is lost near the N end of the earthwork, but the bank continues as an intermittent low scarp to its end at SO 16546353.

Location

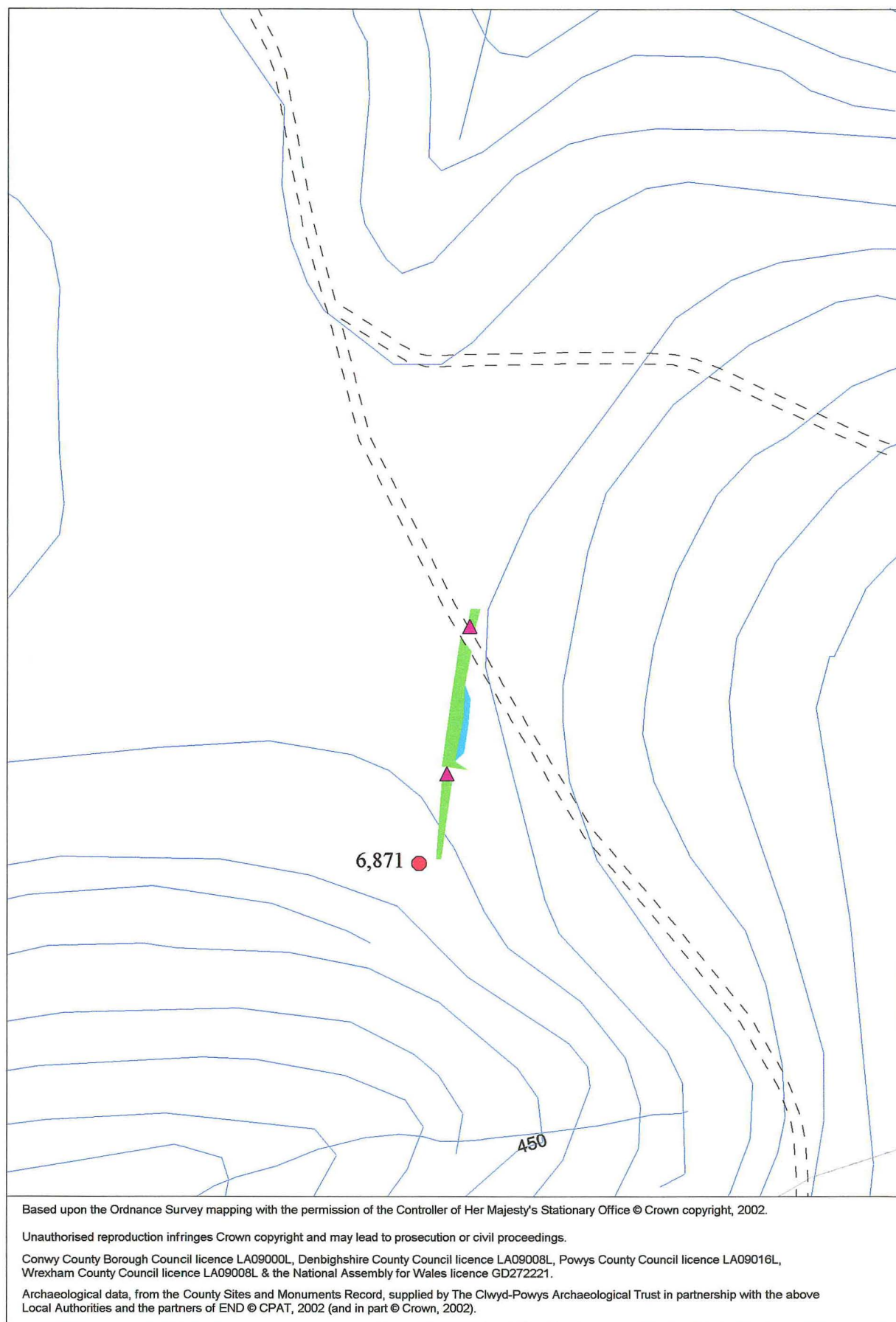
The dyke is located towards the base of a steep W-facing slope, coming down from the main Radnor Forest massif towards a saddle, beyond which is the Cowlod spur. There is a limited view to the E and W because of higher ground, but expansive views to the N and SW.

Disturbance

The earthwork is disturbed by a 4-5m wide track at SO 16536353, and a track ascending from the valley below at SO 16526347. The dyke might originally have continued further to the N, though there is no physical evidence for this, and could have been removed by a large complex of braided trackways, probably associated with peat cutting on the higher ground to the E. The N end of the earthwork reaches only as far as the vicinity of the high point of the saddle. There seems to be no reason for the earthwork ending at this point.

Visit details

Visited 11/12/2001



Cowlod Dyke (PRN 6871), Scale 1:2,500

Red Hill Cross Dyke

PRN 35471

SAM Rd183(POW)

Short dyke

Dark Age

NGR: From SO15044980 to SO15024986

MAP SO14NE

Summary

A short dyke, 0.09km long, consisting of a bank and ditch which runs approximately N/S. The earthwork crosses the S part of an E/W ridge and faces E.

Morphology

A slightly curved bank with a ditch on its E (outer) side. The ditch is between 3m and 4m wide and up to 0.7m deep, while the bank is between 4.2m and 5.4m wide and is 0.7m high. The bank and ditch commence on the S at SO 15044981, although a gully probably caused by water erosion runs to SO 15044980. There is a well-preserved section of bank and ditch between SO 15024985 and SO 15024986. At the N terminal, the bank ends at SO 15024986, with the ditch continuing N for a further 5m. A slight hollow, 1-2m wide, runs E from the N end for c.20m, but this is probably only an old track along the ridge.

Location

At its N end the bank terminates on ground dropping gently down to the W towards a saddle to the SW of Red Hill. To the S, the ground drops gently away from the crest of the ridge, and the dyke runs down this slope to end some distance short of the top of a steep SE-facing slope at the head of the valley, NW of Hondon farm. There is a restricted view to the NE as a result of the slope above, but views to W and S are excellent.

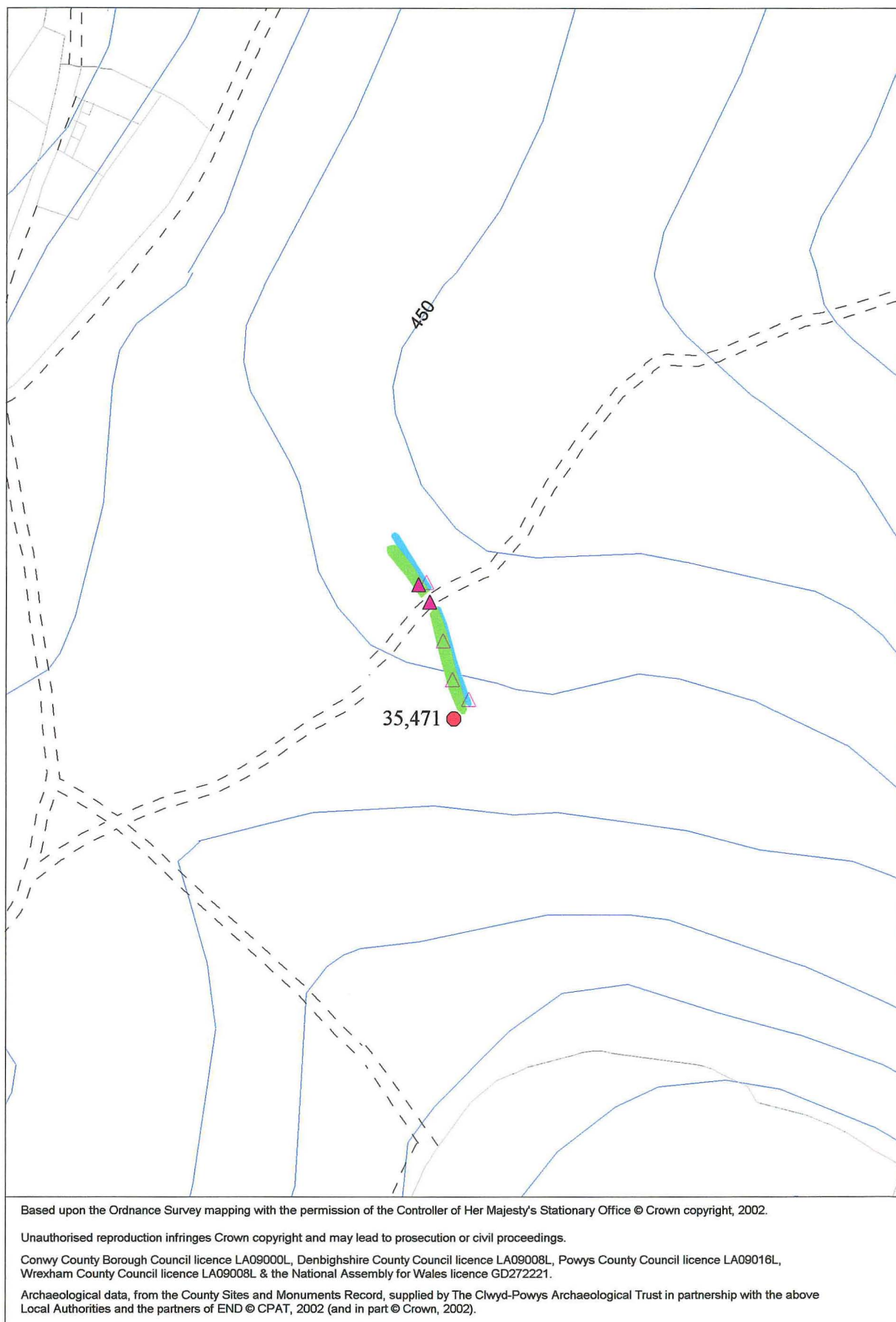
Disturbance

There is a variety of disturbance to the dyke consisting of:

- 1) minor tractor marks in the ditch from SO 15044981 to SO 15044982; the accompanying section of the bank is irregular, suggesting some past disturbance.
- 2) a 2m-gap possibly due to an animal track at SO 15044982.
- 3) a 4m-long section of bank at SO 15034983 crossed by sheep tracks.
- 4) a 5m-long section at SO 15034984 cut by the main vehicle track along the ridge.
- 5) a 4m-gap caused by an old trackway at SO 15034985.
- 6) sheep and vehicle tracks in the ditch from SO 15034984 to SO 15024987.

Visit details

Visited 24/12/2001



Red Hill Cross Dyke (PRN 35471), Scale 1:2,500

Bwlch y Cibau Dyke**PRN 50449****SAM Mg077(POW)**

Short dyke

Dark Age

NGR: From SJ17801638 to SJ18591713**MAP** SJ11NE**Summary**

The dyke is a complex linear earthwork, 1.35km long, running between SJ 17801638 and SJ 18591713. Its form varies from a simple scarp to a bank and adjacent ditch, with its most complex form being the NE part which occasionally consists of a double bank with corresponding ditches and a counterscarp bank. The earthwork generally faces SE.

Morphology

The SW end of the dyke commences at SJ 17801638, where it has evidently been truncated by the minor road. It probably continued to the base of a steep spur at Pen-y-boncyn house. Certainly the house name (meaning 'head of the bank') suggests that this was the case. Initially, the dyke consists of a bank with a ditch on its SE side, but at SJ 17891645 the ditch diverges from the bank and ends. The section of bank between SJ 17901645 and SJ 17911646 has been partially levelled, but its line is still evident as a result of differing grounds levels on either side; it survives as a SSE-facing scarp, 1.3m high. Further E the dyke continues as an embanked scarp; it merges with a natural scarp at SJ 17921647, forming an impressive SSE-facing scarp, 4m high. At SJ 17991652, the line of the dyke diverges from the natural scarp and it becomes a bank, 1.5m high on the N and 2.7m high on the S. This section of the earthwork ends at SJ 18031653, where it has been truncated by activity associated with Ty-newydd farm.

The dyke recommences beyond Ty-newydd at SJ 18151661 as a scarp 1.5m high, and runs to SJ 18201662, where it uses a natural crest to form a steeper scarp up to 4m high; the top of the scarp is embanked and there is also evidence of a ditch at its base. From SJ 18341662, the ditch at the base of the scarp is wider and a counterscarp bank emerges; this runs to SJ 18461668. Between SJ 18461668 and SJ 18471668 only a low scarp and ditch are visible in a disturbed area, but further to the E the scarp becomes more substantial up to SJ 18531668, where the morphology of the dyke undergoes a radical transformation.

At SJ 18531668 there is a sudden increase in complexity, where the dyke transforms abruptly into a triple bank with two intervening ditches. There is no evidence that this complex form extended any further to the W than it does at present. This section runs E initially, before turning and running NE; at SJ 1860 1670 the lower bank and ditch end, but it seems very likely that this is a result of it having been levelled in the more recent past. There is no trace of the dyke between SJ 18631674 and SJ 18641681, where it has been lost as a result of the construction of the house called 'Bidffald'. Beyond Bidffald the dyke takes a N course, continuing as a short section of double bank with an intervening ditch, though this ends at SJ 18631684. The section between SJ 18631684 and SJ 18621688 was levelled by the owner in the 1980s and the dyke is only visible as two low, parallel banks.

At SJ 18621688 the line of the dyke enters a conifer plantation which encompasses a stream gully. On the S side of the stream the dyke consists of a double bank and ditches with a counterscarp bank on the E. In the part of the plantation on the N side of the stream, only the two ditches are evident and it appears that the banks were partially levelled prior to planting. Certainly, in the field to the N of the plantation the earthworks are much denuded, though it is still possible to trace the dyke, which shows as three parallel banks. These run to SJ 18591713, where the dyke ends on encountering the steep-sided valley of the Ceunant Mawr stream. There has been some previous suggestion (from AP sources) that the dyke may have continued to the N of the Ceunant Mawr valley, but there is no surface trace of any continuation and it seems likely that the cropmark evidence seen was a result of the grubbing up of a field boundary depicted on the 1970s OS 1:2500 map.

Location

From its SW terminal at the base of a steep spur near Pen-y-boncyn, the dyke follows the S side of an interfluvial spur which projects ENE from Moel y Main, on the NW side of Dyffryn Meifod. It crosses the crest of the spur at Bidffald, and also the stream which forms its N side, before also crossing the next interfluvial to end at the Ceunant Mawr valley. Most of the dyke lies within pasture fields, though there has been some improvement of these; there are also short sections which run through wooded areas.

The views from the dyke are predominantly towards the S, SE and E, overlooking Dyffryn Meifod and stretching as far as the Breiddin, which is a prominent feature of the visible landscape. The N section of the dyke is more restricted in outlook, being surrounded on all sides except the SE by higher ground.

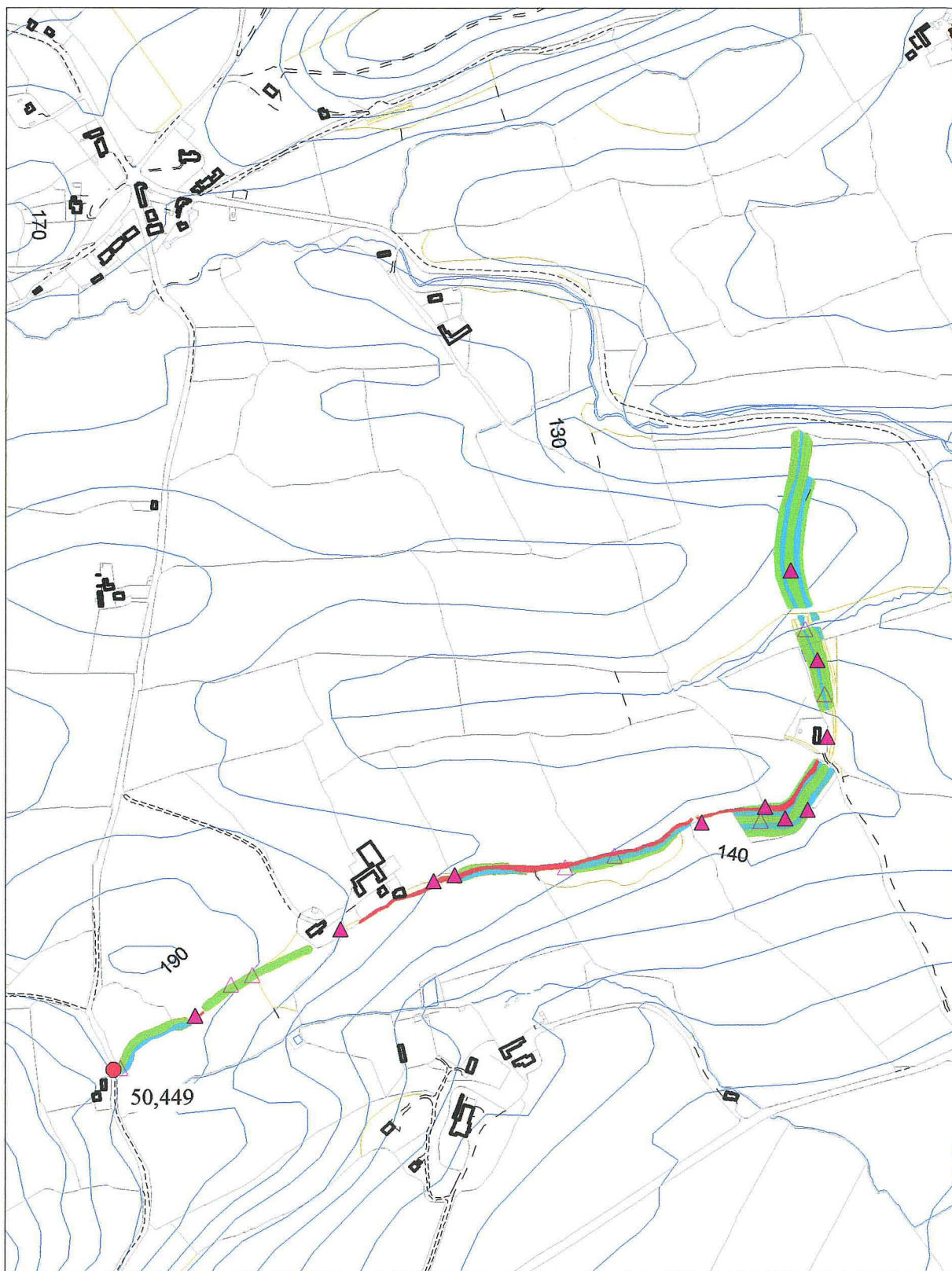
Disturbance

Owing to the agricultural use of the area and the linear nature of the site, gaps have been created to act as access points between fields on either side. These are located at SJ 17961649, SJ 18171660, SJ 18201662, SJ 18471667, SJ 1859 1667, and SJ 18571669. Stock erosion is generally minor and is located at SJ 17801638, from SJ 18341662 to SJ 18421667, from SJ 18531668 to SJ 18601670, and from SJ 18641681 to SJ 18631684. There is a badger sett between SJ 18321663 and SJ 18341663. Also electricity poles have been sited in the NNW side of the bank at SJ 17931648.

The most significant disturbance to the earthwork has been as a result of the construction of dwellings and agricultural improvement. Two sections, between SJ 18031653 and SJ 18151661, also between SJ 18631674 and SJ 18641681, have been obliterated when dwellings were constructed on the line of the dyke. Levelling of the earthworks has occurred relatively recently between SJ 18631684 and SJ 18621688 and the dyke has been denuded by pasture improvement between SJ 18611692 and SJ 18591713, though evidence of the morphology of the dyke is still present at both of these locations. Smaller scale disturbance of a similar type has led to the loss of elements of the earthwork, or disruption to its form, to the SW of Bidffald. Of particular significance is the well at SJ 18471668 which has been excavated in the ditch.

Visit details

Visited 16/04/2002



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Bwlch-y-cibau Dyke (PRN 50449), Scale 1:7,000

Appendix 7

Gazetteer of other Linear Earthworks visited (by PRN)

Clawdd Mawr Dyke

PRN 497

SAM

Field boundary

Post Medieval

NGR: From SH97421112 to SH98011107

MAP SH91SE

Summary

A sinuous linear bank, up to 8m wide by 1.6m high, running roughly E/W for 0.68km. As a result of the examination of the earthworks at the E end of the bank, it is apparent that it represents part of a system of head-dykes which were used to define the upper limit of enclosure on the hillside. The total length of the earthwork would have been almost 0.8km; the supposed further continuations at the W and E ends, mentioned by RCAHMW, may be wishful thinking on the part of the recorder.

Morphology

The W end of the bank starts at the corner of a forestry plantation (at SH 97421112) and runs ESE, parallel with a farm road; this section is up to 2m high on the downslope side but has been partially covered by material from the road construction on the upslope side. The bank diverges from the farm road at SH 97491109, from where it runs E to a stream gully at SH 97541110; some structural stone is visible in the crest of the bank at SH 97521109. Beyond the stream gully, the bank has been recently levelled as part of land improvement work; a bank which formerly ran downslope to the N has also been levelled. The bank reappears at SH 97801117 and runs SE to SH 97911108, beyond which it curves ESE and then E to end at SH 98011107. A scarp runs N at the E end of the bank, forming the W side of a gully/trackway; on the E side of the gully is a similar scarp which, in turn, joins with a bank running E.

Location

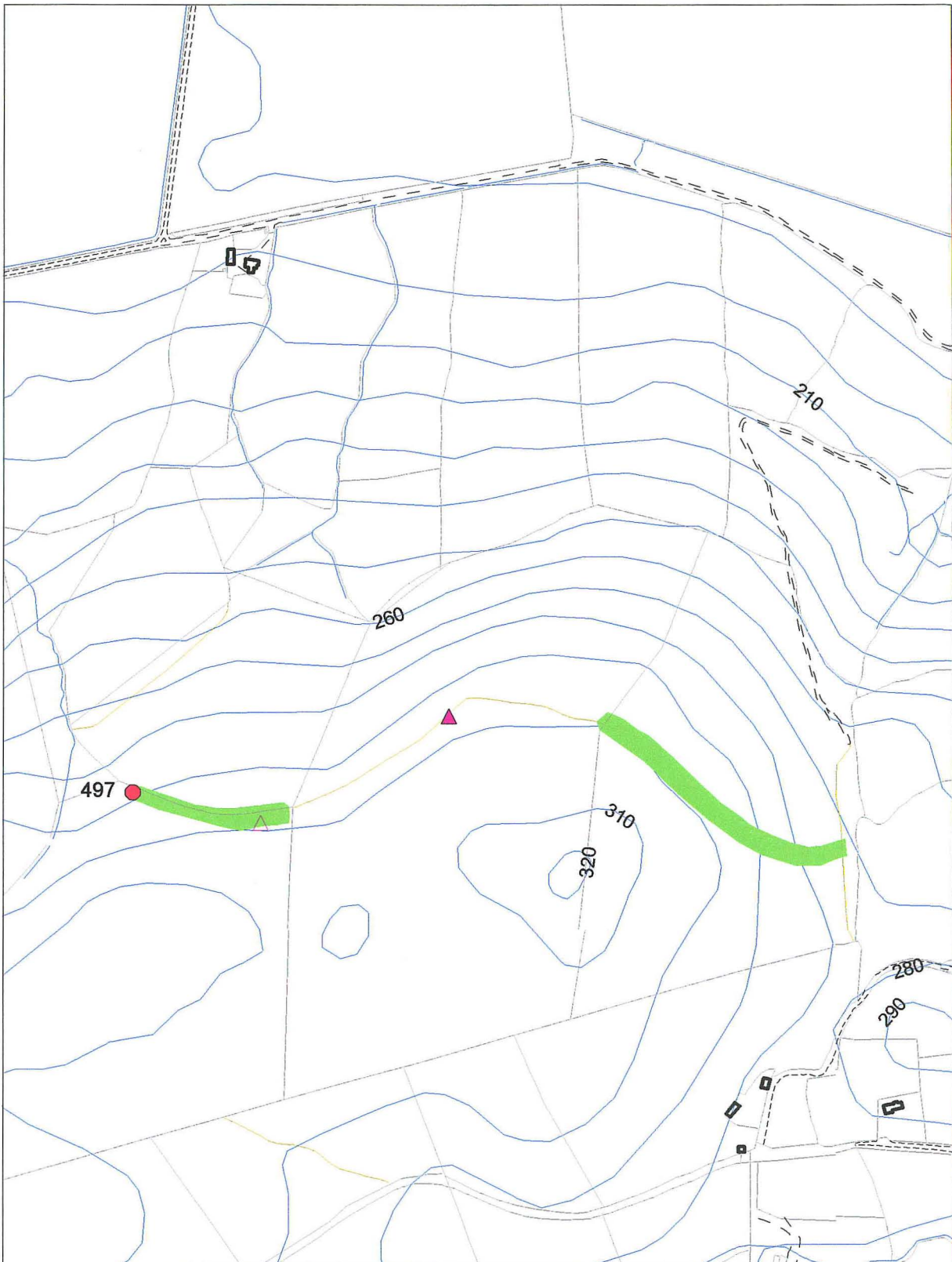
The site is located near the top of the slope on the S side of the Banwy valley near the village of Foel; there are excellent views from the site to the W and N, but perhaps the most extensive is to the E, down the valley.

Disturbance

The main disturbance to the bank is the relatively recent removal of the section between SH 97541110 and SH 97801117 in the course of land improvements. The surviving parts of the bank are relatively well preserved, with only some dumping of manure and material from farm road construction against the upslope side of the bank at its W end.

Visit details

Visited 29/05/2002



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Gwar y Cae earthwork

PRN 964

SAM

Hillfort ?

Iron Age

NGR: From SO08007687 to SO07997690

MAP SO07NE

Summary

A short linear earthwork consisting of a bank, ditch and counterscarp bank, with an overall width of 17.3m, running NNW/SSE for 35m. The nature of the earthwork is open to interpretation, but one plausible explanation is that it represents an unfinished hillfort, or hill-top enclosure.

Morphology

The earthwork consists of a short section of curved bank, 35m long, centred at SO 08007689 and aligned approximately NNW/SSE. The bank is 0.9m high on its W side, but 2.6m high on the E where there is a ditch, over 0.5m deep with a counterscarp bank, 0.5m high, on its E side. The total width of the earthwork is 17.3m. The bank is generally in good condition, though there is some animal erosion/burrowing. The ditch is notably irregular at its N end and this perhaps suggests that work on constructing the site was in progress and then abandoned before it was finished. The bank is on the upslope side of the ditch which renders unlikely the original interpretation of the site as a quarry; also there is no obvious loss of material which would have occurred had it been a quarry. The form of the earthwork is comparable with that of a hillfort, so a possible explanation for the site is that it represents an unfinished (in fact hardly started) hillfort.

Location

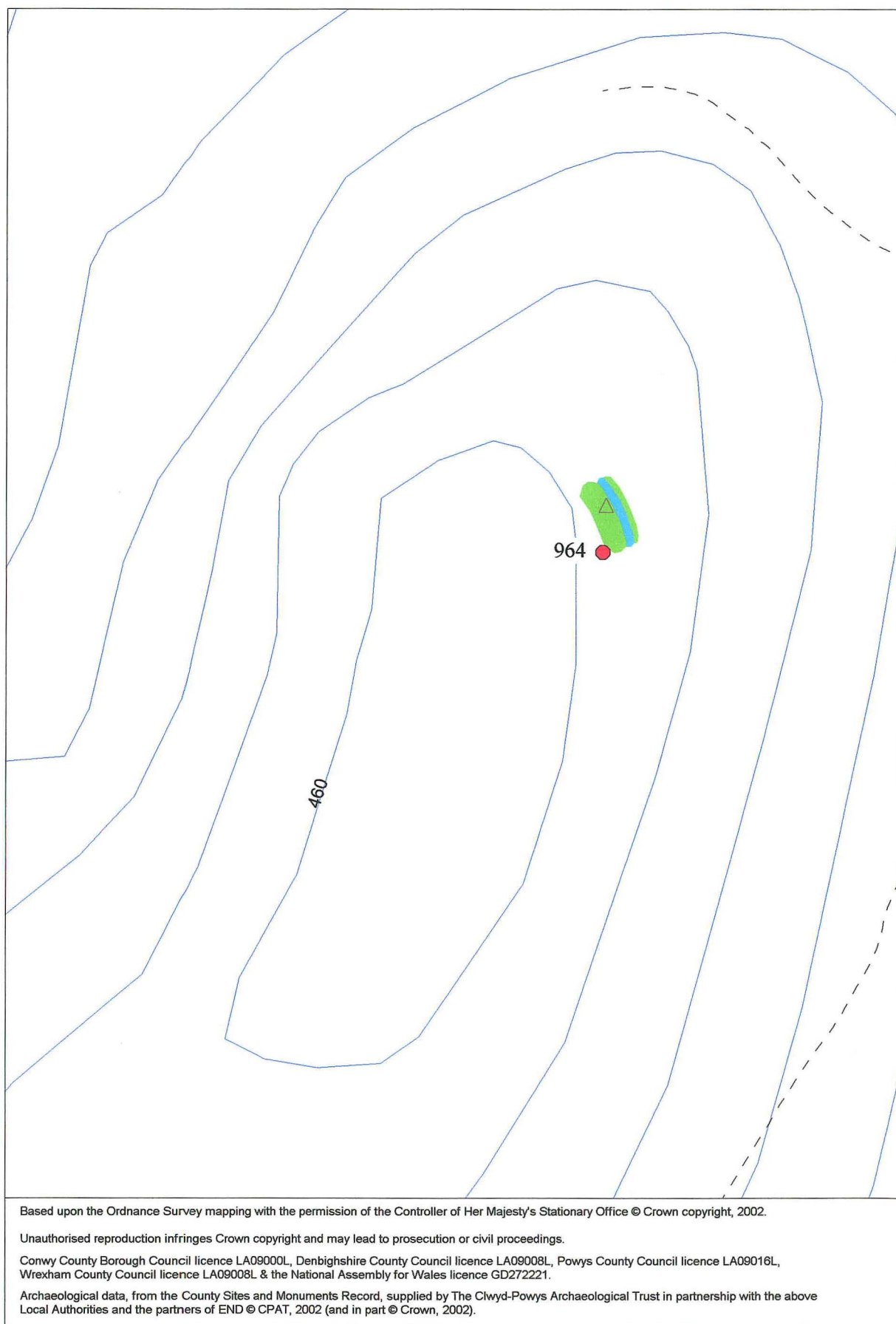
The site is located on the gentle NE facing slope of Moel Dod, about 10m in vertical height below the summit of the hill which is roughly 100m to the SW. There are excellent views from the site encompassing the S, E, N and NW sides. The only restriction is caused by the summit on the SW.

Disturbance

The site is largely undisturbed with the exception of an area of animal erosion/burrowing on the bank at SO 08007689.

Visit details

Visited 11/01/2002



Gwar y Cae earthwork (PRN 964), Scale 1:2,500

Fron Heulog Earthwork

PRN 1052

SAM

Field system ?

Post Medieval

NGR: From SO17509250 to

MAP SO19SE

Summary

No trace of this feature was seen during the site visit. The owner commented that he believed this area was the site of a claypit (now backfilled) which had been used to provide clay for local brickmaking (i.e. fired on-site). It can be noted that a clay pit is marked to the SW, on the opposite side of the River Mule, on the modern OS 1:25,000 map.

Morphology

This site was originally recorded as an earthwork which formed a possible continuation of the Wantyn Dyke.

Location

Slightly restricted views to E and W, but more obstructed to S by local summit.

Disturbance

Visit details

Visited 09/01/2002

Creggin Dyke

PRN 1672

SAM

Field boundary

Post Medieval

NGR: From SN97197065 to SN97907061

MAP SN97SE

Summary

A curving bank, 0.75km long by 3.5m wide. Examination of the surviving earthwork suggests strongly that it represents a boundary which formerly defined the upper limit of the enclosed land associated with Upper Nantserth farm.

Morphology

Some previous searches for the site appear to have focussed on an incorrect location. The earthwork consists of a bank, up to 3.5m wide by 1.0m high, running E from the minor road at Llidiart Carnau house (SN 97197065), then curving to the ENE. A section is missing between SN 97557073 and a copse at SN 97687076, but to the E, the bank forms the N boundary of the copse. To the E of the copse the earthwork has been partially levelled, but is in good condition in some wooded pasture beyond, at which point it is running to the SE. Near its E end, the bank runs SSE and seems to link up with an old boundary at SN 97907061.

Location

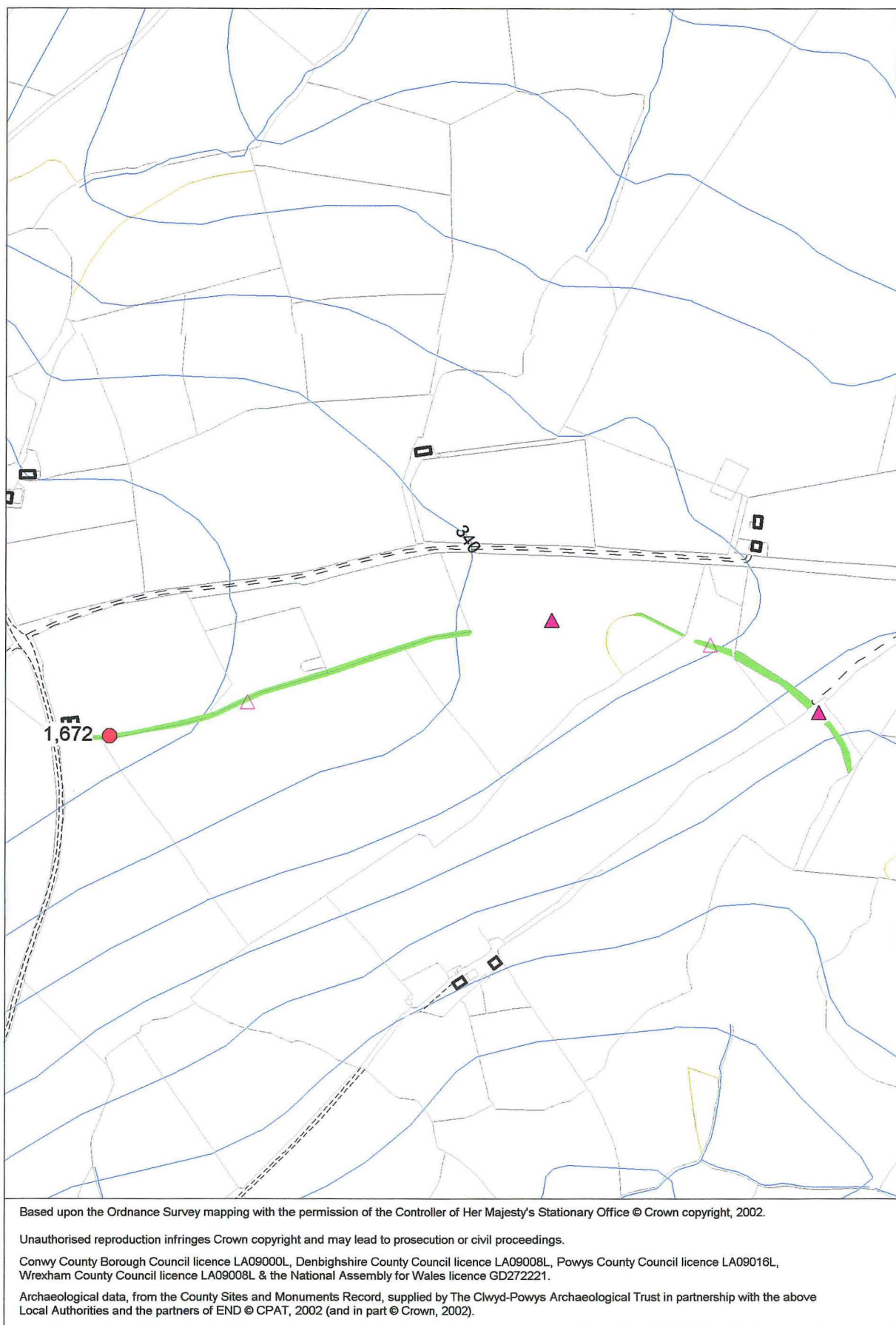
The site is initially located on the crest of a S-facing slope, but descends to the valley floor at its E end. Views are generally to the S and SE.

Disturbance

Two sections of the earthwork have been damaged or lost as a result of land improvement, namely those between SN 97557073 and SN 97687076, and between SN 90747073 and SN 90807071. There is also some animal erosion of the bank on its S side centred at SN 97357067.

Visit details

Visited 31/05/2002



Creggin Dyke (PRN 1672), Scale 1:5,000

Clawdd Du Mawr placename

PRN 3730

SAM

Placename

Medieval

NGR: From SN8569 to

MAP SN86NE

Summary

Site visit confirmed that the trackway to which the placename probably refers has no form which suggests anything other than a green way. Where it crosses a slope it appears as a terrace, whereas on the crest of the ridge it is a rutted track, c.8m across. Occasionally it is braided. The first 3km were walked, from SN 896716 westwards to SN 870707. The recorder was reasonably satisfied that this is the Clawdd referred to in the sources.

Morphology

A placename, 'Clawdd Du Mawr', perhaps suggesting a dyke or linear earthwork. As a result of the field visit, it is believed to represent the ridge crest trackway.

Location

The trackway runs along the crest of the NE/SW aligned ridge.

Disturbance

Some erosion on surface of trackway.

Visit details

Visited 01/11/2001

Waunmarteg bank

PRN 4159

SAM

Field boundary

Medieval ?

NGR: From SO00907672 to SO01657670

MAP SO07NW

Summary

Slight traces of a curving linear earthwork, at least 0.24km long and approximately 8m in overall width. Its function is unknown, but it is most probably a former land boundary.

Morphology

Very slightly curved linear earthwork situated in fields to the SW of a minor road which passes Waun Farm. The surviving evidence consists of a faint scarp which runs ESE from near the edge of a forestry plantation (at SO 01227649). The scarp merges into a bank at SO 01267647, with a ditch on its S side from SO 01277647 and then ends near a fence at SO 01307646. There are also faint traces of a continuing scarp in the field beyond which runs through SO 01347647, SO 01397649, and fades at approximately SO 01437651. There is no surviving trace of the earthwork in the field to the E of the road.

Location

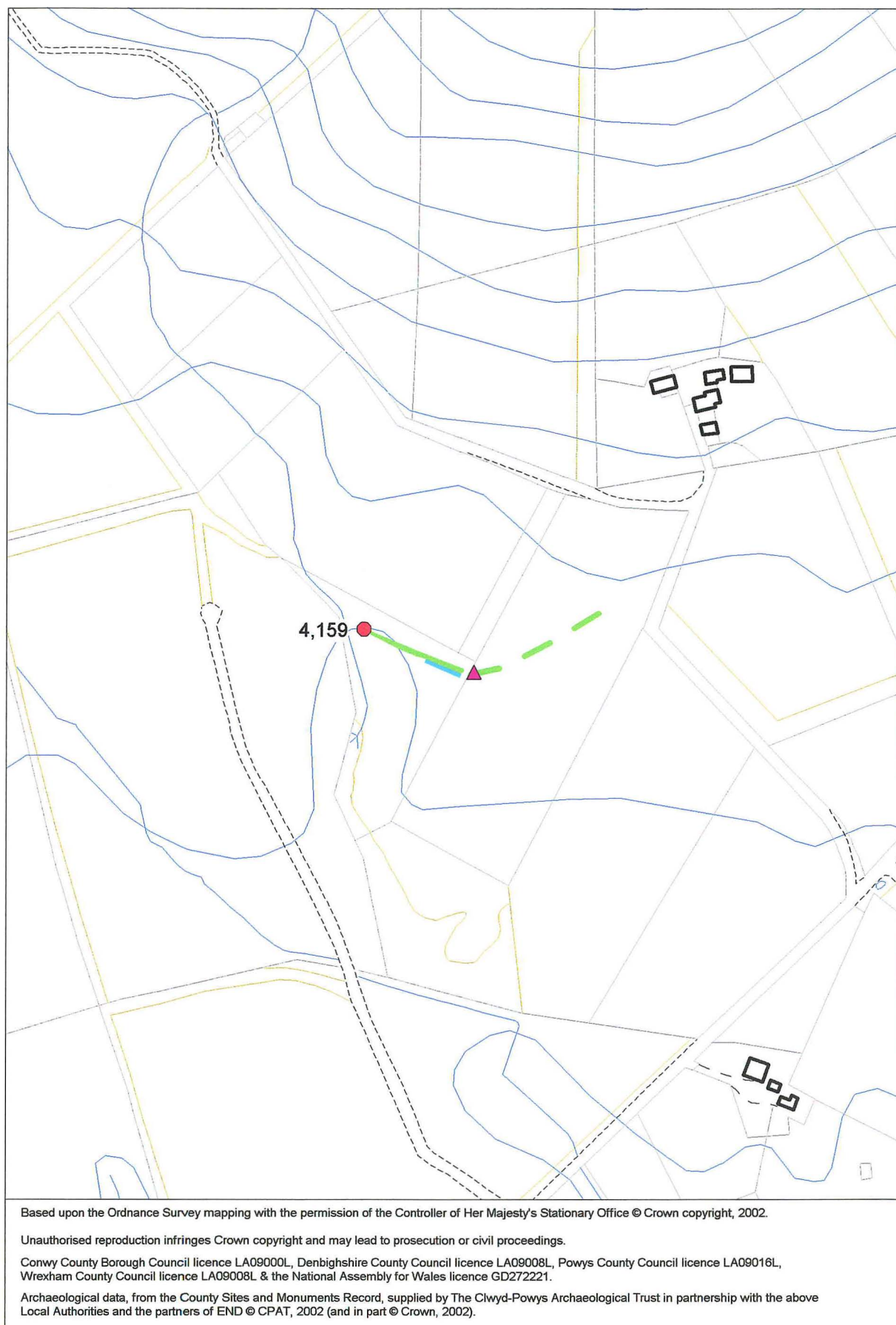
The site is situated on a gentle slope near the valley floor at the base of the steeper S-facing slope of Crugyn Llwyd, approximately 2km to the NW of the small settlement of Bwlch-y-sarnau. The views are best towards the S, though the true nature of the view is obscured by a forestry plantation. The holding on which the site is located is effectively surrounded by forestry which restricts the view in all directions.

Disturbance

The condition of the earthwork is generally very poor and much of its course can only be followed with the aid of the original visit data from 1978. This appears to be mainly a result of land improvement on the Waun Farm landholding. The part which continued to the E of the minor road has been lost.

Visit details

Visited 11/01/2002



Waunmarteg bank (PRN 4159), Scale 1:5,000

Dol Folau Dyke I

PRN 4198

SAM

Field boundary

Post Medieval ?

NGR: From SN91916595 to SN92136595

MAP SN96NW

Summary

A linear earthwork crossing part of a ridge. It is probably associated with linear earthwork PRN 6243. The site appears to represent an old boundary bank and not an early medieval dyke.

Morphology

The earthwork was first identified during field visit at SN 91916595, where it rises from gently sloping ground within 30m of the stream, continuing to SE along a parallel course to the nearby track up to SN 91976598. Then there is a change of direction to run E at SN 92056596, where the two gullies which flank the bank are prominent. Possible dogleg offset at SN 92136595, but it loses its distinctiveness at this point.

Location

Situated in the upper part of the Nant Dolfolau valley.

Disturbance

Visit details

Visited 01/11/2001

Llanafanfawr Dyke

PRN 4340

SAM

Non antiquity

Unknown

NGR: From SN917557 to SN808512

MAP SN95NW

Summary

The line of a dyke was recorded here by Jerman in 1935, running between Maen Gam and Fannog Farm. The NE (upland) section was examined in 2002 and no trace of a linear earthwork was found. A few natural ridges running in the same direction were encountered on the Hen Glawdd ridge, but nothing obviously artificial. The name 'Hen Glawdd' might refer to either the trackway running along the crest of the ridge or peat cutting, a small amount of which was seen in the area. Perhaps the record resulted from a combination of factors, namely, the name 'Hen Glawdd', extrapolation of a possible line suggested by field boundaries in the enclosed ground to the SW, and mis-interpretation of natural features.

Morphology

No earthwork was found.

Location

Disturbance

Visit details

Visited 10/09/2002

Sylfaen Dyke

PRN 4573

SAM

Boundary

Post Medieval

NGR: From SJ17730662 to SJ18690679

MAP SJ10NE

Summary

A substantial bank running E/W, with a corresponding ditch on its upslope (N) side, having a combined width of up to 20m and a total length of 1.02km. Despite its size, the morphology and siting of the earthwork are such that a defensive interpretation is precluded. Bearing in mind the nature of the land on its N and S sides, the most likely interpretation of the site is that it was constructed to form a boundary between the enclosed fields of Lower Sylfaen and adjacent farms and the unimproved land of Y Golfa. This interpretation is supported by a Powis Estates map of c.1780 (NLW Powis Castle M17, p75), which shows the site forming the boundary of Y Golfa common.

Morphology

A linear earthwork aligned E/W and c.900m long; it forms the N edge of the enclosed fields above Lower Sylfaen Farm. The W end starts at SJ 17730662 at a gate leading to a stone quarry, where there are traces of a bank, but this initial section of the earthwork has been partially disturbed by quarrying. From about SJ 17830664 the earthwork takes on its typical form, consisting of a deep, rock-cut, ditch with a bank on its S side running across a steep S-facing slope. The earthwork becomes less pronounced towards SJ 18320668 where a second ditch appears on the upslope side; the change is more likely to be due to a lessening in the steepness of the slope, the second ditch probably representing a different phase of the earthwork rather than a change in its form. The second ditch ends at SJ 18370669. The earthwork continues to approximately SJ 18690679, near the SE corner of Y Golfa common, but there is no obvious continuation of the feature to either the E or N.

Location

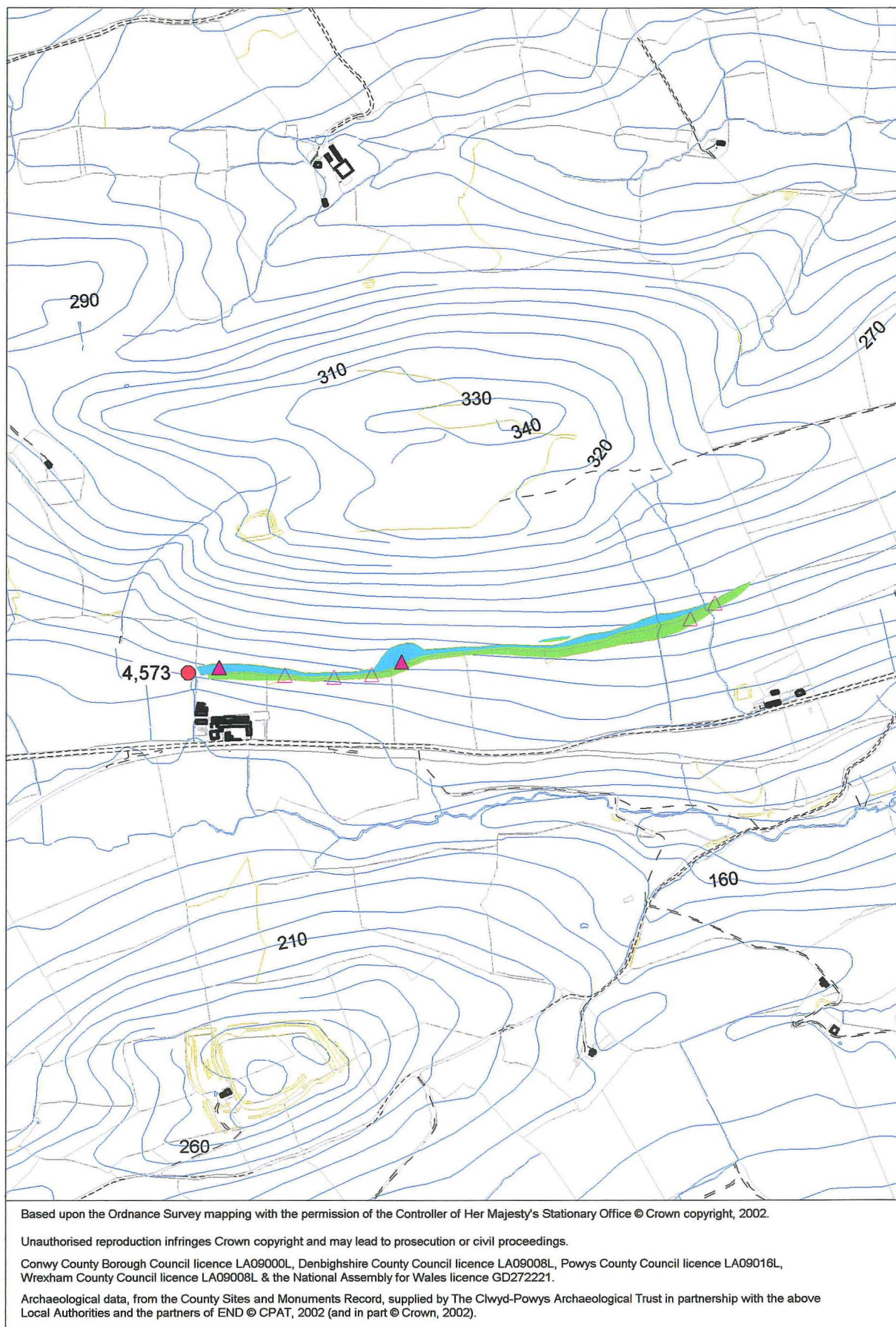
The site is situated on the steep S-facing slope of Y Golfa, approximately 3.5km to the WSW of the town of Welshpool. The views are best towards the S, though even in this direction, the view is limited to a maximum distance of 1km, being obscured by the parallel ridge of Pen-y-Foel.

Disturbance

The condition of the earthwork is generally very good throughout, although partially hidden from view by trees. Apart from a few sections at the centre and the E end, it is a substantial feature of the landscape. The disturbance is generally limited to access/drainage gaps, although two lengths have been disturbed by stone quarrying and a brick well/tank has been inserted into the bank at SJ 17950662.

Visit details

Visited 27/05/2002



Sylfaen Dyke (PRN 4573), Scale 1:10,000

Kerry Hill Earthwork

PRN 4714

SAM

Trackway

Post Medieval

NGR: From SO10888513 to

MAP SO18NW

Summary

A site previously recorded as a possible dyke, but which actually represents a trackway. Its overall width is approximately 13m.

Morphology

The site consists of a trackway comprising two linear hollows; they run between SO 10788520 and SO 10948505, at which point they split and take different courses. The confusion appears to have been caused by a section, c.13m wide, at SO 10888513, where the two hollows run parallel to each other across a low ridge, giving the appearance of a bank with two flanking ditches. The 'bank', however, is no higher than the surrounding land.

Location

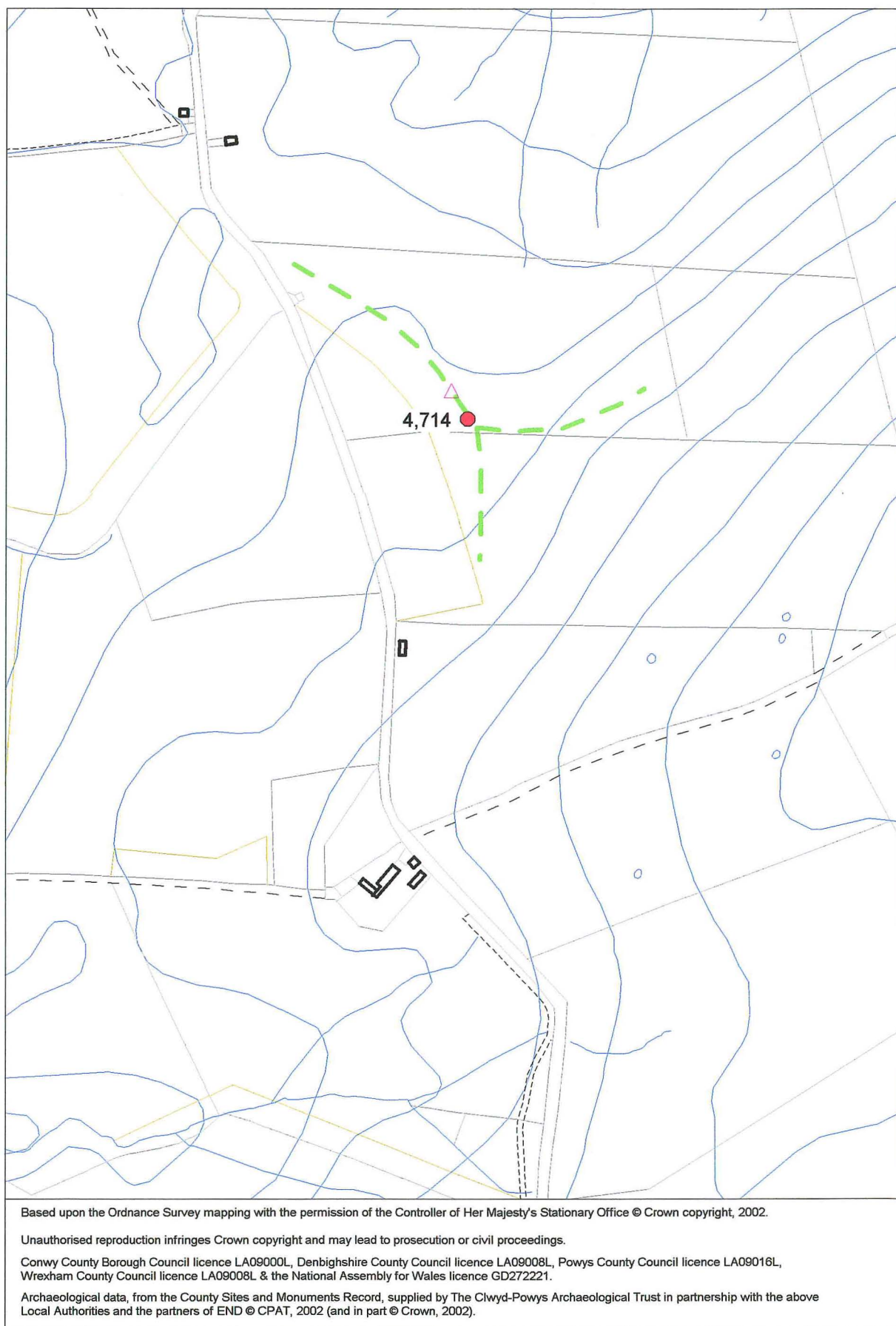
The site is located near a saddle, with its main view to the NE.

Disturbance

The area of the site has been subjected to land improvement in the past which has softened the profile of the features.

Visit details

Visited 05/06/2002.



Kerry Hill earthwork (PRN 4714), Scale 1:5,000

Clawdd Du Bach placename

PRN 5179

SAM

Placename

Medieval ?

NGR: From SN8670 to

MAP SN87SE

Summary

The origin of this feature is probably the same as for PRN 3730. No trace of a dyke is apparent.

Morphology

A placename, 'Clawdd-du-bach', perhaps suggesting a dyke or linear earthwork. As a result of the field visit, it is believed to represent the ridge crest trackway.

Location

The trackway runs along the crest of a NE/SW aligned ridge.

Disturbance

Some erosion on the surface of the trackway.

Visit details

Visited 01/11/2001

Erewillim Dyke

PRN 5225

SAM

Leat

Post Medieval

NGR: From SO17275173 to

MAP SO15SE

Summary

Earthwork recorded as a possible dyke, but which is actually a former leat.

Morphology

The leat, which is the only linear feature present at the given location, has an overall width of 4m and runs from a stream to the S of Mawn Pools. It consists of a single gully with a bank on the S as far as SO 17365172, where it bifurcates. The two elements have a similar form and may be heading for the saddle to the E, in order that they could run down to the stream which passes Dreavour Farm. This was not checked.

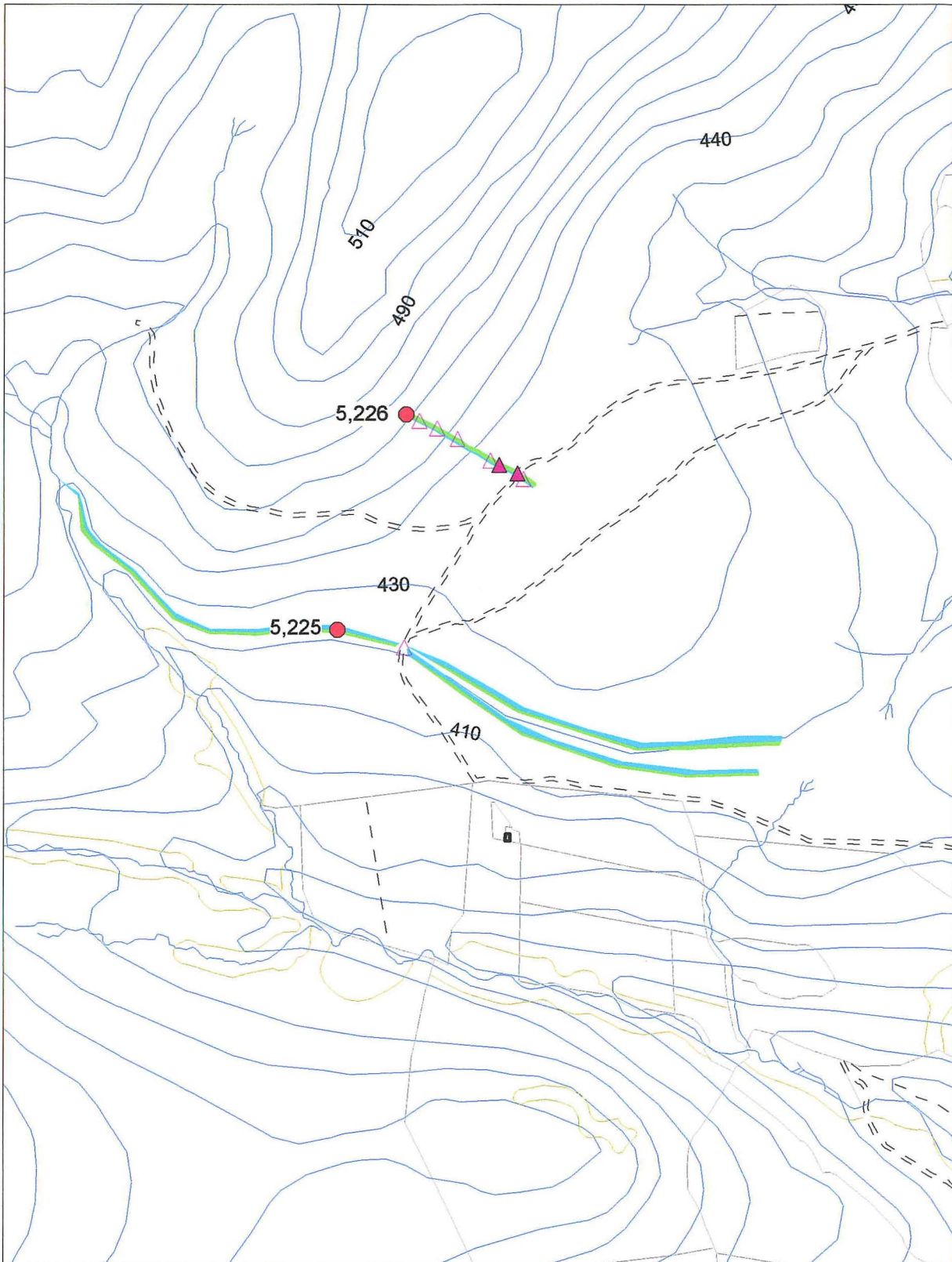
Location

The earthwork crosses the lower S-facing slopes of Black Hill. There are excellent views in most directions except where higher ground blocks the view to the N.

Disturbance

Visit details

Visited 12/06/2002.



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Black Hill Dyke

PRN 5226

SAM

Field boundary

Unknown

NGR: From SO17355199 to SO17505190

MAP SO15SE

Summary

Generally, a slight bank and ditch running NW/SE for 0.18km, with an overall width 5m. The earthwork appears to represent an abandoned field boundary and its location suggests that it may have been connected with a deserted rural settlement site to the NE.

Morphology

Linear earthwork consisting of a NW/SE aligned bank with a ditch on its SW side. The SE end commences at the edge of marshy ground on a broad saddle (SO 17505190), from where it runs NW across the dry part of the saddle before ascending the moderate SE-facing slope of Black Hill. The NW end of the earthwork is located at SO 17355199, approximately two-thirds of the way up the slope.

Location

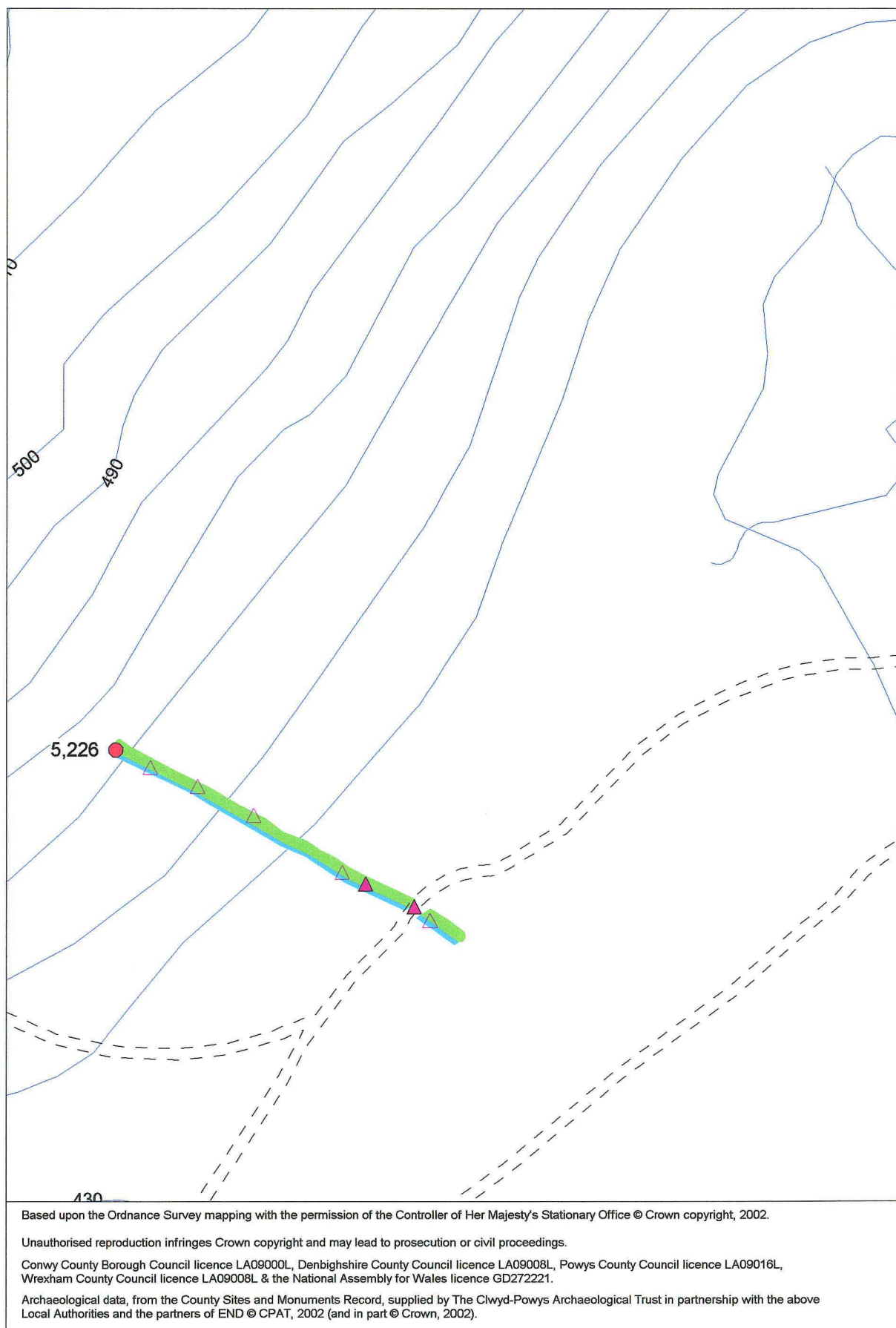
There are excellent views in most directions except where higher ground blocks the view to the NW.

Disturbance

The bank is cut by an existing vehicle track at SO 17485192, and a similar abandoned track at SO 17465193. Sheep tracks cut across the bank at SO 17485191, SO 17455193, SO 17415196, SO 17385197 and SO 17365198.

Visit details

Visited 12/06/2002



Black Hill Dyke (PRN 5226), Scale 1:2,500

Llanfihangel Nant Melan dyke

PRN 5229

SAM

Linear earthwork

Unknown

NGR: From SO17895818 to SO17915823

MAP SO15NE

Summary

The substantial earthwork consists of a bank, apparently without a ditch, running downslope (NE) from the main A44 road to the vicinity of the Summerhill Brook in the floor of the valley, a total length of 0.06km. Its function is unclear from visible evidence.

Morphology

The best-preserved section of bank runs from the roadside (at SO 17895818, where there is some disturbance) for about 43m and is within a fenced-off conifer plantation strip; the bank is 1.6m to 2.0m high on the SE side, although only 0.7m high on the NW. At the NE end of the plantation the bank has been partially removed for an access track and gateway, and only its base remains. To the NE of the gateway the bank has been taken down to the NW ground level, leaving a scarp on the SE, 0.6m to 1.0m high. There is a platformed area to the SE of this NE section, but it is not known whether this is a contemporary feature. It is also difficult to determine whether the bank originally continued any further to the NE beyond SO 17925824, as there is an embanked pond at this end. No trace of a continuation was apparent beyond the NE side of the pond. There was also no trace of a continuation in the field to the SW of the main road.

Location

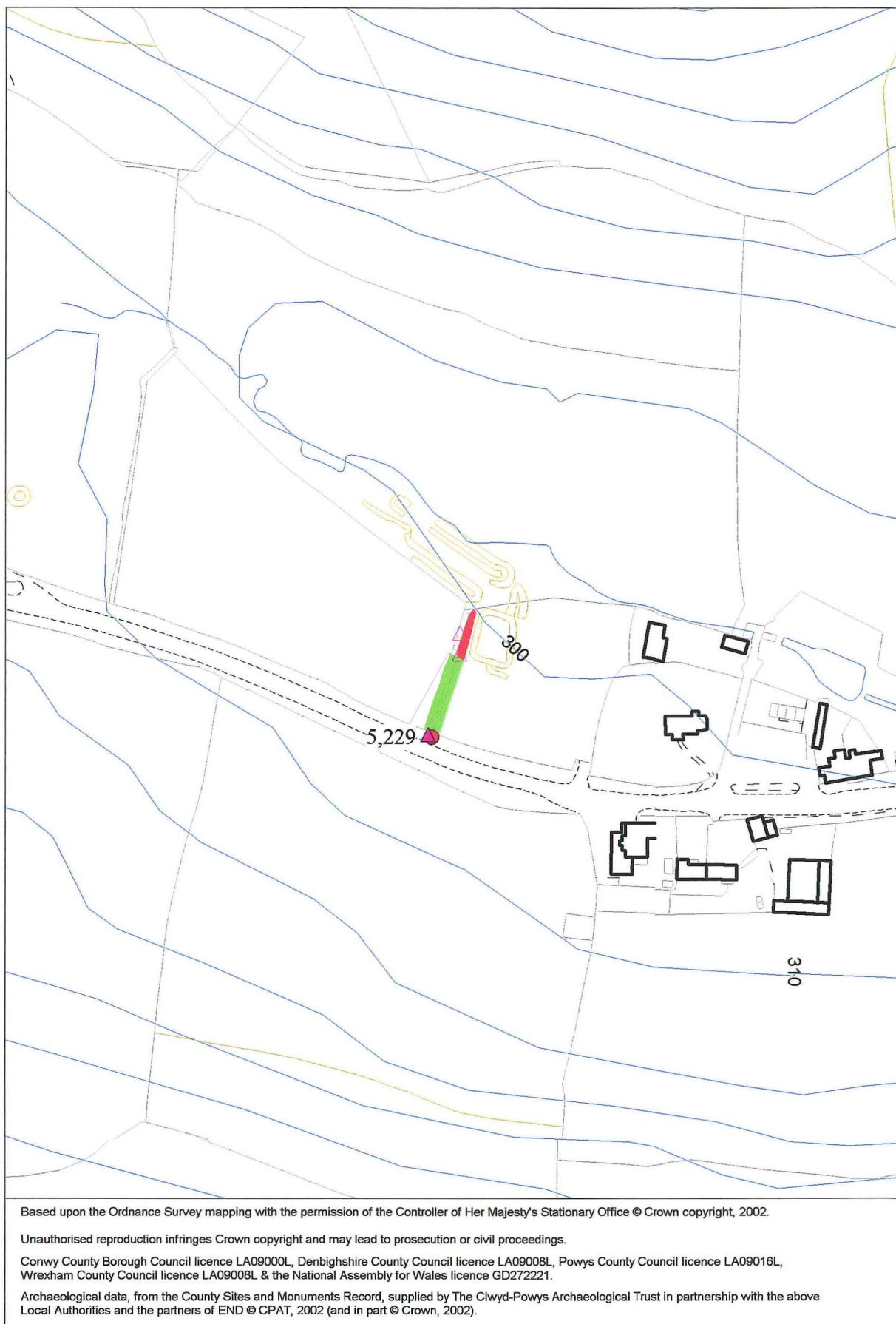
The site is located on the floor of the valley, at a point between two spurs which project into the valley from the S. The N and S sides of the valley have a moderate slope. Views are very similar in extent on all sides, but if anything they are more restricted to the E and W as a result of the spurs which block the view in those directions. The slopes to N and S are not sufficiently steep to limit the view. The site is located to the W of the churchyard in the village of Llanfihangel Nant Melan.

Disturbance

Although there is no evidence of a continuation in the fields to the SW, this end of the bank may have been truncated by the construction of the main road and there is some secondary disturbance at this end which is probably related. The track which cuts the site at SO 17915823 has not completely removed the bank, and this is also the case with the levelling which has occurred to its NE, where the line of the bank survives only as a scarp on its SE side.

Visit details

Visited 04/01/2002



Llanfihangel Nant Melan Dyke (PRN 5229), Scale 1:2,500

Hen Gefn Dyke

PRN 5232

SAM

Trackway

Unknown

NGR: From SO19137021 to SO19537089

MAP SO17SE

Summary

No trace of a dyke could be recognised at the given location which is within improved pasture. The owner commented that there used to be a trackway on the crest of the ridge and it seems most likely that this is the origin of the record.

Morphology

Location

The site was apparently located on the crest of the Pen-y-clawdd ridge.

Disturbance

Visit details

Visited 12/06/2002

Dol Folau Dyke II

PRN 6243

SAM

Field boundary

Medieval ?

NGR: From SN92306601 to SN92856600

MAP SN96NW

Summary

A bank crosses part of a ridge, and is perhaps associated with the similar bank, PRN 4198. The site would appear to represent an old boundary bank and not an early medieval dyke.

Morphology

A bank (of subsoil) with flanking ditches. The W end commences at a small, meandering gully carrying water (SN 92306601), running NNE, then NE, before curving around to run ESE, then SE, and eventually S. At SN 92856600 it starts to drop downhill and can be seen to continue, though not as a substantial earthwork. It is intermittent for perhaps 20m or more near a bog at SN 92556623 and is crossed by a track at SN 92316601.

Location

Disturbance

Visit details

Visited 01/11/2001

Mount Pleasant Dyke

PRN 6680

SAM

Linear earthwork

Dark Age ?

NGR: From SO03768638 to SO03748627

MAP SO08NW

Summary

A curving bank and ditch, 0.11km long, of uncertain nature and function. It appears to face E and is situated in an area of unimproved upland pasture. Its proximity to the Giants Grave Dyke (PRN 3711) may suggest some relationship, but this is entirely hypothetical.

Morphology

The S end of the earthwork (SO 03748627) is visible as a bank with a ditch on its E side, and is 4.3m in overall width. It runs N, before curving to run NNE at SO 03748631. At SO 03748634, an approximately square earthwork ?enclosure appears to abut the W side of the bank, the bank and ditch now being 6m in overall width. Beyond this point the earthwork curves to the NE and fades out at SO 03768638.

Location

The earthwork crosses a terrace where a spur emerges from the main ridge. Views are mainly to the N and W, while that to the E is restricted by higher ground.

Disturbance

A vehicle track crosses the line of the earthwork at SO 03758636, where there is also evidence of the former siting of a stock feeder.

Visit details

Visited 08/08/2002



Mount Pleasant Dyke (PRN 6680), Scale 1:2,500

Fawnog y Bont bank

PRN 6725

SAM

Field boundary

Post Medieval

NGR: From SN84248292 to SN85508250

MAP SN88SW

Summary

A substantial bank, with occasional ditch, which ascends the Fawnog y Bont/Allt Pant-mawr ridge from lower ground to the N of Pont Rhydgaled, and then runs along its crest for at least 1km.

Morphology

The W end of the bank starts at approximately SN 84248292 then runs uphill (ENE) on the SE side of a stream gully to SN 84408298, before curving and running E to SN 84528298. The bank, now generally 4m wide by 1m high, continues SE to SN 84638292 where there is a slight ditch on its NE side. Recording was terminated at this point as it became evident that the earthwork was a redundant boundary bank, perhaps defining the former edge of enclosed ground bordering a common. The earthwork could be seen to continue along the SW side of the ridge crest for at least another 1km, to Allt Pant-mawr (SN 85508250).

Location

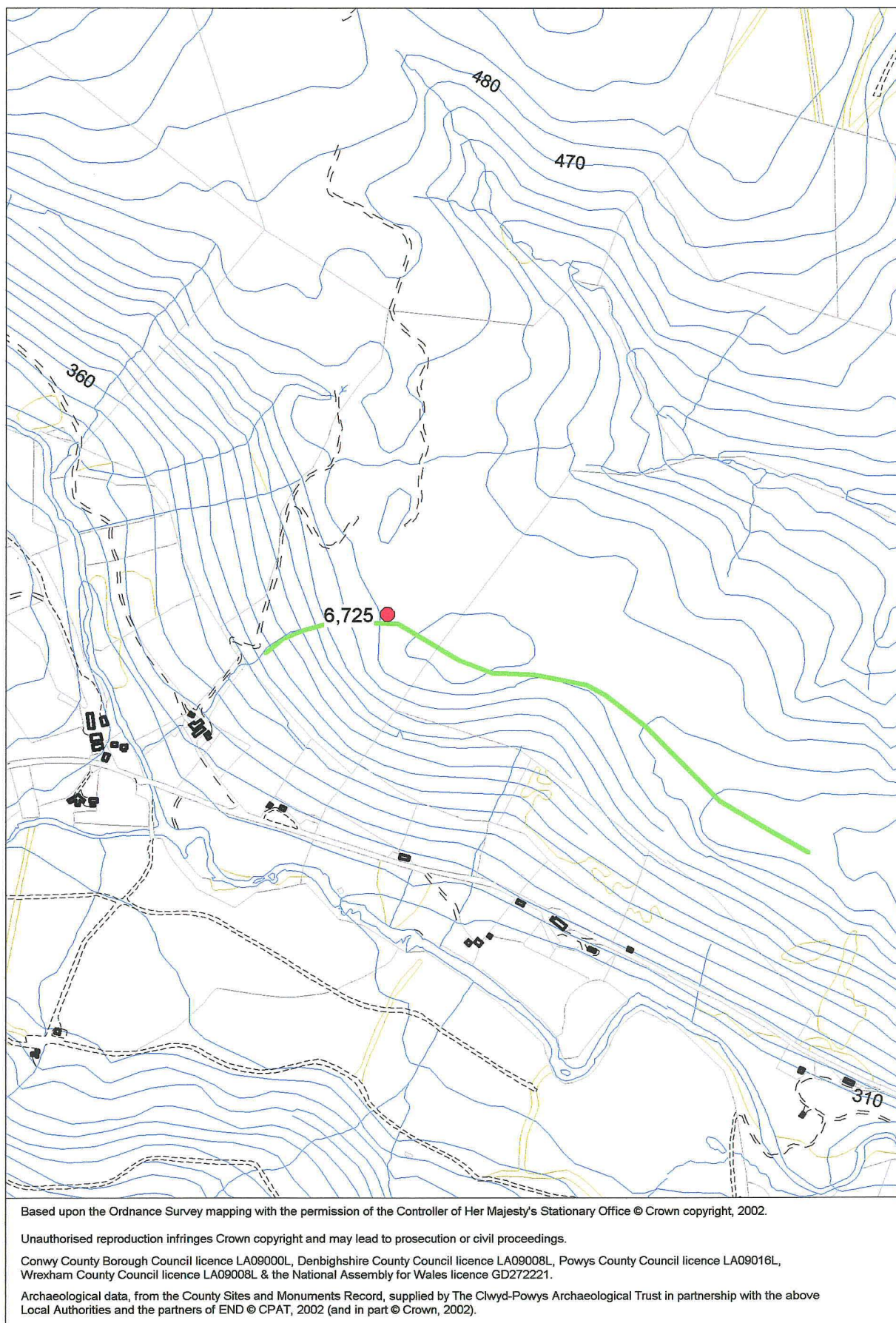
The earthwork ascends the Fawnog y Bont/Allt Pant-mawr ridge from lower ground to the N of Pont Rhydgaled, then runs along its crest for at least 1km.

Disturbance

The bank appears to be largely undisturbed.

Visit details

Visited 08/08/2002



Fawnog y Bont dyke (PRN 6725), Scale 1:10,000

Esgairnantau bank and ditch

PRN 6862

SAM

Linear earthwork

Post Medieval

NGR: From SO17906184 to SO18136206

MAP SO16SE

Summary

A bank, 0.47km long, of uncertain nature and function which is situated on the E side of a ridge within a dense conifer plantation. Few parts of it were accessible which prohibited an assessment of the location and siting. Trees were evidently planted soon after the initial survey in 1992, probably with the use of a mole plough.

Morphology

The S end of the earthwork (SO 17906184) is visible as a bank, c.7.8m wide x 0.7m high, where it ends within 5m of a forest road and there is also an unplanted area beside a fence at SO 17896185 which divides the plantation. It was traced as a scarp bank at SO 17896188, and a bank at SO 17906190. There is now no trace of a ditch towards the S end, but it was found to survive at SO 17926197, where it was approximately 6m wide and up to 0.5m deep; the bank at this point was approximately 5m wide and up to 1.0m high on its downslope (E) side. Access to the remainder of the earthwork was hindered by forestry.

Location

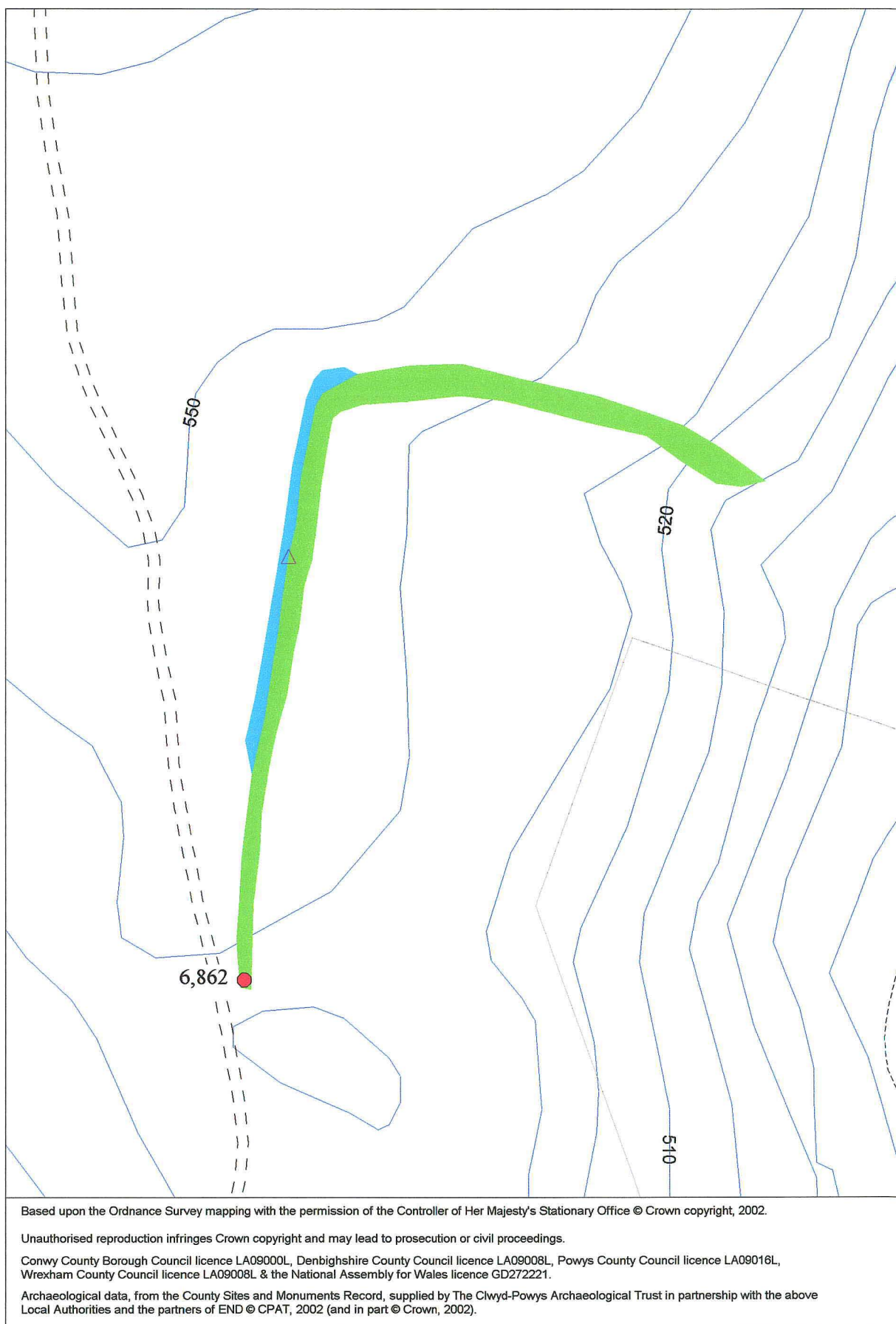
Views are mainly to SE, with dead ground to SW.

Disturbance

Almost entirely overplanted with conifers.

Visit details

Visited 11/12/2001



Esgairnantau bank and ditch (PRN 6862), Scale 1:2,500

Rhiw Gam Earthwork

PRN 7087

SAM

Linear earthwork

Post Medieval

NGR: From SO08607998 to SO08638006

MAP SO07NE

Summary

A linear earthwork consisting of a bank and ditch 0.1km long, located near the origin of a minor spur which projects into the valley of the River Ithon, 2km NNW of the village of Llanbadarn Fynydd.

Morphology

A substantial though irregular bank running from SO 08607998 to SO 08638006. It is aligned approximately NE/SW, with a ditch on its SE side. The bank has a rounded profile and its irregularities seem to be more a result of incomplete construction than later erosion and disturbance. The earthwork may have been intended to cut off the minor spur to the NW which overlooks the valley below; there are steep slopes on all other sides which gives the site the feel of a promontory fort. The bank is up to 2.0m high while the ditch is 0.7m deep; the total extent of the earthwork is 90m long by c.18m wide. There is a large shale content in the bank and it is evident that the material is of poor quality, unsuitable for use as construction material, which argues against the site being a quarry. The size of the bank in relation to the ditch also precludes the site being a quarry; the bank appears to have a slight overall curve whose interior (or focal point) is on its NW side. Approximately 40m from the SW end of the ditch (at SO 08628002) a spur, possibly representing a causeway, protrudes into the ditch from the base of the bank.

Location

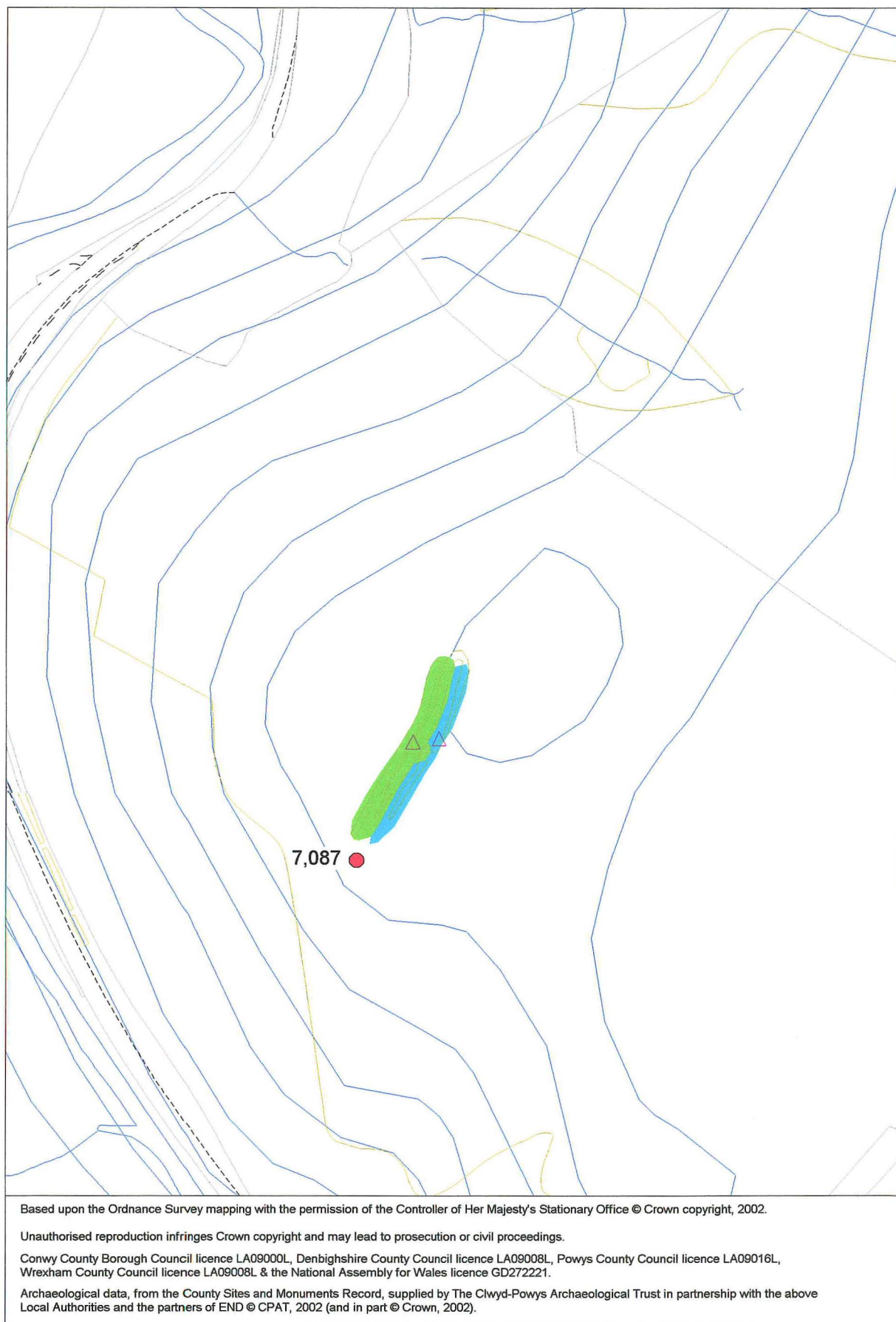
The site is overlooked by slightly higher ground to the SE, but is sited in such a way as to occupy the best defensive position in regard to this direction. The remaining sides of the spur may be sufficiently steep for there to be no real need of further defensive earthworks. There are excellent views from the site to all sides, except on the SE.

Disturbance

The surrounding field has been subject to land improvement, but the main form of disturbance to the site consists of a number of sheep scrapes which have exposed the underlying structural material of the bank; in addition, an old harrow has been dumped on the NE end of the bank and there is some surrounding erosion. The bank is sufficiently large to bear this surface erosion at present, although in the longer term this may prove to be more critical. The ditch could also have been partially backfilled with material originating from the improvement of the surrounding field, but the scale of this is more difficult to quantify.

Visit details

Visited 11/01/2002



Rhiw Gam earthwork (PRN 7087), Scale 1:2,500

Pentre Bank

PRN 8560

SAM

Landform

Post Medieval

NGR: From SO152982 to

MAP SO19NE

Summary

This appears to be a spurious record. The bank that was recorded is of natural origin and probably continues to the ENE for another c.300m as a ridge. The crest of the recorded section has a hollow running along it in a WSW/ENE direction which probably represents an abandoned trackway.

Morphology

Location

Good views to S and E.

Disturbance

Visit details

Visited 09/01/2002

Drum Ddu N bank and ditch

PRN 13434

SAM

Field boundary

Post Medieval

NGR: From SN95956085 to SN95756080

MAP SN96SE

Summary

This site cannot be classed as a dyke. The description of the earthwork relates to one of two redundant field banks forming the S side of an enclosure at the head of Nant Cymrun.

Morphology

The upper bank is slightly irregular in its course, so it is more likely that the lower of the two banks is the one that was recorded; this bank runs E/W between SN 95956085 and SN 95756080, for approximately 200m, with a ditch on its upslope (S) side. The overall width of the earthwork is c.8m.

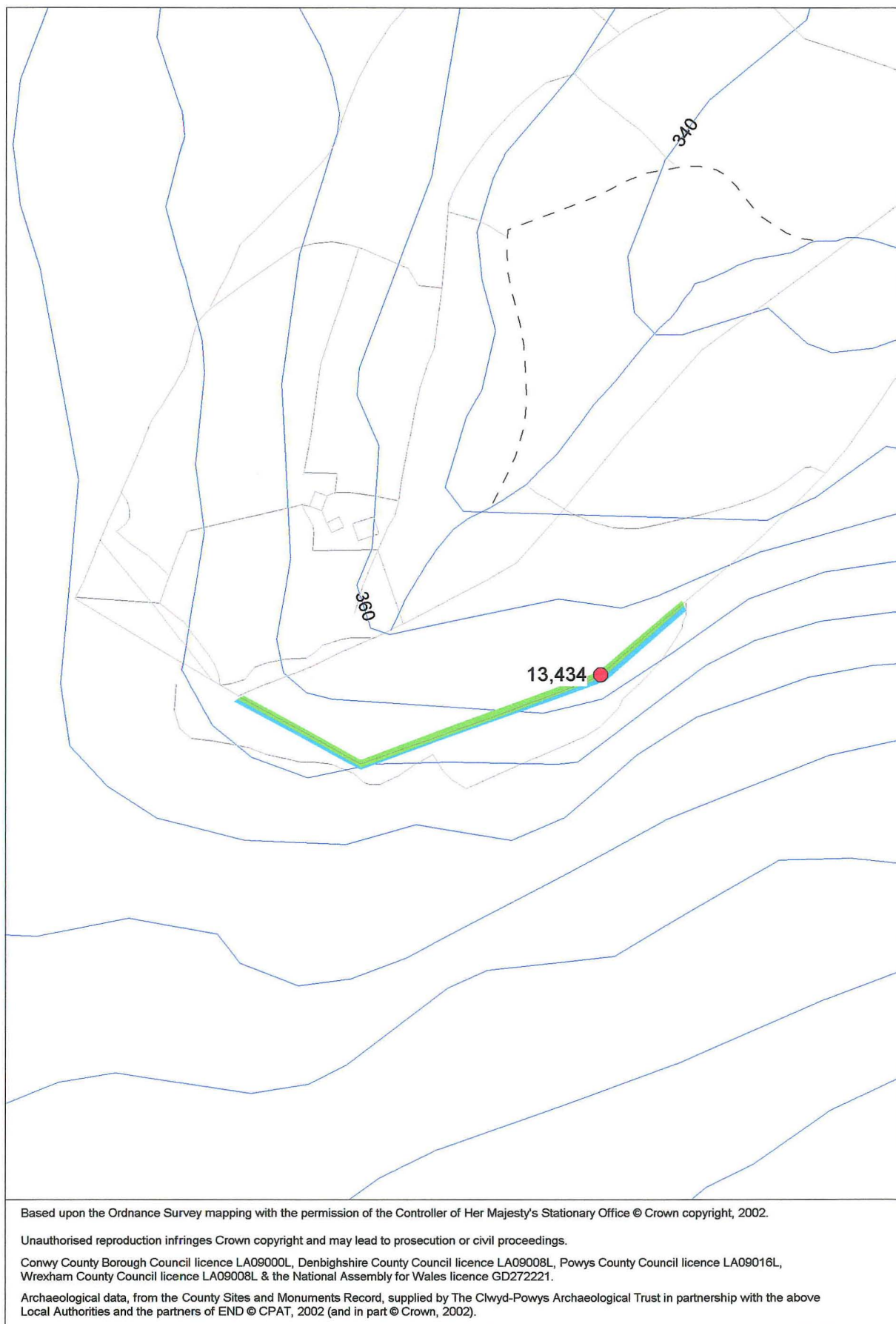
Location

The main views from the site are to the NE down the valley of the Nant Cymrun.

Disturbance

Visit details

Visited 31/05/2002



Drum Ddu N bank and ditch (PRN 13434), Scale 1:2,500

Wantyn Dyke, Upper

PRN 17785

SAM

Field system

Dark Age

NGR: From SO20918843 to SO20018879

MAP SO28NW

Summary

A linear earthwork, 1.37km long, which was originally recorded as a continuation of the Wantyn Dyke. The overall appearance of the earthwork suggests that it is actually the outer boundary of a field system. Certainly there appear to be associated features which are of agricultural origin. In addition to the linear elements, there is also a probable earthwork platform at SO 20578875 and a potential structure at SO 20478863, although the area has been heavily improved. Excavation and geophysical survey work by Manchester University failed to reveal any evidence of a link with the Wantyn Dyke.

Morphology

The earthwork consists of a bank and external ditch, although for a short distance a counterscarp is also evident. The bank and ditch run NW from SO 20918843 as far as SO 20318905, before turning through a right-angle and running SW to end at SO 20018879. At the W end there is a possible associated lynchet which runs SE along the contours and two NE/SW-aligned curving scarps which may also be lynchets. The total width of the earthwork is up to about 7.5m, two-thirds of which is the bank.

Location

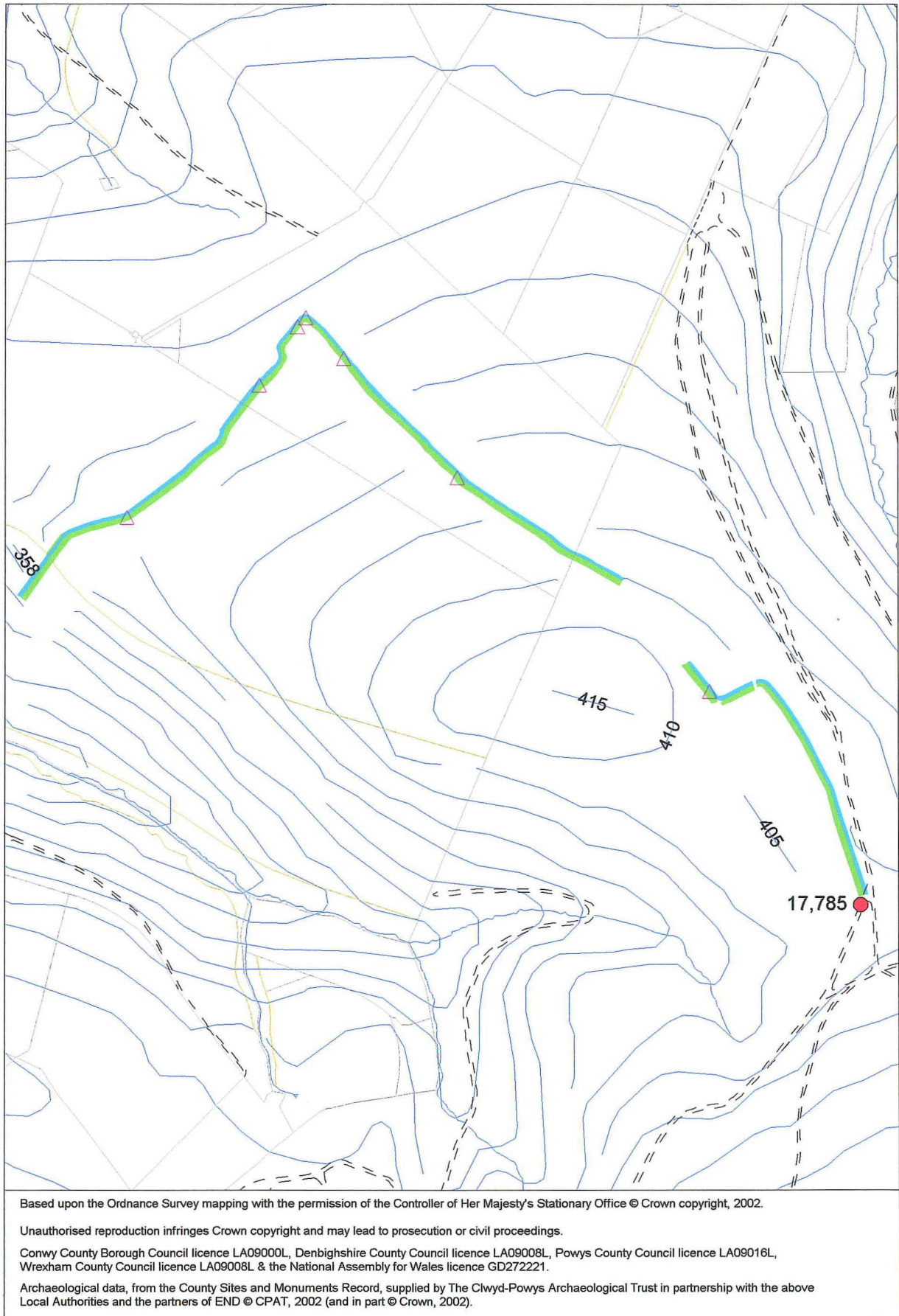
The bank and ditch runs through forestry from the base of the spur at SO 20918843 to SO 20608879, then is entirely within improved grassland. It runs along the spur, before crossing it and ending on the steep SW-facing slope overlooking Lower Hill Farm. Distant views are mainly to the N and NW.

Disturbance

Some minor disturbance in the forested section is due to various forms of forestry activity. Most of the section within improved grassland has been subject to stock erosion/poaching, though this is relatively minor, and it is probable that the bank and ditch have been denuded by the improvement process. The bank is cut by vehicle tracks at SO 20318905 and SO 20308904, and a gateway at SO 20278898. Burrowing animals have created some minor damage between SO 20138887 and SO 20088885.

Visit details

Visited 20/02/2002



Upper Wantyn dyke (PRN 17785), Scale 1:6,000

Dolhelfa Grange boundary

PRN 17790

SAM

Monastic boundary

Medieval ?

NGR: From SN95017306 to SN95167341

MAP SN97SE

Summary

A possible dyke which is believed to have monastic associations. The site consists of a bank and ditch with an occasional counterscarp bank, overall width approximately 7m. The earthwork is up to 0.44km long and generally faces E.

Morphology

Earthwork commences at N end (SN 95167341) at the head of a steep stream gully flowing NE down to the Marcheini Fawr stream. It runs S as a bank with ditch and counterscarp, c.7m wide overall, then curves SSW from SN 95177323, before curving sharply SW then W from SN 95167318. The final part of the earthwork curves back to the WSW and may end at the head of a track at SN 95077314, though there are two sections of bank on the SE side of the track which may continue the line of the earthwork as far SW as SN 95017306.

The site was recorded as one of the boundaries of the Dolhelfa Grange; it is interesting to note that adjacent to the N end of the earthwork is a long hut and associated enclosure which might compare with similar associations present in the area of the Cwmystwyth Grange. A second long hut has been recorded at SN 94977298; this is in a direct line to the SW of the nearest section of bank, located at SN 95017306, approximately 90m distant. The original recorder of this site notes its potential relation to a stream called 'Lleussic' which flowed into the River Wye; given the close geographic relation between this site and two deserted settlements it is possible that the name reflects the word 'Llestau', generally taken to mean an upland pastoral settlement.

Location

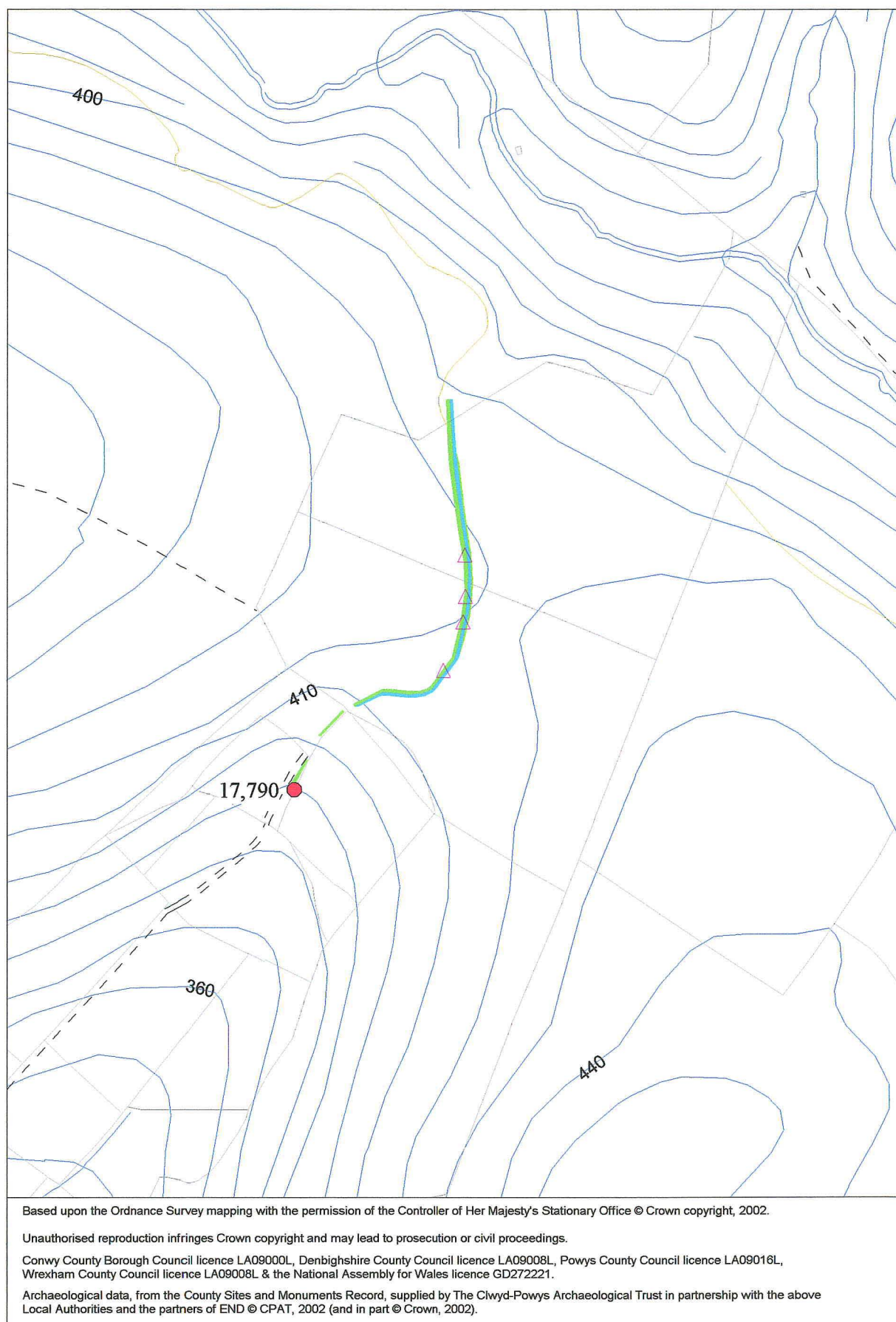
The earthwork crosses a saddle on the ridge and the views range from those to the NE and E at its N end around to those to the S on the opposite end.

Disturbance

There are small amounts of animal erosion throughout the extant earthwork, while more localised disturbance due to access routes crossing it are present at SN 95177327, SN 95177321 and SN 95157317.

Visit details

Visited 31/05/2002



Dolhelfa Grange boundary (PRN 17790), Scale 1:5,000

Cyrn-y-Brain dyke III

PRN 19604

SAM

Mineral trial working ?

Post Medieval

NGR: From SJ20514828 to SJ20524835

MAP SJ24NW

Summary

A curving linear ditch/gully aligned NNE/SSW, with a bank on its ESE side. The most likely interpretation is that this represents one of three mineral trial excavations on the sloping shelf.

Morphology

A linear earthwork generally consisting of a gully aligned NNE/SSW with a bank on the ESE, running from SJ 20524835 to SJ 20514828. The central section is curved slightly to the E. The bank appears to be relatively larger than the ditch but must have been created from upcast material. A modern track crosses the earthwork towards its SSW end, beyond which the remaining section consists of a bank with no obvious corresponding ditch. The SSW section is anomalous, but the similarities with PRNs 19605 and 19606 suggest that this site is related to them.

Location

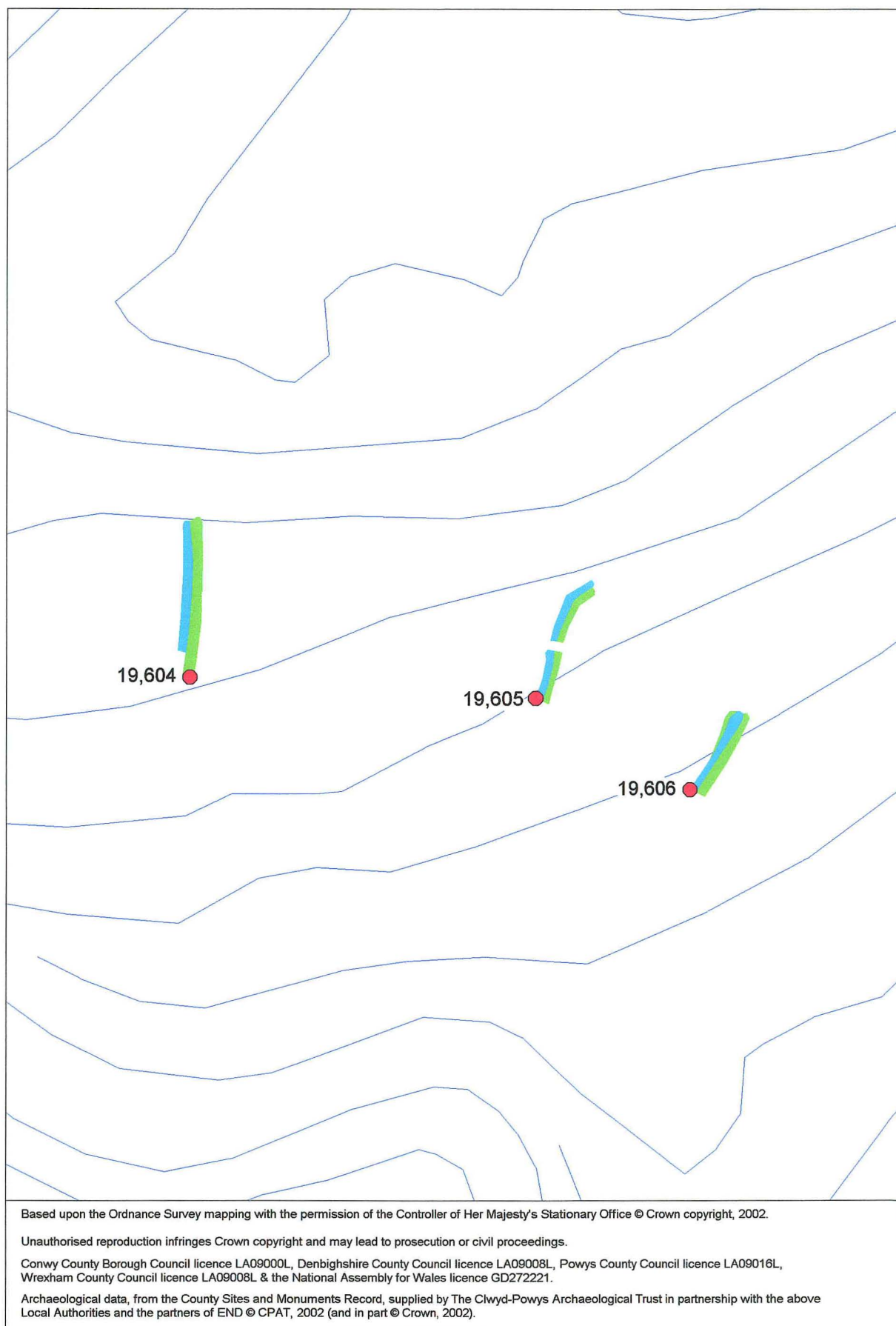
The earthwork is situated on a shelf that slopes gently from N to S, and slightly from WNW to ESE. Both ends stop short of the craggy scarps which form the edges of the shelf. Natural rock ridges running E/W are crossed by the earthwork. It is overlooked by higher ground to the N.

Disturbance

There is some erosion and associated animal tracks centred at SJ 20524832. The earthwork is also crossed by a vehicle track at SJ 20524829.

Visit details

Visited 25/07/2002



Cym-y-Brain dyke III (PRN 19604), Scale 1:2,500

Cyrn-y-Brain dyke I

PRN 19605

SAM

Mineral trial working ?

Post Medieval

NGR: From SJ20674827 to SJ20694832

MAP SJ24NW

Summary

A bi-partite linear ditch/gully aligned NNE/SSW, with a bank on its ESE side, and a central gap through which a trackway passes. The most likely interpretation is that this represents one of three mineral trial excavations on this sloping shelf.

Morphology

A linear earthwork consisting of two sections of U-shaped gully aligned NNE/SSW, each with a bank of spoil on the ESE (downslope) side. The earthwork runs from SJ 20674827 to SJ 20694832, with a gap of 4m at SJ 20684829, where a trackway divides the earthwork. The NNE end of the SSW part broadens out where it meets the track. The bank on the ESE of the NNE part is less pronounced, but otherwise the earthwork is essentially similar until SJ 20684830, where there is a pronounced step in the base of the gully which thereafter is 0.5m shallower. The last section of the NNE part curves to the NE.

Location

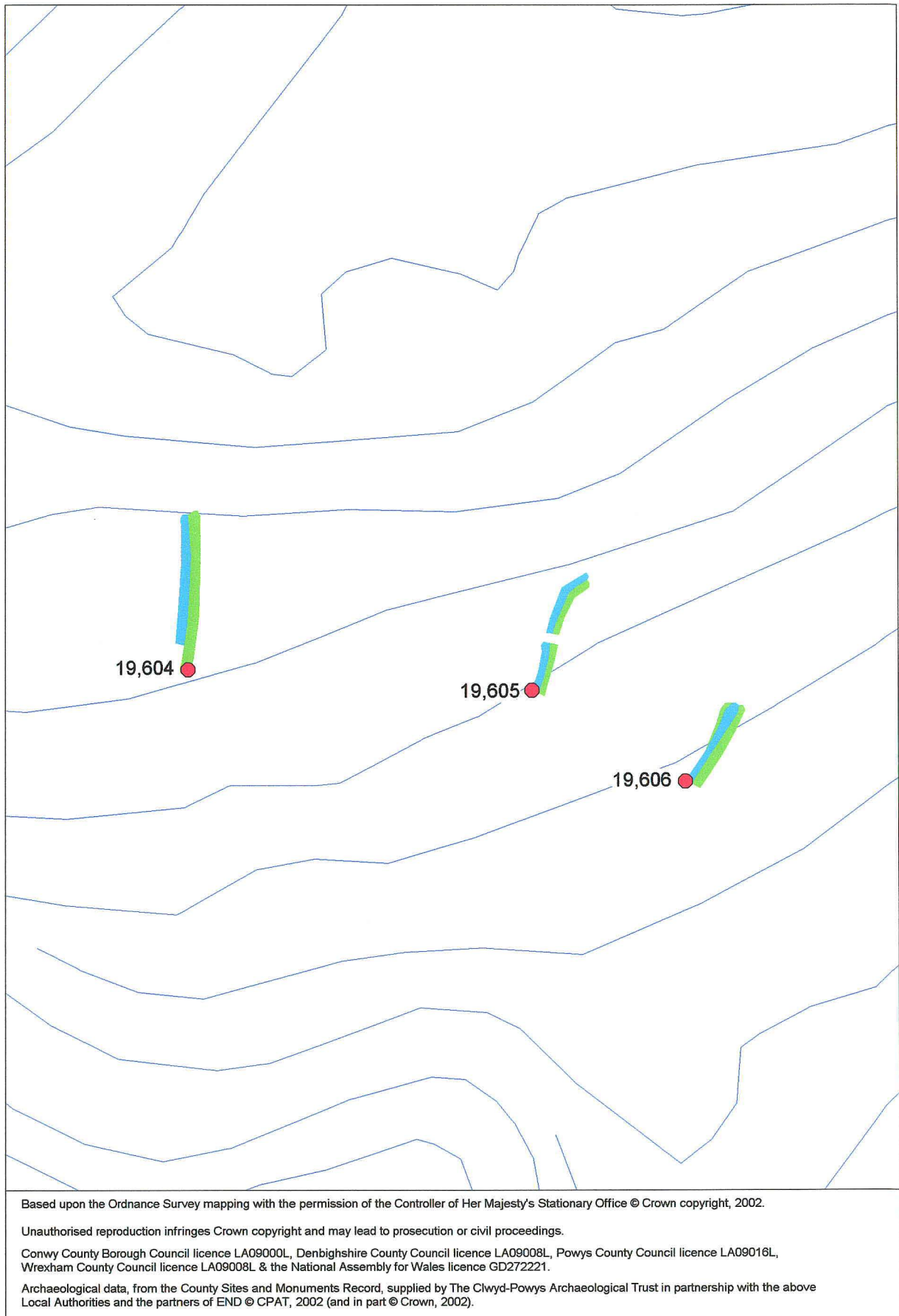
The earthwork is situated on a shelf that slopes gently from NW to SE. Both ends stop short of the craggy scarps which form the edges of the shelf. Overlooked by higher, craggy ground to the N.

Disturbance

There is no obvious erosion present. The trackway which bisects the site appears to have been avoided by the earthwork rather than having cut through it.

Visit details

Visited 25/07/2002



Cym-y-Brain dyke I (PRN 19605), Scale 1:2,500

Cyrn-y-Brain dyke II

PRN 19606

SAM

Mineral trial working ?

Post Medieval

NGR: From SJ20744823 to SJ20764826

MAP SJ24NW

Summary

A curving linear ditch/gully aligned NE/SW, with a bank on the SE side. The most likely interpretation is that this represents one of three mineral trial excavations on this sloping shelf.

Morphology

A linear earthwork consisting of a U-shaped gully aligned NE/SW, with a bank of spoil on the SE (downslope) side, although there is also a slighter bank on the NW side towards its NE end. The earthwork runs from SJ 20744823 to SJ 20764826. The NE end of the gully broadens out into a 'bowl'.

Location

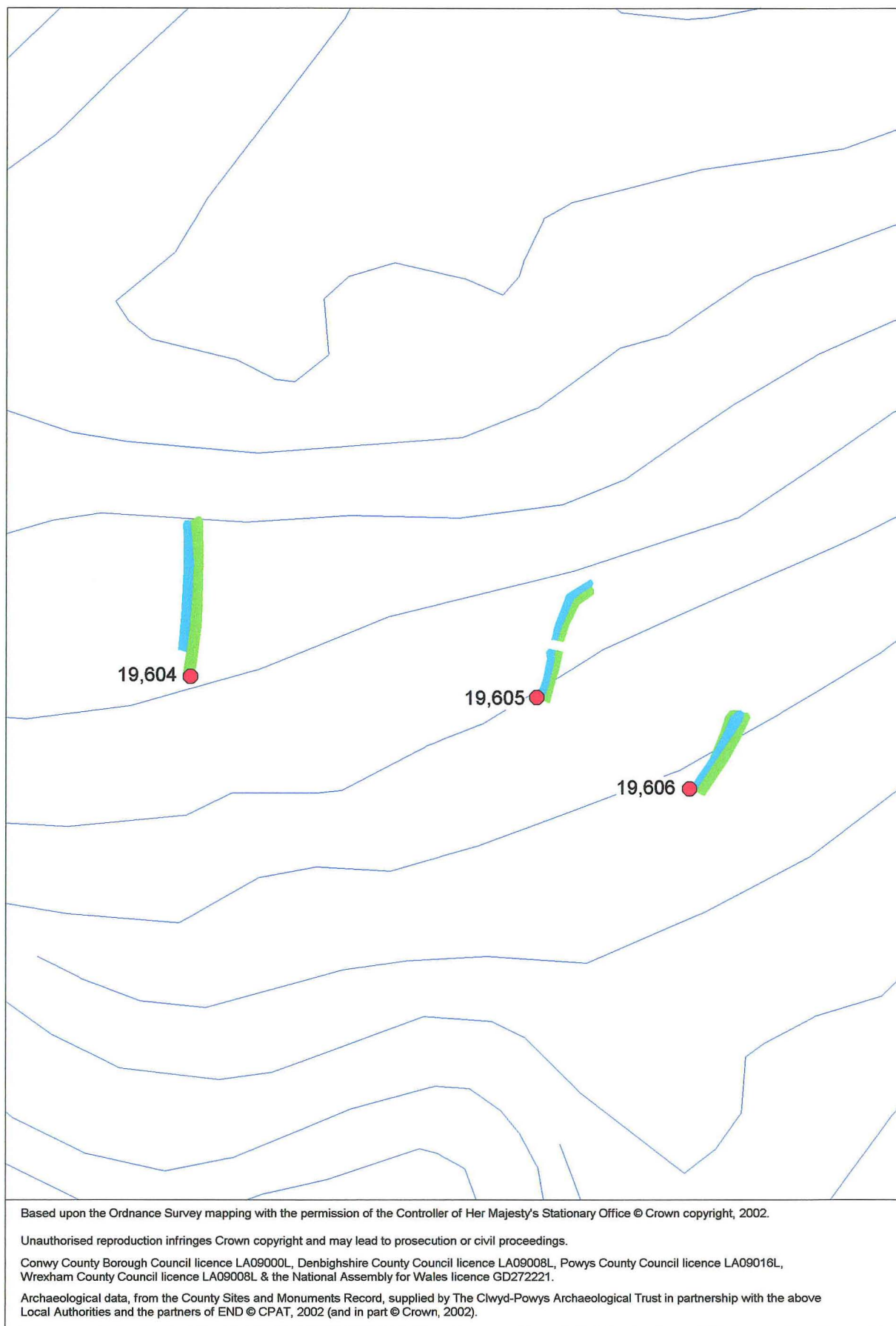
The earthwork is situated on a shelf that slopes gently from N to S and also slightly from WNW to ESE. Both ends stop short of the craggy scarps which form the edges of the shelf. It is overlooked by higher, craggy ground to the N.

Disturbance

There is no obvious erosion.

Visit details

Visited 25/07/2002



Cym-y-Brain dyke II (PRN 19606), Scale 1:2,500

Mountain Lodge boundary bank

PRN 19675

SAM

Bank

Unknown

NGR: From SJ24624757 to SJ24574758

MAP SJ24NW

Summary

A bank running approximately E/W on a moderate E facing slope. Its function is unclear.

Morphology

A low bank, 2.2m wide by 0.4m high, running from SJ 24624757 to SJ 24574758.

Location

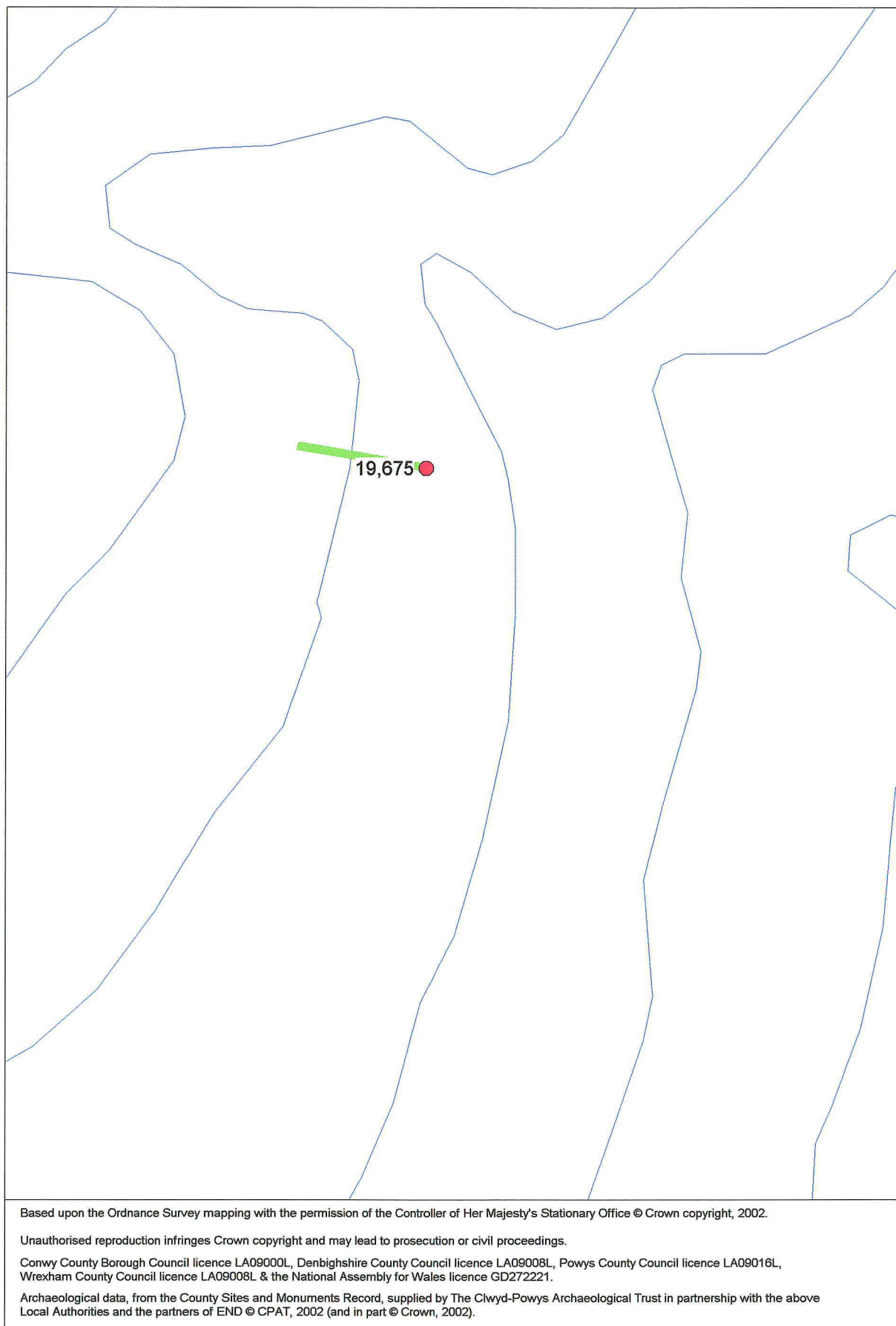
Situated on a moderate E-facing slope of the main ridge. Views are extensive towards the W.

Disturbance

None apparent, although the site is heavily overgrown with heather and bracken.

Visit details

Visited 25/07/2002



Mountain Lodge boundary bank (PRN 19675), Scale 1:2,500

Fishpools Boundary bank (multiple)

PRN 21363

SAM

Boundary bank

Medieval

NGR: From SO18676723 to SO18506767

MAP SO16NE

Summary

A linear earthwork consisting of a bank and ditch which define, in part, the boundary between the communities of Llanfihangel Rhydithon and Llangunllo.

Morphology

The S end of the earthwork commences on the NNW side of a forestry road at SO 18676723 as a bank with a ditch on its WSW side, approximately 10m wide overall. Dense undergrowth may hide any surviving features on the SSE side of the road. The earthwork continues to SO 18546755 where it disappears and there is a low bank with a fence on its crest. The bank appears intermittently between SO 18526761 and SO 18506767, with a later bank on top of it. Beyond, the earthwork fades to a low mound surmounted by a bank, just outside the forestry.

Location

The main surviving part of the earthwork crosses a NE/SW-aligned ridge between two local summits. Views are restricted by the surrounding forest plantation, but would generally be to the NW and W on the NW side of the ridge and to the SE on the SE side of the ridge. The N section of the possible earthwork extends to the NNE, obliquely descending the NW-facing slope of the ridge.

Disturbance

The S end of the earthwork appears to have been truncated by a forestry road. In addition, the section of earthwork which passes through pasture appears to have been denuded or levelled by land improvement.

Visit details

Visited 02/08/2002

Fishpools Boundary Bank II

PRN 21364

SAM

Boundary bank

Medieval

NGR: From SO18602678 to

MAP SO16NE

Summary

A linear earthwork consisting of a bank and ditch which define, in part, the boundary between the communities of Llanfihangel Rhydithon and Llangunllo. This section forms part of PRN 21363.

Morphology

Location

Disturbance

Visit details

Visited 02/08/2002

Fishpools Boundary Bank I

PRN 21365

SAM

Boundary bank

Medieval

NGR: From SO18649672 to

MAP SO16NE

Summary

A linear earthwork consisting of a bank and ditch which define, in part, the boundary between the communities of Llanfihangel Rhydithon and Llangunllo. This section forms part of PRN 21363.

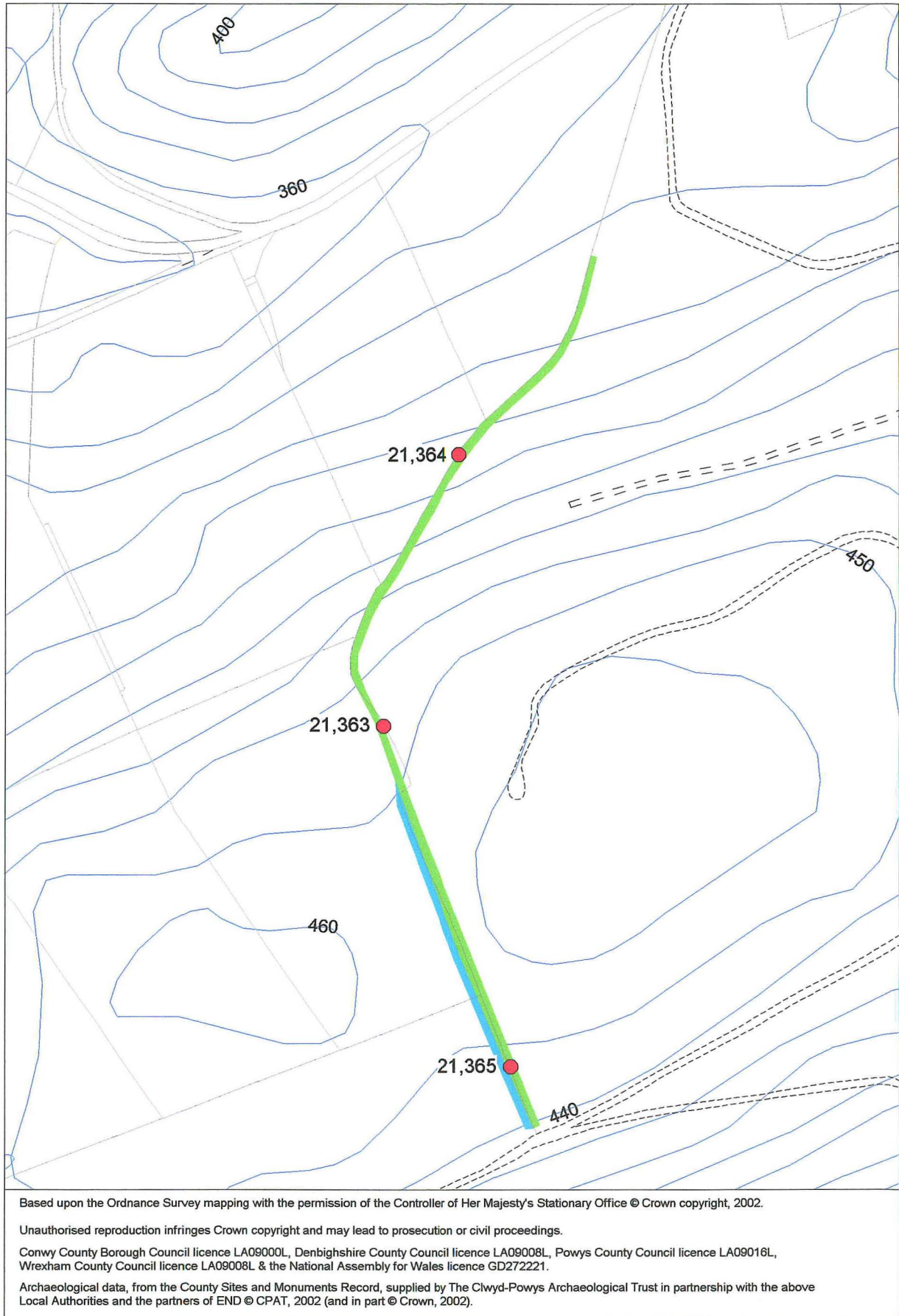
Morphology

Location

Disturbance

Visit details

Visited 02/08/2002



Fishpools boundary bank (PRN 21363-5), Scale 1:5,000

Dancing Ground Boundary Bank

PRN 35324

SAM

Boundary bank ?

Post Medieval ?

NGR: From SO13054803 to SO12924833

MAP SO14NW

Summary

A discontinuous bank, with an overall length of 0.36km, running across a saddle on the ridge. Its function is uncertain, but its small size suggests that it is most unlikely to be a dyke.

Morphology

A low broad bank which is only evident where recent mowing of heather has lowered the height of the vegetation cover. At its N end (SO 12924833) the bank is 3.5m wide and slightly higher on its E side (0.2m as against 0.1m high on W). From SO 12944831 to SO 12944829 the line of the bank is very indistinct in thick heather and it only becomes visible at SO 12944829, where there is another mown area and the bank is found to be 3.9m wide by 0.3m high. The bank again enters thick heather at SO 12954827 and is just discernible up to SO 12974823, beyond which it has been obliterated by trackways. A short section of bank is again visible at SO 12984821 and there are further sections from SO 13004815 to SO 13004814 and from SO 13054805 and SO 13054803. No trace of a ditch can be detected.

Location

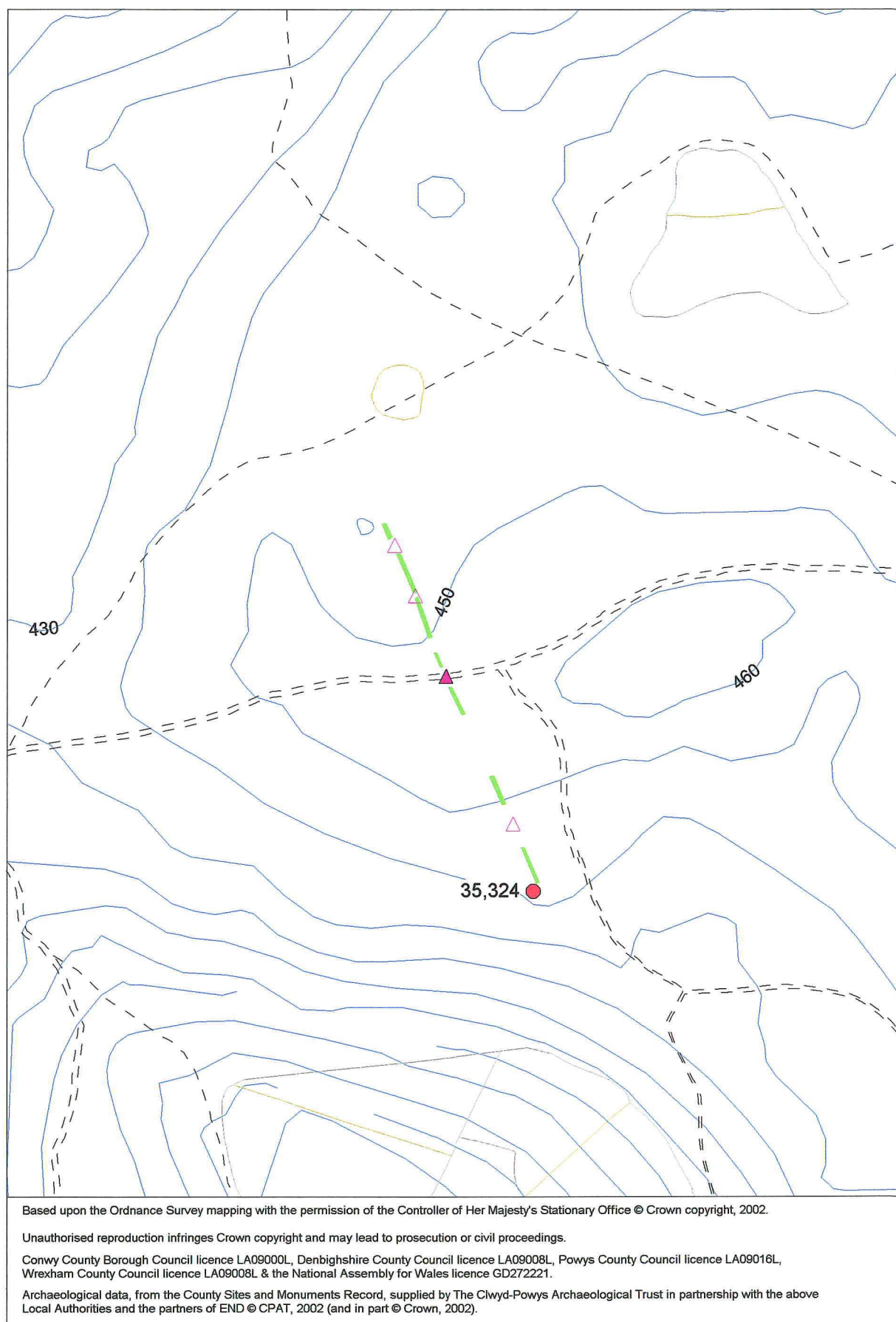
At its N end the bank terminates near a pool on relatively flat ground. To the S of this, the ground rises very gently to a slight saddle on the ridge, where it is crossed by trackways. On the S side of the saddle the bank can just be traced running S before its probable end, stopping short of the lip of a steep S-facing slope. There are limited views to E and W, and a better view to the N. Assuming that the bank does continue to the S end as described there are good views from this over the low lying land to the S.

Disturbance

The majority of the disturbance to the earthwork appears to have been caused by trackways which cross its line, although the extant parts are very low in themselves and in poor condition. The most notable damage is between SO 12974823 and SO 12984821, where the main track along the ridge has obscured the bank.

Visit details

Visited 24/12/2001



Dancing Ground boundary bank (PRN 35324), Scale 1:5,000

Llechwedd Bank

PRN 35715

SAM Mg251(POW)

Field boundary

Post Medieval ?

NGR: From SH99192198 to

MAP SH92SE

Summary

A former boundary representing part of a redundant field system.

Morphology

Earthen boundary bank running generally across the SSW facing slope. It represents part of a pattern of former enclosures on this hillslope. The bank is up to 3m wide and 1m high.

Location

Views from the site are restricted by woodland, but would range from SW to SE.

Disturbance

Visit details

Visited 13/06/2002

Coed y Fron boundary

PRN 38450

SAM

Boundary

Post Medieval ?

NGR: From SJ03211996 to SJ03422013

MAP SJ01NW

Summary

A redundant boundary, at least 0.28km long, crosses the neck of a spur ridge. The location is reminiscent of a dyke, but the associated boundaries hint at a different interpretation. It should, however, be noted that this earthwork is near the boundary of the cantref of Mechain, as are a number of authentic short dykes.

Morphology

A linear earthwork consisting of a bank, 3.5m wide by 0.7m high, crossing the saddle between the main Croes y Forwyn ridge and its SE spur. The bank starts at SJ 03211996 on the SW in recently felled forestry, then runs NE exiting the forest at SJ 03231998. It gains a stone facing on its NW side between SJ 03251999 and SJ 03292003, beyond which the facing becomes a wall which continues as the bank turns to run ENE. At SJ 03332006 the bank turns to run NE again, re-entering forestry at SJ 03342007. The bank was traced as far as SJ 03422013, where it is cut by a forest road. It probably continues beyond the road, following the SE side of a stream, but it was not possible to confirm whether the bank continued, as the undergrowth became too dense to allow access.

Location

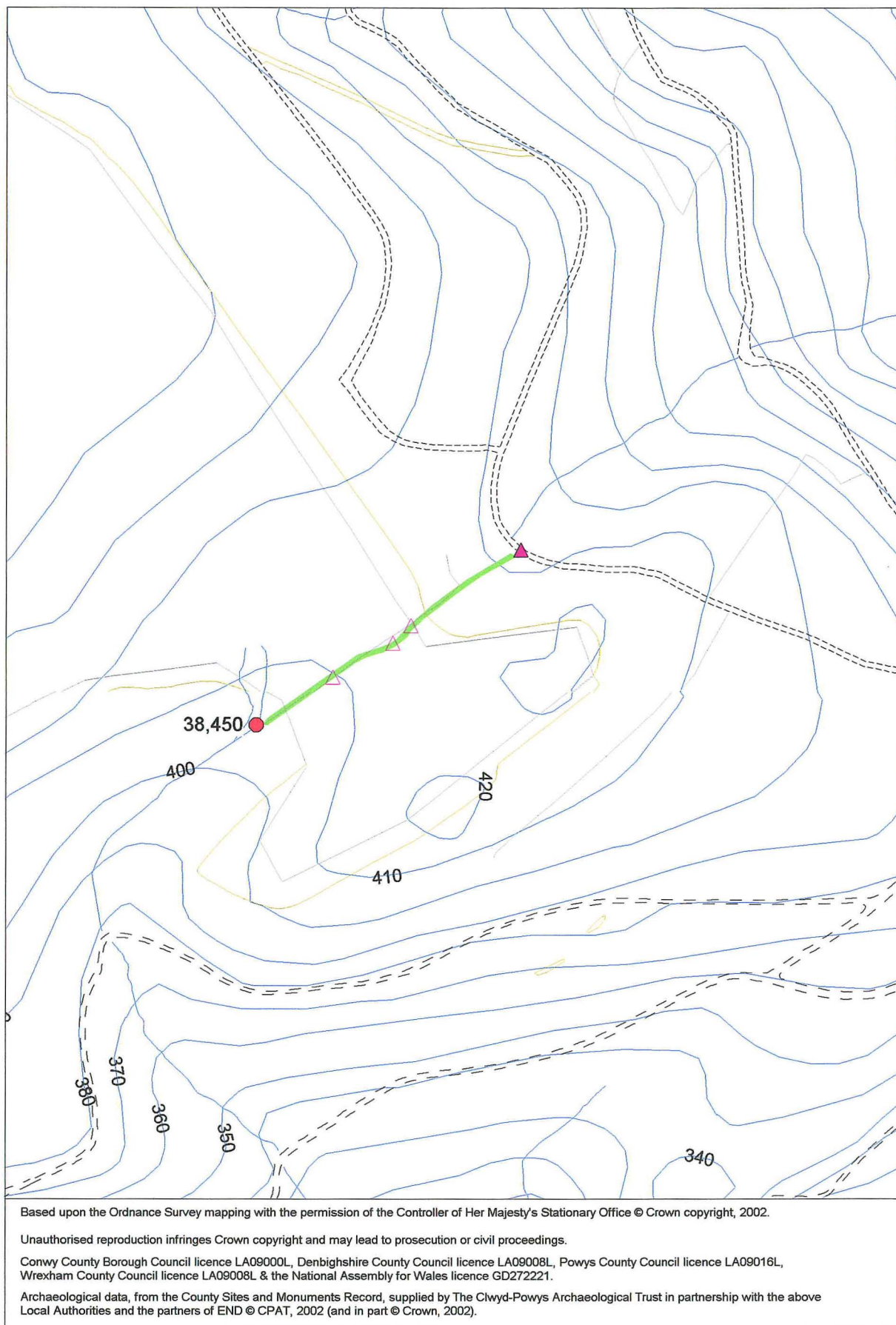
Views from the site are restricted by a combination of higher ground (to the NW and SE) and forestry plantations.

Disturbance

The top of the bank has been eroded by stock at SJ 03272001 and SJ 03312005, and it is crossed by a vehicle track at SJ 03342007.

Visit details

Visited 13/06/2002



Rhos-swydd 'dyke'

PRN 81651

SAM

Landform

Unknown

NGR: From SO12126505 to

MAP SO16NW

Summary

No trace of an artificial feature was seen between the two grid references provided by the original recorder. The record appears to be spurious, perhaps resulting from an AP source, where the 'dyke' is in fact a composite of two stream gullies which follow the line given. The gullies are natural and rush-filled so would be readily apparent on an AP.

Morphology

Location

Disturbance

Visit details

Visited 04/01/2002

Ruabon Mountain Boundary Bank

PRN 101510

SAM

Landform

Unknown

NGR: From SJ24264783 to SJ24284814

MAP SJ24NW

Summary

A record relating to a possible boundary. No evidence of the site was visible. If the bank had been present it ought to have been visible in one of the strips which, at the time of the site visit, had been mown at right-angles across its recorded alignment. A rock outcrop running between SJ 24264788 and SJ 24274785 might conceivably have been mistaken for a bank, though this is not particularly likely. A rectangular drystone structure at SJ 24274782 is also unlikely to have been mistaken for a bank.

Morphology

Location

Disturbance

Visit details

Visited 25/07/2002

Clawdd Collen

PRN 101625

SAM

Trackway ?

Dark Age ?

NGR: From SJ24484025 to SJ24474043

MAP SJ24SW

Summary

Two main areas were examined which might have been relevant; the first was the site of the presumed earthwork seen on the RAF APs but the line was found to be an old track which ran towards a group of linear quarries adjacent to the minor road running along the ridge, and perhaps therefore related to the enclosure of the former common. The second area was that highlighted by RCAHMW around Carreg-y-big and the only feature which may be relevant is a multiple-element trackway running along the ridge. No evidence of a dyke was found at either of the areas examined. The field boundaries tend to be stone walled and are probably related to the enclosure of the hill. Conceivably, the dyke was removed as part of the works associated with the enclosure.

Morphology

Location

Disturbance

Visit details

Visited 29/05/2002