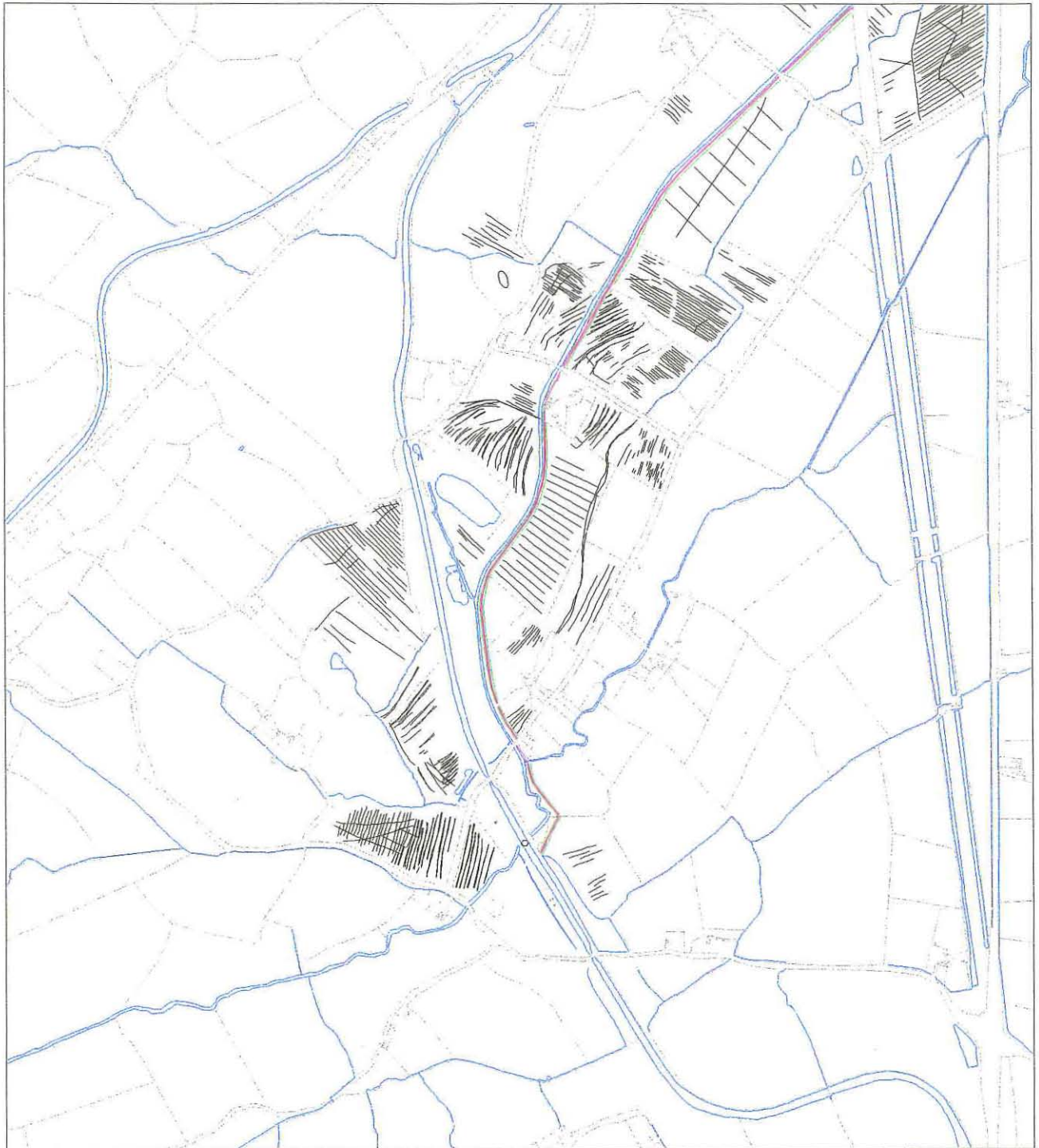


THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

New Cut Argae, Arddleen, Powys
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



CPAT Report No 236

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New Cut Argae, Arddleen, Powys
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

R. Hankinson and N.W.Jones
September 1997

Report for The Environment Agency.

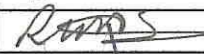
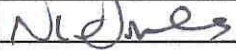


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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On the 25th of July 1997, the contracting section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT Contracts) was asked by The Environment Agency, Shelton, Shrewsbury to provide a quotation and specification for an archaeological assessment of the New Cut Argae, Arddleen, Powys, in advance of proposed alteration works to the argae bank. The required work was covered by a design brief (ASB 229) prepared for The Environment Agency by the Curatorial Section of CPAT, acting in their role as archaeological curator.
- 1.2 The required quotation and specification for the work was provided by CPAT Contracts at the end of July 1997, and subsequently accepted in writing by The Environment Agency on the 14th August, following prior telephone confirmation. The assessment was carried out during August and this report written immediately thereafter.

2 GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The area of the assessment encompasses the part of the New Cut Argae (flood defence bank) which runs from its start at Wern, Guilsfield (SJ 25361351), to the line of the main A483 trunk road to the south of Arddleen at SJ 26021502, a length of approximately 2km (fig. 1). The land falls between the 60m and 70m contours, and lies on the valley floor of the River Severn, 7km west of its confluence with the River Vyrnwy. The line of the argae and its associated watercourse approximately mirror the course of the Bele Brook, whose confluence with the River Severn is approximately 3km east-north-east of the assessment area.
- 2.2 Soils within the assessment area fall into two categories. To the west of the line of the New Cut the soils are seasonally waterlogged stoneless clays and fine loam, over clay soils derived from glaciolacustrine clay of the Foggathorpe 2 Soil Association. To the east the soils are deep stoneless fine silts and clays of the Conway Soil Association, derived from river alluvium, which are variably affected by groundwater with a risk of flooding (Rudeforth et al. 1984).
- 2.3 The underlying geology of the area is masked by deep deposits of river alluvium and material of glacial origin, but it is probable that the rocks belong to the Silurian period. However, the Ordovician inlier of the Breidden lies only some 3km to the east of the New Cut and a fault under the River Severn alluvium is thought to limit its north-western extent (Earp & Hains 1971, 47). This suggests that the rocks underlying the assessment area could belong to the earlier Ordovician period.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The work specified by the brief incorporated a desk-top study of readily available primary and secondary sources, followed by a field survey over the area which may be affected by any works related to the scheme, to an assumed maximum distance of 200m from the watercourse of the New Cut.
- 3.2 The desk-top study examined records and sources held by the following repositories: National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; National Monument Record (NMR), Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth; The County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Curatorial Section of CPAT, Welshpool; Powys County Archives, Llandrindod Wells; Shropshire Records and Research Centre, Shrewsbury; The Environment Agency, Shelton, Shrewsbury.
- 3.3 The field survey consisted of a systematic walked survey centred on the line of the New Cut watercourse, including a 200m wide corridor to either side. Access to certain areas within this corridor was limited by vegetation growth, particularly alongside the canal, at the time of survey. Archaeological sites discovered during the survey were photographed, sketched, and described as appropriate.
- 3.4 The lack of an appropriate detailed plan of the argae bank necessitated the completion of a total station survey of the earthworks prior to completion of this report. The results of this survey are plotted on Fig. 2. and are combined with the other identified archaeological features on Fig. 3.

4 THE NEW CUT ARGAE (Figs 2 and 3)

- 4.1 One of the principal aims of the assessment was to determine the origin and development of the New Cut Argae and any associated features, and assess these in relation to other archaeological features within the assessment corridor.

Origins of the New Cut Argae

- 4.2 Documentary sources revealed in Powys County Archives, Llandrindod Wells provided clear evidence for the dating and construction of the argae. An Act of Parliament passed in 1788 and the subsequent Enclosure Awards of 1800 and 1801, designed to enclose the common fields in the area, shed much light on subsequent landuse of the assessment area. The Act empowers the Enclosure commissioners "...for the purpose of preventing Damage by Water upon the said Common fields,shall and may also widen, alter, change or discontinue and stop up, the present course of any rivulet or brook.....and may set out, appoint, and make such new Watercourses, Sluices, Drains, Floodgates, Embankments, Fences,...". These drainage works, of which the New Cut was a part, were most probably intended to make the land suitable for year round use, preventing winter flooding. The management of the works was given to the beneficiaries, who were to direct their use at public meetings held for the purpose.
- 4.3 The Enclosure Awards are dated 1800 and 1801, but it seems that the maps (Figs 4 and 5) which accompany them were surveyed between 1788 and 1794, when the Montgomeryshire Canal was built, as it does not appear on either map. The maps show the New Cut and argae bank together with the present road system with a few scattered buildings, of which only Lower House (Site 36) and Wern Villa (Site 35) survive within the assessment area. Road bridges are depicted and named as such in their present positions.
- 4.4 The construction of the Montgomeryshire Canal (Site 49) between 1794 and 1797 appears to have resulted in some modifications to the New Cut, removing c. 100m from the southern end of the argae bank (Site 22).

Methods of Construction

- 4.5 In its original form the flood defence works consisted of a substantial bank with a drainage dyke along the north-western side. Due to the natural fall of the land, the bank increases in height towards the north-east. At its south-western end, the bank is 5.6m wide and up to 1.2m in height, lying some 20m from the water course, which meanders until converging with the bank towards Gwern-fele Bridge. From that point onwards the bank and watercourse run in parallel, the only variations being an occasional narrow berm between the two. At the north-eastern end of the corridor the bank survives to 6.7m wide and 2.5m high. A series of engineering profiles have been completed by the Environment Agency, a selection of which are reproduced in Fig. 4, the locations for which are shown in Fig. 2.
- 4.6 At three locations along the bank there is visible evidence for stone armouring, suggesting that much, if not all, of the bank had originally been protected, but with most of the stone having been subsequently robbed. Of these, the armouring survives on the watercourse side of the bank at Site 56, on both sides at Site 57, while at Site 58, the armouring is on the outside of the bank at a point where the crest widens slightly, coinciding with the location of a building (Site 44) shown on the Enclosure Award Map of 1801 (Fig. 6).
- 4.7 In general the argae survives more or less intact, with the exception of the southern section lost during the construction of the canal. Only two short sections have suffered any notable damage since, following the construction of the railway (Site 37) and at Wern Farm (Site 34), where outbuildings have been built cutting into the exterior of the bank.

Associated Features

- 4.8 It would appear that there were originally two sluices along this length of the argae, of which one (Site 42), has since been lost. The other (Site 41) survives, although the original construction has been lost through modern reconstruction. Both are shown on the Enclosure Award Maps (Figs 5 and 6).
- 4.9 Four road bridges were constructed across the watercourse, three of which are original. Lower House Bridge (PRN 36067, pl. 9) and Wern Farm Bridge (Site 20, pl. 7) are both composed of angular stone abutments with the roadway supported on cast-iron girders. The iron guard rails are probably original. Gwern-fele Bridge (Site 21, pl. 5) has stone abutments with a brick arch across the watercourse carrying stone parapets. Some cracking of the masonry is evident, suggesting some structural problems. Fraithwen Bridge (Site 38), is of modern construction, carrying the A483 across the

watercourse, presumably having replaced an original structure. The suggestion that a ford (PRN 37071) had at one time existed across the watercourse at Wern Farm is based on the existence of stone visible in the banks, but it is more likely that this represents armouring associated with the adjacent bridge (Site 20). Two footbridges across the watercourse (Sites 46 and 47) are shown on the Enclosure Award Maps, but no trace of either survives.

- 4.10 The construction of the Montgomeryshire Canal necessitated building of an aqueduct (Site 24, pl. 1) to carry the canal across the argae watercourse. This is predominantly brick built, but with stone facing to the arch. The Oswestry to Newtown Railway (Site 37) was completed in 1861 (Hughes 1981, 109), involving the construction of a bridge (PRN 37066) across the watercourse. The original stone abutments suggest a double track bridge, with the existing single track bridge being an obvious later replacement, of concrete construction.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 3)

- 5.1 The assessment revealed no evidence for any archaeological features prior to the Medieval period.
- 5.2 The earliest reference to the area surrounding the corridor is given in the first charter (c. 1170) of the Abbey of Strata Marcella (Thomas 1997, 145) which, in describing the boundary of the land given to the Abbey, mentions a dyke of unknown origin (possibly Offa's Dyke) between Ridhescin (Rhyd-escyn, 2km to the east) and Crengau (position unknown). Charter 89, dated 1/8/1420, (Thomas 1997, 230) describes the boundaries of the landholding as being "from to Aberbeieu and from Hafvren to Beieu....", which appear to be references to the Bele Brook. Williams concurs, delineating the Abbey landholding as being bounded on the north-west by the Bele Brook and referring to a 400acre great pasture in Gwern Valley, now Gwern Fele, as being held by the Abbey (Williams 1990, 59).
- 5.3 Medieval occupation within the assessment corridor can be inferred from the Enclosure Act of 1788, which was passed to enclose the common fields in this part of Guilsfield parish. Evidence of former ridge and furrow cultivation gained from aerial photographic sources suggests that a large proportion of the assessment area was arable land, with the field systems most probably originating in the Medieval period. Of the surviving ridge and furrow within the assessment corridor, only PRNs 37072, 38154, 38155 and 38156 appear to represent Medieval examples of cultivation, together with Site 4, visible on aerial photographs. Part of these field systems has clearly been cut by the construction of the argae. A field containing ridge and furrow evidence (Site 3) in the southern part of the area was still called "Common field" in the Tithe apportionment of 1842. It appears that the common land that was enclosed by the 1788 Act represented the survival of the Medieval system of land use. Other areas of ridge and furrow visible on aerial photographs, but generally no longer visible on the ground, all appear to be later, possibly post medieval, suggested by their more linear form. However, there is little to relate these to the construction of the argae with the exception of PRN 37066 and Site 18, which appear to be part of the same system cut by the argae. A field drainage system (Site 15) on the south-east side of the argae may post-date the flood defences.
- 5.4 The Montgomeryshire Canal (Site 49) was begun shortly after the construction of the flood defence system associated with the Enclosure Act of 1788. This took place between 1794 and 1797 (Hughes 1988, 9) with the canal embankment constructed of material excavated on either side of its course, giving rise to a number of pits (Site 26) adjoining the embankment (Hughes 1988, 11), these were later used for growing young willows by Welshpool basket-makers (Hughes 1988, 150). Many sluices and other features resulting from this section being the lowest or "sump" level of the canal are still present within the assessment area. A variety of features associated with the canal were identified within the assessment area (see Appendix 1), although none are thought likely to be affected by the scheme.
- 5.5 The opening of this section of the canal and the land improvements associated with the Enclosure Act obviously improved the prosperity of the area; there are approximately twice the number of dwellings in the assessment area on the Tithe map of 1845 (Fig. 7), as compared to the Enclosure Award maps. In the later half of the 19th-century a further increase in prosperity is evidenced by the construction of the Wern Corn Mill and Tail Race (Sites 29 and 55, OS 1st edition, Fig. 8), with an adjacent brick and tile works, with associated clay pit and tramway (Sites 50, 27 and 28, Figs 8 and 10); it seems possible that these improvements were due to the take-over of the canal by the Shropshire Union Canal Co. in 1847 (Hadfield 1969, 196). Competition for the canal was provided by the construction of

the Oswestry and Newtown Railway (Site 37) which was open to Pool Quay by 1860 (Hadfield 1969, 238).

- 5.6 Both the canal, with its associated features and industry, and the railway continued in use into this century. The canal was closed by an Act of the London, Midland, and Scottish Railway of 1944 (Hadfield 1969, 250), while the railway appears to have closed as a result of railway rationalisation in the 1960s.
- 5.7 The first and second edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 maps (Montgomeryshire 15.8 & 16.5, surveyed 1885 and revised 1900 respectively, Figs 8-9 and 10-11) show the pattern of dwellings in the assessment area being much as they are at present, the only notable changes in land-use having resulted from the abandonment of the railway and canal industry. A number of houses, farms and other buildings depicted on both editions have been included in the gazetteer (Appendix 1), although none are likely to be affected by the scheme.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 It is evident from the desk-top study that much of the assessment area was occupied by arable agriculture prior to its Enclosure by Act of Parliament between 1788 and 1801. There are areas of surviving ridge and furrow cultivation within the area, although only PRNs 37072, 38154, 38155 and 38156 represent earthworks of Medieval appearance, some of which may be affected by the scheme.
- 6.2 The construction of the New Cut and its argae bank appears to have taken place between the passing of the Enclosure Act in 1788 and the building of the Montgomeryshire Canal, which commenced in 1794. Surviving evidence suggests that some parts of the bank and the New Cut watercourse were armoured using stone blocks, and it is possible that the scheme may reveal further sections where the armouring survives. Two of the three road bridges which cross the New Cut watercourse are of particular architectural interest, representing early use of cast-iron in bridge manufacture (Site 20, pl. 7; PRN 37067, pl. 9); a bridge over the canal of similar construction (PRN 36339, pl. 2), in relatively poorer original condition, has a Grade II listing. The site of a building (Site 44) adjacent to the argae is likely to be directly affected by the scheme.
- 6.3 Much of the Montgomeryshire Canal and its associated features survive, forming an important group of industrial monuments dating to the late 18th and 19th-centuries, although in general it would seem unlikely that they will be affected by the scheme.
- 6.4 With the exception of the industrial monuments noted above and detailed in the gazetteer of archaeological sites (Appendix 1), it would appear that the remainder of the area has been used for agricultural purposes. The interspersed dwellings would appear to be mostly related to farming, although some would inevitably have been used by workers in the local industries associated with the canal and railway.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 The writers would like to thank the staff of the following organisations for their help and assistance during the desk-top study: National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; National Monument Record (NMR), Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth; County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Curatorial Section of CPAT, Welshpool; Powys County Archives, Llandrindod Wells; Shropshire Records and Research Centre, Shrewsbury; The Environment Agency, Shelton, Shrewsbury.
- 7.2 The writers would also like to thank the landowners on the course of the New Cut for their permission to carry out the fieldwalk survey.

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- Williams, D.H., 1990. *Atlas of Cistercian Lands in Wales*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press.

8 SOURCES

Aerial photographic sources (vertical)

- Ordnance Survey 71 496 - 105 and 135. Taken in 1971 at c.1:7500.
- RAF/CPE/UK/2492 - 3254 and 4253. Taken 11/3/1948 at 1:10000.
- Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd Contract 650 - 6888, 6935, 6936, 6945, 6946, 6947, 7066, 7067. Taken for Severn Trent Water Authority on 9/3/1977 at 1:3000.

Cartographic sources

- Enclosure Award for the manors of Streetmarshal, Tirymynech and Deytheur in the County of Montgomery, dated 30/12/1800 (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R).
- Enclosure Award for the manors of Streetmarshal, Tirymynech and Deytheur in the County of Montgomery, dated 30/12/1800 (27/6/1801) (Powys Archives MQS/RA/24R).
- Burgedin township in the parish of Guilsfield, dated c.1810 (National Library of Wales - Powis Castle M176).
- Varchoel township in the parish of Guilsfield, dated c.1811 (National Library of Wales - Powis Castle M200).
- Ordnance Surveyors Drawing No 328, surveyed 1829-30.
- Tithe map - Guilsfield. Farchoel, Burgedin and Rhydesgyn townships, dated 1845.
- Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 map, Montgomeryshire 15.8, surveyed 1885.
- Ordnance Survey second edition 1:2500 map, Montgomeryshire 15.8, revised 1900.
- Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 map, Montgomeryshire 16.5, surveyed 1885.
- Ordnance Survey second edition 1:2500 map, Montgomeryshire 16.5, revised 1900.
- Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 map, Montgomeryshire 16.9, surveyed 1885.

Documentary Sources

- An Act for Dividing and Inclosing the Common Fields and Waste Lands, within the Manors of Streetmarshal, Tirymynech, and Deytheur, in the County of Montgomery, dated 1788 (Powys Archives M/DX/14/120).
- Enclosure Award for the manors of Streetmarshal, Tirymynech and Deytheur in the County of Montgomery, dated 30/12/1800 (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R).
- Tithe apportionment - Guilsfield. Farchoel, Burgedin and Rhydesgyn townships, dated 1842.

NEW CUT ARGAE, ARDDLEEN (742) GAZETTEER OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

PRN 0 SITE No 1 Homestead Ridge and Furrow NGR SJ25421348

Ridge and Furrow Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-east/south-west in OS field No 4349. Separation between furrows approximately 6m. Overall area measures 90m north-west/south-east x 55m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6888.

PRN 0 SITE No 2 Little Wern Ridge and Furrow I NGR SJ25251350

Ridge and Furrow Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-north-east/south-south-west in OS field No 2549. Separation between furrows approximately 8m. Overall area measures 110m north-north-east/south-south-west x 45m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on RAF aerial photograph CPE/UK/2492 No 3254.

PRN 0 SITE No 3 Little Wern Ridge and Furrow II NGR SJ25151354

Ridge and Furrow Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of extensive ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-north-east/south-south-west in the southern part of OS field No 0762. Separation between furrows generally 5m. Marks are visible crossing the cultivation lines which may represent drainage. Overall area measures 180m west-north-west/east-south-east x 105m. Field is named "common field" on Tithe apportionment of 1842. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6888 and RAF aerial photograph CPE/UK/2492 No 3254.

PRN 0 SITE No 4 Little Wern Ridge and Furrow III NGR SJ25161365

Ridge and Furrow Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-east/south-west in OS field No 1969. Separation between furrows approximately 6m. Overall area measures 140m north-west/south-east x 90m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6888 and RAF aerial photograph CPE/UK/2492 No 3254.

PRN 0 SITE No 5 Little Wern Ridge and Furrow IV NGR SJ25131377

Ridge and Furrow Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-east/south-west in OS field No 1579. Consists of a single furrow. Overall area measures 100m north-east/south-west x 10m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6888 and RAF aerial photograph CPE/UK/2492 No 3254.

PRN 0 SITE No 6 Wern Cottage Ridge and Furrow I NGR SJ25101395

Ridge and Furrow Post medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of extensive ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east in OS field No 0005. Separation between furrows generally 6m. The straightness of the furrows suggests that it is not of medieval origin. Marks are visible crossing the cultivation lines which may represent drainage. Overall area measures 250m north-west/south-east x 150m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6936.

PRN 0 SITE No 7 Wern Cottage Ridge and Furrow II NGR SJ25101395

Ridge and Furrow Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of sparse ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east in OS field No 9700. Separation between furrows perhaps 10m. Overall area measures 130m north-west/south-east x 40m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6936.

APPENDIX 1

NEW CUT ARGAE, ARDDLEEN (742)- GAZETTEER OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

PRN 0 SITE No 8 Red Bridge Ridge and Furrow NGR SJ25231400
Ridge and Furrow Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of extensive ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east in the southern part of OS field No 2400. Separation between furrows perhaps 5m. Overall area measures 60m north-west/south-east x 40m. Faint traces of ridges, c.0.1m high, visible on the ground at time of visit. Two substantial ridges, up to 0.4m high, are present 80m to the north-east, on the north-western side of the New Cut, and were probably part of the same area of cultivation. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6935.

PRN 0 SITE No 9 Wern Holding Ridge and Furrow I NGR SJ25431390
Ridge and Furrow Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-north-east/south-south-west in OS field No 4200. Separation between furrows generally 8m. Overall area measures 140m north-north-east/south-south-west x 30m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6935.

PRN 0 SITE No 10 Wern Holding Ridge and Furrow II NGR SJ25521412
Ridge and Furrow Post medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-north-east/south-south-west in the south-eastern part of OS field No 4200. Separation between furrows generally 3m-4m. Overall area measures 70m north-north-east/south-south-west x 70m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6935.

PRN 0 SITE No 11 Wern Villa Clay Pit NGR SJ25291441
Clay Pit ? Post medieval ?

Oval hollow, 28m north-west/south-east x 13m, visible on aerial photography. Possibly a former clay pit. Not examined during survey as outside area of potential disturbance. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6945.

PRN 0 SITE No 12 Wern Villa Ridge and Furrow I NGR SJ25281449
Ridge and Furrow Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east in the south-eastern corner of OS field No 2760. Separation between furrows generally 7m. Overall area measures 100m north-west/south-east x 50m. Not examined during visit as outside area of potential disturbance. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6945.

PRN 0 SITE No 13 Wern Villa Ridge and Furrow II NGR SJ25401440
Ridge and Furrow Post medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east in the north-eastern part of OS field No 3638. Separation between furrows generally 3m-4m. Overall area measures 65m north-west/south-east x 55m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6945.

PRN 0 SITE No 14 Wern Farm Ridge and Furrow IV NGR SJ25531426
Ridge and Furrow Post medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east in OS field No 5326. Separation between furrows generally 4m. Overall area measures 100m north-east/south-west x 50m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6945.

APPENDIX 1

NEW CUT ARGAE, ARDDLEEN (742)- GAZETTEER OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

PRN 0 SITE No 15 Lower House Field Drainage System NGR SJ25651460
Drainage System Modern ?

Cropmark evidence of field drains in OS field No 6559. Consists of a main drainage line running north-east/south-west for 260m, with subsidiary feeders intersecting at right-angles every 35m. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6946.

PRN 0 SITE No 16 Wern Farm Ridge and Furrow V NGR SJ25681440
Ridge and Furrow Post medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east in OS field No 6841. Separation between furrows generally 4m. Overall area measures 100m north-west/south-east x 50m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Ordnance Survey aerial photograph 71 496 No 105.

PRN 0 SITE No 17 Lower House Ridge and Furrow V NGR SJ25561468
Ridge and Furrow Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east in the north-eastern part of OS field No 5360. Separation between furrows generally 6m. Overall area measures 40m north-west/south-east x 40m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6946.

PRN 0 SITE No 18 Lower House Ridge and Furrow VI NGR SJ25751490
Ridge and Furrow Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of extensive ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east in OS field No 7700. Separation between furrows generally 8m. Overall area measures 200m north-west/south-east x 150m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.7067 and RAF aerial photograph CPE/UK/2492 No 4253.

PRN 0 SITE No 19 Jumbona Ridge and Furrow NGR SJ25991480
Ridge and Furrow Post medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of extensive ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-east/south-west in OS field No 0079. Separation between furrows generally 6m. The straightness of the furrows suggest the cultivation is not of medieval origin. Overall area measures 250m north-east/south-west x 150m. Still extant at time of survey, ridges measure 0.2m high. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6947 and RAF aerial photograph CPE/UK/2492 No 4253.

PRN 0 SITE No 20 Wern Farm Bridge NGR SJ25381427
Bridge Post medieval

Road bridge spanning the New Cut at Wern Farm. Composed of angular stone abutments, with the roadway carried by cast-iron girders. The guard rails on either side of the roadway are of iron (wrought ?) and are probably original. Heavily overgrown with ivy, bushes etc. which may eventually cause damage to the structure. Similar bridges on the Montgomeryshire Canal have been dated to the early 19th century, but it is possible that this bridge is of late 18th century date; a bridge was depicted at this location on the Enclosure map (original survey probably c.1790) and there appears to be no evidence of an earlier structure.

PRN 0 SITE No 21 Gwern-fele Bridge NGR SJ25311368
Bridge Post medieval

Road bridge crossing the New Cut adjacent to "Homestead" cottage. Measures 9m north-east/south-west x 5m overall. Abutments are stone built, with a brick arch spanning the watercourse. The remainder of the bridge is stone built. Some cracking of the stonework is evident suggesting potential structural problems. Possibly an original structure dating to the

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construction of the New Cut. First depicted on the Enclosure Award map (Powys Archives MQS/RA/24R) dated 1801, although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal. .

PRN	0	SITE No	22	New Cut Argae (Original Southern End)	NGR SJ25301342
				Bank	Post medieval

Original southward extent of the Argae bank as depicted on the Enclosure Award maps (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R & MQS/RA/24R) dated 1800 and 1801, although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal. At present the Argae bank terminates at the canal embankment, but prior to the building of the canal the southern end of the bank, as depicted on the maps, terminated at SJ 25301342.

PRN	0	SITE No	23	Little Wern (Former) Farmstead	NGR SJ25261342
				Farmstead	Post medieval ?

Group of up to four buildings situated immediately to the south-east of the stream in OS field NO 3342. They appear to be centred on a central courtyard, suggesting that they represent a farm. Not named on any of the cartographic sources. First depicted on the Enclosure Award maps (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R & MQS/RA/24R) dated 1800 and 1801, although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal.

PRN	0	SITE No	24	Montgomeryshire Canal, New Cut Aqueduct	NGR SJ25321352
				Aqueduct	Post medieval

Single span arched aqueduct carrying the Montgomeryshire Canal over the Bele Brook/New Cut watercourse. Span c.8m, width 25m. Built predominantly of brick but with stone facing to the arch. Probably dated to 1794-7 when the canal was constructed.

PRN	0	SITE No	25	Montgomeryshire Canal, Homestead Drain Aqueduct	NGR SJ25261364
				Aqueduct	Post medieval

Single span arched aqueduct carrying the Montgomeryshire Canal over a drainage channel to the west-south-west of Homestead cottage . Span c.5m, width 20m. Built entirely of brick. The facing on the east-north-east side is of brick with a concrete and stone coping which suggests it may be a later addition to the aqueduct. Probably dated to 1794-7 when the canal was constructed.

PRN	0	SITE No	26	Montgomeryshire Canal, Wern Embankment Construction Quarries	NGR SJ25201390
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	Quarry	Post medieval
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Group of quarry hollows filled with water or overgrown with vegetation alongside the canal embankment at Wern. Overall length of area containing hollows is at least 500m. Hughes (1988, 11) comments that the embankment "...was originally flanked by by large pits made by the extraction of earth for its construction", and also states, Hughes (1988, 150), that the pits were "...later rented out to Welshpool basket-makers who annually harvested their raw material of osiers or young willows from them".

PRN	0	SITE No	27	Wern Mill Claypit Tramway	NGR SJ25221408
				Tramway	Modern

Bifurcating tramway serving the claypit immediately to the south-east of the site of the Wern Corn Mill, as depicted on the second edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 maps (Montgomeryshire 15.8 & 16.5, revised 1900). Post-dates the first edition maps which were surveyed in 1885. Total length of approximately 150m.

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PRN 0 SITE No 28 Wern Mill Claypit NGR SJ25221408
Claypit Post medieval

Oval or subrectangular claypit situated immediately to the south-east of the site of the Wern Corn Mill. Occupied by a tramway (Site No 27) at the end of the 19th-century. Hughes (1988, 150) states that the pit would have "...provided puddling-clay to make the canal watertight and bricks for the Eastern Branch canal company to build and repair its own structures". Evidently associated with the "Brick and Tile Works" depicted on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map (Montgomeryshire 15.8, surveyed 1885, revised 1900).

PRN 0 SITE No 29 Wern Corn Mill NGR SJ25161411
Corn Mill Modern

Remains of the Wern Corn Mill situated immediately to the east of the Montgomeryshire Canal near Red Bridge (PRN 36341), measuring c.20m x 12m. Apparently brick built in two units, aligned north-north-west/south-south-east, perhaps using local bricks manufactured in the adjacent brick and tile works (Site No 50). Hughes (1988, 44) relates that the mill used waste water diverted from the canal outfall weir (PRN 36342, he suggests that the mill was not built until the later 19th-century; it post-dates the Tithe map of 1845. The mill is now in a very ruinous state and appears to have been partially demolished. A group of stone mounting blocks are present in the north-north-western unit.

PRN 0 SITE No 30 Brookfield House NGR SJ25331378
House Post medieval

Former location of Brookfield house within modern farmyard. Measured 17m north-east/south-west x 4m. Owner relates that the house was abandoned and converted to agricultural use when the new house was built in its present location during this century. First depicted on the Enclosure Award map (Powys Archives MQS/RA/24R) dated 1801, although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal.

PRN 0 SITE No 31 Homestead Cottages NGR SJ25321368
House Post medieval ?

Adjoining cottages situated immediately to the north-east of the New Cut at Gwern-fele Bridge (Site No 21). Measures 15m north-east/south-west overall. Built mostly of stone but with some included bricks. First depicted on the Tithe map dated 1845.

PRN 0 SITE No 32 Wern Cottages NGR SJ25371374
House Post medieval

Group of adjoining brick built cottages aligned north-east/south-west, measuring 22m x 8m, overall. First depicted on Ordnance surveyors drawing No 328, surveyed 1829-30.

PRN 0 SITE No 33 The Hollies Farm NGR SJ25221426
Farm Modern

Late 19th century brick built farm. First depicted on the second edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 maps (Montgomeryshire 15.8 & 16.5, revised in 1900). Post-dates the first edition maps surveyed in 1885.

PRN 0 SITE No 34 Wern Farm NGR SJ25401422
Farm Post medieval

Farm located immediately to the east of the New Cut, measuring 70m north/south x 50m overall. The buildings are first depicted on a map of Burgedin township dated c.1810 (National Library of Wales, Powis Castle M176). Buildings built of brick and stone. A cruck-framed timber building forming part of the present house is built on a brick plinth, and would therefore appear to have been moved from elsewhere.

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PRN 0 SITE No 35 Wern Villa House NGR SJ25291432
House Post medieval

House measuring 15m north-east/south-west x 5m. First depicted on the Enclosure Award map (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R) dated 1800, although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal. Not examined during survey.

PRN 0 SITE No 36 Lower House Farm NGR SJ25601480
Farm Post medieval

Farm measuring 60m north/south x 60m, overall. First depicted on the Enclosure Award map (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R) dated 1800, although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal. Not examined during survey.

PRN 0 SITE No 37 Oswestry - Newtown Railway NGR SJ25861485
Railway Modern

Embankment of the former Oswestry - Newtown Railway completed in 1861 (Hughes 1981, 109). Probably closed in the 1960's following railway reorganisation. Approximate width of 25m overall x c.3m high to the south of the New Cut crossing. The width of the track bed is 10m suggesting it was built as a double track railway, although the single track bridge (PRN 37066) means that it was downgraded at a later date. Track now removed; some rails may have been used to widen the Lower House road bridge (PRN 37067) over the New Cut.

PRN 0 SITE No 38 Fraithwen Bridge NGR SJ26071505
Bridge Modern

Modern concrete bridge carrying the A483 over the New Cut watercourse. Brick walls built above the concrete to form the edges of the roadway. Undoubtedly built to replace an earlier structure of insufficient strength for modern traffic.

PRN 0 SITE No 39 Fraithwen House NGR SJ26021510
House Post medieval

Fraithwen house, situated on north-west of the New Cut to the west of the A483. The first building depicted on the site is shown on Ordnance surveyors drawing No 328, surveyed in 1829-30. This is unlikely to be the present house, but may be part of the outbuildings to its north-west.

PRN 0 SITE No 40 Wern Villa Ridge and Furrow III NGR SJ25331435
Ridge and Furrow Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-east/south-west in the south-western part of OS field No 3638. Separation between furrows generally 6m. Overall area measures 70m north-east/south-west x 30m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6945.

PRN 0 SITE No 41 New Cut, Homestead Sluice Gate NGR SJ25331365
Sluice Gate Post medieval

Location of former sluice gate to the south-east of "Homestead" cottage, allowing water from the New Cut watercourse to pass into the Bele Brook. Named "Flood Gate" on the Enclosure Award map (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R) dated 1800 although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal. Now replaced by a modern structure.

PRN 0 SITE No 42 New Cut, Little Wern Sluice Gate NGR SJ25241343
Sluice Gate Post medieval

Location of former sluice gate on the course of the Bele Brook to the north-east of "Little Wern", allowing water into the

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New Cut watercourse. Named "Sluice" on the Enclosure Award map (Powys Archives MQS/RA/24R) dated 1801, although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal. Not seen during survey.

PRN 0 SITE No 43 Little Wern Building (Site of) NGR SJ25221366
Building Post medieval ?

Location of former building on the western side of the Montgomeryshire Canal. Building measured 10m north-west/south-east x 4m and is first depicted on the Enclosure Award map (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R) dated 1800, although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal. Last depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map surveyed in 1885. Location not recognised during survey.

PRN 0 SITE No 44 Brookfield Building (Site of) NGR SJ25291372
Building Post medieval ?

Location of former building immediately to the east of the New Cut argae. Building measured c.10m north-east/south-west x 5m and is first depicted on the Enclosure Award map (Powys Archives MQS/RA/24R) dated 1801, although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal. Last depicted on the Tithe map of 1845. Landowner related that pottery, mortar, cinders etc. had been revealed during previous drainage work at its former location. Only surviving evidence visible on the ground is stonework and bricks present on the adjacent argae bank.

PRN 0 SITE No 45 Wern Farm Building I NGR SJ25401417
Building Post medieval ?

Location of former building in the southern part of the enclosed land surrounding Wern Farm. Building measured c.10m north-west/south-east x 5m and is first depicted on the Enclosure Award map (Powys Archives MQS/RA/24R) dated 1801, although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal. Last depicted on a map of Burgedin township dated to c.1810 (National Library of Wales - Powis Castle M176). No longer extant.

PRN 0 SITE No 46 Wern Farm Footbridge NGR SJ25351419
Bridge Post medieval

Site of footbridge over the New Cut watercourse depicted and named as such on the Enclosure Award maps (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R & 24R) dated 1800 & 1801, although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal. No subsequent evidence of a bridge at this location.

PRN 0 SITE No 47 Lower House Footbridge NGR SJ25671468
Bridge Post medieval

Site of footbridge over the New Cut watercourse depicted and named as such on the Enclosure Award maps (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R & 24R) dated 1800 & 1801, although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal. No subsequent evidence of a bridge at this location.

PRN 0 SITE No 48 Wern Holding Building (Site of) NGR SJ25431387
Building Post medieval

Site of former building depicted on the Enclosure Award map (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R) dated 1800, although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal. Last depicted on a map of Farchoel township dated c.1811 (National Library of Wales - Powis Castle M200). No longer extant.

PRN 0 SITE No 49 Montgomeryshire Canal NGR SJ25191390
Canal Post medieval

Course of the Montgomery Canal from the vicinity of "Little Wern" house to Red Bridge (PRN 36341), a total length of c.800m. Throughout this section the canal is carried on the Wern embankment, constructed of earth dug from flanking

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quarry pits (Hughes 1988, 11).

PRN	0	SITE No	50	Wern Brick and Tile Works	NGR	SJ25181413
				Brickworks		Modern

Site of brick and tile works located immediately to the north-east of Wern Mill, apparently belonging to the canal company (Hughes 1988, 150). Depicted on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 maps (Montgomeryshire 15.8, surveyed 1885, revised 1900). No longer extant.

PRN	0	SITE No	51	Wern Villa Farm (Site of)	NGR	SJ25361430
				Farm ?		Post medieval

Site of probable farm located between the New Cut watercourse and Wern Villa, to the north of the adjacent road. First depicted on a map of Burgedin township dated c.1810 (National Library of Wales - Powis Castle M176). Last depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map (Montgomeryshire 16.5, surveyed 1885). The area occupied by the buildings, which number up to three on the cartographic sources, measures 30m east/west x 20m. No longer extant, although there are some irregularities present in the field, which contains evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation.

PRN	0	SITE No	52	Jumbona House	NGR	SJ25861464
				House		Modern

Former level crossing gatekeepers cottage now used as a private residence. Measures approx 9m east/west x 6m. The level crossing gates are still present and define the extent of the garden associated with the house. First depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map (Montgomeryshire 16.5, surveyed in 1885), and therefore probably an original railway structure.

PRN	0	SITE No	53	Jumbona Building	NGR	SJ25771472
				Building		Modern

Site of square building, measuring 5m x 5m, on roadside. Function unknown but may have been agricultural. Depicted on second edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map (Montgomeryshire 16.5, revised 1900).

PRN	0	SITE No	54	Wern Farm Building II	NGR	SJ25371418
				Building		Modern

Site of former building situated immediately to the south of the enclosed area surrounding Wern Farm. Probably of two units, measuring 10m north-west/south-east x 5m overall. Possibly a barn. Depicted on the second edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map (Montgomeryshire 16.5, revised 1900).

PRN	0	SITE No	55	Wern Corn Mill Tail Race	NGR	SJ25201400
				Mill Race		Modern

Course of tail race for the former Wern Corn Mill (Site No 29) leading into the New Cut. Prior to the building of the mill it served as a watercourse for the overflow water from the Montgomeryshire Canal outfall weir (PRN 36342).

PRN	0	SITE No	56	New Cut Argae Armouring 1	NGR	SJ25471442
				Bank		Post medieval

Short section of argae bank with surviving stone armouring on interior.

PRN	0	SITE No	57	New Cut Argae Armouring 2	NGR	SJ25361418
				Bank		Post medieval

Short section of argae bank with stone armouring surviving on internal and external sides.

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PRN 0 SITE No 58 New Cut Argae Armouring 3 NGR SJ25311365
Bank Post medieval

Short section of argae bank with stone armouring surviving on external side at a point where a building (Site 44) is depicted on the Enclosure Award Map.

PRN 36339 SITE No 0 Wern, Wern Canal Bridge NGR SJ25271362
Bridge Post medieval

Bridge carrying a minor road over the Montgomeryshire Canal at Wern. Abutments built mainly of brick, with some stone present at the NE end, perhaps suggesting an earlier structure. The roadway is carried on cast-iron girders overlain by timber. Iron plates are set vertically at the corners of the bridge on the towpath side to prevent wear of the abutment caused by towropes. Listed building; listing suggests it was built between 1820 and 1833.

PRN 36341 SITE No 0 Wern Mill, Red Bridge NGR SJ25141416
Bridge Post medieval

Brick built bridge carrying a minor road over the Montgomeryshire Canal at Wern. Cast-iron plate on north side with raised lettering signifying that it is canal bridge No 106. The bridge is arched with splayed abutments and topped by coping stones. One of a group of monuments of interest relating to the canal, adjacent to the former Wern Corn Mill (Site No 29). Listed building; listing states that it was built before 1797.

PRN 36342 SITE No 0 Wern Mill, Wern outfall weir NGR SJ25151414
Weir Post medieval

Outfall weir for surplus water from the Montgomeryshire Canal, measuring 30m north/south x 10m overall. Built 1794-7. Consists of oval brick pond with spillway and central sluice gate, leading to turbine race for the former Wern Corn Mill and bypass spillway leading to the Mill tail race. Listed building.

PRN 36343 SITE No 0 Wern Mill, Land ownership marker post NGR SJ25161415
Marker Modern

Cast-iron land ownership marker post of the Shropshire Union Canal Co. Raised capital letters S U over C on east side. Listed building, listing dates post to after 1846.

PRN 36344 SITE No 0 Wern Mill, Gauging weir structures at the Wern NGR SJ25171404
Weir Not recorded

Circular brick built structure connected to the canal via a ratchet controlled sluice gate. Outfall apparently joins with the tail race from the Wern Corn Mill (Site No 55). Listed building, described in listing as a gauging weir structure. Possibly acted as a "ground-sluice" for the periodic cleaning of the canal (see Hughes 1988, 41), particularly as this section acted as the "sump" or base level of the canal.

PRN 37062 SITE No 0 Lower House ridge and furrow I NGR SJ25891492
Ridge and furrow Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east in the south-western part of OS field No 8800. Separation between furrows possibly 7m. Overall area measures 50m north-west/south-east x 50m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.7067.

PRN 37063 SITE No 0 Lower House ridge and furrow II NGR SJ25901484
Ridge and furrow Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation in OS field No 9286. Separated into two sections; that in the

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north-eastern part of the field is aligned north-east/south-west, while that in the south-western part of the field is aligned north-west/south-east. Separation between furrows generally 7m-8m. Overall area measures 120m north-east/south-west x 40m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.7067.

PRN 37064	SITE No	0	Lower House ridge and furrow III	NGR SJ26001503
			Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east in the north-eastern part of OS field No 0003. Separation between furrows generally 7m. Overall area measures 60m north-west/south-east x 60m. Part of earthworks still extant, although some have probably been disturbed by the building of a new bungalow at Fraithwen. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.7067 and RAF aerial photograph CPE/UK/2492 No 4253.

PRN 37065	SITE No	0	Lower House ridge and furrow IV	NGR SJ26011491
			Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-east/south-west in the southern part of OS field No 0093. Separation between furrows generally 8m. Overall area measures 40m north-east/south-west x 20m. Not visible on the ground at time of visit. Visible on RAF aerial photograph CPE/UK/2492 No 4253.

PRN 37066	SITE No	0	New Cut Railway Bridge	NGR SJ25861485
			Bridge	Modern

Railway bridge carrying the former Oswestry - Newtown railway (Site No 37) over the New Cut watercourse to the east-north-east of Lower House Farm. The top of the railway embankment is 10m wide locally, representing a double track layout, whereas the surviving bridge is only 5m wide. This seems to confirm that there was an original bridge which was double track and was subsequently replaced by the present single track bridge. The bridge has a concrete beam superstructure with bearing at either end and appears to be of relatively modern construction. The bridge abutments are built of a mixture of stone and brick and are 10m wide, suggesting they served the earlier double track bridge. The top of the abutments were finished with dressed coping stones, some of which have been subsequently lost. The watercourse underneath the bridge is faced with stone on its N side.

PRN 37067	SITE No	0	Lower House Bridge	NGR SJ25731473
			Bridge	Post medieval

Road bridge crossing the New Cut near Lower House Farm. Composed of angular stone built abutments with the roadway supported by cast-iron girders. The bridge appears to have been widened using railway track, probably from the Oswestry - Newtown Railway (Site No 37) after its abandonment. The guard rails on the south-west side of the bridge are of iron (wrought ?) and probably original, those on the north-east side are modern. First depicted on the Enclosure Award maps (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R & 24R) dated 1800 & 1801, although probably surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal.

PRN 37068	SITE No	0	Wern Farm clay pits	NGR SJ25731469
			Non Antiquity ?	Non Antiquity ?

Group of three circular hollows previously thought to represent clay pits. It seems more likely that they are of natural origin.

PRN 37069	SITE No	0	New Cut flood defences	NGR SJ25351351
			Bank	Post medieval

Bank, 3m-4m wide tapering to 1m-2m at the top, with watercourse immediately to its west, up to 5m wide. Part of the 18th century flood defences constructed by the Enclosure commissioners, following the Act of 1788. The Enclosure

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Award maps (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R & 24R) are dated 1800 & 1801, although the Montgomeryshire Canal is not depicted despite being built between 1794 & 1797. It seems probably that the maps were actually surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal. The original southern end of the bank (Site No 22), as depicted on the Enclosure Awards maps, was situated c.100m further to the south-west, but has since been lost.

PRN 37070	SITE No	0	Wern Farm flood defences	NGR SJ25381426
			Bank	Post medieval

Bank with stone component located immediately to the west of Wern Farm outbuildings. Part of the New Cut flood defence bank (PRN 37069), dated 1788-94. Cartographic evidence suggests the buildings post-date the bank and they appear to have been built on a platform cut into its eastern side.

PRN 37071	SITE No	0	Wern Farm ford	NGR SJ25371426
			Ford ?	Post medieval ?

Possible ford previously identified from the presence of stone in the banks of the New Cut watercourse to the south-west of Wern Farm Bridge (Site No 20). This interpretation of the visible remains seems unlikely owing to the proximity of the adjacent bridge which would appear from available evidence to be an original structure dating to the construction of the New Cut. A more likely explanation is that the bed of the watercourse was armoured with stone in an attempt to prevent erosion upstream of the bridge, which may have eventually damaged its abutments.

PRN 37072	SITE No	0	Wern Farm ridge and furrow III	NGR SJ25371432
			Ridge and furrow	Medieval

Curving ridge and furrow cultivation aligned approximately north-east/south-west in the southern part of OS field No 3933. Separation between furrows generally 6m. Overall area measures 120m north-east/south-west x 35m. Faint ridges, 0.1m high, were present at time of visit. Prior to the construction of the New Cut this area of ridge and furrow cultivation would have been joined with the ridge and furrow in OS field No 4732 (PRN 38156). Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6945 and RAF aerial photograph CPE/UK/2492 No 3254.

PRN 37073	SITE No	0	Wern Farm ridge and furrow II	NGR SJ25551439
			Ridge and furrow	Post medieval ?

Ridge and furrow cultivation aligned approximately north-west/south-east in OS field No 5837. Separation between furrows generally 4m-5m. Overall area measures 170m north-west/south-east x 70m. Faint ridges, 0.1m high, were present at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6946.

PRN 37074	SITE No	0	Wern Farm ridge and furrow I	NGR SJ25431410
			Ridge and furrow ?	Post medieval

Possible broad ridge and furrow recorded in OS field No 3600 during CPAT site visit of April 1997. No evidence of ridge and furrow present at time of visit, although the field appeared to have been recently reseeded. Aerial photographic evidence suggests that the field contained a series of approximately parallel field drains or drainage channels, 13m apart; their appearance would not appear to suggest that they were caused by cultivation. Overall dimensions of probable drainage features was 220m north-east/south-west x 90m. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6935.

PRN 37075	SITE No	0	Wern ridge and furrow II	NGR SJ25301387
			Ridge and furrow	Post medieval ?

Ridge and furrow cultivation noted in the corner of OS fields 2889 and 3284 during CPAT visit of April 1997. No evidence visible at time of visit, but there is aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-east/south-west in the centre of OS field No 3284, with the separation between furrows generally being 4m. Overall area measures 50m north-east/south-west x 70m. Visible on Ordnance Survey aerial photograph 71 496 No 135.

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PRN 37076 SITE No 0 Wern ridge and furrow I NGR SJ25321373

Ridge and furrow

Post medieval ?

Ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-east/south-west in the south-eastern part of OS field No 3173. Separation between furrows generally 5m. Overall area measures 40m north-east/south-west x 30m. Visible on aerial photography, largely masked by vegetation growth at time of visit. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6888.

PRN 38154 SITE No 0 Wern Ridge and Furrow XVII NGR SJ25301415

Ridge and furrow

Medieval

Substantial remains of curving ridge and furrow cultivation approximately aligned north-east/south-west in the central part of OS field No 2400. Separation between furrows generally 7m-10m, ridges up to 0.4m high. Overall area measures 100m north-east/south-west x 170m. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6935 and RAF aerial photograph CPE/UK/2492 No 3254.

PRN 38155 SITE No 0 Wern Ridge and Furrow XVIII NGR SJ25441417

Ridge and furrow

Medieval

Ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-east/south-west in the north-western part of OS field No 4916. Separation between furrows generally 8m, ridges up to 0.4m high. Overall area measures 70m north-east/south-west x 35m. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6935 and RAF aerial photograph CPE/UK/2492 No 3254.

PRN 38156 SITE No 0 Wern Ridge and Furrow XIX NGR SJ25471431

Ridge and furrow

Medieval

Curving ridge and furrow cultivation aligned approximately north-east/south-west in OS field No 4732. Separation between furrows generally 6m. Overall area measures 130m north-east/south-west x 110m. Ridges 0.3m high were present at time of visit. Prior to the construction of the New Cut this area of ridge and furrow cultivation would have been joined with the ridge and furrow in OS field No 3933 (PRN 37072). Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6945 and RAF aerial photograph CPE/UK/2492 No 3254.

PRN 38179 SITE No 0 Wern Linear Earthwork XIX NGR SJ25331423

Ridge and Furrow

Post medieval

Area of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east in the northern part of OS field No 2400. Separation between furrows generally 5m, ridges 0.2m-0.3m high. Previously recorded from aerial photographs as a linear earthwork. Visible on Cartographical Services (Southampton) Ltd aerial photograph No 650.6935.

PRN 38180 SITE No 0 Wern Linear Earthwork XX NGR SJ25261419

Linear earthwork

Medieval ?

Linear earthwork previously recorded from aerial photography. Most probably related to the area of ridge and furrow cultivation (PRN 38154) in the central part of OS field No 2400. Visible on RAF aerial photograph CPE/UK/2492 No 3254.

PRN 38181 SITE No 0 Wern Linear Earthwork XXI NGR SJ25501418

Linear earthwork

Unknown

Linear earthwork running from near the former Brookfield House (Site No 30), running for c.360m through OS fields Nos 4200, 3600 and 4916, towards the minor road south-east of Wern Farm (Site No 34). The northern end of the feature appears to end opposite a present open field drain and this, together with its meandering nature, suggests that it represents a former watercourse which has been abandoned and subsequently obscured by agricultural activities. Visible on RAF aerial photograph CPE/UK/2492 No 3254.

APPENDIX 2

SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST AT NEW CUT ARGAE, WERN, ARDDLEEN, POWYS.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Archaeological Assessment relates to the New Cut Argae, a water course and flood defence embankment between SJ 25361351 and SJ 26021502. This area lies c. 1 km S of Arddleen.
- 1.2 The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in their capacity as archaeological curators for the county have determined that an Archaeological Assessment is necessary to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Accordingly a brief has been prepared by CPAT Curatorial (No ASB 229, dated 18th July 1997) which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works are:
 - 2.1.1 To locate, survey and describe all archaeological sites present within the total area affected by the scheme.
 - 2.1.2 To survey and describe the existing features associated with the New Cut embankment and watercourse and provide a full documented account of its function, development, history and relationship to adjacent archaeological sites.
 - 2.1.3 To prepare a report outlining the results of the assessment.

3 Methods

- 3.1 The assessment will be carried out according to the guidelines submitted with the Curatorial Brief.
- 3.2 A detailed desk-top study will be undertaken of all readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, aerial/ground photographic and oral sources at the following repositories: National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; National Monuments Record, Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments, Aberystwyth; County SMR, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool; Powys County Records Office, Llandrindod Wells; Environment Agency, Shelton, Shrewsbury; Shropshire County Record Office, Shrewsbury. The results will be used to provide a historical framework for the archaeological resource.
- 3.3 A field survey will be undertaken to assess the condition and significance of sites identified during the desk-top survey, to search for new sites and to identify any potential areas of palaeo-environmental deposits. This will consist of a systematic walked survey of the whole area affected by the scheme and any associated works. All sites will be accurately located on modern editions of the Ordnance Survey and recorded by plan, section, descriptive record and photographed in 35mm format B&W and colour print and colour slide, as appropriate.
- 3.4 The argae bank itself will be recorded according to the details in the Brief (section 5.3d).
- 3.5 Following the desk-top and field surveys an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Brief (section 6). This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Catalogue of sites identified with notes on their condition and significance, Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives.

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

4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 The assessment will be undertaken by a skilled and experienced archaeologist. Overall supervision will be by Dr A Gibson, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.2 All report preparation will be completed by the same field archaeologist who conducted the watching brief.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the desk-top study and field survey will take no more than 10 days in all and that the subsequent report would be prepared immediately thereafter, dependent on the client's instructions and the arrangement of a suitable timetable. The date of commencement, at the time of writing, has yet to be agreed with the client, and will be dependent on the state of the site and negotiated access. The archaeological curator will be informed of the detailed timetable and staffing levels when agreement has been reached with the client.
- 4.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

N.W.Jones
Projects Officer

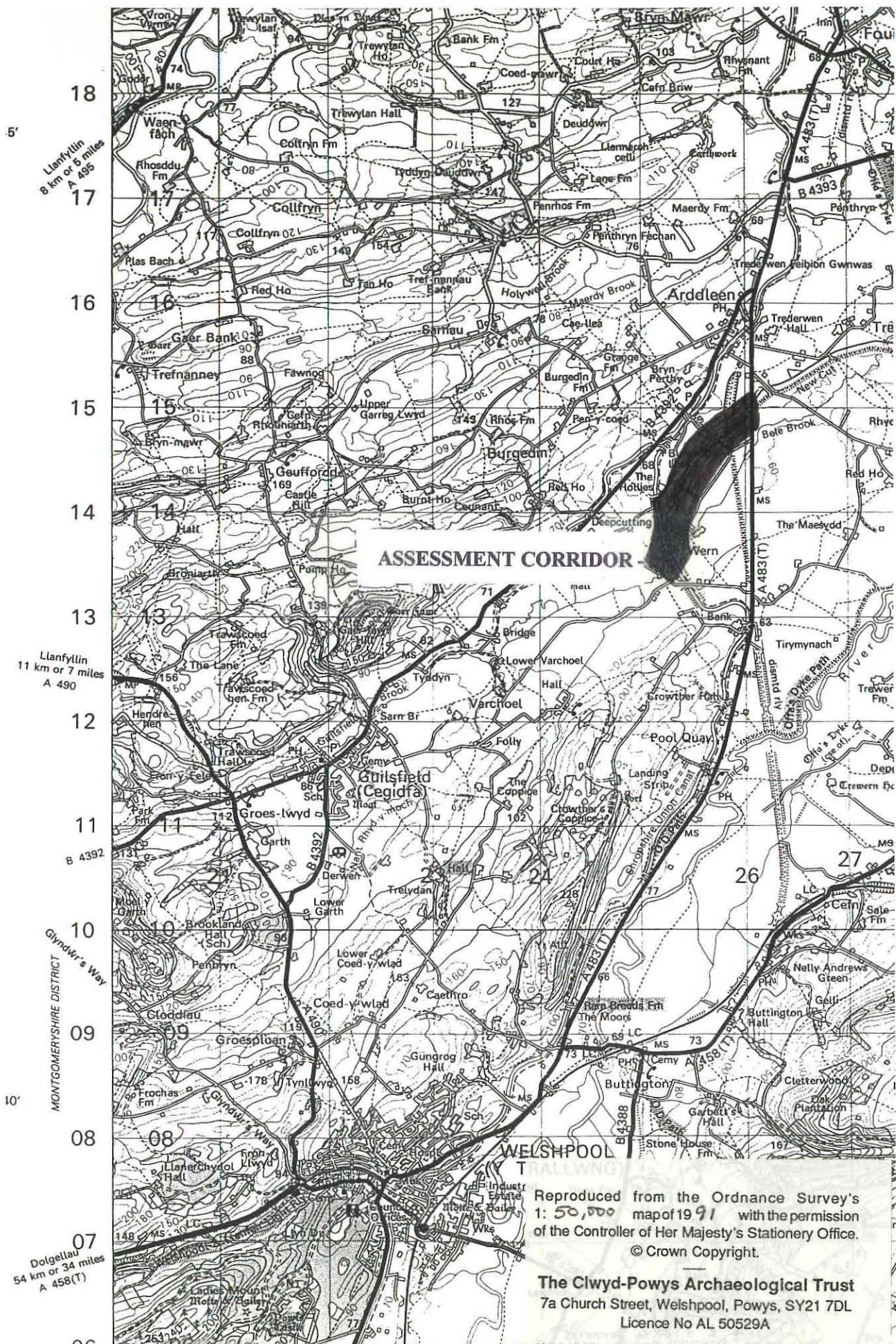


Fig 1 Location (Scale 1:50000)

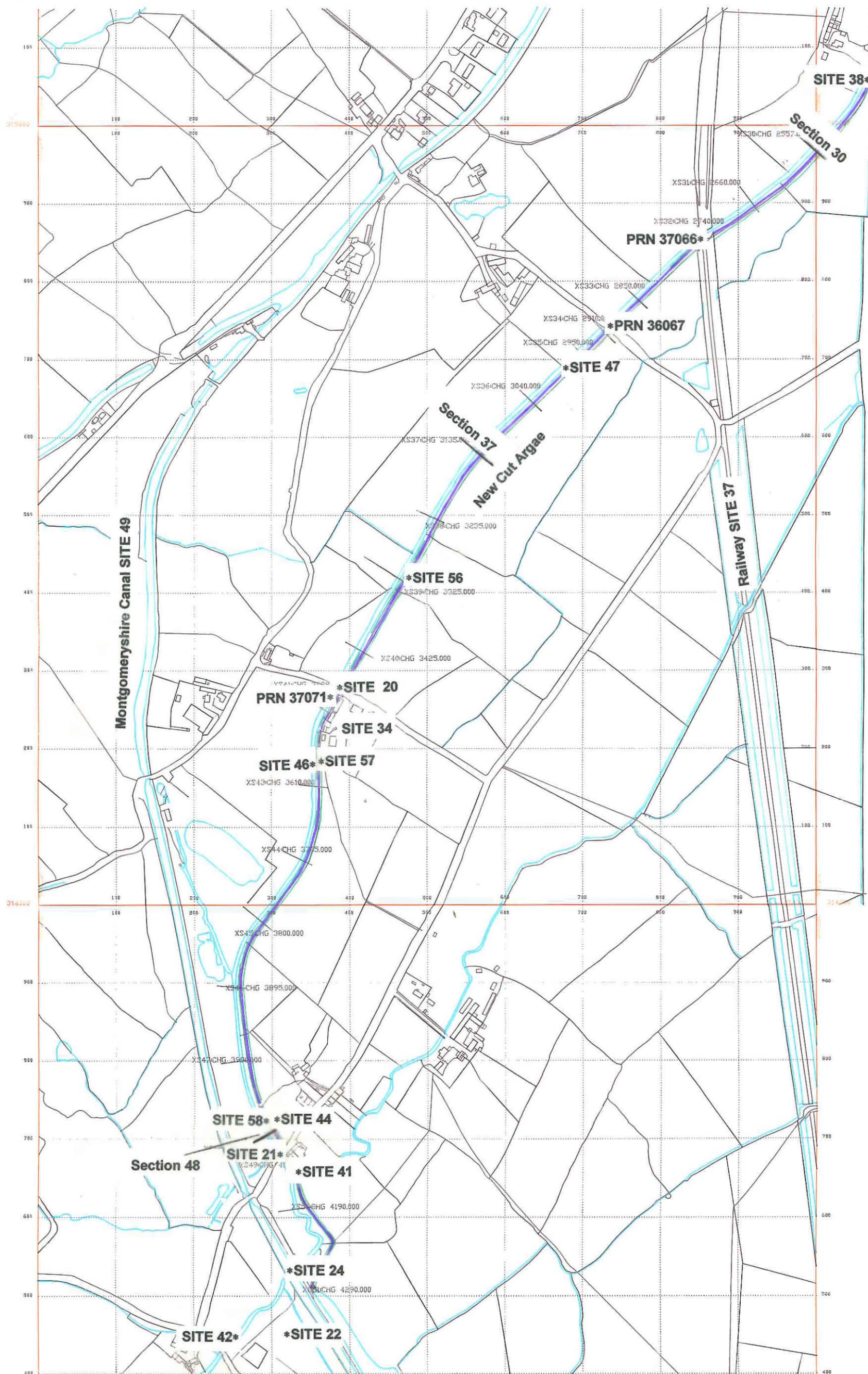


Fig. 2 New Cut Argae and Associated Features (Scale 1:5,000)

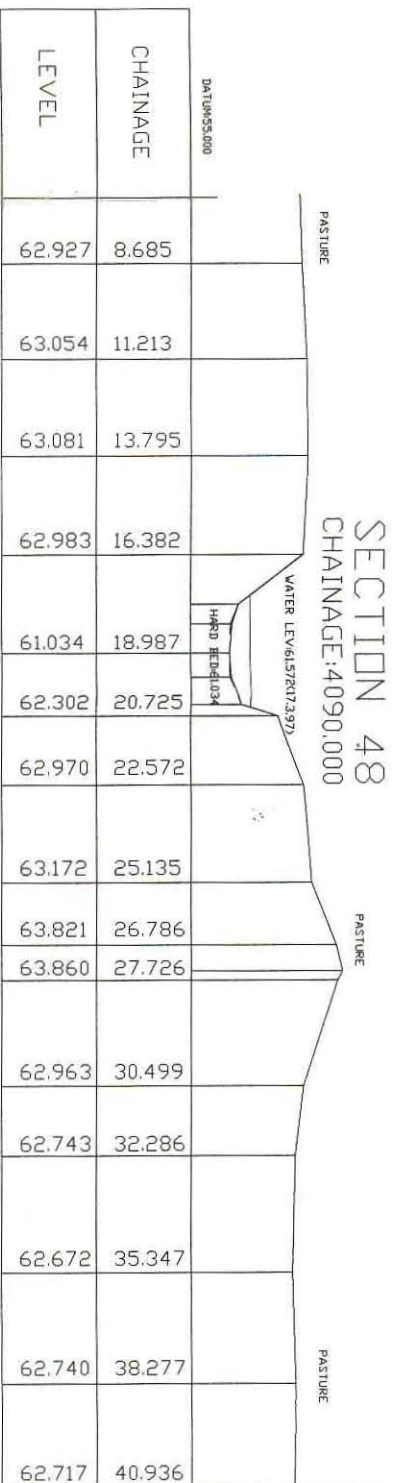
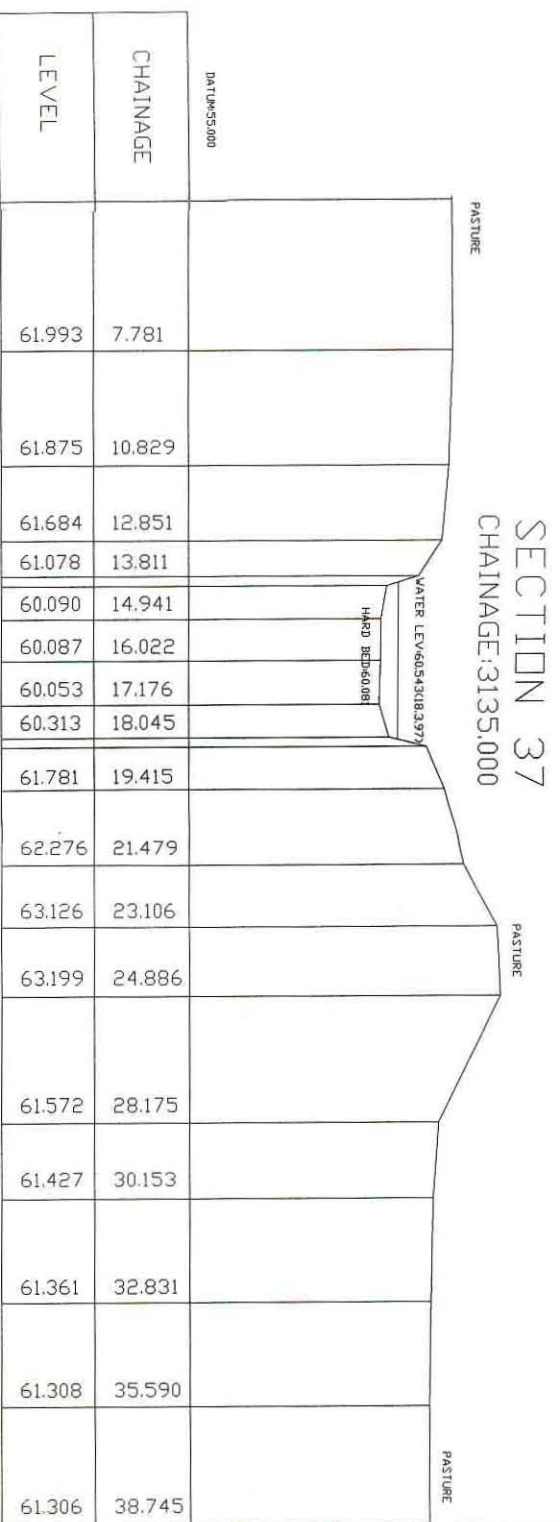
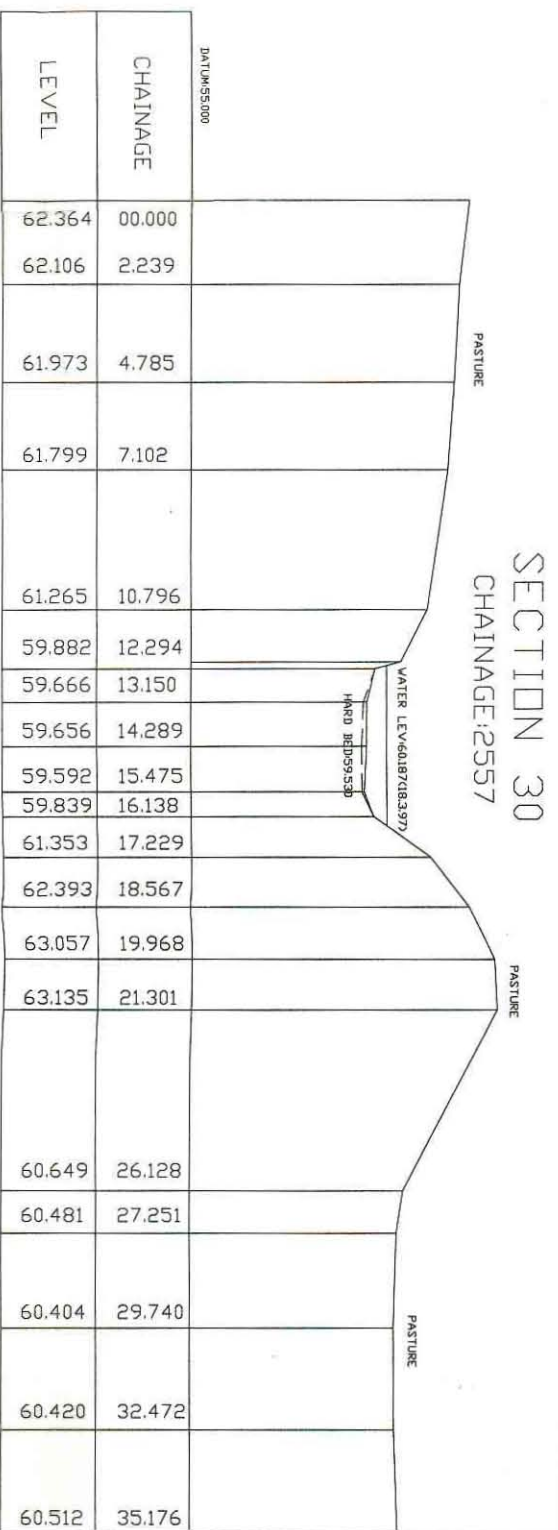


Fig. 4 New Cut Argae Engineering Profiles 1:200 (source: Environment Agency)

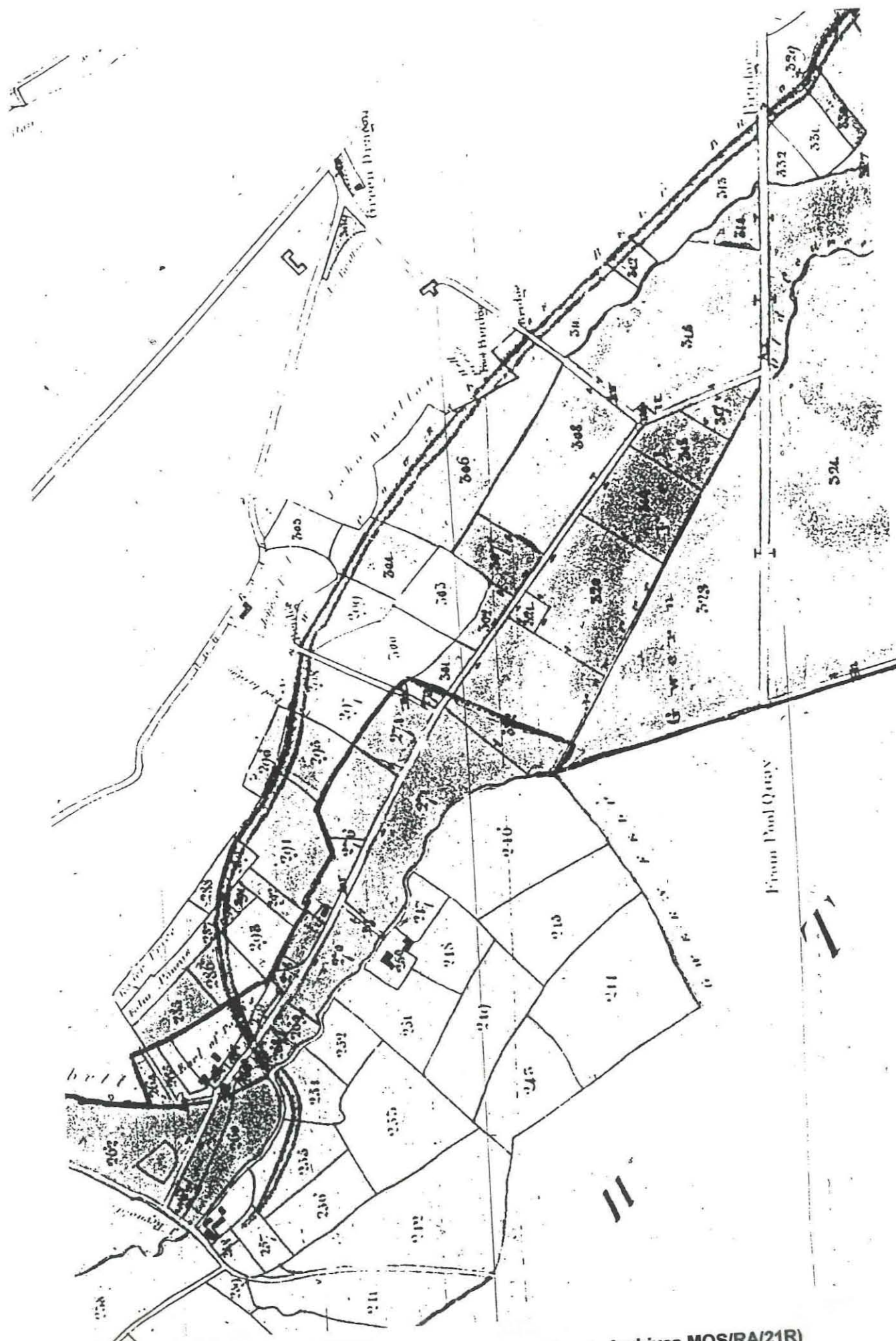


Fig. 5 1800 Enclosure Award Map (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R)
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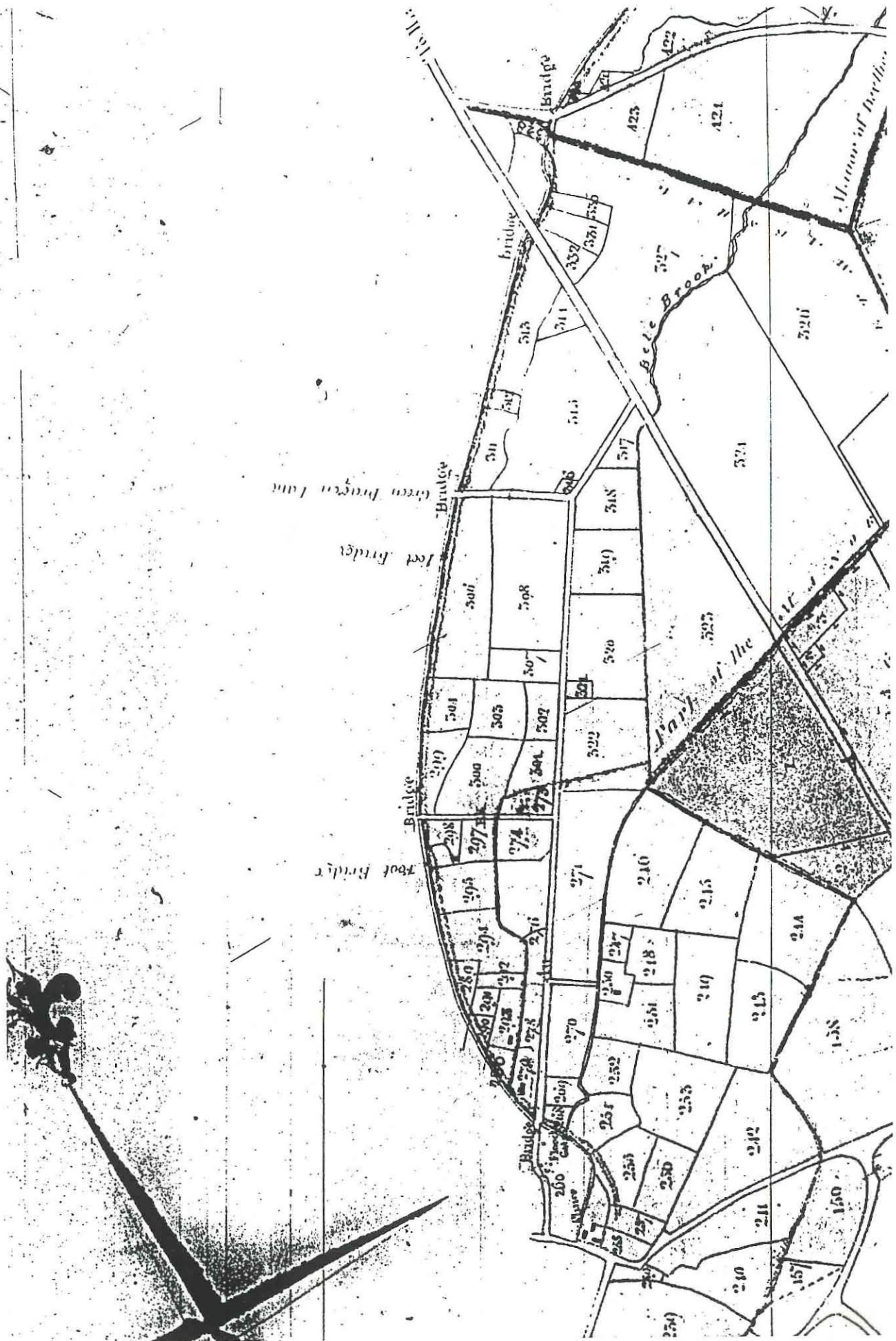


Fig. 6 1801 Enclosure Award Map (Powys Archives MQS/RA/24R)
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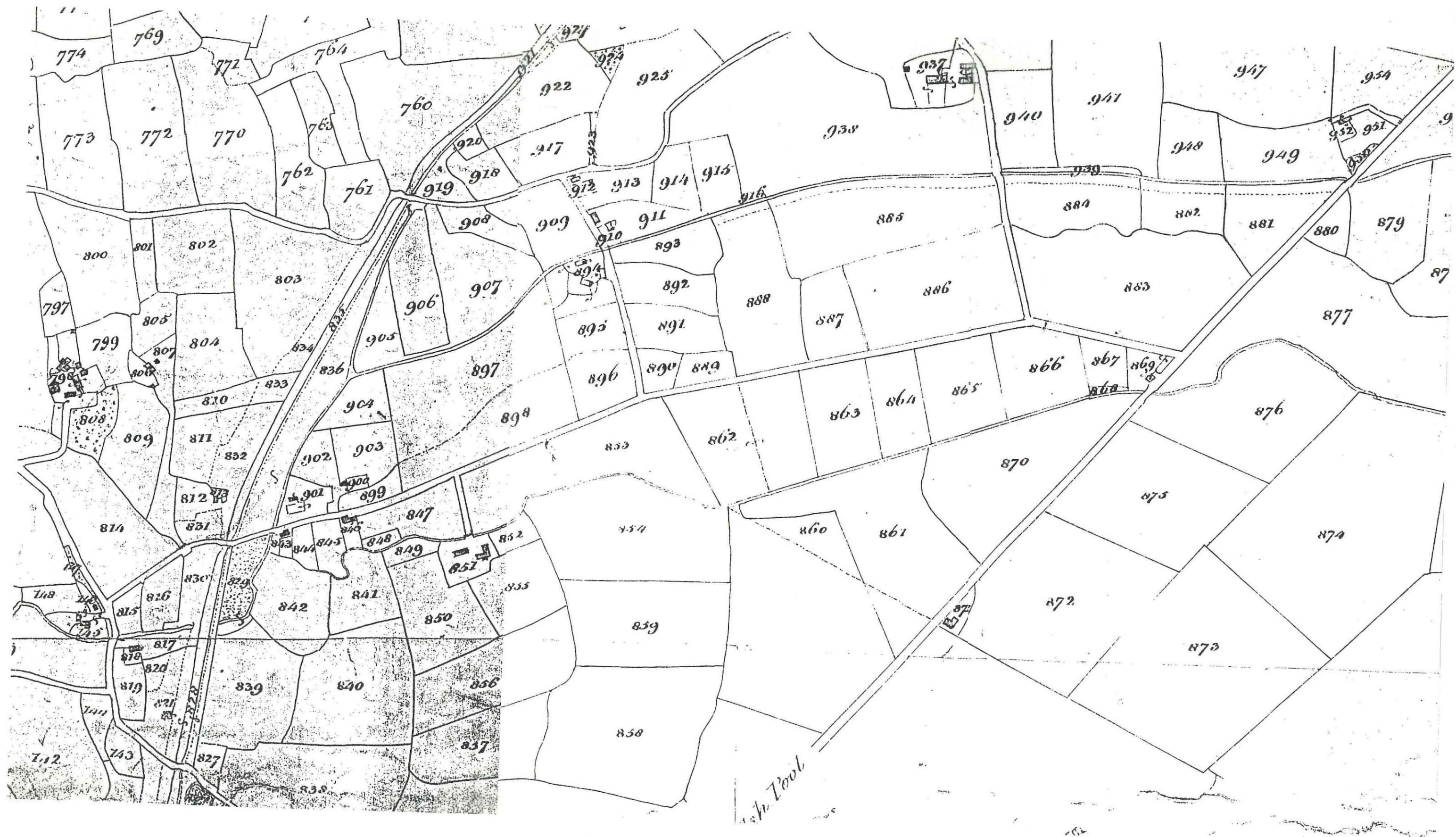


Fig. 7 1845 Tithe Map

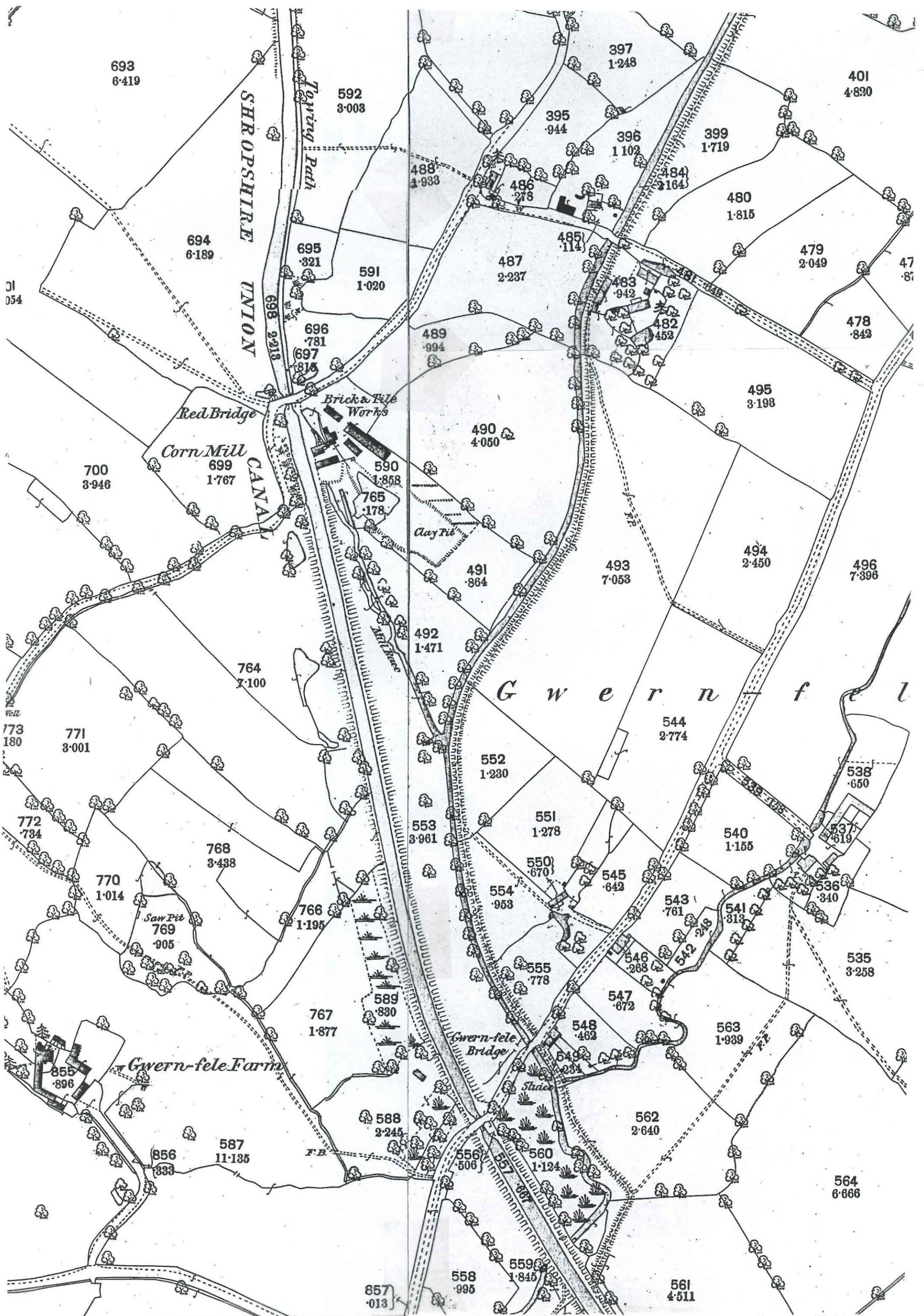


Fig. 8 First Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map (surveyed 1885), SW section

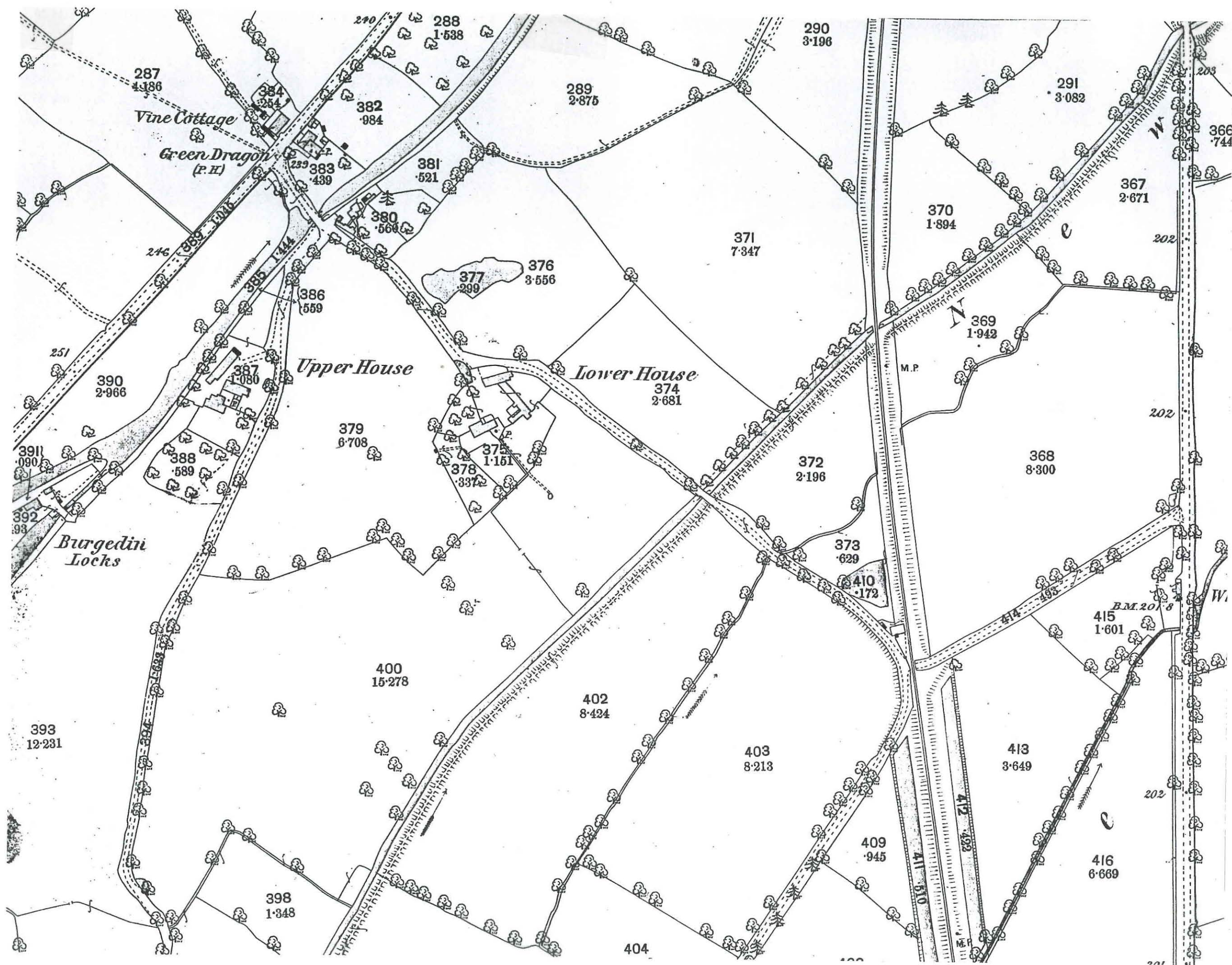


Fig. 9 First Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map (surveyed 1885), NE section

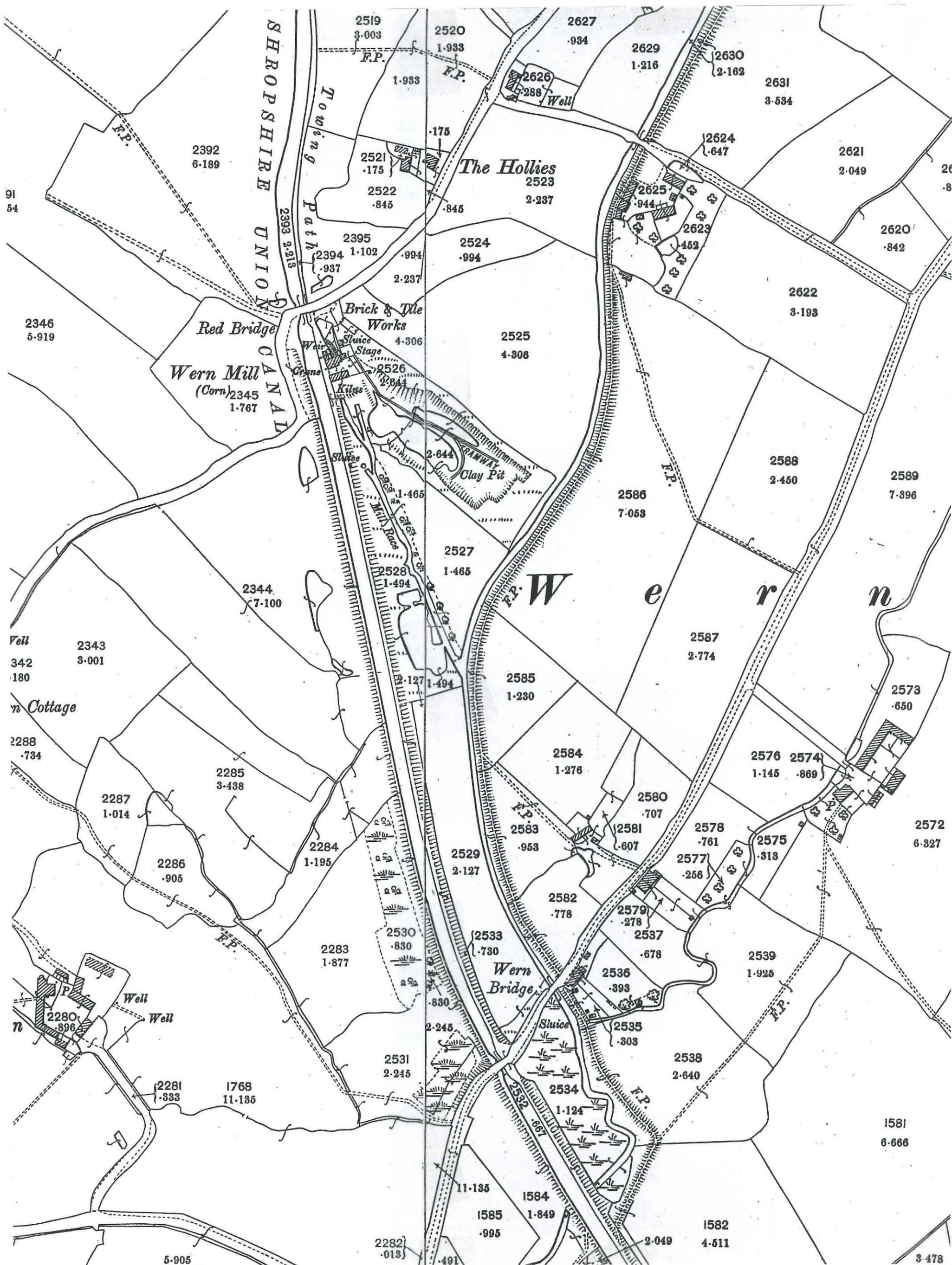


Fig. 10 Second Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map (revised 1900), SW section



Plate 1 Montgomeryshire Canal, New Cut Aqueduct (Site No 24), from north-east



Plate 2 Wern, Wern Canal Bridge (PRN 36339), from north



Plate 3 Wern Mill, Wern Outfall Weir (PRN 36342), from north-west



Plate 4 Wern Mill, Red Bridge (PRN 36341), from south-east



Plate 5 Gwern-fele Bridge (Site No 21), from south-east



Plate 6 New Cut Argae at site of Brookfield Building (Site No 44), from south



Plate 7 Wern Farm Bridge (Site No 20), from north-east



Plate 8 New Cut Argae at SJ 25471441, showing armouring of bank, from south-west



Plate 9 Lower House Bridge (PRN 37067), from east



Plate 10 New Cut Railway Bridge (PRN 37066), from north-east