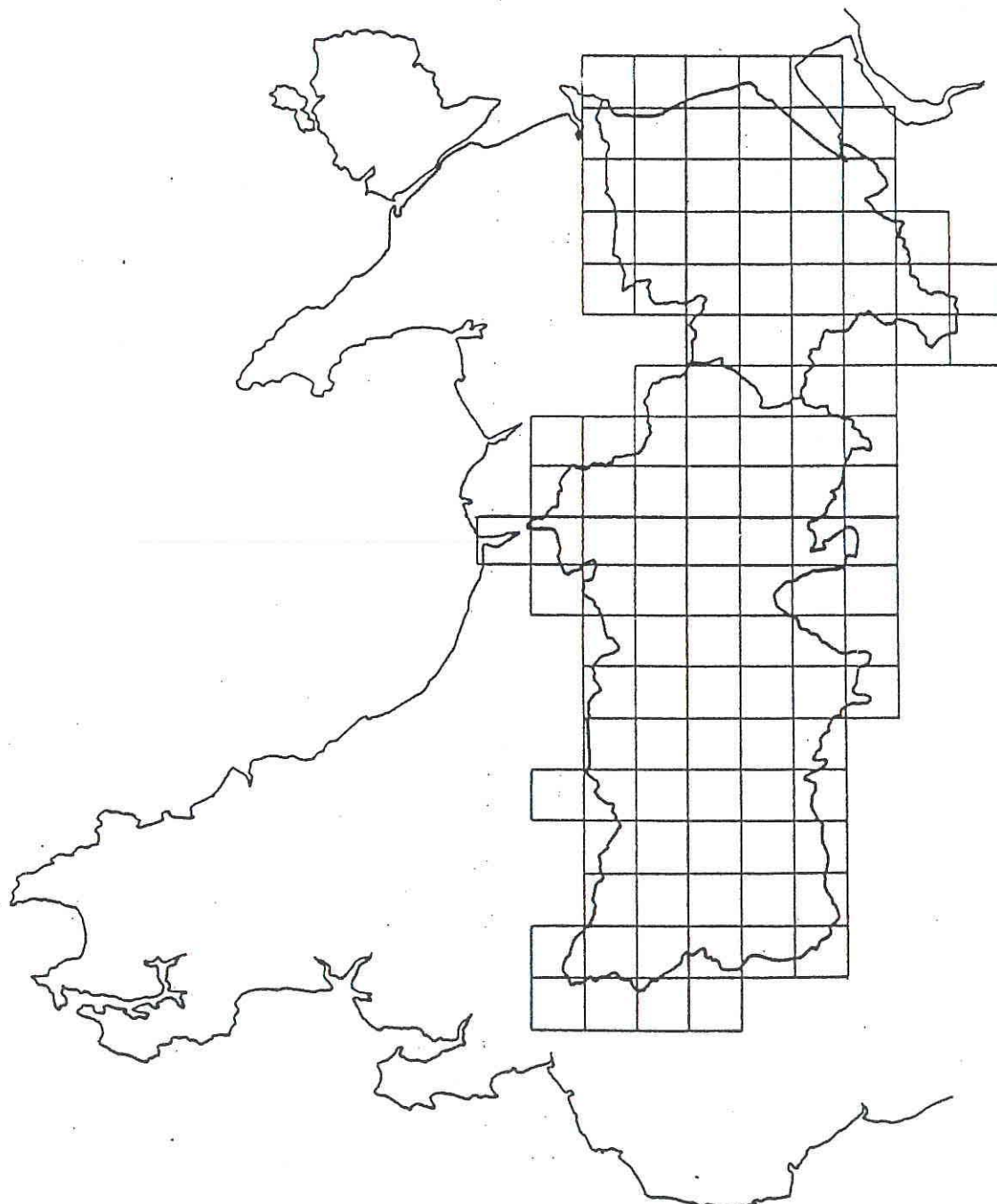


*Caersws: An Archaeological Assessment***DRAFT**

Caersws: An Archaeological Assessment

DRAFT

By N.W. Jones
June 1991

INTRODUCTION

The Caersws Archaeological Assessment will produce a two stage report evaluating the archaeological resource within the present settlement of Caersws. The study area concentrates on the Roman settlement which underlies the modern village, centred on the Caersws I Roman Fort, but does not take in the earlier Roman Fort at Llwynybrain to east.

This document is the initial draft of the stage one report and is intended only to summarise the main recommendations which will appear in full instage two. A brief outline of recommendations is given in the appendix; as are plans of known archaeological discoveries in and around Caersws (see fig 1, sites 1 - 29), including those identified during the course of assessment work undertaken by the Trust during May 1991, funded by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, areas where geophysical survey has been carried out (fig 2, fig 3). Figures 2 and 3 also depict each numbered survey area and give details of the current area of the scheduled ancient monument (SAM Mg1).

The second stage of the report, which is currently in preparation, will make a number of detailed recommendations about the preservation of the archaeological resource and discuss Caersws' archaeological heritage more fully. It will also highlight a number of areas where further investigation is desirable.

In the longer term it is hoped to produce a number of more detailed reports on individual sites recently investigated. Further details of all stages of work in Caersws available from the Trust in the meantime upon request.

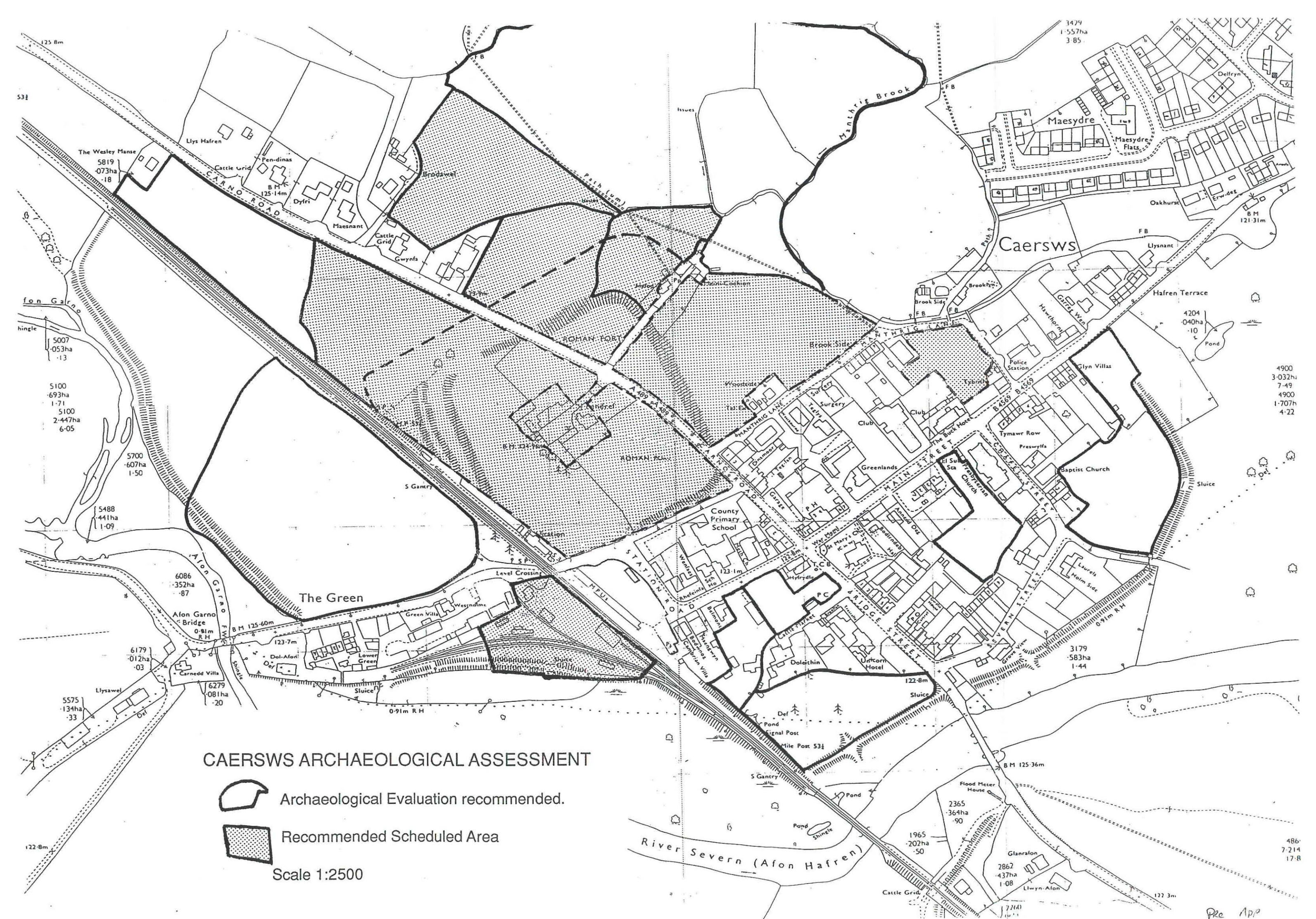
The majority of features described in this report are, or are likely to be, of Roman date unless stated otherwise.

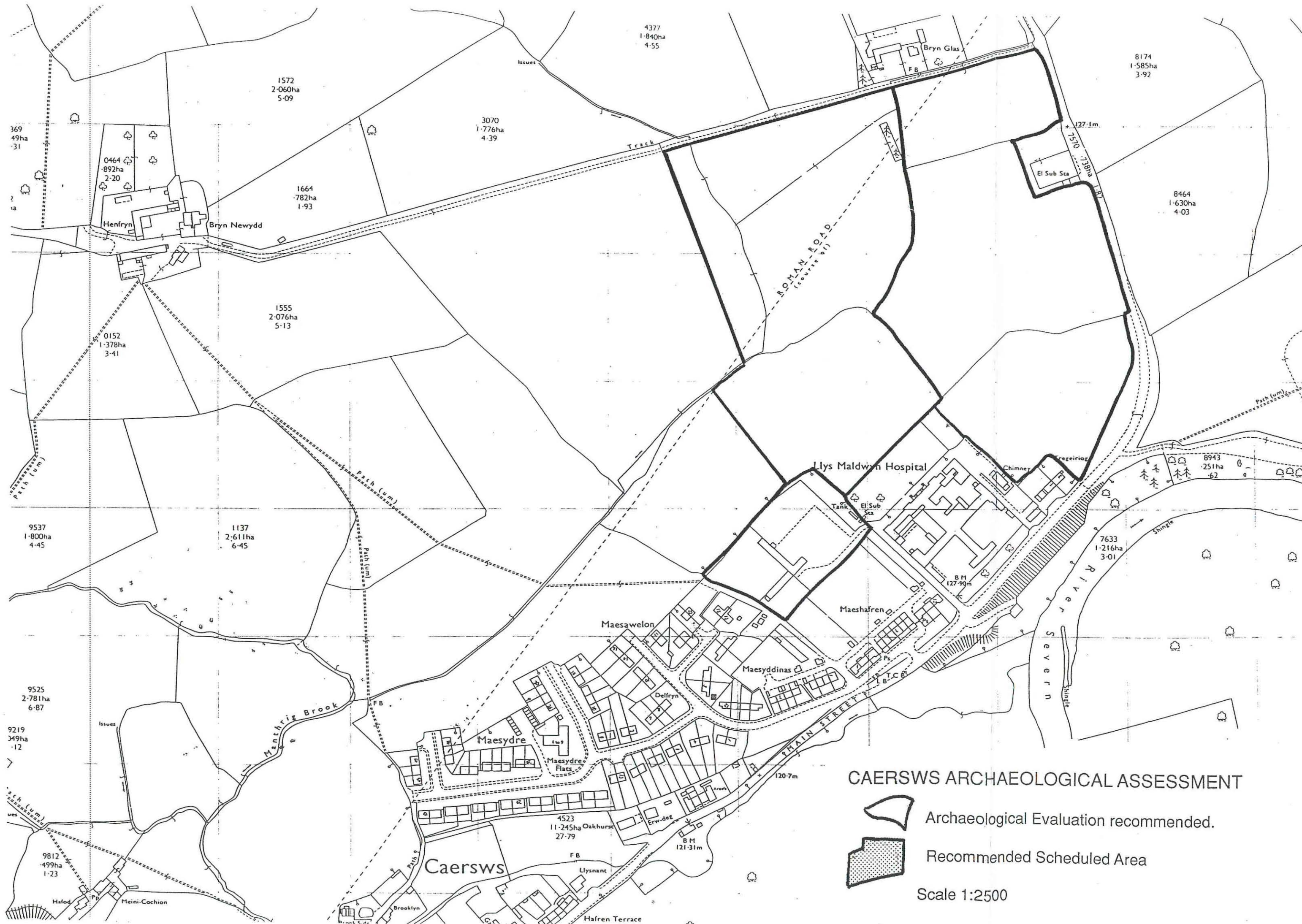
The observations, opinions and recommendations included in this report are based on an interpretation of the information known to the Trust, but might be shown to be invalid or inappropriate by further investigation.

The study has concentrated on the undeveloped areas of the modern settlement, examining a number of sites, and where possible existing mapped field boundaries have been observed when grouping and delineating these. Each area has been given a number and these are shown as Areas of Recommendations on Fig 2 and Fig 3. The archaeology of each area has been evaluated (mainly by a combination of geophysical survey, trial excavation), and one of two recommendations made about its desired treatment. Further recommendations will follow in the stage two report.

These two initial recommendations, which are summarised in map form, are that:-

- 1) archaeological evaluation work be undertaken in certain areas before any land use change is undertaken** (those areas outlined and numbered), or
- 2) certain areas are recommended for scheduling as Ancient Monuments** (those areas stippled).





APPENDIX

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS (figs 2 and 3)

The complex of Roman forts and civilian settlements in and around Caersws are of some considerable regional and national significance. Finds from the various excavations at Caersws are currently on display in both the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff and The Powysland Museum, Welshpool.

Steps should be taken to ensure that opportunities for the improved display and interpretation of archaeological remains in and around Caersws are not overlooked during the course of future development.

This section of the report presents a series of recommendations for individual plots in and around Caersws, based on the existing archaeological evidence. As such, it is not a definitive statement on the archaeological resource, and includes recommendations for future work which might provide new evidence.

The more significant areas are recommended for scheduling under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, and include areas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7. The recommendations below are numbered in correspondence with those areas outlined on the accompanying maps, figs 2 and 3.

Area 1: On the basis of existing evidence it is recommended that whole of the field be considered for scheduling. Geophysical survey (fig 2, 34) and trial excavation (fig 1, 24) has now demonstrated the existence of significant remains relating to the Roman settlement to the north of the annexe.

Area 2: It is recommended that the scheduled area, which already includes the area of the fort, be extended to take in the entire field. Evidence from aerial photography, geophysical survey (fig 2, 33) and trial excavation (fig 1, 23), has demonstrated the existence of an annexe together with other features of unknown function.

Area 3: It is recommended that the scheduled area be extended to include the whole field. Recent excavations (fig 1, 13 and 18) together with geophysical survey (fig 2, 32 and 38) have confirmed the existence of the annexe. The flood bank to the west of the fort remains as a visible earthwork and has previously been demonstrated to be of Roman origin (CS5, Daniels et al, 1966). Given the existence of significant remains to the north of the annexe identified in Area 1, it is likely that a similar situation exists in this area.

Area 4: The scheduled area at present encompass the area of the fort and should be considered for extension to include the whole field. The existence of significant archaeology in Areas 2 and 3 together with those in Area 5 indicate a strong possibility of similar remains within this area.

Area 5: The scheduled area already encloses the whole of the field which contains the eastern defences of the fort and part of the associated vicus.

Area 6: The plot is already within the scheduled area, and recent proposals for development should not be considered before further evaluation work has been carried out. Trial excavations (fig 1, 16) have already demonstrated the existence of Roman occupation.

Area 7: The area of the former railway goods yard is recommended for scheduling as it is known to contain significant archaeological remains, which include the Roman bath-house revealed in 1854 (fig 1, 2, Davies 1857).

Area 8: The archaeology should form an important consideration in any future development proposals, with evaluation work being undertaken to assess the archaeological potential. Geophysical survey (fig 2, 39 and 40) has recently located the line of the road running west from the fort, together with what may have been the Roman crossing point of the former course of the Afon Garo.

Area 9: Existing planning permission includes a condition which provides for archaeological investigation prior to any development. Recent trial excavations (fig 1, 26) have demonstrated well-preserved and deeply stratified Roman occupation within the area of the former cattle market and car park.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS continued

Area 10: Any future development should not be considered without further evaluation work being undertaken. Recent trial excavations (fig 1, 27) have provided evidence for Roman Occupation forming part of the vicus, lying with the area of the playing fields.

Area 11: The existence of significant archaeology has already been demonstrated in adjacent areas, such that evaluation work should be required before any future development is considered.

Area 12: Evaluation work should be undertaken prior to any development being considered. While the area contains no known archaeology, it is possible that the road leading south from the fort lies within the plot.

Area 13: Trial excavations should precede any development to evaluate the archaeological potential. While geophysical survey (fig 2, 41) revealed no clear evidence for archaeological remains within the area, its close proximity to those within the playing fields suggests the possibility of Roman occupation deposits being present.

Area 14: Evaluation work should be undertaken before any future development is considered. The existence of significant archaeological remains to the north of the annexe demonstrated in Area 2, suggest that similar remains may be present within this area.

Area 15: Provision should be made for evaluation work to be undertaken before any development is considered due to the close proximity to areas of known archaeology. Geophysical survey (fig 1, 37) produced no evidence of archaeological remains.

Area 16: Any development should be preceded by evaluation work on the line of the road identified by geophysical survey (fig 3, 35 and 36) as well as providing for further assessment of the remaining area. The lack of known archaeology in the rest of the area does not necessarily imply that it is archaeologically unimportant.

Area 17: As 16 above.

Area 18: Provision should be made for archaeological evaluation prior to any development.

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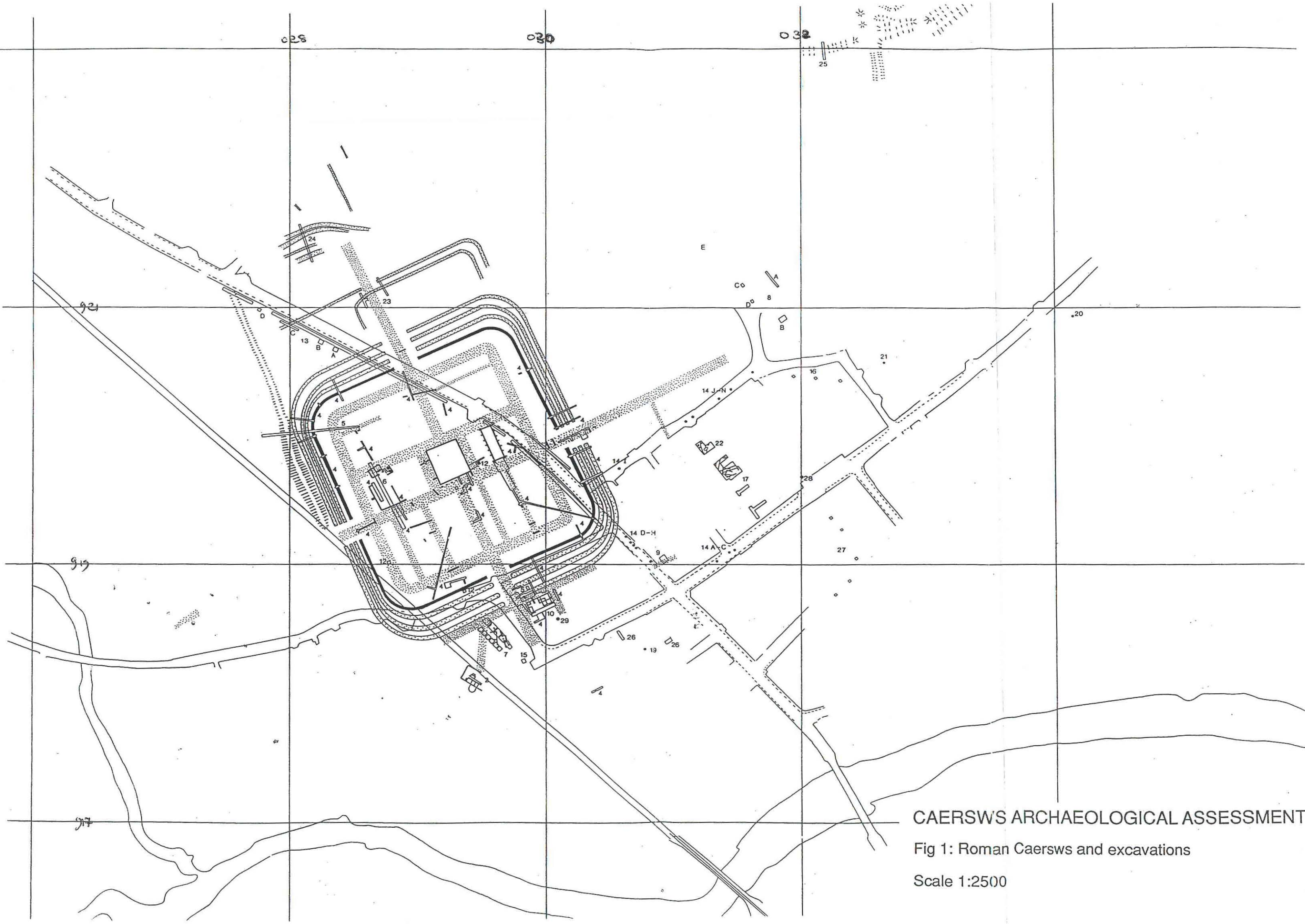
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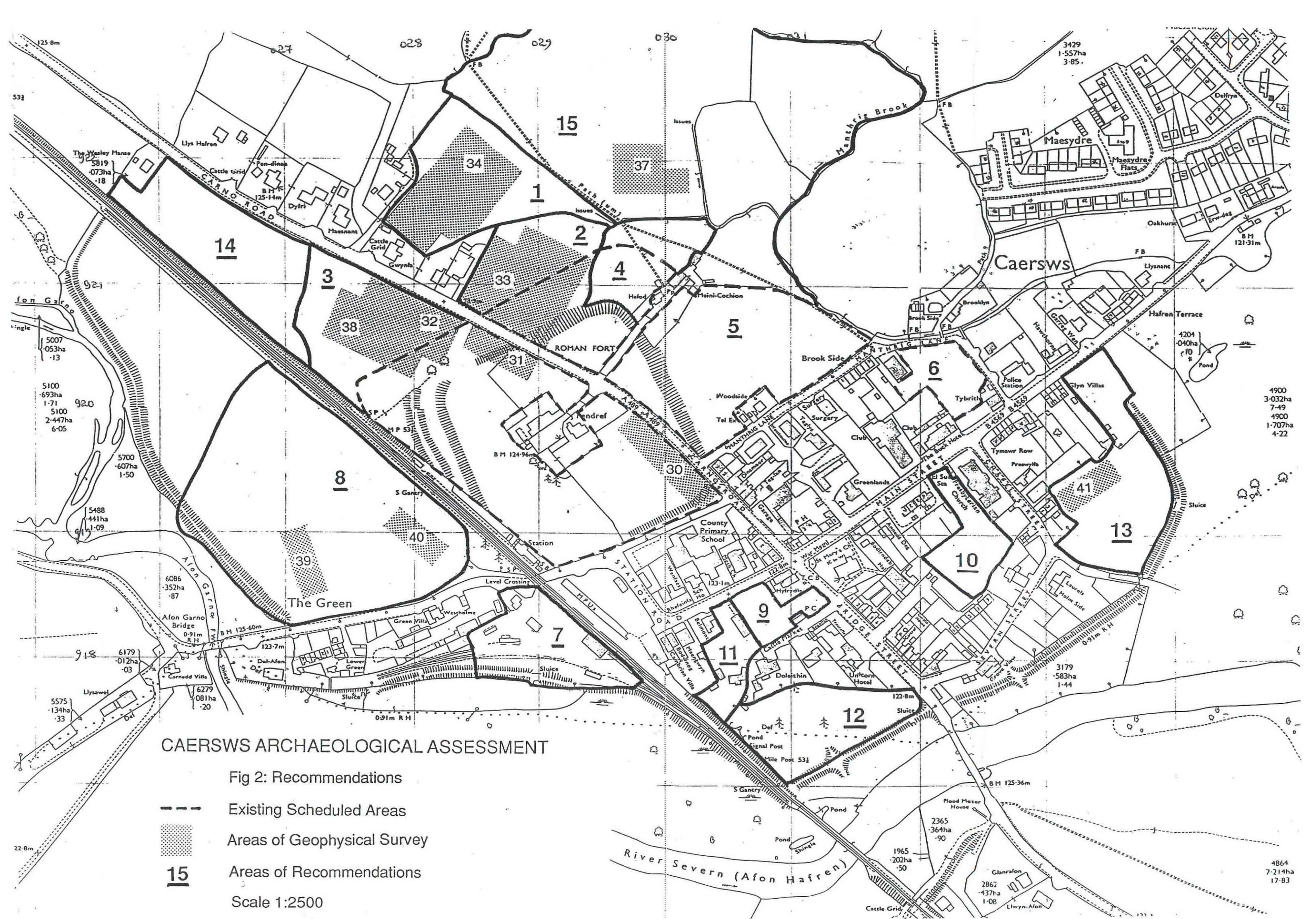
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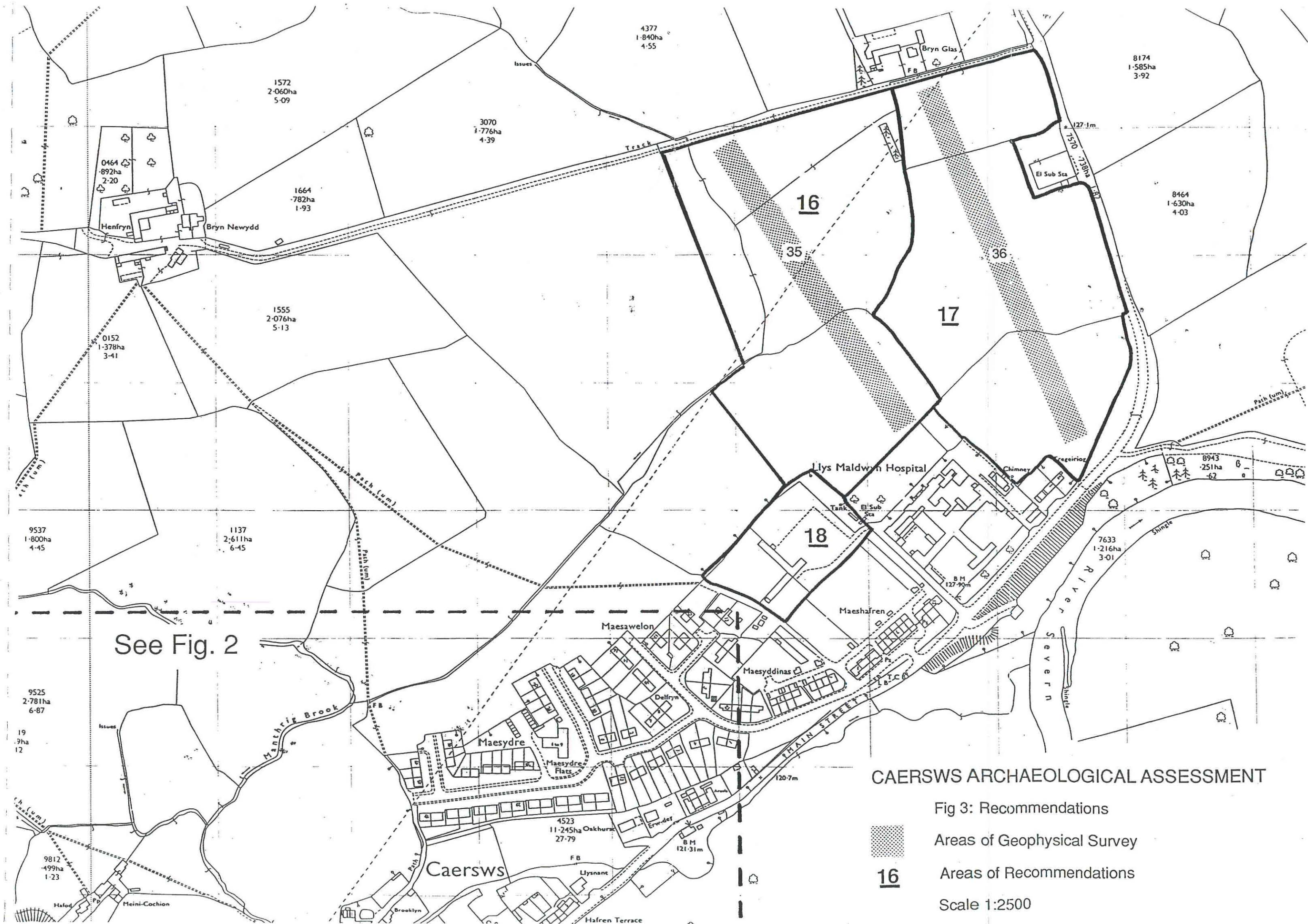


CAERSWS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Fig 1: Roman Caersws and excavations

Scale 1:2500





CAERSWS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Fig 3: Recommendations



Areas of Geophysical Survey

16

Areas of Recommendations

Scale 1:2500