

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

*Gelli to Mostyn Gas Pipeline*  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT STAGE 1

CPAT Report No 232

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*Gelli to Mostyn Gas Pipeline*  
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**N.W.Jones and W.G.Owen**  
July 1997

Report for British Gas Transco

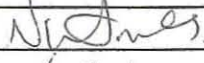
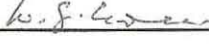
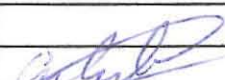
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## CPAT Report Record

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Proposals by British Gas Transco for an intermediate pressure gas pipeline from Gelli to Mostyn involve a pipeline corridor 18m wide and c. 3.5km in length.
- 1.2 The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting in their capacity as archaeological advisors to British Gas Transco, 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 AAB 220, dated 13th June 1997) which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.
- 1.3 The Brief outlined a four stage archaeological investigation, the first stage of which is dealt with in the present report, consisting of a detailed desk top survey together with a field walked survey of the proposed pipeline corridor. The subsequent report should present the results of the Stage 1 Assessment and provide a summary of the overall implications of the scheme, together with broad recommendations and mitigation measures concerning the archaeological resource.
- 1.4 The Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was invited by British Gas Transco in July 1997 to prepare a specification and quotation to undertake the assessment. This was subsequently accepted and the assessment was undertaken between July 4th and 11th 1997.

## 2 LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The proposed pipeline (fig. 1) runs from an existing gas main at Gelli Uchaf (SJ 12627829) to the industrial estate at Mostyn (SJ 16208057). The corridor crosses enclosed farmland on land sloping generally to the north-east, towards the Dee Estuary at Mostyn. In general, the route follows close to existing roads although several sections run across fields.

## 3 DESK TOP SURVEY (fig. 2)

- 3.1 The survey will involved the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary records relating to the proposed pipeline corridor, including documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic sources. Archives and repositories visited included the following: County Sites & Monuments Record, Curatorial Section, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool; the National Library of Wales (NLW), Aberystwyth; National Monuments Record (NMR), RCAHMW, Aberystwyth; County Records Office Hawarden (CROH).

### 3.2 Known Archaeological Sites

- 3.2.1 A consultation of the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), held by the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, revealed several known sites close to the proposed pipeline corridor, as follows:

PRN 15637 Tre Mostyn 'Nova Villa' Medieval settlement (SJ 14107970). Possible house platforms/planned formal garden features.

PRN 18243 Whitford Lead Mine (SJ 13007880). Several shafts are still visible in the vicinity of the corridor, and an adit level is recorded south of Plas-Uchaf, driven towards Buarth-y-wacco.

PRN 102328 Maen Achwyfan Cross (SJ 12887876). Monolithic slab cross 3.4m high with small disk head and tapering shaft, dated to around 1000 AD. Scheduled Ancient Monument

PRN 102338 Pen yr allt tumulus A (SJ 12717888). Irregular mound 25 x 15m and 2m high. Scheduled Ancient Monument

PRN 102339 Pen yr allt tumulus B (SJ 12567897). 40m diameter and 2.5m high. Scheduled Ancient Monument



PRN 102340 Pen yr allt tumulus C (SJ 12547882). 24m diameter and 0.5m high. Scheduled Ancient Monument

PRN 102341 Gelli Fawr Medieval Grange (SJ 12787816). A document of 1544 (CROH D/GW/1608) refers to a house called Plas Newyth and the house and lands belonging to the suppressed priory of the Blackfreres in Ruthlan, a grange called the Gelthie granng late of the monastery of Basyngwark.

PRN 102777 Plas Uchaf House (SJ 13897925), dated 1603.

PRN 103672 Mostyn Quay Foundry (Site of) (SJ 16058050).

### 3.3 Cartographic and Documentary Sources

3.3.1 The earliest map available for the study area was a Map of Mostyn Estates dated 1742 (fig. 3; CROH D/M/5248). This shows that much of the area was part of the Mostyn Estate and gives field names and some additional detail. However, no sites of archaeological significance were noted along the corridor.

3.3.2 A map of Mostyn Pits by John Foulkes in 1751 (CROH D/M/5139) names two pits in Rhewl Mostyn: Broson Pit (Site 1; SJ 15858034) and Red Pit (Site 2; SJ 15928027), although the accuracy of their location is uncertain. A later map of Mostyn Coal Pits in the same collection, this time by John Farey in 1814 (CROH D/M/5139), shows a number of coal shafts close to the Alternative Route south of Rhewl Mostyn. As the accuracy of the map is uncertain, the precise location of the shafts is unknown, with the exception of one called Geo. Dobson's Pit at SJ 15428014 (Site 3). The map also shows the Rock Level (Site 4) running south-east from SJ 15908013 to SJ 16178037, close to the pipeline corridor, a series of cannel coal pits (Site 5), a series of claypits (now pools) at SJ 15258030 (Site 6), as well as an old Turnpike House (Site 7) at SJ 15988035. A second Toll House (Site 8) is shown on a map of Turnpikes dated 1832 at SJ 13907915.

3.3.3 The Ordnance Survey surveyors original drawings (fig. 4; NLW 343) dated 1834-5 show only Maen Achwyfan, although they do indicate the original coastline prior to the enclosure of the salt marshes and the construction of the railway, which was completed in 1849. The 1st Edition 6" (fig. 5), published in 1878, shows the revised coastline with Bridge Pit colliery and shaft (Site 9) situated on the reclaimed land between the railway and the Dee Estuary (SJ 16258045). The development of this area along the Estuary is further illustrated by the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25" (Flintshire 2.16) of 1871 and the 2nd Edition of 1899 (figs 6 and 7). The 1st Edition (Flintshire 5.3) also shows a building (Site 10) at SJ 13307905 with associated drive and field boundaries which does not survive today.

3.3.4 The Whitford Enclosure map of 1807 (CROH QS/DE/13) did not include the study area.

3.3.5 The Whitford Tithe Survey of 1849 and Apportionment of 1846 (fig. 8; CROH P/69/1/63-4), provides an indication of landuse along the pipeline corridor, although it does not indicate the presence of any archaeological sites. Where the corridor crosses open land, it would appear that the landuse was much as exists today, being mostly pasture with some arable and woodland.

3.3.6 The modern editions of the Ordnance Survey show several other mine shafts within the vicinity (Sites 12-14).

### 3.4 Aerial Photographic Sources

3.4.1 Vertical aerial photographs held at the NMR included coverage from the RAF in 1947 and the Ordnance Survey in 1989. Following close inspection of the photographs both individually and as stereo pairs, only one possible site could be determined. This was a roughly rectangular feature (Site 11) seen in pasture at SJ 14657990. The feature measures c. 85 x 6+0m and appears as a light parch-type mark. However, the photograph (CPE/UK/1996/2130) was taken in April which is not normally a time when such parch marks would occur, possibly casting some doubt on the archaeological nature of the feature.

## 4 FIELD WALKED SURVEY

4.1 A systematic field walked survey of the proposed pipeline corridor was undertaken on July 9th 1997, using the results from the Desktop Survey to check the condition of known archaeological sites as well as examining the area for previously unrecorded sites.



- 4.2 The building at Buarth-y-wacco (Site 10), shown on the 1st edition, was seen to survive as two linear banks, one aligned SW-NE (10.0 x 3.5m) and the other aligned SE-NW (11.0 x 3.5m), with no distinct internal features.
- 4.3 In addition to the shafts noted during the desk top survey, several more shafts, all presumably for coal, were identified within the area (Sites 17-20), of which Site 17 would appear to lie directly on the line of the Alternative Route. A further area of mine workings (Site 16) contained two possible narrow tramways.
- 4.4 The only other site identified was a lynchet (Site 15), running roughly NE-SW, presumably a former field boundary, possibly for tipping spoil.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The results from the Stage 1 Assessment would suggest that the proposed pipeline will have a limited affect on the known archaeological resource. Although the corridor passes close to a number of sites, few that still survive would appear to be directly affected. However, there always remains the possibility that unrecorded subsurface archaeology may exist along the corridor route which it was not possible to identify as part of the Stage 1 Assessment.
- 5.2 Several sites are of potential significance to the corridor route since there may be associated sites which are at present unrecorded, but which may be revealed during the scheme. At the eastern end of the corridor, the pipeline passes within 30m of Maen Achwyfan cross (PRN 102328), with a group of three tumuli (PRNs 102338-40) and several disused mine shafts also in the immediate area, although not directly affected.
- 5.3 At Buarth-y-wacco the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey of 1871 shows a building (Site 10), which survives only as earthworks, together with a drive and field boundaries. On the opposite side of the road a further lead mining remains. To the east of Tre Mostyn, at SJ 14657990, a rectangular cropmark (Site 11) was identified close to the pipeline corridor, although its nature remains uncertain.
- 5.4 To the east of SJ 153802 the preferred route runs along the road through Rhewl Mostyn until it crosses the railway and enters the Industrial Estate. Although an old Turnpike House (Site 6) is thought to have stood at the road junction, it would seem unlikely that any remains still survive. Within the Industrial Estate the pipeline crosses the site of the Bridge Pit Colliery (Site 8), although the area has now been levelled and developed so that little if any archaeology is likely to survive.
- 5.5 The Alternative Route to the south of Rhewl Mostyn would be likely to have a much greater impact on the archaeological resource than if the pipeline were routed along the road. The Alternative Route runs largely across farmland but in an area exploited for coal during the 18th and 19th centuries. Although the location of some shafts was indicated by two plans, their accuracy is uncertain and it is quite possible that further shafts existed which were not recorded by the two surveys. The Field Walked Survey revealed that several shafts and areas of mining activity still survive as earthworks (Sites 3, 5 and 16-20), and the likelihood is that further shafts exist for which there is now no surface trace.
- 5.6 The close proximity of the above sites to the pipeline corridor means that a mitigation strategy is advised to deal with the potential for unrecorded subsurface archaeology and to ensure the protection of the recorded sites. An archaeological watching brief should be considered during the topsoil stripping to identify any previously unrecorded archaeological sites, with provision for adequate recording and excavation as necessary. This may be of particular relevance should the Alternative Route be adopted to the south of Rhewl Mostyn due to the proximity of numerous coal shafts.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writers would like to thank the staff at the following for their assistance: County Records Office, Hawarden; National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. Thanks are also due to the various landowners for allowing access for the Field Walked Survey.

## 7 SOURCES

### Flintshire County Records Office Hawarden

D/M/5248	Map of Mostyn Estates 1742
NT/M/135	Map of Manor of Mostyn 1743
D/M/5139	Map of Mostyn Pits 1751
D/M/5139	Map of Coal Pits 1814
NT/M/136	Map of Manor of Mostyn 1816
P/69/1/63	Whitford Tithe Apportionment 1846
P/69/1/64	Whitford Tithe Survey 1849
QS/DE/13	Whitford Enclosure Map 1807
D/DM/223/149	Map of Turnpikes 1832
D/DM/100/9	Plans and sections of Mostyn Collieries
D/DM/100/2	Plan and section of Eyton colliery
D/DM/315/1	Plans and sections of collieries c. 1850
D/DM/359/1-3	Plans of Mostyn Colliery and Ironworks 1870-1901
D/DM/255/26	Plan of Mostyn Colliery and Ironworks 1879
D/DM/274/62-3	Plan of railway and sidings
D/DM/969/65-8	Sale plans of Mostyn Estates 1912-20

### National Library of Wales

#### Ordnance Survey surveys original drawings

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6"

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25" Flintshire 2.16, 5.3, 5.4, 5.7

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25" Flintshire 2.16, 5.3, 5.4, 5.7

### National Monuments Record Aerial Photograph Collection

#### RAF Verticals

CPE/UK/2471/3315

CPE/UK/2471/4313

CPE/UK/1996/1128

CPE/UK/1996/2124

CPE/UK/1996/2130-32

CPE/UK/1996/4138

#### Ordnance Survey Verticals

89-287-030

89-287-038-9



## APPENDIX 1

## GAZETTEER OF SITES

## Previously Recorded Sites

PRN 15637	Tre Mostyn 'Nova Villa' Medieval settlement	SJ 14107970
PRN 18243	Whitford Lead Mine	SJ 13007880
PRN 102328	Maen Achwyfan Cross	SJ 12887876
PRN 102338	Pen yr allt tumulus A	SJ 12717888
PRN 102339	Pen yr allt tumulus B	SJ 12567897
PRN 102340	Pen yr allt tumulus C	SJ 12547882
PRN 102341	Gelli Fawr Medieval Grange	SJ 12787816
PRN 102777	Plas Uchaf House	SJ 13897925
PRN 103672	Mostyn Quay Foundry (Site of)	SJ 16058050

## Sites revealed during Stage 1 Assessment

Site 1	Broson Pit (coal)	SJ 15858034
Site 2	Red Pit (coal)	SJ 15928027
Site 3	Geo. Dobson's Pit (coal)	SJ 15428014
Site 4	Rock Level (coal)	SJ 15908013 to SJ 16178037
Site 5	Rhewl Mostyn cannel coal pits	SJ 15358018
Site 6	Rhewl Mostyn Clay Pits	SJ 15258030
Site 7	Rhewl Mostyn Turnpike House (site of)	SJ 15988035
Site 8	Plas Uchaf Toll House	SJ 13907915
Site 9	Bridge Pit (coal)	SJ 16258045
Site 10	Buarth-y-wacco building	SJ 13307905
Site 11	Tre Mostyn Cropmark	SJ 14657990
Site 12	Rhewl Mostyn Shaft 1 (coal)	SJ 15488038
Site 13	Rhewl Mostyn Shaft 2 (coal)	SJ 15558045
Site 14	Rhewl Mostyn Shaft 3 (coal)	SJ 15708040
Site 15	Rhewl Mostyn boundary bank	SJ 15558015
Site 16		
Site 17	Rhewl Mostyn Shaft 4 (coal)	SJ 15848011
Site 18	Rhewl Mostyn Shaft 5 (coal)	SJ 15948010
Site 19	Rhewl Mostyn Shaft 6 (coal)	SJ 16028025
Site 20	Rhewl Mostyn Shaft 7 (coal)	SJ 15958017

## APPENDIX 2

### GELLI-MOSTYN INTERMEDIATE PRESSURE GAS PIPELINE SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development involves the construction of a new 3.5km length of gas pipeline on land between Gelli Ucha (SJ12627829) and Mostyn (SJ 16208057).
- 1.2 This area lies in generally pasture fields in open ground avoiding existing road corridors except through Rhewl-Mostyn. Several archaeological sites have been recorded on or close to the proposed route and these are detailed in the Curatorial brief.
- 1.3 The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in their capacity as archaeological advisers to BG Transco have determined that an Archaeological Desk-top 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 AAB 220, dated 13th June 1997) which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

#### 2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the evaluation are:
  - 2.1.1 to reveal by desk-based assessment, the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of the archaeology within the area of the proposed development in so far as these aims are possible;
  - 2.1.2 to prepare a report outlining the results of the assessment, to identify areas where desk-top assessment alone cannot provide sufficient information and make recommendations for further work or mitigatory measures;
  - 2.1.3 to incorporate sufficient information on the archaeological resource for a reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the area affected by the proposed development;
  - 2.1.4 to identify and make broad recommendations for the management of the archaeological resource, including any further provision for that resource where it is considered necessary.

#### 3 Methods

- 3.1 The assessment will be carried out according to the guidelines in the *IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Studies* and will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary records relating to this part of the town, including documentary and cartographic sources. Archives and repositories will include the County Sites & Monuments Record, the national Library of Wales, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth, and the Rhuthin and Hawarden Record Offices. Borehole and test-pit data will be requested from the developers where appropriate.
- 3.2 The assessment will be supported by a field-walked survey to determine the state of the identified archaeology and the presence of other sites not identified from the documentary sources and to make a photographic record of the area.
- 3.3 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Curatorial Brief (p 3-4). 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 and finds.

- 3.5 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 who will also be responsible for undertaking the desk-based assessment. Overall supervision will be by Dr A Gibson, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.2 All report preparation will be completed by the same field archaeologist who conducted the assessment.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the assessment and evaluation will take no more than ten 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.

A.M. Gibson  
Projects manager





Fig. 1 Location. 1:50,000











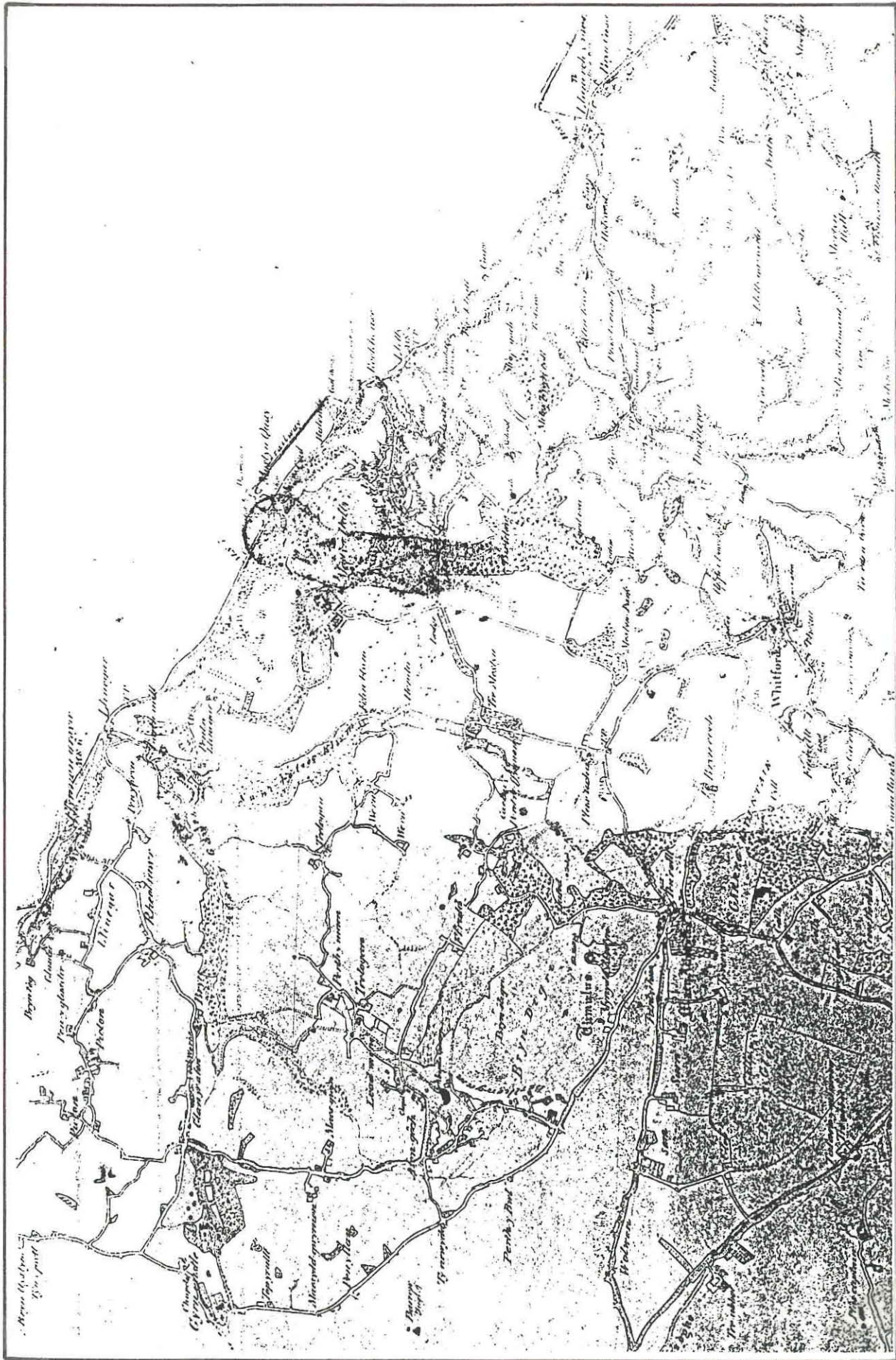


Fig. 4 Ordnance Survey surveyors drawings 1834-5



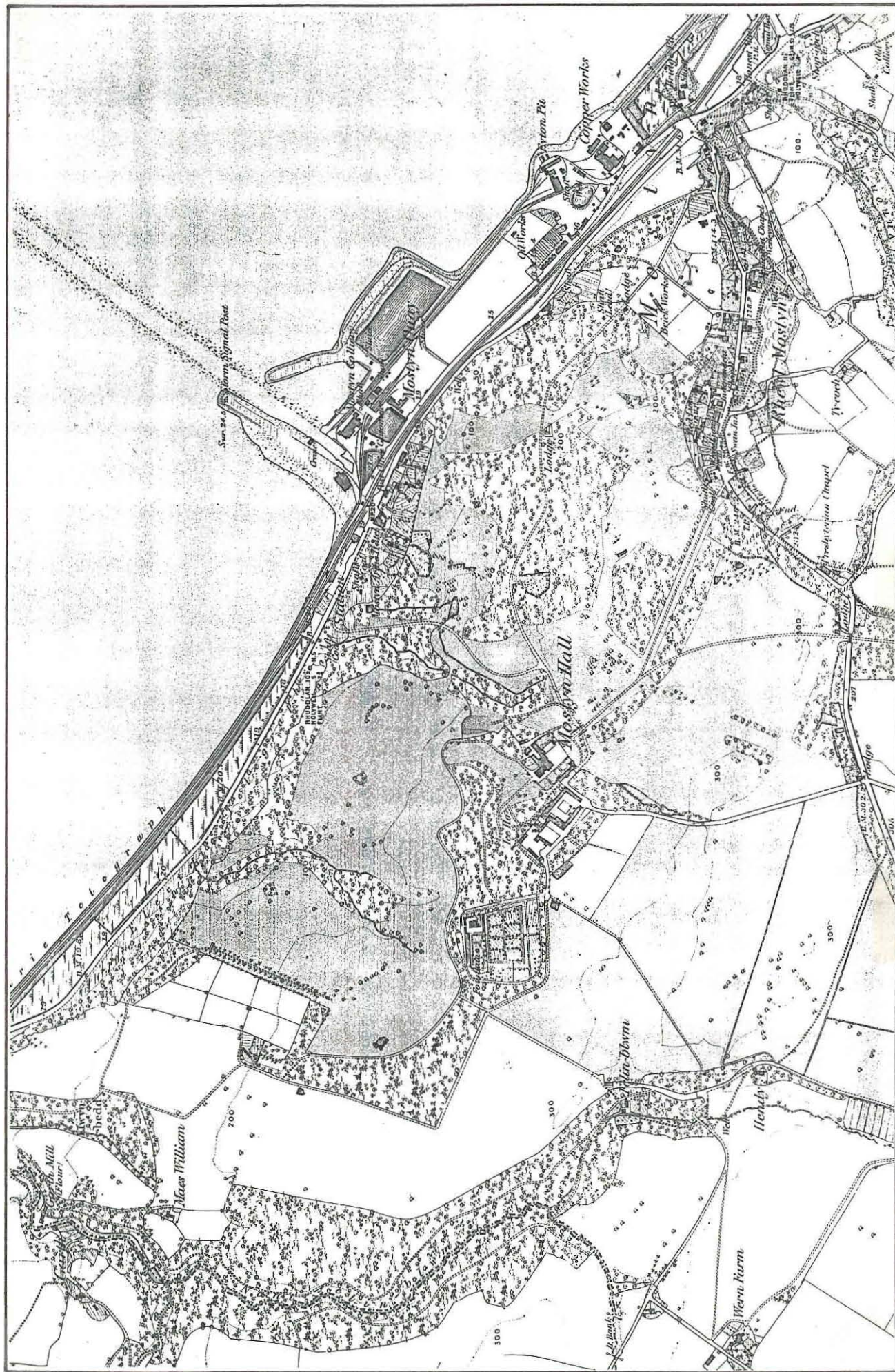


Fig. 5 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6" 1878



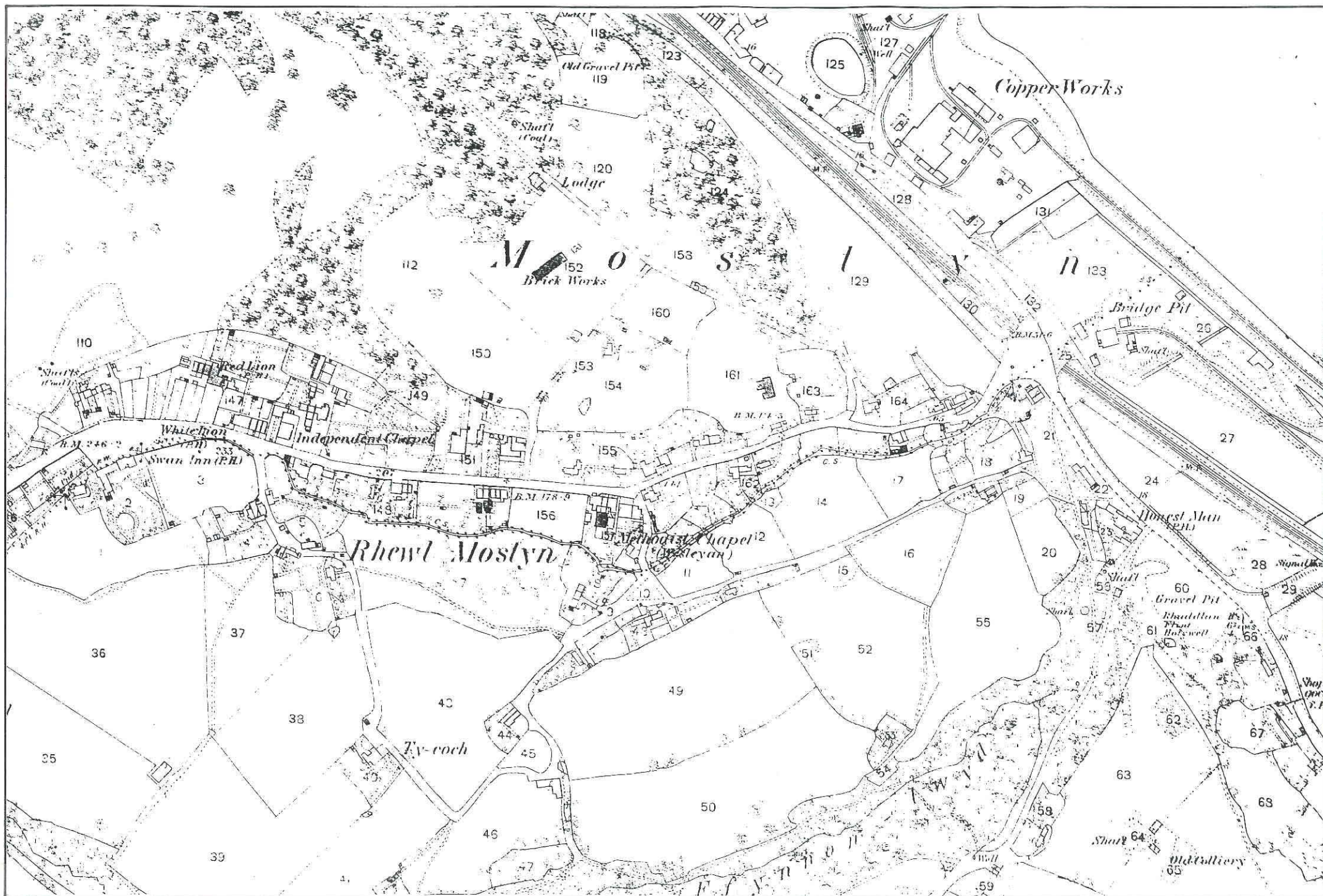


Fig. 6 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25" Flintshire 2.16, 1871







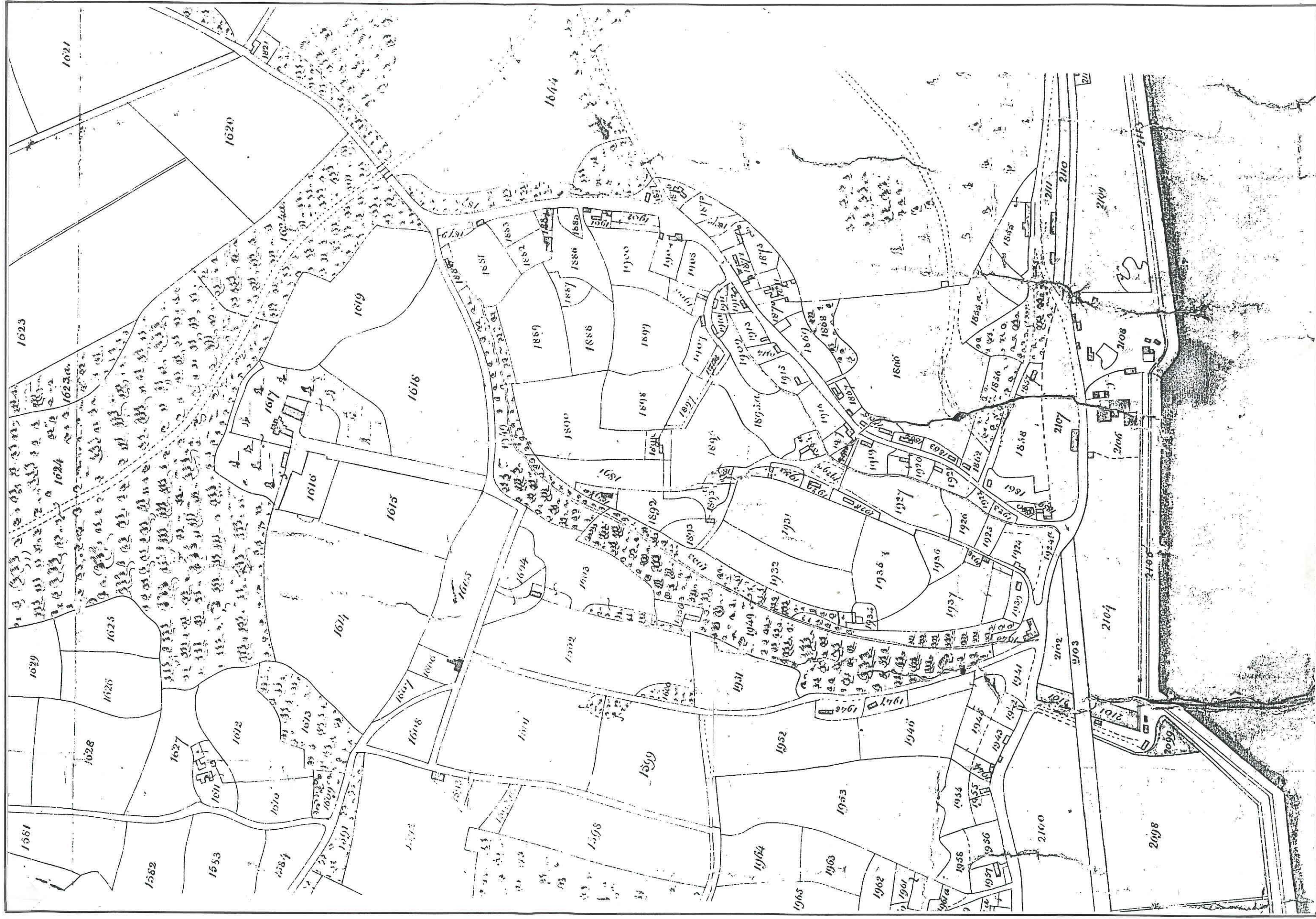


Fig. 8 Whitford Tithe Survey 1849