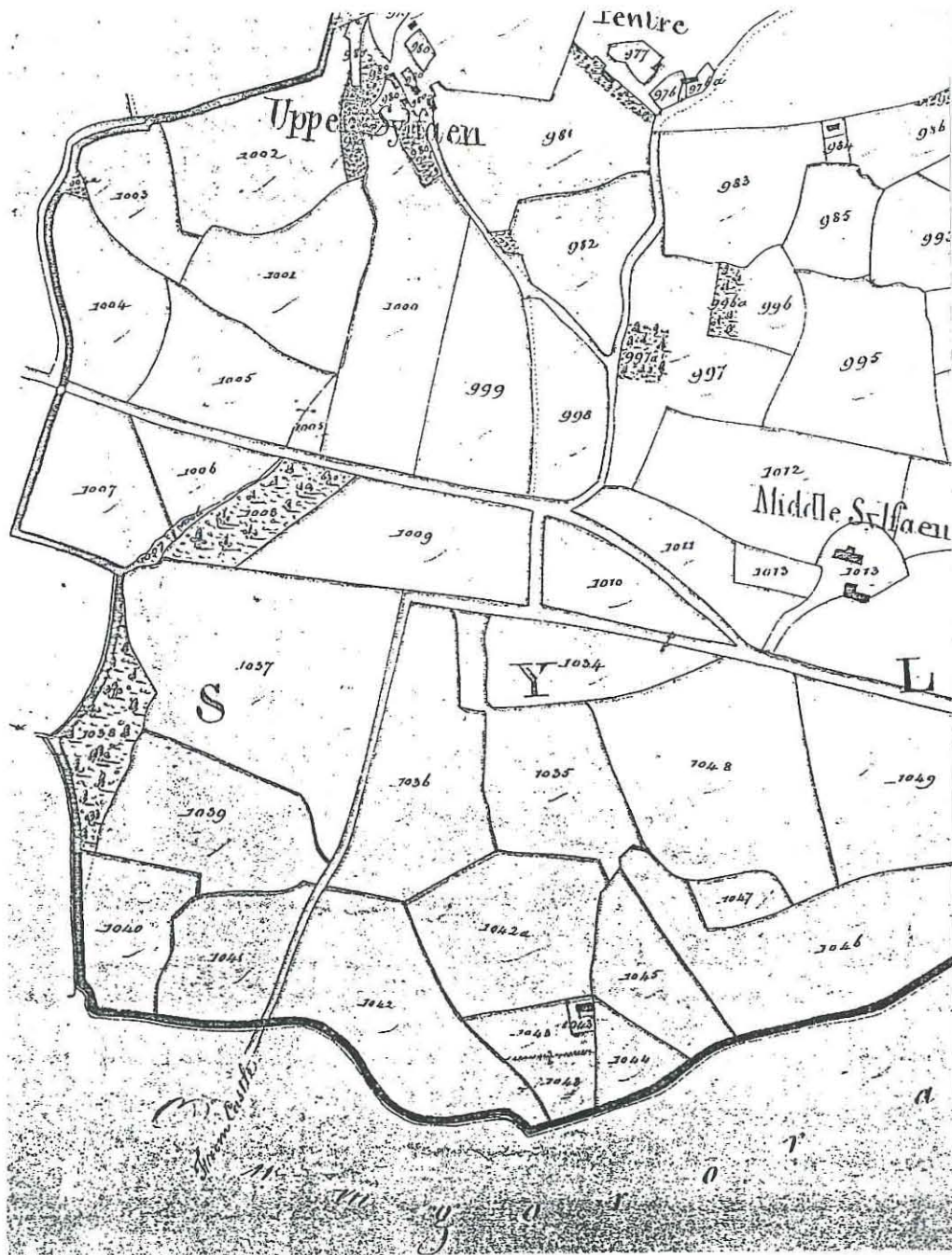


A458 Shrewsbury to Dolgellau Trunk Road, Sylfaen to Cyfronydd Improvement

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

*A458 Shrewsbury to Dolgellau Trunk
Road, Sylfaen to Cyfronydd Improvement*
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CPAT Report No 304

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February 1999

Report for Powys County Council, Engineering Consultancy Services

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 1998 the Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was invited by Powys County Council Engineering Consultancy Services to tender for an archaeological assessment of the proposed A458 road improvement between Cyfronydd and Middle Sylfaen, Powys. The tender was accepted on 14th January 1999 and the assessment undertaken shortly thereafter.
- 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 as part of the Stage 1 Environmental Impact Assessment, to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Accordingly a Brief (No ASB 288 dated 27 October 1998) was prepared by M.J.Walters which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.
- 1.3 The Brief indicated that a number of known sites lie either within or close to the proposed road improvement corridor, including a possible Roman road. It has been assumed that preserved archaeological deposits related to the known sites and any previously unrecorded sites may be partially or wholly disturbed by the development.

2 GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposal to improve the A458 to the west of Welshpool involves a three- mile section between Cyfronydd (SJ14450712) and Middle Sylfaen (SJ17190648). The corridor within which the assessment was carried out was approximately 125m wide, although sites of archaeological significance lying immediately adjacent to the corridor were also included in the study.
- 2.2 Topographically, the area is predominantly gently undulating land which is almost entirely pasture. In general, the land has been well cultivated, with pasture subject to periodic ploughing and reseeded.
- 2.3 The geology underlying the corridor is drift derived from Palaeozoic mudstones and siltstones (BGS Geological Map of Wales 1994). The soils deriving from the drift are predominantly slowly permeable fine silts or clays of the Cegin Association (Rudeforth et al 1984).
- 2.4 Evidence from borehole data provided by Powys County Council suggests that in general the topsoil is between 0.2 and 0.4m thick, lying directly above the subsoil which is largely clay, or silty clay. There is no evidence to suggest that any areas might be of significance regarding palaeoenvironmental remains.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The Curatorial Brief specified two elements to the Assessment, consisting firstly of a desk-top study and secondly a walkover survey of the route corridor. The desk-top study involved the examination of all readily available primary and secondary records relating to the corridor, including documentary, cartographic, pictorial, aerial and ground photographic and oral sources. Archives and repositories included: County Sites and Monuments Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust; National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; National Monuments Record, Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth. Consultation with Powys County Archives Office, Llandrindod Wells, indicated that they had no relevant sources not already examined at the National Library of Wales.
- 3.2 The aerial photographic collection held by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was thoroughly examined with a view to rectifying suitable photos using AutoCAD12. The collection held by RCAHMW was also examined although this revealed no archaeological evidence for the route corridor.
- 3.3 Following the completion of the desk-top study, a walkover survey of the proposed road improvement corridor was undertaken.

3.4 The archaeological sites revealed by the desk-top study and walkover survey are presented in the gazetteer of sites (Appendix 1) and are marked on Figs 2 and 3. The gazetteer has been produced from a database constructed using fields compatible with the Regional SMR. Included in the location and descriptive data for each site in the gazetteer is a designation of the site's perceived importance. The methodology used for assigning importance follows the guidelines set out in section 4.7.3 of Cadw's draft *Archaeology and the Trunk Road Programme in Wales: a Manual of Best Practice*. The criteria applied to the designation are described below:

- A Sites designated as being of national importance which meet the criteria for scheduling or listing. It is presumed that sites in this category will be preserved and protected in situ.
- B Sites of regional or county importance which do not meet the criteria for scheduling or listing, but which are nevertheless of particular importance within the region. Preservation in situ is the preferred option for these sites, but if loss or damage is unavoidable, appropriate detailed recording will be undertaken.
- C Sites of district or local importance which are not of sufficient importance to justify preservation if threatened, but which merit adequate recording in advance of loss or damage.
- D Minor and damaged sites which do not merit inclusion in a higher category, for which rapid recording should be sufficient.
- E Sites whose importance could not be fully determined from the desk-top assessment and field search. These sites would need to be subjected to evaluation in the following stage of work if it is envisaged that they will be disturbed by the proposed scheme of road improvements, in order that they can be assigned to Categories A-D.
- F Recorded sites for which no traces remain extant.

4 DESK-TOP STUDY

4.1 A search of the Regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) revealed a total of seven sites within the general area of the road corridor, of which only two actually lay within the corridor itself. The following summary of the archaeological resource draws on information from the SMR, the desktop study and the field survey.

Prehistoric Period

4.2 Known prehistoric activity within the improvement corridor is evidenced by two possible cropmark enclosures. Both are only known from aerial reconnaissance and were plotted from oblique aerial photographs using AutoCAD12. The resulting plots are included in figs 2 and 3. The Hydan Cottages Cropmark (PRN 5060), which lies within 25m of the road corridor, consists of double ditches defining the south and western sides of a probable enclosure which has shown as a positive cropmark in grass. The full extent of the site is not known and may extend into the route corridor. The Sylfaen Enclosure (PRN 4942) lies within the road corridor at its eastern end. The site is not well defined, showing as a positive cropmark in grass within an area complicated by vehicle tracks and possible crop spraying. The cropmarks suggest an inner rectilinear enclosure, with only parts of the north and west sides visible, together with a possible outer polygonal enclosure which may have double ditches along the western side and a broad single ditch to the north.

Roman Period

4.3 Roman activity in the immediate area of the road improvement corridor consists of a possible Roman road (PRNs 17865-7; plates 1 and 2) which runs west from Sylfaen (SJ175065) in a more or less straight line towards Dolarddyn (SJ155063), presumably heading for Gibbet Hill Roman fortlet to the south of Llanfair Caereinion. Cartographic evidence in the form of the Ordnance Survey Surveyors' drawings of 1817 (fig. 4), and a Powis Castle Archive enclosure map of 1818, show the road line as an extant highway which suggests that a stone culvert (PRN 101; plate 10), previously identified as being associated with the Roman road, is perhaps more likely to be of post-medieval date. However, the general line of the road, which is much straighter than any other roads within the area, may be respecting the line of a Roman road, although any visible surface traces would be most likely post-medieval in date.

Medieval Period

- 4.4 There are no known sites of medieval date within or immediately adjacent to the road corridor. However, the general area was certainly settled and cultivated at that time and it would seem likely that the present pattern of settlement, roads and field boundaries has its origins in the medieval period.

Post-Medieval and Modern Periods

- 4.5 There is considerable cartographic evidence relating to the area during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The only recorded site of post-medieval date is Middle Sylfaen Farmhouse (PRN 30759; plate 12), a grade II listed building dating to around 1630, which lies outside the road corridor.
- 4.6 The earliest available map for the area is a general map dating from 1809-10 of the manor of Caereinion Iscoed derived from an enclosure award. Apart from depicting extant roads this shows little detail relevant to the present study area.
- 4.7 Enclosure maps other than the one noted above also depict extant roads but again little detail relating to field boundaries or any potential archaeological sites.
- 4.8 The Ordnance Survey Surveyors' drawings for this area were prepared in two parts, surveyed in 1817 with further work in 1829-30 (figs 4-5). They depict the straight road running from Sylfaen to Dolarddyn, following the possible Roman road (PRNs 17865-7), as an extant highway. They also identify by name Middle Sylfaen (PRN 30759), as Sylfan, and Hydan Fach (site 4).
- 4.9 The Tithe survey of Castle Caereinion parish, dated 1839, provides much useful information regarding the field patterns and landuse at that time. Middle Sylfaen (PRN 30759) and Hydan Cottages (site 3; plate 6) are shown, as is Hydan Fach (site 4; plate 8), which appears as Halfway House. The alignment of the present A458 can be clearly identified, although by this date the road from Sylfaen to Dolarddyn has ceased to exist, surviving only as a series of field boundaries. Those field boundaries which have been removed since 1839 are depicted on figs 2 and 3.
- 4.10 Field names given in the tithe apportionments are generally descriptive referring to such aspects as location, agricultural use, shape or size. A few relate to structures either within them or close by. Examples of these include:
- Field 601 to the east of Dolarddyn is called 'Brick Field' (site 7) which could possibly refer to brick manufacture in the locality. If so, no structural or other remains were noted during the fieldwalk survey.
- Field 671 'Field adjoining turnpike', indicating that the field was adjacent to the road. Reference to the existence of the turnpike road is made in the 1769 Turnpikes Act as 'the road from Pool by Dolarddyn' (Howell 1876).
- Field 641 called 'Barn Field' and the adjacent Field 644, called 'Close by barn' clearly refer to the presence of a barn. No structural remains or building platform were noted during the walkover survey. Fields 1010 and 1011, 'Big quarry field' (site 12) and 'Little quarry field' (site 13) respectively. No visible remains are evident in either field.
- 4.11 The Ordnance Survey provides the most detailed cartographic evidence for the area, commencing with the Surveyors' drawings (see above), although the most detailed surveys relate to the 25" series surveyed between 1884-5. The 1st edition 6", published 1890-6, and 2nd edition published 1902-3 (see figs 8-11) show three milestones along the corridor route (sites 1, 6 and 10), of which only two survive (plate 5 and 9), the one at Sylfaen (site 10) having been lost. By this time Hydan Fach (site 4) has become known as the Cyfronydd Arms Public House. Other details indicate that in general the area has changed little since the 2nd edition was prepared. The cartographic evidence does, however, clearly show the gradual loss of field boundaries within the area as small fields became amalgamated into larger ones. The loss of field boundaries since 1839 is depicted on figs 2-3, although boundaries have only been assigned a site number in the gazetteer if there is still some surviving earthwork evidence for the boundary.
- 4.12 The extreme eastern end of the corridor includes a short section of the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway at Sylfaen Halt. This narrow-gauge railway was opened in 1903, when it was worked by Cambrian Railways and used mainly for the transport of agricultural goods. In 1923 it was acquired by GWR who operated it for eight years before it was closed for passengers in 1931 and for freight in 1956. It was reopened by a private consortium in 1963 and is still running at present.

5 FIELDWALK SURVEY

- 5.1 The fieldwalk survey was undertaken in early February 1999, covering the entire road corridor. This was carried out using transect walking techniques at a nominal separation of 30m. Each site identified during the desk-top study was visited, and those which survived, together with any new sites, were recorded on standard CPAT Site Visit Forms, located as accurately as possible on modern Ordnance Survey maps and photographed in colour slide, black and white print, and colour print formats.
- 5.2 The existing line of the A458 shows signs of minor realignment, presumably carried out during this century, at SJ143077 and SJ168066, while some improvements may well have been made to the road between Middle and Lower Sylfaen which could account for the loss of the milestone (site 10). Two other milestones survive at SJ14700760 and SJ15730659 (sites 1 and 6 respectively), although both have been damaged.
- 5.3 No features were noted within the corridor which could have related to the supposed line of the Roman road (PRNS 17865-7). The culvert (PRN 101), reported to be of Roman origin (Rigg & Toller 1983) was visited and is clearly of much later date.
- 5.4 Of the field boundaries lost since the Tithe survey of 1839, only one had any earthwork remains (site 8; fig 7), surviving as a line of three small trees with a slight ditch.
- 5.5 The lines of two former holloways were noted within the corridor. Site 9 (plate 11) survives within the corridor as a short metalled lane to the south of the A458 at SJ16750655. To the north of the corridor it survives as an earthwork with a hedged boundary to the west. The remains of the holloway (site 2) at Hydan Cottages (site 3) is within the corridor and survives as a feature c. 4m wide and 1.5m deep.
- 5.6 In the field to the SE of Hydan Cottages two distinct lynchets (site 5; plate 8) are visible. These are aligned NW-SE and terminate at their SE end at a former field boundary.
- 5.7 Three extant houses and buildings are located either within or close to the corridor. These are Hydan Cottages (site 3), Hydan Fach (site 4) and Middle Sylfaen (PRN30759).

6 RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES

- 6.1 No statutorily protected monuments are present within the defined road improvement corridor, although Middle Sylfaen, a grade II listed building, lies outside the corridor to the north.
- 6.2 The mitigation measures thought necessary for the recorded archaeological sites in the improvement corridor are detailed below. For location and descriptive data on each site, refer to the gazetteer of archaeological sites (Appendix 1).
- 6.3 **PRN 4942 Sylfaen Enclosure**
The site lies within the corridor and it would presumably be affected by the proposed scheme. Although the aerial photographic evidence suggests an enclosure, the quality of the cropmarks is insufficient to determine clearly the form or date of the enclosure. It is therefore considered appropriate to undertake a geophysical survey of the area, followed by limited trial excavations in order to determine more clearly the nature, extent and significance of the site.
- 6.4 **PRN 5060 Hydan Cottages Cropmark**
Although the enclosure lies outside the route corridor it is possible that the site, or associated buried features, may extend into the corridor. It is therefore considered appropriate to undertake a geophysical survey of the adjacent area, possibly followed by limited trial excavations in order to determine more clearly the nature, extent and significance of the site. It would also be appropriate for the site to be clearly demarcated prior to any groundworks commencing.
- 6.5 **Site 1 Cyfronydd Milestone**
The milestone should be retained in its existing position if possible, but failing this should be carefully removed and stored to be re-erected in an appropriate location as close to its original position as possible.
- 6.6 **Site 6 Dolarddyn Milestone**

The milestone should be retained in its existing position if possible, but failing this it should be carefully removed and stored to be re-erected in an appropriate location as close to its original position as possible.

6.7 PRN 17865-7 Sylfaen to Dolarddyn Roman Road

There is a possibility that the existing A458 at Sylfaen, together with the side road branching to Castle Caereinion, may be respecting the alignment of a Roman road. As this lies beneath existing highways no trial excavation is possible to determine this hypothesis prior to works commencing. It is therefore recommended that a detailed watching brief be maintained along the affected section to record any relevant evidence which may be revealed. It is also possible that this could reveal further information regarding the presumed post-medieval road (site 11) following this alignment.

6.8 It is assumed that the standing buildings of Hydan Fach (site 4) and Hydan Cottages (site 3) will not be affected by the road scheme, although if they were a programme of detailed building recording and possible excavation should be considered.

6.9 Surviving earthwork sites affected by the scheme include Hydan Cottages Holloway (site 2), Sylfaen Holloway (site 9), Hydan Fach Lynchets (site 5). Preservation by record is recommended for each of these sites, preferably consisting of a detailed earthwork survey of upstanding remain prior to ground works commencing, followed by a watching brief during ground works.

6.10 For those sites where little or no upstanding remains survive, a watching brief is considered sufficient mitigation to ensure preservation by record of any buried remains revealed by ground works. These sites include: Sylfaen Boundary Bank (site 8); Dolarddyn Brick Field (site 7); Middle Sylfaen Quarry 1 (site 12); Middle Sylfaen Quarry 2 (site 13); and those field boundaries lost since 1839 (see figs 2 and 3).

6.11 Those sites identified by the assessment should not be taken to be the total archaeological resource within the corridor as it is conceivable that further, presently unknown, sites may exist for which there is no surface or documentary evidence. For this reason a watching brief should be maintained during topsoil stripping along the whole corridor, and sufficient time should be allowed to record/excavate adequately any sites which may be revealed.

6.12 The above mitigation measures relate only to sites within or immediately adjacent to the route corridor as presently defined. Any changes to the corridor, together with the location of any site compounds or access tracks, the locations of which are presently unknown, may impact upon sites of archaeological significance not included within this assessment and a further stage of assessment may therefore be necessary in order to accommodate such eventualities.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The assessment has identified a total of 13 previously unrecorded sites which lie either within or immediately adjacent to the route corridor. In addition, the desk-top study and field survey have provided additional information regarding sites already recorded in the regional SMR.

7.2 Each site has been assessed for its archaeological significance and the potential effect which the scheme may have upon it and appropriate mitigation measures have been produced to minimise the impact of the scheme on the archaeological resource.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Rudeforth, CC, Hartnup, R, Lea, JW, Thompson, TRE, and Wright, PC, 1984, *Soils and their use in Wales*, Bulletin No 11. Harpenden: Soil Survey of England and Wales.

Cartographic sources

Powis Castle Archives

General map of the manor of Caereinion Iscoed 1809-10 (M45)

Map of Castle Caereinion parish 1862 (M85)

Enclosure map of manor of Caereinion Iscoed 1818 (M 112)

Enclosure map of Caereinion Iscoed 1826 (M115)

Enclosure map of Manor Teirtref 1816 (M116)

Tithe maps

A Map of Castle Caereinion Parish 1839-1840 (Four Parts)

Aerial photographic sources

CPAT oblique photographs

78-10-14 to 20

78-62-11

79-14-20 and 21

80-8-5 and 6

80-13-1

80-14-13

83-17-19

84-MB-107 and 108

Ordnance Survey vertical photographs, National Monuments Record, RCAHMW

Flight traces SJ00/10 (1983)

Photograph nos 087,088, 124, 125, 126, 148, 149, 191,192

RAF vertical photographs, RCAHMW

540/27 Nos 5014, 5015 (1947)

Other Photographic sources

Middle Sylfaen. Nos 0807-09, 0807-10, 791946-53

APPENDIX 1 - GAZETTEER OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

PRN/Site No	1	Name	Cyfronydd Milestone	NGR	SJ14700760
Category	B	Type	Milestone	Period	Post Medieval

Milestone surviving on verge along S side of road. Llanfair 3, Welshpool 5.

PRN/Site No	2	Name	Hydan Cottages Holloway	NGR	SJ15000720
Category	B	Type	Holloway	Period	Post Medieval

Remains of holloway surviving behind Hydan Cottages for a dist of c. 20m to E of house. c. 4m wide and 1.5m deep max. Formerly continued to Ty-n y Coed. Visible on OS surveyors' drawings.

PRN/Site No	3	Name	Hydan Cottages	NGR	SJ14980720
Category	B	Type	Building	Period	Post Medieval

Brick built from hand-made bricks. Earlier part of 19th century. Not shown on Tithe survey.

PRN/Site No	4	Name	Hydan Fach	NGR	SJ14980709
Category	B	Type	Building	Period	Post Medieval

Stone-built farm with outbuildings. Formerly a public house noted as Halfway House on Tithe Survey 1839 and as Cyfronydd Arms on OS 1st ed.

PRN/Site No	5	Name	Hydan Fach Lynchets	NGR	SJ15050705
Category	B	Type	Lynchets	Period	Post Medieval

Two parallel lynchets running NW-SE, terminating at old field boundary on SE side. c.5 to 6m wide and 0.3m high.

PRN/Site No	6	Name	Dolarddyn Milestone	NGR	SJ15730659
Category	B	Type	Milestone	Period	Post Medieval

Milestone surviving on N side of road, opposite Castle Caereinion junction. Llanfair 4, Welshpool 4.

PRN/Site No	7	Name	Dolarddyn brick field	NGR	SJ158064
Category	F	Type	Brick field	Period	Post Medieval

Field name from Tithe survey of 1839. Possibly relates to clay pits, or to actual brick works. No earthwork evidence for either.

PRN/Site No 8 **Name** Sylfaen boundary bank **NGR** SJ16620670
Category D **Type** Bank **Period** Post Medieval

Remains of field boundary consisting of very slight earthwork and line of three trees.

PRN/Site No 9 **Name** Sylfaen Holloway **NGR** SJ16720665
Category C **Type** Holloway **Period** Post Medieval

Remains of hollow way surviving in field to N of A458 sloping from N to S. Max 4m wide.

PRN/Site No 10 **Name** Sylfaen Milestone **NGR** SJ17300648
Category F **Type** Milestone **Period** Post Medieval

Milestone, now lost, formerly along roadside to W of Lower Sylfaen. Llanfair 5, Welshpool 3.

PRN/Site No 11 **Name** Sylfaen to Dolarddyn road **NGR** SJ16500642
Category C **Type** Road **Period** Post Medieval

Former highway shown on Ordnance Survey surveyors drawings of 1817 and 1829-30, but disused and surviving as field boundaries by Tithe survey of 1839. Line is very straight from Sylfaen to Dolarddyn and has previously been suggested as Roman road (PRNs 17865, 17866 and 17867). A culvert beneath the road (PRN 101) had also been suggested as Roman, but is certainly much later, probably post-medieval.

PRN/Site No 12 **Name** Middle Sylfaen Quarry 1 **NGR** SJ16900650
Category F **Type** Quarry **Period** Post Medieval

Field name, Big Quarry Field, in Tithe Survey 1839. No visible trace of any quarry remaining.

PRN/Site No 13 **Name** Middle Sylfaen Quarry 2 **NGR** SJ17000655
Category F **Type** Quarry **Period** Post Medieval

Field name, Little Quarry Field, in Tithe Survey 1839. No visible trace of any quarry remaining.

PRN/Site No 101 **Name** Sylfaen to Dolarddyn road Culvert **NGR** SJ16400642
Category C **Type** Bridge **Period** Post Medieval ?

Culvert taking old road line over brook, formerly identified as Roman, associated with possible Roman road PRNs 17865-7. N end 4 courses ashlar. S end one course boulders and 4 small ashlar. 3 rock cut steps in stream bed. Note OS 1972 inaccurate.

visit 3/2/99. Culvert is stone-built with large roof slabs and large basal coarse above which is small stone, all mortared. Certainly not of Roman date, but more likely post-medieval. Rock-cut steps are actually natural bedding. 1m high x 0.6m wide x 9m long.

PRN/Site No 4942 **Name** Sylfaen Enclosure **NGR** SJ17370642
Category E **Type** Enclosure **Period** Iron Age ?

Irregular 2 ditched enclosure some 80m NW-SE x 70m wide (max). Single ditched feature intersects SE corner (poss. second enclosure). No surface traces in main field but anomalies in pasture to S.

PRN/Site No 5060 **Name** Hydan Cottages Cropmarks **NGR** SJ14920718
Category E **Type** Enclosure complex ? **Period** Iron Age ?

Series of curvilinear cropmarks, two forming closed circuits. Possible series of one ditched enclosures.

PRN/Site No 17865 **Name** Middle Sylfaen Roman road I **NGR** SJ17250650
Category C **Type** Road **Period** Roman

Line of supposed Roman road seen as linear earthwork (agger) near Middle Sylfaen farm (Rigg & Toller 1983, 158-9). Surviving remains almost certainly relate to the road shown as an extant highway on the OS surveyors drawings of 1817-30, although it is possible that this post-medieval road followed the line of a Roman road.

PRN/Site No 17866 **Name** Middle Sylfaen Roman road II **NGR** SJ16400642
Category C **Type** Road **Period** Roman

Supposed line of Roman road in form of terrace c7m wide in field (Rigg and Toller 1983, 158-9). Surviving remains almost certainly relate to the road shown as an extant highway on the OS surveyors drawings of 1817-30, although it is possible that this post-medieval road followed the line of a Roman road.

PRN/Site No 17867 **Name** Dolarddyn Roman road I **NGR** SJ15950637
Category C **Type** Road **Period** Roman

Supposed line of Roman road consisting of cutting 11m wide and 0.5m deep and a length of bank (agger) 30m long, 11m wide, 0.2m high and a second stretch of agger west of Dolarddyn Farm - 45m long, 6m wide and 0.5m high (Rigg & Toller 1983, 158-9). Surviving remains almost certainly relate to the road shown as an extant highway on the OS surveyors drawings of 1817-30, although it is possible that this Post medieval road followed the line of a Roman road.

PRN/Site No 30759 **Name** Middle Sylfaen farmhouse **NGR** SJ17060648
Category A **Type** House **Period** Post Medieval

Listed building constructed c. 1630

APPENDIX 2

SYLFAEN TO CYFRONYDD ROAD IMPROVEMENT (A458) SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposal by Powys County Council Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency to improve the A458 to the west of Welshpool involves a 3 mile section between Cyfronydd (SJ14450712) and Middle Sylfaen (SJ17190648).
- 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 as part of the Stage 1 Environmental Impact Assessment, to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Accordingly a Brief (No ASB 288 dated 27 October 1998) has been prepared by M.J.Walters which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.
- 1.3 The Brief indicates that at present a number of known sites lie either within or close to the proposed road improvement corridor, including a possible Roman road. It is assumed that preserved archaeological deposits related to the known sites and any previously unrecorded sites may be partially or wholly disturbed by the development.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the evaluation are:
 - 2.1.1 to reveal by means of a combination of desk-based assessment and fieldwalked survey, 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 and incorporating sufficient information on the archaeological resource for a reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the area affected by the proposed development;
 - 2.1.3 to identify and recommendations options for the management of the archaeological resource, including any further provision for that resource where it is considered necessary.

3 Methods

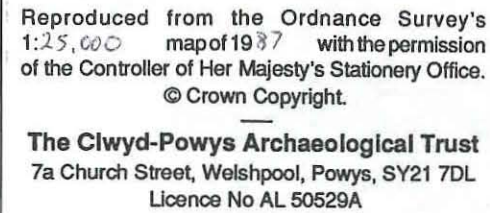
- 3.1 Stage one of the assessment will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary records relating to the corridor, including documentary, cartographic, pictorial, aerial and ground photographic and oral sources. Archives and repositories will include: County Sites and Monuments Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust; National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; National Monuments Record, Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth; Powys County Archives Office, Llandrindod Wells. Aerial photographic rectification will be undertaken as appropriate and included in the report along with copies of the relevant photographs in so far as copyright allows.
- 3.2 Stage two will take the form of a field walked transect survey of the whole study area including any wayleave or easement boundary and potential contractors compound locations. The survey will locate and record all archaeological features on standard CPAT site visit forms, including as a minimum all information detailed in the Brief (section 6.3).

- 3.4 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Curatorial Brief (section 8). This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic and Archaeological Background; Conclusions and Recommendations; References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.
- 3.5 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendices 3 and 6 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991).

4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 The assessment will be undertaken by R. Hankinson, an experienced field archaeologist and member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, under the overall supervision of Mr R.J.Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.2 All report preparation will be completed by the same field archaeologist who conducted the assessment.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the assessment will take no more than 5 days in all and that the subsequent report would be prepared immediately thereafter. The date of commencement, at the time of writing, has yet to be agreed with the client, although CPAT would require no more than one week's written notice in order to commence the assessment. The archaeological curator will be informed of the detailed timetable 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
27th November 1998



Based on the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
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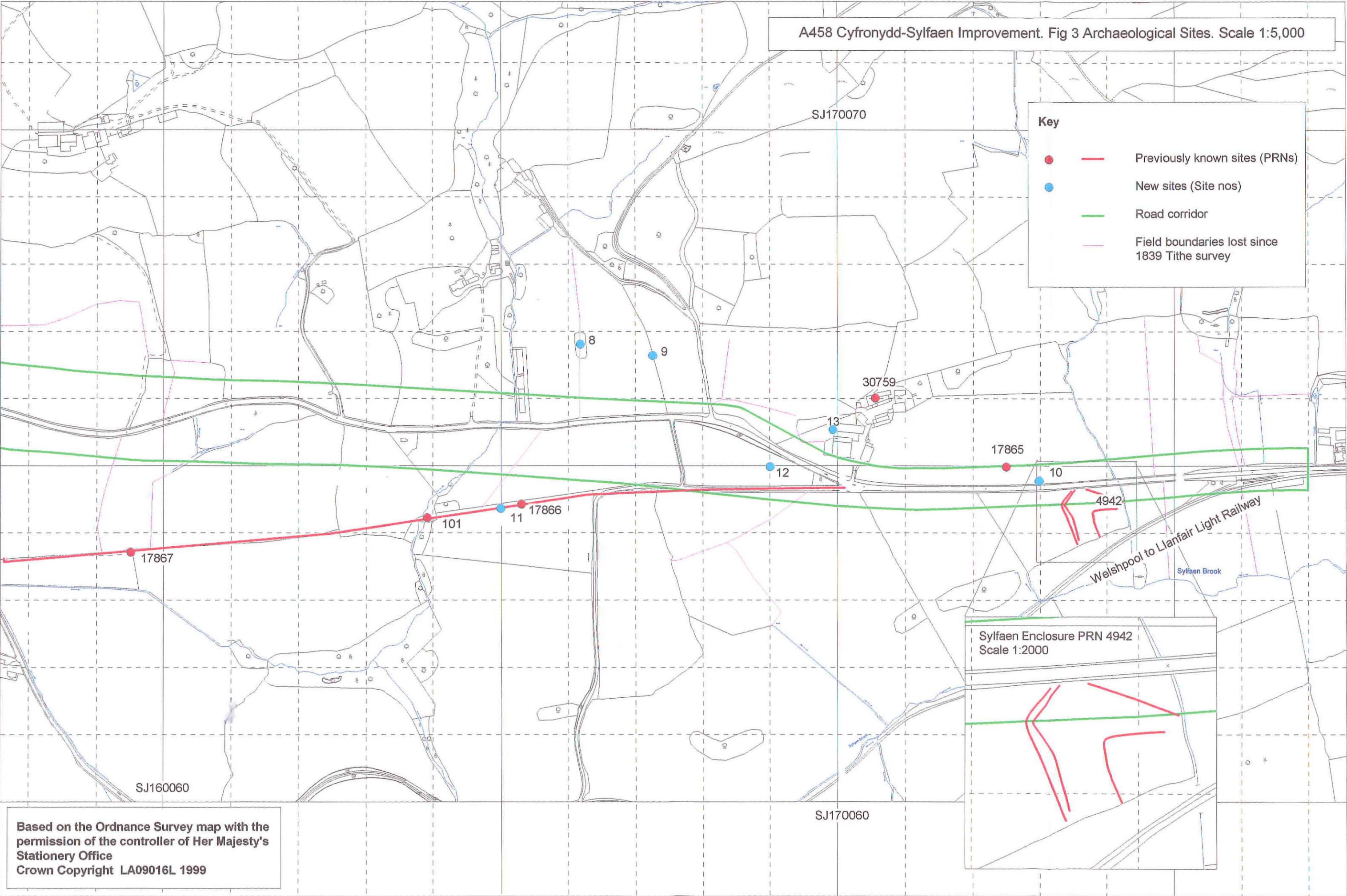




Fig. 4 Ordnance Survey Surveyors Drawing No 198, surveyed 1817. Scale 2" to 1 mile.



Fig. 5 Ordnance Survey Surveyors Drawing No 328, surveyed 1829-30. Scale 2" to 1 mile.



Fig. 6 Tithe Survey of Castle Caereinion parish 1839

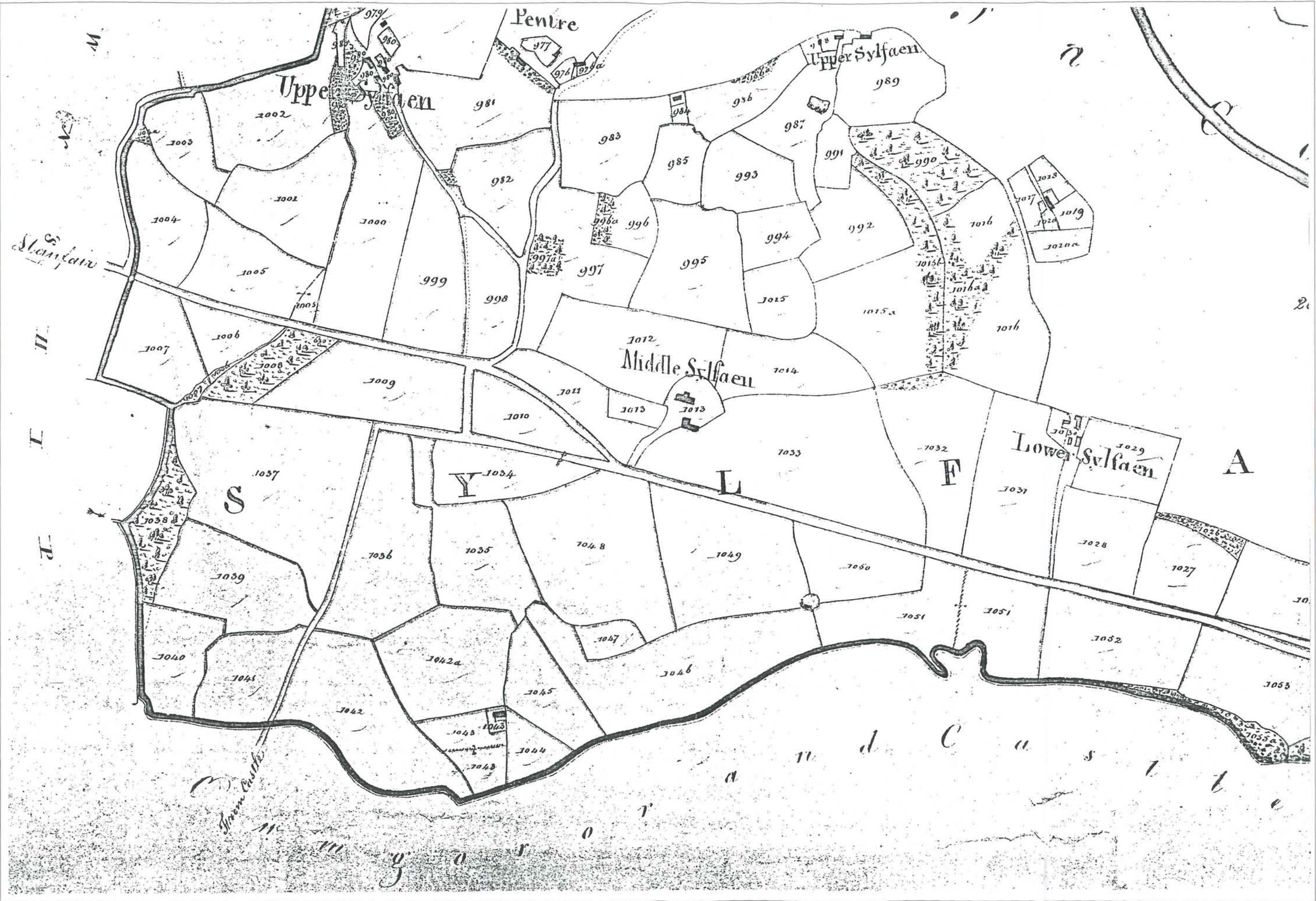


Fig. 7 Tithe Survey of Castle Caereinion parish 1839

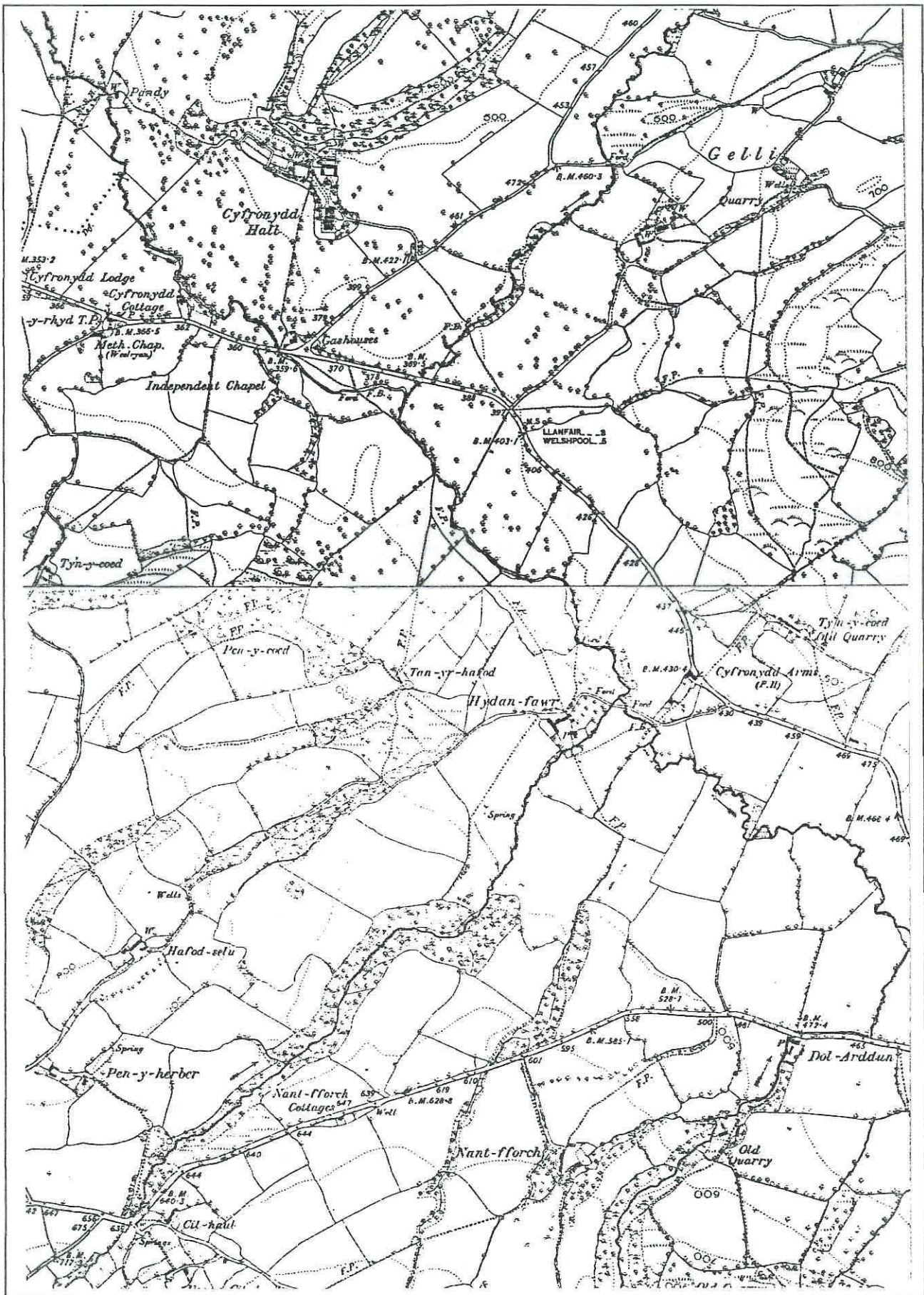


Fig. 8 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6", Montgomeryshire XXIINE and SE, 1890.

Fig. 9 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6", Montgomeryshire XXIIISW, 1891.



Fig. 10 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6", Montgomeryshire XXIINE and SE, 1902-3.

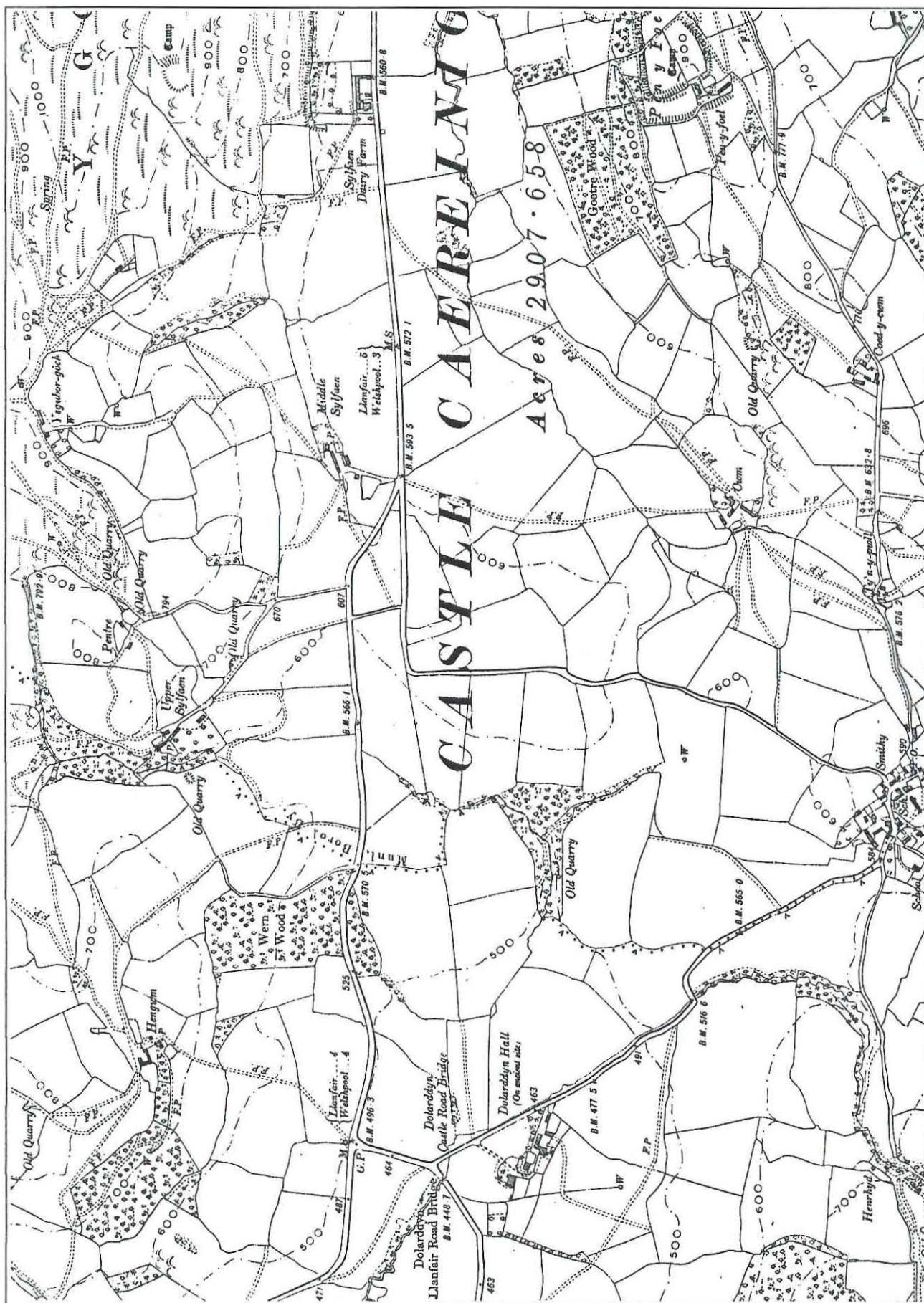




Plate 1 Sylfaen-Dolarddyn ?Roman Road PRN 17866-7 from E. CPAT 80-13-1



Plate 2 Sylfaen-Dolarddyn ?Roman Road PRN 17865-7 from W. CPAT 80-8-10



Plate 3 Sylfaen Enclosure PRN 4942 from NW. CPAT 84-MB-108

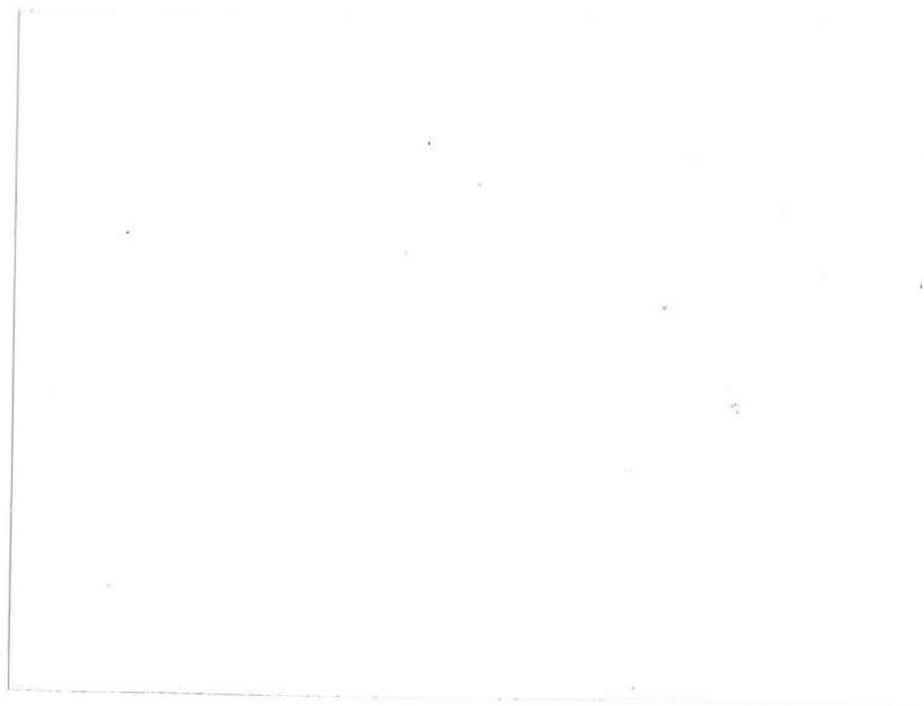


Plate 4 Hydan Cottages Cropmark PRN 5060 from SE. CPAT 79-14-21.



Plate 5 Cyfronydd Milestone Site 1 from NE. CPAT 777.13



Plate 6 Hydan Cottages Site 3 from W. CPAT 777.14



Plate 7 Hydan Fach Site 4 from NE. CPAT 777.15



Plate 8 Hydan Fach Lynchets Site 5 from NW. CPAT 777.16



Plate 9 Dolarddyn Milestone Site 6 from S. CPAT 777.11



Plate 10 Sylfaen to Dolarddyn road culvert PRN 101 from S. CPAT 777.9



Plate 11 Sylfaen Hollow way Site 9 from N. CPAT 777.7



Plate 12 Middle Sylfaen PRN 30759 from S. CPAT 777.6