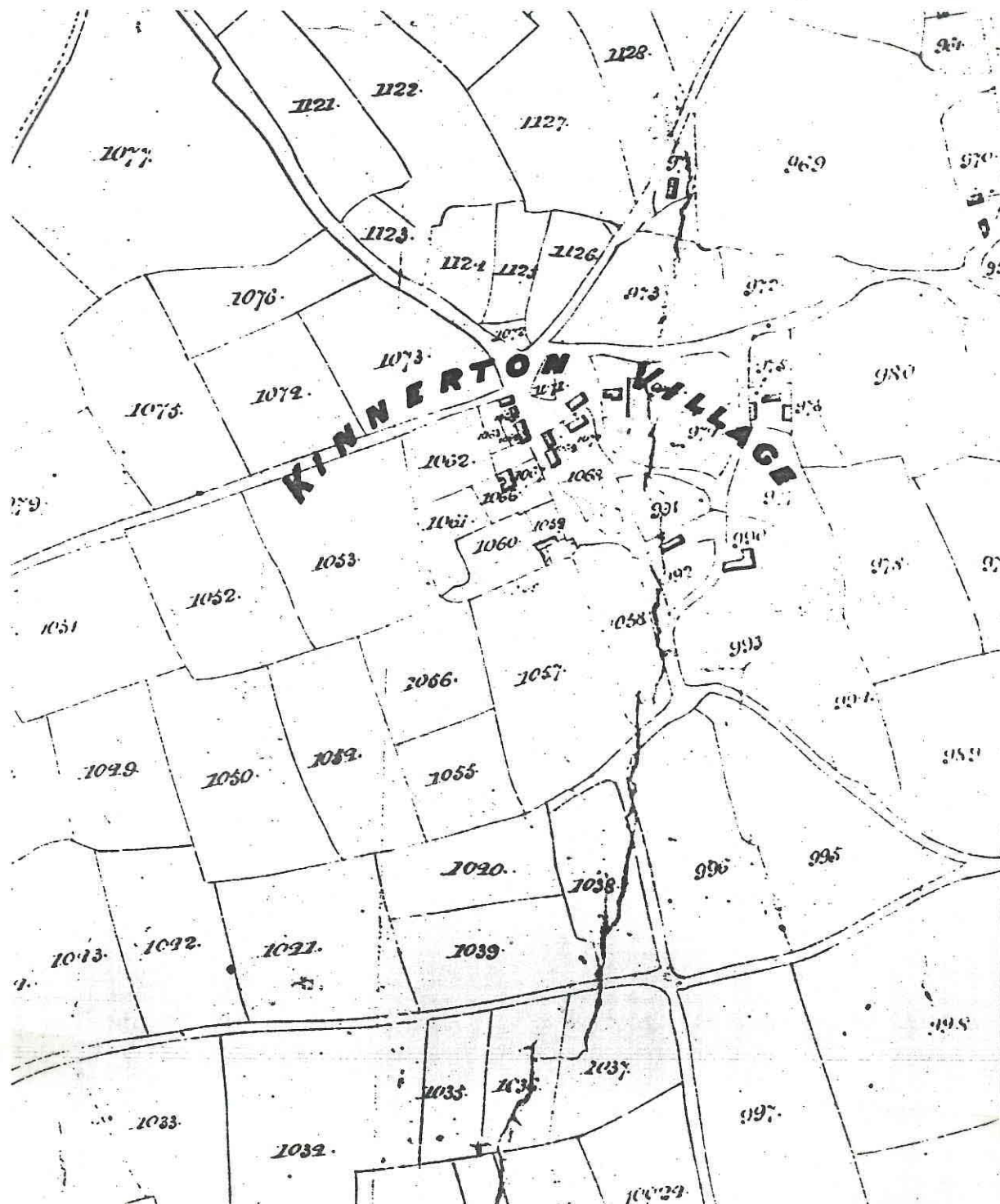


*Radnorshire Historic Settlements:  
Earthwork Survey 1995-6*



*Radnorshire Historic Settlements:  
Earthwork Survey 1995-6*

by N W Jones and W J Owen  
March 1996

Undertaken with financial assistance from Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

**The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust**  
7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL  
tel (01938) 553670, fax 552179  
© CPAT 1996

## CONTENTS

Introduction.....	2
Kinnerton shrunken settlement PRN 33023 .....	3
Kinnerton water meadows PRN 19349.....	5
Llanbister Churchyard PRN 16087.....	6
Llandrindod shrunken settlement PRN 16094.....	8
Old Radnor shrunken settlement PRN 5296 .....	9

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Funding**

The survey work described in this report was carried during March 1996 with financial assistance from Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments (Project CPAT 46/605) as a follow-up to the Radnorshire District Historic Settlements Survey undertaken in 1993-4 (Silvester 1994), also with financial assistance from Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

### **Project Design**

The 1996 survey work took as its brief the list of recommendations included in the report on the 1994 survey (Silvester 1994, para 5.6). Survey work was then concentrated on what were considered to be the more important earthworks where a detailed survey might aid a better interpretation of the site and provide a basis for future management.

The primary objective of the project has been to provide ground plans and basic interpretations of field evidence to assist with current Scheduled Ancient Monument enhancement programmes by Cadw, and in order to define areas of archaeological sensitivity for planning control and landscape management purposes.

### **Survey methods**

Basic site surveys were carried out by EDM total station and PenMap for Windows [version 1.27] software running on a Compaq Concerto portable computer. Processed survey data were subsequently imported into AutoCAD 12 and integrated with some ancillary detail digitized from early editions of the OS, including information from outside the survey areas. Contours in the accompanying illustrations are those generated by PenMap from survey data and are expressed in metres OD. Where possible, this was achieved by transferring the datum from an OS bench mark, although in the case of Llandrindod, where no bench mark was available, this was by means of a best-fit with spot-heights and contours on published OS maps.

### **Presentation of this report**

This report is intended for limited circulation only. The text provides a basic description and interpretation of the sites derived from field observation. Detailed plans of individual sites at a scale of 1:1,000 have been generated from AutoCAD and redrawn by hand to full publication and archival standard.

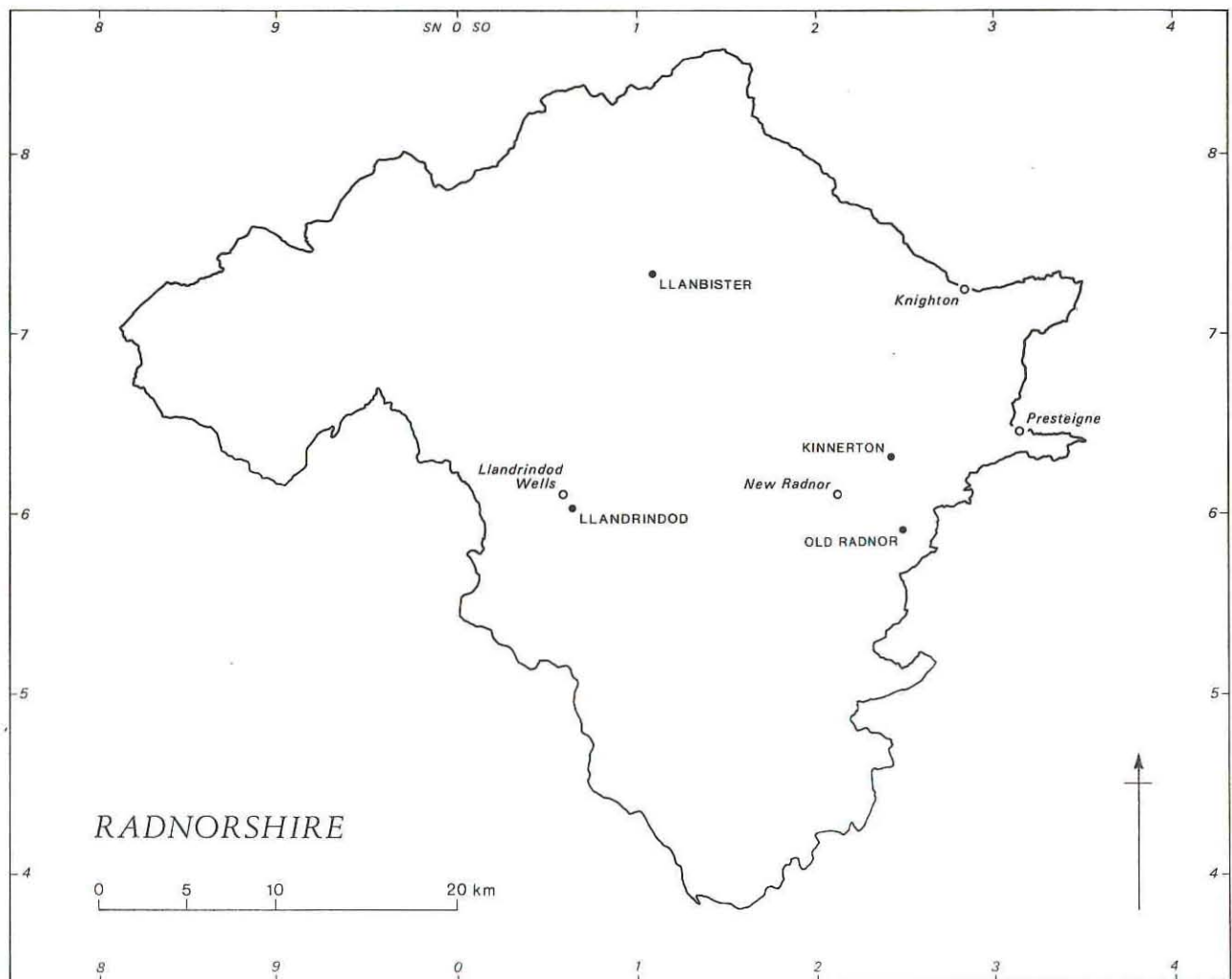
### **Acknowledgements**

We are grateful to the owners of each site for granting access for carrying out survey work. All illustrations are by Brian Williams.

### **References**

Silvester, R.J., 1994 *Radnorshire Historic Settlements Survey*, CPAT Report No. 92.





<b>Kinnerton</b>		<b>Prn</b> 33023	<b>NGR</b> SO24606300	<b>Map sheet</b> SO26SW
<b>Site type</b>	Shrunken settlement	<b>Landuse</b>	Pasture B	
<b>Community</b>	Old Radnor	<b>Threat</b>	Farming	

---

## Description

### 1. Location

1.1 Kinnerton lies on the northern edge of the Walton Basin, 4km north-east of New Radnor.

1.2 The main concentration of settlement earthworks occupies two areas within a field 100m east of the motte.

### 2. History

2.1 The earliest record of the settlement dates from 1303, when it is referred to as 'Kynardton', or Cyneheard's farm.

2.2 The village is dominated by the motte (PRN 1071, SAM R45) which stands to 2m surrounded by a ditch. There is no surviving evidence for a bailey.

### 3. The Survey

3.1 A series of slight platforms, tracks and field banks indicate the former existence of buildings and associated field systems which presumably form part of the medieval settlement. The earthworks fall into two groups, separated by a series of features associated with the former water meadows (see PRN 19349 below), a post medieval farmstead (PRN 4483) and a modern farm track, which may well have obscured evidence of further settlement earthworks. An aerial photograph (Plate 1) taken in 1969 shows many of the earthworks, which have been seriously denuded by ploughing since that time.

3.2 To the north of the farm track the majority of earthworks are associated with a farmstead (PRN 4483) which appears on the Tithe Map of 1841. The main structure is a ruinous stone building (PRN 33040) along the lane frontage, with walls standing to c. 1m at the north-west corner, and measuring c. 10 x 6m overall. To the south, a platform (PRN 33032), measuring 20 x 5m overall, shows traces of a west wall and evidence for internal divisions. This platform appears on the Tithe Map as a building, whereas the ruined building does not. Further east, the Tithe Map indicates two more buildings, the locations of which are suggested by two platforms, one aligned east-west (PRN 33047) and the other (PRN 33034) north-south. The former is indistinct while the latter is better defined, measuring c. 17 x 7m overall.

3.3 North of the farmstead, two former field boundaries (PRNs 33035 and 33036) survive as lynchets, with a further boundary (PRN 33045) to the south, surviving as a low bank. All three features appear on the Tithe Map.

3.4 Further slight earthworks in this area may represent evidence of earlier occupation, possibly associated with the medieval settlement, although some may equally be associated with the farmstead. One definite platform (PRN 33033) survives as a raised terrace c. 10 x 7m, with two further possible platforms to the south-west. A trackway (PRN 33037) leads north between this platform and the farmstead platform (PRN 33034), and then east for a further 35m. Along the northern side of the trackway slight earthworks suggest the possibility of further platforms, or possible small crofts.

3.5 In the south-west corner of the field, a series of earthworks define several platforms and former field banks forming part of an associated field system.

3.6 Three platforms are clearly evident, two along the lane frontage (PRNs 33048 and 33050) with the third (PRN 33049) slightly to the east. Of these, the southernmost (PRN 33050) is best preserved, measuring c. 13 x 6m, with a raised area, possibly rubble, along the western side.

3.7 Two possible platforms lie further to the south, one occupying a distinct terrace (PRN 33051) and the other (PRN 33052) a level area above the hollow way (PRN 33053) which runs east from the existing lane.

3.8 Two slight field banks (PRNs 33043 and 33044) define a probable croft 7m wide and at least 25m in length. Other boundaries survive as lynchets (PRNs 33041 and 33042), presumably defining further fields associated with the platforms.

3.9 In the field to the west a possible platform (PRN 33027) is suggested by a levelled area close to the southern boundary.

#### 4. Conclusions

4.1 The complex series of earthworks would appear to represent platforms and associated features belonging to the now shrunken medieval settlement. As such, they indicate the former extent of the village and demonstrate a shift in focus to the west.

4.2 Taken together with the remains of the presumed post medieval farmstead (PRN 4483) and the earthworks of the former water meadows (see PRN 19349 below), the site would appear to be one of considerable significance which should be considered for appropriate protection.

4.3 The eastern field in particular is subject to periodic ploughing and it may be considered appropriate to undertake a programme of fieldwalking in the areas which contain platforms following the next ploughing.



<b>Kinnerton</b>		<b>Prn</b> 19349	<b>NGR</b> SO24506310	<b>Map sheet</b> SO26SW
<b>Site type</b>	Water Meadow	<b>Landuse</b>	Pasture B	
<b>Community</b>	Old Radnor	<b>Threat</b>	Farming	

## Description

### 1. Location

1.1 The main earthworks are concentrated in two fields, separated by a lane, although associated features extend further to the west and east.

### 2. The Survey

2.1 The surviving earthworks present an interesting and unusual example of a series of water meadows. The earthworks are clearly shown in an aerial photograph (Plate 1) taken in 1969, but have since been considerably reduced by ploughing in the eastern field.

2.2 Water meadows date from as early as the sixteenth century, although the majority date from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The basic principle was for water to be collected and directed into the fields via a system of leats, with sluices used to control the flow of water. The leats were allowed to overflow, allowing water percolating through the soil, but not standing as pools, in order to encourage earlier spring grass. The water was then collected in another leat and directed to the next field. This particular example is slightly different in that, according to the farmer, the water was mixed with silage run-off, or perhaps slurry, as a fertilizer to further promote improvements in the grass.

2.3 The water was collected, perhaps from a variety of sources, and directed via a leat (PRN 33046) which led into the field from the north-west. The course of the leat is now lost beneath a modern barn. A sluice was presumably used to control the flow of water and direct it into one of two leats (PRNs 33024 and 33025) which flow across the field on raised embankments up to 3m across and 0.8m high. Having percolated through the soil, the water was then collected in a lower leat (PRN 33026) and directed across the lane and into the eastern field.

2.4 A series of lynchets (PRNs 33028-31) represent former field boundaries which may be associated with the water meadows.

2.5 In the eastern field, the earthworks have been much reduced by ploughing, although the leats are still visible. Water was carried into the field via a leat (PRN 33054) before flowing into a second leat (PRN 33038) which flows eastwards before curving to the south. This leat survives to a width of c. 5m although it is now infilled and appears as little more than a terrace. The water flowed naturally into the lowest part of the field, which has been partly infilled, and then south into a pond which formerly existed in the next field, the site of which is now beneath a barn.

2.6 Alternatively, a second leat (PRN 33039) would have been used to direct the water into the next field, to the south-east, where the leat can still be traced.





<b>Llanbister</b>	<b>Prn</b> 16087	<b>NGR</b> SO11007333	<b>Map sheet</b> SO17SW
<b>Site type</b> Churchyard	<b>Landuse</b>		
<b>Community</b> Llanbister	<b>Threat</b>		

---

## Description

### 1. Location

1.1 Llanbister Church occupies a rocky spur on the east side of the River Ithon, 13km north-east of Llandrindod Wells.

### 2. History

2.1 St. Cynllo's Church (PRN 16024) was reputedly one of the most important churches in the region during the pre-Conquest period and supposedly originated as the cell of St. Cynllo in the 6th century AD. As such, it represents an early 'clas' foundation and has been claimed as the mother church of North Radnorshire.

### 3. The Survey

3.1 The survey recorded a discrete set of earthworks within the churchyard, on the north side of the church, consisting of two terraces and possible building platforms.

3.2 The churchyard is set on a considerable slope running north-east to south-west, with the church terraced into the slope on the northern side. A trench has recently been excavated along the north wall and the spoil cast up at the base of the slope to the north. The churchyard has two entrances; the main gate on the west side, with a track leading eastwards up the slope to the other gate.

3.3 Above the northern side of this track is a substantial terrace (PRN 33056) built against the slope. The southern edge of the terrace stands c. 6m above the base of the north wall of the church and is c. 3m above the track at the south-east corner. The whole of the northern part of the churchyard delimited by the church and the track is devoid of any grave markers.

3.4 Within the terraced area a series of shallow scarps defines a possible building platform or platforms (PRN 33057), although it is possible that this represents an area of modern disturbance.

3.5 At the south-west corner of the terrace lies a lower sub-rectangular terrace (PRN 33058) c. 10m across. The south and west sides have a low internal scarp defining a bank c. 2.00m wide and up to 0.40m high with a break at the corner. It would seem likely that this terrace was constructed as a platform for some type of structure.

3.6 To the north-east a small platform (PRN 33061) measuring c. 7 x 5m lies on the edge of



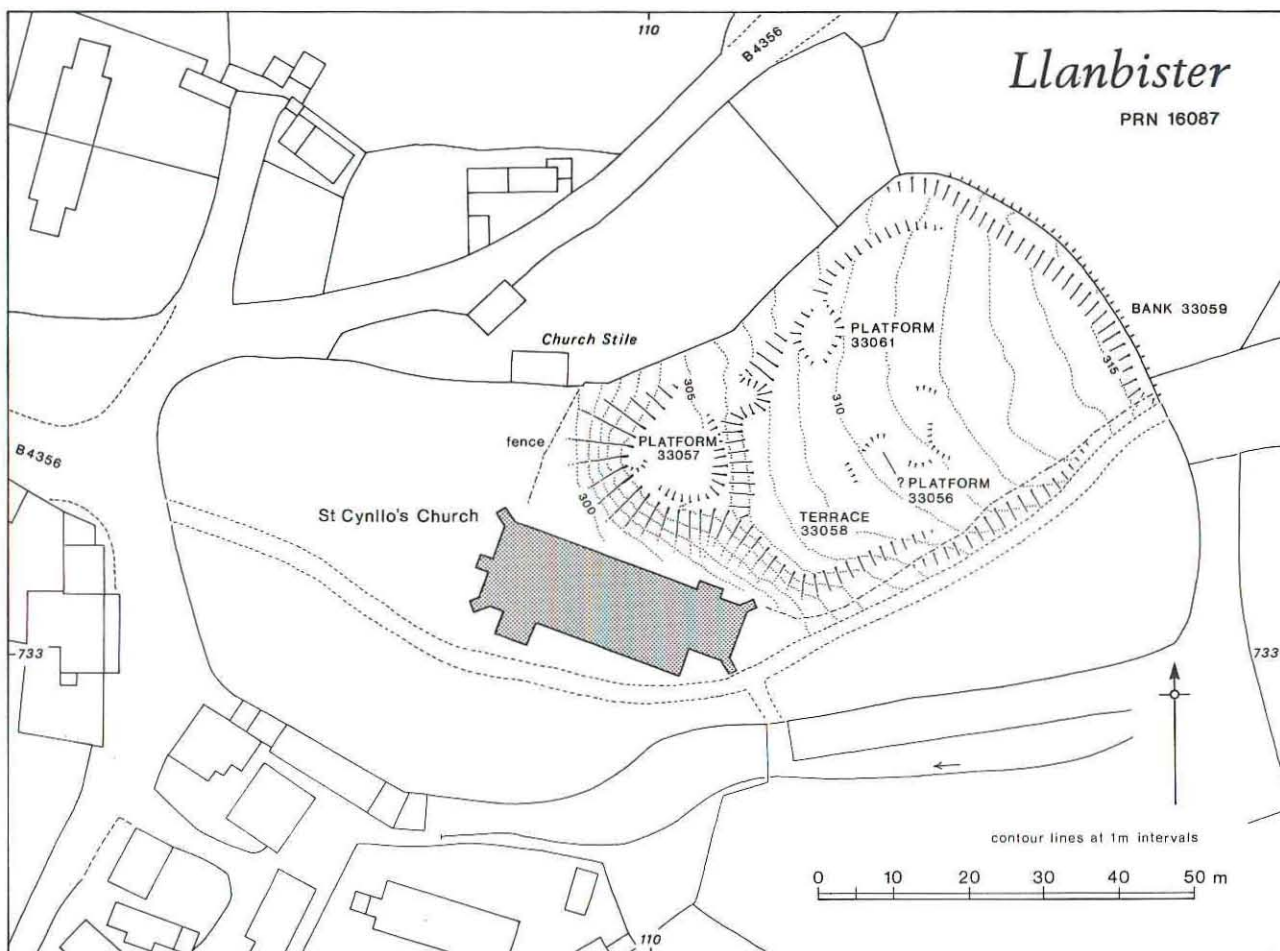
terrace 33058.

3.7 The north-east boundary of the churchyard, to the west of the track, is defined by a substantial boundary bank (PRN 33059) up to 6m wide and 1.10m high. Some stonework is visible on the exterior, particularly at the northern corner where a dry-stone wall survives to c. 1.50m high. Further west, the northern boundary is defined by a fence along the top edge of very steep slope.

#### 4. Conclusions

4.1 The earthworks appear to indicate two or possibly three building platforms on the northern side of the church. Given the history of St. Cynllo's Church, it is perhaps not unreasonable to suggest that these may be associated with early ecclesiastical buildings.





<b>Llandrindod</b>		<b>Prn</b> 16094	<b>NGR</b> SO06506020	<b>Map sheet</b> SO06SW
<b>Site type</b>	Shrunken settlement	<b>Landuse</b>	Pasture B	
<b>Community</b>	Llandrindod Wells	<b>Threat</b>	Farming	

---

## Description

### 1. Location

1.1 The original settlement at Llandrindod was centred around the old parish church and Llandrindod Hall, 1km south-west of the Victorian and modern settlement of Llandrindod Wells.

### 2. History

2.1 The origins of the settlement are uncertain, although the 'llan' prefix might suggest an early medieval foundation for the church. The old parish church of Holy Trinity (PRN 16027) was originally a single-celled 13/14th-century structure, but was rebuilt in 1894.

2.2 Llandrindod Hall (PRN 30020) stands on the site of a hotel founded in 1749 which burnt down c. 1800. The present farmhouse, formerly known as Great House farm, was rebuilt in 1818. To the rear of the farmhouse a levelled area surrounded by a substantial bank is thought to be the remains of an 18th-century bowling green (PRN 33022). The site of two cockpits adjacent to the bowling green has been lost to recent quarrying.

### 3. The Survey

3.1 To the north of the church, and on the opposite side of the road, a field contains a series of low earthworks consisting of at least one platform, a track and two field boundaries.

3.2 The only definite platform (PRN 33015) extends into the field to the north-west, and measures c. 14 x 6m. It is cut slightly into bedrock at the rear and terraced above the slope at the front and the north-west side. A track (PRN 33016) runs past the south-east side of the platform.

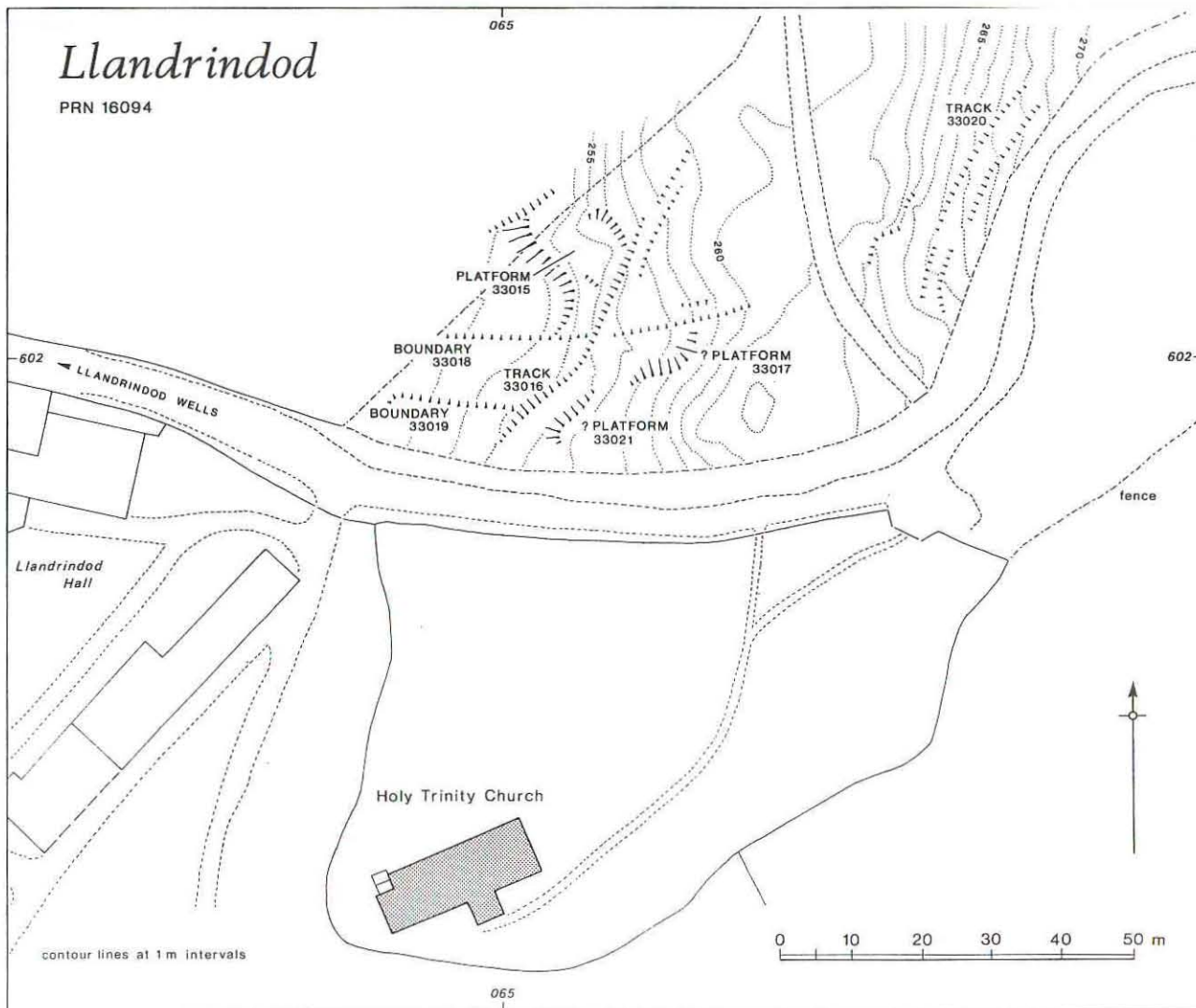
3.3 Two possible platforms are located to the south-east, one terraced into the slope and measuring c. 7 x 4m (PRN 33017), and the other (PRN 33021) occupying a levelled area east of the track. There is no clear evidence to confirm these as building platforms and it is possible that the former may represent an area of quarrying.

3.4 Two field boundaries (PRNs 33018 and 33019) cross the site running east-west and are possibly of later date than the platforms.

3.5 In the north-east corner of the site the former course of the road can be traced as a track (PRN 33020), initially cut into the bedrock and then terraced into the slope as it climbs the hill.

# Llandrindod

PRN 16094





<b>Old Radnor</b>	<b>Prn</b> 5296	<b>NGR</b> SO25235935	<b>Map sheet</b> SO06SW
<b>Site type</b> Shrunk settlement	<b>Landuse</b>	Pasture B	
<b>Community</b> Old Radnor	<b>Threat</b>	Farming	

---

## Description

### 1. Location

1.1 Old Radnor lies on the southern edge of the Walton Basin at the foot of Old Radnor Hill, less than 6km north-west of Kington.

### 2. History

2.1 The Domesday Book of 1086 records Old Radnor as 'Raddrenoue', although the settlement may be considerably older. Lands belonging to Old Radnor church were supposedly acquired by the See of Worcester in 887.

2.2 To the south of the church are the earthworks of a ringwork or moated site defined by a ditch up to 2.6m deep. A terrier of 1607 refers to the site as a moated parsonage.

2.3 There is earthwork evidence surrounding the village which indicates that its former extent may have been somewhat greater than the present core suggests, with platforms visible to the north (PRN 5296) south (PRN 16298) and east (PRN 162990).

### 3. The Survey

3.1 The survey concentrated on a complicated series of earthworks (PRN 5296) 300m north-east of the church.

3.2 The field slopes downwards to the north and is bounded to the south-east by the present road, and to the south-west and west by Wellin Lane, now a deep hollow way (PRN 33014). The site consists of at least four, and possibly six, platforms together with associated tracks, hollow ways and former field system boundaries.

3.3 The main focus of the site is a series of platforms adjacent to the present road which appear to represent deserted settlement earthworks. Two well-defined building platforms (PRNs 33003 and 33004) lie against the field boundary and occupy two raised terraces, measuring 15 x 10m and 14 x 6m respectively. The former has slight earthwork evidence for internal detail, strongly suggesting the location of a building, and is bounded to the west by a low bank (PRN 33013). The platforms may be separated by a track and the levelled area to the north suggests further terracing, possibly for other buildings, or perhaps representing former crofts. The position of these platforms relative to the present road may suggest a change in the alignment of the road post dating the platforms.

3.4 To the north, two more building platforms are clearly visible terraced into the slope. The western platform (PRN 33005) measures c. 8 x 5m, while the eastern (PRN 33006) measures c. 10 x 5m.

3.5 A track (PRN 33007) terraced slightly into the slope follows the contours to the north of the platforms. To the west, this joins a well-defined hollow way (PRN 33002) running north-south, which has been recently infilled at its southern end. To the east, low earthworks define a possible second hollow way (PRN 33012). A levelled area in the angle between this and track PRN 33007 may represent a further building platform (PRN 33011). A feature terraced into the slope, 25m to the north-west, may be another platform (PRN 33010), or possibly an area of quarrying.

3.6 Together with the series of tracks and hollow ways, the earthworks of former field boundaries (PRNs 33000, 33001, 33008, 33009, 33060) define a field system presumably associated with the settlement earthworks. A pronounced scarp with outcrops of bedrock runs north-east from the junction of hollow way 33002 and track 33007, and while apparently of natural origin, may have been enhanced as a lynchet.

#### 4. Conclusions

4.1 The earthworks would appear to represent the remains of a series of building platforms and associated tracks, hollow ways and field boundaries which may well be of medieval origin. As such, this would appear to represent a part of the shrunken settlement and is therefore of considerable archaeological significance worthy of appropriate protection.



# Old Radnor

PRN 5296

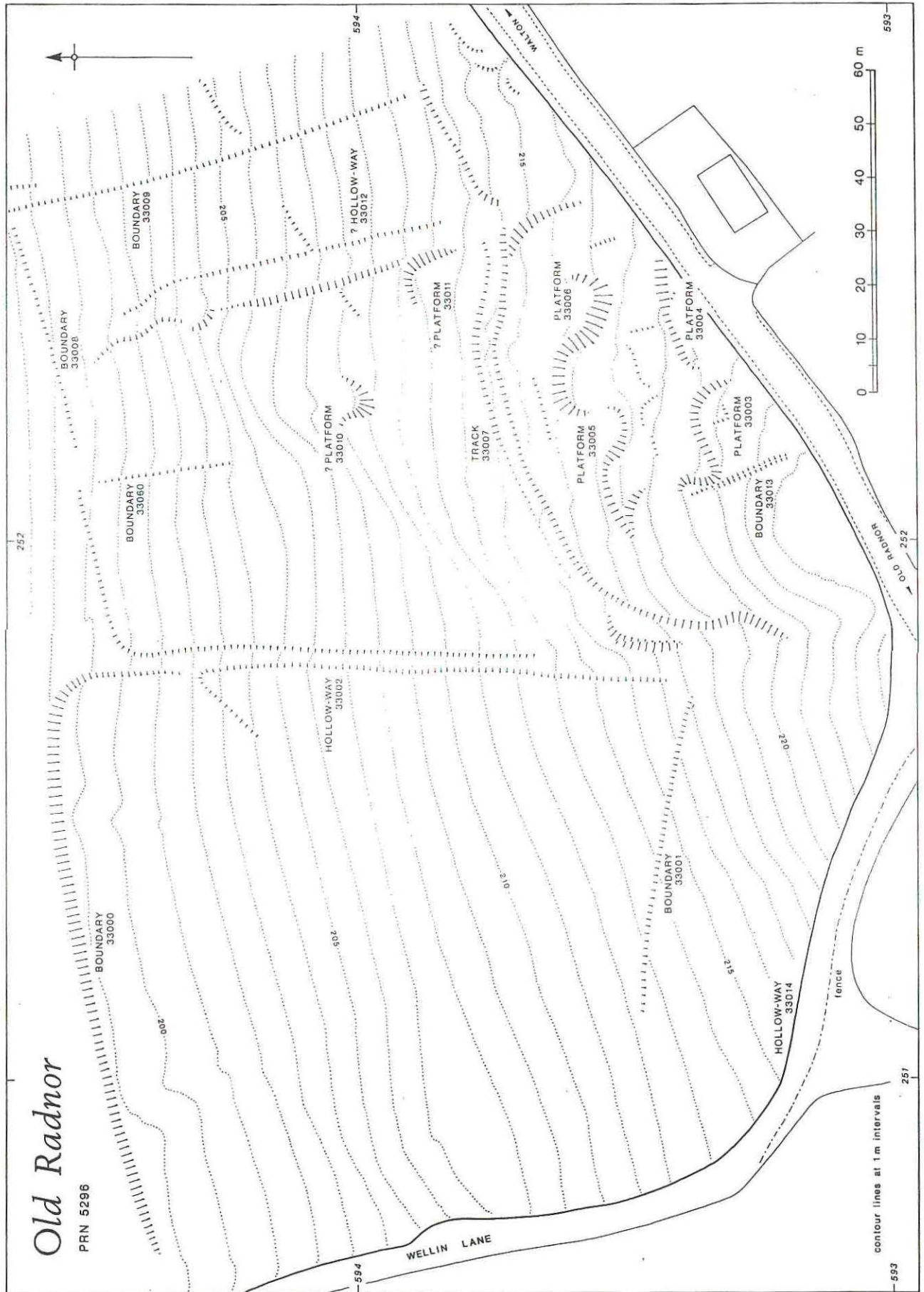






Plate 1: Kinnerton from the SE showing shrunken settlement (PRN 33023) and water meadows (PRN 19349). Photo/copyright Cambridge University (AWO 96).



Plate 2: Old Radnor from the NE showing shrunken settlement earthworks (PRN 5296). Photo/copyright Cambridge University (CIJ 33).