

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Montgomery Canal Conservation Management Strategy

LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY ASSESSMENT



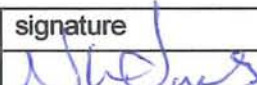
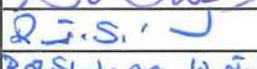
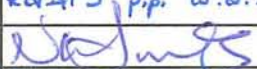
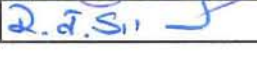

CPAT Report No 550

CPAT Report Record

Report and status

CPAT Report Title		Montgomery Canal Conservation Management Strategy: Landscape Archaeology Assessment	
CPAT Project Name		Montgomery Canal	
CPAT Project No		1056	CPAT Report No 550
Confidential (yes/no)		Yes	draft/final Final

Internal control

	name	signature	date
prepared by	N W Jones		08/08/03
	R J Silvester		08/08/03
	W J Britnell		08/08/03
checked by	N W Jones		08/08/03
approved by	R J Silvester		08/08/03

Revisions

no	date	made by	checked by	approved by

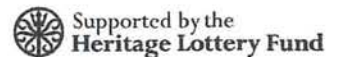
Internal memo

Montgomery Canal Conservation Management Strategy

LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY ASSESSMENT

By N W Jones, R J Silvester and W J Britnell
August 2003

Report for Montgomery Canal Partnership



The copyright in this Archaeological Assessment belongs jointly to the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and British Waterways. The contents may not be copied, information reproduced, referenced or distributed directly or indirectly without the written permission of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and/or National Wind Power.

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

cover photo Belan Locks (cpat 03-c-224) © CPAT

CONTENTS

	SUMMARY	page 2
1	INTRODUCTION	page 3
2	METHODOLOGY	page 4
3	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	page 6
4	HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERIZATION	page 11
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE	page 24
6	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	page 107
7	REFERENCES	page 108
APPENDIX 1	GLOSSARY OF TERMS	page 114
APPENDIX 2	MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE	page 117

Fig. 1 Montgomery Canal: Major settlements and Ordnance Survey 6" map sheets

Fig. 2 Historic Landscape Characterization key map

Figs 2A - 2E Historic Landscape Character Areas

Fig. 3 Archaeological Resource key map

Figs 3A - 3W Archaeological Resource maps

SUMMARY

This report, prepared for British Waterways as part of their Montgomery Canal Conservation Management Strategy, offers an assessment of the archaeology, and particularly the pre-canal archaeology, along the length of the Montgomery Canal from its junction with the Shropshire Union Canal at Lower Frankton in Shropshire to Freestone Locks near Newtown in Powys. Following a broad overview of the nature and type of archaeology and landscape remains along the length of the canal, the canal corridor is examined in terms of the historic landscapes through which it passes, a process known as historic landscape characterization. Details of the known archaeology and landscape features are presented through a series of control maps, the twenty-three archaeological resource maps, with accompanying texts and tabulated data which provides a measure of the significance of the archaeology. Appendices provide a glossary of terms used in the main text and general management guidelines for preserving the archaeological heritage during future works.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was invited to undertake a Landscape Archaeology Assessment as part of the Montgomery Canal Conservation Management Strategy. The Strategy, which is part-funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, will provide a framework and policy to conserve and enhance the value of the canal's built and natural heritage, and guide its future restoration.
- 1.2 The Landscape Archaeology Assessment will be complemented by a separate Built Heritage Survey and for this reason the present assessment is concerned primarily with the historic landscape through which the canal was newly cut, and not with the later landscape that developed as a result of the canal's presence.
- 1.3 The layout of the report comprises four main sections and appendices, commencing with a description of the methodology. This is followed by two complementary sections dealing with the history of the area through which the canal passes: a discussion of the historical background; and the characterization of the historic landscape. The final section provides detail of the archaeological resource bordering the canal, identifies areas of particular significance and offers broad advice on the future management of the waterway.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The programme involved two stages in data collection, initially comprising a desk-based study coupled with a field assessment, and followed by a period of collation and analysis that lead to the production of this, the final report.
- 2.2 Throughout the programme, full use has been made of Geographical Information System (GIS) technology, in this instance MapInfo Professional Version 6, to manage the data and to provide illustrative material and tables for the report. The resulting digital archive has been presented to British Waterways for conversion to Arcview so that subsequently it can be used by them in any further works on the canal.
- 2.3 Each archaeological site has been recorded as digital point data (*i.e.* as a spot on the map), to which information has been attached according to a predefined database structure, agreed in advance with British Waterways. Each of these sites has been given a unique record number. Detail transcribed from map and aerial photographic sources has been recorded as polygonal data to which information has been attached recording the record number, type, period, source and the like.
- 2.4 Stage One of the assessment involved the examination of all readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic sources. The repositories consulted were:
 - i) the two county Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs) held and maintained by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in Welshpool and by Shropshire County Council in Shrewsbury, and also the National Monuments Record (NMR), maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales at Aberystwyth;
 - ii) the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth;
 - iii) the Shropshire Records and Research Centre at Shrewsbury;
 - iv) the National Monuments Record held by English Heritage at Swindon;
 - v) British Waterways, Ellesmere.
- 2.5 The two SMRs provided baseline data on all known sites along the length of the canal, within a corridor 300m wide. Additional data were gleaned from the NMR. This information was collated and then supplemented by an examination of historic maps relating to the areas through which the canal passed. The first edition of the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping (25" to the mile), compiled in the last quarter of the 19th century, was examined for the entire length of the canal, and where necessary the first and later editions of the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 mapping (6" to the mile) were also assessed to establish the broader contexts of new features. The Tithe surveys (generally from around 1840) were examined, but the return was uneven; the Tithe maps themselves revealing little of interest while their accompanying apportionments were altogether more useful with a significant haul of potentially interesting fieldnames. From an earlier part of the 19th century, the Ordnance Survey surveyors' drawings were checked, but one potentially significant source of new information – the large number of estate maps that exist for both counties – could not be examined because of time constraints. Those that could be of interest in the two major repositories at the National Library of Wales and the Shropshire Records and Research Centre are listed in Section 7, and others are assumed to exist in private archives in addition to that listed in the same Appendix.
- 2.6 Aerial photographic sources played a key role both in assessing the landscape and in identifying archaeological sites. Both vertical and oblique aerial photographs were consulted, with the primary focus on the vertical coverage taken by the RAF in the later 1940s. This is of particular relevance in identifying key landscape elements such as field systems of medieval and post-medieval date, typically characterised by the remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation. In addition, more recent runs of photographs were examined, as were oblique photographs taken specifically for archaeological purposes. Where possible, relevant detail

was digitally transcribed from aerial photographs using AutoCAD13 to rectify the image against the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The digital data were then appended as polygonal data to the GIS system.

- 2.7 Stage Two took the form of a field survey extending the entire length of the canal towpath from Llanllwchaiarn near Newtown to Lower Frankton to check and augment the records derived from Stage One and record any new sites revealed during the survey. The survey was generally limited to a visual examination of those fields adjacent to the canal that could be seen from the towpath, and where there were conveniently placed public rights of way. It should be stressed that the fieldwork had to be conducted in the height of summer which is undoubtedly the least helpful time of year for this type of work. Vegetation, whether arable or hay crop, and even permanent pasture, is at its most luxuriant, and hinders the recognition and assessment of archaeological features.
- 2.8 Each site of archaeological or historic interest was identified was recorded in the field using pro-forma sheets. Sites were classified according to their perceived significance and a record was made of any potential management issues. All the details from the record sheets were entered into the GIS model. Copies of the digital data have been supplied to complement the report as follows:

Mapinfo Professional Version 6 Interchange files (MIF)

- smrpowys.mif Powys SMR point data
- powysply.mif Powys polygonal data
- salopsmr.mif Shropshire SMR point data
- salopoly.mif Shropshire polygonal data

Foxpro 2.6 Database

- smrpowys.dbf Powys SMR point data
- salopsmr.dbf Shropshire SMR point data

- 2.9 In addition the local landscape character was assessed using the results from both stages to define a series of adjoining character areas covering the entire length of the canal. These areas were mapped digitally and the results are presented in the report along with a summary descriptive text.

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Historically known as the Shropshire Union Canal and subsequently as the Montgomeryshire Canal (Hughes 1988), the now-named Montgomery Canal, runs for approximately 53km from its junction with the Llangollen Canal in Shropshire to Newtown in what was Montgomeryshire, a county now subsumed in modern Powys.
- 3.2 Between 1794 and 1821, the waterway was constructed in stages to create the unified structure that is known as the Montgomery Canal today. It runs from the Llangollen Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal at Lower Frankton to Newtown, although the final stage of the canal between Freestone Locks (Llanllwchaiarn) and Newtown is not within British Waterways' ownership. The majority of the canal (c. 36.3km) lies within Powys, with the remaining section (c. 16.8km) within Shropshire. The canal originally consisted of four distinct schemes, which have only been linked together in name under modern ownership; three of these lengths were originally constructed to carry and distribute lime for agricultural purposes from the Llanymynech Quarries (Hughes 1988, 9).
- 3.3 The canal in all its phases cut through a landscape (or more accurately a series of landscapes) that had been used, though sometimes intermittently we might assume, for several millennia.
- 3.4 Most major river valleys in England and Wales witnessed relatively intense activity during the prehistoric period, and the Severn Valley, north-east of Newtown, is no exception. The recognition of such activity, whether it be settlement or funerary, is undoubtedly aided by soils on the valley floor that are utilised for arable crops which in turn generate cropmarks in the right conditions. Within a short distance of the canal around the modern settlement of Four Crosses, extensive cropmarks include the remnants of ploughed-out barrows, which excavations between 1981 and 1985 showed to be Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in origin. Further south on the other side of Welshpool, the Severn Valley soils offer similarly dated remains where Dyffryn Lane runs westwards from the river towards the canal and Berriew. A standing stone, Maen Bueno, is the most impressive symbol of this activity, but adjacent is a less obvious yet perhaps more spectacular ceremonial monument known as a henge, its low central mound barely discernible, although there are records to suggest that once it supported a stone circle. The ploughed down remains of other barrows are included in the group and, although most of them are beyond the canal corridor, the Lower Rectory mound immediately to the east of the canal may be a round barrow of Bronze Age date.
- 3.5 Closer to Welshpool, and little more than 300m from the canal, is the complex of Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age ritual monuments focused on the Sarn-y-bryn-caled cursus, although ring ditches and the like extend outwards from this for several hundred metres or more to the north around Coed-y-dinas. The 400m-long cursus, assumed to be a ritual or ceremonial enclosure, is the most mysterious feature in a group that includes further ring ditches and a pit circle, the last of these famously re-created, if only for a short time in 1991, as the Sarn-y-bryn-caled timber circle.
- 3.6 Thus the canal passes three known major areas of Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity on the valley floors of the Severn and the Vyrnwy, with another probable complex around Carreghofa near Llanymynech, this represented largely by ring ditches. Further examples may yet come to light with the right combination of soils and crops, and the presence of an aerial photographer.
- 3.7 Later in prehistory and into the subsequent Roman period, the same valley floor areas, as well as the low hills beyond them, were populated by farming establishments which make their appearance as ditched enclosures of varying complexity. From small, single-ditched rectangular enclosures through to multiple-ditched, irregularly shaped enclosures, a remarkable number of such farmsteads lie within the immediate environs of the canal. Most show only as cropmarks visible on aerial photographs, but occasionally surface traces still remain. An instance is the small enclosure to the east of Llanymynech which was first photographed in 1975. Observations during the present project suggests that low earthworks of the enclosure still survive in the field bordering the canal, while faint earthworks of the Maerdy Brook enclosure also survived until recently.

- 3.8 In some cases the canal appears to have impinged on such enclosures. Thus to the west of Crickheath, a small rectangular enclosure has had a part of its area removed during the canal construction, and the Arddleen enclosure, surrounded by the modern expanding settlement and known to be Romano-British from limited excavations conducted in 1979, is only a matter of a few metres from the canal. Altogether within 100m of the canal, the total number of enclosures amounts to perhaps 24. Not that the enclosures necessarily represent the full picture of these late prehistoric and Romano-British farms. While stock-keeping undoubtedly played a major role in the local economy, cereals would also have cultivated. Locating the contemporary fields is altogether more difficult than identifying the farm enclosures, but there are hints in one or two places, as at the Moors Farm cropmark complex immediately to the north-east of Welshpool, the Dyers Hall Farm Linear Cropmarks nearby, and the Morton Farm cropmarks near Maesbury Marsh. It may be that the numerous pit alignments found at Four Crosses, as well as others near Llanymynech and also close to Morton Pool, represent boundaries of enclosures or fields of this general period.
- 3.9 At the apex of the hierarchy of enclosures in the late prehistoric period are the hillforts. Extending well over 50ha, the hillfort on Llanymynech Hill, straddling the border of England and Wales and overlooking the canal, is one of the largest enclosures in Britain, and is usually considered to relate to the control of the lead ore sources on the hill. Other examples close to the canal are less immediately obvious, not least because in the case of Dolforwyn Castle the hill is occupied by a later defensive structure or because they are covered in woodland. The western end of the Guilsfield branch of the canal is overlooked by Gaer-fawr, while the knoll looking down on the canal adjacent to Pentreheylin Hall near the crossing of the Vyrnwy is crowned by the Bryn Mawr fort.
- 3.10 While the Roman era is signalled primarily by the cropmark enclosures, some of which can certainly be attributed to the period, there are generally other, often more poignant, indicators of Romanisation in any region. The nearest Roman fort – Forden Gaer – is well beyond the environs of the canal, on the far side of the River Severn, but at least one road lead from the fort north-westwards towards Dolgellau. Its precise course is open to debate and few physical traces of it have been recognised but it is likely to have been cut by the canal somewhere near Berriew. The potential line of another Roman road has been suggested near Llyncllys.
- 3.11 The centuries after the Roman withdrawal, long known colloquially as the Dark Ages, but more mundanely to archaeologists as the Early Medieval era, remain difficult to detect in the archaeological record. Churches, including Llanllwchaiarn (now to the west of Freestone Lock, but formerly beside the canal on its final section to Newtown), Berriew, Welshpool, Llandysilio and Llanymynech all lie within a short distance of the canal and all are likely to have been founded in those centuries, even though nothing from that time is visible in the structures of today. Holy wells, too, may have originated in this period: St Benion's Well to the south of Llanymynech is one such example, but St Winifred's Well on the canal-side of Woolston is of slightly later origin. 'One of the most moving of the holy wells in England' (Pevsner) it marks where a spring gushed forth when the body of the saint rested during her translation from Holywell to Shrewsbury in the post-Conquest period. Finally, amongst the cropmarks of prehistoric sites in the Dyffryn Lane area of Berriew was what appeared to be the remains of a boat-shaped building, tentatively identified as a local lord's hall. Regrettably, excavation in the 1980s failed to confirm its presence for it would have been one of very few proven examples of its type in Wales.
- 3.12 Left to the last are the two great dykes, Offa's and Wat's, that demarcated the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms from Wales in the Early Medieval period. The canal cuts across the grain of both of these important monuments. Coming within a few hundred metres of Offa's Dyke at Four Crosses, the canal then swings away from it before cutting across its line somewhere in the built up area of Llanymynech. A more significant relationship is with Wat's Dyke, which adopts a fairly straight course from south to north and it has been argued convincingly that for two or three hundred metres to the south of Croft's Mill bridge the canal bank and towpath have physically adopted the line of the dyke which could presumably still be seen as an earthwork at the time of the canal's construction.

- 3.13 With the Norman Conquest we move into better documented times. Even so, there are several small motte and bailey castles from the unsettled years after the Conquest about which nothing is known. Towards the south end of the canal on the far side of the Severn, the river of course offering some degree of protection from attacks from the west, are the mottes of Gro Tump (Newtown) and Brynderwen near Abermule, while on the same side of the river to the canal is the Welshpool motte and also Lower Luggy where archaeological recording work has been conducted in recent years, because of the stream erosion of the mound.
- 3.14 Villages began to develop around the churches that had been founded centuries earlier, and in the case of Welshpool the settlement developed into a market town, aided by the addition of a regularly planned zone of settlement by a 13th-century Prince of Powis. Isolated farms also appeared in the medieval period. In the main any that survive are likely to be overlain and disguised by more recent farm holdings, but exceptionally the Woolston building platforms close to the canal may represent one such site, showing as earthworks.
- 3.15 Around the villages, open-fields were exploited, the long and narrow strips cultivated by one farmer separated from those of his neighbours by slight baulks of unploughed grass. Such strips rarely survive today but some were still in use in the 18th century when they were depicted on the estate maps of the time, and a memory of their presence can also be found in the survival of field names such as *maes* through to more recent times. The canal passes through several such former open-fields, later boundaries occasionally fossilising the line of the strips: Berriew contains the most obvious examples (see gazetteer) but field names confirm others in Brithdir (*Maes y Brithdir*), Welshpool (*Lower Maes y dre* and *Maes y Dderwen*) and Arddleen (Common Field). In some cases ploughing in the open-fields led to the development of the corrugated surfaces known as ridge and furrow, seen extensively from Wern, to the south of Arddleen, northwards as far as the River Vymwy, and again around Crickheath, and further north near Maesbury. However, ridge and furrow is notoriously difficult to date, and certainly some of the visible ridging may be post-medieval in origin.
- 3.16 Strata Marcella Abbey was one of the major Cistercian abbeys in Wales and lay on the edge of the Severn valley floor just to the north of Welshpool. Its precinct was cut through by the canal, and as studies elsewhere have demonstrated that works associated with such abbeys spread over extensive areas, it is likely that other elements of the abbey complex may also have been disturbed during the construction works. For instance, the name 'Fishpool leasow' to the south-west could well signal an outlying feature of the abbey.
- 3.17 One other feature of the medieval landscape through which the canal passes is the moated site at Bromwich Park (Shropshire). Unexcavated as far as we are aware, such moats distinguish the residences of more affluent members of medieval society including gentry, the moats providing some level of protection, but perhaps, too, a significant sign of status.
- 3.18 Moving into the post-medieval and early modern centuries, marked by the accession of the Tudor dynasty, it becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish between those archaeological elements of the landscape that were already in place at the beginning of the 18th century when the canal was constructed and those which were influenced by and developed as a result of the presence of the canal. Much of the small-scale industrial activity along the whole length of the canal would certainly fall into the latter category.
- 3.19 Landed estates border the route of the canal, and of course when the canal was cut, some of their proprietors had a significant financial stake. Thus we can identify the Glansevern and Vaynor estates in Berriew through which the canal was cut, and in the case of the former the waterway passed very closely to the parkland around the house. There are clear indications that a canal branch was planned at Berriew, presumably in association with the Vaynor estate, though whether it was used for any length of time is unknown. Further north were the more extensive grounds of Powis Castle, again edged by the canal, while the parkland belonging to Rhysnant Hall near Four Crosses was sliced through by the waterway, and the same may be true of that around Pentreheylin Hall close to the Vymwy. Further north in Shropshire were Aston Hall and Woodhouse, and certainly in the case of the former and possibly in the case of the latter the parkland and grounds ran as far at least as the canal. The latter is also notable for the construction of an unofficial canal branch, although this may never have been completed.

- 3.20 At the other end of the settlement spectrum were the encroachment holdings on the edge of hill and fen. That in some cases the canal fostered the development of these communities, there can be little doubt. Such was Pant, a dispersed spread of small holdings on the slopes beyond Llanymynech Hill which have been infilled to create the more densely packed modern community only in recent times – it is likely that Pant as an embryonic encroachment community was already in existence before the canal was planned, but Maesbury Marsh on the lip of the Morda lowlands is likely to have emerged with the canal, as did the holdings at Frankton Locks, while the growth of Four Crosses, Arddleen, Pool Quay and Garthmyl were all certainly encouraged and perhaps even initiated by the canal. Individual farms were less likely to have been created in the wake of the canal construction. Encroachment holdings such as the lost farm, east of Decoy Farm on the lip of Rednal Moss, fall into this group.
- 3.21 Industry was already present in the vicinity of the canal, particularly such features as the watermills powered by streams that the canal crossed: Aberbechan fulling mill, the corn mill now destroyed at Abermule, and the mill at Luggy can all be cited in this context.
- 3.22 Low-lying grounds traversed by the canal in Shropshire were exploited, but only passively in the sense that there were used for pasturing stock. Occasionally, however, some attempt was made to improve the quality by flooding water meadows. Such systems, irregular by comparison with the more developed water meadows found in southern England, had been identified in several places beside the canal. Those near Manor Park need to be confirmed, but the interpretation of the Morton Pool water meadows appears secure.
- 3.23 The raised mires, north of Queen's Head will have been exploited for their natural resources. The presence of the former Baggy (or Boggy) Moor duck decoy, established in the late 17th century and one of only three in Shropshire, testifies to this. Some of the original meandering streams that drained the mosses have been retained, albeit in modified form, as drainage dykes. Others have disappeared, however, as the low-lying grounds have been reclaimed and divided up by linear boundaries.
- 3.24 The driving force behind the construction of the Montgomery Canal was agrarian improvement and exploitation rather than industrial development. While the primary motivation was the transport of lime from Llanymynech, the influence of the canal was wider reaching and its impact on the contemporary landscape in which it was established was fundamental and the archaeology reflects this. Pockets of industrial activity – kilns, wharfs, warehousing etc – sprung up along the length of the canal where formerly there had only been agriculture; settlements encouraged by the convergence of canal and road emerged where previously there had perhaps only been an isolated farm; field systems were modified as inconvenient segments left behind as the canal sliced through farmholdings, were integrated into new patterns; and previously open mosslands began to be drained and enclosed as the canal offered a vital mechanism for channelling the water away.
- 3.25 The changing nature of agrarian activity through the 19th century and into the 20th century has resulted in landscapes that have witnessed continued modification. Intensive cultivation in places has successfully smoothed out and often erased the physical traces of earlier features so that, for instance, the banks and ditches of late prehistoric enclosures now show only as cropmarks from the air and sub-surface remains upon excavation. Field boundaries have been removed to create larger and often more regular fields, thus distorting earlier patterns of land use. And the drainage of fens and mosses has led to the loss of peat and the consequent lowering of the land, most obvious where the canal now runs at a higher level than the grounds through which it passes. It has long been acknowledged in historical thinking that every landscape is a palimpsest: an accumulation of layer upon layer of historical activity, each layer partially removing its predecessors and leaving only incomplete remnants from which the historian and the archaeologist build up a picture of the impacts of past communities. Twentieth-century activity has had a much greater impact than any of its predecessors on earlier landscapes and what can now be seen along the canal corridor is only a very small part of what once existed.
- 3.26 From the information presented above it is possible to define two broad archaeological zones through which the canal passes. In the south it follows the Severn Valley, edged by hills on the west side, and as its course diverges from that of the river, it cuts across the low-lying

plain that accommodates the confluence of the Severn and its tributary the Vyrnwy, before curving round and over the latter. Hillforts, early medieval churches and later medieval nucleated settlements, mottes and, on the lower and more fertile valley floor and adjacent slopes, open-fields are all components of this rich archaeological landscape.

- 3.27 At Pant the canal enters a second zone, one of low-lying, slightly undulating lands, sometimes damp and drained by ditches, the hills only a distant backdrop. Settlement patterns are more dispersed and the farms of presumed medieval date occupy the higher and drier ground, but in places there are few signs of past human activity, because the seasonally waterlogged nature of the land encouraged only transient and often seasonal activity which has left no physical trace.
- 3.28 Common to both zones are the cropmarks of prehistoric settlement and funerary sites, and occasionally their Romano-British successors. These are extensive and indicate well-populated and well-utilised landscapes; yet others undoubtedly await discovery when conditions are right. It is through this well-populated archaeological landscape that the canal runs.

4 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERIZATION

Introduction

- 4.1 The main purpose of the study presented in this section of the report is to provide a broad narrative on the historical aspects of the landscape corridor through which the canal passes, in order to give a broader perspective on some of the more detailed and site-specific information that appears in other sections of this report.
- 4.2 The preceding section has provide an historical synthesis by period, and this is complemented at the end of this section by a short narrative for each of the defined historic landscape character areas through which the canal passes.
- 4.3 It is hoped that this will provide some insight into the earlier landscapes that the canal cuts across, those landscapes that the construction of the canal helped to bring into being, and the landscapes that in some instances have superseded the closure of the canal in some areas.

Methodology

- 4.4 Some thought has been given to the most appropriate methodology for undertaking this study, which is complicated by the fact that the canal spans the national boundary between England and Wales. Some background to the different methodologies that are currently being applied on either side of the national boundary is appropriate here, together with an explanation of the methodology that has been adopted in this instance.
- 4.5 An historic landscape characterization project is currently being undertaken by Shropshire County Council with financial assistance from, and according to a methodology being developed by, English Heritage on a county by county basis, predominantly on the basis of landscape units sharing a similar field shape. The Shropshire project has yet to be completed and its results are understandably not yet in the public domain nor in a position to deliver the kind of historic landscape narrative that a study relating to the Montgomery Canal appears to demand.
- 4.6 Historic landscape characterization initiatives on the Welsh side of the border have focused on two loosely related methodologies being developed by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), each of which has adopted a different approach to the English Heritage methodology.
- 4.7 To date, the first has focused on historic landscape characterization within the historic landscape areas described in the two published historic landscape registers for Wales (Cadw 1998; Cadw 2001). This has involved the definition of units of landscape (known as 'historic landscape character areas') with a common historic character, permitting a somewhat broader range of factors such as buried archaeology, cultural aspects, building types and boundary types to be taken into account. This has generally resulted in larger landscape units than those distinguished in the English approach but has had the advantage of delivering an interpretative narrative as a fundamental part of the process.
- 4.8 A second methodology is being developed in Wales in relation to the LANDMAP (CCW 2000), a more broadly-based information system involving the natural, visual and cultural aspects of landscape, in addition to history and archaeology, being undertaken on a county by county basis. An element of this methodology involves the definition of 'history and archaeology aspect areas' in an hierarchical structure, 'history and archaeology aspect areas' being defined at either a coarser ('Level 3: pattern') or finer grain ('Level 4: historic landscape detail'), backed by database records. A LANDMAP study has yet to be undertaken within the Welsh section of the canal, in Powys.
- 4.9 It might be noted that in practice, the finer grain (Level 4) within LANDMAP has tended to be somewhat coarser than the landscape units in the English methodology, whilst the 'historic landscape character areas' defined within Cadw's Welsh Historic Landscape initiative have tended to fall between LANDMAP levels 3 and 4.

- 4.10 Each of these approaches share some common ground, however: they all have an ultimate objective of attempting to identify and interpret the processes which have created the modern landscape; they have tended to take the present-day landscape as a starting point; they have normally adopted the use of GIS as a basis for recording, definition and analysis, the results generally being presented in a single layer of contiguous polygons to which information of varying degrees of complexity is attached.
- 4.11 In the absence of any prospect of consistent historic landscape characterization for the whole of the canal corridor it has been necessary to start anew. A corridor extending 1 kilometre to either side of the canal was selected as being appropriate, with the exception of the stretch between Garthmyl and Welshpool where it proved more convenient (owing to river meanders) to take the west bank of the River Severn as the boundary. The defined area extends in total to about 123km². Like other similar studies it has been desk-based, has taken the modern landscape pattern as the starting point, and has employed the use of GIS, in this instance MapInfo Professional Version 6. Mapping has involved the use of a part raster and part vector Ordnance Survey digital map base, polygons being drawn to be visually consistent with a scale of 1:10,000. The study has also taken into account archaeological point data made available for Shropshire by the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record and for Powys by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.
- 4.12 In view of the particular requirements and resources available to the project it has seemed appropriate to go for an approach which delivers a narrative relating to relatively large landscape units (in the manner of Cadw's Welsh Historic Landscapes initiative), underpinned with finer detail (in the manner of CCW's LANDMAP level 3). Two MapInfo tables were created during the course of the study. The first to be created was a table of smaller polygons (though normally >1km² in extent) based on CCW's LANDMAP level 3 classification, called 'aspect areas' (of which 96 were defined), though with a much abbreviated database structure. The second is a table which groups these smaller units into what are termed 'character areas' (of which 27 are defined), and which are described in the following section.
- 4.13 For the purposes of illustration, the canal, the River Severn and the River Vyrnwy were drawn as separate aspect areas. Other linear forms of communication were normally not defined, unless they extended to a width of >50m for a distance of several kilometres. Settlements were only included as aspect areas where they appear to have some impact on the broader landscape setting.
- 4.14 The methodology which has been adopted is geared to the particular requirements of this project and the resources available to it, and would inevitably be amended or superseded by a programme of more detailed documentary research, further fieldwork throughout the defined corridor and indeed by looking at broader landscape extending beyond the immediate bounds of the canal.

Montgomeryshire Canal historic landscape character areas

The following paragraphs provide a description of the historic landscape character areas that have been defined as a result of the study (the numbering of which corresponds to those given in the MapInfo 'character_areas' table). The text also identifies the numbered aspect areas (AA) that the character areas are constructed from.

A key map identifying the historic landscape character areas is provided in fig. 2, with the more detailed aspect areas identified on a series of maps (figs 2A to 2E) at 1:50,000.

Character Area 1: Newtown

Medieval valley-bottom market town on the River Severn which expanded rapidly as a regionally important centre for industry and services in the later 18th and 19th centuries with the improvement in road transport into mid-Wales and subsequently with the coming of the canal and railway. The town again expanded rapidly in the later 20th century as a light industrial and housing centre. The aspect area is drawn to include housing and industrial areas (AA 3), golf course (AA 6), water treatment works (AA 10), nature reserve (AA 96), parkland (AA 4) and an area of irregular fields (AA 7) in an area of former river meanders.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- buried deposits associated with the medieval town
- remains of medieval buildings and structures including the former medieval church and the medieval earthwork castle to the north-east of the town, the latter associated with ridge and furrow field systems probably representing former open-field cultivation
- the remains of buried and standing structures relating to the industrial history of the town in the post-medieval period, including woollen mills and limekilns, the latter associated with the canal
- post-medieval town houses, shops and chapels

Character Area 2: Dolforwyn

Irregular fields, areas of broadleaved woodland and plantations, and dispersed farms on the hilly land on the west side of the Severn valley between Newtown and Berriew. The area includes some small areas of ridge and furrow cultivation and late enclosure represented by straight-sided fields, but appears largely to represent woodland assarts and piecemeal enclosure dating from the medieval and early post-medieval periods (AA 5).

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- ancient field boundaries and areas of ancient woodland
- later prehistoric hillforts at Fron Las and Waen Heilyn
- important Welsh medieval masonry castle at Dolforwyn
- historic farms, farm-buildings and farmhouses and small disused stone quarries used for building materials

Character Area 3: Abermule

Valley bottom bordering the canal and River Severn upstream and downstream of the predominantly post-medieval canal-side settlement at Abermule (AA 13). The area is also drawn to include areas of medium-sized regular fields (AA 11, 14) which probably represent land enclosed in the later medieval and early post-medieval periods, together with an area of larger, straight-sided fields (AA 9) which may represent more recent enclosure or reorganisation. Two areas of irregularly-shaped fields bordering the river (AA 12, 15) appear to show the influence of more active river meanders within more recent centuries. Early exploitation of the valley bottom indicating clearance, settlement and land use by early prehistoric farming communities is suggested by a complex of early prehistoric cropmark ring-ditches at Bolbro Wood, a cropmark enclosure site and Neolithic pottery at Brynderwen. A

monastic grange belonging to the Cistercian monastery of Strata Florida had been established on the site of the farm known as Court Farm in Abermule by the end of the 13th century. The area is drawn to include the post-medieval and recent nucleated settlement at Abermule which developed in the 19th century due to the turnpike road, canal and railway.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- early prehistoric burial monuments
- medieval motte and bailey castle at Bryn Derwen
- post-medieval mills and mill structures on the River Mule
- historic farms and farmhouses
- buildings and structures associated with the canal

Character Area 4: Llanmerewig

Landscape of irregular fields, areas of remnant ancient broadleaved woodland, small plantations and widely dispersed farms on the hilly land bordering the eastern side of the Severn valley between Newtown and Garthmyl (AA 8), representing piecemeal woodland clearance and enclosure from the medieval period onwards.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- areas of ancient woodland
- ancient field boundaries
- probable later prehistoric defended enclosure at Glascoed
- historic farms and farmhouses
- small stone quarries
- medieval motte and bailey castle at Bryntalch

Character Area 5: Garthmyl

The area forms a distinct, diverse area in the valley bottom to the south-east of Berriew and is drawn to include a distinct area of post-medieval cottages and small fields on the sloping valley side at Fron (AA 17), the 19th-century country houses, gardens and parkland at Garthmyl and Glansevern (AA 18, 22), the small canal-side settlements at Garthmyl and Refail (AA 20, 21), a fieldscape of medium-sized regular fields along the valley bottom (AA 16) probably created in the medieval and early post-medieval periods, and an area of large straight-sided fields along the banks of the River Severn (AA 19), probably representing post-medieval enclosure of former open meadow land. This latter area includes the historically-important ford at Rhydwhiman (Welsh *Rhyd chwima* 'swift ford'), otherwise known as 'The ford of the princes', where treaties between English kings and Welsh princes were once signed.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- historic ford across the Severn at Rhydwhiman
- small areas of ridge and furrow possibly representing medieval open-field cultivation
- country houses, gardens and parkland at Garthmyl and Glansevern
- historic farms, farm-buildings, farmhouses and cottages, including some estate cottages
- buildings and structures associated with the canal, including former limekilns

Character Area 6: Berriew

The character area falls within the valley of the River Rhiw, a tributary of the Severn, and is drawn to include the following character areas: the notable medieval church settlement at Berriew (AA 25) thought to have been in existence since the 6th century and associated with the prominent Saint Beuno; an associated area of small regular fields to the west which may

derive from the enclosure of former medieval open-field strips (AA 24); and part of the parkland and setting (AA 23) associated with the Jacobean mansion and later country house to the south-west of the village. A branch of the canal formerly crossed the fields to the north of the church.

The main historical and archaeological interests in the character area are as follows:

- remnant areas of ridge and furrow cultivation possibly deriving from medieval open-field cultivation
- parkland and parkland setting associated with Vaynor Park
- buried archaeological deposits associated with the medieval settlement at Berriew, including the site of a former fulling mill and a medieval and later corn mill
- medieval church and post-medieval vernacular buildings including some notable later 16th to earlier 17th-century half-timbered buildings
- historic farms and farmhouses

Character Area 7: Trehelig

Valley bottom landscape bordering the bank of the River Severn between Berriew and Welshpool, drawn to include the following aspect areas: a pattern of medium-sized regular fields (AA 26) possibly of late medieval to post-medieval date including areas of former medieval open-field strips, some represented by field shapes and some by remnant ridge and furrow; an area of small and relatively straight-sided fields possibly enclosed or reorganised following the construction of the canal (AA 28); the nature reserve near Coed-y-dinas (AA 34); and areas of irregular fields affected by meanders of the River Severn (AA 27, 30).

The main historical and archaeological interests in the character area are as follows:

- important complexes of earlier prehistoric burial and ritual monuments at Carreg Beuno, Dyffryn Lane, and Sarn-y-bryn-caled including cursus monument, earthen long barrow, henge monument, enclosure site, round barrows and standing stone
- remnant areas of ridge and furrow cultivation possibly deriving from medieval open-field cultivation
- medieval motte and bailey castle at Luggy Motte and possible moated site at Moat Farm
- sites of former ferries crossing the River Severn
- vernacular houses and cottages, farm-buildings and farmhouses, half-timbered and in brick
- structures associated with the Welshpool to Newtown turnpike road, including milestones
- buildings and structures associated with the canal, including former limekilns and sawmill belonging to the Powis Estate

Character Area 8: Belan

Hilly land bordering the western side of the Severn valley between Berriew and Powis Castle, including an area of irregular fields, remnant ancient broadleaved woodland, small plantations and widely dispersed farms (AA 29, 32), probably representing piecemeal clearance and enclosure during the medieval and early post-medieval periods, together with an area of dispersed cottages and small irregular fields (AA 31) dating from the post-medieval period.

The main historical and archaeological interests in the character area are as follows:

- later prehistoric hillfort at Cefn yr Allt
- ancient field boundaries and remnants of ancient woodland
- abandoned late medieval and early post-medieval house sites
- former woollen mill and factory on the Luggy Brook
- historic farms and farm buildings including the reasonably substantial houses at Brithdir and Dysserth
- buildings and structures associated with the canal, including former limekilns

Character Area 9: Powis Castle

Medieval and later earth and timber and later stone castle with associated gardens and parkland (AA 37) and part of an area of mixed broadleaf and conifer woodland (AA 36). The castle, also known as The Red Castle (*Y Castell Coch*) was first built by the princes of Powys in the early 12th century, being gradually transformed into a mansion from the later 15th century onwards. The terraced gardens and parkland date from the later 17th century. The northern areas of the parkland include some remnant ridge and furrow suggesting the enclosure of former medieval open-field strips.

The main historical and archaeological interests in the area are as follows:

- remnant ridge and furrow of probable medieval date
- medieval earth and timber castle at Ladies Mount and later stone castle at Powis Castle
- historic gardens and parkland together with other ancillary structures including estate offices, icehouse, etc
- probable site of former early post-medieval windmill

Character Area 10: Tirymynach

The floodplain of the River Severn between Welshpool and Pool Quay. The area is drawn to include the following areas: areas of large and smaller irregular and straight-sided fields bordering, and influenced by, the meanders of the River Severn (AA 35, 43, 44, 50), probably representing post-medieval enclosure of former open meadow; areas of long, broad strip fields, some associated with ridge and furrow, possibly representing an area of medieval meadow and periodic open-field arable cultivation (AA 51). Early settlement and land use in this latter area is indicated by a Roman enclosed farmstead sealed beneath alluvial deposits. Some of these areas are drained by ditches and dykes and now protected from flooding by flood banks (argae), some of which are possibly of medieval or early post-medieval origin. Part of the area fell within the ownership of the medieval Cistercian monastery at Strata Marcella which is the origin of the place-name Tirymynach, meaning 'monk's land'. The build up of alluvium within the area appears to have increased during the later 18th and earlier 19th centuries in response to land improvements and mining activities nearer the headwaters of the Severn.

The main historical and archaeological interests in the area are as follows:

- alluvial deposits of potential palaeoenvironmental significance and buried archaeological sites and deposits
- remnants of ridge and furrow in some areas possibly representing medieval open-field cultivation
- a focus of significant riverside sites at Buttington, including 19th-century road and railway bridges across the Severn, medieval church, site of important 9th-century battle mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, medieval timber waterfront features or mill site, and the course of the late 8th-century medieval Offa's Dyke as it approaches the river

Character Area 11: Welshpool

Regionally-important market town of medieval origin which expanded rapidly as an industrial centre and as a centre for commerce, services and woollen mills in the later 18th and 19th centuries especially as a result of improvements in road transport and the coming of the canal and railways. The town has expanded rapidly as a centre for housing and light industry during the 20th century. The character area is drawn to include the medieval historic core of the town, areas of modern housing and industry (AA 40), the modern transport corridor represented by the railway and modern bypass (AA 33), a nature reserve (AA 39) and a fringe of small fields on the eastern and western sides of the town (AA 38, 41) some of which appear to represent the remnants of enclosed medieval open-field strips. Earlier activity is represented by a lavish deposit of metalwork dating to the late prehistoric and early Roman period discovered in the Smithfield, and other later Roman finds.

The main historical and archaeological interests in the area are as follows:

- buried archaeological deposits associated with the early history of the town and with its later industrial history
- medieval earth and timber castle and the medieval St Mary's church
- late medieval half-timbered town houses and shops, many refaced in brick during the 18th century
- 19th-century woollen mill
- buildings and structures associated with transport history in the 18th and 19th centuries, including the canal, canal warehouse, mainline railway station, and the light railway to Llanfair Caereinion

Character Area 12: Allt

Hilly land bordering the western side of the Severn valley between Welshpool and Pool Quay with areas of irregular fields, remnants of ancient broadleaved woodland and dispersed farms (AA 42) and larger areas of managed broadleaved and conifer woodland (AA 46, 47) and probably largely derives from woodland assarts and piecemeal enclosure during the medieval and early post-medieval periods. Early settlement and possibly land clearance is suggested by a small hoard of later Bronze Age socketed axes from Cherrytree Bank and by the much larger so-called Guilsfield Hoard, a late Bronze Age weapon hoard found near the Crowther's Coppice hillfort.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- hoards of late Bronze Age metalwork
- later prehistoric hillfort at Crowther's Camp
- ancient field boundaries
- historic farms, farm-buildings, farmhouses and cottages including a number of buildings of half-timbered construction

Character Area 13: Pool Quay

Area of valley floor and lower valley sides along the canal and drawn to include the following aspect areas: an area of medium-sized regular fields and dispersed farms on the western slopes of the valley (AA 48), probably representing medieval to early post-medieval woodland clearance and enclosure; an area of large straight-sided fields and some smaller paddocks and closes (AA 45), possibly representing post-medieval enclosure of former open meadow; a narrow tract of land beside the Welshpool-Llanymynech turnpike road with small fields and clustered cottages, houses and farms and church (AA 49), predominantly of late 18th- and 19th-century date. The area includes the site of the former medieval Cistercian monastery of Strata Marcella (the precinct of which is cut through by the canal and the present main road), established in the late 12th century, a monastic water-mill subsequently being built with a weir on the River Severn near Pool Quay, considered to be the highest point of navigation on the River Severn. River transport continued to be of at least seasonal importance until the construction of the canal in the late 18th century. A mill continued in operation on the site following the dissolution of the monasteries in the late 1530s, and during the 18th century lead smelting works were established by the earl of Powis, working ores from the Llangynog mines in the Tanat Valley. Little is visible of these industrial works or of the other buildings that formed part of the former industrial complex here at one time or another during the 18th and 19th centuries which included a woollen factory, forge, corn mill, dye house, barytes-crushing mill (spar mill) and saw mill.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- buried remains of the medieval Cistercian monastery of Strata Marcella and associated structures including monastic precinct and mill and leat
- buried remains of later industrial works
- buildings and structures associated with the canal, and 19th-century church and former school building

Character Area 14: Arddleen

A distinctive landscape of relatively small regular fields (AA 52) and the nucleated settlement at Arddleen, (AA 58) and quite widely dispersed farms and cottages. The area includes some strip fields and extensive areas of former ridge and furrow cultivation, suggesting that much of the fieldscape character of the area results from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips and its associated pattern of narrow lanes. The Welshpool-Llanymynech turnpike road, canal and the dismantled Oswestry-Newtown railway line are clearly superimposed upon much of this pattern, cutting obliquely through many of the earlier field boundaries. Considerable land improvement was undertaken during the 18th century when a system of dykes was dug to drain parts of the area, and banks (argae) were constructed to prevent flooding. An earlier pattern of settlement and land use is indicated by earlier prehistoric burial monuments and later prehistoric and Roman ditched enclosures recorded as cropmarks from the air, suggesting that much of the area was probably already being intensively cultivated at that period. The small settlement at Arddleen appears to have largely come into being following the construction of the canal and turnpike roads in the later 18th century.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- buried earlier prehistoric burial monuments and later prehistoric and Roman settlement enclosures at Varchoel Lane, Arddleen and Maerdy Brook
- medieval field patterns and ridge and furrow cultivation
- buildings and structures associated with the canal including the former corn mill site at Wern and other elements of transport history including the course of the 19th-century Oswestry-Newtown railway, the stone-built railway bridge over the New Cut argae, and late 18th-century milestones associated with the Guilsfield to Arddleen turnpike road

Character Area 15: Guilsfield

Diverse landscape along the brook between Guilsfield and Arddleen and neighbouring hills, including the following aspect areas: areas of irregular fields (AA 53) partly representing piecemeal clearance, drainage and enclosure, probably from the medieval period onwards; discrete areas of small regular fields (AA 52, 55) including some strip fields probably partly derived from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips; the managed broadleaved woodland on Gaer Fawr (AA 85), and the northern area of the nucleated medieval church settlement at Guilsfield itself (AA 54). Early settlement and land use is indicated by earlier prehistoric burial sites and by later prehistoric or Roman lowland settlement enclosures at Upper Varchoel and Burgedin Cottages which suggest that much of the area was probably cleared and intensively farmed from an early period.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- earlier prehistoric burial monuments, later prehistoric hillfort at Gaer Fawr and later prehistoric or Roman ditched enclosures
- medieval field patterns and ridge and furrow cultivation
- historic houses, cottages, farms and farm buildings
- buildings and structures associated with the canal

Character Area 16: Bele Brook

An area of medium-sized regular fields between the Neath Brook and the Bele Brook, tributaries of the Severn, small lanes and widely dispersed farms to the east of Arddleen (AA 56). The area includes some strip fields and remnant areas of ridge and furrow cultivation probably representing the enclosure of medieval open-field strips together with patterns of straight-sided fields probably representing post-medieval drainage and enclosure of former meadow lands undertaken in the wake of the construction of the New Cut argae. Early settlement and land use is suggested by a Bronze Age axe found at Trederwen. The course of the now dismantled Oswestry-Newtown Railway runs through the area, represented by a raised causeway in places.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- medieval field systems and ridge and furrow
- historic houses, cottages, farms and farm buildings
- structures associated with the former railway line

Character Area 17: Four Crosses

Flat and fertile farmland extending northwards to the floodplain of the River Vyrnwy, drawn to include the following aspect areas: an area of irregular fields to the south of Four Crosses representing late medieval and post-medieval drainage and enclosure of less well-drained land (AA 59); a distinctive area of relatively small regular fields including some strip fields and fields with evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation focused on an area of well-drained gravels (AA 62) probably largely representing the enclosure of former medieval open-field strips; and the settlement at Four Crosses itself (AA 61) which emerged because of its location at the junction of a number of turnpike roads as well its position on the canal and now dismantled Oswestry-Newton Railway and which has seen a further growth in housing developments in recent years. Considerable evidence of early clearance, settlement and land use has emerged from the results of aerial reconnaissance which has revealed the presence of a dispersed complexes of earlier prehistoric burial monuments, later prehistoric or Roman ditched farmsteads and an extensive pattern of pit alignments which, though as yet undated, possibly represent a pattern of land division and enclosure in the later prehistoric period. Evidence has been found for the reuse of one of the prehistoric burial mounds during the Early Medieval period. Medieval settlement is indicated by St Tysilio's Church, Llandysilio, where the present Victorian church has replaced the medieval church building set within a curvilinear churchyard. The course of Offa's Dyke runs through the area, surviving as a low earthwork in places, and this has evidently influenced the course of the Welshpool-Llanymynech road as well as certain parts of the field pattern. Various elements of transport history are represented by the pattern of turnpike roads which intersect at Four Crosses, and by the former Oswestry-Newton Railway, visible in part as a raised causeway.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- important complexes of earlier prehistoric burial monuments
- possible later prehistoric pit alignments and later prehistoric or Roman enclosed settlements
- the course of Offa's Dyke
- medieval field systems and ridge and furrow
- medieval church foundation at Llandysilio
- vernacular farmhouses and farm buildings
- transport history represented by turnpike roads, the canal and former railway line and associated buildings and structures

Character Area 18: Bryn Mawr

Slightly elevated ground to the south of the Vyrnwy and to the west of Arddleen and Four Crosses, drawn to include the following aspect areas: an area of irregular fields, remnant ancient broadleaved woodland and small conifer plantations (AA 63) representing piecemeal clearance and enclosure; and an area of medium-sized regular fields and scattered farms (AA 57), possibly representing a pattern of more regular clearance and enclosure in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Early land use and settlement is represented by the later prehistoric hillfort on Bryn Mawr and by a later prehistoric or Roman enclosure at Gwerglodd-beillied. A medieval defensive ringwork is known near Rhysnant Hall, an early 19th-century mansion. The rules of modern game of lawn tennis were formulated on the tennis courts adjacent to the hall in the late 19th century.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- later prehistoric hillfort on Bryn Mawr and smaller later prehistoric or Roman enclosed settlement sites

- medieval earth and timber castle, early 19th-century hall and tennis courts at Rhysnant

Character Area 19: Vyrnwy

Low-lying floodplain of the Vyrnwy between Four Crosses and Llanymynech, just below the confluence with the River Tanat, drawn to include the following aspect areas: areas of irregular floodplain fields influenced by meanders of the River Vyrnwy (AA 65, 67) and probably representing the enclosure of former open meadow; and an area of fields between the canal and the Vyrnwy including a relatively small area of former parkland associated with Pentreheyling Hall (AA 64). The parkland includes an area of former ridge and furrow cultivation, suggesting that it may have been created from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips. Evidence of very early human activity is indicated by a barbed bone point dating to about 12,000 BC found in peaty deposits at Porthywaen near the confluence of the Vyrnwy and Tanat, just outside the character area. The bone point, dropped by a late upper Palaeolithic hunting party, represents the earliest evidence of human activity in the region, in the late glacial period. Several water corn-mills are known to have existed in the area from the medieval period onwards including the Carreghofa and Pentreheylin mills. The area includes various important elements of transport history relating to the crossing of the River Vyrnwy, including the canal aqueduct, the later 18th-century New Bridge and the early 19th-century Llanymynech Bridge, the latter replacing an earlier ford, and the abutments of the former later 19th-century Oswestry-Newtown railway bridge across the Vyrnwy and the course of the dismantled branch line from Llanymynech to Llanfyllin. River transport from the quay at Clawdd Coch was important for the export of raw materials including slate and lead ores from the Welsh hinterland until the coming of the canal and railway. Thomas Pennant in the 1780s noted the barges of up to fifty tons that transported materials during some months of the year to join the Severn and then as far afield as Bristol and via the canal network to Birmingham.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- alluvial deposits associated with early human activity and of potential palaeoenvironmental significance
- buried remains of medieval and post-medieval mills
- significant elements of transport history associated with the turnpike road, canal, railway and river

Character Area 20: Carreghofa

An area of fields, scattered farms and cottages rising from the north bank of the Vyrnwy onto the southern slopes of Llanymynech Hill and drawn to include the following aspect areas: an area of large, medium and small-sized regular fields including some strip fields and areas of ridge and furrow cultivation (AA 68), probably partly deriving from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips; an area of more irregular fields (AA 69) suggesting a process of more piecemeal clearance and enclosure; and the recent canal-side and roadside settlement at Wern (AA 70). Like the Vyrnwy character area (no.19), the area includes various features of interest to transport history in addition to the canal, including the course of the leat and navigable waterway which formerly linked the canal to the River Tanat, the course of the dismantled branch line from Llanymynech to Llanfyllin, and the course of the mineral line from Llanymynech to Nant Mawr. Early clearance and land use is indicated by various sites identified by aerial photography to the west of Wern including a complex of ring ditches, some of exceptionally large size, representing earlier prehistoric burial and ritual sites, and pit alignments similar to the larger complexes in the Four Crosses character area which possibly represent land division and allotment in the later prehistoric period.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- complex of earlier prehistoric burial and ritual sites and pit alignments indicating early land allotment
- areas of ridge and furrow cultivation representing medieval open-field strips
- significant elements of transport history associated with the canal and railways

Character Area 21: Llanymynech

Mining and industrial processing settlements and agricultural and recreational areas associated with the distinctive limestone upland block of Llanymynech Hill, drawn to include the following aspect areas: the nucleated settlement of medieval origin at Llanymynech (AA 71); the post-medieval settlement at Pant (AA 74); an area of former limestone quarries, cottages, encroachments and small straight-sided fields (AA 75); the golf course occupying the plateau of the hill (AA 76); and an area of past and present processing and manufacturing industry (AA 72). The later prehistoric hillfort which crowns the summit of the hill is one of the largest in the country, and although it may represent a tribal centre which once housed a large population there have even been suggestions that it may also have been built to protect the sources of copper ore which lie within its interior. There is evidence to suggest that these ores were being mined and used for the manufacture of bronze weapons and implements from the later Bronze Age onwards and there is a cave known at the Ogof inside the hillfort which probably represents a Roman mine. It has been suggested that the hillfort may have been the site of the last stand of the Celtic chieftain Caractacus against the Roman army, in a decisive battle in the Roman conquest of Britain described by the historian Tacitus. The location of the battle is unknown, however, and other sites in the upper Severn valley for which claims have been made include the Breiddin hillfort and the hill now occupied by Dolforwyn Castle. It is uncertain when the earliest stone quarries were opened, although it has been suggested that quarrying and lime production may have started in the Roman period, Llanymynech being the closest source of building lime to the large Roman city at Wroxeter, further downstream on the Severn, and it is possible that a quarrying settlement existed at Llanymynech at that time. In the later 8th century Offa's Dyke, marking the western boundary of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia, was built across the area, encompassing the hill and following the western defences of the prehistoric hillfort. A church settlement had become established at Llanymynech near the crossing of the River Vyrnwy by the medieval period but rapid growth of this nucleated settlement and of Pant on the western flanks of the hill came with the expansion of the quarrying industry in the post-medieval period, especially following the improvements to the turnpike roads. Lime production for building and agricultural purposes was being undertaken on a large scale during the 18th and 19th centuries, being first transported by road and river and subsequently by canal and railway. The industry declined and virtually disappeared during the later 19th century.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- the later prehistoric hillfort, one of the possible sites of Caractacus's last stand against the Roman army
- evidence of prehistoric and Roman copper mining and processing
- the course of Offa's Dyke
- deposits associated with medieval nucleated settlement at Llanymynech
- industrial sites and structures associated with the limestone and lime industries
- significant elements of transport history associated with the canal and railways

Character Area 22: Morton

An area of agricultural land between Llanymynech and Maesbury, with scattered farms and small linear settlements. It has been drawn to include the following aspect areas: a low-lying area of large and medium-sized irregular fields and widely dispersed farms (AA 73), possibly representing later medieval and early post-medieval clearance and enclosure; an area of medium-sized straight-sided fields, dispersed farms and post-medieval linear roadside settlements (AA 77, 78), including some areas of strip fields and ridge and furrow cultivation and probably derived from a combination of post-medieval enclosure of areas of medieval open-field strips and areas of former common meadow; an area of small and medium-sized regular fields including some strip fields and areas of ridge and furrow cultivation (AA 80) and probably in part derived from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips; and the canal-side and roadside settlement at Maesbury Marsh (AA 81). Early settlement and land use possibly of the later prehistoric or Roman periods is suggested by a number of enclosed settlements identified by aerial reconnaissance. As well as the canal, the area is crossed by the course of the dismantled railway lines between Shrewsbury and Llanymynech, Llanymynech and

Oswestry and a number of turnpike roads improved during the later 18th and earlier 19th centuries.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- later prehistoric or Roman enclosed farmsteads
- areas of ridge and furrow cultivation representing medieval open-field strips
- elements of transport history associated with turnpike roads, the canal and railways

Character Area 23: Maesbury Marsh

Low-lying area of relatively poorly drained land and widely scattered farms along the lower River Morda and its tributaries, drawn to include areas of relatively large irregular fields partly resulting from the drainage and enclosure of former meadow land during the medieval and early post-medieval period (AA 79, 83). Sites of historical and archaeological interest include Wat's Dyke, the 8th-century linear earthwork that pre-dated Offa's Dyke, the moated site at Bromwich Park which may represent an early colonising phase of drainage, clearance and land use during the medieval period, and possible water meadows.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- Wat's Dyke
- medieval moated site at Bromwich Park
- structures and buildings associated with the canal
- St Winifred's Well, Woolaston
- possible water meadows

Character Area 24: West Felton

Swathe of agricultural land on the low ridge between Woolston and Queen's Head, drawn to include the following aspect areas: an area of medium-sized regular fields including some strip fields (AA 82) and probably partly deriving from the enclosure of former medieval open-field strips.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- structures and buildings associated with the canal

Character Area 25: Wootton

An area of predominantly agricultural land between Queen's Head and Babbinswood, to the east of Oswestry, slightly elevated above the lower-lying and more poorly drained lands along the River Morda to the south and the headwaters of the River Perry to the east. The area is drawn to include the following aspect areas: parkland and golf course at Aston (AA 84); an area of small regular fields (AA 88) probably partly derived from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips; areas of more irregular fields (AA 89, 91) possibly partly resulting from medieval to early post-medieval piecemeal clearance, drainage and enclosure. Wildfowling traditionally formed part of the economy of the farms bordering the former wetland areas to the east, as indicated by the farm-name Decoy Farm near where there was once a duck decoy for the capture and marketing of wild ducks.

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- former duck decoy near Decoy Farm

Character Area 26: Perrymoor

Low-lying farmland around the headwaters of the River Perry, drawn to include the following aspect areas: an area of small regular fields, together with larger straight-sided fields and areas of broadleaf and conifer plantation (AA 88) representing post-medieval drainage and enclosure of former moss and wetland, some drained when the canal was constructed in the later 18th century; slightly elevated areas of more irregular field boundaries (AA 92, 93) possibly representing medieval to early post-medieval clearance and enclosure; an area of parkland surrounding Woodhouse (AA 97); and the canal-side and roadside settlement at Queen's Head (AA 86).

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- structures and buildings associated with the canal
- Woodhouse historic parkland
- Bronze Age axe hammers from Queen's Head

Character Area 27: Welsh Frankton

Rising ground north of the River Perry, drawn to include the following aspect areas: irregular fields with widely scattered farmsteads and dispersed canal-side settlement at Lower Frankton (AA 94), probably representing piecemeal medieval to late medieval clearance and enclosure; and an area of medium-sized straight-sided fields probably representing more recent enclosure of former open common (AA 95).

The main historical and archaeological interests within the character area are as follows:

- structures and buildings associated with the canal

5 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

- 5.1 The following section provides some detail for each of the known archaeological sites within the study area, identifying their location, and where possible their extent, as well as their perceived significance. The canal corridor has been divided into 23 arbitrary areas mapped at 1:10,000 in figs 3A to 3W, and text has been produced to accompany each map.
- 5.2 Sites are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN), with those for Powys bearing a unique numeric number, while each of those for Shropshire is prefixed with the letters SA. In consultation with the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for Powys, maintained by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, newly recorded sites have been allocated unique PRNs. For Shropshire, however, all newly recorded sites have been allocated a temporary Site Number, without the SA prefix, although it is anticipated that PRNs will be allocated to these sites by the Shropshire SMR in due course.
- 5.3 In general, all recorded sites have been included which lie within fields immediately adjacent to the canal, although in certain circumstances this area has been extended to include, for example, significant monuments which are either visible, or may be visited, from the canal. It has been assumed during the preparation of this report that all aspects of the built heritage relating directly to the canal itself will be included in the Built Heritage Assessment and, with a few exceptions, they have therefore been omitted from this study. Elements of the built heritage which have, however, been incorporated include limekilns, mills and smithies which all form significant aspects of the wider landscape. Similarly, listed buildings have only been included where they have a significant landscape value or where there may be some impact resulting from the proposed restoration.
- 5.4 The nature of the archaeological resource varies considerably, comprising buildings and other structural elements, earthworks, and buried archaeological deposits often only revealed as cropmarks identified from aerial reconnaissance. The varying nature of the archaeology inevitably means that not all sites are either obvious or indeed visible above ground. The contrasting nature of archaeological sites is clearly demonstrated by three examples. The cropmark enclosure at Crickheath Wharf (Plate 1) has no upstanding remains but is nevertheless a very important site with considerable potential. By contrast, Luggy Motte is a very impressive earthwork monument of national importance. Adjacent to the motte, however, is a low earthwork platform (Plate 2) which marks the site of a house and enclosure depicted on the Tithe Survey. Although the earthworks are not particularly impressive and may not be recognised by the lay person, they are also of considerable significance and potential.
- 5.5 The recorded sites include those already known from the SMRs for Powys and Shropshire, together with those identified during the present desk-based study and the subsequent field survey. It should be stressed, however, that this record should not be taken to represent the entirety of the archaeological resource as there is considerable potential for significant previously unrecorded remains to be present within the canal corridor. It should be noted that field survey was generally undertaken from the towpath alone, and also at a time when vegetation cover may have obscured surface features, and thus many areas were not thoroughly examined. In particular, there is always the potential for buried archaeological deposits for which there is now no surface trace. Any management strategy must take this into account.
- 5.6 Where appropriate, broad management recommendations are included below, with further advice on the management of the archaeological resource being offered in Appendix 2. When developing a management strategy for specific works full consultation should always be undertaken with the regional archaeological curator and, in the case of a scheduled ancient monument or listed building, with either English Heritage or Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, depending on the location of the site. In certain circumstances it may be necessary to conduct a further stage of archaeological assessment to determine the potential impact of specific proposals on the archaeological resource. In particular, this may be the case for any areas where proposed works might affect a significant area beyond the present canal corridor, such as a new road crossing or any planned realignment of the canal.

- 5.7 Each site of archaeological interest has been classified according to its perceived significance. The categories are those given in the Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments draft *Archaeology and the Trunk Road Programme in Wales: a Manual of Best Practice* which in turn are based on those given in the Department of Environment, Transport and Regions' *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* Volume 11 Section 3 Part 2 (1993).

Category A sites of national importance. It is presumed that sites in this category will be preserved and protected *in situ*.

Category B sites of regional or county importance which are 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 should be undertaken.

Category 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.

Category D minor and damaged sites which do not merit inclusion in a higher category, and for which rapid recording should be sufficient.

Category E sites whose importance could not be fully determined as a result of the assessment and may warrant further evaluation.

- 5.8 In general terms it can be assumed that the suggested mitigation for Category A and most Category B sites would be *preservation in situ* (see below for explanation). *Preservation by record* would be recommended for Category C and probably Category D sites. Category E sites would require *evaluation*, as might some sites in higher categories, depending on the nature of the proposed impact. It should also be stressed at this stage that the archaeological curator for the area might decide on his/her own recommendations.

Terminology

- 5.9 The following standard archaeological terms are used below as recommended mitigation measures.

Preservation by record: where proposals will inevitably lead to the loss of a site sufficient recording should be undertaken to provide a full, accurate and permanent record of its nature, form, significance and dating. Preservation by record can take a number of forms, depending on the nature of the site in question, and may be achieved with or without excavation and could include any or all of the following: written record; drawn record; photographic record; artefactual record; survey; and environmental sampling.

Preservation in situ: where a site is considered to be of sufficient significance it may be considered appropriate to preserve the site in its present form, condition and location.

Evaluation: where insufficient information exists regarding a site for a decision to be made regarding its future management a programme of investigative work may be proposed. Such investigation may include geophysical survey, topographical survey and trial excavation.

Watching brief: a watching brief may be recommended to include archaeological monitoring of all relevant groundworks, including topsoiling, in order to identify and record any previously unknown archaeological remains which may be revealed. Sufficient time must be allowed for adequate recording of any remains that are encountered.

FIG 3A

Grid References SO 11569197 to SO 13069256
Length 1.8 km

Topography and landuse

The canal follows the contours along the northern side of the Severn valley, to the north of which the land rises into the undulating hills and small valleys north-east of Newtown. Beyond the settlements of Newtown and Llanilwchaiaim the area is largely given over to permanent pasture.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Newtown - a medieval market town which expanded rapidly as a regionally important centre for industry and services in the later 18th and 19th centuries
- Dolforwyn - characterised by irregular fields indicating piecemeal medieval and early post-medieval enclosure, areas of broadleaved woodland and plantations, and dispersed farms.

Archaeological summary

The main archaeological interest comprises the medieval settlement of Newtown and the earlier earthwork motte and bailey castle at Gro Tump, on the south side of the Severn. Two possible enclosure sites have been identified from aerial photography and former river crossings are recorded at Llanilwchaiaim.

Management recommendations

The majority of sites are unlikely to be affected by the restoration proposals, with the exception of Penarth cottage (PRN 64669). Preservation *in situ* would be the preferred option and a programme of appropriate building recording should be considered.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
1035	Gro Tump Castle	Motte and bailey	Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SO1232092220	A
4648	Newtown Golf Course Ridge and Furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Intact	SO1220092300	C
31051	Llanilwchaiaim Church (St Llwlwchaiaim) and churchyard	Church	Multiperiod	Building	Intact	SO1237792528	A
64610	Llanilwchaiaim Ferry	Ferry	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SO1259392453	E
64611	Llanilwchaiaim Ford	Ford	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SO1262692489	E
64612	Newtown canal pumping station	Pumping station	19th century	Document	Unknown	SO1174392219	B
64655	Newtown golf course enclosure I	Enclosure	Unknown	Earthwork	Unknown	SO1219992363	E
64656	Newtown golf course enclosure II	Enclosure	Unknown	Earthwork	Unknown	SO1196192185	E
64660	Porthouse Wood quarry	Quarry	Unknown	Earthwork	Near intact	SO1286592609	D
64669	Penarth cottage	House	Post Medieval	Building	Damaged	SO1290292606	C

PRN 1035 Gro Tump Castle

The riverside motte stands to about 10-12m in height and has a small bailey, 21m wide at the west end and 5m wide at the east end, which is bounded by an earthen bank. The site is a scheduled ancient monument.

PRN 4648 Newtown Golf Course Ridge and Furrow

An area of ridge and furrow aligned north-west to south-east has been identified from aerial photography.

PRN 31051 Llanllwchaïarn Church (St Llwchaïarn)

Parish church rebuilt on the site of the medieval church in 1815. Grade II Listed Building. Its churchyard may reflect the site of an Early Medieval ecclesiastical foundation.

PRN 64610 Llanllwchaïarn Ferry

Ferry depicted on OS 1st ed. 25" map.

PRN 64611 Llanllwchaïarn Ford

Ford depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64612 Newtown canal pumping station

Canal pumping station depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map, drawing water from River Severn to feed the canal.

PRN 64655 Newtown golf course enclosure I

A small rectilinear enclosure set on the headland spur above the Severn has been identified from aerial photography. Of unknown date and function.

PRN 64656 Newtown golf course enclosure II

Ephemeral traces of a semi-circular enclosure set against the edge of a river terrace. Without further examination its integrity remains uncertain.

PRN 64660 Porthouse Wood quarry

Small stone quarry, situated at the base of steep slope, is evident as an exposed rock face.

PRN 64669 Penarth cottage

Disused and dilapidated building adjoining the north side of the canal, which appears to have been a house/workshop. The low two-storey building is constructed of timber framing with brick infill, its western end partly boarded with wood.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 36SE

Tithe Survey for Llanllwchaïarn Parish, 1841/42

Tithe Survey for Newtown Parish, 1843

FIG 3B

Grid References SO 13069256 to SO 14769394
Length 2.5 km

Topography and landuse

The canal follows the contours along the north-western side of the Severn valley, to the north-west of which the land rises into undulating hills divided by the Bechan Brook. The area is largely agricultural pasture.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Newtown - a medieval market town which expanded rapidly as a regionally important centre for industry and services in the later 18th and 19th centuries.
- Dolforwyn - characterised by irregular fields indicating piecemeal medieval and early post-medieval enclosure, areas of broadleaved woodland and plantations, and dispersed farms.
- Abermule - the valley bottom bordering the canal and River Severn, the canal-side settlement of Abermule itself, together with areas of medium-sized regular fields probably representing late medieval and early post-medieval enclosure, and larger, straight-sided fields which may represent more recent enclosure or reorganisation.
- Llanmerewig - irregular fields, areas of remnant ancient broadleaved woodland, small plantations and widely dispersed farms representing piecemeal woodland clearance and enclosure from the medieval period onwards

Archaeological summary

The recorded archaeology is largely related to the canal and includes the Freestone weir and feeder leat, together with two small canal drains. Canal-side limekilns are recorded at Aberbechan, as is a fulling mill.

Management recommendations

The more significant structures are those relating to the canal, comprising the weir, feeder leat and tramway, all of which would presumably be incorporated into the restoration scheme. Any programme of works affecting these sites should allow for adequate recording in their current condition, before any alterations are undertaken. It is assumed that structures relating to the Aberbechan mill will be unaffected by the proposed restoration.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
7703	Aberbechan track	Trackway ?	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Unknown	SO1420093400	D
20569	Aberbechan Mill House/Cilgwrgan Mill	Woollen mill	Post Medieval	Building	Intact	SO1425093570	B
37456	Aberbechan Fulling Mill	Fulling mill	Post Medieval ?	Building	Near intact	SO1424993572	B
64606	Aberbechan Limekilns	Lime kiln	19th Century	Document	Unknown	SO1432893564	E
64607	Aberbechan Fulling Mill Tailrace	Leat	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SO1438193593	E
64608	Aberbechan Fulling Mill Leat	Leat	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SO1420093605	E
64642	Aberbechan canal drain	Drain	19th Century	Earthwork	Near intact	SO1452893692	C
64644	Freestone canal drain	Drain	19th Century	Earthwork	Near intact	SO1408793178	C
64678	Barn Meadow	Barn	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SO1357392533	E
64679	Barn Meadow	Barn	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SO1358692656	E
64680	Ddol y felin	Mill	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SO1427893332	E
80183	Penarth canal feeder leat	Leat	19th Century	Structure	Unknown	SO1395092790	B
80184	Penarth canal feeder weir	Weir	19th Century	Structure	Intact	SO1398092650	B
80185	Penarth canal tramway	Tramway	19th Century	Document	Unknown	SO1394092840	D

PRN 7703 Aberbechan track

Possible road which could be associated with the canal. In the pasture field on the north side of the canal there is a grassed flat terrace c. 5m wide running alongside the canal at a distance of c. 5m from it.

PRN 20569 Aberbechan Mill House/Cilgwrgan Mill

The half-timbered building is the old fulling mill-house for the Aberbechan (or Min-y-fron) woollen mill. The mill-water ran under the adjoining timber mill-housing and into the canal below (Hughes, 1981). The house is currently named Minhafren Mill.

PRN 37456 Aberbechan Fulling Mill

The Aberbechan fulling mill was called 'Min-y-fron'. It bordered the canal wharf and was used for making flannel; processes included cleansing and stretching. The half timbered building is the old fulling mill-house (PRN 20569; Hughes, 1981)

PRN 64606 Aberbechan Limekilns

Two kilns are depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. A modern agricultural shed now occupies this location and the limekilns may therefore have been destroyed.

PRN 64607 Aberbechan Fulling Mill Tailrace

The tail race from the Aberbechan mill is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. A large yard for agricultural machinery occupies much of what was the location of the mill race.

PRN 64608 Aberbechan Fulling Mill Leat

The mill leat for the Aberbechan Fulling Mill is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. Earthwork traces of the leat survive to the west of the mill.

PRN 64642 Aberbechan canal drain

Drain depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. There is a sluice beneath the canal towpath and, at the base of the steep canal bank, a drain channel is still extant leading to the river.

PRN 64644 Freestone canal drain

Drain depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. A short length of water channel, now overgrown, leads from the canal sluice to the river.

PRN 64678 Barn Meadow

Field name in Llanllwchaearn Tithe Apportionment (1841), perhaps indicative of a barn in the vicinity.

PRN 64679 Barn Meadow

Field name in Llanllwchaearn Tithe Apportionment (1841), perhaps indicative of a barn in the vicinity.

PRN 64680 Ddol y felin

Field name in Llanllwchaearn Tithe Apportionment (1841), indicative of a mill in the vicinity.

PRN 80183 Penarth canal feeder leat

Feeder leat for the Montgomery Canal, leading from Penarth weir (PRN 80184) to Freestone lock. The leat is stone-lined, though this lining is damaged or missing in places. The sluice at the north end is intact.

PRN 80184 Penarth canal feeder weir

Weir on River Severn built to provide additional water for the canal via a feeder leat (PRN 80183) (Hughes 1981, 145)

PRN 80185 Penarth canal tramway

A tramway is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map, running alongside the canal feeder leat (PRN 80183). The tramway embankment survives with stone armouring along the riverside.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 36SE
Tithe Survey for Llanllwchaiarn Parish, 1841/42
Tithe Survey for Newtown Parish, 1843

FIG 3C

Grid References SO 14769494 to SO 16449580
Length 2.56km

Topography and landuse

The canal follows the contours along the north-western side of the Severn valley, to the north-west of which the land rises into undulating hills and small valleys. The settlement of Abermule lies on the south-eastern bank of the Severn, within an area which is largely agricultural pasture. Much woodland remains on the hillsides overlooking the valley.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Dolforwyn - characterised by irregular fields indicating piecemeal medieval and early post-medieval enclosure, areas of broadleaved woodland and plantations, and dispersed farms.
- Abermule - the valley bottom bordering the canal and River Severn, the canal-side settlement of Abermule itself, together with areas of medium-sized regular fields probably representing late medieval and early post-medieval enclosure, and larger, straight-sided fields which may represent more recent enclosure or reorganisation.
- Llanmerewig - irregular fields, areas of remnant ancient broadleaved woodland, small plantations and widely dispersed farms representing piecemeal woodland clearance and enclosure from the medieval period onwards

Archaeological summary

The area is dominated by the remains of two medieval castles at Dolforwyn and Bryn Derwen, Abermule. The settlement of Abermule largely developed as a result of the canal, and later the railway, and contemporary sites include a corn mill and limekilns. Two quarries presumably provided building stone for the locality and may, along with a possible third quarry adjacent to the canal, have also been used for the construction of the canal.

Management recommendations

The medieval castles are both scheduled ancient monuments and it is assumed therefore that they would be unaffected by the proposed restoration. The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance, or have already been destroyed. Should works be likely to affect any of the extant sites their preservation by record should be ensured.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
151	Bryn Derwen Castle	Motte and bailey	Medieval	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SO1635095250	A
154	Dolforwyn Castle (multiple)	Multiple site	Multiperiod	Multiple	Damaged	SO1518095010	A
4568	Abermule Old Bridge	Bridge	Post Medieval ?	Structure	Near destroyed	SO1639095530	E
21891	Abermule footbridge site	Bridge	Post Medieval	Structure	Destroyed	SO1600094900	D
22877	Cefn-gwarstad Quarry (dis)	Quarry	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Unknown	SO1565594943	D
35774	Dolforwyn fulling mill, site of	Fulling mill	Medieval	Building	Destroyed	SO1610094800	E
37457	Abermule Corn Mill	Mill (corn)	Post Medieval ?	Document	Destroyed	SO1605394922	E
64604	Abermule Limekilns	Lime kiln	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SO1599194831	E
64605	Castell Forwyn Quarry	Quarry	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SO1557194663	E
64658	Dolforwyn quarry	Quarry ?	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Unknown	SO1639095760	E
64668	Newhouse compound	Compound ?	Post Medieval ?	Structure	Damaged	SO1486994117	C

PRN 151 *Bryn Derwen Castle*

An earthwork motte and bailey, situated on the east bank of the River Severn. The motte is largely destroyed, with its position marked by a hollow, although the earthwork bank and ditch of the adjoining bailey are better preserved. Scheduled Ancient Monument.

PRN 154 *Dolforwyn Castle (multiple)*

Dolforwyn Castle commands a superb hilltop position overlooking the Severn valley. Begun by Llywelyn ap Gruffudd of Gwynedd in 1273, it was a border outpost, built on the frontier between Powys, Gwynedd and England. In 1277 the castle was besieged by Roger Mortimer, the constable of Montgomery, who forced the surrender of the garrison. Although the Mortimers subsequently made various modifications to the castle, by 1398 it was ruinous. The site has been extensively excavated and reconsolidated. Scheduled Ancient Monument and Listed Building.

PRN 4568 *Abermule Old Bridge*

A bridge site is recorded on the Tithe map of 1839, presumably the former timber bridge which is thought to have been swept away by the violent floods of February 1852. A temporary timber bridge (contractor David Davies of Llandinam, cost £260) was erected in three weeks on the site of the old bridge, utilising the surviving stone abutments. The remains of a causewayed road were noted here and faced stone was seen in the river.

PRN 21891 *Abermule footbridge site*

A stone platform is recorded on the western side of the river where a footbridge is marked on the Tithe map of 1839. It was probably used for taking lime from the canal to the kilns (PRN 64604), which stood near the eastern end of the bridge, near the mill (PRN 37457).

PRN 22877 *Cefn-gwarstad Quarry (dis)*

A quarry recorded on modern Ordnance Survey maps.

PRN 35774 *Dolforwyn fulling mill, site of*

The approximate site of the former medieval fulling mill belonging to Aber-miwl (Abermule) grange, part of Strata Florida abbey (Williams 1990, 57).

PRN 37457 *Abermule Corn Mill*

The site of Abermule corn mill was on the bank of the Severn in the township of Bron-y-coed, but used water from a small stream springing from the hillside above. In 1851 it had a very substantial business giving employment to Evan Evans, the miller and five labourers of whom three gave their principal occupation as 'miller' (Census 1851, 1861, 1871). By 1891, when Edward Embrey was the miller, the business had declined to some extent and later there was a sawmill on the premises. Today the extensive range of buildings lies derelict and all the machinery has gone. The mill race survives but the pond has been filled in and the water discharges through a sluice towards the Mule.

PRN 64604 *Abermule Limekilns*

A bank of four limekilns is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64605 *Castell Forwyn Quarry*

A quarry is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map

PRN 64658 *Dolforwyn quarry*

A rectangular hollow beside the canal, probably a quarry, has been identified from aerial photography.

PRN 64668 *Newhouse compound*

Two lengths of a timber fence construction form a triangular-shaped enclosure with the canal as the third side. Its function is undetermined, but it may perhaps be an animal compound. The remains consist of five large, rough-hewn timber upright posts around 1m high, with some cross rails still attached.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 36NE
1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 36SE
1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 37NW
1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 37SW
Tithe Survey for Bettws Parish, 1840
Tithe Survey for Llandysil Parish, 1839/40
Tithe Survey for Llanllwchaearn Parish, 1841/2
Tithe Survey for Llanmerewig Parish, 1838/40

FIG 3D

Grid References SO 16449580 to SO 18089774
Length 2.65km

Topography and landuse

The canal follows the contours along the north-western side of the Severn valley, to the north-west of which the land rises into undulating hills and small valleys. The area is largely down to agricultural pasture, with extensive woodland on the hillsides overlooking the valley.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Dolforwyn - characterised by irregular fields indicating piecemeal medieval and early post-medieval enclosure, areas of broadleaved woodland and plantations, and dispersed farms.
- Abermule - the valley bottom bordering the canal and River Severn, the canal-side settlement of Abermule itself, together with areas of medium-sized regular fields, probably representing late medieval and early post-medieval enclosure, and larger, straight-sided fields which may represent more recent enclosure or reorganisation.
- Llanmerewig - irregular fields, areas of remnant ancient broadleaved woodland, small plantations and widely dispersed farms representing piecemeal woodland clearance and enclosure from the medieval period onwards
- Garthmyl - a distinct area of post-medieval cottages and small fields on the sloping valley side and a fieldscape of medium-sized regular fields along the valley bottom probably created in the medieval and early post-medieval periods.

Archaeological summary

The recorded archaeology is largely post-medieval or 19th-century in date, and includes a limekiln and a smithy, as well as a possible brick kiln.

Management recommendations

The condition of the Bunkers Hill lime kilns could not be ascertained as part of the present survey, but significant structural remains could survive. The site should be closely inspected to assess its potential and a programme of recording may then be considered appropriate.

Although no surface remains have been identified relating to Bryn Turn Building (PRN 64640), the site could have significant archaeological potential in the form of buried remains. Preservation in situ would be the preferred option, although should any works be undertaken within the immediate area some form of evaluation should be considered in advance, in order to assess the potential of the site and to assist in developing a management strategy.

If any works are undertaken in the area of Cae Brick (PRN 64681) or Red House Agger (PRN 37034) a programme of prior evaluation should be considered to assess the potential of the sites and aid the development of a management strategy.

It is assumed that the listed buildings will be unaffected by the proposed restoration. The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance and should works be likely to affect any these their preservation by record should be ensured.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
159	Red House Lynch	Field system	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Near intact	SO1740097300	C
8563	Pennant Trackway	Trackway	Unknown	Earthwork	Unknown	SO1690097000	E
13831	Glan Hafren Wood Old Quarry	Quarry	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Unknown	SO1648096390	D
32524	Red house	House	Post Medieval	Building	Intact	SO1727297105	A
32525	Tan-y-Fron	Farmhouse ?	19th Century	Building	Intact	SO1796897573	A

32629	Abermule, Glanhafren	House	Post Medieval	Building	Intact	SO1680296407	A
36264	Fron, Maes Fron	House	Post Medieval	Building	Intact	SO1774897408	A
37034	Red House Agger	Road ?	Unknown	Earthwork	Unknown	SO1690096900	E
64602	Bunkers Hill Limekilns	Lime kiln	Post Medieval	Structure	Damaged	SO1790597557	C
64603	Bunkers Hill Smithy	Smithy	Post Medieval	Building	Near intact	SO1795097554	C
64640	Bryn Turn Building	Building	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SO1662996093	E
64681	Cae Brick	Brick kiln ?	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SO1681696696	E

PRN 159 Red House Lynchet

A small earthwork on a spur overlooking the River Severn. A large positive lynchet 3m in height encircles the knoll at the south-east end, and a lynchet also faces the road to the south-west.

PRN 8563 Pennant Trackway

A holloway approximately 100m in length, runs roughly west-north-west to east-south-east down the south-east facing slope behind Pennant house.

PRN 13831 Glan Hafren Wood Old Quarry

A small quarry c. 8m x 10m within an oak and spruce plantation.

PRN 32524 Red house

A three-storeyed, half-timbered house. Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 32525 Tan-y-Fron

A block of two brick dwellings under one roof. Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 32629 Abermule, Glanhafren

Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 36264 Fron, Maes Fron

Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 37034 Red House Agger

A bank or agger running for c. 230m, and 5m in width. A possible former course of the turnpike road.

PRN 64602 Bunkers Hill Limekilns

Limekilns are depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. The site of the limekiln is presently occupied by a storage yard next to a tile showroom. Backing onto the canal is a tall (c. 2m high), flat-topped platform faced with concrete blocks on the south-east. Presumably, this constitutes the remains of the limekiln.

PRN 64603 Bunkers Hill Smithy

A smithy is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. A small slate-roofed building of red brick, with a rear wall of stone, lies to rear of the large house fronting the main road. A lane leading to the canal bridge runs along the west side of the smithy building. The entrance door is in the gable end and, above it, there is a small square opening central to the ridge. There is a small ground floor window west of the door. Roughly-built sheds lie to the rear of the building.

PRN 64640 Bryn Turn Building

A building depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. The recorded siting lies in the lower part of a field adjacent to the river. The field is generally uneven, but without closer inspection no remains of a building or platform could be distinguished.

PRN 64681 Cae Brick

Field name in Bettws Cedewain Tithe Apportionment (1840), perhaps indicative of a brick kiln, or perhaps a former structure.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 30SW
1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 37NW
Tithe Survey for Bettws Parish, 1840
Tithe Survey for Berriew Parish, 1840
Tithe Survey for Llandysil Parish, 1839/40

FIG 3E

Grid References SO 18089774 to SO19219985
Length 2.95km

Topography and landuse

The canal follows the contours along the north-western side of the Severn valley, to the west of which the land rises into undulating hills and small valleys. The area is largely down to agricultural pasture.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Dolforwyn - characterised by irregular fields indicating piecemeal medieval and early post-medieval enclosure, areas of broadleaved woodland and plantations, and dispersed farms.
- Garthmyl - a distinct area of post-medieval cottages and small fields on the sloping valley side and a fieldscape of medium-sized regular fields along the valley bottom, probably created in the medieval and early post-medieval periods, together with the 19th-century country houses, gardens and parkland at Garthmyl and Glansevern and the small canal-side settlement at Garthmyl itself.

Archaeological summary

The archaeology of the area has been influenced significantly by the canal and turnpike road, with a focus of activity around Garthmyl. Five banks of limekilns are recorded alongside the canal and the presence of clay pits suggests local small-scale brick making. Garthmyl Hall and gardens have been recognised as a site of national importance, the house being a listed building and the gardens included in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens (Cadw 1999, 72-6). Evidence of past agricultural practice is provided by fieldnames suggesting open-field cultivation as well as an area of ridge and furrow.

Management recommendations

There are four listed limekilns which should be preserved *in situ*. Any works affecting these sites would be subject to Listed Building Consent and prior consultation should be undertaken with Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. Garthmyl Hall and Gardens are assumed to be unaffected.

Red Gate limekilns (PRN 64667), Cefn Garthmyl Buildings (PRN 64614) and Garthmyl fishponds (PRN 4590) are of considerable archaeological significance and potential and should be preserved *in situ*. A potential house site has also been identified adjacent to the fishponds (PRN 8555). Prior to any works being undertaken in either area, the sites should be clearly fenced to ensure that they are completely avoided. The canal sluice and drain (PRN 64662) are integral features of the canal infrastructure and should be retained. Appropriate recording should be undertaken prior to any works being undertaken which may affect the site.

The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance, or have been destroyed and should works be likely to affect any of the extant sites their preservation by record should be ensured.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
4590	Garthmyl House, fishponds	Fish pond	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SO1960099000	B
6070	Corfields Green Cottages Bank	Non antiquity	Unknown	Earthwork	Intact	SO1914099320	E
8555	Garthmyl House Site	House	Post Medieval	Building	Unknown	SO1960099000	E
19166	Oakfields claypit	Clay pit	19th Century	Earthwork	Unknown	SO1931099650	E
19167	Plas Meredydd clay pit	Clay pit	20th Century	Earthwork	Near intact	SO1841897762	D

20553	Garthmyl southern kiln bank kilns 1 & 2	Lime kiln	19th Century	Structure	Unknown	SO1943599236	E
32866	Rose Cottage cropmark	Linear cropmark	Unknown	Cropmark	Unknown	SO1918099222	E
32924	Garthmyl Hall	House	18th Century ?	Building	Intact	SO1908798933	A
32925	Garthmyl Hall, garden	Garden	19th Century	Structure	Intact	SO1908798933	A
36269	Berriew Wharf limekilns	Lime kiln	19th Century	Structure	Intact	SO1940099260	A
36271	Garthmyl middle kiln bank	Lime kiln	19th Century	Structure	Intact	SO1934099378	A
36272	Garthmyl northern kiln bank	Lime kiln	19th Century	Building	Damaged	SO1924799486	A
64598	Garthmyl Milestone I	Milestone	Post Medieval	Document	Destroyed	SO1919798838	D
64599	Garthmyl Milestone II	Milestone	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SO1947498762	E
64600	Pen-y-llwyn ?clay pit	Clay pit	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Intact	SO1845197899	D
64601	Laburnham House Milestone	Milestone	Post Medieval	Document	Destroyed	SO1808897674	D
64613	Garthmyl Well	Well	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SO1929699331	E
64614	Cefn Garthmyl Buildings	Building	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SO1924299312	C
64637	Wern-y-beddau pond	Pond	Post Medieval ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SO1857198083	D
64638	Halfway House Building I	Building	Post Medieval	Document	Destroyed	SO1817897783	D
64639	Halfway House Building II	Building	Post Medieval	Document	Destroyed	SO1819097798	D
64648	Wern-y-beddau field system	Field System ?	Post Medieval	Cropmark	Damaged	SO1860498115	C
64657	Garthmyl ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Post Medieval ?	Earthwork	Unknown	SO1920099400	C
64662	Red gates canal sluice and drain	Drain	Post Medieval	Structure	Intact	SO1913199722	C
64665	Reffail canal bridge	Bridge ?	Post Medieval	Structure	Near destroyed	SO1918199811	C
64666	Trwstlywelyn canalside building	Building	Post Medieval	Building	Damaged	SO1894298523	C
64667	Red Gate limekilns	Lime kiln	Post Medieval	Structure	Damaged	SO1918899615	B
64708	Maesybarn	Field system	Medieval	Placename	Unknown	SO1884898533	E
64716	Maesybarn (part of)	Field system	Medieval ?	Placename	Unknown	SO1888998549	E
64717	Erw Green	Field system	Medieval ?	Placename	Unknown	SO1868198268	E

PRN 4590 *Garthmyl House, fishponds*

A group of three rectangular depressions sited in a level area are connected by a channel to a now dry artificial watercourse.

PRN 6070 *Corfields Green Cottages Bank*

A site recorded from aerial photography as a possible enclosure is now viewed as a non-antiquity.

PRN 8555 *Garthmyl House Site*

A former house site is suggested by spreads of broken bricks, coke, slag and some post-medieval pottery. It lies close to the possible fishponds site (PRN 4590).

PRN 19166 *Oakfields claypit*

Reputed site of a clay pit. Field is known as 'the brick field'.

PRN 19167 *Plas Meredydd clay pit*

Reputed site of a clay pit. A large hollow has been quarried out of the hillslope and now houses a pool. The quarried area is something like 50m by 20m in extent, and seems very likely to be a clay pit.

PRN 20553 Garthmyl southern kiln bank kilns 1 & 2

Kilns 1 and 2 of the kiln bank are no longer evident and may either be destroyed or remain as buried features (Hughes 1981).

PRN 32866 Rose Cottage cropmark

A curvilinear earthwork, possibly part of an enclosure abutting the steep ground to the south, has been identified from aerial photography.

PRN 32924 Garthmyl Hall

Listed building of late 18th-century date, in red brick with yellow stone dressings. The central portion projects slightly. The stone porch has double Tuscan pillars and architrave. It was built for Elizabeth Gold in 1859 by the architect J K Colling (Haslam 1991, 117). Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 32925 Garthmyl Hall, garden

Grade II Historic Garden. A good example of a Victorian Classical gentry house with well-preserved grounds, developed in the mid-19th century in a fine setting (Cadw 1999, 72-6).

PRN 36269 Berriew Wharf limekilns

Two large limekilns remain from a five-kiln bank (Hughes 1981). Listed Building.

PRN 36271 Garthmyl middle kiln bank

Davies, Roberts & Owen Builders yard occupies the area and obscures visibility to the top of the limekiln. From the lane to the east of the canal the kiln is visible as an intact stone arch within a wooded area. Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 36272 Garthmyl northern kiln bank

The area of the limekiln is now a private garden. Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 64598 Garthmyl Milestone I

A milestone is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map: Welshpool 6 Newtown 7.5. The main road has been widened here and a wide verge created, presumably leading to the loss of the milestone in the process.

PRN 64599 Garthmyl Milestone II

A milestone is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map: Welshpool 6 Montgomery 2.75.

PRN 64600 Pen-y-llwyn ?clay pit

A pond is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map, possibly a clay pit. The pond survives and has an opening onto the canal.

PRN 64601 Laburnham House Milestone

A milestone is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map: Welshpool 7 Newtown 6.5.

PRN 64613 Garthmyl Well

A well is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64614 Cefn Garthmyl Buildings

A group of three buildings is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. No buildings are now standing, and there are no remains apparent other than a level platform towards the top of the steep-sloping field. This takes the form of a terrace, 30m long, on which are possible rectangular depressions which may represent the positions of buildings.

PRN 64637 Wern-y-beddau pond

A pond is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. The area of the pond has wetland vegetation, but the pond itself was not visible at the time of a recent field visit.

PRN 64638 Halfway House Building I

A building is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. A modern house and garden now occupy the site, and the earlier building is assumed to have been destroyed. The modern house sits on a raised platform, higher than the surrounding field. At the rear of the plot is a linear

depression running towards the next field boundary to the east, which might perhaps suggest a hollow way (although this may be just a drainage channel) perhaps associated with the former buildings.

PRN 64639 Halfway House building II

A building is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. A modern house and garden now occupy the site, and it is assumed that any previous building has been destroyed.

PRN 64648 Wern-y-beddau field system

A series of linear features, possibly drains, have been identified from aerial photography. The site is a low-lying, level field alongside the canal. There are traces of furrows or drains running north to south.

PRN 64657 Garthmyl ridge and furrow

Faint ridging, roughly north to south, has been identified from aerial photography.

PRN 64662 Red gates canal sluice and drain

A culverted drain leads westwards from a sluice with iron ratchet mechanism on the west side of the canal.

PRN 64665 Refail canal bridge

Footings for a now-destroyed structure, presumed to be a canal bridge, are visible on either side of canal. Shaped sandstone slabs edge the east side of the canal for a distance of around 5m, and might represent solid edging to the canal and towpath where it passed beneath a former bridge. The canal narrows at this point which might support this interpretation. On the west side of the canal, lying 3-4m from the edge of the canal, are perhaps two or three courses of a stone and brick structure around 3m wide, set into the east side of a grassed mound around 1m high, possibly representing the ramp for the bridge.

PRN 64666 Trwstllywelyn canal-side building

A very small stone building situated on the western edge of the canal, with only its lower courses surviving. Constructed of thin regular stones laid in regular courses, its dimensions are estimated as 2.5m by 2m and 0.6m high. Function unknown, but assumed to be associated with canal.

PRN 64667 Red Gate limekilns

The limekilns survive as a large rectangular-shaped grassed-over mound on the east side of the canal.

PRN 64708 Maesybarn

Field name in Berriew Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of former open-field cultivation system.

PRN 64716 Maesybarn (part of)

Field name in Berriew Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of former open-field cultivation system.

PRN 64717 Erw Green

Field name in Berriew Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of open-field cultivation.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 30SW
1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 37NW
Tithe Survey for Berriew Parish, 1840

FIG 3F

Grid References SO 19219985 to SJ 20030235
Length 3.14km

Topography and landuse

The canal follows the contours along the north-western side of the Severn valley, to the west of which the land rises into undulating hills and small valleys. The area is largely agricultural pasture.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Dolfowyn - characterised by irregular fields indicating piecemeal medieval and early post-medieval enclosure, areas of broadleaved woodland and plantations, and dispersed farms.
- Garthmyl - a distinct area of post-medieval cottages and small fields on the sloping valley side and a fieldscape of medium-sized regular fields along the valley bottom, probably created in the medieval and early post-medieval periods, together with the 19th-century country houses, gardens and parkland at Garthmyl and Glansevern and the small canal-side settlements at Garthmyl and Refail.
- Berriew - within the valley of the River Rhiw, the area includes a notable medieval church site and settlement at Berriew, an associated area of small regular fields to the west which may derive from the enclosure of former medieval open-field strips and part of the parkland and setting associated with the Jacobean mansion and later country house to the south-east of the village.
- Trehelyg - a valley bottom landscape of medium-sized regular fields, possibly of late medieval to post-medieval date, including areas of former medieval open-field strips, and an area of small and relatively straight-sided fields possibly enclosed or reorganised following the construction of the canal.
- Belan - irregular fields, remnant ancient broadleaved woodland, small plantations and widely dispersed farms probably representing piecemeal clearance and enclosure during the medieval and early post-medieval periods, together with an area of dispersed cottages and small irregular fields dating from the post-medieval period.

Archaeological summary

The area has a rich diversity of archaeological sites, with the principal archaeological interest being the motte and bailey castle at Luggy, Berriew church and the settlement that developed around it, almost certainly in the Middle Ages if not earlier, and Glansevern Hall and gardens. Bronze Age activity is indicated by the two palstaves found at Glansevern, and valley is overlooked by the Iron Age hillfort at Cefn yr Allt. There are records suggesting mills in the area during the medieval period and there were certainly two mills by the 18th or 19th centuries. A number of limekilns and smithies developed in association with the canal.

Management recommendations

Luggy motte (PRN 110) is a scheduled ancient monument and no works should be undertaken which affect the site or its setting in any way. Prior consultation with Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments should be undertaken prior to commencing any works in the general area. The site has been severely affected by erosion from the Luggy Brook and the impact of any further works affecting that watercourse must also be taken into account. The earthwork remains of a former house site and enclosure (PRNs 8554 and 8892) lie immediately to the west of the motte and these should also be preserved *in situ*. The Three Horseshoes Limekiln (PRN 8550) is a Grade II Listed Building and no works should be undertaken without the consent of Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. It is assumed that the remaining listed buildings will be unaffected.

There are a number of canal related features, including a possible former canal branch (PRN 64592), a further two limekilns (PRNs 7677 and 64595), two smithies (PRNs 64597 and 64719) and a sluice and drain (PRN 64663), each of which should be preserved *in situ*.

The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance, or have been destroyed and should works be likely to affect any the extant sites their preservation by record should be ensured.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
110	Luggy Motte	Motte and bailey	Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ1989002140	A
114	Cefn yr Allt Hillfort	Hillfort	Iron Age	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ1935001940	A
4580	Lower Rectory Mound	Round barrow ?	Bronze Age	Earthwork	Unknown	SJ1965001270	E
7677	Berriew Rectory limekilns	Lime kiln	Post Medieval	Structure	Unknown	SJ1903200906	E
8547	Berriew Ford	Ford	Unknown	Structure	Damaged	SJ1885000600	E
8549	Berriew Mill	Mill (corn)	Medieval ?	Building	Restored	SJ1866000840	B
8550	Garthmyl, 'Three Horseshoes' limekiln	Lime kiln	Post Medieval	Structure	Near intact	SJ1996702300	A
8554	Upper Luggy House Platform I	House ?	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ1980002200	E
8892	Upper Luggy House Platform II	House	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ1980002200	E
16709	Berriew Church	Church	Multiperiod	Building	Intact	SJ1878000820	A
20918	Brithdir smithy	Smithy	Post Medieval ?	Building	Intact	SJ1999002300	B
32516	Berriew, 'The Smithy'	Smithy	Post Medieval	Building	Intact	SJ1882500841	A
32929	Glansevern Hall, garden	Garden	19th Century	Structure	Restored	SJ1965000000	A
37461	Luggy Mill	Mill (corn)	Medieval	Building	Destroyed	SJ1960002200	E
64591	Luggy Mill Tailrace	Leat	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ1971902225	E
64592	Berriew canal branch	Canal	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ1911000948	B
64593	Glan-Rhiw Quarry	Quarry	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ1867200627	D
64594	Gro Cottages Milestone	Milestone	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ1927500273	E
64595	Efail Fach Limekilns	Lime kiln	Post Medieval	Structure	Unknown	SJ1926300119	E
64597	Efail Fach Smithy	Smithy	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ1927300072	E
64663	Berriew canal sluice	Sluice	Post Medieval	Structure	Intact	SJ1901000840	B
64718	Domen Field	Motte ?	Medieval	Placename	Unknown	SJ1983202149	E
64719	Smith's shop meadow	Smithy	Post Medieval	Placename	Unknown	SJ1987802224	E
70304	Glansevern palstave I	Findspot	Bronze Age	Finds only	Unknown	SJ1950000000	D
70305	Glansevern palstave II	Findspot	Bronze Age	Finds only	Unknown	SJ1950000000	D

PRN 110 Luggy Motte

Steep sided, near circular motte mound, c. 42m diameter at the base and c. 20m diameter across summit, with a vertical height of 8m. A poorly defined, shallow ditch, up to 10m wide in places, surrounds the motte. To the east of the mound are the remains of a rectilinear bailey, where a low bank with suggestions of an external ditch in the south-east corner define an area with rough dimensions of 36m by 43m. The northern extents of the bailey are not known due to erosion by the Luggy Brook, which has also severely affected the motte.

PRN 114 Cefn yr Allt Hillfort

A D-shaped multivallate hillfort with three ramparts surviving as scarps 2m high on the north-west side. There is a probable intrenched entrance on the inner scarp at the western end.

PRN 4580 Lower Rectory Mound

A ploughed down flattish-topped mound some 35m diameter by 0.5m high is recorded here, although now it only survives as a slight undulation. Possibly a Bronze Age round barrow, or a natural glacial mound.

PRN 7677 *Berriew Rectory limekilns*

A bank of limekilns is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. The site appears to coincide with a flat area alongside the canal which appears to fall away steeply on the north side towards a housing estate. Although no surface features are apparent, buried remains may survive.

PRN 8547 *Berriew Ford*

A paved setting of large flat stones is recorded to the west of the present Berriew bridge. There has been a suggestion that this probably pre-dates the bridge and may mark the crossing point for a Roman Road (known as RRX73). Currently, some largish flat stones are visible beneath the aqueduct, and more are visible in the river bed on the east side of aqueduct which look very convincing as paving. These run alongside the north bank of the river for around 10m in a strip perhaps 3m wide. They suggest a road, but it might be associated with the building or repair of the aqueduct.

PRN 8549 *Berriew Mill*

Former corn mill of 17th-century date, though possibly occupying a medieval mill site. The mill was gone by 1968, but the Mill House still stands high above the Rhiw. The mill pond was filled around 1960 but its site is still discernible.

PRN 8550 *Garthmyl, 'Three Horseshoes' limekiln*

A limekiln adjacent to the Three Horseshoes public house, backing onto the canal towpath. Stone construction with brick lined arches. Partly cleared and restored. Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 8554 *Upper Luggy House Platform I*

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map shows an enclosure, possibly a garden, associated with house site PRN 8892, but there is no indication of a structure here. Two mounds survive in the field adjoining the canal and south of the stream. The mound nearest to the canal is more regular, and flatter topped. It stands 2-3m high but its function is unknown.

PRN 8892 *Upper Luggy House Platform II*

A house is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map, lying within an enclosure alongside the Luggy Brook. Towards the north-east corner of the enclosure is a small structure, possibly a privy. Its remains survive as one of two mounds in the field, with a very lumpy and irregular top.

PRN 16709 *Berriew Church*

St Beuno's early home is supposed to have been at Berriew: the name Maen Beuno given to a Bronze Age standing stone along Dyffryn Lane is a reminder of his teaching here. Traditionally, he established the church at Berriew, but then settled at Clynnog Fawr near Caernarfon, where he founded a clas and where he was buried in 642. He has been called the patron saint of North Wales (Haslam 1979).

PRN 20918 *Brithdir smithy*

A smithy is recorded here (and is likely to be the stone building lying to the east of limekiln (PRN 8550). Much of the building is obscured by ivy growth, but it appears to be of a single storey with a slate roof. It may well be a near intact smithy, but is currently in use as a garage/store.

PRN 32929 *Glansevern Hall Garden*

The house, a Grade II* Listed Building, is attributed to a Shrewsbury architect, Joseph Bromfield, who built it for Arthur Davies Owen in 1800-1807. Few external alterations are believed to have been carried out since, although the porch was added in c. 1910.

The gardens at Glansevern lie to the north-east and east of the house, and the pleasure grounds to the south around a lake. The park surrounds the house and garden at Glansevern, covering about 100 acres. Both the park and garden are now registered as an Historic Garden (Cadw 1999, 82-6).

PRN 32516 *Berriew, 'The Smithy'*

A timber-framed, brick-nogged whitened single storeyed building with dormers, two window, and moulded brick chimneys. Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 37461 Luggy Mill

A corn mill at Luggy is possibly recorded as early as 1364, and certainly by 1737. The mill was in the township of Allt Issa and may well have been the mill of Ralltissa granted to the ringild of Tregynon in 1364. In 1737 it was leased by William, marquis of Powis, to John Price of Halyggy for 21 years and was later shown on an estate map of 1775 (NLW, Powis Castle M8) and on an enclosure map defining the boundary of the manor of Cedewain in 1818. There is a sketch map included showing the exact location of the mill. The 1818 Perambulation of Welshpool map also shows this as a separate mill at Lower Luggy and the text draws a clear distinction between this and the walk mill and the factory at Brithdir.

PRN 64591 Luggy Mill Tailrace

A tail race is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map, but the channel is no longer apparent. However, a small stone building standing in the field west of the canal is presumably associated with the corn mill (PRN 37461, now destroyed).

PRN 64592 Berriew canal branch

The stub of a canal branch is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. British Waterways' copy of this map is annotated to suggest a planned branch, never completed. A possible holloway (PRN 37033) was identified to the west of the surviving section of the canal branch which is likely to be the canal. At this point the canal widens and a sunken channel sets off in a north-westerly direction through the field, visible as a linear hollow and a line of nettles.

PRN 64593 Glan-Rhiw Quarry

An old quarry is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64594 Gro Cottages Milestone

A milestone is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map: Welshpool 9 Newtown 8.5. The milestone may have been moved and could be one of two stone slabs set into a stone wall on the west side of the old Newtown to Welshpool road, one of which bears a partial inscription: '... D 1872 D.C.'

PRN 64595 Efail Fach Limekilns

Limekilns are depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. A platform with ornamental planting on it, and steps set into its east face, lies to the rear of the petrol filling station. Agricultural machinery is displayed on its flat top. The platform stands perhaps 1.5m high and may perhaps be the remains of the limekiln.

PRN 64597 Efail Fach Smithy

A smithy is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. A probable 19th-century date house called Glanfa now stands at this location, and does not appear to have any other structure associated with it. Perhaps the smithy formed part of this building.

PRN 64663 Berriew canal sluice

An iron ratchet mechanism for a sluice is visible on the outer edge of canal towpath. Below the canal at this point some stone structure is evident where a drain exited the canal, and a swampy area is evident in the field on edge of canal (to south-east).

PRN 64718 Domen Field

Field name in Berriew Tithe Apportionment (1840), perhaps indicative of a motte.

PRN 64719 Smith's shop meadow

Field name in Berriew Tithe Apportionment (1840).

PRN 70304 Glansevern palstave I

Looped, trident-pattern palstave findspot.

PRN 70305 Glansevern palstave II

Unlooped midrib palstave, with flaring blade findspot.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 30NW
1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 30SW
Tithe Survey for Berriew Parish, 1840

FIG 3G

Grid References SJ 20030235 to SJ 21100470
Length 2.64km

Topography and landuse

The canal follows the contours along the north-western side of the Severn valley, beyond which the land rises into undulating hills and small valleys. The area is largely down to agricultural pasture.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Trehelyg - a valley bottom landscape of medium-sized regular fields, possibly of late medieval to post-medieval date, including areas of former medieval open-field strips, and an area of small and relatively straight-sided fields possibly enclosed or reorganised following the construction of the canal.
- Belan - irregular fields, remnant ancient broadleaved woodland, small plantations and widely dispersed farms probably representing piecemeal clearance and enclosure during the medieval and early post-medieval periods, together with an area of dispersed cottages and small irregular fields dating from the post-medieval period.

Archaeological summary

With the exception of two possible Iron Age defended enclosures, neither displaying any earthwork remains, which have been identified from aerial photography, the remaining sites are likely to be broadly contemporary with the canal. These include a possible limekiln, a number of quarries and two possible brick kilns.

Management recommendations

Two cropmark enclosures (PRNs 7520 and 7521) have considerable archaeological potential and should be preserved *in situ*. Should any works be proposed in the vicinity of these monuments they should be clearly demarcated in advance. The possible limekiln (PRN 64662) may also have considerable potential and should also be preserved *in situ*.

Should any works be proposed in the vicinity of the two potential brick-kiln sites, a programme of evaluation should be considered to assess their potential.

The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance and their preservation by record should be ensured.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
7520	Wernlwyd Wood enclosure	Defended enclosure ?	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2005802852	B
7521	Cae Baeno enclosure	Enclosure	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2031102352	B
64585	Sweeps Bridge Quarry I	Quarry	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2098704616	D
64586	Sweeps Bridge Quarry II	Quarry	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Near intact	SJ2092804495	D
64587	Chapel Bridge Quarry I	Quarry	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2056203787	D
64588	Chapel Bridge Quarry II	Quarry	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2050703745	D
64590	Wernlwyd canal drain	Drain	Post Medieval	Structure	Intact	SJ2022002548	C
64661	Wernlwyd Wood quarry	Quarry	Unknown	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2022003100	D
64664	Beechwood limekiln ?	Lime kiln ?	Post Medieval	Structure	Damaged	SJ2099204500	C
64682	Brick kiln field	Brick kiln	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2066003255	E

64683	Brick kiln leasow	Brick kiln	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2088904177	E
64684	Lletty fawr	House ?	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2091804238	E
64685	Site of house field by the house and greenfield [sic]	House	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2069103908	E
64720	Maes y Brithdir	Field system	Medieval ?	Placename	Unknown	SJ2010402486	E

PRN 7520 Wernlwyd Wood enclosure

A sub-rectangular single ditched enclosure, 44.9m by 38.4m, set on a moderately steep slope above the valley floor. Identified from aerial photography.

PRN 7521 Cae Baeno enclosure

A sub-rectangular enclosure, c. 43m by 29m, with an entrance to the north-east. Identified from aerial photography.

PRN 64585 Sweeps Bridge Quarry I

A quarry is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64586 Sweeps Bridge Quarry II

A quarry is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64587 Chapel Bridge Quarry I

A quarry is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64588 Chapel Bridge Quarry II

A quarry is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64590 Wernllwyd canal drain

A canal drain depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64661 Wernlwyd Wood quarry

A quarry is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64664 Beechwood limekiln ?

A building is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. The surviving remains suggest a possible limekiln, lying at the foot of the canal bank. It consists of a stone structure perhaps 10m long and standing c. 2m high, with an open central bay.

PRN 64682 Brick kiln field

Field name in the Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of a brick kiln.

PRN 64683 Brick kiln leasow

Field name in the Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of a brick kiln.

PRN 64684 Lletty fawr

Field name in the Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), perhaps indicative of a former house.

PRN 64685 Site of house field by the house and greenfield [sic]

Field name in the Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), perhaps indicative of a former house.

PRN 64720 Maes y Brithdir

Field name in Berriew Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of open-field cultivation.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 23SW
 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 23SE
 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 30NW
 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 30NE

Tithe Survey for Berriew Parish, 1840

Tithe Survey for Welshpool Parish, Upper and Middle Divisions, 1840

FIG 3H

Grid References SJ 21100470 to SJ 22580697
Length 2.86km

Topography and landuse

The canal follows the contours along the north-western side of the Severn valley, beyond which the land rises into undulating hills and small valleys. The area is largely given over to permanent pasture, with the exception of parts of Powis Castle park and the Coed y Dinas Nature Reserve.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Trehelyg - a valley bottom landscape of medium-sized regular fields, possibly of late medieval to post-medieval date, including areas of former medieval open-field strips, and an area of small and relatively straight-sided fields possibly enclosed or reorganised following the construction of the canal.
- Belan - irregular fields, remnant ancient broadleaved woodland, small plantations and widely dispersed farms probably representing piecemeal clearance and enclosure during the medieval and early post-medieval periods, together with an area of dispersed cottages and small irregular fields dating from the post-medieval period.
- Powis Castle - Medieval and later earth and timber and later stone castle with associated gardens and parkland, together with an area of mixed broadleaf and conifer woodland

Archaeological summary

The area is rich in archaeological remains, particularly on the valley floor of the River Severn where a number of important monuments have been identified from aerial photography and excavation. These include a Neolithic cursus and timber circle, a Bronze Age henge and a number of ploughed-out round barrows, as well as two Iron Age enclosures. On the outskirts of Welshpool, Powis Castle and gardens are of particular historic and archaeological significance, while later remains include the Belan limekilns, one on the better preserved banks of kilns along the canal, and the Powis Estates Sawmill.

Management recommendations

There are two scheduled ancient monuments, Welshpool Cursus (PRN 3482) and Coed y Dinas Round Barrow I (PRN 17001), and three Listed Buildings, Belan Limekilns (PRN 20889), Powis Castle and Gardens (PRN 32982), and Powis Estates Sawmill (PRN 37419). Of these only the limekilns may be affected by the restoration proposals. Full consultation with Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments would be required before undertaking any works affecting the kilns.

The complex of prehistoric monuments is well-recorded from aerial reconnaissance and excavation and each of the extant sites should be preserved *in situ*. The significant concentration of these monuments strongly suggests that further important buried archaeological remains await discovery in the general area and a programme of evaluation should be undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of any areas where groundworks are proposed.

The Powis Saw Mills Milestone should be preserved *in situ*, while the remaining recorded sites are of minor significance and their preservation by record should be ensured.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
3482	Welshpool Cursus	Cursus	Neolithic	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2172004870	A
3602	Belan Lock Quarry Hillfort	Hillfort ?	Iron Age	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2100004900	B
3965	Coed y Dinas Ring Ditch I	Henge	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Destroyed	SJ2218005280	D
3994	Sarn y Bryn Caled Timber Circle	Timber circle	Neolithic	Cropmark	Destroyed	SJ2192504935	D

4546	Sarn y Bryn Caled Ring Ditch	Henge	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Damaged	SJ2187005020	B
4928	Llwyn Wron Ring Ditch	Ring ditch	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2178004980	B
4930	Brandyslop Bridge Hengiform site	Henge (hengiform monument)	Bronze Age ?	Cropmark	Destroyed	SJ2182004810	B
5026	Whitehouse Bridge Barrow	Round barrow ?	Bronze Age	Earthwork	Near intact	SJ2235005960	B
5646	Limekiln Cottages enclosure	Enclosure ?	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2168005090	E
7102	Sawmill Cottage Ring Ditch	Round barrow ?	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2242005930	B
7111	Dyserth enclosure	Defended enclosure ?	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2154905536	B
8951	Sarn-y-bryn-caled ring ditch	Ring ditch	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2178004860	B
17001	Coed Y Dinas Round Barrow I	Round barrow	Bronze Age	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2234005940	A
17002	Coed Y Dinas Flint Find I	Findspot	Bronze Age	Finds only	Unknown	SJ2234005940	D
17003	Coed Y Dinas Round Barrow II	Round barrow ?	Bronze Age	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2204005870	E
17397	Coed y Dinas Ring Ditch II	Round barrow	Bronze Age	Buried feature	Destroyed	SJ2218005280	D
20889	Belan Limekilns	Lime kiln	Post Medieval	Structure	Intact	SJ2175905345	A
32827	Coed Y Dinas enclosure	Enclosure	Unknown	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2211505335	B
32828	Sawmills Cottage ring ditch III	Ring ditch	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2226505784	B
32829	Sawmills Cottage ring barrow II	Round barrow	Bronze Age	Earthwork	Unknown	SJ2232805939	B
32982	Powys Castle, Garden	Garden	17th Century	Structure	Intact	SJ2166006360	A
37419	Powis Estate, Sawmill	Saw mill	20th Century	Document	Intact	SJ2220005900	A
37463	Dyserth Mill placename	Mill ?	Post Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2190006000	E
38726	Sarn y bryn caled pit	Ritual pit ?	Neolithic ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2190005600	B
64581	White House canal drain	Drain	Post Medieval	Structure	Intact	SJ2252406166	C
64582	Powis Saw Mills Milestone	Milestone	Post Medieval	Structure	Near intact	SJ2222605988	C
64583	Belan Quarry	Quarry	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2116304958	D
64584	Belan Gravel Pit	Quarry (gravel)	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2106804825	D
64634	Oldford Well	Well	Post Medieval	Document	Destroyed	SJ2245506739	D
64636	Oldford Buildings	Building	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2254506593	E
64686	Bron llys and close y kiln	Kiln	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2141105157	E

PRN 3482 *Welshpool Cursus*

The cursus is 380m long, 10m wide and is oriented north-east to south-west. Aerial photographs have revealed squared terminals and causeways at points along its lateral ditches. Trial excavation demonstrated the ditches to be shallow, flat based and to demonstrate silting from the outside attesting the former presence of external banks. A radiocarbon date of 4960± 70 BP (OxA-3997) was obtained from oak charcoal on the floor of the ditch but since this date represents one of the earliest dates for the cursus tradition in Britain, it must be questioned whether the charcoal may have been from old wood (Gibson 1998).

PRN 3602 *Belan Lock Quarry Hillfort*

Recent aerial photography (03-c-227) shows an area of ridge and furrow on the north-west side of the ridge and what may be a bank and ditch enclosing the south-eastern side.

PRN 3965 *Coed y Dinas Ring Ditch I*

Discovered from the air in 1975 (St Joseph 1980), this site was excavated in 1992 as part of the rescue excavations prompted by works associated with the construction of the Welshpool relief road (Gibson 1994). The site measured 19m in internal diameter with a ditch 1.5m to 2.3m across and surviving to 0.38m to 0.85m deep below the gravel surface, though the ditch had been considerably

eroded in the south where it was shallowest. There was an entrance in the west and a partial causeway in the east (Gibson 1998).

PRN 3994 *Sarn y Bryn Caled Timber Circle*

Excavated in 1990/91 in advance of by-pass construction. Outer circle of 20 pits, inner circle of 6 pits, all of which had held posts. Those in the outer circle were c. 30cm diameter, and in the inner circle 60-70cm diameter, with two entrance posts in the south with diameters of around 70cm. A wood lined pit excavated through the fills of the inner postholes contained a primary cremation with four barbed and tanged arrowheads (Gibson 1994).

PRN 4546 *Sarn y Bryn Caled Ring Ditch*

A ring ditch around 40m in diameter, partly truncated by the road.

PRN 4928 *Llwyn Wron Ring Ditch*

A ring ditch 12m diameter, with a small sub-rectangular feature at its centre.

PRN 4930 *Brandyshop Bridge Hengiform site*

Excavated in 1991, the Late Neolithic hengiform site comprises a penannular ditch open to the north-west and with two postholes flanking the entrance. The ditch was 1m across and 1m deep and had been recut at least once. Peterborough pottery and cremations were recovered from the ditch (Gibson 1994, 143-223).

PRN 5026 *Whitehouse Bridge Barrow*

A possible round barrow comprising a mound around 18m in diameter and 0.5m high.

PRN 5646 *Limekiln Cottages enclosure*

A rectilinear cropmark some 36.2m north-east to south-west by 20m wide. Possibly the south-east part of a rectangular ditched enclosure, or a sub-division of larger one.

PRN 7102 *Sawmill Cottage Ring Ditch*

A cropmark ring ditch c. 32m in diameter.

PRN 7111 *Dysserth enclosure*

A double ditched rectangular enclosure, measuring 68 by 77m, with possibly an adjoining field system.

PRN 8951 *Sarn-y-bryn-caled ring ditch*

A ring ditch c. 12m in diameter.

PRN 17001 *Coed Y Dinas Round Barrow I*

A scheduled round barrow 25m in diameter and c. 0.5m high, lying in slight hollow on river terrace.

PRN 17002 *Coed Y Dinas Flint Find I*

A flint flake recovered from the mound of PRN 17001 after ploughing.

PRN 17003 *Coed Y Dinas Round Barrow II*

A possible round barrow, consisting of a low earthen mound c. 20m diameter and c. 0.4m high. Possibly spoil from canal construction/maintenance, though a more obvious spoil heap lies c. 20-30m to the north.

PRN 17397 *Coed y Dinas Ring Ditch II*

Excavation by CPAT in 1992 in advance of gravel quarrying identified an interrupted, flattened V-sectioned ring ditch. There were no finds. Features in the interior do not appear to be associated. A radiocarbon date of c. 1500BC was obtained from an internal posthole (Gibson 1992f, 66; 1993b).

PRN 20889 *Belan Limekilns*

A large kiln bank, probably built on land spoiled by the dumping of waste from the canal construction and since obscured by the dumping of dredged material around the kilns. The canal may have built the kilns, but it is more likely that they were only the owners of the land. By 1840 'Belan Lime Kilns Wharf & co.' were occupied by John Franks who had eight kilns on the site. The kilns were built into the supporting bank of the canal, and had two very curved recesses into their

line near the centre. From the five kilns visible today it is obvious that this kiln-bank was built up in a piecemeal fashion. Some kilns had wide brick barred-vaults similar to those at Newton and Garthmyl to give access to the kiln drawing-holes. Rubble sandstone narrower barrel-vaults with domical ends against the burning cone similar to those at Buttington are also in evidence. Like Buttington they have intermediate transverse low arches connecting the lime-drawing tunnels and are probably of an earlier date than the larger brick and stone kilns. All central feeding vents at canal level were obscured by tipping. Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 32827 Coed Y Dinas enclosure

Possible sub-rectangular enclosure c. 39m by 21m with a possible entrance in the north-west corner. Perhaps caused by recent agricultural activity.

PRN 32828 Sawmills Cottage ring ditch III

A small ring ditch, c. 11.6m in diameter, with a central pit.

PRN 32829 Sawmills Cottage ring barrow II

A round barrow c. 18m in diameter.

PRN 32982 Powis Castle Gardens

The red sandstone castle of Powis Castle stands proudly on a rocky outcrop to the south of Welshpool town looking out over its gardens to the south-east and its park to the north-east, east and west. Powis Castle, otherwise known as Y Castell Coch (the Red Castle), was built on the site of a fort of the Welsh princes in about 1109. From the 15th century the castle was gradually transformed into a mansion.

The gardens of Powis Castle lie to the south-east and south-west of the castle, the terraces immediately below the mansion, the Great Lawn below and the Wilderness opposite, the different areas being linked by formal hedges and topiary. In all the garden covers an area of about 25 acres (Cadw 1999, 216-224).

PRN 37419 Powis Estate, Sawmill

A saw and bone mill built over a small stream which possibly powered the earliest mill on the site. This probably was and is the main Sawmill for the woodlands of the Powis Estate. Timber was the main canal-borne traffic and this area supplied timber for part of Nelson's Navy. The Mills lie on the bank of the Montgomery Canal, to the north is the Sawmill and to the south the smaller bone mill. The main range of the Sawmill is of squared green sandstone with a hipped roof and dates to the early 19th century. It probably had a dual water feed from an inverted syphon under the canal and also from a canal overflow (still visible on the tow path) into its oblong mill-pond alongside the canal. Two races then converged to feed the wheel of the long rectangular Sawmill and the smaller Bone mill. In 1840 the area north of the watercourse was called the 'Sawmill, Timberyards, Sheds and Smithy' and the area to the south the 'Bone mill and part of the yard'. By 1901 the mill-pond had been increased in size to cover a large rectangular area. The pond is now drained. Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 37463 Dysserth Mill placename

The name Close y Vellin appears on the Humfrey Bleaze map of 1629 on Kyddrugen Brook coming down from the present Dysserth Hall. It is also mentioned in a 1656 lease of land within the 'Parke payled' of Powis Castle. There are faint traces of a leat and pool on the south side of the stream but these are partly obscured by the later road bridge giving access to Dysserth Hall.

PRN 38726 Sarn y bryn caled pit

A large, roughly circular pit lying just to the west of the Sarn-y-bryn-caled houses and to the north-north-east of the cursus. It appears to be in the region of 10m in diameter.

PRN 64581 White House canal drain

A canal drain depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64582 Powis Saw Mills Milestone

A milestone depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map: Welshpool 1 Newtown 12.5

PRN 64583 Belan Quarry

A quarry depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64584 Belan Gravel Pit

A gravel pit depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64634 Oldford Well

A well depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64636 Oldford Buildings

Group of three buildings within a small enclosure depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64686 Bron llys and close y kiln

Field name in the Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), perhaps indicative of a brick or limekiln.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 23SE

Tithe Survey for Welshpool Parish, Upper and Middle Divisions, 1840

Tithe Survey for Welshpool Parish, Lower Division, 1840

FIG 31

Grid References SJ 22580697 to SJ 23950878
Length 2.48km

Topography and landuse

In general, the canal runs through the urban area of Welshpool, emerging on the northern side along the edge of the Severn valley, between an area of pasture and an industrial estate.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Trehelyg - a valley bottom landscape of medium-sized regular fields, possibly of late medieval to post-medieval date, including areas of former medieval open-field strips, and an area of small and relatively straight-sided fields possibly enclosed or reorganised following the construction of the canal.
- Belan - irregular fields, remnant ancient broadleaved woodland, small plantations and widely dispersed farms probably representing piecemeal clearance and enclosure during the medieval and early post-medieval periods, together with an area of dispersed cottages and small irregular fields dating from the post-medieval period.
- Powis Castle - medieval and later earth and timber and later stone castle with associated gardens and parkland, together with an area of mixed broadleaf and conifer woodland
- Welshpool - regionally important market town of medieval origin which expanded rapidly as an industrial centre and as a centre for commerce, services and woollen mills in the later 18th and 19th centuries, especially as a result of improvements in road transport and the coming of the canal and railways.
- Allt - irregular fields, remnants of ancient broadleaved woodland and dispersed farms, and larger areas of managed broadleaved and conifer woodland, probably largely the result of piecemeal enclosure during the medieval and early post-medieval periods.

Archaeological summary

The medieval market town of Welshpool is thought to have originally developed between the Norman motte and bailey, Domen Gastell, and St Mary's Church. An early medieval chapel is also recorded in the area. The present settlement was established as a planned town in the 13th century. Evidence for Roman occupation is known from finds recovered from the area of the Smithfield although the nature and extent of this settlement is unknown.

The canal clearly had a major impact on the town and this is reflected in the built heritage, which is generally outside the scope of this report, although notable sites include the Powysland Museum, housed in the old canal-side warehouse, and the site of the Town Lock Mill.

Management recommendations

As this section of the canal is largely within the urban area of Welshpool the impact of any proposed works on known archaeological sites is likely to be minimal. There are, however, a number of canalside buildings, presumably associated with the canal, recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map and which currently have no obvious surface remains. Works affecting these areas should be monitored to record any buried remains which may be revealed.

The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance and their preservation by record should be ensured.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
120	Welshpool, Domen Gastell	Motte and bailey	Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2301007400	A
4438	Welshpool Church (Capel Llewellyn)	Church	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2271007640	E

16973	Welshpool, St Marys	Church	Multiperiod	Building	Intact	SJ2258007630	A
20892	Welshpool, Town-Lock Mill	Mill (corn)	Post Medieval	Building	Destroyed	SJ2260007310	E
64579	Gungrog Lodge Milestone	Milestone	Post Medieval	Structure	Intact	SJ2388208318	D
64629	Gungrog Canalside Building	Building	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2366208241	E
64630	Gallowstree Bridge Canalside Building I	Building	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2347008059	E
64631	Gallowstree Bridge Canalside Building II	Building	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2343108001	E
64632	Gallowstree Bridge Canalside Building III	Building	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2342707978	E
64633	Gallowstree Bridge Canalside Building IV	Building	Post Medieval	Document	Destroyed	SJ2339907991	D
64635	Oldford Buildings	Building	Post Medieval	Document	Destroyed ?	SJ2266406850	E
64687	Old Ford	Ford	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2251807029	E
64688	Lower Maes y dre	Field system	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2263307133	E
64689	Barn field	Barn	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2294207623	E
64700	Lower maes y derwen	Field system	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2374608308	E
64701	Maes y derwen	Field system	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2371708225	E
64702	Gallows tree field	Gallows	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2334707932	E
64703	Upper Maes y derwen	Field system	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2363708345	E
64704	Maes y Dderwen	Field system	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2357608417	E

PRN 120 *Welshpool, Domen Gastell*

Motte up to 6.1m high with tail cut back on south and east for railway siding. The adjoining embanked oval bailey, up to 6.1m high with a levelled interior, is now used as a bowling green. Scheduled Ancient Monument.

PRN 4438 *Welshpool Church (Capel Llewellyn)*

A possible Dark Age chapel site is documented in 1545, the building being replaced by a new chapel in 1587, which itself burnt down in 1659. The site is unlocated, although the graveyard was revealed during rescue excavations in 1996.

PRN 16973 *Welshpool St Mary's*

Adam of Usk was its priest in 1411, and William Morgan (translator of the Bible into Welsh) was vicar in 1575-8. Probably the church is the Ecclesia de Pola mentioned in the St Asaph valuation of 1253 (Haslam 1979).

PRN 20892 *Welshpool, Town-Lock Mill*

The mill at Welshpool Town Lock seems to have been first mentioned in 1838. This mill took advantage of the water supply from the 'pound' or level above Welshpool which by-passed the lock without interfering with the trade lower down. A photograph of the Town Lock Corn Mill at the beginning of the 20th century and the present remains of the wheel pit and axle show the wheel to have been undershot with a diameter of about 6 metres. The by-pass, retaining wall and axle box are still present although the mill itself has gone. The mill owner in 1845 was Hannah Jones, salt and corn dealer, aged 56. According to a local informant the wheel was still there in the early 1970s although not running (Barton 1999, 52).

PRN 64579 *Gungrog Lodge Milestone*

A milestone depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map: Oswestry 14 Welshpool 1.

PRN 64629 *Gungrog Canalside Building*

A building is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64630 *Gallowstree Bridge Canalside Building I*

A building is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64631 *Gallowstree Bridge Canalside Building II*

A building is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64632 Gallowstree Bridge Canalside Building III

A building is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64633 Gallowstree Bridge Canalside Building IV

A building is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64635 Oldford Buildings

Two buildings are depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64687 Old Ford

Field name in the Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of a former ford.

PRN 64688 Lower Maes y dre

Field name in the Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of former open-field cultivation in the medieval period.

PRN 64689 Barn field

Field name in Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), perhaps indicative of a barn within the field.

PRN 64700 Lower maes y derwen

Field name in the Guilsfield Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of former open-field cultivation in the medieval period.

PRN 64701 Maes y derwen

Field name in the Guilsfield Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of former open-field cultivation in the medieval period.

PRN 64702 Gallows tree field

Field name in the Guilsfield Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of a gallows or gibbet.

PRN 64703 Upper Maes y derwen

Field name in the Guilsfield Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of former open-field cultivation in the medieval period.

PRN 64704 Maes y Dderwen

Field name in the Guilsfield Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of former open-field cultivation in the medieval period.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 23NE

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 23SE

Tithe Survey for Guilsfield Parish, Gungrog Fechan, Trebydan and Garth Townships 1840/46

Tithe Survey for Welshpool Parish, Lower Division, 1840

FIG 3J

Grid References SJ 23950878 to SJ 25211101
Length 2.68km

Topography and landuse

The canal follows the contours along the north-western side of the Severn valley, to the north-west of which the land rises into undulating hills and small valleys. The area is largely given over to permanent pasture.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Welshpool - regionally important market town of medieval origin which expanded rapidly as an industrial centre and as a centre for commerce, services and woollen mills in the later 18th and 19th centuries, especially as a result of improvements in road transport and the coming of the canal and railways.
- Allt - irregular fields, remnants of ancient broadleaved woodland and dispersed farms, and larger areas of managed broadleaved and conifer woodland, probably largely the result of piecemeal enclosure during the medieval and early post-medieval periods.
- Tirmynach - the floodplain of the River Severn between Welshpool and Pool Quay, including areas of irregular and straight-sided fields probably representing post-medieval enclosure of former open meadow, areas of long broad strip fields, some associated with ridge and furrow, possibly representing an area of medieval meadow and periodic open-field arable. Part of the area fell within the ownership of the medieval Cistercian monastery at Strata Marcella, which is the origin of the place-name Tirmynach, meaning 'monk's land'.

Archaeological summary

The area includes the site of the former Cistercian medieval monastery of Strata Marcella (the precinct of which is cut through by the canal and the present main road), established in the late 12th century. Although the site is of considerable archaeological significance the only visible remains consist of a series of confusing earthworks, some of which are the result of 19th-century excavations. The abbey had a considerable influence on the landscape and elements of former field systems and trackways survive as both earthworks and cropmarks, while fieldnames suggest the former existence of deer parks.

Other sites of interest include evidence for prehistoric activity, suggested by a possible defended enclosure near Moors Farm, and the limekilns at Buttington Cross, constructed adjacent to the canal.

Management recommendations

The area surrounding Strata Marcella (PRN 1253) is protected as a scheduled ancient monument, although its position on the opposite side of the road to the canal should ensure that it is unaffected by the restoration. The limekilns at Buttington Cross are listed and any works affecting them would require Listed Building Consent and prior consultation with Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

A number of important sites with significant archaeological potential lie adjacent to the canal, including boundaries associated with Strata Marcella (PRNs 38131 and 38134), possible medieval field systems (PRNs 4916 and 64653), three possible house sites (PRNs 64672-4) and a trackway (PRN 64670). Each of these should be preserved *in situ*.

The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance, or have been destroyed, and preservation by record should be ensured for all extant sites.

The proximity of Strata Marcella strongly suggests the possibility that further significant buried remains lie within the immediate area. A programme of evaluation should therefore be considered to assess the potential of the archaeological resource should any groundworks be proposed.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
1253	Strata Marcella Abbey	Abbey	Medieval	Building	Destroyed	SJ2513010400	A
4916	Allt Wood field system	Field system	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Near intact	SJ2464009920	C
5145	Ty Coch Cropmarks	Field system	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SJ2412009120	D
7974	Moors Farm enclosure cropmark	Defended enclosure ?	Prehistoric ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2440009100	B
19267	Pool Quay boundary marker III	Boundary stone ?	19th Century	Structure	Intact	SJ2480010100	E
36469	Buttington Cross, Rhallt Lane Buttington Limekilns	Lime kiln	19th Century	Structure	Near intact	SJ2414108918	A
38129	Strata Marcella Abbey, leat	Leat	Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2523110420	B
38131	Strata Marcella Abbey, precinct boundary west	Ditch	Medieval	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2494710425	B
38134	Strata Marcella Abbey, precinct boundary north	Precinct boundary	Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2519110624	B
64527	Canal Cottages well	Well	Unknown	Structure	Destroyed	SJ2398508907	D
64528	Yr Allt Wood quarry	Quarry	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2419109711	D
64529	The Moors milestone	Milestone	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2460409702	E
64530	The Moors canal drain	Water channel	19th Century	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SJ2472510117	D
64535	Abbey Foot bridge well	Well	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2453309899	D
64646	Abbey Barn field boundary	Boundary	Post Medieval	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2498810646	D
64653	Yr Allt earthworks	Field system	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Near intact	SJ2446109934	B
64654	The Moors earthworks	Drain	Post Medieval ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2439109473	D
64670	Strata Marcella trackway	Trackway	Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2494810380	B
64671	Welshpool to Pool Quay old road	Road	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2464410428	E
64672	Strata Marcella house site I	House	Post Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2483410406	B
64673	Strata Marcella house site II	House	Post Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2485610402	B
64674	Strata Marcella house site III	House	Post Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2487810397	B
64675	Strata Marcella Middle Park	Deer Park	Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2492410461	E
64676	Strata Marcella Rough Park	Deer Park	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2491310666	E
64677	Strata Marcella Lower Park	Deer Park	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2506510831	E
64690	Near Maes ty	Field system	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2396208630	E
64691	Far Maes ty	Field system	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2407608798	E
64692	Maes y brin	Field system	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2402108963	E
64693	Lower part of Maes-y-ty	Field system	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2396208870	E
64694	Fishpool leasow	Fishpond	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2438509389	E
64695	Fishpool piece	Fishpond	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2471610574	E
64696	Part of conduit piece (four fields all with same name)	Conduit	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2520010848	E
64723	Strata Marcella ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2505010450	C

PRN 1253 Strata Marcella Abbey

The abbey was originally founded in 1170 by Owain Cyfeiliog, Prince of Powys, and established by Cistercian monks from Whitland at a site closer to Welshpool. The present site was established in 1172. Only a range of earthworks remain and most of the area is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

PRN 4916 Allt Wood field system

A series of curvilinear ditches, possibly part of a field system associated with Strata Marcella.

PRN 5145 Ty Coch Cropmarks

A few banks are evident on the slope above the canal, representing surviving elements of a former field system.

PRN 7974 Moors Farm enclosure cropmark

A cropmark enclosure and possible field system identified from aerial photography.

PRN 19267 Pool Quay boundary marker III

Boundary marker of Pool Quay parish erected in 1863.

PRN 36469 Buttington Cross, Rhallt Lane Buttington Limekilns

A bank of three limekilns on the south-east side of the canal. All stokeholes are arched and open, except where bricked-up for safety at the base of the chamber. Top of charging holes are circular, but blocked by rubbish. Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 38129 Strata Marcella Abbey, leat

Leat associated with Strata Marcella monastery which it passes to the south-east. It is visible for c. 650m from its start on a bend in the Severn. At its northern end it runs into the modern leat for Mill Farm, which is probably a re-use of the abbey leat.

PRN 38131 Strata Marcella Abbey, precinct boundary west

A ditch marking the probable extent of Strata Marcella precinct. The western part showing as a cropmark, while to the north of the abbey it survives as a low bank (PRN 38134).

PRN 38134 Strata Marcella Abbey, precinct boundary north

Northern part of Strata Marcella precinct boundary. Consists of low ploughed out bank with a ditch to the north.

PRN 64527 Canal Cottages well

A well is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64528 Yr Allt Wood quarry

A quarry is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64529 The Moors milestone

A milestone is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map: Oswestry 15, Welshpool 2

PRN 64530 The Moors canal drain

A canal drain is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64535 Abbey Foot bridge well

A well is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64646 Abbey Barn field boundary

A former field boundary has been identified as a cropmark on aerial photographs.

PRN 64653 Yr Allt earthworks

A series of scarps on a steep slope above canal seem likely to represent a further part of the field system (PRN 4916) on the opposite side of the canal.

PRN 64654 The Moors earthworks

A series of drainage gullies, possibly indicating a former field system.

PRN 64670 Strata Marcella trackway

A trackway is shown on the 1618 'Plot of Manor of Strat Marchell' (Powis Castle M141), leading from the old road towards Pool Quay Mill. The track is a continuation of PRN 38130.

PRN 64671 Welshpool to Pool Quay old road

Road predating turnpike, shown on 1618 'Plot of Manor of Strat Marchell' (Powis Castle M141), leading from Welshpool to Pool Quay.

PRN 64672 Strata Marcella house site I

House shown on 1618 'Plot of Manor of Strat Marchell' (Powis Castle M141).

PRN 64673 Strata Marcella house site II

House shown on 1618 'Plot of Manor of Strat Marchell' (Powis Castle M141).

PRN 64674 Strata Marcella house site III

House shown on 1618 'Plot of Manor of Strat Marchell' (Powis Castle M141).

PRN 64675 Strata Marcella Middle Park

Middle Park field name shown on 1618 'Plot of Manor of Strat Marchell' (Powis Castle M141).

PRN 64676 Strata Marcella Rough Park

Rough Park field name shown on 1618 'Plot of Manor of Strat Marchell' (Powis Castle M141).

PRN 64677 Strata Marcella Lower Park

Lower Park field name shown on 1618 'Plot of Manor of Strat Marchell' (Powis Castle M141).

PRN 64690 Near Maes ty

Field name in the Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of former open-field cultivation in the medieval period.

PRN 64691 Far Maes ty

Field name in the Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of former open-field cultivation in the medieval period.

PRN 64692 Maes y brin

Field name in the Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of former open-field cultivation in the medieval period.

PRN 64693 Lower part of Maes-y-ty

Field name in the Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of former open-field cultivation in the medieval period.

PRN 64694 Fishpool leasow

Field name in the Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), possibly indicative of a fishpond.

PRN 64695 Fishpool piece

Field name in the Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), possibly indicative of a fishpond.

PRN 64696 Part of conduit piece (four fields all with same name)

Field name in the Welshpool Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of an artificial water channel.

PRN 64723 Strata Marcella ridge and furrow

Ridge and furrow plotted from aerial photography.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 15SE
 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 23NE
 Tithe Survey for Welshpool Parish, Lower Division, 1840

FIG 3K

Grid References SJ 25211101 to SJ 25491324
Length 2.95km

Topography and landuse

The canal follows the contours along the north-western side of the Severn valley, to the north-west of which the land rises into undulating hills and small valleys. The area is largely agricultural pasture.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Allt - irregular fields, remnants of ancient broadleaved woodland and dispersed farms, and larger areas of managed broadleaved and conifer woodland, probably largely the result of piecemeal enclosure during the medieval and early post-medieval periods.
- Tirmynach - the floodplain of the River Severn between Welshpool and Pool Quay, including areas of irregular and straight-sided fields probably representing post-medieval enclosure of former open meadow, areas of long broad strip fields, some associated with ridge and furrow, possibly representing an area of medieval meadow and periodic open-field arable. Part of the area fell within the ownership of the medieval Cistercian monastery at Strata Marcella, which is the origin of the place-name Tirmynach, meaning 'monk's land'.
- Pool Quay - medium-sized regular fields and dispersed farms on the western slopes of the valley, probably representing medieval to early post-medieval woodland clearance and enclosure; large straight-sided fields possibly representing post-medieval enclosure of former open meadow; a narrow tract of land between the Welshpool-Llanymynech turnpike road with small fields and clustered cottages, houses and farms and church, predominantly of late 18th and 19th-century date. The area includes the site of the former Cistercian medieval monastery of Strata Marcella (the precinct of which is cut through by the canal and the present main road).
- Arddleen - distinctive landscape of relatively small regular fields, the nucleated settlement at Arddleen and quite widely dispersed farms and cottages. The area includes some strip fields and extensive areas of former ridge and furrow cultivation, suggesting that much of the fieldscape character of the area results from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips and its associated pattern of narrow lanes.
- Guilsfield - diverse landscape of irregular fields partly representing piecemeal enclosure, probably from the medieval period onwards; discrete areas of small regular fields including some strip fields, probably partly derived from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips.

Archaeological summary

The Cistercian medieval monastery of Strata Marcella, established in the late 12th century, had a significant influence within the area with a monastic water-mill being built near Pool Quay, which was considered to be the highest point of navigation of the River Severn. River transport continued to be of at least seasonal importance until the construction of the canal in the late 18th century. A mill continued in operation on the site following the dissolution of the monasteries and during the 18th century a lead smelting works was established by the earl of Powis, working ores from the Llangynog mines in the Tanat valley. Little is visible of these industrial works, or of the other buildings that formed part of the former industrial complex during the 18th and 19th centuries, which included a woollen factory, forge, corn mill, dye house, barytes-crushing mill (spar mill) and saw mill.

Further north the area includes some strip fields and extensive areas of former ridge and furrow cultivation, suggesting that much of the fieldscape character of the area results from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips and its associated pattern of narrow lanes.

Management recommendations

There are a number of listed buildings, including Pool Quay Mills (PRN 20891), Pool Quay Manor House (PRN 30781), a barn (PRN 36458), Crowther Hall (PRN 36483) and a milestone (PRN 64546), none of which are likely to be affected by the proposed restoration. Other buildings of

interest, although not listed, are Pool Quay Forge (PRN 13084) and Tan House (PRN 8424), both of which are unlikely to be affected by the proposed restoration.

Any surviving areas of ridge and furrow constitute significant landscape features and should be preserved *in situ*. The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance, or have been destroyed, and preservation by record should be ensured for all extant sites.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
4908	Strata Marcella Abbey, field system	Field system ?	Medieval ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2533010820	C
8424	Tan House House Site	House	Post Medieval	Building	Near intact	SJ2543013070	B
8904	Dyers Farm House Site	House	Post Medieval	Building	Destroyed	SJ2551011400	E
13084	Pool Quay forge	Forge	Post Medieval	Building	Damaged	SJ2550011080	C
17919	Pool Quay Landing Stage (Strata Marcella)	Port	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2560011300	E
20891	Pool Quay Mills	Mill	Post Medieval	Building	Damaged	SJ2550011080	A
26921	Pool Quay building platform/Dyers Farm Cottage	Platform	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2561011440	E
26922	Pool Quay track	Trackway	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2568011730	E
26923	Pool Quay lynchet	Lynchet	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2571011870	D
26925	Pool Quay pond site	Pond	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SJ2555011390	D
30781	Pool Quay Manor House	House	18th Century ?	Building	Intact	SJ2561011395	A
36458	Bank, Barn with Horse Engine House at Bank Farm	Barn	19th Century	Building	Intact	SJ2594212955	A
36483	Pool Quay, Crowther Hall	House	Post Medieval	Building	Intact	SJ2586212227	A
38135	Dyers Hall Farm Ring Ditch	Ring ditch	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2533411475	E
38136	Dyers Hall Farm Linear Cropmarks	Linear cropmark	Unknown	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2540111506	E
38138	Wern Ridge and Furrow I	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SJ2570413162	D
38145	Wern Ridge and Furrow VIII	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SJ2578013028	D
38146	Wern Ridge and Furrow IX	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2574412778	E
38153	Wern Ridge and Furrow XVI	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2598612992	E
38161	Wern linear earthwork I	Linear earthwork	19th Century	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2574713098	D
38166	Wern linear earthwork VI	Hollow way	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2580612907	C
38167	Wern linear earthwork VII	Field boundary	Post Medieval ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2580512861	C
38169	Wern linear earthwork IX	Linear earthwork	Unknown	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2628912884	C
38182	Wern linear earthwork XXII	Trackway ?	Unknown	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2593513088	D
38183	Wern linear earthwork XXIII	Trackway ?	Unknown	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2595713230	C
43123	Pool Quay Smelthouse	Smelt mill	18th Century ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2550011080	E
64532	Mill Farm leat	Leat	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2543810887	E
64533	Mill farm mill pond	Mill pond	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2554011125	E
64534	Mill farm tail race	Mill race	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2559911203	E
64538	Mill Farm milestone	Milestone	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2537510972	E
64540	Dyers Farm pond	Pond ?	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2537411688	E
64541	Pool Quay pond site II	Pond	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2564311455	D
64544	Pool Quay well	Well	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2565711478	E

64545	Crowther Hall pond site	Pond	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2586112194	E
64546	Crowther Hall milestone	Milestone	Post Medieval	Structure	Intact	SJ2596212524	C
64547	Tirymynach brick and tile works	Brick and Tile works	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SJ2592912527	E
64549	Tirymynach Old Quarry	Quarry	Unknown	Earthwork	Intact	SJ2573512578	D
64550	Bank Old Quarry I	Quarry	Post Medieval ?	Earthwork	Near intact	SJ2585912897	D
64551	Bank Old Quarry II	Quarry	Unknown	Earthwork	Intact	SJ2572912976	C
64553	Pool Quay station	Railway station	19th Century	Building	Destroyed	SJ2604413161	E
64554	Pool Quay station pond	Pond	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2602413196	D
64647	Dyers Hall Farm Airstrip	Airfield	20th Century	Document	Unknown	SJ2537311548	D
64652	Tan House Trackway II	Trackway	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2560713023	C
64698	Bylet (part of osier bed)	Osier bed	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2603112894	E
64699	Lower Maes y Rabbits	Field system	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2569312441	E
64724	Wern Ridge and Furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2617012830	C
81319	Crowther Hall Earthwork	Earthwork	Unknown	Earthwork	Intact	SJ2570012200	E
81320	Saint John's Church Track	Trackway	Post Medieval	Track	Intact	SJ2572011830	C
81321	Building, north of Saint John's Church	Building	Post Medieval	Building	Destroyed	SJ2574011950	E

PRN 4908 *Strata Marcella Abbey, field system*

A double-ditched embanked enclosure identified from aerial photography, and probably part of the field system associated with Strata Marcella (PRN 1253).

PRN 8424 *Tan House House Site*

A half-timbered house in derelict and unstable condition, but mostly intact. Slate roof and brick chimney. There is an adjacent timber-framed barn.

PRN 8904 *Dyers Farm House Site*

House site recorded beside the canal, but with no visible evidence, although there are reports of bricks turned up by plough.

PRN 13084 *Pool Quay forge*

A brick-built structure which lies to the east of Pool Quay mill (PRN 20891) and may have been the site of a forge. Dimensions 10.5m by 5.5m. Pool Quay forge was not operational until 1757 (King 1996, 44).

PRN 17919 *Pool Quay Landing Stage (Strata Marcella)*

Possible site of Pool Quay landing stage for Strata Marcella Abbey (Williams 1990, 59).

PRN 20891 *Pool Quay Mills*

There are three buildings at this location apart from Mill Farm Cottage. The most easterly is now used as a byre and hay-barn but is still referred to as the Mill. It is of two storeys, the upper being used as a byre and hay barn. A gap in the wall on the west side opens onto the pit which formerly housed the waterwheel (now removed to Powis Castle) and which was powered from the leat to the south. The mill was originally stone built with several subsequent repair phases in brick and stone.

The corn mill was re-built about 1750 and there was also a walkmill at the site which was rebuilt in 1802 for carding and spinning to be added, and in 1835 this was made into a flannel factory with a dye house that worked until 1858. Later still, there came a barytes-crushing mill, the 'Spar Mill', which continued until the end of 1879. Finally, a saw mill was operated from the water supply, but now even this has disappeared and all that remains of this once busy industrial site are a few converted buildings, the leat and the mill pond.

PRN 26921 *Pool Quay building platform/Dyers Farm Cottage*

A level platform with slate slabs forming a possible floor in the western half and brick at the eastern end. No wall foundations visible. A single square, dressed sandstone at the south-west corner may

have originally been removed from the site of Strata Marcella. The site may have been Dyers Farm Cottage (see PRN 8904) shown in approximately this position on the 1840 tithe map. It was demolished some time after 1904.

PRN 26922 Pool Quay track

A low bank c. 11m wide extends for 110m to the southern boundary of the churchyard. It is not visible in the churchyard but reappears in the field to the north.

PRN 26923 Pool Quay lynchet

A lynchet, c. 0.6m, high extends in a broad arc adjacent to the western boundary of the cemetery.

PRN 26925 Pool Quay pond site

A steep-sided infilled pond, measuring 30m by 24m and 2m deep may have been the pond used as a water source for smelting.

PRN 30781 Pool Quay Manor House

Late 18th-century, remodelled around 1886. Built of brick, two storeys with dormers, three unevenly spaced sash windows with glazing bars under cambered heads. Brick porch with stone blocking course under right-hand window. Steeply pitched roof. Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 36458 Bank, Barn with Horse Engine House at Bank Farm

Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 36483 Pool Quay, Crowther Hall

Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 38135 Dyers Hall Farm Ring Ditch

A large ring ditch, c. 53m in diameter, identified from aerial photography.

PRN 38136 Dyers Hall Farm Linear Cropmarks

A series of linear cropmarks, probably once forming part of field system.

PRN 38138 Wern Ridge and Furrow I

An area of ridge and furrow identified from aerial photography, although no longer apparent on the ground.

PRN 38145 Wern Ridge and Furrow VIII

Area of ridge and furrow identified from aerial photography, although no longer apparent on the ground.

PRN 38146 Wern Ridge and Furrow IX

Area of ridge and furrow identified from aerial photography.

PRN 38153 Wern Ridge and Furrow XVI

Area of ridge and furrow identified from aerial photography.

PRN 38161 Wern linear earthwork I

The earthwork is a bank/scarp facing the canal on its south side. It mirrors the line of the canal and is likely to have been created during the canal construction.

PRN 38166 Wern linear earthwork VI

The site is a probable holloway running north-east to south-west. Possibly a continuation to the south of PRNs 38182 and 38183.

PRN 38167 Wern linear earthwork VII

An earthwork scarp crosses the field at right-angles to the probable holloway (PRN 38166) and is most likely to be an old field boundary.

PRN 38169 Wern linear earthwork IX

Linear earthwork identified from aerial photography.

PRN 38182 Wern linear earthwork XXII

Slight traces of probable holloway leading to Pool Quay. The south-south-west continuation of PRN 38183.

PRN 38183 Wern linear earthwork XXIII

Definite traces of a linear earthwork, probably a holloway, running south-south-west to Pool Quay. Denuded by land improvement.

PRN 43123 Pool Quay Smelthouse

Smelthouse erected in the early 18th century for the smelting of lead ore from Llangynog Mine. Work came to an end here on the 9th June 1762 due to a lack of ore (Lewis 2000).

PRN 64532 Mill Farm leat

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map depicts a leat running north from a weir on the River Severn to the millpond at Mill farm.

PRN 64533 Mill farm mill pond

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map depicts a mill pond at Mill farm with a leat from the River Severn to the south, and a tail race to the north.

PRN 64534 Mill farm tail race

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map depicts a tail race running north from the mill pond and feeding into the River Severn.

PRN 64538 Mill Farm milestone

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map depicts a milestone: Oswestry 12, Welshpool 3

PRN 64540 Dyers Farm pond

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map depicts what appears to be a pond adjoining the watercourse which runs northwards to Dyers Farm and on north to the canal.

PRN 64541 Pool Quay pond site II

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map depicts a pond, now probably infilled.

PRN 64544 Pool Quay well

A well depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64545 Crowther Hall pond site

A pond depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64546 Crowther Hall milestone

Milestone: Oswestry 11, Welshpool 4.

PRN 64547 Tirymynach brick and tile works

Brick and tile works depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map with a kiln, building and three ponds.

PRN 64549 Tirymynach Old Quarry

Large quarry on the east-facing slope above canal. Function uncertain but might have been a clay source used by the nearby brick and tile works.

PRN 64550 Bank Old Quarry I

Quarry visible along the roadside. Now occupied by a bungalow and used as a private garden.

PRN 64551 Bank Old Quarry II

Extensive quarry consisting of a bowl-shaped hollow in the north-facing slope. Function unclear.

PRN 64553 Pool Quay station

Pool Quay station and sidings depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. Site of station is used as a council storage area.

PRN 64554 Pool Quay station pond

A pond is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map, although probably now infilled.

PRN 64647 Dyers Hall Farm Airstrip

Grass airstrip used during 1970s and 1980s prior to development of Montgomeryshire Airport. Single runway running north-east to south-west.

PRN 64652 Tan House Trackway II

The line of a track is visible as a holloway in the field south of the canal. Probably an offshoot of track PRN 38160, but the junction has been lost to the canal.

PRN 64698 Bylet (part of osier bed)

Field name in the Guilsfield Tithe Apportionment (1840).

PRN 64699 Lower Maes y Rabbits

Field name in the Guilsfield Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of former open-field cultivation in the medieval period.

PRN 64724 Wern Ridge and Furrow

Ridge and furrow plotted from aerial photography.

PRN 81319 Crowther Hall Earthwork

Two parallel banks running roughly north-west to south-east. The easternmost bank is the best preserved being up to 3m wide and 30m in length. The shorter westernmost bank is only some 15m in length.

PRN 81320 Saint John's Church Track

A raised footpath runs from a gate in the west wall of the churchyard to a gate on the towpath of the canal. Saint John's Church was built in 1861-2 and was partly to serve the bargees that used the canal; this trackway was presumably to give these people easy access from the canal. The trackway is on a raised bank up to 0.3m in height and 1.5m in width, its surface entirely grassed over.

PRN 81321 Building north of Saint John's Church

A building is shown at this location on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map, although it is not shown on later or earlier maps. Nothing is visible at this location.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 15SE

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 16SW

Tithe Survey for Guilsfield Parish, Gungrog Fechan, Trebydan and Garth Townships 1840/46

Tithe Survey for Guilsfield Parish, Tirymynech Township 1840/45

FIG 3L

Grid References SJ 25491324 to SJ 25971575
Length 2.89km

Guilsfield Branch

Grid References SJ 24541406 to SJ 25251475
Length 1.16km

Topography and landuse

To the north of Tirmynach the canal crosses the valley floor of the Guilsfield Brook, a tributary of the Severn, before following the north-west side of the Severn valley to Arddleen. The Guilsfield Branch of the canal diverges near Burgedin Locks, following the north-west side of the Guilsfield Brook valley. The landuse is predominantly given over to permanent pasture.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Arddleen - distinctive landscape of relatively small regular fields, the nucleated settlement at Arddleen and quite widely dispersed farms and cottages. The area includes some strip fields and extensive areas of former ridge and furrow cultivation, suggesting that much of the fieldscape character of the area results from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips and its associated pattern of narrow lanes.
- Guilsfield - diverse landscape of irregular fields partly representing piecemeal enclosure, probably from the medieval period onwards; discrete areas of small regular fields including some strip fields, probably partly derived from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips.
- Bele Brook - medium-sized regular fields, small lanes and widely dispersed farms. The area includes some strip fields and remnant areas of ridge and furrow cultivation probably representing the enclosure of medieval open-field strips together with patterns of straight-sided fields probably representing post medieval drainage and enclosure of former meadow lands undertaken in the wake of the construction of the New Cut Argae.

Archaeological resource

An earlier pattern of settlement and land use is indicated by earlier prehistoric burial monuments and later prehistoric and Roman ditched enclosures recorded as cropmarks from the air, suggesting that much of the area was probably already being intensively cultivated at that period. The small settlement at Arddleen appears to have largely come into being following the construction of the canal and turnpike roads in the later 18th century.

Management recommendations

There are five listed buildings, including Ardd-lin Chapel (PRN 36315) and Manse (PRN 42383), Upper House (PRN 36323), a range of agricultural buildings (PRN 36325) and a milestone (PRN 36325), none of which is likely to be affected by the proposed restoration.

Other sites of significance include the New Cut Argae (PRN 37069), the site of Wern Corn Mill (PRN 79128), and the series of construction quarries alongside the canal (PRN 79125), all of which should be preserved *in situ*.

Any surviving areas of ridge and furrow constitute significant landscape features and should be preserved *in situ*. The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance, or have been destroyed, and preservation by record should be ensured for all extant sites.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
13251	Wern earthworks	Ridge and furrow ?	Post Medieval ?	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SJ2517013640	D
19265	Pool Quay boundary marker I	Boundary stone ?	19th Century	Structure	Unknown	SJ2570015300	E
36315	Ardd-lin, Presbyterian Chapel and Manse	Chapel	19th Century	Building	Intact	SJ2579515618	A

36323	Burgedin, Wern Lane Upper House	House	Post Medieval	Building	Intact	SJ2539014810	A
36324	Burgedin, Wern Lane Barn, Cartshed and Granary Range at Upper House	Barn	Post Medieval	Building	Intact	SJ2539514835	A
36325	Burgedin, Milestone close to NW of Burgedin Locks	Milestone	Post Medieval	Structure	Intact	SJ2517814730	A
37069	New Cut flood defences	Flood bank	18th Century ?	Earthwork	Intact	SJ2535013510	B
38038	Arddleen Ridge and Furrow III	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2599115697	E
38137	Little Wern Ridge and Furrow I	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2541413242	C
38139	Wern Ridge and Furrow II	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2587013249	C
38154	Wern Ridge and Furrow XVII	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Earthwork	Intact	SJ2530514152	C
38160	Tan House Trackway I	Trackway	Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2572913259	E
38179	Wern linear earthwork XIX	Ridge and furrow	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2533014240	C
38180	Wern linear earthwork XX	Linear earthwork	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Unknown	SJ2526414190	C
42383	Arddleen Manse	Vicarage ?	Post Medieval ?	Building	Intact	SJ2580215636	A
64556	Little Wern footbridge	Footbridge	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2516313608	E
64557	Gwern-fele farm sawpit	Saw pit	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2502113790	E
64559	Wern Farm well I	Well	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2499713676	E
64560	Wern Farm well II	Well	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2501013664	E
64561	Wern quarry I	Quarry	19th Century	Earthwork	Near intact	SJ2514714057	D
64562	Wern quarry II	Quarry	19th Century	Earthwork	Near intact	SJ2517513923	D
64563	Lower House pond	Pond	Post Medieval ?	Earthwork	Near intact	SJ2557214892	D
64564	Brickfield Cottages kiln	Brick kiln	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2588415570	E
64565	Brickfield Cottages quarry	Quarry	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Near intact	SJ2592415529	D
64645	Arddleen ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2587015414	C
64697	Tanhouse meadow	Tannery	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2560513245	E
79100	Homestead ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Cropmark	Damaged	SJ2542013480	D
79101	Little Wern ridge and furrow I	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Cropmark	Damaged	SJ2525013500	D
79102	Little Wern ridge and furrow II	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Cropmark	Damaged	SJ2515013540	D
79103	Little Wern ridge and furrow III	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Cropmark	Damaged	SJ2516013650	D
79104	Little Wern ridge and furrow IV	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Cropmark	Damaged	SJ2513013770	D
79105	Wern Cottage ridge and furrow I	Ridge and furrow	Post Medieval ?	Cropmark	Damaged	SJ2510013950	D
79106	Wern Cottage ridge and furrow II	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Destroyed	SJ2507013830	D
79107	Red Bridge ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2523014000	C
79110	Wern Villa clay pit	Clay pit	Post Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2529014410	E
79111	Wern Villa ridge and furrow I	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2528014490	E
79121	New Cut Argae (original southern end)	Bank	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SJ2530013420	C
79122	Little Wern (former) Farmstead	Farmstead	Post Medieval ?	Building	Destroyed	SJ2526013420	E
79125	Montgomeryshire Canal, Wern embankment construction quarries	Quarry	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2520013900	C
79126	Wern Mill clay pit tramway	Tramway	19th Century	Structure	Destroyed	SJ2522014080	D
79127	Wern Mill clay pit	Clay pit	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2522014080	D
79128	Wern Corn Mill	Mill (corn)	19th Century	Building	Damaged	SJ2516014110	B

79140	New Cut, homestead sluice gate	Sluice gate	Post Medieval	Structure	Destroyed	SJ2533013650	D
79141	New Cut, Little Wern sluice gate	Sluice gate	Post Medieval	Structure	Unknown	SJ2524013430	D
79142	Little Wern building (site of)	Building	Post Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2522013660	E
79143	Brookfield building (site of)	Building	Post Medieval ?	Building	Near destroyed	SJ2529013720	E
79149	Wern Brick and Tile Works	Brickworks	19th Century	Building	Destroyed	SJ2518014130	E
79154	Wern Corn Mill, tail race	Mill race	19th Century	Earthwork	Intact	SJ2520014000	C

PRN 13251 Wern earthworks

Irregular earthworks running north-west to south-east, roughly parallel with a nearby stream. Situated in a substantial area of ridge and furrow, but running at right angles to it. May represent cultivation of a different date, or perhaps modern drainage.

PRN 19265 Pool Quay boundary marker I

Boundary marker for Pool Quay parish erected 1863

PRN 36315 Ardd-lin, Presbyterian Chapel and Manse

Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 36323 Burgedin, Wern Lane Upper House

Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 36324 Burgedin, Wern Lane Barn, Cartshed and Granary Range at Upper House

Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 36325 Burgedin, Milestone close to NW of Burgedin Locks

Dressed stone milestone with pointed head. Reads: "Pool 6 Oswestry 9". Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 37069 New Cut flood defences

Bank, 3m-4m wide tapering to 1m-2m at the top, with a 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 Award maps (Powys Archives MQS/RA/21R & 24R) are dated 1800 & 1801, although the Montgomeryshire Canal is not depicted despite being built between 1794 and 1797. It seems probable that the maps were actually surveyed c.1790, prior to the building of the canal. The original southern end of the bank, as depicted on the Enclosure Awards maps, was situated c.100m further to the south-west, but has since been lost.

PRN 38038 Arddleen Ridge and Furrow III

Area of ridge and furrow aligned north-west to south-east, although no longer apparent.

PRN 38137 Little Wern Ridge and Furrow I

Area of ridge and furrow identified from aerial photography. Slight traces survive.

PRN 38139 Wern Ridge and Furrow II

Area of ridge and furrow identified from aerial photography. Slight traces survive.

PRN 38154 Wern Ridge and Furrow XVII

Substantial remains of curving ridge and furrow cultivation approximately aligned north-east/south-west. Separation between the furrows is generally 7m-10m, with ridges up to 0.4m high.

PRN 38160 Tan House Trackway I

A former road heading towards Tan House, truncated by the canal. The section at Tan House (PRN 8424) is largely intact and survives as a green lane. The next part leading to the canal has been lost to land improvement/canal construction. To the north-east of the canal all that can be seen of the lane is a broad bank where it has been modified by land improvement.

PRN 38179 Wern linear earthwork XIX

An area of surviving ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east. Separation between furrows is generally 5m, ridges 0.2m-0.3m high.

PRN 38180 Wern linear earthwork XX

Linear earthwork previously recorded from aerial photography. Most probably related to the area of ridge and furrow cultivation (PRN 38154).

PRN 42383 Ardd-lin Manse

Grade II Listed Building

PRN 64556 Little Wern footbridge

A footbridge is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64557 Gwern-fele farm sawpit

A sawpit is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64559 Wern Farm well I

A well is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64560 Wern Farm well II

A well is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64561 Wern quarry I

A pond is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map, although the site is actually part of a series of quarry hollows (PRN 79125) for canal embankment material.

PRN 64562 Wern quarry II

A pond is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map, although the site is actually part of a series of quarry hollows (PRN 79125) for canal embankment material.

PRN 64563 Lower House pond

A pond is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map, possibly a former clay pit.

PRN 64564 Brickfield Cottages kiln

A kiln is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64565 Brickfield Cottages quarry

A quarry is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map, associated with clay extraction for brickmaking.

PRN 64645 Arddleen ridge and furrow

Ridge and furrow recorded from aerial photography with slight traces surviving.

PRN 64697 Tanhouse meadow

Field name in the Guilsfield Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of a tannery in the vicinity.

PRN 79100 Homestead ridge and furrow

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-east/south-west. Separation between furrows approximately 6m.

PRN 79101 Little Wern ridge and furrow I

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-north-east/south-south-west. Separation between furrows approximately 8m.

PRN 79102 Little Wern ridge and furrow II

Aerial photographic evidence of extensive ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-north-east/south-south-west. Separation between furrows generally 5m. Marks are visible crossing the cultivation lines which may represent drainage. Field is named 'common field' on Tithe apportionment of 1842.

PRN 79103 Little Wern ridge and furrow III

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-east/south-west. Separation between furrows approximately 6m.

PRN 79104 Little Wern ridge and furrow IV

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-east/south-west. Consists of a single furrow.

PRN 79105 Wern Cottage ridge and furrow I

Aerial photographic evidence of extensive ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east. 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.

PRN 79106 Wern Cottage ridge and furrow II

Aerial photographic evidence of sparse ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east. Separation between furrows perhaps 10m.

PRN 79107 Red Bridge ridge and furrow

Aerial photographic evidence of extensive ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east. Separation between furrows perhaps 5m. Faint traces of ridges, c. 0.1m high, are visible on the ground. 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.

PRN 79110 Wern Villa clay pit

An oval hollow, 28m by 13m, visible on aerial photography. Possibly a former clay pit.

PRN 79111 Wern Villa ridge and furrow I

Aerial photographic evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-west/south-east. Separation between furrows generally 7m.

PRN 79121 New Cut Argae (original southern end)

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 79122 Little Wern (former) Farmstead

A group of up to four buildings situated immediately to the south-east of the stream. 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 79125 Montgomeryshire Canal, Wern embankment construction quarries

A group of quarry hollows filled with water or overgrown with vegetation alongside the canal embankment at Wern. Overall length of the area containing hollows is at least 500m. The embankment was originally flanked by large pits made by the extraction of earth for its construction (Hughes 1988, 11) which were later rented out to Welshpool basket-makers who annually harvested their raw material of osiers or young willows from them (Hughes 1988, 150).

PRN 79126 Wern Mill clay pit tramway

Bifurcating tramway serving the clay pit immediately to the south-east of the site of the Wern Corn Mill, as depicted on the second edition Ordnance Survey 25" maps.

PRN 79127 Wern Mill clay pit

An oval or sub-rectangular clay pit situated immediately to the south-east of the site of the Wern Corn Mill. Occupied by a tramway at the end of the 19th century. 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 (Hughes 1988, 150). Evidently associated with the Brick and Tile Works .

PRN 79128 Wern Corn Mill

The remains of the Wern Corn Mill situated immediately to the east of the canal near Red Bridge. 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. The mill used waste water diverted from the canal outfall weir (Hughes 1988, 44). 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 79140 New Cut, homestead sluice gate

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 79141 New Cut, Little Wern sluice gate

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

PRN 79142 Little Wern building (site of)

Location of former building on the western side of the canal. The building measured 10m by 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.

PRN 79143 Brookfield building (site of)

Location of former building immediately to the east of the New Cut Argae. The building measured c.10m by 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. The only surviving evidence visible on the ground is stonework and bricks present on the adjacent argae bank.

PRN 79149 Wern Brick and Tile Works

Site of brick and tile works located immediately to the north-east of Wern Mill, apparently belonging to the canal company (Hughes 1988, 150). No longer extant.

PRN 79154 Wern Corn Mill, tail race

Course of tail race for the former Wern Corn Mill leading into the New Cut. Prior to the building of the mill it served as a watercourse for the overflow water from the Montgomery Canal outfall weir.

References

- 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 15NE
- 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 16NW
- Tithe Survey for Guilsfield Parish, Varchoel, Burgedin and Rhetescyn Townships 1842/45

FIG 3M**Guislfield Branch****Grid References** SJ 22931251 to SJ 24541406**Length** 2.44km**Topography and landuse**

The Guislfield Branch of the canal diverging from the main line follows the north-west side of the Guislfield Brook valley to its terminus at Tyddyn. The landuse is given over predominantly to permanent pasture.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Arddleen - distinctive landscape of relatively small regular fields, the nucleated settlement at Arddleen and quite widely dispersed farms and cottages. The area includes some strip fields and extensive areas of former ridge and furrow cultivation, suggesting that much of the fieldscape character of the area results from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips and its associated pattern of narrow lanes.
- Guislfield - diverse landscape of irregular fields partly representing piecemeal enclosure, probably from the medieval period onwards; discrete areas of small regular fields including some strip fields, probably partly derived from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips.

Archaeological summary

Early settlement and land use is indicated by the earlier prehistoric burial sites and later prehistoric or Roman enclosures and field systems at Upper Varchoel and Burgedin Cottages, which suggests that much of the area was probably cleared and perhaps intensively farmed from an early period.

Canal-related sites include limekilns, a smithy and a canal drain.

Management recommendations

There are three listed buildings, Burgedin Hall (PRN 36289), and two milestones (PRNs 36209 and 36307), none of which are likely to be affected by the proposed restoration.

Other sites of significance include the cropmark enclosures at Burgedin (PRN 3644) and Upper Varchoel (PRN 7113), together with further cropmark features representing possible field systems, settlement and funerary sites (PRNs 5115, 6351, 6352 and 38193), all of which should be preserved *in situ*.

The site of the Lower Varchoel Limekilns may retain significant buried remains which should be preserved *in situ*. The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance, or have been destroyed, and preservation by record should be ensured for all extant sites.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
3644	Burgedin Cottages enclosure	Enclosed settlement ?	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2448113720	B
5115	Red House Cropmark	Field system ?	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2450014300	B
6351	Varchoel Lane Cropmarks	Field system	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2407013600	E
6352	Varchoel Lane Ring Ditch	Hut ?	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2392013510	E
7113	Upper Varchoel enclosure	Defended enclosure ?	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2312012411	B
36289	Burgedin, Burgedin Hall	House	Post Medieval	Building	Intact	SJ2434313545	A
36290	Burgedin, Milestone SW of Varchoel Bridge	Milestone	Post Medieval	Structure	Unknown	SJ2418713675	A

36307	Varchoel, Milestone at Varchoel Cottages	Milestone	Post Medieval	Structure	Unknown	SJ2287412616	A
38193	Upper Varchoel Ring Ditch	Ring ditch	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2305912401	B
64620	Lower Varchoel Limekilns	Lime kiln	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2330912737	E
64622	Lower Varchoel canal drain	Drain	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2330512696	C
64623	Bridge Well	Well	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2359212878	E
64624	Bridge pond I	Pond	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2361112867	E
64625	Bridge pond II	Pond	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2363512844	E
64626	New House Well	Well	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2417713540	D
64627	New House Stones	Stone	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2404613437	E
64628	Burgedin Smithy	Smithy	Post Medieval	Building	Intact	SJ2430813834	C

PRN 3644 *Burgedin Cottages enclosure*

An irregular (perhaps pentagonal) enclosure some 50m by 40m with a possible entrance on the west. No earthworks are visible. Sits at the edge of a gentle ridge with a stream and marshy ground on two sides, but otherwise not a defensive location.

PRN 5115 *Red House Cropmark*

Elements of a possible Iron Age or Romano-British field system have been identified from aerial photography.

PRN 6351 *Varchoel Lane Cropmarks*

A series of cropmarks of curvilinear conjoining ditches have been identified from aerial photography, lying immediately to the north-east of enclosure PRN 3595, and possibly associated with it (though they may in part overlie the enclosure).

PRN 6352 *Varchoel Lane Ring Ditch*

A sub-circular cropmark ring ditch some 15m in diameter has been identified from aerial photography.

PRN 7113 *Upper Varchoel enclosure*

Rectilinear cropmark enclosure some 100m across. An adjoining linear cropmark is a possible field boundary. The site and adjacent features set on a slight terrace in valley floor.

PRN 36289 *Burgedin, Burgedin Hall*

Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 36290 *Burgedin, Milestone SW of Varchoel Bridge*

Grade II Listed milestone.

PRN 36307 *Varchoel, Milestone at Varchoel Cottages*

Grade II Listed milestone.

PRN 38193 *Upper Varchoel Ring Ditch*

The southern part of possible ring ditch, 19.1m diameter, appears to be truncated by linear cropmarks (PRN 38192) associated with enclosure PRN 7113 although could be contemporary.

PRN 64620 *Lower Varchoel Limekilns*

The limekilns are depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. Structural evidence not visible at time of recent visit, but there is a raised area covered in vegetation and it is likely that significant remains survive.

PRN 64622 *Lower Varchoel canal drain*

A canal drain is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64623 *Bridge Well*

A well is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64624 Bridge pond I

A pond is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64625 Bridge pond II

A pond is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64626 New House Well

A well is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64627 New House Stones

Two stones are depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64628 Burgedin Smithy

A smithy is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. Some older brick buildings at this location probably represent the smithy, particularly a linear range which follows the line of the canal.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 15NE

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 15SE

Tithe Survey for Guilsfield Parish, Varchoel, Burgedin and Rhetescyn Townships 1842/45

FIG 3N

Grid References SJ 25971575 to SJ 26221790
Length 2.53km

Topography and landuse

To the north of Arddleen the canal follows western side of the floodplain of the Severn-Vyrnwy confluence, an area generally of permanent pasture.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Arddleen - distinctive landscape of relatively small regular fields, the nucleated settlement at Arddleen and quite widely dispersed farms and cottages. The area includes some strip fields and extensive areas of former ridge and furrow cultivation, suggesting that much of the fieldscape character of the area results from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips and its associated pattern of narrow lanes.
- Bele Brook - medium-sized regular fields, small lanes and widely dispersed farms. The area includes some strip fields and remnant areas of ridge and furrow cultivation probably representing the enclosure of medieval open-field strips together with patterns of straight-sided fields probably representing post medieval drainage and enclosure of former meadow lands undertaken in the wake of the construction of the New Cut Argae.
- Four Crosses - irregular fields to the south of Four Crosses, representing late medieval and post-medieval drainage and enclosure.
- Bryn Mawr - irregular fields, remnant ancient broadleaved woodland and small conifer plantations representing piecemeal clearance and enclosure, and an area of medium-sized regular fields and scattered farms possibly representing a pattern of more regular clearance and enclosure in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Archaeological summary

Early settlement and land use are indicated by the earlier prehistoric burial sites and later prehistoric or Roman enclosures and field systems at Maerdy and Arddleen, which suggest that much of the area was probably cleared and intensively farmed from an early period.

Elements of the medieval field system survive in the form of remnant strip fields, ridge and furrow and former trackways. Canal-related sites include the smithy at Arddleen and limekilns at Maerdy.

Management recommendations

There are three listed structures, Maerdy Limekilns (PRN 20887), and two milestones (PRNs 36317 and 36334), none of which is likely to be affected by the proposed restoration.

Other sites of significance include the cropmark enclosures at Maerdy Brook (PRN 2446) and Arddleen (PRN 4627), neither of which is likely to be affected by the proposed restoration, and the two Bronze Age funerary sites at Maerdy Bridge (PRNs 3606 and 4625), both of which should be preserved *in situ*.

The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance, or have been destroyed, and preservation by record should be ensured for all extant sites.

The area has considerable potential for significant buried archaeological remains relating to prehistoric settlement and funerary practices. This is clearly demonstrated by the important sites already revealed as cropmarks between Arddleen and Llanymynech. A programme of evaluation should be undertaken in advance of any proposed works likely to affect significant areas outside the existing canal corridor in order to assess the potential of the archaeological resource.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
2446	Maerdy Brook enclosure	Enclosure	Iron Age ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2594116375	B
3606	Maerdy Bridge Barrow	Round barrow ?	Bronze Age	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SJ2654617102	E
4625	Maerdy Bridge Ring Ditch	Round barrow ?	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2655017060	E
4627	Arddleen enclosure	Defended enclosure	Roman ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2607516020	D
6248	Maerdy Bridge Find	Findspot	Roman	Finds only	Unknown	SJ2635017120	D
7609	Arddleen Ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Earthwork	Unknown	SJ2616515751	C
20887	Maerdy Limekilns	Lime kiln	Post Medieval	Structure	Intact	SJ2639716952	A
36317	Ardd-lin, Milestone	Milestone	Post Medieval	Structure	Moved	SJ2607115777	A
36334	Penthryn Fawr, Milestone	Milestone	Post Medieval	Structure	Intact	SJ2647117409	A
38044	Arddleen enclosure, ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2606816006	C
38045	Arddleen Trackway	Trackway	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2601516171	D
38047	Arddleen Ridge and Furrow IV	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2592316072	C
38048	Oswestry-Welshpool Railway, Arddleen Cropmark	Railway	19th Century	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2639816197	D
38049	Ash Fields Boundary Bank	Bank	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2634316547	D
38050	Arddleen Field Boundary II	Bank	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2601516254	D
64567	Arddleen smithy	Smithy	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2596715996	E
64568	Arddleen station	Railway station	19th Century	Building	Near intact	SJ2612415857	B
64705	Common field	Field system	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2592515805	E
64706	Cae kiln	Kiln	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2635117155	E
64721	Common Field	Field system	Medieval ?	Placename	Unknown	SJ2594415781	E

PRN 2446 Maerdy Brook enclosure

Double-ditched sub-rectangular enclosure, c. 54m north-west to south-east by 100m north-east to south-west. Faint traces of this site survive in pasture, mainly the inner bank scarp on the south-east side, the inner ditch on the south-west and the outer ditch on north-east side. Centrally located on ridge which terminates not far to north-east.

PRN 3606 Maerdy Bridge Barrow

A double ring ditch, c.40m in diameter, surrounding a much spread barrow about 0.2m high.

PRN 4625 Maerdy Bridge Ring Ditch

A probable ring ditch some 20m in diameter with only the eastern quadrants clearly visible.

PRN 4627 Arddleen enclosure

The cropmark of the south-west end of a double-ditched enclosure was identified from aerial photography. The site was partly excavated by CPAT in 1979 in advance of road improvements. A small amount of stratified pottery suggests a 2nd to 3rd century AD date. The inner ditch encloses area of c. 50m by 50m and there is a gap of up to 9m between this and the outer ditch. At the time of preparing this report the remaining area of the enclosure is under excavation by CPAT in advance of housing development.

PRN 6248 Maerdy Bridge Find

A Roman coin found in 1988 apparently lying on the pavement adjacent to the site of the former canal bridge. Coin is a *foliis* of emperor Crispus AD 317-326. The obverse is inscribed ()CISPUS NOB C and bears a laureate head of the emperor facing left. The reverse is inscribed (BEATA TRANQ)UILLITAS and bears an altar with globe and three stars above the altar bears the inscription ? VOT IS XX. The coin bears a mint mark of STR (or PTR) both of which originate from Trier.

PRN 7609 Arddleen Ridge and furrow

Area of ridge and furrow aligned north-west to south-east.

PRN 20887 Maerdy Limekilns

Four stone kilns with brick drawing arches and two cart loading platforms and ramps of stone. The kilns were originally six feet higher than the canal and have been relined at least twice. Only the ruined stone walls of the two attached cottages remain.

PRN 36317 Ardd-lin Milestone

A listed, dressed-stone milestone set into the roadside verge. Inscription reads: Pool 6 miles Oswestry 9 miles. Probably moved from its original location when the road was improved.

PRN 36334 Penthryn Fawr

Listed milestone.

PRN 38044 Arddleen enclosure, ridge and furrow

Area of ridge and furrow aligned south-west to north-east overlying the Arddleen enclosure.

PRN 38045 Arddleen Trackway

Bivallate trackway running south-west to north-east. Visible across two fields for approximately 380m. Appears to be overlain by ridge and furrow (PRN 38047)

PRN 38047 Arddleen Ridge and Furrow IV

Ridge and furrow aligned south-west to north-east. Appears to overlie trackway PRN 38035

PRN 38048 Oswestry-Welshpool Railway, Arddleen Cropmark

The line of the former railway, now only visible as a cropmark in some sections.

PRN 38049 Ash Fields Boundary Bank

A former field boundary running south-east to north-west.

PRN 38050 Arddleen Field Boundary II

A former field boundary bank running south-west to north-east. Aligns with modern field pattern.

PRN 64567 Arddleen smithy

Smithy depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64568 Arddleen station

Station depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. The station house, now a private dwelling, and the platform survive alongside the track of the old railway.

PRN 64705 Common field

Field name in the Llandrinio Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of former open-field cultivation in the medieval period.

PRN 64706 Cae kiln

Field name in the Llandrinio Tithe Apportionment (1840), perhaps indicative of a brick- or limekiln.

PRN 64721 Common Field

Field name in Llandrinio Tithe Apportionment (1840), indicative of open-field cultivation.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 11SW
 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 16NW
 Tithe Survey for Llandrinio Parish, 1840
 Tithe Survey for Llandysilio Parish, 1840

FIG 30

Grid References SJ 26221790 to SJ 25432027
Length 3.21km

Topography and landuse

The canal follows western side of the floodplain of the Severn-Vyrnwy confluence before crossing the Vyrnwy and turning east along the northern side of the valley at the foot of Llanymynech Hill. The area is generally down to permanent pasture.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Four Crosses - irregular fields to the south of Four Crosses representing late medieval and post-medieval drainage and enclosure, a distinctive area of relatively small regular fields including some strip fields and fields with evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation probably largely representing the enclosure of former medieval open-field strips, and the settlement at Four Crosses itself which emerged from its position at the junction of a number of turnpike roads as well its position on the canal and the now dismantled Oswestry-Newtown Railway. Considerable evidence of early clearance, settlement and land use comprising a dispersed complex of earlier prehistoric burial monuments, later prehistoric or Roman ditched farmsteads and an extensive pattern of pit alignments, which though as yet undated possibly represent a pattern of land division and enclosure in the later prehistoric period.
- Bryn Mawr - irregular fields, remnant ancient broadleaved woodland and small conifer plantations representing piecemeal clearance and enclosure, and an area of medium-sized regular fields and scattered farms possibly representing a pattern of more regular clearance and enclosure in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The area includes Rhysnant Hall, an early 19th-century mansion once surrounded by parkland.
- Vyrnwy - the floodplain of the Vyrnwy with areas of irregular fields influenced by the river meanders and probably representing the enclosure of former open meadow, and an area of fields between the canal and the Vyrnwy including a relatively small area of former parkland associated with Pentreheyling Hall.
- Carreghofa - an area of fields, scattered farms and cottages including regular fields, some strip fields and areas of ridge and furrow cultivation probably partly deriving from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips, and more irregular fields suggesting a process of more piecemeal clearance and enclosure.

Archaeological summary

Early settlement and land use is indicated by the later prehistoric or Roman enclosures and field systems at Four Crosses, Llandysilio and Rhysnant, which suggests that much of the area was probably cleared and intensively farmed from an early period.

A possible Roman marching camp has been suggested at Clawdd Coch and elements of the medieval field system survive in the form of remnant strip fields, ridge and furrow, and former trackways. The canal passes through the former parkland landscape associated with Rhysnant Hall, and alongside parkland associated with Pentreheyling Hall. The Tanat Feeder Leat joins the canal at Carreghofa.

River transport from the quay at Clawdd Coch was important for the export of raw materials including slate and lead ores from the Welsh hinterland until the coming of the canal and railway. Thomas Pennant in the 1780s remarked on the barges of up to fifty tons that transported materials during some months of the year to join the Severn and then as far afield as Bristol and via the canal network to Birmingham.

Management recommendations

There are no listed buildings or scheduled ancient monuments.

Sites of significance include the cropmark enclosures at Llandysilio (PRN 7970) and Rhysnant (PRN 38083), the field system at Parson's Lane (PRN 6077), and elements of Rhysnant Park, including its gateways (PRNs 71318 and 71327) and drive (PRN 80399), all of which should be preserved *in situ*.

The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance, or have been destroyed, and preservation by record should be ensured for all extant sites.

The area has considerable potential for significant buried archaeological remains relating to prehistoric settlement and funerary practices. This is clearly demonstrated by the important sites already revealed as cropmarks between Arddleen and Llanymynech. A programme of evaluation should be undertaken in advance of any proposed works likely to affect significant areas outside the existing canal corridor in order to assess the potential of the archaeological resource.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
4598	Clawdd Coch Cropmark	Marching camp ?	Roman	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2520020170	E
5022	Street Farm Ridge and Furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Intact	SJ2670018630	C
6077	Four Crosses Field System - Parson's Lane Cropmarks	Field system ?	Prehistoric ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2669719118	E
7970	Llandysilio double-ditched enclosure	Defended enclosure ?	Iron Age	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2624519066	B
8808	Pentre Heylin Hall	House	Post Medieval	Building	Near destroyed	SJ2574619401	E
32407	New Bridge Vyrnwy Road Bridge	Bridge	Post Medieval	Structure	Intact	SJ2533119600	A
37530	Llandysilio Mill	Mill ?	Post Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2650019000	E
38083	Rhysnant Lodge Enclosure	Defended enclosure ?	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2657118082	B
38084	Rhysnant Lodge Trackway	Trackway	Unknown	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2653718007	C
38085	Rhysnant Lodge Trackway II	Trackway	Unknown	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2653318088	C
38119	Newbridge Ridge and Furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2557419598	C
64571	Nant Melin footbridge	Footbridge	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ2640619132	E
64577	Pentre-heylin drain	Drain	19th Century	Earthwork	Near intact	SJ2563619590	D
64615	New Bridge quarries	Quarry	19th Century	Earthwork	Near intact	SJ2531419888	D
64617	Rhysnant Well	Well	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2636717982	D
64618	Montgomeryshire Canal Tanat Feeder	Leat	Post Medieval	Structure	Damaged	SJ2528520340	B
64650	Pentreheilyn holloway	Hollow way	Unknown	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ25971910	D
64651	Pentreheilyn Hall ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Destroyed	SJ2586719337	D
64659	Yew Tree Cottage farmstead	Farmstead	19th Century	Building	Damaged	SJ2535619805	C
64711	Pentreheilyn Hall old house site	House	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2560219536	E
64712	Nant y Melin mill site	Mill?	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2624719218	E
64713	The Willows house and green	House	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2640818590	E
64714	Little Rhysnant Barn	Barn	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2637518115	E
64715	Maes Coch fieldname	Field system?	Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2647919076	E
64725	Clawdd Coch ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2522020220	C
64730	Clawdd Coch river wharf	Port	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ25201965	E
71318	Rhysnant Hall, gate posts (east)	Gateway	Post Medieval ?	Structure	Intact	SJ2625418015	B
71327	Rhysnant Hall, gate posts (west)	Gateway	Post Medieval ?	Structure	Intact	SJ2617218024	B
71354	Rhysnant Hall, park (later extent)	Park	Post Medieval ?	Landscape	Unknown	SJ2612017960	B

71363	Rhysnant Hall, park (possible further extent)	Park	Post Medieval	Landscape	Unknown	SJ2604018180	B
72649	Pentreheylin Hall, parkland	Park	Post Medieval ?	Landscape	Damaged	SJ2589019430	D
80355	Rhysnant building	House ?	Post Medieval	Building	Unknown	SJ2639717990	E
80399	Rhysnant Hall, carriageway	Road	Post Medieval	Structure	Near intact	SJ2645318043	B

PRN 4598 *Clawdd Coch Cropmark*

Two linear cropmarks (ditches) conjoined to form an elongated Y-shape c. 220m long, possibly a boundary feature and of modern origin, although it has also been suggested that this might be a Roman marching camp.

PRN 5022 *Street Farm Ridge and Furrow*

Several fields of ridge and furrow, mostly about 7m wide.

PRN 6077 *Four Crosses Field System - Parson's Lane Cropmarks*

A series of linear cropmarks and pit alignments.

PRN 7970 *Llandysilio double-ditched enclosure*

Cropmark of oval double-ditched enclosure.

PRN 8808 *Pentre Heylin Hall*

Site of recently demolished hall. Former large neo-Jacobean house rebuilt by Thomas Penson c. 1830 with stone facing over brick core.

PRN 32407

Pentreheylin New Bridge over the River Vyrnwy was reputedly built 'before 1773' (Haslam 1979). Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 37530 *Llandysilio Mill*

There is some documentary evidence for a mill although no definite record of its existence. However, the course of a short brook named 'Nant Melin' was altered by the construction of the canal.

PRN 38083 *Rhysnant Lodge Enclosure*

An oval-shaped single ditched enclosure measuring c. 38m across.

PRN 38084 *Rhysnant Lodge Trackway*

A bivallate trackway running for c. 79m. Continues to the north as PRN 38085

PRN 38085 *Rhysnant Lodge Trackway II*

Bivallate trackway running for c. 79m. Northern continuation of PRN 38084.

PRN 38119 *Newbridge Ridge and Furrow*

An area of ridge and furrow aligned east to west

PRN 64571 *Nant Melin footbridge*

A footbridge depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64577 *Pentre-heylin drain*

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map shows a watercourse running from sluice on canal to River Vyrnwy.

PRN 64615 *New Bridge quarries*

A pool adjacent to the canal is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. The shape and sunken nature of the ponds demonstrates that they represent waterlogged quarry pits. These were almost certainly dug to provide material for the adjacent canal embankment.

PRN 64617 *Rhysnant Well*

Well depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64618 Montgomeryshire Canal Tanat Feeder

The existing line of the feeder was built in 1821 according to the adjacent notice board, whereas the previous line ran directly towards the canal on the south-west side of the road bridge. Some of the earthwork remains of the previous line are still visible. The point at which the feeder meets the canal is the site of a well-preserved group of canal buildings and water management structures.

PRN 64650 Pentrehelyn holloway

A short linear feature, curving slightly, possibly a holloway.

PRN 64651 Pentreheylin Hall ridge and furrow

No surviving traces. the field has recently been ploughed and re-seeded.

PRN 64659 Yew Tree Cottage farmstead

Group of four extant farm buildings on the west side of the canal embankment. All seem to be abandoned, but the walls are largely intact. The house is depicted immediately to the south of the point where the road crosses the canal, but there are no surviving remains.

PRN 64711 Pentreheylin Hall old house site

Llandysilio Tithe map fieldname 'Cae yr hendy' is suggestive of old house site.

PRN 64712 Nant y Melin mill site

Llandysilio Tithe map identifies this large field as 'Cae Felin'. May refer to mill here, but alternatively perhaps refers to PRN 37530

PRN 64713 The Willows house and green

Llandysilio Tithe map shows a rounded rectangular plot with a building north-west of it and identifies it as House buildings and green

PRN 64714 Little Rhysnant Barn

Llandysilio Tithe map 1842 identifies this large field as "Cae Ysgubor", suggesting the presence of barn.

PRN 64715 Maes Coch fieldname

Llandysilio Tithe map 1842 identifies this field as 'Maes Coch'. Maes names tend to indicate open-field systems.

PRN 64725 Clawdd Coch ridge and furrow

Ridge and furrow plotted from aerial photography.

PRN 64730 Clawdd Coch river wharf

The Clawdd Coch Wharf on the Vyrnwy was not far upstream from the aqueduct on the east? bank. Lead ore and slate from Llangynog were shipped to Bristol in the winter months (Hughes 1988, 111).

PRN 71318 Rhysnant Hall, gate posts (east)

Pair of fine cut stone gate posts of square section with shaped pyramid top, flanked to the north by side gate (original gate post does not survive), on eastern approach of estate carriageway over Montgomeryshire Canal bridge. Posts are in good repair, but the original gates have gone.

PRN 71327 Rhysnant Hall, gate posts (west)

Pair of fine cut stone gate posts of square section with shaped pyramid top, on western approach of estate carriageway over Montgomeryshire Canal bridge. Posts are in good repair, but the original gates have gone.

PRN 71354 Rhysnant Hall, park (later extent)

Historically, this was probably part of Rhysnant Park at some date, but documentary evidence does not survive to show this or indicate when. The field evidence, on the other hand, clearly supports this view. It has the same characteristic as the 1836 Park, typified by the surviving blocks and alignments of trees within open pasture. Probable views or sightlines from Rhysnant Hall through this landscape towards the canal and entrance lodge, also support this assumption.

PRN 71363 Rhysnant Hall, park (possible further extent)

This is a mixture of arable fields and surviving pasture, but nevertheless could be included within the historic 'Park' area. No documentary evidence exists to confirm that this was ever part of the park, but the field evidence of large mature trees scattered amidst crops and in hedges, characteristic of the 1836 Park, and likely sight lines and skylines from the hall, on the other hand, could indicate that this may have once been the case.

PRN 72649 Pentreheylin Hall, parkland

Parkland adjacent to Pentreheylin Hall and possibly extending across Afon Vyrnwy to the north-west. A ford links area of parkland to this further area across river.

PRN 80355 Rhysnant building

Small building and outbuilding shown on the Tithe map (1840). Now the site consists of low and rather amorphous earthworks with little to suggest building foundations, and general little in the way of a distinctive form.

PRN 80399 Rhysnant Hall, carriageway

Carriageway leading from lodge towards Rhysnant Hall. The section from the entrance lodge to the canal retains part of a mature avenue of trees, together with some recent planting. The section from the canal to the hall gates, is now mostly through open pasture, but once lined by trees. Present condition is of a gravel metalling, rutted in places, with some stretches grassed in centre and encroaching on verges, particularly on section from canal to hall gates.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 10NE
1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 10SE
1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 11NW
1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 11SW
Tithe Survey for Llandysilio Parish, 1840

FIG 3P

Grid References SJ 25432027 to SJ 27122150
Length 2.24km

Topography and landuse

The canal follows northern side of the Vyrnwy valley, at the foot of Llanymynech Hill, through the canal-side settlement of Llanymynech. The area is generally down to permanent pasture to the west of Llanymynech, with the settlement itself to the south of the canal and areas of woodland to the north, encompassing the former wharf and limekilns.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Vyrnwy - the floodplain of the Vyrnwy with areas of irregular fields influenced by the river meanders and probably representing the enclosure of former open meadow, and an area of fields between the canal and the Vyrnwy including a relatively small area of former parkland associated with Pentreheyling Hall.
- Carreghafa - an area of fields, scattered farms and cottages including regular fields, some strip fields and areas of ridge and furrow cultivation probably partly deriving from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips, and more irregular fields suggesting a process of more piecemeal clearance and enclosure; and the recent canal-side and roadside settlement at Wern.
- Llanymynech - mining and industrial processing settlements and agricultural and recreational areas associated with the distinctive limestone upland of Llanymynech Hill.

Archaeological summary

The later prehistoric hillfort which crowns the summit of Llanymynech Hill is one of the largest in the country. There is evidence to suggest that copper ores were being mined and used for the manufacture of bronze weapons and implements from the later Bronze Age onwards and there is a cave known at the Ogof inside the hillfort which probably functioned as a Roman mine. It has been suggested that the hillfort may have been the site of the last stand of the Celtic chieftain Caratacus against the Roman army, in a decisive battle in the Roman conquest of Britain described by the historian Tacitus.

Early clearance and land use is indicated by various sites to the west of Wern, including a complex of ring ditches, representing earlier prehistoric burial and ritual sites, and pit alignments, similar to the larger complexes near Four Crosses that possibly signal land division and allotment in the later prehistoric period.

It is uncertain when the earliest stone quarries were opened though it has been suggested that quarrying and lime production may have started in the Roman period, Llanymynech being the closest source of building lime to the large Roman city at Wroxeter, further downstream on the Severn, and it is possible that a quarrying settlement existed at Llanymynech at that time.

In the later 8th century Offa's Dyke, marking the western boundary of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia, was built across the area, encompassing the hill and following the western defences of the prehistoric hillfort.

A church settlement had become established at Llanymynech by the medieval period but rapid growth of this nucleated settlement and of nearby Pant came with the expansion of the quarrying industry in the post-medieval period, especially following the improvements to the turnpike roads. Lime production for building and agricultural purposes was being undertaken on a large scale during the 18th and 19th centuries, being first transported by road and river and subsequently by canal and railway. The industry declined and virtually disappeared during the later 19th century. The industry has left a series of impressive structures to the north of the canal, including a Hoffman-type limekiln with chimney, other limekilns and a system of tramways and incline planes which transported the limestone from the quarries to the kilns and then on to the canal wharf.

Management recommendations

The canal wharf, including the limekilns and chimney (PRN SA 2501), and the various associated incline planes (PRN SA2500 and Site 37), is an area of considerable archaeological significance and its constituent sites should be preserved *in situ*. No works should be undertaken without prior consultation with English Heritage. Llanymynech Hillfort (PRN 28) and Offa's Dyke (PRN 10000) are both scheduled ancient monuments, but are unlikely to be affected by the restoration proposals.

There are a significant number of prehistoric sites known from cropmark evidence, including four enclosures (PRNs 3594, 4602, 38028 and SA 13475), and two ring ditches or round barrows (PRNs 4597 and 34336), all of which should be preserved *in situ*.

The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance, or have been destroyed, and preservation by record should be ensured for all extant sites.

The area has considerable potential for significant buried archaeological remains relating to prehistoric settlement and funerary practices. This is clearly demonstrated by the important sites already revealed as cropmarks to the west of Llanymynech, and a programme of evaluation should be undertaken in advance of any proposed works likely to affect significant areas outside the existing canal corridor in order to assess the potential of the archaeological resource.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites in Powys

PRN	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
28	Llanymynech hillfort	Multiple site	Iron Age	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2649922149	A
2456	Walls Bridge Pit Alignment	Pit alignment	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2619520862	B
3594	White Rock Farm enclosure	Defended enclosure ?	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2634621135	B
3641	Elm Tree House Ring Ditch	Round barrow ?	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2641720768	B
4597	Causeway Lane Ring Ditch II	Round barrow ?	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2566320634	E
4602	Elm Tree House Enclosure	Enclosure ?	Prehistoric ?	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2639020710	B
10000	Offa's Dyke	Linear earthwork	Saxon	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2500058000	A
16378	Llanymynech Church (St Agatha)	Church	Post Medieval	Building	Intact	SJ2674320831	A
32413	Wern, cottage	House	Medieval ?	Building	Intact	SJ2608120679	A
34336	Walls Bridge ring ditches	Ring ditch	Bronze Age ?	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2619020850	E
38028	Elm Tree House Rectangular Enclosure	Enclosure	Prehistoric	Cropmark	Intact	SJ2638520765	B
64619	Careghofa Pound	Pound	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2553220186	D
64726	Carreghofa ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2583320158	C
64727	Cambrian Railways Nantmawr Branch	Railway	19th Century	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SJ2581720769	C
64728	Cambrian Railways Llanfyllin Branch	Railway	19th Century	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SJ2589420881	C
64729	Llanymynech ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2637621179	C
70576	Llanymynech, Old Elmtree Farmhouse and outbuilding	House	17th Century ?	Building	Intact	SJ2643020860	A

PRN 28 Llanymynech hillfort multiple

Hilltop enclosure, multivallate to north and north east; single rampart to west where the line is utilised by Offa's Dyke. Two intumed entrances in north plus three possible in west. South-east protected by steep cliffs that have since been quarried. Enclosure of 57ha (140 acres).

PRN 2456 Walls Bridge Pit Alignment

A series of pit alignments and linear cropmarks. An alignment from west-north-west to east-south-east consists of pits on the northern side and a ditch on the southern. A single pit alignment runs off to the north.

PRN 3594 White Rock Farm enclosure

A sub-rectangular double-ditched enclosure, c. 110m by 80m.

PRN 3641 Elm Tree House Ring Ditch

A ring ditch partially excavated by CPAT in 1992. The ring ditch, severely truncated by ploughing, appeared to be 15m in diameter.

PRN 4597 Causeway Lane Ring Ditch II

A ring ditch, some 40m diameter, identified from aerial photography.

PRN 4602 Elm Tree House Enclosure

Two parallel ditches, identified as cropmarks from aerial photography, some 50m apart and each some 2m across, probably representing two sides of an enclosure.

PRN 10000 Offa's Dyke

Offa's Dyke. 8th-century linear earthwork, built by Offa of Mercia to divide that kingdom from Wales.

Pm 16378 Llanymynech Church (St Agatha)

The church was built between 1844-5, of grey stone and yellow terracotta in an eccentric neo Norman style.

PRN 32413 Wern, cottage

Grade II Listed Building.

PRN 34336 Walls Bridge ring ditches

A group of at least nine possible ring ditches recorded from aerial photography.

PRN 38028 Elm Tree House Rectangular Enclosure

A rectangular single ditched enclosure 23m north to south by 14m east to west.

PRN 64619 Careghofa Pound

Pound depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

PRN 64726 Carreghofa ridge and furrow

Ridge and furrow plotted from aerial photography.

PRN 64727 Cambrian Railways Nantmawr Branch

Former railway mapped from OS 1:25,000

PRN 64728 Cambrian Railways Llanfyllin Branch

Former railway mapped from OS 1:25,000

PRN 64729 Llanymynech ridge and furrow

Ridge and furrow mapped from aerial photography.

PRN 70576 Llanymynech, Old Elmtree Farmhouse and outbuilding

Late 17th to early 18th-century house with attached agricultural range.

Archaeological sites in Shropshire

PRN or Site No	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
SA2500	Llanymynech Incline Plane II	Incline plane	Post Medieval	Structure	Damaged	SJ2679121411	A
SA2501	Hoffman Chimney North Road	Chimney	19th Century	Structure	Damaged	SJ2684821209	A
SA13475	Enclosure	Enclosure	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Damaged	SJ2698821103	B
36	Llanymynech Turnpike house	Toll house	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2664321033	E
37	Llanymynech old incline	Tramway	19th Century	Document	Unknown	SJ2672721211	B

PRN SA2500 Llanymynech Incline Plane II
No further details.

PRN SA2501 Hoffman Chimney North Road

Smelt flue chimney, now disused. Constructed in 1899 of red brick (English Garden wall bond), and held together by iron ties. Square section, slightly tapering to the top, with slightly chamfered plinth and moulded capping. Round-arched stoke hole on north side of the plinth links the chimney with the Hoffman Kiln.

PRN SA13475 Enclosure

Parts of a multiple-ditched feature, with an entrance on the south side of the outer ditch. Inner enclosure is 60m-80m across. Fieldwork indicates minor undulations in the field rising to a height of perhaps 0.5m, and as these are concentrated at the east end of the field they may be the earthworks of the enclosure.

Site No 36 Llanymynech Turnpike house

Turnpike house depicted on Llanymynech (Llwyntidman & Treprenal) Tithe map of 1838.

Site No 37 Llanymynech old incline

Alternate line of tramway depicted on Llanymynech (Llwyntidman & Treprenal) Tithe map of 1838.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Montgomeryshire 11NE
Tithe Survey for Llanymynech (Llwyntidman & Treprenal) Parish, 1838

FIG 3Q

Grid References SJ 27122150 to SJ 28832321
Length 2.68km

Topography and landuse

The canal follows north-western edge of the Shropshire Plain, at the foot of Llanymynech Hill, through the canal-side settlement of Pant, before turning east across lowlands towards Crickheath. The area is generally permanent pasture to the east and north of Pant, with the settlement itself to the west of the canal.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Llanymynech - mining and industrial processing settlements and agricultural and recreational areas associated with the distinctive limestone upland of Llanymynech Hill.
- Morton - an agricultural landscape with widely dispersed farms, irregular fields possibly representing later medieval and early post-medieval enclosure, some straight-sided fields, remnant strip fields and ridge and furrow cultivation probably derived from post-medieval enclosure of areas of medieval open-field strips, commons, and post-medieval linear roadside settlements.

Archaeological summary

Early clearance and land use is indicated by the late prehistoric enclosure at Waen Wen, and remnant ridge and furrow provides some evidence of medieval or early post-medieval agriculture.

The majority of archaeological sites are associated with the canal and include the line of a former incline plane leading to a bank of limekilns on the former canal wharf, as well as areas of small-scale quarrying, also with associated limekilns, and an area of possible clay pits.

Management recommendations

The Waen Wen enclosure (PRN SA2915) is of major significance and should be preserved *in situ*. The area of the canal wharf, including the surviving limekilns (PRN SA14649), and the area of quarrying (Site 1) where two buildings are recorded (Sites 38-39), is of considerable archaeological significance and its constituent sites should be preserved *in situ*. The condition of two other limekilns (Sites 2-3) has not been determined, but significant remains may survive which could warrant preservation *in situ*. The areas of ridge and furrow and other field system earthworks (PRN SA14697; Sites 47 and 49) should also be preserved *in situ*.

The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance, or have been destroyed, and preservation by record should be ensured for all extant sites.

The area has considerable potential for significant buried archaeological remains relating to prehistoric settlement and funerary practices. This is clearly demonstrated by the important cropmark enclosure at Waen Wen, and a programme of evaluation should be undertaken in advance of any proposed works likely to affect significant areas outside the existing canal corridor in order to assess the potential of the archaeological resource.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN or Site No	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
SA344	Llanymynech Incline Plane I	Incline plane	19th Century	Structure	Damaged	SJ2731021860	B
SA2915	Waen Wen Enclosure II	Enclosure	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2830623173	A
SA3274	Tramway	Mineral railway	Post Medieval	Document	Damaged	SJ2724821890	B
SA3281	Plascerig Brick Works	Brickworks	19th Century	Document	Unknown	SJ2726921673	E

SA14649	Lime kiln	Lime kiln	19th Century	Structure	Near intact	SJ2743421823	A
SA14696	Waen Wen ridge and furrow I	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Earthwork	Earthwork	SJ2813422403	C
SA14697	Waen Wen earthworks	Trackway	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2824922818	C
1	Fach Quarry Llanymynech	Quarry	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2761321975	C
2	Pant limekiln I	Lime kiln	Post Medieval	Structure	Near destroyed	SJ2793922693	E
3	Pant limekiln II	Lime kiln	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2786922688	E
4	Pant quarry	Quarry	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2784622703	D
5	Pant pond I	Pond	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2796622773	D
6	Pant pond II	Pond	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2805422833	D
7	Pant pond III	Pond	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2807422873	D
8	Pant pond IV	Pond	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2806622913	D
9	Pant pond V	Pond	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SJ2806922945	D
10	Pant quarry	Quarry	19th Century	Document	Unknown	SJ2812623068	D
13	Pant chapel	Chapel	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2775722348	E
14	Pant building I	Building	Post Medieval	Document	Near destroyed	SJ2777922424	E
15	Pant building II	Building	Post Medieval	Document	Near destroyed	SJ2780122446	E
16	Cae Pen y garreg quarry	Quarry	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2787222560	D
17	Cae y Felin	Mill ?	Post Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2823222908	E
18	Big Mill	Mill ?	Post Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2828823093	E
38	Pant quarry building I	Building	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2765421974	E
39	Pant quarry building II	Building	Post Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2772722077	E
47	Waen Wen ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2822022800	C
49	Waen Wen ridge and furrow II	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2846522640	C
50	Waen Wen pond	Pond	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ2815022900	D

PRN SA344 Llanymynech Incline Plane I

Incline plane with stone drum house, probably mid to late 19th-century in date. The incline carried lime from the quarries above to the limekilns adjacent to the canal wharf.

PRN SA2915 Waen Wen Enclosure II

An irregular enclosure, apparently with a funnel entrance. The cropmark was evaluated, by means of geophysical survey and trial trenching in 1992. The results demonstrated that the enclosure was double-ditched on its eastern, southern and possibly western sides and covered an area of about 0.2ha. The survey also recorded other archaeological features within and immediately outside the enclosure. The trial trenching revealed some features within the enclosure and recovered a small amount of pottery from the ditch fills that suggested an Iron Age date. There was also some evidence for metal working.

PRN SA3274 Tramway

The tramway with its drum house served the quarry complex, running westwards from SJ2748 2184, to where it connected with the canal. A battery of limekilns lay close to the tramway, the course of which is now mainly preserved by a road.

PRN SA3281 Plascerig Brick Works

Plascerig Brick Works next to and possibly associated with the canal. The site appears to be largely covered in regenerated woodland.

PRN SA14649 Lime kiln

Limekilns, now disused. Probably 19th-century. Roughly coursed and dressed limestone rubble with red brick to the arches. High buttressed revetment wall with five round-headed kilns, open to the top and with brick ovens to the rear, linked by round-arched tunnel. This group of limekilns is depicted on the Llanymynech (Llwyntidman & Treprenal) Tithe map of 1838. They are in good condition and

the area around them is tidy, suggesting that they may have undergone a degree of restoration in the relatively recent past.

PRN SA14696 Waen Wen ridge and furrow I

Slight earthworks are visible at SJ 281224 and are likely to represent ridge and furrow, although these remains have been much reduced, probably by more recent ploughing. AT SJ 281225 there are further traces of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing; the earthworks here are better preserved.

PRN SA14697 Waen Wen earthworks

Slight earthworks, probably representing a former field boundary and a track leading down to a hollow which may represent the site of a former quarry of unknown date.

Site No 1 Fach Quarry Llanymynech

Linear quarry depicted on Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map along the north-west side of the railway.

Site No 2 Pant limekiln I

Double limekiln depicted on Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map. No convincing surface traces remain but there are ground undulations that might be significant in this context and what may be the lowest courses of a wall face show on the side of the canal at approximately the correct location

Site No 3 Pant limekiln II

Double limekiln depicted on Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

Site No 4 Pant quarry

Quarry with limekilns depicted on Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

Site No 5 Pant pond I

Pond, or possible clay pit, depicted on Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

Site No 6 Pant pond II

Pond, or possible clay pit, depicted on Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

Site No 7 Pant pond III

Pond, or possible clay pit, depicted on Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

Site No 8 Pant pond IV

Pond, or possible clay pit, depicted on Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

Site No 9 Pant pond V

Pond, or possible clay pit, depicted on Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

Site No 10 Pant quarry

Quarry depicted on Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map with three pools shown at the southern end, possibly clay pits.

Site No 13 Pant chapel

Chapel depicted on Oswestry (Crickheath) Tithe map of 1838.

Site No 14 Pant building I

Building depicted on Oswestry (Crickheath) Tithe map of 1838. Possibly one short section of revetment wall survives against scarp that edges the field

Site No 15 Pant building II

Building depicted on Oswestry (Crickheath) Tithe map of 1838. No trace of this building could be recognised on the ground.

Site No 16 Cae Pen y garreg quarry

Quarry noted in field named Cae Pen y garreg on Oswestry (Crickheath) Tithe map of 1838. There are indications of exposed rock faces on the north side of the field.

Site No 17 Cae y Felin

Field name Cae y Felin on Oswestry (Crickheath) Tithe map of 1838. Nothing is visible in this field that could signal the position of a mill.

Site No 18 Big Mill

Field named 'Big Mill meadow' on Oswestry (Crickheath) Tithe map of 1838. Possibly only the property of a mill.

Site No 38 Pant quarry building I

Building within area of quarrying, depicted on Llanymynech (Llwyntidman & Treprenal) Tithe map of 1838. Area on and adjacent to old railway line and now converted to HGV yard. It is not possible to ascertain whether this building survives.

Site No 39 Pant quarry building II

Building at the north-east end of an area of quarrying, depicted on Llanymynech (Llwyntidman & Treprenal) Tithe map of 1838. It was not possible to ascertain whether this building survives.

Site No 47 Waen Wen ridge and furrow

Much of this field which slopes gently down north-westwards to a small stream is covered in low ridge and furrow which runs down the slope. See also SA14697

Site No 49 Waen Wen ridge and furrow II

Ridge and furrow plotted from aerial photography.

Site No 50 Waen Wen pond

An elongated hollow runs up against the canal embankment and may be another pond or clay pit.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Shropshire 19SW
1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Shropshire 26NW
Tithe Survey for Llanymynech (Llwyntidman & Treprenal) Parish, 1838
Tithe Survey for Oswestry (Crickheath) Parish, 1838

FIG 3R

Grid References SJ 28832321 to SJ 30332445
Length 2.29km

Topography and landuse

The canal runs eastwards across the lowlands through Crickheath and Redwith. The area is generally agricultural pasture.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Morton - an agricultural landscape with widely dispersed farms, irregular fields possibly representing later medieval and early post-medieval enclosure, some straight-sided fields, remnant strip fields and ridge and furrow cultivation probably derived from post-medieval enclosure of areas of medieval open-field strips commons, and post-medieval linear roadside settlements.
- Maesbury Marsh - low-lying area of relatively poorly drained land and widely scattered farms with areas of relatively large irregular fields, partly resulting from the drainage and enclosure of former meadow land during medieval and early post-medieval period.

Archaeological summary

Early clearance and land use is indicated by various cropmarks, including ring ditches, representing earlier prehistoric burial and ritual sites, and later prehistoric enclosures and possible field systems. A possible Roman road has been proposed between Morton Common and Redwith, although its presence remains unsubstantiated. Remnant ridge and furrow provides some evidence of medieval or early post-medieval agriculture.

The majority of archaeological sites are associated with the canal and include the line of a former incline plane leading to a bank of limekilns on the former canal wharf, as well as areas of small-scale quarrying, also with associated limekilns, and an area of possible clay pits.

Management recommendations

The various cropmark sites, comprising three enclosures (PRNs SA1003, SA1079 and SA13466), three ring ditches (PRNs SA2657, SA13465 and SA14517), two pit alignments (PRNs SA14413 and SA14553), and a possible field system (SA1592) are of major significance and should be preserved *in situ*. The potential water meadows (Sites 12 and 45) and the areas of ridge and furrow (Sites 22 and 57) should also be preserved *in situ*.

The condition of the limekilns near Redwith (PRN SA3291) is unknown but significant structural remains could well survive. The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance, or have been destroyed, and preservation by record should be ensured for all extant sites.

The area has considerable potential for significant buried archaeological remains relating to prehistoric settlement and funerary practices. This is clearly demonstrated by the important sites already revealed as cropmarks, and a programme of evaluation should be undertaken in advance of any proposed works likely to affect significant areas outside the existing canal corridor in order to assess the potential of the archaeological resource.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN or Site No	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
SA1002	Possible Section of Canal at Crickheath Wharf	Linear feature	Post Medieval	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2916523499	D
SA1003	Enclosures NW of Waen Cottage Crickheath	Enclosure	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2941823447	B

SA1079	Crickheath Wharf Enclosure	Enclosure	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Damaged	SJ2907923355	B
SA1592	Morton Farm cropmarks	Field system	Unknown	Cropmark	Near destroyed	SJ3026524637	E
SA2657	Cockhale ring ditch	Ring ditch	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2983024111	B
SA3291	Lime kiln battery	Lime kiln	19th Century	Document	Unknown	SJ3013024090	E
SA3948	Gronwen Colliery (Morda) Tramway	Mineral railway	19th Century	Document	Unknown	SJ2892926079	E
SA13465	New House ring ditch	Ring ditch	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2889823426	B
SA13466	Enclosure	Enclosure	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2903923844	B
SA14413	Possible Pit Alignment	Pit alignment	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2855323772	B
SA14517	Canal House ring ditch I	Ring ditch	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2978823913	B
SA14552	Enclosure	Enclosure	Iron Age ?	Cropmark	Near destroyed	SJ2896223303	B
SA14553	Pit alignment	Pit alignment	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2976123782	B
SA14695	Llynclys tramway	Tramway	19th Century	Document	Unknown	SJ2919523509	E
SA16497	? Roman Road between Morton Common and Redwith	Road	Roman ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2900923926	E
SA16538	Llynclys ditch	Ditch	Unknown	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2881323836	E
11	Crickheath wharf well	Well	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2919123393	E
12	Morton Pool watermeadows	Water meadow	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Unknown	SJ3000023940	C
19	Kiln Field	Kiln ?	19th Century	Document	Unknown	SJ3000424063	E
20	Morton Farm well	Well ?	Post Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ3001524318	D
21	Barn Field	Barn ?	Post Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ2994424274	E
22	Morton Farm ridge and furrow II	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ3006124469	C
23	Maes Cuning	Rabbit Warren ?	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ3028124582	E
44	New House ditch	Ditch	Unknown	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ2900523457	E
45	Manor Farm meadows	Water meadow ?	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Near intact	SJ2910523207	C
57	Morton Farm ridge and furrow I	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ2996124541	C

PRN SA1002 Possible Section of Canal adjacent to Crickheath Wharf

A 90° angle and two lengths of a single-ditched feature adjacent to Crickheath Wharf. Distinctive cropmark, the dark line in the crop suggesting an uninterrupted section of ditch but of unknown origin.

PRN SA1003 Enclosures NW of Waen Cottage Crickheath

Two contiguous enclosures. The more strongly defined, western one, possibly having the eastern one as an annex or impinging upon it. Linear features cross the western enclosure and are visible to the west.

PRN SA1079 Crickheath Wharf Enclosure

A rectangular single-ditched enclosure with simple entrance gap on the east side.

PRN SA1592 Morton Farm cropmarks

A series of irregular ditches represent a possible field system adjoining the Montgomery Canal. It has been suggested that the straight section of the canal running north to south from Crofts Mill Bridge to the right angled turn to the west at SJ 3040 2445, a distance of 400 metres, may have followed the line of Wat's Dyke. The towpath bank south of Crofts Mill Bridge may therefore have incorporated the remains of the bank of the Dyke, with the canal to the west following the line of the former ditch. For part of this stretch the Dyke may have utilised elements of the probable field system, SA 2425, discernible on air photographs (Reid 1996). An evaluation by CPAT identified a possible ditch although it was not possible to determine whether this was associated with Wat's Dyke, or part of the field system.

PRN SA2657 Cockhale ring ditch

A ring ditch with an entrance gap in the north-west side.

PRN SA3291 Lime kiln battery

A bank of five limekilns. A wharf and limekilns named on Oswestry (Morton) Tithe map of 1840. A considerable earthwork tump occupies the north-west corner of the wood - it may be a natural feature though the slopes look to have been scarped and it could conceivably disguise the limekilns

PRN SA3948 Gronwen Colliery (Morda) Tramway

Railroad, running in a north-westerly direction from the Montgomery Canal to the Coal Pits at Gronwen. At its southern end, where it connects with the Montgomery Canal, a Wharf is noted associated with a projection to the Canal. There is no surviving indication of this tramway except for earthworks at SJ 2930 2558, where it crossed the Cambrian Railway and SJ 2895 2600. At its southern end a field boundary follows the course of this former tramway. Probably constructed early in the 19th century and went out of use by 1879. Constructed as a plateway-iron rails set on stone blocks. Coal is likely to have been transported by canal to the limekilns at Llanymynech (Reid 1996, 3).

PRN SA13465 New House ring ditch

A ring ditch cropmark has a diameter of 28m.

PRN SA13466 Enclosure

A rectangular single-ditched enclosure within which is a circular setting of pits. Possibly associated ditches adjoin and cross the enclosure.

PRN SA14413 Possible Pit Alignment

A possible pit alignment running east to west for c. 220m.

PRN SA14517 Canal House ring ditch I

A small ring ditch with an entrance on the north-west side.

PRN SA14552 Enclosure

Part of an enclosure identified from aerial photography. The enclosure has clearly been truncated in the canal construction and its ditches are likely to be exposed in the canal side

PRN SA14553 Pit alignment

No further details.

PRN SA14695 Llynclys tramway

Just to the south of Llynclys cross-roads, the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1901 shows a tramway running approximately west to east. The tramway was still in existence in 1926, but by 1949 had disappeared east of Llynclys. Two tramways run from an unnamed quarry at Whitehaven (SJ 26872423) and some lime kilns east of Porth y Waen (SJ 26672386), converges (at SJ 27092415) and continue to Crickheath Wharf on the Montgomery Canal.

PRN SA16497 Possible Roman Road Alignment between Morton Common and Redwith

It has been suggested that the minor road running south-south-east from Brookhouse, Morton Common (SJ 295250) to Redwith, Llywntidmon (SJ 286211) may follow the line of a Roman road, although there is no supporting evidence.

PRN SA16538 Llynclys ditch

A ditch has been identified running south-east from Llynclys.

Site No 11 Crickheath wharf well

Well is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map.

Site No 12 Morton Pool watermeadows

Extant remains of a water meadow adjacent to Morton Pool. Water would have flowed from the pool through the meadow into a channel marking the west side of the pasture field (Reid 1996, 4). The site is under permanent pasture, and is now an SSSI.

Site No 19 Kiln Field

Kiln Field named on the Oswestry (Morton) Tithe map of 1840. Possibly refers to limekilns on the opposite side of canal, but may have been the site of a precursor. On the ground nothing is visible but a stone wall of indeterminate form acts as a boundary to the house in the north-east corner of the field.

Site No 20 Morton Farm well

Site of a well suggested by field named 'Well meadow' on the Oswestry (Morton) Tithe map of 1840.

Site No 21 Barn Field

Possible site of a barn suggested by 'Barn Field' named on the Oswestry (Morton) Tithe map of 1840.

Site No 22 Morton Farm ridge and furrow II

Ridge and furrow plotted from aerial photography.

Site No 23 Maes Cunning

Field name - 'Maes Cunning' on the Oswestry (Morton) Tithe map of 1840 - indicates likely medieval, open-field cultivation and possibly also the site of a rabbit warren, although it is perhaps more likely that if the 'cunning' element is indeed a corruption of 'coney' it indicates that the field tended to be infested with rabbits.

Site No 44 New House ditch

Interrupted ditch plotted from aerial photography.

Site No 45 Manor Farm meadows

Possible water meadows, the channels still in use with water in them in 1984. Field visit reveals the gullies to be intact and still carrying water through permanent pasture. They do not appear to be a typical water meadow system, and arguably might be an atypical drainage system.

Site No 57 Morton Farm ridge and furrow I

Ridge and furrow plotted from aerial photography.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Shropshire 19SW
Tithe Survey for Oswestry (Morton) Parish, 1840

FIG 3S

Grid References SJ 30332445 to SJ 32032503
Length 2.11km

Topography and landuse

The canal runs eastwards across the lowlands from Redwith through Maesbury Marsh. The area is generally down to permanent pasture, together with the canal-side settlement of Maesbury Marsh.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Morton - an agricultural landscape with widely dispersed farms, irregular fields possibly representing later medieval and early post-medieval enclosure, some straight-sided fields, remnant strip fields and ridge and furrow cultivation probably derived from post-medieval enclosure of areas of medieval open-field strips commons, and post-medieval linear roadside settlements.
- Maesbury Marsh - low-lying area of relatively poorly drained land and widely scattered farms with areas of relatively large irregular fields, partly resulting from the drainage and enclosure of former meadow land during medieval and early post-medieval period.
- West Felton - regular fields, including some strip fields, and probably partly deriving from the enclosure of former medieval open-field strips.

Archaeological summary

The area includes a section of Wat's Dyke, the 8th-century linear earthwork which stretches intermittently for approximately 60km northwards to the Dee Estuary at Holywell. Later medieval or post-medieval cultivation is indicated by remnant ridge and furrow, as well as a possible water meadow.

The majority of archaeological sites are associated with the canal and include two mills, one with its own canal branch, as well as the site of a smelting house alongside the canal at Maesbury Marsh.

Management recommendations

The line of Wat's Dyke (PRN SA720) is preserved as a cropmark in fields to the south of the canal, and although the evidence is absent for the section closest to the canal its presence can be inferred. The site is of national importance should be preserved *in situ*. The site of Park Mill (PRN SA16996) and its former canal branch (PRN SA3947), Maesbury Hall Mill (PRN SA16998), and the house site to the west of Maesbury Marsh (Site 24) may well contain significant archaeological remains, the *in situ* preservation of which should be ensured.

The remaining recorded sites are of minor significance, or have been destroyed, and preservation by record should be ensured for all extant sites.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN or Site No	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
SA629	Stone Axe from Maesbury Marsh	Findspot	Neolithic	Finds only	Finds only	SJ3141025040	D
SA720	Wat's Dyke	Linear earthwork	Dark Age	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ3044124391	A
SA1579	Bromwich Park	Deserted settlement	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ3191725421	E
SA3947	Morda Hall Corn Mill Canal branch	Canal	19th Century	Document	Unknown	SJ3045724861	C
SA16996	Maesbury Hall Mill	Mill	Post Medieval	Building	Unknown	SJ3034025020	E
SA16998	Park Mill	Mill	Post Medieval	Building	Unknown	SJ3203025060	E
24	Maesbury Marsh earthworks	House ?	Post Medieval ?	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SJ3087224926	C

25	Maesbury Marsh Smelting House	Smelter	19th Century ?	Document	Unknown	SJ3138025030	E
43	Crofts Mill gullies	Water meadow	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Unknown	SJ3050924724	C
54	Maesbury Marsh ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ3123624901	C
55	The Fields ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ3090025094	C
56	Crofts Mill ridge and furrow	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ3081424847	C

PRN SA629 Stone Axe from Maesbury Marsh

A polished stone axe found near the Navigation Inn while digging a hole for a gatepost. A cast of this is now in Oswestry Museum.

PRN SA720 Wat's Dyke

Wat's Dyke is a linear earthwork which stretches intermittently for approximately 60km from the River Morda at Maesbury to the Dee Estuary at Holywell. The earthwork consists of a bank with a ditch on its west side, presenting a barrier to the west. The function and even the dating of the Dyke is uncertain, but it is usually held to be a boundary dyke dating to the 8th century AD, but predating Offa's Dyke.

PRN SA1579 Bromwich Park

A series of holloways and a possible deserted settlement have been identified in fields to the south-west of the farm. The only features seen in the fields were some old drainage ditches with a slight bank along the west side of one of them, which may have functioned as a field boundary. No other earthworks were visible. Possible strip fields can be seen running almost parallel with the brook.

PRN SA3947 Morda Hall Corn Mill Canal branch

A curving offshoot of the Montgomery Canal provided direct access by canal boat to the corn mill known as Peate's Mill. The canal offshoot went out of use in 1932

PRN SA16996 Maesbury Hall Mill

No details available.

PRN SA16998 Park Mill

A stone-built domestic dwelling now occupies the approximate location of the mill. It has not been established whether parts of the mill building survive here. Also known as Crofts Mill or Peate's Mill.

Site No 24 Maesbury Marsh earthworks

Building, probably a house and garden, depicted on Oswestry (Maesbury) Tithe map of 1839. Field is now under permanent pasture and in the north-east corner, the ground rises to an irregularly-shaped platform. Other earthworks might also be part of the complex.

Site No 25 Maesbury Marsh Smelting House

Smelting house depicted on the Oswestry (Maesbury) Tithe map of 1839.

Site No 43 Crofts Mill gullies

Linear gullies identified from aerial photography indicate what may be water meadows.

Site No 54 Maesbury Marsh ridge and furrow

Ridge and furrow plotted from aerial photography.

Site No 55 The Fields ridge and furrow

Ridge and furrow plotted from aerial photography.

Site No 56 Crofts Mill ridge and furrow

Ridge and furrow plotted from aerial photography.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Shropshire 19SE
Tithe Survey for Oswestry (Maesbury) Parish, 1839

FIG 3T

Grid References SJ 32032503 to SJ 33732664
Length 2.56km

Topography and landuse

The canal crosses a low-lying area of former marshland, now drained for agriculture. To the north of the canal lies Oswestry Golf Club.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Maesbury Marsh - low-lying area of relatively poorly drained land and widely scattered farms with areas of comparatively large irregular fields, partly resulting from the drainage and enclosure of former meadow land during the medieval and early post-medieval period.
- West Felton - regular fields, including some strip fields, and probably partly deriving from the enclosure of former medieval open-field strips.
- Wootton - parkland and golfcourse at Aston, an area of small regular fields probably partly derived from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips, and areas of more irregular fields possibly partly resulting from medieval to early post-medieval piecemeal clearance, drainage and enclosure.
- Perrymoor - small regular fields, together with larger straight-sided fields and areas of broadleaf and conifer plantation representing post-medieval drainage and enclosure of former moss and wetland, some drained when the canal was constructed in the later 18th century.

Archaeological summary

The area includes a possible pit alignment, indicative perhaps of later prehistoric clearance and enclosure, as well as what may be a post-medieval water meadow. The historic park surrounding Aston Hall lies to the north of the canal, its area now largely occupied by a golf club.

Management recommendations

The parkland surrounding Aston Hall (PRN SA4066) has been recognised as a historic park which may receive statutory designation in due course. The possible pit alignment (PRN SA1580) is significant in itself and indicates the potential for the discovery of further buried features within the area. The site should be preserved *in situ* and a programme of evaluation would be necessary before undertaking any groundworks in the area. The significance of a complex of earthworks to the south of the canal, including a possible house platform (PRN SA16657), has yet to be determined and a programme of evaluation should be considered before undertaking any groundworks in the area.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN or Site No	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
SA1580	Park Mill ?pit alignment	Pit alignment ?	Bronze Age	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ3227825141	E
SA16657	Woolston building platform	Platform	Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ3230024840	E
SA4066	Aston Hall and park	Park	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ3282727135	A
26	St Winifred's Well, Woolaston, fieldname	Well	Post Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ3215224829	E
42	Bromwich Park meadows	Water meadow ?	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Unknown	SJ3250525594	B

PRN SA1580 Park Mill ?pit alignment

A pit alignment or possibly a curving ditch has been identified from aerial photography.

PRN SA4066 Aston Hall

English Heritage has recognised for sometime that their existing register of historic parks and gardens in England omits large numbers of lesser known but still significant designed landscapes. Consultants' reports have been commissioned by English Heritage to identify such sites and Aston Hall has been recognised as of potentially registerable quality (Dr P Stamper, Inspector of Historic Designed Landscapes, English Heritage: *pers comm*).

PRN SA16657 Woolston building platform

A complex of rectangular earthwork platforms. A 'holloway', 7-8m wide and up to 0.9m deep runs south-eastwards for at least 100m (and is followed by a footpath). At its south-east terminal it bifurcates with narrower hollows running off to the east and south. It is reasonable to assume that the platforms are in the vicinity of this split.

Site No 26 St Winifred's Well, Woolaston, fieldname

'Near well leasow' named on the Oswestry (Aston, Hisland & Wooton) Tithe map of 1838.

Site No 42 Bromwich Park meadows

Possible water meadows, but the gullies are sparse across the field.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Shropshire 19NE

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Shropshire 19SE

Tithe Survey for Oswestry (Aston, Hisland & Wooton) Parish, 1838

FIG 3U

Grid References SJ 33732664 to SJ 35102863
Length 2.77km

Topography and landuse

The canal crosses a low-lying area of former marshland, now drained for agriculture.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- West Felton - regular fields, including some strip fields, and probably partly deriving from the enclosure of former medieval open-field strips.
- Wootton - parkland and golf course at Aston, an area of small regular fields probably partly derived from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips, and areas of more irregular fields possibly partly resulting from medieval to early post-medieval piecemeal clearance, drainage and enclosure.
- Perry Moor - small regular fields and larger straight-sided fields representing post-medieval drainage and enclosure of former wetland, partly following the construction of the canal, slightly elevated areas of more irregular fields possibly of medieval to early post-medieval date, and the canal-side and roadside settlement at Queen's Head.

Archaeological summary

Prehistoric activity is suggested by the find of Bronze Age axe-hammers at Queen's Head and medieval settlement is perhaps indicated by a series of enclosures near Wootton. The majority of the recorded archaeology relates to the canal, including the canal-side settlements of Queen's Head and Redwith. The former had a mill and limekilns, while the latter had a canal basin and wharf.

Management recommendations

Several areas of possible field systems have been identified both as earthworks and cropmarks (PRNs SA1513, SA2805, SA2919 and Site 48). The dating and extent remain uncertain and a programme of evaluation should be undertaken to assess their potential prior to any groundworks being undertaken which may have an impact upon them. Three house sites (Sites 28, 31 and 32) have also been identified which may contain significance buried remains and a programme of evaluation should be undertaken to assess their potential prior to any groundworks being undertaken which may have an impact upon them.

The canal passes through an area of former peat marsh which may contain significant palaeoenvironmental potential (Site 58), although its exact extent is unknown.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN or Site No	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
SA1513	Wootton Castle Field enclosure	Enclosure	Medieval ?	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ3403927257	E
SA1754	Rednal Wharf	Canal basin	Post Medieval	Structure	Near intact	SJ3507427878	C
SA2805	Wootton cropmarks	Field system	Unknown	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ3450327523	C
SA2919	Heath Houses cropmark	Ditch ?	Unknown	Cropmark	Unknown	SJ3490627815	E
SA3288	The Mount Windmill	Windmill	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ3415026800	E
SA13408	Aston gravel pit axe hammers	Findspot	Bronze Age	Finds only	Finds only	SJ3382026910	D
SA17205	Queen's Head Mill	Mill	Post Medieval	Building	Unknown	SJ3400026800	E
27	Queen's Head limekilns	Limekiln	19th Century	Document	Unknown	SJ3397926810	E

28	Corbett's Bridge cottage	House	Post Medieval ?	Document	Unknown	SJ3430227013	E
29	Corbett's Bridge limekiln	Limekiln ?	19th Century	Document	Unknown	SJ3428027140	E
30	Queen's Head sand pit	Sand pit	19th Century ?	Document	Destroyed	SJ3397126775	D
31	Rednal Moss house I	House	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ3503027545	E
32	Rednal Moss house II	House	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ3513727632	E
48	Corbett's Bridge earthworks	Field system ?	Unknown	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ3462027350	E
58	Queens Head peat deposits	Environmental site	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ347274	E

PRN SA1513 Wootton Castle Field enclosure

A single ditched sub-rectangular enclosure with associated linear cropmarks of uncertain nature forming either a field system or further enclosures. The field is marked as Castle Field on the 1838 Tithe Survey, and also on an 1808 estate map.

PRN SA1754 Rednal Wharf

Canal basin and wharf at Rednal on the canal.

PRN SA2805 Wootton cropmarks

Linear cropmarks, probably representing recently removed field boundaries

PRN SA2919 Heath Houses cropmark

A linear cropmark feature runs north to south and, at the southern end of the field in which it is visible, starts to curve to the south-west. A feature not necessarily of any antiquity.

PRN SA3288 The Mount Windmill

Windmill depicted on the Oswestry (Aston, Hisland & Wootton) Tithe map of 1838. It is uncertain whether any of this structure survives although it may be the building known as The Mount.

PRN SA13408 Aston gravel pit axe hammers

Two perforated stone axe hammers were found in a gravel pit at Aston between 1896-7.

PRN SA17205 Queens Head Mill

No details are available on this building.

Site No 27 Queen's Head limekilns

Limekilns depicted on the Oswestry (Aston, Hisland & Wootton) Tithe map of 1838.

Site No 28 Corbett's Bridge cottage

Probable cottage depicted on the Oswestry (Aston, Hisland & Wootton) Tithe map of 1838.

Site No 29 Corbett's Bridge limekiln

'Limekiln Field' named on the Oswestry (Aston, Hisland & Wootton) Tithe map of 1838. No trace of a limekiln could be seen during fieldwork

Site No 30 Queen's Head sand pit

Sand pit depicted on the Oswestry (Aston, Hisland & Wootton) Tithe map of 1838.

Site No 31 Rednal Moss house I

Cottage depicted on West Felton (Sutton) Tithe map of 1838.

Site No 32 Rednal Moss house II

Cottage depicted on the West Felton (Sutton) Tithe map of 1838.

Site No 48 Corbett's Bridge earthworks

Earthworks of uncertain form, but certainly including at least two relict field gullies, and probably other features as well. All lie on a valley floor location immediately below a river terrace scarp

Site No 58 Queens Head peat deposits

An extensive area (c. 50-80ha) of relict mire peats has been identified with up to 3m of surviving peats. The deposits have considerable palaeoenvironmental potential and further work may provide evidence for the impact of prehistoric human activity in what is presently a poorly studied part of the country (Leah *et al* 1998, 168).

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Shropshire 19NE
Tithe Survey for Oswestry (Aston, Hisland & Wooton) Parish, 1838.
Tithe Survey for West Felton (Sutton) Parish, 1838.

FIG 3V

Grid References SJ 35102863 to SJ 36272993
Length 1.79km

Topography and landuse

The canal crosses a low-lying area of former marshland, now drained for agriculture.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- Wootton - parkland and golf course at Aston, an area of small regular fields probably partly derived from the enclosure of medieval open-field strips, and areas of more irregular fields possibly partly resulting from medieval to early post-medieval piecemeal clearance, drainage and enclosure.
- Perry Moor - small regular fields and larger straight-sided fields representing post-medieval drainage and enclosure of former wetland, partly following the construction of the canal, slightly elevated areas of more irregular fields possibly of medieval to early post-medieval date, and the canal-side and roadside settlement at Queen's Head.

Archaeological summary

An unofficial canal branch was cut for the Woodhouse Estate at the time of the canal's construction, although it may never have been completed. Woodhouse and its surrounding parkland developed during the 19th century and represents an important area of historic parkland.

Wildfowling traditionally formed part of the economy of the farms bordering the former wetland areas to the east, as indicated by the farm-name Decoy Farm where there was once a duck decoy for the capture and marketing of wild ducks. Adjacent earthworks may be part of the post-medieval field system.

Management recommendations

The unofficial canal branch (Site 60) is contemporary with the canal and its surviving earthworks should be preserved *in situ*. The parkland surrounding Woodhouse (Site 61) has been recognised as an historic park which may receive statutory designation in due course.

The site of the Duck Decoy (Site 41) and adjacent earthworks (Site 46) are now of minor significance because of land improvement in recent years, although further field survey should be undertaken to ensure their preservation by record should any groundworks be proposed in the area.

The canal passes through an area of former peat marsh which may contain significant palaeoenvironmental potential (Site 59), although its exact extent is unknown.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN or Site No	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
40	Decoy Farm cottage holding	Enclosure	Post Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ3515029055	E
41	Woodhouse Estate duck decoy	Duck decoy	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Near destroyed	SJ3527929434	E
46	Decoy Farm earthworks	Field system ?	Post Medieval ?	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ3526629035	C
59	Shropshire Union Canal peat deposits	Environmental site	Unknown	Document	Unknown	SJ351287	E
60	Woodhouse old canal branch	Canal	19th Century	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ359285	B
61	Woodhouse park	Park	19th Century	Document	Unknown	SJ36202870	B

Site No 40 Decoy Farm cottage holding

Earthworks, largely irregularly linear, consisting of banks and hollows. Conceivably palaeochannel earthworks although this seems unlikely.

Site No 41 Woodhouse Estate duck decoy

A sub-circular enclosure with a possible more rectangular enclosure at the centre of it, identified from aerial photography, but now largely destroyed though still showing on 1:25,000 modern maps. This is a former duck decoy, one of only three in Shropshire, and came into existence in the late 17th century. Surface irregularities in the field at this location are apparent from the canal towpath, some of which may correspond to elements of the decoy or its outer boundary. The original boundaries have been altered, the field has been improved and is now entirely pasture.

Site No 46 Decoy Farm earthworks

Set of small and irregular enclosures identified from aerial photography which may represent encroachment holdings. Earthworks survive in this field and its neighbour to the south-west. A linear feature showing on the ground and also seen from the air, could be a trackway with a bank or scarp standing to nearly 1m. Other earthworks may represent the enclosures mentioned above

Site No 59 Shropshire Union Canal peat deposits

An extensive area (c. 100ha) of relict mire peats has been identified with up to 1.25m of surviving peats which have been severely truncated by arable cultivation (Leah *et al.* 1998, 168).

Site No 60 Woodhouse old canal branch

Unofficial canal branch cut for the Woodhouse estate by Rev. John Lloyd at the time of the canal's construction, but possibly never completed. Depicted on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6" map as an old canal (Hughes 1988, 161).

Site No 61 Woodhouse park

English Heritage has recognised from the outset that the existing register of historic parks and gardens in England omits large numbers of lesser known but still significant designed landscapes. Consultants' reports have been commissioned by English Heritage to identify such sites and Woodhouse has been recognised as of potentially registerable quality (Dr P Stamper, Inspector of Historic Designed Landscapes, English Heritage: *pers comm.*).

References

- 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Shropshire 12SE
- 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Shropshire 13SW
- 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Shropshire 19NE
- 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Shropshire 20NW
- Tithe Survey for Oswestry (Aston, Hisland & Wooton) Parish, 1838
- Tithe Survey for Whittington Parish, 1837/39

FIG 3W

Grid References SJ 36272993 to SJ 37043185
Length 2.25km

Topography and landuse

The canal crosses a low-lying area of former marshland, now drained for agriculture, before joining the Shropshire Union Canal at Frankton Locks.

Historic landscape

The area includes parts of the following historic landscape character areas:

- **Perrymoor** - small regular fields and larger straight-sided fields representing post-medieval drainage and enclosure of former wetland, partly following the construction of the canal, and slightly elevated areas of more irregular fields possibly of medieval to early post-medieval date.
- **Welsh Frankton** - irregular fields with widely scattered farmsteads and the dispersed canal-side settlement at Lower Frankton, probably representing piecemeal medieval to late medieval clearance and enclosure, along with straight-sided fields probably representing more recent enclosure of former open common.

Archaeological summary

Small areas of ridge and furrow have been identified close to Frankton Locks, which may be of medieval to early post-medieval date. The remaining sites include a cottage depicted on the Tithe survey, and the site of former a brick kiln.

Management recommendations

With the exception of Rose Cottage (Site 33), the remaining recorded sites are of minor significance, although preservation by record should be ensured.

The canal passes through an area of former peat marsh which may contain significant palaeoenvironmental potential (Site 59), although its exact extent is unknown.

Gazetteer of archaeological sites

PRN or Site No	Name	Type	Period	Form	Condition	NGR	Category
33	Rose Cottage	House	Post Medieval	Building	Intact	SJ3690931768	C
34	Hawkswood fold	Fold	Post Medieval	Structure	Unknown	SJ3693730495	E
35	Brick Kiln Bank	Brick kiln	Post Medieval	Structure	Destroyed	SJ3687731049	D
51	Lower Berghill quarries	Quarry	Post Medieval	Earthwork	Damaged	SJ3655030400	D
52	Frankton Locks ridge and furrow I	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ3701431695	C
53	Frankton Locks ridge and furrow II	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	Document	Unknown	SJ3667131404	C

Site No 33 Rose Cottage

Inhabited cottage depicted on the Whittington (Frankton) Tithe map of 1839. Brick-built, with slate roof and brick chimneys. More recent extension on the north. The bricks are uneven and presumably hand-made, suggesting possibly an 18th-century date for the cottage.

Site No 34 Hawkswood fold

Structure depicted on the Hordley Tithe map of 1849. Probably a fold as the field to the west is named Cote Meadow.

Site No 35 Brick Kiln Bank

Site of brick kilns denoted by the name 'Brick Kiln Bank' on the Hordley Tithe map of 1849. No visible trace of the kilns survives, the area has been landscaped for use as a carpark and picnic area.

Site No 51 Lower Berghill quarries

Two adjacent earthworks, each consisting of a crescent-shaped mound, 50m in diameter. Probably represent quarries to provide material used in the adjacent canal embankment.

Site No 52 Frankton Locks ridge and furrow

Area of ridge and furrow plotted from aerial photographs.

Site No 53 Frankton Locks ridge and furrow

Area of ridge and furrow plotted from aerial photographs.

References

1st edition Ordnance Survey 6", Shropshire 13SW

Tithe Survey for Hordley, 1849

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1 This report represents an integrated effort on the part of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, and utilises a wide range of expertise. Nigel Jones prepared the archaeological resource section (Part 5) and was responsible for co-ordinating the work that went into the preparation of the report and the report itself, with the assistance of Wendy Owen; Bill Britnell produced the landscape characterization assessment (Part 4); Bob Silvester produced the section on the Historical Background (Part 3), and together with Wendy Owen and Richard Hankinson was responsible for the fieldwork element.
- 6.2 Corporately we would like to thank the staff of the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW) at Aberystwyth, the National Monuments Record (English Heritage) at Swindon, the Shropshire Records and Research Centre at Shrewsbury; the regional Sites and Monuments Record at CPAT in Welshpool, and the Shropshire County Council's Archaeological Section in Shrewsbury for their assistance and advice in the earlier stages of the project. Mr Stephen Lees of British Waterways has been a source of guidance and advice throughout and to him we are most grateful.

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Documentary Sources

- Barton, P G, 1999. A history and conspectus of Montgomeryshire water corn mills, *Montgomeryshire Collections* 87, 1-92.
- Cadw 1998. *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales*, Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, 1998.
- Cadw 1999. *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1: Parks and Gardens*, Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, 1999.
- Cadw 2001. *Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales*, Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, 2001.
- CCW 2000. *The LANDMAP Information System*, Countryside Council for Wales, 2000.
- Clay, P, & Priest, V, 2002. A483 Llanymynech – Pant Bypass. Stage 1 Archaeological Desk-based Assessment. University of Leicester.
- Cook, H & Williamson, T, 1999. *Water Management in the English Landscape*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Deamer, G, 1983. The Conservation of the Built-Environment on the Montgomeryshire Canal. The Inland Waterways Association draft memorandum to the Montgomeryshire Waterway Restoration Trust.
- Denton, J H, 1984. Montgomeryshire Canal and the Llanymynech Branch of the Ellesmere Canal. Towpath Guide No.4.
- Foxall, H D G, 1984. Oswestry Parish, Crickheath Township 1838. Based on the Tithe Apportionment and Map.
- Foxall, H D G, 1984. Oswestry Parish, Maesbury Township 1839. Based on the Tithe Apportionment and Map.
- Foxall, H D G, 1984. Oswestry Parish, Morton Township 1840. Based on the Tithe Apportionment and Map.
- Geological Survey 1949. Oswestry. Drift Geology. Sheet 137.
- Geological Survey 1962. Oswestry. Drift Geology. Sheet 137.
- Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, 1992. Report on Geophysical Survey – Llanymynech Bypass. GSB Report No 92/68.
- Gibson, A, 1994. Excavations at the Sam-y-bryn-caled cursus complex, Welshpool, Powys, and the timber circles of Great Britain and Ireland, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric society* 60, 143-223.
- Hannaford, H R, 1993. A483 Pant/Llanymynech Bypass (Preferred Route): An Archaeological Evaluation. SCCAS Report No. 25.
- Hannaford, H R, 1993. The Archaeological Excavation of Test Pits at the Hoffman Kiln, Llanymynech, Shropshire.
- Hannaford, H R, 1994. An Archaeological Evaluation of the Montgomeryshire Canal between the River Perry and Aston Upper Lock. SCCAS Report No.54.
- Hannaford, H R, 1995. An Archaeological Evaluation of the Llanforda to Pant 350mm Main. SCCAS Report No. 82.

- Hannaford, H R, 1996. Salvage Recording during Phase 2 of the Montgomeryshire Canal Restoration. SCCAS Report No. 92.
- Hannaford, HR, 2001. A Watching Brief on the Montgomeryshire Canal at Maesbury Marsh, Shropshire. SCCAS
- Hannaford, H R, 2002. Llanforda Quality Improvement: a desk-based assessment and walk-over survey – Eyton Pump House to Llynclys. SCCAS
- Haslam, R, 1979. *Buildings Of Wales: Powys*
- Hughes, S R, 1981. The Industrial Archaeology of the Montgomeryshire Canal.
- Leah, M D, Wells, C E, Stamper, P, Huckerby, E, & Welch, C, 1998. *The Wetlands of Shropshire and Staffordshire. Northwest Wetlands Survey 5*. Lancaster University Archaeology Unit.
- Morriss, R K, 1991. Canals of Shropshire. (Shropshire Books).
- Owen, W G, 1996. Montgomeryshire Canal Restoration: Phase 3 Redwith, Shropshire, Archaeological Evaluation. CPAT Report No. 168.1
- Reid, M L, 1996. Archaeological Assessment of the Montgomeryshire Canal Restoration: Phase 3, Crofts Mill Bridge to Crickheath Wharf.
- Rudeforth, C C, Hartnup, R, Lea, J W, Thompson, T R E, and Wright, P C, 1984, *Soils and their use in Wales*, Bulletin No 11, Harpenden: Soil Survey of England and Wales.

7.2 Cartographic Sources

7.2.1 Printed maps

Soils of England and Wales (Sheet 2 - Wales), 1983, Soil Survey of England and Wales map and legend.

The Rocks of Wales (Solid), 1994, Nottingham: British Geological Survey

7.2.2 Tithe Maps and Apportionments

Berriew Parish, 1840
 Bettws (Cedewain) Parish, 1840
 Guilsfield Parish, Gungrog Fechan, Trebydan and Garth Townships 1840/46
 Guilsfield Parish, Tirymynech Township 1840/45
 Guilsfield Parish, Varchoel, Burgedin and Rhetescyn Townships 1842/45
 Hordley, 1849
 Llandrinio Parish, 1840
 Llandysil Parish, 1839/40
 Llandysilio Parish, 1840
 Llanllwchaearn Parish, 1841/42
 Llanmerewig Parish, 1838/40
 Llanymynech (Llwyntidman & Treprenal) Parish, 1838
 Newtown Parish, 1843
 Oswestry (Aston, Hisland & Wooton) Parish, 1838
 Oswestry (Crickheath) Parish, 1838
 Oswestry (Maesbury) Parish, 1839
 Welshpool Parish, Lower Division, 1840

Welshpool Parish, Upper and Middle Divisions, 1840
 West Felton (Sutton) Parish, 1838
 Whittington Parish, 1837/39

7.2.3 Estate Maps held by Shropshire Records and Research Centre (by parish)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Record Office No</i>
Hordley		
1768	Survey of Hordley Manor	4309/1
c.1770	Map of Hordley Manor	4309/5
1847	Draft map of Hordley and Bagley townships	800/8B
Llanymynech		
1820	Plan of proposed continuation of the E branch of the Montgomery Canal towards Porthywaen & proposed navigable cut from the upper end of the Guilsfield Branch	800/154
1828	An estate in the townships of Careghofa, Llanymynech and Llwyntidman	840/116
Oswestry		
1755	Estate of Richard Vaughan at Crickheath	800/161
1766	Plan of estates at Island, Oswestry and Gronwen	3657/2/4
1766	Plan of Sir Henry Bridgeman's Estates at Morton and Crickheath	3657/2/9
1766	Particular for the two maps above	3657/2/6
c.1780	Plan of land at Crickheath	800/107
1787	Map of Maesbury Hall Farm	800/118
c.1800	Map and Survey of the canal through Park Farm, Maesbury	840/117.1
c.1800	Map and Survey of damage done by the canal in Oswestry and West Felton	840/117.2
1808	Land at Wooton	800/401
c.1810	Map of Maesbury township with commons and waste lands as divided and allotted... (shows canal)	2868/3.13
c.1810	Plan of lands in Oswestry and West Felton	840/117.90
1811	Map of Maesbury township	2868/3.10
1812	Map of lands in Weston, Sweeney and Maesbury	2868/154
1814	Map of Maesbury township	2868/3.15
1817	Plan of lands in Maesbury township	840/117.22
1819	Township of Maesbury	2868/3.16
1821	Lands at Crickheath	800/98
1822	Sketch of exchanged lands at Aston	840/117.21
1822	Map of land at Wooton	840/117.6
1833	Map of the townships of Sweeney, Maesbury and Weston-Cotton	2868/3.2
1843	Map of the township of Maesbury	1060/118
1843	Map of the Aston Estate (Oswestry, West Felton & Whittington)	800/
West Felton		
c.1770	Aston Moor	840/117.59
1771	Sutton, Tedsmore & Haughton	6001/2482
1779	Survey of several estates in West Felton	1011/334
1780	Enclosure Award and plan of land in Rednall	see catalogue
1782	Survey of West Felton parish	1662/1/1
1797	Plan of an estate in the townships of Twyford in West Felton & Wooton and Maesbury in Oswestry	800/95

1832	Map of the Woodhouse Estate in the townships of Rednall, Sutton, 1011/331.1 Haughton and Wooton (shows canal)	
1835	Map of an estate at Sutton	800/106

Whittington

c.1840	Sketch of property in the township of Frankton (shows canal)	800/30.C
1847	Map of the Halston Estate	2171/138-9
1855	Park Mill and lands	800/140.5
c.1860	Aston, Brongyntyn, Halston and Woodhouse Estates	800/142.3
1876	Plan of Frankton Grange	800/140.6

County of Montgomeryshire

1663	Map of Leighton Manor and lands in Welshpool and other parishes	5441/1
c.1790	Lands in Welshpool, Guilsfield and other parishes	4309/
1791	The estate of Robert Corbett in Welshpool and other parishes	1011/351
1800	Map of an estate in Llandysilio and Llandrinio	800/130
c.1800	Plan of lands cut through by the Ellesmere Canal	840/117
c.1810	Map of Pentre-heylin Estate	2495/
c.1830	Map of the feeder from the River Tanat to Montgomeryshire Canal	840/117
1837	Manor of Carreghofa	800/51
1837	Estate at Burgedin	325/35
c.1840	Carreghofa Township	800/109
1845	Sketch of New House Farm, Burgedin	823/35
1868	Plans of the Arddleen Estate	1313/1 and 2

7.2.4 Estate Maps in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

<i>Date</i>		<i>Description</i>
		<i>NLW no.</i>
Berriew		
late 18th cent	Efail-fach	Glansevern no 43
1789/1814	Glan-rhiw	Glansevern no 55
c1795	Pennant	Glansevern 1963, 1
c.1800	Estates in Berriew	Powis Castle M23
1800	Trwstllewelyn (enclosure)	NLW Map 7473 (134/1/50)
1800-14	Capel	Glansevern no 27
1816	Glansevern environs	Glansevern no 56
c1830	Dyffryn	Glansevern no 39-42
1830	Llwyn-y-crwth	Glansevern no 73
1839	Caes-y-ffordd	Glansevern no 29
1840	Parish of Berriew (copy of tithe map?)	Glansevern no 12
early 19th cent	Glansevern	Glansevern no 3
19th century	Fronllomalt	Glansevern no 54
Bettws Cedewain		
c.1800	Estates in Bettws	Powis Castle M23
1821	Dolforwyn township enclosure	RMA 147
1834	Castle Dolforwyn estate	Powis Castle M159
1861	Llanerchydol estate	Harrisons Deposit 81

Brithdir

1824*	Brithdir township	Powis Castle M153
1850	Brithdir environs	Glansevern no 97
1856	Luggy Brook	Glansevern no 98
c.1886	Lands in Brithdir parish	Powis Castle M189
n.d	Brithdir Hall area	Glansevern no 95

GUILDSFIELD

c.1788	Bank Farm etc	Powis Castle M314
c.1788	Varchoel Hall	Powis Castle M315
1790	Lands in parish of Guildsfield	JDK Lloyd Deposit (1977)
c.1810	Burgedin Hall	Powis Castle M176
1811	Bank Farm etc	Powis Castle M200
1825	Varchoel Hall estate	Powis Castle M269
1848*	Pitches Farm	Powis Castle M270
c.1850	Perthi etc	Powis Castle M271
c.1860*	Draft tithe map for Tiymynech	Powis Castle M75
1882*	Guildsfield and Welshpool estates	Powis Castle M225

Llandrinio

1788	Penrhose demesne	Powis Castle M300
1788	Penthrryn	Powis Castle M317
c.1792	Llandrinio parish	Powis Castle M42
c.1792	Llandrinio parish	Powis Castle M41
n.d.	Lands in the parish	Powis Castle M214

Llandysilio

1793	Rhysnant fach	Powis Castle M280
1810	Pentreheylin Hall	NLW/Map 7499 (14/1/53)

Llanllwrchaiairn

1778	Lands in Newtown and Llanllwrchaiairn	Harrison Vol 7
c.1800	Estates in Llanllwrchaiairn	Powis Castle M23
1820*	Lands in Llanllwrchaiairn	Harrison Vol 6
1821*	Lands in Newtown, Llanllwrchaiairn, Bettws, Llanmerewig etc	Harrison Deposit 85
1848	Estates in Llanllwrchaiairn	Powis Castle M36

Newtown

1778	Lands in Newtown and Llanllwrchaiairn	Harrison Vol 7
1798	Newtown parish	Glansevern Fo 89
1820	Lands in Newtown	Harrison Vol 6
1821*	Lands in Newtown, Llanllwrchaiairn, Bettws, Llanmerewig etc	Harrisons Deposit 85
1840*	Canal basin etc at Newtown	Harrisons Deposit 58
1889*	Lands near canal basin	Harrisons Deposit 47

Welshpool

1747	Estates in the Welshpool area	Powis Castle M256
1790	Lands near Welshpool	Powis Castle M184
1811*	Teirtref inclosure	Powis Castle M259
1816	Tyn y Pwll and the Park farms	Powis Castle 143
c.1820	Tyn y Pwll and the Park farms	Powis Castle 179

1836	Aqueduct and Lledan Brook	Glansevern Collection
c.1850*	Lands in Welshpool and Guilsfield Parishes	Powis Castle M250
1854*	General plan of Welshpool district	Powis Castle M83
1861*	Welshpool town	Powis Castle M156
1861	Llanerchydol Estate	Harrison and Sons Deposit 82
1863	Brandy Shop and Glanhafren farms	Harrison Vol 1
1870	Wernllwyd estate	Harrison and Sons Deposit 59
c.1880*	Lands in Welshpool parish	Powis Castle M252

Oswestry Rural (Shropshire)

1816*	Maesbury Marsh	Powis Castle M25
1837*	Estate in Pant and Crickheath	Powis Castle M51
c.1860*	Township of Crickheath	Powis Castle M63

Estate Maps in Private Collections

1764 Survey of the Vaynor Demesne, Berriew and adjacent parishes

7.3 Aerial Photographic Sources

Vertical Photographs

Large numbers of vertical photographs are available for the course of the canal, many of them taken in the late 1940s by the RAF, with later cover by the Ordnance Survey and private firms. For Wales, copies of these photographs are to be found in the National Monument Record at Aberystwyth and the Welsh Assembly's Air Photograph Library in Cardiff, while for England the best collection of photography is at the National Monument Record in Swindon.

Oblique Photographs

An extensive collection of oblique aerial photography is held by CPAT, covering both Powys and Shropshire, a selection of which was examined as part of the assessment. Further details regarding the photographic coverage are available from the Sites and Monuments Record, and copies of many of those relevant to the English section of the canal are also to be found in the National Monument Record at Swindon..

APPENDIX 1

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Definition
19th Century	AD 1800-1899
20th Century	AD 1900-1999
argae	artificial flood defence bank
assart	the process of clearing, or the clearing itself, of land, usually woodland, for agricultural purposes
bone mill	building housing machinery for grinding animal bones for use as fertiliser
boundary stone	a stone erected to mark the boundary of a property or parish
brick kiln	kiln for firing bricks
Bronze Age	c. 2400 BC - 700 BC
canal	artificial waterway intended for transport
Cistercian	one of the monastic orders active in England and Wales in the Middle Ages
cursus	Neolithic long, narrow, ditched enclosure with parallel sides assoc. with ritual activity
Dark Age	AD 410-1080
deer park	an area of enclosed parkland, often surrounded a bank and internal ditch as well as a fence or pale, within which deer were kept for the purpose of hunting
defended enclosure	a small area, enclosed with one or more substantial banks and ditches and used for occupation or other activity
duck decoy	an artificial pool, of 17 th -century or later date, for luring ducks
drum house	structure containing winding drum for an incline. Also known as brake house
dyke	a linear bank, usually with an accompanying ditch, which acted as a boundary or a defence line
enclosure	area for settlement or stock management defined by bank and possibly a ditch
environmental site	see palaeoenvironmental site
field system	a series of boundaries defining adjoining fields. The boundaries may survive as hedges, banks, ditches or as cropmarks and could date from the prehistoric period onwards
find	one or more artefacts
findspot	location of a find or artefact
fish pond	an artificial pond for keeping fish as a source of fresh food, typically during the medieval and early post-medieval periods
flood bank	an artificial embankment constructed to restrict flood waters
fold	enclosure for livestock
ford	crossing of stream/river
forge	see smithy
footbridge	structure crossing a river/road/railway etc not intended for vehicular use
fulling mill	building housing machinery for processing textiles. Fulling is the process of cleansing, shrinking and thickening cloth using moisture, heat and pressure
gallows	timber scaffold erected for the execution of hanging
hafod	upland summer dwelling associated with transhumance
henge	a ritual enclosure of Neolithic or Bronze Age date, usually consisting of a bank with an inner ditch, and paired entrances facing each other
hillfort	defended hilltop settlement of late Bronze Age and Iron Age
holloway	track occupying a hollow which has resulted from erosion and the passage of traffic
incline	track or tramway on a gradient for transportation of ore/stone
Iron Age	c. 700 BC - AD 43
leat	artificial water channel
lime kiln	a structure for burning limestone for use as a fertiliser or in producing lime mortar for building
linear earthwork	typically a bank and a ditch extending in a more or less straight line for some distance, defining a boundary. The principal examples are Wat's

	Dyke and Offa's Dyke, the 8th century earthworks defining the boundary of the Kingdom of Mercia
lock	section of canal with gates and sluices to raise/lower water level to negotiate gradient
lynchet	an earthwork formed on a slope by the action of ploughing leading to a build up of soil against the upslope side of a boundary and the removal of soil from the downslope side
marching camp	a temporary camp constructed by the Roman military
Medieval	AD 1080-1536
mill	building housing machinery for grinding cereals etc, or processing textiles
mill pond	an artificial pond constructed to provide a head of water to power a water mill
mill race	see leat
mineral railway	a railway used for the transportation of minerals or quarry produce, rather than passengers, which may have been horse or steam powered
motte and bailey	an early form of castle consisting of a mound (motte) on which was some sort of wooden tower or other superstructure (more rarely in stone) and an associated enclosure (bailey)
Neolithic	c. 4300 BC - 2400 BC
open-field	agricultural land, separated into strips only by grassy baulks, the adjacent strips being farmed by different people
ozier beds	densely growing willows, harvested and used for hurdles, basket-making and the like
palaeochannel	former river course, since abandoned and silted. Also known as abandoned meander
palaeoenvironmental site	potential for preserved organic remains, usually under waterlogged conditions
pillow mound	artificial rabbit warren
pit alignment	a line of individual pits, the spoil from which may have formed a continuous bank that formed a boundary
platform	a levelled area formerly occupied by a building
pound	see fold
Post Medieval	AD 1536-1799
precinct	the enclosure surrounding a medieval monastery and its associated buildings
prehistoric	pre AD 43
pumping station	a building housing pumping machinery
quarry	surface working for stone/gravel/sand etc
reservoir	artificial pond
ridge and furrow	parallel linear banks and hollows, formed by ploughing, partly to aid drainage, and leading to the formerly widespread corrugated surface of the land
ring ditch	one or more concentric ditches assumed to be remains of Bronze Age round barrow
round barrow	round mound of earth and/or stone used for burial during Neolithic and Bronze Age
sluice	water control device
smelter	site where lead was extracted from the ore. 19th-century smeltnills housed smelting furnaces and were usually accompanied by long flues to carry the fumes to a distant chimney
smithy	a building used by a blacksmith for the manufacture and repair of iron tools etc
standing stone	an upright block or slab of rock, in the prehistoric era used for ritual or marker purposes, but in later periods used as markers or for other purposes
strip field	a long and narrow field, often the product of open-field agriculture
tannery/tan house	a place where hides were converted into leather
timber circle	one or more concentric settings of upright posts assoc. with Neolithic/Bronze Age ritual
toll house	a building, erected for the collection of payments by those using turnpike roads from the 17 th century onwards
tramway	narrow-gauge railway usually with horse drawn trucks
tunnel	an artificial underground passage

water meadow	a series of linear ditches and banks to allow the deliberate flooding of meadow land to improve its quality
weir	man-made dam to control flow of river
well	shaft or depression for collection of water
windmill	a mill powered by the wind. See mill

APPENDIX 2

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

The following section is based on an extract from *Managing Wales' Archaeological Heritage*, produced by CPAT to provide basic advice, principally for landowners and farmers, on how to look after archaeological sites.

MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE

In this section we shall be looking at specific examples to illustrate the range of sites and monuments identified in the field, together with some of the problems and solutions.

The following provides some good, general practical advice to illustrate how field monuments and standing buildings should, ideally, be managed. This is NOT comprehensive or definitive, but intended to give an idea of the range of issues involved and hint at the more specific advice that we would usually apply to individual sites, buildings, and whole landscapes following a field visit.

Obviously, each site will require customised management plans to suit its particular circumstances. You can always consult the regional archaeological curator to obtain the best advice to suit each monument's particular needs.

Awareness

This is the first principle of good monument management, as ignorance is the greatest threat to our archaeological heritage. *This point can not be stressed too highly.* Sites can be damaged or neglected because people do not realise they are there or how important they are.

We thus need to make owners, tenants, managers and those involved working the land, aware of the location of all known archaeological monuments, why they are important, and how they might be appropriately managed.

The best way to do this is by clearly marking such sites on relevant land management maps, together with supporting information and advice.

Maps are key tools within this whole process, as they are the most useful visual aids.

Legal Responsibilities

Some sites are legally protected ('scheduled') under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979. Legal protection is also extended to standing buildings ('listed') under the Town and Country Planning Act of 1971.

Carrying out prohibited work on a scheduled monument or listed building without consent can be punishable by fines. Deliberately damaging or destroying a scheduled monument or listed building can carry much greater penalties.

Anyone wanting to carry out work on a scheduled monument or listed building must first contact Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments if the site is in Wales, or English Heritage if the site is in England, to obtain advice and consent. If you are not sure of the status of a site or building, contact the appropriate authority anyway.

If a monument or building is not scheduled or listed, your first source of advice should be the regional archaeological curator, as they will have access to the relevant information as part of the regional Sites and Monuments Record.

GOOD PRACTICE IN SITES MANAGEMENT

The following covers the most common practical issues that arise in producing a management plan for a particular site or landscape. This is not meant to be comprehensive, merely an idea of the sort of solutions we might suggest in arriving at 'good practice'. Use the advice here as a guide to what you might do, but always consult the regional archaeological curator to arrive at the actual management solutions that suit your own sites best. These suggestions apply only to monuments that are not designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments, for which Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments or English Heritage should be contacted in advance of any proposed works in order to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent.

Construction Works

The planning of any construction works, including the clearing of rough or waste ground, should be executed carefully to ensure archaeological monuments are not damaged. An area of at least 5-10m wide should be left undisturbed beyond the monument. It may be appropriate to fence off or otherwise clearly demarcate sites prior to works commencing to ensure their avoidance.

The visual setting and appreciation of the monument should also be considered when planning such works, both from an historical and a visitor point of view. Remember also to consider the effects of digging trenches for external services or inserting or removing telephone or electricity supply poles.

Vehicles

Wheeled or tracked vehicles should not be used on or near archaeological monuments, to avoid wheel-rutting and crushing damage. If crossing a site is unavoidable, try to do it in dry weather, or by laying brash matting or similar materials which can be subsequently removed. Parking on or near to archaeological monuments should also be avoided for the same reasons.

Quarrying, Dumping & Storage

Materials should not be quarried from archaeological monuments, and nor should anything be dumped or stored on them. Severe damage can occur if topsoil or subsoil, gravel, stone or other material is removed from an archaeological site. Apart from the obvious loss of archaeological deposits, this can also cause sites to dry out rapidly, thus damaging underlying structures or buried artefacts.

Similarly, dumping of fresh material obscures an archaeological feature (preventing awareness of its presence), and can also cause crushing and undue ground water retention, both of which are usually damaging to archaeological sites.

Building structures should not be used as a convenient source of local building material. This is the equivalent of direct destruction of an archaeological site! Where local materials for construction or repair are sought, it may be better to reopen and rework an existing stone quarry site nearby.

The re-use (or not) of available building materials can be a complex issue, and the best solution for managing each archaeological site or building is best arrived at after consultation with the regional archaeological curator.

Grazing and Grass

You should normally maintain the existing grass cover on a site, as this helps to protect it from erosion. Any necessary re-seeding and other grassland improvements should not include ploughing or soil disturbance (except where ground is already regularly ploughed, then no deeper than before).

Grazing at an adequate level helps to protect grassed-over archaeological monuments by keeping the grass and scrub growth in check, reducing potential fire risk. High stocking levels, though, may often cause erosion and threaten the monument.

In particular circumstances, the erection of stock-proof (and preferably rabbit-proof) fencing should be considered to exclude or limit grazing, with gates for access. Stock should never be fed within an archaeological monument, nor should mineral licking blocks be placed there, as trampling of the

ground can lead to erosion problems or the crushing of sensitive features. Sheep usually cause less damage than cattle to earthwork banks.

Cultivation

Ploughing can be the single most destructive force in the landscape, completely destroying or severely damaging many archaeological sites – often through a lack of awareness of the existence of, or the significance of, archaeological features on the land. Ploughing should not encroach on an archaeological monument where it is in an isolated unploughed area within an arable field. It is also desirable that an unploughed buffer zone of at least 5-10m beyond the last visible feature should be established.

Where a monument is already under the plough the depth of ploughing should not be deeper than on previous ploughings. Likewise, pan-busting and sub-soiling are particularly damaging operations and should not be undertaken if at all possible.

Scrub, Trees and Forestry

Bracken, gorse, scrub and woody plants should be controlled because their root systems can cause damage to both surface remains and buried archaeological deposits. Woody plants are best cut off at ground level without disturbing the ground surface, and the stumps spot-treated with herbicide to prevent regeneration and then allowed to rot *in situ*.

Trees, whether individually, in shelter belts, or within small or large-scale commercial plantations, should not be newly planted on or around archaeological monuments. This is because deep ploughing for planting, tree root growth and cutting can cause serious damage to, or complete destruction of, archaeological sites.

The regeneration of woodland on or near archaeological monuments should not be encouraged. A clear zone of up to 50m should be left around monuments, depending on the type of monument and its setting. Tree removal should similarly follow the practice of cutting off at ground level, treating the stump with herbicide and allowing it to rot *in situ*. A felling licence from the Forestry Authority may be needed in some cases.

Where new forestry planting is unavoidable, there is scope to incorporate monuments into forest clearings, as these sites can make a positive contribution to the public's appreciation of woodland. At least 20m, and in some cases 50m, should be left clear around such sites to allow appreciation of the monument and its setting, or as an open zone to discourage scrub infilling of the open space.

These open areas within forestry can help break up the tree mono-culture, are often used by deer for grazing (thereby helping prevent unwanted sapling growth) and for congregating during the rutting season, and make ideal locations for wildlife observation hides. In existing plantations, however, the cutting back or removal of some trees should be considered, particularly if they are over-mature and in danger of windblow.

Forestry processing and sawing operations should not normally be carried out on or near archaeological monuments, owing to the likely ground damage and crushing from machinery, vehicles, stacking grounds and brush clearing operations. Brash-lain trackways for machinery access might form part of an archaeological management agreement.

The juxtaposition of trees and archaeology can be a complex issue – so always consult with your archaeological curatorial organisation to discuss your plans so that the best management balance can be achieved.

Contrary to popular belief, trees and archaeological sites can live together. In some special circumstances, existing trees may protect a monument from erosion, encroachment or plough damage, or provide some aesthetic enhancement to the overall landscape. These can be important factors in ensuring a site's survival.

Trees as archaeological features

In some cases, trees may themselves be archaeologically significant (for instance, as medieval estate boundary markers, or Turnpike way-markers, etc.).

Drainage, Wet Sites and Peat

Drains should not be cut across archaeological sites. Monuments on or close to damp environments are vulnerable to drainage nearby, as are buried, waterlogged deposits and artefacts (organic remains, leather, bone, etc.), and care should be taken to avoid drying out such sites. Similarly, dry sites can be irreparably damaged by raising the water table without considering its effect on buried archaeological features and artefacts.

Drains should approach no closer than 30m (or sometimes more) from sites on or close to damp environments. Do not cut peat on archaeological monuments. This can cause severe drying out of sites, and the destruction of archaeological deposits.

Historic peat cutting sites are themselves archaeological features, harbouring the remains of stacking mounds, transport trackways and older cutting areas. These features should be left in situ, and not disturbed.

Fencing

Avoid erecting new fences across monuments. The posts may damage the archaeology and the fences always detract from the appearance of any landscape feature. These may lead to differential land management either side of the fence (i.e. cultivation, pasture, forestry, regimes on different sides of the fence), creating further problems of access, interpretation, and site management in later years. If the alignment of the new fencing cannot be avoided, far better to detour around a feature (leaving a good margin) than cut across it.

Similarly, in forestry, new boundary fences should exclude rather than cross monuments situated on the edges of areas to be planted. In some cases, existing fences across monuments should be removed, although wider management issues may have to be addressed before this can take place. Light, stock-proof or electric fencing does not usually lead to long term differential management problems, so long as this is temporary in nature.

Nature Conservation Issues

The value of archaeological monuments to nature conservation, particularly on those designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments can be high. Such sites have often suffered little disturbance and many support some of the finest remnants of wildflower-rich grasslands and their associated insect species in Wales.

The re-seeding of sites not currently under cultivation should be with an appropriate seed mixture containing species native to the area. A wide range of flora and fauna may be found in or on archaeological sites, as these may similarly present undisturbed or otherwise suitable habitats. Usually, archaeology and wildlife can happily co-exist, although occasionally problems or conflicts of interest may occur.

For advice on all aspects concerning wildlife and related legal issues, contact the Countryside Council for Wales or English Nature, the government's statutory advisor on wildlife and countryside conservation matters.

Burrowing Animals, Rabbits and Badgers

Burrowing can cause serious damage to sites and monuments, not just to surface features, but also to underlying archaeological deposits and artefacts. Rabbits, moles and foxes should be kept under control in ways which do not involve disturbing the ground. Badgers are a legally protected species in England & Wales under the *Protection of Badgers Act 1992*, and may not usually be disturbed. A licence is required from the Countryside Council for Wales for any works that affect badgers. Where this occurs on a Scheduled Ancient Monument and the Countryside Council for Wales or English Nature is approached for a licence, Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments or English Heritage must also be notified.

Obviously, a conflict of interest can occur where animals are burrowing into an archaeological earthwork. A solution might involve a combination of positive discouragement, removal by experts, fencing or other exclusion, or a combination of measures designed to minimise or remove the potential threat to the monument, whilst satisfying legal responsibilities.

Grazing Animals

Cows, sheep, deer and other grazing animals may not normally cause erosion problems on archaeological monuments, unless stocking levels are high. Problems can occur from trampling of banks and ditch sides or the wearing of paths across sloping ground (particularly on wet ground and in winter).

In most instances, erecting stock-proof fencing around a monument, together with styles or kissing-gates for human access, may resolve any poaching or erosion problems. In some circumstances, the exclusion of deer may require higher fencing. However, fencing may be considered obtrusive or detract from the monuments setting, and a balance has to be struck between competing uses of the land.

Visitors

Many people enjoy visiting archaeological monuments. In most cases this is something to be encouraged, if it does not conflict with the use of the surrounding land. However, visitors can damage a monument, for example, by wearing footpaths across sensitive features, so careful consideration should be given in planning any increase in the number of visitors. In some cases, issues of providing (and paying for) car parking space, lay-bys, and suitable gates and styles needs to be taken into account.

Remember, when visiting monuments on other people's land, follow the Country Code, and stay on designated or way-marked footpaths. Do not stray across fields, whether cultivated or pasture. There is no right of public access to any archaeological monument, so seek permission from the landowner before entering their property.

Finds and Metal Detecting

If objects such as pottery, flint, metalwork or bone, or archaeological features are recognised on any archaeological monument they should be left undisturbed and reported to CPAT or Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. Finds always have greater significance in an undisturbed context and in many cases will lose their archaeological value if removed.

Metal detecting on a Scheduled Ancient Monument *without* the consent of The National Assembly for Wales is illegal. It is also desirable that metal detecting should be discouraged on all other recognised archaeological monuments. Metal detector users should always first seek the permission of the land owner before entering land. Finds are the property of the landowner (unless this right has been waived) and their removal without permission is theft.

More details on these issues and the law surrounding finds and metal detecting, can be found in:
Recording Our Past - a guide to the Government's initiative to promote the voluntary recording of archaeological finds in England and Wales
Portable Antiquities: Annual Report 1997-98 - which explains this scheme in more detail

Also relevant is:

The Treasure Act: Information for finders of treasure - an A4 size, introductory leaflet
The Treasure Act 1996: Code of Practice - England and Wales - an A5 size booklet of detailed information

These last two are free and are obtainable from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London, SW1Y 5DH, or from the National Museums & Galleries of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ Tel 02920 500200 in English or in Welsh.

FORMULATING A MANAGEMENT PLAN

The drawing up of a management plan, however informal, usually helps all parties TO focus attention on the implications of land-use on archaeological features. This would normally take the form of a written document, together with maps showing the location of archaeological sites, historic buildings and sensitive areas. The written document sets out in explicit terms the requirements of the management plan. The maps visually assist awareness.

However, such agreements can only be effective with the co-operation of the landowner and the integration of archaeological management needs with all the other demands placed on the land.

This advice has been intended for general guidance only. Farmers, landowners and land managers are always encouraged to seek specific advice from the regional archaeological curator to help formulate individually tailored management plan for individual sites and landscapes they are involved with.

Contacts:

Principal Curatorial Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL Tel. 01938 553670, Fax: 01938 552179, E-mail: trust@cpat.org.uk. Our website has further information on the management of landscapes and the historic environment: <http://www.cpat.org.uk>

Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council, Winston Churchill Building, Radbrook Centre, Radbrook Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY3 9BJ Tel. 01743 252575.

Fig. 1 Montgomery Canal: Major settlements and Ordnance Survey 6" map sheets

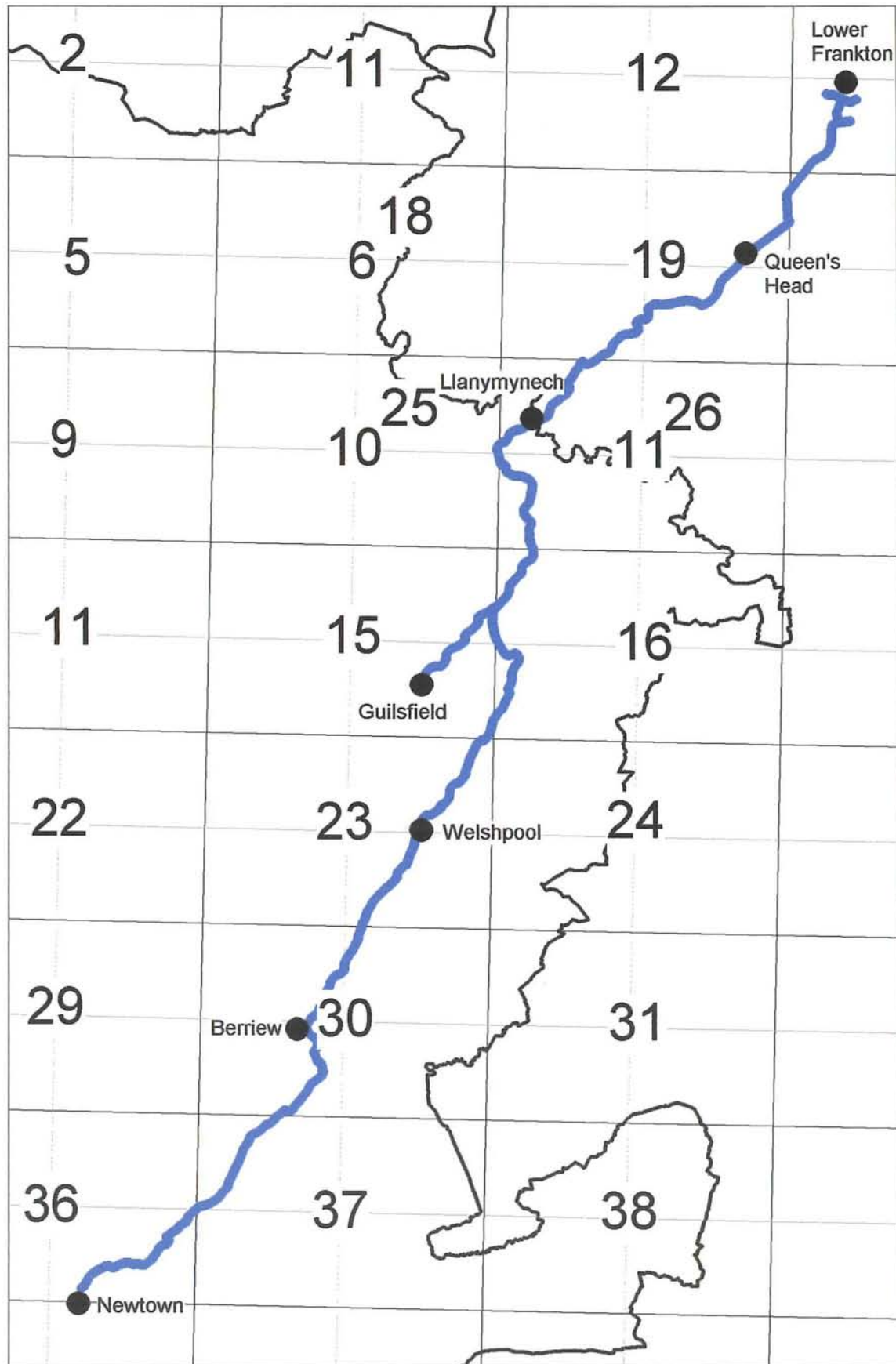


Fig. 2 Historic Landscape Characterisation keymap, scale 1:250,000

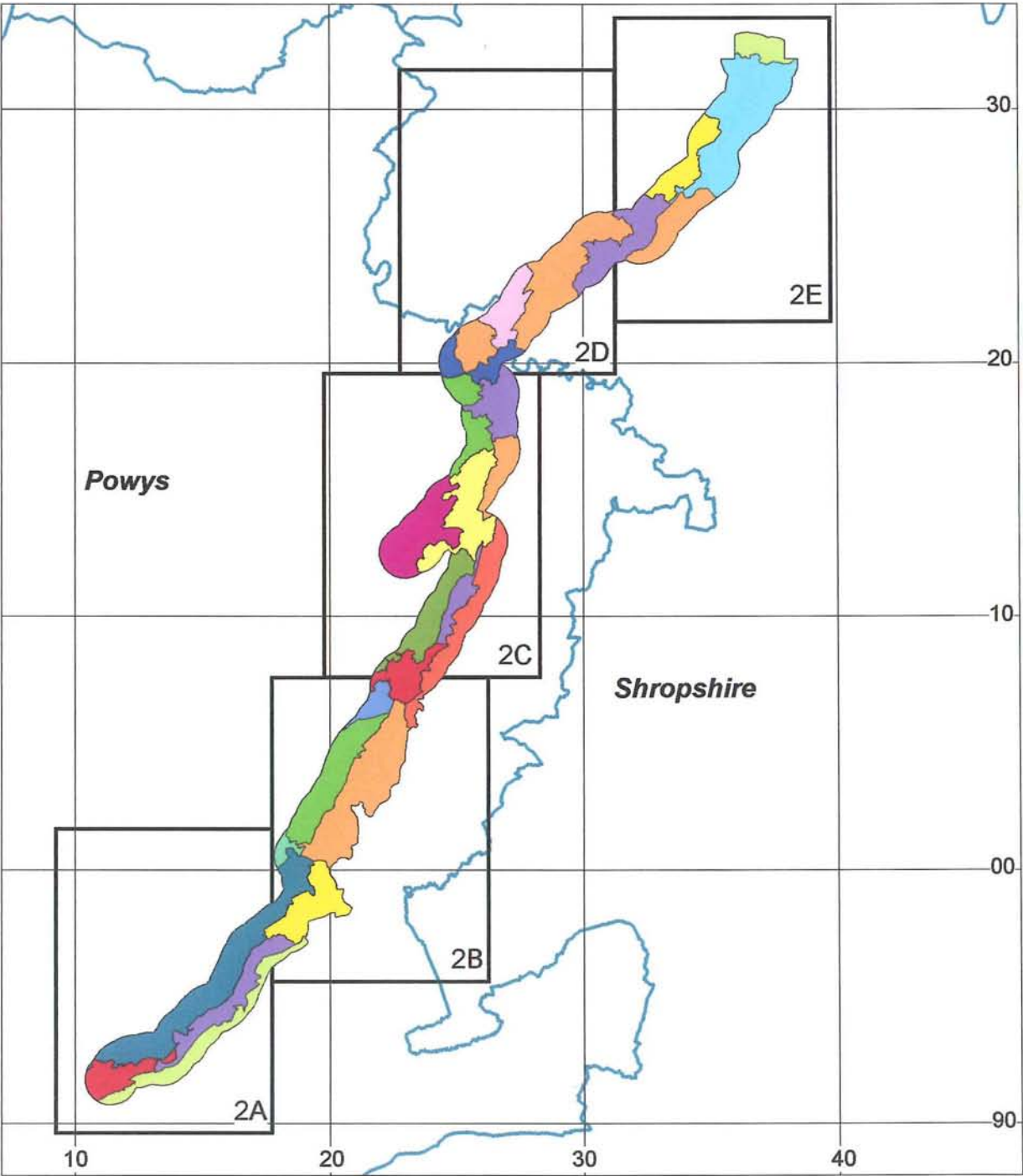


Fig. 2A Historic Landscape Character Areas (named) and Aspect Areas (numbered), scale 1:50,000

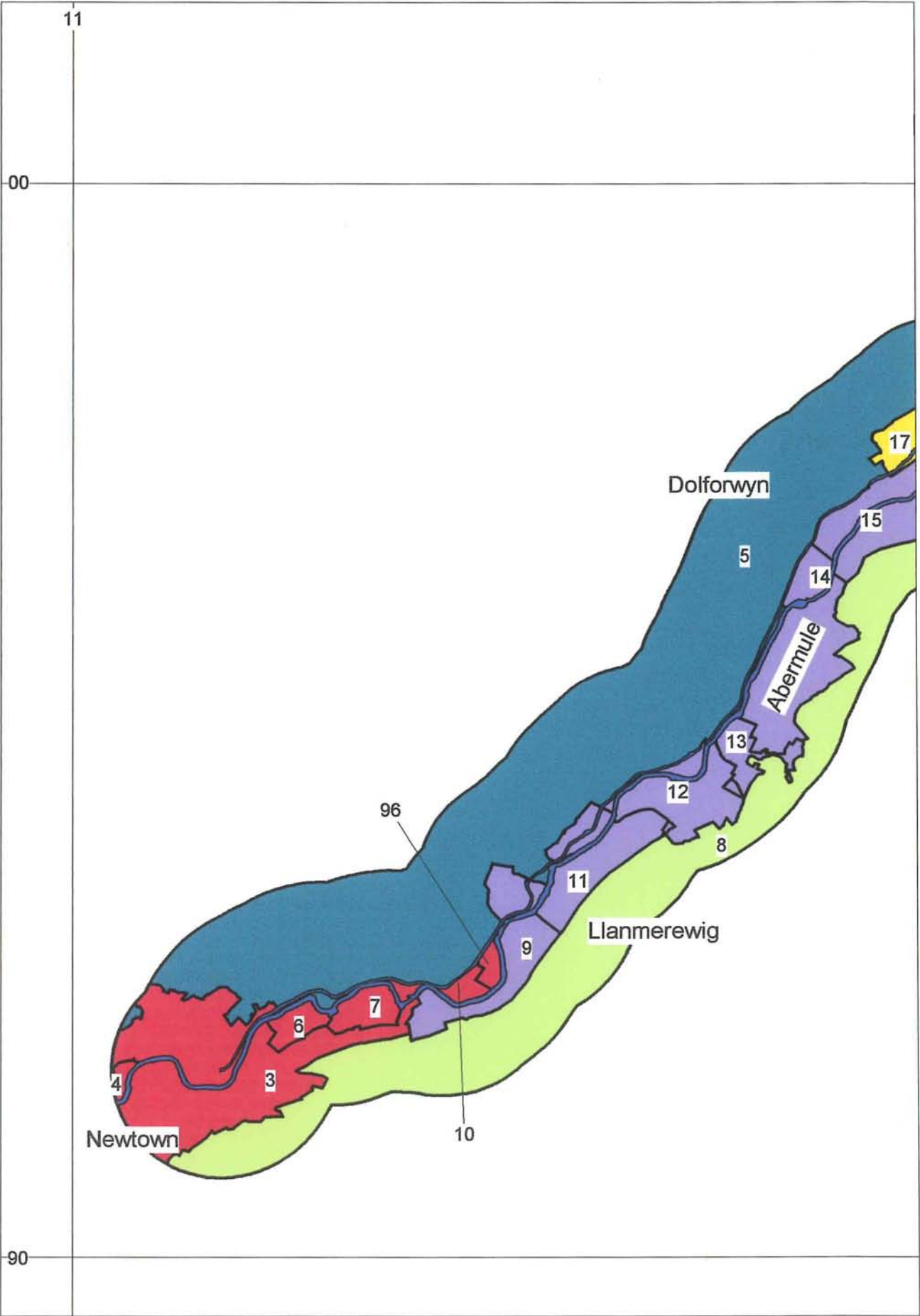


Fig. 2B Historic Landscape Character Areas (named) and Aspect Areas (numbered), scale 1:50,000

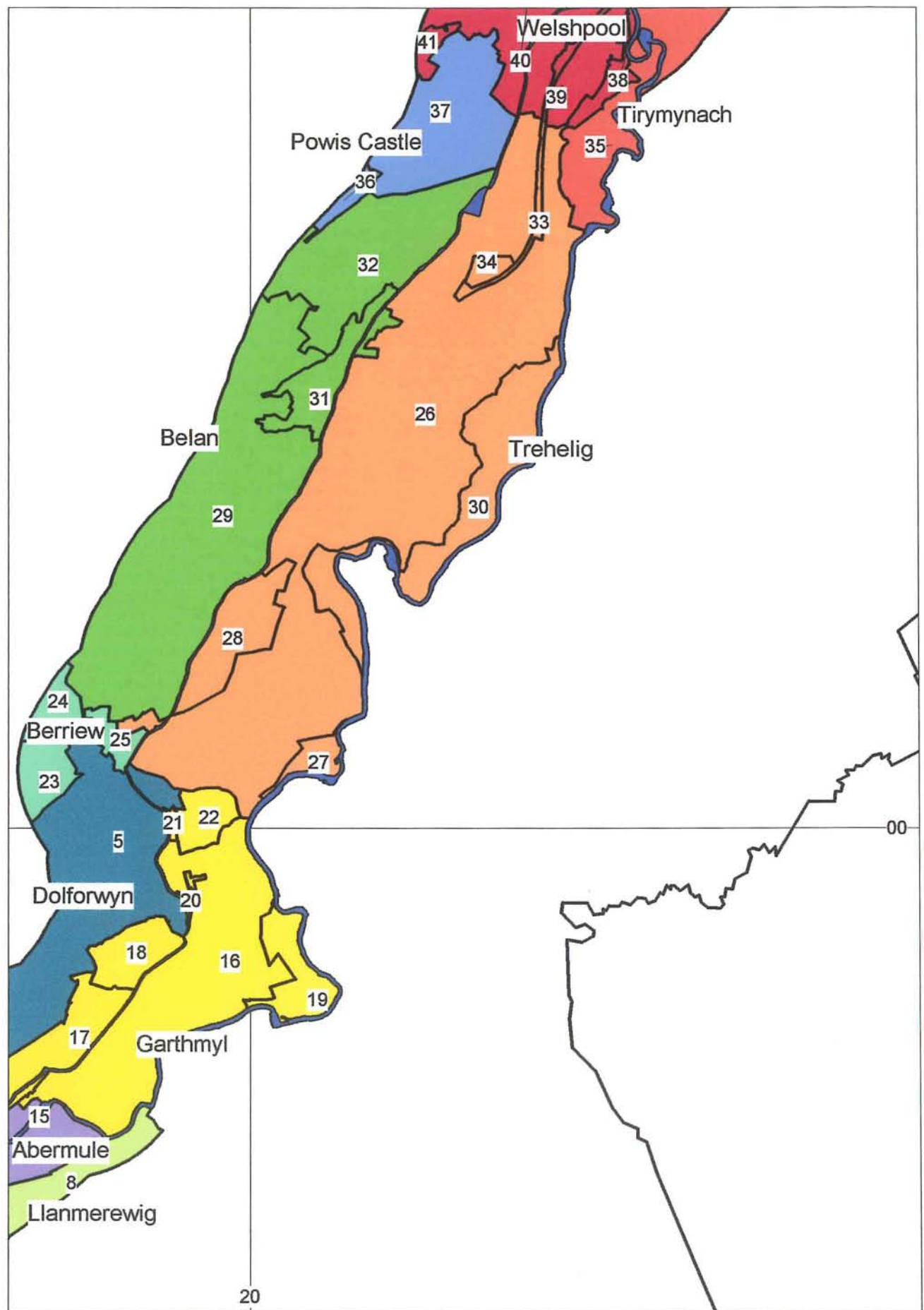


Fig. 2C Historic Landscape Character Areas (named) and Aspect Areas (numbered), scale 1:50,000

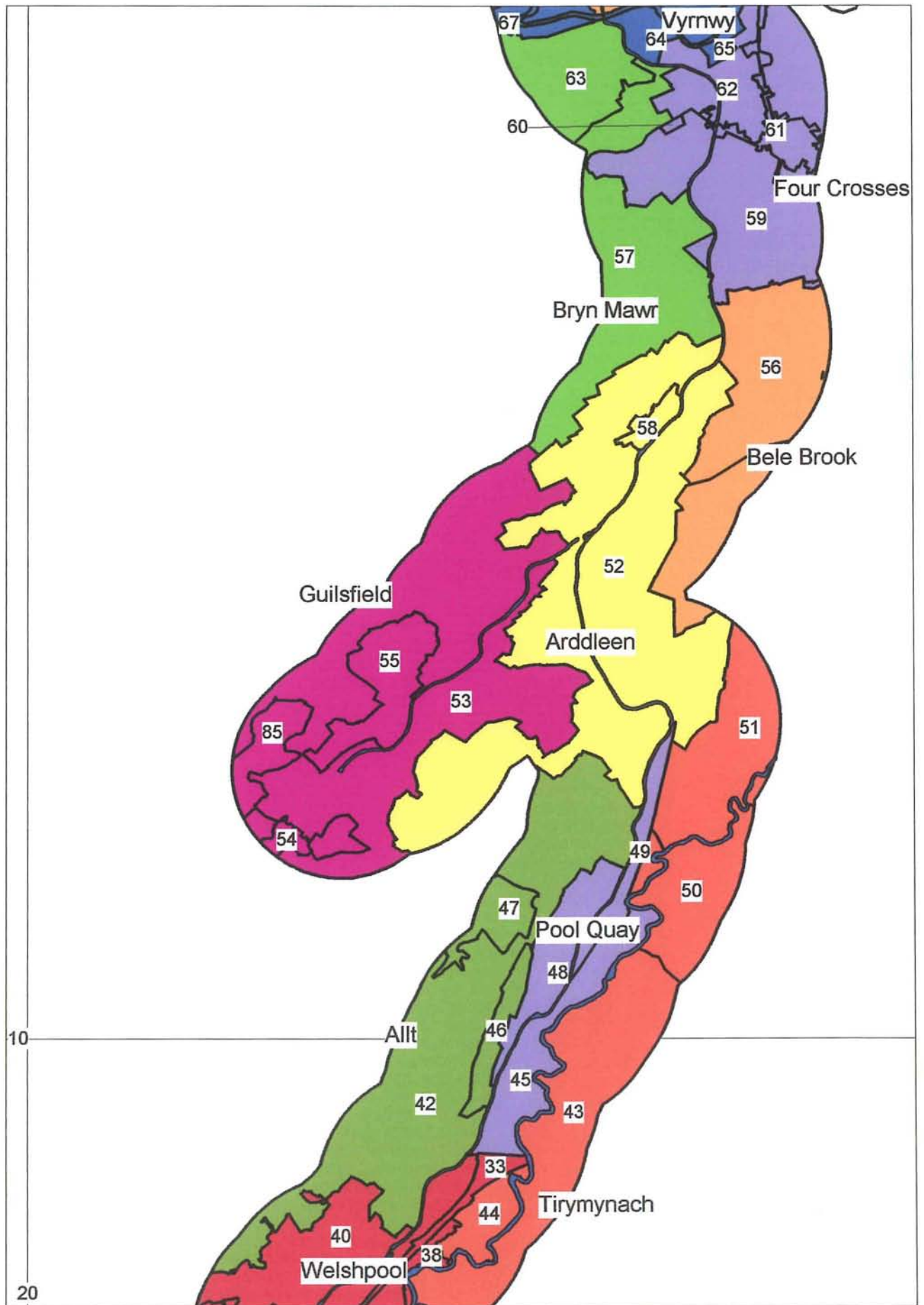


Fig. 2D Historic Landscape Character Areas (named) and Aspect Areas (numbered), scale 1:50,000

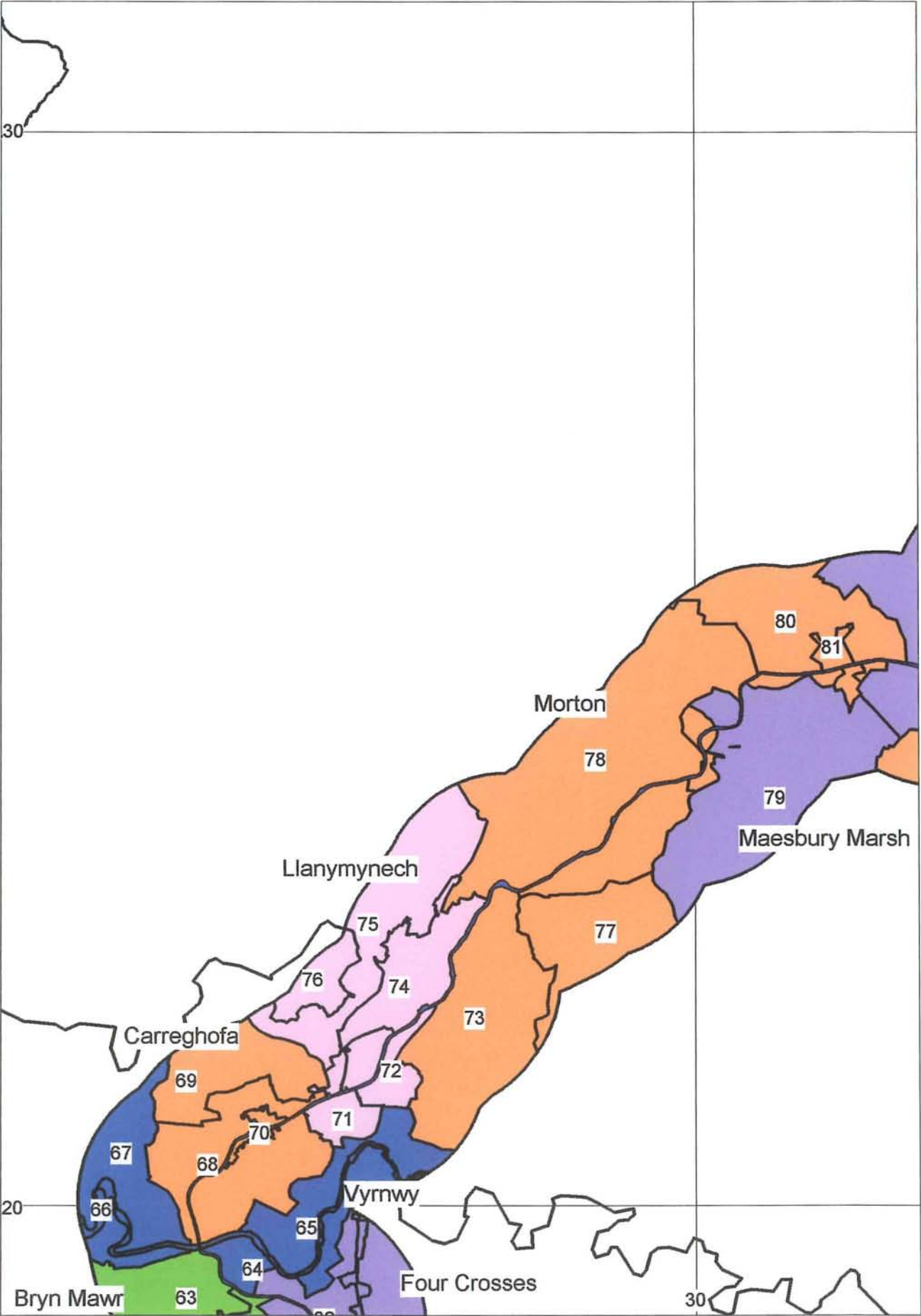


Fig. 2E Historic Landscape Character Areas (named) and Aspect Areas (numbered), scale 1:50,000

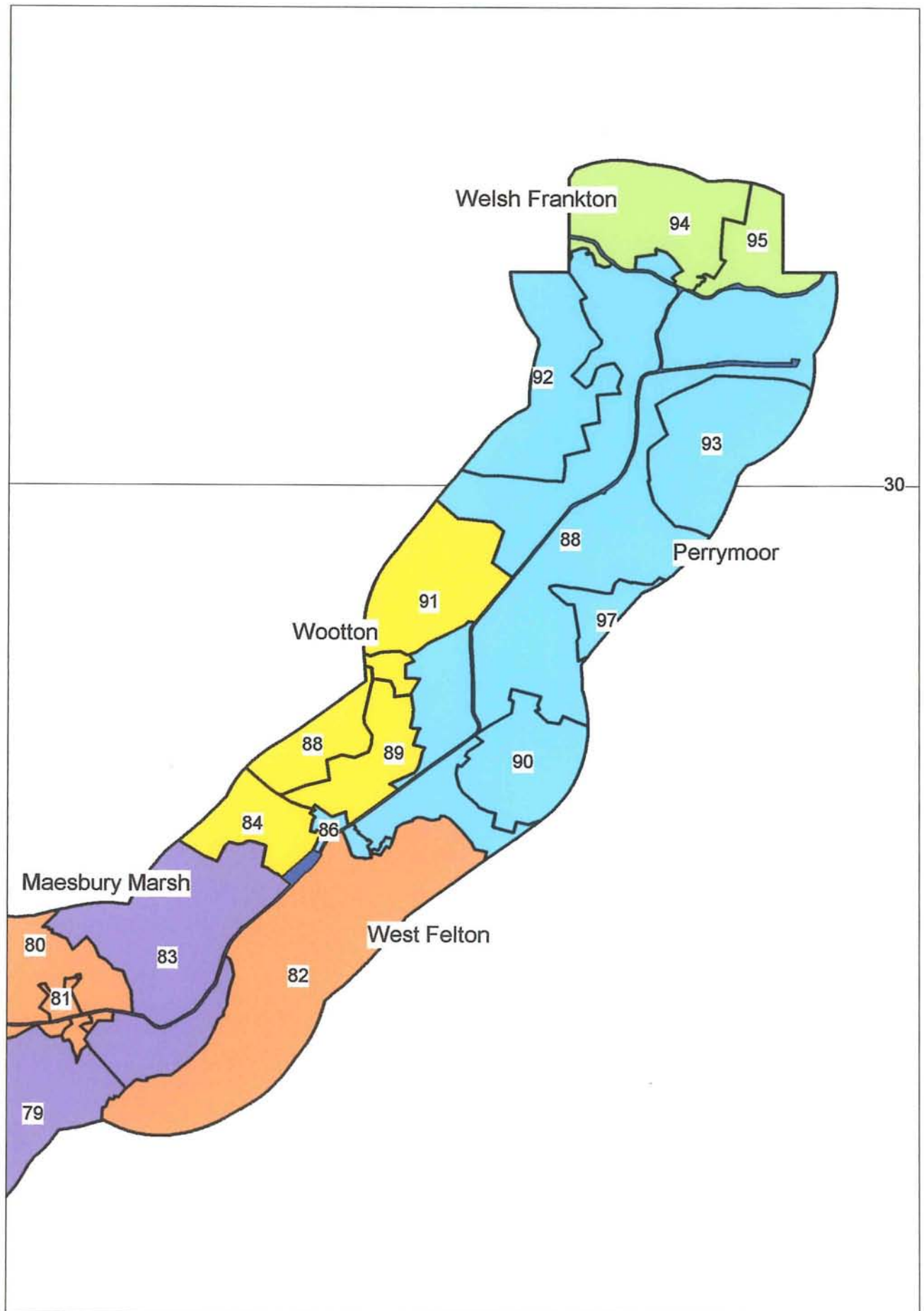
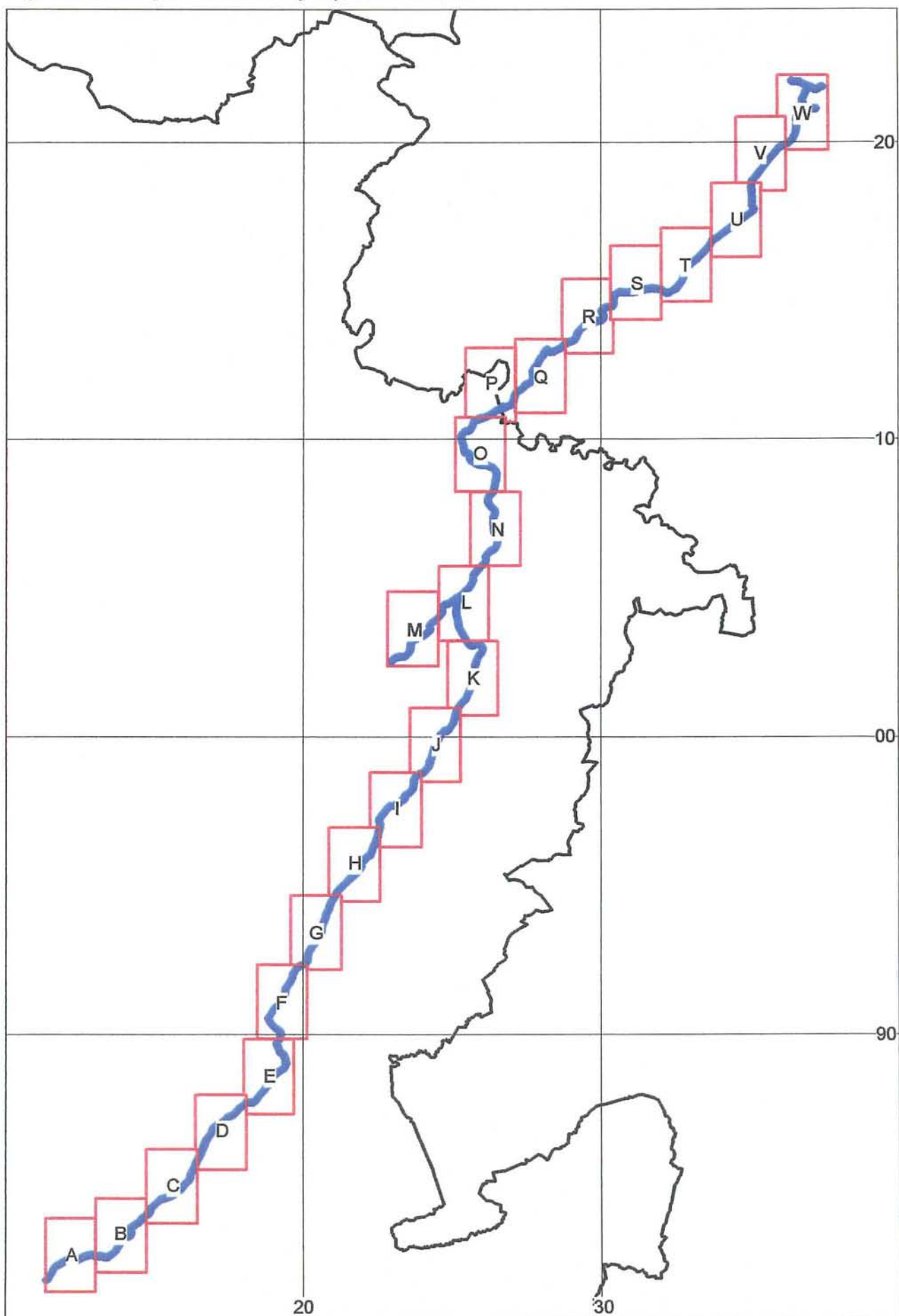


Fig. 3 Archaeological Resource keymap, scale 1:10,000



Key to Archaeology Resource Figs. 3A to 3W











	Archaeological sites (point data)
	Archaeological sites (linear features)
	Archaeological sites (areas)
	Archaeological sites (cropmarks)
	Scheduled Ancient Monuments
	Ridge and furrow
	Historic Gardens
	Area of palaeoenvironmental potential
	Study area
	Historic Landscape Character Areas

Fig. 3A Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

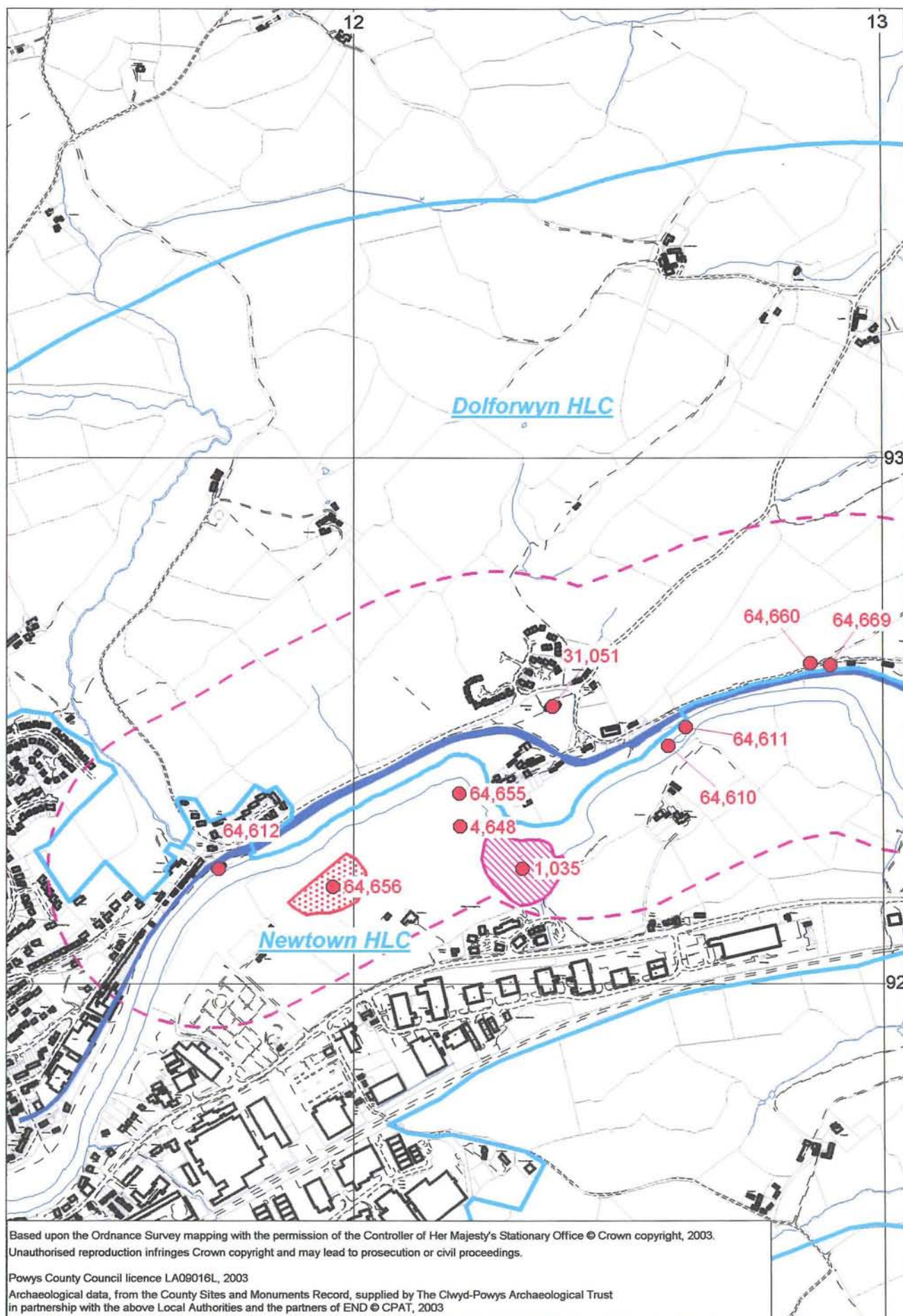


Fig. 3B Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

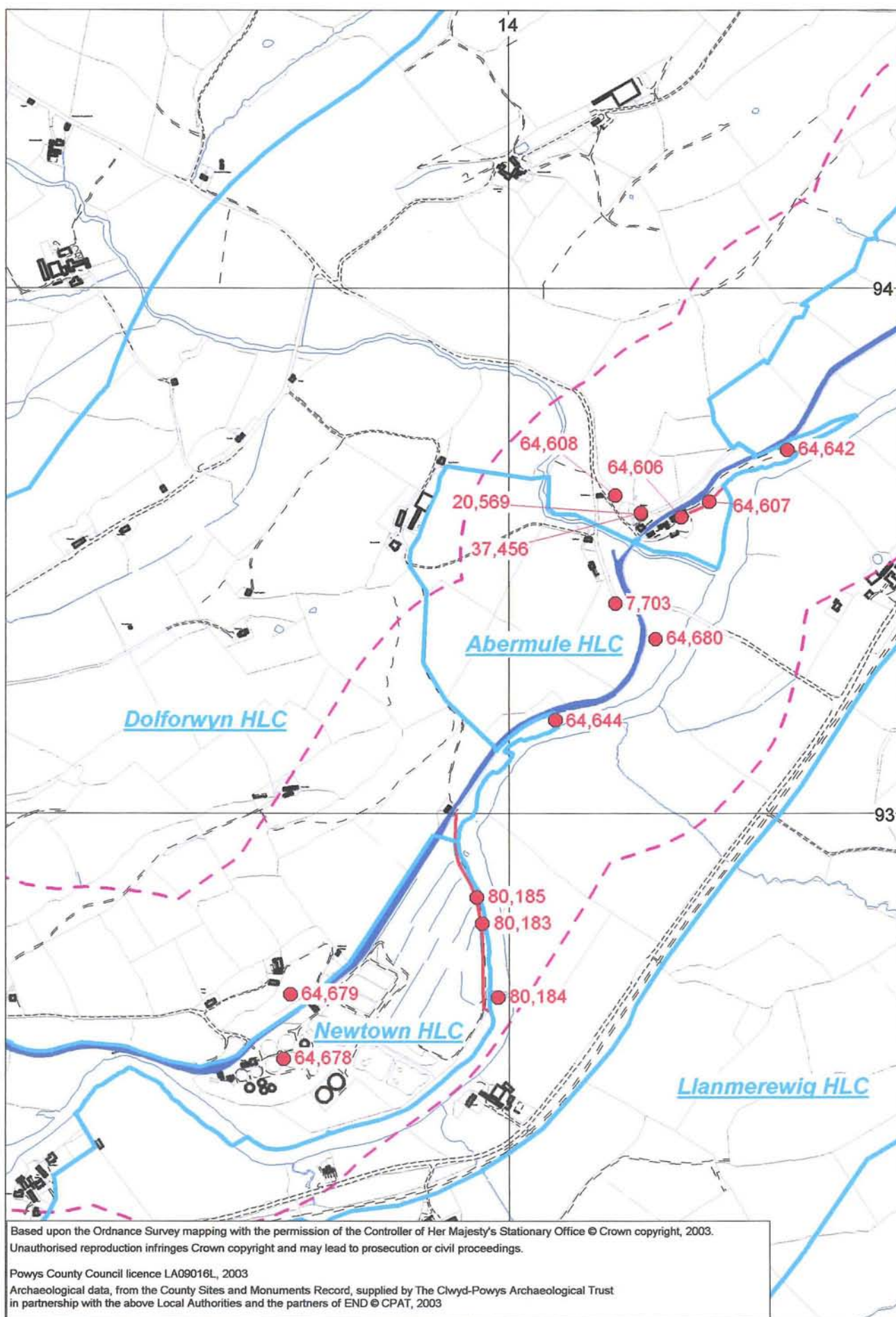
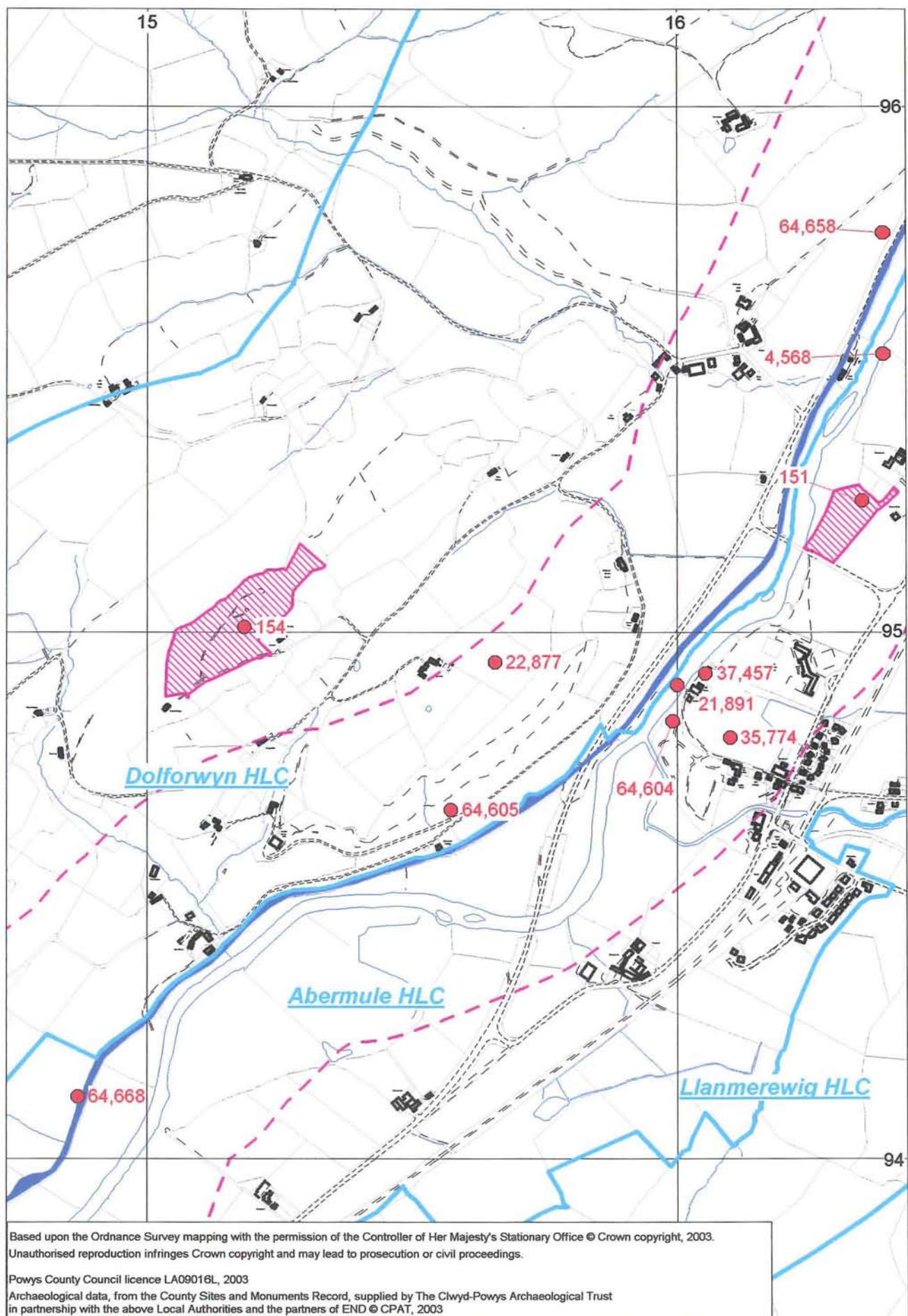


Fig. 3C Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000



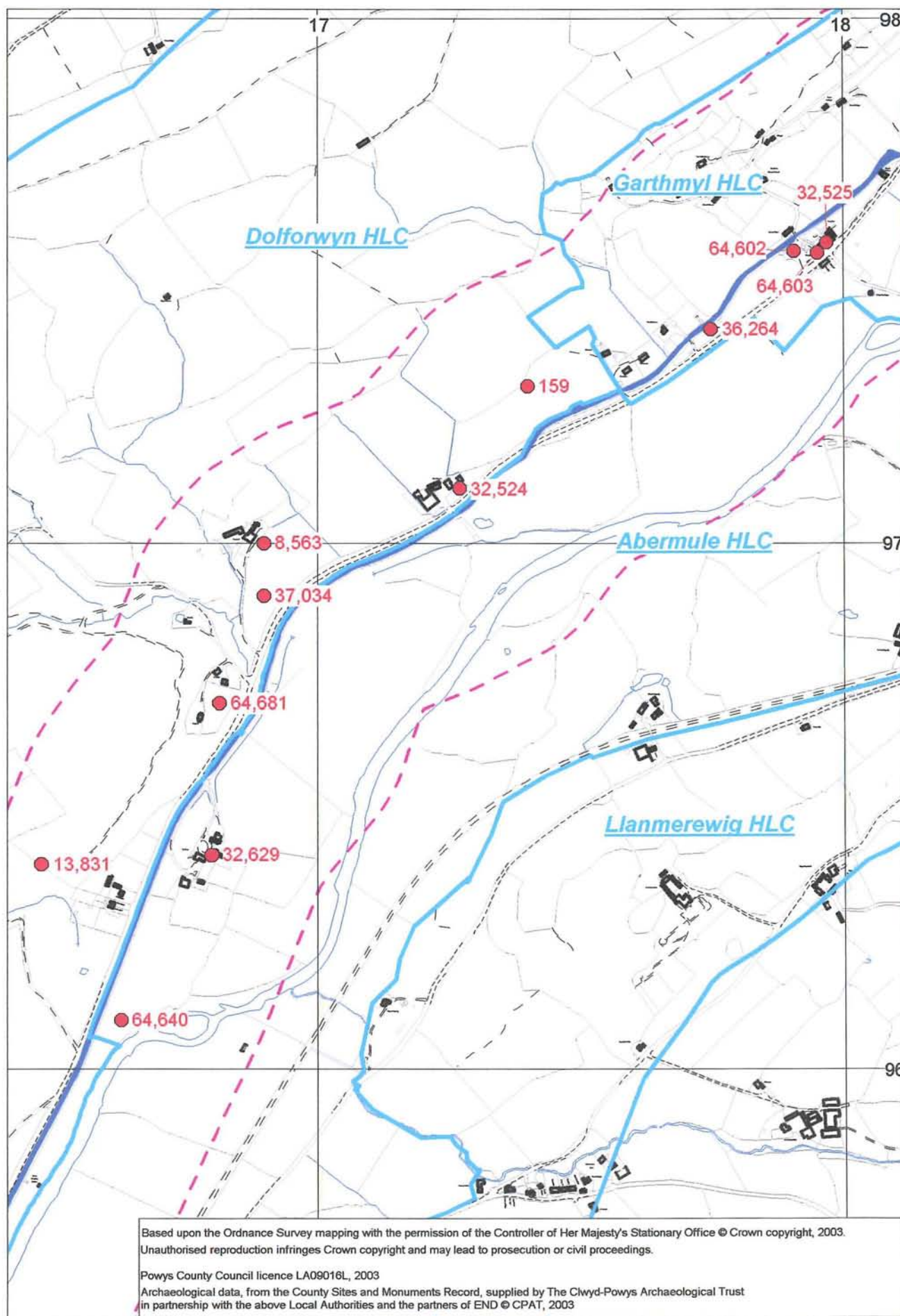


Fig. 3E Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

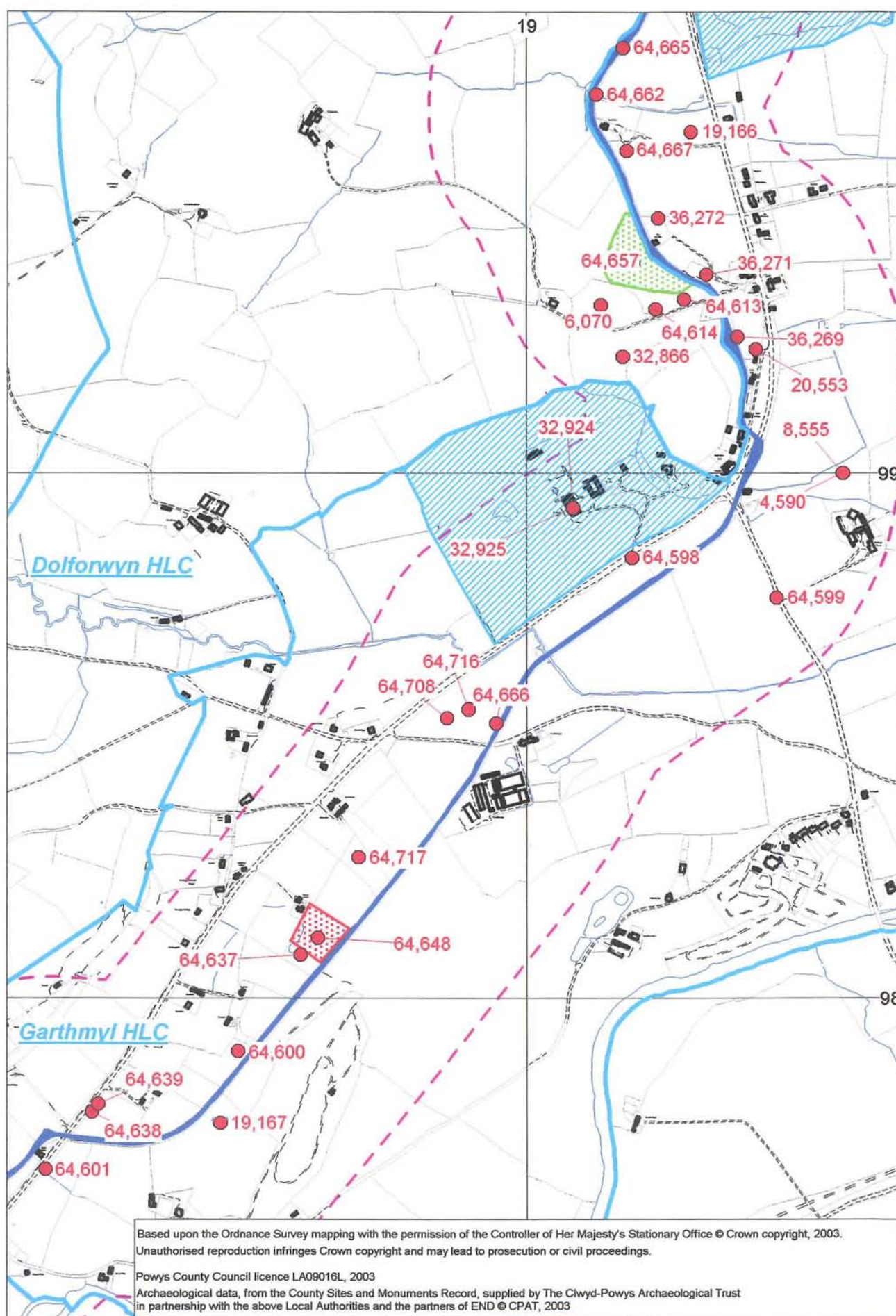


Fig. 3F Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

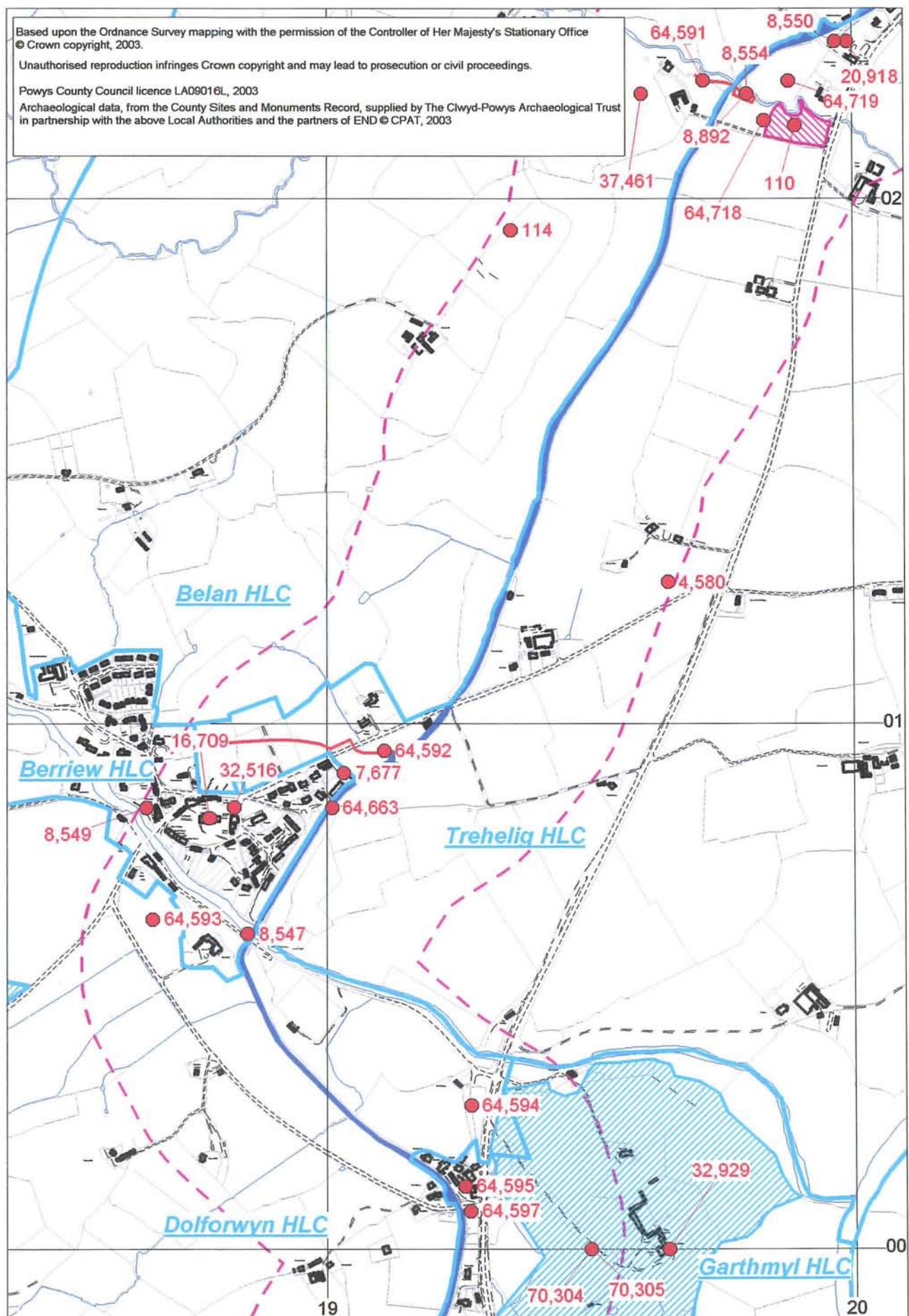


Fig. 3G Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

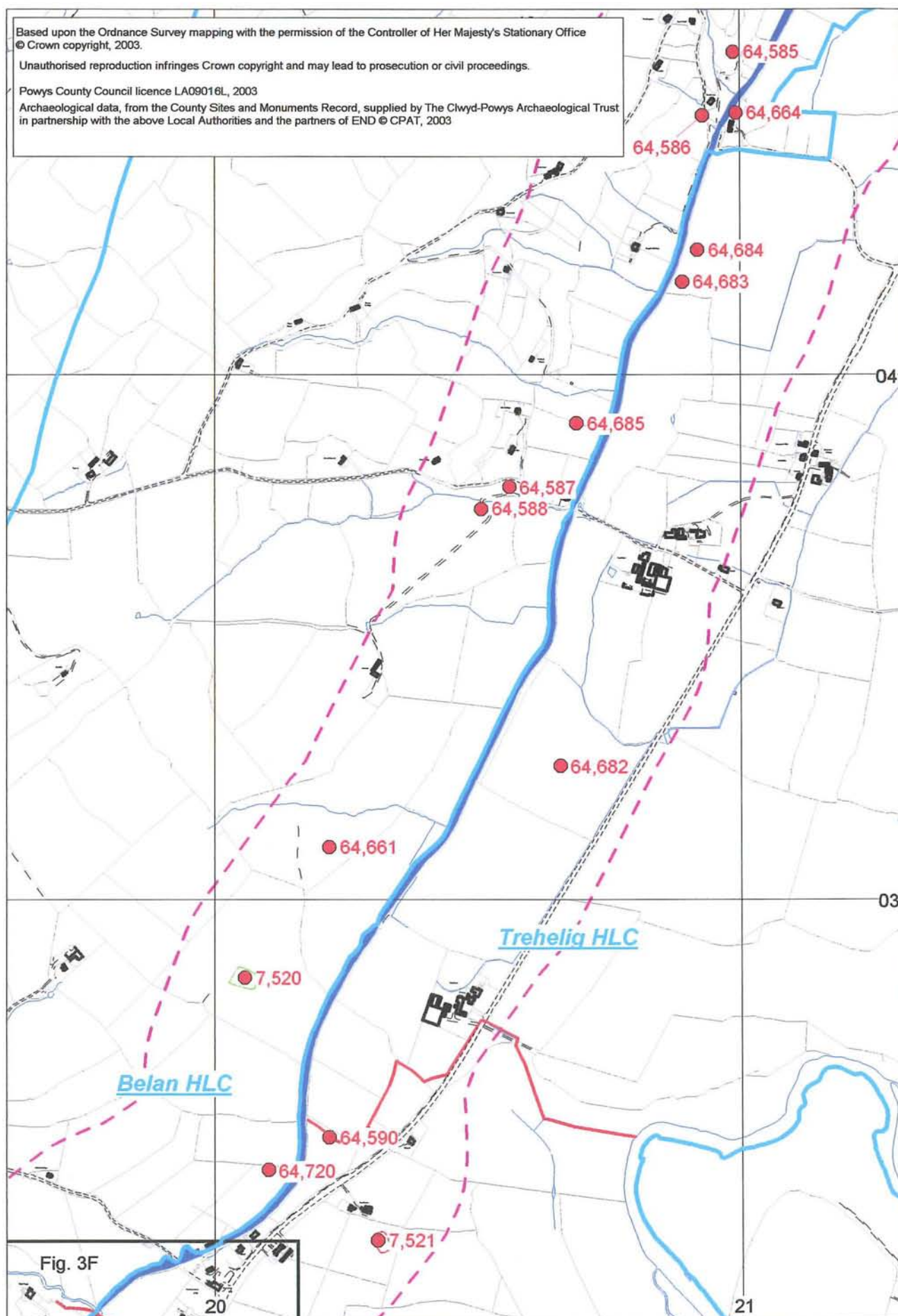


Fig. 3H Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

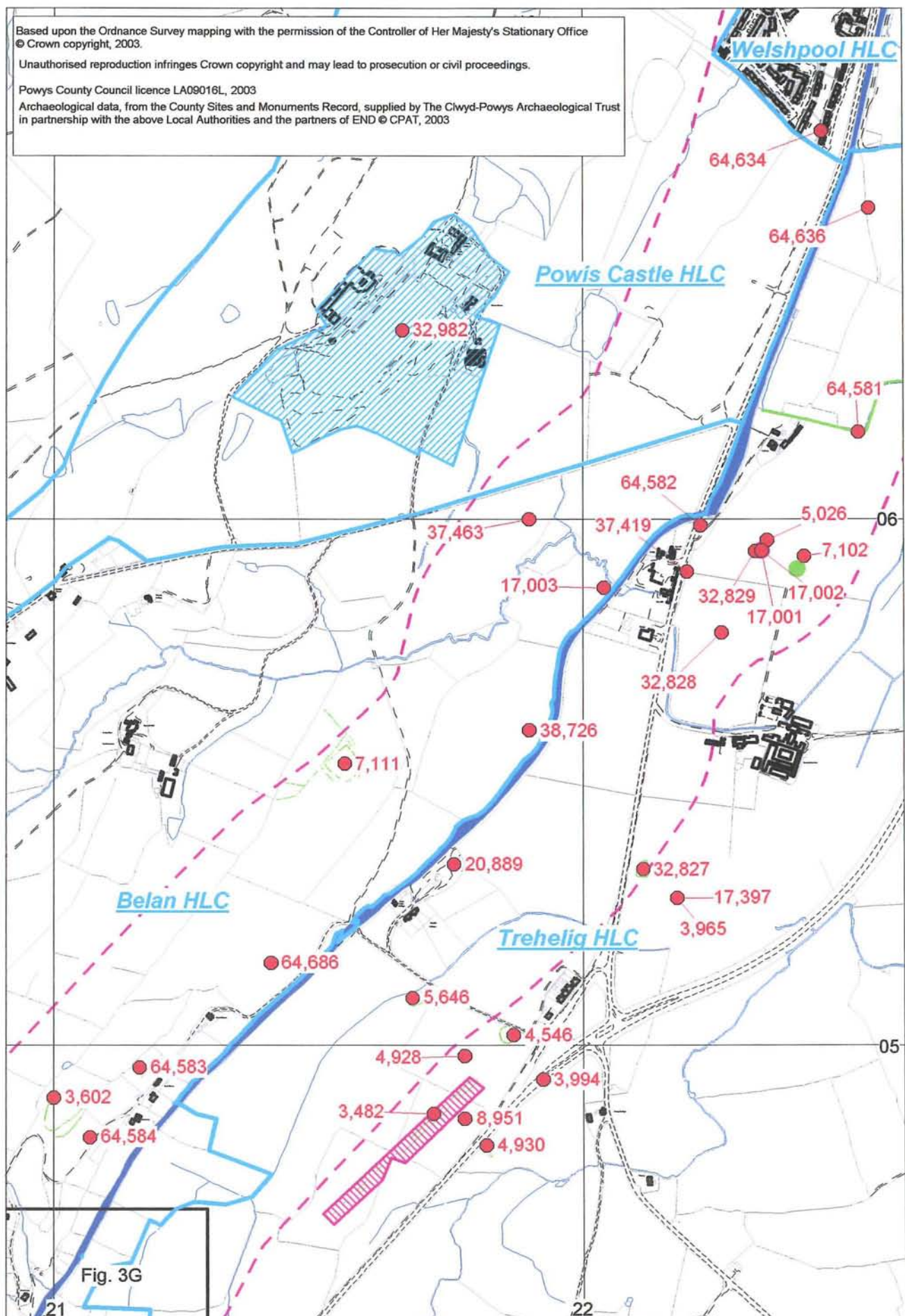


Fig. 3I Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

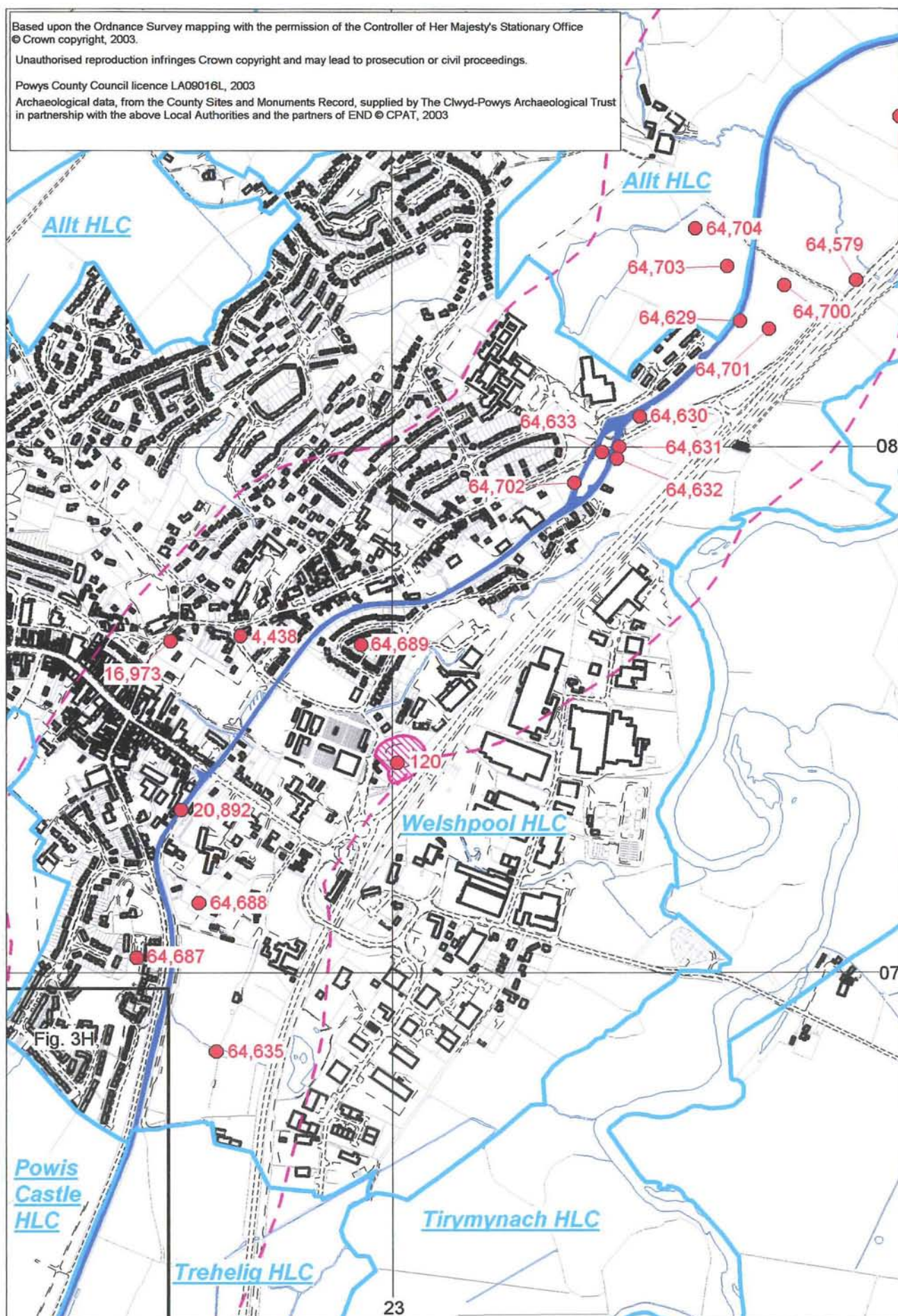


Fig. 3J Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

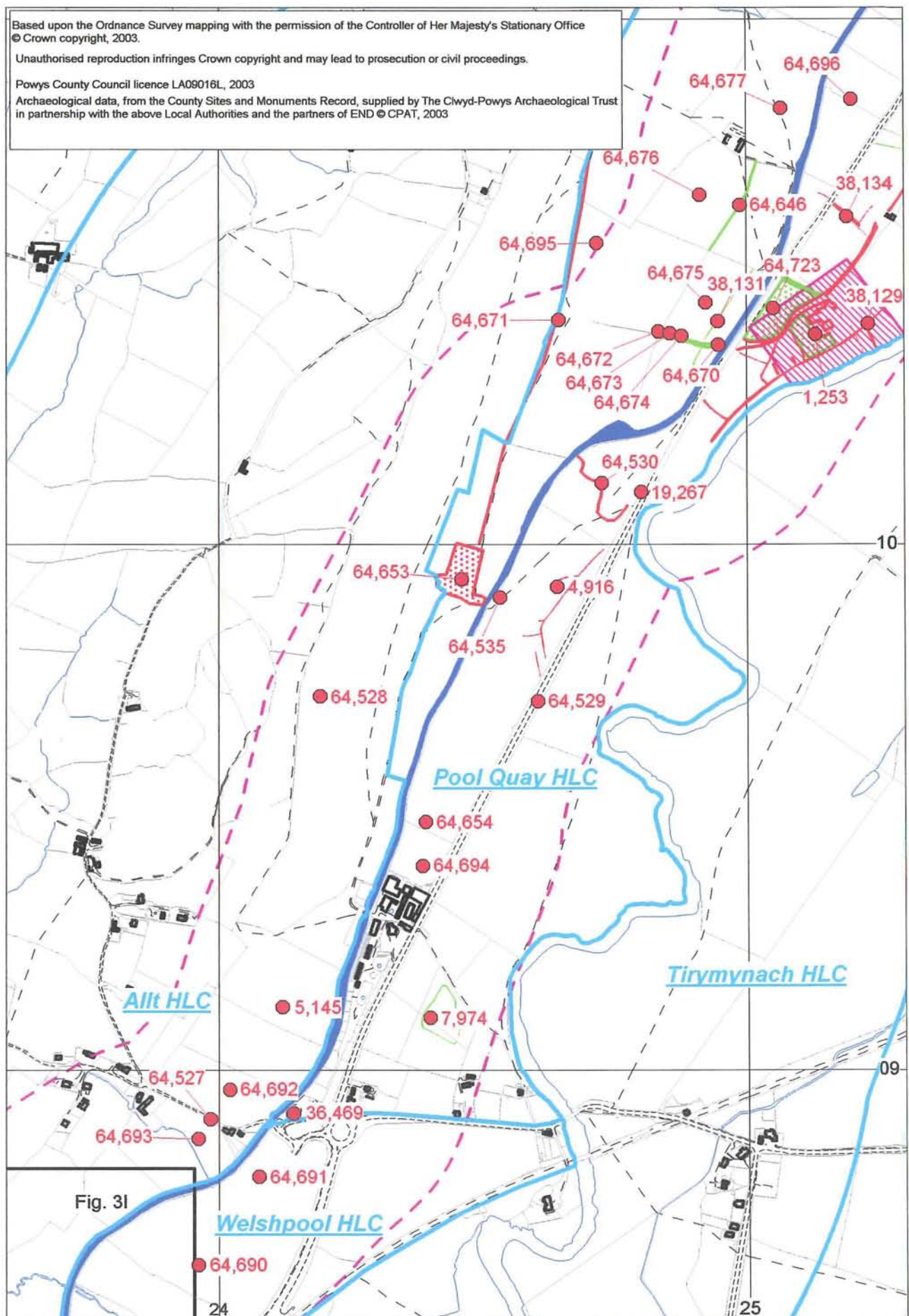


Fig. 3K Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

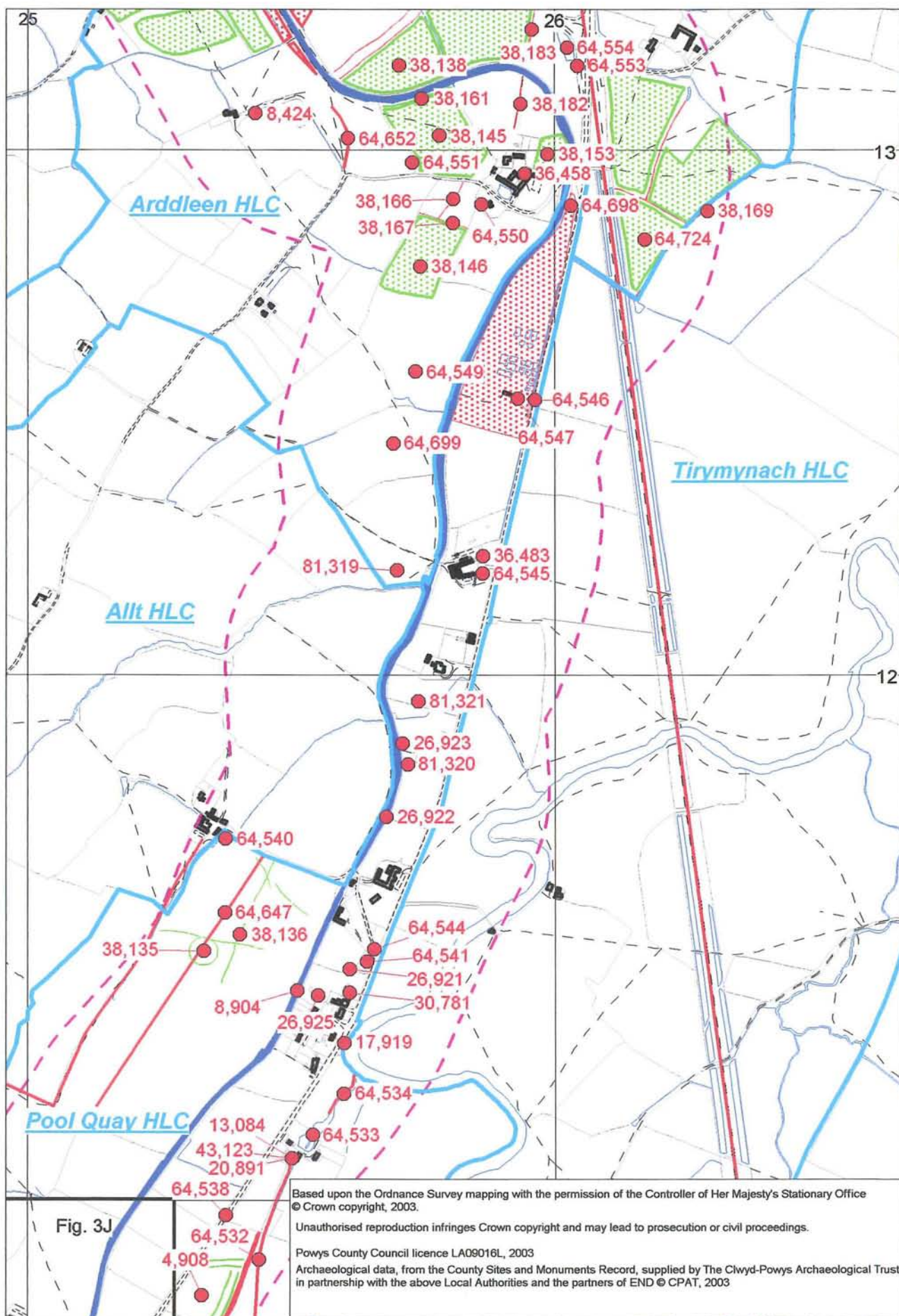


Fig. 3L Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

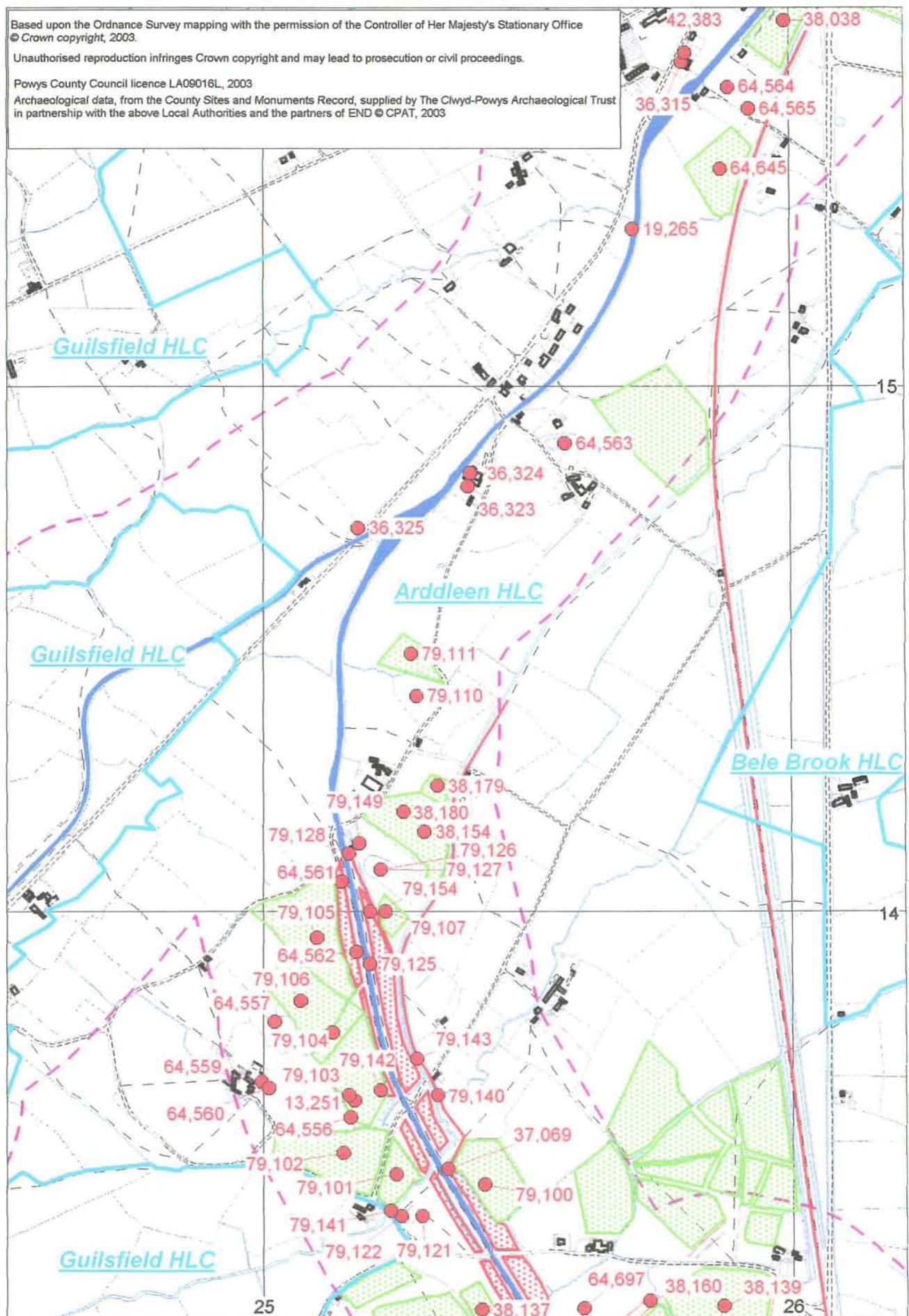


Fig. 3M Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

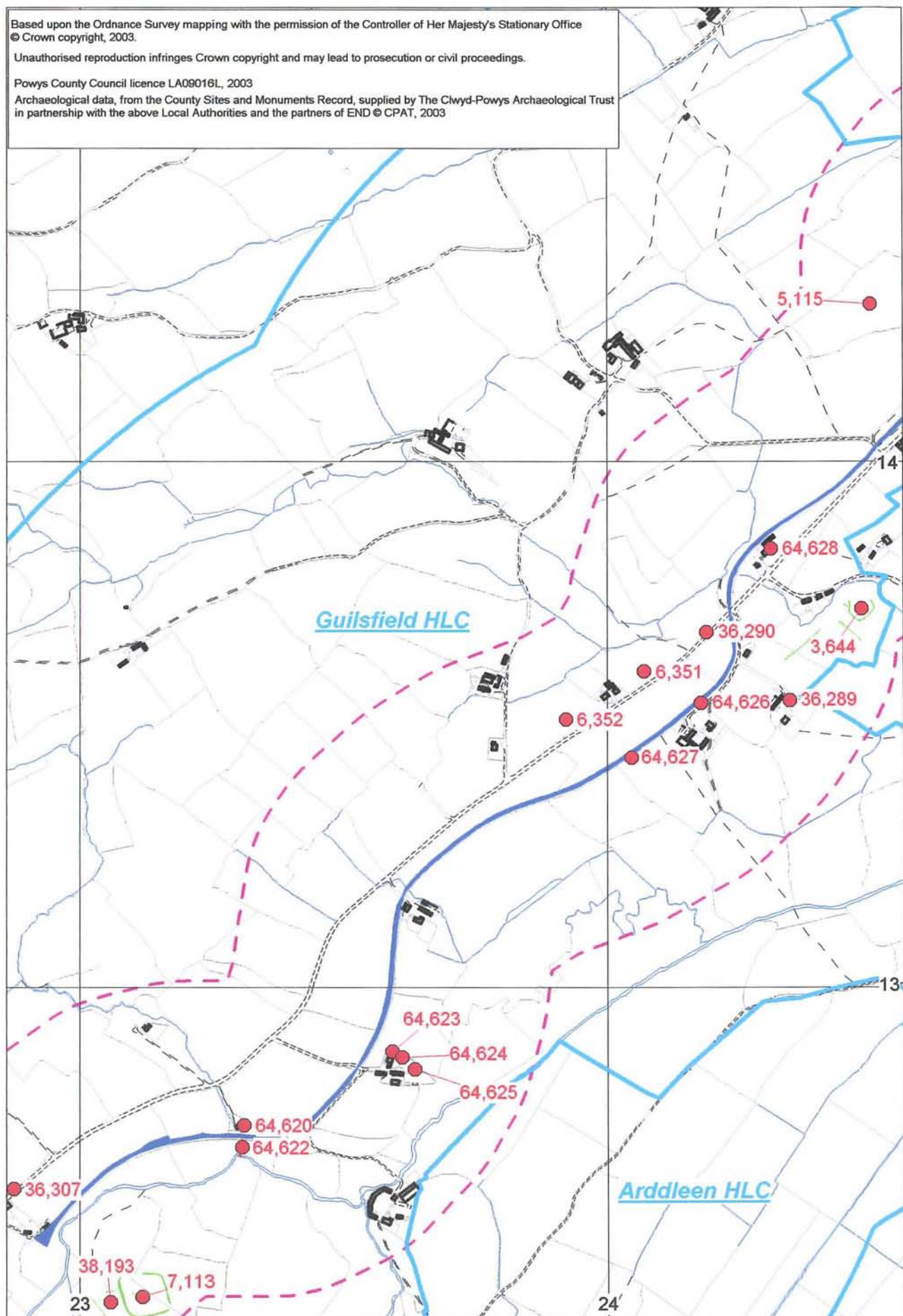


Fig. 3N Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

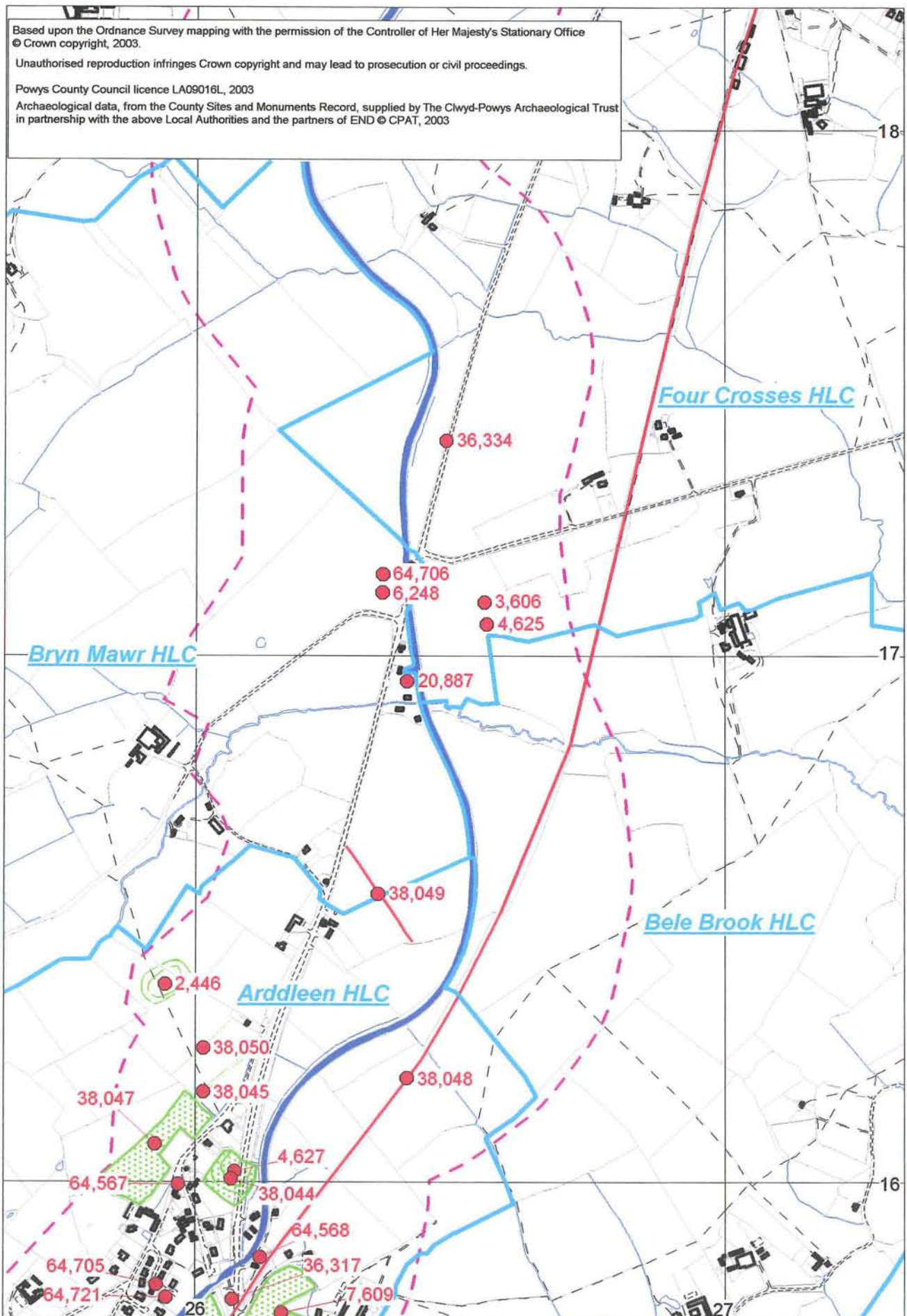


Fig. 3O Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

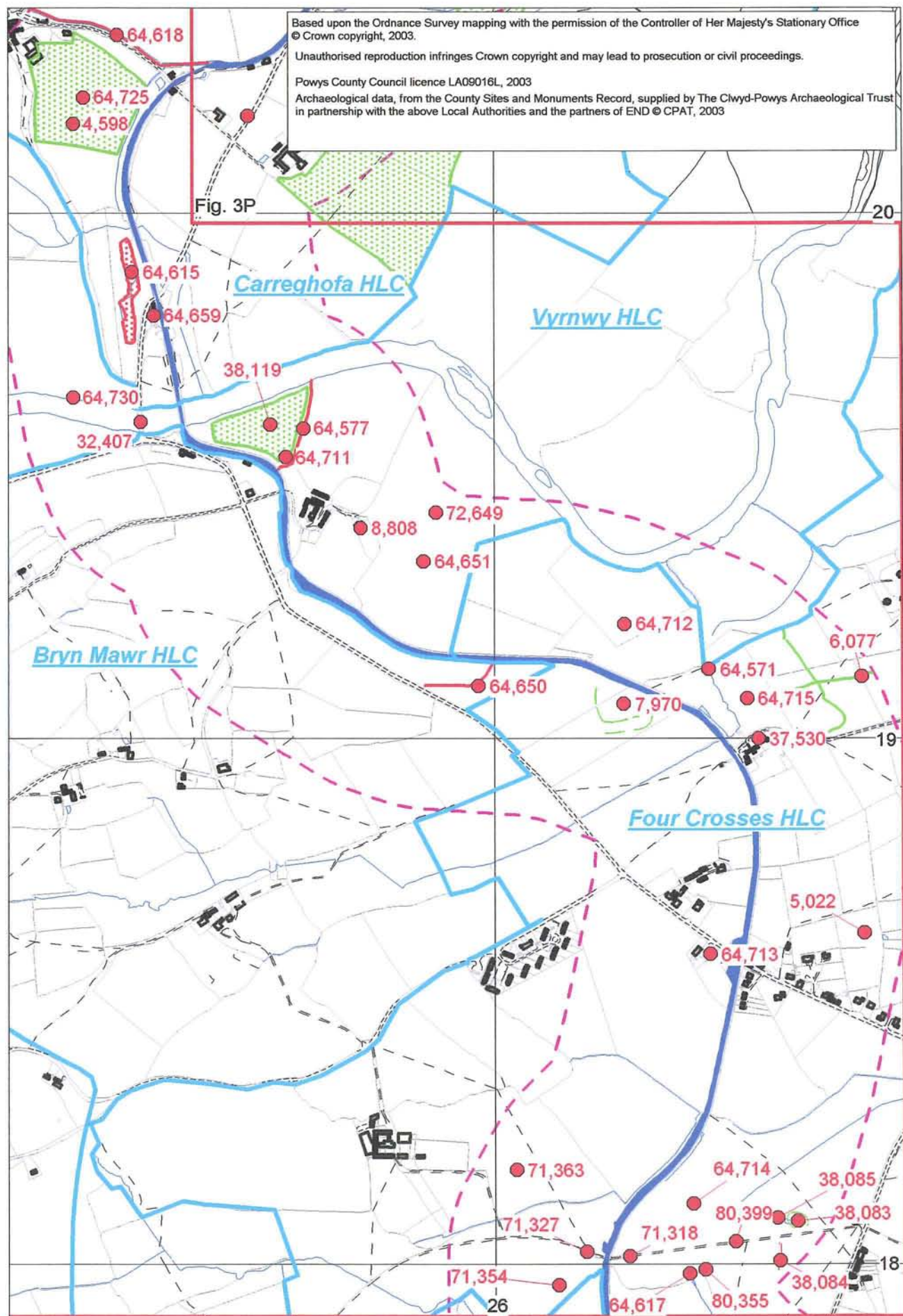


Fig. 3P Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

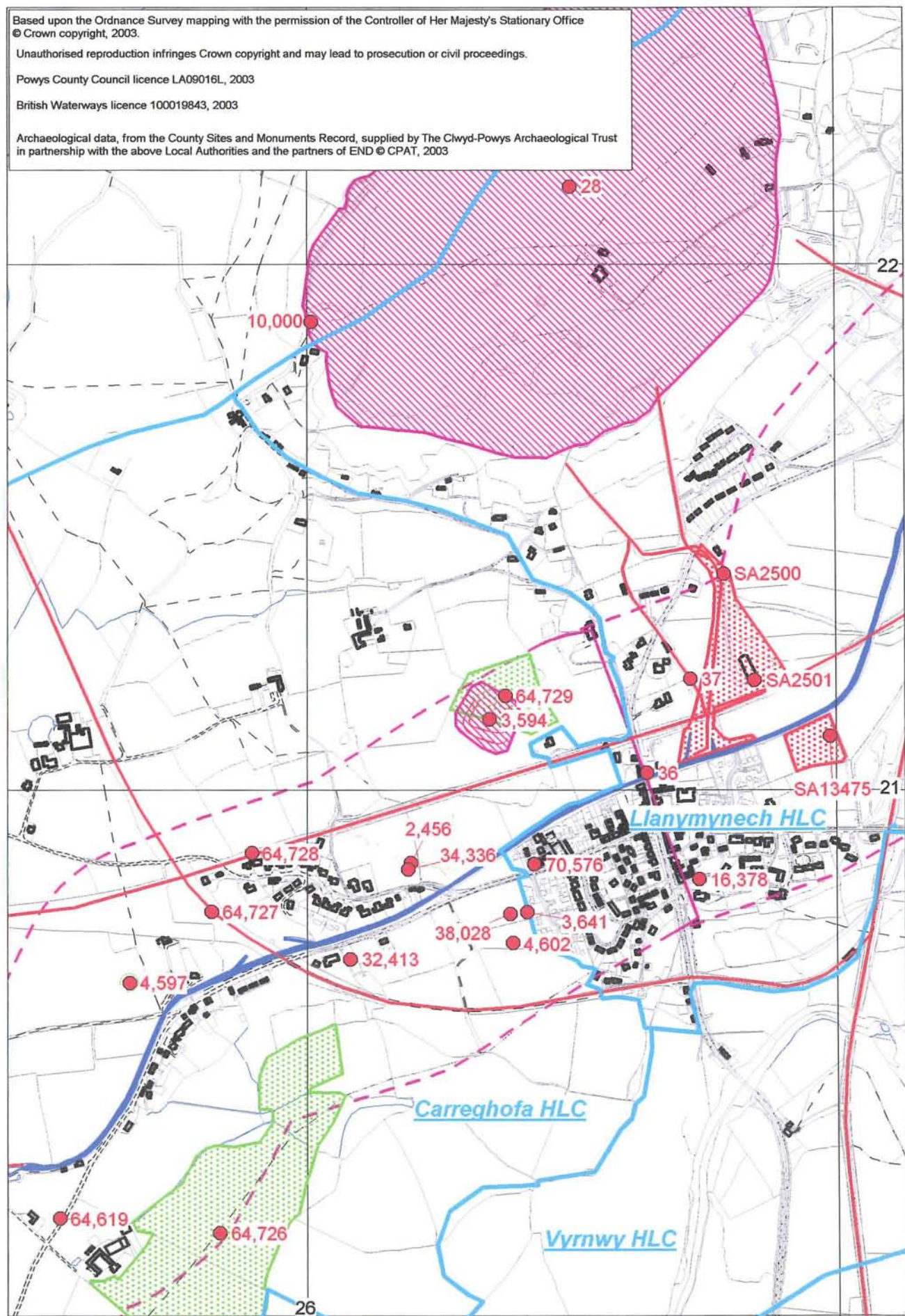


Fig. 3Q Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

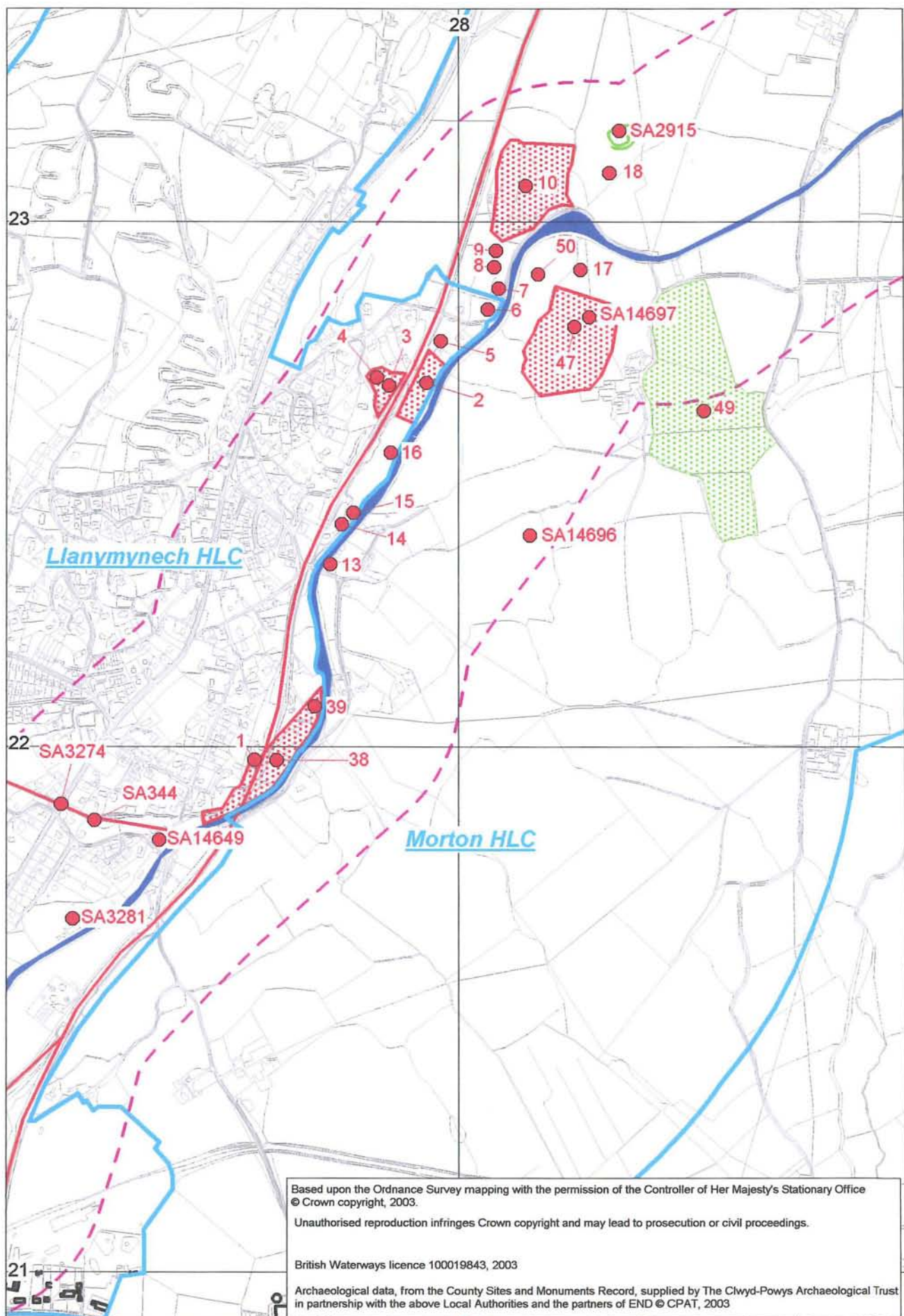


Fig. 3R Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

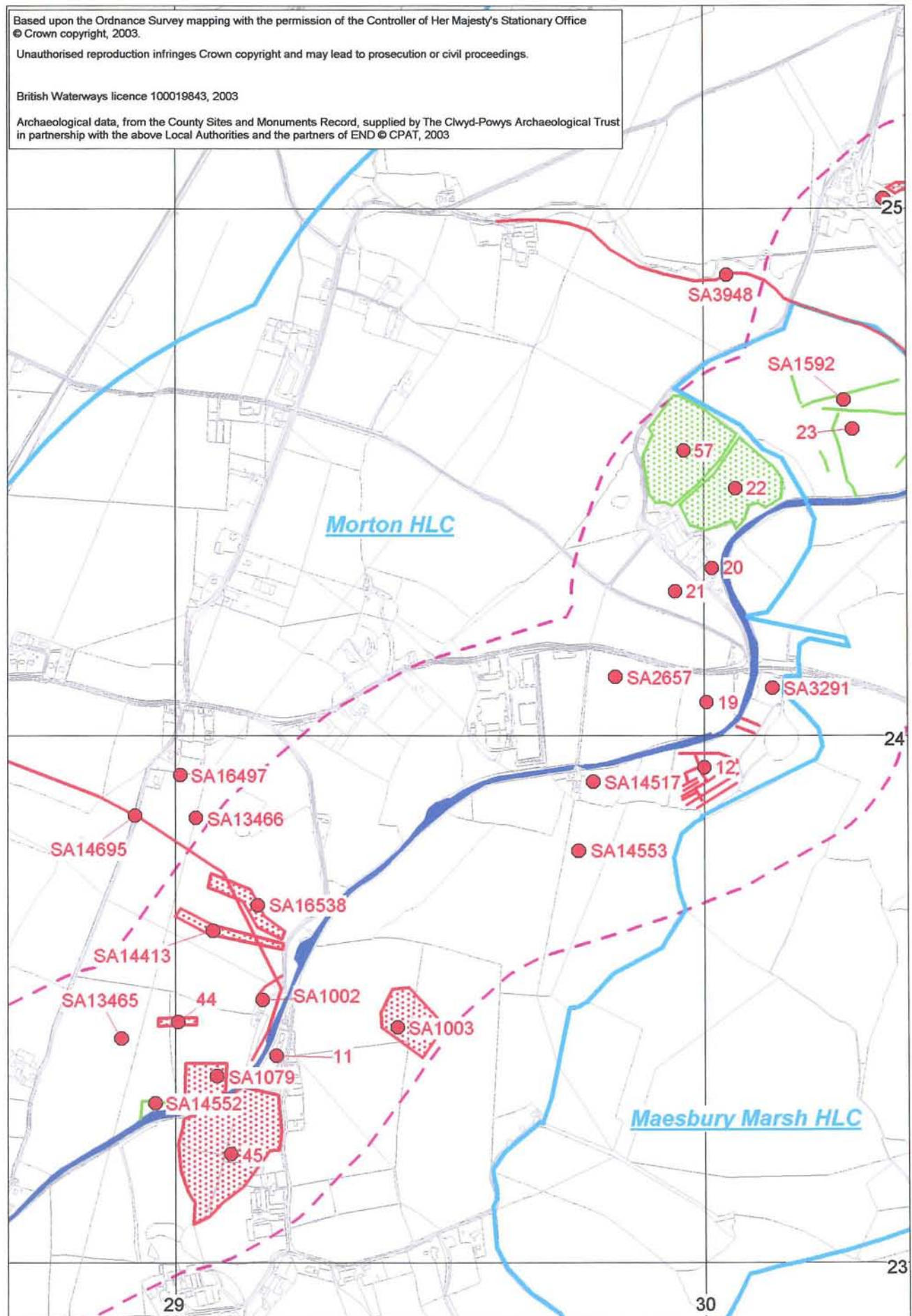


Fig. 3S Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

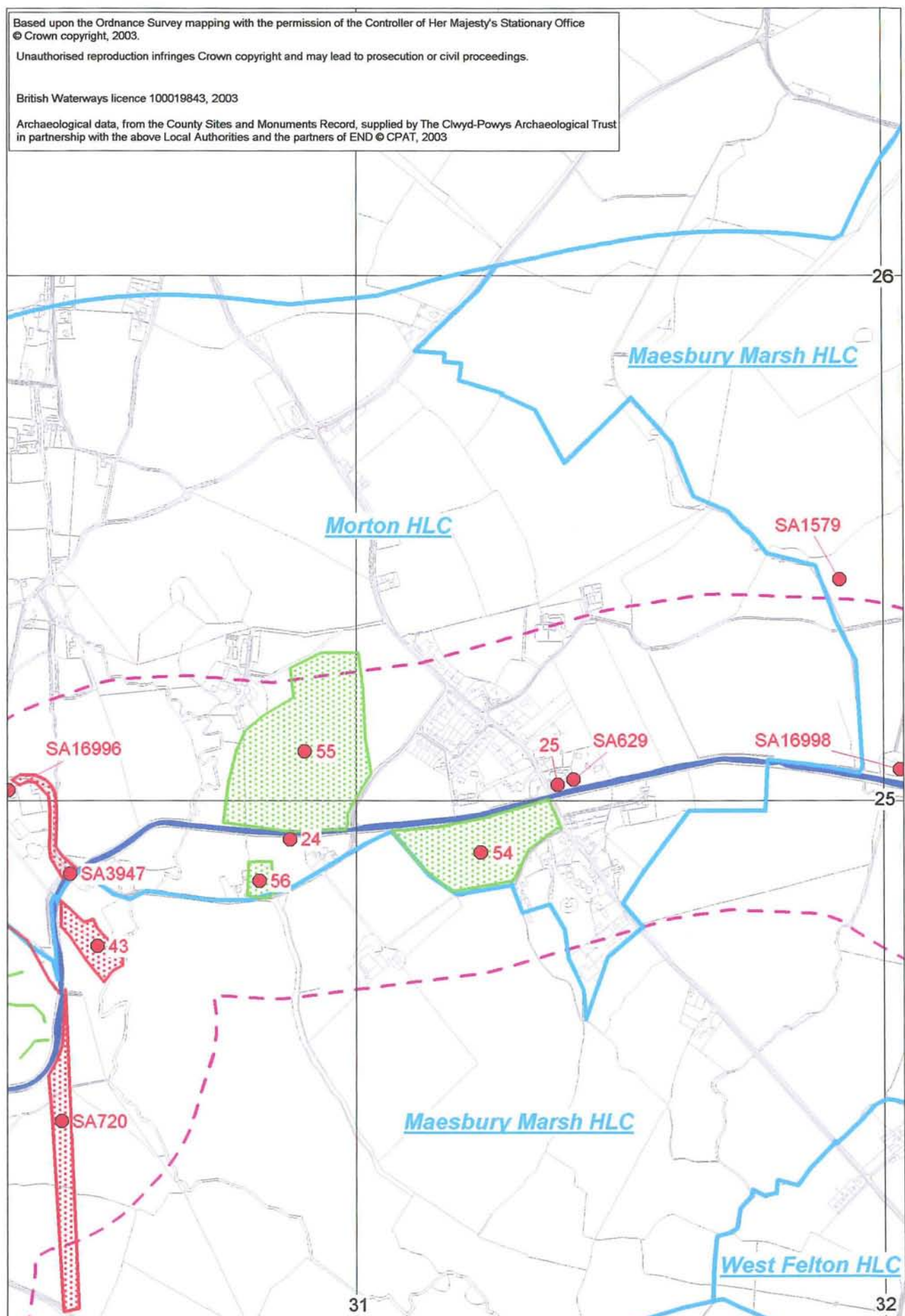


Fig. 3T Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

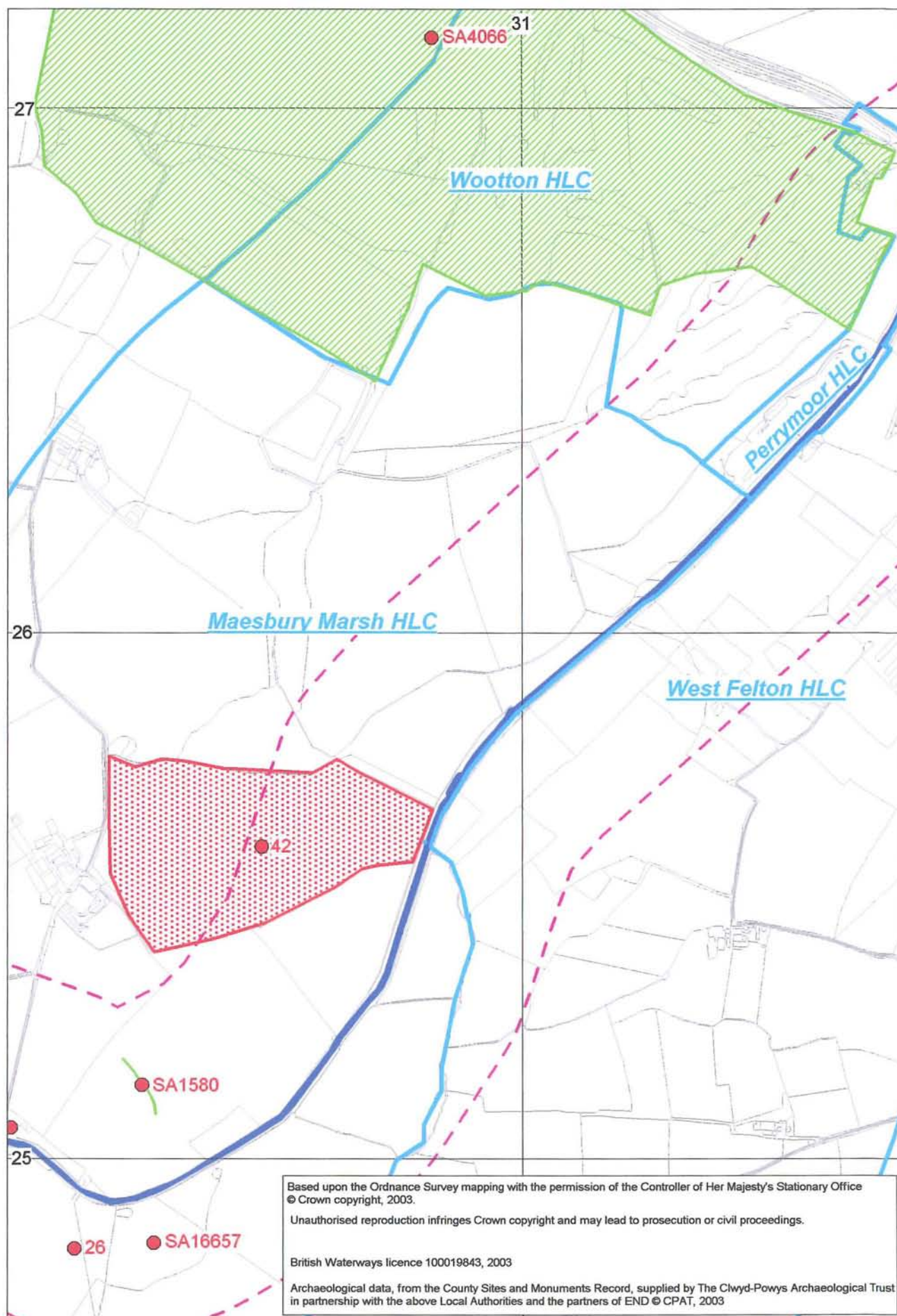


Fig. 3U Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

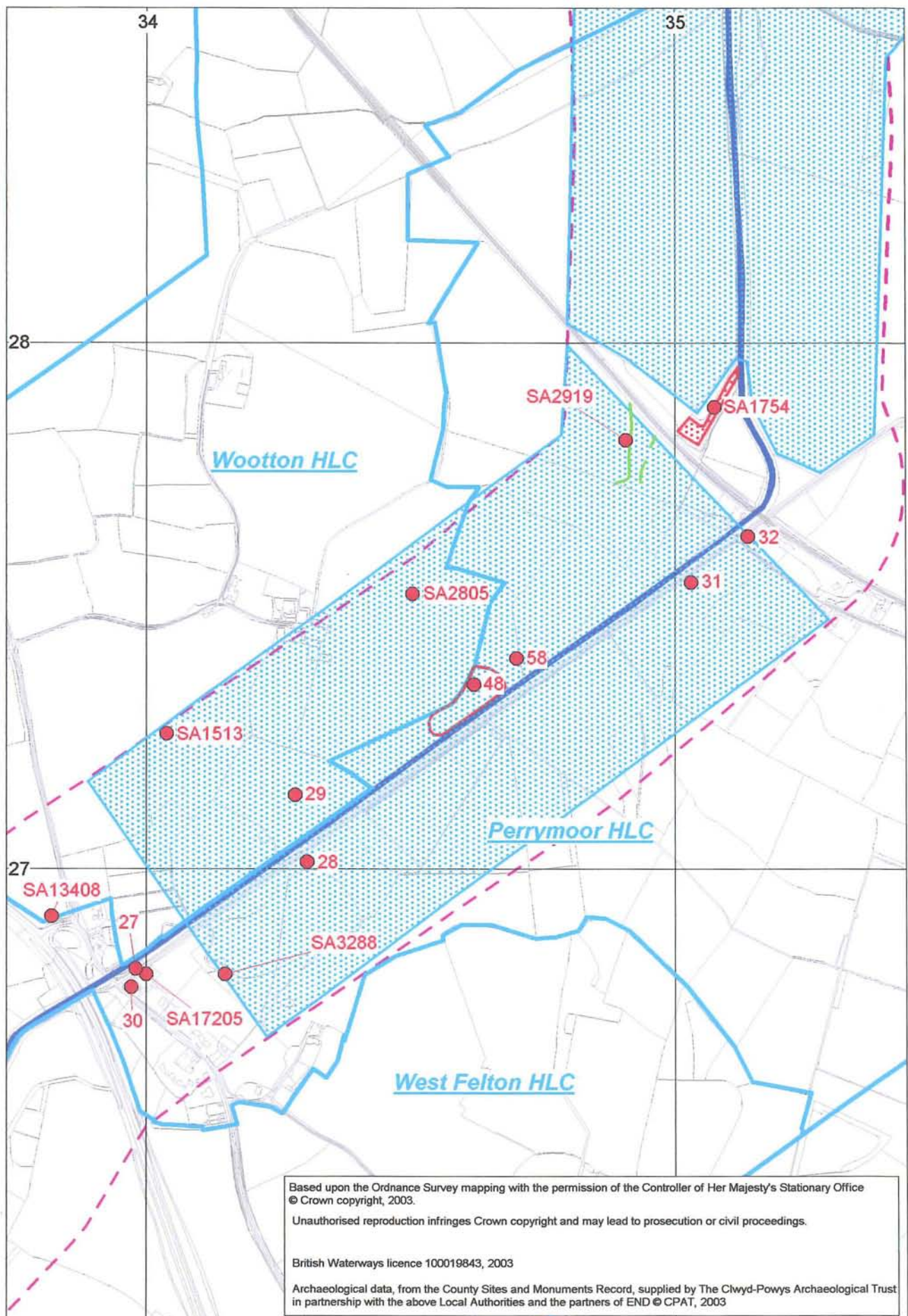


Fig. 3V Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

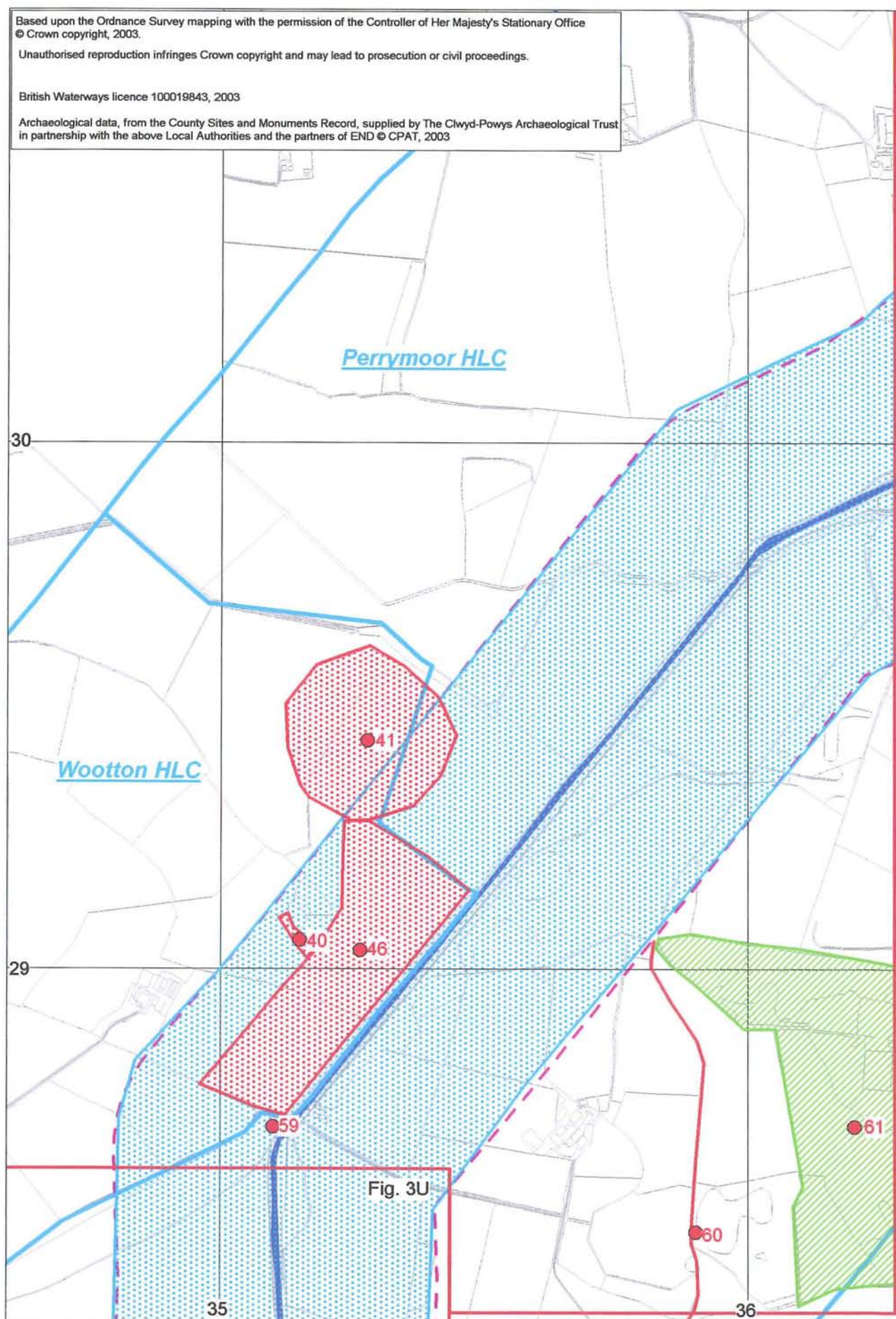


Fig. 3W Archaeological Resource, scale 1:10,000

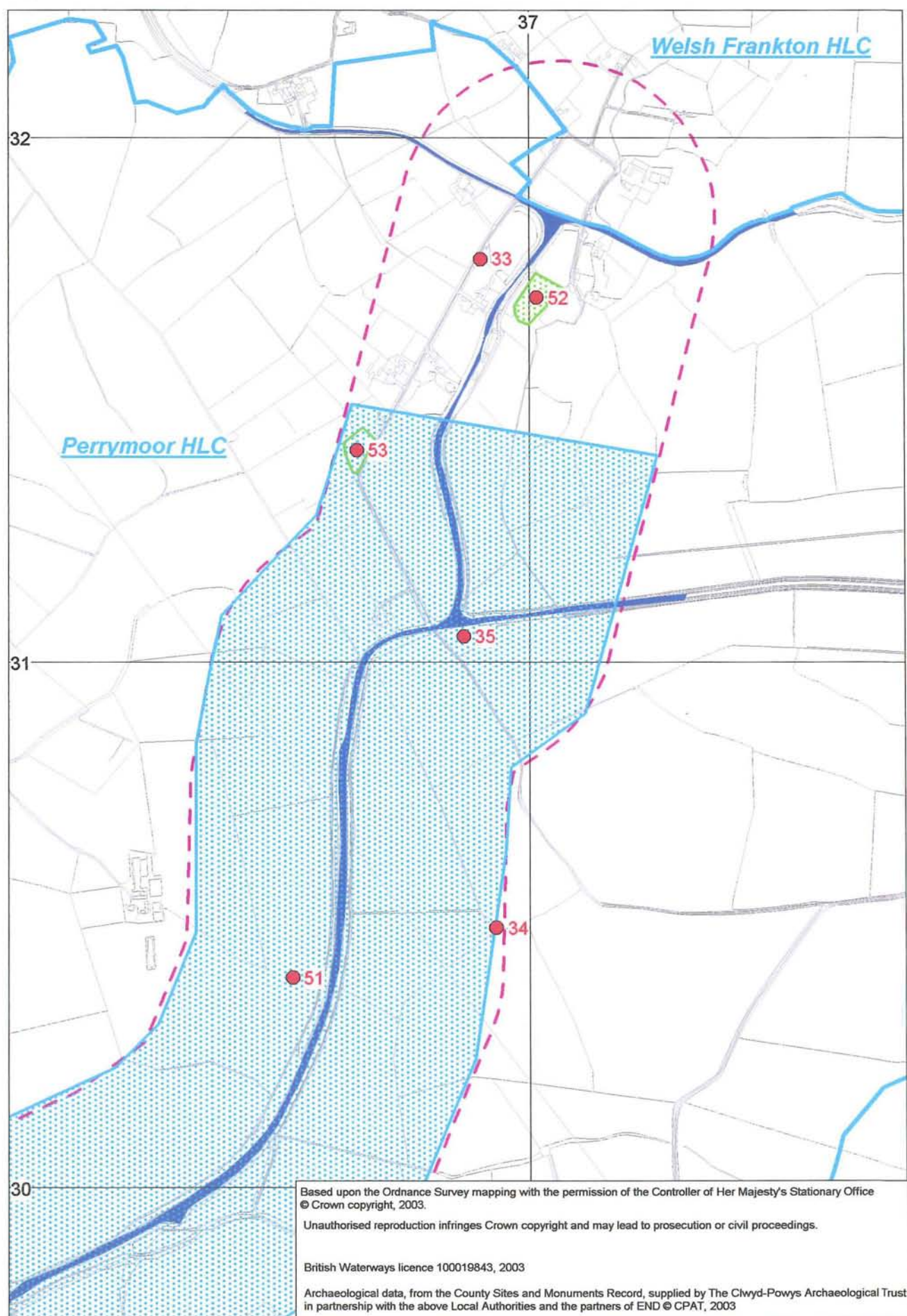




Plate 1 Crickheath Wharf Enclosure (SA 1079). Photo CPAT 84-c-105



Plate 2 Upper Luggy House Platform I (PRN 8554) and Luggy Motte (PRN 110)



CPAT

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