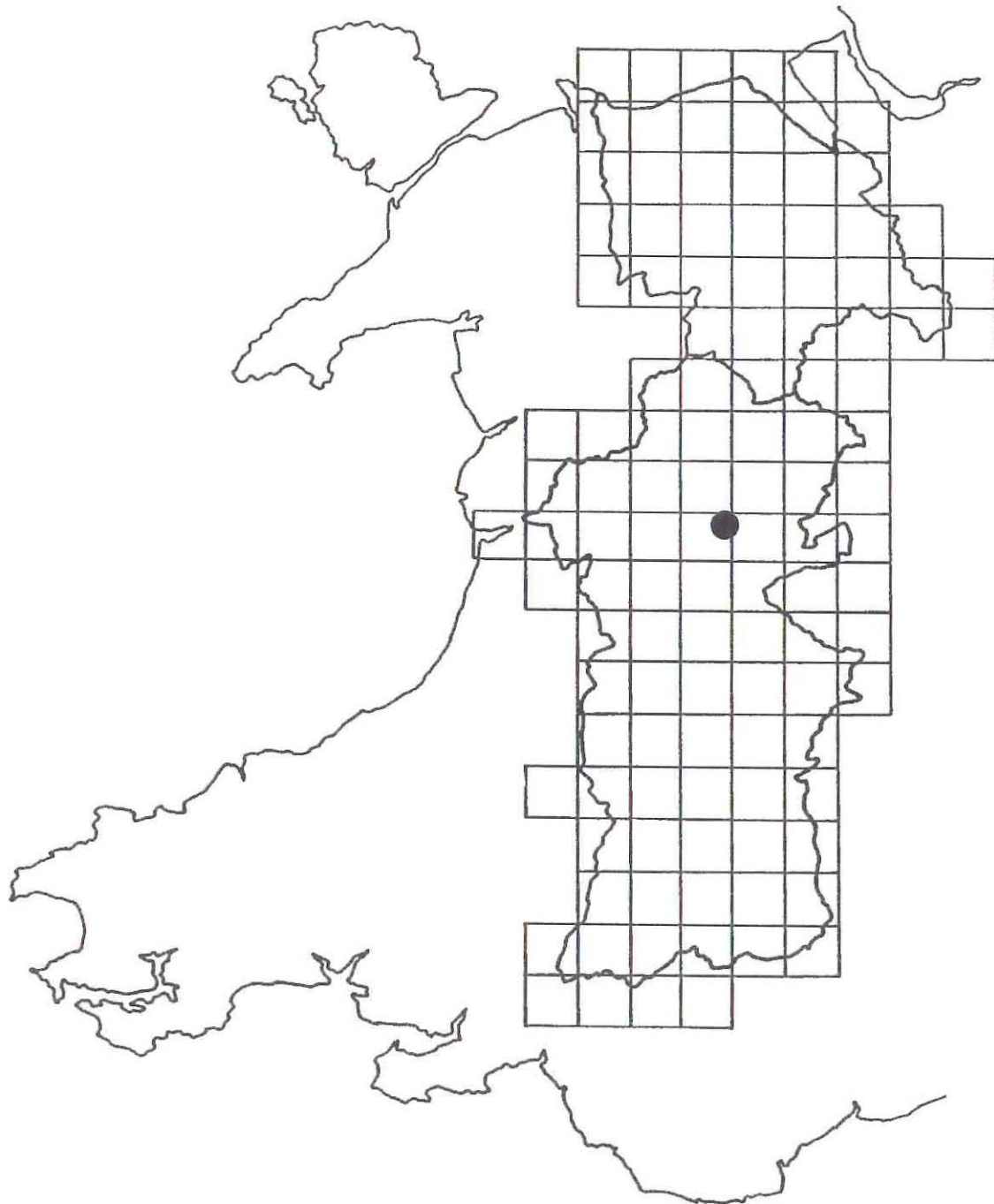


THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Tregynon Moat, Tregynon, Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION



CPAT Report No 117

CPAT Report No 117

Tregynon Moat, Tregynon, Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

by W G Owen

November 1994

Report prepared for Montgomeryshire District Council

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL

tel (0938) 553670, fax 552179

© CPAT 1994

1 Introduction

1.1 In July 1994, Montgomeryshire District Council, acting in their capacity as agents for Severn-Trent Water plc, applied to Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments for Scheduled Monument Consent to replace a structurally defective five-metre length of public foul sewer located within the scheduled area of a moated site (Mg 204) at Tregynon, Powys.

1.2 In October 1994, consent was granted by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments subject to certain conditions. These were designed to ensure that there was adequate provision for the recording of archaeological features that might be revealed during the course of the proposed work and that the level of disturbance to the monument was kept to a minimum.

1.3 Included in the several conditions attached to the consent granted were the following:

1.3.1 That the works should be restricted to a trench of maximum dimensions of 5.0m in length, 1.0m in width and 3.5m in depth

1.3.2 That the trench should be hand-dug to its maximum horizontal measurements and to a depth of 1.0m by a previously approved archaeologist

1.3.3 That a watching brief should be maintained by an approved archaeologist on any necessary further deepening of the trench carried out by the contractor

1.4 In October 1994, the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) were asked by Montgomeryshire District Council to submit a quotation for the archaeological excavation and watching brief and CPAT Contracting were subsequently commissioned to carry out the work as specified.

2 Location, Topography and Soils

2.1 The Tregynon Moated Site (SO 097 983), which is probably of late medieval date (Spurgeon 1978), is located on flat pasture land (160m OD), to the south of the Bechan Brook and to the north-east of the junction of the B4389 from Bettws Cedewain with the unclassified Newtown-Tregynon road (Fig 1). It is the most westerly of nine moated sites known in Montgomeryshire (Spurgeon 1975).

2.2 Soils in the area are generally slowly permeable fine silts and clays of the Cegin and Denbigh 1 associations both of which are derived from Palaeozoic slatey mudstone and siltstone drift.

3 The Excavation and Watching Brief

3.1 Work at the site was carried out on 31 October and 1 November 1994 by two archaeologists from CPAT Contracting.

3.2 The precise position and dimensions of the trench were

marked out by Mr K Beddoes of Montgomeryshire District Council prior to excavation.

3.3 The turf layer was removed and stacked for re-use at a later time when the area was reinstated by the contractor. Topsoil was then removed manually to a level when it became clear that the edge of the original pipe trench followed almost exactly the north-east/south-west centre-line of the excavated area. Redeposited material from the pipe trench was then removed to a maximum depth of 0.57m below turf-level at the north-east end and 0.25m at the south-west end at which depths a layer of concrete was exposed. As it seemed certain that this lay immediately over the sewer pipe it was not removed.

3.4 The undisturbed south-east facing section was cleaned, photographed and recorded at a scale of 1:10.

3.5 Subsequent excavation within the trench was undertaken by the contractors and involved the removal of the concrete layer and the damaged ceramic sewer pipe underlying it. This exposed an additional 0.30m of the undisturbed section which was also recorded. The depth anticipated in the conditions attached to the Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent was not reached.

4 The Section (Fig 2)

4.1 At this point on the circuit of the bank, there were only slight surface indications of its former existence in contrast to other sections of the perimeter, notably on the south-east side, where survival is better. This was reflected in the profile and section that was exposed: it was heavily truncated probably largely due to ploughing. In section, clayey-silt layers 2, 3 and 4 represented agricultural processes with a layer of mottling and discontinuous iron panning at the interface of layers 2 and 3 possibly signalling a period of turf regrowth followed by further deposition. A layer of coarse, grey silty gravel (7), which was truncated at the south-west by the edge of the ditch, and layer 8, a coarse, reddish-yellow silty gravel underlay this sequence. These were interpreted as natural alluvial deposits.

4.2 At the south-western end of the section were layer 5, a yellowish-grey, compact clayey-silt, and layer 6, a stiff, grey silty clay which extended to the base of the exposed section. Both were vertically truncated and represented silting layers within the ditch.

4.3 No finds, other than late post-medieval pottery sherds from the topsoil layer, were recovered from the excavated area and no structural features such as post holes were exposed.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Although the excavation yielded no dating evidence or structural features, the section examined was informative to the extent that the truncated stratigraphic sequence within both the bank and the ditch gave some indication of the severity of past erosion, probably caused largely by ploughing.

6 Acknowledgements

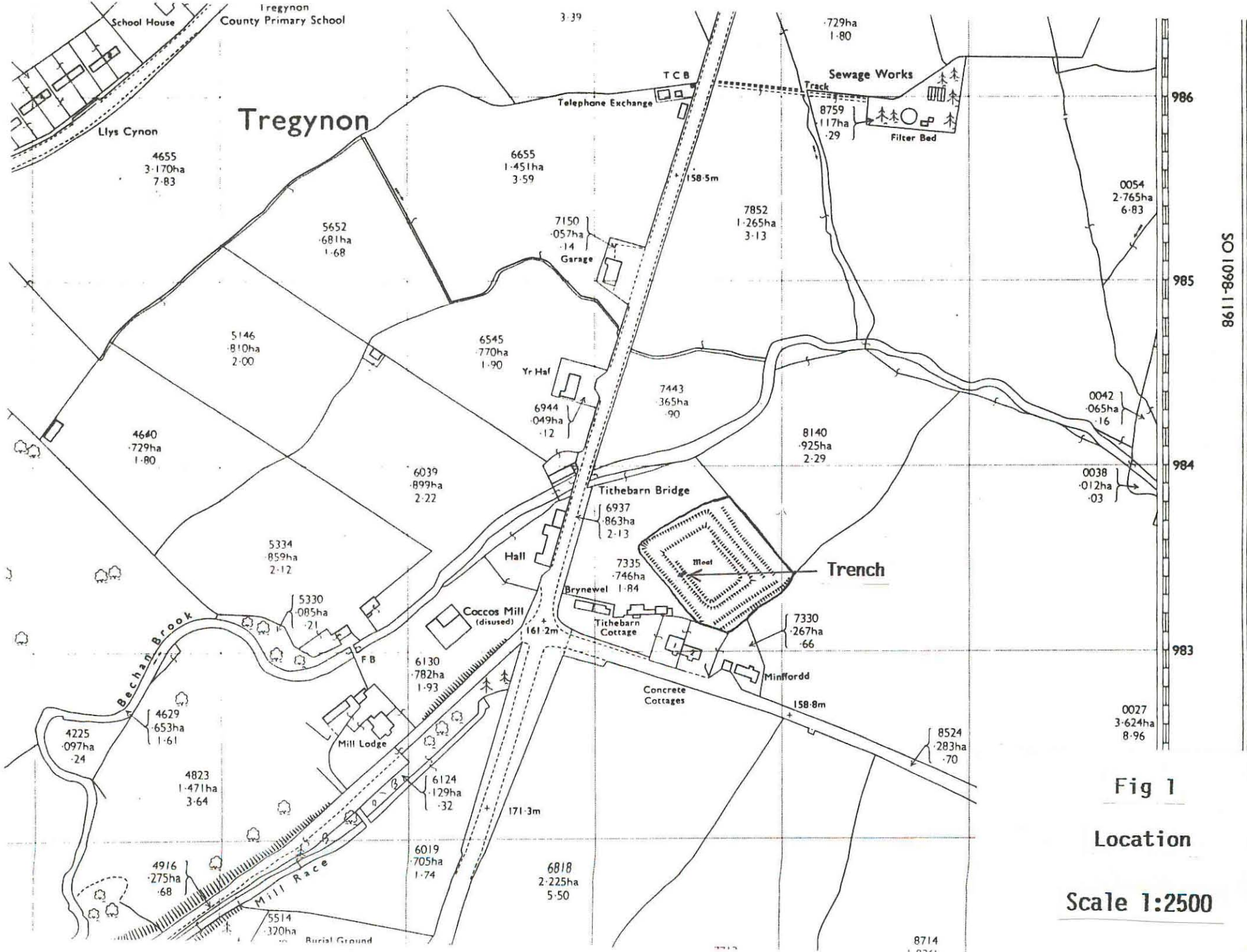
6.1 The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust would like to acknowledge the cooperation and assistance given by Mr Keith Beddoes of Montgomeryshire District Council, by the contractor Mr Richard Thomas, and by the owner of the site, Mr T.J. Preece during the course of the excavation.

7 Bibliography

Rudeforth, C.C., Hartnup, R., Lea, J.W., Thompson, T.R.E., Wright, P.S., 1984 Soils and their use in Wales (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Bulletin No 11)

Spurgeon, C.J., 1975 'Tregynon Moat', Archaeol. in Wales 15, 66

Spurgeon, C.J., 1978 'Medieval Moated Sites in Wales' Archaeol. in Wales 18, 18-29.



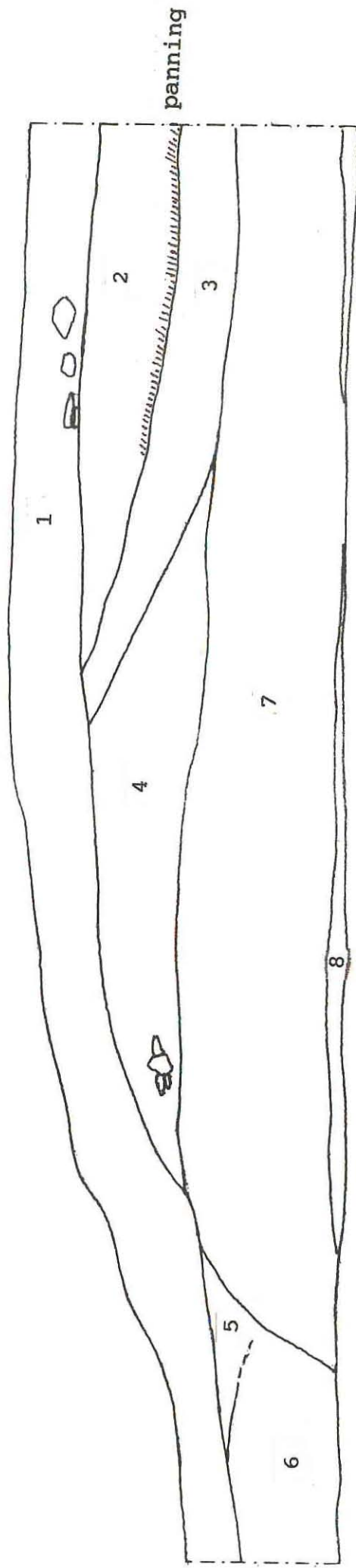


Fig 2

Section

Scale 1:20