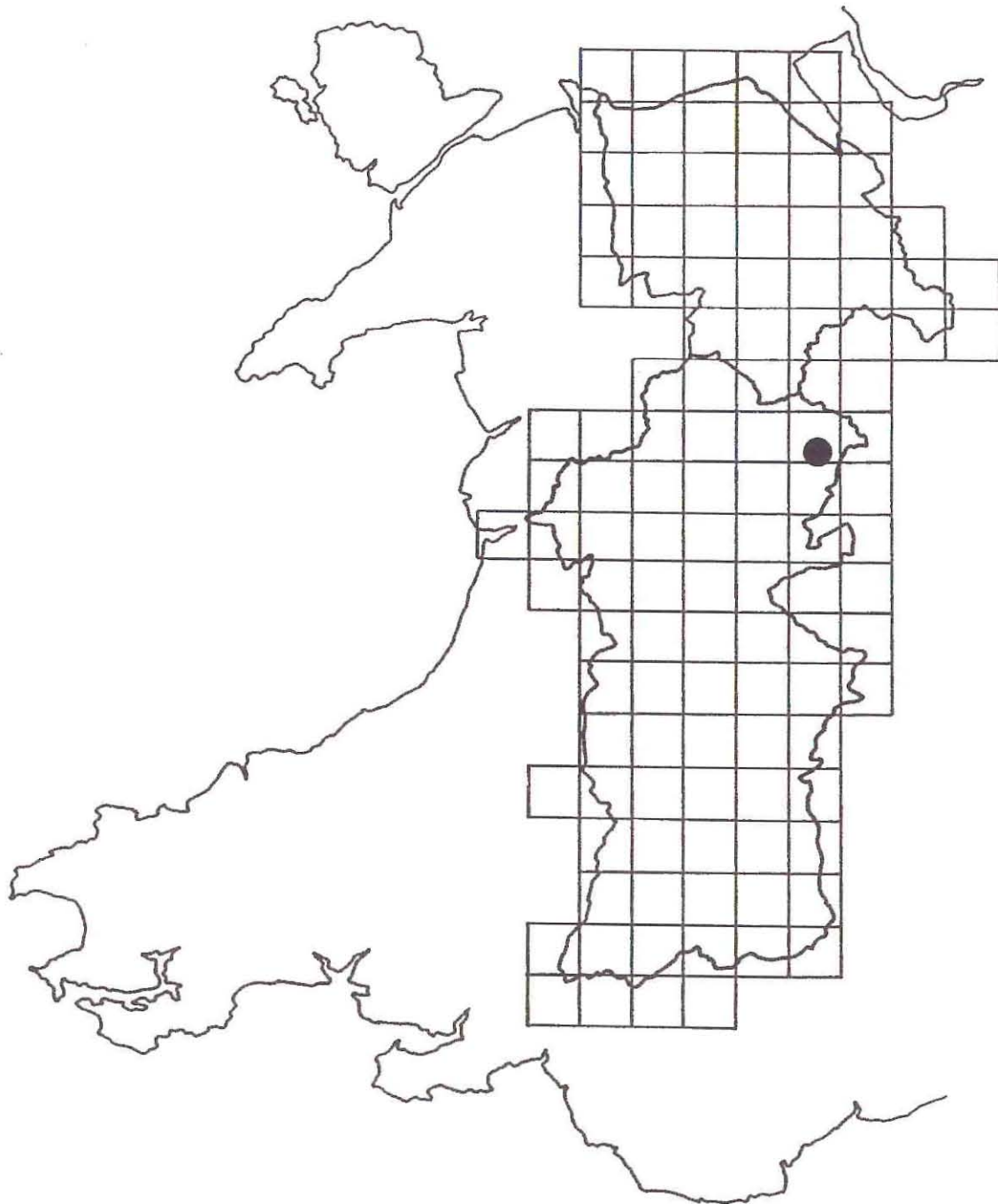


THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

A483 Pool Quay Improvement, Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



CPAT Report No 161

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by **W.G.Owen**
November 1995

Report prepared for Powys County Council Dept. of Highways and Transportation

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

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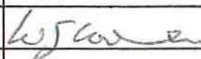
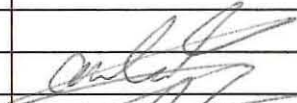
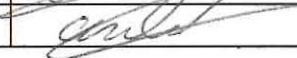
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CPAT Report Record

Report and status

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prepared by	N.G. OWEN		19-11-1995
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT) was commissioned in November 1995 by the Powys Highways Engineering Consultancy to carry out a Stage 1/2A Archaeological Assessment of a proposed road improvement scheme on an 800m length of the A483 Trunk Road at Pool Quay, Powys.

1.2 This archaeological assessment had previously been requested by the Curatorial Section of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting in their role as archaeological advisors to Powys County Council Department of Highways and Transportation. A brief for the archaeological assessment was subsequently prepared, which recognised that the road corridor might have a high archaeological potential beyond what was recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record (hereafter County SMR). A programme of work was therefore proposed to assess the impact of proposed improvement on the archaeological resource within the corridor. This consisted of a rapid desk-top survey of available documentary and cartographic information relating to the area (Stage 1), followed by a walked survey of the corridor (Stage 2).

1.3 A report summarising the data resulting from both surveys would then be produced identifying areas of 'greater' and 'lesser' archaeological sensitivity within the corridor and making broad recommendations on the siting of a route with a view to avoid or cause minimum damage to the archaeological sites.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND LAND-USE (Fig 1)

2.1 The proposed road improvement corridor (centred at SJ 2575 1170) consists of a block of land extending approximately 100m each side of the A483 Trunk Road at Pool Quay. The southern boundary is some 120m south of Mill Farm at SJ 2550 1110 and, to the north, the corridor terminates at a point 250m north of Crowther Hall at SJ 2594 1244.

2.2 The western boundary of the corridor follows the general line of the Montgomeryshire Canal to the east of which the land, which is mainly pasture, falls gradually to the Severn floodplain on the eastern side of the A483.

3 THE DESK-TOP STUDY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The desk-top study included consultation of sources contained in the County SMR. Reference was also made to sources held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth, the Powys Archives, County Records Office, Powys County Council, Llandrindod Wells and Welshpool Library.

3.2 Documentary Sources

3.2.1 In the late twelfth and the early thirteenth century, the focal point of the area was undoubtedly Strata Marcella Abbey (SJ 2515 1040), founded by the Cistercian Order in 1170 and chartered by King John in 1200 and which was located some 700m south of present-day Pool Quay. Its monastic lands included all of that which is within the study area. A water mill is thought to have been located to the north of the abbey possibly on the site of the present day Mill Farm where its leat deriving water from the Severn 500m to the south is still visible (Williams 1990). It has also been conjectured that the abbey's riverine landing stage was located at Pool Quay (Williams 1990) and there is a record of rafts of timber being floated downstream from the vicinity in 1285 (Davies 1935).

3.2.2 In 1608, Pool Quay was referred to as 'New Quay' and in 1774 as the 'Quay of Welsh Poole' (Davies 1935). the latter perhaps implying that this was the highest navigable point on the River Severn at the time. As such, it would have served the whole of the Severn Valley above this point.

3.2.3 As well as for topographical reasons, one of the reasons why the Severn was not navigable much further to the south of Pool Quay was that a weir had been constructed some 700m to the south. The date of its construction is unclear. It may have had its origin in the thirteenth century (Field 1882) but A.S. Davies attributes its construction to c 1674 when the Pool Quay Forge was built. The water-power thus generated did enable several industries to become established during the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. These including a corn mill, a flannel and woollen factory, a saw-mill and an iron forge. It is also recorded that lead ore from the Llangynog mines was smelted at this location (Field 1882; Davies 1940; Pugh 1942) and that the smelter was later converted into a barites crushing plant. It has also been suggested that the water necessary for smelting was derived from three pools in the vicinity one of which was located to the west of the Powys Arms Hotel (Davies 1940). In

addition to the above industries, there was a well-documented record of the export of timber possibly commencing as early as the thirteenth century (Par 3.2.1) and which continued at least into the first half of the nineteenth century (Hughes 1983). The field to the south of the tight meander in the river at Pool Quay was known as Swan Wharf which was the stocking yard for timber (Davies 1933; Hughes 1983).

3.2.4 Other buildings in Pool Quay were associated with the presence of the quay and the mills. Some of the small cottages located at the rear of the Powys Arms Hotel may date to the 18th century but many others were demolished in the 19th and early 20th centuries (Pugh 1942). Buildings which remain are the warehouse to the south of the hotel (SJ 2556 1133) and the brick building now called Manor House and Severn View which is said to have been used as a warehouse in the 18th century (Pugh 1942; Haslam 1979) and later as the maltster's residence and offices (Hughes 1983).

3.2.5 After the arrival of the Montgomeryshire canal at Pool Quay, the variety of trade broadened (Hughes 1983) and there was a commensurate increase in the number of buildings in the village. An example of this within the study area are the maltings buildings alongside the canal (SO 2558 1154;) and the lock-keepers cottage a few yards to the north. The maltster's residence and offices have been previously referred to (Par 3.2.4).

3.3 Cartographic Sources (Figs 2 - 4)

3.3.1 The earliest available map of the area dates to 1618 (Powis Castle Estates Archive M141). This is, unfortunately, fragmentary and, therefore, of limited value to this study.

3.3.2 The Enclosure Award map of 1800 (Fig 2) shows the position of the quay on the river meander at Pool Quay and also shows the position of the mill complex to the south then referred to as Quay Mill. It does not, however, show that there was a leat and tailrace pool associated with it. This may have been an omission, however. It is of interest to note that the field in which the mill stood is referred to as Great Abbey Meadow, a direct reference to Strata Marcella Abbey. The map does not show that the Montgomeryshire Canal had arrived by that time.

3.3.3 The 1840 Tithe Map for the Township of Tirmynach (Fig 3) , however, does indicate the line of the canal. The wharf area is also shown as is the tail-race of the mill open to the Severn. The leat is not shown possibly because it was beyond the township and parish boundary.

3.3.4 The Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd Edition Sheets of 1886 and 1902 respectively are virtually identical in their detail. Both show that the structure of the village had remained substantially unchanged since 1840. They also show two narrow pathways extending from the main road to the waterside but there are no clear indications that the quay still functioned.

4 FIELD SURVEY (Fig 5)

4.1 A rapid field walked survey was carried out on November 6th, 1995 over the whole of the corridor. Wherever possible, the area was covered by walking along 30m transects as required by the Curatorial brief and all archaeological features seen, both previously known and 'new' sites were recorded on a 1:2500 map and described and photographed as specified.

4.2 Six sites recorded in the County SMR were visited during the course of the field survey. Nine other sites were recorded which were not included in the County SMR.

4.3 The sites described below are categorized in grades A - F according to their relative importance, vulnerability and potential for further evaluation as defined in the Department of Transport's 'Design Manual for Roads and Bridges'

5 KNOWN SITES IDENTIFIED DURING DESKTOP SURVEY

5.1 PRN 16453 Pool Quay Churchyard (SJ 2576 1185)

5.1.1 A rectangular churchyard contemporary with St John's Parish Church and extending over a level area of c2500sq.m. A footpath to the south of the church extends from the road to the canal.

Category A

5.2 PRN 16937 St John's Parish Church (SJ 2576 1185)

5.2.2 The church, built of stone in 1863, consists of nave and chancel with an aisle on the north side. The bell-stage and spire is a wooden structure.

Category A

5.3 PRN 17919 Pool Quay Landing Port (SJ 256 113)

5.3.1 Possible location of the Pool Quay landing stage denoted in cartographic sources. No structural remains were noted in this overgrown area.

Category E

5.4 PRN 19268 Pool Quay School (SJ 2583 1207)

5.4.1 The school was built in 1863 at the instigation of the Earl of Powis and is thus contemporary with the church. It appears to have replaced an earlier school of which no trace remains (Pugh 1942). It is brick-built with fine leaded windows and is now a private residence.

Category E

5.5 PRN 20891 Pool Quay Mills (SJ 2550 1108)

5.5.1 The site of the industrial complex referred to in Par 3.2.3. Currently 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 (Miss Ridge pers.comm.). The dimensions of this rectangular structure are 13.5m N-S x 7.5m E-W and it is a two - storied, the upper storey being used as the byre and hay-barn. The lower storey is c 1.30m high with brick and concrete pillars and concrete pillars supporting the floor beams of the upper storey. A gap in the wall on the west side opens on to the pit which formerly housed the water-wheel (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.

5.5.2 A brick-built structure with a dressed-stone basal course(dimensions 10.5m N-S x 5.5m E-W) to the east of the mill building may have been the site of the forge. However, no firm structural evidence remains were seen to support this possibility.

5.5.3 The leat extends some 100m to the southern boundary of the study area and beyond. At its widest point, the leat is approximately 10m wide.

5.5.4 The elongated pond to the north of the buildings has the foundations of a stone-built structure on its west bank (SJ 2550 1111). This is shown on the 1840 Tithe map and was extant at least up to 1903 the date of publication of the OS 2nd Edition Sheet. Cartographic sources show that originally the pond was open to the Severn at its northern end at least up to 1954. It must also have

been continuous with the leat from the south, forming its tail-race although this was not clearly seen in the field.

5.5.5 No structural features of the Woollen Factory formerly located adjacent to the road remain.

Category B

5.6 PRN 30781; PRN 30782 Pool Quay Manor (SJ25 11)

5.6.1 This listed building is brick-built and two storied with dormers and a steeply-pitched roof. PRN 30872 the southern part of the building, is a separate dwelling and formerly housed the Post Office. Currently, it is an antiques shop. The northern part of the building (PRN 30782), is a private residence.

Category A

6 NEW SITES RECORDED DURING THE FIELD SURVEY

6.1 Site A1 Pelton-wheel at Crowther Hall (SJ 2580 1222)

6.1 This site is located against the northern wall of a former farm building. The wheel, which is 1.75m diameter is housed in a race 4.25 x 2.5m. The water supply necessary for its operation was probably derived from the canal to the west. An iron pipe partly visible to the west of the end wall of the wheel race may have been for this purpose.

Category C

6.2 Site A2 Malting Building (SJ 2557 1154)

6.2.1 The building which formerly housed the drying kilns and engine for malting is an L-shaped structure located on the eastern side of the canal towpath. Dimensions are 30.0m N-S x 24.0m E-W. The building is ruinous at its southern end and its northern end is a private dwelling.

Category B

6.3 Site A3 Warehouse Building (SJ2557 1132)

6.3.1 A rectangular, brick-built building 8.0m N-S x 5.0m E-W with a steeply-pitched roof. A doorway is located in the east-facing wall and the apex of the northern gable is open.

Category B

6.4 Site A4 Site of Former Cider-Mill (SJ 2507 1105)

6.4.1 The site is located close to the west bank of the mill-leat. There are no structural features visible but eight massive fragments of the press are scattered over an area of c 50sq.m. It is uncertain whether this is the original site of the mill or whether the stones were carried there from another location. Cartographic sources do not show a building at this location.

Category E

6.5 Site A5 Building Platform (SJ 2561 1144)

6.5.1 A level platform 17.0m E-W x 9.00m N-S with slate slabs forming possible floor in western half and brick at eastern end. No wall foundations visible. A single square, dressed sandstone 0.30m x 0.30m x 0.25m at south-west corner may have originally been removed from the site of Strata Marcella. This may possibly be Dyers Farm Cottage recorded as PRN 8904 in the County SMR. A building in this position is shown on the 1840 Tithe Map but later maps indicate that it was demolished at some time after 1904.

Category C

6.6 Site A6 Possible Track or Road (SJ 2568 1173 - SJ 25731183)

6.6.1 A low bank c 11.0m wide extending in a straight line from the south-west corner of Field 7477, 110m to the southern boundary of the churchyard. It is not visible in the churchyard but reappears in the field to the north. Cartographic sources do not show this feature either as a field boundary or a track.

Category C

6.7 Site A7 Lynchet (centred at SJ 2571 1187)

6.7.1 A lynchet c 0.60m high extending in a broad arc adjacent to the western boundary of the cemetery.

Category D

6.8 Site A8 Ridge and Furrow Cultivation Strips (Centred at SJ 2575 1164)

6.8.1 An area of discontinuous and sometimes faint cultivation strips aligned east-west down the slope of the field. At the eastern end they appear to terminate at a north/south aligned lynchet.

Category D

6.9 Site A9 Site of Pond (SJ 2555 1139)

6.9.1 A steep-sided infilled pond 40.0m N-S x 24.0m E-W x 2.0m deep at SW corner. This is probably the pond referred to in Par 3.2.3 above.

7 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Six sites previously recorded in the County SMR and nine 'new' sites were recorded during the course of the field survey were within the proposed road corridor.

7.2 Sites varied in their archaeological importance from the obviously important Church and Listed Building sites to sites of lesser significance such as the ridge and furrow at Site A8. According to their importance, each has been categorized according to the guidelines specified in the brief.

7.3 In order that damage to archaeological sites is minimized, a route to the east of the village of Pool Quay is recommended. This route, however, should avoid the Mill Farm complex of sites.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CPAT Contracting would like to acknowledge the kind help and interest of all landowners and occupiers during the course of the survey. Thanks are also due to the staffs of the National Library of Wales and the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Buildings in Wales, Aberystwyth, the staff of the Powys Records Office, Llandrindod Wells and the staff of Welshpool Library.

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Tithe Map of Tirmynach Parish, 1840 (Powys County Record Office)

1st Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25" map (1886) Sheet 16 SW (National Library of Wales)

2nd Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25" map (1902) Sheet 16 SW (Powys County Record Office)

APPENDIX 1

A483 SWANSEA TO MANCHESTER TRUNK ROAD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH POOL QUAY

SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

1.1 The proposed development of a block of land at Pool Quay, Powys involves groundworks related to the improvement of the main road through the settlement.

1.2 This area lies 3.5km north of Welshpool and covers some 800m of the A483 north of Mill Farm (SO25501110). The improvement corridor potentially affects a corridor 100m to either side of the present road.

1.3 The Curatorial section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) in their capacity as archaeological curators for the county have determined that an Archaeological Assessment is necessary to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Accordingly a brief has been prepared by CPAT: Curatorial (No.ASB152, dated 3rd October 1995) which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

2 Objectives

2.1 The objectives of the evaluation are:

2.1.1 to reveal by desk-based assessment, the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of the archaeology within the area of the proposed development in so far as these aims are possible;

2.1.2 to identify by means of a walkover assessment sites which may hitherto have been unrecorded

2.1.3 to prepare a report outlining the results of the assessment, to identify areas where desk-top assessment alone cannot provide sufficient information and make recommendations for further work or mitigatory measures;

2.1.4 to incorporate sufficient information on the archaeological resource for a reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the area affected by the proposed development;

2.1.5 to identify and recommendations options for the management of the archaeological resource, including any further provision for that resource where it is considered necessary.

3 Methods

3.1 The assessment will be carried out according to the guidelines in the *IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Studies* and will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary records relating to the affected area, including documentary and cartographic sources. Archives and repositories will include the County Sites and Monuments Record, the County Record Office, The National Library of Wales, the National Monuments Record held at the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments (Wales) at Aberystwyth. Borehole and test-pit data will be requested from the developers where appropriate.

3.2 The assessment will be followed by a field visit to determine the state of the identified archaeology and the presence of other sites not identified from the documentary sources and to make a photographic record of the area.

3.3 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Evaluation Brief (Stage 1C). This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background;

Catalogue of sites identified with notes on their condition and significance, Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.

3.5 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991).

4 Resources and Programming

4.1 The assessment will be undertaken by a skilled and experienced archaeologist who will also be responsible for undertaking the desk-based assessment. Overall supervision will be by Dr A Gibson, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

4.2 All report preparation will be completed by the same field archaeologist who conducted the assessment.

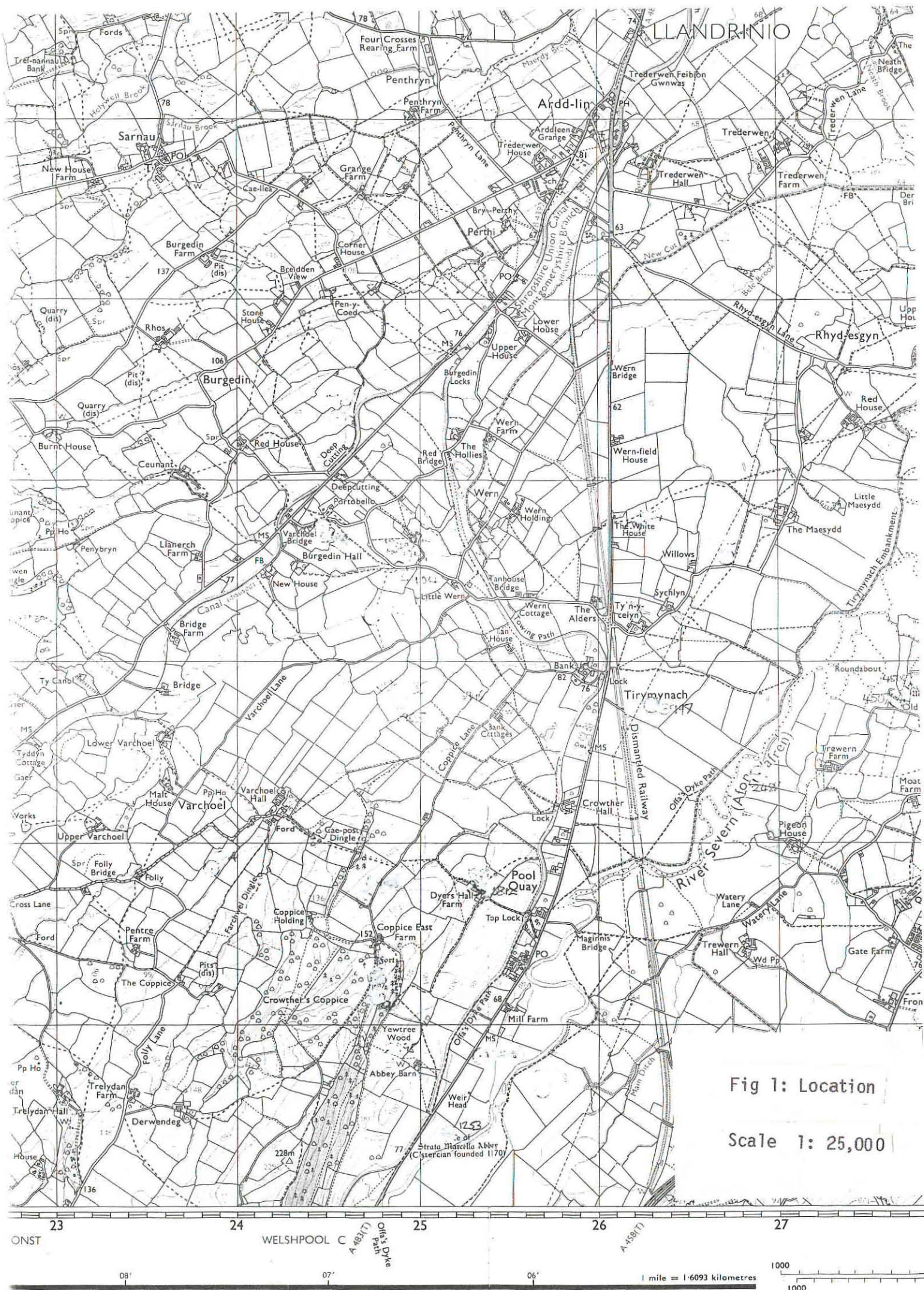
4.3 It is anticipated that the assessment and evaluation will take no more than 4 days in all and that the subsequent report would be prepared immediately thereafter, dependent on the client's instructions and the arrangement of a suitable timetable. The date of commencement, at the time of writing, has yet to be agreed with the client, and will be dependent on the state of the site and negotiated access. The archaeological curator

will be informed of the detailed timetable and staffing levels when agreement has been reached with the client.

4.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.

4.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

A.M. Gibson
13th October 1995



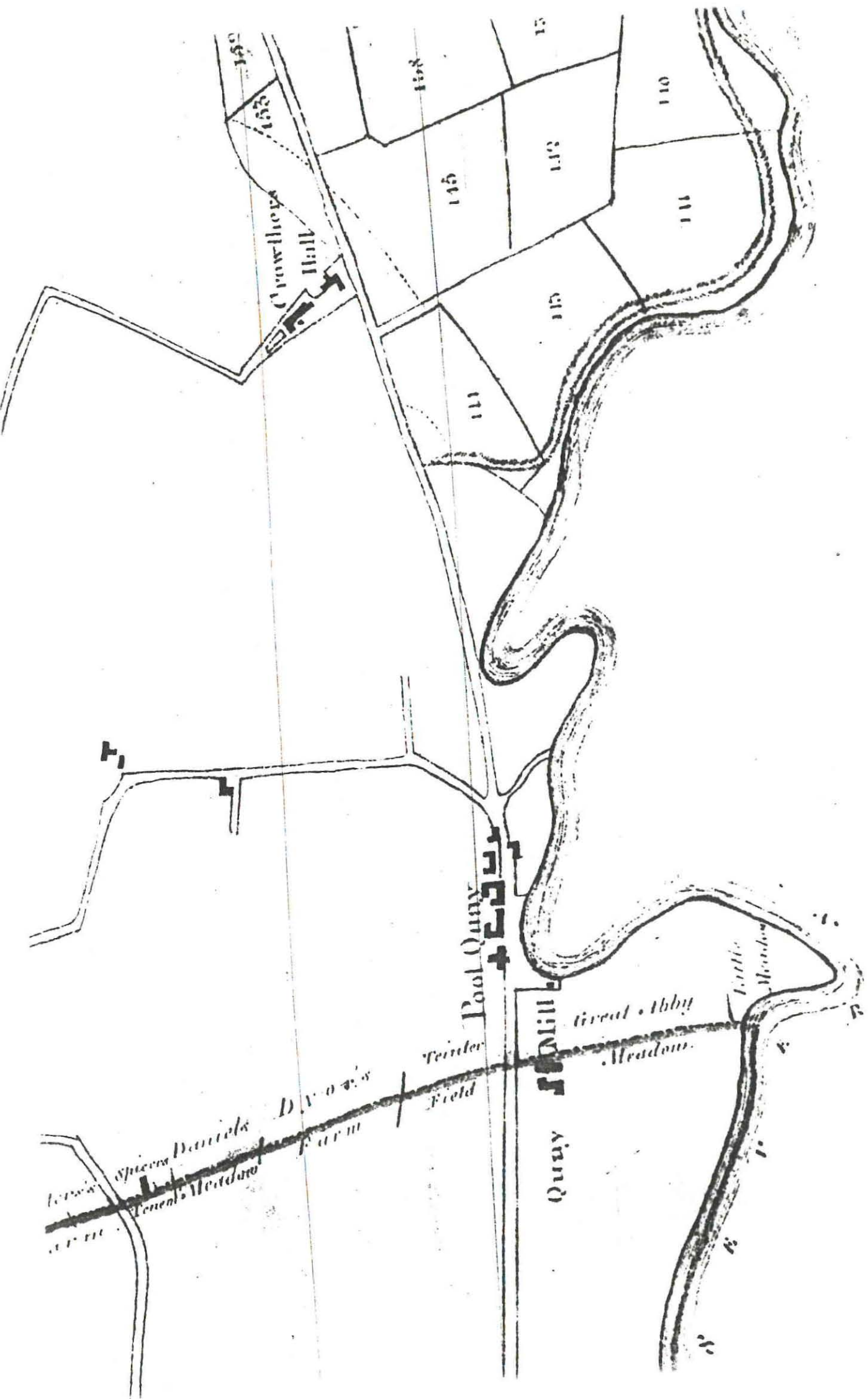


Fig 2: Extract from 1800 Enclosure Map

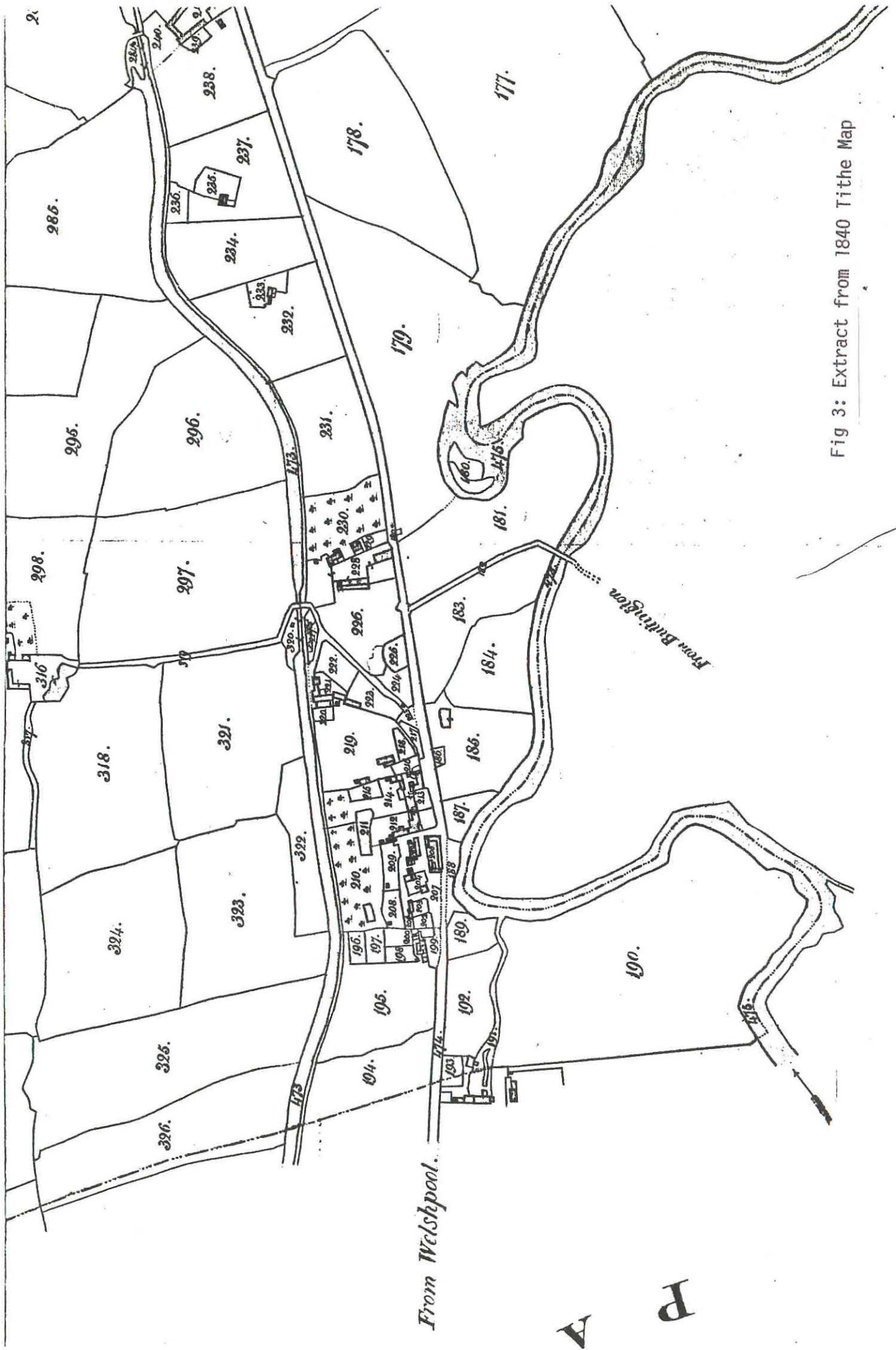


Fig 3: Extract from 1840 Tithe Map

