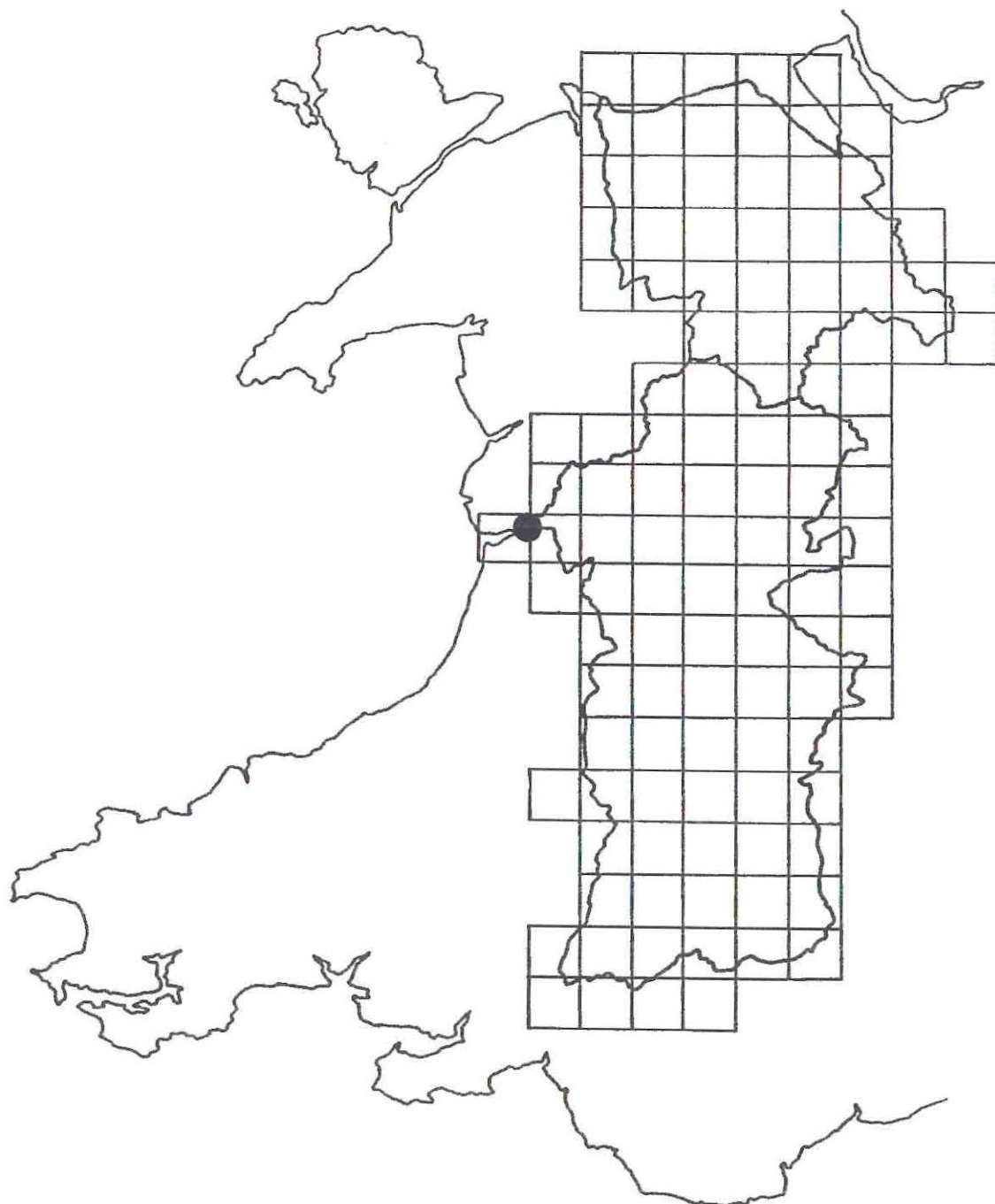


*A489 Improvement: Felingerrig to
Penegoes, Powys*
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



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by **W. G. Owen**
September 1995

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

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT) was commissioned in July 1995 by the Powys Highways Engineering Consultancy to carry out a Stage 1/2 Archaeological Assessment of a proposed road improvement scheme on a 960m length of the A489 Trunk Road between Felingerrig and Penegoes, Powys (from approximately SH 7640 0092 to SH 7738 0092). The proposed scheme would necessitate the construction of a new road alignment between these two points within a corridor 200m wide.

1.2 An archaeological assessment was 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 the possibility that the Stage 1 road corridor might have a high archaeological potential beyond what was recorded. A programme of work was therefore proposed to assess the impact of the proposed improvement on the archaeological resource of the corridor, consisting of a two stage archaeological assessment.

1.3 Stage 1 specified a rapid desk-top survey of all the relevant primary and secondary sources to provide a historical, archaeological, topographical and former land use background to the area. The brief also included a plan (scale 1:2500), of known archaeological sites based on the County Sites and Monuments Record within the corridor and these were visited to assess their degree of preservation.

1.4 The second stage of the assessment specified a rapid but systematic walked survey of the corridor in order that previously unrecorded archaeological remains could be identified, recorded on plan and commented upon in terms of their character, function, possible dating and their relative importance locally and nationally. A report summarising both stages would then be produced indicating the relative importance of the sites and assessing the potential impact of the road improvement scheme. Broad recommendations as to the siting of a route within the corridor would also be made with a view to avoidance or minimizing damage to archaeological sites.

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

2.1 The proposed road improvement corridor (centred at approximately SH 7690 0092) consists of a block of land extending approximately 100m to the north and south of the A 489 trunk road. The western boundary is some 400m east of Felingerrig Bridge at SH 7640 0082, whilst the eastern corridor boundary is at the junction of the A 489 with an unclassified road at SH 7737 0092.

2.2 The corridor is overlooked from the north by south-facing slopes of Gallt-y-Llan and which are included in the corridor in its north-western quadrant. Elsewhere, the ground is relatively flat or only slightly sloping with Afon Crewi running westwards at the base of the valley.

2.3 Land-use is primarily pastoral apart from the woodland areas of Coed Gallt-y-Llan and Coed Pant-y-glo to the north-west.

3 DESKTOP STUDY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The desktop study included consultation of the County Sites and Monuments Record, and the aerial photographic archive and other data held by the Curatorial Section of CPAT in Welshpool. Records held by the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth and those held by the Powys County Records Office, Llandrindod Wells were also consulted.

3.2 Cartographic Sources (Figs 2-4)

3.2.1 The earliest cartographic reference relating to Penegoes which was identified was an estate drawing contained in the Wynnstay Deposit of 1952 held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. This formed part of a Survey of Valuation of the Estates of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn made in 1763 and which referred to the positions of a walk-mill and two water-corn mills in the area. All three are outside the proposed road corridor but one, known today as Melin Crewi is close to the eastern end of the corridor. No other detail apart from the position of St Cadfarch's Church and the road is given on this drawing.

3.2.2 The Tithe Map of 1837 (Fig 2) and the Enclosure Map of 1839 are virtually identical in their detail of the area. Apart from St Cadfarch's Church, six houses which are still extant are shown within the study area. From west to east these are Craig-yr-henffordd, Brynffynnon, The Rectory, The Penegoes Inn (now a private house), Llawr Penegoes, and Pandy. There is no reference to a well to the south-west of the church although the Tithe Apportionment refers to Field 174 in which it stands as Cae Ffynnon which is a direct reference to the presence of a spring therabouts.

3.2.3 The First and Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey Sheets (Figs 3 and 4) published in 1887 and 1901 respectively, show that only two additional buildings had been constructed since 1837. These are the school and the Lodge at the junction of the main road and the road to Gallt-y-llan. Both sheets denote two wells to the south and south-west of the school. Both are also shown on the 1948 1 inch sheet but the western one does not appear on maps later than this.

3.3 Documentary Sources

3.3.1 The earliest occurrence of the place-name Penegoes which was traced dates to 1253 (Ellis 1935) and the name persists with slight variations in spelling to the present day, although it was also referred to as Pen Egwest in the 18th and 19th centuries (Lewis 1833; Ellis 1935). This appears to refer to an association with the Cistercian Abbey Glyn y Groes or Valle Crucis which was also known as Llan Egwestl (Ellis 1935; Richards 1969; Williams 1990).

3.3.2 The church (PAR 7654), is dedicated to St. Cadfarch, and because of this, and the oval shape of the churchyard (PAR 7655), it is therefore assumed that it has a medieval origin (Silvester 1992). In the early 18th century, the incumbent rector was the father of the distinguished landscape painter Richard Wilson (1714-82) who was born at the adjacent rectory (Lewis 1833; Haslam 1979). A dedication tablet to him has been placed on the churchyard wall near the entrance. The assumed medieval church was replaced by John Prichard c.

1877 (Haslam 1979) although the slightly earlier date of 1863 is given in the Royal Commission Inventory for this event.

3.3.3 The present rectory dates to the Regency Period and replaced the earlier structure referred to above (Haslam 1979). It has a Grade II listing (Silvester 1992).

3.3.4 Reference is made to Ffynnonau Penegoes (Penegoes Springs) in the RCHAM Monmouthshire Inventory which were noted, in 1910 to be located 'on the opposite side of the road to and immediately in front of the village school'. A well is also referred to in 1833 by Samuel Lewis (Lewis 1833) and from both descriptions it may be assumed that this is the well referred to in the County Sites and Monuments Record (PAR 1276; SH 7684 0093). No early documentary references were found relating directly to the second well listed (PAR 5158; SH 7681 0093).

4 FIELD SURVEY (Figs 5-6)

4.1 A rapid field walked survey was carried out on 31 July, 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 Five previously-known sites were visited and recorded, while the field survey identified three previously un-recorded sites within the study area.

5 SITES IDENTIFIED DURING STAGE 1 DESKTOP STUDY

5.1 PRN 7655 St. Cadfarch's Church (SH 7697 0096)

5.1.1 The Church stands in a fairly central position in the corridor on the north side of the A489. Externally, it is constructed of grey stone blocks with sandstone dressings and is roofed in slate. The entrance porch is near the south-west corner. Internally, it is constructed in yellow brick with red and black diapering and the nave is separated from the chancel by a crossing. The ceiling is of wagon design and probably of oak. Both lancet and trefoiled windows are present and there is a wheel window at the west end. Interestingly, the church is not aligned east-west as is usual, but is on a line approximately 20 degrees north of east.

5.2 PRN 7655 St. Cadfarch's Churchyard (SH 7697 0095)

5.2.1 The churchyard covers an area of approximately 0.35Ha. Its original curvilinear boundary is mainly retained on the eastern side but is lost elsewhere. The churchyard appears to have been extended on the western side but part of the original curvilinear course, which is shown on the 1837 Tithe map, is still visible as a scarp bank some 20m east of the present west boundary wall.

5.3 PRN 7656 Penegoes Rectory (SH 7702 0083)

5.3.1 The rectory stands approximately 50m south of the main A489 road in about 0.45Ha of enclosed ground and is located on the edge of the corridor. It is a Grade II Listed Building consisting of a square-plan, of dressed slate-stone construction externally with a fairly shallow-pitched, hipped and overhanging slate roof. Adjacent to the rectory on the east side, a barn has been converted into a cottage. Elsewhere, there are several buildings some of which are in a poor state of repair. All of these are either outside the corridor or partially within it.

5.4 PRN 1276 St. Cadfarch's Church Well (SH 7684 0093)

5.4.1 This stone-lined well is aligned east-west and is subdivided into two basins by a transverse stone wall which is aligned north-south. The eastern basin measures 3.0 x 2.75m whilst the western basin is 3.75 x 2.45m. Four steps, 0.65m wide, located at the north-west corner lead down into the western basin. No other structural remains were noted indicating that the well was formerly roofed as stated by Samuel Lewis (Lewis 1833).

5.5 PRN 7657 Llawr Penegoes (SH 7726 0094)

5.5.1 This farm located close to the A489 road on its northern side consists of the original farmhouse and several farm buildings. The house which is stone-built with slate roof has a frontage approximately 15m long.

6 NEW SITES RECORDED DURING THE FIELD SURVEY

6.1 Site 1 Root Store (SH 7705 00883)

6.1.1 This structure, formerly used for the storage of root crops is built at right angles into the bank of the field boundary shown in this position. It is 4.25m long, 2.00m high and 1.00m wide with stone-lined walls and a partly-collapsed corbelled roof which was originally supported by seven curved, bentwood beams slotted into the walls. Two of these beams remain in situ at the south end, one of which forms the lintel above the entrance which is 0.97m high x 0.80m wide. This structure cannot be dated accurately but other examples which occur in Montgomeryshire are attributed to the 19th century or earlier. It is probably associated with the land formerly held by the Church, as the field in which it is located (Field 179 on the Tithe map) is part of the glebe land listed in the Tithe Apportionment. In the unlikely event that this site was on the line of a proposed road, a detailed descriptive/measured survey would be required in advance of road construction.

6.2 Site 2 Boundary Wall (SH 7697 0090)

6.2.1 The surviving length of boundary wall defining what appears to be the former orchard of the Rectory. The wall, which is c. 1.00m wide and max. 0.60m high, is constructed of coursed, unmortared slate-stone and extends from the junction of the boundary with the lane to the north-west for a total length of 14.0m in a south-westerly direction. That it is of some antiquity is indicated by the fact that the decayed stump of a former oak tree some 0.80m in diameter was located on the line of the wall through which it had grown. Rapid recording would be sufficient if this feature was on the line of a proposed

road.

6.3 Site 3 Field Boundary (centred at SH 7790 0085)

6.3.1 This existing field boundary is of interest as it appears that it represents two phases of construction. The earliest is represented by coursed slate-stone walling which is visible in places below a well-established hedge which represents the second phase. Rapid recording would be sufficient if this feature was on the line of a proposed road.

7 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Five sites which were identified in the Desktop Study and three new sites 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 house and Church sites to relatively insignificant sites such as field boundaries. According to their importance, recommendations for further archaeological work have been outlined briefly in each case.

7.3 In the event that any of the five sites identified during the Desktop Survey were threatened by road construction work a full programme of appropriate archaeological recording would be recommended. Of the three new sites, only the Root Store (Site 1) would require a detailed measured/descriptive survey, while rapid recording would be sufficient for Sites 2 and 3.

7.4 In order that damage to archaeological sites is avoided it would appear that a route to the north of St. Cadfael's Church would be the preferred option.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CPAT Contracting would like to acknowledge the kind co-operation 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 Monuments in Wales, Aberystwyth, the staff of the Powys Records Office, Llandrindod Wells.

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2nd Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25" map (1901) Sheets 25.12; 26.9 (National Library of Wales)

APPENDIX 1

A489 TRUNK ROAD: FELINGERIG - PENEGOES IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT TO BE CONDUCTED BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Background

1.1 The Engineering Consultancy operating on behalf of the Department of Highways and Transportation, Powys County Council propose to improve approximately 0.9km of the main A489 Trunk Road immediately west of the village of Penegoes near Machynlleth. The proposed improvement corridor is 200m wide, approximately 100m to each side of the present road.

1.2 It is considered by the Curatorial Section of CPAT who maintain the regional Sites and Monuments Record for Powys and act as archaeological advisers to local authorities in the region, that an archaeological assessment of the corridor within which the road improvements will occur is required because of its high archaeological potential, revealed by the number of sites of archaeological and historic interest already recorded.

1.3 These aspects has been covered in a brief (CPAT ASB 142) prepared by the Curatorial Section of CPAT for the Engineering Consultancy of Powys County Council and dated to 3rd May 1995.

2 Objectives

2.1 The initial objective of the assessment is to establish the total archaeological resource of the new road corridor from a combination of existing sources and fieldwork.

2.2 A further objective is the identification of archaeologically sensitive areas, followed by the production of broad recommendations where the archaeological resource is affected by the road proposals.

2.3 Where damage to the resource appears inevitable, an appropriate scheme of further work will be detailed.

3 Methods

3.1 Stage 1 of the assessment (in accordance with Stage 1 A.1-4 of the brief) will involve the examination of primary and secondary source material including early maps, the Powys County Sites and Monuments Record and, if available, vertical and oblique aerial photography.

3.2 Stage 1 will also include field visits to all the known sites of archaeological interest within the road corridor, as defined in the brief (CPAT ASB 142) and shown on the accompanying draft drawing, to assess their extent and condition.

3.3 Stage 2 will take the form of a structured and methodical field

examination of the road corridor. Wherever possible transect walking will attempt to identify and map previously unrecognised sites.

3.3 A report will be prepared following Stage 1 and a further report after Stage 2, providing an analysis of all data collected during the assessment. The report will be accompanied by an appropriate plan or plans. Together these will provide sufficient information on the archaeological resource for the archaeological adviser to the planning authority to assess the implications of the scheme. Appropriate recommendations will be included in the report.

4 Resources and Programming

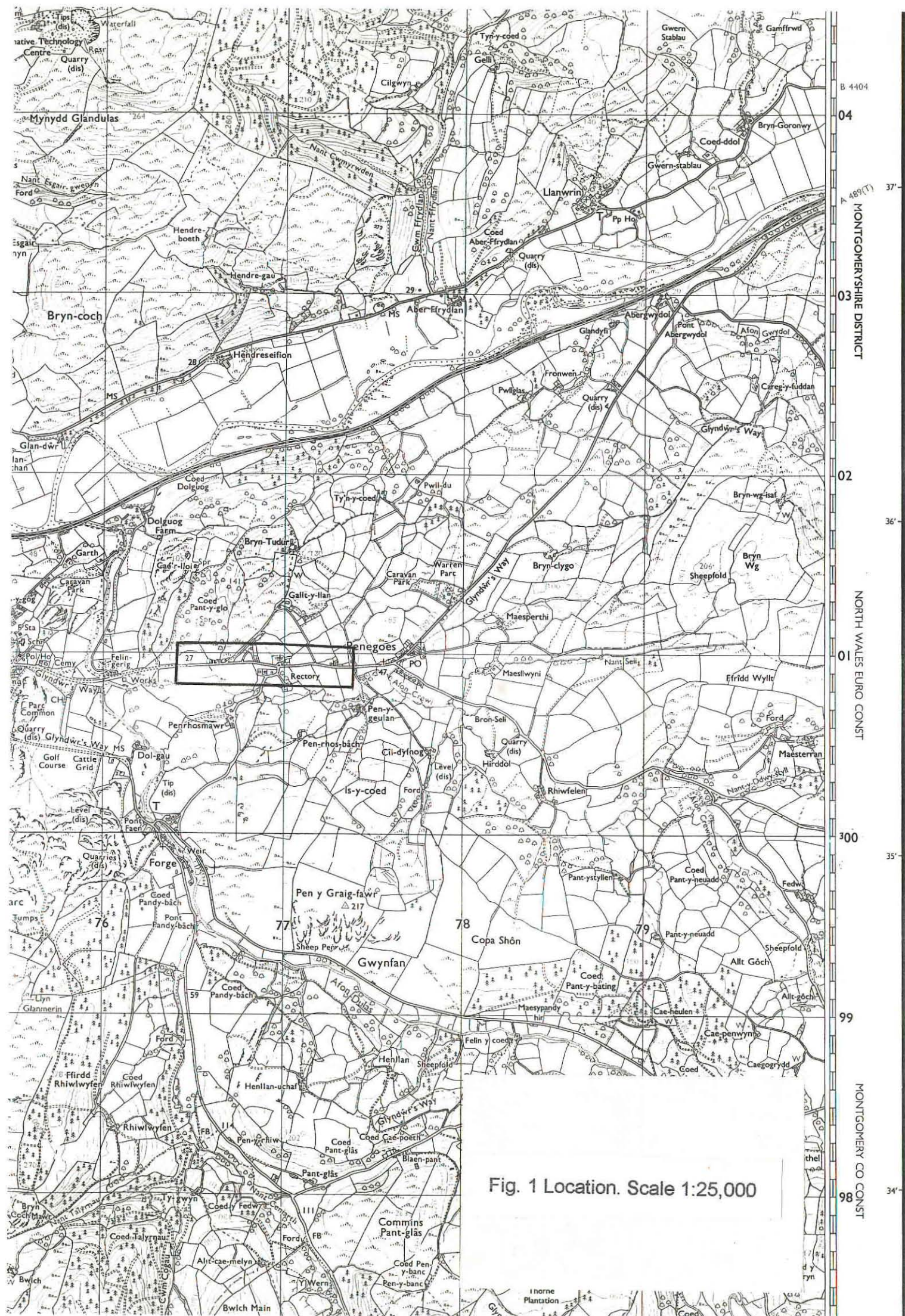
4.1 The sources search and fieldwork will be conducted by an experienced field archaeologist from CPAT under the supervision of the Deputy Director of that organisation.

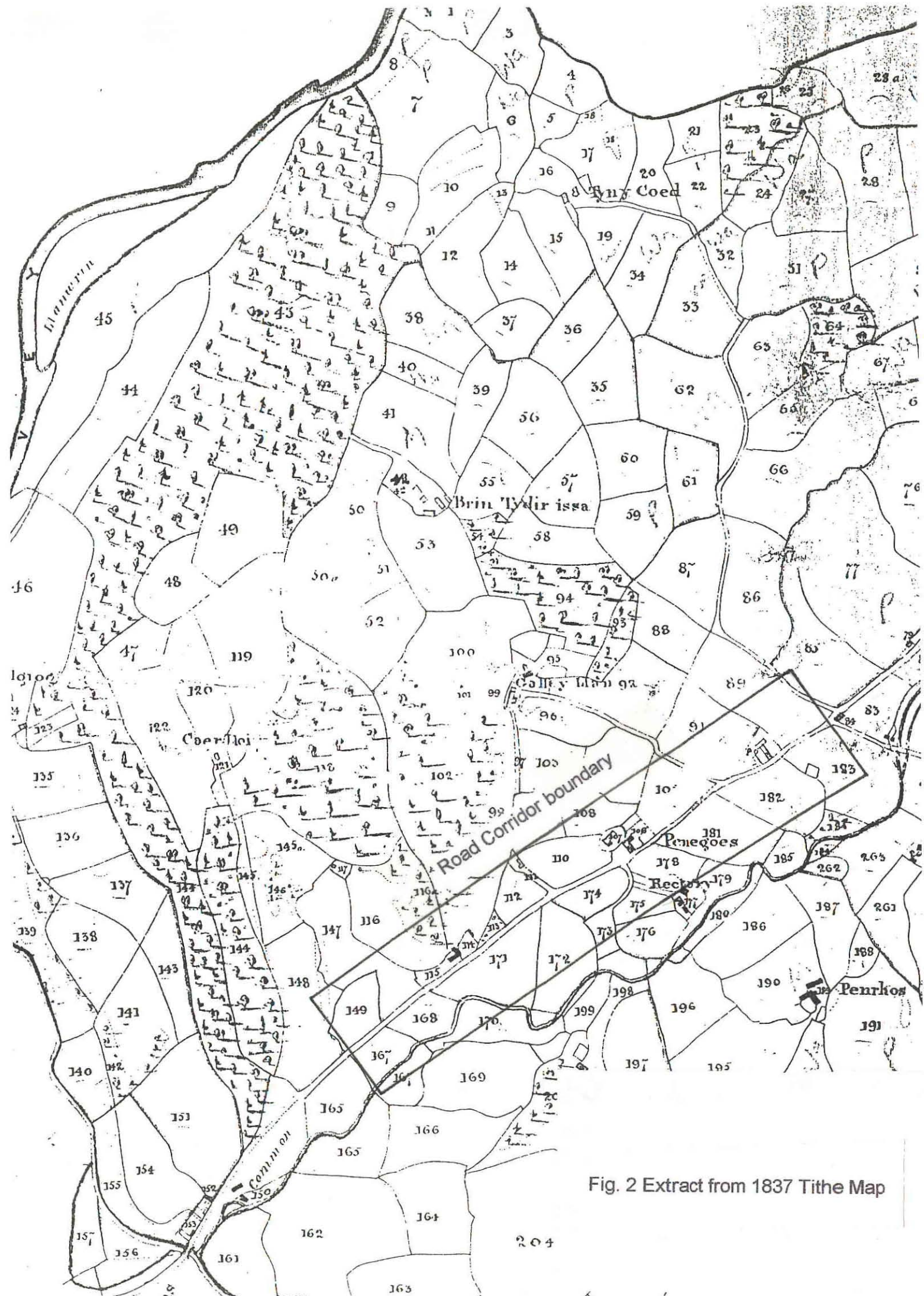
4.2 All report preparation will be completed by the same field archaeologist who conducted the fieldwork.

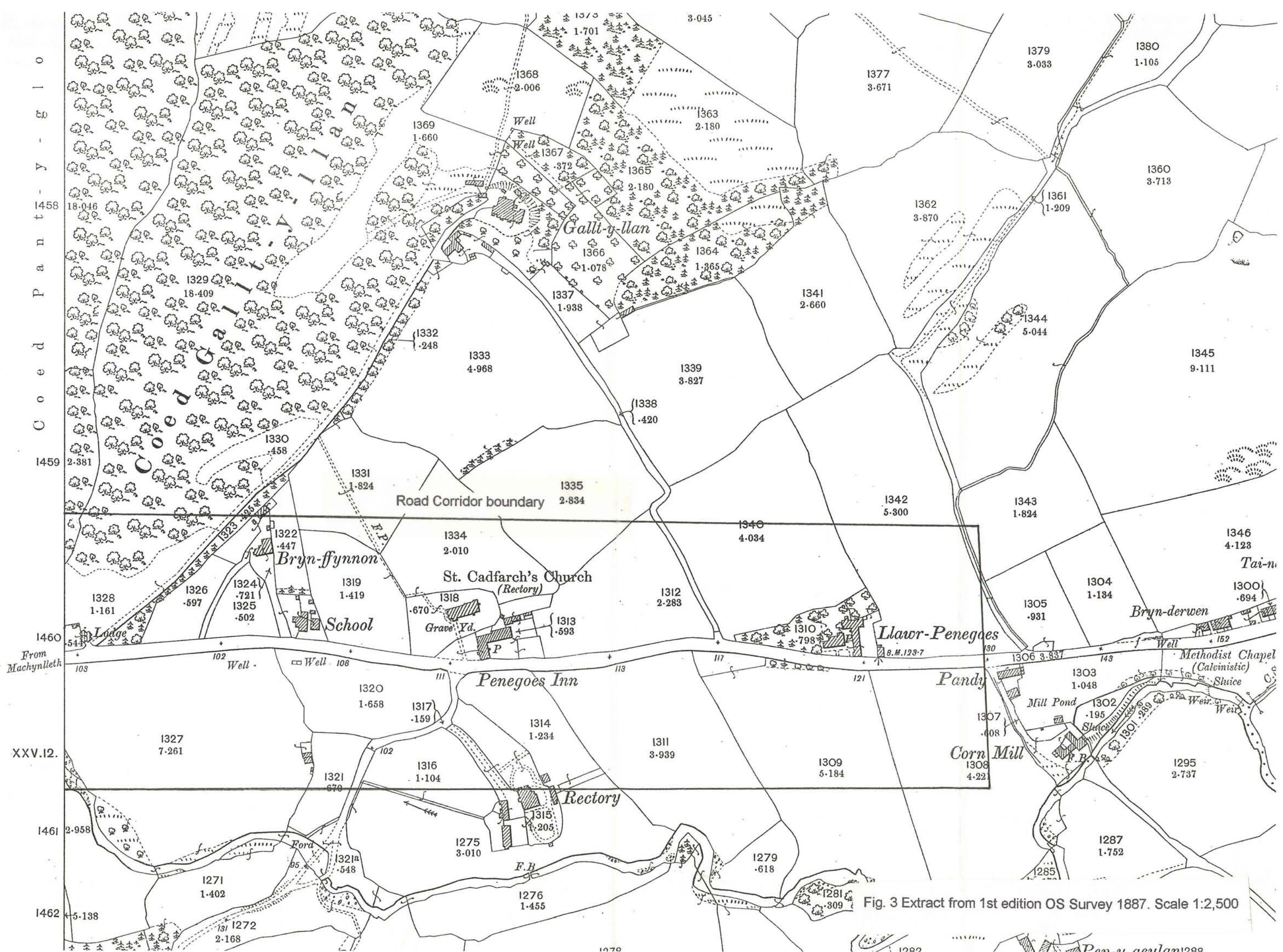
4.3 It is anticipated that the sources search and the known-site fieldwork together with a report covering these elements will be completed within three weeks of the commencement of Stage 1 of the project. It is anticipated that Stage 1 could be commenced within a minimum of two weeks and a maximum of four weeks of CPAT's quotation being accepted by the client, dependent on such variables as the weather, access and CPAT's other commitments.

4.4 A timetable for Stage 2 is dependent on the client's progress in developing the plans for the road improvement. As such no dates can be offered at present. The duration of Stage 2 should however be similar to that of Stage 1, namely its completion within three weeks of the commencement of the project.

A. M. Gibson
14th June 1995







Revision of 1900 with additions in 1948.

MONTGOMERY CO CONST

301668.9mN

77
LON 3° 49' W

78 3° 48'

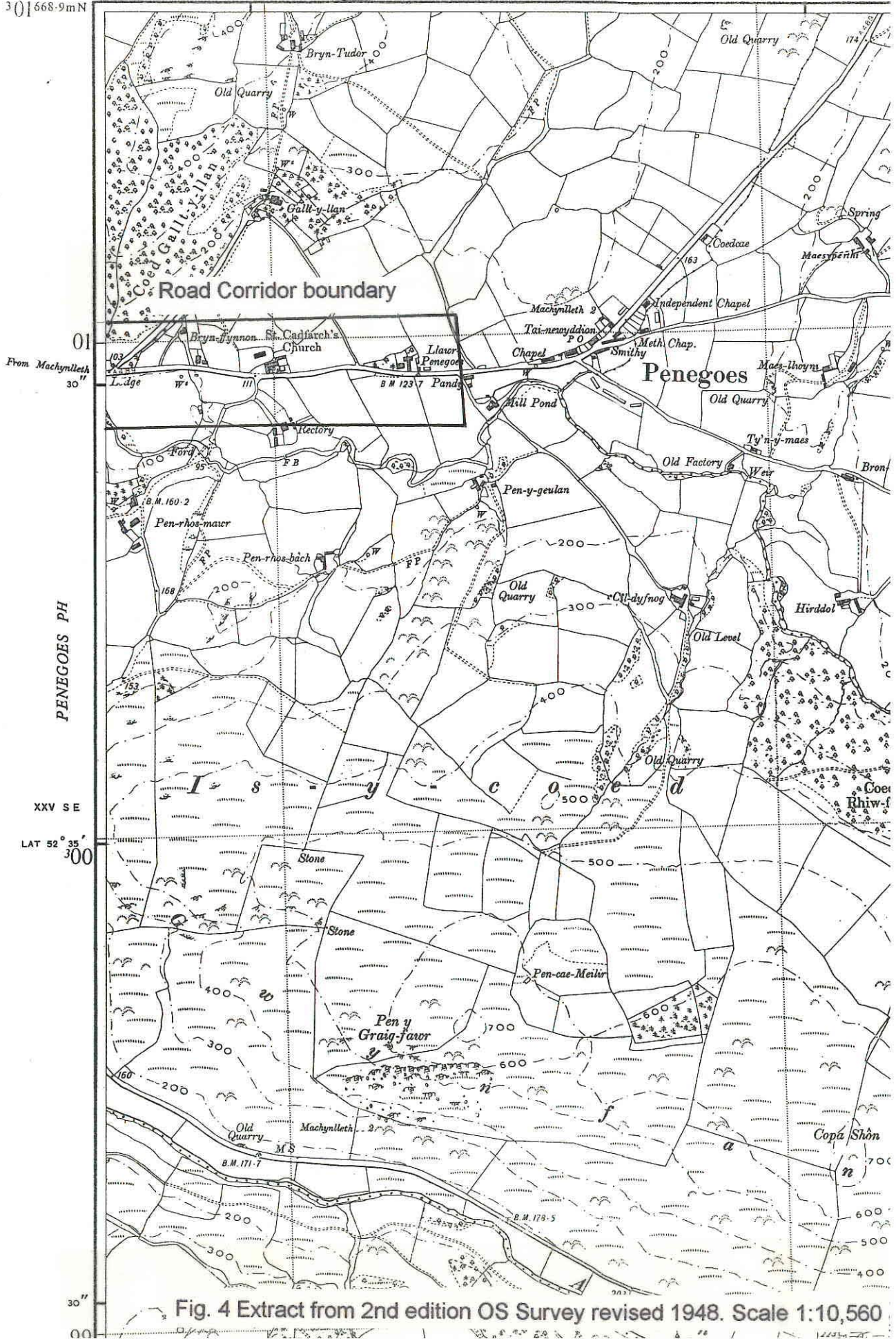


Fig. 4 Extract from 2nd edition OS Survey revised 1948. Scale 1:10,560

