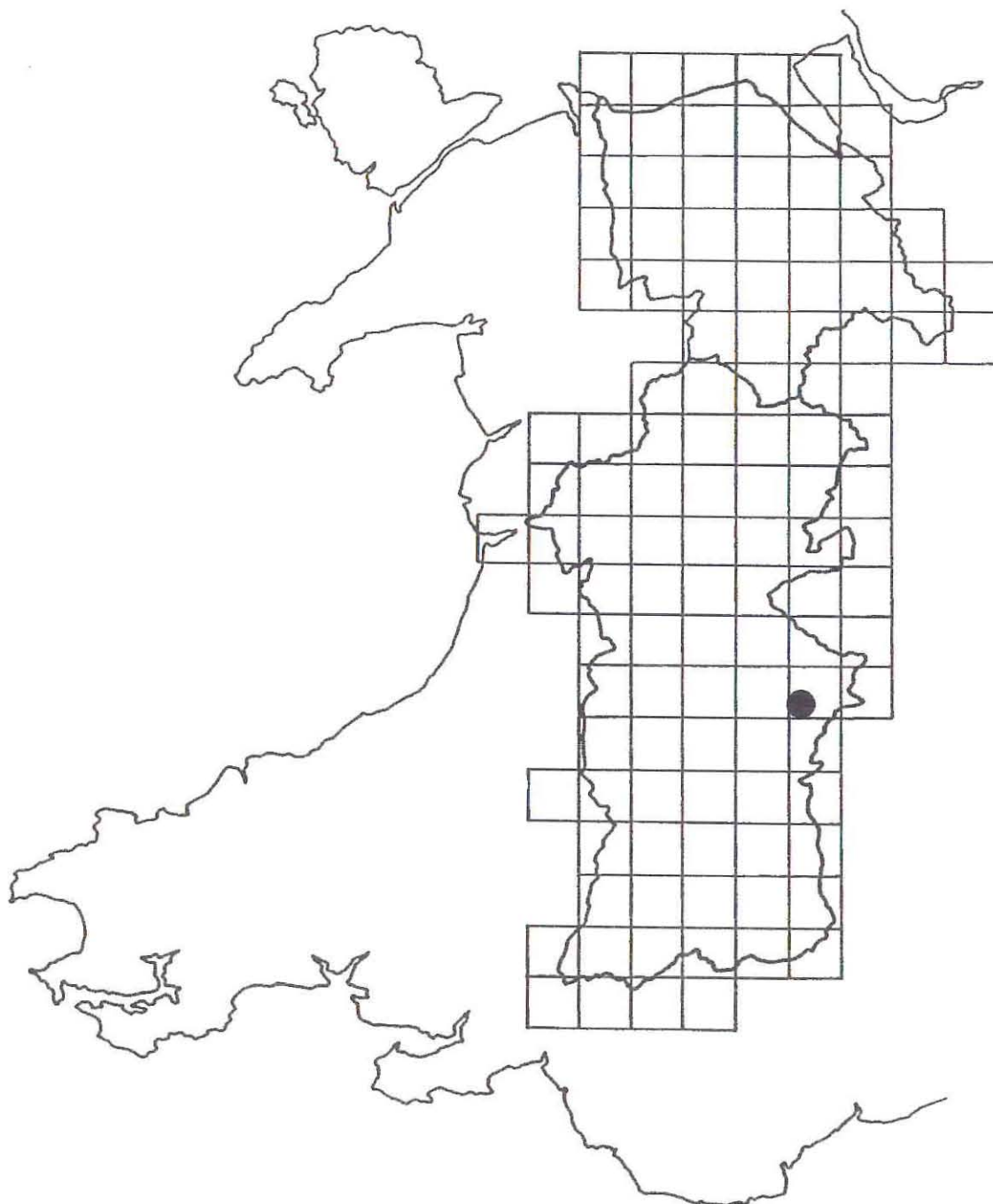


Harley Valley WTW Abandonment Scheme,

Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



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by **W.G.Owen**
October 1995

Report prepared for Acer/Wallace Evans

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CPAT Report Record

Report and status

CPAT Report Title	HARLEY VALLEY WTW ABANDONMENT SCHEME		
CPAT Project Name	KNOWLE HILL		
CPAT Project No	637	CPAT Report No	155
Confidential (yes/no)	NO	draft/final	FINAL

Internal control

	name	signature	date
prepared by	W.G. OWEN	W.G. Owen	6/10/95
checked by	N.W. JONES	N.W. Jones	6/10/95
approved by	A.M. GIBSON	A.M. Gibson	6/10/95

Revisions

no	date	made by	checked by	approved by
✓	6/10/95	✓	A.M. Gibson	A.M. Gibson

Internal memo

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 1994, the Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (referred to henceforth as CPAT) were requested by Acer/Wallace Evans, acting on behalf of Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water, to carry out a watching brief during the excavation of a trial hole and other associated works at the site of a proposed water pumping station compound at Maes Treylow (NGR SO 2674 6521) near Discoed, Powys.

1.2 CPAT were also subsequently commissioned in August 1995 to conduct a watching brief during the topsoiling of an access track from a point on the B4372 New Radnor-Kinnerton road (NGR SO 2214 6163) to the site of a proposed reservoir on Knowle Hill (NGR 2116 6150).

1.3 In both cases, the watching briefs were requested by the Curatorial Section of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting in their role as archaeological advisors to Powys County Council.

1.4 The location of the Maes Treylow pumping station corresponded with the probable position of the southern defences of a Roman Fort provisionally identified on an aerial photograph (St Joseph 1969, CUAP BAC4 and BPG72).

1.5 The initial route of the access track at Knowle Hill would have passed through an area where a scatter of flint and stone artifacts had been recorded (PRN 5239), which ranged typologically from the Mesolithic period to the Bronze Age. It was assumed that the flint scatter might indicate the existence of a hilltop settlement. The Brief (EVB 118), dated 26th August 1994, recommended an archaeological evaluation in advance of construction work, to be followed by a watching brief during topsoiling activity. However, the route of the access track was subsequently amended in order to avoid the flint scatter, and the archaeological response was accordingly reduced to a watching brief during topsoiling.

2 THE MAES TREYLOW WATCHING BRIEF (Fig. 1)

2.1 The watching brief during the excavation of the trial hole referred to above (para. 1.1), was carried out on October 10th 1994.

2.2 A trench 1.00 x 0.40m and 1.75m deep was excavated mechanically at the location of the proposed water pumping station. The horizontal surfaces excavated and the vertical sections exposed were examined for features of archaeological significance, in particular a stratigraphy that would indicate an earthwork bank or a ditch but none were visible. The excavated soil removed was an uniform, greyish-brown, fine silty loam and was examined for finds but, again, none were recovered.

2.3 On the 2nd and 6th December 1994, a watching brief was carried out during the course of mechanical and manual excavation of the soakaway and associated connecting trenches. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

3 THE KNOWLE HILL WATCHING BRIEF (Figs 2 and 3)

3.1 The watching brief during the topsoil stripping for the access track and reservoir was conducted between 7th and 20th September 1995.

3.2 In the reservoir area, the topsoil was approximately 0.25m deep and consisted of a fine sandy grain above a shale bedrock.

3.3 No features of archaeological significance were observed following topsoil stripping. From positions 2.50m apart close to the northern edge of the stripped area, two flints (Fig 3: F1 and F2) were recovered. These were identified as a Mesolithic microlith and a flake respectively.

3.4 Examination of stripped surfaces exposed during the course of access track construction again revealed no archaeological features. One utilised flake (F3) and one retouched flake (F4) were recovered from positions shown on Fig 3.

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The watching brief at the Maes Treylow Pumping Station yielded no archaeological features or finds to suggest evidence for occupation or activity of any date within the areas examined.

4.2 The topsoil stripping along the access track at Knowle Hill revealed no evidence for the putative hilltop settlement, although 4 flints were recovered from the topsoil. The lack of physical evidence for a settlement does not, however, disprove its existence, and indeed, the discovery of further flint artifacts could be further evidence for associated occupation in the area, although it would seem likely that the main focus of prehistoric activity may be situated further to the north.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CPAT Contracting would like to acknowledge and thank the on-site staff of Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water and their contractors David Lewis for their cheerful cooperation during the course of the watching brief.

APPENDIX 1

HARLEY VALLEY WTW - ABANDONMENT ACCESS TRACK TO RESERVOIR AT KNOWLE HILL, NEW RADNOR

SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

1.1 The revised proposal by Acer/Wallace Evans to construct a new access track at Knowle Hill, New Radnor, as part of the Harley Valley WTW Abandonment Scheme, will affect a block of land in the vicinity of a Prehistoric flint scatter (PRN 5239).

1.2 The flint scatter would appear to represent a possible hilltop settlement of Mesolithic or Bronze Age date.

1.3 The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in their capacity as archaeological curators for the county have determined that a watching brief be maintained along the whole of the access track corridor, on the site of the new reservoir construction and along the new mains pipeline, according to Stage 3 of the Brief (No EVB 118 dated 26th August 1994).

2 Objectives

2.1 The objectives of the watching brief are:

2.1.1 to identify and record any archaeological features, artefacts or other remains revealed during the topsoiling operations;

2.1.2 to prepare a report outlining the results of the watching brief;

2.1.3 to identify make 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 evaluation of the archaeological deposits by hand trowelling to establish their importance and integrity, but avoiding any unnecessary disturbance of the deposits. All features encountered will be examined as fully as appropriate to fulfil the requirements of the watching brief and within the constraints imposed by time and safety considerations.

3.2 all archaeological contexts recorded using the standard numbered context system employed by CPAT. All significant contexts to be planned and/or drawn in section at appropriate scales (as defined in the Evaluation Brief), and photographed in monochrome and colour. All drawn records will be related to control points depicted on modern maps.

3.3 all archaeological artefacts and environmental samples recorded and processed in a manner appropriate to the material involved. Those requiring conservation or other specialist treatment will be stored in a stable environment until such times as they can be examined by a specialist. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure Trove, are the

property of the landowner. It is anticipated that they will be donated to the appropriate local or regional museum, subject to agreement being reached with the landowner and the museum curator.

3.5 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Evaluation Brief (section 3.8). This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Excavation; Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.

3.6 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 evaluation will be undertaken by a skilled archaeologist under the direct supervision of an experienced field 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 evaluation.

4.3 the subsequent report would be prepared immediately following completion of the watching brief, 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. 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.

N. W. Jones
4th September 1995

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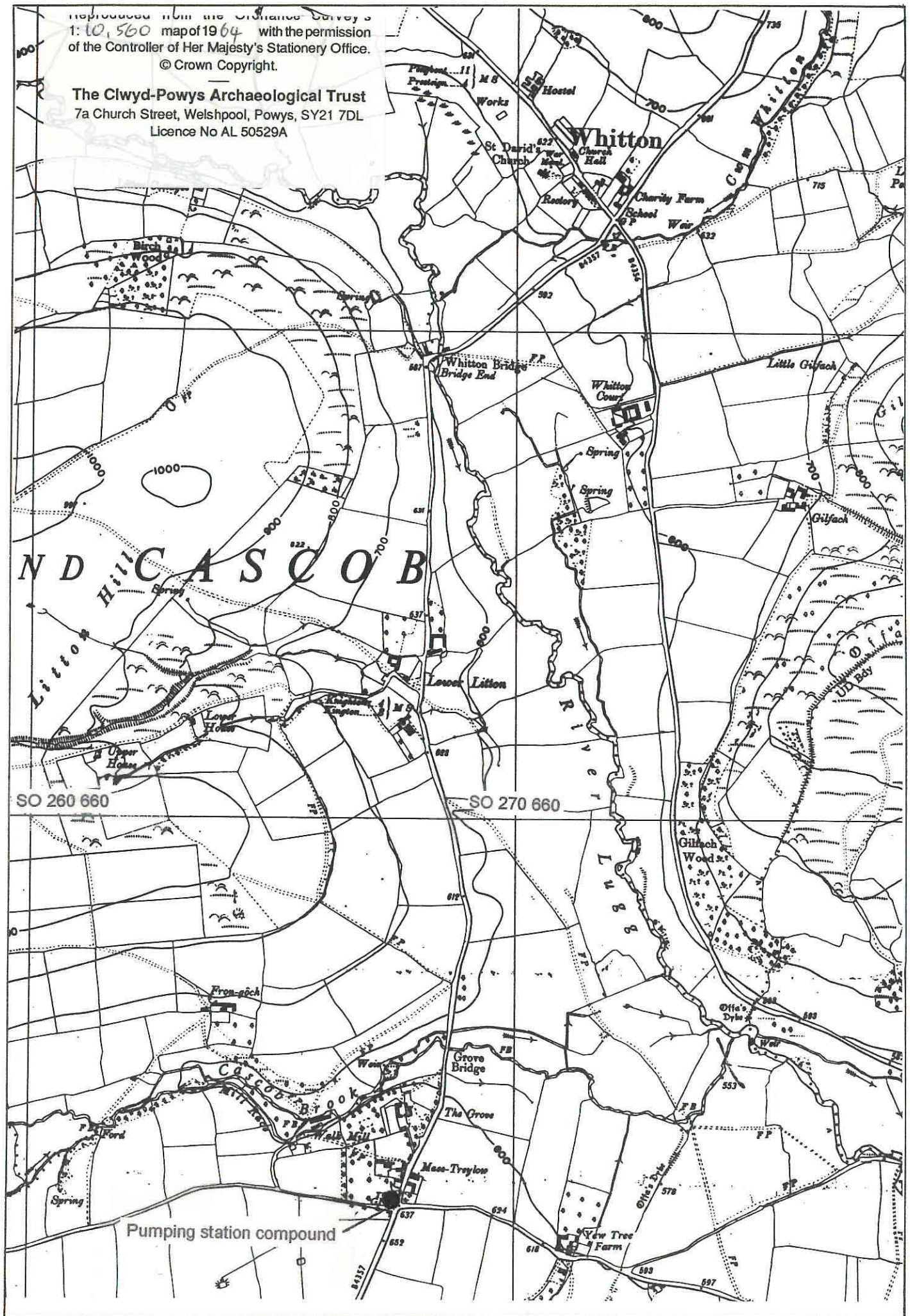
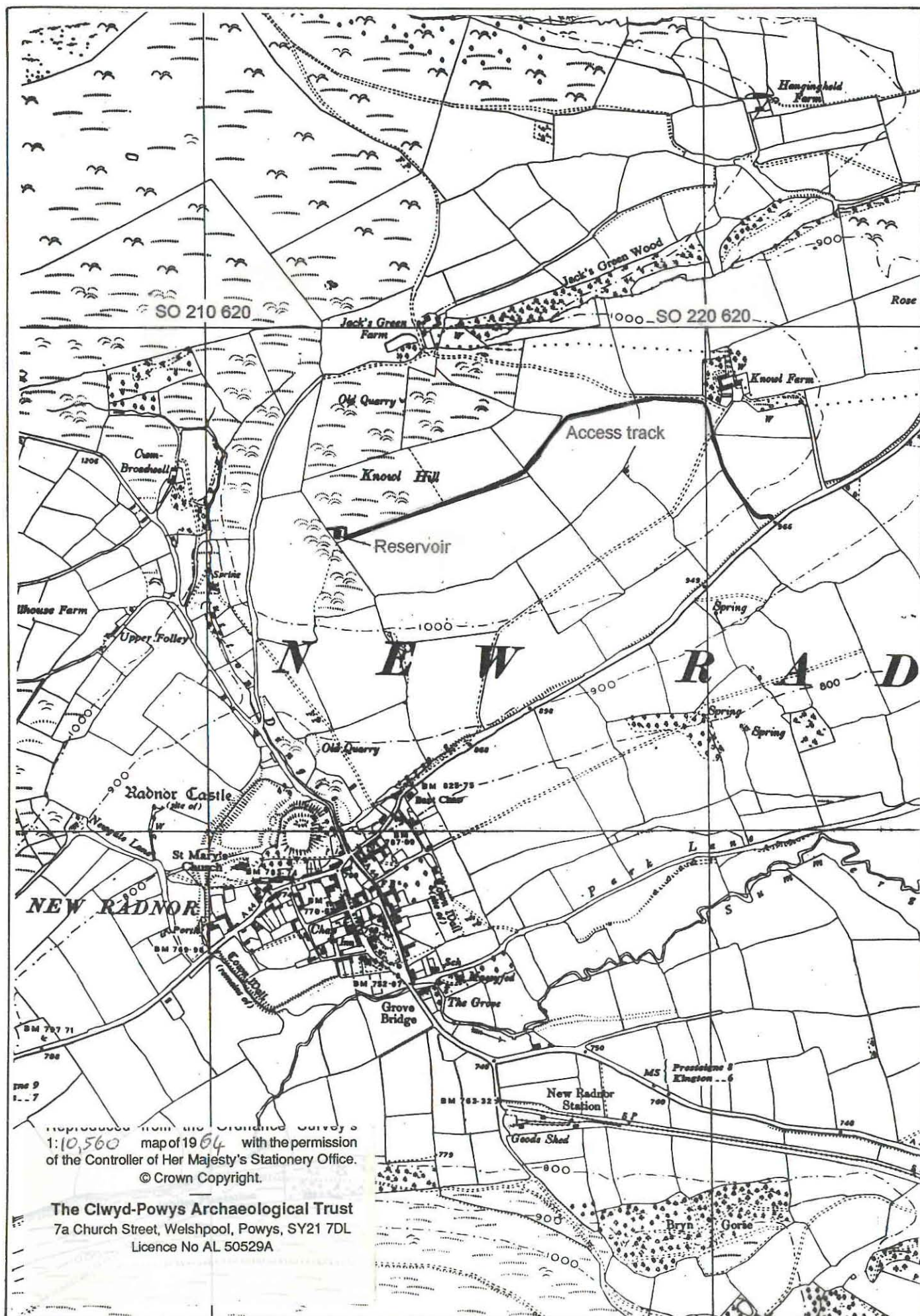


Fig. 1. Maes Treylow pumping station, location. Scale 1:10,000



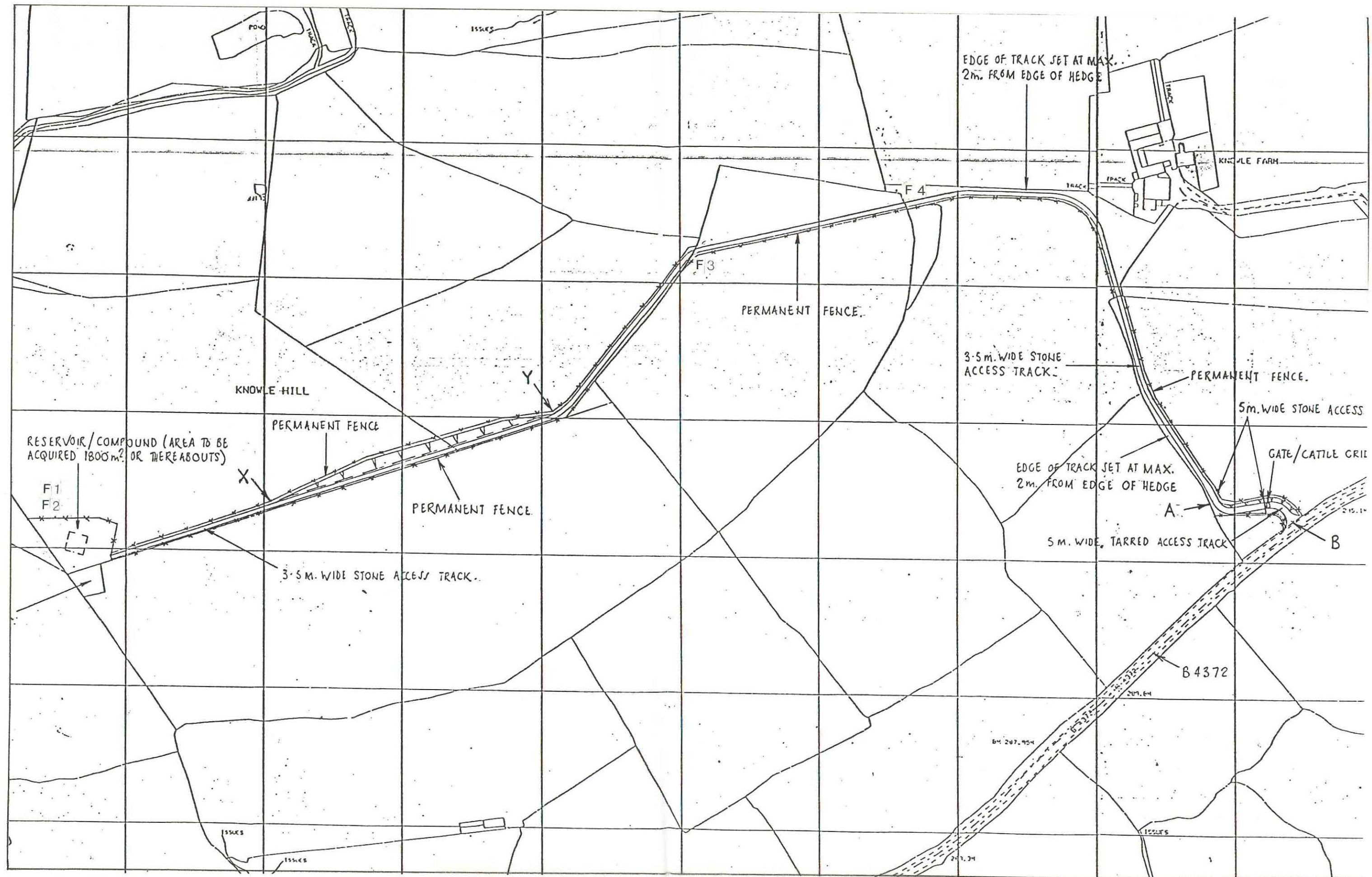


Fig. 3. Knowle Hill reservoir and access track: finds location. Scale 1:500