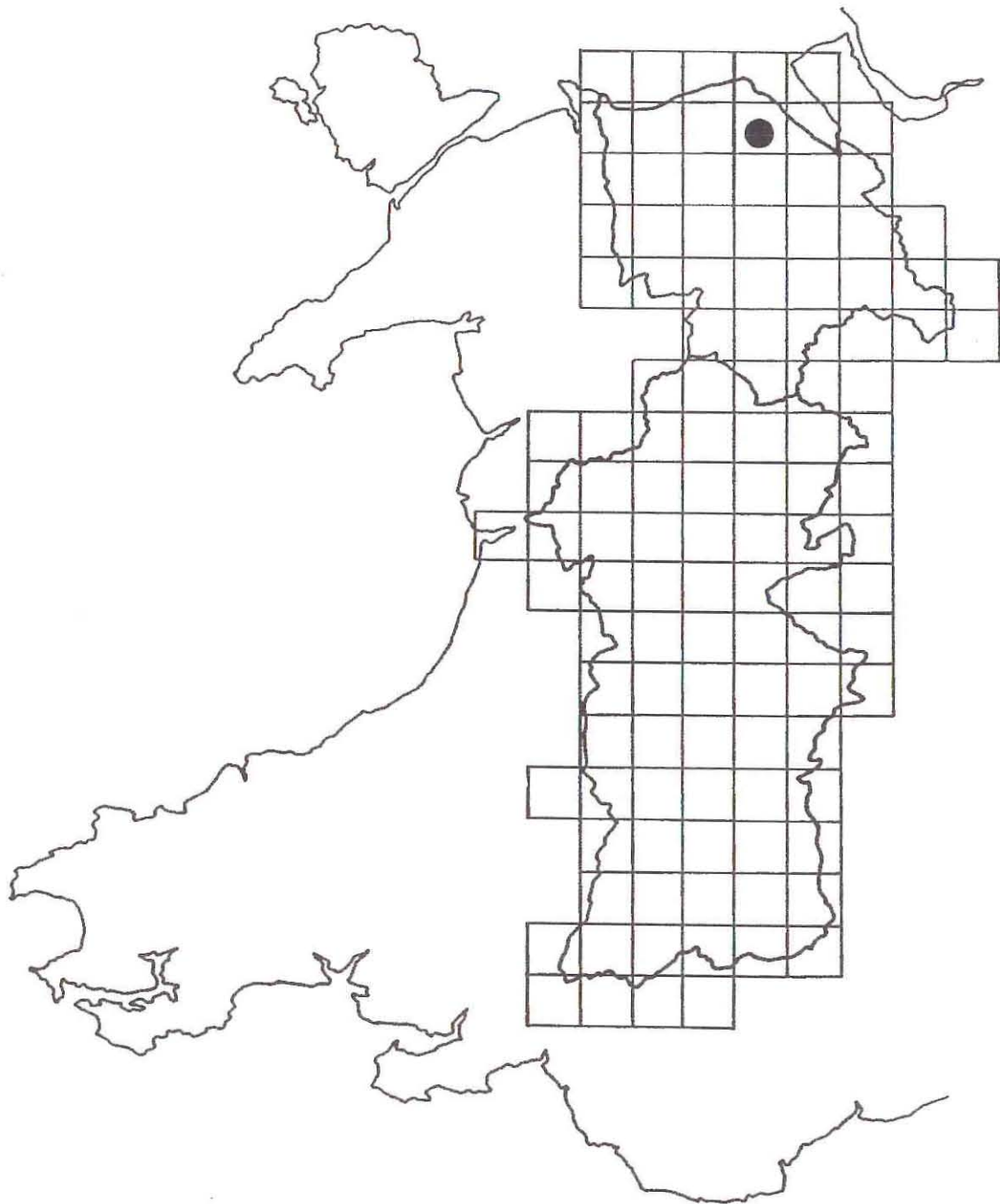


THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Pant, Caerwys, Clwyd
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



CPAT Report No 166

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

by **W.G.Owen**
December 1995

Report prepared for Manweb plc

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CPAT Report Record

Report and status

CPAT Report Title	PANT, CAERWYS, CLWYD		
CPAT Project Name	PANT, CAERWYS, CLWYD		
CPAT Project No	645	CPAT Report No	166
Confidential (yes/no)		draft/final	

Internal control

	name	signature	date
prepared by	W. G. OWEN	W. G. Owen	5-1-1996
checked by	Am G. B. S.		5/1/96
approved by	Am G. B. S.		5/1/96

Revisions

no	date	made by	checked by	approved by

Internal memo

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Contracts section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (henceforth CPAT Contracts) was requested by Manweb, in October 1995, to submit a quotation for undertaking a watching brief at Pant, Caerwys, Clwyd, whilst work was in progress to erect an overhead electricity line.

1.2 Part of the proposed work involved the excavation of a pit to hold a wooden support pole, located within the scheduled area of a presumed medieval enclosure and field system (SAM F163). A watching brief was considered necessary during this phase of the work as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) being granted by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

1.3 The quotation tendered by CPAT Contracts was accepted and the watching brief was carried out on December 15th 1995, in accordance with the guidelines submitted with the SMC agreement.

2 SITE LOCATION (SJ 1420 7450; 200m OD; Fig. 1)

2.1 The site lies approximately 1 km north-west of Caerwys, Clwyd on land held by Pant Farm (OS Field No 2454). To the south, the area is bounded by the unclassified road from Llidiart Cerrig to Babell and to the west by a lane leading north from the unclassified road towards Plymouth Copse.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is located on a moderate south-facing slope which overlooks the hamlet of Pant. A notable feature of the field in which the site is located is the frequency of limestone outcropping and the thin soil profile. This strongly suggests that the area has rarely been ploughed which accounts for the preservation of the medieval field system.

3.2 Soils are freely-draining clayey or silty loams of the Denbigh 1 series derived from the underlying Carboniferous limestone (Rudeforth *et al.* 1984).

4 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

4.1 The main feature of the area is an embanked D-shaped earthwork enclosure which occupies the top of the hill to the north of the field. Radiating from it are a series of field boundaries which are crossed by a holloway leading towards the farm at Foel-dda to the north-east. These features are regarded as being of Medieval origin. The area was scheduled as an Ancient Monument in 1978.

4 THE WATCHING BRIEF (Fig. 2)

4.1 The post-pit which was excavated mechanically measured 1.40 x 1.30m and 1.50m deep, and was located close to the north-eastern edge of a feature which was interpreted as a possible discontinuous sub-rectangular platform. Other features associated with the medieval field system were also located in the immediate area of the pit. A discontinuous circular feature 7.0m in diameter, which may have been a hut circle dating to an earlier period, was located 9.0m to the north-east of the pit.

4.2 The topsoil was an uniform brown humic loam, c. 0.20m thick, which immediately overlay undisturbed limestone, which extended to the base of the pit. No features of archaeological significance were revealed and no finds recovered.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The post-pit was located in a part of the field which contained several features associated with activity which has been interpreted as dating to the Medieval period or possibly earlier.

5.2 The pit was located close to a possible house platform, but excavation did not disturb this feature. The watching brief revealed no evidence for archaeological features or deposits within the excavated area.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6.1 CPAT Contracts wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the on-site staff of Manweb plc during the watching brief.

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, Harpenden.

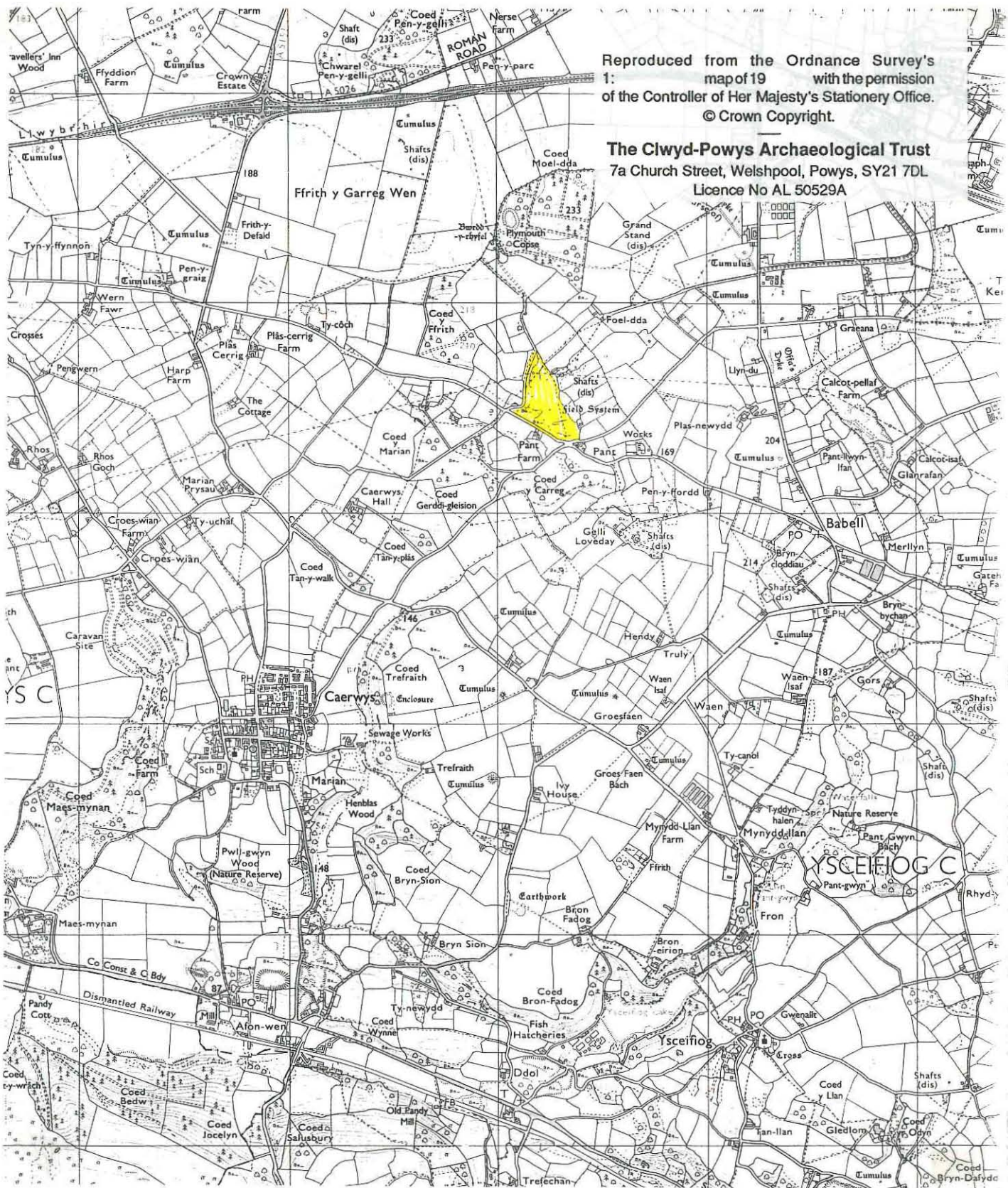


Fig 1

Site Location

Scale 1:25000

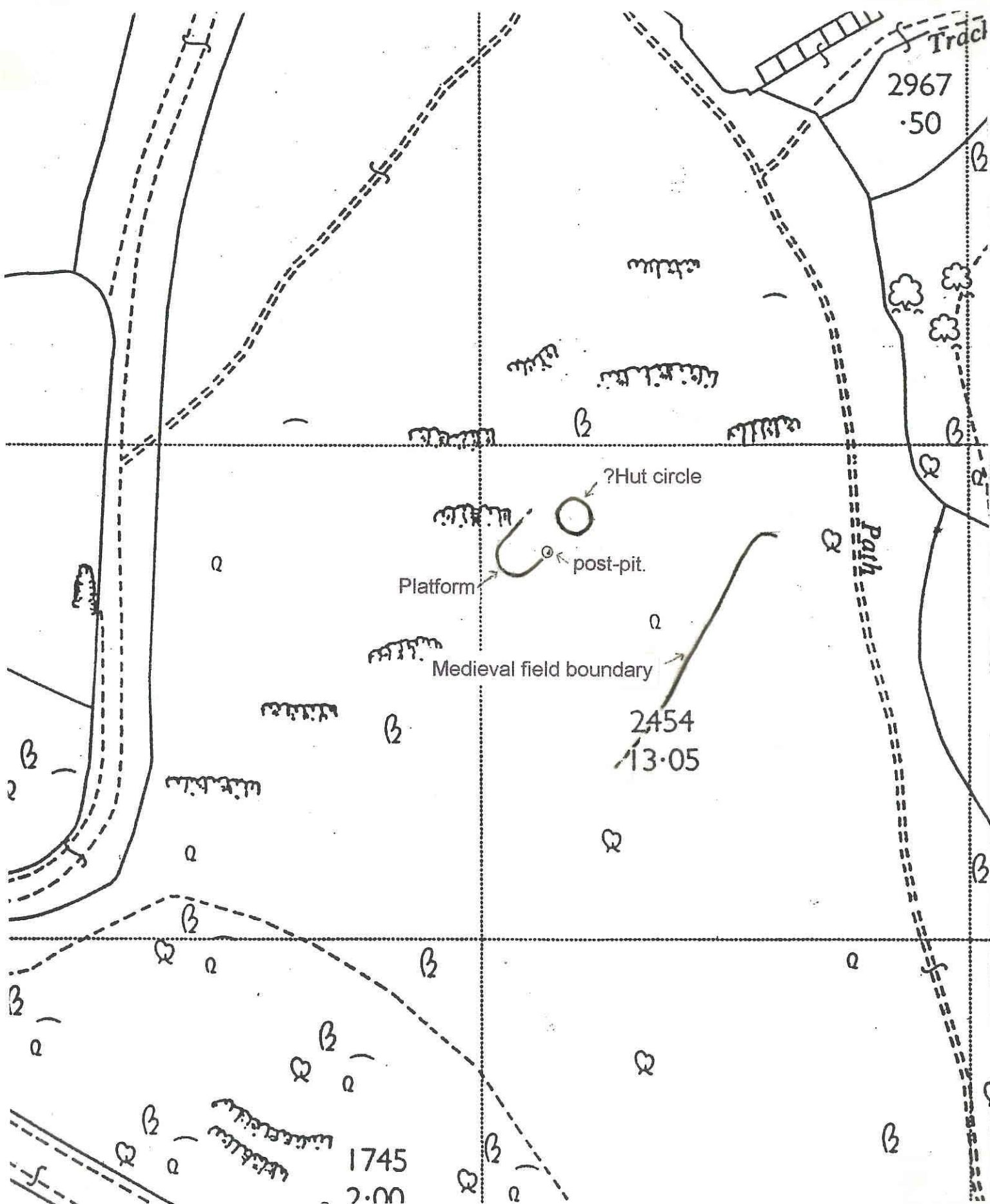


Fig. 2: Archaeological features and position of post-pit.

Scale 1:1,000

APPENDIX 1

SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT - PROPOSED WORKS AT PANT, CAERWYS, CLWYD.

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

1 Introduction

1.1 The proposed development at Pant, Caerwys, involves the construction of an overhead power line.

1.2 This area lies within the area of the scheduled ancient monument of enclosure, field systems and hollow ways at Pant, Caerwys.

1.3 The officers of Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments in their capacity as archaeological advisers to the secretary of state for Wales have stipulated that an archaeological watching brief is necessary to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Accordingly a brief has been prepared by Cadw which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

2 Objectives

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works are:

2.1.1 to record the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of any archaeological deposits and/or features revealed within

the area of the proposed development during the development works in so far as these aims are possible;

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

3 Methods

3.1 The watching brief will be carried out according to the guidelines submitted with the SMC and will involve the examination of all the groundworks in the archaeological sensitive areas.

3.2 All archaeological deposits and/or features noted during the watching brief will be recorded by drawn section and/or photography.

3.3 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared. 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 watching brief will be undertaken by a skilled and experienced archaeologist. 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 watching brief.

4.3 It is anticipated that the watching brief will take no more than three 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
30th October 1995