
THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Llandinam to Llanwrin Main Stage 2
(Dolfach to Llanwrin)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTRACTED WATCHING BRIEF

CPAT Report No 243

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTRACTED WATCHING BRIEF

W. G. OWEN
September 1997

Report for Sir William Halcrow & Partners Ltd.

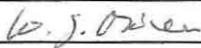

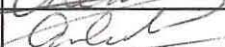
The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL
tel (01938) 553670, fax (01938) 552179
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7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL

tel (01938) 553670, fax 552179

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 1997, the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPATContracts) was invited by Sir William Halcrow & Partners to provide them with a quotation for undertaking a Contracted Watching Brief as required by the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in its Design Brief (WAT 213), at two locations along the route of the Llandinam to Llanwrin Stage 2 pipeline. The Watching Brief would take place during the course of topsoil stripping and construction trench excavation at these locations
- 1.2 The two locations were described in the Design Brief as Domen Fawr motte (PRN 1309) at NGR SH89100263 and Mwyars Field System & Enclosure (Site 03) at NGR SH87800314 both of which had previously been identified during the course of the Archaeological Assessment of the proposed pipeline route carried out in July 1996 (Owen 1996). Both of the above sites lay close to the proposed pipeline route and it was anticipated that associated deposits might possibly be revealed within the construction area .
- 1.3 The quotation submitted by CPAT Contracts was subsequently accepted by Severn Trent Water and the Watching brief was carried out in June 1997.

2 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 2.1 The soils in the area are derived from Palaeozoic slaty mudstones and siltstones and show variations according to topography and drainage (Rudeforth *et al* 1984). In the vicinity of the Mwyars site which is in deciduous woodland, drainage is poor and soils consist of a thin, gleyed, peaty loam over a stiff, clay subsoil varying in colour from light grey to yellow. In the vicinity of the Domen Fawr motte, soils vary locally from silty loams or gravelly silts over clay.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The first historical reference to the Domen Fawr Motte is 1149 AD when it was granted to Owain Cyfeiliog and there is a final reference to it in 1244 (Spurgeon 1968). It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Mg065 and it represents the most westerly example of a motte and bailey castle in Powys. It stands at the junction of the rivers Iaen and Twymyn with roads running around its base on the NW and SE sides. It is approximately 6m high and has a basal diameter of 40m. The bailey, now very largely obscure, is on the interfluvial spit to the north and measures c. 65m NW-SE x 50m NE-SW.
- 3.2 The Mwyars Field System is a remnant field system standing in woodland and consisting of slight linear banks extending to the north of an east- west aligned trackway which truncates them. The trackway is modern having been formed by the present landowner (Mr I. Owen *pers comm*). It seems possible that this putative field system may have extended further to the north but any traces have clearly been destroyed by the railway. At the SW corner of the complex (SH 8770 0309) is a feature, now damaged which may represent the remains of an embanked enclosure. The date of this complex is unknown.

4 THE WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 The Mwyars Field System (Fig 2)

- 4.1.1 Ground conditions within the 12m wide pipeline corridor were wet during the course of topsoil stripping which made observation difficult. At one point, however (SH87800317), stripping cut through one field bank thus exposing its profile and that of an accompanying ditch on its western side. The bank was 2.10m wide and 0.50m high whilst the ditch cut into the underlying clay was 1.20m wide and 0.40m deep. Both the bank and ditch were well-eroded. No finds were recovered. A second linear feature 20m to the east was also cut through during topsoil stripping. This had previously been interpreted as a second constituent part of the field system, but on examination of the profile it was clear that this was a natural water channel.

4.2 The Domen Fawr Motte Area (Fig 3)

- 4.2.1 The motte and bailey were not directly affected by the pipeline corridor being separated from the corridor by the two rivers and a road. However it was possible that features associated with the monument might be exposed during construction work.
- 4.2.2 On the western side of the motte topsoil was stripped from a 90m length of the corridor on an east facing slope. No features or finds were recorded. To the south of the motte, the route of the corridor passed through pasture and here the route had been revised as shown in Fig. 3. to follow a route approximately 180m long in a southerly direction in OS Field No 0749. Again no features of archaeological significance were exposed. Finds recovered were of recent origin.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Topsoil stripping in the Mwyars Field System revealed a bank and ditch indicating the presence of part of a field system which preceded the woodland. However no evidence was forthcoming as to the age of this putative system. No features or finds were revealed in the vicinity of the Domen Fawr motte.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1 CPAT wishes to thank Mr David Thomas of Sir William Halcrow & Partners for his kind assistance during the course of the Watching Brief.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Owen, W.G., 1996. *Llandinam-Llanwrin Pipeline Stage 2: Archaeological Assessment*. Report No 202: CPAT.

Spurgeon, C.J. 1968. The Castles of Montgomeryshire. *Montgomeryshire Collections* 59, 10-11.

Rudeforth, C.C., Hartnup, R., Lea, J.W., Thompson, T.R.E., and Wright, P.C., 1984, *Soils and their Use in Wales*, Bulletin No 11. Harpenden: Soil Survey of England and Wales.

APPENDIX 1**Llandinam to Llanwrin Main Stage II (Dolfach to Llanwrin)
Archaeological Contracted Watching Brief****SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST****1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The proposed works involve the construction of a new water mains from Dolfach to Llanwrin for Severn Trent Water.
- 1.2 The pipeline corridor passes close to two areas of archaeological sensitivity, Doman Fawr Motte (PRN 1309: NGR SH89100263) and Mwyars Field System and Enclosure (NGR SH87800314) a site discovered as part of the pre-construction archaeological assessment undertaken by CPAT Contracts and reported in October 1996 (CPAT Report No.202).
- 1.3 The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in their capacity as archaeological advisers to Severn Trent Water and archaeological curators for the county have determined 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 CPAT Curatorial (No.WAT 213, dated 26th March 1997) 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 Curatorial Brief 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 according to the principles laid out in the Brief (Section 6). 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.
- 3.4 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 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
Projects Manager

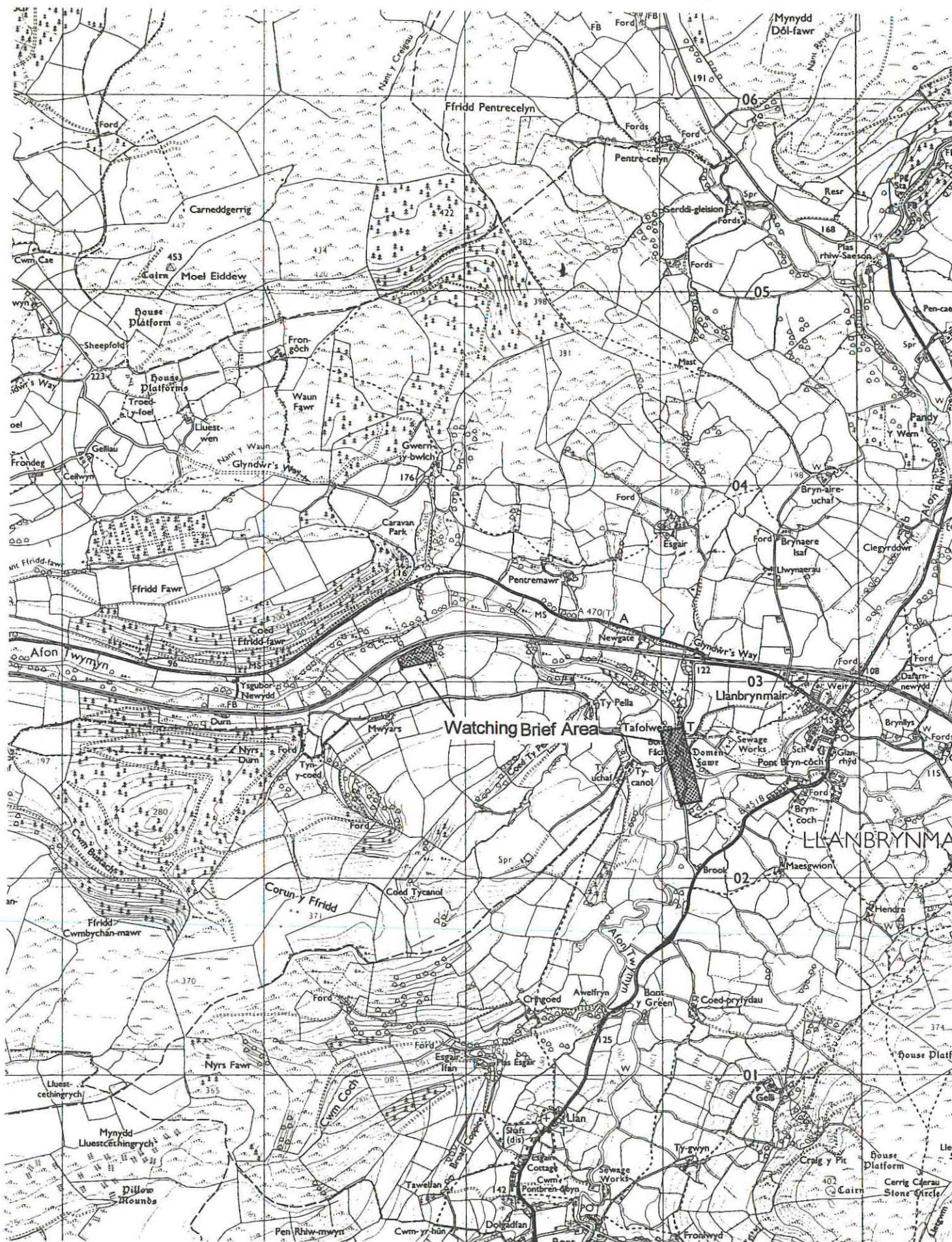


Fig 1: Location: Scale 1: 25000

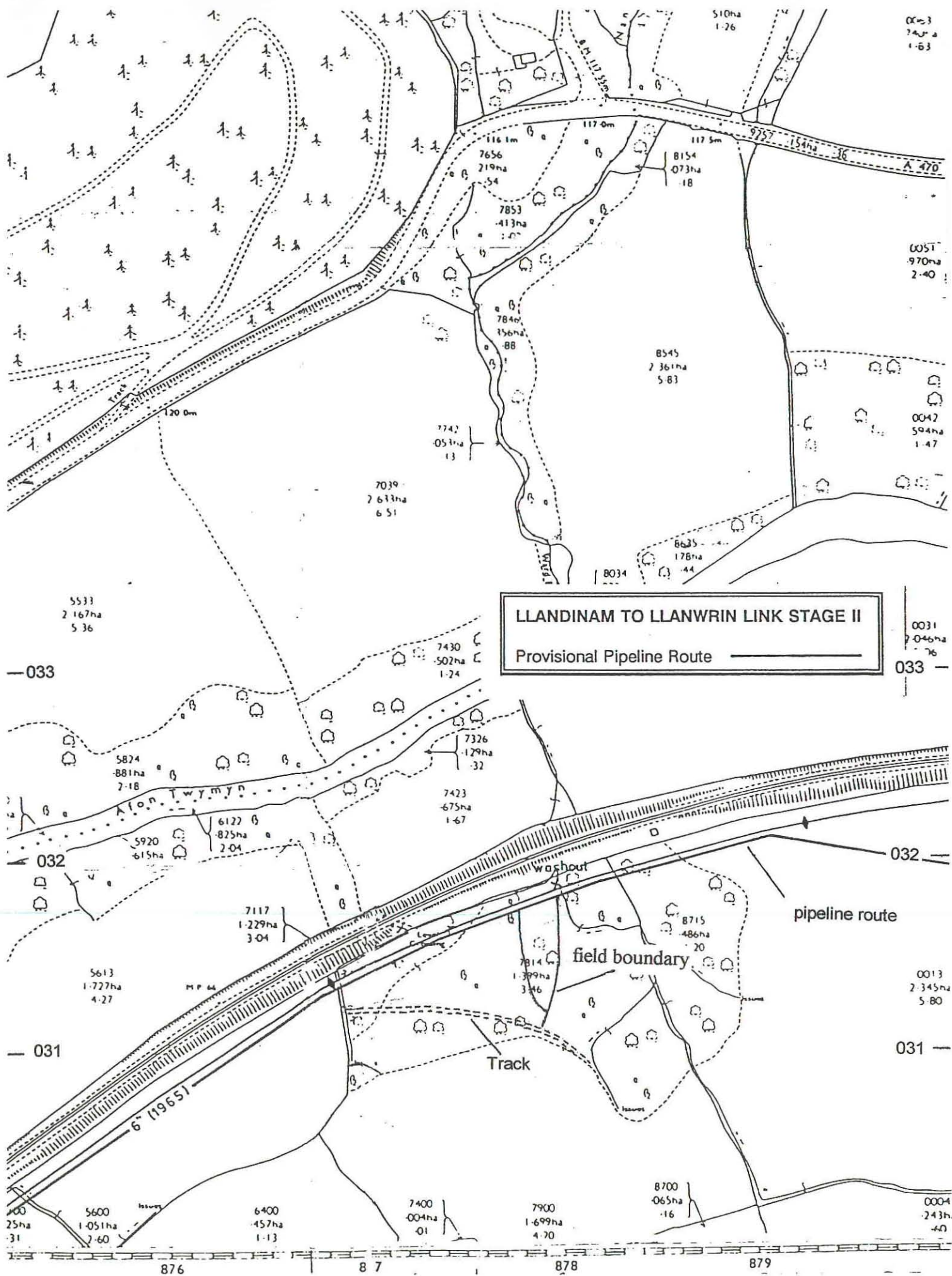


Fig 2: Mwyars Earthwork Watching Brief Area: Scale 1: 2500

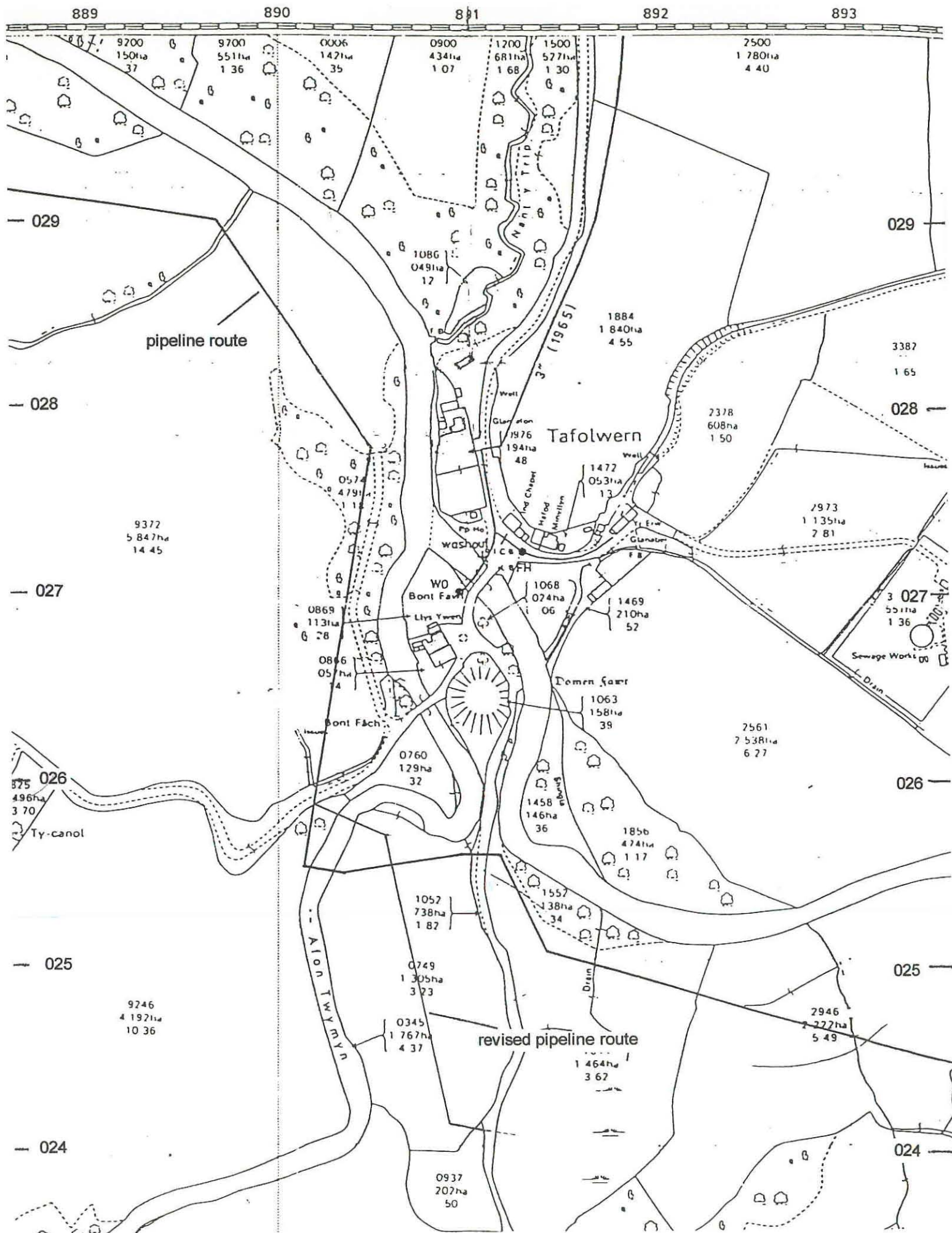


Fig 3: Domen Fawr Motte Watching Brief Area: Scale 1: 2500